

# A Stylistic Analysis of President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo's Update on Ghana's Enhanced Response to Covid-19 Pandemic

Agbanyo Gideon Dickson  
University of Cape Coast, Ghana, Department of English  
gideondicksonagbanyo@gmail.com

## Abstract

This paper analyzes President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo's speech update on Ghana's enhanced response to Covid-19 pandemic through a stylistic framework. The paper adopts a qualitative method with the aim of finding out the linguistic features ingrained in the speaker's speech and its effect on the speech to the audience. The study reveals that the selected speech embodies a bevy of (these) linguistic elements: Graphology, syntactic features (multiple sentence, complex sentence, compound sentence), phrases, pronouns, modal verbs, coordinating conjunction and literary devices - repetition, parallel structures and simile. Consequently, the study reveals that the linguistic tools launched in the speaker's speech help him to carry out his intention to the audience; and as well enables him to win a score of admiration from the audience during the era of COVID-19. The findings of this study have implication on formal stylistics. Thus, it contributes to knowledge on stylistic analysis of presidential speeches in Ghana and by extension, Africa.

**Keywords:** Covid-19, language, speech, Stylistics.

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## 1. Introduction

Language plays a substantial role in the communication of humans. Justifying the essentiality of language to human as a whole, Anyanwu (2020) stressed that language is a potent vehicle used by political leaders in dissemination of information, as well as in the course of discharging duties, and that its importance cannot be overemphasized. Per the view of Sapir (1970) as cited in Adiribigbe (2004), language is "purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions and desires by means of a system of voluntarily produced symbols". Wardhough (2007:1) also holds the opinion that language is what a group of people in a society speaks. It is by this stance that Gunta and Karapetjan (2009) bring to bear the need for political leaders, with all manner of leadership styles, must endeavor to communicate, to coerce, inform and give orders to their followers. This is nearly congruous to Orwell (2013), where he believes politicians use language persuasively to influence their electorates, positively and negatively (to achieve their aspirations). Altikriti (2016) is as well with the opinion that politics is all about attaining power, coupled with the ability to govern, and language is an overall tool to get in touch with people. For rulers (especially politicians) to win the hearts of voters, they carefully use linguistic rhetoric to augment their messages to earn the votes of their audience (Stepanyan, 2015). Leaning on this background, it can be said that the role of English language is enormously consequential.

President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo (hereafter referred to as NADA-A), after having assumed office of the Republic of Ghana, has exercised his authorial power via variety of means, more especially through the medium of the English language. In the face of Coronavirus pandemic, for instance, he gave so many updates with respect to how Ghanaians should go about their daily activities in order not to be deviled by the monstrous virus. Presidential speeches are however, deemed relevant (exclusively) during the era of covid-19. The available scholarship suggests that a lot of researchers- Anyanwu (2020), Munir (2014) and among others have analyzed presidential speeches in varied forms, nevertheless there appears to no critical attention to the stylistic implication of NADA-A's speech on Ghana's enhance response to covid-19 pandemic. Following the dearth of literature on presidential speeches examined from stylistic perspective, it has become very importunate to stylistically analyze NADA-A's speech, since it is the most recent one on covid-19. It is against this background (and also from stylistic perspective) that this study analyzes the update speech of Ghana's enhanced response to covid-19 pandemic delivered by NADA-A on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2022. The objectives of this study are to find out: (a) the stylistic tools embedded in the president's speech; (b) the implication(s) of stylistical tools found in the speech of NADA-A.

The subsequent sections consider: brief biographical sketch of president NADA-A's political journey, the emergence of Covid-19, the concept of stylistics and empirical review of some related literature. It is then continued with methodology, data analysis and discussion of findings alongside conclusion.

### 1.1 H.E Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo's Political Journey

NADA-A ran for president on the ticket of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) in October, 1998 but lost to John Agyekum Kufuor, who won the December 2000 election. Later, he was appointed the first Attorney General and Minister of Justice in the Kufuor administration. In order to run for the 2008 presidential candidacy of his party, NPP, NADA-A left the Kufuor administration in July 2007. The narrowest victory margin in Ghanaian political history went to Mills against NADA-A in the runoff. Without requesting a recount, he accepted the results, aiding in the maintenance of Ghana's stability, freedom and peace. In the 2012 national elections, NADA-A ran against John Dramani Mahama of the NDC and was unsuccessful. The Supreme Court ultimately ruled in favor of John Dramani Mahama in that election, which had caused great controversy, by a 5/4 vote.

On 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2017, NADA-A won the mandate of Ghanaians and was sworn in office as the 5<sup>th</sup> president of Ghana, for the first. He was re-elected for his second term in the year 2020 and he is expected to finish his term on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2025. (<https://www.concordia.net/community/h-e-nana-akufo-addo/>)

### 1.2 The Emergence of Covid-19 Pandemic

On 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019, pneumonia cases of about 27 were recorded in China, precisely in Wuhan city (Lu et al., 2020). Wuhan is a famous city in China, with a dense population of about 11 million. Patients discovered at that period exhibited symptoms such as “dry cough, dyspnea, fever and bilateral lung infiltrates”. The cases were attributed to Wuhan’s Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market that deals with animal species including poultry, bats, marmots and snakes (Ashour et al., 2020). The causative agent was identified from throat swab samples conducted by China’s Centre for Disease and prevention (CCDC) on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 and was subsequently named Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus2 (SARS-COV2). The disease was named COVID-19 by the World Health Organization (WHO) (Khan, 2020). According to Lake (2020), “The virus is primarily spread through contact with small droplets produced from coughing, sneezing, or talking by an infected person. While a substantial proportion of infected individuals may remain asymptomatic, the most common symptoms in clinical cases include, fever, cough, acute respiratory distress, fatigue, and failure to resolve over 3 to 5 days of antibiotic treatment”. On 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2020, WHO declared the Chinese outbreak of COVID-19 to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern posing a risk to countries with vulnerable health system”(Goswami et al, 2020). Prior to March 11, 2020, it was announced pandemic (Cucinotta & Vanelli, 2020). According to Cucinotta and Vanelli , over five million confirmed cases of COVID-19 were recorded as against 300,000 deaths as at 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2020. The United States of America recorded the highest number of cases with an upsurge of 1.5 million and 100,000 deaths. Cucinotta and Vanelli (2020) testified that in Africa, over 90,000 cases were reported with about 3,000 deaths. Following the study of (Cucinotta & Vanelli, 2020), South Africa marginally recorded the highest number of cases with 23,615 and 481 deaths. Ghana confirmed its first cases of COVID-19 on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and had as at 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 recorded over 7,000 cases with 34 deaths (Kenu et al., 2020).

### 1.3 The Concept of Stylistics

The term ‘Stylistics’ which forms an embodiment of Linguistics came to light nearly in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century (Green, 2006). It is generated from the Latin word ‘elocution’ to suggest ‘style’ (Khan et al, 2015). Style is a way a writer or a speaker puts his/her thought in a written form using certain Linguistic features and this may include the arrangement of sentences, words and poetic devices (Khan, et al., 2014; Leech, 1981; Simpson,2004). Simpson (2004) says stylistics deals with analyzing, interpreting and evaluating texts of all kinds (literary and non-literary) woven from Linguistic perspective. For David (2008), stylistics is solely one of the wings of Linguistics that studies the use of language in a particular situation and also (it) tries to justify reasons why people make language choices. David (2008) believes that there is a peculiar ideology that influences people to use special linguistic tools in certain situations. Leech (1981) agrees that one makes a decision on one’s linguistic choices with respect to an intended purpose that one seeks to accomplish; and (that) it is demonstrated in writing and speaking. It is against this backdrop that Leech and Short (2007) debated that the term ‘style’ for that matter ‘stylistics’ has an incontestable meaning. Thus, it has to do with the manner language is used in a context, by a speaker to achieve a communicative goal. This means that the circumstance and the socio-cultural background of a speaker (greatly) determine the kind of style to employ in a speech to accomplish a communicative goal. Norgaad et al. (2010) confirm that stylistics operates at these levels: phonological, lexical, grammatical and pragmatic levels. Drawing from the definitions given by scholars above, it must be echoed that stylistics plays a crucial role in texts analysis (Jeffries, 2017) and (conversely) language is equally important in stylistic analysis, as Nkansah (2021, p. 29) proposes that, “The reason language is so important to stylisticians is because the various forms, patterns, and levels that constitute linguistic structure are an important index and foci of the function of the text.” It is based on this reason that this present study finds out the linguistic features employed in the president’s speech.

## 2. Empirical review

A number of studies have been conducted to examine stylistic features employed in presidential speeches. Some of these works include: Anyanwu (2020), Munir (2014), Ofoegbu and Usar (2017), Sharndama and Ajayi (2019) and among others. Munir (2014) did a stylistic analysis of Barack Obama's Second Inaugural address and found the followings: (a) Obama used seven (7) types of figurative language – synecdoche, hyperbole, personification, metonymy, paradox and simile. It is revealed that Obama used metaphor sixteen (16) times, dominating the other devices which were recorded as 3 - 10 times: (b) the second finding has it that Obama used more of lexical and syntactic structures including figurative language. The analysis of the lexical structure shows that figurative language is activated in the form of words, phrases and clauses. Based on the findings, Obama used those devices to enhance absolute comprehension of concept and (likewise) to form a mental picture in the mind of the audience. The findings again demonstrate that Obama used simple, complex and compound sentences in his speech. It (furthermore) brings to bear that the structures and figurative language employed in the speech are to avoid monotony and as well to catch the attention of the audience. Ofoegbu and Usar (2017) as well did a stylistic analysis of the language of politics of General Muhammadu Buhari's (henceforth referred to GMB) campaign speech of 2011 and discovered that GMB used these linguistic elements: graphology, lexis, syntax and semantics. Per the finding of Ofoegbu and Usar (2017), they concluded that those language elements were to help pass the intention of the speaker to the listeners. Sharndama and Ajayi (2019) looked into a stylistic analysis of President Donald Trump's speech on illegal immigration and the Democrats' response to it. The objective of their study was to point out the stylistic features entrenched in Trump's speech and to (also) discuss their effects to the target audience. They adopted qualitative and quantitative method to explain the stylistic features in the speech. The result indicates that simple and complex declarative sentences alongside anaphora and parallelism are ubiquitous in both President Trump and the Democrats' speeches. As part of their findings, Trump and the Democrat used those linguistic devices to persuade their audience to accept their bids. Anyanwu (2020), whose research is similar to this current study, did a stylistic analysis of President Buhari's addresses of Nigeria, during Covid-19 pandemic. She found that Buhari made good use of these lexical items: transitional markers, repetition, alliteration, assonance and pronouns. Her findings (moreover) show that President Buhari used coordination to denote the relationship of grammatical units and as a contrast to accord a re-statement of what had been said earlier. Fitriyanti (2017) examined a study on a stylistic analysis of verbal parallelism in Michelle Obama's speech at Hillary for America campaign in New Hampshire. The aims of the study were to identify the types and functions of verbal parallelism in Michelle Obama's speech as a campaign for Hillary in New Hampshire in October, 2016. With a descriptive qualitative method, the study revealed the following: (1) Obama Michelle employed seven types of verbal parallelism: anaphora, epistrophe, symprole, anadiplosis, epanalepsis, polytoton and homoioteleuton (2) the four functions of verbal parallelism embedded in the theory of Tannon were discovered as production, comprehension, connection and interaction. Other themes such as women's right, women's insecurity, opponent's misbehavior, gender equality and persuasion to voters were constructed. Murana (2017) looked into stylistic analysis of Obama's speech at Hiroshima Peace Park on May 27, 2016. The study revealed these findings: (a) Obama used all types of structural sentences to accomplish comprehension of both his persuasion of the Japanese hosts to redefine their conception of the historical bombing and the exoneration of America (b) The study again divulged that the speaker used non-finite clauses and adverbial clause of purposes of the presentation with the prime notion of refuting the Japanese conception and exclamatory questions to advance his persuasion. The findings showed that Obama exonerates the Americans through the use of the devices: agentless passive, negative polarity, topicalisation and generalization. Abuya, E. J. (2012) researched into a pragma-stylistic analysis of President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan's inaugural speech. The study's objectives were to identify and analyze the various speech acts that were manifested in the inaugural speech of President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan and how the identified features project the messages of the President using the frame work of speech act theory. The findings affirmed that the President used- assertive – 55%, directive – 10%, verdictive – 15%, commissive – 75% and declarative – 45%. The results showed that President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan relied more on sentences that performed commissive acts than other speech acts in his inaugural speech. Hassan and Hussein (2021) also conducted a study on stylistic hallmarks of Obama's (2009) and Al-Maliki's inaugural address, using a qualitative descriptive method. Their findings corroborate the study of Munir (2014).

Justifying the existing literature so far, no study has been conducted on President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo's speech from a stylistic point of view. This, however, is an intellectual gap that this study seeks to fill. The need for this study has become an ad rem as it provides scholarship (on president NADA-A's speech in Ghana, more especially) to stylistics as a discipline.

## 3. Methodology

The researcher adopted content analysis method including a qualitative approach for this study. A purposive sampling technique was used to sample NADA-A's address to the nation on update to Ghana's enhanced response to the coronavirus pandemic, delivered on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2022. The update was downloaded from the

internet and can be authenticated from the office of the Secretary to the President. The president of Ghana has given a series of updates to the people of Ghana since the outbreak of the deadly disease with respect to the government's response to stop the spread of the Covid19. This update was specifically chosen for this study, because at the time this study was conducted, it was the most recent one.

#### 4. Analysis of Data And Discussions

The analysis of the data below is anchored on a stylistic framework and it seeks to find the linguistic apparatus preserved in President NANA A. A. Addo's speech update on Ghana's enhanced response to the coronavirus pandemic, delivered on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2022. The speech is made up of thirty-seven (37) paragraphs, two thousand, six hundred and ninety-nine (2699) words and eight (8) document pages. Some of the linguistic features such as graphology, syntactic features, phrases, pronouns, modal verbs, coordinating conjunction and literary devices are discussed with excerpts from the speech as follows:

##### 4.1 Graphology

The term 'Graphology' deals with the study of writing system (orthography) (Crystal & Davy, 1969). In a broader view, it comprises punctuation, spelling, spacing, numbering and among other typographies. In analyzing the speaker's speech, it is obvious that the title is written in capital letters, (in bold) and well underlined as it can be seen below:

**ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, NANA ADDO DANKWA AKUFO-ADDU, ON UPDATES TO GHANA'S ENHANCED RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, ON SUNDAY, 27TH MARCH 2022.**

The capitalization of the title tied with the punctuation marks, especially the hyphen, comma, apostrophe and the full stop as used in the caption above ensure the relevance and the appropriateness of the title, thus, in terms of syntax. The indication of these orthographies confirm the view of (Alabi, 2007), where he specified that those features are essential for foregrounding in stylistics. This, as it can be seen, makes the title stand unique and communicate to readers at a glance. Quite apart from the heading, the speaker also capitalized some other words in the speech to attract attention, with the prime purpose of projecting the germaneness of some key lexical items that are deemed important to both the speaker and the audience at large. Some of these cases that are ascribed in the speaker's speech are extracted with their respective paragraph (p) numbers and lines below:

##### 4.1.1 Capitalization

(a).....the fight against **COVID-19** have been..... (p5 line 3)

The word, COVID-19, as written in capital cases appears more often in the speaker's speech to imply that it is the main topical issue in the President's speech. As it is known for its disastrous nature, prominence is given to it by capitalizing it for an effect.

##### 4.1.2 Numbers

A number is an arithmetic symbol used for representing the quantity of items and values.

In the speech, even though the writer writes the number(s) in words, it is written again in its figure form in a bracket to suggest (obviously) the number of cases recorded in Ghana at the advent of Coronavirus pandemic. Also, the update number is as well written in a figure to draw attention to readers, without stress of reading words, the definite number of times the president gave an update, as he is giving directives to the Finance Minister in the speech below:

(a).... a day before we recorded our first two (2) cases, with news of the...(Paragraph 2 line3)

(b)....I, therefore, instructed the Finance Minister, which was announced in Update No.1, to find the cedi equivalent of one hundred million dollars (\$100 million), to enable us prepare and mount an appropriate response to the pandemic. (Paragraph 2 line8)

(c) One hundred and sixty-thousand, nine hundred and thirty-two (160,932) people have tested positive from the 2.4 million tests conducted, and one thousand, four hundred and forty-five (1,445) people have, sadly, died. (Paragraph 2 lines: 12, 13). Some huge numbers are recorded in the following paragraphs: 6, 8,9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 21 & 22. These figures are written in their forms to appeal to the sights of readers, to (possibly) tell the amount of money the Government is spending on how to get the citizens protected from the deadly coronavirus. Some figures also indicate the number of Ghanaians who are bedeviled by the COVID-19.

##### 4.1.3 Dates

The date which comprises a number, representing a particular day and month, alongside the year, just as used by the speaker in the speech denotes when series of activities took place during the time of Covid-19. Some of them that were used in the speaker's speech include the following:

(a) I first came to your homes on Wednesday, **11th March 2020**, five (5) days.....p1 line1

(b) Work is currently underway, and before the end of my tenure of office on **7th January 2025**, all one hundred and eleven (111) hospitals would have been commissioned.....(paragraph 14 line10)

(c) Since **March 2021**, vaccination has become a central part of our strategy to defeat the

pandemic.....(paragraph 15 line7)

- (d) Indeed, as at Friday, **25th March 2022**, the total number of active cases stood at seventy-two (72).....(paragraph 20 line1, p25, p31 & p33)

#### 4.2 Syntactic Features

Syntax, conceptually, is defined as an arrangement of words. To Matthews (1982: p1):

*The term 'syntax' is from the ancient Greek **syntaxis**, a verbal noun which literally means 'arrangement' or 'setting out together'. Traditionally, it refers to the branch of grammar dealing with ways in which words, with or without appropriate inflections are arranged to show connections of meaning within the sentence.*

As indicated in (Hassan & Hussein, 2021), most speakers use so many kinds of sentences and pronouns to carry out their messages to their audience. Moderating on what Hassan and Hussein have said, this study identifies these sentence structures: multiple, complex and compound, used in the speaker's speech.

- i. **Multiple sentence**- this refers to more than two main independent clauses that are sometimes set off by comma(s) or semi colon and as well as a coordinating conjunction. A careful look at the string of texts in the speaker's speech below reveals that the speaker uses a number of independent clauses that are being set off by semi-colons, to communicate in the hearing of the audience on certain comprehensive strategies that the speaker and the addressees had to embark upon in order to be liberated from the deadly coronavirus. The speaker skillfully uses those successive clauses to imply how imperative and strenuous it was to endure those comprehensive measures in order to survive life. Look at these excerpts:

(a) *Our comprehensive strategy has entailed living with restrictions that altered our daily routine; we have been restrained from shaking hands and hugging one another; we have had to keep a distance from each other; we have had to put up with the discomfort of wearing face masks every time we left our homes; we have had to endure distress caused by the poking of our nostrils and throats with swab-sticks, each time we underwent a PCR or antigen test; we had to endure, for three weeks, the painful lockdown in the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area and Kasoa and the Greater Kumasi Metropolitan Area and contiguous districts; and we have all borne the brunt of the ravages of the pandemic.....(Paragraph 3)*

- ii. **Complex sentence**- it contains one main and one or more subordinate clauses. The clauses rooted in a complex sentence are mostly not equal in meaning. Aarts and Aarts (1986, p. 83) define it as "Sentences in which one or more sentence functions are realized by a clause (finite or non-finite) are complex". Usually, clauses found in complex sentences are joined by subordinate conjunctions such as; if, that, as, before, while, after, except, lest, since, though, till, unless, until, when, how, whither, why, etc. The following identifies the types of clauses embedded in the complex sentences found in the speaker's speech.

(a) *The relative successes we have chalked in winning the fight against COVID-19 have been collective ones, which reinforce my belief that, if we are united, there is no obstacle or hurdle too high to surmount in our quest to build a progressive and prosperous Ghana ... (paragraph5 line2-4).*

Grammatical name: Non-defining relative clause

Grammatical function: It modifies the noun "collective one"

(b) *Fellow Ghanaians, undoubtedly, like in every country in the world, the effects of the pandemic have been devastating for us, in Ghana. We have felt the brunt of COVID-19, with every aspect of national life affected.....paragraph6 line2-3. Grammatical name: Adverbial clause, Grammatical function: It modifies the verb phrase "have felt"*

(c) *I did say at the height of the pandemic that "we know what to do to bring the economy back to life; but what we do not know is how to bring people back to life." ..... (paragraph 6 line 4-5) Grammatical name: Adverbial clause, Grammatical function: It modifies the verb phrase 'know what to do to bring'*

(d) *Fellow Ghanaians, whilst we count the costs, COVID-19 also inspired our domestic manufacturing capabilities, and deepened our self-reliance..... (paragraph 12 line1-2) Grammatical name: Adverbial clause, Grammatical function: It modifies the verb 'inspired'*

(e) *COVID-19 also highlighted the unequal distribution of healthcare facilities in the country, as we have tended to focus our healthcare infrastructure in Accra, Kumasi and one or two of our other big cities. ..... paragraph13 line1-3. Grammatical name: Adverbial clause Grammatical function: It modifies the verb 'highlighted'*

(f) *Whilst we have not achieved our national vaccination coverage target, it is significant to note that reasonable vaccination coverages have been achieved in the hotspots of infections, particularly in the urban areas of Greater Accra and Greater Kumasi..... (paragraph 21 line 1-4) Grammatical name: Adverbial clause, Grammatical function: It modifies the verb phrase 'is significant to note'*

(g) *To my Fellow Ghanaians who have not received the jab, I urge you to take it..... (Paragraph 22 line 1-2) Grammatical name: To infinitive/non-finite clause Grammatical function: It modifies the verb phrase 'urge you to take'*

iii. **Compound sentence**- it is formed by joining two independent clauses with the help of a coordinating conjunctions; For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So (FANBOYS). The extracts below are examples of such sentences in the president's speech.

- (a) *There are one hundred and one (101) districts in the country with no district hospitals, and we have to do something about it.....*paragraph 14 line1-2.
- (b) *This has led to the formulation and declaration of Agenda 111, the biggest ever investment in the nation's healthcare sector.....*paragraph 14 line 7-9.
- (c) *This review is premised on the background of rapidly declining infections, the relative success of the vaccination campaign being supervised by the Ghana Health Service, and the increased capacity developed in the public and private health sectors over the last two (2) years.....*(paragraph 19 line 1-4)
- (d) *Fellow Ghanaians, it has been a difficult two (2) years for all of us, and we are seeing light at the end of a very long tunnel....*(paragraph 34 line 1-2). The speaker, using the four types of sentences in his speech, succeeds in blending the texts with varieties, thereby breaking monotony protocols in the speech, this helps him to leave the audience in a boredom free.

#### 4.2.1 Phrases

The speaker uses the phrase '**Fellow Ghanaians**' as a vocative to address his audience more often to keep the communication gap very close. This makes the audience feel that the speaker is part of them. Look at excerpts below:

- i. ***Fellow Ghanaians, good evening**.....*paragraph 1 line1.
- ii. ***Fellow Ghanaians, undoubtedly, like in every country in the world, the effects of the pandemic have been devastating for us, in Ghana.*** (paragraph 6....line 1)
- iii. ***Fellow Ghanaians, whilst we count the costs, COVID-19 also inspired our domestic manufacturing capabilities, and deepened our self-reliance.*** (paragraph 12 line 1)
- iv. ***Fellow Ghanaians, we have reached a critical point in our fight against COVID-19. Government has undertaken a comprehensive review of the raft of measures put in place to help win the fight against the virus.*** (paragraph 18 line 18)
- v. ***To my Fellow Ghanaians who have not received the jab, I urge you to take it.*** (paragraph 22 line1)
- vi. ***Fellow Ghanaians, we had to impose measures to limit the importation of the virus into our country, especially as our first cases of the virus were imported through the Kotoka International Airport (KIA).*** (paragraph 29)
- vii. ***Fellow Ghanaians, it has been a difficult two (2) years for all of us, and we are seeing light at the end of a very long tunnel.***(paragraph 34 line 1)

#### 4.2.2 Pronouns

A speaker's choice of pronouns is influenced by the relationship between the speaker and the listener (Brown & Gilman, 1960). A critical examination of NADA-A's speech reveals that he has used a number of pronouns (I, We, Us), especially the first person pronoun (I) and first person plural (we). These pronominal choice as used in the speaker's speech conform to the study of (Karapetjana, 2011:43f), where she explains that "the pronoun (I) implies a personal level, and makes it possible for the speaker to show authority and personal responsibility as well as commitment and involvement". The researcher added that the speaker may use the pronoun (I) to distance himself during certain times. In the same vein, the pronoun (we) is used by politicians to show a collective responsibility, in which case, the inclusion of the audience is no exception. The pronouns used in the speaker's speech below merit the explanations given by Karapetjana.

- i. ***I first came to your homes on Wednesday, 11th March 2020, five (5) days after our nation's 63rd Independence Day celebration, ....***(paragraph 1 line1)
- ii. ***I, therefore, instructed the Finance Minister, which was announced in Update No.1, to find .....***(paragraph 1 line)
- iii. ***As your President, I saw it as my duty to provide you with regular updates on the situation,.....***(paragraph 4 line 1)
- iv. ***I thank you for the opportunity you have given me to be your President in these difficult times. I do not take it lightly.*** (Paragraph 5 lines 1 and 2)
- v. ***Since then, we have experienced four (4) waves of the outbreak. One hundred and sixty-thousand, nine hundred and thirty-two (160,932) people have tested positive.....***(paragraph 1 line 10)
- vi. ***.... if we are united, there is no obstacle or hurdle too high to surmount in our quest to build a progressive and prosperous Ghana.***(paragraph 5 line 4)
- vii. ***We have felt the brunt of COVID-19, with every aspect of national life affected. I did say at the height of the pandemic that "we know what to do to bring the economy back to life; but what we do not know is how to bring people back to life". We, thus, had to take drastic steps to protect lives and livelihoods.....***(paragraph 6 lines 2, 4, 5, 6)

- viii. *At the height of the pandemic, despite strong opposition in some quarters and the legitimate concern of some parents, **we** stood firm and were successful in ensuring that the education of our children was not truncated.* (paragraph 10 line 2)
- ix. *Fellow Ghanaians, whilst **we** count the costs, COVID-19 also inspired our domestic manufacturing capabilities, and deepened our self-reliance.*(paragraph 12 line 1)
- x. *COVID-19 also highlighted the unequal distribution of healthcare facilities in the country, as **we** have tended to focus our healthcare infrastructure in Accra, Kumasi and one or two of our other big cities. As **we** have seen, epidemics and pandemics, when they emerge, can spread to any part of the country.* (paragraph 13, line 2, 3). The others can be found in paragraph 16, 17, 21, 22, 29, 34 &35.

#### 4.2.3 Modality

There are a lot of modal verbs in English language, however, the president used “will, should and must” in his speech to convey his message to the audience. He uses the pronoun ‘**will**’ every now and then to make promises, to give directions, to make appeal, to express optimism to the audience with regards to the issue of COVID-19, as well as the role of the citizens amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The excerpts below confirm it (all).

- i. *I **will** not shy away from taking such essential steps to protect you and your businesses again.* (paragraph 11 line 3)- ((promise))
- ii. *We **shall** not then, in the future, be at the mercy of foreign vaccine nationalism and geopolitics.* (paragraph 16 line 8)- ((optimism))
- iii. *I hope I **will** be forgiven if I single out the Church of Pentecost, the Catholic Church, and the Ghana COVID-19 Private Sector Fund, for special praise.* (paragraph 24 line 7) ((Appeal))
- iv. *Hand washing and hand sanitising points **should** be made available at these venues.* (paragraph 26 line 4) (( Directive))
- v. *Government **will** continue to engage all religious and traditional leaders, agencies and institutions to encourage their congregants,...*(paragraph 28 line 1) (( promise))
- vi. *I **will** also urge the media to support this campaign.* (paragraph 28 line 4) (( Appeal))
- vii. *They **must** also have a 72-hour negative PCR test result prior to embarkation, take an antigen test on arrival, and are offered vaccination.* (paragraph 30 line 4)- ((Directive))
- viii. *As from tomorrow, Monday, 28th March, all land and sea borders **will** be opened.* (paragraph 33 line 1)- (( promise))
- ix. *Citizens and foreign residents in Ghana, who are not fully vaccinated, will have to produce a negative 48-hour PCR test result, and will be offered vaccination on arrival.* (paragraph 33 line 4&5) (( Directive))
- x. *..... our economy will rebound from the ravages of COVID-19. The policies we are implementing will, with your active support, help grow the economy at a much faster rate, help create jobs for the youth,.....* (paragraph 35 line 2 & 3)(( promise))

#### 4.2.4 The Use of Coordinating Conjunction

Coordinating conjunctions are primarily used to coordinate words, phrases and clauses within a sentence. The speaker dexterously conjoined the clauses in the sentences by using the coordinator ‘and’ to establish coherence and unity in the speech. This enables him to weave a sound- hearing texts to communicate his intention to the audience. Some of such evidences are found below:

- i. *....people have tested positive from the 2.4 million tests conducted, **and** one thousand, four hundred and forty-five (1,445) people have, sadly, died.*(paragraph 2 line 13)
- ii. *.. the painful lockdown in the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area and Kasoa **and** the Greater Kumasi Metropolitan Area and contiguous districts; **and** we have all borne the brunt of the ravages of the pandemic.* (paragraph 3 lines 8 and 9)
- iii. *..... in the addresses that have now become popularly referred to as “Fellow Ghanaians”, **and** I thank you for welcoming.....*(paragraph 4 line 5)
- iv. *.....you have adhered to the enhanced hygiene and mask wearing protocols, **and** a considerable number of you have taken the vaccine.* (paragraph 3 line 9)
- v. *Its intent was to help minimise job losses, and stimulate economic revitalisation, by mobilising private **and** public sector finances to expand industrial output for domestic consumption **and** exports.* (paragraph 7 line 4)
- vi. *.....procure supplies and equipment, **and** a relief package for health workers, which included tax waivers, allowances, transportation **and** COVIDinsurance. Government also found the money to recruit, on a permanent basis, twenty-four thousand, two hundred **and** eighty-five (24,285) more health professionals.* (paragraph 8 lines 2, 3, 5). The others can be found in paragraphs: 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26,30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36.

### 4.3 Literary Devices

#### 4.3.1 Repetition

Mostly, repetition is used by writers/speakers to strengthen their thoughts to their addressees. It is for this reason and among others that Johnstone (1994) states that repetition may function as “didactically, playfully, emotionally, expressively, ritualistically; it can be used for emphasis or iteration, clarification, confirmation; it can incorporate foreign words into a language, in couplets, serving as a resource for enriching the language” (p. 6)

The term ‘COVID-19’ has been repeated numerous times in the president’s speech. This, undoubtedly, denotes the topical issue of discussion in the speech. It is used frequently in the speech to appeal to the audience that it is the cogent matter that concerns every Ghanaian. The excerpts below are evidence.

- i. ....with news of the measures Government was taking to limit the importation of the **COVID-19** virus into the country. (paragraph 2 line 4)
- ii. ....in winning the fight against **COVID-19** have been collective ones,..(paragraph 5 line 3)
- iii. We have felt the brunt of **COVID-19**, with every aspect of national life affected. (paragraph 6 line 3)
- iv. Fellow Ghanaians, whilst we count the costs, **COVID-19** also inspired our domestic manufacturing capabilities,...(paragraph 10 line 6)
- v. **COVID-19** also highlighted the unequal distribution of healthcare facilities in the country,...(paragraph 12 line 1)
- vi. Whilst appreciating COVAX and other donors in **COVID-19** vaccine supply initiatives,...(paragraph 16 line1)
- vii. ....and package mRNA **COVID-19**, malaria, tuberculosis and other vaccines, as a first step towards vaccine production. (paragraph 17 line 7)
- viii. Fellow Ghanaians, we have reached a critical point in our fight against **COVID-19**. (paragraph 18 line 2)
- ix. There are no severely or critically ill persons. Our **COVID-19** treatment centres are empty, and the 4th wave appears to be over. (paragraph 20 line 3). The following paragraphs 23, 24, 32 & 35 have repetition of COVID-19 in them.

#### 4.3.2 Parallelism

The speaker engages the audience with few Parallel structures by re-echoing what Ghanaians should do in order to observe the COVID-19 protocols; the speaker uses those parallel structures effectively by commending Ghanaians for having listened and compromised with the Government in the course of laying out the protocol measures to enhance total protection against the COVID-19 pandemic. This can be found in the excerpts below.

- i. ....we have been restrained from shaking hands and hugging one another; **we have had to keep a distance from each other; we have had to put up with the discomfort of wearing face masks every time we left our homes; we have had to endure distress caused by the poking of our nostrils and throats with swab-sticks, each time we underwent a PCR or antigen test;** (paragraph 3 line2, 3)
- ii. **You have listened to me, you have cooperated with Government and with the health experts, you have adhered to the enhanced hygiene and mask wearing protocols,...**(paragraph 4 line 6 & 7)

#### 4.3.3 Simile

The president, in his speech, compared the COVID-19 situation in Ghana with other countries by using the figurative device, simile. Typical examples are:

- i. Fellow Ghanaians, undoubtedly, **like** in every country in the world, the effects of the pandemic have been devastating for us, in Ghana. (paragraph 6 line 1)
- ii. We are, touch wood, hale and hearty, **like** the other 13.1 million Ghanaians who have been vaccinated. (paragraph 22 line 6)
- iii. With countries in the ECOWAS Community, especially in our neighbouring countries, presently, **like** us, recording very low levels of infections,.....(paragraph 23 line

### 5. Conclusion

This study analyses (stylistically) President NADA-A’s speech update on Ghana’s enhanced response to the coronavirus pandemic, delivered on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2022. I did a content analysis of the President’s speech, where I paid due diligence to the kind of structural elements inhibited in the speech. In the course of examining the speech critically, I identified some linguistic tools glossed in the speech and I interlaced them with some excerpts to give credence to comprehension amidst the analysis and discussion. Like I mentioned earlier, the study holistically focused on the linguistic kits presented in the speech; and the effect of those linguistic items to the audience. Drawing on the study, I found that the speaker used the following linguistic apparatus: Graphology, syntactic features (multiple sentence, complex sentence and compound sentence), phrases, pronouns, modal verbs, coordinating conjunction, literary devices (repetition, parallel structures and simile). Comparatively, this finding relatively correlates the study of (ibid, 2020), who did a similar work at Nigeria, even though the present

study identifies more linguistic tools. The second finding revealed that the linguistic tools annotated in the speaker's speech helped him to carry out his intention to the audience in a comprehensive manner, not that only, but also to win the admiration of Ghanaians, for exercising power in a decorum manner, at the era of COVID-19 when everybody was aggrieved.

The findings of this study have several implications. The first one is that it contributes to knowledge on stylistic analysis of presidential speeches in Ghana. The second is that it serves as a foundation for any researcher who will be interested in analyzing presidential speech in Ghana.

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