

Language and the Politics of Personality (Re)presentation in Biographical Texts of Two African Statesmen

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Abstract

The aim of this paper was to contribute to the understanding of the linguistic form and appraisal characteristics of biography as a sub-genre of life writing discourse. The paper utilised purposively selected extracts from Phillis Johnson's *Eye of Fire: A Biography of Chief Emeka Anyaoku* and Peter Limb's *Nelson Mandela: A Biography*. The two texts, used as the paradigms of biographical texts generally, were chosen because they are thematically unified, their producers construct personality (re)presentations around the related themes of apartheid, democracy, international diplomacy, and nationalism. From the library search, attention has not been paid to biography texts using Appraisal theory, therefore, analysis of the texts was cast within Martins and White's appraisal theory, which, among others, provides the framework for analysing attitude, emotion and stance in language-based discourses. The paper showed that the producers deployed such lexico-syntactic resources of language as superlative adjectives, adverbs of intensity, affective lexemes and pre-modifiers through which they construct the stance of positive alignment. The study concluded that the language of biographical texts is highly judgmental and affective in nature. It further concluded that biography is a form of advertising discourse, replete with oratorical and attitudinal/evaluative uses of language.

1. Introduction

History plays several crucial roles in human life. It is through history that human beings learn about cultures, values, religions and what is/are right or wrong. From the very early times, human beings have had some sense of history, either of their own, that of their community or of other people. Exploring this fact and many others, human beings necessarily face the importance of history. In view of its significance in human civilisation, various forms of historical writings have evolved. Some of these, collectively known as life writing discourse, include autobiographies, biographies, profiles, memoirs and diary.

The term autobiography has a long tradition. According to Holman (1972, p. 4), the word “biography” came into English with John Dryden who in 1683 defines it as “the history of particular men’s lives”. Smith and Watson (2010, p. 3) trace its development from “the period prior to the enlightenment in the West”. During this period, autobiography was used to depict writings of people who had achieved some form of public recognition. In contemporary writing, according to Smith and Watson (2010), the categorisation of memoir often signals that autobiographical work is characterised by density of language and self-reflexivity about the writing process, linking the author’s standing as a professional writer with the work’s status as an aesthetic object.

Biography is a relatively full account of the facts of a man’s life which attempts to set forth his character, temperament and milieu, as well as his experiences and activities. In the words of Sonima (2010), biography is a

detailed description or account of someone's life which entails more than basic facts. It portrays education, works, relationships and death, a biography also portrays a subject's experience of these events. Unlike a profile or curriculum vitae (resume), a biography represents a subject's life story, highlighting various aspects of his or her life, including intimate details of experience and may include an analysis of a subject's personality. In addition to its historical relevance, biography is an excellent avenue for perceiving attitudinal and evaluative uses of language; thus, the motivation for this paper. This paper aims at describing the peculiar form, content and functions of biographical discourse as a sub-genre of life writing discourse. The specific objectives are to identify the recurrent thematic issues in the selected biographical texts; examine and analyse the lexico-grammatical features used in activating the thematic issues; describe the appraisal characteristics of the discourse; and relate the texts' lexico-grammatical features and appraisal pattern to the conventional functions of biographical discourse

2. Theoretical Background

The texts under study are inherently evaluative. Therefore, the appraisal theory propounded by Martin and Whites is considered fit for the analysis of the data. It is a theory that developed from M.A.K. Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) in order to explain the complex ways in which people express personal views and react to the views of others. SFL identifies three modes of meaning which operates simultaneously in all utterances: the textual, the ideational and the interpersonal. Within this context, the appraisal framework is directed towards developing the account of

interpersonal functionality aspects of language (White, 2003).

Appraisal theory extends the SFL account of the interpersonal meaning by attending to three axes along which the speaker/writer's inter-subjective stance may vary (Martin and White, 2005). The theory documents the elements that are used in negotiating stance process, classifies them, and provides exposition on how they function in real language speaking situation for the purpose of describing the system of appraisal in a language. The theory provides us with the tools that can be applied on texts in order to understand the issues associated with evaluative resources and the negotiation of inter-subjective positions and open a new area of interpersonal meaning. The importance of appraisal theory is summarised by Beckett (2009, p. 3) who says that "the contribution of appraisal theory to the study of evaluation can hardly be overestimated, since it provides the only systematic, detailed and elaborate framework of evaluative language."

White (2001) defines appraisal theory as the linguistic resources by which texts/speakers come to express, negotiate and naturalise particular inter-subjective and ideological positions. Within this broad scope, the theory is concerned more particularly with the language of evaluation, attitude and emotion, and with a set of resources which explicitly position a text's proposals and propositions interpersonally. This means that the theory is concerned with those meanings which vary the terms of the speaker's engagement with their utterances, which vary with what is at stake interpersonally both in individual utterances and as the

texts unfold cumulatively. Martin (2000, p. 145) also submits that appraisal theory is the “semantic resources used to negotiate emotions, judgments and valuations, alongside resources for amplifying and engaging with these evaluations.” This shows that the theory is concerned with feeling out the linguistic resources used in the evaluation.

Appraisal theory has three main components: attitude, engagement and graduation. Attitude has to do with our feelings, emotional reactions, and judgment of behaviour and evaluation of things. Attitude can further be divided into three regions of feeling: affect, judgment and appreciation. Affect deals with the expression of emotions; judgment is concerned with resources for assessing behaviour according to various normative principles while appreciation looks at resources that deal with aesthetic assessments.

The linguistic resources that fall under the category of judgment are used to show or to express speakers’ positions about others’ conduct. Judgment is sub-divided into social esteem and social sanction. Appreciation is the system of evaluation that is based on the aesthetics. This is a system by which human feelings towards products, processes, and entities are institutionalised as a set of evaluation in either positive or negative terms. Appreciation can be realised as reaction, composition and valuation. Engagement is concerned with the ways in which resources such as “projection, modality, polarity, concession and adverbials position the speaker/writer with respect to the value position being advanced and with respect to the potential responses – by quoting or reporting, acknowledging a

possibility, denying, countering, affirming and so on” (Martin and White, 2005, p. 36). Through graduation, the message in the text is made more intense or less intense, shaper or blurred. When we make the message more or less intense, we are modifying the force of the message. On the other hand, when we sharpen or blur the message, we are modifying the focus of the message. The justification for choosing this framework is based on the fact that biography is an evaluative discourse, the producers use the writing for passing judgments and lastly, they are used in expressing ideological stance.

3. Literature Review

Earlier studies have concentrated on literary criticism, rhetorical, historical and traditional interpretative forms of life writing – autobiography and biography texts – Oriaku (1990) looks at autobiography from the perspective of literary criticism. The study is a critical interpretation of the nature of autobiography as literature and the place of the genre in the emergence of a modern Nigerian literary tradition. The study reveals that in spite of the relative newness of its recognition as a literary genre, autobiography belongs in the mainstream of modern Nigerian literature (Oriaku, 1990, p. vii).

Hunsu (2011) explores the different strategies employed by African women writers in autobiography from the literary perspective to underscore their otherness, not as powerless subjects. The analyses of selected texts reveal that gender ranks as the most significant factor that unite these women writers. Edwards (2009) looks at autobiography as part of a wider review and re-conceptualisation of the first year of a pre-service teacher education course, in order to enhance

student transition and engagement. The study analyses the use of literacy autobiography as a way for pre-service teachers to examine their own understandings of literacy, multi-literacies and literacy teaching. It reflects on what the lecturers have learnt about the students and their literacy experiences, about our own literacy experiences and values, as well as what the students learnt through completing a literacy autobiography.

This paper is greatly motivated by the earlier studies because the earlier studies have concentrated on autobiography sub-genre of life writing discourse by looking at its literary quality and historical relevance of the discourse. The present study intends to evaluate biographical texts as a sub-genre of life writing discourse using the approach of Appraisal Theory of language to evaluate content and linguistic peculiarities as well as explicate the politics and the underlying critical judgment in the discourse.

4. Methodology

In pursuing the aim and objectives as enumerated above, the data were obtained from Phyllis Johnson's *Eye of Fire: A Biography of Chief Emeka Anyaoku* published in 2000, and Peter Limb's *Nelson Mandela: A Biography* published in 2008. The excerpts obtained from each of the texts were subjected to both quantitative and qualitative analyses within the Appraisal Theory of Language.

5. Analysis

5.1 Thematic overview of the Texts

The reading of the two texts shows that there are five thematic issues in the texts. These are apartheid,

democracy, personality configuration, international diplomacy, nationalism. The system of apartheid was deeply embedded within the economic, social and political structure of South Africa. This country developed into a democratically elected government on 10th May, 1994; it was a historic moment in the lives of all South Africans. In 1990, according to Seekings and Nattrass (2005), Nelson Mandela was released from prison, the African National Congress (ANC) and other organisations were unbanned, and negotiations over political change began. Four years later, in 1994, the country held its first democratic elections, won by the ANC. By 1994, almost all legislation which discriminated on explicitly racial grounds had been abolished; people could now vote in elections, live or attend school anywhere, do any work, and marry and have sex, all without regard to racial classification.

This theme, among others, is generated in the lives and deeds of the referents of this study. For instance, the end of apartheid is implicitly illustrated in this excerpt when Nelson Mandela was released after 27 years in prison. “It was a particularly haunting moment when the white service chiefs of the South African army, navy and air force saluted their new Commander-in-Chief, whom they had incarcerated for 27 years” (*Eye of Fire*, p. 15). This is a representation of Mandela as a symbol of hope and inspiration to the people of new South Africa in the sense that all South Africans should enjoy “a decent living standard and economic security” (ANC, 1994). This is also elucidated in the excerpt taken from the *Eye of Fire*, “We consider that South Africa’s continuing refusal to dismantle apartheid, its illegal occupation of Namibia, and its aggression against its neighbours constitute a

serious challenge to the values and principles of the Commonwealth, a challenge which Commonwealth countries cannot ignore”(Eye of Fire, p. 15).

Democracy is another theme reflected in the lives and deeds of the subjects, for instance, the interest of Chief Anyaoku to the sustainability of democracy in South of Africa in particular and in Africa at large is explicitly expressed by the writer as he watched the “inauguration with special interest and satisfaction” to see that democracy has come to stay in South Africa after the tenure of Nelson Mandela as a first black President in the country. Among the highlights of his 34 years in service to the Commonwealth of 54 nations was his “diplomatic skills and quiet leverage role” in making the Commonwealth an active agent for promoting democracy and human rights and his “charm and resolute optimism” in the processes leading to peace and democracy in Zimbabwe, Namibia and, in particular, South Africa. The feelings of the referent is also explicitly expressed by the text producer through the “affect” a sub-system of appraisal theory in this excerpt “It was a very moving, it was a very charged and very emotional occasion... near over-whelming feeling of satisfaction... new South Africa was far more comprehensive and quicker than I had dared to expect.” These feelings as presented by the writer create memorable disposition on the part of audience.

Another thematic issue generated from the texts is personality representation, here, the individuality of each of the subjects is examined. Different people see these subjects in different ways. For instance, some address Anyaoku as a Chief, an activist, a formal Minister, first

Black Secretary-General of Commonwealth, among others. In the same way, Nelson Mandela is recognised as a political leader, an activist and a lawyer. He maintained a steadfast belief in justice and human equality; he led the way towards a democracy, multi-racial South Africa. He is cleverly use of rugby to help achieve his political goals in South Africa. Mandela has many of the personality traits of a natural leader, as one of the greatest leaders of all time, a symbol of courage, strength, compassion, humility and reconciliation, a role model not just for South Africa, but for the world.

International diplomacy features prominently as one of the thematic issues in the texts. Here the text producers present the subjects and their subtly skilful of handling and managing the situations in their respective domains. Chief Anyaoku as a Secretary-General of the United Nations plays a unique and critical role in international relations. In the person of Nelson Mandela, we see a living example of co-existence with people of different political ideology, race, religion, gender, and social stratification.

Nationalism is essentially manifested in the life and deeds of the subjects. It is a reflection that involves national identity, by contrast with the related concept of patriotism, which involves the social conditioning and personal behaviours that support a state's decisions and actions. The text producers here reveal the contribution of their subjects in the development of democracy and eradication of White domination in South Africa specifically and Africa in general. For instance, in the words of Mandela, *I detest racialism, because I regard it as a barbaric thing, whether it comes from a black man or*

a *white man* (Nelson Mandela, 1962, p. 48). Chief Anyaoku, as a Secretary-General plays an important role in the support of Mandela in the development and sustainability of democracy in Africa at large.

The significance of nationalism is reflected in the life and deeds of Mandela. The writer reflects his life as one who believes in himself, South Africa and his power to get things done. Mandela's singular focus on his mission, paired with his soul-deep commitment to what he believed in most, this made him capable of enduring through incredible strife. This is reflected in the word of Mandela through the author in this excerpt *I stand here before you filled with deep pride and joy – pride in the ordinary*. The nominal lexeme *pride* here is in positive value which invoke the memory of having and proud to be associated with new South Africa.

5.2 Linguistic Form of the Texts

5.2.1 Superlative Adjectives and Intensifiers as Explicit Evaluation Elements

The writers employ superlative adjectives and intensifiers in the biographical texts to reflect explicit evaluation of the attitude and character of the personalities which can be positive or negative depending on the context of usage. These linguistic elements of appraisal theory such as attitude, engagement and graduation were employed.

- i. "Master of quiet diplomacy", the chief brings to the international arena that great African tradition of consensus building that has positioned him in a key role as a builder of bridges across peoples and nation" (*Eye of Fire*, p.39).

- ii. Chief Anyaoku watched the inauguration of South Africa's second democratically elected president with a "special interest and satisfaction," an invited guest as he was at the first occasion five years earlier. Watching Thabo Mbeki take the oath. "It was a very moving, it was a very charged" and "very emotional occasion" and I myself, I just stood, "totally dumbfounded". ...then I must say that it was a "near over-whelming feeling of satisfaction", but tinged with "underlying anxiety", whether it was not all too good to be true. I think one must admit that. "It seemed too good to be true." Because the transformation, in terms of projection of the new South Africa was "far more comprehensive and quicker than I had dared to expect" (*Eye of Fire*, p.42).

The writer draws the quotation in the excerpt (i), from the words of Nelson Mandela, an important personality in reference to the freedom for black in South Africa. Here, Mandela refers to Anyaoku as "master of quiet diplomacy" in which the noun "master" refers to Anyaoku as an expert when talking of his contribution to the development of nation. The writer supports the position of Mandela towards Anyaoku as an important figure who has contributed to the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. The nominal lexeme "Chief" is a traditional title bestowed on Anyaoku in his Idemili community. The writer uses this explicit evaluation from Mandela to show the commitment of Anyaoku to the development of commonwealth and his contribution to the eradication of apartheid in South Africa. This is explicitly stated with the use of demonstrative adjective "that", attributive

adjective “great” and the nominal phrase “African tradition of consensus”.

There are two incidents in the second excerpt, the inauguration of Nelson Mandela and that of Thabo Mbeki. There are clear instances of affect in this example. The writer presents the feelings of Anyaoku during the inauguration of Mandela as those of emotion charged possibly full of tension but the inauguration of Thabo as that of satisfaction and achievement. This generates a kind of sympathy for the readers who were not at the inauguration. The nominal group, “special interest” relates to the component of judgment-normality which is described as “meaning construing our attitudes to people and the way they behave” (Martin and White, 2005, p. 52), while the noun “satisfaction” relates to judgment-tenacity within the system of appraisal. These linguistic elements of appraisal capture the special interest and enormous commitment of Chief Anyaoku and emotional involvement in the emancipation of the Black in South Africa. It shows that the interest of Anyaoku is exceptional i.e. “special” in the achievement of total eradication of racial segregation in South Africa.

5.2.2 Pre-Modifiers as Dialogic Expansion

Pre-modifiers are grammatical elements that are used to function as intensifiers in the texts. This can be realised in the adjectives or adverbs, which have little meaning to themselves but are used to add force to other adjectives, verbs or adverbs in the texts. This dialogistic role allows the writers to strongly align or not align with the value position being advanced. Therefore, they play a dialogistic role in the propositions made by the writer/speaker. It is important to note that this could be explicitly stated or

implicitly stated depending on the context in which it is used. Instances of these are identified below as well as their appraisal elements underlined.

- i. “Increased” government repression... (*Eye of Fire*, p.47)
- ii. “Increasingly” directing very large-scale protests... (*Eye of Fire*, p.47)
- iii. “handsome young man of great personal charm” ... (*Eye of Fire*, p.47)
- iv. The “severe” constraints... (*Eye of Fire*, p.47)
- v. The “narrow” interpretation of African nationalism... (*Eye of Fire*, p.49)

In these excerpts, appraisal is activated by the use of pre-modifiers. These pre-modifiers are used to modify the propositions made by the text producers. For instance, the expression “increased government repression”, “increased” ordinarily is a positive expression but in this context is a negative force used to add gravity to the activities of the government. This lexeme activates the activities of all-white National Party in its harsh apartheid policies in South Africa. In excerpt (ii) the proposition “increasingly directing very large-scale protests” the adverb “increasingly” is a positive force that intensifies the verb directing. This is a positive evaluation to show the attitude of Nelson Mandela by the increase in his own protest to counter the activities of White policies of apartheid in South Africa.

Similarly, the positive evaluation is explicitly expressed in the propositions “handsome young man of great personal charm”. This is a positive nominal group that adds force and describes the physical features of the

referent, “great diplomatic”, “stern disciplinarian”. These are positive claims that show his reputation as a defender of the rights of the Black soared through his legal work as an attorney and his high profile as a political leader. Also, the use of adjective “severe”, “narrow” and adverb “vigorously” are expression of “graduation” Force explicating the rigorous method he used to oppose racial segregation in South Africa.

5.2.3 Modals and Adverbs to Entertain Alternative Viewpoints

In the *Engagement* sub-system of Appraisal framework, there is dialogic positioning associated with given meanings which could be dialogical expansion or contraction. In this sub-category, there are selections that *Entertain* alternative positioning or viewpoint. This is a situation where a range of possibilities are acknowledged or entertained. This category includes modals and modal adjuncts of possibility, adverbs as well as appearance suggesting and opening up spaces for alternative viewpoints are identified in the excerpts below:

- i. “The leaders of over a quarter” of the world’s population placed their confidence in this influential African to prepare their organization for the 21st century. (*Eye of Fire* p.4)
- ii. His achievements are numerous, “particularly” in the people he has touched, attitudes he has changed and leadership he has influenced. (*Eye of Fire* p.6)
- iii. He has contributed to the restoration of democracy in “over a dozen countries...” (*Eye of Fire* p.6)

The quoted expressions in these examples are indications of the authorial voice representing the propositions of a range of possibilities which invoke dialogical alternatives. This explicates that the text producers refrain from being absolute concerning the proposition being advanced. For instance, in the expression “the leaders of over a quarter of world population” this expression is an explicit evaluation of a positive proposition activated by sharpened linguistic item of preposition “over” which can also mean more than a quarter of the world population. Similarly, the proposition “over a dozen countries” is an explicit positive evaluation of the contribution of the Chief to the restoration of democracy, which spans more than a dozen countries.

Another example is adverbial lexeme “particularly” which illustrates and delimits those specific areas he has touched. The use of adverb “almost” which means nearly and it shows the extent in which pre-independent issues such apartheid and the likes did not tear the commonwealth apart. This shows the contribution of the subject to the sustainability of eradication of racial discrimination in South Africa.

5.2.4 Stance Adverbials as Amplifiers of Meanings and Emotions

Within the appraisal category of Engagement, meanings can be construed in three ways: proclaim, entertain and attribute. These stance expressions are copiously used in broadening the semantic imports of the life narratives. Examples generated from the texts are presented and analysed below:

- i. “Obviously,” relished his opportunity to head the multi-racial, multi-cultural secretariat (*Eye of Fire*, p.2)
- ii. “Certainly,” there is a stronger desire within the Commonwealth to promote the values for which it stands. (*Eye of Fire*, p.10)
- iii. “I believe that” as far as international organisations go, its track record and unique qualities give the Commonwealth comparative advantage in helping its member countries, and “indeed” the international community as a whole, to make an impact on these problems. (*Eye of Fire*, p.12)
- iv. “Of particular concern” is what he calls “inter-mestic” issues, which are domestic in character but international ramifications. (*Nelson Mandela: A Biography*, p.6)
- v. “In particular,” he showed his willingness to compromise at times of crisis. (*Nelson Mandela: A Biography*, p. 104)

In these examples, the instances of proclamation are quoted. The choice of adverbial lexeme “obviously” in example (i) by the author shows the Chief’s commitment, willingness and enthusiasm to serve multi-racial, multi-cultural people. This is an indication of a strong positive assessment of his eagerness to serve people of different race. Also, adverb “certainly” in excerpt (ii), means “no doubt about it”, another example of proclamation which affirms the motivation of the Chief in the development of commonwealth. The phrase “I believe that”, and adverb “indeed”, “undoubtedly” other instance of proclamation which mean “certainly” as well as emphasising the unquestionable positive character of the referents. Also,

the phrase “of particular concern”, in the expression “of particular concern is what he calls “inter-mastic” issues, which are domestic in character but international ramifications” and “in particular”, “in particular, he showed his willingness to compromise at times of crisis” are all instances of propositions of “pronounce”, a unit within the Proclaim sub-system of *Engagement*. They serve the rhetorical function of proclaiming and assuring the putative audience as well as building their confidence in the propositions being advanced. These expressions also present the text producers as more strongly aligned with the value position.

5.3 Analysis of the Appraisal Features of the texts

This section analysed the appraisal features in the texts in a tabular form. The tables are divided into five sections according to the five thematic issues in the texts. The expressions containing evaluated entity are sorted out with the evaluated entity on bold print for clear indication. This is followed by the evaluated entity; appraisal pattern and contextual value ascribed to each entity which could be positive or negative. This has been achieved through the application of attitudinal sub-system of Appraisal Theory.

Table: 1 Appraisal Pattern of Apartheid Related Theme

Expression Evaluation	Containing	Evaluated Entity	Appraisal Pattern	Contextual Value
Chief Anyaoku watched the inauguration of South Africa's second democratically elected president with a special interest ¹ and satisfaction ² (Eye of Fire, p.39).		Inauguration ¹ Inauguration ²	Judgment Judgment	Positive Positive

The growing crisis ¹ and intensified repression ² in South Africa mean that apartheid must be dismantled ³ now if a greater tragedy is to be averted and that concerted pressure ⁴ must be brought to bear to achieve that end (Eye of Fire, p.39).	Apartheid ¹ Apartheid ² Apartheid ³ Apartheid ⁴	Appreciation Judgment Judgment Appreciation	Negative Negative Positive Positive
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Table: 2 Appraisal Pattern of Democratic Agenda Related Theme

Expression Containing Evaluation	Evaluated Entity	Appraisal Pattern	Contextual Value
The Secretary-General's First meeting with FW de Klerk had taken place in the same Complex on 31 October 1991, and he had gone to considerable effort to make his nervous host feel at ease in his company; an influential black African diplomat facing apartheid's leader (Eye of Fire, p.130).	Anyaoku	Judgment	Positive
As much a celebration of freedom as a political contest, and the electoral process was palpably ¹ , free ² and peaceful ³ (Eye of Fire, p.128).	Election Process ¹ Election Process ² Election Process ³	Judgment Judgment Appreciation	Positive Positive Positive

Table: 3 Appraisal Pattern of Personality Configuration Related Theme

Expression Containing Evaluation	Evaluated Entity	Appraisal Pattern	Contextual Value
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It is a glittering ¹ , lively ² , dignified ³ , hot ⁴ and dusty ⁵ ceremony of investiture at Ogidi, the local government headquarters, attended by some 15,000 people (Eye of Fire, p.3).	Ceremony ¹ Ceremony ² Ceremony ³ Ceremony ⁴ Ceremony ⁵	Appreciation Appreciation Appreciation Appreciation Appreciation	Positive Positive Positive Positive Positive
He described the chief as the most distinguished ¹ and successful ² African diplomat in recent decades, and asks the family to pray for his continued success. He says it is a remarkable sign of his humility ³ that, as one of the most outstanding ⁴ international civil servants of his generation worldwide (Eye of Fire, p.3).	Anyaoku ¹ Anyaoku ² Anyaoku ³ Anyaoku ⁴	Judgment Judgment Judgment Judgment	Positive Positive Positive Positive

Table: 4 Appraisal Pattern of International Diplomacy Related Theme

Expression Containing Evaluation	Evaluated Entity	Appraisal Pattern	Contextual Value
It's off the Richter scale for head hunters ¹ , said the London Daily Mail, of the job of Secretary-General, "undeniably the most prestigious ² international job on the market today. It means unlimited jet travel round the world. (Eye of Fire, p.2).	Secretary-General ¹ Secretary-General ²	Judgment Judgment	Positive Positive

Nigerian writer and Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka, a fellow fighter for human rights who also spent years in a political prison and is perhaps Africa's leading playwright, described Mandela as a symbol of the spirit of humanity's dialogue for a rainbow culture ¹ , a person of “ unparalleled generosity of spirit ” ² . (Nelson Mandela: A Biography, p.127).	Mandela ¹ Mandela ²	Appreciation Appreciation	Positive Positive
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Table: 5 Appraisal Pattern of Nationalism Related Theme

Expression Containing Evaluation	Evaluated Entity	Appraisal Pattern	Contextual Value
This is one of the most important moments ¹ in the life of our country. I stand here before you filled with deep pride and joy—pride ² in the ordinary, humble people of this country. You have shown such a calm, patient determination ³ to reclaim this country as your own (Nelson Mandela: A Biography, p.110).	South African ¹ Mandela ² South Africans ³	Appreciation Affect Judgment	Positive Positive Positive
Emeka Anyaoku's generation was the first outside of Lagos to grow up with the sense of national identity inherent in common usage of the name “Nigeria” (Eye of Fire, p.194).	Anyaoku	Appreciation	Positive

5.3.1 Quantitative Analysis of the appraisal content of the texts

In conformity with many of the existing appraisal research, we evaluate the texts under study using quantitative method. It basically studies the evaluation of

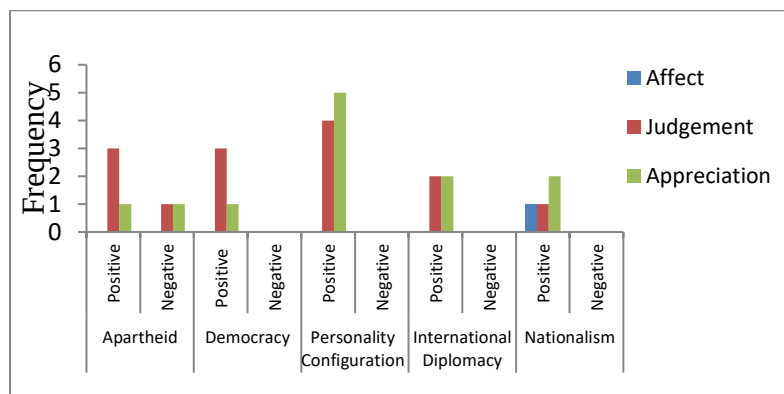
linguistic expressions as they are presented in the thematic issues. The five thematic issues generated from the two texts are apartheid, democracy, personality configuration, international diplomacy and nationalism. Eleven (11) extracts are selected around these five thematic issues. The percentage analysis is carried out in the table below for the purpose of determining the most frequently used of the appraisal tools of attitude, judgment and appreciation.

Thematic Issues	Type of appraisal	Positive		Negative	
		No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage
Apartheid	Affect	0	0	0	0
	Judgment	3	75	1	25%
	Appreciation	1	25	1	25%
Total (n=4)		4	100%	0	50%
Democracy	Affect	0	0	0	0
	Judgment	3	75	0	0
	Appreciation	1	25	0	0
Total (n=4)		4	100%	0	0
Personality Configuration	Affect	0	0	0	0
	Judgment	4	44.4	0	0
	Appreciation	5	55.5	0	0
Total (n=9)		9	100%	0	0
International Diplomacy	Affect	0	0	0	0
	Judgement	2	50	0	0
	Appreciation	2	50	0	0
Total (n=4)		4	100%	0	0
Nationalism	Affect	1	20	0	0
	Judgement	1	20	0	0
	Appreciation	2	60	0	0

Total (n=5)	5	100	0	0
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Key: n=Total number of positive and negative value for each of the Thematic Issue.

This table illustrates the patterns of appraisal in five thematic issues. In evaluative patterns of the texts, it is evident from the table that the democratic agenda related issue has the highest number of positive evaluations of judgment with a total number of 75%, while the negative value is recorded 25%. This is made possible, because the most part of lives and deeds of the referents focused on the struggle for democracy. As a result, the people refer to Mandela as the father of democracy. Among the categories shown in this table, the value of judgment is the highest. This means that the characters and attitudes of the referents are subjected under the evaluation of judgment rather than objects that are associated with appreciation. The value of appreciation followed judgment because appreciation is used for object, artefacts and state of affairs. Thus, the evaluation of human being is prevalent than that of the object in the texts. These distributions are represented in the histogram below:



Appraisal Characteristics of the Thematic Issues

The figure above, which visually presents our findings, shows that this type of narration has a high degree of faithfulness because the writers concentrate on the part played by the referents towards the institutionalisation of democracy followed by their struggle against racial segregation. The writers also faithfully construct their personalities, which are weaved around the social values of international diplomacy and nationalism. The small percentage of negative evaluation implicates that the activists are not always right, that there is possibility of excesses in their responses to existing social events or phenomena.

6. Conclusion

The analysis of the texts so far shows that the text producers employ the linguistic elements such as superlative adjectives, intensifiers, pre-modifiers and modals in the biographical texts. This is to reflect explicit evaluation of the attitude and character of the personalities. In grammatical mode of the discourse, the

findings reveal the explicit use of positive evaluation through the deployment of attitudinal expressions of judgment-capacity, appreciation-reaction which demonstrates the political struggle, protection of the future and freedom of the people. This further reiterates the extent and earnestness for the elimination of apartheid in South Africa. The analysis of the texts shows that the two personalities reveal the political struggle, protection of the, future and freedom of the people.

The analysis carried out in this study revealed, on the one hand, that biography discourse is a veritable data for illustrating the basic ideas of Appraisal Theory. On the other hand, the study highlighted the adequacy of appraisal theory in evaluating biographical discourse as the data selected revealed the value position of the writers towards the referents. The study concluded that the language of biographical texts is highly judgmental and affective in nature. It further concluded that biography is a form of advertising discourse, replete with oratorical and attitudinal/evaluative uses of language.

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