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A logico-semantic analysis of Prof. Kate Omenugha's acknowledgement speech and the NUASS felicitation speech on the event of the professor's nomination as a substantive Vice-chancellor of Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University

(pp. 297-311.)

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Abstract: This study examines the logico-semantic relations employed in Prof. Kate Omenugha's acknowledgment speech and the NUASS felicitation speech delivered during her nomination as the substantive Vice-Chancellor of Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University. Anchored on Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG), specifically the ideational meta function that accounts for clause complexes and their logico-semantic relations, the study adopts a qualitative approach to identify and analyse the patterns of meaning-making within the speeches. The analysis reveals three dominant logico-semantic relations: elaboration, extension, and enhancement. Elaboration functions to clarify and intensify the presentation of Omenugha's qualifications and accomplishments; extension introduces related ideas that broaden the context and underscore the significance of the nomination; while enhancement creates temporal and causal linkages, guiding the audience through the sequence of events and reinforcing their relevance. The findings demonstrate how these relations enhance coherence, persuasiveness, and rhetorical appeal in formal institutional discourse. The study underscores the strategic deployment of language in academic and ceremonial contexts, offering insights into the interaction between linguistic choices and institutional power relations.

Keywords: Discourse Analysis, Systemic Functional Grammar, Logico-Semantic Relations, Clause Complexes, Rhetoric

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INTRODUCTION

Language serves as a potent instrument for creating meaning, shaping relationships, and influencing perceptions within institutional and ceremonial settings. Speeches given during important academic occasions, such as appointments and recognitions, often fulfill more than just a communicative role; they act as strategic tools for reinforcing values, legitimizing authority, and promoting unity. These speeches are generally organized through various linguistic resources that collaborate to achieve coherence and persuasive impact. Among these resources, logico-semantic relations are vital in connecting clauses and establishing relationships between ideas, thus guiding interpretation and enhancing rhetorical effectiveness.

Political and institutional speeches are intentionally crafted texts where speakers seek to engage, influence, and mobilize their audiences. The incorporation of logico-semantic relations, which encompass dependencies such as elaboration, extension, and enhancement, within clause complexes serves as a mechanism for speakers to express complex ideas, construct arguments, and forge connections between concepts. This framework is based on the premise that meaning is not simply the result of isolated clauses but rather a dynamic interaction between clauses that collectively create a coherent narrative or argument. By analyzing these relationships, we can gain insights into the speaker's intentions and the socio-cultural factors that influence the discourse. Through this exploration, this study aspires to contribute to the wider discourse on the role of language within sociopolitical and institutional contexts and how it can be pivotal in shaping public opinion, institutional perception, and action.

Logico-semantic relations, as conceptualized within Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG), constitute the logical aspect of the ideational metafunction, which explains how language organizes experience and connects meanings within clause complexes. These relations include elaboration, extension, and enhancement, each serving distinct communicative purposes. Elaboration provides additional clarification or restatement of an idea, extension introduces related or contrasting information, while enhancement establishes circumstantial relations such as time, cause, and condition. In ceremonial and academic speeches, the strategic deployment of these relations contributes to the overall texture and effectiveness of the discourse, ensuring that the message resonates with the audience.

This study focuses on the acknowledgment speech of Prof. Kate Omenugha and the felicitation speech of the National Union of Anambra State Students (NUASS) delivered during her nomination as the substantive Vice-Chancellor of Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University. Both speeches provide a rich context for examining how

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logico-semantic relations are employed to express gratitude, confer legitimacy, and reinforce institutional values.

Drawing on Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar, the study seeks to identify and analyze the logico-semantic relations that underpin these speeches, with particular attention to how they enhance coherence, rhetorical force, and audience engagement. The study adopts a qualitative descriptive approach, analyzing selected excerpts from the speeches to reveal the communicative strategies at play. The significance of this study lies in its contribution to discourse analysis within academic settings, highlighting how linguistic choices shape institutional discourse and impact social meanings.

Statement of the Problem

Discourse analysis studies in Nigeria have increasingly explored the application of Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) to various genres, including political speeches, media reports, and social media texts, focusing on how language constructs meaning in institutional and ideological contexts. For instance, Akinseye, Oni, and Opaleye (2022) investigated clause complexes and logico-semantic relations in selected Nigerian news reports on insecurity, revealing the dominance of hypotactic structures and their role in organizing ideas within media discourse. Similarly, Aboki and Aliyu (2024) examined predicate logical relations in Nigerian newspaper texts, emphasizing coherence patterns from a lexico-semantic perspective. While these studies deal with logical relations, they focus on journalistic discourse rather than institutional ceremonial speeches. In the area of digital discourse, Ayogu and Madu (2025) applied Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) to Facebook posts on religion and tribalism, analyzing how discourse strategies reinforce social identities and ideological positions. Though theoretically aligned, their context and communicative purpose differ significantly from acknowledgment and felicitation speeches.

Other Nigerian studies have concentrated on political and institutional speeches. Oni (2013), for example, analyzed lexicalization and discursive power in President Obasanjo's speeches using Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and SFG, uncovering strategies of ideological positioning rather than clause-complex relations. Likewise, Ijebuonwu and Ugoala (2023) conducted a stylistic analysis of Tinubu's certificate of return acceptance speech within the SFL framework but emphasized interpersonal metafunctions, leaving the logical aspect underexplored. A related study on Buhari's inaugural speech analyzed process types to demonstrate experiential meanings within the ideational metafunction, yet it did not focus on logico-semantic relations that organize clause complexes. Similarly, Koussouhon and Dossoumou (2012) applied SFL and CDA to judicial rulings and magazine articles to reveal ideological commitments and textual

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strategies, but their scope excluded logical relations in ceremonial speech. Finally, a recent study on Nigerian budget speeches adopted a critical stylistic lens to examine naming and describing strategies in institutional discourse without addressing the cohesive and relational structures created through clause linkage.

These studies collectively demonstrate the relevance of SFG in analysing Nigerian discourse across multiple genres; however, they reveal a significant gap in the systematic examination of logico-semantic relations within acknowledgment and felicitation speeches delivered during academic ceremonial events. While previous research has investigated logical relations in media and political texts, as well as interpersonal and experiential meanings in institutional speeches, none has specifically analysed how elaboration, extension, and enhancement function to enhance coherence, rhetorical appeal, and meaning-making in academic celebratory discourse. This study seeks to fill that gap by investigating the logico-semantic relations in Prof. Kate Omenugha's acknowledgment speech and the NUASS felicitation speech, employing Halliday's SFG to uncover how these relations contribute to textual cohesion and rhetorical effectiveness in formal academic settings.

Conceptual Framework

Logico-Semantic Relations

Logico-semantic relations elucidate the essential nature of connections between clauses and the semantic patterns that traverse clause complexes (Halliday, 1978; Halliday and Martin, 1993; Halliday and Matthiessen, 2004). This framework clarifies the meaning relationships that exist between interconnected clauses, which are also known as semantic interdependence relations. These interdependencies can involve clauses of equal nexus (where both clauses are independent) or unequal nexus (where one clause relies on another).

According to Halliday (2014), the semantic interdependence of clause complexes is categorized into two main types: Expansion and Projection.

Expansion occurs when the meaning of one clause develops or extends the meaning of another. It is further divided into three categories: elaboration, extension, and enhancement.

Elaboration takes place when one clause restates or clarifies the meaning of another, either through rephrasing, providing an example, or reiterating the idea. This is denoted with the equals (=) sign. For instance:

||| Ghanaians, i.e., individuals residing in Ghana, are currently making efforts to combat corruption. |||

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The italicized clause serves as an elaboration of the term Ghanaians.

Extension involves the addition of new information to a clause, such as supplementary details, an alternative, or an exception (Halliday and Martin, 1993). This relationship is indicated with a plus (+) sign and is often introduced by conjunctions such as and, but, or. For example:

||| Kware can drive exceptionally well and he also plays the piano. |||

The second clause extends the meaning of the first by incorporating new information.

Enhancement qualifies the main clause by providing circumstantial details such as time, place, cause, condition, or manner (Halliday, 1994). This relationship is represented by the multiplication (×) sign. For example:

||| I will call you soon || after I complete this task. |||

The second clause enhances the first by specifying the time

The Clause Complexes

The logical meaning is that which is realised in the grammar of the clause complex. This enables us to account for the grammatical combination and interdependency relation among clauses (Ezeifeka, 2024). The clause complex is therefore a grammatical construction, consisting of two or more (simplex) clauses.

Clause complexing has obtained major awareness from linguists and language researchers. There are many studies involved within this issue. Halliday and Marthins (1993) argue that the notion of "clause complex" thus enables us to account in full for the functional organization of "sentences". Clause complexing thus, involves structural interdependency and semantic relationships of sentences which are of equal statuses or unequal statuses. It involves, first, the single clause and the combination of other clauses to make conglomeration of clauses in a single grammatical and semantic unification. Halliday and Mathiessen (2004) use the following symbols to interpret the two different nexues. In clause relation: 1^2 (equal nexus) and α^β (Unequal nexus). The various codifications/and symbols discussed in this section and in the Logico-semantic relations above are going to apply in the analysis of this research.

Rhetoric

Rhetoric refers to the study and practice of effective communication, particularly in written and spoken forms, within an academic context (Foss, 2004). It encompasses the

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strategies and techniques used to persuade or inform an audience, emphasizing not just what is said, but how it is presented. Rhetoric involves the art of persuasion, where speakers use language strategically to convince their audience of a specific viewpoint or argument. This includes the use of evidence, reasoning, and emotional appeals. Speakers first tailor their arguments, tone, and structure to meet the expectations and knowledge level of theirreaders or listeners (Gaje, 2008). According to Foss, the three primary appeals of rhetoric are: ethos (credibility andethics), pathos (emotional appeal), and logos (logical reasoning). In discourse, speakers often apply these appeals to strengthen their arguments and engage their audience effectively.

Literature Review

Within Hallidayan Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG), the logical aspect of the ideational metafunction is expressed through clause complexes, where taxis (parataxis/hypotaxis) and logico-semantic relations arrange experiential content into cohesive discourse (Halliday & Matthiessen). Logico-semantic relations are traditionally categorized into Expansion—Elaboration (restatement/clarification), Extension (addition/variation/alternation), and Enhancement (circumstance: time, cause, condition, manner, place)—and Projection (locution/idea). In public address genres, these relations perform essential rhetorical functions: elaboration refines definitions and enhances credentials, extension accumulates commitments or contrasts positions, enhancement organizes events and justifies claims, while projection assigns voices or frames intentions.

Nigerian studies have utilized these resources inconsistently across genres. In news discourse, Akinseye, Oni, and Opaleye (2022) reveal a hypotactic preference that structures reports on insecurity, with enhancement being prominent for causal/temporal scaffolding—highlighting how media narration depends on logical chaining for coherence rather than persuasion. Aboki and Aliyu (2024), from a lexico-/predicate-logic perspective, trace coherence patterns in newspapers that correspond with extension and elaboration, but remain specific to text types and do not investigate ceremonial speech. In digital discourse, Ayogu and Madu (2025) illustrate SFL's applicability for ideological work on Facebook; their analysis emphasizes identity and stance while only briefly addressing logico-semantic patterning, due to the fragmented nature of posts.

For political/ceremonial speaking, Oni (2013) demonstrates how lexicalization signifies power in Obasanjo's speeches (CDA + SFG), yet the focus is more on ideology than on clause-complex logic; Ijebuonwu and Ugoala (2023) prioritize interpersonal resources (mood/modality) in Tinubu's acceptance speech, leaving the logical metafunction insufficiently examined. A Buhari inaugural study highlights process types (experiential) instead of the relationships between clauses, whereas Koussouhon and Dossoumou (2012)

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utilize SFL/CDA in the analysis of legal and magazine texts, identifying ideological commitments but neglecting the expansion/projection mechanisms present in ceremonial speech. Research on budget speeches employs critical stylistics (naming/describing), once more overlooking clause-complex logic.

From these various strands, three patterns can be identified. Firstly, Nigerian research validates SFG's explanatory capabilities but disproportionately focuses on media and high-stakes political genres, with acknowledgment/felicitation events in academia being largely overlooked. Secondly, even in instances where SFG is applied to speeches, logical relations frequently take a backseat to interpersonal (stance, evaluation) or experiential (process types) analyses. Thirdly, when logical relations are acknowledged, projection is primarily discussed in terms of quotation/attribution, while the detailed orchestration of elaboration/extension/enhancement as a persuasive framework remains insufficiently specified.

This article seeks to fill that gap by providing a focused logico-semantic analysis of Prof. Kate Omenugha's acknowledgment and the NUASS felicitation speeches—illustrating how elaboration strengthens persona and gratitude expressions, extension builds institutional alignments and commitments, and enhancement contextualizes time, reasons, and conditions within the narrative. In doing so, it demonstrates how clause-complex logic supports coherence and rhetorical strength in academic ceremonial discourse, a genre that has been overlooked yet holds significant importance in Nigerian institutional life.

Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on Halliday and Matthiessen's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) theory, particularly the logico-semantic relations within the ideational metafunction. According to Halliday (1994) and further expanded by Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), language serves three metafunctions: ideational, interpersonal, and textual. The ideational metafunction is concerned with representing experience and logical relations in discourse.

Within the ideational metafunction, two main systems operate: experiential (transitivity) and logical (clause complexing). The logical component explains how clauses are interconnected to express logical-semantic relationships, which Halliday termed logico-semantic relations. These relations occur in clause complexes, where one clause (α) is linked to another (β) through specific semantic ties.

Halliday identifies two major types of logico-semantic relations:

1. Expansion – where one clause elaborates, extends, or enhances the meaning of another. Expansion has three subtypes:
    - Elaboration (restating or clarifying meaning)

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- Extension (adding or contrasting information)
- Enhancement (qualifying with circumstances such as time, cause, or condition).

2. Projection – where one clause projects another as a locution (what is said) or an idea (what is thought). Projection occurs in quoting or reporting speech and in expressing thoughts, beliefs, and mental processes.

The framework assumes that clause complexes are the main structures for realizing logical relationships, and these relations are crucial for interpreting discourse meaning and coherence. Logico-semantic relations help uncover how speakers or writers organize arguments, manage information, and convey stance within a text.

This study adopts this framework to analyze how clauses are interrelated in the given discourse, identifying the dominance of expansion or projection patterns, their subtypes, and the discourse strategies they reveal.

Methodology

The study This study adopts a qualitative research design anchored in Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), with particular emphasis on the logico-semantic framework proposed by Halliday and Matthiessen (2014). The qualitative approach is appropriate because the research seeks to explore the structural and semantic relationships between clauses rather than quantify occurrences. Data for the study are drawn from purposively selected texts that exemplify complex clause structures where logico-semantic relations occur. The selection criterion focuses on texts that are rich in clause complexes to ensure a robust representation of the four major logico-semantic types: elaboration, extension, enhancement, and projection.

The analysis follows the transitivity and clause-complexing principles of SFL, which conceptualize language as a resource for meaning-making. Each clause complex in the data is identified and segmented into primary and secondary clauses. Subsequently, the semantic relationships between clauses are categorized according to Halliday's logico-semantic taxonomy: elaboration, which restates or clarifies the meaning of another clause; extension, which adds new but related information; enhancement, which introduces circumstantial features such as time, cause, or condition; and projection, which represents another clause as a locution (a saying) or idea (a thinking). Both paratactic and hypotactic relations are considered to capture the full range of interdependency patterns.

To ensure analytical rigor, each logico-semantic relation is coded and interpreted within its context to reveal its discourse function. For example, elaborative clauses are examined for their role in clarification, while enhancing clauses are analyzed for their contribution to cause-and-effect or temporal sequencing in the text. The interpretation aligns with the theoretical assumption that logico-semantic relations are not merely structural but are also functional in constructing meaning. The core of the analysis is based on SFG's logico-semantic approach which explores the logical relationships and meanings

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constructed within the speeches. Discourse analysis techniques were employed to identify key themes, semantic fields, and the structure of arguments presented in the texts.

Thematic analysis was used to extract significant themes from the speeches, highlighting their underlying messages. Additionally, semantic mapping was conducted to visualize key semantic units and their interrelations, aiding in the understanding of the overall message conveyed in the speeches. The results of the analysis are presented in table form, codified accordingly for clearity and conciseness. The findings are further interpreted in light of social and cultural implications, particularly focusing on the themes of academic leadership and recognition within the context of higher education. The findings are presented in descriptive and interpretative formats, supported by illustrative examples drawn from the corpus.

Data Presentation and Analysis

Research Question 1: ***What are the logico-semantic relations present in the analysed data?***

The analysis of the data reveals the presence of different logico-semantic relations in the two speeches examined.

In Omenugha's speech, three major types of expansion relations were identified:

1. Elaboration – This is observed in *Data 1*:
   ///This moment is more than a personal milestone // as it is a collective victory, a call to greater service…///.
   Here, the clause complex consists of two clauses of unequal status. The secondary clause elaborates on the information in the primary clause, explaining what else the moment signifies beyond being "a personal milestone."
2. Enhancement – This appears in *Data 2*:
   ///Before I share a formal note of appreciation, // let me reaffirm the dream that guides us, the 3Vs—…///.
   In this instance, the initiating clause functions as a secondary clause, specifying the circumstance (time) under which the action in the principal clause will occur. Thus, the secondary clause expands the meaning of the principal clause through an enhancement relation.
3. Extension – An example of this is:
   ///The journey ahead is bright // and I am honoured to walk it with you all.///
   Both clauses are of equal status, and the continuing clause adds to the meaning of the initiating clause, thereby creating an extension relation.

In NUASS' speech, however, the analysis indicates that all the clause complexes exhibit expansion through elaboration. The secondary clauses consistently perform the function of explaining or providing additional details to the meaning contained in the principal clauses. Notably, no logico-semantic relations of projection were found in any of the data analysed. These can be found in data 4, 5,6,7,8, and 9.

Research Question 2: ***In what ways do these logico-semantic relations aid in the process of meaning-making within the speeches?***

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The analysis indicates that the incorporation of logico-semantic relations in the speeches plays a significant role in meaning-making by improving clarity, coherence, and thematic development. The contributions are examined based on the identified types of relations:

1. Elaboration

The application of elaboration aids in clarifying complex ideas by deconstructing them into simpler elements. For instance, in Data 1, the secondary clause elucidates the speaker's claim that the "moment was more than a personal milestone":

///This moment is more than a personal milestone // as it is a collective victory; a call to greater service, and a renewed commitment to building a university that stands tall on the global stage.///

This relation not only clarifies the initial concept but also enriches it by detailing additional meanings linked to the milestone.

Moreover, elaboration enhances coherence and cohesion within the speeches. The frequent use of connectors, such as that in Data 3 (///Together, let us continue to build a COOU // that is grounded in strong VALUES…///) and Data 5 (///It is with profound joy and high regard // that I, Rt. Hon.…, Senate President of NUASS, extend heartfelt congratulations to Prof.… on your confirmation as the substantive Vice Chancellor of the university///), indicates logical connections between ideas. This pattern fortifies the internal structure of the discourse and highlights key attributes such as Omenugha's qualifications and accomplishments.

2. Extension

Extension is vital in connecting ideas and arguments, thus strengthening cohesion. For example, the connector and in Data 4 introduces an additional concept, indicating the relationship between independent clauses. This not only assists listeners in following the speaker's reasoning but also fosters a seamless flow of thought, making the narrative more comprehensible.

3. Enhancement

Enhancement relations, as seen in *Data 2* (*///Before I share a formal note of appreciation // let me reaffirm the dream that guides us, the 3Vs—...///*), contribute by establishing temporal clarity. The use of the connector *before* explicitly signals the timing of actions, helping the audience understand the sequence of events. Such clarity is essential for constructing a coherent narrative. In this instance, the secondary clause, though initiating the clause complex, sets the context for the main action in the principal clause.

Summary and Thematic Implications

Collectively, these logico-semantic relations facilitate the logical flow of ideas by signalling relationships between clauses, ideas, and events. They enable the creation of a structured and coherent argument, thereby guiding the audience through the narrative. Thematically, these relations reveal how language choices align with the communicative goals of the speakers. For Omenugha, the aim is to mobilize support, foster unity, and shape positive perceptions of leadership within the institution, as evident in *Data 1* and *Data 3*. For NUASS, the purpose is to congratulate (as in *Data 5*), encourage (*Your confirmation as*

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Vice Chancellor is a clear example // of // what honesty, hard work, and good leadership can achieve/// – Data 7), and express expectations for ethical leadership (*///It gives hope to students in Anambra State and beyond // showing that our universities can be led with strong values and clear vision/// – Data 8*). These thematic elements underscore the dual nature of the texts as both academic and political speeches.

RESULTS

Table 1: Summary of Logico-semantic Relations in Prof. Omenugha's Speech

S/N	Type of Clause Nexus	Expansion Type	Projection Type
1.	α ^ β	α = β (Elaboration)	Nil
2.	B ^ α	B × α (Enhancement)	Nil
3.	α ^ β	α = β (Elaboration	Nil
4.	1 ^ 2	α + β (Extension)	Nil

Discussion of Table 1

The logico-semantic relations identified in Prof. Omenugha's speech, as presented in Table 1, reveal a significant reliance on expansion relations, particularly elaboration, enhancement, and extension. The first and third instances show that the clauses are linked through elaboration (α = β), where a clause restates or clarifies the meaning of another. This pattern indicates the speaker's preference for clarity and explicitness, which is essential in a formal acknowledgement or acceptance speech where the aim is to appreciate and explain rather than argue or persuade.

The second example demonstrates enhancement (B × α), suggesting that the speaker adds circumstantial information, such as cause, condition, or time, to enrich the meaning of the initial clause. This aligns with Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) assertion that enhancement is typically employed to situate an event within a broader context, thereby making the message more informative and coherent. In this case, enhancement reflects the speaker's effort to contextualize her gratitude, linking it to events or reasons that justify the felicitation.

The fourth instance shows an extension relation (α + β), which adds new but related information to the original clause. Extension is often used to introduce additional points or to amplify an expression of appreciation. Its presence in the speech reinforces the impression that the speaker seeks to expand the scope of acknowledgment by including multiple dimensions of gratitude and recognition.

Notably, the table indicates the absence of projection relations in all instances. This suggests that the speech avoids quoting or reporting external voices or mental processes, maintaining a direct and personalized tone. Such a feature is consistent with the

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interpersonal function of acceptance and goodwill speeches, which typically prioritize solidarity, humility, and interpersonal warmth over argumentation or attribution.

In comparison to similar studies (e.g., [Author, Year]), which report a higher incidence of projection in political addresses and persuasive speeches, Prof. Omenugha's speech demonstrates a contrasting pattern dominated by expansion. This underscores its informative and relational purpose, as opposed to argumentative or ideological objectives.

Table 2: Summary of Logico-semantic Relations in NUASS' Speech

S/N	Types of Clause Nexus	Expansion Type	Projection Type
5.	α ^ β	α = β (Elaboration)	Nil
6.	B ^ α	α = β (Elaboration)	Nil
7.	α ^ β	α = β (Elaboration)	Nil
8.	α ^ β	α = β (Elaboration)	Nil
9.	B ^ α ^ β	α + β = β (Extension and Elaboration)	Nil

Discussion of Table 2

The analysis of NUASS' felicitation speech, as presented in Table 2, reveals a predominant use of elaboration in the logico-semantic relations, with an additional instance of extension combined with elaboration. Specifically, four of the five entries (S/N 5–8) exhibit elaboration (α = β), indicating that the clauses are primarily connected by means of restating, clarifying, or specifying the meaning of another clause. This dominant pattern suggests that the speaker's intention is to ensure clarity and reinforce goodwill, which is typical in a felicitation context where emphasis on appreciation and solidarity is paramount.

The occurrence of extension combined with elaboration in example 9 (α + β = β) demonstrates a slightly more complex structure where additional information is introduced alongside restatement. This combination allows the speaker to not only clarify but also broaden the expression of congratulations and appreciation, thereby strengthening the communal tone of the message. Such usage aligns with Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) view that elaboration enhances cohesion by simplifying ideas, while extension adds variety and depth to the discourse.

Similar to Prof. Omenugha's speech, this felicitation message displays no instances of projection, indicating the absence of reported speech or thought. This lack of projection underscores the speaker's direct engagement with the audience rather than referencing external voices or mental processes. The focus is on personalized expression and solidarity-building, which is crucial in institutional or organizational congratulatory discourse.

When compared with studies on political speeches and formal addresses (e.g., [Author, Year]), where projection and enhancement frequently appear to express

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ideological positions or contextualize arguments, NUASS' felicitation speech relies heavily on elaboration. This confirms its interpersonal and relational function, prioritizing cohesiveness and politeness over persuasion or argumentation.

Findings

The analysis of logico-semantic relations in both Prof. Omenugha's and NUASS' speeches reveals a dominant use of expansion relations, particularly elaboration, with no instance of projection identified in either speech. Elaboration, which involves restating, clarifying, or specifying meanings, appeared most frequently in both speeches, indicating the speakers' intention to achieve clarity, emphasis, and cohesion in their expressions of gratitude and goodwill. While Prof. Omenugha's speech also included instances of enhancement and extension, showing an effort to provide contextual details and additional information, NUASS' speech maintained a simpler structure dominated by elaboration, with only one case of a combined extension and elaboration pattern. The absence of projection relations, whether locution or idea, suggests that both speeches adopted a direct and personalized style rather than referencing external voices or mental processes. This finding reflects the interpersonal and relational purpose of the speeches, which prioritize solidarity, appreciation, and institutional harmony over persuasion or argumentation. Overall, while both speeches share a strong reliance on elaboration, Prof. Omenugha's speech displayed slightly greater structural variation, whereas NUASS' felicitation remained more straightforward and cohesive in form.

Conclusion

This study examined the use of logico-semantic relations in Prof. Omenugha's and NUASS' felicitation speeches with the aim of identifying the dominant patterns and their communicative implications. The analysis revealed that both speeches were characterized by a predominant use of expansion relations, especially elaboration, with minimal occurrences of extension and enhancement, and a complete absence of projection. The reliance on elaboration demonstrates the speakers' intention to clarify and reinforce ideas, thereby ensuring coherence and emphasis in their expression of gratitude and goodwill. The absence of projection indicates a deliberate choice to maintain direct engagement with the audience, which aligns with the interpersonal function of felicitation and acknowledgement discourse. Furthermore, the slight structural variation observed in Prof. Omenugha's speech, compared to the more straightforward structure of NUASS' speech, underscores different stylistic approaches aimed at achieving the same purpose of solidarity-building and appreciation. Overall, the findings suggest that logico-semantic relations in such speeches are employed primarily to enhance clarity, cohesion, and interpersonal rapport rather than to argue or persuade.

Implications of the Study

The findings of this study have important implications for discourse analysis, language education, and speech writing. First, the dominance of elaboration as a logico-

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semantic relation in felicitation and acknowledgement speeches underscores the need for language learners and professionals to understand the role of clause nexus in achieving clarity and cohesion in formal communication. In academic and professional contexts, this awareness can enhance effective writing and speaking skills by enabling communicators to select appropriate expansion strategies to convey meaning precisely and politely.

Second, the absence of projection in both speeches highlights a deliberate rhetorical choice that prioritizes direct engagement and interpersonal rapport over reported speech. This implies that in institutional and ceremonial discourses, the use of expansion rather than projection supports solidarity-building, which is crucial for maintaining harmonious relationships within academic and organizational settings.

Finally, for discourse analysts and pragmatics researchers, these findings reinforce Halliday's systemic functional view that logico-semantic relations are context-sensitive, reflecting the social and interpersonal functions of language. Future studies can apply these insights to other genres, such as political addresses or legal discourse, to determine whether similar patterns occur or whether more complex structures dominate in persuasive or argumentative contexts.

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