

**INTERACTION STRUCTURE AND PRAGMATIC FEATURES IN THE 2008
NATIONAL QUASI-JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FEDERAL
CAPITAL TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION IN NIGERIA**

FOLUKE OLAYINKA UNUABONAH

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FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION IN NIGERIA**

BY

FOLUKE OLAYINKA UNUABONAH

B.A. English (Ife), M.A. English (Ibadan)

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Certification Page

I certify that this work was carried out by Mrs. F. O. Unuabonah in the
Department of English, University of Ibadan.

.....
Supervisor
S. A. Odebunmi,
B.A., M.A. (Ilorin), Ph.D. (Ife)
Senior Lecturer, Department of English,
University of Ibadan, Nigeria

Dedication

I dedicate this work to God Almighty, my Maker, my Redeemer, my Husband and my Friend. He is the One who sees the end from its beginning. He is the Alpha and Omega of my life and this work.

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List of Abbreviations

AMAC - Abuja Municipal Area Council
AGIS - Abuja Geographic Information System
C/D - Complainants/ Defendants
HP- Hearing Panel
FCDA - Federal Capital Development Authority
FCT - Federal Capital Territory
FCTA - Federal Capital Territory Administration
PH - Public Hearing
TRC - Truth and Reconciliation Commission
AO - Affirmation Order
A - Affirmation
IP- Invitation of Perspectives
P - Presentation
I - Interrogation
IC - Interrogation Compliance
PD - Prayer Demand
P - Prayer
Ad - Admission
F - Finis

Abstract

Studies on quasi-judicial public hearings have focused on rhetorical, sociolinguistic and critical discourse aspects of the hearings, but have not given attention to the discourse structure and participant goals during the hearings. Thus, this study examined language use and interaction in the 2008 quasi-judicial public hearing, conducted by a hearing panel constituted by the Senate on the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) administration in Nigeria. This was done with a view to revealing the interactional formats and pragmatic roles of language in the hearing and comparing the formats with those of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) hearing study in South Africa, the only quasi-judicial public hearing yet analysed in Africa.

Generic Structure Potential and pragmatic theories provided the theoretical framework for the study because they deal with interactional structures and functions of language in context. Forty purposively sampled video recordings of the hearing were obtained from the African Independent Television stations in Abuja and Lagos. These were complemented with structured interviews with the complainants, newspaper reports, written submissions and the final report of the panel. The data were subjected to content analysis.

Ten discourse macrostructural elements characterised the generic structure of the public hearing. These were catalogued as:

$$\begin{matrix} \Downarrow & \Downarrow \\ AO \wedge A \wedge IP \wedge [P_{(Pr)}] \wedge \{I \wedge IC\}_n \wedge (PD) \wedge (Pr) \wedge Ad \wedge (F) \end{matrix}$$

Affirmation Order, Affirmation, Invitation of Perspectives, Presentation, Interrogation, Interrogation Compliance and Admission were obligatory while Prayer Demand, Prayer and Finis were optional. Interrogation and Interrogation Compliance were iterative at equal degrees. Prayer was either a part of Presentation or a pre-Admission occurrence. These interaction structure elements were variously characterised by discourse and pragmatic features. Locutions in the hearing featured jargon, plain words, fixed and free collocations; affixation, compounding, abbronymy and clipping; antonyms and synonyms; and declaratives, interrogatives and imperatives. Contextual beliefs were based on shared knowledge of public hearing procedures, shared knowledge of landed property law, shared knowledge of government involvement and shared knowledge of Abuja metropolis. Thirteen pragmatic acts characterised the language: ordering, swearing, appreciating, informing, complaining, defending, advising, commenting, denying, questioning, promising, requesting and admitting. Five macrostructures in the FCT hearing were similar to those of the TRC hearing, namely, Affirmation Order/introduction, Invitation of Perspectives/elicitation, Presentation/narrative, Interrogation/questions and Finis/concluding remarks. Affirmation, Interrogation Compliance, Prayer Demand, Prayer and Admission were not identified in the latter. The TRC study, using a narrative approach, did not give any attention to generic structure and pragmatic functions, which constituted major findings on the FCT hearing.

Generic Structural elements and pragmatic properties provide useful insights into the discourse and procedure of the 2008 FCT hearing. Unlike the study on the FCT which captures the interactional specifics of the hearing, the structures identified in the TRC study were broad and did not cover details of the interaction. Thus, in-depth comparative linguistic studies of quasi-judicial public hearings in Nigeria and other African countries are required to have a clearer understanding of the structure and pragmatic constraints in the hearings.

Key words: Discourse macrostructure, Locutions, Contextual beliefs, Pragmatic functions, Quasi-judicial public hearing

Word count: 488

CHAPTER ONE

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This chapter provides the background from which this work has been written. It discusses the state of political and legal discourses, and takes a look at the nature of public hearings, as well as the background to the public hearing on the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja administration. The chapter also focuses on the aim, objectives and the statement of the problem. In addition, the chapter provides the scope and delimitation of the study, justification of theories and the significance of the study.

1.1 Political discourse

Scholars have approached political discourse from different perspectives. Wilson (2001) notes that political discourse is concerned with formal and informal political actors working within political contexts while political discourse analysis is interested in ‘the ways language is manipulated for specific political effect’ (p. 410). Van Dijk (2002) opines that political discourse is shaped, not by style or rhetoric but by its function in political processes. Opeibi (2008: 94) further expatiates that “politics does not function independently of the instrument of communication.” He reiterates the fact that political communication and education are necessary in achieving stability in the governance of a country.

Opeibi (2008a:99) posits that political discourse involves a process of “informing, educating, and persuading people to participate” in a social and political event. He adds that the system of democracy has made political communication to occupy a centre stage in discourses on governance. Schaffner (1996) suggests that there are internal and external political communication, which are based on the setting and the communicative patterns involved. Internal political communication would refer to all forms of discourse that concern the functioning of politics within political institutions such as governmental bodies, parties or other political organisations. It involves political ideas, beliefs, and practices of a society or some part of it while external political communication deals with the general public, that is, non-politicians. Based on the submissions of these scholars, we posit that political discourse focuses on how language is used to effect changes in the behaviour of politicians and the public towards governance in a society. Thus, the study of

political discourse is necessary in order to understand how language is manipulated by interactants in order to achieve their goals and how the discourse can be further utilised to attain political stability in a society.

The study of political discourse in general can be dated to the 5th century in the Greek society where there was a great emphasis on rhetoric. Wilson (2001) opines that modern rhetorical studies have links with aspects of communication science, historical construction, social theory and political science. The linguistic study of political discourse can be dated to the late 1970s and these included the works of Fowler, Hodge, Kress and Trew (1979), Geis (1987) and Chilton (1985, 1987 and 1990). For example, Goodman (1996) suggests that the system of transitivity can be manipulated to hide those who are responsible for killings (see Wilson, 2001).

Wilson (2001) also points out that the relative distribution of particular syntactic selections may have political implications. He submits that issues of textual production are of utmost importance to political discourse. For example, utterances in political contexts “operate within historical frameworks and are frequently associated with related utterances or texts.” Single words and sets of collocational relationships are important as they “produce and draw upon ideological schemas in confirming or reconfirming particular views of the world” Wilson (2001: 406). However, Wilson points out that specific bias may override structural representations, as views may be reformulated and represented through different linguistic manipulations. Also, contextual factors may also affect the interpretation of lexical choices and it is the context that carries the political message. He asserts that “everyday words which are organised and structured in particular ways may become politically implicated in directing thinking about particular issues” and may have ‘devastating results.’ He notes that political language is used for “manipulation and politicians seem to want to hide the negative within particular formulations so that people will not be able to see the truth in them.” This shows that every aspect of language study has implications for the understanding of political discourse in different political contexts such as political speeches, debates, campaigns, interviews, hearings, etc.

As observed by Brown and Yule (1983:1), the analysis of discourse “is necessarily the analysis of language in use.” This is why Opeibi (2004) posits that language is the instrument through which political thoughts and ideologies are expressed and further translated into social actions for social change and continuity.

He adds that political interactions require “language structures and political talks which play a role in shaping and transforming political ideals into political realities” (p. 97 as cited in Opeibi, 2008).

As a corollary, Van Dijk (2002) asserts that political action and participation is accomplished by discourse and communication; and political discourse is relevant when discourse structures are related to properties of political structures and processes. Discourse structures deal with a micro-level of analysis while political structures deal with a macro-level of analysis. People’s knowledge and opinions about political actions are acquired, changed or confirmed by various forms of text and talk. He posits that there are three levels of political domains, which include political actions and beliefs at the same level, political groups and institutions at the intermediate level and the political system at the top level. He opines that these levels are so related that they manifest themselves at the same time. Discourse and politics are related at the socio-political and socio-cognitive levels of description. This shows that the actions and beliefs of political groups influence the political system of a society and vice versa. Thus, it is important to study the interrelationship between language and politics at the different levels in order to understand how these interact in different political contexts.

1.1.1 Political discourse in Nigeria

The study of political discourse in Nigeria may be said to have started in the colonial period. Political discourse in Nigeria has been influenced by the incursion of the British in the 18th century. The British colonised the country and forced her language on the Nigerian people. English became the language of government in the 19th century (Akindele and Adegbite, 1999). English was the language with which the early politicians fought for the independence of the country. Today, English still serves as the official language in post-independent Nigeria (Akindele and Adegbite, 1999; Opeibi, 2008a). In the States’ Houses of Assembly, Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba, in some cases are used (Akindele and Adegbite, 1999). In recent times, Nigerian politicians ‘marry’ and exploit the resources of English and other Nigerian languages to communicate their messages (Opeibi, 2007). This can be seen in the use of code switching and code mixing in political jingles, adverts, campaigns, etc. Thus, he posits that English is inadequate as the language of political mobilisation in Nigeria. One could then say that the English language has greatly influenced how political discourse is shaped in Nigeria, and that it is necessary to

exploit the rich resources of both the language and other indigenous languages in Nigeria in order to effect positive socio-political changes in the society.

Political discourse in Nigeria has also been greatly influenced by the incursion of the military into politics (Daramola, 2008). Ayeomoni (2006) posits that the high occurrence of simple and short pronominal items reflects the simple and less bureaucratic structure of the military administration. Ayeomoni (2007) posits that while civilian rulers rely on cohesive ties for appeal and cohesion, military rulers in Nigeria rely on them in order to achieve elegant variation, informativeness and forcefulness. He suggests that the language of Nigerian military rulers is often very dictatorial, forceful and absolute. He, therefore, submits that there is an interconnecting relationship of words and political ideologies, and the functions of lexical relations in achieving persuasiveness and cohesion in political discourse.

Opeibi (2008a) notes that language is used to obtain and maintain political power. He, equally, observes that politicians make use of innovative methods during campaigns in order to obtain power. He affirms that in the maintenance of power, the Nigerian ruling party, People's Democratic Party (PDP) makes use of some discourse strategies. These include the speech acts of coercion, resistance, opposition, power, dissimulation, legitimisation and delegitimisation. These speech acts may have been used due to the incursion of the military into politics. Opeibi (2008a) observes that in the third world countries, the role of political communication in developing a strong tradition of democratic practices has been overlooked. However, this may not be entirely true in Nigeria as political leaders also depend on their Information Ministers and press secretaries to deliver messages on their behalf and the use of political debates in the 2011 elections as instruments of political campaign.

The idea that political discourse is used to achieve political stability in a country has been emphasised by Taiwo (2010), who submits that political discourse in Nigeria is replete with the conceptual metaphor of the nation as a family. This is because Nigeria has gone through and is still going through a number of ethnic, religious, economic and political conflicts. This may indicate why politicians in their discourses portray themselves as builders. However, these politicians also see politics as a battle or war and this is evident in their discourses (Taiwo, 2010: 171). In essence, political discourse in Nigeria has been shaped by the different internal conflicts the country has experienced and the need by politicians and the public to rebuild the nation.

1.2 The language and discourse of law

Law primarily rests on words, whether written or spoken. In fact, a court trial is a speech situation, as lawyers have to depend on words to present their evidence and convince the court to rule in their favour. Crystal and Davy (1969) assert that legal language in English is conservative and reluctant to adopt new and untested models of expressions. Historically, legal English was influenced, mainly, by French and Latin. The area referred to as England today was originally inhabited by the Celts, who were invaded, first, by the Romans in BC 55 and later by the three Germanic tribes, the Angles, Jutes and Saxons in the 5th century. These tribes settled in the Celtic region and were later invaded by the French in the 11th century (Barber, 1999). All these had great effect on the English language which is spoken today. In the area of vocabulary, certain words from the Anglo-Saxons that are still used today in legal English include *writ*, *ordeal*, *witness*, *deem*, *oath* and *moot*. From Latin, words such as *clerk*, *impedit*, *habeas corpus*, *nisi piritus* were introduced (Crystal and Davy, 1969). From the Scandinavians, we have the word *law* itself. Although French had been the language of power from the 11th century, Latin was used by lawyers and was called 'Law Latin'. Other words such as *mandamus*, *certiorari*, *versus*, *ex rel*, etc amongst others are still used today in Legal English.

French later became the language of lawyers and was called 'Law French'. Some of the characteristics of Law French that are in today's legal language include the addition of initial *e-* to words like *squire*, creating *esquire*; adjectives that follow nouns (*attorney general*); and addition of *-er* to verbs in order to have words such as *demurrer* or *waiver*. By the 18th century, English rose to be the language of lawyers and this was due to several developments such as the invention of the printing press which ensured that linguistic errors were removed from written texts in order to ensure that there was standardisation. This, also, added to the conservative nature of legal English. English was also taken to other parts of the world such as North America, Australia and Africa. This led to the adoption of the English common law. Thus, the English legal language developed naturally, under the influence of diverse languages and cultures, as well as the growing complexity of the legal system and the shift from predominantly oral to mainly written communication. However, Tiersma (1999) posits that legal language ensures that lawyers retain their virtual monopoly on providing legal services.

There are some linguistic markers that make legal language different from ordinary language. These include lengthy and complex sentences; foreign pronunciation of English words that are from French or Latin; wordiness and redundancy such as *at slow speed* instead of *slowly*; conjoined phrases such as *I give, devise and bequeath the rest, residue and remainder*, etc. Others include unusual sentence structures, such as *a proposal to effect with the Society*; and impersonal constructions such as the use of *the court* rather than *I* by judges, in order to give an impression of legitimacy, objectivity and authority (Tiersma, 1999).

Legal discourse is concerned with the analysis of the language of law and other related issues. It is classified under forensic linguistics, which is the study of language in the context of law (Farinde, 2008). Forensic linguistics covers wide areas such as language and the law as well as language and bilingualism in the courtroom (Shuy, 2001). Other areas include legal interpretation, police investigations, management of prisons, child witness, authorship and statements (Farinde, 2008). Although linguists had been invited by lawyers to help in the identification of dialects of defendants and to assist in interpreting and evaluating issues related to new laws, it was not until the 1980's that the documentation of these analyses were done. Studies in recent times have focused on topic and response analysis in criminal cases. The speech acts of promising, offering, denying, agreeing, threatening, warning and apologising are found in criminal cases (Farinde, 2008). Attention has also been paid to the use of contracts, warning labels, and other written documents in civil cases. The discourse analysis of legal interaction also focuses on voice identification, thereby, opening up the area of forensic phonetics and defamation of character either by libel or slander (Farinde, 2008).

Farinde (2008) posits that power is more obvious in the courtroom and police interrogation. This is based on institutional roles and procedures. Thus, the police determine the topic of interrogation, ask questions, interrupt, challenge, accuse and give directions. Farinde (1998) as cited in Farinde (2008) suggests that acts in the police/suspect interrogation include elicitation, prompt, directive, accusation and evaluation. These all symbolise power. In pragmatics, Thomas (1986) as cited in Farinde (2008) suggests that discursal indicators, metadiscursal and interactional controllers are used by the police in their interrogations. Discursal indicators are surface level markers of the speaker's discursal intent, which are used to establish the purpose and nature of the talk as well as define topic boundaries of interaction.

Metadiscoursal comments are employed to mark new stages in the development of the interaction or signal that the interaction is about to end. Interactional controllers are used by the dominant participants in order to secure a particular response (Farinde, 2008).

In the courtroom, judges, barristers, magistrates and prosecutors, in most cases, dominate the discourse while witnesses and defendants are placed in subordinate positions. The former wield quantitative dominance, which deals with who speaks most; topical dominance, which is concerned with who controls the topic of discourse; and interactional dominance, which is concerned with who controls the initiation-response pattern. Thus, there is an uneven power distribution in the court (Farinde, 2008). He suggests that power is displayed through the control of testimony by insisting on role integrity, topic control and the use of structural questions. In order to exhibit power, Farinde (2008) suggests that lawyers make use of loudness, higher pitch range, repetition, silent pauses, interruptions, fluency and coherence. He opines that hedges, hesitations, uncertainties, intensifiers, mitigation, and time token are used by less powerful speakers. Although power is laden in the courtroom, lawyers make use of mitigating forms and other politeness strategies to avoid face threatening acts. In the courtroom setting, powerful interactants employ fewer redressive forms and engage in explicit face threatening acts, which seem to be in accordance with institutional norms.

The power of lawyers rests in their use of questions. Lawyers exploit different types of questions in order to present their own side of the story to the court. The turn-taking system also reveals the power wielded by judges and lawyers. Speakers' turns are pre-allocated and fixed instead of being randomly distributed among the interactants. The judge is the most powerful and can interrupt at will or speak at any time during the proceedings. On the other hand, witnesses and defendants can be sanctioned, if they speak out of turn. Lawyers also switch styles in order to achieve their aim and say indirectly what they cannot say directly in court. They switch phonological style such as pitch, rhythm and intonation as well as questioning styles such as Wh-questions, yes/no questions and declaratives with tag questions. Switching is successful because of the asymmetrical relationship between lawyers and witnesses (Farinde, 2008). Berk-Seligson (1999) cited in Farinde (2008) suggests that low control questions include Wh-questions, modal questions and embedded questions while high control questions include alternate, yes/no, factual and

declarative with tag questions. Also, Rigney (1999) cited in Farinde (2008) posits that in legal interpretation, discourse markers are ignored and these affect the pragmatic force of the utterances, even when the grammatical structure is still the same.

1.2.1 Legal discourse in Nigeria

The colonisation of Nigeria by Britain in the 18th century led to the nation's use of English as the official language (Akindele & Adegbite, 1999). Subsequently, this led to the adoption of English as the language of the court. Thus, the Nigerian legal system is patterned after the British legal system, apart from the adoption of the Sharia law in some states in the northern part of the country (Farinde, 2008). Thus, the linguistic patterns in British legal documents are evident in Nigerian legal texts. These include the preponderance of French, Latin and old English words, nominalisations, double negatives, passive constructions, intrusive phrases, inversion of word order as well as the dearth of pronouns amongst others (see Alabi, 1997; Okolo, 2001 and Opeibi, 2008b).

Although defendants and witnesses are allowed to speak in any of the three major ethnic languages - Hausa, Ibo and Yoruba, the law is still coded in English (Farinde, 2008 and Opeibi, 2008b). Courtroom clerks act as interpreters for them. Opeibi (2008b) posits that Nigerian Pidgin is sometimes allowed in some South-South regions of Nigeria. Farinde (2008) suggests that lawyers exploit the knowledge of English to intimidate witnesses that are illiterates or semi-literates. On interpretation in the Nigerian courtroom, Farinde (2008) notes that Nigerian court interpreters omit discourse markers used by lawyers which have pragmatic effect on the discourse. There are also omissions, deletions, and wrong translations. These court interpreters are actually the clerks of the court who are not professional interpreters. Thus, they are not trained in the act of interpretation.

Farinde (2008) opines that the system of interrogation between the police and suspects in Nigeria is different from what obtains in western countries. Interrogation in Nigeria includes force, coercion, torture and threats. People are also killed without trial. He suggests that there is a need for a body of scholars of law and language that will address the linguistic situation in the Nigerian court room. This is because a large number of the populace is not communicatively competent in English. In the first place, legal English is not usually comprehensible to lay men. Thus, he posits that it is important to empower the three major languages: Hausa, Ibo and Yoruba to

be used as official languages in the court. Of course, there is also a need to empower some of the other minority languages in the country. He also notes that there are people who exercise power over the rulings of the court. He calls this power behind discourse as against power in discourse, which is wielded by lawyers and judges in the courtroom.

1.3 Public hearings

1.3.1 The nature and structure of public hearings

A public hearing is a public meeting which is created in order to obtain public testimony or comment (Meinig, 1998). It may occur as part of a regular or special meeting. It may also be the sole purpose of a special meeting, without considering other matters. In the United States of America, it is an open record hearing under the 1995 regulatory reform. Meinig (1998) opines that public bodies such as city councils, boards of county commissioners and planning commissions may be required by state law to hold public hearings. He asserts that there is no ready guide for public bodies to follow when conducting these public hearings.

There are two types of public hearing; these are legislative and quasi-judicial public hearings. A legislative public hearing is meant to obtain public input on legislative decisions on matters of policy. They are required by state law when such matters such as legislative bills are being addressed. They are less formal than quasi-judicial public hearings. They do not involve the legal rights of specific or private persons in a contested setting. Rather, they affect a wide range of citizens or the entire populace. The decisions made in these kinds of hearings can only be reviewed in order to determine if they are constitutional or if they violate state laws. Legislative hearings do not require tape-recordings. Almer and Koontz (2004) opine that legislative public hearings serve as useful venues for people who would like to have more information about a project, as they often include a brief presentation on the proposed plan before the question and answer period. Through citizens' questions and comments, project planners have a better idea of the issues which are important to the public.

A quasi-judicial public hearing involves the legal rights of specific parties and the decisions made as a result of such a hearing must be based upon and supported by the 'record' developed at the hearing. The 'record' consists of all testimony or comment presented at the hearing and all documents or exhibits that have been submitted in connection with the matter being handled. All documents, including

maps, drawings and staff reports are submitted as numbered exhibits during the public hearing. The hearing is tape-recorded and if a decision is appealed, the court will require a transcript of the hearing, which can be obtained from the tapes. A quasi-judicial public hearing is subject to stricter procedural requirements and it is usually held by local government bodies involving land use matters, etc (Meinig, 1998). Quasi-judicial public hearings are sometimes referred to as public inquiries or parliamentary inquiries in countries such as the United Kingdom and Ireland. They are usually headed by judges, lawyers and, sometimes, by academics and businessmen (Burton and Carlen, 1979).

Notices are given for all public hearings. Such a notice may include a publication in a newspaper, posting on and near real estate property that may be affected by the matter being addressed in the hearing. Notices can also be mailed to specific parties. A hearing committee may choose to provide any additional note beyond the statutory notice requirements that may exist. Meinig (1998) opines that the appearance of fairness doctrine applies to quasi-judicial hearings. Here, a decision maker is not allowed to prejudge or have biases regarding a matter. Communications during the hearing are prohibited, unlike legislative hearings where members of a public body can have biases and can be lobbied by constituents. Public hearings are held where public meetings normally hold. The room should be well-ventilated and a microphone is provided so that the testimonies can be heard and adequately recorded (Meinig, 1998).

Quasi-judicial hearings are formal but not as formal as court proceedings and they require the use of process protection. There is usually a standard agenda which includes an introduction where the presiding officer introduces the matter being considered and announces the ground rules for the hearing. This is followed by a staff report, in which the planning staff describes the application being considered. Here, they must identify and discuss technical issues, describe possible alternatives and make recommendations concerning the proposal. Lastly, the agenda would include the applicant's presentation. Here, the applicant who has the burden of proof to show compliance with applicable laws would present his/her testimony and evidence to support the application. S/he may call for expert witnesses to also speak at some point. The applicant answers any question raised by members of the decision-making body. Also, the testimony should be taken under oath in quasi-judicial hearings. Individual oaths or group oaths can be taken by the clerk or presiding officer in order

to save time. Presiding officer may find it helpful to have a written ‘script’ to follow for opening and presiding over the hearing.

Meinig (1998) posits that comments and exhibits should be allowed as long as they have some relevance to the matter at hand. Exercising too much control over seemingly irrelevant comments or exhibits may be perceived as censorship of legitimate public comment. It is best to admit them and decide about their reliability or relevance later, if one is in doubt of such exhibits. Cross-examination is not appropriate in a quasi-judicial hearing before a local government body. However, there may be instances where it should be allowed. In cases where the hearing assumes a distinctly adversarial posture, the proponents and opponents are represented by legal counsels, expert witnesses are called, or complex technical information is presented. Cross-examination should be permitted if requested. Cross-examination can be conducted by one representative, presumably a legal counsel, from each side of the matter (Meinig, 1998). Sometimes, a hearing may continue to another day if there are more people wishing to testify. A hearing should not be allowed to continue too late into the night since many of the public participants will find it necessary to leave before its conclusion. The record is closed at the conclusion of the hearing, after which no other testimony or evidence is considered by the hearing body. Deliberations and the vote on the application can take place immediately after the close of the public hearing or at some future meeting.

Public hearings fall under political and legal discourses. They are political because they involve political actors and government officials attending to issues that are social and political. They also fall under legal discourse because they are backed up by state laws. While legislative public hearings deal with matters that may be turned into laws, quasi-judicial public hearings involve the legal rights of parties, and decisions are based on exhibits and testimonies obtained from the hearings. Just as in the law courts, the complainants and defendants have to swear to speak the truth and sometimes lawyers may be brought in to represent any of the parties. In some occasions, cross-examinations may occur. Also, the hearings involve serious interrogation in order to get the truth from the defendants. They are, however, less formal than court sittings.

The discourse structure of a public hearing starts with an oath-taking by the complainants/defendants. This is followed by the presentation of the complainants/defendants. After this, the chairperson of the committee invites other

members of the panel to interrogate the complainant/defendant. After answering the questions, the complainants state their prayers and then the written testimonies and other legal documents are admitted as exhibits. After this, the chairman thanks the complainant/defendant, and may ask some last minute questions, make comments and promises.

1.3.2 Public hearings in Nigeria

Public hearings in Nigeria existed in the past in the traditional societies that made up the country. For example, in the Yoruba traditional system, cases were aired in the presence of family members or in palace courts where the Oba or his chiefs would interrogate the witnesses and defendants. These courts were in the marketplaces, which were usually in front of palaces (see Onadeko, 2008). These existed in the pre-colonial era and gradually faded away during the colonial period as the English brought in their judicial system. However, traditional rulers still act now as arbiters in their local communities. Today, Nigeria, as a single nation, has three arms of government, the executive, legislature and judiciary. The legislature conducts public hearings on bills before they can be passed into law. They also have the oversight function of carrying out investigative or quasi-judicial public hearings to monitor some of the activities of the executive arm of the government. The executive may also call for investigative public hearings, and in these cases, they appoint judges to chair the public hearing panels. Examples include the Human Rights Violations Investigation Commission of 1999, Osun Truth and Reconciliation Commission of 2011, fuel subsidy probe of 2012, etc.

Although legislative public hearings are usually carried out by the legislative arm of government in Nigeria, quasi-judicial public hearings are not daily occurrences in the country. However, in the past few years, there has been an increase in the number of quasi-judicial public hearings. This, perhaps, may be due to the prolonged military rule in the country, which did not allow the rule of law or other democratic processes to take place. Since most quasi-judicial public hearings tend to question the activities of some government officials, there was no way in which the military would allow them to occur.

On June 14, 1999, The Human Rights Violations Investigation Commission was inaugurated in order to establish the causes, nature, and extent of human rights violations (in particular the assassinations and attempted killings - between January 15, 1966 and May 28, 1999), identify perpetrators (individuals or institutions),

determine the role of the state in the violations, and recommend means to pursue justice and prevent future abuses. The Commission comprised eight commissioners: six men and two women and was chaired by Justice Chukwudifu Oputa. Although the commission received about 10,000 testimonies of human rights violations and conducted public hearings across Nigeria, only about 150 cases were heard. The Commission's final report was submitted to President Olusegun Obasanjo in June 2002, but it was never officially released to the public. In January 2005, the Washington-based non-governmental organisation, Nigerian Democratic Movement and Nigeria-based Civil Society Forum took the initiative to unofficially publish the full report of the Human Rights Violations Investigation Commission. The findings revealed that the Nigerian military was responsible for gross human rights violations.

Also, on November 29, 2007, Governor Rotimi Amaechi of Rivers state inaugurated a Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Rivers state, which was mandated to 'unearth the remote and immediate causes of cult clashes in Rivers state', and to identify perpetrators and victims with the hope of pursuing prosecutions and granting compensation. In 2008, the Nigerian Senate commissioned several committees to start public hearings on different sectors of the country. This included public hearings on the petroleum industry, textile sector, customs service, FCT administration, Bureau for Public Enterprise, power projects, etc. Also, in January, 2012, the House of Representatives commissioned one of its committees to probe the oil sector due to the crisis over fuel subsidy removal. Revelations from the public hearings indicated that a harvest of fraud, racketeering and official corruption occurred in these sectors (see Abdallah, Hassan and Abdul-Rahman , 2011).

1.3.3 The public hearing on FCT administration

The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) of Nigeria, namely Abuja was created in 1976 when it became expedient to have a new seat of government because of the congestion in Lagos, the former FCT. It was carved out of three states, namely Niger, Plateau and Kwara States. However, the physical development of the land did not start until 1980. A government parastatal, called the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) had the responsibility of designing and developing the new territory. From 1979, there was an influx of building contractors, food vendors, entertainers, hoteliers, amongst others. It was not until 1991 that the President of Nigeria moved permanently to Abuja. However, the Master Plan of the territory was not followed. There was poverty, inadequate resources and lack of respect for

planning regulations. In 2003, Mallam Nasiru el-Rufai, the twelfth Minister of the FCT was charged with the mandate of transforming Abuja into a capital city by following the Master Plan with a new 10-point agenda of the then President, Olusegun Obasanjo. This led to demolitions, revocation of titles of lands as well as reclamation of school land (Makinde, 2008).

In March 2008, the Nigerian Senate commissioned the Senate committees on FCT and Housing, led by Senator Abubakar Sodangi, the chairman of the Senate committee on FCT, to probe the FCT administration from 1999 to 2007. The hearing was inaugurated on the 9th of April, 2008 by the Senate President, Senator David Mark and was held at the Hearing Room of the Senate building. The hearing ended on the 14th of May, 2008. The issues in the public hearing centred on cases of ejection, demolition of property and revocation of titles of lands and property in the FCT. These included the sale of Federal Government houses, the sale of Sheraton Hotels and Towers, the concession of Garki Hospital, the management of International Conference Centre and the Eagle Square, amongst others (Ojeifo, 2008). The committee received several applications from different persons who felt wronged by the past FCT administrations and some of these persons appeared before the hearing panel in order to present their cases, as well as officials of the FCT, who had to defend their actions during this period. These officials included the three former FCT administrators, namely, Engineer Bunu Shefiff Musa, Alhaji Mohammed Abba Gana and Mallam Nasiru el-Rufai (Adisa, 2008). The issues that dominated the investigative public hearing covered the alleged mismanagement of the N32 billion that was said to have accrued from the sale of Federal Government Houses in the FCT. There was also the issue of abuse of office, which manifested in arbitrary demolitions, revocations and re-allocation of revoked lands to friends, family members and cronies, among others.

There was a call for memoranda to the general public through paid advertisements. Past FCT ministers, administrators, contractors to the FCT as well as members of the general public made oral and written submissions to the committee. Consultants were also commissioned to help the committee. There were over two thousand written memoranda which were submitted to the committee. Although the public hearing was about revocation and questionable allocation and reallocation of plots, Ojeifo (2008) opines that there seems to be some ulterior reasons than the ones given by the Committee for the inquisition. Supporters of the former FCT ministers

believed that some members of the public hearing committee had personal conflicts with el-Rufai and these supporters asked that they should withdraw from the hearings so as to avoid bias. He asserts that “the pattern of questions and comments had been uncouth, not demonstrating the standards of decency and subtlety expected of the parliament.” The committee had evidently not done sufficient rigorous research to enable its members ask informed questions. But then, he opines that one or two members had been brilliant in their questions. El-Rufai took the centre stage because the issues being investigated were largely policies and programmes that his administration enunciated and implemented (Ojeifo, 2009). The public hearing is a quasi-judicial one and it is investigative in nature.

1.4 Statement of the problem

The study of the politics of a nation is important in order to understand the social and political life of its people. A quasi-judicial public hearing is a speech situation where interactants, especially complainants and defendants, depend on words to present their evidence and convince the hearing panel to write recommendations in their favour. Quasi-judicial public hearings involve presentations, testimonies, documented evidence, and questioning, which are carried out through language. Language is the tool through which interactants in the public hearings elicit truth and narrate experiences. The study of language in public hearings is important because linguistic features can serve as manipulative tools in narration (Verdoolaege, 2003) and carry ideological perspectives (Verdoolaege, 2003 and Lubbe, 2007). Thus, it is necessary to understand how the interactants use language to pass across their messages. Quasi-judicial/investigative public hearings in Nigeria are new trends in the Nigerian political system with a view to investigating corruption in different sectors of the country. These public hearings are part of the civic affairs of a government as they require the engagement of the public (Opeibi, 2008). Thus, it is particularly important to investigate the discourses that exist in the hearings and how these discourses are influenced by socio-cultural and socio-political factors in the society. It is also necessary to examine the interactional structure of the hearings in order to see how utterances are influenced by the structure of the hearing. It is also expedient to study how the situational context of the interaction shapes the utterances in the hearings. More importantly, there is the need to see how the interactants manipulate language in order to achieve their goals and intentions in the discourse.

Several studies on public hearings dwell on the sociological and political aspects of the hearings (e.g. Ratliff, 1997; Headrick, Serra and Twomblys, 2002; Duffin, 2003; Brasher, 2006; Corona, 2007; and Obar & Schejter, 2010). Most language studies that dwell on the discourse have focused on legislative public hearings (e.g. Gring-Pemle, 2001; Smith, 2005; Buttny and Cohen, 2007; and Simon & Jerit, 2007) which are not the focus of this study. Studies on quasi-judicial public hearings, very few of which have been undertaken with respect to the Nigerian situation, have focused on narrative, rhetorical, sociolinguistic and critical discourse aspects of the hearings. These have not paid full attention to their interaction structure and pragmatic features (Bock and Duncan, 2002; Verdoolaege, 2005a and Bock, 2008).

Most of the linguistic studies on quasi-judicial public hearings that exist dwell on the Truth and Reconciliation Committee (TRC) hearings in South Africa (McCormick and Bock, 1999; Verdoolaege, 2003; Anthonissen, 2006; Bock et al, 2006; Lubbe, 2007; Bock, 2008; Verdoolaege, 2009a and 2009b). A few others have been carried out in other non-African countries (Rogers, 1988; Lingle 2008 and Cavalieri, 2009). This leaves a gap in the knowledge of the generic structure and context-driven activities in the hearings, thus preventing a full account of the interaction patterns and participant goals during the hearings, particularly in the Nigerian setting.

This study, therefore, explores the interactional formats and language functions in the 2008 quasi-judicial public hearing on FCT administration. This is done with a view to revealing the interactional structure and pragmatic features in the hearing and comparing the formats with those of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) hearing study in South Africa, the only quasi-judicial public hearing yet analysed in Africa. It is necessary to note that the socio-political and socio-cultural factors that influenced the TRC are different from those that affected the FCT administration in Nigeria. Moreover, the TRC hearing in South Africa is seen as a reconciliation-oriented discourse that was mainly affected by apartheid, which did not occur in Nigeria. Thus, the participant goals and interactional patterns of the FCT hearing would differ from those of the South African TRC. Moreover, the issues addressed in the TRC hearing differ from those of the FCT hearing and these may have some effect on the discourse strategies employed in the hearings.

1.5 Aim and objectives of the study

The aim of this research is to study the interaction structure and pragmatic features employed in the quasi-judicial public hearing on FCT administration in Nigeria. The objectives of the study are:

- a. to characterise the generic structure of the public hearing on FCT administration; the locutions and their pragmatic functions in the public hearing;
- b. to examine the contextual beliefs shared by the parties in the public hearing;
- c. to compare the interactional format of the public hearing in Nigeria with that reported in literature on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearing in South Africa.

1.6 Scope and delimitation of the study

The study covers selected hearing sessions between the public hearing panel of the Senate and the complainants/defendants in the 2008 national quasi-judicial public hearing on FCT administration in Nigeria. The work covers the generic structure of the hearing, the locutions and their pragmatic functions in the public hearing. It also examines the shared contextual beliefs of the interactants in the discourse. The study focuses on the hearing sessions between the public hearing panel of the Senate and the complainants/defendants in the 2008 national public hearing on FCT administration in Nigeria, with a view to understanding the organisation of the interaction and the pragmatic strategies employed in the texts.

The study did not pay attention to the verbal interaction of the Senators with the complainants/defendants at the different sites where demolitions and revocations took place. The study did not also consider the interrogations of other public hearings such as those on the power sector, health sector, aviation, etc. This is because the public hearing on the FCT involves the presentation of testimonies by a large group of people who are not necessarily political actors or government officials. The study also compares and contrasts the interactional structure of the FCT hearing with the study that worked on the structural pattern of the TRC hearing.

1.7 Justification of theories

Michael Halliday and Ruquiya Hasan's (1989) and Hasan Ansary and Esmat Babaii's (2005) Generic Structure Potential (GSP) model, Akin Odeunmi's (2006) model of context, John Austin's (1962) locutionary acts and Jacob Mey's (2001) pragmatic act theory provided the theoretical framework for the study. This is because they deal with the structures and functions of language in context. Insights

are also borrowed from conversational analysis and van Dijk's (1993) theory of Otherness. There are two frequently used approaches in the analysis of genre, namely, the systemic functional linguistics (SFL) model of Halliday and Hasan (1989) and Ansary and Babaii (2005 and 2009) and the Specific Purposes approach of Swales (1990) and Bhatia (1997). However, the GSP model which is an approach within the SFL model is effective because it takes into consideration the linguistic structure of the genre and how it relates to the context of the interaction. It also considers the semantic and grammatical properties of the text.

Odebunmi's model of context takes into consideration the contextual beliefs which depend on shared knowledge of the participants. Austin's locutionary acts are helpful because they deal with the words and sentences used in a discourse and how these words add meaning to the text. However, Mey's pragmatic acts are adopted instead of Austin's illocutionary acts because pragmatic acts are situation-bound and situation-constrained (Kecskes, 2010). They are embedded within the context of interaction and the theory places much emphasis on the socio-cultural factors needed in meaning construction and comprehension. As Mey (2001) points out, the speech act theory lacks a theory of action, and even if it does have such a theory, it is individual-based rather than societal-centered.

Insights are also borrowed from conversational analysis because the theory takes care of features of spoken interactions such as fillers, silence, overlaps and incomplete sentences. Van Dijk's theory of Otherness, under critical discourse analysis, is effective in revealing how interactants represent others in their discourse, which is important in an investigative public hearing.

1.8 Significance of the study

This study is expected to provide an understanding of the discourse of the quasi-judicial public hearing on FCT administration in Nigeria. The study is expected to explicate the application of genre analysis and pragmatic strategies to quasi-judicial public hearing discourse. The study is expected to reveal the interaction structure of the discourse and pragmatic strategies employed by interactants in the hearing. It is expected that the results of this study will be useful in carrying out a comparative analysis among different quasi-judicial public hearings in Nigeria, Africa and the world. This study is expected to contribute to the increasing literature in genre analysis, pragmatic studies and public hearing discourse.

CHAPTER TWO

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.0 Introduction

This chapter centres on a hybrid of theoretical concepts which covers the systemic functional approach to generic structure, conversational analysis, self/other representation, contextual beliefs, locutionary acts and pragmatic acts. The chapter also covers the review of related works on political discourse, legal discourse, legislative public hearings, and quasi-judicial public hearings. Special focus is placed on the literature on the South African Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) hearing, the only quasi-judicial public hearing that has been linguistically studied in Africa.

2.1 Theoretical framework

The theoretical framework for this study is provided by Halliday and Hasan's (1989) and Ansary and Babaii's (2005) GSP, Odebunmi's (2006) model of context, Austin's (1962) locutionary act theory, Mey's (2001) pragmatic act theory, conversational analysis and van Dijk's (1993) theory of Otherness. These are discussed below:

2.1.1 Genre analysis and Generic Structure Potential

Genre is an important framework for analysing the form and function of different texts such as research articles, thesis/dissertations, news reports, editorials, etc. It can be used in developing educational practices in rhetoric, linguistics, English for Specific Purposes, English for Academic Purposes, etc. Although it was, traditionally, a literary concept, it has now become popular in the description of non-literary discourses. Genre analysis rests on the assumption that the features of a similar group of texts depend on the social context of their creation and use. These features can be described in a way that relates a text to other texts like it (Hyland, 2002). Swales (1990) defines a genre as comprising a class of communicative events. These events have members which share some set of communicative purposes, which are recognised by expert members of the parent discourse community, and thereby constitute the rationale for the genre. This rationale shapes the schematic structure of the discourse, influences and constrains the choice of content and style. In addition, there should be exemplars of a genre which should exhibit various patterns of similarity in terms of structure, style, content, and intended audience. If all high

probability expectations are realised, the exemplar will be viewed as prototypical by the parent discourse community.

Bhatia (1997) defines genre analysis as the study of situated linguistic behaviour in institutionalised academic or professional settings. Bhatia (2002:5) argues that a generic description can serve as a model, where it can be used as an ideal example “for learners to analyse, understand and exploit in their writing to innovate and respond to new situations.” It can also serve as a resource of “knowledge of procedures, practices and conventions that make the text possible and relevant to a particular socio-rhetorical context.” Bhatia (1997) observes that there is a phenomenon called genre-mixing, which occurs when genre is designed to achieve a mix of communicative purposes. Bruce (2009) proposes that genre should be studied from two approaches in line with Bhatia’s ethnographic and textual perspective of the investigation of genre knowledge. These include social genre and cognitive genre. Bruce (2009:106) opines that social genre deals with “socially recognised constructs to which whole texts are classified in terms of their overall social purpose.” Cognitive genre deals with “the overall cognitive orientation and internal organisation of a segment of writing that realises a single, more general rhetorical purpose to represent one type of information within discourse” (p.107). These two approaches are complementary approaches used to examine “the discursal and textual elements of a genre.”

There are several approaches used in the analysis of different genres. These include corpus studies, which deal with the computational analysis of the language of genres; textual analysis, which includes a linguistic description of texts; and critical and ethnographic analyses which deal with interviews and case studies (Bhatia, 2002). There are, however, two theories of genre that are frequently used in the analysis of academic and professional texts. These include systemic functional linguistics (SFL) (Halliday and Hasan, 1989; Henry and Roseberry, 1997; and Ansary and Babaii, 2005 and 2009) and the Specific Purposes approach (Swales, 1990; Bhatia, 1997 and 2002). Both approaches deal with the identification of recurring patterns used to organise the content of a genre and relating these patterns to specific linguistic features (Bruce, 2009). In the Specific Purposes model, Swales (1990) investigates 45 research articles and proposes a three-move Create-A-Research-Space (CARS) model: (1) establishing the territory, (2) locating a research niche and (3) occupying the niche. Most genre studies have followed Swales move-

analytic models of text analysis in order to investigate whether or not the generic prototypical rhetorical patterns exist universally. Some of these studies have looked at the generic structures of academic introductions (Bhatia, 1997), dissertation acknowledgements (Hyland 2004), and graduate program applications (Samaraj & Monk, 2008).

The SFL model considers the interaction between linguistic structures and context in its description of any genre. Halliday and Hasan (1989) opine that the context of a text consists of the context of situation and context of culture. Context of situation refers to register, which is made up of field, mode and tenor. Field refers to the “on-going activity and the particular purpose that the use of language is serving within the context of activity.” Tenor of discourse refers to who is taking part in the discourse, the nature of the participants, their statuses and roles as well as the speech roles and relationships they are involved in (Halliday and Hasan, 1989). Mode is concerned with the role language plays in the discourse. It looks at the symbolic organisation of the text, the status that it has and its function in the context (see also Martin and Rose, 2003). Hyland (2002) opines that genres are patterns of discourse for expressing meanings in context and the basic components of meaning or macro/metafunctions. These metafunctions are the ideational, the interpersonal and the textual. The ideational function focuses on participants; processes and circumstances of the actions and events. The interpersonal function deals with role relationship that exists between interlocutors while the textual function examines the organisation of the linguistic resources of the text (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2004).

Halliday and Hasan (1989) propose the concept of Contextual Configuration (CC) ‘as an account of the significant attributes of a social activity’. Specifically, each of the three features of the context of situation (field, tenor and mode) may be thought of as a ‘variable’ that is represented by some specific value(s). Each variable functions as a point of entry to any situation as a set of possibilities and/or options. Any member of related pair of options can combine with any member of any other to form a specific contextual configuration.

Halliday and Hasan (1989) propose the concept of Generic Structure Potential (GSP) to define a genre. A GSP is a condensed statement of the conditions under which a text will be seen as one which is appropriate to a specific CC. It expresses the total range of optional, iterative and obligatory elements and their order in the text. Halliday and Hasan (1989) examine a set of similar spoken texts and identify

their obligatory and optional rhetorical elements of the texts, and establish what they call the GSP of a ‘Shop Transaction’ which is catalogued below:

$$\begin{array}{c} \curvearrowright \quad \curvearrowright \\ [(G).(SI)^{n}][(SE.)^{m}\{SR^{n}SC^{n}\}^{n}]P^{n}PC^{n}(\wedge F) \end{array}$$

The round brackets () in the GSP indicate the optionality of enclosed elements. The dot between the elements means ‘more than one’ option in sequence (.). The square brackets [] specify the restraint on sequence i.e neither SE or SR may follow P. The arrows (\curvearrowright) show iteration while the braces with curved arrows { } indicate that the degree of iteration for the elements in the square brackets is equal. That is to say, if SR occurs twice, then SC must also occur twice. Finally, the caret sign (^) shows the sequence of the elements. In addition to the symbols recognised by Halliday and Hasan (1989), Ansary and Babaii (2005) propose the subscripts (_n) and (_m) which refer to the iteration of sets which can be found in the GSP of newspaper editorials. This is presented below:

$$H^{n} [(BI).AI]^{n} \{ (IA)^{n} A1^{n} A2^{n} \dots (CA) \}^{n} \{ AP1^{n} AP2^{n} AP \dots \}^{m}$$

This shows that it is not only individual rhetorical elements that can be iterated, but also sets which are collections of rhetorical elements.

Halliday and Hasan (1989) maintain that any shop transaction comprises a series of optional and obligatory macrostructural elements sequenced in a specific order and that “the obligatory elements define the genre to which a text belongs” (Halliday and Hasan 1989: 62). Such elements can vary in size, but normally contain at least one proposition. It is, therefore, possible to express the total range of optional, obligatory, and iterative elements and their sequence in such a way that all the possibilities and/or potential of text structure for every text appropriate to a specific CC may be exhausted. In other words, it is possible to state the Generic Structure Potential (GSP) of a genre. That is, each text may have a different actual structure, but each realises a possibility built into its GSP. In view of this, it is important to establish the GSP of a quasi-judicial public hearing in order to understand the interactional structure of the hearing and be able to account for the obligatory, optional and iterative elements as well as the sequence of the elements in the discourse. One may, then, be able to compare the GSP of the FCT quasi-judicial public hearing with other quasi-judicial public hearings in other parts of Africa and the world.

2.1.2 Speech act theory

In this section, we shall review the speech act theory briefly and zero in on locutions, which we have chosen for a part of our analysis of the FCT hearing. The speech act theory was formulated by the Oxford philosopher, John Austin in his posthumous book, *How to do things with words* (1962). The speech act theory arose as a challenge to the restrictive view of a philosophical doctrine called logical positivism that centred on the truth conditional analysis of sentence meaning (see Tarski, 1933). For logical positivists, a sentence is only meaningful when it can be verified as being either true or false. For example, “Olusegun Obasanjo is the President of Nigeria,” is a meaningful sentence since it can either be true or false. However, it is evident that not all sentences are formed in this way. Sentences such as “Can I go to the bathroom?” or “Thank you” have meaning even though they cannot be verified as true or false. Austin (1962) explains that every utterance made, such as stating a fact, confirming or denying something, making a prediction, thanking or giving a piece of advice is a speech act.

Austin (1962) opines that there are two kinds of utterances, namely constatives and performatives. Constatives are statements that describe situations, events and states of affairs and have the property of being either true or false. For example, “Goodluck Jonathan is the President of Nigeria.” Performatives are utterances used in performing actions rather than merely saying them. These include utterances such as “I hereby name you John” and “I baptise you in the name of God.” These two utterances show the performance of the acts of naming and baptising.

Austin (1962) asserts that performatives are identifiable because they have the form of declarative sentences with a first person subject in simple present tense form, which can be collocated with the adverb, ‘hereby’ e.g. I (hereby) promise to come here tomorrow. However, these conditions are not the only necessary ones for making the sentences performative. One can also find explicit performatives such as ‘Buyers are requested to pay for their purchases here’ with the absence of the first person singular subject and the occurrence of the performative verb in the passive form.

Austin, then, proposes five classes of performatives with an acknowledgement of overlapping possibilities. These include:

Exercitives: These involve the exercising of powers, rights or influence e.g. appoint, order, advise, warn, etc;

Verdictives: These deal with the giving of a verdict by a juror or an umpire e.g. acquit, grade, estimate and diagnose;

Commissives: These commit the speaker to do something e.g. promise, guarantee and bet;

Behabitives: These deal with attitudes and social behaviour e.g. apologize, criticize, bless and challenge; and

Expositives: These clarify how utterances fit into the course of an argument e.g. argue, postulate, affirm and concede.

Austin drew a distinction within performatives. These are primary (explicit) and implicit performatives. For example, one can perform the act of promising in two different ways:

Example 1

1. I will go to the office tomorrow.
2. I promise to go to the office tomorrow.

The first sentence is an implicit performative while the other which contains a form of the performative verb 'promise' is an explicit (primary) performative. Lyons (1977) opines that the assertion that a primary performative and an implicit performative may be used to perform the same speech act does not imply that the sentences in question have the same meaning. An explicit performative is typically more specific in meaning than an implicit performative. If a person says, "I promise to go to the office tomorrow," he cannot deny that he made a promise. But if he says, 'I'll go to the office tomorrow,' he might claim that he failed to carry out the action due to forces beyond his control. The only exception is "if the context is such as to exclude the possibility of any other interpretation" (Lyons, 1977:728).

The distinction between constatives and performatives rests upon the distinction between saying and doing something. Austin later abandoned the untenable distinction between constatives and performatives since saying something is an action in itself, which can affect or change the world in some way. Thus, constatives are just one kind of performatives and they may be primary or implicit. For example, the sentence, "The book is on the shelf," is a constative and an implicit performative statement.

Austin (1962) thus, draws a three-fold distinction between locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary acts. The locutionary act is the actual words uttered, the illocutionary act is the force or intention behind the words while the

perlocutionary act is the effect of the illocution on the hearer. Kempson (1975:57) puts the distinction thus, “a speaker utters sentences with a particular meaning (locutionary act) and with a particular force (illocutionary act) in order to achieve a certain effect (perlocutionary act) in the hearer.” For example, a speaker might say, “There are mosquitoes entering the room” (locution) meaning: “Please, could you shut the door” (illocution) and the perlocutionary effect may be that the person coming in shuts the door.

Austin (1962) states that the locutionary act covers the phonetic act, phatic act and rhetic act which correspond to the verbal, syntactic and semantic aspects of any meaningful utterance. The phonetic act is marked by the uttering of certain noises; the phatic act is indicated by the uttering of certain vocables or words, which belong to a certain grammar while the rhetic is marked by using the vocables with a particular sense or reference. Searle (1968) sees the locutionary act as a literal utterance, which he refers to as a propositional act. Frazer (1986) opines that the locutionary act performed may also be referred to as the operational meaning of an utterance and this is determined by the sense of the sentence, the identity of the object being referred to by the speaker in the real world, without reference to the literal or figurative use of the language by the speaker (cf Odebunmi, 2006a).

Perlocutionary acts are unconventional but they are achieved through conventional acts which may be verbal or non verbal, for example “shutting the door.” It is also possible that the intended effect desired by the speaker may not be produced by the hearer. A speaker may intend to surprise a hearer but may end up frightening him/her. Thus, a perlocutionary act may not always be successful (Frazer 1986).

2.1.2.1 Locutions

Odebunmi (2006b:26) views “locutions as vocabulary items that have certain senses and references when engaged in certain contexts by interactants.” In other words, locutions are lexical choices which carry semantic properties when used in a context of interaction. Odebunmi (2006b) argues that the operational meaning of an utterance should be complemented with insights from theories of lexical description. This would include the knowledge of collocations which covers terms such as nodes, collocates, spans, clusters and sets. Nodes are headwords of collocations, collocates are items that occur with a node, and spans determine the range of words that can function around a particular node. “A cluster is a list of the lexical items which can

be collocated with a particular lexical item” while a set is a collection of a number of clusters that are alike (Berry, 1977: 59).

Frazer (1986) asserts that the sense(s) of an utterance is difficult to determine as an utterance may have different senses but only one is meant to be understood. This depends on the context of use which includes the speaker, hearer and the circumstances leading to the utterance, the time and place of the interaction, etc. Thus, locution relates to reference which refers to the knowledge of the operational meaning of a word and this also relates to deixis which focuses on the “relationship between the structures of languages and the contexts in which they are used” (Levinson, 1983:55). Deictic expressions are words which are used in pointing at things. They identify referents and relate such referents to the knowledge shared between the speaker and the hearer (Grundy, 1995).

The reference of indexicals shifts based on the context of the utterance which includes the speaker, hearer, time, and location (Odebunmi, 2006b). Deictic expressions include deixis of time, place and person. Time deixis includes temporal adverbials (today, tomorrow) which represent time in relation to the roles of participants. Place deixis encode the spatial locations in relation to the location of the interactants or speech events and these include demonstratives (this, that) and place adverbials (here, there). Indexicals such as *this*, *these*, *here* indicate proximity, while *that*, *those*, *there* indicate distality. Person deixis concerns the participant roles which are expressed through personal pronouns. The first person pronoun includes the speaker, the second person includes the addressee, but the third person excludes both the speaker and addressee (see Levinson, 1983; Goddard, 1998; Odebunmi 2006b).

In addition, a consideration of the locutionary act will require a consideration of the kinds of sense relations that words have with other lexical items within a discourse (Palmer, 1999 and Akande, 2003). These sense relations include antonymy, synonymy, hyponymy, polysemy, homonymy, homophony and homography. Synonymy is used to describe the relationship between lexical items that have the same meaning. Examples include *boy* and *lad* and *regal* and *royal*. Sometimes, synonyms may seem structurally alike but functionally different in the way they collocate with other linguistic items e.g. *Start* the engine and **Begin* the engine. *Start* collocates with engine but *begin* does not. Palmer (1996:89) notes that similar words can differ based on style (gentleman and chap); emotive or evaluative meaning (politician and statesman); and different dialects of a language (*Fall* in American

English and *Autumn* in British English). Thus, the second sentence is unacceptable and ungrammatical. It is imperative that one chooses the most appropriate lexical item which is relevant to the language of context.

Antonymy is the relationship that exists between a lexical item and its negation. It depicts the concept of oppositeness. Examples include *generous* and *stingy*; and *handsome* and *ugly*. Just like synonymy, the linguistic context of usage will dictate the appropriateness of an opposite word. Odebunmi (2006a) posits that the exact lines between opposite words are blurred when the negator *not* is introduced into words like *white* which may present other words like *green*, *yellow*, and *brown* which are other colours apart from white. However, exact opposites can be found in the use of prefixes in words such as licit/illicit, touchable/untouchable, exact/inexact, etc. The different types of antonyms include complementary antonyms (e.g. buy and sell); relational antonyms (e.g. mother and father) and gradable antonyms (e.g. wider, lower, etc).

Hyponymy is the relationship that exists between a superordinate item and its subordinate items. Here, we have a superordinate item which contains several smaller items. The smaller items are referred to as co-hyponyms. For example, *tulip*, *rose* and *hibiscus* which are hyponyms of *flower*. Hyponymy, sometimes, goes with entailment. For example, a wife entails that she is a woman. Meronymy is the relationship between an item and one of its constituent parts. In this sense, we can say that an *engine* is a holonym (the whole) while the *carburetor* and *batteries* are meronyms (parts).

Polysemy occurs when a word has two or more etymologically related meanings. Examples include the *foot of a bed* and the *foot of a mountain*. Homonymy occurs when two different words have the same spelling and sound but different meanings. Examples include the *bank* of a river and a *bank* which is a financial institution. Others include *bachelor*, *flight*, *staff*, etc (Palmer, 1996). Homography arises when two words have the same spelling but different pronunciations and meanings. An example is *lead* (a verb) and *lead* (a metal). Homophony exists when two words have the same pronunciation but different spelling and meanings. Examples include *site*, *sight* and *cite* (Palmer, 1996).

Also, the study of the locutionary act will include a consideration of how words are formed in order to express particular meanings. It is important to note that the way a word is formed and its acceptability depends on the context of the speech

event, which covers the participant roles, the location as well as the genre of the interaction. Word formation processes include affixation, abbronymy, compounding, clipping, blending, and conversion among others (see Yule, 1996; Odebunmi, 2006a). Affixes are bound morphemes which can be added to a particular word to have a different word entirely. They can be prefixes (which are added to the initial part of the word such as *il-*, *un-*, *non-*) or suffixes (which are added to the final part of the word such as *-ion*, *-ial*, *-ess*). They can also be inflectional (when they indicate the grammatical category of a word such as tense, number, person, etc). Examples include *-ed*, *-s*, *-ing*, etc They could also be derivative (when they indicate the grammatical class of a word (nouns, verbs, adverbs, and adjectives). Examples include *-ness*, *-er*, *-al*, etc.

Compounding involves the combination of two or more words to form a new word which may be in the same class of one or both of the words that formed it or it may be of a different class entirely. For example, *head* (a noun) and *ache* (a verb) will form *headache* (a noun) while *heart* (a noun) and *breaking* (a verb) will form *heart-breaking* (an adjective). Conversion is a process in which a word can be changed to a different class without the addition of an affix. An example is *cover* which can be used both as a noun and as a verb. Others include *contest*, *turn*, *channel*, *corner*, etc (see Fasold & Connor-Linton, 2006 and Odebunmi, 2006a).

Odebunmi (2006a: 53) defines abbronyms as “letter representations of a group of words or phrases which may or may not be pronounceable” i.e. *O. A. U*, *INEC*, etc. An abbronym is a blend of two words: abbreviations and acronyms, since the two words are difficult to differentiate based on their definitions in different English dictionaries (Odebunmi, 2006a). Blending is a process in which the combination of two free forms to form a single word results in the loss of one or more of the syllables or phonological substance of the words. Examples include *motor* and *hotel* to form *motel*; *twist* and *whirl* to form *twirl*, etc. Clipping is a process whereby a word is shorted to one or more syllables without losing its meaning. This includes backclipping where the latter part of the word is removed e.g. *doc(tor)*; foreclipping which occurs when the initial part of the word is removed e.g. *(tele)phone* and back+fore clipping occurs when both the initial and final parts of the words are removed e.g. *(re)fridge(rator)*, *(in)flu(enza)*, etc.

From the foregoing, it is evident that the analysis of a locutionary act involves a detailed description of the grammatical and semantic properties of an utterance.

Thus, it will be used in the analysis of the utterances in the present study. However, one of the limitations of the speech act theory is that it does not take care of the ‘messiness’ of spoken language which often include fillers, silence, overlaps, backchannels and incomplete sentences (Cutting, 2002). In addition, scholars have pointed out that the speech act theory is deficient because it lacks an action theory and even if it does, it is individual based rather than society-centered (Mey, 2001). Thus, while the locutionary act will be considered, the illocutionary act will be ignored for an approach that has an action theory, which is the focus of the next section.

2.1.3 Pragmatic acts

The pragmatic act theory is a socio-cultural interactional view of pragmatics as it emphasises “the priority of socio-cultural and societal factors in meaning construction and comprehension” (Kecskes, 2010: 2889). According to Mey (2001), speech acts are not effective as they are not situated and that there are no speech acts but situated speech acts or instantiated pragmatic acts. He introduces the terms *pragmeme*, *pract* and *allopract*. A *pragmeme* is a general situational prototype which is instantiated through individual pragmatic acts or *practs*. In other words, these are acts that incorporate the context of situation (Allan, 2010). In a similar vein, Capone (2010: 2964) asserts that “pragmemes are speech acts whose effects obtain through the use of language as situated in culture.” Capone (2005: 1357) states:

A *pragmeme* is a situated speech act in which the rules of language and of society synergize in determining, intended as a socially recognized object, sensitive to social expectations about the situation in which the utterance to be interpreted is embedded.

One can infer from the above that the *pragmeme* depends on the situational context of an utterance for its production and interpretation. The instantiated pragmatic acts, the *ipras* or *practs* are “concrete occurrences of a *pragmeme*” (Odebunmi, 2006c: 158). The *pract* is also an *allopract* as no two *practs* can be exactly identical (Tseng, 2010: 1985). In other words, the *pragmeme* is an abstract phenomenon while the *pract* is its actual representation. Kecskes (2010: 2890) posits that a pragmatic act is “situation-bound and situation-constrained.” Odebunmi (2008a: 77) opines that “what determines a *pract* is solely the participants knowledge of the interactional situation and the potential effect of a *pract* in a particular context” and these are responsible for resolving “the problem of telling illocutionary force from perlocutionary force.” A

pragmatic act may or may not contain a speech act but “it is the context that determines the nature of the pragmatic act” (Mey, 2001:211). For example, in a conversation between two lovers, the lady may perform the pragmatic act of “fishing for compliments” without mentioning the word ‘compliment’. She may for example request:

Example 4

Nick, tell me what you really love about me.

Here, the speaker wants the hearer to say positive things about her.

The pragmatic act has two parts which include the activity part and the textual parts (Figure 2.1). The activity part is concerned with other acts or options that are available to the language user such as direct and indirect speech acts, conversational acts, psychological acts, prosody, body movements, facial expressions and other extra linguistic acts. The textual part is concerned with contextual features which influence communication. This includes inference (INF), reference (REF), relevance (REL), voice (VCE), shared situation knowledge (SSK), metaphor (MPH) and metapragmatic joker (‘M’), an element which represents ‘something happening on the metapragmatic lane’ Mey (2001: 222). The metapragmatic joker points to metapragmatic activities which can be seen in the use of indexicals. Mey cites the example of Biblical Pilate’s “What I do, I do” (John 19:22) whose meaning depends on the indexical context rather than the structural repetition. The activity part and the textual part interact in order to produce the *pract* or *allopract*. In writing, Tseng (2010:1986) posits that conversational acts, prosody and physical acts are downplayed since they are “normally associated with face-to-face conversation or non-face-to-face oral communication.” However, these are realised through appropriate textual strategies such as typographical features, exclamation marks and deviant spelling.

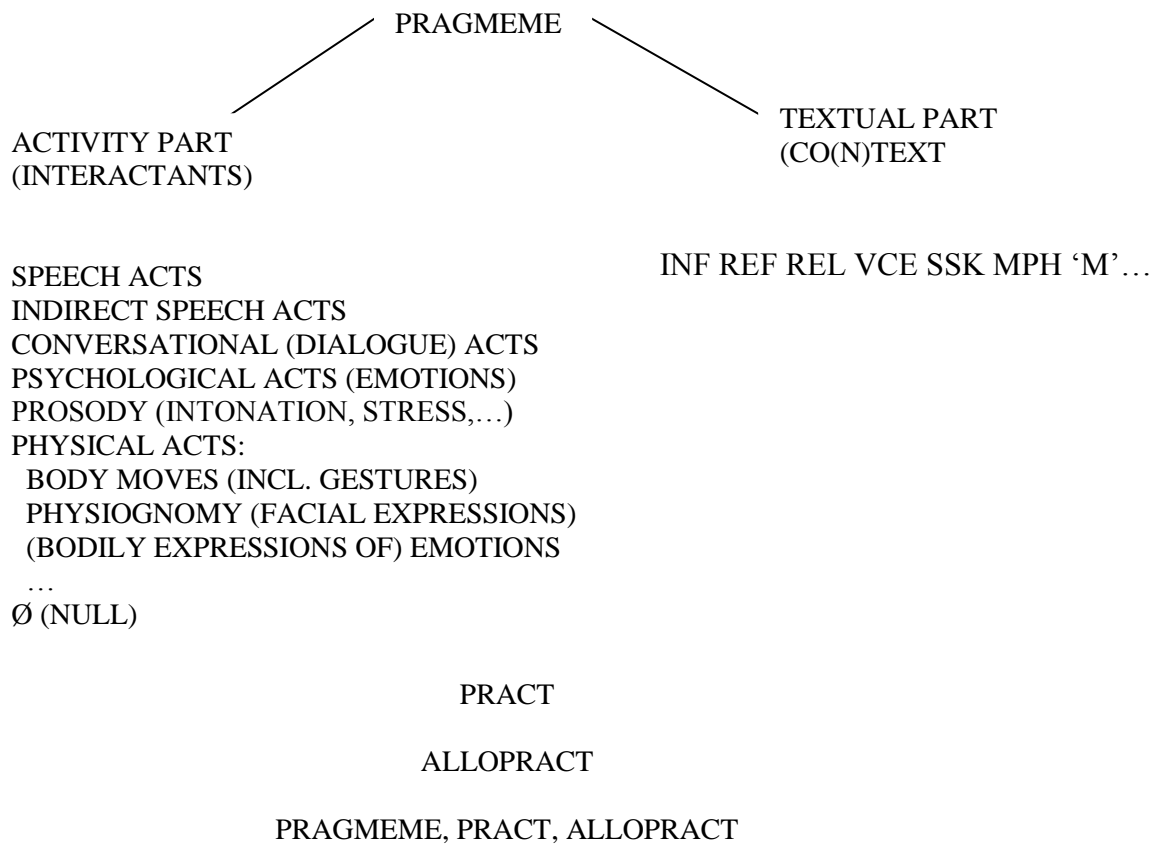


Figure 2.1: A model of pragmatic acts (Mey, 2001: 222)

Capone (2005) submits that the same utterance may have different meanings based on the context of speaking, which includes speaker roles and expectations. He gives an example of the utterance “I saw you” which may have the force of an accusation when used by a teacher in relation to pranks made by classroom children. The illocutionary force of the same utterance in a hide and seek game would be a call for the children to start running. Thus, it is the context that determines the kind of pragmatic act that is performed in the utterance. In a public hearing for example, the pragmatic act of denying may be expressed differently by complainants and defendants.

Tseng (2010) notes that the pragmatic act theory explains utterances that cannot be explained by the speech act theory. He submits that the theory is useful in analysing a string of utterances longer than a sentence. This can be seen in the case of co-opting in advertisements. The pragmatic act theory “points to the subtlety and covert action implicit in much communication, which the theory of speech act has not fully considered or cannot explain” (Tseng, 2010:1984). Thus, the pragmatic act theory will be used in determining the pragmatic functions of utterances in the hearing.

2.1.4 Context and contextual beliefs

Context includes the linguistic, social-cultural and psychological “background from which the meaning of a word springs” (Odebunmi, 2006a:25). Lyons (1977) submits that the features of context include the knowledge of role and status, knowledge of spatial and temporal location, knowledge of formality level, knowledge of medium, knowledge of appropriate matter and knowledge of appropriate province. Odebunmi (2006a) opines that there are two types of context, namely, linguistic context and social context. Linguistic context covers the phrases, clauses and sentences surrounding a particular word which is also referred to as the co-text. On the other hand, social context deals the socio-cultural, religious, political and historical aspects of an interaction.

Mey (2001: 39) is of the opinion that context is a dynamic concept and should be understood as “the continually changing surroundings which enable participants in the communication process to interact and in which the linguistic expression of their interaction become intelligible.” He opines that context gives our utterances their full pragmatic meaning and allows them to be counted as true pragmatic acts. Mey (2001)

posits that contextual features also include assigning proper value to implicature, reference, pragmatic acts, presuppositions and register.

According to Roberts (2006:197), the context of an utterance influences the interpretation of that utterance. He reports that the notion of context can be understood on three levels: the actual discourse event, the linguistic content of the verbal exchange and “the structure of the information that is conveyed by the interlocutors in the exchange.” He opines that the dynamics of discourse context consists of a set of discourse referents known by the interlocutors; the set of recognised domain goals; the set of accepted discourse goals and the interlocutors’ propositions that reflect the common ground or shared beliefs of the interlocutors. He also agrees with Mey (2001) that the discourse context is updated by Gricean maxims, rules of turn-taking, presupposition and inferencing.

In another vein, Allott (2010) defines context as a “source of clues that aid the hearer in working out what the speaker intended to convey.” He opines that without context, it is impossible to get the illocutionary force or the implicature of an utterance. Thus, context is central in deriving meaning from an utterance (Allott, 2010). In fact, context is what distinguishes semantics from pragmatics. For Allott, context includes knowledge of previous discourse, immediate physical environment as well as subsequent discourse (particularly in literary texts). Thus, he submits that context is divided into physical context and co-text. Co-text refers to the knowledge of both previous and subsequent discourse. Thus, the idea of co-text for Allott differs from that of Odebunmi (2006a). For Odebunmi, the co-text is the linguistic environment in which an utterance is located while for Allott, the co-text is a combination of the linguistic, the historical, and socio-political environment of the utterance.

A number of contextual models have been proposed in linguistics. The earliest which has been used in sociolinguistics is Dell Hymes’ ethnography of communication, which is concerned with the writing of ‘rules of speaking’ for a particular group of speakers. Hymes (1974) proposes a SPEAKING model which is realised by setting, the specific place and time that a speech event takes place; and participants which include the speakers, listeners, addressers, hearers or the audience. Ends refer to the purposes and goals for which a speech event has been constituted; act refers to the message forms and content while key involves the tone, manner or spirit with which an event or act is performed. Instrument refers to the channel or

choice of transmission of a message which can be verbal or non-verbal; and norms refer to the specific proprieties which are attached to speaking. It also includes the interpretation of norms within cultural belief systems while genre refers to the textual categories in the text. The theory has been criticised based on the fact that it has been used in the description of ritualised events such as weddings, funerals, etc and would not be appropriate in non-ritualised interactions such as hospital consultations and job interviews. As Thomas (1995) points out, the theory does not account for individual contributions. Odebunmi (2006a) asserts that the theory is too broad-based, thus its results are generalised and “this weakens the framework in a pragmatic operation.”

Another contextual model is that of systemic-functional linguistics (SFL) in which structures of discourse are defined in terms of the main dimensions of the context of situation, which include field (ongoing activity, subject matter), tenor (participant relations) and mood (the role discourse plays in the ongoing activity) (Halliday and Hasan, 1989). Although the strength of the model lies in the linguistic influences of context on register, it is too simple for a theory of context as it neglects the shared knowledge and assumptions that speakers and hearers hold.

Another contextual model is Levinson’s (1979) activity type which he defines as:

... a fuzzy category whose focal members are goal-defined, socially constituted, bounded, events with *constraints* on participants, setting, and so on, but above all on the kinds of allowable contributions. Paradigm examples would be teaching, a job interview, a jural interrogation, a football game, a task in a workshop, a dinner party and so on

(p. 368).

Levinson's notion of activity type is divided into six parts, namely, the goals of the participants rather than that of the event; allowable contributions which focus on social and legal constraints on participants intended utterances; the degree to which Gricean maxims are adhered to or are suspended depending on the culture and the activity type; and the degree to which interpersonal maxims are adhered to or suspended depending also on the culture and the activity type. Others include turn taking and topic control which can be exploited to achieve control of a situation or establish a personal agenda and the manipulation of pragmatic parameters which focuses on the extent to which language can be used to effect social distance, power, rights, obligations and the formality of a situation (Thomas 1995). However, this

particular theory does not foreground the place of participants' knowledge, beliefs, opinions, etc which interactants bring into an interaction and which are made to bear upon the utterances in the discourse. In view of the foregoing, we shall adopt Odebunmi's model of context which places emphasis on shared knowledge and beliefs that interactants have.

Odebunmi (2006b: 39) submits that context "presupposes mutual contextual beliefs on which participants relate and make inferences." Contextual beliefs are assumptions that interactants hold prior to an interaction with others. These assumptions may have been acquired or maybe an on-going acquisition process during an interaction (see also Van Dijk, 2001). This point has already been echoed by Levinson (1983: 49) who posits that contextual assumptions imply 'the facts about spatial, temporal and social relationships between participants and their requisite beliefs and intentions in undertaking certain verbal exchanges.' Odebunmi (2006a) opines that contextual beliefs have been developed and utilised under entailment, presupposition, inferencing, cross-cultural communication, etc.

In a similar vein, Allott (2010) posits that it is important to take into account what the speaker and hearer know or believe. Hence, when discussing context, it is important to attend to the contextual beliefs of the speakers and hearer which are determined by what they know. Allott asserts that these beliefs, opinions and habits are important to the understanding of implicature and reference to pronouns. For example, context would determine the reference of the pronoun and deictic expression in the utterance, "she's there." In this example, the previous knowledge of the interactants and preceding discourse would determine the referents of 'she' and 'there'. Hence, the notion of context will embrace the physical environment, discourse, knowledge and beliefs of speaker and hearer, which they both have access to. In fact, Allott points out that for communication to be successful, the notion of context is the knowledge or beliefs that the speakers and hearers share.

Contextual beliefs, according to Odebunmi (2006a: 26) comprise two levels of beliefs which include language level and situation level beliefs. Language level beliefs are indicated by interactants' understanding of the language of communication. For example, communication between two people will only be successful if they share the same language i.e. Yoruba. This will also include knowledge of the gestures associated with the culture of that language. The situation level deals with the assumptions which "are held on the basis of interactants' shared

code (linguistic and non-linguistic) and experience” (Odebunmi, 2006a:28). Odebunmi posits that it is at this level that the variety of the “language selected and other situational variables are used to process meaning.” For example, a student who goes to his course level adviser for the registration of his/her courses is acting under the assumption that that period in the school calendar is for the registration of courses; that the lecturer is in charge of registration for his level (in some other schools, course lecturers are also registration officers for their courses); and that the lecturer is aware of all these.

Figure 2.2 shows Odebunmi’s concept of beliefs at the level of situation. The diagram shows that interactants have their own independent knowledge and experiences about the world which may be personal to them or shared with a group such as students, teachers, doctors, nurses, etc. In interacting with other people, participants make use of those aspects of their knowledge which they know that the other interactants have access to or those aspects of their knowledge that they share.

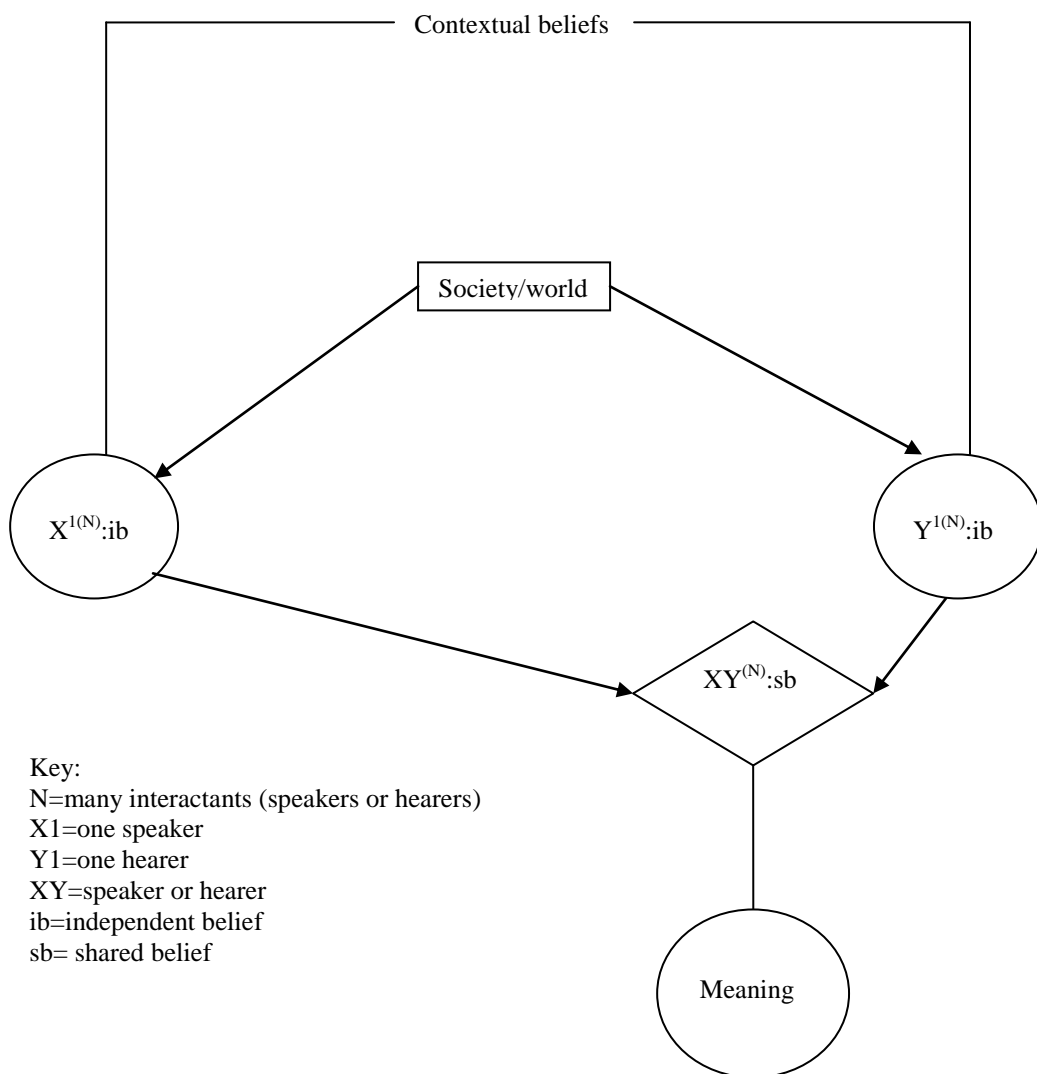


Figure 2.2: Contextual beliefs (Odebunmi, 2006a:29)

Odebunmi (2006b) submits that beliefs at the situation level covers interactants shared knowledge of subject/topic; shared knowledge of word choices, referents and references; and shared knowledge of socio-cultural experiences, previous and immediate. Shared knowledge of subject/topic enables participants understand utterances and contribute to the on-going discourse. For example, for a student to answer a question successfully in the exam situation, s/he must have shared knowledge of the subject/topic. Shared knowledge of word choices, referents and references applies to the knowledge of jargon, referents of pronouns and indexicals used in a discourse. For example, in a conversation between two lawyers, the use of the term *ultra vires* will pose no problem to any of the interlocutors since both of them are expected to know the meaning of the term.

Shared knowledge of socio-cultural experiences, previous and immediate relates to the knowledge of the culture, norms, socio-economic and socio-political experiences of the interactants. For example, an American or European may not understand the expression, “This is my wife” when it is uttered by a Yoruba/Igbo woman. The person would need to understand that the term ‘wife’ does not only mean a man’s female partner in a marriage but also extends to mean the wife of a brother, cousin or male relative in the Yoruba/Igbo culture. Odebunmi & Alo (2010:470) believe that the interactions move smoothly when interactants share the same linguistic codes; and when they are familiar with the lexical choices and what “referring expressions point to in the real world.” Shared contextual beliefs are important in understanding the utterances that interactants engage in during quasi-judicial public hearings. These shared beliefs determine the kind of utterances made by interactants and these beliefs also aid meaning comprehension as interactants make use of those aspects of their knowledge that the other parties have access to. Thus, there is a need to examine these shared beliefs that the public hearing interactants hold.

2.1.5 Conversational analysis

Conversational analysis (CA) is a methodological approach to the study of verbal interaction which “looks at conversation as a linear ongoing process” Cutting (2002:28). It “takes real data” and examines the language and demonstrates how “conversation is systematically structured.” The approach is associated with the works of certain sociologists, namely, Harvey Sacks and Emmanuel Schegloff who were interested in achieving a “naturalistic observational discipline” to deal with

details of social interactions in a rigorous, empirical and formal way (Coulthard, 1977). They identify certain features or conventions of conversations:

Turn-taking

Generally speaking, CA linguists observe that there are rules or principles for establishing who talks and then who talks next. They observe that only one person speaks at a time as speakers take turns. Turn-taking rules include:

1. If the current speaker selects another speaker, that speaker must speak next.
2. If the current speaker does not select another speaker, someone may self-select as next speaker.
3. If nobody self selects, the current speaker may continue.

The culture of the speakers determine how long a speaker should speak, how they indicate their intention to stop speaking and how the next speaker can take the floor. Cultures also determine when a speaker can overlap or interrupt. A change of turn is usually possible at a transition relevance place (TRP). This is usually at the end of a sentence which the next speaker can take as the end of a turn. When speakers do not wait until the TRP, an interruption is said to have occurred. Jefferson (1973) cited in Coulthard (1977) points out that a speaker can choose the next speaker by naming him:

Example 5

Ade, what do you think about that?

He can also constrain the utterance so that a particular person cannot answer or he may not select any speaker and leave the other participants to select the next person. He notes that the right of a speaker is preserved when he has been selected to speak. The current speaker can choose only the next speaker while in other situations, i.e. in a court, the judge can choose all the participants in the talk. A new speaker, in a case where there is silence, can make use of silence fillers such as *er*, *emm*, etc to indicate his/her intention to talk. A listener can select him/herself to speak, without a pause, by producing a completion to a prior speaker's complete sentence:

Example 6

Titi: The teacher was here yesterday

Ade: -and he went back to his house
immediately.

The speaker can at the right moment produce his own completion to an incomplete sentence:

Example 7

Bola: Kemi sang - beautifully last night.

Yemi: - like a frog.

The new speaker can also predict the end of a sentence and attempt to say the same thing at the same time:

Example 8

John: Guinness is - good for you.

Ruth: - good for you.

Sacks, Schegloff and Jefferson (1974) notes that a current speaker can continue speaking with the use of an utterance completor such as *but*, *however* and other clause connectors which can turn a potentially complete sentence to an incomplete sentence:

Example 9

Bola : Kemi sang beautifully last night; *however*, no one gave her a standing ovation.

The current speaker can also start with an ‘incomplete marker’ such as *if* and *since*, which informs the other participants that the current speaker will continue talking after the first clause. This will ensure that other speakers do not interrupt the current speaker. Coulthard (1977) also notes that participants can change roles through paralinguistic cues.

Adjacency pairs

CA analysts also observe that conversational structures are made up of two turns and that certain turns are closely linked than others. These are called adjacency pairs, where the production of one necessitates the production of the other. The first part of the pair can be a *question*, *greeting*, *challenge*, *offer*, *complaint*, etc and these are reciprocated by an *answer*, *greeting*, *reject*, *accept*, *apology*, etc.

Example 10: Greetings

Titi: Good morning?

Ben: Good morning.

Example 11: A question and an answer

Tracy: Where are you going?

Rita: To the bus stop.

Adjacency pairs help in operating the turn-taking system by enabling a speaker select the next action and next speaker, and to enable the next speaker avoid a gap and overlap. The absence of the second pair is noticeable unlike other types of turns.

Sequences

Conversational analysts claim that as speakers mutually construct and negotiate their conversation in time, certain types of sequences, which are stretches of utterances or turns emerge such as pre-sequences, opening and closing sequences. Pre-sequences prepare the ground for a further sequence and are usually used in order to know if there would be a possible rejection. These can be found in pre-invitations (I have some fruits in the fridge), pre-announcement (Can you believe what I heard last night!) and pre-requests (where are you going tonight?). An exchange can be seen below:

Example 12

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Tola: Where are you going tonight? | - Pre-sequence |
| Tolu: To Sola's party. Any problem? | - Pre-sequence |
| Tola: Please, could you stop over at Yemi's house to take her there? | - Sequence |
| Tolu: Okay, but you should call her before I get there. | - Sequence |

Opening sequences tend to contain a greeting, an enquiry after one's health and a past reference while the closing sequence includes farewells which could also contain pre-closing sequences: This can be seen in example 13 below:

Example 13

- Ruth: I have a busy day at school tomorrow:
Jane: What time is it now?
Ruth: It's ten o'clock. I have to go.
Jane: Alright, good night.
Ruth : Good night.

Topic

Conversational analysts also note that topics change uncontrollably and unnoticeably and this indicates the quality of the conversation (Coulthard, 1977). He introduces the notion of topical talk and talk on topic. Topical talk is a situation in which the participants change from one topic to another. This can be seen in example 14 below:

Example 14

Kemi: I met Kate at the hospital. She was looking radiant.

John: That is cool and what did she talk about?

Kemi: Well, about doctors and nurses generally.

John: mm, that reminds me. Did you see Doctor Sola?

Kemi: Oh yeah, I heard she got married last month...

In this example, the topic shifts from Kemi to Doctor Sola. On the other hand, talk on topic consists of discussions on a particular topic which can be seen in the example below:

Example 15

Rita: I bought some chickens at the farm yesterday.

Kate: Hope they were okay?

Rita: Sure, but rather expensive.

Kate: Chickens are rather expensive these days. I heard the government has placed a ban on importation of frozen chicken.

Rita: It was in the papers last week.

In this interaction, the whole discourse is on chickens, although the matter is addressed from different angles. Coulthard observes that topical conflict can occur where talk is competitive. Here, two speakers may want to develop a topic in different ways and they may fight to do this. They can compete by skip-connecting, which means to relate back to the last-but-one utterance. The current speaker may refuse to talk about the previous speaker's topic and reassert his/her own talk. This can be seen in the example below:

Example 16

Larry: Women should be more caring.

Jean: Sure, if men show more respect.

Larry: A caring woman does not need to receive all the love in this world to do what she ought to do.

Though Larry is interested in pursuing his talk on women's roles, he argues from a different angle. They fight back on their own utterances. If this continues, one of the speakers will have to drop his view and speak from the other's perspectives or this results into a break in talk.

Some of the criticisms levelled against CA include the fact that there is no exhaustive list of adjacency pairs, or a precise description of how adjacency pairs or TRPs can be recognised. Another criticism is that CA is a qualitative approach and

not a quantitative approach to analysis. It does not consider pragmatic or sociolinguistic aspects of interaction, context of situation or the context of culture. In CA, the text is the context. Thus, in this study it is only used to augment the pragmatic theories used in the analysis of the quasi-judicial public hearing interaction. The theory will be useful in analysing how turns are taken in the public hearing, how topics are selected, who interrupts, who is interrupted and the implications of these for the public hearing genre.

2.1.6 Self and other representation in discourse

Self and other representation is a concept under critical discourse analysis (CDA), which focuses on social problems and political issues. CDA describes and explains discourse structures in terms of the properties of social interactions and social structure. It, therefore, focuses on the way discourse structures enact, confirm, legitimate, reproduce or challenge relations of power and dominance (van Dijk, 2001b). There are different approaches to the study of CDA and these include Norman Fairclough's socio-semiotic approach, Teun van Dijk's socio-cognitive approach, Ruth Wodak's discourse-historical approach and Gee's socio-literary approach (see Wodak, 2001 and Gee, 2004). In this study, van Dijk's socio-cognitive approach is adopted as it looks at the connection between discourse, cognition and society. The socio-cognitive approach is concerned with mental schemas which give rise to ideologies as well as self/other representation in discourse.

Van Dijk (2001b) posits that there are dominant and dominated groups and that ideologies help groups to organise their shared social representations and social identities. Ideologies also control intra-group action and cooperation as well as inter-group perception and interaction. Ideologies serve as a basis for competition, conflict, struggle, differences of opinion and knowledge between groups. They are constituted by basic propositions that represent what is good or bad for a group. Thus, they are based on values and norms that social groups develop or borrow from more general cultural values such as freedom, liberty, autonomy, truth, etc.

Van Dijk (1993:263) posits that "the justification of inequality involves two complementary strategies, namely the positive representation of the own group, and the negative representation of the Others." Thus, arguments, stories, semantic moves and other structures of discourse have such implications in everyday conversation, news reports or political discourse. Thus, "models are being expressed and persuasively conveyed that contrast us with THEM," e.g. by emphasising our

tolerance, help or sympathy, and their negative social or cultural differences, deviance or threats. He suggests that semantic content is the most obvious part of discourse that indicates this polarity. This involves statements that directly entail negative evaluations of THEM, or positive ones of us. Van Dijk (1993: 264) argues that for such statements to be credible, other persuasive moves are also employed. These include the following:

- (a) argumentation: the negative evaluation that follows from the facts;
- (b) rhetorical figures: hyperbolic enhancement of their negative actions and our positive actions; euphemisms, denials, understatements of our negative actions;
- (c) lexical style: choice of words that imply negative (or positive) evaluations;
- (d) story telling: telling about negative events as personally experienced; giving plausible details about negative features of the events;
- (e) structural emphasis of their negative actions, e.g. in headlines, leads, summaries, or other properties of text schemata (e.g. those of news reports), transactivity structures of sentence syntax (e.g. mentioning negative agents in prominent, topical position); and
- (f) quoting credible witnesses, sources or experts, e.g. in news reports.

Van Dijk (1993) posits that structures and strategies of dominant talk may focus on various forms of positive self-presentation and negative other presentation. For example, in political campaigns, politicians may project themselves as saviours and their opponents as opportunists. Such differences may be explicitly or implicitly expressed.

Meyer (2001) identifies the different criticisms against CDA. Schegloff (1998) cited in Meyer (2001:17) asserts that analysis in CDA should be 'compatible with what is demonstratively relevant for the behaviour of participants in interactions'. Widdowson (1995) cited in Meyer (2001) opines that the term 'discourse' is vague and is not clearly differentiated from text in CDA. He also believes that CDA is an ideological interpretation and not an analysis. He believes that CDA is a biased interpretation because it is based on an ideological comment and selects texts that support such interpretation. That is, social and political ideologies are projected into the data, rather than been revealed through the data (Rogers, 2004). Another criticism is that there is an unequal balance between linguistic analysis and social theory. Another criticism is that the methodology is not systematic and

rigorous (Rogers, 2004). Thus, the theory is only used to augment the discourse-pragmatic theories adopted in this study.

2.2 Review of related literature

This section focuses on the review of previous studies that have been carried out in political discourse, legal discourse, legislative and quasi-judicial public hearings with a special focus on previous studies on the South African Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) hearing, the only African quasi-judicial public hearing yet analysed in Africa.

2.2.1 Previous studies on political discourse

Political discourse analysis is concerned with the way language is manipulated for specific political effect within different political contexts. Several studies have been carried out on political discourse in political speeches, cartoons, debates, posters, polls, press conferences and campaigns from the perspectives of syntax, rhetoric, stylistics, discourse analysis, critical discourse analysis and pragmatics. Some of these studies are reviewed in this section.

2.2.1.1 Studies on the language of political debates

Jaworski & Galasinski (2000) examine the use of vocative forms of address in shaping political space in public/political debates in order to gain legitimacy for their ideologies from a discourse-historical approach. The analyses reveal that discursive patterns depend on the rapidly changing social and political situation and that there is a diachronic development of the ideological underpinnings of the discourse. They show that the use of vocative forms help build the positive self image of the politicians. The attention paid to discursive patterns in political debates makes this study relevant to the present one. However, it differs from the present study as it does not attend to discursive patterns in quasi-judicial public hearings.

Ilie (2002) studies parliamentary debates using the theory of oral metadiscourse. She opines that rhetorically structured communicative and interactional strategies are used by speakers to signal, highlight, mitigate, or cancel parts of their ongoing discourse and their varying relevance to different addressees and/or audience members. The metadiscursive level of parliamentary discourse helps to articulate particular aspects of speaker-interlocutor relations and/or speaker-audience relations. This involves speaker role shifts, discursive scope widening/narrowing, multiple-audience targeting, re/definition of terms and concepts, minimising/maximising accountability and merit, and challenging facts and statistics.

This study is similar to the present study as it considers interactional strategies employed by members of the parliament. The public hearing studied in this work is carried out by members of the parliament (senators). However, it is different from the present study as the present study looks at the interaction between parliamentarians and non parliamentarians in a quasi-judicial public hearing setting.

Blas-Arroyo (2003) deals with a series of linguistic devices frequently used by participants in the adversarial genre, in order to determine their main strategic values in the context of both current politics and the mass media spectacle. She demonstrates that the meaning and context in which these resources appear in electoral debates often contradict their literal meaning, and hence weaken the moderating function which is operative in non-adversarial genres. She posits that more aggressive participants make the greatest use of both polite and impolite strategies; and that apparently polite strategies appear mainly in the core phases of the debate where aggressiveness and rudeness are the norm, and much less in the peripheral parts, where the dialectic war tones down. Their study of linguistic strategies in adversarial genre converges with part of the present study which looks at how linguistic devices are used in presenting and defending arguments in the interaction between the hearing panel and the complainants/defendants. It is also similar as it looks at how the genre of a discourse influences the linguistic choices in the interaction. However, this study is different from the present study as it does not address the interaction between generic structure and linguistic choices in quasi-judicial public hearings.

Daramola (2006) attempts an analysis of the discourses associated with an impeachment move by members of the Senate. The impeachment move was in relation to the President's alleged violation of the Constitution because the annual budget of 1999 was not faithfully implemented. Using the tools of systemic functional theory, he posits that the President and members of the Senate used strong words to describe each other's activities. He reports that the components of the impeachment process include the report, complaint, response, disclosures, and adoption of resolutions. The semantic imports of these components include accusation, defence, counter accusation and discourses/self-defence. This particular study looks at the words used by Senators in response to the activities of the President, the head of the executive arm of the government. This makes it similar to the present study which focuses on the reaction of the senators toward the actions of

the executive, in this case, the FCT administration. However, it is fundamentally different as it does not consider the words used by Senators in quasi-judicial public hearings.

Luginbuhl (2007) examines acts of conversational violence in the Swiss political TV debate show, *Arena*. The analysis demonstrates how the setting and the behaviour of the host influence the argumentative behaviour of the politicians. The main forms of conversational violence are allegations of incompetence and allegations of insincerity. He shows how politicians use everyday conversational patterns such as asking questions or giving advice to stage cooperative behaviour while they are in fact exerting conversational violence. The consideration of argumentative behaviour of politicians is relevant to the present study as it is concerned with argumentative strategies employed by politicians. However, it does not attend to the argumentative strategies employed by defendants and complainants in quasi-judicial public hearings.

Nuolijarvi & Tittula (2011) analyse the sequences of irony in TV debates during the Finnish presidential elections in 2006, within the framework of conversational analysis. They discover that irony is used as a defence in response to criticism and as an attack. It also provides a resource for the participants to improve their own position against their opponents. They posit that irony is easily recognisable but it is difficult to assign a function to it. Their use of conversational analysis as a tool for analysing political debates is relevant to the present study which makes use of this theory in its analysis of the public hearing discourse.

Political debates involve the presentation and defence of arguments by different parties in a formal interaction. These make them similar to the present study which also considers arguments raised by the hearing panel, complainants and defendants in the public hearing. However, they differ on the grounds that the interactional structures of both genres are different and thus, this would determine the type of argumentative strategies that would be used in the discourses.

2.2.1.2 Studies on the language of political interviews

Johansson (2006) studies how objects of discourse are co-constructed in the political broadcast interview from the perspectives of the dialogical and the sociopragmatic. He opines that the political broadcast interview consist of issues or topics in political, social or media lives, which are constantly reproduced in different media texts. In the interview, the objects of discourse are recontextualised by the

interviewer and it is the politician who is invited to state an opinion, offer an evaluation, give a piece of information, etc, regarding them. Their construction is regulated by the different goals of the speakers in this genre in mediating political or social information to the public. This study is similar to the present study as it takes a look at the how discursive practices in interviewer-interviewee relations are co-constructed in a political text. However, it differs on the grounds that it does not consider discursive practices in quasi-judicial public hearings.

Lauerbach (2007) examines two interviews from the American Larry King live-show, broadcast during the US 2000 post-election controversy, using the framework of argumentation theory, discourse analysis and Goffman's (1974, 1981) model of frames and footings. The results show an intertextual argument structure overarching the two interviews. The findings show that the genre of the political celebrity talk show interview lends itself to exploitation by the politician who is able, through subtle changes of footing, and with the support of the host, to pursue his political agenda. The study is similar to the present study as it considers argumentation in a political context, a concept that is also used in the present study, but the study does not consider argumentation in quasi-judicial public hearings.

Rendle-Short (2007a) analyses Australian political news interviews, using conversation analysis, to show the multiple interactional uses of address terms. She shows that both journalists and politicians address their co-participants by name and posits there are differences both in choice of address terms and in the positioning of address terms within the news interview. She posits that journalists tend to use pre-positioned address terms when addressing politicians either by their institutional role or by title plus last name. Politicians, on the other hand, always address journalists by first name. In addition, whereas journalists tend to use address terms as a technique for managing the organisational aspects of the political news interview, politicians tend to use address terms as a resource for taking the turn, for resolving overlapping talk, or for delaying an unwanted response. This study is similar to the present study as it utilises conversational analysis tools in its description of political news interviews but differs from the present study as it does not look at conversational features in quasi-judicial public hearing.

Rendle-Short (2007b) examines journalists' adversarial challenges within the Australian political news interview. He posits that journalists tend to challenge interviewees by challenging the content of the prior turn, by 'interrupting' the prior

turn, and by initially presenting their challenge as a freestanding assertion, not attributed to a third party. As a result, journalists could be interpreted as expressing their own perspective on the topic at hand, rather than maintaining a neutralistic stance. He posits that even though politicians do not overtly accuse interviewers of bias or impartiality, they clearly orient to the challenging nature of the journalists' turn. This study looks at the significance of turn-taking sequences in an interviewer-interviewee relationship in a political situation which is similar to part of what we have set out to do in this present study. However, the study neglects how this relationship is constructed in a quasi-judicial public hearing which also involves political actors in an interviewer-interviewee relationship.

Fetzer (2007) investigates the communicative functions of appeals to reasonableness using Habermas's conception of argumentation as a form of conversation based on differences of opinion to the contextual constraints and requirements of a political interview. She argues that argumentation in political interviews is a means of persuading the audience. She opines that the interactional organization of reasonableness follows standard procedure and it is assigned a presuppositional status. In critical situations, however, references to reasonableness are exploited to trigger a conversational implicature which signifies that the co-participant's performance has not been reasonable. The author's focus on argumentation and contextual constraints is useful to the present study which also considers argumentation and contextual constraints in a quasi-judicial public hearing discourse, which the author did not consider.

Fetzer & Johansson (2007) examine the context-dependent nature of acts of confiding in British and French political interviews and identify its genre-specific constraints and requirements. They opine that the communicative act of confiding is compared and contrasted with disclosure, self-disclosure and revelation, and the necessary and sufficient conditions required for confiding in a felicitous manner are examined. They also compare and contrast the implicit and explicit realisations of acts of confiding as well as their communicative functions in the data. This work is similar to the present study as it looks at how genre constrains the acts used in the interaction but differs from the present study as it does not consider how genre constrains acts in quasi-judicial public hearings in Nigeria.

Fetzer & Bull (2008) investigate the use of pronouns in televised political interviews broadcast during the 1997 and 2001 British general elections and just

before the war with Iraq in 2003. Question-response sequences are identified in which politicians made use of pronominal shifts as a form of equivocation. The analyses reveal that references to participants can be expressed explicitly by proper nouns and forms of address, and they can be expressed implicitly by personal pronouns and other indexical expressions. They opine that the meaning of personal pronouns is context-dependent and retrievable only by inference, and therefore is less determinate and can shift according to the status of the participants in interaction. This research relates to the present study as it looks at question-answer sequences in a political context but differs on the ground that it does not focus on the sequences in quasi-judicial public hearing.

Li (2008) examines how politicians in political interviews rely on linguistic strategies to grapple with the conflict between being uncooperative and being polite, from the perspective of performance. He analyses three pairs of question-answer interaction regarding North Korea nuclear crisis between the spokesman for China's Foreign Ministry. The analysis reveals that the spokesman did not simply answer the questions as commonly anticipated, but rather flout frequently and draw on the information already raised by the reporters. This was, usually, done to present the positive image of China. He argues that to better understand how opinions and attitudes are expressed by politicians in reply, it is essential to study their verbal acts as performance for particular interpretation. This study considers questions and answers in a political context, an area that the present study considers but the study differs from the present study as it does not look at questions and answers in quasi-judicial public hearings.

Odebunmi (2009) explores print media political interviews in two Nigerian news magazines, *TELL* and *The News*, using a revised version of the theory of relational work. He opines that to achieve politeness, participants in print media political interviews in Nigeria work on three contextual beliefs, namely, shared knowledge of subjects, shared knowledge of political gimmicks, and shared knowledge of ideological expectations. He shows that participants in the interviews put up politic, polite and impolite verbal behaviours, which are respectively indexed by confrontations and criticisms, veils, and condemnations and accusations. These indexes are respectively achieved with context-based understanding of discourse and activity types, face-threatening acts with redress, and face threatening acts without redress. This study considers shared contextual beliefs in a political text but does not

consider shared beliefs in quasi-judicial public hearings which are part of what the present study examines.

2.2.1.3 Studies on the language of political speeches

Kuo (2001) examines the use of reported speech in Chinese political discourse with a focus on direct quotations. The findings reveal that reported speech or constructed dialogue creates rhetoric effect of vividness and immediacy and also establishes interpersonal involvement. Participants in the discourse used indirect quotations as an indirect strategy for self promotion of self and denigration of the other. This heightens the reliability of speaker's claims which are presented as shared knowledge and reference to outside source. This also serves as a strategy for evasion where speakers disclaim reliability and distance themselves from the source of knowledge. The recognition of discourse strategies as well as shared knowledge by interlocutors in the political speech is important to the present study which explores discourse strategies and shared contextual beliefs of interlocutors in a quasi-judicial public hearing. However, it differs from the present study which examines a quasi-judicial public hearing in Nigeria.

Shenhav (2005) analyses segments of Israeli ministerial speech during the early years of the state and argues that these 'concise narratives' shed light on the infrastructure of political narratives. She illuminates how political values, identities and ideologies are combined with day-to-day politics while being transferred from the speaker to the audience. She posits that the epilogue intertextual relations between different political narratives, focus on the transition of 'concise narratives' from the early days of Israeli politics to contemporary political discourse. The consideration of the structure of narratives in this study is useful to the present study which looks at the interactional pattern of the public hearing and the narrative structure of complainants' presentations/narratives.

Adeyanju (2006) examines the pragmatic features of political speeches in English by some prominent Nigerian leaders while using the speech act theory and conversational implicature. He opines that Nigerian political rhetoric is characterised by elements of excitement, blunt and hard truths, forceful and commanding tone, linguistic diplomacy and outright insincerity. The attention to speech functions in this study is applicable the present study but differs on the grounds that it makes use of the speech act theory rather than the pragmatic act theory adopted in this study.

Ayoola (2006) analyses a president's address to the parliamentary house from the perspective of critical discourse analysis. He opines that the subject's socio-political environment, military background and personality played significant roles in the writing of the address. He adds that critical discourse analysis is relevant in eliciting political meaning in the use of English in a second language situation like Nigeria. This study is relevant to the present study as both studies look at political interaction in discourses which share the same socio-political background.

Edwards & Valenzano III (2007) explore the composition of United States post-Cold War foreign policy rhetoric under President Bill Clinton. They contend that Bill Clinton offered a coherent and comprehensive foreign policy narrative for the direction of U.S. foreign policy discourse in the post-Cold War world. The narrative was structured by three narrative themes: America's role as world leader; reconstituting the threat environment; and democracy promotion as the strategy for American foreign policy. They posit that these three themes can be found throughout Clinton's foreign policy rhetoric and may serve as the basis for a foreign policy narrative used by Clinton and perhaps future administrations. This study is similar to the present study as it considers rhetorical strategies in a political narrative, which the present study examines in the public hearing discourse. However, it differs from the present study which focuses on quasi-judicial public hearings.

Opeibi (2008) investigates the role of political communication in stabilising democratic governance by exploring and clarifying the interrelationships among language, politics, and governance. He argues that politicians make use of four discourse strategies in the maintenance of power and these represent the speech acts of coercion; resistance, opposition and power; dissimulation, and legitimisation and delegitimisation. The analysis reveals that language use in political activities, besides being persuasive, informative, or educative, is primarily designed to mobilise the people to practically support the process that will promote democratic governance. The study of discourse strategies in this particular work makes it relevant to the present study which looks at discourse strategies in a public hearing discourse but differs on the ground that it did not address the use of these strategies in quasi-judicial public hearings.

Taiwo (2008) carries out a critical discourse analysis of Olusegun Obasanjo's address to the PDP stakeholders meeting. The analyses reveal Obasanjo's choice of pronominals and other reference items, which appear to assert him, demonstrate his

knowledge, defend his actions, defend his party's choice of presidential candidate, and affirm his resolution to hand over to only those who would continue with his reforms. This study is similar to the present one on the grounds that it studies political texts in Nigeria, the location for the public hearing studied in this study.

Daramola (2008) attempts a functional-semiotic discourse analysis of relevant statements, responses and comments on the national, dramatic and political changes surrounding the three governments in the year 1993 in Nigeria. He takes a concise look at the political speeches of civilian and military governments. While the former speech revealed disruption of democracy, religious activities and economics, the latter revealed threats and suspension of democratic processes. The language of the military is revealed in the use of sanctions and intolerance of oppositions. The author's use of SFL and discourse analysis as a theoretical framework is also relevant to the present work. Both studies consider political texts in the same socio-political setting.

2.2.1.4 Studies on the language of politics in the media

Opeibi (2006) provides a structural and functional description of the significant features of language use in Nigerian national newspaper adverts produced during the 2003 general elections in Nigeria, with the primary aim of demonstrating this emerging trend in a second language (L2) context. He submits that voters exhibit different attitudes towards negative adverts and that factors such as level of education of voters, political literacy, content and structure of the adverts, personality of the sponsor and/or the political candidate among others influence the effect of negative campaigning on the electorate. The consideration of the situational context in which political adverts are created makes this study relevant to the present one which considers the context in which utterances are made. However, the study focuses on political adverts rather than quasi-judicial public hearings.

Harris et al (2006) examine the pragmatics of political apologies as a generic type of discourse. She opines that they are in the public domain and are highly mediated; they are generated by (and generate) conflict and controversy on the basis of media and viewer evaluations/judgements. These apologies contain both illocutionary force indicating device (IFID) and the explicit expression of the acceptance of responsibility/blame for the 'offence' in order to be clearly perceived as valid apologies and they rarely, if ever, involve an expression of absolution. This study is similar to the present study as it examines speech functions in a political text.

However, it differs from the present study which focuses on speech functions in a quasi-judicial public hearing.

Atifi & Marcochia (2006) examine the connection between television talk, genre and politics from a semiopragmatic approach based on the multimodal analysis of the program *Demain les jeunes*. They show how the host and the participants negotiate the genre and put to the fore the stakes of such negotiations. They propose a pragmatic exploration of the interdependence between mediated political discourse and the production and interpretation of text and talk in politics by focusing on the question of how the contextual constraints and requirements of media communication and its presuppositions, such as mode of transmission, type of audience, participants' roles and identities, manifest themselves in naturally occurring discourse. The examination of pragmatic features in a political context makes this study relevant to the present study. However, it differs from the present study which looks at pragmatic features in a quasi-judicial public hearing.

Opeibi (2007) examines how Nigerian politicians demonstrate their bilingual creativity in an innovative manner by employing linguistic facilities to publicise and sell their political programmes, especially in the use of media multilingualism, a novel persuasive strategy that has come to characterise political campaign texts. He posits that sometimes, headlines could be written in local languages while the body of the paper is written in English. He also suggests that a similar pattern is bound to occur in political discourse found in other L2 contexts. The consideration of persuasive strategies in political discourse in this study makes it relevant to the present study which attaches importance to the persuasive strategies employed by interactants in the quasi-judicial public hearing. However, the study looks at political campaign texts rather than quasi-judicial public hearings.

Taiwo (2007a) studies how language is used in newspaper headlines to reflect societal ideologies and power relations. He identifies different structures of headlines such as plain headlines, speech as headlines, headlines with pointers and questions as headlines. Taiwo (2007b) examines how Nigerian writers employ their creative potentials by manipulating words through morphological and lexico-semantic processes in order to ridicule the vices in the society. He identifies some linguistic processes used to convey satirical expressions in Nigerian newspapers, which include blending, acronyms, metaphor, pun, conversion, allusion and connotation. Taiwo's focus on morphological and lexico-semantic processes is similar to some of the

studies on lexico-semantic description of the locutions in the public hearing discourse but differs from the present study as it focuses on media writings and not quasi-judicial public hearings.

Matu & Lubbe (2007) examine newspapers' editorials which portrayed various political groups in the run-up to the general elections in 1997 in Kenya, using insights from critical discourse analysis and systemic functional grammar. They show the role of newspapers' editorials in articulating conflicting ideological positions in election reporting and illustrate how the concepts of ideological square and transitivity assist in making overt the mediation processes and practices that are generally, covertly, often unconsciously used in the construction and evaluation of participants in a political process. Their consideration of SFL in the analysis of their work is also relevant and similar to the present study which makes use of SFL in the description of the public hearing genre.

The works reviewed in this section are similar to the present study as the studies dwell on various aspects of political discourse. The present study is also political in nature as the hearings concern political office holders. The members of the hearing committee are Senators. In fact, the conduct of public hearing is one of the civic duties of the Senators. This is the reason why the hearings are referred to as investigative hearings, which are carried out by the parliament in order to check the activities of the executive. The defendants are also government officials. Thus, we find features of political language in the hearing. However, these works are essentially different from what we have set out to do in this study. The present study examines interactional structure and pragmatic features in a Nigerian quasi-judicial public hearing.

2.2.2 Previous studies on legal discourse

Several studies have been carried out in legal discourse. These include courtroom interactions and legal documents. Some of these studies are reviewed in this section.

2.2.2.1 Studies on courtroom interactions

Komter (1994) examines the management of accusations and defences, and the interplay between legal requirements and everyday conversational mechanisms in Dutch courtroom interactions. He identifies two kinds of accusations: those brought forward by the public prosecutor in the official charges, and those that are implied in the questions of the judges. The judges' factual questions generate partial admissions

or qualified versions, by which defendants tone down or disguise the more harmful elements of the alleged offence. Questions asking for a moral evaluation are followed by moral affirmation of the defendants, after which they try to mitigate their moral responsibility by way of excuses and justifications. The analysis of questions in this study makes it relevant to the present study which also considers the types of questions that feature in the FCT hearing.

In a similar vein, Luchenjoers (1997) examines barrister questioning strategies in the course of a six-day Supreme Court murder trial involving sixty different barrister-witness dialogues. He considers questioning procedures in conjunction with witness answer forms to gain some measure of the extent to which witnesses are allowed to “tell their own stories in their own words”. Although this study did not examine quasi-judicial public hearings, it relates to the present study as it looks at questioning procedures in a judicial situation.

Janney (2002) focuses on the influences of cotext on interpretations of vague language in court testimony during the O.J. Simpson civil murder trial in Los Angeles in 1996. The language of the plaintiffs’ attorney during the trial was interpreted as vague. The answers of the witnesses were also interpreted as vague or nonresponsive in the courtroom than the questions they were intended to answer. She suggests that they are interpreted as vague in spite of the self-contextualising effects of the cotext. The consideration of the cotext in the courtroom is useful to the present study as interpretations of some excerpts from the constitution and acts were used in the FCT hearing. In spite of this, the study differs from the present study as it did not attend to issues of cotext in a quasi-judicial hearing.

Gnisci and Pontecorvo (2004) study how legal professionals and witnesses use different strategies to impose their own line of argument. They posit that lawyers’ frequent use of a question made it more coercive while witnesses prefer to provide elaborate answers. They posit that there is evidence of the interconnection between the use of the strategies during the blame-implicative ‘thematic phases’ and the sequential organisation of turns. The consideration of questions and answers in a judicial setting makes this study relevant to the present study. However, it differs from the present study which focuses on a quasi-judicial public hearing.

González (2006) explores contextualisation paradigm, adopted from socio-pragmatics, in the context of courtroom interpreting. He opines that interpreters are ethically constrained not to alter the pragmatics of the ongoing interaction, which

ultimately presupposes their capacity to identify the contextualisation cues with which different participants realign themselves as required. He focuses on the notion of 'strategic' or 'covert recontextualisation cues', as illustrated by lawyers' use of non-restrictive relative clauses. He submits that the success or failure of this strategy depends on the interpreter recognising the pragmatic force of these cues and rendering it accurately into the target language. The use of pragmatics as a theoretical framework for this study makes it relevant to the present one which also addresses pragmatic features in a quasi-judicial public hearing. This study, however, differs from the present one as it examines courtroom discourse which is not the focus of the present study.

Martinovski (2006) presents an activity-based framework for empirical discourse analysis of mitigation in Swedish and Bulgarian courtroom examinations. The framework consists of defense processes, which involve mitigating argumentation lines, discourse moves, and communication acts. He posits that the witnesses' tendency to volunteer information even on behalf of their own credibility indicates that they favor pro-party testimonies. Thus, mitigation in court functions as a strategy for coping with disagreement and conflict by facing it, anticipating it, and/or accepting it. This study examines argumentative strategies and speech functions in the courtroom and this makes it applicable to the present study, which also looks at these strategies in a quasi-judicial public hearing. One of the differences in the two studies lies in the attention paid to different genres.

Agangan (2007) carries out a speech act analysis of lawyer-witness courtroom interactions in the High Courts of Lagos State, Southwestern Nigeria. The study reveals that the courtroom interactions were characterised by assertives and directives with very few occurrences of commissives and declaratives. There was a preponderance of indirect speech acts while hearers drew on the speaker's inference based on certain contextual assumptions to interpret speaker's intention in the courtroom interactions. The author's recognition of speech functions and socio-political contextual assumptions in courtroom interaction is relevant to the present study which also considers these concepts in a quasi-judicial public hearing. The work differs from the present one on the grounds that it does not examine these pragmatic features in a quasi-judicial public hearing.

Opeibi (2008b) investigates the nature, types and roles of questioning in a Nigerian legal proceeding. He opines that interrogatives are used as a resource for

performing different communicative actions that include information-elicitation and information-confirmation. The questions used in the interaction include information-seeking questions, information-confirmation questions and action-elicitation questions. The attention paid to interrogatives in a legal proceeding makes this study relevant to the present study which also looks at interrogatives in a quasi-judicial public hearing.

Charnock (2009) examines the use of illocutions and perlocutions in rulings made by judges in the court room. He posits that judges tend to use indirect rather than explicit language, especially in the most significant cases. Alternatively, they present their overruling decisions not as new legislation, but rather as declarations of the true state of the unchanging common law. He opines that this view implies increased illocutionary force, as it may involve retrospective application. Secondly, the legal validity of overruling declarations depends to a large extent on their perlocutionary effects. He concludes that the legal effect of overruling decisions suggests a close relation between performativity and normativity. The attention paid to speech functions makes this study relevant to the present study. However, it adopts the speech act theory rather than the pragmatic act theory adopted in this study.

Meizhen (2009) investigates interruption in the Chinese criminal courtroom discourse which is a highly institutionalised and strongly goal-oriented discourse. He opines that interruptions in Chinese courtroom trials are substantially asymmetrical in terms of the number, functions, and causes in the sense that prosecutors interrupt the most and defense lawyers the least, with judges being in the middle but somewhat closer to prosecutors. The defendant is the most interrupted party. The dominant side, represented by the judge and the prosecutor, interrupts to exercise control by stretching the Gricean maxims to the extreme. In contrast, the defendant interrupts mainly for cooperation or to insist on his/her right to speak. This particular work is relevant to the present study as it looks at the discourse function of interruption in a judicial setting. In spite of this, it differs from the present study since it did not consider this concept in a quasi-judicial public hearing.

2.2.2.2 Studies on Legal Documents

Vass (2004) analyses hedging in two legal written discourse genres, namely, U.S. Supreme Court opinions and American law review articles, from a comprehensive, socio-cognitive, intra-disciplinary perspective. The findings indicate that differences between the two genres can be linked to certain prototypical features

of the genres themselves, particularly context and communicative purposes. She postulates that hedging is genre-specific in the area of legal discourse. The use of genre analysis as a theoretical framework in a legal text makes this study applicable to the present study. However, the study differs from the present one as it examines legal documents rather than quasi-judicial public hearings.

Opeibi (2008c) examines the syntactic and pragmatic properties of legal documents in Nigeria with the aim of establishing the extent of their accessibility to lay persons. He opines that the language of written legal tests such as a will, deed of assignment, court summons and charge sheets is unique. He further posits that these legal documents possess some complex or obscured portions that may hamper comprehension by laymen. He reveals that the legal communication consists of texts that carry within them, action-performing rule-based facts for accomplishing social work. Opeibi's study relates to the present study as it attends to syntactic and pragmatic properties in legal documents. However, it differs from the present study which looks at these properties in a quasi-judicial hearing.

Cao (2009) compares the pragmatic differences in the Chinese legal language used in China and Taiwan. She describes legal performative modal verbs used in legal Chinese in ways equivalent to the English 'shall', 'may' and 'may not' or 'shall not' for the illocutionary forces of setting out obligations, permissions, and prohibitions. She points to a universalism in the illocutionary functions of legal language and the tendency to use performatives in legal texts. This study is relevant to the present one as it looks at speech functions in a legal text but it differs from the present study which looks at speech functions in a quasi-judicial hearing rather than legal texts.

In a similar vein, Kryk-Kastovsky (2009) investigates the use of speech acts in diachronic pragmatics. She reveals that the courtroom discourse of 17th century England is amenable to speech act analysis as conceived of for Modern English usage. She asserts that that court trial records have abundant linguistic characteristics (an abundance of illocutions and perlocutions as well as question-and-answer exchanges, interpretable as indirect speech acts). She develops the speech act network, which is particularly suitable for the analysis of complex courtroom discourse consisting of interrelated illocutions and their corresponding perlocutions. The attention paid to speech functions and question-and-answer exchanges in a legal document makes this work relevant to the present study. However, it differs on the

grounds that it adopts the speech act theory rather than the pragmatic act theory. The study also focuses on legal texts rather than quasi-judicial public hearings, the focus of the present study.

The works reviewed in this section are similar to the work carried out in this research as these works look at language use in judicial discourse. Thus, there are similarities in the discourse and language use. For example, legal documents are presented in the public hearings and admitted as exhibits just as we have in law courts. Complainants/defendants are also made to swear before presenting their testimonies. These hearings are created in order to find facts about past events, just as we have in the law courts. The power wielded by the chairman of the hearing panel is almost like that of the judge in a law court. He can send a person away from the hearing room and he determines who speaks at a particular turn. Some of these studies have looked at courtroom interactions (Komter, 1994; Luchenjoers, 1997; Charnock, 2009 and Meizhen, 2009) and legal documents (Kryk-Kastovsky, 2009). However, these works are fundamentally different from the one carried out in this study as this study concentrates on the generic structure and pragmatic features in a Nigerian quasi-judicial public hearing.

2.2.3 Previous Studies on the GSP of various genres

A number of studies have been carried out on the GSP of different genres such as essays, newspaper editorials, etc. For example, Henry and Roseberry (1997) analyse forty essays taken from different newspapers, magazines and encyclopedia entries in an attempt to identify the GSP of introductions and endings of essays. They hold that the communicative purpose of essays is 'to put forward a point of view and either defend or explain it' (p. 480). They discover the GSP of the 'Introductions' of essays to be (IT)¹(NF)¹(CI) suggesting that there are three rhetorical elements in the introductions of essays, those of Introducing the Topic (IT), Narrowing the Focus (NF), and stating the Central Idea of the essay (CI), and that only the last one is an obligatory element. The first two optional elements merely provide sufficient background information whereby the main propositions can be presented. As to the structure of the 'Endings' of essays, however, they identify the following elements: Commitment to Central idea (CC) and Expansion (EX). This study is relevant to the present study as it utilises the GSP model in its study of the introductions and endings of essays but differs from the present study which utilises the GSP model in the analysis of a quasi-judicial public hearing.

In another vein, Ansary and Babaii (2005) examine the distinctive rhetorical features of English newspaper editorials and propose a generic prototypical pattern of text development for editorials. Taking a look at thirty English newspapers, they identify four obligatory structural elements (Headline, Addressing an Issue, Argumentation, and Articulating a Position) present in 90% of the editorials in the sample which appear in this order: H[^]AI[^]A[^]AP. However, there also emerged three optional elements: Background Information (BI), which either preceded AI or followed it, Initiation of Argumentation (IA) which, in some cases, was necessary to help writers start off their arguments, and Closure of Argumentation (CA) which was sometimes used to round off the arguments. The GSP for the editorials can, therefore, be written as

$$H^{\wedge} [(BI).AI]^{\wedge} \{(IA)^{\wedge} A1^{\wedge} A2^{\wedge} A...^{\wedge} (CA)\}n^{\wedge} \{AP1^{\wedge} AP2^{\wedge} AP... \}m$$

This study is very useful to the present one in its consideration of the GSP model in the analysis of newspaper editorials, especially in the recognition of the iteration of sets which also exists in the public hearing discourse. However, it differs from the present study as it does not consider the GSP of quasi-judicial public hearings.

In a similar vein, Odebunmi (2007) characterises the GSP of Nigerian magazine editorials with a view to revealing the explicatures and implicatures used in the texts. He posits that the obligatory macrostructural elements include Run-on Headline (RH), Background Information (BI), Addressing an Issue (AI), Argumentation (A), and Articulating a Position (AI) while the obligatory elements include Initiation of Argumentation (IA) and Closure of Argumentation (CA). He states that the GSP of newspaper editorials and magazine editorials are largely the same except in the area of the optionality of BI in newspaper editorials. The consideration of the GSP model in Nigerian magazine editorials is also applicable to the present study, more so, that it considers magazine editorials in Nigeria, which is the setting for the public hearing analysed in the present study. However, it differs from it on the grounds that the study did not investigate the GSP of public hearings, which the present study examines.

Ansary and Babaii (2009) characterise the global and/or macro-rhetorical structure of English newspaper editorials in order to see whether there is significant macro-structural variation from one culture to another within the same genre. They consider editorials culled from three English newspapers published in three different socio-cultural environments by native speakers of English and non-native speakers.

Their results reveal that an ‘unmarked’ English newspaper editorial, published either in Iran or Pakistan or the USA, typically consists of four obligatory and two optional generic rhetorical elements. Again, this study is very important to the present one as it makes use of the GSP model in its examination of newspaper editorials but differs from the present study which considers the GSP of a quasi-judicial public hearing.

2.2.4 Previous studies on legislative public hearings

Through rhetorical analysis, Gring-Pemble (2001) examines welfare reform hearings and debates from 1992-1996. From a narrative approach, she challenges the liberatory and participatory functions of the narrative paradigm conceived by Walter Fisher. She opines that some narrative forms facilitate elite discourses, discourage the inclusion of alternative public views and delegitimise particular public voices. This study is similar to the present study as it focuses on legislative public hearings. It diverges from the present study which focuses on a quasi-judicial public hearing.

In another vein, Smith (2005) investigates linguistic and paralinguistic features of US Senate committee congressional hearing. She was able to show that legislators and witnesses relate information from the prevailing perspective of terror. She posits that the 108th Congress used fear-generation as a rhetorical tactics to create perceived need for a new anti-terror legislation. She opines that professionals who participate in public policy making as expert witnesses or organisation spokespersons need to use discourse analytic techniques to recognise the functions of perspectives in public discourse. The consideration of linguistic features and rhetorical strategies in public hearings makes this work relevant to the present study. However, it differs from the present one on the grounds that the study focuses on legislative hearings rather than quasi-judicial hearings which is the focus of the present study.

Simon and Jerit (2007) examine government–media–public interaction during the partial-birth abortion debate in the U.S, using the method of framing. They posit that the opposing political elites employed almost exclusive vocabularies in attempts to justify their views and shape attitudes. They opine that their findings support the idea that a kind of public reason can emerge from the interaction of citizens’ judgment processes and elite communication. The examination of the vocabulary of interlocutors in this hearing is similar to the one carried out in the present study but diverges on the grounds that it examines legislative hearings rather than investigative public hearings, the focus of the present study.

Buttny and Cohen (2007) examine two public hearings on a zoning proposal that would allow a Super Wal-Mart Center to be constructed on a field over the town's aquifer. The study focuses on the discursive construction and rhetoric of using other people's words for the speaker's own purposes. They posit that using other people's words allows the speaker to cite an authoritative source or to respond to what another has said, to evaluate it, and often to challenge it. Speakers use other devices in addition to quotes, such as formulations, repetitions, and membership categorisations to develop their evaluative stances in the reporting context. The recognition of discourse strategies identified in the hearing makes this study relevant to the present study but differs from the present one which attends to discourse strategies in quasi-judicial public hearings.

2.2.5 Previous studies on quasi-judicial public hearings

Rogers (1988) examines the Iran-contra hearings of 1987 from a celebratory or epideictic perspective, with several conceptualisations of the genre combined to illuminate the functions of the hearings. The primary function of the hearings was the reassurance of the community as to the continued validity of its values and system of government. The primary epideictic function was accomplished largely by means of the rhetorical performative. He opines that the rhetorical situation may represent an ultimate genre of 'democratic discourse', typifying the need to strengthen the community in the course of any major political/rhetorical event. This particular study is relevant to the present study as it considers rhetorical strategies in a quasi-judicial public hearing but departs from it as the former study focuses on a quasi-judicial public hearing in a non-African setting.

Lingle (2008) examines the US Congressional hearings of the US abuse of prisoners at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq in 2004, from the perspective of critical discourse analysis. He studies the government's list of interrogation techniques, a BBC news report and a human rights' report describing the interrogation conditions, and a statement made by an Abu Ghraib prisoner about the abuse he witnessed by US forces. He compared these using Halliday's Functional Grammar (FG) with a view to focusing on material clauses to compare the texts' portrayals of physical actions. Since this study pays attention to the grammatical structures in quasi-judicial public hearings, this makes it relevant to the present study which also identifies peculiar grammatical structures that characterise different stages of the Nigerian FCT quasi-judicial public hearing.

Cavalieri (2009) focuses on the development of witness examination as an argumentative dialogue between legal professionals and lay-people in public inquiries in Great Britain. The study is based on a discourse and genre analytic approach for the macro-analysis of public inquiries in the context of courtroom discourse and of witness examination as a genre that develops within this discourse framework. He also takes into consideration the role of textual and interpersonal metadiscourse, repetitions and reformulations. This study is also important to the present one as it identifies argumentative dialogues in public inquiries (investigative public hearings). However, it differs from the present study as the previous one focuses in a setting different from an African society, which has a different socio-political background.

2.2.6 Previous studies on the TRC hearings

McCormick and Bock (1999) investigate the modes of elicitation and the production of testimonies at the hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of South Africa (TRC), using the Bahktinian theory of utterance and the tools of narrative analysis and critical discourse analysis. They posit that the hearings followed a common format of introduction, elicitation, narrative, questions and concluding remarks. From the narratives, they discovered different notions of truth. These include 'forensic' or 'factual' truth, 'personal' or 'narrative' truth, 'social' truth and 'healing' or 'restorative' truth. They opine that the situational context of the public hearings is multilayered, in regard to the audience and that testifying served more than one purpose for the witnesses. They suggest that people who are responsible for eliciting and evaluating testimonies should be trained in critical discourse analysis. This particular study is of utmost relevance to the present study as it considers the structure of the TRC. However, it differs from the present study as it examines the structure using a narrative analysis framework which is different from the GSP model employed in the present study. Thus, the results of its findings differ from the present study (see chapter six for more details).

Blommaert et al (2002) explore the discursive aspects of the TRC victim hearings. They opine that doing discourse brings out the meanings and information produced in the hearings and provides a sounder basis for using these data as historical documents. It also speaks to the wider framework in which the hearings, as historical events, have to be set: social, political and cultural contexts which provide interpretive frames for what is being performed. They suggest that insights into the

often invisible structures that control or determine what can be observed at other levels can help show the processes of transformation in societies. This study is similar to the present study as it considers discursive practices in the TRC hearing but differs from it based on the fact that the social, political and cultural contexts of the TRC are different from that of the FCT hearing. Thus, the discursive practices in the TRC would be different from that of the present study.

Bock & Duncan (2002) explore how a selection of testifiers at the Human Rights Violation hearings of the TRC use language to construe and interpret their experiences and position themselves and their audience in relation to the events by using the tools of critical discourse analysis and systemic functional linguistics. They also investigate 'what is lost' in the interpretation and transcription processes of selected TRC testimonies. This study is similar to the present one as it examines a quasi-judicial hearing but diverges from the present study based on the fact that there was no interpretation process that affected the FCT hearing.

Verdoolaege (2002) examines the extent to which testifiers were limited by contextual constraints while giving their testimonies in the proceedings of the Human Rights Violations Committee (HRVC) of South African TRC. She opines that while there were constraints caused by the formal limitations because of the typical genre of the TRC hearings, other constraints were caused by the limitations connected to the higher objectives of the TRC's agenda. She suggests that the individual hearings followed a certain pattern and that it was not obvious for the testifiers to deviate from this pattern. She opines that the hearings were staged on the basis of certain objectives which went beyond the 'here-and-now' aim of healing individual victims, as they were part of the broader TRC context. Although this study relates to the present study as it considers contextual constraints in an investigative hearing, these constraints differ from those of the FCT due to the socio-cultural and socio-political context of the TRC. Also, the objectives of the TRC differ from those of the FCT hearing.

Verdoolaege (2003) studies linguistic manipulation in the introduction of the concept of reconciliation with the aim of looking at the indexical complexity of the discourse in TRC hearings. She opines that political and ideological considerations play a significant role in framing the language of the TRC hearings' victims. She suggests that the TRC hearings seem to hinge on the establishment of asymmetrical power relations. The types of discourse which exist in the hearings include legal

discourse and psychotherapeutic discourse while political narrative of nation building is the framing narrative of the discourse. She opines that the linguistic freedom of the testifiers seemed limited while the TRC stressed reconciliation because it was the political ideology of the ruling party in South Africa. The recognition of legal and political discourses makes this research relevant to the present study. However, it differs from it, considering the fact that the TRC hearing is a reconciliation oriented discourse, a concept that does not feature in the FCT hearing.

Verdoolaege (2005a) examines the linguistic and visual aspects of the media discourse that represented the TRC hearings and looked at how the discourse was ideologically coloured. The analysis reveals that though the programme tried to stand as an example of independent and critical journalism, it could not avoid the pitfalls of partiality and sensationalism. She argues that there seems to be a link between the reconciliation-oriented discourse of this TV programme and the Commission's objective of promoting national reconciliation. This study relates to the present study as it focuses on the TRC hearing, a reconciliation-oriented discourse. However, it departs from the present study as it considers media representations of the TRC hearings.

Verdoolaege (2005b) explores how the TRC hearings give rise to a reconciliation discourse which offers the apartheid victims a lot of opportunities regarding linguistic expressions. However, she posits that the discourse is also regimented and the concept serves as an aspect of linguistic manipulation. She opines that political considerations play a role in the control exercised over the discourse of the TRC victims and that the reconciliation discourse of the Commission reflects a very ambiguous social attitude and reveals as much as possible the apartheid past. She concludes that a quasi-judicial institution such as the TRC involves an inevitable interplay between language on one hand and ideology and society on the other. This work is related to the present study as it considers a quasi-judicial hearing. However, the study focuses on reconciliation, a concept that is not present in the FCT hearing.

Anthonissen (2006) considers a number of salient, characterising features of the verbal mediation process that took place in the TRC hearings on gross human rights violations, using Discourse Sociolinguistics as a theoretical framework. She investigates how various participants represent a particular event, each taking the perspective from which they experienced it. She observes the differences in verbal choice, and in textual and information structure. She also highlights a particular

practice of reformulating which appears to be typical of discourses that mediate past atrocities with a view to establishing new and improved democratic practices. Anthonissen's work is similar to the present study but differs on the grounds that it uses a different approach in the analysis of the TRC hearing.

Bock et al (2006) analyse 'what has been lost' in the interpretation and transcription process of two TRC testimonies. They contend that the official TRC records only allow access to a limited truth, as the records are inadequate in many ways and that a number of 'truths', both of the narrative and factual nature, have inevitably been lost through the interpretation and transcription process. They examine some significant omissions and errors in the official TRC record and suggest that the inaccuracy not only compromises to an extent the goals of the TRC, but also casts a measure of doubt on the value of some TRC scholarship. They advise that researchers using these should check them against the original testimonies in the language in which they were given. Although this study on the TRC is related to the present study, it differs on the grounds that issues of interpretation and transcription do not arise in the analysis of the FCT hearing.

Ross (2006) considers women's testimonies before the South African TRC and traces the complexities of speaking about suffering. She opines that testimonial practices focuses on violence's recall which occupies unstable grounds. She argues that these testimonies are mediated by the subject positions from which women speak and which are shaped by cultural convention. She traces the effects of 'modes of discomfort', drawing attention to the faultlines between words and experience when violence is recalled. Again, this study is relevant to the present study as it focuses on the TRC hearing but differs from the present study as it focuses on women's testimonies. The present study attends to both men and women's testimonies.

Using critical linguistics and critical discourse analysis as a theoretical framework, Lubbe (2007) carried out a comparative analysis of the reportage in the South African press in respect of the Guguletu 7 events in 1986 and the 1997 amnesty application. He reports that the public media convey their ideology in a subtle manner through language use. He suggests that the ideological milieu in the mid-eighties can be described in terms of a state of emergency, Soviet expansionism, racism, fear and rage while that of the nineties can be described in terms of a new cluster of themes, namely democracy, non-racism, equality, reconciliation, nation building and compensation. The consideration of the TRC hearing makes this work

applicable to the present study but it differs from the FCT study since it focuses on newspaper reports on the TRC hearing.

Bock (2008) explores the use of tense, direct speech and code-switching in two testimonies at the Human Rights Violation Hearings of the South Africa TRC. She opines that these are used to express evaluative meanings and position the speakers, the police and their audience in relation to their narratives. She posits that in multilingual contexts, code-switching functions as an appraisal resource and adds that it is necessary that a close linguistic analysis of the testimonies in the languages in which the testimonies were originally presented should be carried out, in order to appreciate their subtle meanings and narrative truths. The linguistic study of the TRC hearing makes this work important to the present study. However, it diverges from the present study as the concept of code-switching did not arise in the FCT hearing or its study.

Verdoolaege (2009a) analyses discursive material from the South African TRC, using Goffman's theories on participation framework and change in footing. She posits that a discursive setting such as the public hearings of a truth and reconciliation commission can be highly intricate and layered when considering the role of the various discourse participants. The testifying victims, the TRC commissioners and the audience engaged in various forms of subordinate communication — *byplay*, *crossplay* and *sideplay* — in addition to the standardised and expected interaction between victims and commissioners. The attention paid to discursive practices in the TRC makes it relevant to the present study. However, it differs from the present work as it does not consider the pragmatic properties of the TRC hearings which are major issues considered in the FCT hearing.

Verdoolaege (2009b) examines the TRC hearing from the perspective of critical discourse analysis and asserts that it is through the discursive level that the TRC has exerted/is still exerting a longlasting impact on the South African society. She opines that the TRC provided a discursive forum for thousands of ordinary citizens and that by means of testimonies from apartheid victims and perpetrators, the TRC composed an officially recognised archive of the apartheid past. She adds that the reconciliation discourse created at the TRC victim hearings formed a template for talking about a traumatic past, and it opened up the debate on reconciliation. As pointed out earlier, the TRC is a reconciliation-oriented discourse and thus, this study is different from the present study which focuses on the FCT hearing.

Most studies on the public hearing discourse dwell on the TRC hearings in South Africa (McCormick and Bock (1999), Verdoolaege (2003), Anthonissen (2006), Bock (2008) and Verdoolaege (2009a and 2009b)). Some of the works focus on legislative public hearings which are different from quasi-judicial hearings (Buttny and Cohen, 2007 and Smith, 2008). Thus, the nature and structure of quasi-judicial public hearings in Nigeria have not been fully explored and can not be effectively determined from these studies. The present study carries out an interactional and pragmatic description of Nigerian quasi-judicial public hearings, with emphasis on the quasi-judicial public hearing on FCT administration in Nigeria.

Overall, the studies which have been reviewed in this chapter have made use of grammar, critical discourse analysis, narrative analysis and sociolinguistics. None of the writers of these studies used the Generic Structure Potential or pragmatic act theory in the analysis of the quasi-judicial public hearing discourse. They did not also consider the contextual beliefs that guide interactants in quasi-judicial public hearings. Pragmatic functions are essential in understanding the pragmatic roles carried out by language in these interactions, and so are contextual beliefs. These studies did not use the pragmatic act theory which emphasises socio-cultural and societal factors in meaning construction and comprehension.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter covers the study population, sampling technique, data collection techniques, and the analytical procedure for the study.

3.1 Study population

The respondents/participants for the study include members of the hearing committee, set up by the Senate; and complainants/defendants. The hearing committee is made up of twenty-one senators who are members of the Senate Committees on FCT and Housing, and headed by the chairman of the Senate Committee on FCT, Senator Abubakar Sodangi. These senators also represent the different geopolitical zones in Nigeria. The complainants are persons who had written to the committee, complaining of cases of eviction, demolition, and revocation of titles of lands and property.

The complainants follow the procedure of writing a memorandum to the hearing committee, which they also read in the course of the presentation. Sometimes, in cases where the complainants are in a group, they are represented by lawyers or spokesmen. The complainants include civil servants, building contractors, artisans, lawyers and market sellers. They are from different ethnic groups in the country, all living or working in the FCT. The defendants are government officials who are served with letters from the hearing panel to appear before her, in order to defend some of their actions that affected the complainants in the FCT. Their actions include evictions, demolition, and revocation of titles of lands and property. They include government officials such as past police officers, directors of FCDA and past FCT ministers. In all, there were eight defendants and thirty-two complainants.

3.2 Sampling technique

The data for this study consist of oral presentations of complainants/defendants in the 2008 investigative public hearing on FCT administration in Nigeria. The public hearing on FCT administration was chosen from all the quasi-judicial public hearings based on the fact that the FCT is a microcosm of the entire Nigerian state. It is representative of all the people from all the geopolitical zones in Nigeria. Also, issues that were being investigated affected a lot of people personally and several petitions had been submitted to the Senate. Although about

two thousand people submitted written memoranda to the hearing panel, the exact number of people who made oral presentations was not given by the hearing panel. The report of the committee only showed the number of people who submitted written memoranda and/or made oral presentations. Although efforts were made to get the exact number of those who made oral presentations, the committee could not provide it. Based on this, forty hearing sessions were purposively selected for the study.

3.3 Data collection

The following methods were used to collect data: video recordings of the public hearing on FCT administration, structured interviews, newspaper report supplements, written submissions of some complainants and the final report of the joint Senate committees on FCT and Housing on the public hearing on the administration of the FCT.

3.3.1 Video recordings of the quasi-judicial public hearing sessions

The data for this study were collected from forty video recordings of oral presentations at the 2008 investigative public hearing on FCT administration in Nigeria. These were later transferred to digital video disc (DVD). The data were collected from the African Independent Television (AIT), Alagbado, Lagos and Abuja and were transcribed for the purpose of analysis. The data were collected from AIT because it was the only television station that had full coverage of the hearing. The sampled video recordings covered oral presentations of complainants/defendants. These oral presentations were utilised as the data for the study. These oral presentations included the oath-taking, the presentation of testimonies by the complainants/defendants, a series of questions and answers, the prayer request and the admission of the written documents as exhibits. Conversational features such as silences, repetitions and interruptions were taken note of. The transcriptions of some of the oral presentations are presented in the appendix.

3.3.2 Interviews

Structured interview questions were used to collect supplementary data for the study. The interview questions covered the pragmatic variables in the hearing. The questions for the structured interviews are presented in the appendix. The interviews were conducted on the complainants. Only five copies of the interviews were obtained from the complainants. This was because the complainants and defendants had dispersed after the hearing. Efforts were made to locate the

complainants/defendants but the report did not have the addresses of most of the people involved. Although efforts were also made to trace some of the complainants to their offices, it was discovered that most of them had either been retired or posted to other parastatals in 2009. Also, some of the addresses that were written in the final report of the hearing panel were the addresses of the property that had been demolished or revoked. In a particular case, the complainant refused to speak about her presentation at the hearing because the incident brought back painful memories. It was impossible to get in touch with the senators due to their busy schedule. One of the defendants refused to pick his calls.

3.3.3 Newspaper report supplements

Newspaper report supplements were obtained from *The Guardian* and *The Punch* newspapers. These two newspapers were selected because they were among the top seven newspapers in the Audit Bureau of Circulation report of 2009 (See Anon., 2009). *The Punch* had the first position (34,264 copies in circulation) while *The Guardian* took the fifth position (25, 222 copies in circulation). Ten reports from each of the newspapers, making a total of twenty newspaper reports, were studied in order to have background knowledge of the public hearing. The 2008 April volume of these newspapers were collected because this was the time the hearing took place. These are listed in table 3.1 and ten of these are included in the appendix.

Table 3.1. List of newspaper sources on the FCT quasi-judicial public hearing

S/N	Author	Headline	Newspaper	Date/Page
1	Alifa, D.	Tears at Senate panel as son recounts judge's ejection, death	The Guardian	April 11, 2008. pp. 1, 2, 4.
2	Alifa, D.	'I never had hypertension until el-Rufai began to terrorise me'	"	April 12, 2008. p. 2
3	Azimazi, M. J.	Tears over land as senate probes FCDA	"	April 14, 2008. p. 8
4	Azimazi, M. J.	Senate panel may invite Obasanjo over N6.4 billion FCT contract	"	April 16, 2008. pp. 1, 4.
5	Alifa, D.	Atiku, Kashim Imam disagree over demolition of Abuja building	"	April 17, 2008. pp. 1-2.
6	Azimazi, M. J.	Senate probe panel chief listed in 20 plots allocations. I got only three, says Sodangi	"	April 18, 2008. pp.1-2.
7	Azimazi, M. J.	Why we ignored rules in sale of presidential guest houses, by official	"	April 22, 2008. p.3.
8	Azimazi, M. J.	FCT: Senate panel members face fresh facts, twists	"	April 22, 2008. p.9.
9	Azimazi, M. J.	Abuja demolition a disaster, says panel.	"	April 24, 2008. pp. 1, 2, 4
10	Daniel, A. & Azimazi, M. J.	Fresh drama in Senate over Abuja plots.	"	April 25, 2008. pp. 1, 2, 4.
11	Josiah, O.	Sambo's death: Senate summons Ehindero, el-Rufai, others	The Punch	April 11, 2008. p.6.
12	Josiah, O. & Alechenu, J.	El-Rufai lawless in land revocation- FCT counsel	"	April 11, 2008. p. 8
13	-	Praises as Senate probes sale of FCT houses	"	April 11, 2008. p. 11
14	Alechenu, J. & Josiah, O.	Yar'Adua approved sale of Atiku's guest Houses - FCT Chief.	"	April 22, 2008. p. 4
15	Alechenu, J. & Josiah, O.	FG houses: Senate queries N1.8bn deduction from proceeds	"	April 23, 2008. p. 8
16	-	'el-Rufai demolished AIT offices over third term'	"	April 24, 2008. p.5
17	Alechenu, J. & Josiah, O.	58 senators bought FG houses through probe panel FCT chief	"	April 25, 2008. p. 7
18	Alechenu, J.	FCT probe: Senate may sanction el-Rufai	"	"
19	Alechenu, J.	Senate FCT panel summons Bayo Ojo, others	"	April 26, 2008. p. 10
20	Josiah, O.	FCT probe: Senate committee bewails N11.8bn abandoned project. As el-Rufai appears before probe panel	"	April 30, 2008. p. 8

3.3.4 Report on the public hearing on FCT administration and written submissions

The report of the joint Senate Committees on FCT and Housing on the public hearing on FCT administration between 1999 and 2008 was examined in order to have a full knowledge of some of the registers used in the hearing sessions and a breakdown of the proceedings at the hearing. Representative portions of the report are included in the appendix. In addition, three written submissions of the complainants were also examined. Only three were obtained as these were the only ones made available to the researcher from the National Assembly. One of these is included in the appendix.

3.3 Analytical procedure

The data were transcribed and analysed descriptively, using insights from Michael Halliday and Ruquiya Hasan's (1989) and Hasan Ansary and Esmat Babaii's (2005) Generic Structure Potential (GSP), Akin Odebunmi's (2006) model of context, John Austin's (1969) locutionary acts and Jacob Mey's (2001) pragmatic acts, conversational analysis and van Dijk's (1993) theory of Otherness. Austin's rhetic and phatic acts were used in the framework since they are meaning-related units. These insights were used in forming the analytical framework for the study. The framework is presented in the figure 3.1:

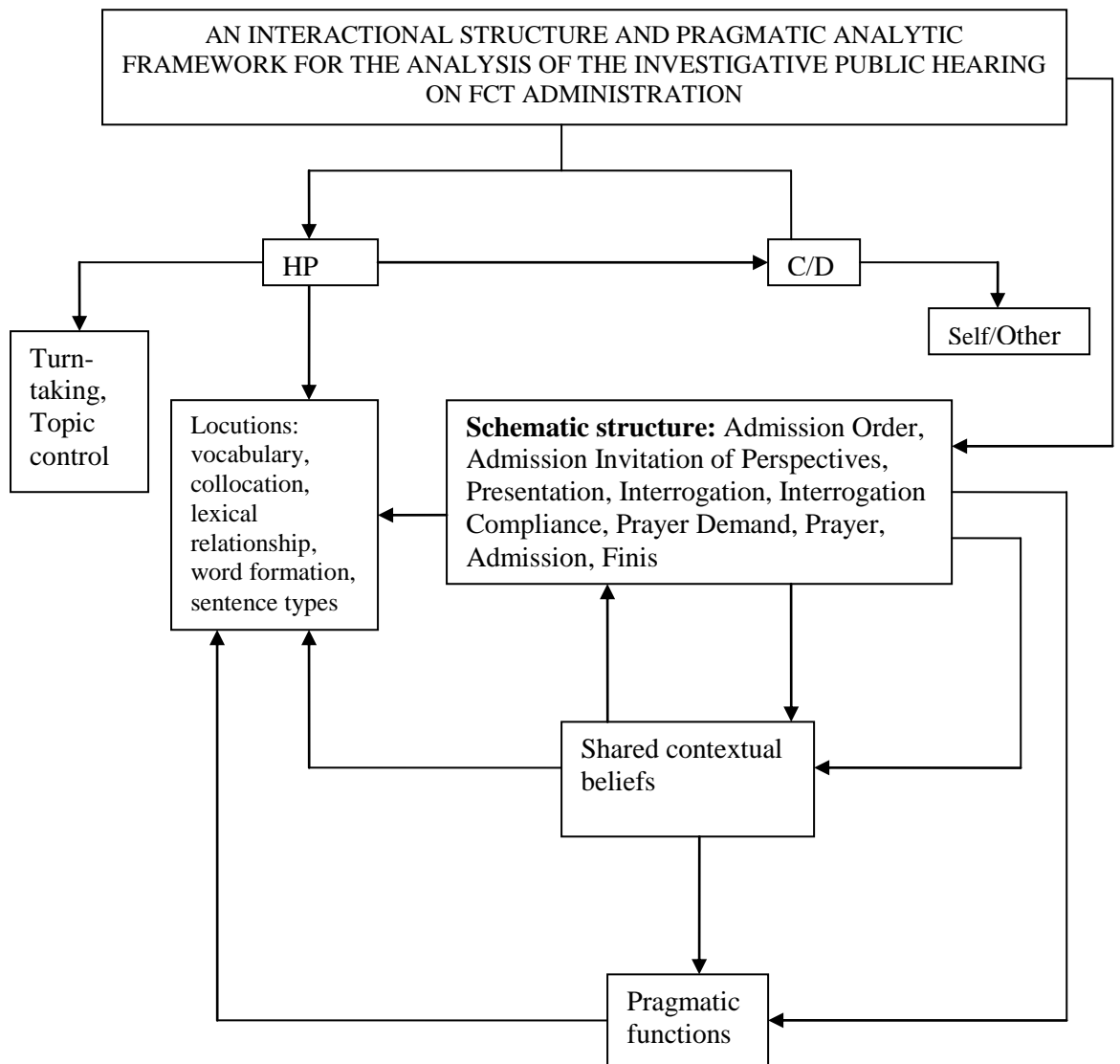


Figure 3.1 The analytical framework for the analysis of the FCT quasi-judicial public hearing in Nigeria (Personal fieldwork, 2010)

The diagram above represents the interaction structure and pragmatic framework for the analysis of investigative public hearings in Nigeria. The model indicates that members of the hearing panel (HI) and complainants and defendants (C/D) are the interactants during the oral presentation in the public hearing on FCT administration. During the oral presentation, the hearing panel chairman/vice-chairman initiated the interaction. The utterances they make were locutionary acts which were divided into rhetic and phatic acts. The rhetic act dealt with the lexical choices, lexical collocation, lexical relationships and word formation processes; while the phatic act dealt with sentence types. Thus, we have dealt with lexical and syntactic patterns in the interaction. The model also shows that the HP controls the turn-taking patterns as well as the topics for discussion. Also, the model indicated that complainants and defendants represent self positively and the Other negatively.

The model also accounts for the description of the schematic structure of the public hearing. The schematic structure covers the Admission Order, Admission, Invitation of Perspectives, Presentation, Interrogation, Interrogation Compliance, Prayer Demand, Prayer, Admission, and Finis. The schematic structure of the hearing also accounts for the lexical and grammatical structures in the public hearing. The schematic structure also influences the contextual beliefs and accounts for the pragmatic functions that are carried out at each stage of the interaction. The contextual beliefs in turn influence the schematic structure, the locutions used in the text as well as the pragmatic functions performed in the interaction. The pragmatic functions also determine the locutions used in the interaction.

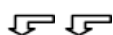
CHAPTER FOUR
**GENERIC STRUCTURE AND LOCUTIONS IN THE QUASI-
 JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARING ON FCT ADMINISTRATION**

4.0 Introduction

This chapter focuses on the generic structure of the quasi-judicial public hearing on FCT administration in Nigeria. The chapter also explores the locutions that are employed in the public hearing. Here, we look at the lexical and syntactic patterns in the hearings. As it has been pointed out in the previous chapter, the interactants include the hearing panel members who are Senators along with a secretary/clerk and assistant secretary; and complaints/defendants. The complainants were people who had written letters of complaint to the hearing panel on different cases of ejection, revocation and demolition. The defendants were people who were asked by the hearing panel to appear before it and answer questions on their conduct in the different cases of ejection, revocation and demolition.

4.1 The GSP of the quasi-judicial public hearing on FCT administration

The analyses of the generic structure of the quasi-judicial public hearing (PH) in Nigeria reveal that the genre has ten structural elements. These elements are Affirmation Order (AO), Affirmation (A), Invitation of Perspectives (IP), Presentation (P), Interrogation (I), Interrogation Compliance (IC), Prayer Demand (PD), Prayer (Pr), Admission (A), and Finis (F). The generic structure potential (GSP) for the hearing can be catalogued as:



$$AO \wedge A \wedge IP \wedge [P_{(Pr)}] \wedge \{I \wedge IC\}_n \wedge (PD) \wedge (Pr) \wedge Ad \wedge (F)$$

The caret sign shows the sequence of the elements. The round brackets indicate the optionality of the enclosed elements. This means that PD, Pr and F are optional while AO, A, IP, P, I, IC, and Ad, are obligatory. The arrow shows iteration. Thus, I and IC are recursive. The braces with arrows indicate that the degree of iteration of the elements in the braces is equal. That is, if I occurs twice, IC occurs twice. The subscript _(n) indicates the number of times a set is repeated. The subscript _(Pr) indicates that Prayer can occur as part of Presentation. The square bracket specifies the restraint in the sequence. This means that Prayer can either be a part of Presentation or can occur after PD. Thus, it can not occur after AO, A, IP, I or IC.

The GSP represented here is a condensed statement suggesting that a hearing session in a Nigerian quasi-judicial public hearing starts with an Affirmation Order which is followed by the Affirmation itself. From there, the chairman invites the complainants/defendants (C/D) to make his/her own presentation and this is complied with in Presentation. Then, the hearing panel interrogates the C/D and he/she complies by answering the questions raised. The questioning continues until the hearing panel is satisfied that all questions have been asked and answered. The chairman of the hearing panel can then demand that a prayer be made and this is complied with. However, defendants do not state any prayer. In addition, some complainants are not allowed to say their prayers because the hearing panel already knows that these prayers are already written in their submissions. Thus, this makes PD and Pr optional elements. Thereafter, the written presentations and other documented evidence such as court orders, certificates of occupancy and pictures are admitted by the chairman of the hearing panel. Thus, Admission is an obligatory element. Finis is an optional element which occurs after Admission. Here, the chairman may thank the C/D for appearing in the hearing. He may also make promises, comments, and sometimes, he may ask last minute questions. This, therefore, leads to the end of a hearing session. The interaction is highly institutionalised and that is why almost all the elements in the GSP of the hearing are obligatory. It is the obligatory elements that define the genre to which the text belongs. The analyses reveal that these discourse macrostructures are realised by plain words, legal jargon, property jargon, political jargon, financial jargon and medical jargon; fixed and free collocations; antonyms and synonyms; affixes, compounds, abbronyms, and clips; interrogative, declarative, and imperative sentences. These are shown in the tables 4.1 and 4.2:

Table 4.1. Macrostructural elements in the quasi-judicial public hearing on FCT administration

Macro-rhetorical Elements	Sentential Examples
Affirmation Order (AO)	Please can you affirm him with the Bible?
Affirmation (A)	I Chika Okeke Okafor, do solemnly swear That the evidence that I shall give before this honourable committee shall be the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth. So help me God
Invitation of Perspectives (IP)	Ok please tell us your name again and tell us your complaint.
Presentation(P)	Eh my chairman, my own case is purely a case of demolition... In 1995, I was at the National Political Conference during the national eh service. I just woke up one day and they called me from my office anyway that both my office and the estate at Karu was being demolished...The Idu plot is still vacant plot. Nobody has put anything there...
Interrogations (I)	For how many years?
Interrogation Compliance (IC)	Almost eh ah four years now, nothing there...
Prayer Demand (PD)	What is your prayer?
Prayer (Pr)	My prayer sir is that I should be entitled to the compensation...
Admission (Ad)	So your submission is eh admitted as exhibit eh 82.
Finis (F)	So we want to thank you Chief. We wish you all the best.

Table 4.2. Locutions in the political public hearing on FCT administration

Macro-rhetorical Elements	Lexical patterns	Sentence function
Affirmation Order (AO)	Plain words	Imperative, interrogative, declarative
Affirmation (A)	Plain words	Imperative, declarative
Invitation of perspectives (IP)	Plain words	Imperative, declarative
Presentation (P)	Plain words, political, legal, medical, property and financial jargon	Declarative, interrogative
Interrogations (I)	Plain words, political, legal, property, medical and financial jargon	Interrogative, declarative, imperative
Interrogation Compliance (IC)	Plain words, political, legal, property medical, and financial jargon	Declarative, imperative,
Prayer Demand (PD)	Plain words	Interrogative, imperative
Prayer (Pr)	Plain words, political jargon, property jargon	Imperative
Admission (Ad)	Plain words, political jargon	Declarative, imperative
Finis (F)	Plain words, legal jargon	Declarative, imperative, interrogative

4.1.1 Affirmation Order

Affirmation Order is the stage in which the chairman or the vice-chairman of the hearing panel selects the next speaker and commands the secretary or clerk of the hearing panel to lead the complainant or the defendant into affirming or swearing that s/he would speak the truth. The presenters swear over the Bible or the Koran depending on their religious affiliation. Thus, the hearing interaction starts with the Affirmation Order given by the chairman to the secretary to affirm the complainant/defendant (C/D). It is obligatory that the chairman of the panel orders the secretary to lead the C/D in affirming that he/she will speak the truth. Until he gives that order, the secretary cannot affirm the C/D. In fact, the chairman selects the C/D and without this, the interaction cannot move forward. This shows the power of the chairman of the panel and indicates the asymmetrical relationship between the chairman of the hearing panel and C/D. He alone does the selection and it is only when he is not around that the vice-chairman can select the next C/D. The chairman follows a list. However, some presenters do not attend the hearing at the scheduled time, and this leads to a disruption in the list pattern. At such moments, the chairman or vice-chairman, by absolute power, may then ask any other person in the Hearing Room to present his or her case. The Affirmation Order is realised by plain words, interrogative, imperative and declarative sentences. An example is cited below:

Example 17

Sodangi: Affirm Him

In this example, the chairman orders the secretary and clerk of the committee to affirm the complainant. Another example can be seen below:

Example 18

Sodangi: Yes next, Chief Okafor Chief Okafor. *Please can you affirm him please with the Bible?*

In the example above, the chairman asks the secretary to lead the complainant in the oath with the Bible. This indicates that the chairman knows that the complainant is a Christian and thus, will swear with the Bible.

4.1.2 Affirmation

Affirmation is the stage in which the complainant/defendant affirms or swears to speak the truth. The presenter repeats the words after the clerk of the panel. This is obligatory as the public hearing (PH) genre demands that the C/D must make this affirmation. Without this, the interaction cannot move forward. In the legal context,

this affirmation is needed in order to ensure that the speaker says the truth and can be held accountable if it is later found that s/he did not speak the truth. It is similar to what one finds in the law court and this is part of what makes the quasi-judicial or investigative hearing different from the legislative public hearing. An example is given:

Example 19

I, Osakwe Morris Obiwane, do solemnly swear that the evidence that I shall give before this honourable committee shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. So help me God.

In the example above, the complainant repeats the words which are first spoken by the clerk. The first sentence, in the example above, is an utterance in the declarative mood as the complainant swears to speak the truth. The second sentence, *so help me God* is in the subjunctive mood. The C/D declares to speak the truth and prays for God's help in the hearing. A is realised by plain words, imperative and declarative sentences. Another example is cited below:

Example 20

Atabo: I have fundamental information. I'm a civil servant.

Sodangi: Where?

Atabo: Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation.

Sodangi: Confirm him if he wants to say anything.

Sec: Please come over.

In the example above, the first speaker, Atabo mentions that he had vital information to give while a defendant was responding to some questions. In order for him to give the vital information, the chairman of the panel insists that he should take the oath. This shows how important this oath is. Without the oath, it is believed that a speaker could tell lies.

The swearing or affirmation which takes place before the presentation is so important that in some cases, some defendants refuse to respond to the accusations of some people simply because such people did not speak under oath. Such accusations came up in some memoranda that were submitted to the panel, but their writers could not make their presentation. This can be seen in the example below:

Example 21

Idris: Thank you very much Mr Chairman. Well em I will wish to find out whether the person who submitted this... this has done it under oath.

Sodangi: He will come here later.

Idris: If he did it under oath...

Sodangi: Pardon

Idris: For you to come to a committee like this is illegal. If he submitted any petition against me, he should do it under oath. Yes then I will ask him. If he is not under oath, I will not answer him but if you can get him to come here. Let him. Put him under oath and I will respond.

In example 21, the defendant refuses to accept and respond to the words of his accuser and this makes him to alter the asymmetrical relationship that previously existed between the hearing panel and the C/D. Here, he commands the chairman to put the person under oath before he can respond to the accusation.

4.1.3 Invitation of Perspectives

Invitation of Perspectives is the stage where the chairman asks the C/D to state his/her name and his/her complaints or defend his/her actions while in office. This is obligatory as the chairman selects the topic to be discussed by the C/D. IP is realised by plain words, declarative and imperative sentences. This can be seen in the examples below:

Example 22

Sodangi: Give us your name again and then state your case.

In the example above, the chairman orders the presenter to give his name and make his presentation. In cases where the defendant or complainant is a top government official, the chairman shows deference by making a small speech in IP. An example can be seen below:

Example 23

We want to thank you and welcome you to this public hearing eh former IG. Eh Last week, when family of Bashir Sambo were testifying. They mentioned the fact that you were so kind to the Late Bashir Sambo... That is why as true Nigerians, we want you to come

and shed light on these and that is why we have called you and if you wouldn't mind, you can give us your own view please.

In this example, the chairman thanks and welcomes the defendant who is a former Inspector-General of the Police before he requests that the defendant should make his presentation.

4.1.4 Presentation

Presentation is the stage where complainants state their complaints and defendants state their activities in relation to complaints that were raised. It consists of statements, complaints, and evidence presented to the hearing panel. This is also obligatory as it is the main reason for the hearing. C/Ds are there to make presentations of their complaints/defence and the hearing panel members are there to listen to these presentations, so as to make recommendations to the Senate. The presentations of the complainants are first listened to by the panel. Then, based on some of the complaints, the chairman sends letters of invitation to persons who may have given instructions on demolition, revocation, sale of government houses, etc, and persons who carried out such instructions to answer the questions. Thus, the presentations of the defendants and complainants (on the same issue) do not feature in the same session. The presentation is usually given in the past tense unlike the earlier structures which are usually rendered in the present tense. It is also realised by plain words, political, legal, property, medical and financial jargon.

Different styles are also used in Presentation. While some C/D read the memoranda that they have submitted to the panel, others simply narrate their experiences in the hands of the FCT officials. Hence, some presentations are more organised and structured than others. The narrative mode is employed in Presentation as complainants tell their stories of victimisation, and defendants narrate their roles in the cases of demolition, eviction and revocation of titles of lands of the complainants. Statements dominate functional sentence types in this aspect of the hearing.

There are different stages in the presentation of the complainants. These stages are: Identification of Status (IS), Background Information (BI), Invocation of Government Action (IGA), Invocation of Previous Action (IPA), and Request (R). The different stages are depicted in figure 4.1:

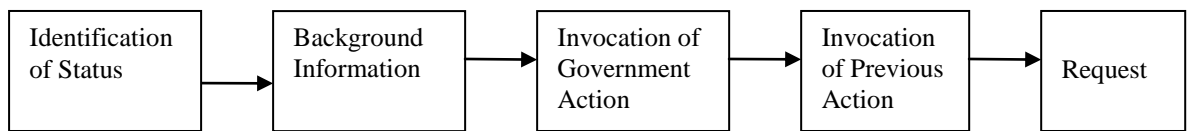


Figure 4.1. Stages in the presentation of a complainant

The first stage IS comes up when the complainants give their names, their designation and their position in relation to the case. Some of the complainants represent themselves, some represent a group which they belong to while some complainants are lawyers who are representing their clients. An example of IS is presented:

Example 24

My names are Madiya Isaac Fitman [sic]. I reside at eh above beside Mesh permanent suite... I am representing the entire...we are about 3500 people affected in that area.

In the example above the complainant states his name, his address and his status as a representative of a group of people whose shops had been demolished. The next stage of the Presentation is the presentation of BI of the case. This is the point where the complainant gives information that is necessary to the understanding of the case. The complainant continues in the excerpt below:

Example 25

So ok you may recall that this property was created in November 1982 by the then Minister Major General Nasko who constituted a committee for the for the relocation of Garki village artisans, traders from Apo village.

In the example above, the speaker presents the background to his testimony. He gives the date the property was developed, the Minister of the FCT who developed the property and the time the development started, and informs the hearing panel that a committee was in charge of the relocation of the traders to the present location which had just been demolished, without getting an appropriate place for relocation.

The third stage in the presentation is IGA. This is the stage where the complainants report the actions of demolition, eviction or revocation which were carried out by government officials and the effect of these actions. This can be seen in the example below:

Example 26

Later, after one week of this verification, we got...we saw these people coming down again...the AMAC...the the development control with police. They came and started marking the whole houses.
[sic]

In the example above, the complainant states the action that was carried out by the FCDA (development control) and the police, who came to mark the houses for demolition. Afterwards, the shops were demolished and some people died due to shock.

The next stage of the presentation is IPA. This is the stage where the complainants state the actions they carried out in order to revert the actions of the government officials. Some write letters to top government officials while others go to the law court. An example is presented:

Example 27

So on that aspect, we wrote a first letter to Mr. President by then. We wrote to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria... The letter was ignored and eh we wrote this letter...was copied to the Senate President by then. The said letter was copied eh to the Speaker of the House of Representatives. We copied to Dr...[sic]

In the example above, the complainant talks about the actions he had previously undertaken in order to get justice. This is important because the hearing panel (HP) expects the complainants to seek redress even before appearing at the public hearing.

The next stage of Presentation is R. This is the part of the interaction that is not carried out by all the complainants. Some of them stop at invocation of previous action (IPA). Others wait till the end of the interrogation stage when the chairman of the hearing panel demands for their prayers. This is seen below:

Example 28

So our prayers have been: please relocate these allottees who have spent all their life savings and even borrowed money to raise – erect these structures - to another simple place... and then compensate them or whatever.

In the example above, the complainant requests for relocation and compensation which are in line with the Urban and Regional Planning Act (URPA).

The presentations of the defendants are flexible. The defendants have already been sent the questions that they are expected to answer. Thus, they just state the questions and give the answers to the questions before the hearing panel brings up other sets of questions based on the answers given in the presentation and they give reasons why they took those actions. Examples are used to illustrate this.

Example 29

Ehintero: In particular, I am expected as a retired IG to provide this committee with a brief on matters bordering on ejections of residents from their residents, particularly the scenario of the ejection of the Late Honourable Justice Bashir Sambo and disobedience or failure to implement/enforce court orders during my tenure... I want to say without any iota of doubt in my mind, that I have no hands in the death of Justice Sambo.

In the example above, the defendant already has the question which he is expected to answer and he goes ahead to do that. To buttress his points, he gives reasons for his answer:

Example 30

Perhaps, to put more light on how the police is organised, because it is only then that you will see how the functions are shared.

In this example, the defendant backs up his answer by describing the organisation of the police force which is based on the 1999 constitution of Nigeria. This is an appeal to authority which is meant to add credibility to his answer. Since the constitution does not expect him as the IG to know what is happening in the states, then he could not have known of Sambo's ejection, even though the police was involved. Other examples are presented:

Example 31

Abass: since eh July 2005, we have...how many mm house of ministries and parastatals have been sold? Eh like the former chairman said, all we have, we just generalized it because of the pulling of staff, particularly those who were moving.

In the example above, the defendant already has the questions and he repeats these questions and answers the questions as part of his presentation. This can also be seen in the example below:

Example 32

Sani: Yes alright sir. Let me start with the eh International Conference Centre

Vice: Yes

Sani: and the Eagle square.

In the example above, the defendant chooses the topic he wants to talk about. Sometimes during presentation, the chairman or the vice-chairman may interrupt C/D in order to ask for some clarifications. This is exemplified below:

Example 33

Fitman: Then the water board again supplied water to the area and
government provided access road to this area. In 2004 //

Sodangi: //When
you say government, Municipal or FCDA?

In the course of presenting by the complainant in the example above, the chairman interrupts the complainant in order to know which of the government agencies was responsible for the provision of the access road. This indicates that the chairman has more power and a higher role in the interaction and this indicates the asymmetrical relationship between the two. Another example is cited below:

Example 34

Fitman: I want to thank this committee first of all for creating this
forum for all us to come//

Vice: //Don't worry. Don't worry. Just go
straight to the point...what happened. Are you representing the
entire...?

At the beginning of the presentation of the complainant in the example above, the complainant thanked the Senate committees on housing and FCT for inaugurating the public hearing. He was interrupted by the vice-chairman who wanted the complainant to be brief by moving to the business of the day, which was the presentation of his complaint. He also asked for clarification on the status of the complainant in relation to the case at hand.

Complainants/defendants employ certain rhetorical and persuasive moves during their presentations. These include victimisation, appeal to authority, and appeal to emotion. These are explained below:

Victimisation is used to represent the negative deeds of the other. If the negative behaviour of the other is associated with threats, the ingroup is represented as a victim of such a threat. An example is presented:

Example 35

Danjuma: Sakaruyi himself in the the palace, he vowed that as long as we are able to tackle this matter, Danjuma, Sofo, Meti and I will never live in Karu.[sic]

In this example, one of the land owners speaks and presents the threat given by the Sakaruyi in order to emphasise the illegal and bad deeds of the other (the Sakaruyi). He does this in order to foreground their negative other presentation. Another example is cited:

Example 36

Isa: And I know we lost some workers when they were carrying their family back to the east. They cannot accommodate their families anymore. They lost their lives ...

In the example above, the complainant talks about his workers who were adversely affected by the demolition carried out. This is done in order to show the negative other presentation the government. His workers are the victims of the government's demolition exercise.

In the course of their presentations, defendants and complainants cite authorities as defence for their actions. This can be seen in the example below:

Example 37

That is the import of section 215 of our 1999 constitution. The IGP is not to be involved.

In example 37, the defendant cites the 1999 constitution as a backup for his ignorance of the disobedience of police men to court orders. Another example is cited:

Example 38

Isa: We did not demolish the building because the chairperson, Justice Fati Abubakar, the wife of former Head of State, Abdusalami Abubakar, is also a judge of the high court, so we wouldn't do anything out of the ordinary.

In the example above, the complainant cites the name of the chairperson of his organisation as the reason for his refusal to take any action against the FCT officials. He does this to emphasise his positive self presentation.

Complainants appeal to the emotions of the HP members in order to ensure that they sympathise with their conditions and that the defendants restore what they

have lost, to them. They do this in order to emphasise the negative other presentation of the government officials. This can be seen in the example below:

Example 39

Isa: Some people are hurt, some people lost their lives, some people became paralysed. Some people lost their means of livelihood and this is something National Assembly should not take for granted...should not take [sic].

In this example, the complainant cites the problems people have gone through due to the demolition and evictions that the FCT officials had carried out.

The complainants/defendants also employ some argumentative moves in order to convince the hearing panel of their positions. These argumentative moves are used by the speakers in order to make their opinions more acceptable, credible and truthful. These argumentative moves include legality and illegality, evidentiality, examples, and detailed description.

Legality and illegality are strategic devices used to positively represent us (the complainants) and negatively represent the other (the defendants) and vice versa. An example can be seen below:

Example 40

Osakwe: Yes people have been murdered and a lot of people have been threatened. Their buildings were brought down to rubble and this, according to the International eh law of resettlement; if you want...want to develop a place, what you do, you go and build a place and resettle people. But this is not done. Meanwhile that place has been allocated to people.

In the statement above, Osakwe points out the illegal deeds of the Sakaruyi of Karu who is supposed to be a royal head. It is illegal for the Sakaruyi to murder citizens in order to protect his illegal deeds of paying less than what the government has ordered. Thus, he cites the International Law of Resettlement. This is done in order to emphasise that the other (the Sakaruyi) has done something illegal and they (the villagers) need to be properly compensated. Another example is cited below:

Example 41

The 1999 constitution in section 214 provides that subject to the provision of the constitution, the Nigerian Police force shall be

organised and administered in accordance with such provisions as prescribed by the act of the National Assembly.

In this example, the defendant cites sections of the Nigerian constitution in order to support his arguments and position in the current case. This is done in order to deemphasise his negative self presentation.

Complainants and defendants make use of detailed description as an argumentative and persuasive strategy in order to ensure that they receive a positive response from the hearing panel members. This can be seen in the excerpt below:

Example 42

The Nigerian police force during my tenure and as at now is organised in 37 divisions and 4 headquarters. Each of the 36 states the Federal Capital Territory is served by a command.

In this example, the defendant gives a detailed description of the organisation of the Nigerian Police force in order to show that he was actually not supposed to be aware of any eviction. It is done in order to deemphasise his negative self presentation.

Another example is presented:

Example 43

I purchased a piece of land for WRAPA at a cost of fifty-five million naira. There is a small structure and fence in it. We gave it out to ABC Transport for two million naira rent per annum and one morning... one morning, one illegal body called AMA, Abuja Metropolitan Development Agency...went, demolished the building...

In the example above, the complainant gives a vivid description of the events surrounding the demolition of a building, which was properly purchased from the government. He emphasises the illegality of the actions of the government official which is meant to foreground their negative other presentation.

Complainants and defendants also cite examples as argumentative strategies in the interaction. An example can be seen below:

Example 44

Paul: At the moment, in the case of zone 4, there's nothing there. It's empty land. In the case of Area 7A which is supposed to be a train station, there's a massive shopping centre, actually

In this example, the complainant cites examples of lands from which the complainants were evicted and their property demolished. They show that those lands

were either not used or were used for purposes different from the ones they were told they would be used for. This shows the bad deeds of the defendants and emphasises the negative other presentation.

Complainants and defendants present evidence in the course of their presentation as an argumentative strategy, in order to emphasise our positive self presentation and their negative other presentation.

Example 45

Eh we want to tender at least two copies of such allocation papers as evidence that inside it...it was done on behalf of the government. Sir, the layout of the area was done. We all know that no individual can do layout except government. So there was a layout in that area. Again we seek to tender the layout. We have it here.

In the example above, a complainant tenders allocation papers to show that the FCT officials illegally allocated the land. They also tender the layout for construction which was approved by the government. They do this in order to show the illegality of the actions of the FCT officials who allocate lands and turn back to acquire those lands and even demolish the structures on those lands. Thus, the complainant emphasises the negative other presentation of the defendants. Another example is presented below:

Example 46

Also I have included in my presentation a court order. I mean the judgement, the certificate of judgment that specifies that the demolition were both illegal and unconstitutional... [sic]

In this excerpt, the complainant tenders a certificate of judgment from the law court to show that it was illegal for the FCT officials to have demolished the buildings on the land. He also presents the pictures of the buildings that were destroyed.

4.1.5 Interrogation

Interrogation covers a series of questions posed by members of the hearing panel. It is obligatory because the hearing panel members need to question C/Ds and get more information from them, which may not have been stated in their submissions. This helps to clarify issues and determine if C/D are speaking the truth. It is intended to make sure that the right recommendations are given to the Senate. Interrogation is realised by plain words, political, legal financial, property, and medical jargon as well as declarative, imperative and interrogative sentences.

Four questioning types are used: WH-type, polar, alternative and declarative questions. These are discussed in turns. WH- type questions are used during interrogation when HP desires to have a full picture of what C/D is saying and get more information. These are shown below:

Example 47

Sen.: How much do you think the market was generating?

In this question, the Senator wants to have a full picture of the financial state of the market. This will allow the C/D to go into narratives. Thus, they are referred to as open questions. Polar questions are usually asked in order to get specific answers from the C/D. These are closed questions as they limit the choice of answers of the C/D. These are controlling questions as they already contain propositions with which the C/D are expected to agree or disagree with. An example of a polar question is given:

Example 48

Sen.: Is that an association?

Fitman: yes that's an association.

In the example above, Fitman is expected to agree or disagree with the proposition contained in the Senator's question. Thus, his answer is limited to just two options: yes and no. This shows the controlling power of HP and the asymmetrical relationship that exists between the two. A declarative question is a question which is constructed as a statement with a rising intonation. They are questions that seek affirmation of the proposition presented. They are used by the hearing panel members when they want to affirm what the C/D has said. An example is presented:

Example 49

Sen.: You are the owners?

Man: Yes

In the example above, the senator seeks to affirm if the complainant and his group are the real owners of the property.

Alternative questions are questions that require a choice between two or more propositions. An example is given:

Example 50

Sen.: Did you know or you did not know about the goings on about this particular case in question?

The above example is an alternative question in which the addresser presents two options. The addressee is expected to agree with one of these propositions.

During I, the chairman of the hearing panel may give orders to the presenter. This can be seen in the example below:

Example 51:

Sodangi: Please, go to your annual financial report.

In this example, the chairman of the hearing panel orders the complainant to check a financial record so that he can verify that what the complainant is saying is actually in her records.

During I, HP may comment on the report or story given by the C/D or even blame them. The example below illustrates this:

Example 52

Vice: So your actions have not been satisfactory. This is for the information of those to whom similar situations could be visited upon any other time. Your institution is supposed to have made some outstanding response, you know, which would have been disclosed today as an outstanding action...But saying that you went there and the building was going on. It was somebody that gave you information that building was going on. You went there and you waited for this committee. That is not satisfactory. Thank you.

In the example above, the vice-chairman of the panel blames the complainant for not seeking redress at the law court or reporting the incidence to the minister of his parent ministry. Also, the HP vice-chairman engages in crossplay as he is not just speaking to the defendant but to other people, within the Hearing Room and to television viewers.

The interaction is a formal transaction where the chairman of the hearing panel is in a position of power and also controls the discourse. He controls the discourse by indicating what the next speaker should talk about. This is seen in this example:

Example 53

Sodangi: That is why as true Nigerians, we want you to come and shed light on these and that is why we have called you and if you wouldn't mind, you can give us your own view please.

In the example above, Sodangi asks Ehindero to defend his actions particularly in the Late Sambo's case. In the example below, one of the other senators repeats this same question, thereby controlling what Ehindero will say.

Example 54

Sen.: Did you know or you did not know about the goings on about this particular case in question. Ejection or demolition order but precisely ejection of Justice Lambo (Sam)...Sambo. If you did, what actions did you take? What was your involvement?
Thank you.

Due to the asymmetrical relationship between the chairman and other members of the hearing panel, the chairman selects the hearing panel members by naming them when they indicate their interest to ask questions. This is exemplified below:

Example 55

Sodangi: Thank you very much eh former IG. I think my colleagues will like to ask you one or two questions. Yes, Senator Anthony.

In this example, the chairman selects the next speaker by naming him. This is also the case in the example below:

Example 56

Sodangi: Senator Kemi Kila

Sen.: My name is Kemi Kila, a senator. Before you answer that question, there is an addendum please eh former IG sir.

Sometimes, hearing panel members select themselves to speak when there is a change of turn which is at the end of a sentence made by the current speaker. This is exemplified below:

Example 57

Sen.: Then you are responsible. You are solely responsible for...who should be responsible?

Ehindero: Yes of course the blame should be placed on those eh policemen who went ... Laws are made that people should not steal. Do people not steal? Then you punish them.

Sen.: *Sir, on your officers, I will ask a simple question sir.*

In this excerpt, the third speaker waits till the end of the sentence of the second speaker before he takes his turn even though he was not the one that started the

interaction. The end of the sentence indicates the TRP, thus, there is no overlap or interruption. Another example is shown below:

Example 58

Sani: The company is a... under Comparative and Allied Matters act of 1990, having its office at Lodge 2198, off IBB way, zone 4, P.O. Box 7897.

Vice: That is for Eagle square?

Sani: That eh is for the International Conference Centre and ICC, the management board. They have given the management to serve for 5 years.

Shodangi: For 5 years?

In this excerpt, both the vice-chairman and the chairman of the panel wait till the end of the sentence of the defendant before they take their turns. Thus, overlaps and interruptions are not many in the interaction. However, due to the unequal power relationship that exists between the members of the hearing panel and C/D, the members of the hearing panel interrupt C/D. This is exemplified below:

Example 59

Sani: The agreement for the operation, the Abuja International Conference Centre, ICC and inventory and conditions of facilities and then the draft memorandum of eh understanding between them. These documents are//

Shodangi: //Which is the company?
Which is the company?

In the example above, the chairman of the hearing panel did not wait for the transition relevance turn. He interrupts the sentence of the defendant in order to ask for clarification. In the example below, a member of the hearing panel interrupts the defendant.

Example 60

Michael: ...what was handed over to us by the FCT? Eh we did not revoke the//

Sen.: //Please excuse me excuse me. You said first that there was no court order by the time you took it over.

In this example, the member of the hearing panel interrupts the defendant in order to ask for the authenticity of the statement made by the defendant.

4.1.6 Interrogation Compliance

In IC, the complainant/defendant answers the questions posed at him/her by the hearing panel members. IC is realised by plain words, political, financial, legal, medical and property jargon; and declarative and imperative sentences. As it has been pointed out earlier, the chairman has a higher role in the interaction. Thus, the chairman controls the matters to be addressed by the complainant/defendant. Hence, the answers of the C/D must be in line with the questions of the panel. This is exemplified below:

Example 61

Isa: My prayers over this matter...

Sodangi: before the prayers eh eh before...before the prayers sorry, you said in your presentation... presentation, you have only one plot allocated and...and all the registration that you have been doing. You have not told us formally. What is the name of the company so that we can take it down?

Isa: The name of the company is Bullet International (Nig) Limited. We are a construction company based in Abuja, Kaduna, Jos, Maiduguri and Katsina.

Sodangi: And what is your designation in the comp...company?

Isa: I am the chairman and the prime mover of the company sir.

In the excerpt, the answer of the complainant is interrupted by the chairman and the topic addressed by the complainant is changed from his prayers to the name of his company and his designation in the company.

During IC, the complainants try to explain issues to the HP, while the defendants argue with the hearing panel members about their activities during the period of demolition and eviction. This can be seen in the excerpt below:

Example 62

Sen: Ok. The more important question that I want to ask you is this:
the subscribers to the company when you say that the company
is a joint venture between em Abuja Investment and the
Ministry of the Federal Capital Territory, one person, Alhaji
Tijani Abdullahi em was allocated 950 thousand shares//

Michael: //em
Abuja Investment and property//

Sen.: //Hold on Hold on, em please there is the name of somebody. It is clarification. They are...they incorporated a company eh that belongs to other companies and in four years they have not surrendered those shares that don't belong to them to the companies that sent them the message.

Michael: But//

Sen.: //Please let me finish.

In the excerpt above, the defendant interrupts the member of the hearing panel in order to defend himself. This necessitates the command by the Senator, *hold on*. Again the defendant interrupts the Senator who gives another command, *please let me finish*. In this example, the Senator tries to point out the illegal actions of some of the government officials. Another example is presented below:

Example 63

Sen: That that does not mean that every court order that is issued in the country shown to your policemen in the street, must be copied to you. You are already informed. Otherwise...otherwise you are trying to tell us that the police under your leadership were undisciplined=and...

Ehintero: =No! No!

Sen: if they were undisciplined, you take responsibility for it.

Ehintero: I raise objection sir...

Sen: No! No! No excuse there. That is the implication of your position.

In this example, Ehintero argues with the Senator over taking responsibility for the activities of his police officers. Here, Ehintero disagrees with the comments of the Senator. Thus, Ehintero interrupts the Senator and an overlap is created. The continuous disagreement between the defendant and the Senator leads to a lot of interruptions from the audience. This can be seen in the example below:

Example 64

Ehintero: I can't claim ignorance that I didn't know. I am saying that there are levels of responsibility... (Hahaha from audience)...Well, I heard but I didn't hear that my policemen

ejected him. (Ha from audience) If they ejected, I think...

(Noise from audience)

Sodangi: Please order please

In this example, the response of the defendant evokes exclamations from the audience. The response 'ha' shows surprise and shock at the claim of ignorance by the IG. The audience also talk to one another in the Hearing Room. This is 'byplay', which is subordinate communication amongst bystanders. This also leads to crossplay as the chairman of the panel pleads with the audience to be quiet (see Goffman, 1981).

4.1.7 Prayer Demand

Prayer Demand occurs at the end of the IC when the HP chairman asks the C/D to state his or her prayer. This is optional as it is usually a complainant that says a prayer. Few of the complainants did not say their prayers as they had already written these in their submissions. Also, the complainant may even have presented his/her prayers at the end of his presentation even before the interrogation without waiting for the chairman to ask him to do so. PD is realised by plain words, interrogative and imperative sentences. In the example 51, the chairman asks for the prayer of the complainant. This is carried out in the interrogative form. This is the form in which almost all PDs in the hearing have been made. It was only on one occasion that PD was made in the imperative mood.

Example 65

Sodangi: ...What is your prayer in respect of this your presentation?

Mohammed: ... before we go to eh prayer sir, armed robbery gangs have attacked our members. The fact that we have been paying service charge and we pay this in areas, security eh electricity and the eh environmental protection were paid in areas to the AMML. That is Abuja management committee...[sic]

Sodangi: *Go to your prayers.*

In this particular case, the chairman used the imperative form when the complainant failed to say his prayers even when he had been asked to present his prayers. The first PD was also made in the interrogative form. The refusal of the complainant to state his prayer made the chairman to make this demand in the imperative sentence. Another example is cited below:

Example 66

Vice: What is your prayer, madam?

In this example, the demand is also made in the interrogative form.

4.1.8 Prayer

Prayer is carried out by the complainants. Complainants say prayers while defendants do not. Thus, it is complainant-based. The complainants are there to gain a fair hearing and to be compensated for the wrongs committed against them. In fact, the main reason for appearing at the hearing is to ensure that the actions of the government officials of the FCT are reversed. The hearing panel members are the target of their prayers. It is these prayers that the hearing panel would consider and make recommendations on to the Senate. Thus, the prayer is expected and that is why it is an explicit request, which is more direct and less polite. It is an imperative which leaves the hearer with little or no choice to comply with the wishes of the speaker. Prayer is realised by plain words; imperative and declarative sentences.

Prayer is also an optional element because sometimes, the chairman may have deduced the request of the complainant and will not demand that s/he should say his prayers again. This may be because the written submissions sent to the hearing panel already contain these prayers. Some of the complainants may have said their prayers during their presentation. Thus, both Prayer Demand and Prayer are absent from such hearing sessions. 50% of the complainants' hearing sessions observed did not have prayers while 50% had prayers.

On a particular occasion, in order to save time, the hearing panel interrupted a complainant. This is cited below:

Example 67

Echeng: this is the point where we were surprised. We do not have in our records any contravention notice indicating the areas of illegality to abate or demolish//

Vice: //your prayers are for you to be restored and possibly compensated.

In the example above, the vice-chairman says the prayer for the complainant. He does this so that he can quickly end the interaction with this particular complainant.

Prayers made during Presentation occurred more with 56.25% while prayers made after Prayer Demand accounted for 43.75%. The higher rate of prayers said

without PD indicates that the complainants know that they have to say their prayers and they are eager to push forward their requests. These are exemplified below:

Example 68

Man: This is why we have come before this honourable committee sir to assist us in different ways sir. One sir...our prayer sir is that the spare houses-because we have about 156 houses standing in the area now. That the spare houses should have their papers regularised with or without cost.

Example 68 shows a prayer that is made at the end of the complainant's presentation. As it has been pointed out, this kind of request is the last stage in a complainant's presentation which is also optional, as such, a request can be made during P. Another example is cited below:

Example 69

Sodangi: What is your prayer, madam?

Lady: My prayer is that the house which I I occupied for 20 years come next month, I should be allowed to purchase the house just like my colleagues in the civil service.

The example above shows a prayer that is made after the chairman has made a PD.

There are also two types of prayers: group prayers and individual prayers. Group prayers are prayers that are made on behalf of an entire group that is represented by an individual and these account for 66.67% of the prayers said while individual prayers account for 33.33% of the prayers made. The higher rate of group prayers indicates that most of the complainants are representatives of larger groups. This was necessary as it ensured that there was management of time and resources. The higher rate of group prayers also indicates that people may also want to cash in on the strength of a group rather than individual prayers. This can be seen in the example below:

Example 70

eh we are asking that allocation be given to the same indigenes of this Gida Mangoro

In the prayer above, the request focuses on what the complainant wants the Senate to do. Previous methods of getting justice by the complainants had proved abortive. Thus, this shows their belief that the committee can get things done in their favour. Another example is presented below:

Example 71

Paul: Our prayers are simple: that the land illegally taken from us should be returned.

In the example above, the complainant is making a request on behalf of his colleagues and himself.

Individual prayers are prayers made on behalf of the presenter alone. The example below shows a prayer that is individual-based.

Example 72

V.C.: Your prayers, what is your prayer? What is your prayer?

Okafor: My prayer sir is that I should be entitled to the compensation.

In the example above, the complainant is making a personal request.

4.1.9 Admission

Admission is obligatory. It is imperative that the chairman of the hearing panel (or the vice-chairman when the chairman is not around) requests for and admits written presentations and other supporting documents such as court orders, pictures, certificates of occupancy, etc, which support the presentation. These are admitted as exhibits, which are examined in order to make the right recommendations to the Senate. It is also realised by plain words, imperative and declarative sentences.

Requests for submissions come in form of imperatives and this can be seen in the examples below:

Example 73

Vice: Give me your document.

Example 74

Sodangi: Give us your paper.

Example 75

Sodangi: Give us your submission.

In the three examples, the chairman/vice-chairman request for the documents of the presenters and the use of the imperative shows that they have a higher role and more power in the discourse which points to the asymmetrical relationship between the two.

The admissions of the submissions of the complainants/defendants always come in the declarative mood. The admission is a ritualised statement. Just like in Affirmation, the declaration made here is similar to what one finds in the law court

and this is part of what makes a quasi-judicial public hearing different from the legislative public hearing. This can be seen in the example below:

Example 76

Of course, the submission by former IG is hereby admitted as exhibit 42.

In this example, the chairman admits the submission of the former IG. This is the speech act of declaration which can be carried out by the chairman (or the vice-chairman). This kind of declaration by any other person will make the admission infelicitous. It is done in order for the committee to have documents they can base their recommendations on. Without these documents, there would not be evidence upon which the decisions of the Senate can be based. Another example is given below:

Example 77

Sodangi: Thank you Abalaka. Yes presentation by B. E. Abalaka esq. on behalf of his company Bomakin Investment Limited in respect of demolition of cornershop Maitama that is his client is hereby admitted as exhibit 84.

In the example above, the chairman admits the submissions of the complainant.

4.1.10 Finis

Finis signals the end of the interaction which comes after Ad. Here interactants in the hearing may sometimes appreciate other interactants, make comments, promises, requests or ask last minute questions. These are optional elements which may or may not occur in the hearing sessions. Finis is realised by plain words; interrogative, imperative and declarative sentences. Out of all the elements that make up finis made in the interaction, appreciation occurred most with 44.4%, comments occurred next 12.3%, questions had 9.9%, answers also had 9.9%, orders had 8.6%, promises had 7.4%, and requests had 6.2%, while advice had 1.2 %.

The giving of thanks may have occurred most because it fulfills the interactional function of language and is part of the Nigerian culture to appreciate one another at the end of an interaction. Comments also have an average rate of occurrence because these also express the interpersonal function of language as hearing panel members express their opinion about the testimonies they have heard from the presenters. Questions and answers had low rates of occurrences as members of the hearing panel asked last minute questions which were few. Orders, promises

and requests had very low rates of occurrences because they also existed as last minute thoughts of the interactants as these should have come up before Admission. Advice had the least rate of occurrence as this also came up as last minute thoughts, which should rather have come in the main part of the interaction. These are represented in the figure 4.2 and further discussed:

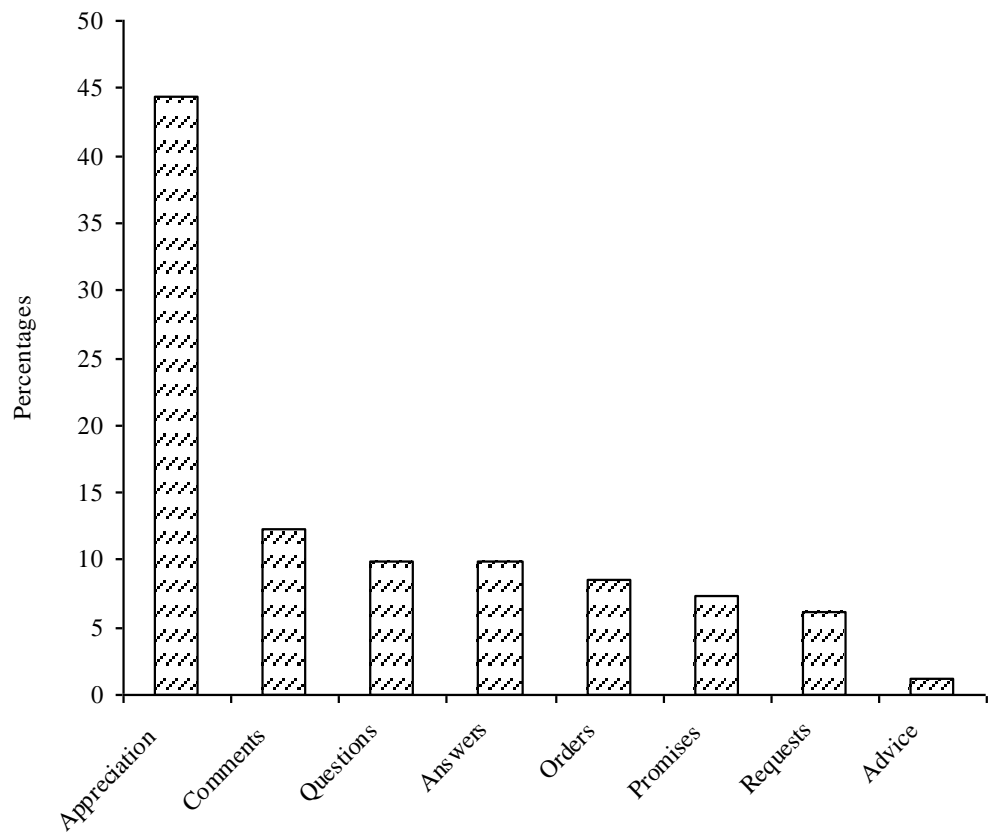


Figure 4.2: A column chart showing the distribution of the elements in finis

During Finis, the chairman of the hearing panel usually appreciates the C/D for appearing at the public hearing and making his/her submission. The complainant/defendant may also appreciate the hearing panel chairman for listening to him/her and admitting his/her documents. It shows that the C/D has benefited from the services of the hearing panel members (HP) and to assure HP that they will be grateful for their intervention in the matter. An example is cited below:

Example 78

Ehintero: Thank you

Sodangi: Thank you very much. Of course, the submission by former IG is hereby admitted as exhibit 42. Thank you once again.

Ehintero: Thank you very much.

Here, the defendant thanks the hearing committee which he does after the chairman had thanked him. Here, thanking is ritualised and forms an adjacency pair (Aijmer, 1996). While thanking, the chairman of the hearing panel also participates in ‘crossplay’ as he appreciates the people who are in the Hearing Room, the media station and the Senate. This is seen in the example below:

Example 79

Sen.: Before then we want to thank all of you for coming. I think at this point we have to call it a day. We want to thank my colleagues who have spared their weekends ...We want to thank the counsellor-general and eh and all other directors, eh the AMAC eh secretary and our own Bala Adamu and every other person, that you have found time to be here. We want to thank AIT for being patriotic, for making this live coverage to Nigerians

In the example above, the chairman thanks the C/D, the audience, various government officials as well as the media group which was covering the hearing. Appreciation is explicit here as it is repeated several times.

As it as been pointed out, the chairman of the hearing panel may also advise, make orders, promises, requests, comments or ask last minute questions. These are exemplified in the excerpt below:

Example 80

Vice: Eh thank you so much. This document submitted by Vincent Mamodu of eh 3 em NEPA eh labour unions is hereby

admitted as exhibit what? 85. So let me just add a quick advice. You say are paying through your nose for the guards?

Mamodu: Yes sir

Vice: *Go and take them off*

Mamodu: alright sir.

Vice: *Go and send them home. You have put a caveat?*

Mamodu: Yes sir

Vice: You put a big signpost there. *Make sure that you put another caveat in the newspaper.* Anybody that will like to help you develop the place... when you go to court, you will take the property.

Mamodu: Yes sir

Vice: That is what the law says. Okay?

Mamodu: Thank you very much

Vice: *If somebody builds on your land, that property belongs to you.*

Mamodu: Thank you sir

In the excerpt above, just after Admission, the vice-chairman asks a last minute question: *You say are paying through your nose for the guards?* ; gives an advice: *Go and take them off*; gives an order: *Go and send them home*; and makes a comment: *If somebody builds on your land, that property belongs to you.* The complainant here also thanks the vice-chairman. In the example below, the chairman makes a promise to mark the end of the interaction.

Example 81

Sodangi: The two executive chairmen are here. They will not forcefully eject you. Thank you.

In the example above, the chairman promises the complainant that since the government officials in charge were present in the Hearing Room, he is sure that she would not be ejected from her house.

4.2 Locutions in quasi-judicial public hearing

The analysis of locutions in this section covers lexical patterns and functional sentence types in the FCT quasi-judicial public hearing.

4.2.1 Lexical patterns

The lexical patterns include lexical choices, lexical collocation, word formation and lexical relationship.

4.2.1.1 Lexical choices

Plain words and jargon constitute the main lexical resources drawn upon by participants in the hearing. They contribute to meaning construction and comprehension (Kecskes, 2010). Jargon has a higher rate of occurrence with 62.1% while plain words account for 37.9% (Table 4.3). This shows that interactants switch between plain words and technical words since this is a formal interaction and the interactants know the meaning of these words. However, there is more jargon than plain words because the interactants have shared background knowledge of the technical terms used in the hearing. We shall take a look at jargon before plain words.

4.2.1.1.1 Jargon

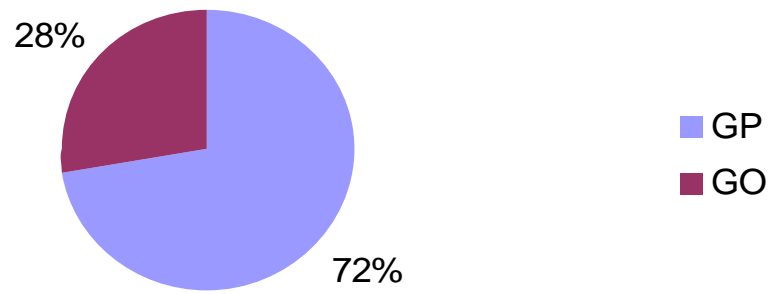
A jargon is specialised technical terminology which is characteristic of a particular subject or field. In the public hearing on FCT administration, different types of jargon are employed. The jargon used in the hearing encode the issues that are discussed in the hearing. These include political, property, financial, medical and legal jargon. Political jargon occur most with a percentage score of 42.1%. Financial jargon has an occurrence of 24%; legal jargon has 22.8% while property jargon has 9.9%. Medical jargon has the least rate of occurrence with a percentage score of 3.2% (Table 4:3). The dominance of political jargon may be as a result of the fact that the matter being investigated is concerned with political office holders and government property. Financial jargon is next as the hearing is concerned with the sale and concession of landed property. Legal jargon is next in rank because the public hearing is quasi-judicial in nature and legal documents are used as evidence for individual and corporate decisions. Property jargon is next and this may be as a result of the fact that the matter being discussed is also concerned with land and landed property. Financial jargon has the least number of occurrences since it was used in the case of the concession of Garki Hospital, a minute part of the interaction. These are further discussed:

Table 4.3. A summary of lexical choices in the public hearing

Lexical Choices				N0	Rate
Jargon	Types	No	Rate	1512	62.1%
	Political	637	42.1%		
	Financial	363	24.0%		
	Legal	315	22.8%		
	Property	149	9.9%		
	Medical	48	3.2%		
	Total	1512	99.9%		
Plain and sub-technical Words	Types	No	Rate	921	37.9%
	Property related terms	476	47.1%		
	Public hearing related terms	250	24.7%		
	Justice related terms	144	14.2%		
	Financial terms	90	8.9%		
	Government related terms	51	5.0%		
	Total	1011	99.9%		
	Total				2433

4.2.1.1.1.1 Political jargon

Instances of political jargon used in the hearing are related to government offices and government parastatals. Government parastatals account for 72.2% while government offices account for 27.8% of the political jargon used (Figure 4.3). This may be because it is the government parastatals and agencies that are directly responsible for the demolitions, evictions and sale of government property. In addition, some other government parastatals are also affected by the government agencies in charge of the FCT administration. These two aspects are discussed in turns.



GP=Government parastatals, GO= Government offices

Figure 4.3. A chart showing the distribution of political jargon in the public hearing

Government parastatals are used during Presentation, Interrogation, Interrogation Compliance and Admission. Instances of government parastatals include words such as *Abuja Municipal Area (AMA)*, *National Electric Power Authority (NEPA)*, and *Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NNRA)*. These are exemplified below:

Example 82

Abdullahi: Thank you Mr. Chairman. My names are Aduladi Abdullahi. I am the legal adviser of *Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority*.

The italicised words refer to a government parastatal. In this example, the complainant states the parastatal he is representing. This parastatal was affected by the actions of other government parastatals. This example was cited during Presentation. Another example is cited below:

Example 83

Sodangi: When you say government, *Municipal or FCDA*?

Man: The government in charge of the area sir. It should be *Abuja Municipal Area*.

Sodangi: It should not be. Be definitive. Is it *FCDA or AMA*?

The words in italics are government parastatals. In the course of Presentation, the chairman of the hearing asks for clarification on the subject of the government parastatal that was responsible for evicting them.

Government parastatals also feature during Interrogation and this can be seen in the excerpt below:

Example 84

Sodangi: What I want to ask you personally before I allow my colleagues do the rest of the questioning if any. In respect of Sofitex and Sheraton, you assigned the *BPE* to sell the thing for you on behalf of the Federal Government. Why did you decide to sell or give out or concession the International Conference Centre and Eagle Square without recourse to you or BPE? er why the decision to do that?

In the example above, a government parastatal is mentioned during Interrogation. In this example, the chairman of the panel is interested in knowing why the government

parastatal in charge of sales was not aware of some of the proceedings of the sale. Another example is presented below:

Example 85

No 2 which is the eh eh the the yearly profit which eh eh Niser shall be paying to the *FCTA*?

In the example above, the abbronym in italics refers to a government parastatal- the Federal Capital Territory Authority which is in charge of federal government-owned property in the state and carries out the polices of the government in the FCT. In this example, the chairman is interested in knowing how much was being paid to the FCTA, in order to know if the government was not being cheated by the hospital that the Garki General Hospital was concessioned to.

An instance of government parastatals used during Interrogation Compliance can be seen in the example below:

Example 86

Ali: The *FCTA* profit department will have to go in there on regular basis to make sure that they audit the accounts...

In the example above, the complainant also refers to the same government parastatal. Here, he believes that the government agency will take proper measures to ensure that she is not been cheated by the hospital. Another example is cited below:

Example 87

Sodangi: and you built your hospital?

Ademola: We built up to three storey buildings and it was valued by *AGIS* by their own letter.

In the example above, the complainant points out that the house that was demolished was valued by a government agency. This showed that it was wrong for the government to later come and demolish a land that they had valued themselves.

Another example is presented below:

Example 88

Mamodu: At a point, at a point somebody said to one of my colleagues who went in there that 'look, if oga was unable to privatize *NEPA* when he was director of *PPA*, he cannot fail to sell Kado Estate, jokingly.

In the example above, the complainant makes reference to the government agency that he is representing and talks of what a government official was said to have planned against it.

Government parastatals also feature during Prayer and this can be seen in the example below:

Example 89

Waziri: Our prayers sir is that we urge this committee that Mike Oko, the managing director of Abuja Market Management Company Limited be asked to face criminal trial after investigation by either the *EFCC or ICPC*.

In this example, the complainant wants government agencies (Economic and Financial Crimes Commission/Independent Corrupt Practices Commission) to investigate the activities of the above-mentioned defendant. These are government agencies that investigate criminal actions carried out in the country. This is to emphasise the fact that the defendant had committed criminal acts against the people of the FCT. Another example is represented below:

Example 90

Abdullahi: In the light of the above, we want the committee to use its good office to intervene and prevail on the honourable minister of the FCT to review the revocation notice in the overriding public interest so that *NNRA* can commence construction work.

In this example, the complainant wants the hearing panel to prevail on the FCT minister so that a government agency, *NNRA* would not be deprived of its right.

Government parastatals also feature during Admission. This can be seen in the example below:

Example 91

Sodangi: Yes documents for *Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority* as presented by Barrister Hajji Abdullahi, legal adviser, with the ...all the pictures and the rest of them are hereby admitted as exhibit 38.

In the example above, the chairman admits the documents submitted by the government parastatal. It is necessary that he does this even though the parastatal is represented by a lawyer. Another example is cited below:

Example 92

Sodangi: Give us your submission please. Yes the submission made by Henrietta Talabi of *Commerce and Industry* is admitted as exhibit 133...133.

In this example, the chairman admits the submission of the complainant and mentions the government agency she belongs to. This shows that people from different walks of life were affected by the actions of the government officials.

Finally, government parastatals can be found in Finis and this is exemplified in the excerpt below:

Example 93

Sodangi: ... is hereby admitted as exhibit 77- (78)78. But we must say we'll have to go through it for eh what pecuniary loss you have incurred vis a vis the presentation of the *FCDA*

In this example, the chairman promises the complainant that he would compare his presentation with that of the government agency, *FCDA*, in order to know who is speaking the truth.

Government offices include *House of Assembly, House of Representatives, House of Senate, Senate President, Attorney General, etc.* They are used during Presentation, Interrogation and Interrogation Compliance. This can be seen in the example below:

Example 94

Paul: we eh wrote to the *House of Representatives*, we wrote the *House of senate*. There was a public hearing. Then after, when it became certain that the bulldozers were going to come; we wrote to the *Senate President*, we wrote the *Speaker of the House of Representatives*, we wrote the *Attorney-General*, we wrote the *Inspector-general of police*.

In the excerpt above, the words in italics are government offices. The complainant reports that he had already complained to the people in these offices without getting help. This is because he believes that it is the top government functionaries that can intervene in the matter. Unfortunately, in most of the cases, this had proved abortive. These words are used during Presentation when complainants report the actions they had carried out in order to ensure that they get justice. Another example is cited below:

Example 95

Ojo: A copy of my report to FCT is attached. My report to *FCT minister*, Mallam el-Rufai made FCT know about the illegal sale of the property

In the example above, the words in italics refer to a government office. Here, the complainant invokes previous action carried out by her person in order to redress the action carried out by the government officials against her. In doing this, she makes reference to the government office she approached. The belief is that the occupant of this particular office would look into the situation and help her out.

During Interrogation, government offices are mentioned and this can be seen in the example below:

Example 96

Sen.: That is the issue that we are saying and as the *Inspector General of Police*, just like any other permanent secretary. *A Permanent Secretary* of the ministry may have 1000 staff but the staff will not be held responsible.

In the example above, the words in italics are government offices. In this excerpt, they are used during Interrogation when a Senator makes comments of the status and attitude of the defendant as a former government official. In this example, the Senator compares the *IG* to a *permanent secretary* who is responsible for any wrongdoing in his ministry. This is to show that the *IG* was also responsible for the actions carried out by the police force, particularly in the FCT since he also resides in the FCT.

During Interrogation Compliance, government offices are also mentioned and this can be seen in the example below:

Example 97

Ehintero: Em let me say, when you talk about my office; you have to be very clear. My office is the *Inspector General of Police* office

In the example above, the defendant places emphasis on the office he occupied as the *Inspector-General* in order to show that his office had nothing to do with the use of policemen in evicting people from the FCT, which is considered as a state which has its own commissioner of police. This is the person that will liaise with the FCT minister on any security issue in the FCT.

Government offices also feature during Prayer and this can be seen in example 98:

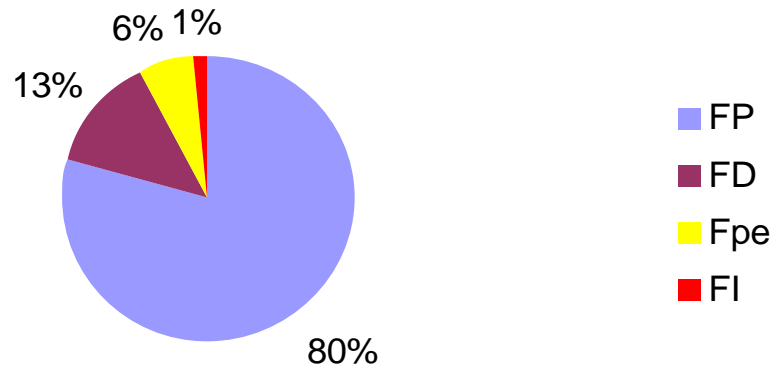
Example 98

Abdullahi: In the light of the above, we want the committee to use its good office to intervene and prevail on the *honourable minister of the FCT* to review the revocation notice in the overriding public interest so that NNRA can commence construction work.

In the example above, the complainant requests that the *Minister of the FCT*, the occupant of the office of the Minister of FCT, should review the revocation notice given to his agency.

4.2.1.1.1.2 Financial jargon

Financial jargon is a word that is used within financial circles such as economics, finance, business, insurance, and accounting. It is used in the hearing because defendants had to make statements on how they utilised the money derived from the sale and concessioning of government property. The financial jargon is used during Presentation, Interrogation and Interrogation Compliance. Financial jargon appears as financial processes (79.6%), financial documents (13%), financial instruments (6%) and financial personnel (1.4%) These are shown in figure 4.4. Financial processes occurred most because the defendants had to state the different financial processes and procedures that took place during the sale and concession of government property while financial personnel occurred least because the defendants were not the people who handled the financial processes. Financial documents occurred in the hearing because the C/D had to present them as evidence. These are discussed below:



FP= Financial processes, FD= Financial Documents, Fpe=Financial Personnel, FI= Financial Instrument

Figure 4.4. A chart showing the distribution of financial jargon in the FCT hearing

Financial processes are different financial procedures or operations which were carried out during the sale and concession of government property. Examples of such processes used in the hearing include *concession*, *auditing*, *bidding*, *monetisation*, *joint venture*, *etc*, which are seen in the examples below:

Example 99

I said the conference centre had two buildings: the old and new wing.
The old wing was not *concessioned*. It was the new wing that was *concessioned*.

Concession, which was used during Interrogation, is a contract granting another party the right to operate a subsidiary business. Here, other private business groups become shareholders in a company that was formerly owned by the government alone. This word shows that government property is being concessioned to private companies. Another example can be seen below:

Example 100

You see, our confusion here if nothing: How can you marry this letter from the presidency in one circular, they are saying the property of ITF should be excluded from *monetisation* or from the sale, eh being not funded 100% by the...in the same guideline...a letter from the presidential committee has also emphasised that and fortunately, you the ad hoc committee, set up by the FCT of course, in trying to insist on all the guideline that ... you sold the houses

The technical term *monetisation*, used during Interrogation, is defined as a process of converting securities such as goods or services into currency that can be used to purchase goods. In the example above, the hearing panel questions the propriety of selling the property of a government agency when a circular had been sent that such property should not be sold. It is evident that there were irregularities in the sale of government property as the ITF property, which was supposed to be exempted from the sale, was sold. Another example is cited below:

Example 101

Sen.: That is what I wanted to know, whether it was Aso Jidans that
the title was given or the *joint venture*?

Man: The title has the name of the two companies

Sen.: That is what I am saying

Man: It is a *joint venture*.

Joint venture is another technical term that refers to a partnership between one or more companies which are ready to share some risk or expertise. In the example above, the complainant states that the title of ownership of the land was given to the venture owned by the government and a private company. Thus, it would be wrong for the government to lay claim to the title of ownership of the land in question.

Financial documents are used by defendants in order to show that they properly accounted for the sale of government property and complainants presented them in order to show evidence that they purchased the property in each case. Examples include *annual financial report, statement of account, bank draft, cheque, balance sheet, bank statement*, etc. These can be seen in the excerpts discussed below:

Example 102

Sen.: Please go to your *annual financial report*. How much do you think the market was generating?

In the example above, *annual financial report* is a technical term which refers to a company's yearly financial document that states the transactions carried out by the company. In this example, the member of the hearing panel is interested in this document as it would show the earnings and expenditure of the company. This is needed as the shares of the company were bought by the government.

Financial instruments serve as financial tools used in financial institutions as means of exchanging goods and services. Examples include *shares, concession fee, rental fees, gate fee, mortgage facilities*, etc. These are discussed below:

Example 103

Michael: The commission notes that the *shares* allotment to Jidans Engineering Company limited in Aso Jidans Company limited is unmerited.

Shares, a word used during Presentation, is a technical term which refers to a unit of ownership that represents an equal proportion of a company's capital. In the example above, the defendant posits that the *shares* given to the private company in a joint venture with a government agency was unmerited based on some factors. Another example is presented below:

Example 104

Dr Wada: Some of the terms were that Niser shall pay an annual fixed *concession fee* of 20 million naira to the FCT. They have so far

paid the amount. In addition to the fixed *concession fee*, Niser shall pay FCT another yearly profit based on an agreed graduated sharing agreement.

Concession fee is the fee that is paid by the concessionaire during the period of concession. In the example above, the defendant states the terms of the concession which include the payment of an annual *concession fee*. This is to show that the concessionaire got the concession legally and was putting a lot into the coffers of the government as well as into the running of the hospital. This example was used during Presentation. Another example is shown in the excerpt below:

Example 105

Abalaka: Conditions that you comply at all times with the Abuja Municipal Area Council market management committee rules and regulations and in particular that you shall pay an amount, #100 eh only that you shall pay the monthly *rental fees* whether demanded or not to the office of the market manager and the latest by the 25th day of the preceding month.

Rental fee is the fee paid by the tenants of stalls in the market. In this example, the complainant states the conditions under which his clients rented stalls in Wuse market. He states this in order to show that his clients fulfilled all the conditions that guided the rental and were the ones who actually rented the stalls. Thus, it was wrong for the market management to sell the stalls to other people. This example was cited during Interrogation Compliance.

Financial personnel are persons who are involved in financial processes. In the hearing, examples used include *bidder*, *auditor*, and *concessionaire*.

Example 106

Sodangi: I am not sure that the new management will allow your own *auditor* to do so because they cannot rely on your own external *auditor*.

An *auditor* is a qualified accountant who inspects the accounting records and practices of a business or other organisations. In the example above, the Senator informs the complainant that he doubts that the concessionaire will depend on the government's *auditor* for assessment of what he ought to pay to the government as part of the yearly profit. This particular case is in respect of the concession of Garki

Hospital. This example was cited during Interrogation. Another example is cited below:

Example 107

Wada: Thank you very much Mr Chairman. Again, I'm grateful for this guidance. Was the process following the choosing us as *concessionaire* for Garki fair and did it follow due process?

A *concessionaire* is one who operates a concession. In this example, the defendant during his presentation, states the question which he is expected to answer. This is done in order to show that he knows why he is in the hearing and he knows what the focus of his presentation should be. Another example is presented below:

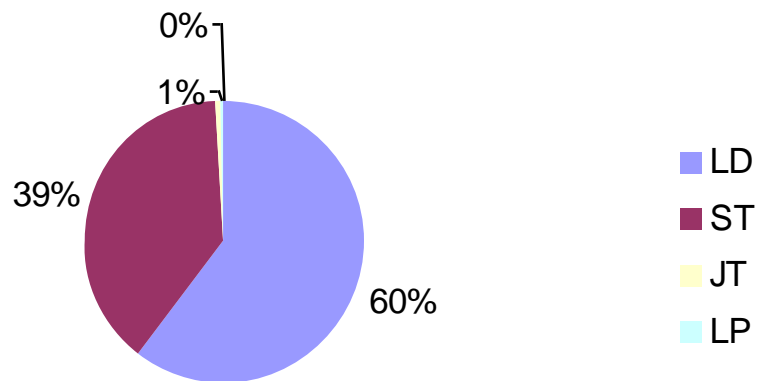
Example 108

Abass: We have expenses totaling 1.8 billion from inception to date, to this date and series of refunds made to *bidders* and other civil servants whose offers were withdrawn and have made some payments.

A *bidder* is someone who makes an offer to buy something. The defendant states here that he returned the money of those whose offers were rejected. This is to show that he accounted for all the money received and spent by his parastatal. This example was made during Interrogation Compliance.

4.2.1.1.1.3 Legal jargon

Legal jargon is the technical term related to legal discourse which is used during the hearing sessions. This is subdivided into legal documents, which occurs most with 60%; solicitation-related terms occurred next with 39%, judgement related terms has 0.6% while legal procedure has 0.3% (Figure 4.5). Legal documents has the highest rate of occurrence because all the interactants had to present legal documents in order to back up their claims and add credibility to their presentations. Solicitation related terms also has a high occurrence because some of the complainants had already gone to the court to get court orders in order to stop some of the government officials from carrying out some of their actions. Judgement related terms has a low rate of occurrence because most of the people who had gone to the law court had not obtained final judgements from the law courts. Legal procedures have the lowest occurrence because the defendants did not go through legal means to evict, demolish or reallocate the plots. These are discussed in turns.



LD=legal documents, ST= solicitation related terms, JT= Judgement related terms,
LP= legal procedure

Figure 4.5. A chart showing the distribution of legal jargon in the hearing

Legal documents are documents gotten from the law court in order to carry out some legal actions. They are used by presenters to serve as evidence in order to back up their presentation in the hearing. They include words such as *court order*, *caveat emptor*, *deed of transfer*, etc. These are explained in the excerpt below:

Example 109

Sen.: That's inter...interesting ... interesting and they said a *court order* which was flouted?

Court order is a legal document used to denote a notice given by the court to people in order to take or not to take an action. Most of the complainants present court orders restraining the FCT officials from demolishing their property or evicting them from their homes. In most cases, the FCT officials flout the court orders as seen in the example presented above. The presentation of these court orders is an evidence of the unlawful ejection from homes and demolition of property. In the example above, the Senator is surprised when he hears that a court order was flouted and wants to confirm that the government official actually flouted the court order. This confirmation is needed so that such cases will be cited when the defendants come to the hearing to defend their actions.

Another legal document is *caveat emptor* which means 'let the buyer beware'. This can be seen in the example below:

Example 110

We placed *caveat emptor*.

A *caveat emptor* is a legal document which is placed in newspapers and other public places in order to show that a piece of property belongs to someone and anyone who purchases it would do so at his or her own risk. Here, the complainant reports that he (and his association) had placed a *caveat emptor* in the newspaper in order to alert any prospective buyer that the property in question was not for sale. This shows one of the actions carried out by the complainant in order to ensure that the group he represented did not lose her property.

Solicitation related terms are legal terms which relate to processes carried out during solicitations. Here, they relate to names given to persons during solicitation and in the hearings, they include *plaintiff*, *respondent*, *solicitor*, *defendant*, etc. These are discussed below:

A solicitation related term used in the hearing is *plaintiff* which can be seen in the example below:

Example 111

The application of the *plaintiff*/applicant is hereby granted.

A *plaintiff* is a person who brings an action or case to a law court. Such a person is a complainant. Most of the complainants in the hearing have taken up their matters in the law court. The term has been used in Presentation, when presenters read out the court orders that restrain the FCT officials and police from evicting them from their property or demolishing their property. This shows that the complainants have been unlawfully treated by the FCT officials. Another example can be seen below:

Example 112

The...the case is between the plaintiff and the *respondent*.

The *respondent* is one who is giving a reply to a court order. Such a person is supposed to defend his/her actions in respect to the case at hand. Again, the word is used when presenters read out the court orders given to them in the law court, restraining the officials of the FCT from demolishing or evicting them from their property. In the example above, the speaker is trying to say that he is not concerned with the matter at hand since he is not the respondent. This, he does, in order to defend himself against the accusations levelled against him.

Judgement related terms are terms that relate to judgments made by the law court and in the hearing, they include *court ruling*, *certificate of judgement*, etc and these are discussed below:

Example 113

There is a simple *court ruling*.

Court ruling is judgement-related term which denotes the decision of the court concerning a case. This term is usually used in the hearing sessions during Presentation when complainants cite the reasons why they were unlawfully treated by the FCT officials. In most cases, the FCT officials do not follow the court rulings. They also use this as an evidence of the unlawful treatment of the FCT officials. They have been unfairly and unlawfully treated by the FCT officials. This necessitated the petitions and hence, the call for the hearing. In the example above, the complainant states that there is a *court ruling*. It is expected that the government officials should respect this and stop any action against the complainant. This shows that even when there is a court ruling, the defendants still carry out their actions against the complainants.

Another judgement related term is *certificate of judgement* which is seen in the excerpt below:

Example 114

Sen.: I mean the judgement, *the certificate of judgment* that specifies that the demolition were both illegal and unconstitutional.

In the example above, the senator requests for the *certificate of judgement* which should show that there was a judgement against the demolition which the government officials carried out. A *certificate of judgement* is a legal document showing the judgement made in the law court on a particular case. Another example is presented below:

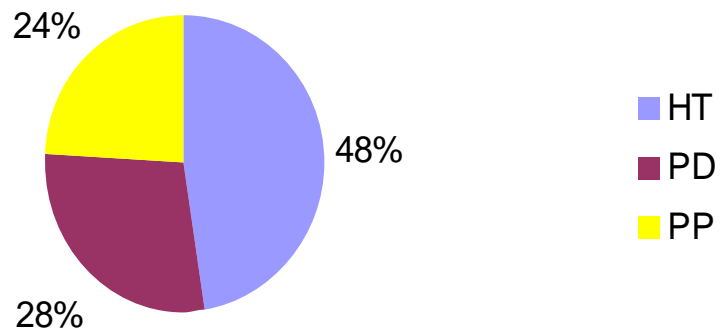
Example 115

Ehintero: those policemen that have seem to have gone beyond their mandate given to them by the force and have acted *ultra vires*

A Latin word that is used in the hearing is *ultra vires* and it is a Latin word which means to act beyond the scope or in excess of legal power or authority. This term is used by the defendant based on the fact that he was not part of the process of evicting the complainant from his house. In the example above, the defendant posits that policemen who acted against court orders had acted contrary to legal authority and should be punished. In this case, since he was not the one who acted, he should not be prosecuted for their actions. It is a legal procedural term.

4.2.1.1.1.4 Property jargon

Technical terms referred to as property jargon are words that are related to land and property matters. Property jargon is divided into human related terms, which has the highest rate of occurrence of 47.6%; property related documents, which has 28.2% and property related procedures, which has the lowest rate of occurrence of 24.2% (Figure 4.6). This may be as a result of the fact that it is the owners and users of the land and landed property that were evicted, and had their property reallocated and demolished. Property jargon is used during Presentation, Interrogation, Interrogation Compliance and Prayer. These are discussed below:



HT=Human related terms, PD= Property-related documents, PP= Property- related procedures

Figure 4.6. A chart showing the distribution of property jargon in the public hearing

Instances of human related terms include *allottees*, *tenants*, and *legal licensee*. These are used during Interrogation. These words can be seen in the extract below:

Example 116

Abdul: ... There is a difference in tenancy rights and I am not a lawyer. The people staying in the...government houses...houses ...the director of legal services can shed more light on this because we have discussed this morning about this. They are not *tenants*. If you are staying in government houses, paying rents, you are not a *tenant*.

Old Ibo: What are you?

Abdul: You are...I think as a sublease or what do they call it? (Asks a lawyer) You are a *legal licensee* and they are two different laws.

A *tenant* is a person who uses a house for a period of time and pays rent. A *legal licensee* is one whose landlord is the government and thus, the government can take the house from such a person at anytime and the person cannot take the government to court unlike a tenant. In this case, the defendant posits that since the people living in government houses are not tenants, the laws that guide tenants are different from those that are legal licensees. These words were used by the defendants in order for people to see them as persons who are acting based on guidelines and not their personal whims. Another example is given below:

Example 117

Isa: So our prayers have been: please relocate these *allottees* who have spent all their life savings and even borrowed money to raise – erect these structures to another simple place.

An *allottee* is a person who has been given a property for later purchase. Here, the complainant is asking that the people he represents should be compensated and relocated to a different place since they were allotted those plots of land to build on. The jargon was used during Prayer.

Property related documents are documents issued in respect of land and landed property. Instances of property related documents found in the hearing sessions include *certificate of occupancy*, *letter of offer*, *title regularisation*, etc. An example is discussed below:

Example 118

Sen.: The *certificate of occupancy*, who has it?

Certificate of occupancy is a certificate that certifies that someone legally owns a piece of land. It is issued by the government. In the example above, the Senator asks the complainant to tell him the person who has the *certificate of occupancy*. This is necessary in order to clarify who the real owner of the land in question is. This is based on the goal behind the hearings, which is to investigate the petitions that have been written against the FCT officials. The jargon was used during Interrogation.

Another property related document is *offer letter*, which is seen in the excerpt below:

Example 119

Vice: and an *offer letter* was not given to you to purchase it?

An *offer letter* is the document given to prospective buyers by the government in order to give them the right to purchase a piece of property. In the example above, the Senator inquires if the complainant had the *offer letter*. This is the ground on which she can claim the right to purchase the house as another person had already purchased the house, though illegally. Without this letter, she has no case before the hearing panel and no evidence for the panel to make a favourable recommendation. Another example is given below:

Example 120

Ademola:...It is already submitted under *title regularisation*. In the *title regularisation*, it was stated that the value of the property of the land was 3,705,894.60k and we are to pay 40% which was 1,483,578.40k.

Title regularisation is a document which shows that a property has been handed over to another person and this change has been recognised and documented by the government. In the example above, the complainant points out that the *title regularisation* had already been done. Thus, it was illegal for the FCDA to revoke the property.

A property related procedure is an act that is carried out in relation to landed property and this can be seen in the excerpt below:

Example 121

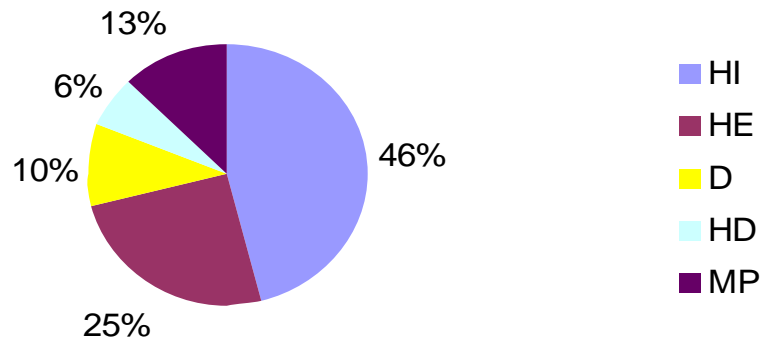
Ehindero: The defender ...the officers or persons acting on their behalf

are restricted from ejecting or *evicting* the plaintiff applicant from the House No 1,

Evicting is a property jargon which means to expel from one's property or force to move out by a legal process. This is part of the reasons why the public hearing was inaugurated. In most cases, people were evicted illegally, even when there were restraining orders against such. In the example above, a court order restraining the defendants from *evicting* the complainants is being read by the defendant. The hearing panel asked the defendant to read the court order in order to show that it existed and that the defendant and the police had illegally evicted the complainant.

4.2.1.1.1.5 Medical jargon

Medical jargon is the technical term related to medical discourse which is used in the interaction. It is subdivided into health institutions (45.8%), hospital equipment (25%), medical procedures (12.5%) diseases (10.4%), and medical departments (6.3%) These are illustrated in figure 4.7. This shows that health institutions has the rate highest of occurrence and this is because the presenters needed to explain some of the differences between these hospitals as they related to the concession of the Garki Hospital. Medical departments have the least rate of occurrence as the presenters did not have much information on this area. These are used during Presentation, Interrogation and Interrogation Compliance.



HI= Health institutions, HE=Hospital Equipment, D= Diseases, HD= Health Departments, MD= Medical Departments

Figure 4.7. A chart showing the distribution of medical jargon used in the FCT hearing

Health institutions refer to the categories of institutions that exist in the medical field in Nigeria. They include words such as *primary health care*, *secondary health care*, *teaching hospital*, *private hospital*, etc. They are used during Presentation and Interrogation Compliance. Examples are found in the excerpt below:

Example 122

Ali: Now what what I feel is that once we have functional *primary health care services* in all the neighbourhood, then this issue of *secondary health care* and *tertiary health care* and where they are and who is managing them will not be an issue. Even if the *secondary health care facility* is concessioned, that may not affect the common man significantly.

Primary, secondary and tertiary health care facilities are categories of hospitals based on the area of expertise and equipment. Primary health facilities are institutions which handle general complaints while secondary and tertiary health facilities handle complaints that need the attention of specialists. Tertiary institutions have more and better equipment and specialists than secondary health facilities. These are used in a Presentation. In the example above, the complainant expresses the fact that the concession of Garki Hospital to private hands is wrong as it defeats the essence of having a primary and a secondary health care facility. The argument here is that since the primary health facilities are not equipped, the secondary health care becomes the next point of call on health issues. Garki Hospital is a secondary health facility and since it was concessioned to private hands, the poor people in the neighbourhood could not to access it. Another example is given during Presentation:

Example 123

Dr Wada: In the first 2 years, there was a very efficient *general hospital* from where we site excellent areas to complement whatever service with a keynote. It is cheaper than the average *private hospital*. It is even cheaper than the *National Hospital*. It may be more expensive than what you get in the existing FCTA general hospital.

In the excerpt above, the defendant posits that the Garki Hospital which was concessioned to Niser Premier Hospital, a *private hospital* is cheaper than other *private hospital* and even the *National Hospital* in Abuja. This, he says, in order to prove that the concession of Garki Hospital did not make it more expensive for the

citizens of Abuja who are living in Garki. The categorisation of *private and general hospital* is based on the ownership of these hospitals.

Hospital equipment cited in the hearing include *ultrasound scanner, MRI, CAT scan, CT scan*, etc. They are used during Interrogation and Interrogation Compliance and can be seen in the excerpt below:

Example 124

Sen.: ...let me ask in a specific question, do they have a *CAT scan*?

Ali: They intend to have//

Old Ibo: //Excuse me excuse me do they have *MRI*?

Ali: No

Old Ibo: Have you put this in place for them to install and within what period?

Ali: *MRI* no but I think they should have a *CT scan* before they...

CAT scan in full means computerised axial tomography scanner which is a specialised type of x-ray machine which uses computer processing to detect abnormal cells in soft tissues and blood vessels. Its current name is *CT scan* which means computerised tomography scanner as the scanner can now use other images such as the coronal or sagittal, apart from the axial image. An *MRI* means magnetic resonance imagery scanner which is another type of x-ray machine that uses magnetic and radio waves for diagnostic purposes. It is used for removing a tiny part of a tissue without damaging the tissue. In the excerpt above, one of the Senators questions the complainant on the types of hospital equipment that the Garki Hospital bought since it was concessioned. Here, the senator questions the reason behind the concessioning in the first place. This was to know whether the concessionaire was managing and equipping the hospital properly. The argument of the Senator is that the government itself did not put in proper plans for the concessioning. Perhaps, if the government had done so, the hospital would have been better than what it was at present and people would not have complained about the services of the hospital.

Medical procedures are processes that take place within the medical field. Examples used in the hearing include *tuberculosis trial, culture, medical investigation*, etc. These can be seen in the excerpt below:

Example 125

Dr Wada: It was a *tuberculosis trial*. Because of the severity of this, it is not conditional. We are waiting *diagnosis* because it takes about 6 weeks to *culture* tuberculosis.

In the excerpt above, *culture* means the growing of microorganisms in a nutrient medium such as gelatin or agar. *Diagnosis* is a medical jargon which means to identify the nature or cause of an illness or some phenomenon while *tuberculosis trial* is a procedure which covers the clinical management of a patient with tuberculosis. In the excerpt above, the defendant explains the processes that were carried out in respect of the illness of a patient, which was earlier reported in order to prove that the Garki Hospital under concession was ill-managed. Another example can be seen in the example below:

Example 126

Dr Wada: Please any doctor here? Please elect one and see this medical data. Subject it to any kind of *medical investigation* which is possible anywhere. A letter of referral is here.

The jargon *medical investigation* refers to all medical examinations carried out by medical personnel on a patient. In the excerpt above, the defendant requests that a doctor should carry out a medical investigation with the data he had with him. This was to prove whether the diagnosis in respect to a medical case was right or wrong. He does this in order to show that the patient in question was properly examined. This example featured during Interrogation Compliance.

Medical departments are sections of a hospital that deal with specific issues in the hospital and these include *pharmacy, radiology, obstetrics and gynaecology*. These are used during Interrogation. They can be seen in the excerpt below:

Example 127

Sen.: Because if you list clinical services as you list the services that you have provided, some of them are outsourced. Even your *radiology* and *pharmacy* are outsourced. And you say you invested what? 261million, no indication? In what area, what equipment? [sic]

Pharmacy deals with the dispensing of drugs while *radiology* deals with the medical use of X-rays or other penetrating radiation. In the excerpt above, the Senator

wonders why patients have to go to other health facilities for drugs and x-rays if these departments were functioning in Garki Hospital.

A disease that is mentioned in the hearing is *tuberculosis* which was cited by a Senator to show that a patient was wrongfully diagnosed by the Garki Hospital. It is used during Interrogation and Interrogation Compliance. This can be seen in the excerpt below:

Example 128

Sen.: After draining out the water, they were treating her for *tuberculosis*, whereas she never had *tuberculosis* and (pause) because there was no improvement...

Tuberculosis is an infection transmitted by the inhalation or ingestion of *tubercle bacilli* and manifested in fever and small lesions (usually in the lungs but in various other parts of the body in acute stages). In the example above, the Senator reports that a relative of his was wrongfully diagnosed for *tuberculosis* and had to be taken to a teaching hospital for further investigation. This was done in order to emphasise that the Garki Hospital was ill managed by the concessionaire.

4.2.1.1.2 Plain and sub-technical words

Plain words are words that are used in every day life. Such words have been freely used in the public hearing at all the different stages of the interaction in order to enhance communication. These plain words encode the issues that are discussed in the hearing. Plain words related to property discourse have the highest rate of occurrence with 51.7%, words related to the public hearing genre account for 27.1% while justice related terms account for 15.6%. Governance-related terms have the least rate of occurrence with 5.5% (Table 4.4). This reinforces the fact that the public hearing focuses on the complaints on land and landed property in the FCT. Property related words have the highest rate of occurrence. Public hearing related words occur because of the procedures in the public hearing itself. Justice related terms are used because the complainants were in the hearing to seek redress of the wrongs committed against them. Governance related words have the least rate of occurrence because most of the governance related terms were jargon. These are further discussed below:

Plain and sub-technical words which are related to the property discourse include words such as *demolition*, *ejection*, *revocation*, etc. An example is cited below:

Example 129

Ben: but here was direct *allocation* of land for us to build.

Allocation is a plain word that is commonly used in the hearing. It means a certain share set aside for a specific purpose or an act of distributing or apportioning according to a laid-out plan. Here, it deals with the distribution of lands to individuals or groups in the FCT. The FCT hearing is based on the petitions of eviction of people from their houses and demolition of property. In the example above, the complainant reports that they had a legal allocation of a piece of land to build their houses and it was wrong for the FCT officials to demolish the property. The complainants had been unfairly treated by the FCT officials and this was what informed the inauguration of the hearing. This example was used during Presentation. Another example is cited below:

Example 130

Isa: I saw what they had gone through when the place they were living
was *demolished*.

In the example above, the complainant presents the effect of the actions of the FCT officials. The word *demolished* is a word that means to destroy. However, it collocates with buildings and scarcely collocates with other types of objects. This example was used during Presentation. Another example is presented below:

Example 131

The defender ...the officers or persons acting on their behalf
are restricted from *ejecting* or evicting the plaintiff applicant
from the House No 1,

Ejecting is another plain word that is used in the hearing. It means to expel or remove something from a place. The FCT hearing covers the ejections or evictions of people from their apartments. This is the reason why the hearing was inaugurated in the first place. In the example above, the speaker is reading a court order which shows that the defendant should not eject the plaintiff from his house. The complainant was ejected unlawfully since there was a court order stopping the defendant from ejecting the plaintiff. This was used during Interrogation Compliance.

Words that relate to the public hearing genre include words such as *recommendation*, *complaint*, etc. Examples are discussed below:

Example 132

Sodangi: Thank you very much. Can you give us your full name and state your *complaint* before us. Thank you.

Complaint is a plain word that is used in the FCT hearing. Generally, it serves as an expression of grievance or resentment, pain or sorrow. In the medical field, it means an ailment or disease. In law, it serves as the first pleading of the plaintiff, setting out the facts on which the claim for relief is based. In the hearing, it is the grievance that the complainants have to present. The complainants believe that they have been treated unfairly and they are there to state their grievances. The panel wants people to state their complaints so that such actions would be corrected and people would be properly compensated. In the example above, the chairman of the panel wants the current complainant to state his complaint, in accordance with the aim of the hearing. The example was used during Invitation of Perspectives. Another example is cited below:

Example 133

Sodangi: I will hear the other side and know what *recommendations* to make.

Recommendations is a plain word that is commonly found in the FCT hearing sessions. Generally, it serves as a quality that gains a person a favourable reception or acceptance or admission. It is used in different fields, in schools, offices, etc. Here, recommendation stands as the report that the chairman of the hearing panel will give to the Senate based on the findings in the hearing. This word is used based on the goal of the hearing. The hearing panel is expected to investigate the petitions, and give their recommendations to the Senate, who will either accept or reject the recommendations. In the example above, the Chairman promises to listen to the other party before making his *recommendations*. This example was made during Interrogation. Another example is cited below:

Example 134

Sodangi: What is your prayer madam?

Prayer is another plain word used in the FCT hearing. It is commonly associated with the religious context as requests made to God or to a deity. It is also used in academic circles where there are petitions made to the Senate. In the hearing sessions, it is the special request made by the complainants to the hearing panel. In the excerpt above, the chairman of the hearing panel asks the complainant to state her

prayer. This example was used during Prayer Demand and the example below shows the use of this word during Prayer itself:

Example 135

My *prayers* over this matter...

In the example above, the complainant makes his request. Prayer requests are made because the complainants know that the hearing panel members have the power to make favourable recommendations on their behalf to the Senate. The hearing panel is also there to receive the prayers from the complainants and make the necessary recommendations to the Senate. In the extract above, the current complainant gives his prayers.

Words related to justice include *restoration*, *compensation*, *relocation*, *reallocation*, etc. Examples are discussed below:

Example 136

Ben: Our expectation sir is *restoration*...

Another plain word which is commonly used in the hearing is *restoration*, which means the act of returning something to its former state. Some of the complaints are in the hearing in order to get their property restored to them. In the example above, the complainant says his prayer which is based on the restoration of his land. In some other cases, the complainants ask for *compensation* in cases where their property cannot be restored. *Compensation* is another plain word that is commonly used in the hearing, which is usually used during Prayer. This can be seen in the extract below:

Example 137

Ben: finally if none is done, *compensation*, Relo ... relocation /*compensation*. We are ready to be relocated because there should be some *compensation* for the buildings of people that were brought down.

In the example above, the complainant is praying that they should be paid compensation if the property lost could not be restored. The request is based on the provisions of the Urban and Regional Planning Act (URPA).

Plain and sub-technical words that relate to governance include words such as *statutory agency*, *federal government agency*, *presidential committee*, etc. Examples are presented below:

Example 138

Abdullahi: What we are saying is that we are *Federal Government agency, statutory agency* for that matter and we all know the meaning and purpose of section 28, subsection 5A and B which is purportedly quoted as the reason for the revocation.

The excerpt above shows two examples of governance related terms. *Federal government agency* is an agency owned by the government. Here, the complainant posits that since the agency is owned by the government, it is meant for public interest and thus, its land should not be revoked as this would be against the Land Use Act. He goes on further to emphasise that the agency is a *statutory agency*, which is created based on the statutes of the country. These were used during Presentation.

4.2.1.2 Lexical Collocation

In the FCT hearing, free and fixed collocations are employed. Fixed collocation accounted for 73.3%, while free collocation accounted for 26.9% of the collocations used (Table 4.4). This may be because the technical words which dominate the interaction are fixed in nature. These two are explained below:

4.2.1.2.1 Fixed Collocation

Instances of fixed collocation that are found in the interaction are political, legal, financial, medical and property jargon, which are used during Presentation, Interrogation and Interrogation Compliance. Legal jargon have the highest rate of occurrences of fixed collocation with 45.1%; property jargon is next with 24.2%; political jargon has 23.7%, financial jargon is next with 5.6% while medical jargon has the least rate of occurrence with 1.4% (Table 4.4). Medical jargon was least used because health issues occupied a minute part of the public hearing. These are discussed below:

Table 4.4. A summary of lexical collocations in the public hearing

Lexical Collocation		N0	Rate	N0	Rate
Fixed Collocation	Types	N0	Rate	359	73.3%
	Legal jargon	162	45.1%		
	Property jargon	87	24.2%		
	Political Jargon	85	23.6%		
	Financial jargon	20	5.6%		
	medical	5	1.3%		
	Total	359	100.1%		
Free Collocation	Types	N0	Rate	131	26.7%
	Government				
	related	51	38.9%		
	Medical jargon	32	24.4%		
	Property related				
	terms	22	16.8%		
	Financial jargon	26	19.8%		
	Total	131	100.0%		
Total				490	100%

Legal jargon based collocations found in the interaction include noun-pronoun-noun (NPN) combination, noun-noun (NN) combination and adjective-noun (AN) combination. Instances of NPN collocations include *power of attorney*, *deed of transfer*, *deed of assignment*, *certificate of judgment*, etc. These examples can be seen below:

Example 139

Sen.: and after the ceding we have taken steps to change the title and
we have also signed the em *deed of transfer* letter

Sen.: What sort of deed? *Deed of assignment* or what?

Vice: Or *power of attorney*?

Sen.: *power of attorney*, which one?

Mamodu: (looks for document) that document again sir is attached to
this our submission

Sen.: Tell me. Tell me. Which one?

Mamodu: It is a deed of transferring the property from...

In the example above, we have legal jargon based collocations such as *deed of transfer*, *power of attorney*, *deed of assignment*. The *deed of transfer* refers to a legal document which shows that a property has been transferred to another person. *Power of attorney* is another legal instrument authorising someone to act as a grantor's agent. In the example above, the hearing panel wants to know which of the legal documents the complainant has in order to confirm if they had a legal backing for the possession of the land in question. In this case, the land in question had been transferred to the pension body of NEPA and therefore, was not part of the landed property of the Federal Government. Therefore, the Minister had no right to sell the land.

Another example is *certificate of judgment* which can be found in example 114. *Certificate of judgment* is a certificate given at the court of law about a specific court decision or ruling about a matter. It is a legal jargon. These words represent the fact that the complainants have a right to complain as they have official documents to back them up. In the example above, the senator is interested in confirming if the certificate of judgment was available. This is needed as evidence so that the hearing panel can use these to write their recommendations to the Senate. It shows the bad deeds of the other (government officials) as people who disobey court rulings and official injunctions.

Examples of NN combination include *court order* and *court ruling* which are legal jargon which can be found in examples 109 and 113 respectively. These words are cited in order to show that the FCT officials disobeyed legal authorities. They are proofs that the FCT officials are not supposed to eject the complainants from their house.

Examples of AN combination under legal jargon include *restraining order* and *white paper*. This can be seen in the excerpt below:

Example 140

Sen.: You said there was a *restraining order*?

Restraining order is a legal document which is meant to stop the defendant from carrying out a particular action pending the judgement of the law court. Another legal jargon-based collocation used in the hearing is *white paper*. This can be seen in the extract below:

Example 141

We extracted the portion of the *white paper* which is relevant to this issue ... It shows the composition of the members of the committee and their findings and on the issue of...in page 27 of that white paper, it addressed the issue of the joint venture by Abuja Investment and property limited which is the body of the report was- pages 114 – 117 and this was the recommendation ...observations of the committee.

The *white paper* is a legal document, which is meant to specify the actions of the government officials. The defendant quotes this in order to show that they obey specific guidelines. In the example above, the defendant cite the *white paper* as the legal document backing the decision that was made on the takeover of the affairs of a private company and the signatories of the constituted board.

Property jargon related collocations are characterised by NPN combination, AN and NN combinations. Examples of NPN combinations include *certificate of occupancy*, *letter of offer*, *letter of demolition*, etc. These are explained below:

Certificate of occupancy is a certificate given to one by the government that one has legally obtained a piece of land. This can be seen in the extract below:

Example 142

Sen.: The *certificate of occupancy*, who has it?

In the example above, the Senator asks the complainant to tell him the person who has the *certificate of occupancy*. This is necessary in order to clarify who the real

owner of the land in question is. This is based on the aim of the hearing, which is to investigate the petitions that have been written against the FCT officials. Another example is given below:

Example 143

Vice: Ok thank you. You were given an offer...*letter of offer?*

A *letter of offer* is a letter given to a civil servant in order for such a person to have the first opportunity of purchasing the apartment s/he is living in from the government. In the example above, the vice-chairman wants to know if the complainant has the letter of offer. That will be the basis for her argument that the house was illegally sold to another person. Once she has the *letter of offer*, it would be illegal for any government official to sell the house to another person.

Property jargon that is characterised by NN combination includes *title regularisation*, *contravention notice*, etc. These are explained below:

Example 144

It is already submitted under *title regularisation*. In the *title regularisation*, it was stated that the value of the property of the land was 3,705,894.60k

Title regularisation is a document showing that the change of ownership of the title of a land which has been duly registered by the government. In this example, the complainant states that the certificate of occupancy had been submitted under the *title regularisation*.

Example 145

Echeng: We do not have in our records any *contravention notice* indicating the areas of illegality to ... demolish.

In the example above, the complainant points out during IC, that there was no *contravention notice*. Therefore, it was illegal for the government to have demolished the property. A *contravention notice* is a notice showing that the owner of a property has violated some laws in the course of building a house.

Political jargon related collocations are characterised by adjective-noun-noun-noun (ANNN), noun-pronoun-adjective-adjective-noun (NPA(A)N), noun-noun-adjective-noun (NNAN), noun-adjective-adjective-noun (NAAN), noun-adjective-noun-noun (NANN), NPN, and NN combinations. Examples of ANN(N) combinations include: *Federal Capital Territory Administration*, *Federal Housing Authority*, etc. An example from the hearing is shown below:

Example 146

We have *Federal Capital Territory Administration* represented by Mr Victor Ezegbilo.

In the excerpt above, the chairman of the hearing spells out the name of the government parastatal that is being represented in the hearing. This also holds for example 147:

Instances of NAN(N) are *Abuja Environmental Protection Board, Abuja Municipal Area Council, Abuja Municipal Area*. An example from the hearing is shown below:

Example 147

Sodangi: we have *Abuja Environmental Protection Board* represented by Hajia Abdullahi

Instances of NPA(A)N include: *Bureau for Public Enterprise* and *Minister of Federal Capital Territory*. While the first example is a government parastatal, the other is a government office. An excerpt is shown below:

Example 148

Sen.1: if they were misbehaving and you let them ... and you said because they...they ...

Sen.2: with the eh *Minister of Federal Capital Territory*?

Sen.3: and they were violating the constitution.

In the interaction above between some Senators and a defendant, the Senators point out that both the police and the Minister of the Federal Capital had violated the Nigerian constitution. By spelling out the full form of this office, the Senator demonstrates the gravity of such an official violating a constitution that he is expected to uphold.

Other instances of ANPN combination include: *Inspector-General of police*; NNAN combination: *Abuja Information Geographic System*; NAAN combination: *Nigeria Nuclear Regulatory Board*, etc.

Examples of NPN combinations of political jargon include *House of Assembly, House of Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, House of Representatives, commissioner of police*, etc. These can be seen in the excerpt below:

Example 149

Paul: we eh wrote to the *House of Representatives*, we wrote the *House of Senate*. There was a public hearing.

House of Representatives and *House of Senate* are instances of political jargon that refer to government offices. Here, the complainant lists the offices that he had complained to before coming to the public hearing. Another example is given below:

Example 150

The FCT by law need not relate to me. He relates to the *commissioner of police* in the states.

In the example above, the defendant posits that since the FCT minister communicates with the *commissioner of police* for Abuja, then there would be no reason for him to know about the goings-on in the Capital.

An example of an NN combination includes *Senate President*, which is seen in the excerpt below:

Example 151

Then after, when it became certain that the bulldozers were going to come; we wrote to the *Senate President*...

In the example above, the complainant also reports that one of the people he complained to was the *Senate President*. This shows that he had put some effort into getting justice over the piece of property that was demolished.

Financial jargon collocates appear as NN and NPN combinations. NN combinations of financial jargon include words such as *concession fee*, *concession period*, *bank draft*, etc. An example is presented below:

Example 152

Ali: Some of the terms were that Niser shall pay an annual fixed *concession fee* of 20 million naira to the FCT. They have so far paid the amount. In addition to the fixed *concession fee*, Niser shall pay FCT another yearly profit based on an agreed graduated sharing agreement.

In the example above, the complainant, during Presentation, states the terms of the concession given to Niser Premier Hospital on the concession of Garki Hospital. Here, he mentions the *concession fee* that the hospital would pay. Another example is presented below:

Example 153

Abass We have returns of bank- *bank drafts* and charges: 214 and total deductions from total proceed collected: 24,295,755,000

In the example above, the defendant presents *bank drafts* as evidence of payments made by people to the government and the balance in the government account. He does this in order to show that he has a clean account and did not embezzle government funds.

Examples of NPN combination of financial jargon include *statement of account and cheque of payment* which are found in the excerpts below:

Example 154

Sodangi: Equally the the submission of the same Dr Muktar on the *statement of account* as at 31st March is hereby also admitted.

In the example above, the chairman of the panel admits the *statement of account* of the defendant as an exhibit. Another example is presented below:

Example 155

She said no, that the that the endorsement she got was for me to bring a *cheque of payment*. Then the man said to him that eh that there is no way that I could get the cheque without showing then this endorsement letter.

In the example above, the complainant reported that there was a need to present a *cheque of payment* before he got an endorsement letter, which was necessary for him to get in order to purchase the house he was living in. In this excerpt, the secretary to the director on sales of government houses wanted to sell the house to another person. Thus, she was looking for ways to ensure that he did not have the opportunity to pay for the house.

Medical jargon appears as NN combination and these include words such as *ultrasound scanner, CAT scan, CT scan, obstetrics and gynaecology*. These can be seen in the excerpts below:

Example 156

Dr Wada: Some of the equipment we listed there: cardiogram, x-ray, *ultrasound scanner* are all in good quality and so on unto the grounds of Garki Hospital and they add value.

Ultrasound scanner is a medical equipment which uses the reflections of high-frequency sound waves to construct an image of a body organ. It is commonly used to observe foetal growth or study body organs. It is made up of two nouns. In the excerpt above, the defendant states that the Garki Hospital has this equipment and other medical equipment, in order to show that the hospital acquired this equipment

during the concession. This is done on order to argue that the hospital is well-managed. Another example can be seen in the excerpt below:

Example 157

Ali: Yeah, they have expanded now, talking of Abuja hospital. I am talking about their own hospital. Their own hospital is essentially an *Obstetrics and gynaecology* hospital but I believe they are also expanding that.

Obstetrics and gynaecology is a medical jargon and a fixed collocation. The complainant states that the hospital owned by the concessionaire, which is Niser Premier Hospital, is a hospital that deals with childbirth and the care of mothers as well as the diseases and hygiene of women. This, he says, in order to show that he has no knowledge of what the hospital of the concessionaire looks like.

4.2.1.2.2 Free Collocation

The free collocations found in the hearing sessions include governance related terms which has the highest rate of occurrence with 38.9%, medical jargon occurs next with 24.4%, financial jargon has 19.8% while property related words has the lowest rate of occurrence with 16.8% (See Table 4.5). Governance related terms has the highest rate of occurrence because all the actions carried out against the complainants were done by government officials. Government parastatals were also affected by these actions. Medical and financial jargon had low rates of occurrences because most of the words related to these were fixed collocation. Property related words have the lowest rate of occurrence because most of the words related to property jargon are fixed in nature. These feature during Presentation and Interrogation Compliance.

Under governance related words, we have adjective–noun combinations such as *statutory agency*, *federal government agency*, *presidential committee*, *federal government houses*, *federal executive guidelines*, etc. They are discussed below:

Example 158

Abdul: The *presidential committee* implementation on monetisation of free benefits in parastatals, government owned companies and agencies...

In the example above, *presidential committee* is made up of an adjective (presidential) and noun (committee). In the excerpt, the defendant states that there is

a *presidential committee* on monetisation, which shows that the actions he has carried out are backed up by the government. Another example is presented below:

Example 159

Michael: ...So the best way to resolve this is to write the president and let the president direct us the committee because if we have *federal executive guidelines* sir, we should not violate the guidelines

In the example above, the defendant states that actions he has carried out are based on *federal executive guidelines*. This is to show that he has not acted on personal whims. The word is a combination of two adjectives (federal executive) and a noun (guidelines).

Under medical jargon, we have AN combination and NN combinations. Examples of AN combination include *medical investigation*, *medical confidentiality*, *dental equipment*, etc. These can be seen in the excerpt below:

Example 160

Dr Wada: ...the complainant claimed that the patient spent #157000:00 and was eventually referred to the University of Nigeria, Enugu. *Medical confidentiality* will not allow me to mention names or show it to any camera but if there is a doctor in the audience, please attest to it.

Medical confidentiality is a medical term which indicates that patients' information can only be released to medical personnel. It is a combination of an adjective and a noun. The defendant requests that a doctor in the Hearing Room could check the case file of the patient involved to prove whether the diagnosis was right or wrong. Another example of an AN combination is cited below:

Example 161

Dr Wada: There is eye equipment there, there's *dental equipment* there. There are all sorts of equipment there apart from the one Niser Premier brought and the agreement allows us to do that.

Dental equipment includes all equipment used in taking care of the teeth. *Dental* is an adjective while *equipment* is a noun. Here the defendant states that the equipment is in the hospital in order to show that the hospital is well- equipped.

Examples of NN combination include *eye equipment*, *tuberculosis trial*, etc.

Eye equipment (see example 161 above) includes all equipment used in taking care of the eye. *Eye* and *equipment* are both nouns. Here, the defendant also states that the equipment is in the hospital in order to show that the hospital is well- equipped. Another example is shown below:

Example 162

Dr Wada: It was a *tuberculosis trial*. Because of the severity of this, it is not conditional. We are waiting diagnosis because it takes about 6 weeks to culture tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis trial is a procedure which covers the diagnosis and clinical management of tuberculosis. Both words are nouns. In the example above, the defendant states that the patient had undergone a *tuberculosis trial* in order to show the reason why they did not get the diagnosis on time.

Under property-related terms/jargon, we have the noun–noun combination and the adjective-noun combination. Under the noun-noun combination, we have words such as *allocation paper*, *revocation letter*, etc. These are exemplified below:

Example 163

Man: The *allocation paper*...the plan for the market was allocated to Aso Jidans Investment Company limited.

One collocation that is commonly found in the FCT hearing is *allocation paper*. This is a paper given to people who buy land from the FCT officials. This paper is important because it shows that the complainants legitimately acquired the land from the government. Thus, it would be wrong for the FCT officials to demolish their property if the FCT officials were the ones that had given them the lands to build on in the first place. The *allocation paper* also serves as evidence in the hearing which is to be admitted as an exhibit. This word emphasises the bad deeds of the other (FCT officials). In the example above, the complainant posits that an *allocation paper* was given to them.

Another free collocation is *revocation letter*, which is a letter given to persons whose lands have been revoked. This is seen in the example below:

Example 164

Man: In the process of ...after receiving the *revocation letter*, the board of Aso Jidans sat, they met.

In the example above, the complainant reports that they received a *revocation letter* from the FCT officials, who had earlier given them an allocation paper. This

emphasises the confusion and lack of respect on the part of the FCT officials. In some cases, these revocations were done in order to reallocate the lands to some other persons. A *revocation letter* is a letter stating that the title of ownership of a piece of land has been withdrawn from the present owner.

Under AN combination, we have words such as *residential accommodation*, *approval plan*, etc. These are discussed below:

Example 165

And as I am talking to you now, our *approval plans* have been with development control for two years and eight months without approval.

In the excerpt above, the complainant points out that their *approval plans* were already with the government agency. This was used during Presentation in order to show the negative behaviour of the government official. Another example is shown below:

Example 166

The *residential accommodation* was allocated to me when the occupant Hajia Fatima Yakubu, now retired, officially informed the office of the head of service, her intention to change accommodation from Dalau Street to a preferred block of flat.

In the example above, the complainant points out the kind of accommodation that was given to her by the government during her presentation. The hearing is based on property and land matters. Thus it is necessary to distinguish between the different types of accommodation, which could be residential or official.

Free collocations which are financial jargon are characterised by AN combination, and NN combination. AN combination can be seen in words such as *joint venture*, *annual financial report*, etc. This can be seen in the excerpts below:

Example 167

Sen.: Please go to your *annual financial report*. How much do you think the market was generating?

Annual financial report and *joint venture* (see example 107) are business related matters. These are words used during Interrogation and Interrogation Compliance respectively. It is necessary that complainants spell out the kind of business relationships that they have with different parties, whether individuals or government parastatals. These will determine whether they or such parties have acted legally or

illegally. Also, the *financial reports* are statements of account which spell out the income and expenditure of any company. These are documents that are admitted as exhibits. They are sometimes required by members of the hearing panel in order to determine how each company or government office related to the FCT land matters earned and spent her money.

NN combination in the hearing includes *account balance* which can be seen in the example below:

Example 168

Abass: we also have another stationery *account balance* standing at
17,019,170,444.

The financial jargon *account balance* is a financial document which refers to the money owned by the government agency in the bank. The defendant cites this in order to show that he did not misappropriate government funds.

4.2.1.3 Lexical Relationships

The different lexical relationships that exist in the hearing include antonymy and synonymy which are used during P, I and IC. Antonyms account for 81% of the lexical relationships used while synonyms account for 12.9% (Table 4.5). During Interrogation, complainants make use of antonyms to depict the wrong acts of government officials. There are more antonyms as there is a polarised situation in the interaction. The interaction is divided into two sides, the complaints versus the defendants. Thus, there is a contrast between the actions of the complainants and the actions of the defendants. In most of the legal documents submitted as exhibits, synonyms are used. These are explained below:

Table 4. 5. A summary of lexical relationships in the public hearing

Lexical Relationship	N0	Rate
Antonymy	81	87.1%
Synonymy	12	12.9%
Total	93	100.0%

4.2.1.3.1 Antonymy

Antonyms are used by complainants during Presentation and Interrogation Compliance in order to emphasise the bad deeds of the FCT officials. These antonyms are related to law and property fields. For example, we have the case of *legal* and *illegal* which are related to law and can be seen in the example below:

Example 169

one morning, one *illegal* body called AMA, Abuja Metropolitan Development Agency -because to me it is *illegal*, it is FCDA that is *legal* to me, not AMA.

In this example, the complainant believes that the *FCDA* is the legal authority that should deal with evictions or demolitions and not *AMA*. Thus, there are issues bothering on the legality of the bodies that handle the cases of evictions and demolitions in the FCT. This antonym was used during Presentation.

Other examples of law related antonyms are *plaintiff* and *respondent* which are given below:

Example 170

Ehindero: The...the case is between the *plaintiff* and the *respondent*.

The italicised words in the example above were used during Interrogation Compliance. In this excerpt, the defendant reads a court order which was given to him by the chairman of the panel. This shows that the defendants are aware that it is illegal for them to evict them from their homes or demolish their property. This again is projected when a complainant declares that the defendants disobeyed the court orders. He uses the antonyms *disobey* and *obey*. This is given below:

Example 171

Yakubu: Instead of *obeying* a court order, they *disobeyed* the court orders

In the example above, the complainant emphasises the bad deeds of the other by reporting that the government official in question disobeyed court orders. The idea behind this is to express the fact that the complainants have a right to complain when government officials do not do the right thing. These words emphasise the illegality of their actions. It was used during Presentation.

Antonyms that are related to property discourse include *developed* and *demolished* which can be seen in the excerpt below:

Example 172

Unfortunately, even this part that we have... has been *developed* and assessed sometimes in April. FCTA went there and *demolished* everything.

In the example above, the complainant emphasises the fact that the land that was developed i.e. they had built houses on the land and the government had demolished or destroyed these buildings. These words emphasise the bad deeds of the government officials. This was used during a presentation.

4.2.1.3.2 Synonymy

The synonyms used in the hearing are related to legal jargon. They are used during Interrogation Compliance when the defendants read court orders. This is typical of the language of law which is meant to identify the referents in legal documents. Examples are cited below:

Example 173

Ehindero: The defender ...the officers or persons acting on their behalf are restricted from *ejecting or evicting* the plaintiff applicant from the House No 1...

In example above, *ejecting* and *evicting* are similar words which refer to forcing someone out of his/her property. These are used to ensure that all the meaning that covers the concept of forcing someone out are used. Another example can be seen in the words *plaintiff* and *applicant* in the example below:

Example 174

The application of the *plaintiff/applicant* is hereby granted.

Plaintiff and *applicant* are synonymous words which refer to the person who has brought a complaint or petition to the law court or is applying for assistance from the law court. This shows that many of the complainants already have court orders restraining government officials from tampering with their landed property. It also emphasises the illegal deeds of the government officials. Another set of synonyms are shown below:

Example 175

Michael: An interim injunction restraining the *defendants/respondents* whether by themselves or assigned agents or whosoever purported to act on their behalf from

doing anything inimical to the right of the
plaintiff/applicant...

A *defendant* is a person against whom an action is brought in a court of law. Such a person is also responding to the accusation, thus, s/he is called a respondent. This shows that the government officials have already been taken to court on the illegal actions they have carried out or will carry out.

4.2.1.4 Word formation

There are different word formation processes found in the FCT hearing. These include compounding, affixation, abbronymy and clipping, which are usually used during the presentation of testimonies. Affixation has the highest rate of occurrence with 46.6%, abbronymy has 26.9%, compounding has 25.7% while clipping has the least rate of occurrence with 0.6% (See Table 4.7). Affixation has the highest rate of occurrence because interactants used noun-forming suffixes during presentations. Abbronyms have a high percentage score because most of the abbronyms used are in the political discourse, which is a prevailing discourse in the interaction. Compounding is also used because of the high use of property-related terms and legal terms. Clipping is rarely used since the interaction is a formal one. These are discussed below:

Table 4.6. A summary of word formation processes used in the public hearing

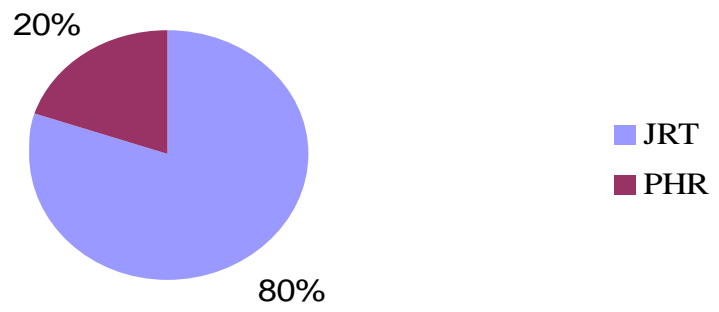
Word Formation				N0	Rate
Affixation	Types	No	Rate	889	46.6%
	Prefixation	89	10%		
	Suffixation	800	90%		
Abbronymy	Total	889	100.0%	513	26.9%
	Types	No	Rate		
	Government parastatals	410	79.9%		
	Government Offices	78	15.2%		
	Government-owned companies	18	3.5%		
	Medical jargon	6	1.3%		
	Total	513	100.0%		
Compounding	Types	No	Rate	491	25.8%
	Legal jargon	162	33%		
	Property jargon	87	17.7%		
	Political jargon	85	17.3%		
	Government related words	51	10.4%		
	Property related words	22	2.5%		
	Financial jargon	46	9.4%		
	Medical Jargon	38	7.7		
Total	424	100.0%			
Clipping				13	0.7%
Total				1906	100. %

4.2.1.4.1 Affixation

In the public hearing, words are formed through the addition of affixes which are divided into prefixes and suffixes. Derivational and inflectional affixes are also analysed. In the hearing, more words are formed through suffixation than prefixation as suffixation accounted for 90% while prefixation accounted for 10% of the affixes used in the interaction (Table 4.7). Words formed through suffixes have a higher rate of occurrences because acts and processes are discussed in the interaction. These are further discussed below:

4.2.1.4.1.1 Prefixation

The analysis of the prefixes shows that prefixes in justice/injustice related terms have the highest rate of occurrence with 79.9% while prefixes in public hearing related words has 20.2% (Figure 4.8). This is because the majority of the presenters are complainants who complained of the injustice of the government officials and therefore, they demanded justice. Prefixes in public hearing related words have a lower rate of occurrence and these are based on the procedures in the hearing. The analysis of the prefixes used also shows that prefixes of time have the highest rate of occurrence with 48.3%; negative prefixes have 47.2% while other prefixes have 4.5% (Figure 4.9). Prefixes of time have the highest rate of occurrence because most of the prefixes used relate to what the complainants want the Senate to do: reverse the past actions of the defendants. Negative prefixes also have a high rate of occurrence as the complainants emphasised the negative actions of the defendants. Other prefixes have the lowest rate of occurrence as these focus on some of the procedures of the public hearing. These are also discussed in table 4.7.



JRT= Jargon related terms, PHR= Public hearing related terms

Figure 4.8. Distribution of prefixes in the hearing based on what they point to

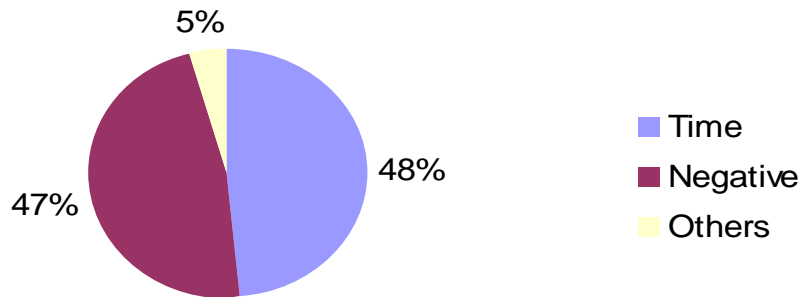


Figure 4.9. Distribution of prefixes in the hearing based on their meaning

Table 4.7. Prefixation in the public hearing

Word	Original Word	Prefix	Type	Meaning	Grammatical	Class
representing	presenting	re-	prefix of time	to do something anew	verb	public hearing related term
vice-chairman	chairman	vice-	other prefixes	in place of	noun	public hearing related term
relocation	locate	re-	prefix of time	to do something anew	verb	justice related terms
resettle	settle	re-	prefix of time	again/ to do something anew	verb	justice related terms
illegal	legal	il-	negative prefix	opposite of	adjective	injustice
disobey	obey	dis-	negative prefix	opposite of	verb	injustice related terms
indiscipline	obey	in-	negative prefix	opposite of	noun	injustice related terms

From table 4.8, we have an example of a prefix of time, re- in *relocation* which is a justice related word. These can be found in the example below:

Example 176

Ben: and finally if none is done, compensation...*relocation*/compensation.

In the excerpt above, the complainant is requesting for *relocation* for his group since their former shops had been demolished. Another example of a justice/injustice related word is *illegal*, which has a negative prefix. This can be found in the excerpt below:

Example 177

Instead of obeying the court orders, they decided to obey the *illegal* orders.

In this example, one of the Senators makes comments on the negative behaviour of the defendants as they disobeyed court orders.

A prefix that falls under other prefixes in the hearing is vice- in *vice-chairman*, which is a public hearing related word and this can be found in the excerpt below:

Example 178

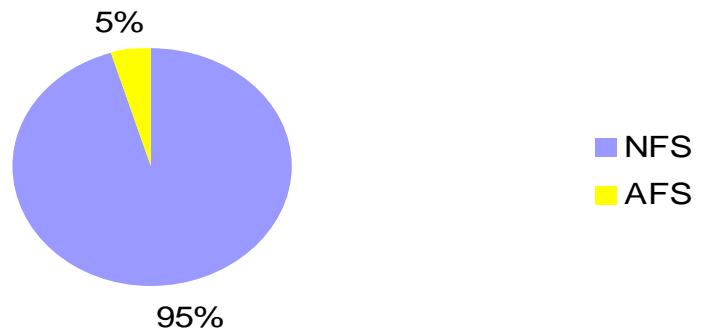
Sodangi: My *vice-chairman*, take over please.

In the excerpt below, the chairman of the hearing asks his *vice-chairman* to take over the proceedings. This is part of the procedures of the public hearing that the vice-chairman can act in place of the chairman in his absence.

4.2.1.4.1.2 Suffixation

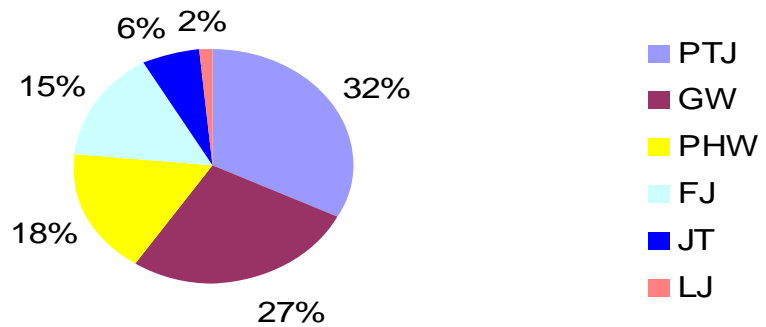
Most of the words formed through suffixation occur during Presentation and Interrogation. The suffixes used feature noun forming suffixes and adjective forming suffixes. The noun forming suffixes have the higher rate of occurrence with 95.3% while adjective-forming suffixes have 4.7% (Figure 4.10). Noun-forming suffixes have the higher rate of occurrence, as the matters discussed in the hearing focus on persons and events, rather than attributes. The words formed are property related terms, public hearing related terms, justice/legal related terms and financial terms. Suffixes in property related words have the highest rate of occurrence with 32.1%, suffixes in government related words also have a high occurrence with 26.5%, suffixes in public hearing related words have 17.5%, financial jargon has 15.3%, and justice related terms has 6.4% while legal terms has the least number of occurrences with 1.6% (Figure 4.11). Suffixes associated with property related words have the

highest rate of occurrence because these focus on the events that made the complainants come to the public hearing. Suffixes associated with governance related words also have a high occurrence as these focus on government officials and parastatals that are in charge of the events that affected the complainants. Suffixes associated with public hearing and financial related terms have low rates of occurrences because these words were not largely used originally in the hearing. Legal terms have the least rate of occurrence because most of the legal terms used are fixed terms. These are further discussed in the tables 4.8 – 4.12:



NFS= Noun-forming suffixes, AFS= Adjective-forming suffixes

Figure 4.10. A chart showing the distribution of suffixes based on their functions



PTJ=Property related terms/jargon, GW=governance related words, PHW=public hearing related words, FJ= Financial jargon, JT=justice related terms, LJ=Legal Jargon

Figure 4.11. Distribution of words formed through suffixation in the hearing based on their class

Property related terms are characterised by noun-forming suffixes and adjective forming suffixes. Some of these suffixes include *-ion* in words such as *demolition*, *ejection*, *allocation*, *revocation*; and *-ial* in *residential*, *official*, etc (Table 4.8). Public hearing related words are characterised by noun forming suffixes and these include *-ion* in *recommendation*, *-ant* in *complainant*, *-t* in *complaint*, etc (Table 4.9). Financial jargon are characterised by noun forming suffixes such as *-ing* in *concessioning*, *-aire* in *concessionaire*, *-ment* in *investment*, etc (Table 4.10). Justice related terms are also formed through noun forming suffixes and these include suffixes such as *-ion* in words such as *restoration*, *compensation*, *relocation*, etc (Table 4.11). Legal terms are formed through noun forming suffixes and these include suffixes such as *-or* in *solicitor*, *-ant* in *defendant*, and *-ment* in *judgement* (Table 4.12).

Table 4.8. A table showing some words derived through suffixation of property related terms in the public hearing

Word	Original word	Suffix	Meaning	Grammatical
Revocation	Revoke	-ion	act or process of	verb - noun
Allocation	Allocate	-ion	act or process of	verb - noun
Demolition	Demolish	-ion	act or process of	verb - noun
Approval	Approve	-al	act or process of	verb - noun
residential	reside	-tial	connected with	verb- adjective
tenancy	tenant	-ancy	the act of being	noun - noun

Table 4.9. A table showing some words derived through suffixation of public hearing related terms in the public hearing.

Word	Original word	Suffix	Meaning	Grammatical
recommendation	recommend	-ion	act or process of	verb - noun
complaint	complain	-t	act or process of	verb - noun
complainant	complain	-ant	person who makes	verb - noun
prayer	pray	-er	act of	verb - noun

Table 4.10. A table showing some words derived through suffixation of financial related terms in the public hearing.

Word	Original word	Suffix	Meaning	Grammatical
concessionaire	concession	-aire	person who performs the action	verb - noun
concessing	concession	-ing	act or process of	verb - noun
investment	invest	-ment	act or process of	verb - noun
monetisation	money	-isation	act or process of	noun - noun

Table 4.11. A table showing some words derived through suffixation of public hearing related terms in the public hearing.

Word	Original word	Suffix	Meaning	Grammatical
restoration	restore	-ion	act or process of	verb - noun
compensation	compensate	-ion	act or process of	verb - noun
relocation	relocate	-ion	act or process of	verb - noun

Table 4. 12. A table showing some words derived through suffixation of legal jargon in the public hearing

Word	Original word	Suffix	Meaning	Grammatical
solicitor	solicit	-or	person performing the action of	verb - noun
defendant	defend	-ant	person performing the action of	verb - noun
judgement	judge	-ment	act or process of	verb - noun

4.2.1.4.1.3 Derivational and Inflectional Affixes

There is a higher occurrence of words formed through derivational affixes than inflectional affixes in the hearing as derivational affixes account for 72.2% while inflectional affixes account for 27.7%. Derivational affixes have the higher rate of occurrence because there was a need to discuss acts and processes that related to the actions carried out by the government officials against the complainants. The derivational affixes used in the public hearing coincide with the suffixes analysed in the previous section. Thus, the same words and suffixes which are found under suffixation are found under derivational affixes. These are shown in table (Table 4.14)

In the table, words are derived through the addition of affixes such as *-cy* to *tenant* to form *tenancy* and *-ion* to *compensate*, to form *compensation*. Thus, this means that *tenancy* is the state of being a tenant while *compensation* is the act or process of compensating.

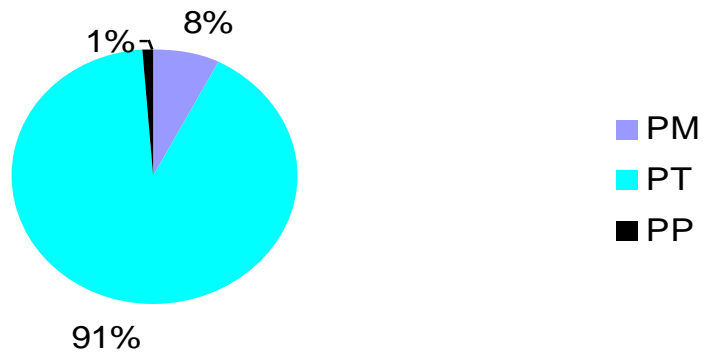
Table 4. 13. A table showing some words derived through derivational affixes in the public hearing

Word	Original word	Derivational Affix	Meaning	Grammatical Class	Class
tenancy	tenant	- cy	the act of being	noun – adjective	property related terms
complainant	complain	-ant	person performing the action of	verb - noun	public hearing related terms
compensation	compensate	-ion	action or process	verb-noun	Justice terms
solicitor	solicit	-or	person performing the action of	verb-noun	legal jargon
concessionaire	concession	-aire	person performing the action of	verb-noun	financial terms

Inflectional Affixes

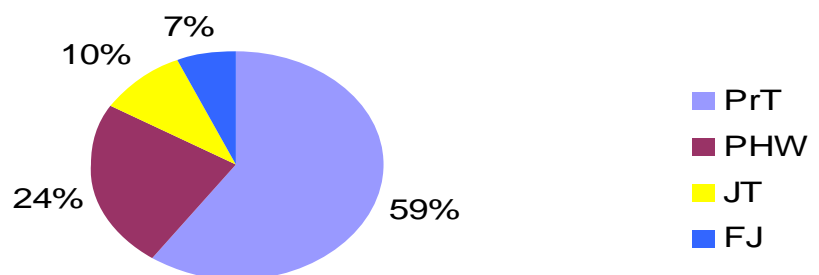
The inflectional affixes used in the hearing appear as past tense marker (-ed), plural marker (-s) and present participle marker (-ing). Past tense marker has the highest rate of occurrence with 91.4%; plural marker has 7.5% while present participle marker has 1% (Figure 4.12). The past tense marker has the highest rate of occurrence because the complainants/defendants were describing activities carried out in the past. The hearing is meant to probe activities regarding land and property demolition, revocation and allocation by the FCT administration. Thus, the activities are narrated in the past. The analysis also shows that these inflectional affixes are associated with property jargon (59.3%), public hearing related words (24.2%), justice related terms (9.8%), and financial jargon (6.6%). These are shown in figure 4.13. Affixes used in property jargon have the highest rate of occurrence because the complainants wanted to discuss the issues affecting their property, which were the main focus of the hearing. Inflectional affixes used within public hearing and justice related terms are relatively used as these centred on the procedure of the public hearing and what the complaints wanted respectively. Financial jargon related affixes have the least rate of occurrence because it is mainly the defendants that had financial issues to clear with the panel.

For example, in table 4.14, the past tense marker *-ed* has been added to allocate to have *allocated* which is a property related term and to restore to have *restored* which is a justice related term. The present participle marker *-ing* has been added to eject to have *ejecting* which is a property related term while the plural marker *-s* has been added to complainant to have *complainants* which is a public hearing related term.



PP=present participle, PT=past tense, PL=plural marker

Figure 4.12. A chart showing the distribution of inflectional affixes based on their functions



PrT= Property related Terms, PHW=Public Hearing related Words, JT=Justice related Terms, FJ=Financial Jargon

Figure 4.13: A pie chart showing the distribution of inflectional affixes associated with specific genres

Table 4. 14. A table showing some words derived through inflectional affixes in the public hearing

Word	Original Word	Affix	Meaning	Grammatical	Type
allocated	allocate	- ed	Past tense marker	noun – noun adjective	property related terms
demolished	demolish	-ed	past tense marker	noun - noun	property related terms
ejecting	eject	-ing	present progressive marker	verb-verb	property related terms
complainants	complainant	-s	plural marker	noun - noun	public hearing related terms
complained	complain	-ed	past tense maker	verb - verb	public hearing related terms
restored	restore	-ed	past tense maker	verb - verb	justice related term
relocated	relocate	-ed	past tense maker	verb - verb	justice related term
compensated	compensated	-ed	past tense maker	verb - verb	justice related term
concessioned	concession	-ed	past tense maker	verb - verb	financial jargon

4.2.1.4.2 Abbronymy

There are numerous cases of abbronyms in the hearing, which are mainly political jargon. These show the economy of words. The abbronyms found in the conversations are simple abbronyms, as their complete words can be easily recognised. They are used during Presentation and Interrogation. The abbronyms used include those referring to government parastatals which had the highest rate of occurrence of 79.9%, followed by those referring to government offices with an occurrence of 15.2%. Those referring to government-owned companies had an occurrence of 3.5% while those referring to medical jargon had the lowest rate of occurrence of 1.3% (Table 4.6). Those referring to government parastatals had the highest rate because most of the actions were carried out by government agents and some other government parastatals were also affected by cases of revocation and eviction. It was economical to use the abbronyms. Abbronyms of government offices were minimal as very few of these had abbronyms. Abbronyms of government-owned companies had a low rate of occurrence as very few of these companies featured in the matters discussed in the hearing. Those referring to medical jargon had the least rate of occurrence because it was only used in relation to the concession of Garki Hospital, which is a minute part of the cases heard in the hearing.

Government parastatals include *AMAC*, *FCTA*, *FCDA*, *AMAC*, *AGIS*, etc. Their full expressions are given below:

AMAC-Abuja Municipal Area Council

AGIS- Abuja Geographic Information System

FCT- Federal Capital Territory

FCTA-Federal Capital Territory Administration

FCDA-Federal Capital Development Authority

NEPA-National Electric Power Authority

NNRA-Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority

Excerpts from the hearing which show the use of the abbronyms are also given below:

Example 179

Sodangi: Is it a replacement of the garden or is there any monetary en
loss that you have incurred that you are asking *FCDA or FCTA*
as the case maybe to give you? What precisely are you asking?

In the excerpt above, the chairman is asking the complainant what he wants the government parastatals to do for him as a form of a prayer request. Another example is represented below:

Example 180

Sen.: We want an opportunity because the Chairman can go to *AGIS* ...

In this example, the Senator informs the defendant that it is possible for the chairman of the hearing committee to go to *AGIS* in order to verify some of the claims of the defendant.

Instances of government offices include *IG, CP, AIG, MD*, etc and their full expressions are given below:

IG: Inspector General

CP: Commissioner of Police

AIG: Assistant Inspector-General

MD: Managing Director

Excerpts from the hearing which contain these abbreviations are also given below:

Example 181

Danjuma: Our man that we used, who wrote a petition to the *IG*-when we phoned him- when the *IG* sent for him, the matter was referred to command

In the excerpt above, the complainant invokes the previous actions that his group carried out in order to reverse the illegal actions of the government agents. He points out that they wrote to the *IG* in order to seek protection. Another example is presented below:

Example 182

Section 215 too provides that the Nigerian Police Force shall be under the command of the...of the *IG* and any contingent of the NPF in the states are subject to the authority of the *IG* under the command of the *CP* of that state.

In the example above, the defendant uses the abbreviations of the different government offices. This ensures that there is economy of language use and effort.

Government-based companies include *AMML, AIPDC, ICC*, and their full expressions are given below:

AMML- Abuja Market Management Limited *AMML*.

AIPDC- Abuja Investment Property Development Company

ICC- International Conference Centre

Excerpts from the hearing are discussed below:

Example 183

On page on the second page of the council's deliberations, it said:
'approve the certificate of occupancy to the Garki modern market be granted to *Abuja Market Management Limited AMML*.

In the excerpt above, the defendant reads out an excerpt from a written document which is meant to back up his claims and stand as a basis for his past actions. He mentions the government-owned company that has the certificate of occupancy in full and the abbronym. The implication is that in subsequent sections, the abbronym will be used. This is to ensure that there is economy of language use and effort. Another example is presented below:

Example 184

Ibo Sen: That is for Eagle square?

Sani: That eh is for the International Conference Centre eh *ICC*, the management board. They have given the management to serve for 5 years.

In the example above, the defendant also states the name of the government-owned company that was concessioned and also states the abbronym so that in subsequent utterances, the abbronym can be used since all concerned would have known what the abbronym means.

Medical jargon that are formed through abbronymy include *MRI*, *O* and *G*, *IR*, etc. These were used during Interrogation and Interrogation Compliance. They can be seen in the excerpts discussed below:

Example 185

Ali: Sorry...I've never been to Niser...well Niser Primer is essentially, I think, an *O* and *G* hospital. I'm a man.

O and *G* is an abbronym for Obstetrics and Gynaecology which is a branch of medicine that handles the health of foetal growth, pregnant women and women in general. Here, the complainant states that the hospital owned by the concessionaire is an *O* and *G*. That is why he states that he is a man. Another example is presented below:

Example 186

Dr Wada: You can't buy *IR* of 250 million naira from day one without making sure that you are doing correct service to our community, to the FCT

IR is an abbronym for a medical equipment called *infra-red x-ray* which employs wavelengths longer than light but shorter than radio waves. This is used during Presentation. In the example above, the defendant gives the reason why they had not purchased the *IR* as it was expensive and he wants to be sure that its services must be needed before they can get it.

4.2.1.4.3 Compounding.

All the compounds used in the hearing are noun compounds. This may be as a result of the fact that these words relate to documents, persons and institutions, which are mentioned in the hearing. They occur as legal jargon, property jargon, political jargon, government related words, medical and financial jargon which are mainly used during Presentation, Interrogation, and Interrogation Compliance. Legal jargon had the highest rate of compounds with 33%; property related jargon accounted for 17.7% of the compounds used; political jargon compounds accounted for 17.3% of the compounds; governance related words accounted for 10.4%; financial jargon compounds accounted for 9.4%; medical jargon compounds accounted for 7.7%, while property related compounds had the least rate of occurrence with 4.5% of the compounds used (Table 4.6).

Legal jargon compounds had the highest rate of compounds because the hearing is a quasi-judicial one and most of the technical words used in the hearing come as compounds. Property jargon and political jargon compounds were also prominent as the hearing is concerned with landed property, some of which were owned by the government, and which were handled by political office holders and government functionaries. Governance related words, financial jargon and medical jargon compounds had low rates of occurrence as some of the words which fall under these groups appeared as simple words. Property related compounds had the least rate of occurrence as these also appeared as simple words. These are presented in table 4.15 and discussed below:

Table 4.15. A table showing compounds used in the hearing

Word	Individual classes	Resultant Compound	Genre
Court order	noun + noun	noun	Legal jargon
Restraining order	adjective + noun	noun	Legal jargon
Title regularisation	noun + noun	noun	Property jargon
Legal licensee	adjective + noun	noun	Property jargon
Senate President	noun + noun	noun	Political jargon
House of Assembly	noun + preposition+ noun	noun	Political jargon
Statutory agency	adjective + noun	noun	Governance-related terms
Federal government agency	adjective + noun + noun	noun	Governance-related terms
Joint venture	adjective + noun	noun	Financial jargon
Annual financial report	adjective + adjective + noun	noun	Financial jargon
Obstetrics and Gynaecology	noun + conjunction + noun	noun	Medical jargon
Tuberculosis trial	noun + noun	noun	Medical jargon
Approval plan	noun + noun	noun	Property-related terms
Official accommodation	adjective + noun	noun	Property-related terms

In table 4.15, we have legal jargon compounds such as *court order* and *restraining order*. While *court order* is formed from two nouns to form a noun, *restraining order* is made up of an adjective and a noun to form a noun. We have property jargon compounds such as *title regularisation* and *legal licensee* which are made up of two nouns, and an adjective and a noun respectively.

In the table, political compound such as *Senate President* is made up of two nouns while *House of Assembly* is made up of a preposition and nouns. All these combine to form nouns. Also, a governance-related term such as *statutory agency* is a noun which is formed by the combination of an adjective and a noun while *federal government agency* is formed from two nouns and an adjective.

In the table, *joint venture* is formed from a combination of an adjective and a noun, *statement of account* is formed from the combination of two nouns and a preposition. Also, medical jargon compounds are formed through a combination of nouns and conjunction (Obstetrics and Gynaecology), two nouns (tuberculosis trial), an adjective and a noun (private hospital) and two adjectives and a noun (primary health care). Property related words such as, *allocation paper* is formed from two nouns while *landed property* is formed from a combination of an adjective and a noun to form a noun.

4.2.1.4.4 Clipping

Clipping is rarely used in the FCT public hearing. This might be because the hearing is a formal interaction. The clips used include those derived from medical jargon and political jargon. The only example of a clip which is a political jargon is *House of Rep.*

Example 187

Sodangi: House of Rep or House of assembly? Which house of Assembly?

Ojo: Ok House of rep

House of Rep in full means *House of Representatives*. It is an example of a back-clip. In the example above, the Senator wants to know which of the legislative houses the complainant reported the case at hand to. This is necessary so that the hearing panel will make recommendations based on the truth. This was used during Interrogation and Interrogation Compliance.

Examples of medical jargon formed through clipping include *cardiogram* and *X-ray*. These can be seen in the example below:

Example 188

Some of the equipment we listed there: *cardiogram*, *x-ray*, ultrasound scanner are all in good quality and so on unto the grounds of Garki Hospital and they add value.

Cardiogram in full is *electrocardiogram* which is a medical device which carries out a graphical recording of the cardiac cycle produced by an electrocardiograph. It is also called ECG or EKG. It is an example of a fore-clip. *X-ray* in full also means X-radiation which is an example of a back-clip.

Scan in the words CT *scan* and CAT *scan* are also formed through clipping from the word *scanner*, which is an example of a back-clip.

4.2.2 Functional sentence types

The functional sentence types found in the FCT hearing are interrogatives, imperatives and declaratives. Declaratives had the highest rate of occurrence with 77.2%; interrogatives had 16% while imperatives had the lowest rate of occurrence with 6.9% (Table 4.16). Declaratives had the highest rate of occurrence because the hearing centred on the presentation of perspectives by complainants and defendants. These persons also had to answer the questions posed at them. Interrogatives had a low rate of occurrence because it was mainly the hearing panel members that asked questions during Interrogation (questions from C/D came up thrice in the entire hearing sessions observed). Imperatives had the least rate of occurrence because it was mainly the chairman of the hearing panel (commands from members of the hearing panel came up twice) that commanded the C/D or the secretary of the panel to carry out a particular action. These are discussed in turns:

Table 4.16: A summary of the sentence functions used in the public hearing

Sentence Types				N0	Rate
Declaratives				3976	77.2%
Interrogatives	Types	N0	Rate	825	16.0%
	Declarative questions	449	54.4%		
	Wh- questions	195	23.6%		
	Polar questions	170	20.6%		
	Alternative Questions	11	1.3%		
	Total	825	99.9%		
Imperatives				350	6.9%
Total				5151	100.1%

4.2.2.1 Declarative Sentences

There were copious examples of declarative sentences in the hearing sessions. These are used during Affirmation, Presentation, Interrogation, Interrogation Compliance, Prayer, Admission and Finis. These are discussed in turns:

Example 189

An example of a declarative during Affirmation is given below:

I, Idris Usman, do solemnly swear that the evidence that I shall give before this honourable committee shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. So help me God.

In the example above, the defendant makes a declaration that he would speak the truth in the hearing. This took place during Affirmation.

Declaratives are also used during Presentation when C/D presents his/her complaints or defends his/her actions as a government official. Examples are given below:

Example 190

We wrote to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, asking ...our...the letter was the letter was. We appealed to the referred proposed demolition exercise on the above permanent site.

In the excerpt above, the complainant informs the hearing panel of the actions they undertook in order to ensure that the government officials did not demolish their property.

Declaratives are also used during Interrogation when members of the hearing panel tell the presenters why they are asking certain questions and when they pass their comments on the actions taken by the presenters. These are exemplified below:

Example 191

Vice: Question yes em em...*I have two questions...* The first one is em how did you arrive at Niser being the preferred bidder? *I want you to explain the process. It's the first question to know to enable us...to know the propriety of actions at that material time between, you know Niser and Abuja clinic.*

In the example above, the vice-chairman informs the defendant the number of questions he wants to ask. He also informs him of the reasons why he is asking his question. Another example is presented below:

Example 192

Vice: *Now we have virtually finished with you and I also want to commend you for your effort in following up your matter, particularly, with the massive evidence that you have gathered on eh documentary capacity as all is contained in your submission.*

In the example above, the vice-chairman commends the complainant for his efforts in ensuring that he did not lose the property of his group and for getting all the written documents as evidence of the illegality of the government officials.

Declaratives are also used during Interrogation Compliance when C/D answers questions posed by members of the hearing panel. Examples are given below:

Example 193

Osakwe: *Yes, these Moluyi people now are homeless or are squatters.*

Sodangi: Their houses were demolished?

Osakwe: *Their houses were demolished... Their houses were demolished.*

Sodangi: and they are squatting somewhere?

Osakwe: *They should be squatting. Some may have died.*

Sen.: When when did this happen?

Osakwe: *This incidence took place in 2005, December 2005*

Sen. You can take the committee there?

Osakwe: *Yes we are ready.*

All the italicised sentences are declaratives made by a complainant as answers to the questions posed by the members of the hearing panel.

Declaratives are also used during Prayer when the complainants make their requests. Examples are given below:

Example 194

Ben: *Our prayer is restoration because I believe...I believe we can partner with government and rebuild that place. That's the first... the first. The second one is relocation. I believe, if they give us a pattern to build and they want us to go to somewhere, they would have told us where to go.*

In the example above, the complainant states his prayer before the hearing panel which is based on restoration and relocation. All the sentences in the prayer are declaratives.

Declaratives are also used during Admission when the chairman of the hearing panel admits the exhibits of the C/D. This can be seen in the example below:

Example 195

Sodangi: Yes documents for Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority as presented by Barrister Haji Abdullahi, legal adviser, with the ...all the pictures and the rest of them are hereby admitted as exhibit 38.

In the example above, the chairman of the hearing panel admits the documents and pictures of the complainant as exhibits. This is a declarative.

Declaratives are also used during Finis when the chairman makes last minute comments. This can be seen in the example below:

Example 196

Sodangi: I think at this point we have to call it a day. We want to thank my colleagues who have spared their weekends, spared their everything, [sic]

In the example above, the chairman of the panel closes the hearing for the day and thanks his colleagues and other people in the hearing room for appearing at the hearing.

4.2.2.2 Interrogative Sentences

Interrogative sentences, which are questions, are found during Presentation, Interrogation, Interrogation Compliance, Prayer Demand and Finis. They control the flow of discourse. Interrogatives are mainly used during Interrogation when members of the hearing panel ask C/D questions. It is mainly the members of the hearing panel that ask questions. It is only on few occasions that the defendants ask members of the hearing panel questions and these are usually met with reluctance on the side of the hearing panel members. This shows the power wielded by members of the hearing panel. They determine what the C/D says by asking certain questions.

The questions in the hearing sessions are of four types: WH-type, polar, alternative and declarative questions. Declarative questions had the highest rate of occurrence with 54.4%, WH- questions accounted for 23.6% of the sentence types used; polar questions accounted for 20.6% while alternative questions had the least

rate of occurrence with 1.3% (Table 4.16). These were used all at the four stages which were mentioned above. Declarative questions had the highest rate of occurrence because the hearing panel members wanted to ascertain or confirm some of the statements made by the presenters. WH-questions were relatively used in order to get further information from the presenters. Polar and alternative questions had low rates of occurrence as most of the information needed by the hearing panel was contained in the submissions. Examples under section 4.1.5 indicate interrogative sentences used during Interrogation. Interrogative sentences used during other stages of the interaction are discussed below:

Example 197

Sodangi: This Gida Mangoro...*where is it specifically?*

The WH-question, 'where is it specifically?' was asked at the beginning of a complainant's presentation. Here, the chairman of the panel inquires about the location of the people he is representing. This is meant for clarification. Another example is stated:

Example 198

Vice: *Is that an association?*

Fitman: yes that's an association.

The question in the excerpt above was asked at the beginning of a complainant's presentation. Here, the vice-chairman inquires about the status of the group he is representing. This question is controlling as it determines the answer the complainant will give. This answer will either be in agreement or disagreement with the proposition contained in the question. Thus, it limits the answer of the complainant. Another example is presented:

Example 199

Ehindero: Am I supposed to know about seventy-six court orders?

The polar question in the example above was made during Interrogation Compliance. It is a rare occurrence for a presenter to ask the hearing panel questions and this is done by defendants who usually want to defend their actions in the different cases of demolition, revocation, etc. In the excerpt above, the defendant is asking this question because he does not believe that it is possible for him to know about all the court orders that have been served. This is a rhetorical question used as a defence mechanism, to show that it is actually not possible for him to know about all the court orders that were served on the police in the FCT. Another example is stated:

Example 200

What is your prayer, Barrister Osakwe?

The WH-question in the example above was asked during Prayer Demand, where the chairman asked the complainant to state his prayer. Another example is stated:

Example 201

Sani: May I go?

In this example, the defendant asks the chairman of the panel if he could leave the hearing. This polar question was asked during Finis. Other examples are shown below:

Example 202

Vice: *You say are paying through your nose for the guards?*

Mamodu: Yes sir...

Vice: go and send them home. *You have put a caveat?*

Mamodu: Yes sir

In the excerpt above, the declarative questions were found during Finis, which is after the admission of written documents. The two questions are meant to ascertain the statements made by the complainant. The answers to the questions are in the affirmative. Thus, the choice of the answers of the complainant is limited and controlled.

4.2.2.3 Imperative sentences

Imperative sentences in the conversations were made by members of the hearing panel during Affirmation Order, Invitation of Perspectives, Interrogation, Interrogation Compliance, Admission and Finis. It was only on one occasion that a defendant gave an order. An example is presented given below:

Example 203

Sodangi: Affirm him

In the example above, the chairman orders the secretary to affirm C/D. This occurs during AO. He also orders C/D to state his name and make his presentations during the Invitation of Perspectives. This occurred during AO. This can be seen in the example below:

Example 204

Sodangi: Yes Barrister, tell us your particulars and state your complaints

In the example above, the chairman of the hearing panel asks the complainant to state his complaints. Another example is presented below:

Example 205

Please, go to your annual financial report.

The example above was made during Interrogation. In this example, one of the Senators orders the complainant to open a particular document so that the matters stated in that document may be discussed and checked for inconsistencies. Another example is given below:

Example 206

Sodangi: You have the list here...?

Ehindero: *Check in the office.* Of course we have so many of them

The imperative in the excerpt above was made during Interrogation Compliance. This is not a usual occurrence in the interaction since C/D has a lower status in the interaction. Such commands are made by defendants who sometimes may be top government functionaries and who do that under the pressure of questioning. In the excerpt, the defendant responds to the question of the chairman by asking him to get his answers from the office. This may be because he has retired from his government job. Another example is given below:

Example 207

Give us your submission.

The imperative made in the excerpt above was made during Admission when the chairman of the panel requested for the submissions of the presenters. In this example, the chairman orders the presenter to give him his written documents so that these can be admitted as exhibits. Another example is shown below:

Example 208

Vice: You say are paying through your nose for the guards?

Mamodu: Yes sir...

Vice: *go and send them home.*

The imperative in the excerpt above was made during Finis after the admission of the submission of the complainant. The vice-chairman, as an afterthought, gives the complainant a directive.

CHAPTER FIVE
CONTEXTUAL FEATURES AND PRAGMATIC FUNCTIONS IN THE
PUBLIC HEARING

5.0 Introduction

This chapter discusses the contextual beliefs and pragmatic functions in the quasi-judicial public hearing on FCT administration. Each of these is taken in turns.

5.1 Contextual beliefs

The shared contextual beliefs in the public hearing are based on shared knowledge of the public hearing aims and procedure, shared knowledge of legal codes regarding landed property, shared knowledge of government involvement and shared knowledge of Abuja metropolis. These are explained below:

5.1.1 Shared contextual beliefs based on the shared knowledge of the aims and procedure of the public hearing

Interactants in the public hearing act on shared contextual beliefs which are based on the shared knowledge of the aims and procedures of the public hearing. One of the aims of the public hearing (the hearing panel) is to listen to the complaints of the interactants. These complaints had already been written as memoranda and submitted to the hearing panel. Thus, the hearing panel has some background knowledge of the subjects and topics to be heard. These subjects/topics in the public hearing centre on cases of complaints of sale of Federal Government houses, concession of Federal Government property, demolition of property, revocation of lands and landed property and ejection of tenants from shops/houses. Another aim of the public hearing panel is to investigate these cases of ejection, revocation, etc. Thus, the panel invites defendants who are mainly FCT officials to answer some questions based on the presentations of the complainants. Thus, the hearing panel already has some background knowledge of the subjects to be addressed by the defendants.

The complainants are the ones that had been evicted from their houses; had their houses demolished and the titles of their lands revoked. Before the hearing, some of these complainants had complained of these injustices and written to different government officials. Some of the people also affected by the demolition and eviction exercises included top government functionaries. These were part of the reasons why the public hearing was inaugurated so that such cases could be thoroughly investigated. Moreover, the defendants were the ones who carried out the demolition and eviction exercises. Thus, they had some background knowledge of the

cases. Also, the plan to concede and sell government property had already been announced in media houses. This shared knowledge is invoked during Invitation of Perspectives, Presentation, and Prayer. Cases of shared knowledge of the subjects/topics which are based on the knowledge of the aims of the public hearing usually feature when the defendants are the ones speaking. An example of such cases can be seen in the extract:

Example 209

Sodangi: Eh Last week, when family of Bashir Sambo were testifying.

They mentioned the fact that you were so kind to *the Late Bashir Sambo* when he applied to you eh to provide him with police protection so that his house will not be ejected ... It is in respect of this and many other eh *petitions received that police involvement were mentioned*. That is why as true Nigerians, we want you to come and shed light on these and that is why we have called you and if you wouldn't mind, you can give us your own view please[sic].

Ehindero: I received this letter on the 10th of this month in which this committee invited me to personally attend this hearing today at 11a.m. In particular, I am expected as a retired IG to provide this committee with a brief on matters bordering on ejections of residents from their residents, particularly the scenario of *the ejection of the Late Honourable Justice Bashir Sambo and disobedience or failure to implement/ enforce court orders during my tenure*.

In the example above, there is shared knowledge of the subject to be addressed, which centers on the ejection of Justice Sambo from his residence. Since it is the aim of the HP members to listen to complaints and investigate the different cases of eviction, revocation, demolition, etc, the HP members already have the background knowledge of some of the things the defendant is about to discuss. Thus, the hearing panel chairman informs the defendant that they are already aware of the issue since a family member had already reported the matter to the panel (see example 221). Thus, there is economy of language use and effort as members of the hearing panel do not say all they know about the case. The reference to the ejection of Justice Bashir Sambo by

both the defendant and the hearing panel shows that they have shared knowledge of the subject matter. This occurs during IP and P. Another example is cited below:

Example 210

Thank you very much Mr. Michael Oko. You are welcome to this eh sitting. Eh along with you, see we have asked these gentlemen to come and verify certain issues which... arose when we called *Aso eh Jidans* to give evidence in respect of their petition and common reason expects us to call you to shed more light especially what we have seen in *the* documents...

Here, the chairman of the hearing panel informs the defendant the subject matter to be addressed and the knowledge of this subject matter is shared by the HP members and the defendant since the defendant was the one who was involved in the case. Also, the use of the definite article 'the' in 'the documents' points to the fact that the HP members already have the documents and have read them. The defendant states below:

Example 211

The third issue which was *the revocation title of Aso Jidans Investment Company Limited* was arbitrary and is wrong and is invalid and it is not true. *The revocation of the title of Aso Jidans* started in 19 in the year 2000

The statement above shows that the defendant has knowledge of the subject matter and this is revealed in the reference to the topic for discussion- *the revocation of the title of Aso Jidans*. Thus, the defendant does not ask questions about who or what Aso Jidans is. Thus, there is economy of language use and effort in the interaction. Another example can be seen:

Example 212

Shodangi: Dr I'm sorry to object. Em you the...*the FCDA eh minister came here and told us why they concessioned that hospital.* Beyond that, you are a successful leader. We are not doubting [sic] that. We are not putting that into question. Tell us how you calculated *it*, how much was received, what you have *there?* That is what we are here for.

In the example above, the chairman of the hearing panel informs the defendant that they already have background knowledge of the case at hand as a defendant had

already discussed this particular case with the HP. Thus, the defendant is just expected to answer the questions that were earlier sent to him. The use of the demonstrative *that* shows that the hearing panel is referring to an aforementioned hospital, which is the Garki hospital. Thus, it serves as an anaphoric reference. The use of *there* also shows anaphoric reference since it refers to the account of the hospital, which had already been mentioned in the letter given to the defendant. All these are used to ensure that there is economy of language use and effort. The fact that the interactants are acting on shared beliefs can be seen in the response of the defendant below:

Example 213

Wada: Thank you very much Mr Chairman. Again I'm grateful for this guidance. Was the process following the choosing us as concessionaire for *Garki* fair and did it follow due process? That is the FCTA part of it. We complied with all the requirements. We paid all the *sum* that we were supposed to pay...

In this example, the defendant makes reference to *Garki* which refers to the Garki hospital. The fact that he does not state that it is *Garki hospital* shows that he is acting on the assumption that the hearing panel understands what the referent of *Garki* is. The reference to *the sum* is also anaphoric showing that the interactants have earlier talked about the issue of money. This occurred in AO. In another example below, the vice-chairman shows that he has background knowledge of the complaint to be heard.

Example 214

Sodangi: Quickly please, briefly please anyone who is coming should see ...Is Bullet Engineering...We understand that that the MD is here. Bullet engineering please Can you please (to secretary)

V.C.: *this is the worst case... the worst of it all...the worst of it all.*

In the example above, the vice-chairman comments that the case to be heard is the worst case of all. This shows that he and other members of the hearing panel have read the memoranda and have background knowledge of the complaint. This is evident in the use of the demonstrative *this*... Another example is presented:

Example 215

So okay *you may recall* that this property was created in November 1982 by the then Minister Major General Nasko who constituted a

committee for the... for the relocation of Garki village artisans, traders from the Apo [Apo] village.

In the example above, the complainant expresses the fact that the hearing panel members have shared background knowledge of the creation of the property of which he is about to present a case on. Thus, there is shared knowledge of the subject matter. *You may recall* implies that the hearers, that is, the hearing panel members have background knowledge of the information the complainant is about to give. It is expected that the hearing panel members as political office holders in the country will be aware of past events in the Federal Capital Territory. This excerpt occurred during Presentation.

Part of the procedure of the public hearing which interactants share knowledge of is that submissions should be made and admitted by the chairman of the hearing panel. There is no one who comes to the hearing without a submission. This is reflected in the example:

Example 216

Eh we want to *tender* at least *two copies* of *such* allocation papers as evidence that inside it...it was done on behalf of the government. Sir, the layout of the area was done. We all know that no individual can do layout except government... Again we seek to *tender* the layout.

In the example above, right from the beginning of his presentation, the complainant states that he has documents to be submitted to the hearing panel and he knows that such submissions will be admitted as exhibits. Since there is shared knowledge of this procedure, the hearing panel do not reject such submissions. For example, the words *tender* is a synonym for *submit*. In this context, it is a performative verb which simultaneously verbalises and acts in accordance with the prescribed behaviour. "Two copies..." shows awareness and indicates exophoric reference. It is expected that complainants/defendants should submit copies of documents as evidence to the hearing panel. The adjective, *such*... assumes a common ground of the awareness of the procedure. Hence, the chairman of the hearing panel does not ask him why he is submitting the papers which can be seen in the chairman's question after the speech of the complainant. The response of the senator indicates shared knowledge of the words.

Example 217

Sodangi: When you say government, Municipal or FCDA?

The question above indicates that there is no problem relating to the submission of allocation papers, rather, the chairman of the hearing is interested in knowing which of the government parastatals was involved in the allocation. Another example is presented:

Example 218

I am presenting this case on behalf of eh my clients whom I have listed in the memo that *I submitted*... a memo which contains the allocation papers and the agreement that they have entered into with the authorities of the FCDA... The only records they have is that of the original allottees and the payments they have been making over the years in respect of those shops...which I also made as part of my eh... the documents *are submitted*

In the example above, during Presentation, the complainant talks of the submissions that he has already made which shows that he has shared knowledge of the procedures of the public hearing. He knows that the hearing panel would need these submissions in order to make a thorough assessment of his case and make recommendations based on this to the Senate. The hearing panel did not interrupt the complainant at this point but the panel allowed him to give his full presentation. It is towards the end of the presentation that the chairman of the panel questions the complainant:

Example 219

Sodangi: Barrister

Abalaka: Yes sir

Sodangi: *You said you have that order? We have heard your case.*

The question, ‘You said you have that order?’ implies that the chairman expects the complainant to have submitted copies of his documents as evidence. This shows that there is shared knowledge between the panel and the complainant.

Another procedure that the interactants share background knowledge of is that prayers must be made by complainants. The complainants as well as the members of the hearing panel are aware of this. This is reflected in the example:

Example 220

So our prayers have been: please relocate these allottees, who have spent all their life savings and even borrowed money to raise – erect these structures to another simple place... compensate them or

whatever. Let them have a shed over their head because we are all Nigerians and we have all been invited to develop FCT.

In the example above, the complainant, immediately after his presentation, says his prayer. This prayer is not rejected because the hearing panel knows that he is expected to make his prayers. He does this without been asked to do so. In some other cases, it is the chairman of the hearing panel that will ask that the complainants should state their prayers. In this example, the complainant is asking for compensation for the property demolished. The response of the chairman of the hearing panel is presented below:

Example 221

Sodangi: Thank you. Give us your submission.

The response of the chairman indicates that it is not out of place for the complainant to state his prayers. Thus, the chairman thanks him and asks for his submission. Another example is cited:

Example 222

Ben: Our prayer is *restoration* because I believe...I believe we can partner with government and rebuild that place. That's the first... the first. The second one is *relocation*. I believe, if they give us a pattern to build and they want us to go to somewhere, they would have told us where to go.

In the example above, the complainant is asking for restoration. Without being asked to say his prayers, he goes ahead to state them. He makes this request based on the shared knowledge that in the hearing, he is expected to say his prayers, which the hearing panel will take to the Senate as recommendation, if his case is found valid. The response of the chairman is presented below:

Example 223

Sodangi: If...if you are *relocated* somewhere, you will also agree with that?

The chairman requires for further information based on the prayer request made by the complainant. This shows that it is acceptable for the complainant to state his prayers and this shows that there is shared knowledge of this procedure by the interactants.

5.1.2 Shared contextual beliefs based on the law regarding landed property and other related legal matters

The interactants in the public hearing act on shared contextual beliefs which are based on the knowledge of the law regarding landed property. One of the legal codes regarding landed property is the Land Use Act of 1978. This is reflected in the speech of the complainant:

Example 224

What we are saying is that we are Federal Government agency, statutory agency for that matter and *we all know* the meaning and purpose of *section 28, subsection 5A and B* which is purportedly quoted as the reason for the revocation.

In the example above, the complainant cites the section of the Land Use Act as a reason why the title of their land should not be revoked. As a statutory agency, this land should not have been revoked because of non-development as it was the government itself that had not released the funds for the development of the land. At the same time, the agency is meant for public interest which is covered by the Act and should not be given to private concerns. In this example, he does not give the details of what subsections 5A and 5B are all about. The phrase ‘we all know’ implies that both the complainant and the hearing panel have a shared background knowledge of the Land Use Act. In fact, it is the basis on which the complainant can make reports to the hearing panel and at the same time it is the same Act which the defendants cite as a reason for the revocations that have taken place. This excerpt was taken from the presentation of a complainant. The response of the vice-chairman is presented below:

Example 225

Vice: Who are the people occupying the land?

The response of the vice-chairman shows that he has full understanding of the Land Use Act and does not ask for the meaning of the act. Another example is presented:

Example 226

Yakubu: ... then you can take the plots and use it for the public purposes that is required in the *Land Use Act* and then in that case, you compensate adequately and appropriately...

Sodangi: Em Prof...Prof, we want to know where this your [sic] plot is situated. Is it in... where? I don't know.

The complainant, in the example above, makes reference to the *Land Use Act* in order to show that the actions of the government official are illegal. Again, the reference is used exophorically. He does not make reference to the year of the Land Use Act or the specific sections in the act that talk about compensation. This shows that he is acting on the assumption that the hearing panel members know the Land Use Act he is referring to and that they know that the issue of compensation is stated in the act. Thus, the chairman of the panel does not ask him to expatiate on the Land Use Act rather he asks him about the location of the house in question. Another example is presented:

Example 227

Ademola: In the *Land Use Act*, there is no provision for partial revocation and since by their own document, it was stated there that there was no violation of any of the rules of the building codes.

Sodangi: Quickly, this is for em quarters or...

Ademola: It is for the purpose in which it is stated here. It's for [sic] hospital complex.

In this particular example, the complainant also makes an exophoric reference to the *Land Use Act* without indicating the year of the act or the sub-section that talks about revocation. The response of the chairman of the panel does not focus on the requirements of the Land Use Act; rather it focuses on the purpose of the building. This shows that there is shared knowledge of the requirements of the Land Use Act.

Another law regarding landed property is the Urban and Regional Planning Act (URPA). This act covers the demolitions that take place and steps that must be taken before the demolitions take place. This is reflected in the speech of the complainant below:

Example 228

Man: Also, it must be noted that the Minister did not follow due process in carrying out the demolition exercise in the first instance. The people were not given fair hearing before the demolition as provided for by the *Nigerian Urban and Regional Planning Act*. No tribunal was in fact put in place by the Minister to give them fair hearing.

Sodangi: Okay, give us the submission

In this example, the complainant points out that the defendant did not follow due process as outlined in the URPA. The reference to the URPA shows the assumption that there is shared knowledge of the requirements of this Act. Thus, it was illegal for him to demolish their landed property. The complainant knows that he shares this knowledge of the URPA with the hearing panel and thus, his complaint is valid. Also, the chairman does not refute the allegations raised by the complainant because these allegations are based on the requirements of the URPA.

Another example is given:

Example 229

Yakubu: Em what is important about this is the provision of *Urban and Regional Planning Act* which says that before any authority em tries to demolish a building, it must give you notice to that effect. None of us received any eh eh notice from anybody...

Sodangi: Em Prof...Prof, we want to know where this your plot is situated. Is it in... where? I don't know.

In the example above, the complainant also refers to the requirements of the Urban and Regional Planning Act exophorically. The response of the chairman of the panel indicates that he understands and has background knowledge of the act. Thus, he questions the complainant on other issues. Another example is presented:

Example 230

Ben: Our prayer is *restoration* because I believe...I believe we can partner with government and rebuild that place. That's the first... the first. The second one is *relocation*. I believe, if they give us a pattern to build and they want us to go to somewhere, they would have told us where to go.

Sodangi: If...if you are *relocated* somewhere, you will also agree with that?

In the example above, the complainant prays for restoration and relocation. This prayer is based on the principles of the Urban and Regional Planning Act and it is made based on the fact that both the speaker and the hearers have background knowledge of what the Urban and Regional Planning Act is all about. Without this background knowledge, the hearing panel will see no basis to make recommendations based on this prayer. The chairman responds by asking him if he would be interested in relocation rather than restoration. This implies that he does indeed know that these

are the requirements of the URPA. This legal code is also linked with the International law of resettlement which is also cited below:

Example 231

Osakwe: ...according to the *International eh Law of Resettlement*; if you want...want to develop a place, *what do you do?* You go and build a place and resettle people. But this is not done.

In the example above, Osakwe cites the International law regarding resettlement and compensation in order to show the illegal deeds of the Sakaruyi and the government agencies who are supposed to uphold the laws of the state. This is a law that is well known to the interactants in the discourse as the public hearing is based on land and property matters in the FCT. He points out that the people in question need to be properly compensated and reallocated. The inference here is that the government did not follow the law and thus, the people should be treated fairly by being properly compensated and reallocated. The question, *what do you do?* presupposes that the hearing panel members should know what to do based on the requirements of the International Law of Resettlement. This excerpt was taken from the complainant's presentation.

The shared contextual beliefs of complainants/defendants and the hearing panel rest on the shared knowledge of another legal code: the Nigerian constitution. An example is stated:

Example 232

Yakubu: Eh section 43 of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria sir says that or permits every citizen to own property and that is immovable property in particular. Then section 44 says that for no reason that it can be acquired or you will be dispossessed without em adequate compensation and also paid promptly and given your right to go to court to challenge this.

In the example above, the complainant also cites the portion of the Nigerian constitution that relates to land and landed property. The interactants are all aware of this section of the constitution as the public hearing is based on this. This is why he cites this section without any questions of clarifications from the hearing panel. Another example is presented below:

Example 233

Ehindero: The minister of FCT by law need not refer matters of ejection to the...to the IGP. He relates with the commissioner of police and gives him direction. The CP has to comply or request that the matter be reported to the president. That is the import of section 215 of *our* 1999 constitution. The IGP is not to be involved.

Sodangi: Thank you very much eh former IG. I think my colleagues will like to ask you one or two questions, yes Sen. Anthony.

In this example, the defendant claims ignorance of the evictions based on the provisions in the constitution. This example also featured during Presentation. In the extract, Ehindero cites the 1999 constitution to justify the reason why he does not have any knowledge regarding the ejection of Late Justice Sambo. The use of the pronoun 'our...' indicates that the speaker assumes that the constitution is known by the hearers. By citing the Nigerian constitution, he appeals to authority and adds credibility to his defence. Thus, the chairman or any of the panel members do not question the defendant on this statement regarding the Nigerian constitution.

Another shared contextual belief is that which is based on the general laws of the land. This can be seen in the example below:

Example 234

Osakwe: and when the Baba, that is eh Mr Dogas Olakpo, when he decided to write a petition to the honourable Chairman of Public Complaints commission and the Honourable Attorney General of the Federation. He now started sending people to take Baba to an unknown destination to go and meet unidentified persons. Shortly before then, a young man who is a village head has been murdered for this same cause [sic].

In this example, Osakwe points out the negative deeds that have been done in relation to the land. He emphasises the negative deeds of the other (Baba). His belief rests on the shared background knowledge that people have about the laws relating to murder. By citing names and authorities, he gives credibility to his presentation.

Interactants also act based on shared knowledge of legal terminologies used in the interaction. These include words such as *caveat emptor*, *plaintiff*, *respondent*, *defendant*, *ultra vires*, etc. In the example below, the complainant points out that he

placed a *caveat emptor* in the newspaper. The hearing panel did not stop him to inquire the meaning of this term which means ‘let the buyer beware’.

Example 235

Mamodu: We placed *caveat emptor*.

To show that there is mutual knowledge of this word, the hearing panel goes ahead to tell him to put another one in the newspaper and to talk of the implication for the buyer of the land. This is seen in the excerpt below:

Example 236

Vice: You have put a *caveat*?

Mamodu: Yes sir

Vice: You put a big signpost there. Make sure that you put another *caveat* in the newspaper. Anybody that will like to help you develop the place, when you go to court, you will take the property [sic].

Mamodu: Yes sir

Vice: That is what the law says. Ok?

Mamodu: Thank you very much

Vice: If somebody builds on your land, that property belongs to you.

This extract shows that the vice-chairman knows the meaning and the importance of a *caveat emptor* and that is why he asks the complainant to place another one in the papers in order to ensure that no one else goes close to the land. Other examples of legal terms used in the hearing can be seen below:

Example 237

Michael: An interim injunction restraining the *defendants/respondents* whether by themselves or assigned agents or whosoever purported to act on their behalf from doing anything inimical to the right of the *plaintiff/applicant* and/or purporting to act to act on behalf of the *plaintiff/applicant* pending the determination of the motion of notice filed in this matter.

In this example, the defendant is made to read a court order issued on behalf of a complainant in order to show that the defendant had flouted a court order by demolishing the property of the complainant. In this particular session, there is no explanation of what *plaintiff*, *applicant*, *respondents* mean as there is shared knowledge of their meaning. The response of the panel member is presented below:

Example 238

Sen.: and that second paragraph saying doing or rather restraining you from doing anything inimical to the rights of the *plaintiff/applicant* and I want you to tell me, taking over the market, is it inimical to the rights of the *plaintiff/applicant*?
Yes or no?

The use of the legal terms *plaintiff/applicant* by the HP and the defendant shows that they both understand the meaning and referent of the words.

5.1.3 Shared Contextual Beliefs based on shared knowledge of government involvement

There are shared contextual beliefs which are based on shared knowledge of government involvement in the different cases of demolitions, revocations, evictions, and sale of government property. One important government personnel that is involved in the cases is the former FCT minister, Mallam Nasiru el-Rufai. In most cases, he is just referred to as *el-Rufai* or *Nasiru*. All the interactants know which el-Rufai or Nasiru is being referred to. In some other cases, he is referred to as the *former minister* even though he is not the only past minister of the FCT. This is because most of the cases treated occurred when he was the minister of the FCT. This can be seen in the example:

Example 239

Abdullahi: I have been directed to inform you by the *Minister of FCT* has in the essence of power conferred on him under section 28, subsection 5A and B of the Land use Act 1978, revoked your right and interest over plot 415 within Maitama A05, Abuja for your continuous contravention of terms of development and rights of occupancy...

Vice: Who are the people occupying the land?

In the example above, the *Minister of FCT* refers to *Nasiru el-Rufai*. The hearing members and the speaker know that the *Minister of FCT* refers to *Nasiru el-Rufai*. Thus, he did not expatiate on which of the FCT Ministers is being referred to here. The response of the vice-chairman shows that he has no problem identifying the referent of the *Minister of FCT*. In fact, most of the cases brought forward were carried out during the time of Nasiru el-Rufai. This ensures that there is economy of language use and effort. Here, the complainant reads the letter of revocation given to

him. The revocation should not have been done since the owner of the plot is a government parastatal and not a private company. In most cases, private properties were demolished or revoked due to overriding public interest. Another example can be seen:

Example 240

How can they say that there is no case pending against them? One in Abuja High Court exonerated *the Minister* and the...his *director of development control* and committed to prison, the operator of equipment?...

Sen.: The assurance I give to you...Go ahead...go ahead... The assurance I give to you as (unclear), we won't round up until we hear from everybody...

In the example above, the complainant refers to *the Minister* without mentioning which of the Ministers. In the first place, there are several ministers in the country, i.e. transport, tourism, etc. At the same time, there are other former ministers of the FCT. However, since he knows that the hearing panel understands that he is referring to Nasiru el-Rufai, he just says *the Minister*. This ensures that there is economy of language use and effort. In this example, the complainant wonders why the minister and his official are exonerated from a crime while the field worker is punished since the former are the ones who made the decision to carry out the demolition. In the example below, the complainant refers to the Minister as *el-Rufai*. Another example is presented:

Example 241

Abu: In fact it was not more than 2 weeks that we finished all these jobs that *el-Rufai* came and just took over the office... He used to come to our office; we gave him that job to supervise the construction of that hall

Sodangi: *el-Rufai*?

Abu: Yes, *el-Rufai* and we gave him the job.

In the example above, the complainant complains that el-Rufai ejected the group he is representing from their office, which is a public property without prior information. He also pointed out that it was the same minister that helped in the construction of the building. He does not use the full name of the minister as there might be other el-Rufais. To show that the hearing panel knows which of the *el-Rufais* is being referred

to here, the chairman still refers to him as el-Rufai and does not ask him which el-Rufai he is referring to. This shows that they both know who the referent is and this shows there is economy of language use and effort. The Senator is surprised that el-Rufai, who called for the eviction of the association, was the one who also constructed it.

Other persons mentioned in the hearing include top government officials and heads of corporations. Examples can be seen in the excerpt:

Example 242

Idris: I was a member of the honorary ministerial advisory committee. That committee was chaired by Joseph Adigun. There was *Gado Nasko*, Architect *Ibrahim Bulu*, *Samson Olusola*, who is a part of this and eh eh a few other people from the private sector, *Tony Elumelu*, *Bello Osagie* were members of the honorary ministerial committee...

Sodangi: what is your present job?

In the excerpt above, references are made to Tony Elumelu who is the CEO of United Bank for Africa, and Gado Nasko, a former defence minister. These are well-known people in the country. He does not bother to explain who they are since he assumes that the members of the hearing panel know them. With this, he also adds credibility to what he is saying. By mentioning these names, he points out that he is a member of a credible committee and therefore did not collect any money from the FCT in order to carry out any illegal action. The response of the chairman of the panel shows that he has no problem identifying the referents of these references. He is rather interested in knowing the occupation of the defendant. In another example, *Mr Abass*, the director of special duties overseeing the sale of federal government houses is also mentioned.

Example 243

Falodun: The officer at Aso Savings asked me to go back to the ad-hoc committee to get and get my letter- letter confirmed or endorsed by eh *Mr. Abass*. On getting there, there is *one woman*, *one Mrs em Usman*, who is the Secretary to this *Mr Abass*.

Sodangi: What is her name?

Falodun: Mrs Usman. She is the secretary to Mr. Abass.

In this example, reference is made to Mr Abass. There is no description of who Mr. Abass is. He is just as popular as the Minister of FCT in this interaction since he is the director overseeing the sale of government houses and directly responsible for evicting complainants from their houses. Thus, the hearing panel know who he is and therefore, they did not ask who Mr. Abass is when he is mentioned by the complainant. This also shows that there is economy of language use and effort. One can see that the woman is described as the secretary to Mr. Abass as she has not been mentioned at all in any of the hearing sessions. The use of the indefinite pronoun 'one' indicates that the speaker assumes that the hearing panel do not know this woman. 'One' is not used in reference to Mr. Abass. The response of the chairman of the panel shows that he does not know the secretary of Mr. Abass but he knows Mr. Abass.

There are shared contextual beliefs based on the shared knowledge of government parastatals that are mentioned either by C/D or members of the hearing panel. This shows shared knowledge of government involvement in these cases. In the example below, the parastatals: *FCDA* and *FCT* are mentioned. These abbreviations refer to the *Federal Capital Development Authority* and *Federal Capital Territory* respectively and can be seen in the example below:

Example 244

Isa: Some of the directors of *FCDA*, *FCT* or what have you, I was watching throughout on the T.V. except those ones when I traveled out and came back for wedding [sic].

Sodangi: You have finished sir? Have you finished sir? Any further question? It is ok.

Shared knowledge of government involvement in the different cases of ejection, demolition and revocation are indicated by the use of abbreviations. Here, *FCT* and *FCDA* are mentioned without talking about their full meaning or what these parastatals are all about. Of course, the hearing is on the activities of the *FCT* and its parastatals such as *FCDA*, *FCTA*, *AMAC*, etc. Thus, the hearing panel as well as the audience knows what these names are all about. Thus, in his response, the chairman does not ask for the full meaning of these abbreviations. All these indicate the use of exophoric reference. This also ensures that there is economy of language use and effort. Another example is cited below:

Example 245

Sani: BPE has been directed by the current eh principal leader to...to call a meeting of all the stakeholders again which are *FCTA*, *FCDA*, *BPE*, Ministry of transport, aviation, *NCCA*, *NAMA*, *NIMED*, *FAAN*, Custom to discuss the matter again.

Sodangi: Ok thank you very much.

In the example above, the abbronyms used are not given in full by the defendant as he knows that the hearing panel know what he is talking about. They had also written submissions which have all these parastatals fully written, apart from the fact that the senators are government functionaries and are supposed to know them. In fact, they also had to call some of the directors of these parastatals as defendants. The response of the chairman shows that he had no trouble identifying the referents of these lexical choices.

5.1.4 Shared contextual beliefs based on shared knowledge of Abuja Metropolis

There are also shared contextual beliefs based on shared knowledge of the names of the towns in Abuja. All the interactants know the places called *Maitama*, *Asokoro*, *Wuse*, *Kado Estate*, *Garki*, which are places in Abuja. Thus, there is no need for C/D to describe these places to the hearing panel. These examples can be seen below:

Example 246

Ali: All the staff all the staff before the concession were distributed, I think, they were taken to *Asokoro* Hospital, *Asokoro*, *Maitama* and *Wuse*.

Sodangi: Em please ...

Ali: Yes sir

Vice: I think somebody came here and they went on strike ...there was a situation on ground and el-Rufai spoke to them and warned them.

In the extract above, the complainant makes reference to places in Abuja without describing the places to the HP. This indicates exophoric reference. This shows that he is speaking based on shared knowledge of Abuja Metropolis. This is evident as the responses of the panel chairman and vice-chairman do not indicate that they do not know where these places are located.

Example 247

Abdullahi: So the administration approved...approved plot 41B within *Maitama A5*. This plot is lying opposite the *Abuja Federal High Court* and it is overlooking that big roundabout overlooking *the British Consulate*... They now revoked that land...

Sodangi: Entirely?

In the example above, the complainant refers to the area in which the plot given to him was revoked. He also refers to the names of important public buildings. This shows exophoric reference. He believes that they know these buildings and the area where they are located since these are buildings that the Senators know. By mentioning these public buildings and the area where the land is located, he lends credibility to the fact that the land exists and that the land is close to other plots, which have not been revoked. The implicature is that his plot of land should not be revoked. The response of the chairman of the panel shows that he is interested in knowing the actions carried out by the government officials. He does not refer to the description of the location of the building in question. Another example can be seen below:

Example 248

Aliu: Sir about four quarters, four flats, two-bedroom that that are located in *Kubwa, Federal Housing* while one three-bedroom is located at *Gwagwalada* and two are located at *Federal Housing, Nyanya* ...

Sodangi: Have you been ejected or you are in the house?

In this example, the complainant refers to the location of the houses of members of staff of the Supreme Court, which were revoked by the FCT. He refers to these places based on the assumption that the Senators know where he is talking about. This indicates exophoric reference, and ensures that there is economy of language use and effort. The response of the chairman does not indicate that there was any problem identifying the referents of these names. Below is a chart showing the shared contextual beliefs in the hearing:

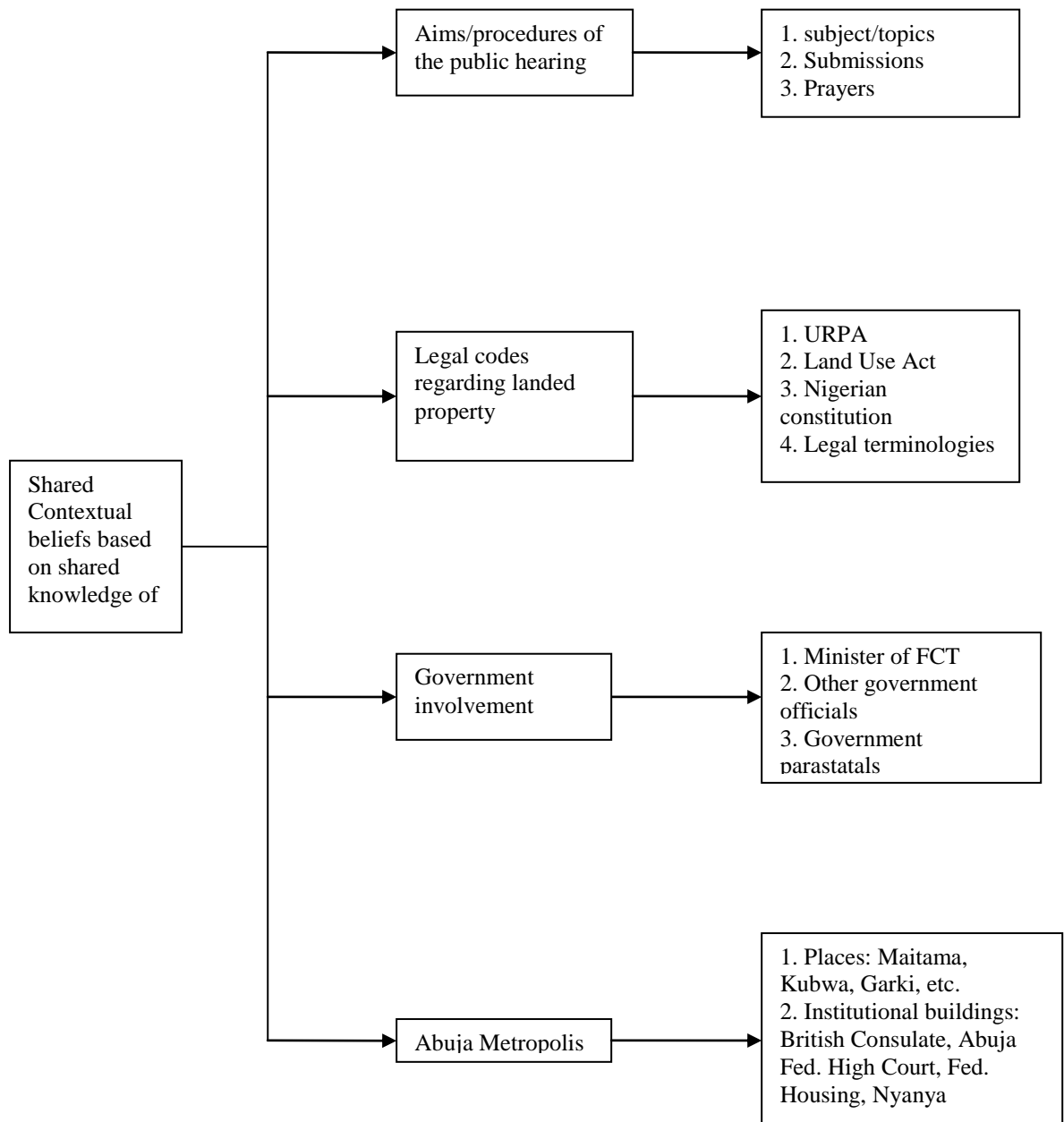


Figure 5.1: A chart showing the shared contextual beliefs of the interactants in the public hearing on FCT Administration

5.2 Pragmatic functions in quasi-judicial public hearing on FCT administration

Thirteen pragmatic acts in the FCT hearing were performed at different stages of the interaction and they include ordering (Affirmation Order, Invitation of Perspectives, Interrogation and Admission); swearing (Affirmation); informing (Presentation, Interrogation, Interrogation Compliance, and Finis); complaining (Presentation); defending (Presentation and Interrogation Compliance); advising (Interrogation); accusing (Interrogation); denying (Interrogation Compliance); questioning (Presentation, Interrogation, Interrogation Compliance and Finis); requesting (Prayer, Prayer Demand and finis); promising (Interrogation, Interrogation Compliance, and Finis); Admitting (Admission); and appreciating (Presentation, Interrogation, Interrogation Compliance and Finis). These are discussed below:

5.2.1 Ordering

The pragmatic act of ordering is realised by different allopracts such as *go ahead*, *affirm him*, *give us your own view*, *the floor is yours*, etc. Also, the pragmeme operates with the sub-acts of selecting, accepting, and inviting. There are two types of the pragmatic act of ordering: direct ordering and indirect ordering which are achieved during Affirmation Order, Invitation of Perspectives, Interrogation and Admission.

During Affirmation Order, the chairman of the panel orders the secretary to affirm the complainant/defendants. The pragmatic act of ordering can be seen in the example below:

Example 249

Sodangi: We understand that that the MD is here. Bullet engineering
please Can you please (to secretary)? ...

Sodangi: *Go ahead*.

Secretary: I

In the example above, after the chairman selects the next speaker, he orders the secretary/clerk of the hearing panel to lead the presenter into the affirmation by simply saying, *go ahead*. The secretary understands the implied meaning here as he starts the affirmation. Thus, *go ahead* realises the pract of ordering the secretary to affirm the presenter, who is the complainant in this particular interaction. The speech act of ordering is not used in this instance but the meaning is understood based on the context of the hearing interaction. Thus, shared situational knowledge (SSK) of the

procedure of the hearing and relevance (REL) play important roles here. The hearer is able to interpret the explicit content of the communication due to the context by enriching or ‘fleshing out the semantic representation of the utterance (Blakemore, 1992). The secretary enriches the utterance by assigning reference to the chairman’s utterance. The order is an imposition but it is not taken as an impolite utterance because of the asymmetrical relationship between the chairman of the panel and the clerk of the panel. Another example is cited below:

Example 250

Background: (The chairman requests that a lady should make a presentation since the men have been presenting all along. However, in this case, the woman who wants to present is a member of a group that already has a spokesman. The group uses this opportunity to speak).

Sodangi: You know she won’t speak again. One person will have to speak on your behalf. *Ok affirm him sir.*

In the example above, the pragmatic act of ordering is achieved in the imperative sentence, *Okay, affirm him sir.* Thus, the pract is realised through a direct speech act. The act of ordering operates here with the sub-act of selecting because in giving the order, the chairman also selects the man rather than the woman to speak. Thus, the sub-act of selecting is carried out indirectly. The pract of ordering also operates with the sub-act of accepting. Here, the chairman accepts that the man rather than the woman should speak. This sub-act is also carried out indirectly.

The pragmatic act of ordering is also realised when the chairman invites the C/D to present his or her case. This is employed during Invitation of Perspectives. An example can be seen in the excerpt below:

Example 251

Sodangi: Dr Ali Gombe, *tell us your particulars and then make your presentation.* Thank you.

The pract of ordering C/D to present his or her case is achieved through the command, *tell us your particulars and then make your presentation.* Based on shared situational knowledge (SSK), the complainant understands that he is being ordered to introduce himself, inform the hearing panel about his occupation and make his complaints known to the hearing panel. Here, the pract of ordering operates with the sub-act of inviting. The pragmatic effect of this invitation is evident as the complainant proceeds to give all these information. Thanking in the excerpt fulfils an

interpersonal function as it shows politeness on the part of the chairman who has just given an order. It is not in all cases that this politeness marker is used during IP. Sometimes, it is used when the presenter is a top government functionary, just as we have in the example above. Another example can be seen below:

Example 252

Sodangi: ... see we have asked these gentlemen to come and verify certain issues ... You are very much free to ...

Michael: Yes sir

Sodangi: ...and *give us your view and what you know about this*.

In the example above, the pragmatic act of ordering is achieved through the command, *give us your own view and what you know about this*. In this excerpt, the defendant understands that he is being invited to defend himself in the hearing as he goes ahead to give his presentation. Thus, the practice of ordering operates with the sub-act of inviting.

In another excerpt, the practice of ordering is achieved through the statement below:

Example 253

Sodangi: ... *So we can hear from you; you know when you took over and the rest of them. So the floor is yours*.

Abass: thank you Mr. Chairman and distinguished senators.

In this excerpt, the chairman of the hearing panel informs the defendant, the issue he would like him to address and thus, the defendant understands this statement as an invitation to defend himself. *So the floor is yours* signals the fact that the defendant is permitted to give his presentation. The practice of ordering is expressed indirectly as the chairman makes use of a statement rather than a command. This may be as a result of the fact that the defendant is also a top government functionary. The hearer is also able to disambiguate the meaning of the metaphor (MPH), *the floor is yours*, based on the context and procedure of the hearing. He understands that it is his time to speak.

The practice of ordering is also performed during Interrogation. This can be seen in the excerpt below:

Example 254

Sen.: *Please go to your annual financial report*. How much do you think the market was generating?

In the excerpt above, the senator orders the complainant to read the report she submitted in order to get some information written in the document. The use of the politeness marker *please* serves to minimise the imposition of the command, as ordering is seen as a competitive speech act (Leech, 1983). The pract, thus, makes use of a direct speech act.

The pract of ordering is also performed during Admission when the chairman of the hearing panels orders C/D to submit his/her documents and this is illustrated below:

Example 255

Sodangi: *Give us your submission.* We want to thank you for your very pathetic case as presented. *Give us your submission.*

In the example above, the chairman demands for the submission of the presenter. He also thanks the presenter for exposing the deeds carried out against him and by this, he performs a psychological act as he sympathises with the complainant. He makes use of a direct speech act. Another example is cited below:

Example 256

Sodangi: *Give us your submission* and when we call the director of development control or any other person from the FCDA, they will tell us all the status of that place. Thank you.

In this example, the chairman also requests for the submission of the complainant. He makes use of a direct speech act. Along with the pract of ordering, the chairman also reassures the complainant that the matter will be investigated. *Thank you*, here, signals the end of the conversation. It is a psychological act which fulfils the interactional function of language.

5.2.2 Swearing

The pragmatic act of swearing is achieved during Affirmation and it is always expressed explicitly and directly. This can be seen in the excerpt below:

Example 257

Secretary: I

Abass: I

Secretary: Your name?

Abass: Abass Umar

Secretary: Do solemnly swear

Abass: Do solemnly swear

Secretary: that the evidence that I shall give

Abass: that the evidence that I shall give

Secretary: before this committee

Abass: before this honourable committee

Secretary: shall be the truth

Abass: shall be the truth

Secretary: the whole truth

Abass: the whole truth

Secretary: and nothing but the truth

Abass: and nothing but the truth

Secretary: so help me God

Abass: so help me God

In this example, the act of swearing is carried out by a defendant. He repeats the words said by the secretary. A direct speech act is used in this instance, *I do solemnly swear*. Some of the interactants use the verb 'swear' while others use the verb 'affirm'. Both mean the same thing. This is a ritualised statement because every presenter must repeat these words. Saying something else will make the affirmation null and void. The performative verb, *swear* typifies Thomas' (1995) metalinguistic performatives because it is self-referential, non-falsifiable and does not need any external condition for its success. It is always felicitous and successful. In this instance, the speaker is only making a statement about the fact that he will say the truth but he may still go ahead and tell a lie. Thus, the act is successful because of the performative verb, *I swear*. The act equates Searle's (1969) commissive act. The pract of swearing also operates with the sub-act of praying as seen in the utterance, *So help me God*.

5.2.3 Informing

The pract of informing occurs during Presentation, Interrogation, Interrogation Compliance and Finis and it operates with some sub-acts such as explaining and commenting. The pract of informing is achieved during Presentation when interactants give information on their status and narrate past experiences to the hearing panel. This can be seen in the excerpt below:

Example 258

Mamodu: My names are...all due protocols observed. My names are comrade Elder Vincent Mamodu and I am here today to

speak for 3 organisations. National Union of Electricity Employees is group 1. No 2. Senior Staff association electricity and Allied Companies and No 3, Nigerian Union of Pensioners (electricity sector). These 3 bodies are the legal owners of NEPA Superluation fund whose property the Federal Capital Territory administration eh eh it has sold or is about to sell.

In the excerpt above, the complainant informs the hearing panel about his status and the parties he is representing. This is done in order to create the background for the information and the complaints he is about to give. *All due protocols observed* is a phrase which implies that the complainant recognises that members of the hearing panel are Senators of the Federal Republic and he acknowledges their presence. The phrase indicates shared cultural knowledge (SCK) (introduced by Odebunmi, 2006c). It is the culture to acknowledge people in authority in formal gatherings before making a speech or presentation. This ritualised statement is made when a speaker does not want to repeat the names of people in authority who are seated in a gathering, before making a speech. The context of the utterance shows that he is referring to the Senators. In another example, the pract of informing is shown in the excerpt below:

Example 259

Eneh: My names are Chinedu Cletus Eneh. A life member of Nigerian Society of Engineers and a practicing public health Engineer...
When I was giving water to Doma in Nasarawa state in 1998, I passed through Abuja and when I got to Abuja, then, I saw acres of undeveloped land and other things. I went to FCDA and asked them how I can get space physically for recreational purposes.

In the example above, the complainant states his name and his status and gives the background information to the complaint that he has come to represent. The reference (REF) to his status is meant to show his credibility, to emphasise the fact that he was committed to the development of the society and that his position affords him the responsibility to do all that he did in respect of the acquisition of land. Here, one can hear a persuasive voice (VCE). He tries to persuade the hearing panel in order to make them believe that the land should not be revoked since it is for the good of the

people of Abuja. In this example, the complainant did not follow due process in the acquisition of the property.

The sub-act of explaining is performed during Presentation and Interrogation Compliance by complainants and defendants. During Presentation, explaining takes place when the defendants and complainants explicate the reasons why they carried out some of the actions they performed in the process. An example is cited below:

Example 260

We were wrongly terminated, we didn't know what we did, no salary was being paid to us, you know, all throughout the period and em then em in 2002 my husband retired from service after 35 years then the em the permanent secretary then who was the head of service, who knew about our case because...

In the example above, the complainant explains the reason why she could not get an offer letter to purchase a house that she was living in, in order to avoid eviction. This was due to some problems she had in her place of work. The explanation is carried out in order to ensure that judgement was ruled in her favour. It is also a persuasive strategy on her part to expose the bad deeds committed against her by the government. This reveals the persuasive voice (VCE) in her explanation.

Defendants also perform the sub-act of explaining during Presentation when they have to explain circumstances surrounding the actions that they took. Thus, the act of explaining is carried out by defendants in order to defend themselves. This is meant to show the legality of their actions. An example is cited below:

Example 261

Perhaps, to put more light on how the police is organised, because it is only then that you will see how the functions are shared. The 1999 constitution in section 214 provides that subject to the provision of the constitution, the Nigerian Police force shall be organised and administered in accordance with such provisions as prescribed by the act of the National Assembly.

In the example above, Ehindero explains how the police is organised in order to show that he could not have been involved in the eviction of Justice Sambo from his house. The reference to the 1999 constitution is mentioned to show the legality of his action. There is a persuasive voice (VCE) within this act, which is meant to convince the hearing panel that he acted rightly based on the 1999 constitution.

The sub-act of commenting is performed during Interrogation and Finis. During Interrogation, the hearing panel members sometimes make comments on the actions of the defendants and the complainants. This is found in the excerpt below:

Example 262

Sen.: It is not really a question. Mine is to eh say that eh it is a very sad development that eh eh under a democratically elected government, all these evils were perpetuated and it is equally painful that eh ha I have seen so far that very senior citizens that have contributed towards the development of our nation equally suffered this fate.

In the example above, the Senator passes a comment which expresses his sadness over the ill-treatment of people in Nigeria, especially people who have contributed to the development of the country. Thus, the act of commenting equates Searle's expressive act which fulfills the interpersonal metafunction. Another example is cited below:

Example 263

Sen.: A normal human being cannot voluntarily hand something over to you and then go to court to challenge you and refrain you from taking it.

In the example above, the senator expresses his surprise at the line of thinking of the defendant. He is surprised that the defendant is saying that the complainant voluntarily handed over the property to the defendant when the complainant had reported that they were forcefully ejected from the property. This comment is a psychological act which fulfils the interpersonal metafunction.

During Finis, the sub-act of commenting may also be performed and this can be seen in the example below:

Example 264

Sodangi: Now when you are talking of compensation, assuming we have the jurisdiction, saying pay them money; it is another different thing to be discussed later. ... But what we are doing is to lobby and to recommend and through our oversight function, to see that what you are asking the government to do is complied through our oversight function. That is the power

that we have. So we will appreciate it if you quantify that your... your market and what all of you have lost.

In the example above, the chairman comments on the power of the hearing of the panel: what they can do and cannot do. This is meant to warn the complainant that although they will look into the matter as Senators, it is still the executive arm of the government that will implement the recommendation. They also request for some figures from the complainant. This serves to cover other issues or last minute demands which were not treated during Interrogation. Thus, the voice of warning (VCE) is employed in this pract. Another example of the pragmatic act of commenting can be seen below:

Example 265

Vice: If somebody builds on your land, that property belongs to you.

Mamodu: Thank you sir

In the example above, the vice-chairman comments on the fact that since the complainant had placed a caveat emptor on the price of land, then it would be at the expense of whoever builds on the land. This act is carried out in order to reassure the complainant that he has a genuine case and that his case would be properly handled. Thus, there is the voice of assurance (VCE) in this pract.

5.2.4 Complaining

The pragmatic act of complaining takes place during Presentation and it is performed by complainants. It is an act that is performed when complainants express their discontentment and displeasure over the actions carried out by government officials against them. The act is expressed directly as this is the main reason why the hearing was inaugurated in the first place. An example can be seen below:

Example 266

Hitherto, we had entered into agreement with developers on how they can develop this place. Money was spent and extended. Eh National Assembly had appropriated money to us. But surprisingly, as soon as we requested for the bills, the FCDA returned the allocation to us and said we are no longer giving you 7000 sq. metres, no justification.

In the statement above, the complainant expresses his displeasure over the fact that they had started carrying out plans on how to develop the plot of land given to them as a government agency when the FCDA reduced the size of the plot that they had

earlier given them without any reasons. The reference (REF) to FCDA and the National Assembly is meant to foreground the involvement of the government in the matter. Another example is cited below:

Example 267

Osakwe: One pathetic thing that took place on that very day was that some names were called out yet the compensation that was supposed to be given to those people was not given to them.

In the example above, the presenter complains of the ill-treatment of the FCT administration. In fact, everything that the complainant does is geared towards complaining about the wrong treatment of the FCT administration. The complainant makes this complaint in order to emphasise the evil deeds of the concerned government officials and get a favourable recommendation from the Senators. In this particular case, some of the indigenes in the FCT had been relocated but they had not been compensated monetarily, which would help them build new houses and continue their farming.

5.2.5 Defending

The pract of defending is performed during Presentation and Interrogation Compliance. The act is realised subtly and indirectly. The pragmatic act of defending is achieved during Presentation when defendants maintain their positions in the different cases of demolition, eviction and sale of government property. An example is given below:

Example 268

We were the ones running and maintaining it then but with the policy of privatization and commercialisation, the FCT executive discussed and then decided to eh to concession out and the Abuja Investment company

In this particular example, the defendant informs the hearing panel that they were the ones in charge of the organisation at that time but this had been changed. Here, the defendant absolves himself of having knowledge of the current state of affairs in the company. The reference (REF) to the FCT executive and Abuja is meant to emphasise that he is not the person responsible for the concession. Here, he is indirectly defending himself by informing the HP that he is not responsible for the decision to concession government property.

The pract of defending which occurs during Interrogation Compliance is achieved when complainants answer questions which are meant to support the actions they carried out during the different cases of demolitions, revocations and evictions. An example is shown below:

Example 269

Ehintero: I am not aware of any court order which the police disobeyed or refused to obey during my tenure. I believe in the rule of law and human rights and will not knowingly disobey any court order.

In the example, the defendant posits that he was not aware of any disobedience to any court order. Thus, he should not be blamed for the actions of the policemen under him. 'I believe in the rule of law and human rights' is a statement which is meant to convince the hearing panel that his actions were based on right principles. Thus, the defendant makes use of a persuasive voice (VCE). The pract equates Searle's expressive speech act. Another example is cited below:

Example 270

Ibo Sen.: So I felt you could have em em gained access to the then minister and find out from him directly, if it is revoked and the reason behind the revocation. They are supposed to have a reason.

Dr Adejo: Ok sir. ..I will also tell that the management of the National Health centre including the board visited the then Minister, that is El-Rufai

In the example above, the complainant explains that he had taken some measures in order to solve the challenge that his parastatal faced. The reference (REF) to the *National Health Centre*, he emphasises the fact that a concrete action was actually taken. This indicates that he is defending himself. Another example is presented below:

Example 271

We will not joke with health and health is a humanitarian thing, not a pure business thing. Anyone that wants to make money won't be in health care because compassion is there. There are some people who are overzealous...We are registered as Niser Premier Hospital, certificate of registration 323731. This is part of what we are going to

give to the committee and eh this is the man that registered us. I don't think that there is any doubt about it.

In the example above, the pragmatic act of defending is carried out. The defendant uses a psychological act by assuring the HP members that he is concerned about the health of the people. By making reference (REF) to the registration number of the company, he assures the HP members that the hospital was truly registered. The reference to *the man that registered us* is meant to also show the genuineness of his claim.

5.2.6 Advising

The pragmatic act of advising is also performed by the interactants during Interrogation. It is expressed directly due to the asymmetrical relationship between the HP and the C/D. During Interrogation, the HP members perform the pragmatic act of advising and this can be seen in the example cited below:

Example 272

Let me offer an advice... For example, if the person submitting the list has made a mistake out of ten or twelve, I don't know how many they are. I haven't seen the list and two of them are inaccurate, if eight are accurate, you will have lied under oath...But please I think it will be unwise for you to pass up the opportunity of defending yourself. That's my advice to you.

In the example above, a member of the hearing panel advises the defendant to actually defend himself. In this example, the defendant had already stated that it is not all the allegations that are true and thus, he would not answer some of the questions raised by the hearing panel on those allegations. The HP member points out the risk involved in not answering his questions. It would mean that there will be no way for him to prove that the allegations were right or wrong. In the example above, the HP member advises the defendant to say the truth about the actions he carried out against the complainants. In this case, the defendant is claiming that the complainants have lied. The HP member states that there are so many complaints and evidence against them. Another example is cited below:

Example 273

I just want to say that em I should sound a note of advice to you as a brother that holding public office entails public trust and public responsibility as well. You see this guideline we have been talking

about, empowering your committee to evict people immediately after certain failures is not a law as it has been accepted by the legal adviser and eh there are laws too that eh supercede whatever this guideline would have contained. So these guidelines are subject to our laws.

In the example above, the HP member advises the defendant to always do what is right and not work under the belief that the guidelines they have are superior to the constitution. This occurred in a case where the defendant was citing the guidelines of his ministry as the reason for carrying out certain actions. Most of the complaints showed that they had violated court orders. ‘As a brother’ is a phrase, which fulfils an interpersonal metafunction in the text. Through this phrase, the Senator establishes a common ground between the defendant and himself, which would serve as the basis for the advice.

5.2.7 Accusing

The pract of accusing is also carried out during Interrogation which is always carried out indirectly by the Senators. An example is cited below:

Example 274

Sen.: Two, I am against concession. I am against concession because it’s anti-people. The bottom line of your involvement is to make profit.

In the example above, the hearing panel member states that he dislikes concession since it does not favour the masses. The implied meaning here is that he dislikes the fact that the Garki hospital was concessioned and thus, he agrees with the complaints raised against the defendant. Indirectly, he accuses the defendant of placing his profit over the needs of the people. Another example is cited below:

Example 275

Vice: Excuse me, because people will ask questions and you have not convinced anybody here that you took any measures. You didn’t go to court; you didn’t lead any delegation to the minister. The minister of health did not even complain to the then minister of FCT. You just sit down quiet. You saw a building springing up in that property and you didn’t do anything up till today...

In the example above, the vice-chairman accuses the complainant of not making attempts to find a solution to the problem before coming to the hearing. In this

particular example, the land that was allocated to his parastatal was revoked because it had not been developed. Thus, he later comments:

Example 276

It was somebody that gave you information that the building was going on. You went there and you waited for this committee. That is not satisfactory.

This comment reinforces the pragmatic act of accusing in the interaction.

5.2.8 Denying

The pragmatic act of denying is performed by complainants/defendants when they refute some allegations raised against them by the hearing panel members. The act is always carried out indirectly. This is shown in the example below:

Example 277

Vice.: eh because I was thinking, you could have just been em you ...you only got an oral information. So I felt you could have em em gained access to the then minister and find out from him directly, if it is revoked and the reason behind the revocation.

Dr Adejo: *Ok sir...I will also tell that the management of the National Health centre including the board visited the then Minister, that is El-Rufai and he personally promised the management that he will ensure that nothing happens to the land.*

In the example above, the complainant denies the allegation that he did not take any action to ensure that the action taken by the FCDA is reverted. There is no speech act of denying but he denies the fact by informing the hearing panel the action he took in the process. Another example is cited below:

Example 278

Sodangi: It is not claiming his house... It is not claiming his house. Did you hear of his forceful ejection of his property? Not whether...

Ehintero: Well, I heard but I didn't hear that my policemen ejected him.

In the example above, the defendant denies the fact that the he heard that the police force was involved in the ejection of the Late Justice Sambo. In the example below, he cites the Nigerian constitution as a reason why he would not have heard of the

actions of the police force in the FCT even though he resided in the FCT as the Inspector-General of the Nigerian Police. This is done to add credibility to his denial.

Example 279

Ehindero: Mr Senator, let me...I have said it; the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria doesn't provide that the FCT must communicate with me, in relation to maintenance of land. It is there.

5.2.9 Questioning

The pract of questioning is performed during Presentation Interrogation, Interrogation Compliance and Finis by members of the hearing panel. During Presentation, the praact of questioning is carried out when the chairman of the hearing panel does not have a clear picture of the status of the presenter and needs to clarify some issues based on the status and identity of the presenter or the landed property in question. This is different from the Interrogation stage where the members of the hearing panel require clarifications on the case being presented. The act is expressed directly due to the asymmetrical relationship between the hearing panel and the complainants/defendants. This can be seen in the example below:

Example 280

Sodangi: Before you continue, I thought there was a presentation by a lawyer on your behalf last week or you have been here?

Mamodu: we have PHCN...

Sodangi: Ok is there any difference between NEPA Superluation fund which has to do with your eh your retired employees that this fund is supposed to serve after their retirement that you mentioned? Is it the same thing?

Mamodu: It is the same thing. The lawyer may have come to represent the management side because a lot of property of PHCN are being encroached. It may be okay or whatever it was, but this is from the worker's point of view

In this example, the chairman of the hearing panel wants the complainant to clarify the status of the party he is representing since a similar body had appeared earlier on in the hearing. Several questions were asked before the complainant was able to give an appropriate response. It was when the chairman was satisfied that he asked the complainant to continue his presentation. The question, *Before you continue, I*

thought there was a presentation by a lawyer on your behalf last week or you have been here? is a pract which is requesting a response of clarification from the addressee. The pragmatic effect of this utterance is evident as the complainant goes ahead to clarify the status of the parties he is representing which shows that the addressee recognises the implied meaning of the statement. The complainant is able to give a response based on shared situational knowledge (SSK) of the parties that have presented their case before the hearing panel. The pract fulfills the ideational metafunction of language. Another example of the pract of questioning can also be seen in the example below:

Example 281

Osakwe: Yes my name is Osakwe Morris Obiwane. Eh I am a solicitor to the Gbagi people of Gida Mangoro area and eh other neighboring communities.

Sodangi: This Gida Mangoro...where is it specifically?

Osakwe: Gida Mangoro is in eh Abuja Municipal area council along Jikwe –Karishi road...

Sodangi: Ok

In the example above, the chairman inquires, *This Gida Mangoro...where is it specifically?* Here, he is also asking for clarification which is supposed to help him build up good background knowledge for the presentation. The complainant responds by describing the place to the chairman. A direct speech act is employed in this pract.

The pragmatic act of questioning is performed during Interrogation by the senators who ask questions in order to clarify issues with both the complainants and the defendants. This is necessary in order to have a true picture of what is going on so that they can make a proper appraisal of the situation and write a report to the Senate. This can be seen in the example below:

Example 282

Sodangi: The...the place that you are talking about has been reallocated to people?

Osakwe: Yes it has been allocated.

Sodangi: to individuals?

Osakwe: Yes to individuals.

In the example above, Sodangi wants to know if the people had been properly reallocated. The answer he gets will determine the content of his report to the Senate.

The pragmatic effect is evident as the complainant gives an answer to the question. The act also has an ideational function as it seeks to get information on a particular topic. This also shows that the conversational maxim of quality is largely observed. This is because of the asymmetrical relationship between the hearing panel and the complainant. The setting is an institutionalised one and the complainants say and do everything that is needed in order to get justice. Another example is cited below:

Example 283

Sen.: Can I know the name in which you bid? Two, equally want to know if your name, the name of your company is registered with the corporate affairs. Thank you.

In the example above, the Senator, Smart Adeyemi, a member of the hearing panel is interested in knowing the name of the defendant's company. This is to determine if there were illegal acts carried out by the defendant. In this particular example, the defendant's company was the winner of a concession bid for Garki Hospital in Abuja. There were complaints that the hospital, which ought to be a general hospital was too expensive for the masses. There were also complaints that the company was not a Nigerian company and it was not registered at the Corporate Affairs Commission. This question was asked in order to get the truth about the whole concession problem. Thus, the overall act was to investigate the allegations brought against this company.

In Finis, the pragmatic act of questioning may also be performed by the chairman or the vice-chairman. An example can be seen below:

Example 284

Sodangi: Let me ask. As at today, I am made to understand your current... your that that Apo mechanic quarters that that you are staying that there's another allocation or reallocation eh place after the present Apo mechanic village which you are talking about...*is it correct that some mechanic...is that where your people have been reallocated?*

In the example above, the chairman also raises a question which was not asked during Interrogation. This is not a common feature as almost all the questions are raised during Interrogation. The act also has an ideational function and fulfills the transactional function of language.

During Interrogation Compliance, defendants on rare occasions elicit answers from the HP members. An example is cited below:

Example 285

You are asking for my opinion?

The question above is asked in order to verify whether a question was actually asked or not. This question indirectly shows that the defendant may not want to answer the questions or make any comment in respect of the comments raised by the Senator.

Another example below:

Example 286

Ehindero: Am I supposed to know about 76 court orders?

In the example above, the defendant asks the hearing panel if he is expected to know about all the court orders that were flouted in the FCT when he did not get copies of the court orders. The presupposition, here, is that he is not supposed to know about the court orders.

5.2.10 Requesting

The pragmatic act of requesting is carried out during Prayer and Finis and it is realised explicitly and directly by the hearing panel and the complainants/defendants.

During Prayer, the pratt of requesting is performed by complainants. An example is cited below:

Example 287

Isa: *So our prayers have been: please relocate these allottees, who have spent all their life savings and even borrowed money to raise –erect these structures to another simple place. Thank you and then compensate them or whatever. Let them have a shed over their head because we are all Nigerians and we have all been invited to develop FCT.*

In the example above, the complainant requests that adequate compensation should be paid to his clients. The act is expressed directly and the use of *please* serves as a politeness marker used to minimise the impoliteness of the impolite illocution (Leech 1983). This request is based on the shared knowledge of section 85 of the Urban and Regional planning Act that stipulates that a person likely to be displaced from his home should be given alternative accommodation or financial assistance. The clause, *who have spent all their life savings and even borrowed money to raise* is a psychological act which is meant to raise the sympathy of the hearing panel. This psychological act is also emphasised in the sentence, *We are all Nigerians and we have all been invited to develop FCT*. He also thanks the hearing panel for the

recommendations they will make based on this prayer. This also serves to assure the hearing panel of his gratitude for their expected service to relocate the allottees. Another example is cited below:

Example 288

Osakwe: eh we are asking that allocation be given to the same indigenes of this Gida Mangoro and the...eh neighbourhood and eh again and that eh the His Royal Highness, Sakaruyi of Karu should stop victimising individuals.

In this example, the complaint also requests that his clients should be properly compensated and protected from the victimisation of a local chief. Based on the context of the hearing, it is expected that the complainants would make a particular request or prayer. Thus, the pract is also expressed directly and explicitly. Another example is cited below:

Example 289

Lady: *My prayer is that the house which I I occupied for 20 years come next month, I should be allowed to purchase the house just like my colleagues in the civil service [sic]. There was an injustice done to me in the first place for terminating my appointment.*

In the example above, the complaint requests that she should be allowed to purchase the house that she had been living in. The act is also expressed directly. The use of the modal auxiliary *should* serves to mitigate the request. In this example, civil servants were given the opportunity to buy the houses they had been living in as tenants of the government, as the government had decided to sell her property. In this example, because the woman had her appointment illegally terminated, she could not purchase the house even though she had been reinstated. The reference (REF) to injustice is a psychological act pointing to the fact that it would be double injustice for her to lose the house.

In Finis, the pract of requesting may also be performed. An example can be seen below:

Example 290

Sodangi: Then Abass will tell us. *You must back your statement of account through the bank statement* and bank statement in particular.

In the example above, the chairman of the hearing committee requests for a bank statement after the defendant's submission had been admitted. This is a request for further documents backing the statements of the defendant. This is needed to ensure that the defendant is saying the truth. The pract fulfils the ideational function and transactional function of language as it seeks for further information. It is also expressed directly and explicitly. Another example is cited below:

Example 291

Sani: *May I go?*

Sodangi: Yes yes you are discharged and acquitted (laughs).

In this example, the defendant requests for permission to leave. This signals the end of the interaction. The reply of the chairman fulfils an interpersonal function as the physical act of laughter there signifies a psychological act. The use of the modal auxiliary *may* is motivated by the defendant's wish to be polite. The pract is expressed directly.

5.2.11 Promising

The pract of promising is performed during Interrogation, Interrogation Compliance and Finis. During Interrogation, the chairman may make promises to the complainant. The pract makes use of direct speech acts. This can be seen in the example below:

Example 292

Sodangi: *Ok we will visit the place and we'll hear from them too.* I want to thank you very much for your presentation

In this example, the chairman promises to visit the location of the house that was revoked. Promising is a psychological act, which is also meant to reassure the addressee that his request will be answered and this signals an interpersonal relationship between the speaker and the hearer. The act falls under Thomas' (1995) group performative. It is a group performative because the act is done on behalf of the group, that is, the hearing panel members. The chairman cannot visit the demolition and revocation sites alone. Another example can be seen below:

Example 293

The assurance I give to you...we won't round up until we hear from everybody...it is something that we have...We are not going to do the public hearing twice. We must hear from everybody who has a case to present.

In the excerpt above, the HP members show that they are interested in protecting the rights of the complainants. This also emphasises the positive self presentation of the HP members. It is a psychological act as it seeks to reassure the addressee and it is highly interpersonal as it signals the speaker's personal attitude (Tseng, 2010).

During Interrogation Compliance, complainants/defendants also promise to carry out some actions. This can be seen in the example below:

Example 294

Abdul: *I will wholeheartedly accept your advice.*

Sodangi: thank you very much. That was a bitter pill of advice which I believe Dr has taken it.

In the example above, the defendant promises to accept the advice of the HP member. The act also falls under Thomas' (1995) collaborative performative. It is collaborative because there must be an uptake by another person for it to be successful and this can be seen in the response of the chairman who accepts the promise made by the defendant. In the example below, the complainant promises to bring the information requested by the HP.

Example 295

Abdul: But eh we will provide that information and is eh eh ...

The defendant in the extract above promises the hearing panel members that he will carry out the orders made by the hearing panel and this makes the act interpersonal in function. It is a psychological act.

In Finis, the pragmatic act of promising may also be performed. This can be seen in the example below:

Example 296

Sodangi: and the ministry has taken note. The two executive chairmen are here. They will not forcefully eject you. Thank you.

In the example above, the chairman also promises the complainant that she will not be ejected from her house as officials of the FCT were in the Hearing Room. Since they are aware of her problem, she would not be ejected. Another example can be seen below:

Example 297

The presentation of Christianna Amase Asange in respect of plot FCTA/ABU/SUB 570 is hereby admitted as exhibit 77- (78)78. *But we must say we'll have to go through it for eh what pecuniary loss you have incurred vis a vis the presentation of the FCDA because they must come and tell us that-why they revoked and if it is in consonance with the plan, then we'll get back to you too.*

In the example above, the chairman of the hearing panel promises to go through the submission of the complainant and compare this with the reports of the defendants. This is to ensure that he gets the compensation that is equal to what he has lost. This took place after the admission of the complainant's submission.

5.2.12 Admitting

The pract of admitting is an obligatory act which is performed by the chairman or the vice-chairman during Admission. The act is expressed directly and explicitly. Allopracts of the act of admitting the submission of the presenters can be seen below:

Example 298

Sodangi: Give me the names. Presentation by the barrister on behalf of Aso Jidans and others admitted as exhibit 32.

Example 299

Sodangi: Yes documents for Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority as presented by Barrister Hajji Abdullahi, legal adviser, with the ...all the pictures and the rest of them are hereby admitted as exhibit 38.

Example 300

Sodangi: Oh your presentation as far as concession of Garki Hospital is concerned, record from you is admitted as exhibit 76-76.

Example 302

Sodangi: ... The submission by the PHCN has been collected from Eng. Michael Chukwuma Okoye is hereby admitted as exhibit 93.

Example 303

Sodangi: Yes the submission made by Henrietta Talabi of Commerce and Industry is admitted as exhibit 133...133.

In all the examples above, the pract of admitting is performed by the chairman or the vice-chairman in the chairman's absence. Admission is an obligatory aspect of the hearing. Without the admission, the presentations of the complainants/defendants are null and void. It should be noted that the act of admitting falls under Thomas' (1995) ritual performative because it is highly culturally dependent and can be infelicitous if rendered by another person in the hearing. It is only the chairman or the vice-chairman (in the chairman's absence) that can admit the submission of the complainants/defendant during the hearing (and not after the hearing). It becomes infelicitous (null and void) when it is performed by another person.

5.2.13 Appreciating

The pract of appreciating is an act that features at different stages of the interaction as it fulfils the interactional function of language. At all the different stages of the interaction, the pragmatic act of appreciating is expressed directly and explicitly. The allopracts of the act are expressed in both expanded forms (we want to thank you very much) and as lexicalised stems (thank you). Although it usually features during Finis, it is also performed by interactants during Invitation of Perspectives, Presentation, and Interrogation.

During the Invitation of Perspectives, hearing panel members may thank C/D. This is shown in the examples below:

Example 304

Sodangi: Thank you very much. Can you give us your full name and state your complaint before us? *Thank you.*

Example 305

Sodangi: Thank you sir. Sit down and tell us your full particulars.

In both examples, the pragmatic act of appreciating is performed by the hearing panel chairman just before he invites the complainants to present their cases. This act establishes the interpersonal relationship between the addresser and the addressee. It also indicates the cultural value of Nigerians who appreciate their addressee before or after saying something. In these examples, the act of appreciating is expressed through the pract of thanking which serves as a politeness marker and coincides with Leech's convivial act (Leech, 1983). It acts as a supportive ritual associated with politeness and good behaviour in the society (Aijmer, 1996).

During Presentation, complainants/defendants may also appreciate the hearing panel at the beginning of their presentation. Examples are shown below:

Example 306

Abdullahi: thank you Mr. Chairman. My names are Aduladi
Abdullahi.

Example 307

Ehindero: Em Mr Chairman, let me thank you and the committee most
sincerely for the courtesy of this invitation.

In the examples above, the complainants/defendants also thank the hearing panel members. This is an act that cements the interpersonal relationship between the complainants/ defendants and the hearing panel members. Appreciating/thanking signals various stages in the interaction (Aijmer, 1996). In the examples above, the complainants start their presentations before they start speaking and this occurs at the beginning of other stages in the interaction.

During Interrogation, the hearing panel members also thank the presenters for their presentations when they are about to start their questioning. This can be seen below:

Example 308

Sodangi: *Thank you very much eh former IG.* I think my colleagues
will like to ask you one or two questions, yes Senator Anthony.

Vice: *Ok thank you very much.* What sort of development did you have
in the area before the demolition? What sort of development?

In the examples above, the chairman and the vice-chairman appreciate the defendant and complainant respectively before questioning them. This also signals the interpersonal relationship between the addressers and the addressees.

During Finis, the chairman of the hearing panel usually appreciates the presenters and this is used to signal the end of the entire interaction. Examples are presented below:

Example 309

Sodangi: ...the rest of them are hereby admitted as exhibit 38. *We
want to thank you very much.* You have finished, you can go
and you are lucky, the counselor-general is here and the
director of development control is here. So let... a notice
should be issued out to the director.

In the example above, the pragmatic act of appreciating is performed as the chairman thanks the complainant. This is a psychological act which fulfils an interpersonal

function. The chairman also goes ahead to permit the complainant to leave. This shows the end of the interaction. He also makes a comment on the presentation. This shows that thanking/appreciating is an act that organises a discourse (Aijmer, 1996). Another example is cited below:

Example 310

...record from you is admitted as exhibit 76-76. We want to thank you very much ...Operate Nigerians at the cheaper rate. That is being advocated by Senator Smart Adeyemi, my Senator for the masses. We want to thank you.

In the example above, the chairman appreciates the defendant and also advises him to make his health services cheaper for Nigerians. The psychological act can be seen in the appreciation made. The advice *Operate Nigerians at the cheaper rate* also signals a psychological act as it tries to cement the interpersonal relationship between the chairman and the defendant. The act signals the conclusion of the conversation (Eisenten & Bodman, 1986).

Table 5.1. Pragmatic functions in the public hearing on FCT Administration

Pragmatic Functions	Macro-rhetorical Elements	Examples
Ordering	Affirmation Order/ Invitation of Perspectives/Interrogation/ Admission	Ex. 249, 250, etc
Swearing	Affirmation	Ex. 257
Informing	Presentation/Interrogation/ Compliance/Finis	Ex. 258, 259, etc
Complaining	Presentation	Ex. 266, 267, etc
Defending	Presentation/Interrogation Compliance	Ex. 268, 269, etc
Advising	Interrogation	Ex. 272, 273, etc
Accusing	Interrogation	Ex. 274, 275, etc
Denying	Interrogation	Ex. 277, 278, etc
Questioning	Presentation/ Interrogation/ Interrogation Compliance/Finis	Ex. 280, 281, etc
Requesting	Prayer Demand/ Prayer/Finis	Ex. 287, 288, etc
Promising	Interrogation/Interrogation Compliance/ and Finis	Ex. 292, 293, etc
Admitting	Admission	Ex. 298, 299, etc
Appreciating	Invitation of Perspectives/ Presentation/ Interrogation/ Interrogation Compliance/Finis	Ex. 304, 305, etc

CHAPTER SIX
A COMPARISON OF THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION
COMMISSION HEARING AND THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY
HEARING

6.0 Introduction

This chapter focuses on the comparison of the interactional formats identified in the quasi-judicial public hearing on the Federal Capital Territory Administration in Nigeria and the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) hearing study. It provides a brief background study on the TRC hearing and highlights the areas of convergence and divergence in the interactional formats identified in an earlier study on the TRC in South Africa and the FCT hearing in Nigeria. The chapter reveals that five discourse macrostructures in the FCT hearing were similar to those identified in the TRC hearing study, namely, Affirmation Order/introduction, Invitation of Perspectives/elicitation, Presentation/narrative, Interrogation/questions and Finis/concluding remarks. Affirmation, Interrogation Compliance, Prayer, Prayer Demand and Admission were not identified in the latter. Also, the TRC study did not cover pragmatic functions in its analysis. There was also no study of speech functions in the TRC. These are discussed below:

6.1 Background to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearing

The South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearing was created by the Promotion of National Unity and Reconciliation Act No. 34 of 1995. The Act stated that the TRC was to ‘promote national unity and reconciliation in a spirit of understanding which transcends the conflicts and divisions of the past’ (TRC Report, 1998, 1.4: 54). The Commission consisted of three subcommittees: the Human Rights Violations Committee, the Amnesty Committee and the Committee on Reparation and Rehabilitation. The Human Rights Violations Committee (HRVC) dealt with a statement-taking process and the organisation of public hearings in places where apartheid victims could come forward to give testimonies about their experiences during the apartheid. The HRVC gathered close to 22,000 statements, which covered 37,000 violations. Such violations were defined as “killing, abduction, torture or severe ill treatment” and the “attempt, conspiracy, incitement, instigation, command or procurement to commit” such acts (TRC Report, 1998, 1: 29). In each of the South African regions, the HRVC selected a number of statements for the public hearing. At

these hearings, the victims were given a forum to talk about the human rights violations they had experienced under apartheid. The testimonies revealed the degree to which apartheid had had a destructive effect on the lives of many South Africans (Verdoolaege, 2009).

Initial statements were taken by statement takers who had been recruited from the ranks of people with previous experience of similar work. These initial statements were not sworn statements or tape-recorded. These statements were then handed over to the Investigation Unit for checking and corroboration. Once the statements had been checked, the HRV Committee would invite a selection of people to give testimonies at a local public hearing. These people were then contacted and invited to testify at public hearings in or near the place in which the violations had occurred. People who had accepted the invitation were invited to preparatory sessions in which trained briefers explained to them what would happen in the public hearings, and helped them to consider how they would describe what they had experienced or witnessed. The briefers' role was *not* to do the shaping of the story (McCormick & Bock, 1999).

6.2 The comparison of the TRC and the FCT hearing studies

A number of linguistic studies have been carried out on the TRC as shown in the literature review section of this study. However, only one of these studies analysed the interactional structure of the TRC. The study, carried out by McCormick and Bock (1999) was analysed using Labov's (1972) theory of personal narratives. The authors report that the TRC hearing followed the format of introduction, elicitation, narrative, questions, and concluding remarks. However, they did not elaborate on the interactional specifics of each of the stages of the interaction. They did not undertake any generic structure analysis of the TRC hearing. Rather, they specifically focused on the narrative section of the hearing. The discussion on the format of the hearing was a mere outline of the situational context of the public hearing. A paragraph from the study on the TRC illustrates this:

The chairperson welcomed the witness, invited him or her to take the oath, and then introduced the commissioner who was to act as facilitator. The facilitator then introduced the topic which was central to the narrative, and often set it in the context of other political events at the time of the focal event. He or she then invited the witness to speak. The other commissioners did not always address the witness, but could do so after the main narrative if there was something they

wanted clarified. The chairperson drew the testimony to a close by commenting on it.

(McCormick and Bock, 1999:235)

This is all that is reported on the format/structure of the TRC hearing. Thus, the structure identified in the TRC is generalised and did not capture the details of the interaction. McCormick & Bock (1999) did not point out which parts of the interaction were introduction, elicitation, narrative, questions, and concluding remarks. However, from the extract in their study, it is evident that ‘introduction’ captures the chairperson’s welcome address, invitation to the witness to take the oath, and the introduction of the facilitator, which correlates with ‘Affirmation Order’ of the present study. ‘Elicitation’ captures the facilitator’s introduction of the topic and the invitation of the witness to speak, thus, it correlates with ‘Invitation of Perspective’. ‘Narrative’ is similar to ‘Presentation while ‘questions’ correlates with ‘Interrogation’. ‘Concluding remarks’ and ‘Finis’ are complementary. These are explicitly shown in figure 6.1:

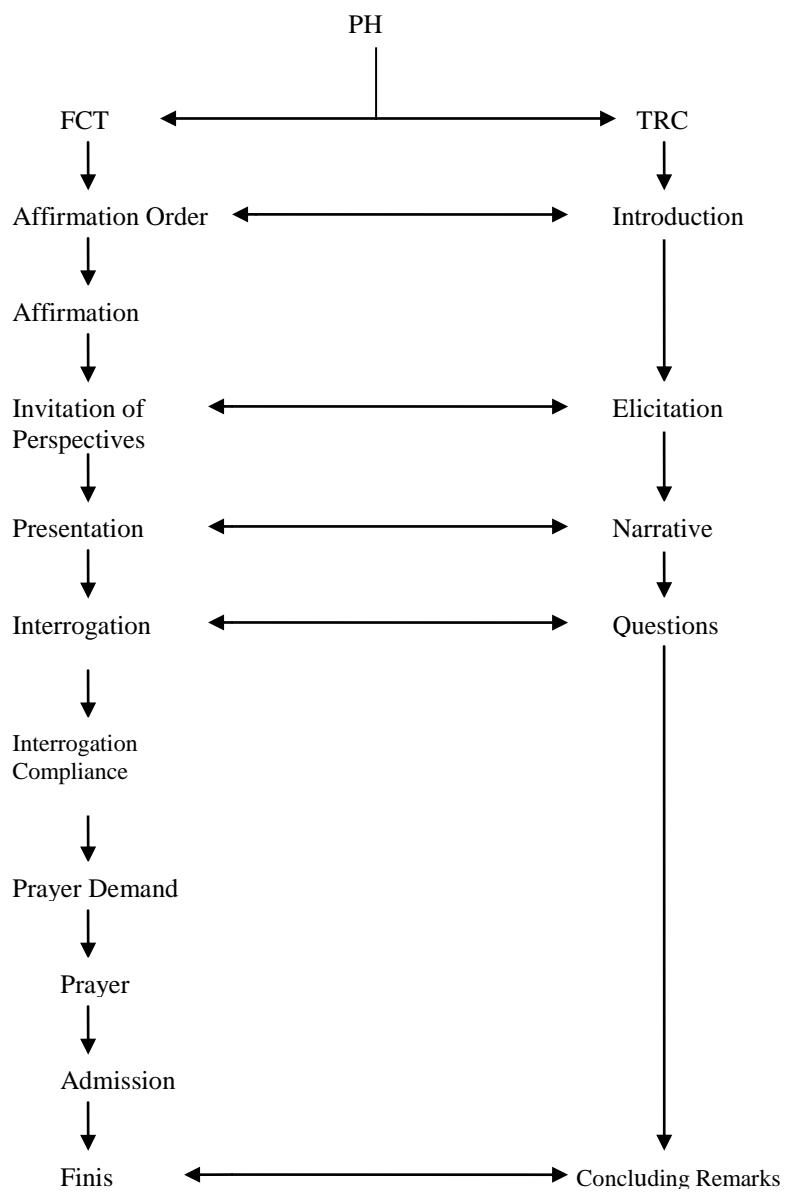


Figure 6.1. A chart showing areas of convergence and divergence in the interactional structure of the FCT and TRC hearings

The figure 6.1 shows the areas of convergence and divergence in the interactional structures identified in the TRC hearing and the present study. At the area of convergence, five similar rhetorical elements are identified in both the TRC study and the present study as pointed out above. At the convergence level, the names differ because of the theoretical model used in the present study which is Halliday and Hasan's (1989) and Ansary and Babaii's (2005) GSP. Thus, the names of the elements are patterned according to the names used in these studies. The terms *Compliance*, and *Finis* are borrowed from Halliday and Hasan (1989). For example, Halliday uses *Finis* to classify the element that signals the closure of an interaction. *Compliance* shows the response to a question or demand.

The term *Affirmation Order* is used to signify the order to take the oath. In the TRC study, however, *Introduction* is used to represent the order to take the oath and the oath-taking itself and this plays down the significance of the elements that make up the macrostructure. Also, the TRC study favours the use of the term *narrative*, considering that it uses Labov's (1979) theory of personal narratives. Also, the term *Interrogation* is used in the present study rather than *questions* because it is evident that during that stage, the hearing panel uses other sentence types such as statements and commands (see discussion on Interrogation in section 4.1.5), which are meant to investigate the issues raised by the C/D. Also, *questions* is not an adequate term to qualify the answers given by the C/D. Thus, the term Interrogation Compliance is used.

At the divergence level, the authors did not recognise Affirmation (the oath-taking stage), *Interrogation Compliance* (which focuses on the answers to the *questions*), *Prayer Demand* and *Prayer* in the TRC hearing but it is evident that these elements feature in the TRC hearing (see table 6.1 and the discussion that ensue). *Admission* of submissions did not feature at all in the TRC hearing.

Table 6.1: A comparison of the interactional structures identified FCT and TRC study

Macro-rhetorical Elements	Sentential Examples: FCT Hearing	Sentential Examples: TRC Hearing
Affirmation Order (AO)/Introduction	Please can you affirm him with the Bible?	In a moment I am going to ask one of our Commissioners to assist you, but before that would you please stand for the taking of the oath.
Affirmation (A)	I Chika Okeke Okafor, do solemnly swear That the evidence that I shall give before this honourable committee shall be the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth. So help me God	Duly sworn states
Invitation of Perspectives (IP)/ Elicitation	Ok please tell us your name again and tell us your complaint.	Ms Cupido your son Clive was at school at Kasselsvlei Senior Secondary School in 1985, is that right?
Presentation(P)/ Narrative	Eh my chairman, my own case is purely a case of demolition... in 1995, I was at the National Political Conference during the national eh service. I just woke up one day and they called me from my office anyway that both my office and the estate at Karu was being demolished...The Idu plot is still vacant plot. Nobody has put anything there.	Well I was sitting, and me and my husband was sitting waiting for Clive to come home. Because that's the day that Boesak and Tutu had the march in Cape Town.Clive came home early – eleven o'clock the morning and then he told me this march is going to have a lot of trouble.
Interrogations (I)/ Questions	For how many years?	Thank you Ms Cupido. Now you told us that there was somebody else there when your son was killed, Errol van Rensburg?
Interrogation Compliance (IC) Prayer Demand (PD)	Almost eh ah four years now, nothing there. What is your prayer?	Errol van Rensburg. What is it that you would like the Truth Commission to do?
Prayer (Pr)	My prayer sir is that I should be entitled to the compensation	I feel that the truth must come out, people should know that it wasn't my son that kept the policeman, it was Lawrence Davids, ... must give a statement and - and Errol van Rensburg.
Admission (Ad)	So your submission is eh admitted as exhibit eh 82.	---
Finis (F)/ Concluding remarks	So we want to thank you Chief. We wish you all the best.	I know it hasn't been easy for you to come and tell the story and it must of been hanging over you and now you have been very brave and done it, so thank you very much indeed.

The table above shows the comparison between the structure identified in the McCormick and Bock's study of the TRC hearing and the structure identified in the present study. The present study shows that there are ten discourse macrostructural elements, using the generic structure approach while the TRC study identifies five discourse elements, using the narrative approach. The ten macrostructures identified in the present study include Affirmation Order, Affirmation, Invitation of Perspectives, Presentation, Interrogation, Interrogation Compliance, Prayer Demand, Prayer, Admission and Finis while that of the TRC study include introduction, elicitation, narrative, questions, and concluding remarks.

It is evident that the macrostructures identified in the TRC study are broad and did not cover the details of the interaction. Apart from the 'narrative' which is made up of statements, paratactic structures, repetition, and use of coordinate clauses, McCormick and Bock (1999) did not spell out the specific microstructural elements that make up other discourse macrostructures. These microstructures also include rhetorical and argumentative strategies as well as discourse features and pragmatic functions that characterise the different stages of the interaction. All these microstructures are identified in the present study (see chapter 4).

It is also evident from the TRC hearing that the linguistic structures that make up the interaction differ from that of the FCT hearing. For example, in 'elicitation' of the TRC study, there are a series of statements, questions and answers that make up this stage of the interaction. This is because there is a facilitator who helps the witness to give an account of past events. These statements and questions are meant to guide the witness in giving her testimony. Thus, 'elicitation' in the TRC study is made up of declaratives and interrogatives; on the other hand, 'Invitation of perspectives' in the present study is made up of declaratives and imperatives. Imperatives occurred more often than declaratives in the FCT hearing. From the extract used in the TRC study, declaratives seem to occur more often than interrogatives. This shows the importance of carrying out a detailed analysis of the macrostructural elements that make up each stage of the interaction.

In addition, the generic structure approach used in the present study shows that I and IC are recursive. The TRC extract used in McCormick and Bock (1999) shows that 'elicitation' and 'questions' are recursive. The narrative approach used by the authors did not show this feature. This is illustrated in the example below:

Example 311: Elicitation

Facilitator: *Thank you Chairperson, hello Ms Cupido and welcome again.*

Witness: Hello and thank you very much for hearing me.

Facilitator: Ms Cupido your son Clive was at school at Kasselsvlei Senior Secondary School in 1985. Is that right?

Witness: That's right.

Facilitator: Right, and in the evenings after school he used to go and study with a friend at the friend's house.

Witness: --- That's right.

Facilitator: Is that right, that friend was Albert van der Berg, is that right?

Witness: --- That's right.

Facilitator: *Yes, and so on that night of the 29th of August he was with his friend studying.*

Witness: --- That's right.

From this extract, it is evident that the facilitator makes use of a number of statements to help the witness narrate her story. This is because the facilitator had already obtained the information which the witness is expected to narrate. This makes the TRC hearing different from the FCT hearing as there was no facilitator to help the complainants/defendants. These statements, questions and answers are repeated until a point when the witness finally pours out the whole narrative and does not need the facilitator to encourage her to speak. This also shows that while elicitation in the TRC study is recursive, its equivalent in the present study, that is IP, is not recursive. In the FCT hearing, as pointed out in chapter four, interrogatives and imperatives are mainly used i.e. *Yes Barrister, tell us your particulars and state your complaints.*

Example 312: Questions

Facilitator: Thank you Ms Cupido. Now you told us that there was somebody else there when your son was killed, Errol van Rensburg.

Witness: Errol van Rensburg.

Facilitator: Was he a friend of your son's? [sic]

Witness: Not actually, but he was there, he is the key witness. And this chap that sat at the hospital, Lawrence Davids.

Facilitator: So Errol was with Clive when they were - was Errol also injured?

Witness: Errol wasn't injured.

From the extract above, it is evident that *questions* which also include the answers of the witnesses are recursive just as we have in the FCT study; however, the approach used in the TRC study does not indicate the recursive nature of these elements.

Furthermore, McCormick and Bock (1999) identify 'introduction' and goes onto 'elicitation'. Between introduction and elicitation, there is the stage where the witness swears an oath. This particular aspect was not identified in the TRC study. Thus, the pragmatic import of this aspect of the interaction is not known. From the extract, we have the utterance 'Duly sworn states' from the TRC hearing. Since this is neglected, it shows that the authors did not see the significance of this aspect in the interaction.

Also, Prayer Demand and Prayer which are identified in the present study are omitted in the TRC study. However, these elements do exist in the TRC hearing but were not identified by the authors. This can be seen in the extract below:

Example 313

Facilitator: What is it that you would like the Truth Commission to do?

Witness: I feel that the truth must come out, people should know that it wasn't my son that kept the policeman, it was Lawrence Davids, ... he must give a statement and - and Errol van Rensburg.

From this extract, the utterance of the facilitator corresponds with Prayer Demand while the utterance of the witness corresponds with Prayer itself. However, it seems the authors added this to the *questions* section. This is why the term *questions* is inadequate to cover a range of discourse macrostructures which fulfill different pragmatic functions in the hearing.

Admission does not come up in the TRC hearing as legal documents may have been collected before the hearing itself. In the FCT hearing, documents are given to the hearing panel before the hearing and admitted during the hearing as shown in the example below:

Example 314

Sodangi: So your submission is eh admitted as exhibit eh 82.

This type of situation did not arise in the TRC hearing.

CHAPTER SEVEN

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

7.0 Introduction

This chapter discusses the summary of the findings of this study and the conclusion on the results of the study. These are discussed in turns.

7.1 Summary of findings

In this study, interaction structure and pragmatic features in the quasi-judicial public hearing on Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCT) in Nigeria have been studied. The findings have been presented and discussed under the following headings:

- (a) Generic structure of the quasi-judicial public hearing on FCT administration;
- (b) Locutions in the quasi-judicial public hearing on FCT administration;
- (c) Contextual beliefs in the quasi-judicial public hearing on FCT administration;
- (d) Pragmatic functions in the quasi-judicial public hearing on FCT administration; and
- (e) The comparison of the TRC and the FCT hearing studies.

7.1.1 Generic structure of the quasi-judicial public hearing on FCT administration

The macrostructural elements associated with the public hearing include seven obligatory elements: Affirmation Order, Affirmation, Invitation of Perspectives, Presentation, Interrogation, Interrogation Compliance, Admission and three optional elements: Prayer Demand, Prayer, and Finis. Interrogation and Interrogation Compliance are iterative elements. Affirmation Order is an obligatory element which is realised by plain words, interrogative, declarative and imperative sentences. Affirmation is an obligatory element which is realised by plain words, imperative and declarative sentences. Invitation of Perspectives is an obligatory element which is realised by plain words, interrogative, declarative and imperative sentences. Presentation is an obligatory element which is realised by plain words, political, legal, property, medical and financial jargon as well as declarative and interrogative sentences. Rhetorical moves used during Presentation include victimisation, appeal to authority and appeal to emotion. Argumentative strategies

used include legality and illegality, examples, evidence and detailed description. Interrogation is an obligatory element which is realised by plain words, political, financial, medical, legal and property jargon; interrogative, imperative and declarative sentences. Interrogative sentences used in the interactions include WH-type, polar, alternative and declarative questions. Interrogation Compliance is realised by plain words, political, financial, medical, legal and property jargon; interrogative and declarative sentences. It is an obligatory element.

Prayer Demand is an optional element which is realised by plain words, interrogative and imperative sentences. Prayer is an optional element which is realised by plain words, imperative and declarative sentences. Admission is an obligatory element which is also realised by plain words, imperative and declarative sentences. Finis is an optional element which sometimes features appreciation, comments, promises, requests or last minute questions. It is realised by plain words, legal jargon, imperative, interrogative and declarative sentences.

7.1.2 Locutions in the quasi-judicial public hearing on FCT administration

The locutions in the public hearing sessions are studied under two broad headings. These include lexical features and functional sentence types.

7.1.2.1 Lexical features

The lexical features in the hearing sessions are described in respect of lexical choices, lexical collocation, word formation and lexical relationships.

7.1.2.1.1 Lexical choices

The lexical items in the hearing appear as jargon and plain and sub-technical words. There are more instances of jargon than plain words because the interactants had shared background knowledge of the technical terms used in the hearing. The jargon includes political, legal, property, medical and financial jargon types. Political jargon dominates the jargon types because the matter which was investigated in the hearing affected political office holders and government properties. The plain words pick out property, public hearing, justice, finance and governance related words. Property related terms had the highest rate of occurrence of plain words because the hearing was concerned with the sale and demolition of landed properties.

7.1.2.1.2 Lexical collocation

Fixed and free collocations are used to describe documents and offices. Fixed collocations occur more than free collocations because of the high use of technical terms. Instances of fixed collocation that are found in the hearing are political, legal

medical, and property jargon, which are used during Presentation, Interrogation and Interrogation Compliance. Free collocations found in the hearing sessions include governance related terms which have the highest rate of occurrence. Property related words occurred next and financial terms had the least rate of occurrence. Both collocations include noun-noun combinations, adjective-noun combinations and noun-preposition-noun combinations.

7.1.2.1.3 Word formation processes

The word formation processes found in hearing sessions include affixation compounding, abbronymy, and clipping, and these are used in the description of processes, personalities, offices, institutions and documents. Affixation has the highest rate of occurrence while clipping has the least rate of occurrence. Affixations dominate the word formation processes used because they describe the processes and the personalities involved in the hearing. In the hearing, more words are formed through suffixation than prefixation. The abbronyms used include government parastatals which have the highest rate of occurrence, followed by government offices, government-owned companies while medical jargon has the least rate of occurrence. All the compounds formed in the hearing sessions are noun compounds. Clipping affected medical and political jargon. These are deployed during Presentation, Interrogation, Interrogation Compliance and Prayer.

7.1.2.1.4 Lexical relationships

Antonyms and synonyms are used to depict the actions of the interactants and these are associated with legal jargon and property related words. Antonyms dominate the lexical relationships because they depict the negative actions of government officials. Antonyms and synonyms occur during Presentation, Interrogation and Interrogation Compliance.

7.1.2.2 Functional sentence types

The functional sentence types in the hearing sessions include declaratives, interrogatives and imperatives. There is a preponderance of declarative sentences as the presentations and responses of the complainants/defendants form the bulk of the interaction. Declaratives are used during Affirmation, Presentation, Interrogation, Interrogation Compliance, Prayer, Admission and Finis; while interrogatives are deployed during Presentation, Interrogation, Interrogation Compliance, Prayer Demand and Finis. Wh- type, polar, alternative and declarative questions typify the

interrogative types. Imperatives are found in Affirmation Order, Invitation of Perspectives, Interrogation, Interrogation Compliance, Admission and Finis.

7.1.3 Contextual beliefs in the quasi-judicial public hearing on FCT administration

The pragmatic assumptions in the hearing are based on shared knowledge of public hearing procedures, shared knowledge of legal codes regarding landed property, shared knowledge of government involvement and shared knowledge of Abuja metropolis. This shows that interactants in the hearing take a lot of things for granted as the events and issues that surround the public hearing procedure, property law, government involvement and Abuja metropolis are known to them all. The shared beliefs are invoked during Presentation, Interrogation Compliance, Prayer and Finis.

7.1.4 Pragmatic functions in the quasi-judicial public hearing on FCT administration

Thirteen pragmatic acts characterise the language: *ordering* is carried out during Affirmation Order, Invitation of Perspectives, Interrogation, and Admission; *swearing* is made during Affirmation; *appreciating* is expressed during Invitation of Perspectives, Presentation, Interrogation, Interrogation Compliance and Finis, *informing* is realised during Presentation, Interrogation, Interrogation Compliance and Finis; *complaining* is expressed during Presentation; *defending* is made during Presentation and Interrogation Compliance; *commenting* is carried out during Interrogation and Finis; *advising* is carried out during Interrogation; accusing is done during Interrogation; *denying* is expressed during Interrogation Compliance; *questioning* is carried out during Presentation, Interrogation and Finis; *promising* is made during Interrogation, Interrogation Compliance and Finis; *requesting* is made during Prayer Demand, Prayer and Finis; and *admitting* is done during Admission.

7.1.5 A comparison of the TRC study and the FCT study

Five macrostructures in the FCT hearing are similar to those of the TRC hearing, namely, Affirmation Order/introduction, Invitation of Perspectives/elicitation, Presentation/narrative, Interrogation/questions and Finis/concluding remarks. Affirmation, Interrogation Compliance, Prayer, Prayer Demand and Admission are not identified in the latter. The TRC study, using a narrative approach, does not give any attention to generic structure and pragmatic functions, which constitute major findings on the FCT hearing.

7.2 Conclusion

7.2.1 Contributions of the study

This work has contributed to the study of quasi-judicial public hearing interactions in Nigeria, which is still a growing area of study in Nigeria. In particular, it serves as a foundational work in the area of public hearing interactions in Nigeria, which has been largely unexplored in Nigerian linguistic studies. This work has applied the Generic Structure Potential, speech act theory and pragmatic act theory to the analysis of naturally occurring discourse. It has established that there are certain discourse macrostructural elements in the schematic structure of quasi-judicial public hearings.

The work has studied the locutions by looking at the lexical choices, collocational patterns, morphological processes and functional sentence types that characterised each stage of the interaction. It has established that communication in quasi-judicial public hearings depends on the skillful manipulation of linguistic skills to achieve meaning and comprehension. The work has examined the argumentative and rhetorical strategies employed by interactants in the quasi-judicial public hearing. The study has shown that these persuasive and argumentative moves are employed by speakers in order to represent themselves positively and the Other negatively. The study has demonstrated that interactants in quasi-judicial public hearings act on certain shared contextual beliefs which depend on the knowledge of linguistic, socio-political and socio-cultural knowledge. It has also shown how contextual features play important roles in the production and interpretation of utterances by speakers and hearers.

The work has contributed to public hearing interactions and quasi-judicial communication as a whole, by exploring pragmatic functions in the public hearing. It has shown that pragmatic acts are constrained by the genre in which they are used. More importantly, the work has compared the interaction structure identified in the FCT hearing to that of the one identified by authors in the South African TRC and discovered that the approach used was too broad and did not capture the interactional specifics of the TRC hearing. The work has also contributed to judicial and political education in Nigeria as the knowledge of the linguistic, discourse and pragmatic knowledge can be used in teaching judicial and political communication in tertiary institutions. Thus, the study facilitates clear understanding of the pragmatic force of the discourse and contextual background to the hearing.

7.2.2 Applications of the study

This study can be applied to the understanding of quasi-judicial public hearings and public hearings in general. The study can also be applied to the understanding of genre analysis and pragmatic studies in other fields. The knowledge of the interaction structure of quasi-judicial public hearing can be applied to the understanding of how the genre of a text can influence the type of microstructural elements that are used at each stage of an interaction. The study can also be applied to the understanding of discourse strategies used by interactants in naturally occurring discourse. It can also be applied to the teaching of political communication and quasi-judicial interactions. It can help the trainee to understand the pragmatic force of the discourse and contextual background to the hearing.

7.2.3 Suggestions for further studies

The present work has focused on the interaction structure and pragmatic features in the 2008 quasi-judicial public hearing on Federal Capital Territory administration in Nigeria. Further work can be carried out on legislative public hearings in Nigeria. In addition, a comparative analysis can be carried out among quasi-judicial public hearings in Nigeria such as the investigative public hearing on power project, petroleum sector, etc and the Human Rights Violations Investigation Commission (Oputa panel), and those in other countries such as the Waki Commission of Kenya (2008) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings which have been concluded in Liberia (2009) and Sierra Leone (2011).

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Appendix 1

Interview 2

Sodangi: Quickly please, briefly please anyone who is coming should see ...Is Bullet Engineering... We understand that that the MD is here. Bullet engineering please Can you please (to secretary)

Sen.: (Aside) this is the worst case... the worst of it all...the worst of it all.

Sodangi: Go ahead.

Secretary: I

Isa: I

Secretary: Your name?

Isa: Ismaila Isa

Secretary: Do solemnly swear

Isa: Do solemnly swear

Secretary: that the evidence that I shall give

Isa: that the evidence that I shall give

Secretary: before this committee

Isa: before this committee

Secretary: shall be the truth

Isa: shall be the truth

Secretary: the whole truth

Isa: the whole truth

Secretary: and nothing but the truth

Isa: and nothing but the truth

Secretary: so help me God

Isa: so help me God

Sodangi: Thank you very much. Can you give us your full name and state your complaint before us. Thank you.

Isa: My name is Ismaila Isa. My name is Ismaila Isa. The chairman of (Unclear) and of my company. I am one of the (Unclear) of Abuja. I have only one plot in my name, allocated to me and even that was revoked. And then when they found out that I was one that could not be pushed around. Now they wrote me a letter...The chairman, I have a very short letter written to ...

Sodangi: This letter was addressed to the ... FCT on the 4th of October, 2006 (Sorry you know some of us are getting old-Laugh)

Isa: em em Mr. Minister, permission to develop plot 3204, zone A06 Maitama and 464, zone B04 Jabi. We submitted to development control two sets of drawings for approval in respect of our plots on 19 September, 2006 but we wrote this letter October, 2006. Some one year and ten months ago but yet to secure approval of same and some months ago despite all...meeting all laid down requirements and payments of prescribed fees. At some point, we were requested to reestablish our ... or reestablish our drawings placed...misplaced by staff of development control from one... from one of our...our files. These we all did but to no avail to get approval... to get approval. We are particularly encouraged by your laudable ... of accelerated development of the Federal Capital Territory and also share... some share ... which we seek our...your direct approval of drawings to enable us...help us commence in earnest the physical development of our plot. We are law abiding corporate entity and therefore... and therefore not...will not like to all... allow ourselves to be frustrated by worrisome attitudes of some officers of development control or indulge in any illegal development of ... without securing your approval. Mr. Minister Sir, we will appreciate your very... your very kind appreciation of our plight and allow us permission to commence development of our said plots. Kindly accept our...our assurance of the highest esteem please. I submitted this letter personally to Mr. Nasiru EL-Rufai. And as I am talking to you now, our approval plans have been with development control for two years and eight months without approval. But they went on ... our plots allocate to a...give the plots to developers who would develop and sell because there are some Nigerians with two heads (pause) not one. Because of this, I went and told the minister, then Nasiru...Nasiru, you are free to give anybody our plot you so wish but it will be illegal. Anybody who develops that plot, I will break it down because we have a construction company. Illegality plus illegality minus illegality equals illegality (Laughter from people). I said we will break it and I meant it and Mr Chairman up till now as I am talking to you, we are Nigerians. We bought that property for over 100 million naira and somebody cannot come with a stroke of pen and just take it and give it to a friend of his who is interested in it or some associates of his brother. That is not all. At this point sir, I am not here to condemn Nasiru. Nasiru was the minister of FCT. We have no doubt it. He did some

good things and he did some bad things. He took over Abuja and that time, Abuja was in a mess. Let me say he did his best to sanitize a lot of things but there are a lot of excesses which no normal human being with a conscience will allow to happen. What surprises me whenever we take letter to him, he will minute on it to development control and after that nothing will happen. Now looking at all the correspondences and I am not going to bore you particularly you are short of time. I am not going to bore you with all these letter between us and development control. They either ask us to resubmit, we will resubmit and we documented everything. If you go to them now, I am sure they will have these documents which emanated from their offices but we have the documents. What pains me, why should you deny me approval from development control and you then sold the same piece of land, gave it to someone, gave him certificate and gave him approval plan and the person came to me, trying to convince me to let him do his development because he has borrowed about 4 no 910 million from the bank to develop a piece of land. I am a business man. I am a capitalist. I am not a materialist because there is nothing ... there is nothing beyond me to do for any human being. Anybody who knows me knows that. If they had come to me and asked me for that...that piece of land ...but it is not in my personal name. It is that of Bullet Engineering. I can get Bullet to sacrifice it for them but the way and manner they took it under our nose but it is...that I am not going to allow...that I will not permit. Mr. Chairman, some of the excesses of FCT affected me directly. I have thousand of workers. I saw what they had gone through when the place they were living was demolished and the land is still sitting there fallow. I interjected on their behalf to allow the rainy season to pass before they do demolishing but nobody is willing to listen to me. And I know we lost some workers when they were carrying their family back to the east. They cannot accommodate their families anymore. They lost their lives and those are people working for me because whatever I am doing they are the people doing the work. Without them I am nobody there. And they are back with me and I regard them as my children and this is one of the reasons I came to this committee, not because of a piece of land. Sir, I will like to appeal to you and your colleagues. Do not do habi habi the way and manner to want to do it on the job. You put a time lapse. You think oh we want finish by tomorrow or day after tomorrow... or day after tomorrow. With due respect sir, if you do, you are doing a disservice to yourself and to the people who elected you, that is the Nigerians. Some people are hurt, some people lost their lives, some

people became paralysed. Some people lost their means of livelihood and this is something National Assembly should not take for granted...should not take. I beg you sir, we will leave this ... but I leave this with your committee. There are a lot of injustices. I give you two simple quick examples. WRAPA, Women Rights Advancement Project Alternative. It is highly recognised internationally. I am one of the founding members of the board of WRAPA and chairman of their financial committee. I purchased a piece of land for WRAPA at a cost of fifty-five million naira. There is a small structure and fence in it. We gave it out to ABC Transport for two million naira rent per annum and one morning... one morning, one illegal body called AMA, Abuja Metropolitan Development Agency -because to me it is illegal, it is FCDA that is legal to me, not AMA. They went, demolished the building, cleared the fence, took the containers of those who...the people who are renting the place and threw it on the road...the side of the road. They wrote, came to my office. They told me. I told them it is well. I am a law abiding citizen. There is nothing we can do. We will take it the legal way. We filed a case and we were filing the case and I expressed reaction with...with the judge handling the case. She is the wife of former attorney-general, Bayo Ojo. After delaying us and allowing the person to ... development –he refused to stop whatever. She turned round to say she has no jurisdiction over that. Why You are the lawyer; you know more than I do. There is a simple court ruling that Abuja judicial district -they have jurisdiction over land matters in FCT. She doesn't know about that? She turned round to say she has no jurisdiction over that after allowing the man to go up...up. We did not demolish the building because the chairperson, Justice Fati Abubakar, the wife of former Head of State, Abdusalami Abubakar, is also a judge of the high court, so we wouldn't do anything out of the ordinary. Another last example sir, there is a very very senior gentleman in this county- Sheik Sheriff Ibrahim Salim of Maiduguri. I believe some of you know him. He was given a piece of Land by Ibrahim Dono, took certificate and everything and after he fenced the place, he did everything. They went there and said 'oh this place has been revoked', Reason- double allocation. He is alive. How can a minister give you a piece of land, a parcel of that kind of calibre, to give him a land that is double allocation? They divided the land and gave him the smallest portion. He took the smallest portion and even the smallest portion now, they have revoked it. (Laughs) Mr. Chairman, I show you one simple example which has guide your committee. Do not be impressed by

them telling people that they have revoked people their land. When they sent a letter to me telling me they have revoked my land. Unknown to them-because they are educated illiterates-they think record will not show. They sent a letter to me through Garki post office... Garki post office on 23rd of June, 2006 and Kaduna post office received this... the...on the 24th, the following day. Their stamp is there. But what they did...they think everybody is walking on his head. They wrote their so-called revocation letter on 28th of February. You revoked my land, so-called revoked my land in February and you are sending a letter for revocation to the post office through registered mail on the 23rd of June. Even if they send someone to walk down to Kaduna and deliver this letter, he will go to Kaduna and come back in four months and some days. So what they are doing, when you hear double allocation, double this, double that, you know this is what they are doing. They write their things and backdate and because the...this is the post office. They are registering everything an...and I'm leaving this with you. My prayers over this matter...

Sodangi: before the prayers eh eh before...before the prayers sorry, you said in your presentation... presentation, you have only one plot allocated and...and all the registration that you have been doing, you have not told us formally. What is the name of the company so that we can take it down?

Isa: The name of the company is Bullet International (Nig) Limited. We are a construction company based in Abuja, Kaduna, Jos, Maiduguri and Katsina.

Sodangi: And what is your designation in the comp...company?

Isa: I am the chairman and the prime mover of the company sir.

Sodangi: Thank you very much sir. Ok your prayers sir. We have taken all your advice so that we should not be in a hurry to do this job and we have taken all of that. I hope others have heard him. We are going to be...we will take our time as much as we can. We have been sent by the Senate and we will do this in two or three weeks but we will get to the bottom and as your statesman has advised. Go ahead with your prayers sir.

Isa: Well I do not want ...any custody here because I know people. When they hear Bullet, they want us to talk about eh ah eh about our demolition. No we have gone to court. We are in court and I intend to follow that up to the Supreme Court of this country. It is unjust, it is unfair, it is callous, it is I know how much we lost there and when people are appearing here. Some of the directors of FCDA, FCT or what have you, I was watching

throughout on the T.V. except those ones when I traveled out and came back for wedding. Some of them, I am not impressed the way and manner some of them are talking as if nothing happened in this country. People lost their lives because of their actions. They should not come here to joke, to tell people 'oh we don't have these details, we do not have this, we don't...we will submit later. You have written them. They know about this committee. You told them exactly...what you want. Those of us who are affected and our workers, who we regard as our children, who were affected, we do not take it... do not take it like funny. This is not a joking issue. We have thousands of workers. They are affected. They are being humiliated. Mr. Chairman, some of them I was watching them on the screen saying this has no court...no case. They are...they are just talking for the sake of talking. As I am talking to you now, we have a case pending in...in Court of Appeal and they know it. How can they say that there is no case pending against them? One in Abuja High Court exonerated the Minister and the...his director of development control and committed to prison, the operator of equipment. I said this is not honour. No operator of equipment will ride equipment to demolish anybody without somebody above him asking him to do it. They did it. On the day, they demolished the place, I was in Turkey, I was not in the country. God saved the situation This is the truth because I know how much we lost there. I know and on top of that, I know what my workers in their houses when it is being demolished (unclear). They are Nigerians. If you have the slightest conscience- I am not saying you must have conscience. If you have the slightest conscience during the demolition, you go and see them-all the people. All the people, men and women and young under trees with heavy rains- you will leave the place weak. They are Nigerians. They deserved to be protected by the law. They deserve to be protected by the constituted authority, if that has been done to them by the so-called constituted authority, authority above authority. That is why I pleaded with this committee to allow people to come and you what they have gone through.

Sen.: The assurance I give to you...Go ahead...go ahead... The assurance I give to you as (unclear), we won't round up until we hear from everybody...it is something that we have...We are not going to do the public hearing twice. We must hear from everybody who has a case to present. What we have been doing is that if a group of persons have similar cases, there is no need for us allowing each and everyone of them to come and talk. But you know, the most important thing is finding solutions to their problems and so

what we are doing is if you have similar problems and one or two persons have come to present, we will say, 'Don't worry, we will handle them since you have submitted your memoranda. We are going to look at them and address them.' But the assurance I give to you and Nigerians is that anyone who has a valuable case will come here no matter how frivolous the case might be. We will give everybody opportunity to air them or to come and present their cases. Thank you.

Sodangi: You have finished sir? Have you finished sir? Any further question? It is ok.

Sen.: It is not really a question. Mine is to eh say that eh it is a very sad development that eh eh under a democratically elected government, all these evils were perpetuated and it is equally painful that eh ha I have seen so far that very senior citizens that have contributed towards the development of our nation equally suffered this fate.

Interview 3

Man: In Area councils were principally the responsibility of the Area council and...and in line with this, the area popularly called Am Abdullah was within the jurisdiction of Abuja Municipal council...council and by virtue of the power vested in them, they allocated the plot in Absafam. Although the place is not known as Absafam on the allocation paper, it is referred to as off Kaduna School road, Kubwa. The allocation paper, sirs, were signed by one Mallam Mina A. Audu, the secretary to the rural land use adjudication committee who was appointed by the FCT and posted to the area council, a representative of the FCT Minister. Eh we want to tender at least two copies of such allocation papers as evidence that inside it...it was done on behalf of the government. Sir, the layout of the area was done. We all know that no individual can do layout except government. So there was a layout in that area. Again we seek to tender the layout. We have it here. Then eh these allocation papers...before these allocation papers, some people began to bought or buy the plots and when they bought, the next thing they did was to start development. Sir, I want to again, bring to the notice of the committee members that even the then NEPA supplied light to the area. Then the water board again supplied water to the area and government provided access road to this area. In 2004...

Sodangi: When you say government, Municipal or FCDA?

Man: The government in charge of the area sir. It should be Abuja Municipal Area.

Sodangi: It should not be. Be definitive. Is it FCDA or AMA?

Man: Sir firstly it was under AMA but later when Gwari...

Sodangi: You say...when you say government provided access road...

Man: It is Area council.

Sodangi: Fine.

Man: In 2004, FCDA declared that the structures in Absafam were illegal and the area was not approved by them. That same year sir, the FCDA set up a task force on implementation on Kubwa Master Plan, even though...even though eh evidence eventually showed there was not a master plan for Kubwa. When members of the task force visited the area popularly called Absafam, they met wonderful structures in place and a well laid-out area. They then recommended that the area be incorporated with the proposed Kubwa Master Plan. The recommendation of the task force was presented to the Federal Executive Council by the then Honourable Minister Mallam Nasiru el-Rufai for approval. The then em em Minister Mallam el-Rufai announced the approval of the recommendation of the task force to the press as published the Punch publication em Punch newspaper publication dated 22nd of July, 2004. Again sir, we seek to tender the photocopies of that eh of the paper. In January 2005, the minister, Mallam el-Rufai gave instructions to the Department of Resettlement and Compensation of FCDA to carry out evaluation of all the houses in Absafam and announced that the valuation will determine the amount each property/building owner will pay as a form of punishment for building before seeking approval. The identification...identification, assessment and evaluation were done by the staff of FCDA wherein the persons affected were asked to submit their documents of title and their passport photographs. We seek again sir to tender again sir to tender the letters asking the owners to come forward for such exercise. In April 2005 sir, the Minister of FCT, contrary to all he has stated to integrate the entire area into the new Kubwa master plan, moved to the area with bulldozers and pulled down virtually all of the 450 houses on the plot with the exception of about 156 houses and this was on the intervention of the National Assembly Authority. The buildings pulled down by the Minister were of international standard. Again sir, we have bought the photographs of all the buildings there before the demolition. We have them here sir. We want to tender them as exhibit sir. The demolition carried out sir by the staff of FCDA inflicted serious irreparable damage on the innocent citizens of Nigeria. Some have died (pause) as a result; some have developed hypertension while some are even in total disarray and are yet to recover. The incident generated a lot of furor to the extent that the authority of the

National Assembly had to instruct two ad hoc committees, one the...at the lower house. First, it was the House of Representative Committee on Demolition Exercise on Kubwa and again the Senate ad hoc committee on demolition exercise. The two committees found as facts that...that the two plots were allocated by officials of FCDA. Some of the building plans approved were done by the officials of FCDA as attested to by Honourable Isa Ndako. We seek again to tender the statement as contained in the ad hoc comm....committee report. We have that report. We will submit at the end of this presentation. .Also, it must be noted that the Minister did not follow due process in carrying out the demolition exercise in the first instance. The people were not given fair hearing before the demolition as provided for by the Nigerian Urban and Regional Planning Act. No tribunal was in fact put in place by the Minister to give them fair hearing. It must also be noted that the entire members of the House of Representatives, because they were moved visited the area besides with a view to stop the demolition but only succeeded for three days and as soon as they returned to their...to continue the public hearing and while the affected landowners were present at the public hearing, as we are here today... here today, then people began to receive all sorts of calls from their wives and children that the demolition was been carried out at the...the site. The Minister Sirs, reneged on his promises, to allow the property on the area...to allow the property on the area and the owner to be surcharged. That was the initial agreement, that they will be surcharged. They will pay a certain amount of money to the government by the council of state. That was the recommendation. Then the Minister also confirmed that the earlier allocation of this area, that is the so-called Absafam Abdullahi firm has been revoked...revoked and from French firm...that was the company it was reallocated to. So it has been revoked and has been reallocated. Sirs, we want to tell this house that...this committee sir that the act of demolition carried out in Kubwa 2004-in 2005 was inhuman and did not comply with the laws of the land, the laws of Nigeria. The people that are affected are Nigerians. They have no country to go to. This is our country and the essence of government is for the welfare of the people. But where in a situation you are not even safe in your country, do you go to Cotonou or do we go to Togo? This is why we have come before this honourable committee sir to assist us in different ways sir. One sir...our prayer sir is that the spare houses-because we have about 156 houses standing in the area now. That the spare houses should have their papers regularised with or without cost.

Then the land upon which the demolished houses stand should be returned to the owner. And if it is in the power of the government, compensation should be paid to the owners of these houses that were demolished. We thank you sir.

Sodangi: Ok give us the submission and all the...we want to thank you for the presentation and eh maybe my colleagues will want to ask you question but if they don't have, I will ask you one or two. Eh one of interest to me, you did mention passively in your submission that even the past administration headed by Mallam Nasiru was desirous to go and value the houses

Man: Yes sir

Sodangi: and at the same time asked the tenants rather the landlord to pay the amount as

Man: A surcharge...A surcharge

Sodangi: was that done?

Man: eh well let my colleague answer that area sir.

Sodangi: Yes

Man 2: No sir. We did approach them quite alright. We met them several times, meeting the then director, Madam Jumai but she even told us at a point that some of the houses they left right now will eventually be demolished...that they were left in error while we were pleading that titles should be given for those houses standing. There are still coming back threatening to demolish more that there were left in error. We were ready as an association. We approach them that we are ready to pay. There is no amount of money, any amount they ask us to pay... There is no house that...the houses there, none is there costs nothing less than 5 million. We are ready to pay. In fact, the task force recommended that we should pay between 150 and 200 thousand which we were ready to pay then but they refused bluntly.

Sodangi: Eh ok I will I will use this opportunity to- ok the FCD are coming to say their own view but the other serious contention is that these people who are there too like this landlord is saying that they trespassed quote and unquote. Can we have Hamza himself who was the original allottee?

Man 2: Yes sir

Sodangi: We can get him?

Man 2: Yes sir but the original allottee. He is alive. I mean some of them.

Sodangi: Ok. They are around?

Man 2: He is alive. I mean the original allottee. But what the Minister told us, which was carried out by all the newspapers is that the land has been revoked and it was reallocated. But the truth is that he has given this place (inter-farmland) as a farm allocation and we know that nobody can farm with a residential area. What the government normally do is that when development catches one with such a place such such allocation will be revoked and that person will be given another place and that has exactly what happened and in his own case unlike the other farm in Kubwa like IITA Gardo Nasko farm and in his own case, he neither for one day plant anything in this particular place. I...

Sodangi: Yes go ahead.

Man 2: When they started, like I personally have a house there. When I got there, I made an enquiry before I started building. Just bedside my house, I have government Federal eh government plot; the sign board is still there eh Art Gallery, just directly beside my house. There we have National Assembly Quarters; we have Federal ministry of Education Quarters. We have Federal Road Safety Quarters, and so many other Federal government houses that lives in that place. When they are now telling us that the layout is illegal, within me I was wondering, that I keep on...how did these Federal offices I mean government quarters purchase the houses in this place, if it is true that this place is illegal layout.

Sodangi: ok, we have heard what your learned friend has said. We want to thank you very much. Give us your submission and when we call the director of development control or any other person from the FCDA, they will tell us all the status of that place. Thank you. All the submissions made by the Landlord Association led by the barrister are hereby admitted as exhibit 37 or is it 36.

Interview 4

Secretary: I

Fitman: I

Secretary: Your name?

Fitman: Isaac Fitman

Secretary: Do solemnly swear

Fitman: Do solemnly swear

Secretary: that the evidence that I shall give

Fitman: that the evidence that I shall give

Secretary: before this committee

Fitman: before this committee

Secretary: shall be the truth

Fitman: shall be the truth

Secretary: the whole truth

Fitman: the whole truth

Secretary: and nothing but the truth

Fitman: and nothing but the truth

Secretary: so help me God

Fitman: so help me God

Sodangi: Thank you sir. Sit down and tell us your full particulars but before then Are you here? Ok after him.

Fitman: My names are Madiya Isaac Fitman. I reside at eh above beside Mesh permanent suite. I want to thank this committee first of all for creating this forum for all us to come...

Vice: Don't worry. Don't worry. Just go straight to the point...what happened. Are you representing the entire?

Fitman: Yes I am representing the entire...we are about 3500 people affected in that area.

Vice: Is that an association?

Fitman: yes that's an association.

Vice: Are you the secretary or the chairman?

Fitman: I am the secretary general of the association.

Vice: Ok go ahead.

Fitman: So ok you may recall that this property was created in Nov 1982 by the then Minister Major General Nasko who constituted a committee for the for the relocation of Garki village artisans, traders from Apo village. The committee by then comprising of SSS, FCDA and Environmental Protection board and which was welcomed because there was association on ground that...that helped in putting things in order to maintain law and order in that place. We built police station and other things which was initially not created. Then we welcomed the committee and we partnered with them. But four days or so after the...we equally announced in the newspaper that every allottee should come for their...for verification at AMAC which all of us complied and we went there with our original allocation papers and opened two files each with passport and submitted to them.

They can attest to this. Later, after one week of this verification, we got...we saw these people coming down again...the Amac...the the development control with police. They came and started marking the whole houses. We asked them why was this. No...no ah explanation was given. So we said why ask us...you gave us this place and we now...we have put it into something habitable and now you have come back. We thought you are back to clear off the squatters, those with containers that block the road. No explanation was given to that effect. So on that aspect, we wrote a first letter to Mr. President by then. We wrote to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, asking ...our...the letter was the letter was. We appealed to the referred proposed demolition exercise on the above permanent site. The Apo mechanic village, Abuja and then we prayed and gave them the historical background of that place, how it came to be and our effort to make that place a habitable place and to equally to carry out or trade. That letter stated the effect of that demolition, our observation which we told them the impending hardship which people will suffer, if they carry out that demolition and we prayed that before that could be done, we should be given a time to pack our families and then let them come and enumerate the physical structures on the ground to enable them pay compensation and relocate us to another alternative place. The letter was ignored and eh we wrote this letter...was copied to the Senate President by then. The said letter was copied eh to the Speaker of the House of Representatives. We copied to Dr

Vice: Don't worry...don't worry

Fitman: and all the prominent men in Nigeria and we waited. On the 28th day of July, chairman sir, If I tell you that we lost nothing less than 8 people in that first day. I know of one man that owned a very big mechanic workshop. He could not stand that sight, he collapsed and died.....on the spot and so many people were hospitalized. I know of another man eh Ibo man that owned a Mercedes shop. He was in the sickbed when he heard that demolition. He died on that sickbed at Asokoro General Hospital. Men and women were thrown out under that heavy rain at that time. It was a serious thing. I wish you witnessed that scene. We cried with tears. We wrote another letter asking the President, the Minister that is the then FCT Minister pleading with him. Now that this has come, the bulldozer has come. Let us be relocated to another place and pay compensation to give us.....give us a soft landing so that people will not lose all. We followed this letter and to others, even the Senate was copied, the Speaker was copied. And we kept on pleading and

nothing came out of it up till today. In the July in November last year, we said we could not go ahead, keeping quiet as others other... partners have gone top court we want to follow it. We want to dialogue with the government to see how far he could go with this issue. We wrote to the present Minister, congratulating him on his appointment and then resubmitted our case to his hearing, pleading that since this administration has a listening ear and is compassionate on people's plight, he should listen to our appeal. This we have not gotten anything. On February, January this year, we wrote another reminder and nothing came out of it and up till now. Now...lastly, the earlier of March, we wrote the second reminder on the same issue, to which nothing has come out. We are very grateful when this committee was set up and we saw it on paper. So we quickly obliged. And our prayers have been, relocate us to another simple place with infrastructures. I could remember when the Minister was saying... said on Monday that demolition supposed not to be carried on a place that has no infrastructures. Actually that place has no access road, no water, no light. It was the committee that attracted NEPA and we bought the generator- I mean the transformer by ourselves. The committee contributed 5-5 thousand naira per shop...per shop to put up a transformer there. But when the demolition came, everything was gone. So our prayers have been: please relocate these allottees who have spent all their life savings and even borrowed money to raise –erect these structures to another simple place. Thank you and then compensate them or whatever. Let them have a shed over their head because we are all Nigerians and we have all been invited to develop FCT. Thank you very much.

Sodangi: thank you. Give us your submission. We want to thank you for your very pathetic case as presented. Give us your submission. But let me ask you. Give us your paper. Oh don't worry. Stay there. Presentation made by Mr Secretary, name

Fitman: Prince Prince Fitman ok Prince Fitman

Sodangi: Presentation made by you on behalf of Apov Mechanic and Artisans is hereby admitted as exhibit 37. Thank you very much. Let me ask. As at today, I am made to understand your current... your that that Apov mechanic quarters that that you are staying that there's another allocation or reallocation eh place after the present Apov mechanic village which you are talking about...is it correct that some mechanic...is that where your people have been reallocated?

Fitman: No sir

Sodangi: You are not the one?

Fitman: We are not the ones reallocated to that place. That is when they drove all the mechanic from all the FCT and moved them there. Then then after eh ah after the demolition so all the mechanic formed their association and moved down to...Some were able to get through the long leg and got their allocation there. I tell you-one-tenth...it was only one-tenth of the mechanic were allocated there.

Sodangi: You mean some of your members have the privilege to have their allocation there?

Fitman: None of them none of them at the moment. Those we have...this letter this letter incorporated this association so as far as I know and I am concerned, the members we have. We have...we have nobody that is there because we have our list and the names of our members.

Sodangi: Ok Ok thank you very much.

Interview 5

Secretary: I

Abdullahi: I

Secretary: Your name?

Abdullahi: Hajji Abdullahi

Secretary: Do solemnly swear

Abdullahi: Do solemnly swear

Secretary: that the evidence that I shall give

Abdullahi: that the evidence that I shall give

Secretary: before this committee

Abdullahi: before this honourable committee

Secretary: shall be the truth

Abdullahi: shall be the truth

Secretary: the whole truth

Abdullahi: the whole truth

Secretary: and nothing but the truth

Abdullahi: and nothing but the truth

Secretary: so help me God

Abdullahi: so help me God

Sodangi: Yes gentleman, tell us your full name and what is your complaint?

Abdullahi: thank you Mr. Chairman. My names are Aduladi Abdullahi. I am the legal adviser of Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority. Em Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority is herein referred to as the NNRA, was established on May 2001 em in accordance with Nuclear Safety Protection Act of 1995. Briefly, it is supposed to ensure nuclear safety and radiological protection of the country. Its actions cover such wide and various aspects of the economy. Such as the petroleum industry, upstream and downstream, the health sector, radiotherapy and diagnostic, the manufacturing industry and officially to to regulate the safe operation of nuclear power should they be in the country. Em Mr. Chairman em in 2003, the NNRA was allocated a plot of land based on its request. Em the request was such that it needed a land within the service area because the former land that was given to it was within an area that there was no infrastructure. So the the administration approved...approved plot 41B within Maitama A5. This plot is lying opposite the Abuja Federal High Court and it is overlooking that big roundabout overlooking the British Consulate. So it was such a vintage plot. It was given as a replacement of the one it had before and it measured about 7000 sq. metres. In 2003... however, as a statutory body we had to apply to distinguished committee, I mean the National Assembly for budget for us to commence development. By 2006, we had done all the recertification of the plot and then had requested the office of the FCT to give us an estimate of fees to enable us pay eh pay for survey and other things, so that we can commence development. Hitherto, we had entered into agreement with developers on how they can develop this place. Money was spent and extended. Eh National assembly had appropriated money to us. But surprisingly, as soon as we requested for the bills, the FCDA returned the allocation to us and said we are no longer giving you 7000 sq. metres, no justification. They reduced it to 250...3000 sq. metres with a bill of about 8000. When we men preparing to pay that bill, the same 2006. They now revoked that land. In revoking that land ...

Sodangi: Entirely?

Abdullahi: Entirely (laughter from audience) In revoking that land...If you permit me, I can read. Ah for re...request for right of occupancy. The revocation was signed by Following the expiration of the grace...I have been directed to inform you by the Minister of FCT has in the essence of power conferred on him under section 28, subsection 5A and B of the Land use Act 1978, revoked your right and interest over plot 415 within Maitama

A05, Abuja for your continuous contravention of terms of development and rights of occupancy, signed by one B.G., assistant chief officer for the Minister. What we are saying is that we are Federal Government agency, statutory agency for that matter and we all know the meaning and purpose of section 28, subsection 5A and B which is purportedly quoted as the reason for the revocation. This I don't need to repeat. Tedox has made a case and this is the requirement for land, for the overriding public interest {interest}. This is where the purport and interest of that. This is where...that was the reason we got the land. But here it is... the same reason was given, for the same revocation of this plot of land and we think because this land is in a vintage position. It was just allocated 2 years and there is no place you can get a plot of land in Abuja and develop it as a government agency and within two years and there is no where I think somebody can give you a piece of land and then at the same time withdraw your papers. You have failed you have failed to comply with with the terms...and I'm revoking the land. In revoking the land, no grace period, no nothing was given to us as a government agency. Sir it will be noteworthy that as soon as we got the letter, we sent them a letter of appeal saying we have appropriation already to commence development of this plot and we are saying therefore, asking appealing to them to reinstate...reinstate. We got a letter from them saying from the same Mr. Nasiru eh from the same eh Nasiru Hadizu saying that 'as regard to your appeal and the above subject matter, I regret to inform you that the minister of FCT has, after careful review of your submission refused grant to your request and therefore revocation stands.' After this, we wrote a letter to the secretary of government, the then former secretary of government because all appeal to reach the Minister, Mallam el-Rufai failed as a government agency. We wrote. We went, saw them personally but because they knew what we were coming for, they refused to grant us date. So we had to take another option and wrote to the then secretary of the nation and saying that we do not believe that the section 28, subsection 5A and B Land Use Act 1978, applies to us as a government agency and therefore, if they will not intervene, we will go to court to seek proper interpretation and whether you can take land from a government agency in that regard. My...my resignation, Mr. Chairman, if you will permit me is that this land was taken eh from a public agency and given to private concerns.

Vice.: Who are the people occupying the land?

Abdullahi: The officials of the FCDA are here because all attempt to get who are reallocated that land had failed. Two years after after, the place is still vacant as at today. We took a freelance photographer go there and he snapped pictures. The pictures are here. They are digging the foundation now. The pictures are here Mr. Chairman.

Sodangi: They are digging the foundation?

Abdullahi: Right now they are digging the foundation.

Vice: I want to know the present allottees?

Abdullahi: They are-I don't know.

Sen.: No signboard there? No signboard?

Abdullahi: No signboard

Sodangi: Counselor-General

C.G.: Sir

Sodangi: Note it eh. We want to get those that...Let counselor-General be excluded...I will give Counselor-General then...and then your ...your development control director must be here or his agents. Just let them go so they don't waste their bloody time. (Interruptions from audience) They should stop... They should stop work there. They are preempting our decisions because if all along they did not bring, cannot write and by...Is the director of development control here? Is he here? Ah fine. You know the people that we are talking about? You know?

Sen.: Do you know the new allottees?

Sen.: Who are the people there now?

Dir: (Shakes his head)

Sodangi: Tell the people to stop... Bring those records.

Fitman: These are the... are the pictures...the freelance photographer just took them.

Sodangi: Finish...finish and submit.

Abdullahi: Thank you. I will not bother you with the legal interpretation of that section as a lawyer but we have taken further steps. Even the present administration, we wrote to the administration of ha ha...

Sen.: Don't worry. Forget those ones.

Abdullahi: Thank you very much. But let me go to my prayers. The prayer is that the NNRA as a statutory body, charged with the nuclear safety protection of the country...The effectiveness of the NNRA is one major factor that will influence international support

for the nuclear power project that Mr. President is trying to consolidate. The NNRA currently occupies an erected property which is inadequate and not economical in the long run. Our allocation of land of 7000plot of land was reduced arbitrarily...reduced to 2870. The remaining allocated to a private company for no justifiable reason. NNRA was not allocated a plot of land under accelerated development program of the FCT. The plots are still vacant and undeveloped as at today. In the light of the above, we want the committee to use its good office to intervene and prevail on the honourable minister of the FCT to review the revocation notice in the overriding public interest so that NNRA can commence construction work. And we want to note since 2006, when this plot was revoked, the National Assembly has continued to give us allocation for that purpose.

Sen.: tell us your prayers and that's all. Give us the details.

Abdullahi: Thank you sir. That's my prayers.

Sodangi: Yes documents for Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority as presented by Barrister Hajji Abdullahi, legal adviser, with the ...all the pictures and the rest of them are hereby admitted as exhibit 38. We want to thank you very much. You have finished, you can go and you are lucky, the counselor-general is here and the director of development control is here. So let... a notice should be issued out to the director. Let them go and mount a signboard...who are those that are going in there should stop please

Interview 6

Sodangi: Osakwe

Osakwe: Sir

Sodangi: Osakwe...Hajji, you are enjoying that seat.

Abdullahi: Sorry Mr. Chairman

Osakwe: Thank you.

Sodangi: You are welcome. You are a barrister or...

Osakwe: Yes I'm a Barrister

Sodangi: Affirm him

Secretary: I

Osakwe: I

Secretary: Your name?

Osakwe: Osakwe Morris Obiwane

Secretary: Do solemnly swear

Osakwe: Do solemnly swear

Secretary: that the evidence that I shall give

Osakwe: that the evidence that I shall give

Secretary: before this committee

Osakwe: before this honourable committee

Secretary: shall be the truth

Osakwe: shall be the truth

Secretary: the whole truth

Osakwe: the whole truth

Secretary: and nothing but the truth

Osakwe: and nothing but the truth

Secretary: so help me God

Osakwe: so help me God

Sodangi: Yes Barrister tell us your particulars and state your complaint

Osakwe: Yes my name is Osakwe Morris Obiwane. Eh I am a solicitor to the Gbagi people of
Gida Mangoro area and eh other neighboring communities.

Sodangi: This Gida Mangoro...where is it specifically?

Osakwe: Gida Mangoro is in eh Abuja Municipal area council along Jikwe –Karishi road...

Sodangi: Jikwe –Karishi?

Osakwe: Yes, that Gida Mangoro is the very place where Loyola Jesuit College is situated.
Along, after Orore... along after Orore ...Before rosary ...after Jikwe

Sodangi: After Jikwe?

Osakwe: After Kurudu, we get to Gida Mangoro

Sodangi: Ok

Osakwe: Yes ok so in the month of December 2005, there was a policy on acquisition of land for
the purpose of developing a satellite town called Gida Mangoro and the Gida Mangoro
villages and other villages which include Azata, Moloyi, Badna and Anka were involved
as part of the lands to be allocated to individuals for the purpose of having a satellite
town. So these lands were acquired from the families who were Gbagi indigenes in the
place and these Gbagi indigenes have various economic crops in their farms, ranging
from mango trees, banana, plantain and so...even timbers ...and these things have

value...these trees have value. So the FCDA approved certain amount which the community doesn't know. They have to come and assess each person's land and value the trees. They have a standard value which... which a copy of the value is here. But the tree and economic crops of the members of these communities were highly undervalued. Imagine a parcel of 850 hectares of land, the economic trees and crops in that very area - because these people are predominantly farmers- was valued to be only 45 million to the knowledge of this community people. Finally in the month of March 2006, they were to pay compensation for the various aspects and valuation made on their economic trees and crops. When they gathered at Gida Mangoro to make payment, suddenly they had a call from His Royal Highness, Sakaruyi of Karu who instructed the PA to the director of resettlement and compensation in FCT in person of Ramaram Abass and they now moved every person in Gida Mangoro who came for ...to receive compensation down to the palace of His Royal Highness, the Sakaruyi of Karu. And when the compensation exercise commenced, they found out that some were receiving as low as 12000 naira. Some were receiving 7000 naira and somebody who has more than 2-3 plots of land where he did his farming, was paid compensation in respect of only one. He said that if you had more than one land, it is not their business. That the FCT provide eh eh approve compensation in respect one plot of land. One pathetic thing that took place on that very day was that some names were called out yet the compensation that was supposed to be given to those people were not given to them. Later, it was found that some people even received compensations where they did not own any plot or they did not own any farmland in that very area. People like one Mr David Giwa collected as much as 112,500 naira because he was a staff of the palace.

Sodangi: Is he a Gbagi man?

Osakwe: yes he is a Gbagi man but he doesn't own any farmland. He collected 112,500 naira because he is a staff at the palace of the Sakaruyi of Karu.

Sodangi: What is his name?

Osakwe: Mr David Giwa. Another person is Danzaria Dangiwa Danzaria Dangiwa, who collected as much as 210,000 naira and he doesn't own any farmland. He has no economic tree or economic crop.

Sodangi: Where does he stay? Is he in the palace too?

Osakwe: Yes he is a staff.

Sodangi: In the palace too?

Osakwe: Yes in the palace.

Sodangi: Yes yes yes

Osakwe: Yes I will submit other names of...

Sodangi: beneficiaries

Osakwe: Yes beneficiaries who are not owners of any land...farmland

Sodangi: but benefited

Osakwe: Yes that benefited. But apart from that, when these people received these peanuts, they still proceeded and put some of their agents at Aso Schemes and Loans Limited and at em Jikwe. And as they collected their peanuts of 6000, 12000 and all that, they were deducting 3000, 2000, 1000 from these same people.

Sodangi: Who was collecting?

Osakwe: The palace, the Sakaruyi of Karu

Sodangi: Go ahead go ahead.

Osakwe: yes and when the community had written to the honourable minister as it then was, in person of eh Mallam Nasiru el-Rufai and eh people have decided to subdue the will of those communities so that nothing came out of it. We even wrote petition to the Economic Financial Crimes Committee but what we got was that the Chief started threatening the people who were fighting for their right claiming that he will ensure that many of them who are village heads who he appointed will be deposed and so many others who are fighting for this cause, if they are not careful, they will die before they get any justice. Em apart from that, there is one old Papa who is a farmer per excellence in that same community. He has won several awards as a farmer and eh his own land, which he-farmland where he does his farming, he surveyed it, made application to AMAC so that he will be given necessary papers for the use of the land. Suddenly, he moved...moved to go there and survey the land claiming that there is an approval from the Honourable Minister of FCT and when the Baba, that is eh Mr Dogas Olakpo, when he decided to write a petition to the honourable Chairman of Public Complaints commission and the Honourable Attorney General of the Federation. He now started sending people to take Baba to an unknown destination to go and meet unidentified persons. Shortly before then, a young man who is a village head has been murdered for this same cause. So...

Sodangi: In Gida Mangoro? In Gida Mangoro?

Osakwe: Yes people have been murdered and a lot of people have been threatened. The question one will ask , a village that was demolished called Moluyi village. There buildings were brought down to rubble and this, according to the International eh law of resettlement; if you want...want to develop a place, what you do, you go and build a place and resettle people. But this is not done. Meanwhile that place has been allocated to people.

Sodangi: The...the place that you are talking about has been reallocated to people?

Osakwe: Yes it has been allocated.

Sodangi: to individuals?

Osakwe: Yes to individuals.

Sen.: When...what about the original occupant?

Sodangi: The original people-are they there? The Gbagi people

Osakwe: The habitants that is in their farmland. They don't have farmland again.

Sodangi: the problem is that it has been taken away?

Osakwe: Yes

Sodangi: But their own domain or domestic houses are still there?

Osakwe: Some of them... Some of them live in Karu, some live in Kpegi, some live at ha New Karu.

Sodangi: Which is their abode now?

Osakwe: Yes, these Moluyi people now are homeless or are squatters.

Sodangi: Their houses were demolished?

Osakwe: Their houses were demolished... Their houses were demolished.

Sodangi: and they are squatting somewhere

Osakwe: They should be squatting. Some may have died.

Sen.: When when did this happen?

Osakwe: This incidence took place in 2005, December 2005

Sen. You can take the committee there?

Osakwe: Yes we are ready.

Sodangi: we are going to come. But eh can I can you identify any present allottee there, either by signboard or anyone who has taken position on the farm?

Osakwe: Sir even when you get there now, allocation papers are being sold for as much as 700000 naira; those that are close to the access road. Flouting

Sodangi: Can you identify by signboard any present allottee, new allottee? A signboard? Maybe they want to do building or anything?

Sen.: People are already doing demolition but I can't see any signboard there.

Sodangi: Not demolition. Taking position, I'm on identifying new allottees.

Osakwe: People are already living there but I don't know them.

Sodangi: Ok you can stand up please so that we can take the last person quickly.

Osakwe: Yes so

Sodangi: Your prayers

Osakwe: No allocation was given to the same indigene whether for building their own eh eh houses or for farm.

Sodangi: and they are not resettled anywhere?

Osakwe: they are not resettled anywhere.

Sodangi: And this is done by FCDA you say?

Osakwe: Yes by FDA

Yor. Sen: Mr chairman, may I ask? Have they made any effort to contact the ...their representative, elected representative of that area, the councillor, the chairman? Don't they have a councillor (House of Rep) I mean House of rep for that area.

Osakwe: Let-tell him

Sodangi: Ok

Danjuma: Hello sir. My names are Danjuma Alago Chime. I am a staff of Loyola College. I live...reside in Karu. All my farmland and everything is at Gida Mangoro. It is only sleeping that you can find in Karu. That place, we have made effort. The AMAC chairman, His Royal Highness Sakaruyi, used the AMAC Chairman to suspend the village group that we are making the complaint together and Chief vowed that we would never see the end of this and as a result of this, he died. Ha, that place -we have made use of people, no assistance through the influence of Honourable Philip Aguda because Sakaruyi is Philip Aguda brother. So we use every means, even to the extent of publication, anything we find except Newsweek eh that that took the record. So actually we had formerly...even called trade union to come to our rescue. So even to the 27th of last month, that is eh March 27th of February. It was Wednesday. Sakaruyi himself in the the palace, he vowed that as long as we are able to tackle this matter, Danjuma, Sofo, Meti and I will never live in Karu. On the fifth again of March, he repeated the same

thing that who are we to fight with eh the Chief. That the... We have no money, we are not educated, that after all, he can buy off anybody and it is true. Our ... that we use, who wrote a petition to the IG-when we phone him- when the IG sent for him, the matter was referred to command. He could not respond. He said he was at Kaduna, not knowing that there is somebody in Kuje where he is residing, hearing him answering. That is why now...so we have gone to very many places. So actually in the village now em Honourable chairman, Ahaira vowed that as long as we are pursuing, village cannot benefit anything from Area council. They seized one folder that...

Sodangi: Even the Chairman of AMAC is not with you?

Danjuma: eh?

Sodangi: The chairman of AMAC –are you saying the chairman is not with you?

Danjuma: He is not with us because- he the matter has gone campaign the chief, the late chief before he died, complained to him that see your letter get to him, He told him that he should close that matter. The secretary of the late chief is here. He said that after everything so that he will not spoil his eh political career. After everything, everything became bad. That is why even now in the village, a single man cannot go to farm because Chief of Karu has put machinery for assassination and that matter, we have reported the matter...the divisional police has come. Eh last Friday ...

Sodangi: but no action?

Danjuma: Yes

Sen.: No action taken by the police?

Danjuma: Eh before the eh eh late chief died, there was a place, when the police at a point wanted to shoot him, he said ‘you are the one contending with the chief of Karu’. He said if you shoot him, my hand is not there. We reported to the DPO of Karishi... Karishi, because Gida Mangoro is under Karishi division. But what the DPO responded was that what did he want us to do. We are just giving you information, what is going on.

Sodangi: Ok we will make further investigations and if you have any further thing to tell us...What is your prayer, Barrister Osakwe?

Osakwe: One of ...one of the prayers is that...

Sodangi: Quickly, yes

Osakwe: eh we are asking that allocation be given to the same indigenes of this Gida Mangoro and the eh neighbourhood and eh again and that eh the His Royal Highness, Sakaruyi of

Karu should stop victimising individuals. The Baba Doka, five...three of his children who are supposed to obtain indigene forms through his Royal Highness ...he has refused to sign those forms till today and so they cannot benefit anything from the FCT. Again we are asking that eh that payment ...that they should be adequately compensated for the economic crops that were destroyed as a result of the policy of eh eh satellite town development.

Sodangi: Osakwe, round up please, we want to take another...

Interview 7

Secretary: I

Ben: I

Secretary: Your name?

Ben: Ben Olike O.

Secretary: Do solemnly swear

Ben: Do solemnly swear

Secretary: that the evidence that I shall give

Ben: that the evidence that I shall give

Secretary: before this committee

Ben: before this honourable committee

Secretary: shall be the truth

Ben: shall be the truth

Secretary: the whole truth

Ben: the whole truth

Secretary: and nothing but the truth

Ben: and nothing but the truth

Secretary: so help me God

Ben: so help me God

Sodangi: Give us your particulars. Please look...time...I wouldn't ...if you wouldn't mind. Be very brief and summarise. We have to get ourselves out of this place. Thank you very much.

Ben: The Honourable chairman of this committee and executive members, we are presenting a case on the demolition on the Garki old...old Garki main market...old Garki main market. That is the one near Regina Pases Girl's Secondary school...

Sodangi: Near what?

Ben: near Regina Pases Girl's Secondary school. Your honourable, because of time all the documents have been compiled here. In 1994, the letter of allocation was given to us. It was duly signed by Jumai (Panache) Panache and the letters...copies of allottees letters are here. The letter to me...to us was allocation of warehouse for Garki main market. But to be brief, last year March, we got a letter of demolition. It was served in March, 26th-26th of March. All efforts to find who the letter was from proved abortive. We paid tenement rates to AMAC. AMAC had an office there. FCDA monitors that office. We pay rent to that office within the complex. Development of that place was done by the association of that place; electrification, water and telephone services. But all efforts to find where this letter was from-We went to AMAC who was our direct landlord. Nothing- they said they were surprised. We went to AMA where Jumai is, who signed the letter. We were embarrassed. Jumai said she does not know what is happening. But first of all, one will expect that a demolition notice will take at least one month or two. Within 10 days or 7 days of that notice, they brought a caterpillar there and everybody started running helter **skelter**. Looters came and started looting properties. At the end of the day, Shuaibu led a caterpillar to bring down all the whole buildings, all the buildings. As for our office, not every property was taken. People...some people lost their lives because some where trying to run with their properties to the east- collapsed, had accidents. Properties were not moved. Looters came in there. In my submission here...here my honourable, letters were written to police to come and protect properties. They could not handle the situation but because the sight of seeing the caterpillar there already was enough and then at the end of the day we decided to follow the case up. We pursued AMAC office. We were like staff. Nobody...even Shuaibu who led the team could not tell us where the letter emanated from but he just said...and then to our surprise he said demolition of corner shop. That place was never a corner shop. The allocation letter was a market and so at the of it, when the demolition had gotten to ground level as they are doing it, we went to the honourable former Minister, wrote to him. If they are demolishing, what do they really need? Is it to rebuild like they did in Area 2 or Area 11. There is a PDP program we are we are involved, if that's the case. We got partners who will draw for us, we drew plans; we went to financiers like banks who will then take the project like they did in Area 1 or 11. The Minister said he was parking his things. He

never had time for us. At the end of the day, the Minister left. We have since started this case with the new Minister. But up till now, we have not heard from him and so... a lot of us, like me personally speaking to you...I relocated from Lagos to here eh Thank God I live in Lagos. My office ...my car is now my office for now. Because the places I want to get shop from, they are talking of six hundred and something and this was my life investment from Lagos. It was a warehouse. It was a complete warehouse and it cost ...it cost not less than, as at the time we build it was not less than 6 to 7 million. We had the prototype. They were...we...we had ... we had to follow the pattern. Every building looked the same. It was not just a question of building a warehouse.

Sodangi: who gave you the prototype?

Ben: It is...it is from AMAC office and like one or two buildings like mine; I was building what I felt. They brought it down twice until I followed what was on the prototype and so it has thrown a lot of us there, about 550 shops there, mainly warehouses. I heard some people testifying modern markets. It was just...they they brought companies to build those ones but here was direct allocation of land for us to build.

Sodangi: Ok Ok what is happening now? Did they revoke the land? Is there anybody taking position in the land?

Ben: For now, nothing is happening apart from Shuaibu who is planting flowers.

Sen.: He has taken possession?

Ben: I think so since he is doing recreation and past...

Sodangi: No! no! If you want to say the truth... If you are talking of eh planting flowers and you are now mentioning recreation. Tell us if the government has taken it and they have converted it to ...

Ben: As at now they have not given us one reason...

Sodangi: not reason, physically what is there?

Ben: They fenced it round and planted flowers all around it.

Yor. Sen.: Did they write to you revoking ...

Ben: Not at all. Nothing like that. They never invited us. They never talked to us. There is nothing like a meeting between us and AMAC.

Sodangi: Ok thank you very much. Give us your...bring your submission bring your submission.

Ben: Our expectation sir is restoration because we we had plans to, plans have been there...

Sodangi: Garki business properties development and company limited; complaints as presented by...

Ben: Mr Ben Olike O. I am the chairman of the association

Sodangi: Ben the chairman is hereby admitted as exhibit 39(40) 40. Thank you very much sir.

Ben: Our prayer is restoration because I believe...I believe we can partner with government and rebuild that place. That's the first... the first. The second one is relocation. I believe, if they give us a pattern to build and they want us to go to somewhere, they would have told us where to go.

Sodangi: If...if you are relocated somewhere, you will also agree with that?

Ben: We don't mind sir.

Sodangi: Ok ok

Ben: and finally if none is done, compensation, Relo...relocation/compensation. We are ready to be relocated because there should be some compensation for the buildings of people that were brought down.

Sen: What do you think is the present value of your own...this market?

Sodangi: Of the shop and warehouse?

Ben: Well the last one I know, somebody sold beside my house was 15.5 milion.

Sodangi: 15...15.5 million and it was not roofed? One warehouse?

Ben: One warehouse

Sen : It wasn't roofed?

Ben: It wasn't roofed but it was deckened.

Sodangi: I hope you are not making this presentation as an individual but for and on behalf of others. Is that correct?

Ben: Most of them are here.

Sodangi: Not most of them. Your presentation eh eh on behalf of others...on behalf of others?

Ben: yes on behalf of the whole complex.

Sodangi: Now when you are talking of compensation, assuming we have the jurisdiction, saying pay them money; it is another different thing to be discussed later. Eh you ...you have not quantified the value of your property which you are asking us even to tell the government. Look this people have lost something too much, either relocate or what can you do for them? Ours is to lobby. We are your representatives. You can say that doesn't place an order. We advise; we make laws. When we make laws, then you obey. But what

we are doing is to lobby and to recommend and through our oversight function, to see that what you are asking the government to do is complied with through our oversight function. That is the power that we have. So we will appreciate it if you quantify that your... your market and what all of you have lost. You understand?

Ben: We do sir.

Sodangi: Before then we want to thank all of you for coming. I think at this point we have to call it a day. We want to thank my colleagues who have spared their weekends, spared their everything, and we are going to continue God willing on Monday. We want to thank the counsellor-general and eh and all other directors, eh the AMAC eh secretary and our own Bala Adamu and every other person, that you have found time to be here. We want to thank AIT for being patriotic, for making this live coverage to Nigerians, for the people coming to air their grievances and by the grace of God it will not be a fruitless exercise and may God bless them too for serving Nigerians and serving us too. Monday, God willing, and when we say 10, it is going to be 10 and we will start with AGIS...AGIS. I know that there are people; their interest is sale of Federal government houses. We are not going to leave you. We will attend to you all, no matter how long it takes us. Finally, I want to thank each and everyone that found time to be here to be with us. God bless you. Have a nice weekend.

Appendix 2
Final report of the hearing panel

REPORT OF THE JOINT SENATE COMMITTEES ON FCT AND HOUSING ON THE INVESTIGATIVE PUBLIC HEARING INTO THE ADMINISTRATION OF FCT BETWEEN 1999 AND 2008

1.0 INTRODUCTION:

Upon a Motion by Senator Abubakar Danso Sodangi, the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on Wednesday 12th March 2008 resolved to conduct an Investigative Public Hearing into the administration of the Federal Capital Territory between May 29th 1999 and May 29th 2008.

This investigation became inevitable sequel to a gamut of petitions from Nigerians over injustices allegedly meted out to them in Abuja over this period by various agencies of Government in the Federal Capital Territory.

2.0 MANDATE:

The mandate for the Joint Committee was to conduct the public hearing into the administration of the FCT between 1999 and 2007 with emphasis on the following:

- i. Land Administration
- ii. Ad Hoc Committee on the sale of Federal Government Houses in the FCT.
- iii. Labour matters relating to FCDA/FCTA
- iv. Alienation of FCT assets by Sales and/or Concessioning
- v. General administration of the FCT
- vi. Make recommendations on findings; and
- vii. Report back within four weeks.

3.0 MEMBERSHIP:

Membership of the joint Committee are as follows:

1. Senator Abubakar D. Sodangi — Chairman FCT as Chairman
2. Senator Anthony Agbo — Vice Chairman FCT as Vice Chairman

- | | | | |
|-----|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 3. | Senator Ikechukwu J. Obiorah | — | Chairman Housing - Member |
| 4. | Senator Bassey Ewa Henshaw | — | FCT - Member |
| 5. | Senator Caleb Zagi | — | FCT - Member |
| 6. | Senator Heineken Lokpobiri | — | FCT - Member |
| 7. | Senator Smart Adeyemi | — | FCT - Member |
| 8. | Senator Adefemi Kila | — | FCT - Member |
| 9. | Senator Sola Akinyede | — | FCT - Member |
| 10. | Senator Adamu Garba Talba | — | FCT - Member |
| 11. | Senator Audu Idris Umar | — | FCT - Member |
| 12. | Senator Adamu M. Sidi Ali | — | FCT - Member |
| 13. | Senator Mujitaba M. Mallam | — | Housing - Member |
| 14. | Senator George Akume | — | Housing - Member |
| 15. | Senator Osita Izunaso | — | Housing - Member |
| 16. | Senator Isiaka Adeleke | — | Housing - Member |
| 17. | Senator Joel Danlami Ikenya | — | Housing - Member |
| 18. | Senator Iyiola Omisore | — | Housing - Member |
| 19. | Senator Mohammed A. Aliero | — | Housing - Member |
| 20. | Senator Otaru S. Ohize | — | Housing - Member |
| 21. | Senator Eligie E. Uzamere | — | Housing - Member |

4.0 **SECRETARIAT:**

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|---|-----------|
| 1. | Alhaji Lawal A. Duduyemi | — | Clerk |
| 2. | Femi Folajin | — | Assistant |

5.0 **INAUGURATION:**

The Committee was inaugurated on Wednesday the 9th of April 2008 by the President of the Senate, His Excellency, Senator David A.B. Mark, GCON.

6.0 **PROCEDURE:**

The Committee met and adopted the following methodology:

- (i) Call for memoranda was made to the general public through paid advertisements.

- (ii) The administration of the Federal Capital Territory was invited to make both written and oral submissions.
- (iii) Contractors to the Federal Capital Territory and other stakeholders were called upon to make submissions.
- (iv) Former Ministers of the FCT were invited to make submissions.
- (v) Members of the Public willing to make oral presentation were taken on oath.
- (vi) Consultants were commissioned to aid the Committee.

7.0 **MEMORANDA:**

The Committee received well over 2,000 written memoranda from the general public, Federal Capital Territory Administration, Government Institutions and Companies. Some of the memoranda received dealt with more than one issue which the Committee broke down as they relate to the issues.

- (i) Land administration
- (ii) Ad hoc Committee on sale of FG houses
- (iii) Labour matters
- (iv) Alienation of FCT assets
- (v) FCT administration

8.0 **PUBLIC HEARING:**

Pursuant to the Senate Resolution (Res./055/08) of Wednesday, 12th March, 2008 the Investigative Public Hearing was formally inaugurated by His Excellency, The Senate President, Senator David A. B. Mark, GCON, on Wednesday 9th of April 2008 and was concluded on Wednesday 14th May 2008. The Committee was overwhelmed by enthusiasms of concerned Nigerians and Institutions willing to testify orally but not all could be taken but their memoranda were all considered, on merit.

Upon commencement of the Public Hearing and the interest it generated, the avalanche of memoranda and oral presentations made the initial four week time line for submission of the Committee Report to the Senate became unrealistic. The Senate thereafter extended the time frame by another four weeks which also became unrealisable if a thorough job must be done viz

reading, analysing and commenting on each and every memoranda submitted to the Committee.

8.1 FAIR HEARING:

All persons against whom memoranda were directed were given an opportunity to respond to the accusations, after giving a copy of such Memoranda to such person(s).

The Committee has therefore decided to submit to the Senate a Report detailing what has been done so far and to submit to the Senate its first volume of the report of each and every memorandum that it had considered as it interim report which is about 63%, but having gone through all the proceedings, the Committee now have the pleasure to present our final report, subject to any further findings in the cost of our oversight function or as the Senate may direct.

8.2 ATTACHMENTS:

- (a) The analyses of the Memoranda and recommendations are attached as Schedule I, (Annexure I and II)
- (b) The Verbatim Report is annexed as Schedule II

9.0 THE REPORT:

After listening to Nigerians at the Public Hearing and attending to all the Memoranda submitted, the Committee agreed on the following findings and recommendations in respect of:

- (i) Land Administration;
- (ii) Ad-hoc Committee on Sale of Federal Government Houses;
- (iii) Labour Matters;
- (iv) Alienation of FCT Assets;
- (v) FCT Administration.

10.0 LAND ADMINISTRATION:

The FCT came into being on the 6th of February 1976 by virtue of the FCT Act. The reason being that Lagos had become congested and monolingual. In the words of the Committee that recommended a new Capital

- *“The city of Lagos is incapable of functioning as both a Federal Capital and a State Capital, due to the problem of inadequate land space for development commensurate with its status as the capital of Nigeria.*
- *Lagos is identified with predominantly one ethnic group. A new capital in a more central location would provide equal access to Nigeria’s great diversity of cultural groups.*
- *A new Capital is desirable that would be secure, ethnically neutral, centrally accessible, comfortable and healthful, and possess adequate land natural resources to provide a promising base for urban development.*
- *A new capital is needed as a symbol of Nigeria’s aspiration for unity and greatness”*

In accepting this Report the Federal Government agreed that:

“a centrally located Federal capital is a spacious area with easy access to all parts of the Federation would be an asset to the nation and would help in generating a new sense of national unity”

Sequel to this understanding 8,000m² land in Kaduna, Kwara (now Kogi), Plateau (now Nasarawa) and Niger States was wholly acquired by S.297(2) of the 1999 Constitution thus:

“The ownership of all lands comprised in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja shall vest in the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria”

and the entire indigenous population were entitled to only compensation by the Federal Capital Territory Act 1976 without more, while those who chose to remain will be treated like every other Nigerian. While compensation was paid to some, other communities were relocated to Niger, Kwara and Plateau States thus we have them today in Niger, Kogi (former Kwara) and Nasarawa (former Plateau) States.

The ideal Capital City that was dreamt of was supposed to be free of traffic jam and over crowding with working infrastructure in a mixed population in

every neighbourhood in respect of class, creed and tribe thus the Federal Character Principle was to apply from day one when a Master Plan was designed and put in place to be followed religiously.

By virtue of S.297(2) of the constitution and S.3 of the FCT Act the entire land in the FCT is owned by the Federal Republic of Nigeria. By S.13 of the FCT Act combined with the land use act and the Nigeria Urban and Regional Planning Act the Minister of the FCT (appointee of the President) is the administrator of the FCT land.

The oath of office enjoins the Minister to deal with all Nigerians equally irrespective of tribes, creed or sex without favour, affection ill-will and without discrimination.

Section 19 of the ICPC Act states:

“Any particular officer who uses his office or position to gratify or confer any corrupt or unfair advantage upon himself or any relation or associate of the public officer or any other public officer shall be guilty of an offence”

Allocations are guided by the Land Use Act and the process is usually by an application fee payable to the Minister and the application goes to the Land Use Allocation Committee which recommends to the Minister of FCT.

* Revocation is guided by S.27 of the Land Use Act and the only conditions being:

- (a) overriding public interest ; and
- (b) non compliance with the terms of allocation as stated in the certificate of occupancy.

Conditioned upon fair hearing having been availed the holder.

✓ Demolitions are done pursuant to the Urban and Regional Planning Act following these steps.

- (a) stop work order;
- (b) enforcement notice;
- (c) contravention notice; and
- (d) demolition notice.

Subject to a right of appeal to URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING TRIBUNAL (URPT).

STOP WORK ORDER-where it appears that an unauthorised development is being carried out or where a development permit issued by the authority is violated, the authority should issue a stop work order stating the reason for the order and a date line for compliance.S.53-55 URPA.

ENFORCEMENT NOTICE-where the stop work order is not complied with the authority shall issue an enforcement notice within twenty one days asking the developer to do certain acts within a specified time.

CONTRAVENTION NOTICE-is used when the enforcement notice is not complied with directing the developer to

- (a) prepare and submit his building plan for approval, or
- (b) carry out certain alternation on the property; or
- (c) to put down the building; or
- (d) to reinstate a piece of land to its prior state within a given time frame (S.60 URPA)

A demolition notice is then served on the developer where there is non compliance stating when the property will be demolished if not done by the developer the cost of such demolition is borne by the developer.

10.1 ***Right of Appeal:***

The entire process leading to the demolition is appealable to the Urban and Regional Planning Tribunal. It should be noted that the Tribunal never functioned throughout the period under review. Thus a Nigerian whose properties were to be demolished had no place to seek redress.

10.2 ***Alternative Accommodation:***

Section 85 of the Urban and Regional Planning Act (URPA) provides that where a building used for human habitation is to be demolished the authority shall provide that "*a person likely to be displaced from his home by the order:*

- (a) *alternative accommodation, or*
- (b) *site and materials for building an alternative accommodation*
- (c) *assistance in planning and construction of the alternative accommodation*
- (d) *assistance in moving to and settling in alternative accommodation; or*
- (e) *financial assistance by way of grant, loan or guarantee either directly or conditions as the authority shall deem fit.*

10.3 Former Indigenous People of Abuja:

On the indigenous people of Abuja it appears the state is not appreciative of the magnitude of the problems as a potential cause of restiveness. The people were in 1976 dispossessed of their land and asked to claim compensation and or resettlement. Some were in fact resettled while some got compensation but suddenly there was a policy change allowing them to stay back to be resettled or compensated if and when the development of the Territory catches-up with them.

10.4 Summary of Memoranda:

Breakdown of Memoranda received relating to Land Administration is as follows:

- (i) Land Allocation
- (ii) Revocations
- (iii) Demolitions
- (iv) Resettlements & Compensations
- (v) Ministries, Parastatals & Agencies
- (vi) Abuja Master Plan
- (vii) Court Orders.

11.0 LAND ALLOCATIONS:

11.1 The following persons/companies that submitted written memoranda and/or made oral presentation before the Committee are as listed below:

1. PEACE ON EARTH MISSION
2. ABDULLAHI A. MAIGARI
Press Unit to the FCT, Minister Area 11, Garki.

The Committee herein submit with this Report together with the pieces of evidence before the Committee, the Verbatim Reports of the Committee Sittings in addition to copies of the Memoranda received as earlier laid before the Senate.

While thanking the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for this opportunity to serve, we pray the Senate to approve and adopt our recommendations as painstakingly enunciated in this Report for further submission to the Executive for implementation.

51.0 APPRECIATION:

The Committee wishes to express its most sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Leadership of the Senate in particular and Distinguished Senators in general for the confidence they reposed on the Committee to serve and carry out the assignment. The support and cooperation extended to the Committee facilitated the generation and analysis of information which enriched its findings and recommendations.

In line with democratic ideals, the Committee enlisted for the assistance of many institutions, agencies and individuals representing key elements or having a stake in ensuring public accountability, transparency in public affairs and fairness to all.

Our appreciation goes to the electronic and print media for the extensive coverage they gave the Committee particularly the African Independent Television (AIT) that gave us full Live Coverage.

The support and cooperation of all such agencies too numerous to mention is equally appreciated. I thank all Members of this Joint Committee for their perseverance and commitment during the assignment despite all odds. And to the indefatigable Committee Secretariat that had work tirelessly through the period, I thank them for their patriotic commitment.

Long Live the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Appendix 3
Written submission of a complainant



MUSA YAKUBU & CO

BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

OFFICE ADDRESS:

Ground Floor,
NAIC Building,
Near Cool FM
Central Area, Abuja.
P.O. Box 4620, Garki - Abuja.
Tel: 080-67866476

21st April, 2008.

**PRESENTATION TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FCT CHAIRED BY
THE DISTINGUISHED SENATOR ABUBAKAR SODANGI OVER THE
ILLEGAL REVOCATION OF PLOTS NO. 14 & 15 WITH FILE NO. MISC
5991 AND MISC 5949 JABI DISTRICT, ABUJA.**

We act as solicitors to Mallam Awwal Abdulrahim the beneficiary of the above plots of land.

The above plots were allocated to Taha Investments Nig. Ltd and Sarfarah Nig. Ltd, both companies owned by Alh. Suleiman Abdulrahim a director who died in the services of FCDA.

The two plots of lands were to devolve among the children of the deceased director of FCDA. Coupled with the fact that infrastructure was not completely in place then, the family decided to wait until the government has put in place all the required infrastructure before commencing development of the two plots. But in order to ward off intruders, both plots were fenced with concrete blocks.

Suddenly, the two plots had their fence marked "revoked" without a formal correspondence in the form notice of revocation to the allottees.

The first son of the deceased wrote a passionate letter to then Minister Mallam Nasir El-Rufai explaining the circumstances of the two plots and the fact that they were owned by a former director in FCDA who died in the service of the authority.

The motivation for the purported revocation seemed sinister and hence the plea by the deceased's son was ignored.

It was at this point that our services were engaged to help retrieve the plots.

We wrote two letters to the then Minister of FCT dated 20th June, 2006 and 12th July, 2006 outlining the case of our client vis-à-vis the two plots and the fact that Due Process was not followed in the purported revocation.

The Minister's record shows that both letters were minuted to subordinates for their observation and comments. But it turns out that these same subordinates were the arrow head of this illegal revocation, and their response to the letters sought to justify their action. It was like a circus. The then Minister pretended not to know what was happening behind the scene, but with benefit of hindsight, it is clear the then Minister was working in concert with his subordinates. And this explains why clear cases of infraction were never redressed.

When we did not get any reasonable reply to our letters, we filed a process at the FCT High Court to determine the legality of the purported revocation of the two plots.

As soon as the FCT officials got winds of our pending case, they approached our client informally to dissuade us from pursuing the case in court. Their purported reason was predicated on the fact that the late allottee was a former staff of FCDA and it would portray his family in bad light to drag his former employer to court. They also counseled that if Mallam El-Rufai got wind of the court case then all hopes of retrieving the plots would be completely lost. Underlining the former minister's contempt for rule of law and due process. They instead persuaded our client to adopt out-of-court approach by again appealing to then minister to reconsider the case.

On the strength of this pressure, our client asked us to tarry a while by not proceeding with the case. Our client took the advice and indeed submitted copies of the title documents to then director of AGIS and chief of staff to former minister.

While all these processes were ongoing, the two plots were surreptitiously allocated to new allottees and were hurriedly given building approval. And structures have been erected on both plots.

MUSA YAKUBU & CO.
(LEGAL PRACTITIONERS)

Partners: Prof. Musa Yakubu SAN, Ibrahim Muhammed Sanni Esq. And Abdulwahab Muhammed Esq.

Our Prayers:

1. The Committee should recommend that our client be paid compensation for the two revoked plots, quantum of compensation to be determined on the basis of prevailing market prices.
2. In the alternative, plots of commensurate size and value should be reallocated to our client.
3. That the new allottees should be made to suffer some detriments as they are culpable of facilitating illegal acts. Because if there are no buyers, there would most likely be no thieves. The motivation for the revocation was the presence of willing buyers.

Yours sincerely,

MUSA YAKUBU & CO.



Abdulwahab Muhammed, Esq

MUSA YAKUBU & CO.
(LEGAL PRACTITIONERS)

Partners: Prof. Musa Yakubu SAN, Ibrahim Muhammed Sanni Esq. And Abdulwahab Muhammed Esq.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT ABUJA

BETWEEN:

1. TAHA INVESTMENTS NIGERIA LIMITED
2. SARFARAH NIG. LTD

Suit No CW/1072/16

PLAINTIFFS/
APPLICANTS

AND

1. The Minister of the Federal Capital Territory
2. The Federal Capital Development Authority
3. The Director of Development Control

DEFENDANTS/
RESPONDENTS

ORIGINATING SUMMONS

LET

The Minister of the Federal Capital Territory of Area 11 Garki, Abuja; The Federal Capital Development Authority of Area 11 Garki, Abuja and the Director of Development Control of Wuse Zone 6, Abuja within eight (8) days after service of this summons on them, inclusive of the day of such service cause an appearance to be entered for them to this summons which is issued upon the following questions:

1. Whether a statutory right of occupancy could be revoked by defendants without notice to Plaintiffs.
2. Whether a purported letter of revocation not served on Plaintiffs could be deemed effective for the purpose of sections 28 (6) & (7) of the Land Use Act.


27/7/06

If the answer to questions 1 & 2 are in the negative Plaintiffs therefore seek the following reliefs;

Fee → ₦7002
R/L → 2008370433
27/6/06

1. A declaration that the purported revocation of Plaintiffs' certificate of occupancy over plots 14 and 15 Jabi District, Abuja pursuant to S.28 (5) (a) & (b) is null and void.
2. A declaration of court that the purported letter of revocation which was never served on Plaintiffs' is null and void.
3. An order of court compelling defendants to pay a compensation of N3 Million to Plaintiffs for bringing down the fence and gates erected across Plots 14 and 15 Jabi District, Abuja.
4. An order of perpetual injunction restraining the defendants, their agents, privies, assigns from interfering with the plaintiffs' right of occupancy over Plots 14 and 15 Jabi District, Abuja.

Dated the 17th Of July, 2006


Abdulwahab Muhammed
(Plaintiffs' Solicitors)
Plot 63 Parakou Street,
Wuse II, Abuja

This summons was taken out by Abdulwahab Muhammed Legal Practitioner for the above named Plaintiffs.

The Defendants may appear hereto by entering appearance personally or by Legal Practitioner either by handing in the appropriate forms, duly completed at the High Court Registry of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja or by sending them to that office by post.

Note

If the defendants do not enter appearance within the time and at the place above mentioned such order will be made and proceeding may be taken as the judge may think just and expedient.

By order of Court

For Service on:
Defendants
Department of Legal Services,
FCDA,
Area II, Garki - Abuja.



MUSA YAKUBU & CO.

BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

BRANCH OFFICE:
31, Kashimbila Road,
Karewa, Yola
Tel: 015-625257

HEAD OFFICE:
Suite 20, Harper Crescent,
Opp. Education Resources Centre,
Wuse Zone 7,
P.O. Box 4620, Garki-Abuja
Tel: 09-5237566
Fax: 09-5237003

The Honorable Minister
Ministry of the Federal Capital Territory
Area 11 Garki - Abuja.



12th July, 2006

Sir,

**RE: REVOCATION OF PLOT NOS. 14 AND 15 MISC.5991
AND MISC 5949 JABI DISTRICT, ABUJA.**

We refer to our letter of the above caption dated 20th of June 2006 and wish to state that we have not received your response.

This letter is therefore by way of reminder; as we attach here with a copy of our original letter for ease of reference.

We wish to reiterate the points we made in our letter; the reasons for the non-development of the plots and the fact that till date our client has not been served a notice of intention to revoke the plots. If there was any prior notice, our client would have taken steps to comply with the grace period.

It will interest you to note that the only notice that got to our client was when the fence and the gate of the properties were pulled down; no more. This demolition was done even when road passing in front of the property was still being constructed. And I doubt if the road has been completed at this moment.

We are therefore requesting for your intervention. As it is our belief that due process has not been followed. We are also of the firm belief that some of these actions taken and the surrounding circumstance may not have been to your knowledge.

We crave your intervention.

Yours faithfully,

For: MUSA YAKUBU & CO

ABDULWAHAB MUHAMMED, ESQ.

Partners: Prof. Musa Yakubu, Ibrahim Mohammed Sanni, Esq. And Eric C. Apia, Esq.

Awwal Abdulrahim,
Plot 174, Kwame Nkruma Street,
Asokoro District,
P.O. Box 3329 Garki,
Abuja.

The Honourable Minister,
Federal Capital Territory Administration,
Abuja.

Through: The Director
Development Control

Sir,

LETTER OF COMPLAINT/APPEAL ON PLOT 14 & 15 FILE NO: MISC: 5991 &
MISC: 5949 MARKED REVOKED AT JABI DISTRICT ABUJA

I write on behalf of **LATE ALH. SULEIMAN ABDULRAHIM** former Director Finance
Federal Capital Development Authority.

The above 2nos property belongs to my late Father, the late Director of Finance who have
worked meritoriously and died while still serving as the Director Finance of the Federal
Capital Development Authority.

The properties are to be shared among the Children as the only tangible assets left behind,
but due to some logistic delays and the non-availability of infrastructure that does not allow
development, but fence was constructed round the plot with 150mm sand-Crete block and
secured with a double leaf vehicular metal drive in gates to ward off intruders.

We were shocked to discover that the plots were **MARKED REVOKED** while we were
preparing for the development of the plots now that the infrastructure is ongoing in the
Area.

We appeal to your goodself that justice be tempered with mercy on us the Children of the
former late Director, and allow 6months period from **Now** to enable us carry-out the
development of the plots.

We attached here with photocopies of the Certificate of Occupancy and pray to your able
self to see that the children are saved from psychological trauma if the properties are taking
away from us. While we wait to here from your goodscelves we remain.

Yours truly,

Awwal Abdulrahim 03/3/2006.

AWWAL ABDULRAHIM
The 1st son of late Alh. Suleiman Abdulrahim



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

The Land Use Act No. 6 of 1978

CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY NO. $\frac{C}{FCT}$ 000187 - FCT/ABU/MISC-5991
(BUILDING SITE)

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT SARFARAH NIG. LTD, whose Address is Area 1 Section Savana Centre P.O.Box 78 Garki - Abuja - Nigeria (hereinafter called the holder/holders which term shall include any person/persons entitled to a right of occupancy in and over the land described in the schedule, and more particularly declined in the plan annexed hereto, for a term of ~~Ninety-nine~~ years commencing from the 14th day of ~~October~~ 1990 according to the true intent and meaning of the Land Use Act 1978 and subject to the provisions thereof and to the following special terms and conditions:

To pay in advance without demand to the President (hereinafter called President) or any other officer appointed by him:

(a) the proportion of rent at the rate of ~~₦ 1,564.12~~ ~~One thousand, five hundred and sixty-four naira, twelve kobo~~ per annum applicable to the period (if any) from the said date of commencement to the thirty-first day of December, ~~1990~~ within ~~two~~ months from the date of this certificate; and thereafter.

(b) the yearly rent of ~~₦ 1,040.12~~ ~~One thousand, five hundred and sixty-four naira, twelve kobo~~ on the first day of January, in each year, or

(c) the revised rent as hereinafter provided

- (2) To pay and discharge all rates, assessments, and impositions whatsoever which shall at any times be charged, or imposed on the said land or any part thereof or any building thereon, or upon the occupier or occupiers thereof.
- (3) To pay forthwith without demand to the Federal Capital Development Authority or such other body or person appointed by the President on the issue of this certificate (if not sooner paid) all survey fees, registration fees and other charges due in respect of the preparation registration and issuance of this certificate.
- (4) Within two years from the date of signing of this Certificate of Occupancy to erect and complete on the said land building(s) or the other works specified in detailed plans approved or to be approved by the Federal Capital Development Authority or other officers appointed by the

Appendix 4
Newspaper reports

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THE GUARDIAN

CONSCIENCE, NURTURED BY TRUTH

VOL. 25, NO. 10,698

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008

N150

That fuel scarcity may die forever
An apostle of payment speeds
Change your brand's car into the race

Ogbulafor warns legislators against impeachment moves

Uthmaniyah is expected to be the first of a series of government ministers to be impeached.

Uthmaniyah said the move is a challenge to the leadership of the state.

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Senate confirms Ogbulafor as FRS boss

The Senate has confirmed Ogbulafor as the new boss of the Federal Reserve System.



President Umaru Dikko (left) and Air Commodore Ogbulafor (right) with other officials.

Family urges action on felon commissioner's killers

The family of a slain commissioner has urged the government to take action against those responsible for his death.

Item	Price
1000	1000
2000	2000
3000	3000
4000	4000
5000	5000
6000	6000
7000	7000
8000	8000
9000	9000
10000	10000

Tears at Senate panel as son recounts judge's ejection, death

The son of a slain judge has recounted the events leading to his father's death and ejection from the Senate.

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The son of a slain judge has recounted the events leading to his father's death and ejection from the Senate.

3Fold Cord EQUIPMENT - TOP - SALVA
THREE FOLD CORD
GUINING
THREE FOLD CORD

POLITICS

FCT: Senate panel members face fresh facts, twists

NEW allegations have emerged in the ongoing investigation into the activities of past regimes in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). As a result, members and staff are being expected to be subjected to the intense, unrelenting, and prolonged investigation which would subject the operations of various offices of the administration, including the past, to the scrutiny of the public hearing. It is reported that the panel would also be expected to be subjected to the scrutiny of the public hearing. It is reported that the panel would also be expected to be subjected to the scrutiny of the public hearing.



Abba Kyari



Chibweh

From Abba Kyari, who was a member of the Senate, it was revealed that some members of the panel were expected to be subjected to the scrutiny of the public hearing. It is reported that the panel would also be expected to be subjected to the scrutiny of the public hearing. It is reported that the panel would also be expected to be subjected to the scrutiny of the public hearing.

From Senator Chibweh, it was revealed that some members of the panel were expected to be subjected to the scrutiny of the public hearing. It is reported that the panel would also be expected to be subjected to the scrutiny of the public hearing. It is reported that the panel would also be expected to be subjected to the scrutiny of the public hearing.

Investigation had unfolded beyond the imagination of the committee members. For instance, Chibweh said former Vice President, Abba Kyari, who had been linked with the former regime, was alleged to have given orders to the Abba Kyari Development Agency to acquire some projects through direct labour. It is reported that the committee would also be expected to be subjected to the scrutiny of the public hearing.

Let there be caution in judging former leaders, says Kukah

NEW ALLEGATIONS have been laid to show how difficult it is to judge the administration of former president, Chibweh. Chibweh, who was a member of the Senate, it was revealed that some members of the panel were expected to be subjected to the scrutiny of the public hearing. It is reported that the panel would also be expected to be subjected to the scrutiny of the public hearing.



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FREE PRESS UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

NEWS

Nigeria plans new refineries



NATIONAL IT/TELECOM SCHOLARSHIP

is open for select business professionals between 17-60 years old. The scholarship is a monetary award given to select IT/Telecom Engineers.

Eligible applicants must be for the training available at NITEL. Subjects of applicants of various years of experience are welcome.

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Experts warn against dwindling bio-diversity

Checklist from Page 1

The book contains a checklist describing how seven threatened groups of organisms - amphibians, birds, coral reefs, sharks, non-human primates, grasshoppers and terrestrial snails - are vulnerable to a number of threats.

According to the book, the Nigerians are doing it at the expense of our children and grandchildren, all in the name of economic growth and progress," said Dr. David Suzuki, a Canadian scientist and environmental activist, who is one of the authors of the book.

Dr. Suzuki, a Canadian scientist and environmental activist, stressed environmental degradation on the world's heavy focus on economic progress.

"We are creating an illusion that everything is fine, and we are getting richer and richer."

Dr. Suzuki, a Canadian scientist and environmental activist, stressed environmental degradation on the world's heavy focus on economic progress.

"We are creating an illusion that everything is fine, and we are getting richer and richer."

Panel laments over demolition of houses in Abuja

Checklist from Page 1

Dr. Suzuki, a Canadian scientist and environmental activist, stressed environmental degradation on the world's heavy focus on economic progress.

"We are creating an illusion that everything is fine, and we are getting richer and richer."

Govt insists on transparency in budget execution

Checklist from Page 1

Dr. Suzuki, a Canadian scientist and environmental activist, stressed environmental degradation on the world's heavy focus on economic progress.

"We are creating an illusion that everything is fine, and we are getting richer and richer."

The two countries had indicated their interest in the development of a refinery in the Niger Delta.

Three major Chinese petroleum companies agreed this week to build a refinery in the Niger Delta.

The Niger Delta, which is rich in oil, is the focus of a major development project by the Nigerian government.

The project is expected to create thousands of jobs and boost the economy.

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THE GUARDIAN

CONSCIENCE, NURTURED BY TRUTH

VOL. 25, NO. 10,712 FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2008 N150

WEEKEND *Special*

Vision 2020 and the hidden treasure *Weekend Cover* Pages 27-28

Your path to financial success this year *Special* Pages 29-31

Extending the auto frontiers with Mazda 6 *Autos* Page 31

Fresh drama in Senate over Abuja plots

It was meant to be a quiet session of the Senate on Wednesday, but it turned into a storm of controversy when the Senate on Wednesday passed a bill to amend the 1999 Constitution to allow the president to appoint and dismiss judges without the approval of the Senate.

Some shocked members of the Senate, including the Senate President, Atiku Abubakar, argued that the bill would undermine the independence of the judiciary.

Abuja plots

• Jimi Lawal testifies, survives 'abduction'

Former Abuja Governor and former Minister of Justice, Jimi Lawal, testified in court on Wednesday that he was abducted by a group of men in Abuja in 2002.

Why rural telephony project is stalled, by officials

The government's rural telephony project is stalled because of a lack of funds and a slow pace of implementation, officials say.



Atiku Abubakar (left) and former Governor of Lagos, Chief Tunde Dossun (right) are seen with other officials during a meeting in Abuja.

Britain has asked Nigeria to stop the export of oil products to the United Kingdom, saying that the products are fake and do not meet the required standards.

Britain tasks Nigeria on oil wealth, fake products

The British High Commissioner to Nigeria, Sir John Dwyer, has visited the Nigerian Parliament to discuss the issue of fake oil products.

Abuja	125.50
Lagos	125.50
Port Harcourt	125.50
Enugu	125.50
Onitsha	125.50
Abakaliki	125.50
Awka	125.50
Benin	125.50
Calabar	125.50
Harare	125.50
London	125.50
New York	125.50
Paris	125.50
Stockholm	125.50
Swiss Franc	125.50
Yen	125.50

Reps to liaise with Senate over constitution review

The House of Representatives will liaise with the Senate to review the 1999 Constitution, according to the Speaker of the House, Tunde Adenuga.

The House of Representatives will liaise with the Senate to review the 1999 Constitution, according to the Speaker of the House, Tunde Adenuga.

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QUIPPING THE WASTES

WIRELESS CHARGING

Force headquarters takes over Edo commissioner's death probe

THE Force headquarters has taken over the investigation of the death of the former Edo State Commissioner for Information and Orientation, Mr. Olu Akin...

Hope recommendation of police officers, others for extra-judicial killings

THE House of Representatives Committee on Human Rights on Tuesday recommended the dismissal and trial of two senior police officers for murder...

They are Olu Akin, Peter Okoye, Mr. Anthony Okafar, Mr. Ernest Ojo, Mr. Michael Duro...

They were alleged to have misappropriated the salary of late senators to the tune of N2.5 billion...

El-Rufai lawless in land revocation - FCT counsel

Olusade Joshi, John Alechenu, Aljaja

I was law-abiding, says El-Rufai

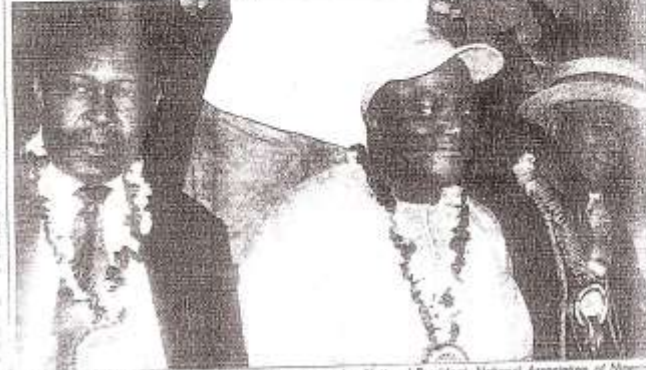
THE general counsel of the Federal Capital Territory Administration, Muhammad Aljaja, on Thursday said the FCTA under Mallam Nasir El-Rufai, ended court orders in the revocation of land...

allocations and the sale of Federal Government houses. He described the revocation of land allocations and their reallocation to others without due process which people experienced under El-Rufai, as irresponsible and lawless.

He said the legal team's suggestions on how to go about the entire exercise were ignored by the former minister. He described himself as a victim of unlawful disengagement from service.

Mallam Nasir El-Rufai, however, faulted these claims. In a statement signed by the Chief of Staff, Mallam Bakare Lawal, El-Rufai said, "Mallam Mohammed Aljaja, the general counsel of the Federal Capital Territory Administration is a leech on the public treasury by the Senate Committee on administration."

the FCT... 10



U.R. Member, Advisory Council, Mr. Benson Aguegbo; National President, National Association of Nigerian Theatre Arts Practitioners, Mr. Greg Oduwayo; and a playwright and member of the Advisory Council, Mr. Allexander Noye, during the International Theatre Day 2008 celebration in Lagos...

Sharia court jails lesbian couple after cane punishment

Sagan Olanrewaju, Kaduna

AN Upper Sharia Court in Tudun Wada, Kaduna, has sentenced a lesbian couple, Hajira Afolabi and Walewa Huseini to a six-month imprisonment in-living contrary to the teachings of the Sharia.

Aljaja added that although they had lived together in Talo near Abuja, in Kaduna and other places in the past five years as a couple, she had enjoyed relationships with several male friends and often enjoyed having sex with...

Hajira through intensive counselling, which made them to reach orgasm. She, however, denied membership of any group or association of lesbians, saying although there could be many others who practiced same sex love, she had no...

knowledge of the existence of any near her. She said what happened to her was a lesson and prayed that God would forgive her for what she had done. Huseini earlier perjured her husband, Aljaja, was not...

telling the... because she... that was only... a lesbian... happened... could mind... good and... school for...

Akpabio denies misappropriating N2.5b

Nudjaga Afife and John Alechenu

THE Governor of Akwa Ibom State, Mr. Godswill Akpabio, on Thursday denied allegations of an alleged misappropriation of N2.5bn and a subsequent invasion by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission.

A statement sent by e-mail from the state Commissioner for Information, Mr. Conesa Epa, claimed that the allegation was based on an anonymous...

petition on misappropriation of state funds. The allegation as contained in the statement was that the governor collaborated with a former state Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party Mr. Is Toya, to collect millions of naira from political aspirants.

It also added that the governor was guilty of donating money to religious and cultural organisations, among others. According to the commission, the allegations were untrue and misleading.

He said, "There are very misleading, and politically motivated allegations meant to smear the reputation, integrity, classification and expose the innocent governor to undue public ridicule. That these allegations sponsored by anonymous promoters are baseless as the report could neither establish how they arrived at the sum of N2.5bn nor prove when it became illegal for a state government to purchase office cases for key government functionaries."

Death penalty: Court to hear Rev King's appeal on April 30

Tony Anuoluobi

THE Court of Appeal in Lagos on Thursday fixed April 30 for the hearing of an appeal by Rev. Fr. Eusebio Eusebio (aka Rev. King) against a death sentence passed on him. Fr. Eusebio was sentenced to death for the murder of a priest and was sentenced to death by hanging by the Federal High Court in Lagos.

High Court of Lagos, Judge Justice. Rev. King the General Director of the Christian Pentecost Assembly was sentenced on a second charge of murder and attempted murder of six members of his flock.

But the court had completed its appeal against the verdict of the lower court and Rev. King's appeal at the appellate court.

In a statement of notes filed by his lawyer, Mr. Olanrewaju, the court stated that the court would be able to impose the death penalty on Rev. King.

He said, "The appellant is not entitled to the benefit of doubt because he has been found guilty of the crime."

City News

2 pleads for members' accommodation

National Youth Corps. Chairman... school... members of the corps...

...to be... Chairman... to be... to be...

...to be... Chairman... to be... to be...

...to be... Chairman... to be... to be...

tribunal its 2,254 verdicts

A State Election Tribunal... 1,769 electronic votes... 483 manual votes...

...to be... Chairman... to be... to be...

...to be... Chairman... to be... to be...

...to be... Chairman... to be... to be...

...to be... Chairman... to be... to be...

...to be... Chairman... to be... to be...

Praises as Senate probes sale of FCT houses

An official of the Federal Ministry of Finance, Mr Peter Olorunsogo, has said that the Senate investigation into the sale of Federal Government properties in Abuja is a "step in the right direction".

The Senate Committee on Federal Capital Territory on Wednesday... began investigations into the sale of houses, allocation of plots and demolition exercise...

News Agency of Nigeria in an interview on Thursday in Abuja that the sale of the houses was done without regards to due process.

He said the turnout of people at the public hearing conducted by the Senate committee was an indication of the high expectations of Nigerians that it would right the wrongs of the past.

Olorunsogo said, "Some 800 people have gone to court and you know that the court process is slow. I am also affected."

"When I travelled in December 2006, I came back to see another person occupying my house at Apo Village in Asokoro."

"On enquiry, I was told by the FCTDA officials that the house had been sold. I was, however, asked to go and make full payment with a promise that the house would be returned to me."

"It took me two years to get the bank loan and make the payment, but the house was neither returned to me nor was my money refunded."

"I don't even have my household items because my things were thrown out. I had to go to court to keep my household belongings because the court process is slow."

Olorunsogo said he had been separated from his family since then because there was nowhere for them to stay.

He said he had submitted a memo to the committee and expressed the hope that he would be given an opportunity to make oral presentation at the hearing.

"The public hearing is a credible step. We hope that justice for the concerned ones would be done," he said.

He said the last submission he made to the committee expressed the hope that he would be given an opportunity to make oral presentation at the hearing.

"The public hearing is a credible step. We hope that justice for the concerned ones would be done," he said.

"I don't even have my household items because my things were thrown out. I had to go to court to keep my household belongings because the court process is slow."

NAN gathered that the investigation would end on April 16.

The former Minister of FCT Mallam Hersi El-Robi, is expected to appear before the committee on the next day.

Hoodlums set high court ablaze

THE NIGERIAN LAWYERS' CHAMBER IN Kogi State has been attacked by hoodlums who invaded the premises of the state court in Wednesday.

Justice Tunde Hottel, who sits at the court, the justices and the staff were taken to safety as well as the court building, which was destroyed in the process.

Hoodlums were seen with firearms, knives, and other weapons, and were seen to be shouting and looting the court building.

The Security Guard, Mallam Ibrahim, said that the hoodlums were seen to be shouting and looting the court building.

He said that the hoodlums were seen to be shouting and looting the court building.

The state Chief Judge, Justice Umesa Eji, who was on an overnight visit to the court, expressed his displeasure when he saw the damaged structures and burnt documents.

He said that such actions could not solve the problem of the courts, whatever the reason behind their actions.

The judge described it as retrogressive and opposite of dragging the community forward.

He said hoodlums, who had personal effects in the process, that the incident was part of the demand of the hoodlums.

He added that nothing would deter the judiciary from dispensing justice in accordance with the laws of the land.



L.R. Assistant Inspector-General of Police, Zone 2, Mr. Mohammed Abubakar; Ogun State Governor, Olusola George Daniel; and the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Joseph Apogay at the presentation of cheques by the state government to the injured and families of dead policemen in active service... on Wednesday.

Remembrance: Dignitaries extol Ige's wife's virtues

Akte Oyedele, Ibadan

FIVE years after her death, Ibadan and relatives of Justice Adenuga Ige, wife of the late former Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Chief Bola Ige, again gathered at a memorial service to celebrate her virtues.

Senior members of the bar and the bench were among dignitaries that gathered at St. Anne's Church, Ibadan, on Thursday.

Born on April 1, 1932, the late Justice of the Court of Appeal died on April 10, 2003, two years after the gruesome murder of her husband.

The ladies of Ige, who came to his Badia, Ibadan residence, on December 25, 2001, were yet to be apprehended.

In a sermon at the service, Ven. Godwin Daranmola, invoked the wrath of God on those behind the unwept founder of the former AGF for committing what he called double murder.

He blamed the death of the patriarch of the Ige family on

the "spurious" circumstances surrounding the death of her husband.

The clergyman regretted that investigation into the murder of Ige had witnessed nonchalance on the part of the Federal Government seven years after his death.

Hearing other high profile soundings on the liturgy displayed by the law enforcement agents in taking

into Ige killers, he said the masterminds of the crime would have been brought to justice in other climes.

Extolling the qualities of the late Adenuga, he said she was an embodiment of wisdom and son of judgement who anchored her coats with candour and fear of God.

On the size of the nation, the man of God said "Corruption had become

hereditary" in the country, going by the revelations in the media in recent time on how the nation's resources were plundered.

Daranmola said, "Sheared for the poor and the down-trodden and impeded on the lives of many."

"She was chastised by the brutal murder of her husband and the notorious manner in which the crime had so far been investigated."

Hunter kills man during expedition

Tunde Odetola, Oshogbo

A N expedition by a group of hunters in Oshogbo village, near Ilesha, Ogun State, turned fatal when a member of the group, Mr Julius Olayide, accidentally shot a villager, Matthew Akibibi.

Investigation by our correspondent on Thursday showed that Akibibi was not a member of the hunting group but was accidentally shot by Olayide in the bush.

It was unclear whether or not Olayide, who is being

investigated by the police, missed Akibibi for an animal when he shot him with a locally-made gun.

Akibibi, who is from neighbouring Kereke village, died on the way to the hospital where he was being treated at when the incident occurred.

A member of the hunting group, Mr. Julius Adenigbale, reported the case to the police following which Olayide was arrested.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Ogun Command, Mr. Joshua Clayem, confirmed

the incident to our correspondent on Thursday.

Clayem said, "The police will investigate the manner of the death of the deceased. We want to know why and how the deceased was shot."

"The police concerns names etc. which should be noted. We shall follow every lead and explore all possibilities."

Meanwhile, the police authorities in Ogun State have begun a manhunt for the masterminds of a syndicate that specialises in sending text telephone text messages

to persons living overseas.

The text-based problem is the letter of a Nigerian resident abroad, Mr. Julius Odetola, who alleged that he was persecuted when the letter was sent to his daughter, residing in London.

The letter, which was sent to the daughter, was a message that was sent to the daughter, who was in London, and was a message that was sent to the daughter, who was in London.

Meanwhile, the police authorities in Ogun State have begun a manhunt for the masterminds of a syndicate that specialises in sending text telephone text messages to persons living overseas.

National News



Ministry disowns US filmmakers

The Federal Ministry of Information and Communications on Wednesday disowned the four American filmmakers detained in Abuja, and later released.

The Director of Public Communications, PHIC, Mr. Henry Adegboye, told the News Agency of Nigeria in Abuja that the filmmakers had no right to disclose their identity and purpose of assignment while in the country.

The four Americans, Brandon, Tammi Sims, Cal Williams and Sean Porter, were detained in Sokoto and later taken to Abuja where they were later released.

The filmmaker along with a Nigerian filmmaker was ordered to stop filming on the territory on the Niger Delta.

Ngige, whose disclosure handed the admission of journalists and film crews visiting Nigeria, said it was unfortunate that other nations flouted the country's laws.

"From records, we did not receive any request from the so-called four filmmakers and their Nigerian collaborator," he said.

He said that journalists and film crews who entered the country without due clearance were at risk of arrest and other charges for which the Nigerian government should not be held responsible.

Assembly dismisses new AIT judge

African Union State Assembly has dismissed the new judge of the African Investment Tribunal (AIT) on Wednesday.

The assembly had dismissed the judge for the alleged failure to sign the AIT's new charter on the same day.

The chairman of the panel said the judge was not supposed to sign the charter until a new contract was signed with the AIT.

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Adamawa: INEC bars newly registered voters

Terfa Andy, Yola

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) announced that those who registered during the voter registration exercise between January to March this year would not be allowed to vote during the re-run gubernatorial election in Adamawa State on Saturday.

The National Electoral Commission supervising Adamawa, Bauchi and Gombe states, Mrs. Esther Sala, disclosed this in Yola during an election stakeholders meeting.

She said that the 4000 voters who did not permit such registration to vote in the poll.

"I want to impress it on you to use your good offices to enlighten your supporters and encourage only those that have registered during the 2006/2007 registration exercise to visit the polling stations with their voters card to cast their votes," she stated.

She told the stakeholders that INEC was determined and committed to conducting

elections for election and that all the stakeholders had voted to play in pursuing democracy and moving the state forward.

"The business of conducting successful elections is a collective responsibility. We, as our part, shall continue to play the game according to the rule. We urge your honorable and supporters to be law-abiding and discourage the conduct of free, fair and credible election in Adamawa state," she stated.

Only INEC officers were

deployed from 14 states to conduct the Adamawa state re-run election, Sala said that it was to avoid corruption and violence during the poll.

She mentioned problems against any attempt to lobby INEC officers in order to get favour from them, adding that the commission would take strict actions against politicians that attempt to corrupt its officers.

"Elections shouldn't be seen as a matter of life and death. As the Saturday's election draws nearer, let us all who remember that, we owe

a lot to Nigeria our country and to the generation yet unborn," she maintained.

Speaking at the meeting, the Commissioner of Police, Adamawa State Constable, Mr. Aloysius Okoko, disclosed that some politicians had recruited their private police personnel with a view to using them to rig the election.

"Intelligence security reports reaching me indicate that some politicians have already recruited their police men to be used on election day," he stated.

He said that all security personnel especially the police, would have special identification, in order to differentiate them from the fake ones.

Meanwhile, political parties have started distributing gifts aimed at inducing voters to vote for their candidates in the election.

A News Agency of Nigeria report stated that there was mood of restlessness among residents.

While some saw nothing wrong with the gifts, some described it as a bribe to the parties to woo voters with such gifts.

Some distributed trinkets, gifts, wrappers, soap, firewood, motor-cycles and bicycles.

Also, indications emerged on Wednesday that the All Nigeria Peoples Party had decided to support for the National Congress gubernatorial candidate, Abiyi Ibrahim Bagala.

While addressing party supporters at the party secretariat, the candidate of the ANPP Abiyi Ibrahim Bagala, said his action was to support the AC candidate.

He maintained that his withdrawal was to give the people of the state the opportunity to vote Bagala as they had new government, pointing out that AC had the same partnership with ANPP to develop the state.

The ANPP chairman remarked that in the eight months of the renewed government, Vice-President Martins Nyako told the voters returned to a private sector.



Chief Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Mike Oso, former IG, Mr. Sunday Adesina and Ojo of Lagos, Olu Babun Akkiba, at the inauguration of the Adamawa House at the Special Force Unit, Nigeria Police, Ilesha, Lagos on Wednesday. Photo: Kunda Adesina.

'El-Rufai demolished AIT offices over third term'

The management of African Independent Television has said its properties at Obasanjo Hill, Fashola, in Abuja were demolished as a result of its opposition to the alleged tenure elongation plans of former President Olusegun Obasanjo.

A counsel to the AIT, Mr. Chie Uche, told the Senate Committee on the Federal Capital Territory, that the action against the television station was politically-motivated.

He said the property damaged by the FCTA was valued at N2.5bn, and played the committee to ensure that the AIT was duly compensated.

According to Uche, the former Minister of the PCT, Mallam Nasir el-Rufai, made attempts to stop the station from televising proceedings in the National Assembly on the third term debate of ex-President Obasanjo.

He said the former station had made phone calls to the Chairman of DPAP communications, Chel Raymond

Dokpeti, to stop the live broadcast.

He said Dokpeti had rejected appeals from El-Rufai, leading to the demolition of the station's structures.

Senator Bassey Eyo, Harau, in his reaction, said it was sad that the injustice happened under a democratic government.

"This is beginning to create an impression that Sen Abacha may have been an angel with such operations here perhaps, at these times of electricity and internetivity denied by Nigerians against Nigerian."

"God knows how many of them are not in a position to come here and complain. God knows how many of them died in the process; we are making Abacha small like the rose and it is very, very sad."

He also suggested that the AIT should be prepared to make some sacrifices since a professional misconduct.

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The National Electoral Commission (INEC) has expressed its displeasure at the emergence of Ogbulafor as PDP chairman. The commission said that Ogbulafor's emergence as chairman of the party was not in accordance with the party's constitution. It said that Ogbulafor's emergence as chairman was a result of the withdrawal of candidates from the convention.

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58 senators bought FG houses through probe panel - FCT chief

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When asked if the committee named down the houses, Sodangi said he did not know. He said that he did not know the names of the senators who bought the houses. He said that he did not know the names of the senators who bought the houses.

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Appendix 5
Structured interview
Department of English
University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria

Topic: **INTERACTION STRUCTURE AND PRAGMATIC FEATURES IN THE
2008 NATIONAL QUASI-JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FEDERAL
CAPITAL TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION IN NIGERIA**

Dear Sir/Madam,

This written interview is drawn to elicit information from complainants and defendants on language use in the 2008 public hearing on FCT Administration. This is to enable us understand the communicative strategies used by participants in the hearing.

The questions below are strictly for academic and research purpose, thus the information supplied shall be treated with strict confidence and used only for these purposes. You are therefore, requested to answer the questions as objectively as possible. Your co-operation will be highly appreciated. Thank you.

Section A
(Please Tick where applicable)

Bio Data

(i) Age range: 16 -25 26-35 36-45 46-55 55 and above

(ii) Gender: Male Female

(iii) Status: Complainant Defendant

(iv) Job Description: _____

(v) Ethnic Group: _____

(vi) Religious Affiliation: _____

Section B

1. Why did you attend the hearing? _____

2. What did you hope to achieve at the end of the hearing? _____

3. What type of legal, political, social or cultural knowledge helped you to present your case in a better way?

4. What aspects of your testimony do you feel that the hearing panel members may be aware of? _____

5. Were there cases in which you gave more information than was expected of you and why? _____

6. Were there cases in which you gave less information than was expected of you and why? _____

7. Which linguistic indices took place during your presentation and the interrogation period (i.e. complaining, defending, praising, etc)?

8. During the interrogation, were the hearing panel members sympathetic towards your story? If yes, when? _____

9. Were there cases in which you agreed or disagreed with the comments of the hearing panel members? If yes, when? _____

10. What did you say or do or present during the presentation in order to convince the hearing panel of your testimony?

**Department of English
University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria**

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