

**DISCOURSE REPRESENTATION AND IDEOLOGY IN SELECTED NIGERIAN
NEWSPAPER REPORTS ON MIGRATION, 2015-2021**

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CERTIFICATION

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my wonderful wife, Oluyemisi, and my blessed sons,
Oluwafogohanmi and Oluwafolahanmi.

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ABSTRACT

Discourse representations ascribed to social actors unveil ideological orientations in newspaper reports on migration. Previous studies on migration have explored sociolinguistic, media and literary issues, with little attention paid to how discourse is used to represent social actors and convey ideologies in newspaper reportage of migration in Nigeria. This study was, therefore, designed to examine discourse representations in selected Nigerian newspaper reports on migration, in order to account for discourse issues, linguistic devices, pragmatic acts, social actors' representations and ideologies in the reportage.

Teun van Dijk's socio-cognitive approach to Critical Discourse Analysis, complemented by M. A. K. Halliday's Transitivity System of Systemic Functional Grammar and Theo van Leeuwen's Representation of Social Actors, served as the framework. The interpretive design was adopted. Six Nigerian newspapers, which extensively reported migration news, were selected using quota sampling. Four were from the Lagos/Ibadan axis (*Punch*, *The Guardian* (TG), *The Nation* (TN) and *The Sun* (TS)) and two from the Kaduna axis (*Daily Trust* (DT) and *Leadership*). Purposive sampling was used to select 120 newspaper reports published between 2015 and 2021 on migration—20 from each newspaper. The data were subjected to critical discourse analysis.

Five discourse issues (DIs) were identified: security (DT, TN, TS, *Leadership* and *Punch*), human trafficking (DT, TG, TN, TS and *Punch*), poverty (TG, TN, TS and *Punch*), unemployment (DT, TN and *Punch*) and immigration (TN, *Leadership* and *Punch*). Five linguistic devices characterised the DIs: verbal, material, mental, relational and existential processes. Verbal, material and mental processes typified security, immigration and human trafficking, while relational and existential processes characterised poverty and unemployment. The DIs featured nine practs: conscientising, advising, informing, indicting, rebuking, warning, supporting, accusing and denying. Conscientising, advising and informing were foregrounded in security, immigration and human trafficking; indicting and rebuking in poverty and human trafficking; warning and supporting in immigration; and accusing and denying in human trafficking. The DIs and practs projected five social actors' representations: leaders as guardians (LG), leaders as culprits (LC), migrants as criminals (MC), migrants as victims (MV) and youths as ignoramuses (YI). The only positive representation was LG (DT and *Leadership*). The negative representations were LC (DT, TG, TS and *Punch*), MC (DT, TS, TN, *Punch* and *Leadership*), MV (TG, *Leadership* and *Punch*) and YI (TG and *Leadership*). While LG presented self as foresighted in addressing security challenges, LC blamed leaders for the socioeconomic woes of Nigeria; MC represented crimes as migrants' survival strategy; MV uncovered unpalatable experiences of Nigerians abroad; and YI depicted ignorance of life abroad as trigger of irregular migration. Four ideologies, conveyed in the representations of social actors, were nationalism (TS, *Leadership* and *Punch*), anti-racism (DT, TS and *Punch*), humanitarianism (TS, TN and *Punch*) and anti-despotism (TG). Nationalism embodied allegiance to one's country. Anti-racism protested inhuman treatments of Nigerians abroad. Humanitarianism argued for migrants' humanity, while anti-despotism decried leadership irresponsibility.

The selected Nigerian newspaper reports published in 2015-2021 represent migration as socioeconomically engendered through dominant negative discourse representations and ideologies.

Keywords: Migration, Human trafficking, Media discourse, Poverty and unemployment

Word count: 489

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| | | |
|--------|---|--|
| CDA | – | Critical Discourse Analysis |
| CL | – | Critical Linguistics |
| INF | – | Inference |
| IOM | – | International Organisation for Migration |
| M | – | Metapragmatic Joker |
| MPH | – | Metaphor |
| NCFRMI | – | National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons |
| NPC | – | National Population Commission |
| NNP | – | National Migration Policy |
| NIS | – | Nigeria Immigration Service |
| REF | – | Reference |
| REL | – | Relevance |
| SFL | – | Systemic Functional Linguistics |
| SSK | – | Shared Situation Knowledge |
| VCE | – | Voice |

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the study

From the earliest time, migration has been an integral nature of humans as a validation of their survival instinct. Migration, as conceived by the International Organisation for Migration (henceforth IOM) (2018), incorporates all varieties and forms of movements, which capture different circumstances and conditions of people from diverse and divergent parts of the world and walks of life. This means that migration concerns all countries and people in the world, and it is interconnected with trade, security, politics, education, amongst others, nationally and internationally. While animals and humans migrate, the focus of this work is on human migration which is an ancient trend that dates back to the beginning of human history (IOM, 2018). However, human migration is not just for the sheer pleasure of migrating because humans migrate for specific reasons. Since human wants are limitless as the resources to cater for these wants are limited and the wealth of the world is naturally unevenly distributed, this, therefore, pushes humans out of their 'original' abode in seeking greener pastures for the betterment of their lives. Migration, thus, becomes one of the major and significant ways of meeting one's needs and achieving one's aspirations in the world.

The surge in migration and the urge to migrate from their countries of origin to developed countries have been one of the social and economic realities of life in many African countries as many young African nationals desire better conditions of living in other climes. This set of people are, thus, ready to risk everything in their quest for and pursuit of a better life in foreign lands which have been painted and shown to be El Dorado and a direct opposite of what is obtainable in their home countries. While there are laid down principles, procedures and regulations guiding international or transnational migration (regular migration); when these people are unable to meet the

prerequisites for migrating, due to one reason or the other, they, most times, resort to irregular migration which entails the movement of people from their places or countries of origin without following the rules, principles and regulations guiding such movements into another country or state (IOM, 2019: 114). Further, Adeniyi (2019: xxvii) conceives irregular migration as ‘travelling by road across the [Sahara] desert and Mediterranean Sea in a bid to access Europe; often involves payment modalities where migrants enter smuggling networks and exploitation with such practices as forced labour and prostitution’.

Journeying through the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea to Europe and America in search of greener pastures is one of the major social realities of life in Africa in general and Nigeria in particular. The journey is mostly embarked upon by the able bodied, especially the youth, who have become, in most cases, frustrated with the economic situation of their home country and thus seek to better their lots in the developed economies of the world. Although the destination is believed to provide enabling environments for all and sundry to thrive, reaching this destination unscathed and unruffled becomes almost impossible as a series of life endangering events are encountered by the migrants (National Migration Policy (NMP), 2015). This belief in itself has been observed not to be true, but due of strangling and difficult living conditions of their home nations, people tend to risk everything in their attempts at reaching greener pastures in Europe and America.

As allusively referenced by Adeniyi (2019), the situation of the migrating people can be compared with the state of the four lepers in the Bible, specifically in 2 Kings Chapter 7 verses 3 and 4. Seeing their terrible and pathetic state of living, the four lepers decided to visit the camp of the enemy, for they knew that waiting in Samaria or going to the camp of the Syrians was tantamount to death. In the former, they were sure to die of hunger and famine; while in the latter, they might fall through the edge of the sword. They, thus, opted for the latter option – a faster option to die. Unfortunately, unlike the consequence of the lepers’ migration to the enemy’s territory which heralded the intervention of God by fighting for and giving victory to the people of Samaria, many of the people who venture into the Sahara-Mediterranean journey are either lost to slavery, prostitution, human trafficking or death. This situation seems to reach its peak in 2016 when thousands are reported dead in the Sahara Desert and on the Mediterranean Sea, having their hopes, expectations and lives untimely terminated

in their struggle and quest for a better life (IOM, 2018: 50). However, this has not stopped people from embarking on such journeys from a country like Nigeria, which has been described as an origin and transit country (Adeniyi, 2019).

The role of the media in migration cannot be underestimated. The media perform a number of social functions in the society and that the media are an integral and influential part of a nation is an undeniable fact. Basically, information dissemination is the nucleus of media roles, and beyond this, the media set, influence, evaluate and interrogate social, economic, religious and political happenings within their immediate environments and in different places in the world, since happenings or events in many parts of the world are simultaneously being seen and viewed through various communication technologies which the media exploit – a globalisation of the world. Osisanwo (2016a) observes that humanity has a close relationship with news from the beginning of life. Hence, it is very important to them. Over time, news has been taking diverse practices, textures and forms.

As a major part of the media industry, the newspaper medium in many countries provides the fertile ground in which different issues affecting its immediate society and other parts of the world are discursively initiated, projected and perpetuated. Migration, being a critical issue in the world over all, cannot but find its way into the newspaper reportage to capture events and happenings on or relating to migration, revealing the pros and cons of migration itself, social actors' discursive engagements on migration practices, most especially the politics, economic, security and human angle of migration as a social phenomenon in the contemporary world. Interestingly, in the performance of various roles of the media as a whole and the newspaper in particular, specific positionings and ideological leanings of particular persons or groups in the society can be implicated and deduced from the news reportage in order to achieve some underlying intentions which are usually hidden unless explored and examined by a critical mind.

Thus, many scholars (Taiwo, 2007; van Dijk, 2015a, 2018; McCarthy & Dolfisma, 2014; Odebunmi & Oloyede, 2016; Amer, 2017) are in agreement that media constructions or representations of events and realities are not always neutral, plain or devoid of any hidden pursuit, thereby making the meanings derivable from such representations to be ideological and pragmatic so as to further the agenda of a

particular set of people or a school of thought. Allen and McNeil (2018: 191) argue that human beliefs, perceptions and attitudes to migration are resultant of their direct contact with migrants, and also these beliefs, perceptions and attitudes are communicated via different media lens which also reinforce such beliefs, perceptions and attitudes. Also, most news on migration and migrants always tilts and reflects the preference and language of the government and the different powerful people in the society. It is, therefore, important to study this latent and concealed agenda of the media in the ways, forms and dimensions that news reports on migration in Nigeria are framed and (re)presented. In line with the foregoing observation, this study explores discourse representation of migration in selected Nigerian newspapers in order to reveal discourse issues, pragmatic acts, how social actors are represented, and ideological orientations in the news reports.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Migration, overtime, has become a highly controversial and contentious socio-political issue in different parts of the world, and Nigeria and Nigerians are major players as far as the issue of migration is concerned, since Nigeria is a migrant-producing, migrant-receiving and transit country (Adeniyi, 2019). Around 2015, migration reportage in Nigerian newspapers became more prominent as a consequence of Nigerians' quest for greener pastures in developed countries of the world. This prominence in newspaper reportage captures different social issues on migration, human rights violations and even deaths of migrants on their journeys in their bid to access Europe through the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea. Also with the demonisation or othering of migrants of African/Nigerian origin in the European and American media as evident in different studies in developed countries (Burroughs, 2012; Allen and McNeil, 2018), it becomes important to explore migration news reports in the Nigerian newspapers to uncover different social issues on migration in selected Nigerian newspaper reports and how migrants of Nigerian origin abroad and migrants of other (developed/developing) countries in Nigeria are represented in the newspaper reportage.

Scholars in linguistic and non-linguistic studies have examined news reportage from various conceptual and topical issues (King and Wood, 2001; Taiwo, 2007; Osisanwo, 2011, 2016a; Odebunmi, 2009; Odebunmi and Oloyede, 2016; Oluwayemi, 2018;

Osisanwo and Oluwayemi, 2018; Oluwayemi, 2020). Also, there is a large body of literature on migration discourse in linguistic studies from different parts of the world (Burroughs, 2012; Mohd Don & Lee, 2014; Milioni, Spyridou & Vadratsikas, 2015; Lirola 2016; Salahshour, 2017; Quiñonez, 2018). Previous studies on migration and migrants within the African continent and Nigeria in particular are, to a large extent, from disciplines such as sociology, economics, media studies, literary studies, political science (Nwiyi, 2016; Wilson and Abubakar, 2017; Oboli, 2018; and Adeniyi, 2019). The few linguistic studies on migration in Nigeria (Ayeomoni, 2011; and Sibiri, Ayinmoro and Odubo, 2015) only conceive migration as a sociolinguistic variable which affects language use. It can, therefore, be said that much critical attention has not been given to newspaper reportage on regular or irregular migration discourse in particular in Nigeria.

For King and Wood (2001), the media often act like the spokesperson of different political parties as well as other powerful groups. They frequently represent migrants as ‘others’, ‘criminals’ or ‘undesirables’ in the West and America. It is therefore important to explore and examine the manners and techniques which the newspapers use in representing migration and (potential) migrants. This will reveal how discourse is used to represent social actors and convey ideologies in selected Nigerian newspaper reports on migration. Thus, this study investigates discourse representations in selected Nigerian newspaper reports on migration.

1.3 Aim and objectives

The study aims at investigating discourse representations in selected Nigerian newspaper reports on migration. Its specific objectives are to:

- (i) discuss the discourse issues, realised through linguistic devices, in Nigerian newspaper reports on migration;
- (ii) examine the pragmatic acts performed in Nigerian newspaper reports on migration;
- (iii) analyse how social actors are represented through discourse strategies and transitivity choices employed in Nigerian newspaper reports on migration;

- (iv) interrogate ideologies conveyed in the representations of social actors in Nigerian newspaper reports on migration.

1.4 Research questions

The research questions that were investigated and answered in the study are as follows:

- (i) What are the discourse issues, realised through linguistic devices, in Nigerian newspaper reports on migration?
- (ii) What pragmatic acts are performed in Nigerian newspaper reports on migration?
- (iii) How are the social actors represented through the discourse strategies and transitivity choices employed in Nigerian newspaper reports on migration?
- (iv) What ideologies are conveyed in the representations of social actors and actions in Nigerian newspaper reports on migration?

1.5 Scope of the study

This study is an investigation of discourse representation and ideology in Nigerian news reports on migration. Thus, the scope of this study covers news reports on migration in six national newspapers in Nigeria: *Punch*, *The Guardian*, *The Nation*, *The Sun*, *Daily Trust*, and *Leadership* from 2015 to 2021. These newspapers are chosen because they enjoy wide coverage and patronage in the country. This selection of the period is made because it is within the time that the issue of migration, with its correlates, becomes a major national and international challenge (IOM, 2018: 13), and these newspapers report extensively events and stories on migration in Nigeria and elsewhere in their print and electronic copies.

1.6 Significance of the study

The study is significant as it explores issues on migration discourse in Nigeria as reported in selected newspapers in the country. Migration is one of the major social and economic challenges in Nigeria. As statistics has shown, Nigeria is one of the major countries from which thousands of people migrate (ir)regularly in search of better opportunities in other countries in Europe and America (Adeniyi, 2019), and it is also a transit and migrant-receiving country. The study will contribute to the body of

knowledge in Critical Discourse Analysis and newspaper studies, providing insights into how discourse is used to represent migration and social actors therein, serving as a launch pad for scholars and students of Critical Discourse Analysis and media discourse to carry out different researches into other areas of human endeavours, thereby use discourse or language as a tool for social change and development.

In addition, the study will help potential migrants to know the pros and cons of regular and irregular migration, making them to understand socio-political issues that are correlates of migration for them to decide how to go about their decision to migrate or not. Also, the study will benefit the Nigerian government, both at the federal and state levels, and decision makers to be abreast of socio-political issues fuelling emigration from Nigeria, thereby being better armed with tailored-made information which will serve as grounds upon which humane migration policies will be based. More so, the Nigeria Immigration Service and other security formations in Nigeria will be able to draw insights from this study to improve their modus operandi towards securing lives and property of Nigerians from externally fuelled aggression or danger and to defend the territorial integrity of Nigeria. Parents and guardians will also benefit from the findings of this study so as to be able to guide their children, especially the youth, on safe migration practices, thereby reducing or curbing the menace of human trafficking and eradicating modern-day slavery. Further, migration news reporters and editors will find this study worthwhile as they will be challenged to give balanced reportage in their coverage of migration news reports and to understand the implications of their linguistic choices or representations, and not to unnecessarily heat up the polity for political, financial or selfish gains. Scholarly papers drawn from this study will be published in reputable journals and presented at academic conferences to share the findings of the study with the intellectual community. Also, workshops, symposia and public talks in churches, mosques and public places will be organised to orientate the general public on migration and its social correlates.

1.7 Definition of terms

Irregular migration: Irregular migration is the movement of persons across international borders or boundaries of their countries of origin without following or adhering to the laws and regulations governing exiting from, entering to, returning to and staying in countries/states.

Leader: The term leader is someone who directs or controls the affairs of a group, an organisation, a country, etc. In this study, leaders are elected or selected public office holders, government functionaries or representatives, security chiefs and politicians.

Migration is conceived in this study as the movement of people from a geographical space to another for the purpose of accessing social or economic opportunities.

Regular migration: Regular migration is the movement of people in accordance with the laid down principles and laws guiding and governing exiting from, entering to, returning to and staying in countries/states.

1.9 Chapter summary

The chapter introduces the focus of the research as well as the gap it fills. It explains that migration is one of the major ways of meeting one's needs and achieving one's aspirations in the world. This is why many Africans are ready to emigrate regularly or irregularly from their countries of origin owing to discouraging standard or conditions of living. It establishes that there is a dearth of critical discourse research in studying migration as reported in Nigerian newspapers. It is this critical gap that this study attempts to fill by investigating discourse issues, discourse strategies, representations of social actors and their inherent ideologies with the purpose of explaining and understanding migration reportage in Nigeria.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.0. Chapter overview

This chapter focuses on literature review and theoretical framework. It is grouped into two main parts. The first part is on conceptual and empirical review. The concepts reviewed are discourse, media discourse, discourse and identity, context in migration and discourse, human migration and its types, migration and media, newspaper as a genre of the media, language of newspaper/media, Nigerian migration profile, politics of migration and National Migration Policy (NMP), and migration and (in)security. The empirical review borders on existing studies that concentrate on migration and (im)migrants locally and internationally, studies on media discourse and ideology, and an appraisal of the reviewed literature. The second part of the chapter is the theoretical framework which captures the theories used in explicating the data for the study. These theories are Critical Discourse Analysis, Representation of Social Actors Theory, Pragmatic Acts Theory and Transitivity System.

2.1 Conceptual review

This section of the chapter reviews concepts that are germane to the understanding and purpose of this study. These are discourse, media discourse, discourse and identity, context in migration and discourse, human migration and its types, migration and media, newspaper as a genre of the media, language of newspaper/media, Nigerian migration profile, politics of migration and National Migration Policy (NMP), and migration and (in)security. These are taken in turn subsequently.

2.1.1 Discourse

Discourse is one of the most ubiquitous terms in linguistic studies and pinning it down to a generally acceptable definition has become impossible, for it is seen from different perspectives by scholars. One of the earliest attempts in defining discourse is by

Brown and Yule (1983: 1) who define it as ‘language in use’. If indeed discourse is language in use, then anywhere language is used to achieve various goals is a discourse site. Interestingly, this implicates two critical terms in discourse which are intention and context. Humans do not just communicate for the sake of it, but their intention is revealed in discourse which is embedded in specific contexts. Babatunde and Odepidan (2009: 299) aver that intention is ‘the goal purposed to be achieved, resident in the mind of a speaker or a hearer. It is very important in understanding utterances because in interactional exchanges people have different intentions’. Thus, it can be said that there is no discourse without its intention and context.

Structurally, Crystal (1992: 5) posits that discourse is ‘a continuous stretch of (especially spoken) language larger than a sentence, often constituting a coherent unit such as a sermon, an argument, a joke or a narrative’. It implies that discourse should necessarily be well ordered and above sentence. Discourse, at times, is used interchangeably with text, but de Beaugrande and Dressler (1981) suggest seven principles of textuality. These are cohesion, coherence, intentionality, acceptability, informativity, situationality, and intertextuality. Cohesion focuses on the mutual connection among the words used in a spoken or written piece, that is, grammatically and lexically. Coherence is how different parts of the text mutually hang together to achieve relevance and clarity. Intentionality shows that every word used in a spoken or written text should cohesively and coherently achieve the intention of its producer. Acceptability is about the reception of the spoken or written text as a cohesive and coherent piece by the receiver and relevant to their interpretation. Informativity is about the expectedness or unexpectedness of the spoken or written piece and how familiar or unfamiliar the information presented is. Situationality captures the relevance or irrelevance of a text in a specific situation where it occurs. Intertextuality considers how the spoken or written piece has borrowed or utilised information or knowledge from previous texts, history, situations, etc.

However, non-availability of some of these principles of textuality may not automatically disallow some texts from being referred to as discourse because different texts are meant to function differently according to the purpose in which they are designed. Following Cook (1989), Kamalu and Osisanwo (2015: 170) report that ‘discourse does not have to be grammatically correct, [it] can be anything from a grunt or simple expletive, through short conversations and scribbled notes, a novel or a

lengthy legal case'. They explain that what is of importance is not the grammaticality of the piece, but its reception by the receiver as being coherent. Arguing against the perspective of text and discourse being necessarily 'beyond sentence level', Widdowson (2004) cites a number of examples of noun phrases and adjectives that are not up to a sentence, but are examples of a text because of their relations to the context where they are featured. He avers that 'texts can come in all shapes and sizes: they can correspond in extent with any linguistic unit: letter, sound, word, sentence, combination of sentences'. Thus, it is not the size that matters, but the (social) intent. And discourse, he defines, as 'the pragmatic process of meaning negotiation', which has 'text is its product' (2004: 8). For Blommaert (2005), discourse entails all manifestations of meaning-embedded semiotic human actions or events which are evident in historical, social and cultural patterns that engender developments when used. This conception actually stretches discourse beyond language and communication alone to cover all other forms of signs with their inherent meaningfulness.

Traditionally, discourse is either spoken or written. Spoken discourse is verbal while written discourse is graphic via representation of words/pictures on papers or any form of writable material. The primacy of speech is clear as virtually all human social interactions are set in motion through speech, but due to the inadequacy of speech; writing has been developed to bridge the gaps that are evident in speech. Discourse could also be multimodal in which different modes of communication are brought together in a single piece for various purposes.

2.1.2 Media discourse

The media provides a fertile ground in which discourse and its tools are deployed to achieve various goals of the text producers and social actors whose actions and deeds are represented in the texts. The term, media discourse, is very broad. It basically captures the 'totality of how reality is represented in broadcast and print media from television to newspaper' (O'keeffe, 2006: 1). The media are at the centre of information dissemination in the world at large. That the media shape and set the tone of issues in the society is an indisputable fact. The discourse of the news media is encapsulated in two key components: the news story, or spoken or written text; and the process involved in producing the texts (Cotter, 2001). Cotter claims that while the

former has been the object of research by many scholars, ‘particularly as the text encodes values and ideologies that impact on and reflect the larger world’, the latter is yet to be well studied (Cotter, 2001: 416). Osisanwo (2016b: 248) observes that ‘the print media serve to inform the public, being a veritable tool in the propagation of views and ideas’. However, informing the public is not done only by the print media; other media, such as the broadcast and electronic media also do the same.

The media always focus on newsworthy people: these are people who are the influential and powerful, such as politicians, opinion leaders; and usually background the ordinary people in their news reportage. Thus, that the powerful and the influential control and determine what the media report in their news is an undeniable fact. The choices of words in news discourse are not neutral or plain; ‘rather, they carry the power that reflects the interests of those who speak or write’ (Oyeleye and Osisanwo, 2013: 764). Hence, the media presentation, representation and construction of events and happenings in the society are laced with implicit and covert ideologies which may be socially or culturally biased. Contrarily, it will be a great injustice to the media to exclusively claim that only the influential and powerful are reported (Oluwayemi, 2018). The media also try as much as possible to let the public air their views on issues of national and social importance. This is done through opinion polls, walk-in-street-interviews, letter to editor, phone-in-programmes on the broadcast media and sections for feedbacks on the electronic media.

Further, Cotter (2001: 417) characterises three main approaches to the study of media discourse: (1) discourse analytic, (2) sociolinguistic, and (3) ‘non-linguistic’. He claims that even the discourse analytic approach is a hybridised one with ‘existing frameworks – pragmatics, conversation analysis, variation, Labovian narrative analysis, and interactional sociolinguistics – optimally interlaced with sociological content analysis’ (Cotter, 2001: 417-418). The sociolinguistic approach concentrates on studies which border on media variation and style or works that are related to meticulous analysis of language. The non-linguistic studies focus on works in fields like cultural studies, communicative studies, media studies, political science, among others (Cotter, 2001). Lastly, the discourse analytic approach deals with levels of text and talk above word, phrase, clause or sentence, i.e. discourse level, with a focus on who the participants are, what the topic of discourse is, what functions are performed by who, to covering (im)politeness in news reportage, reported speech or direct speech,

news interviews, issues of register, news framing and different positionings (Cotter, 2001). The approach adopted in this study is also discourse analytic but critically, pragmatically and grammatically anchored.

2.1.3 Discourse and identity

In its simplest form, identity is who and what people are. Identity is pervasive as virtually all that humans do reveal their identities. Humans take up different identities in different contexts. One's identity is portrayed in one's language, skin colour, social groups, among others. Blommaert (2005) remarks that people's identity and characteristics are shaped by the situation/context, the reason for it, and the symbols, stories, and textual forms that represent it in almost all cases. He observes that identity is wholly and completely semiotic which involves a tremendous complexity in giving off multifarious ways of situating and contextualising information which involves individuals in various groups, in different categories and the interplay of complex relations which includes different categorisations of opposites. All these come together to form a specific identity.

Blommaert goes on to make two claims about identity. One, most renowned authors would contend that individuals do not possess an inherent identity, but rather, identities are created through activities that create, carry out, or demonstrate identity. In other words, identity is the outcome of semiotic work that is socially conditioned. Two, recognition by others is essential in establishing an identity, implying that much of what happens in the domain of identity is influenced by other people, not by oneself (Blommaert, 2005). This does not necessarily mean that people do not project their individual identities. To make such a claim is to be extremely fallacious. De Fina, Schriffin and Bamberg (2006) re-echo the idea that identities are not only conveyed through discourse but are also demonstrated, carried out, and manifested through diverse linguistic and non-linguistic approaches. From the foregoing perspective, it is obvious that identity can be self or socially constructed and ascribed to people by themselves or others. For instance, a male child is given such an identity not by himself, but by the society in which he finds himself, likewise a female. This is one of the critical issues in feminist discourse which holds that sex is biological, but gender and its roles are socially constructed.

Different types of identity have been identified by scholars. According to Castells (1997), identity is characterised as the procedure of establishing significance based on a cultural trait, which enables individuals to derive significance in their life pursuits. He recognises three types of identity which are legitimising identity, resistance identity and project identity. Legitimising identity is the ‘identity constructed from the state’ that is, to rationalise, reproduce and expand an existing identity status of a person or state. Resistance identity is the reaction against marginalisation of a certain social group in a social setting. Project identity is the construction of a new identity or redefining the existing identity by an individual or a social group.

Another identity identified in the literature is social identity (Tajfel and Turner, 1986). They conceive social identity as the situation whereby individuals put on various identities in accordance with the social context they find themselves. Following Castells (1997), Lamidi (2016: 227) explains that Castells believes that ‘identity is deliberately created [for self or others]; that is, language users select linguistic forms in conformity with the society or group they want to identify with’.

2.1.4 Context in migration and discourse

Context-dependability of migration has been noted in the literature (King, 2018). King notes that migration is governed by two fundamental settings, namely the spatial or geographical context, and the historical or temporal context. These settings encompass the contextual factors of the originating society, the destination society, as well as the settings encountered during the journey, such as the routes taken and the places and spaces crossed (King, 2018). Within each of these contexts are subsumed other micro contexts which are further explored in this study.

Context is an important and inevitable part of functional linguistics. Its principal role in meaning explication and interpretation cannot be denied in analyses of discourses, whether text or talk. Brown and Yule (1983) observe that it is highly questionable to analyse a linguistic text, for instance, a sentence in modern scholarship without taking into cognisance, the place, importance and significance of context in such analysis. It is, therefore, not surprising that context and context analysis is very critical and germane to the understanding of any texts and structures. In the same vein, Ervin-Tripp (1994) claims that context interpenetrates language and assumptions based on context influence human understanding of language and its uses. Further, she reveals that in

the development of effective and need-meeting language theories, especially in language teaching and learning, the contexts where speeches and interactions take place must be first understood.

Context, as a critical aspect of modern linguistics, has been conceived by different scholars from various perspectives, but some core similarities are evident in its scholarly conceptualisations. Although some level of meaning is possible without any recourse to contextual information, getting total and intended meaning embedded in a stretch of utterance or text will necessarily be hinged on contextual details. This is in line with Odebunmi's (2006: 25) definition of context as 'the spine of meaning' that is, context is the backbone which carries meaning; affirming the position that without considering the context of a linguistic piece, string or text, complete or total meaningfulness of the text will be missing. He claims that 'context provides the background from which the meaning of a word springs'. He further modifies this definition as he redefines context 'as the condition that constrains the determination of the propositions of an utterance or the understanding of an event or discourse' (Odebunmi, 2016: 13).

Historically, the notion of context is traced to Malinowski (1923) in his account of how language is put to use among the Trobriand Islanders in the Western Pacific where he observed that language functioned as 'a mode of action'. However, this is only possible when the meaningfulness of speech is embedded into its specific 'context of situation' to which the participants are very familiar (Widdowson, 2004: 36-37). Hence, the meaning a particular word takes is dependent on its context of use (Malinowski 1923: 306). This gives birth to multiple meanings of a particular word in different contexts of use. Interestingly, Odebunmi (2016: 12) avers that 'context is the confluence of language and society'. In other words, context is the bridge that links language and society together, for it is the meeting point of the two.

In addition, Odebunmi (2016: 15) relates linguistic context functionally to co-text. He recognises two categories of linguistic context: syntagmatic associations and referential associations. He suggests that 'syntagmatic association' is based on Firth's (1935) concept of collocation as a component of the context of situation. Stretching this further, Odebunmi (2016) extends the linguistic context to cover collocations in natural, literary and technical contexts. Collocations in the natural context capture

everyday experiences which are strictly convention based and not susceptible to individual creativeness or preferences. He demonstrates the examples: ‘do business’ (not act business) and ‘make a difference’ (not construct a difference) in that the nouns – *business* and *difference* – constrain their preceding verbs – *do* and *make*. Collocations in the literary context ‘are made largely on the basis of creativity and individual preferences’ and according to the design of a literary writer or poet so as to achieve a particular purpose. Collocations in technical context ‘are stylo-lexical choices from particular disciplines, and therefore not created or constructed by individuals. Co-texts in this situation are constrained by the technicality of the subject matter and the affordances of the local context’ (Odebunmi, 2016: 16). This can be illustrated thus: ‘The defence counsel will cross-examine the plaintiff.’ Here, the words, ‘cross-examine’ rather than ‘question’ and ‘plaintiff’ rather than ‘accuser’, show the appropriateness of the choices in the context of a courtroom discourse. Referential relationships are achieved through ‘lexical and syntactic choices with related senses and parallel structures’ (Odebunmi, 2016: 16). He explains that elements such as phoric reference, particularly its lexical tone, offer co-textual referential associations. The same is valid for lexical rewording, repetition, and structural similarities.

In addition, Mey (2001) conceives context as changeable and dynamic in which its understanding is in harmony and affinity with its surrounding elements and structures. Thus, he sees context as action. It is the basis for pragmatic meaning; in that, it is what gives utterances meaning. This is the basis of Mey’s Pragmatic Acts Theory, also known as *pragmeme*, which is one of the theories deployed to analyse the data for this study. The theory is further explained under the theoretical framework later in this chapter.

2.1.5 Human migration and its types

Migration has been largely defined as the movement in time and space by geographers, movement in terms of its social consequences by sociologists and movement in terms of its economic effects or impacts by economists. Migration has been a contentious term, particularly from the late twentieth century to date. Geddes and Scholten (2016: 3) reveal that since the 1990s, the ‘resources devoted to categorising, regulating and trying to ‘manage’ migration and migrants’ have had an enormous increase. While

animals and humans migrate, the focus here is on the latter. It can be said that human migration deals with the movement of people from one geographical boundary to another. However, there is no universally acceptable conceptualisation or definition of human migration because of its hydra-headedness and interpenetration into other critical social issues, such as security, terrorism, xenophobia, racism, nationality, population, politics, amongst others.

In relation to this position, Kok (1999) sees defining migration as a controversial activity. He observes that there are two contrasting viewpoints in defining migration. The first view regards migration as the relocation of individuals from their regular place of residence to another location over some distance. The second perspective, on the other hand, opposes the idea that migration must involve a change of residence and the crossing of a certain distance. It is, therefore, revealing when Moore (2015) notes the public engagement and extreme contention of migration issues in international and local contexts. This is due to the nature and importance of migration which is totally rooted in rational and political calculations in policy formation and implementation in different climes. Also, this is evident in powerful, personal and emotive stories and accounts of individuals. This validates that fact that issues on migration are always placed side-by-side with security, development and resource control in many migrant-receiving countries, and the issue of brain drain and skills exploitation in many migrant-sending countries. Moreover, when people migrate, there are both positive and negative effects of such action both to their place of origin, where they leave, and place of destination. However, that migration is beneficial to both sending and receiving countries or states has been established in the literature (King and Wood, 2000; IOM, 2018).

Several factors that prompt or attract migration have been identified in the literature. The push factors are reasons that make people to decide to leave or move from a geographical space to another, while the pull factors are the things that attract people to move to another geographical location. Oftentimes, the push factors are dominantly negative while the pull factors are usually positive. Among the push factors are unemployment, war, poverty, insurgency, famine, drought, political instability and persecution, poor or lack of social amenities and lack of quality education. On the other hand, the pull factors, among others, are good social amenities, security of lives

and property, employment opportunities, availability of quality education, political stability, better standard of living, and good health care delivery.

In migration literature, there are many types of migration depending on the areas/aspects and/or politics of migration being explored. These include, but not limited to emigration, immigration, internal, international, voluntary, involuntary, regular and irregular migration. Each of these is taken in turn presently. Emigration is the act of moving from one's country of origin or nationality to another country. In this type of migration, the destination country becomes the country of residence of the person. Someone who moves out of their country of origin to reside permanently in another country is an emigrant. The opposite of emigration is immigration which is the act of entering and settling in another country to live permanently. Someone who enters another country in order to settle is an immigrant.

Internal migration is the act of moving from a particular place to another within a state or country. For instance, when a Nigerian moves from the eastern part of the country to the western part, there is an internal migration. On the other hand, international migration involves the movement of people across international boundaries or borders into a country in which such persons are not nationals. Voluntary migration, like its name suggests, is the act of moving out of one's usual area/state/country of origin or residence to another willingly, while involuntary migration is also referred to as forced migration, and it is when people move out of the state/country of origin/residence as a result of social, political, environment factors such as war, insecurity, flood, drought, persecution. Among the people who move involuntarily are dominantly asylum seekers and refugees.

Regular migration is the movement of people in accordance with the laid down principles and laws guiding and governing exiting from, entering to, returning to and staying in countries/states. In this kind of migration, the sanctity of human life and all rights of persons are respected and protected (IOM, 2019). This kind of migration is also called legal migration. However, irregular migration is the movement of persons across international borders or boundaries of their countries of origin without following or adhering to the laws and regulations governing exiting from, entering to, returning to and staying in countries/states. It is in this kind of migration that human trafficking and migrant smuggling are rife. Thus, the human rights of the migrants are

always violated, abused and dehumanised. Only few people, who are involved in irregular migration, live to tell their stories.

Tinti and Westcott (2016), Molenaar (2017), Adeniyi (2019), and Yayboke (2020) observe in their studies that there is high violence and human trafficking at Niger-Libya routes where immigrants from third world countries are subjected to all forms of dehumanising acts, and ‘the city of Agadez [in Niger] serving as a smuggling hub in the Sahara Desert’ (Tinti & Westcott, 2016: 1). Most times, the term, illegal migration, is used interchangeably with irregular migration. Because of the fluidity and close relationship amongst the different types of migration, this study investigates news reports that border on regular migration and irregular migration which further subsume emigration, immigration, internal migration, international migration, voluntary and involuntary migration in Nigerian newspapers.

2.1.6 Migration and the media

The influence and role of the media in most human endeavours cannot be emphasised enough, and migration is not an exemption to this reality. In the twenty-first century, aside other sources of information such as words of mouth from already migrated persons and correspondences from friends and relatives overseas, the media in all their forms serve as an indispensable source of information for people interested in migration and trends in the same. King and Wood (2001) opine that there are tripartite ways in that migration process is intervened by the media. First, images passed or sent from the countries of destination; this could be also by any media around the globe. These images may perhaps serve as an effective and significant information source for potential and possible migrants. While this piece of media information may be true or false, it serves as a potent and principal influence which encourages potential migrants to travel. Second, the constructions or representations of migrants in the host country given by the media could be essential in revealing the kind of reception potential migrants would be given which would likely provide a foretaste of the sort of experience, whether of inclusion or exclusion, the would-be immigrants would have. Third, the significant role which the media of migrant-producing countries play in making the migrants to get comfortable in their countries of destination may affect and impede their integration, assimilation and incorporation processes. Nevertheless, these are in no way exhaustible of all kinds of relationships between migration and media.

In their view, Allen and McNeil (2018) observe that the media reportage of migration mirrors and echoes the differences in the modus operandi of countries' media systems and the degree of freedom the media enjoy in such countries. It needs to be established that migration reports in countries are often times politically motivated. Even the opinion leaders and sources of most news reports on migration are politicians and public servants whose perspectives may tilt towards a particular social group or ideology. Further, Allen and McNeil provide some reasons which make media coverage of migration important. These reasons are due to the increasing and intensifying amount of anti-immigration speeches and rhetoric and the benefits accruable from the anti-immigration rhetoric of some political parties and specific races in many developed nations of the world.

This is evident in Europe and America where voters are swayed to vote against the mainstream political parties because of their liberal handling of migration and immigration issues for opposition parties who project mono-nationality and national identity as against multi-nationality and diverse national identities. That media coverage of issues, migration inclusive, in democratic and autocratic states differs has been established in the literature. In democracies, the media could inject multifaceted views and standpoints into their reportage. Even though some of the media houses and organisations may be outlets and extensions of the political parties – thereby serving as the propagandists for the parties, the singular fact that there is some level of freedom to blend multiplicity of views and opinions makes the media in democracies to function better than the media in autocracies whose reports are always mono-dimensional and state-driven.

Comparing media coverage on migration in countries with high human development levels (Canada, Australia, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Norway, and the Netherlands) with low human development levels (Thailand, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Malaysia), Allen and McNeil (2018) find out that there is a preference for negative reports on migration, most especially irregular migration, despite the differences in the levels of human developments in the compared countries. With Australia and the United Kingdom leading in negative reportage and Canada and Switzerland with less in the former category, Thai and Malaysian media lead in negative content in the latter category. Also, the usage of dehumanising language through metaphorical representations of migrants is one of the

ways the media portray migration and migrants in their reportage. Migrants are likened to a form of natural disaster like ‘flood’ and insects as ‘swarms’ that have come to threaten the national cohesiveness and identity of their host nations. This portrayal is well represented in the media in Australia, the United States of America, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

2.1.7 Newspaper as a genre of the media

As a genre of the media, the newspaper is a distinct and different medium from other media genres such as the radio, television. Broadly, a newspaper is a regularly published document that delivers news and details about current happenings and various subjects of interest. It is commonly composed of printed pages featuring articles, opinions, advertisements, and other content. Newspapers are frequently issued on a daily basis, although there are also weekly or monthly publications. They encompass a broad spectrum of topics such as politics, business, sports, entertainment, culture, and more. With the emergence of digital media, many newspapers have adapted by introducing online editions or completely shifting to digital formats. Some features of newspapers are news coverage, articles and editorials, sections and categories, advertisements, photography and graphics, opinions and letters to the editor, print and digital formats, archives and cross-referencing, and public service. It is important to note that specific features or characteristics of newspaper are, to a large extent, dependent on the publication itself, its context, region and intended audience. Utesheva, Cecez-Kecmanov and Schlagwein (2012) observe that there have been shifts in the transmission of news overtime from the word-of-mouth to the mass media, which include radio, television, print newspapers and lately the Internet. These changes have also impacted on the news itself and how is it presented to its target audience. The changes in the transmission of news are as a result of technological innovations, which are sometimes seen as disruptive. According to Tanikawa (2017), the daily format of newspaper became widespread in the early 19th century. Since then, newspapers have been delivering news on a daily or regular basis in print formats of different types and styles.

Although the advent of digital and online media has posed a serious challenge to the genre of newspaper as the dominant purveyor of text news, the newspapers have tried to stay afloat in the competition by adapting to and adopting the new realities which

technological advancement has provided. In Nigeria, for instance, the newspaper genre is an integral part of other mass media as both radio and television stations dedicate airtime usually daily or during weekdays to the review of newspaper reports. The newspapers are thus the first place of call for many radio and television stations as far as major national news are concerned. Integrating the newspaper genre into the radio or television programmes provides fresh contents and insights for the stations and their intended audience.

2.1.8 Language of newspaper/the media

Language use in newspaper reportage is peculiar and distinct. Newspapers use different languages based on location, target readers, and editorial style. However, most newspapers prefer a formal and standardised form of language called standard or formal English. Some key characteristics of newspaper language are clarity and brevity, objectivity, formal vocabulary, third-person perspective, active voice, headlines and subheadings. However, depending on the purpose or intention of the newspaper, language use to represent events and happenings may tilt towards favouring a particular group or cause while undermining another group or cause. Fowler (1991) examines the language used in news media and explores the relationship amongst language, ideology and power.

Fowler's main argument is that language is not neutral in news discourse. He posits that news language is influenced by various social and ideological factors, and it plays a crucial role in shaping public opinion and maintaining power structures. Fowler analyses the ways in which news media constructs and represents events, people, and social issues through language. He emphasises the importance of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) in studying the language of the media. In sum, Fowler's contribution is very significant as it sheds light on the complex interplay amongst language, media and ideology, providing a better understanding of how language shapes and is shaped by the media.

In addition to Fowler's contribution to language of the media, van Dijk (1988, 1991) examines the role of media in disseminating and reinforcing stereotypes, prejudices and ideologies through language. He uncovers how media language can contribute to the construction of social identities, reinforce existing power imbalances and shape public opinion. His contributions to the language of the media have significantly

advanced people's understanding of how discourse operates within the media sphere, also providing invaluable insights into the complex relationship amongst language, media, power and ideology. This means that the language of newspaper in particular and the media in general is ideological, value-laden and non-neutral in the representations of events, people and social issues.

2.1.9 Nigerian migration profile

Nigeria, being the most populous black nation and strategically positioned in West Africa and the African continent, can be classified into three categories: a country of origin for its citizens, a country of transit for neighbouring West African countries, especially those who migrate irregularly, and a country of destination for Africans and expatriates from different parts of the world. Thus, migration in Nigeria is a crucial issue, and it is important to have a brief review of the Nigerian migration profile. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM), in collaboration with the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) and the National Population Commission (NPC), published a revised migration profile for Nigeria in 2014.

According to the 2006 Population and Housing Census of Nigeria, there were 999, 273 foreign nationals in the country, which was an increase from previous censuses. This supports the claim that Nigeria is a popular destination for immigrants. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) reported in 2014 that an estimated 1.1 million immigrants were living in Nigeria in 2010, with 51.4% from ECOWAS member-states, 16% from other African countries, and 32.7% from non-African countries. The Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) has identified 1,497 illegal migration points into the country in 2012, indicating that Nigeria's borders are porous and requiring huge government investments to secure them. According to statistics, there was an influx of immigrants into Nigeria, with 803,463 foreign arrivals recorded in 2012, which increased by 19% to 956,081 in 2013. Moreover, the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) reported that as of April 29, 2014, there were 938 asylum-seekers in Nigeria, mainly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, the Central African Republic, and Chad, who fled conflicts, political oppression, warfare, and environmental degradation.

During this same period, Nigeria hosted a total of 1,679 refugees, according to data from NCFRMI.

It was noted that the number of Nigerians living outside the country more than doubled in a 23-year period (1990 to 2013) from 465,932 to 1,030,322, with approximately two-thirds of them residing in developed countries. According to IOM (2014), the increase in the number of Nigerians living in developed regions was due to the "employment-driven nature of Nigerian emigration" (p. 2). In 2013, it was reported that 35.6% of Nigerians resided in African countries, 34.2% in Europe, 26.4% in North America, and the remaining population was scattered across Latin America, Asia, Oceania, and the Caribbean.

IOM (2014) reported that Nigerian emigrants tend to migrate to the United Kingdom (184,314), Italy (48,073), Spain (36,885), Germany (22,687), and Ireland (18,540) as their top destinations in Europe. The United States, on the other hand, remains the most popular destination for Nigerian emigrants, with 252,172 (or about 25 per cent) of all Nigerian emigrants in 2013 (IOM, 2014). Arhin-Sam and Sanker (2019) note that UNDESA (2015) estimated the number of Nigerians in the diaspora to be over 15 million. From 2006 to 2008, there was a significant rise in the number of Nigerian asylum-seekers in Europe, with Europe being their preferred destination. Due to the insurgency by Boko Haram in Nigeria's northeast region, over 2 million people have been internally displaced in the country by the end of 2018, according to UNHCR's 2019 report. In Europe, most undocumented migrants are from Benin City in Edo State, which is commonly known as the pathway to Europe (Hoffmann, 2018; Agbakwuru, 2018; Adeniyi, 2019; Arhin-Sam & Sanker 2019).

The National Population Commission carried out an Internal Migration Survey in 2010 and discovered that 23% of the population sampled were internal migrants, implying that they were living in states that were different from their states of origin. The states with the highest rates of internal migration were Imo, Kwara, Osun, and Ogun. The survey also showed that more than 60% of internal migrants lived in urban areas, which had an impact on infrastructure and other socio-economic variables. Out of Nigeria's 36 states, seven had a large percentage of migrants. These states are Abia, Ekiti, Delta, Imo, Anambra, Bayelsa, and Lagos. The highest number of migrants was attracted to the north-central zone due to the pull of the Federal Capital Territory. The

south-south, south-west, and south-east geopolitical zones also received a significant number of migrants because of their abundant natural resources.

2.1.10 Politics of migration and National Migration Policy (NMP)

As a social variable, migration is oftentimes a major issue in politics and political debates and discourses of legislators, prime ministers, presidents, opinion leaders and others, internally and internationally. It is the politics of migration which has birthed various discourses, immigration and immigrant policies in many developing and developed countries. Hence, migration is highly political and ‘defining immigration and immigrants are political matters’ (Geddes & Scholten, 2016: 6). Due to the politics of migration in the twenty-first century, there has been an increase in migration-related issues such as immigration and anti-immigration rhetoric in the United States and many European countries. For instance, upon his inauguration as the 45th President of the United States, Donald Trump tried consistently to reduce the flow of immigrants into the US. His speeches and policies were reflective of his administration’s quest to achieving this end, which was anchored on his campaign mantra, ‘Make America Great Again’.

One of these prominent policies of the Trump administration was the proposed building of a wall between the US-Mexico borders, commonly referred as ‘the wall’. From his 2016 presidential campaign, Trump had revealed his intention to building ‘a large fortified border wall’ and he would make Mexico pay for the wall (Cummings, 2019). This is not a new policy as far as the politics of migration is concerned because many European countries have, at one point or the other, built walls or fortified fences (the 2012 Greek fence and the 2015 Hungarian fence), to cut down the flow of immigrants from non-European Union states of Europe extraction and non-Europeans generally. The Spanish government also ‘intensely fortified their borders with Morocco in the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla’ (Andersson, 2014 cited in Geddes & Scholten, 2016: 2).

In Nigeria also, many people have berated the government for the porosity of the Nigerian borders with its neighbouring countries which have made many foreigners to easily enter the country without any checks, and this has further complicated the security situation of the country. In its bid to control its migration flow and borders, the Nigerian government adopted a policy titled, National Migration Policy 2015. The

policy focuses on different issues on migration and its management. The aim and objectives of the policy capture the need for and purpose of a home-grown national policy on migration. There is one broad policy goal with fourteen policy objectives. Even though the goal and objectives are noble, it has been noted that the government of Nigeria has never been short in terms of policy formulation and development, but the challenge is effective, efficient and full implementation of such policy for it to have lasting positive effects on the citizenry and other migrants of foreign extraction who are resident in the country. It is thus not surprising that a good number of Nigerians are not even aware of the existence of the National Migration Policy (Arhin-Sam & Sanker, 2019).

2.1.11 Migration and (in)security

Seven years after the death of Muammar Gaddafi, the former Libyan dictator and leader, in 2011, the former Nigerian president, Muhammadu Buhari, in 2018, allegedly lamented that the incursion of armed persons from the Sahel region, that is, between Sudan in the east and Senegal in the west, into the West African sub-region, particularly Nigeria, was as a result of Gaddafi's death. In his interaction in London with Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the former president claimed that Gaddafi had earlier armed his supporters to resist the rebellion, which was reportedly influenced by the Western powers, against him. But with his death, these supporters were said to have 'escaped with their arms' to different parts of West Africa, joining the insurgents and terrorists, that is, the Islamic State West African Province (ISWAP) and Boko Haram, in Nigeria (Ogundipe, 2018).

Herdsmen-farmers' crisis is another dimension to the topic of migration and security in the country. The cattle herders or herdsmen (pastoralists), who are dominantly Fulani, can be said to comprise one of the major migrating individuals or assemblies in this regard in Nigeria because of the nature of their livelihood. On the other hand, farmers hardly move due to their own nature of occupation. It is, therefore, not surprising that Nigeria, in recent times, has recorded series of clashes – for the conflicting nature of livelihood – between the migrant-herders and stable-farmers. This has raised many major national issues in the country such as *Fulanisation* and *Islamisation* of Nigeria, northern domination, complicity of the security agencies, incompetence of the

government, self-defence, tribalism, ethnicity and lately the call for secession of different ethnic groups in Nigeria.

From the two instances cited above, the nexus between migration and security is evident. Further, Raineri and Rossi (2017) opine that the nexus among migration, security and development is fundamentally difficult to grasp and govern. They observe that Europeans and Americans often relate the course or flows of migration with a threat, warning and menace to their security and safety on the one hand, and their individuality, uniqueness and identity on the other hand. However, Africans are disposed to conceiving migration as an avenue and prospect for humanitarian and altruistic protection, and economic and financial security. Illustrating that in the Sahel, before migration turned to a contentiously controversial political and social issue, it was a key coping strategy for locals in the areas of food and environmental insecurities. Raineri and Rossi also argue that migratory flows in countries like Mali and Nigeria where there are internal conflicts and terrorism, 'do not originate from the hardest-hit regions such as Kidal or Borno State, respectively, but from relatively less violent ones, such as Kayes and Edo State' (p. 26). They add that over 63 per cent of migrants along the Central Mediterranean Route (CMR) to Europe are nationals of countries where there is currently no war. This is to validate their stance that migration can be a contributory factor in achieving greater security which is always less recognised, particularly by external actors who are inclined to viewing 'migration as the consequence of greater insecurity' (p. 26).

Also, Danda (2017) examines the links among migration, development and security with Niger Republic as a case study. He observes that insecurity in specific localities around the Nigerien borders is possibly a force behind the migratory flow towards the Maghreb and Europe. On the Niger-Mali border, he attributes insecurity there to the actions of Islamist movements: on the Niger-Nigerian border, Boko Haram is presented as a cause of the migration while on the Niger-Chad-Libya border, the violent activities of the Tuareg and Toubou armed groups. This, thereby, makes security concerns and issues to become factors influencing and aiding migration, which subsequently impacts migrants on the one hand, and transit and receiving countries on the other hand (p. 46). In addition, Danda (2017) is of the opinion that migration is often a suicidal venture as experienced within the Nigerien territory owing to the fact that no security precautions are taken. He opines that there are usually four

options open to irregular migrants from Niger and other African countries who find themselves stranded or unable to migrate to their country of destination, having spent a huge amount of money to reach the Niger-Libya-Algeria routes. One, they join terrorist organisations and insurgent groups; two, they get involved in production and distribution of drugs; three, they exploit and extort people through financial forgery; and four, they take to different forms of economic/financial crime, such as armed robbery and kidnapping. Therefore, Fakhoury (2016: 12) argues that ‘discursive practices are crucial to thematising migration as a security concern at both policy and public levels’, which newspapers in the country report.

2.2 Empirical review

The empirical review borders on existing studies on migration and (im)migrants locally and internationally, studies on media discourse and ideology, and appraisal of the literature reviewed.

2.2.1 Studies on migration and (im)migrants

This section is divided into three parts. The first reviews sociolinguistic studies on migration; the second looks at critical discourse/media studies on migration while the third considers literary studies on migration. Each is taken in turn subsequently.

2.2.1.1 Sociolinguistic studies on migration

From a sociolinguistic perspective, Ayeomoni (2011) explores migration and culture as sociolinguistic variables and their implications on Nigerian indigenous languages. The study recognises the place of culture in language use and how humans communicate their ideas and experiences in the course of interpreting their social reality or worldview. Migration is also observed to impact language use and ‘has a far reaching effect and impact on the language people speak’ (Ayeomoni, 2011:195). Notable among the implications that migration has on language use are creation of a new language, language shift, language borrowing, and even language endangerment. Also, migration is noted to affect the phonological renditions or productions of different lexemes in English, which is an official language of the country.

In the same vein, Sibiri, *et al.* (2015) examine how internal migration affects the first language of immigrants in selected new settlements in Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa

State, Nigeria. Deploying Classic Assimilation Theory as its framework, the study reveals that there was a significant first language loss amongst the sampled immigrants of the new settlements as most had obvious difficulties in reading and writing their mother tongues. As a coping strategy, the study shows that pidginisation and koineisation, also known structural nativisation and dialect mixing, were employed by the immigrants as a result of the linguistic plurality of their new settlements. The study submits that first language loss is one of the consequences of internal migration, especially at the level of lexis and grammar. While these studies provide insights into the sociolinguistic reality of Nigerian language system concerning migration, they are very different from the focus of the present study which does not consider migration as a sociolinguistic variable but migration news reportage in Nigerian newspapers as a discourse site where social and economic issues are discursively contested by social actors.

2.2.1.2 Critical discourse/media studies on migration

From a critical discourse analytic approach, Burroughs (2012) examines discourses in the Irish political and social institutions on illegal immigration. The study argues that analysing texts which are used in different institutions can illuminate and implicate how power is operationalised in institutional context, and how national identity can be projected and foregrounded in institutional discourses on migrants and migration. The study investigated the ways and manners the responses to illegal immigration were done, and also how they were represented discursively in texts in Irish institutions which covered the years 2002 and 2009. Using Michel Foucault theorisation of identity and power, she argues that people in positions of authority and influence utilise discourses to enforce power and control, and maintain and sustain the status quo. Over 1, 000 parliamentary texts and over 2, 500 newsprint media texts complemented with interviews with politicians and civil society activists served as data. Tools of Critical Discourse Analysis are deployed in outlining and analysing the different ways illegal immigration was framed in the texts.

The dominant discursive argumentations which are deployed in the portrayal of illegal immigrants in the study are five (5). These are the topoi of ‘control’, ‘economy’, ‘danger’, ‘culture’, and ‘humanitarian’. It is shown that there is a significant obsession and concern to control illegal immigration in Irish institutions, especially in its media

and parliament. Even though there are some positive texts in the data on illegal immigration, the research contends that in Ireland illegal immigrants are portrayed and denoted largely in negative ways. Also, aside their manifestation in the Irish Parliament and newsprint media, the five topoi are dominantly featured in the interviews. Lastly, Burroughs discusses some functions of the governmental discourses on illegal immigration, which is dominantly to perpetuate otherness of illegal migrants. This work is similar to the present study because it treats illegal immigration from institutional texts while the present one considers newspaper reportage. It is fundamentally different as it does not consider pragmatic acts in the texts.

Also, deploying the tools of Critical Discourse Analysis, Abdul Razzaq (2012) investigates how migrant workers are projected and constructed in *Star Online* newspaper in Malaysia. Abdul Razzaq notes that the Malaysian government's invitation of legal and illegal foreign workers under the 6P amnesty and the legalisation programme to get registered and identified under the 'biometric identification system' in 2011 gave rise to different media representations of the foreign nationals in the country. The study, thus, examined the ways migrant workers were attributed, and uncovered the strategies of argumentation utilised in justifying and legitimising the portrayal given to the migrant workers. Discourse-historical approach to Critical Discourse Analysis of Ruth Wodak and Theo van Leeuwen's Socio-semantic Network are used to analyse the data which were 103 news articles in the newspaper between January 2012 and April 2013. The study showed that migrant workers were negatively constructed in the newspaper in Malaysia as they were depicted as contenders and opponents to the natives in claiming the available jobs; as a social security menace to the natives; and as ultimately contributing and impacting negatively the economy of the country – Malaysia. Abdul Razzaq (2012) concludes that the rationale for representing migrant workers negatively is to show that they do not belong to *us*, Malaysians, but *them* as the 'other'. This study is similar to the current one as it considers the representation of migrants, but different as it neither examines ideological orientations nor the transitivity choices made in its data which the present study does.

Critically, Mohd Don and Lee (2014) explore how the incorporation of the voices of political elite is done in the media in Malaysia, particularly in news reportage to construct immigrants as victims, threats and illegals, which reflect the ideological

leanings of the political elite. The paper examines how an original text with its authorial voice is related to its recontextualised part. Mohd Don and Lee employ the tools of Theo van Leeuwen's social actor network, and Reisigl and Wodak's discourse-historical approach to Critical Discourse Analysis in order to analyse the discursive strategies and different features realisable in a text in the representation of specific or particular meaning in the social world. They find out that nomination, predication and legitimation strategies are used to perform the following functions: construction of in-group and out-group; bestowal of either positive or negative evaluation of social actors through adjectives or adjectival phrases; and appealing to authority to make claims to truth. This study is similar to the present one as it explores how immigrants are represented by political elite voices in news reporting but does not cover ideological and pragmatic issues in media representation which the present does.

In addition, Milioni, Spyridou and Vadratskas (2015) study how immigration is framed in electronic media and broadcast news in crisis-hit Cyprus. The authors assert that linguistic labels that educe and elicit judgements are consequential because the attitudes of citizens to a public discourse are dependent on the labels used in presenting the issue. Using framing analysis to deconstruct electronic articles and broadcast news on immigration and immigrants in Cypriot media in 2013 which was when the financial crisis was raging, the study reveals that the overt lengthy discursive and sourcing devices and strategies are used to construct immigration as problematic, while immigrants are presented as the 'other'. This is similar to the present study as it focuses on discursive mechanisms in immigration – a type of migration – but different as it does not reveal the ideologies in the data which the present does.

Nevertheless, Patrascu (2016) investigates discursive constructions of immigration in refugee representations across European media. The paper does a comparative analysis of the ways migration and migrants, with refugees, are constructed in British, French and Spanish media, which are labelled 'old countries' and the Central and Eastern European countries, referred as 'newer countries'. The recurrent negative terminologies and images used in the European media are migrants/refugees as 'thousands', 'hundreds', 'invaders', 'flood', 'river', 'tide' 'wave' (in Great Britain); *banlieues* (outskirts of the city) and poverty and unemployment are identified with immigrants (in France); carriers of *muchasenfermedades* (many diseases) (in Spain). In their discursive representations, she concludes that European media, particularly the

British one, manifest a negative attitude to immigrants. This is significant to the present study because it provides an in-depth view into the European media construction of migrants. It is, however, different as it leaves out ideological orientation and pragmatic acts in the texts.

Further, Lirola (2016) examines visual and linguistic strategies deployed in the portrayal and representation of immigrants as individuals whose human rights are denied. The principles of visual grammar and those of Critical Discourse Analysis are employed to interrogate electronic versions of *El País* and *ABC*, which are two of the most popular Spanish newspapers, between January 1, 2012 and January 1, 2015. The study reveals that Spanish news media portray immigrants from sub-Saharan countries as wild and dangerous by hopping over the fences and barricades of Ceuta or Melilla in their attempts to enter Spain. The media, thus, present the coming and entrance of immigrants, particularly from sub-Saharan countries as a social and political problem. Since the immigrants are seen as wild and dangerous, the media justify the use of state violence against them and perpetuate citizens-foreigners dichotomy. She concludes that the press only presents basic and incomplete information as no attempt is made in understanding the immigrants' rationales for searching for a new and better life in European countries. This paper is similar to the current study in its deployment of tenets of Critical Discourse Analysis in the media representation of immigrants. However, it is different because it does not look at ideologies, and the scope of the present study is limited to Nigerian newspaper reportage without considering visual resources in the data.

Furthermore, from a critical discourse analytic standpoint, Salahshour (2017) investigates how the print media in New Zealand represent immigrants. Salahshour opines that immigrants are either embraced and welcomed or resisted; depending on how the media use their power in representing immigrants. Thus, the study explores discursive representation of immigrants in *New Zealand Herald* newspaper between year 2007 and 2008 which was the time of global economic challenges. Its data are interrogated with corpus-assisted discourse analysis and discourse-historical approach to Critical Discourse Analysis with statistical information. Also, how important collocations are used to promote dominant constructions is explored. Against KhosraviNik (2009) that holds that liquid metaphors were used to dehumanise immigrants and portray them as violent and uncontrollable, the study reveals that liquid

metaphors are surprisingly employed to represent the arrival of many immigrants in New Zealand as indispensable and essential. Also, immigrants in numerous cases are constructed as a homogeneous passive group who need the dominant host culture for survival and integration. On the other hand, immigrants are described with dehumanising metaphors. The study concludes that immigrants are represented ambivalently either as essential or qualified people performing significant functions to cover areas of shortages in skills in New Zealand or as menacing ‘other’ or inert victims. This study is related to the present one because it looks at an aspect of migration – immigration – in print media. However, it does not identify ideologies in the news reportage nor consider pragmatic actions performed therein.

Looking at the media deployment of pictures, Wilson and Abubakar (2017) explore how pictures are framed in representing migrant slavery in Libya in the *Daily Trust* newspaper of Nigeria. They claim that migration from African countries to European nations has recently gained prominent global attention which makes the media to be full of disturbing reports as far as migrant slavery is concerned in Libya. The paper investigates whether the newspaper pictorially frames the slavery issues as dehumanising, showing migrants’ physical trauma, chronic condition of the migrants, insufficient clothing/ill clothed, death of the victims, and migrants as commodities. The study adopts Framing Theory as its theoretical framework because ‘frame is an important element in news production process because it helps [in] bringing out the salience of an event or issue’ (p. 86). The analysed data are sourced from *Daily Trust* newspaper published between November 14, 2017 and July 2018, and a content analysis of pictorial representation is developed for the study. Wilson and Abubakar find out that the newspaper pictorial frame given to migrant slavery in Libya is predominantly depicted as mild as resolved and rescued situation. The paper concludes that despite the traumatising and horrible reports with footages about migrant slavery in Libya, *Daily Trust* newspaper frames and portrays it as insignificant, thereby downplaying migrants’ traumatic experience and situation in the pictures. While these studies are relevant, only Wilson and Abubakar’s (2017) paper is closely related to the current one. It is different, however, because it only considered pictorial framing of migrant slavery in one Nigerian newspaper while the present study examines discourse and ideological issues in six Nigerian newspapers.

Differently, Quiñonez (2018) investigates anti-immigrant rhetoric in Donald Trump's speeches on the one hand and in conservative conventional media on the other hand, using Critical Discourse Analysis. Its critical orientation is complemented with corpus linguistics which is used in gathering and analysing data from selected conservative news websites and over 100 speeches, remarks and addresses delivered by Donald Trump before and after the 2016 US Presidential Elections. The study empirically asserts that Donald Trump, the former president, and conservative conventional media foster the narrative on xenophobia through framing of immigrants, particularly people of colour, as parasitic and dangerous to the way of life of Americans. It reveals that through demagogic and dehumanising language with subtle discursive strategies of positive self-representation and negative other-representation, and metaphorical construction, anti-immigration sentiments are projected which strip immigrants of their humanity so as to render them worthless of dignity and rights enjoyed by *insiders* and 'real Americans'. This study is related to the current one because it is on migration discourse. It is, however, different because it combines speeches and conservative news media. It neither identifies ideologies nor examines pragmatic acts in its data.

2.2.1.3 Literary studies on migration

From a literary standpoint, Nwiyi (2016) explores dislocation and strategies for belonging in selected short stories of Nigerian migrant writers. She observes that the dislocation from homeland and the attempts to belong in transnational spaces are major aspects of Nigerian migrant prose fiction. She claims that many studies have explored and researched the novel genre of prose fiction while relegating the short story genre and its focus on dislocation and belonging. Thus, the study looks at the creative impulses of five writers in their articulation of dislocation and how negotiation of strategies for belonging is featured in the selected short stories. Postcolonial Literary Theory and aspects of the Freudian Psychoanalytic Literary Theory are deployed in analysing thirty-three stories which are drawn from five short story collections of Nigerian migrant writers that concentrated on the writers' perspectives and significant preoccupation with dislocation and strategies for belonging. The short stories which are from Chimamanda Adichie's *The Things around your Neck*, Sefi Atta's *News from Home*, Segun Afolabi's *A Life Elsewhere*, E. C. Osondu's *Voice of America*, and Chika Unigwe's *Short Stories* are subjected to critical and literary analyses.

The study reveals that the short stories of the selected migrant writers portray complex realities and perspectives stimulated by migration and dislocation of individuals from homeland and desires to belong in transnational spaces in contemporary times. It further finds out that the short stories depict diaspora and the lived experiences of the selected writers as offering a complex resource-base for literary innovation. Also, it shows that the narratives in the texts oscillate between homeland and hostland. The study establishes that there is some thematic unity in some of the narratives of the writers. Amongst the strategies for belonging in the short stories are the techniques of interior monologue to denote internal crises of characters, the use of juxtaposition, flashback, and digression. Nwiyi (2016) concludes that Nigerian migrant short stories display fluctuating literary focus between homeland and hostland, while the literary approach of the writers functions as an imperative for interacting, surviving and belonging in transnational spaces. Nwiyi (2016) is only related to the present study because it illuminates migrant experiences in the diaspora. It is a work in literary studies, so linguistic issues are not considered.

Also, Oboli (2018) studies migration and diasporic space in selected West African and South Asian novels. The study avers that the experience of migration and diasporic space are motifs in West African and South Asian novels. However, it claims that studies on the migration and diaspora have focused on issues on homeland, identity, memory, belonging and longing, particularly from the perspective of individual sub-continent without considering a comparative study. Oboli, thus, examines the forces enchanting migrants in the selected West African and South Asian novels in order to analyse the dialectics of migration and diasporic space. Aspects of postcolonial and Pablo Vila's border theories are adopted in exploring eight texts: *On Black Sister's Street* by Chika Unigwe, *Americanah* by Chimamanda Adichie, *Alien Attitude* by Lang Dampha, and *The Other Crucifix* by Benjamin Kwakye from West Africa; *Brick Lane* by Monica Ali, *Saffron Dream* by Shaila Abdullah, *The Inheritance of Loss* by Kiran Desai, and *Maps for Lost Lover* by Nadeem Aslam from South Asia.

The study reveals that ambivalent experiences 'push' the fictional migrants in the novels into the diasporic space. In *On Black Sister's Street*, Ama, Sisi, Efe and Joyce run away from the harsh realities of their homes to become goods in the new world; in *Alien Attitude*, the new character formations of the migrants with exposure to the Western freedom are parts of their alienating factors; in *Americanah*, Obinze and

Ifemule, having left their love for London and America respectively, become weakened by identity crisis and racism; in *The Other Crucifix*, Jojo's otherness inhibits and forces him to become an associative hybrid which further affects his belonging. On the other hand, in *Brick Lane*, Chanu's belonging in the new world is inhibited by the difference in cultural identity which foregrounds his 'in-betweenness'; in *The Inheritance of Loss*, cultural ethnocide and racial discrimination heighten the alienation of characters such as Pa Janneh and Biju; in *Saffron Dreams*, Raian's multiple birth defects are represented in the frailty of culture in diasporic space; while in *Maps for Lost Lovers*, 'unhomeliness' holds sway among the migrants. Comparatively, the study concludes that the West African novels project stereotypic identities through the skin colour while the South Asian novels represent cultural extremities and gender discrimination in the diasporic space. Oboli (2018) is related to the current study because it deals with migration issues. It is different because it is a study in literary studies with its data drawn from novels while the present is based in linguistics with data drawn from newspapers.

2.2.2 Studies on media discourse and ideology

Scholars have explored different issues on media discourse and ideology in Nigeria and abroad. Some of these are examined presently. Taiwo (2007) examines language, ideology and power relations in Nigerian newspaper headlines. Six major newspapers in Nigeria are selected from which three hundred headlines are randomly sampled. These are analysed with the tools of Critical Discourse Analysis. The sampled headlines border on or have different discourse themes or issues on health, corruption, communal or religious crises, crime, petroleum issues, among others. Taiwo finds out that the headlines reveal covert ideological positioning, messages and meanings as they reflect the views of some and undermine those of others. The paper concludes that headlines are used as emotion-stimulating tactic by news editors so as to instigate, perpetuate discourse and influence the readers' views on specific topics or issues. However, it is possible that the headlines would be different from the contents in the body of the news items. The paper does not take into consideration this possibility. Also, the study is silent on the approach of Critical Discourse Analysis it deploys in the analysis of its data. In addition, the paper does not closely analyse each of the excerpts to tease individual linguistic features and their ideological imports.

Also, Odebunmi (2009) investigates politeness and relational work in print media political interviews in Nigeria. Using Locher and Watts' (2005) Theory of Relational Work with an incorporation of relevant aspects of Gricean pragmatics and speech acts, Odebunmi observes the confrontational and competitive nature of political interviews. He notes two types of print media political interviews; viz, the subjective/sentimental, for it is based on emotional judgement of the participants and features a large quantity of politeness elements, and the factual/analytical, which presents issues as objectively as possible and it contains very few or no instances of politeness. He finds out three aspects of context anchored relational work in print media political interviews in Nigeria: politic verbal behaviour, polite verbal behaviour and impolite verbal behaviour.

In addition, Ononye (2014) investigates style, lexical choices and media ideology in selected English-medium newspaper reports on Niger Delta conflicts. The study claims that media reportage of the crises in the Niger Delta region has shown the interpenetration between the choices of lexical and stylistic elements on the one hand, and the ideological stances of the news reporters on the other hand. However, this relationship was neglected in previous studies, thereby focusing on discourse, pragmatic and general stylistic features in the media reports. Thus, Ononye (2014) fills this knowledge gap in order to have 'a good understanding of group motivations for the crises and reports' (p. 16). Using an eclectic theoretical framework, the study combines Lesley Jeffries' critical stylistics, Teun van Dijk's context model, aspects of evaluative semantics and conceptual metaphor. These theories are used in analysing one hundred and fifty reports on Niger Delta conflicts. Ononye finds out that three styles, shaped by Niger Delta issues and context, are evident in the lexical choices in the reports. These are persuasive, manipulative and evaluative styles. They are realised through four stylistic strategies of equating/contrasting, naming/describing, viewing actions/events and hypothesising. The styles are indexed by lexical fields, emotive metaphors (within the source domains of crime, hunting and military), synonymous, meronymous, hyponymous lexical items and intentional material actions which highlight the consequence of armed struggle in the data, collocations, reiterations and intensive relational equivalences.

Also, three media ideologies are observed by the researcher in the data. These are propagandist, framist and mediator ideologies. Propagandist ideology is dominated by

viewing actions/events and naming/describing which are used to depict Niger Delta conflict as threat and war. Framist ideology, associated with naming/describing, is enacted by reiterative and emotive labels that are related to sabotaging and sanitising in assessing the intentions of the news actors in positive and/or negative terms. Mediator ideology is used to portray the views of the news actors that in sync with the news reporters'. Each of the ideologies features a specific style: propagandist ideology, persuasive style; framist ideology, evaluative style; and mediator ideology, manipulative style. The study concludes that the styles in the newspaper reports on the Niger Delta conflicts are stimulated by the ideological roles of the reporters' as propagandists, framists and mediators. This is a study in the realm of critical stylistics. Both prefer an eclectic theoretical framework and look at ideological stances in newspapers. It is different because the present is on migration and its related issues not conflict in a specific space or location.

In the same vein, Ogungbe and Alo (2014) carry out a critical study of selected verbal-visual news in Nigerian e-newspapers. They claim that verbal-visual news is becoming very prominent in e-newspapers because of its capability to present facts and situations live. The study explores how lexical choices in news headlines and details with the syntax of news photos – camera focus, photo cropping, and captioning – and their semantics are deployed simultaneously to arrest readers' attention and patronage, convey facts, and effect and affect power and attitude. It combines insights from Critical Discourse Analysis and Systemic Functional-multimodal Discourse Analysis to analyse verbal-visual news on *Boko Haram* insurgency in Nigeria in *The Nation* and *Daily Trust* e-newspapers. The study reveals that through decisive word selection complemented with calculated focus and purposive picture selection, the e-newspapers create some verbal-visual appeals to inspire Nigerians, confront leaders in political and religious spaces, and dissuade negative attitudes relating to insecurity in the country. Also, it shows that the framers' ideologies, through which the newspapers covertly impose certain preferred meanings and viewpoints, are betrayed in few news photographs and their accompanying wordings.

In a different but related manner, Oji (2015) investigates language, ideology and power relations in Nigerian television talk shows. Oji claims that previous studies have not given adequate emphasis on ideological basis and linguistic features in television talk shows and this gap stimulates the research which is aimed at exploring the ideologies

and forms of power relations in the shows. The study draws its data from eight Nigerian television talk shows that feature interviews on politics and other important issues that concern the nation. Being a study on ideology and power relations, Oji (2015) combines van Dijk's approach to Critical Discourse Analysis with Fauconnier and Turner's Conceptual Blending Theory; complemented with Brown and Levinson's Politeness Principle and Poyatos' approach to non-verbal communication. The study reveals that different television stations in the examined talk shows privileged different ideologies. NTA favoured dominantly pro-government and social democratic ideologies; STV used libertarian, anti-government alongside with NTA expressed ideologies; LTV adopted prominently leftist and social-democratic ideologies; and AIT used mainly liberal ideologies. The linguistic features deployed in projecting these ideologies by the hosts and participants included: relational modality, indirect quotations and presuppositions, pretentious positive other-presentation and negative self-presentation. On the other hand, the paralinguistic cues evident in the data included: silence and low pitch, smiling, pointing and intense gaze, hands on chin, frowning, etc. This study is related to the current work in its consideration of ideologies in discourse. However, it does not consider pragmatic acts in the interactions which the present does. It is spoken interaction while the present is written texts – newspaper reports.

From a critical discourse analytic standpoint, Ajiboye (2016) explores stance expressions in crisis reportage. She establishes that the mass media are naturally attracted to crisis situations for the media are brought to prominence during crises. The study applies van Dijk's socio-cognitive model of CDA on 50 news reports obtained from ten Nigerian online newspapers. She submits that news writers are able to overtly and covertly take stances in their news stories, as language use in the crisis reportage may tilt towards emotionalism. The stance-taking strategies used in the reports include topicalisation, lexicalisation, implicatures, presuppositions, generalisations, number game, evidentiality, authority, and vagueness. The study reports that stance-taking strategies are functional in crisis discourse and used to assert readers' sentiments or express bias by the news writers as well as convince the audience.

Further, Osisanwo (2016a) investigates role allocation in the media representation of participants in selected electoral discourses in Nigeria following van Leeuwen's role allocation aspect of his social actors' model of Critical Discourse Analysis and

Transitivity System of Hallidayan Systemic Functional Linguistics. *The Tell* and *The News* magazines' reportage of electoral discourses between 2003 and 2007 served as the data. Osisanwo finds out that there is a methodical ideological prejudice in ascribing roles and functions to discourse participants or interactants. Also, activation is strategically used to reveal agency in news reports but passivation is used to obscure agency.

Examining moral and feminine issues in news reports, Dare (2016) does a linguistic discussion of newspaper reports on a fire disaster in Nigeria. Dare avers that beyond being 'a faithful account of an incident of some significance', the values of the reporter often unconsciously come to the fore via linguistic choices. Dare holds that 'newspaper reports are not value-neutral discourse presentations but bear indices of the reporters' cultural, psychological, social, economic, professional and political orientation' (324). Using four different newspapers as data source of the incident, the study reveals 'a variety of values and orientations that are not always mutually exclusive' (325) with almost all of the newspapers throwing up moralistic and legal perspectives on the incident, and the gender sensitivity of the Nigerian elite pervades the newspapers' reportage. Specifically, the paper submits the reporters seem to suggest that it is anomalous for women to be involved in crime.

Also, Odebunmi and Oloyede (2016) examine frames and pragmatic strategies in Nigerian newspaper reports on *Boko Haram* insurgency. The data for the study were sourced from headlines, overlines and main stories of *The Punch* and *The Nation* newspapers in Nigeria between May 2011 and May 2012. Their research prefers a combination of the theory with Media Framing Principles, Systemic Functional Grammar and Multimodal Critical Discourse Analysis. Two levels of frames occur in the newspapers: a joint orientation to a set of frames, and individual construction and design of a set of frames. Ten pragmatic strategies, twelve praxs with a number of multimodal critical discourse inventories and systemic functional resources are deployed in new reports to situate *Boko Haram* as terrorists, attackers, killers, villains and insurgents, political thugs, and religious extremists. They aver that multiple identities given to *Boko Haram* set them apart from other global terrorists. They submit that effective approaches to combat the menace of *Boko Haram* should take into account the different manifestations of the group coupled with military approach.

2.2.3 Appraisal of literature reviewed

The existing studies on migration in Nigeria have mainly seen migration as a sociolinguistic variable that greatly affects language use and which may lead to language endangerment or language death. Notwithstanding, an important aspect that has been given little attention in scholarship is the interplay between migration and media reportage, particularly newspaper reports on migration in Nigeria. Also, previous studies have largely overlooked how migrants of Nigerian origin resident in other countries of the world on the one hand and how migrants of other countries resident in Nigeria on the other hand are discursively represented in Nigerian newspapers. This research gap is what this present study aims to fill in order to uncover discursive and social practices in migration newspaper reports in Nigeria, which is dominantly a migrant-sending, transit and migrant-receiving country, making the country, Nigeria, a major player in migration process, particularly economic migration directed towards Europe, America and other economically developed countries.

Investigating (regular/irregular) migration news reportage in Nigerian newspapers promises to illuminate and reveal causes of migration, the experiences of the migrants and how such are represented in the newspapers, government roles in encouraging or discouraging it, societal attitude to it, amongst other pertinent issues. In addition, the study will uncover some merits and demerits of regular and irregular migration, while challenging the government, corporate organisations, international community, parents and religious organisations to team up in curbing the menace of irregular migration which has become the bane on the African continent and the world at large.

Understanding social actors' representations and ideologies in newspaper reportage of migration is crucial to revealing underlying biases and prejudices against migrants of other countries and unpacking systemic but covert oppression of other humans, especially migrants, whose socioeconomic standing is below that of the newsworthy people and opinion leaders whose voices are projected in the news reports. Also, overt or covert rivalry between different sections of the country will be laid bare through the exploration of the pragmatic intentions of the privileged social actors in migration news reportage and how they, social actors, represent their in-group members and their

out-group members, towards perpetuating their political, social or economic hegemony and legitimising the same.

2.3 Theoretical framework

The theory adopted for this study is Teun van Dijk's Socio-cognitive Approach to Critical Discourse Analysis, which is complemented with Theo van Leeuwen's Representation of Social Actors Theory, M. A. K. Halliday's Transitivity System and Jacob Mey's Pragmatic Acts Theory. These theories are multidisciplinary in orientation due to the fact that migration is an interdisciplinary research area. In his 2018 publication, van Dijk reveals various systematic methods of carrying out a qualitative research in discourse and migration which is based on his sociocognitive discourse studies. Migration discourse, van Dijk (2018) avers, 'not only may be *about* migration or its many aspects, but also be a *consistent part* of migration as a phenomenon, as would be the stories of migrants, as well as parliamentary discourse preparing immigration policies' (p. 230).

This means that migration discourse embodies and is intertwined with other discourses such as social, political, news, religious, cultural, etc. Thus, investigating it from different but related linguistic theoretical standpoints enriches critical analysis and better explication of migration reports in Nigerian newspapers. The Socio-cognitive Approach to CDA is employed in teasing out discourse issues and ideologies; Representation of Social Actors Theory and Transitivity System are deployed in accounting for how social actors are represented and discourse strategies employed in the representation. *Pragmeme* is used to account for intentions in the reports. The theories are subsequently taken in turn below.

2.3.1 Critical Discourse Analysis

Critical Linguistics (CL) and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) are terms which are regularly utilised to replace each other in the literature. Wodak (2002) avers that the roots of CDA can be traced to classical rhetoric, applied linguistics, sociolinguistics, text-linguistics and pragmatics. She reveals that some terms and notions such power, hegemony, gender, ideology, hierarchy alongside other sociocultural variables and elements are employed in the explication and interpretation of text in specific social contexts. With different scholars exploring divergent issues relating to gender, race,

media, politics, organisation, identity, amongst others, this has made CDA to be very popular and prominent. Wodak, like other scholars in CDA, conceives the approach as a research programme.

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is a multidisciplinary approach to studying and analysing discourse and discursive relations in texts and talks in different contexts. van Dijk (2015) succinctly presents CDA as a ‘discourse analytical research that primarily studies the way social-power abuse and inequality are enacted, reproduced, legitimated, and resisted by text and talk in the social and political context’ (p. 466). The focus of CDA on discourse and language finds its source in critical linguistics that developed from the United Kingdom and Australia in the late 1970s, specifically in the work of Fowler *et al.* (1979). It basically developed as a response against the prevailing socially distant and uncritical model and standard of language studies in the early 1960s and late 1970s (van Dijk, 2015). Interestingly, while van Dijk (2015), which is one of the recent summaries of CDA, notes that CDA is no special method of doing discourse analysis, in van Dijk (1995: 17), CDA is seen as ‘a *special* (italics mine) approach to the study of text and talk’. It can thus be said that what is believed to be special in the old conceptualisation of CDA has become outdated due to new researches in knowledge. Therefore, in doing CDA, due to its multidisciplinary nature, different methods of various relevant disciplines in the social sciences and humanistic studies are deployed to study discourses (van Dijk, 2015).

Amongst the general properties of critical research on discourse are:

- (a) it concentrates on social problems and political issues;
- (b) social problems are usually analysed using multidisciplinary approach;
- (c) it explains discourse structures in relations to social interaction and social structure;
- (d) it focuses on the ways discourse structures enact, confirm, legitimate, reproduce, or challenge relations of power abuse (dominance) in society (van Dijk, 2015: 467).

In the literature, the main tenets of CDA as summarised by Fairclough and Wodak (1997) are as follows:

1. CDA addresses social problems.
2. Power relations are discursive.
3. Discourse constitutes society and culture.

4. Discourse does ideological work.
5. Discourse is historical.
6. The link between text and society is mediated.
7. Discourse analysis is interpretative and explanatory.
8. Discourse is a form of social action.

Important to CDA are terms and subjects of research such as ideology, hegemony, identity, power, dominance, control, language, social structure, text production and consumption, among others. 'Ideology for CDA is seen as an important means of establishing and maintaining unequal power relations. CDA takes a particular interest in the ways in which language mediates ideology in a variety of social institutions' (Wodak, 2002: 9). Ordinarily, language is not powerful tool when it stands alone, but it becomes very powerful and influential when used by powerful people, groups, political parties, etc. It is the deployment of language to gain control, maintain and sustain the status quo that CDA intends to unveil in texts and talks. It is critical because it takes a specific political or social position – mostly on the side of the oppressed, suppressed and repressed in the society. It is this position that makes CDA to be anti-establishment and pitches its tent with those who suffer by analysing how powerful people use language in perpetuating themselves in positions of authority and power, sustaining inequalities, discrimination and domination. Hence, CDA, according to Wodak (2002: 11) 'might be defined as fundamentally interested in not only analysing opaque but also transparent structural relationships of dominance, discrimination, power and control as manifested in language'. For van Dijk (2001: 117), 'CDA is mainly interested in the role of discourse in the instantiation and reproduction of power and power abuse (dominance), and hence particularly interested in the detailed study of the interface between the local and the global, between the structures of discourse and the structures of society.'

2.3.2 Approaches to Critical Discourse Analysis

Different scholars deploy different methods and approaches in doing discourse as far as Critical Discourse Analysis is concerned. Prominent amongst these approaches are the trio of Norman Fairclough's Socio-semiotic approach, Ruth Wodak's Discourse-historical approach and Teun A. van Dijk's Socio-cognitive approach.

2.3.2.1 The Discourse-historical Approach

This approach to Critical Discourse Analysis adheres to the Socio-philosophical Orientation of Critical Theory (Wodak, 2001: 64). This means that it relates to and embraces ‘at least three inter-connected aspects, two of which are primarily related to the dimension of cognition and one to the dimension of action’ (p. 64). These three inter-connected aspects are text or discourse immanent critique, socio-diagnostic critique and prognostic critique. The first explores ‘inconsistencies, (self-) contradictions, paradoxes and dilemmas in the text-internal or discourse-internal structures’. The second focuses on ‘demystifying exposure of the – manifest or latent – possibly persuasive or ‘manipulative’ character of discursive practices’. The third is concerned with the transformation and improvement of communication within different public institutions (Wodak, 2001: 65).

Wodak proposes that following the principle of triangulation will help CDA to attenuate the claim that CDA is biased. This is why the Discourse-historical approach works with different approaches and multi-methodologies to investigate a variety of data. The approach, in its investigation, tries to integrate ‘a large quantity of available knowledge about the historical sources and the background of the social and political fields in which discursive ‘events’ are embedded’. Also, the approach analyses the historical dimension of discursive actions by exploring the ways in which particular genres of discourse are subject to diachronic change (Wodak, 2001: 65). Finally, social theories are integrated to explain the context – which is the most important aspect of the discourse-historical approach to CDA.

2.3.2.2 The Socio-semiotic Approach

Norman Fairclough—one of the leading proponents of the framework—champions this approach to Critical Discourse Analysis. In his approach, Fairclough sees three corresponding dimensions or stages to doing Critical Discourse Analysis. These are labelled description, interpretation and explanation. Description is concerned with formal properties of the text. Interpretation focuses on the relationship between text and interaction in which the text is conceived ‘as the product of a process of production, and as a resource in the process of interpretation. Explanation is concerned with accounting for the relationship that holds between interaction and social context with their social effects’ (Fairclough, 1989: 26). In other words, the three-dimensional

framework for CDA is the analysis of ‘discourse practice involves attention to processes of text production, distribution and consumption’ (Fairclough, 1995: 9).

Fairclough believes that the ‘analysis of texts should not be artificially isolated from analysis of institutional and discursal practices within which texts are embedded’ (1995: 9). He models his approach to CDA on Systemic Linguistics because it is both a functionally orientated theory and a textually orientated theory; keying into Halliday’s tripartite functions of language – ideational, interpersonal and textual functions. Ideational function is explored via transitivity with a concentration on nominalisations and passive constructions. Interpersonal function is considered through mood and modality. Textual function is analysed through coherence and cohesion of texts. He furthers Halliday’s view of language as a social semiotic.

2.3.2.3 The Socio-cognitive Approach

In his approach to Critical Discourse Analysis, van Dijk presents three metatheoretical triangle of discourse-cognition-society. Discourse, he explains, means in the broadsheet of a communicative event which subsumes written text, conversational interaction, gestures, images, facework or different multimedia dimension of signification. He defines cognition as involving ‘personal as well as social cognition, beliefs and goals as well as evaluations and emotions, and any other ‘mental’ or ‘memory’ structures, representations or processes involved in discourse and interaction’ (van Dijk, 2001: 98). He conceives society as local—microstructures of situated face-to-face interactions—and also global, societal and political structures defined such as groups, group-relations, movements, institutions, organisations, social processes, political systems and more abstract properties of societies and cultures (van Dijk, 2001: 98).

The Socio-cognitive approach is a model of Critical Discourse Analysis that ‘links systematic analysis of discourse structures with an analysis of societal structures via a cognitive interface’ (van Dijk, 2018: 228). ‘A socio-cognitive approach in CDA, thus, examines social structures of power through the analysis of the relations between discourse and cognition. Cognition is the necessary interface that links discourse as language use and social interaction with social situations and social structures’ (van Dijk, 2015: 472). Also, significant to the socio-cognitive approach is the exploration of ideological biases or ideologies in discourse. Within the social cognition are

knowledge, attitudes, ideologies, norms and values. van Dijk (2001: 15) defines ideologies 'as the basic social representations of social groups. They are at the basis of the knowledge and attitudes of groups such as socialists, neo-liberals, ecologists, feminists as well as anti-feminists'.

Within the cognitive component of the approach are mental models which 'have a standard hierarchical structure of a spatiotemporal Setting, Participants (and their identities, roles and relations) Actions/Events and Goals'. The mental models are multimodal which make them to 'feature visual, auditory, sensorimotor, evaluative and emotional information of experiences', differently processed in the brain (van Dijk, 2015b: 66). More so, mental models are what van Dijk conceives as contexts. Thus, contexts 'are subjective participant definitions of communicative situations', and they (contexts) 'control all aspects of discourse production and comprehension' (van Dijk, 2006: 733). On the other hand, social cognition is the socially shared knowledge of members of the same social group which involves attitudes about specific issues or topics such as immigration, abortion, etc., and 'more fundamental ideologies' such as capitalism, sexism, feminism, environmentalism, amongst others. It is on the basis of this socially shared cognition that there is allowability and instantiation of social 'cooperation, interaction and communication, and hence discourse' (van Dijk, 2015b: 67).

Therefore, ideological discourse structures include polarisation, pronouns, identification, emphasis of positive self-descriptions and negative other-descriptions, activities, norms and values, and interests (van Dijk, 2015b: 74). Polarisation involves underlying ideologies which positively represent the in-group members and negatively represent the out-group members. This is featured in all levels of discourse. Pronouns which are always ideologically deployed are the political pronoun *we* (*us*, *ours*, etc.) to refer to members of the in-group, and *they* (*theirs*, *them*) to refer to members of the out-group, furthering the polarisation of *us vs them*. Identification is evident in-group ideologies through their identity which is expressed in many ways, such as '*as a feminist, I/we... speaking as a pacifist, I/we...*' (van Dijk, 2015b: 73).

Emphasis of positive self-descriptions and negative other-descriptions focuses on amplifying our positive sides and deemphasising our negative sides, while emphasising their negative sides and deemphasising their positive sides. This is

obvious in nationalist-racist discourse as politicians and social group members self-glorify their actions and country while de-glorifying others and their actions. This strategy is called ‘Ideological Square’ (van Dijk, 2015b). Activities refer to what the ideological groups (we) do and must do. That is to defend or protect the group on the one hand, and to control or attack the out-group on the other hand. Norms and values capture ideologies that are built on (good) conduct, or values of what should be striven for, such as freedom, equality, autonomy, etc. At the centre of it all are interests which fuel the ideological struggle for power that could be about basic resources—food and shelter—or symbolic resources such as status, knowledge or access to public discourse (van Dijk, 2015b: 74).

Teun van Dijk’s Socio-cognitive approach to Critical Discourse Analysis is preferred in this study to other approaches because of its suitability to examining media discourse, especially due to its development from and deployment in race discourse, which is related to migration discourse. Its ideological discourse structures are useful tools in teasing out social biases and prejudices in media discourse, particularly in news reports on migration, since the model sees no text as ideologically neutral.

2.3.3 Representation of Social Actors Theory

Theo van Leeuwen (2008) presents a *socio-semantic* inventory on how social actors can be represented. This inventory is rooted within the broad and eclectic framework of Critical Discourse Analysis. Social actors are assigned different roles and functions in a text or discourse depending on the goal(s) of the text producer. The media, thus, provide the enabling context in which different roles are assigned to actors or participants with the inclusion of their actions in news reports. van Leeuwen’s (2008) categories in representing social actors and actions include exclusion, genericisation and specification, role allocation, association, dissociation, assimilation, differentiation, indetermination, nomination, categorisation, identification, functionalisation, etc.

Exclusion relates to whether social actors are present in a text or not. It bifurcates into suppression and backgrounding. For suppression, no reference is made to the social actor(s) in the text at all while for backgrounding, ‘the exclusion is less radical: the excluded social actors may not be mentioned in relation to a given action, but they are mentioned elsewhere in the text’ (van Leeuwen, 2008: 29). This means that the social

actors are not excluded *per se* but deemphasised. Suppression can be achieved through passive agent deletion, non-finite clauses which function as a grammatical participant, beneficiary deletion, nominalisations, process noun and adjectives. Backgrounding is achieved through ‘simple ellipses in non-finite clauses with *-ing* and *-ed* participles, in infinitival clauses with *to*, and in paratactic clauses’ (p. 30). Role allocation has to do with the roles that social actors are given to play in representations, whether as ‘agent’ (‘actor’) or ‘patient’ (‘goal’) with respect to a given action (p. 32). The transitivity system of Halliday coded activated social actors as ‘actor’, ‘behavior’, ‘senser’, ‘sayer’ or ‘assigner’ in various processes.

Genericisation and specification represent social actors as classes of people or specific, identifiable individuals. Assimilation represents social actors as individuals (individualisation) or as a group (assimilation). Association and dissociation capture social actors as groups, but in association, various groups are brought together for a common goal while in dissociation, the commonality or established association gets broken. Determination reveals specific identity of social actors while indetermination is when social actors are represented as unspecified or anonymous groups. Differentiation captures how social actors are explicitly differentiated between ‘us’ and ‘them’. Categorisation represents social actors with features they share with others. Nomination reveals social actors in terms of their unique identity. Functionalisation captures social actors in terms of an activity they do or something they perform. Identification represents social actors in terms of what they are permanently.

2.3.4 Pragmatic Acts Theory

As scholars have accused the Speech Act Theory of Austin (1962) for being atomistic as it does not really focus on linguistic acts performed in context, Mey (2001) proposes the Pragmatic Acts Theory or the Theory of *Pragmeme* that focuses on situated speech acts. For Jacob Mey, the effectiveness of speech acts comes to the fore when they are situated in specific contexts. The theory rejects Searlean emphasis on the description of individual speech acts. As a theory of action, Mey contends that the theory is not preoccupied with explaining ‘language use from the inside out [...] rather the focus is on the environment in which both speaker and hearer find their affordances, such that the entire situation is brought to bear on what can be said in the situation, as well as on what is actually being said’ (Mey, 2001: 221).

A generalised pragmatic act is called *pragmeme*, while an instantiated, individual pragmatic act is labelled 'ipras' or *pract* which is a particular *pragmeme* as its realisation. The theory is anchored on two cooperative parts, namely, activity part and textual part. The activity part comprises speech acts, indirect speech acts, conversational ('dialogue') acts, psychological acts, prosodic acts and physical acts. The textual part includes contextual and co-textual elements such as 'inference' (INF), 'reference' (REF), 'relevance' (REL), 'voice' (VCE), 'shared situation (or dialogue) knowledge' (SSK), 'metaphor' (MPH), and a 'metapragmatic joker' (M), 'an element that directs our attention to something happening on the metapragmatic plane' (Mey, 2001: 222). The combination of these two components of the theory informs a pragmatic act.

Jacob Mey's scheme of a *pragmeme* is captured subsequently.

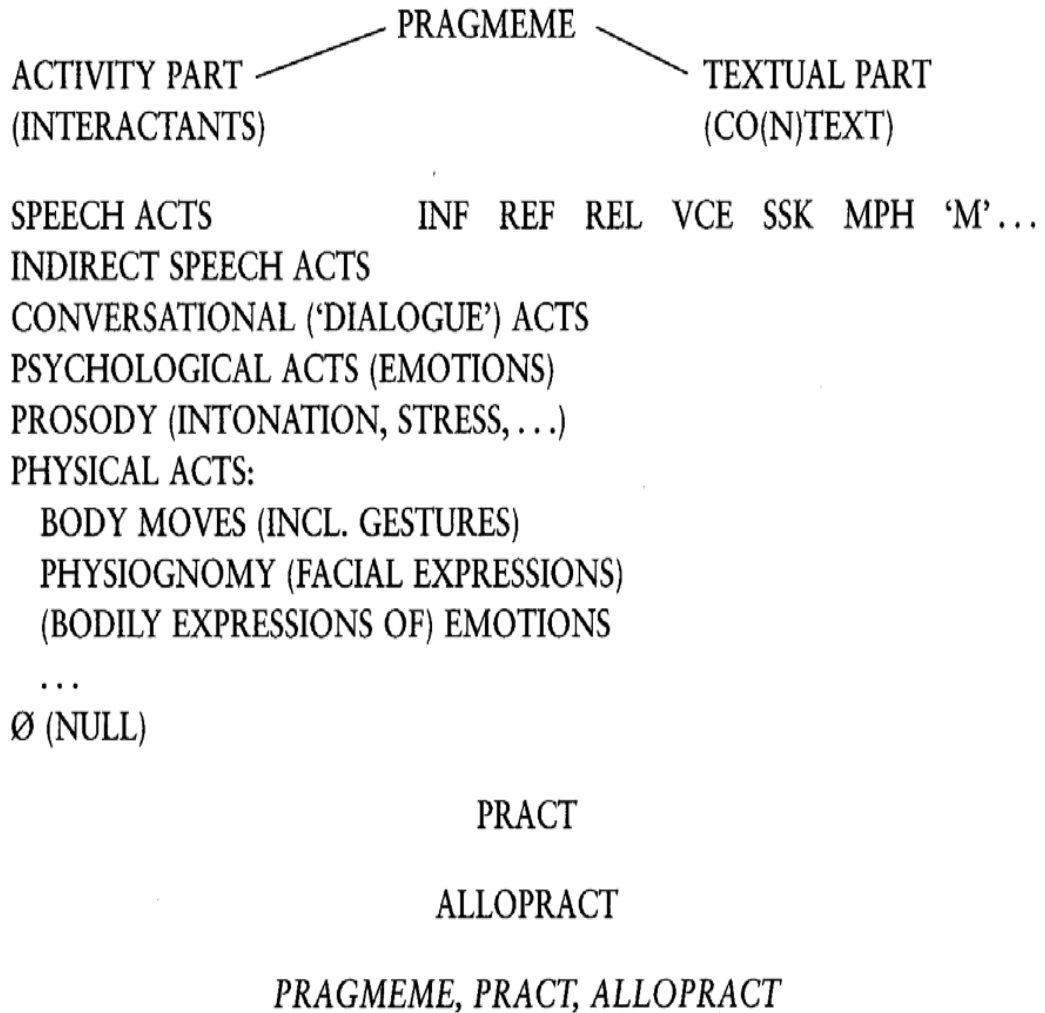


Figure 2.1: Scheme of a *pragmeme*

Source: Mey, J. 2001. *Pragmatics: an introduction*. USA: Blackwell Publishing.

2.3.5 Transitivity System

Transitivity System is one of the core and foundational aspects of Michael Alexander Kirkwood Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). Halliday recognises three metafunctions of language, namely, ideational function, interpersonal function and textual function. In the theory, the clause is categorised in tripartite forms: clause as message which focuses on the textual function; clause as exchange which concentrates on the interpersonal function; and clause as representation which deals with the ideational function, also called the experiential function. The clause as representation captures the experiences of human beings as representing 'worlds' whether imagined or experienced (Halliday, 1985: 101). This function of the clause makes humans to be involved in the lives of other people, animals and other things in the world. Human experience is always conceived in a flow of events which is chunked into quanta of change by the grammar of the clause. This is modelled as a figure—of happening, doing, sensing, saying, being or having' (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014: 213). Hence, the transitivity system offers 'the lexico-grammatical resources for construing a quantum of change in the flow of events as a figure—as a configuration of elements centred on a process' (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014: 213).

According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004: 280), transitivity 'is a theory of representation of process types of participants and the 'participant functions' associated with each process in the clause'. Simpson (1993: 82) captures transitivity as 'how speakers encode in language their mental picture of reality and how they account for their experience of the world around them'. Thus, within the clause are three important components, namely, the process, the participants and the circumstance (Halliday 1985). 'The concepts of processes, participants and circumstances are semantic categories that explain in the most general way how phenomena of our experience of the world are construed as linguistic structures' (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014: 224). The processes are conveyed by the verb phrase of a clause. The participants are the actors who do, say, behave, feel, alongside the ones who receive the action done to or words said to them in clauses. The circumstances are represented in adverbial phrases or prepositional phrases in clauses. There are six types of transitivity processes. They are material, mental, relational, which are the main types, and behavioural, verbal and existential, which the additional types.

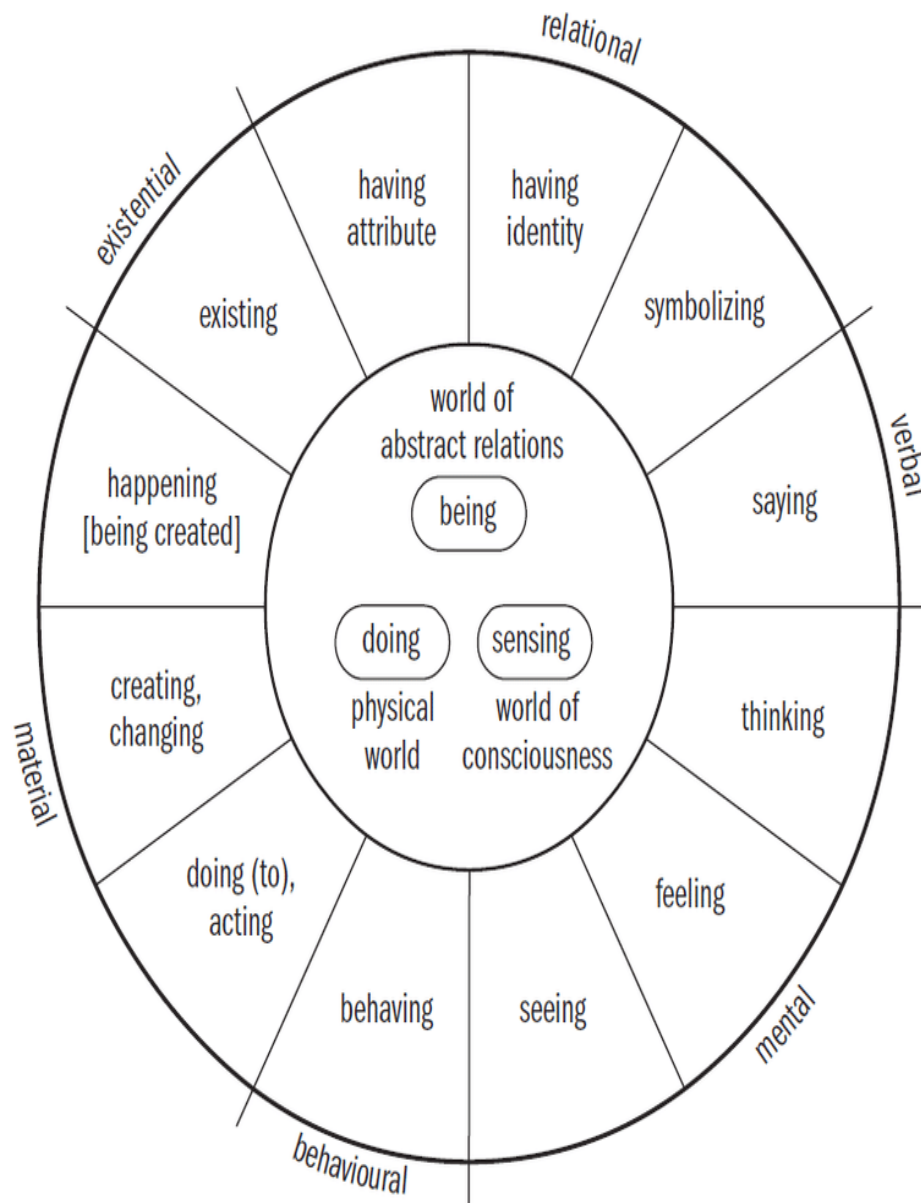


Figure 2.2: The grammar of experience: types of process in English

Source: Halliday, M. A. K. & Matthiessen, C. 2014. *Halliday's introduction to functional grammar*. 4th ed. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge.

2.3.5.1 Material processes

Material processes refer to clauses of doing (through the use of transitive verbs) and happening (through the use of intransitive verbs). According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014: 224), ‘a ‘material’ clause construes a quantum of change in the flow of events as taking place through some input of energy’. These processes usually involve two inherent participants’ roles—the obligatory *actor* which is assigned to the doer of the process expressed by the clause and the optional *goal* which is assigned to the entity affected by the process—are performed by animate actors.

2.3.5.2 Mental processes

Mental processes encompass actions related to sensing, thinking, perceiving and feeling. They are the processes of perception, cognition and affection. They reveal the inner consciousness or state of animate entities, especially humans, i.e. experiencing, feeling or seeing something. They have two participants, the *senser*—who is the conscious being—and the *phenomenon* which is sensed, felt or thought.

2.3.5.3 Relational processes

Relational processes are the processes of ‘being and having’. These are expressed by copular or linking verbs. They typically have a subject and an intensive complement. They describe attributes of a thing or identify a thing. The fundamental meaning of clauses expressing such processes is that something is. These processes can be subdivided into: the intensive, the circumstantial and the possessive.

2.3.5.4 Behavioural processes

Behavioural processes are processes of ‘psychological behaviour, like breathing, coughing, smiling, dreaming and staring. They are the least distinct of all the six process types because they have no clearly defined characteristics of their own; rather, they are partly like the material and partly like the mental’ (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014: 301). They lie between material and mental processes. The *behave*r is a conscious sensor, but the process expresses a meaning of doing. Most of the clauses of behavioural processes have just one participant.

2.3.5.5 Verbal processes

Verbal processes are, as the name implies, the processes of saying. This means the processes of communication which include any type of symbolic exchange of meaning. They are important in news reports and in sharing contexts (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). This type involves two participants: the *sayer* who is speaking and the second is of three kinds: the *verbiage*, what is said; the *receiver*, the one to whom the verbalisation is addressed; and the *target*, the direct participants on whom the sayer acts verbally.

2.3.5.6 Existential processes

Existential processes describe something as existing. The verbs used in existential processes require only one participant—the existent. The subject position of an existential process is semantically empty, but it is grammatically filled by *there*. In existential processes, the verb BE must be present or some other verb of existence followed by a noun phrase taking a role of the existent. Dalamu (2017) represents the transitivity system network in Figure 2.3 to capture the processes and participants.

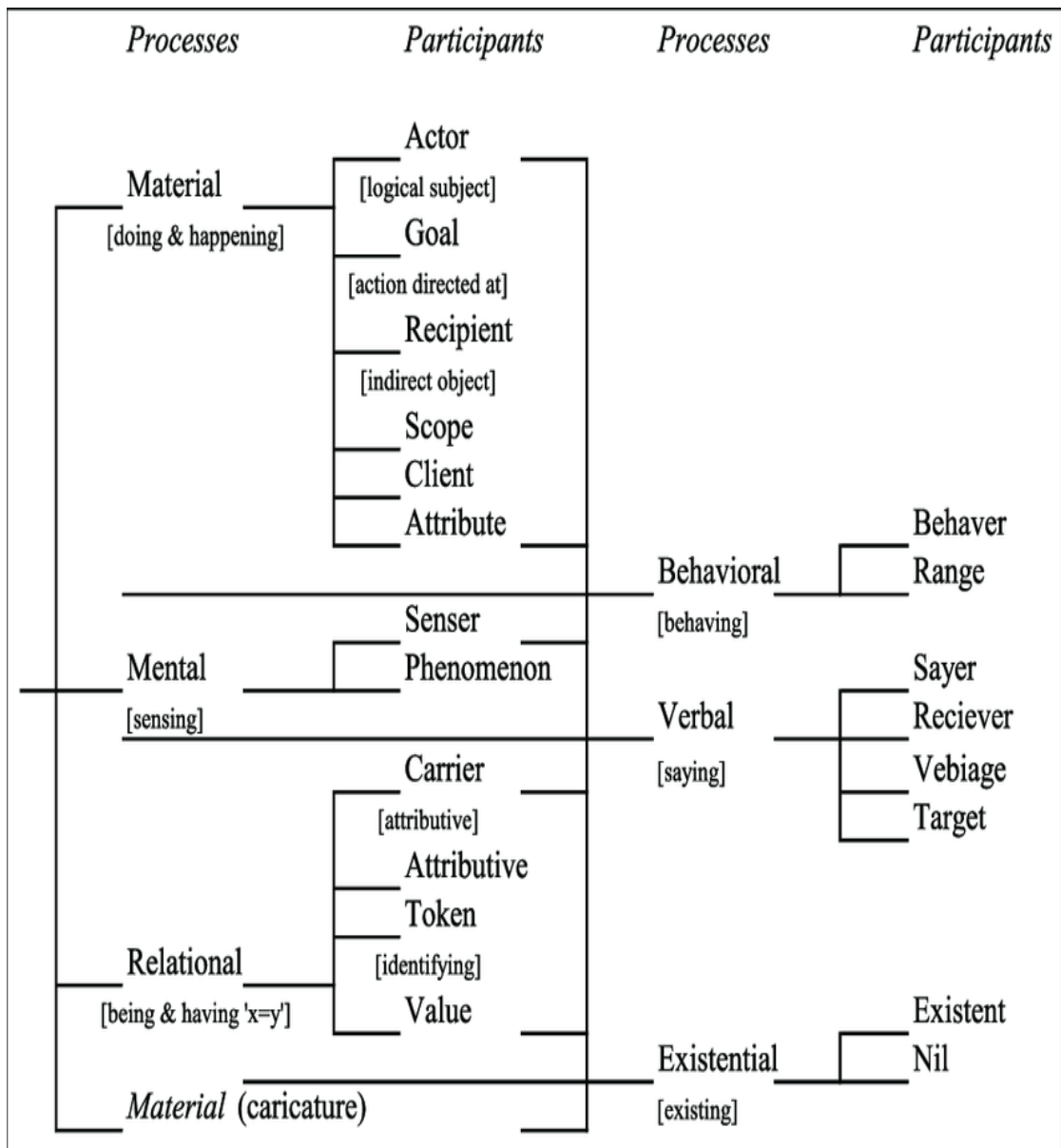


Figure 2.3: Transitivity system network

Source: Dalamu, T. O. 2017. A discourse analysis of language choice in MTN and Etisalat advertisements in Nigeria. Thesis. School of Postgraduate Studies. University of Lagos, Yaba.

From the diagrammatic representation above, the participants in the English clause are Actor, Goal, Recipient, Scope, Client and Attribute for material processes; Senser and Phenomenon for mental processes; Carrier, Attributive, Token and Value for relational processes; Behaver and Range for behavioural processes; Sayer, Receiver, Verbiage and Target for verbal processes; Existent for existential processes.

2.4 Chapter summary

In this chapter, concepts and issues that are critical to this study have been discussed. The chapter begins with a conceptual review of discourse, media discourse, discourse and identity, digs into the importance of context in migration and discourse studies, and it deeply reviews what human migration is, the relationship between migration and other social fields such media and security. It extensively considers different empirical studies that are related to the current study, which help in foregrounding the gap this study covers. On the other hand, it exposes the theories with which the selected data from Nigerian newspapers are explored and analysed. van Dijk's Socio-cognitive Approach to Critical Discourse Analysis, being the main theory for the study, is supported with van Leeuwen's Representation of Social Actors Theory, Mey's Pragmatic Acts Theory and Halliday's Transitivity System.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Chapter overview

This chapter discusses the adopted methodology in carrying out the study. It looks at the research design, study population, sampling technique, sample size, which is followed by the method used for the collection of data. This is followed by the method of data analysis. It presents the conceptual framework that shows the link between the objectives and theories deployed in the study.

3.1 Research design

This study examined discourse representation and ideology in newspaper reports on migration in Nigeria. It specifically teased out the issues embedded in Nigerian newspapers migration reports, looking at discourse issues in the reports, how social actors and actions were constructed and represented, identifying and discussing pragmatic actions performed by social actors, including the news reporters, and the underlying ideologies in the reports, thereby illuminating migration and its correlates in Nigeria as a country of origin, transit and destination of migrants.

To achieve the aim and objectives of this study, an interpretive design was adopted. Interpretive design is conceived to be an aspect of qualitative research which is very significant for migration studies. Amongst the research benefits of qualitative research in migration studies according to Zapata-Barrero and Yalaz (2018: 2) are a production of ample, thorough, and refined analysis, and a better understanding of the voices of social actors and immigrant groups.

3.2 Study population

The study population was all the news reports on migration published in Nigerian newspapers between 2015 and 2021. Broadly, Nigeria consists of six geopolitical

zones, with three from the southern part, namely South West, South South and South East, and three from the northern part, namely North West, North Central and North East. The zones have 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. While there is no authoritative source on the total number of newspapers in Nigeria, for research purposes, scholars have divided the categorisation of Nigerian newspapers on the basis of their location or axis. Therefore, the selected axes for this study were Lagos/Ibadan axis, representing the Southern part of the country, and Abuja/Kaduna axis, representing the Northern part of the country. However, the news reports on migration gathered were only those indexed and archived on the official websites of the selected newspapers. Also, as there was no database that had the total number of published news reports on migration between 2015 and 2021, it was difficult to know the total number of news reports on migration published within the study period by the selected Nigerian newspapers. The period, 2015 to 2021, was significant because the issue of migration, with its correlates, became major talking points nationally, continentally and internationally (IOM, 2018: 13), especially the increase in the death rate of many migrants from Africa in the Sahara Desert and on the Mediterranean Sea (Adeniyi, 2019).

3.3 Sampling technique

The study employed purposive sampling and stratified random sampling. Purposive sampling was used to select six (6) Nigerian newspapers on the basis of the location or axis of the newspapers in Nigeria. The newspapers were *Punch*, *The Guardian*, *The Nation*, *The Sun*, *Daily Trust*, and *Leadership*. Four newspapers (*Punch*, *The Guardian*, *The Nation* and *The Sun*) were from the Lagos/Ibadan axis, and two (*Daily Trust* and *Leadership*) from the Abuja/Kaduna axis. Stratified random sampling was utilised to select news reports from each of the newspapers. The selected Nigerian newspapers reported migration news to a large extent. These newspapers enjoy wide patronage and have national coverage with their print and electronic versions. The electronic versions of the newspapers were preferred in this study.

3.4 Sample size

A total number of three hundred (300) news reports were gathered from the six selected national newspapers. Out of these, one hundred and twenty (120) reports which constitute more than one-third of the total reports gathered were sampled for the

study. The sampled reports were evenly distributed among the six selected national newspapers – *Punch* (20 reports), *The Guardian* (20 reports), *The Nation* (20 reports) *The Sun* (20 reports), *Daily Trust* (20 reports), and *Leadership* (20 reports) – in order to have equal representation of the number of reports for each of the newspapers. This was believed to be representative with a view to achieving the aim and objectives of the study.

3.5 Method of data collection

The keyword of the study, migration, with its synonyms (travel, journey, movement, etc.), was entered and searched in the archive section on the official websites of the selected newspapers. Although the term, migration, featured in biological sciences, all news reports on migration which were biologically related were not included in the data, which were used for analysis in this study. Also, other newspaper entries on migration such as opinions, editorials, advertorials, feature articles, were excluded from the data analysis of this study. Therefore, the results of the search were sieved, downloaded and stored on a personal computer. Only news reports on migration were used for the data analysis of this study.

3.6 Method of data analysis

To analyse the data, discourse-analytic and pragmatic approaches were privileged. After thoroughly studying the data, they were analysed using van Dijk's Socio-cognitive approach to Critical Discourse Analysis, which was complemented by van Leeuwen's Representation of Social Actors Theory, Jacob Mey's Pragmatic Acts Theory and M. A. K. Halliday's Transitivity System of Systemic Functional Linguistics. The Socio-cognitive approach to Critical Discourse Analysis was employed in teasing out discourse issues and ideologies; Transitivity System accounted for the linguistic devices in the discourse issues; Representation of Social Actors Theory and Transitivity System were deployed in determining how social actors were represented and discourse strategies employed in the representations, while Pragmatic Acts Theory was used to account for intentions in the reports.

Wholly, Socio-cognitive approach of van Dijk helped in identifying the ideological polarisations—*us* versus *them*—in the data. Through these, different discourse issues and strategies that were manifest in the texts were brought to the fore. Socio-cognitive

approach was preferred because it had been effectively utilised in migration studies; the most recent of which is van Dijk's (2018) work titled 'migration discourse'. Further, owing to the multidisciplinary nature of Critical Discourse Analysis, the incorporation of other important theoretic models was allowed, so as to have a rich, in-depth and replicable analysis. van Leeuwen's Representation of Social Actors Theory and Transitivity System were blended to show how discourse participants or social actors in the data were lexically and grammatically represented through linguistic choices made by the news reporters and the reported words—whether directly or indirectly—of the social actors. The conjugation of all these theories, especially van Dijk's and van Leeuwen's, was able to lay bare the ideologies inherent in the media reportage of migration events and happenings in Nigerian newspapers.

3.7 Conceptual framework

The conceptual framework below showed the connection between the objectives and theories deployed in the study. It was trifurcated into ideologies, pragmatic acts and representations of social actors. These three were derived from discourse issues at the centre of the conceptual framework. The processes and discourse strategies used in the representations of social actors were also evident, while the ideological discourse structure helped in capturing and foregrounding the prevailing ideologies in the data. The voices of the social actors was also captured. The data source was the Nigerian newspapers in which all aspects of the study hanged. The graphic representation of the conceptual framework is presented in Figure 3.1.

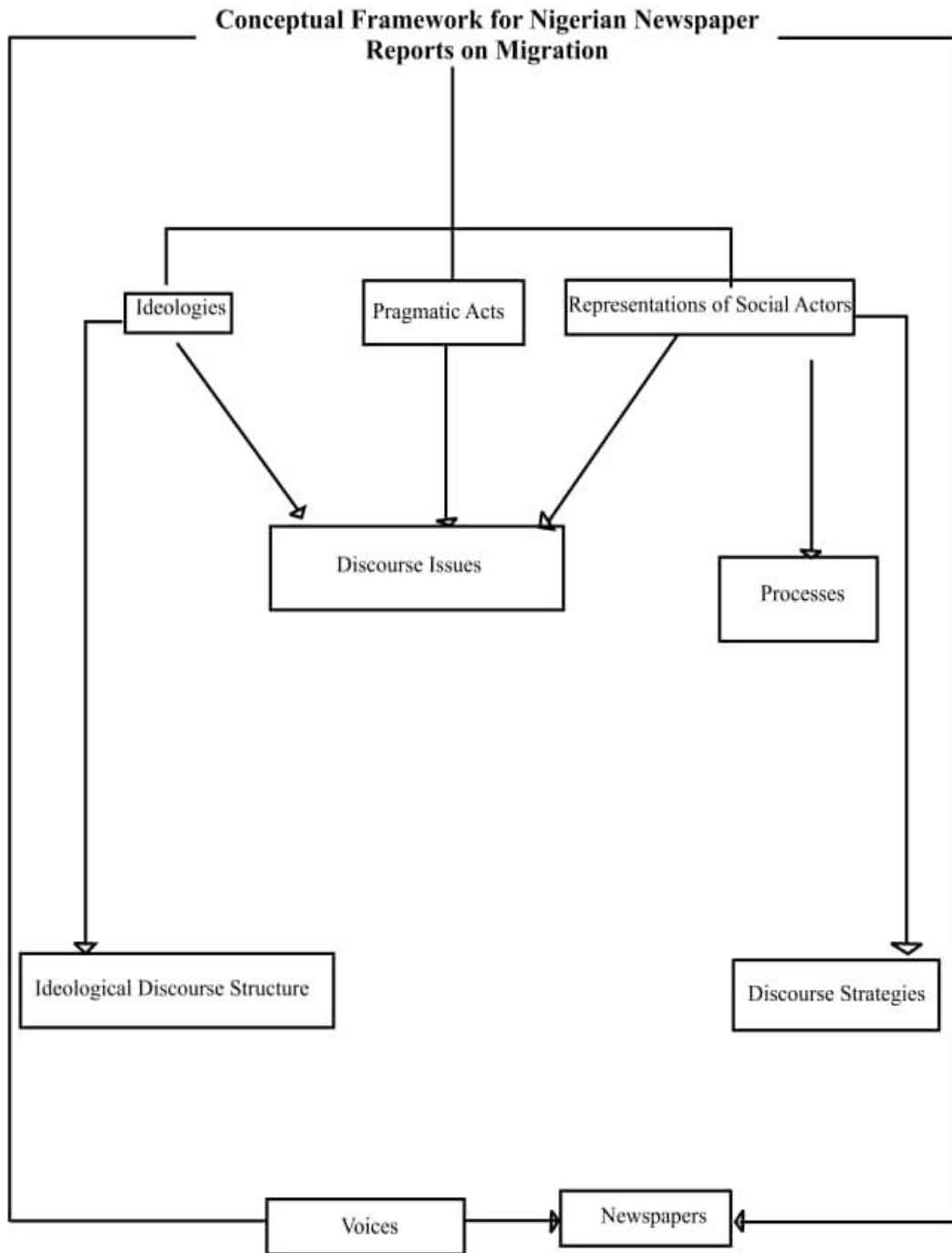


Figure 3.1: Conceptual framework for Nigerian newspaper reports on migration

Source: Researcher (2021)

3.8 Chapter summary

This chapter has detailed the processes involved in the methodology privileged for this study. It discussed its research design and method of data collection. It purposively selected the newspapers and employed stratified random sampling to select the news reports used for the data analysis. It explained the method of data analysis adopted in the study and presented the developed conceptual framework for the data analysis.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS

4.0 Chapter overview

This chapter centres on data analysis and interpretations. It is structured into four parts. The first part identifies and discusses discourse issues, with the embedded linguistic devices, in Nigerian newspaper reports on migration; the second teases out pragmatic acts performed in the data; the third examines representations of social actors in the data and discourse strategies and transitivity indices in the realisation of the identified representations; and, the final part interrogates the ideologies conveyed in the representations through ideological discourse tools and transitivity devices in the data. Each of these is textually illustrated and critically discussed presently.

4.1 Discourse issues in Nigerian newspaper reports on migration

Discourse issues are also called discourse themes or topics. They are typically or mostly conveyed in news headlines, titles and abstracts of a scholarly paper, the beginning of stories or conversations. Discourse issues are important 'because they are the information that is generally best remembered by the recipients' (van Dijk, 2018: 234), having forgotten the details of news reports. Thus, discourse issues can be said to be the most important information in a text. The identified discourse issues in the data are security, human trafficking, poverty, unemployment and immigration. Each of these discourse issues are extensively textually illustrated subsequently.

4.1.1 Security as a discourse issue in Nigerian newspaper reports on migration

Security, a state of being free from danger or threat, is one of the major discourse issues in migration discourse all over the world. Insecurity, which is the opposite of security, can be conflated under security as a discourse issue. Insecurity or security challenge for decades has become a local, national and international discourse issue, even beyond migration. This is further linked with terrorism, which has defied all

government efforts in Nigeria till date. In addition, lack or absence of security has been identified as one of the dominant factors or reasons making people to migrate. Therefore, security, with its attendant correlates in migration reports, is well represented in the news reports in Nigerian newspapers. This is illustrated in the extracts below.

Text 1

Magashi, who said he knew **Nigeria** would be **most hit** by the demise of Deby, voiced the commitment of the Federal Government to control **the influx of refugees and weapons**. He said the absence of Deby's influence on the borders which might worsen security situation in Nigeria and other neighbouring countries underscored the need to beef up **security** around borders, particularly with the Republic of Chad in view of the ongoing **unrest** in the country. (*Daily Trust*, April 22, 2021)

In Text 1, security as a major discourse issue is foregrounded. The Minister of Defence of Nigeria, named Major-General Bashir Magashi (rtd), is captured commenting on what would be the lot of the country, Nigeria, as a result of the death of Deby. For context, Idriss Deby was the former President of Chad – a country that borders Nigeria in the north eastern part. It is interesting to note that Deby died on April 20, 2021, and the minister has already envisaged the consequences of Deby's demise in Nigeria when the news was reported on April 22, 2021. His assertion that **Nigeria would be most hit** as a result of the death of the Chadian president is revealing. In addition, due to the fact that the countries–Chad and Nigeria–share boundaries, for more than a decade now, Boko Haram insurgents have been wreaking havoc in the two countries, with Deby leading the war against insurgency in his country. However, with his death, **the influx of refugees and weapons** from Chad, which is conceived as security threats to Nigeria, is presented.

In migration reports, the phrase **the influx of refugees** (or migrants) **and weapons** is always deployed by social actors to raise consciousness of and rally their fellow citizens together in their campaign against refugees and migrants, thereby presenting migrants as threats to national security. Also, the minister reveals the Federal Government's commitment 'to control' any influx of refugees and weapons. Critically, the inclusion of the lexical noun, **weapons** in the phrase **the influx of refugees and**

weapons within the context of migration shows that the safety and security of the Nigerian people will be threatened if **the influx** is left uncontrolled – hence foregrounding the representation of migrants as security threats. Therefore, the need to **beef up security around borders** due to the absence, occasioned by death, of the Chadian president becomes very important so as to contain the envisaged worsening security situation in Nigeria for the national safety and security of the Nigerian people.

Text 2

The House of Representatives has called on the Federal Government to stop further **entry of herdsmen from other African countries into Nigeria**...Elumelu also noted that **security agents** have consistently pointed out that those herdsmen were not Nigerians but migrants from neighbouring countries. He added that **the killer herdsmen**, who operate in **militant style**, have consistently **instilled fears** in the lives of local farmers and villagers residing in the affected areas. (*Leadership*, June 10, 2020)

In Text 2, the discourse issue of security in migration report is portrayed. Unlike Text 1 above which has a member of the executive arm of government asserting and touting the government's commitment to control the influx of refugees and weapons, the one here presents the legislative arm of government calling on its executive counterpart—the Federal Government of Nigeria—to secure the citizens from the marauding herdsmen. Migration has been said to be political and legislating on major issues is the main function of the legislature, which the House of Representatives represents here. Contextually, for a number of years, there has been frequent reportage of herdsmen's clashes with farmers which result in killing, maiming and raping of natives and their women on their farm lands, to the extent that the Global Terrorism Index (2015) named the killer herdsmen as the fourth deadliest terror group in the world.

Within the sponsored motion as evident in the report, the activities and foreignness of the herdsmen are revealed. This is captured in the claim that **herdsmen** have been on **rampage, destroying farm lands, burning villages and killing innocent Nigerians** indiscriminately in many states across the federation **for some years now**. The combination of negative collocates to portray the herdsmen accentuates the potency and frequency of their attacks without sparing any of their victims. Interestingly, the

report is significant to migration due to the assertion made by the motion-mover, Elumelu, that security officials have repeatedly emphasised that the herdsmen in question are not Nigerian, but instead are herdsmen who have migrated from neighbouring countries. This assertion is a reinforcement of the already revealed migrant construct as threat to the safety and security of the people. The motion can, therefore, be said to be premised on the non-Nigerianness of the killer herdsmen, perhaps as a way of exonerating Nigerian herdsmen. However, as an implication, the assertion of the security agents shows that the government and its foot soldiers—security personnel—are not doing enough in safeguarding the citizens of the country, therefore, the need for a wake-up call.

Text 3

One of the **farmers**, who identified himself as **Sunday Owoseni**, said there was a need for **security agencies to take attacks by the herdsmen seriously** before it degenerated into a serious security threat. **He** said after the **abduction** of a former Minister for Finance, **Chief Olu Falae**, by the herdsmen, everyone thought the government and other stakeholders would be more proactive about reducing such **attacks** on farmers... (*Punch*, February 15, 2016)

The voice of a Nigerian citizen, who is identified as a farmer and whose name is **Sunday Owoseni**, is presented in Text 3. Security as a discourse issue in migration can be seen in the noun phrases **security agencies, attacks by the herdsmen, serious security threat, abduction**, etc. Contextually, after quoting the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Solomon Arase, who states that many herdsmen causing trouble in Nigeria are foreigners, the newspaper proceeds to provide the viewpoint of farmers who have been impacted by the herdsmen's insurgency. As noted earlier, farmers and herdsmen have opposing businesses, which mostly fuel conflict between them. In his words, he, **Sunday Owoseni**, challenges the security agencies, and by extension the Nigerian government, to beef up security measures to combat the atrocities of the identified **foreign** herdsmen before their degeneration into **a serious security threat**.

Even though a former Minister of Finance, Chief Olu Falae, was kidnapped by herdsmen, the sayer finds it incredulous that the authorities and other parties involved, especially their security formations, fail to be secure the people, particularly the farmers, who can be said to be the first direct victims of the

rampaging herdsmen. This is however contrary to the expectation of the people, as represented in the inclusive indefinite pronoun, **everyone**. The implication of this is that the government does not either care about the citizens or has lost control of the security management of the country, giving free reign of terror to foreign herdsmen. Therefore, the claim that the government has failed to address the threat posed by the Fulani herdsmen indicates that the government is powerless, complicit and clueless about the security situation of the country.

Moreover, an ethnic dimension can be gleaned in the report. Going by the proper nouns in the text, it can be said that the direct victims of this security threat are the Yoruba people – **Sunday Owoseni** and **Olu Falae**, while the aggressors are Fulani as revealed in the phrase **the Fulani's threat**. The former are farmers and the latter are herdsmen. The ethnic colouration of the insurgency further polarises the country and complicates the security situation, bringing about the issues of indigeneship and natives versus settlers and immigrants. The sayer is, therefore, warning the government to act fast before a state of war becomes the reality in the country.

Text 4

Two Indian nationals have been **detained** by the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) in Lagos for entering Nigeria **without proper documentation**. ...the two **male suspects** were intercepted during the screening of nationals to be evacuated from Nigeria through the Murtala Mohammed International Airport Lagos. The Comptroller disclosed that while **profiling the men**, it was discovered that they entered Nigeria through the land border and had visa on arrival application approval which they failed to present to Immigration at the border. (*The Nation*, June 22, 2020)

Text 4 depicts security as a discourse issue in migration. The news reporter uses passive voice to present the news story by fronting the recipients of the action **Two Indian nationals**, who are acted upon by the noun phrase **the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS)**. The NIS is the paramilitary organisation in charge of immigration in the country. With the verb phrase **have been detained**, the NIS is represented as a powerful security formation that has the constitutional power to protect Nigeria from externally fuelled security challenges. The prepositional phrase **without proper documentation** is used to capture the reason for the detention of the two Indian

nationals. Being undocumented immigrants, it can be said that the Indians may pose some security challenge to the country. The Murtala Mohammed International Airport, Ikeja, arguably the most popularly used international airport in Nigeria, being the place of the arrest of the two Indian nationals, is situated in Lagos, the economic and commercial capital of Nigeria. Hence, whatever happens in Lagos may likely reverberate in other parts of the country.

In addition, entering a country **without proper documentation** is a criminal offence in migration practices, as such weakens and threatens the sovereignty of the country, which the NIS is ever ready to defend as represented in the report. This defence is revealed in the prepositional phrase **during the screening of nationals to be evacuated from Nigeria**. The embedded infinitival clause **to be evacuated from Nigeria** is very revealing as it presents the NIS as competent and patriotic managers of immigration in the country. Also, it can be inferred that the screening is meant to separate legal and regular migrants, who are with ‘proper documentation’ from illegal and irregular migrants ‘without proper documentation’. However, the verb **evacuated** presupposes that the Indian nationals are already in the country illegally or unlawfully, which necessitates the need for their removal and repatriation to their country of origin. That the two Indian nationals were referred to as **suspects** further reveals security as a discourse issue in migration reports because the noun **suspects** is often deployed within security or legal context, and using this lexeme within the context of migration depicts the discourse issue of security in migration news reportage. The claim of ‘the Lagos Airport Comptroller of the NIS, Abdullahi Usman’, that the Indians **entered Nigeria through the land border** implicates the porosity of Nigeria’s borders and easily accessible by foreigners. It is not unlawful to enter the country through the land border, but that the men did not provide proof of approval for their visa on arrival application to Immigration at the border connotes that they may have some criminal intentions in Nigeria, which being undocumented would help them to achieve without being caught.

Text 5

No fewer than **10,000 illegal immigrants** were **apprehended** in **Oyo State** between January and December 2016 by men and officers of the Nigeria Immigrations Service (NIS), Zone F, Ibadan. ...Lawal stated that thousands of illegal immigrants into the zone have also been apprehended by men and officers of NIS with **fake** or **invalid** documents, and have been sent back to their countries **in accordance with the law**. (*The Sun*, February 22, 2017)

Text 5 is similar to Text 4 with the usage of passivation to foreground discourse issue of security in migration reportage in Nigerian newspapers. Here, the subject ‘no fewer than 10,000 illegal immigrants’ is passivised; its verbal action **were apprehended** is performed by **men and officers of the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS)**. Two striking discourse practices noticeable in this construction are the fronting of the actual object of the clause and deployment of number. Apprehending **no fewer than 10,000 illegal immigrants** within a calendar year—**January and December 2016**—means that the Nigerian border has little or no management, which makes many illegal immigrants to access the country with ease. This can be said to be one of the reasons the country has been battling with terrorism and insurgency for many years now.

Having failed to secure the borders of the country, the NIS, the actual performer of the reported verbal action, is trying to save its face by touting that it has apprehended more than **10,000 illegal immigrants**, who are not supposed to have entered the country if the border security configuration of the country is effective and efficient. The inclusion and fronting of this huge number of illegal immigrants will further rouse Nigerians, especially the masses, against foreigners, which may breed xenophobia and its resultant consequences. Also, it is interesting to note that **Oyo State**, which has only Republic of Benin as a country that borders it, is the largest state in the southern Nigeria. As much as possible, the NIS presents itself as up and doing in the management of immigration into the country. This is shown in the expression of Olaseni Lawal, the Assistant Comptroller General of NIS in the zone, that **thousands of illegal immigrants into the zone** reinforcing the fronting and deployment of number as a discourse tool in the first sentence of the extract. Moreover, he shows that immigration law in Nigeria is lenient, since the apprehended illegal immigrants **with**

fake or invalid documents are only sent back to their countries without any legal punishment being served.

4.1.2 Human trafficking as a discourse issue in Nigerian newspaper reports on migration

Human trafficking is a criminal activity in which people are recruited, harboured, transported, bought or kidnapped to serve an exploitative purpose, such as sexual slavery, forced labour or child soldiery. Human trafficking can be local or international. It is local when people are exploitatively used against their will within their country of origin. It is international when people are trafficked outside their country of origin for exploitative purposes. Human trafficking is rife in the Third World countries, and many Nigerians are victims of human trafficking. Hence, it is one of the dominant issues in migration discourse in Nigeria. This is textually analysed in the following extracts.

Text 6

The Jigawa State Command of the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) says it **has intercepted seven victims of suspected human trafficking** in the state.... Ismail Abba Aliyu, said they were **aged between 16 and 28** and were intercepted...heading **from Kano to Niger Republic en route Libya**. ...Aliyu said the suspected victims were all females from the **southern part** of the country, including one each from **Lagos, Kwara and Oyo** states; and two each from **Ogun and Imo** states. (*Daily Trust*, May 8, 2021)

Text 6 reveals human trafficking as a recurrent discourse issue in Nigerian newspaper migration reports. In the extract, the subject of the first sentence, **The Jigawa State Command of the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS)**, performs the action of interception of **seven victims of suspected human trafficking**. For context, it is a norm and modus operandi of different Nigerian security operatives to parade mostly suspects and, at times, victims of any crime before the media—perhaps as a way of showing how effective they are in combatting crimes in the society, even though this practice has been argued against (Madubuike-Ekwe & Obayemi, 2019, and Ajayi & Inasa-Thomas, 2021). It is, therefore, not surprising that the NIS parades victims of human trafficking before news reporters in the report. Further, the age range and gender of the victims are captured in the news reportage. That the victims are **all**

females between the ages of **16** and **28** reveals that **girls** and **young women** are prone to human trafficking, most especially to be used as prostitutes or sex slaves by their traffickers. The international nature of human trafficking reported here is captured in the prepositional phrase **from Kano to Niger Republic en route Libya**. In irregular migration from West Africa, Niger Republic-Libyan route features predominantly for irregular migrants in their bid to access Europe.

Another striking piece of information in the extract is that all the victims are said to be **from southern part of the country**. Within the Nigerian context, the north and the south are always at each other's throats on almost all issues of national importance. Each defends its interests at the detriment of the other. The polarisation of south-north is subtly reinforced in the report. More so, *Daily Trust*, the newspaper which makes this report, is of the northern extraction. Hence, the 'southernisation' of the trafficked girls and young women can be said to further polarise the country in its southern-northern divide. However, the inclusion of **Kwara** – a state in the north central geopolitical zone of the country – in the southern categorisation in the extract implies some sort of northern distancing from human trafficking. This may likely be the reason the state, **Kwara**, is 'southernly' categorised. Also, that the interception of the victims is done in the northern part of the country—**Jigawa State**—portrays the NIS in the north as effective and efficient to the extent of saving seven female southern victims of human trafficking, thus valourising and masculinising the saviour north while victimising and feminising the rescued south.

Text 7

Unknown to me that the man **I** was introduced to was a **trafficker** and had already **sold me** to another man **in Agbor, Delta**. The man who **bought me** in Agbor also **sold me** to another man in that same Agbor. From Agbor, **I** was finally **sold** to someone **in Kano**. This, they conveniently did **under the guise** of linking me up with those who will make **the trip easy and smooth** for me, **Ikponmwosa said**. We were **36** that left **Kano** for Libya, but only **four** of us **made it alive**.... (*Daily Trust*, February 5, 2021)

In Text 7, the human trafficking experience of the main human subject in his actual words is presented by the newspaper. The deployment of the name of the human subject **Ikponmwosa**, reporting verb **said** and the use of personal pronouns **I** and **me**

show that it is a personally experiential event that is being recounted by the human subject and reported by the newspaper. The extract presents a terrible and inhuman treatment meted on the subject by human traffickers. Co-textually, the man leaves his relatively flourishing cement business to pursue a better life in Europe, but in the process, he ends up in the den of human traffickers. Commoditisation or objectification of human beings is evident in the excerpt. The lexical verbs **sold** and **bought** and the first person objective pronoun **me** represent this commoditisation and objectification. This reveals that human traffickers dehumanise their victims by turning them to dispensable goods, objects and commodities, which can be used as their owners so desire.

Furthermore, ignorance on the part of the victim and deception on the part of the traffickers can be gleaned in the excerpt. The victim's ignorance is portrayed in the first sentence in Text 7 which is signalled by the thematised phrase **Unknown to me**, while deception as a strategy used in trapping their victims is seen in the phrase **under the guise of linking me....** Also, it can be inferred from the excerpt that human trafficking is a highly networked criminal business empire. This explains why a man can be deceived from Agbor in Delta State, southern Nigeria, linked to Kano, northern Nigeria and finally to Libya, a country in North Africa. That a-31-year-old man could be trafficked means that human traffickers spare no one, especially able bodied persons, in their nefarious inhuman trade. Therefore, there is no distancing as far as the discourse issue of human trafficking is concerned as it involves traffickers from the southern part and the northern part of Nigeria who network with their criminal counterparts in different parts of the world. Unfortunately, the last sentence in Text 7 affirms the dangers involved in irregular migration, whether forced, persuasive or voluntary, as uncertainty of reaching their destination and death of the migrants are the common denominators due to the lack of basic necessities of life—food and water—on the journey.

Text 8

A **human trafficking** victim, **Love John**, says **she slept with more than 400 men in less than five months** in the Sango Ota area of Ogun State. Love, **22**, and her **23-year-old sister, Happiness**, were **lured into prostitution** sometime in January by their eldest sister, **Mary**. ...However, by the time they discovered that they had been trafficked, the victims said they had become trapped. (*Punch*, May 19, 2016)

Text 8 captures the trafficking experience of ladies identified as **Love, Happiness** and **Joy**, who are tricked into prostitution by **their eldest sister and cousin** named **Mary**. Although the human trafficking reported here is local, that is, the persons involved are Nigerians within their country, the body of the news report reveals that internal migration from the village of the victims to city, Sango Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria, is evident. The newspaper deploys number game, as seen in noun phrase **more than 400 men**, to reinforce the prostitution scene presented in the extract by using the first sentence, which is also the topic sentence, to uncover the experience of the main victim in the news story. The noun phrase, **a human trafficking victim**, appositively picks **Love John** as the sayer of the verbal clause, which sums up the whole news story. The verbal process is **says** while the verbiage is **she slept with more than 400 men in less than five months**.

The informal expression **slept with** means a sexual intercourse between persons, especially males and females. This embedded material process shows that the victim, **Love John**, is the actor that acts on **more than 400 men**. This noun phrase, an instance of number game, presupposes a prostitution scene because in an ideal situation, a lady would not willingly have sexual intercourse with **more than 400 men** if she is not being forced to, except she is a sex maniac. Further, the period, in which the multiple sexual intercours take place, **in less than five month**, implies that the victim has penetrative sex with at least three men on a daily basis. Hence, contextually, the lady is not the actor but the victim, who is feasted upon by the **more than 400 men**, and the proceeds of which enrich her trafficker, more specifically. The ladies' ages are revealed as **22, 23** and **25**, respectively. This means that they are indeed young and perhaps ignorant of deception which is employed to 'lure' them into sexual trafficking. It is rather incredulous that it is **their eldest sister and cousin** who **tricked** them into

prostitution, revealing that traffickers spare no one, not even siblings or relations, so far financial gains are involved.

The usual gimmick is to **promise** their victims of **jobs** so as **to make a decent living**. The implication of this is that trafficked persons are mostly vulnerable people, who are easily deceived with the promise of good life, which is most times illusive, dangerous and life threatening. The imagery in the news report is that of hunter and prey. Through the choice of lexical verbs **tricked**, **lured** and **trapped**, it is obvious that **Love**, **Happiness** and **Joy** are the prey, while **Mary**, **their elder sister and cousin** is the hunter. Their trust in their sister and cousin is, therefore, betrayed, shattered and exploited.

Text 9

Some are already **recruited** by **their traffickers** in the **country of origin**, others may start their migration journey voluntarily, she told a news conference in Abuja. ...the vast majority of them **fall prey** to traffickers in transit countries, especially in **Libya**, and [are] subject to all forms of **human rights violations** including torture, rape, extortion.... (*The Guardian*, September 11, 2018)

Text 9 typifies international nature of human trafficking of Nigerian nationals. The person whose words are presented as the news story is denoted by the pronoun **she**, which co-textually refers in the body of the report to **Maria Grazia Giammarinaro**, a special rapporteur of the United Nations on human trafficking in Nigeria. She is thus a representative of the international organisation in the country. In the report, she criticises the Nigerian management of the issue of human trafficking. Text 9 is a verbal clause, which hangs on the verbal process **told** in the first sentence. The pronoun, **Some**, is used anaphorically to reference **Nigerians** who are said to have been already enlisted by their traffickers in their country of origin. The country of origin referenced here is Nigeria. This gives the impression that human trafficking is easily carried out within the borders of the Nigerian state. That citizens of a sovereign state are easily vulnerable to being recruited by traffickers in their country means that the country is tilting towards state collapse as it has failed to protect its citizenry from human traffickers.

Implicatively, it can be said that even the traffickers are Nigerians who perpetuate this inhuman act against their fellow citizens for financial gains and other selfish benefits.

Human trafficking has been noted to operate as a cartel with networked tentacles from the country of origin of the trafficked persons through the country of transit and to the country of destination. In addition, two groups of trafficked persons are captured in the report. The first category is the directly recruited persons from the country of origin, and the second is voluntary migrants who get in contact later in the course of their migration to other countries. Further, she avers that the country is lacking in safe and regular migration channels, which lead to making **the vast majority** susceptible to the schemes of human traffickers. This reinforces lack of proper governance to curb or reduce the challenge of human trafficking. **Libya** is specifically picked out among the transit countries as a place where the migrants, especially those who have been trafficked are vulnerable to various violations of their human rights, such as **torture, sexual assault**, blackmail and **exploitation** that can qualify as enslavement and **forced labour**. The combination of these negative nouns shows that the victims of human trafficking do not have pleasant experience, but are exposed to life-threatening experiences, which are inimical to their welfare and wellness. Making this known **in Abuja**, which is the central seat of power in Nigeria, can be said to connote challenging the federal government and its delegates to fully address the issue of human trafficking, which is fuelled mostly by economic reasons.

Text 10

Obaseki **noted** that collaborative efforts across international borders would go a long way to **identify, arrest** and **prosecute traffickers** and **smugglers** in their different countries and states of origin. ...**Edo State** has recorded **impressive gains** in the fight against human trafficking, which include opening up economic opportunities for youths, building local capacity to drive economic growth... to check the trend. (*The Nation*, December 2, 2019)

Human trafficking as an illegal international criminal business is evident in Text 10. The extract is reported indirectly by the news reporter. The obvious voice in Text 10 is that of **Governor Obaseki**, who seeks **collaborative efforts** in combating the menace of human trafficking, particularly in his state, Edo, and commends himself and his administration for their significant achievement in combatting **human trafficking**. Edo State has been said to be the leading state in Nigeria where human trafficking, especially to Europe, is rife. However, the governor shows how he has been able to curtail the menace in the state through **opening up economic opportunities for**

youth, who migrate the most of humans and are vulnerable to human trafficking. This denotes that the governor recognises the importance of provision of economic opportunities because most youth migration is economic driven.

Since the government of Edo State has started to **check the trend** of human trafficking, there is a need for **collaborative efforts** amongst concerned countries, that is, **across international borders** to holistically combat human trafficking. The three areas the governor thinks the menace can be checked collaboratively are captured in the infinitival phrase **to identify, arrest and prosecute traffickers and smugglers**. The identification, arrest and prosecution of traffickers and smugglers **would go a long way** in checking the trend. Human trafficking, at times, begins with human smuggling, which refers to the act of offering assistance, such as transportation or forged documents, to a person who willingly desires to unlawfully enter another country. It is worth noting that while the initial criminal act may involve human smuggling, it has the potential to swiftly transition into human trafficking. As there are human traffickers so are there human smugglers, who facilitate illegal and irregular migration between the countries of origin of potential migrants to their countries of destination, even though there is no guarantee that the migrants would reach their destination. Sometimes, human smugglers work in collaboration with human traffickers – all to the detriment of their clients, the migrants. Human trafficking is an international networked criminal business, and to combat such, there is a need for an international collaboration amongst countries for significant achievements against it.

Text 11

According to him, in the first half of 2015, **Nigerian citizens ranked 9th** of all persons granted **international protection** in EU's 28 member states. Nigerian nationals are the **most** numerous among **non-European victims** of trafficking in human beings and they are also the **most** numerous among traffickers, Young stated. (*The Sun*, June 10, 2016)

Text 11 typifies another instance of human trafficking as an illicit international trade. The excerpt contains mainly assertions, which reveal the state of identified Nigerian citizens in Europe. The pronoun **him** and the proper noun **Young** make known the person making the assertions. In the body of the news, the pronoun refers to **Mr.**

Richard Young, Deputy Head of Delegation, EU. He is the authority to whom the assertions in the text are ascribed. In the extract, Nigerian citizens are said to be ranked as the **ninth** highest recipient of **international protection** among the 28 member states of the EU. This denotes that a number of Nigerians desire to migrate or something unpalatable is fuelling their flight from their country of origin. Even the phrase **persons granted international protection** presupposes that such persons are either being persecuted or threatened politically, economically or religiously within their local or national space, which precipitates their decision to seek **international protection**, since their nation cannot provide them with the needed and adequate security, especially of their lives.

The second sentence of the excerpt reveals the actual words of the speaker, **Young**. In this sentence, negative assertions about human trafficking of Nigerians are captured. Nigerian nationals are represented as **the most numerous among non-European victims of trafficking in human beings**. The qualifying adjective in the phrase shows the extent of the vulnerability of Nigerian citizens to human trafficking, making them the **most** trafficked ‘non-European’ persons in Europe. It can be argued that since the economic realities in Nigeria are not friendly, Nigerians easily throw caution to the wind in their bid to leave their country of origin, even if it is through human trafficking. On the other hand, it is possible that with the promise of favourable economy and better life in Europe, Nigerian nationals are ever keen on migrating to Europe, using any available means. Interestingly, not only are Nigerian citizens trafficked, but they are also said to be **the most numerous among traffickers**. This suggests that it is Nigerians in Europe who come to pick or link up with their fellow citizens in Nigeria to traffic them to Europe for their selfish purposes. Therefore, as far as financial gains are involved, such Nigerians forget anything about being their biblical brother’s keeper. Text 11 further reinforces the internationally networked nature of human trafficking, having Nigerians as the source of goods (humans), at the middle (transit) and at the destination (Europe).

4.1.3 Poverty as a discourse issue in Nigerian newspaper reports on migration

Poverty, which is the state of being poor, is among the main problems that push people out of their country of origin to another country. Hence, poverty is dominant in migration discourse, especially in newspaper reportage of migration in Nigeria.

According to the World Bank (2020: n.p.) ‘40 per cent of Nigerians (83 million people) live below the poverty line, while another 25 per cent (53 million) are vulnerable’. With this huge number of people living below the poverty line and being vulnerable, it is clear that poverty is a major push factor that propels Nigerians, especially the young people, to migrate to other countries whether legally or illegally. This is illustrated textually below.

Text 12

Italy has become the **main arrival point** in Europe for people **fleeing** persecution and **poverty** in Africa, most of them crossing the Mediterranean from **lawless** Libya in search of a better life. Nearly **600 migrants** have **died** so far this year trying to reach Italy from North Africa.... Some **4,600 people** are thought to have died last year. (*The Sun*, April 3, 2017)

In Text 12, persecution and **poverty** are noted as parts of the causes of irregular migration, which is captured in the lexical word – **fleeing**. The word, **fleeing**, which is a continuous form of the verb ‘flee’ means ‘running away from a place or situation of danger’. In the first sentence of the extract, two continents are compared – **Europe** and **Africa**. While the former is presented as receptive, welcoming and accommodating, the latter is represented as persecuting, poverty-stricken and lawless. Thus, sons and daughters of Africa—citizens of African countries—are portrayed as abandoned and deprived of the necessities of life by their homeland, motherland or fatherland as the case may be. This is further seen in the negative adjective—**lawless**—which is used to qualify the only African country in the extract **Libya**, which can be said to be a miniature or representation of the whole continent of Africa. Since lawlessness is commonplace in Africa, the persecuted and impoverished people are constructed as having no option but to flee, in order to access a **better life** elsewhere. Thus, the continuous nature of the verb – **fleeing** – shows the intensity and continuity of persecution, poverty and lawlessness in Africa which effectuates and fuels irregular migration.

However, in the second and third sentences of the extract, it is revealed that many fleeing Africans do not get to their destination—Europe—safe and sound. The IOM estimation shows the number of death as at the time of the news reportage in April 2017 to be **nearly 600**, and **4, 600 people** are said to have died **last year**, that is, in

2016. As noted earlier, uncertainty is one of the dominant indices in irregular migration because many people are lost to all sorts of dangers and disasters in their pursuit of a better life in Europe. This uncertainty is revealed in the two constructs in the extract. These are the adverbial element, **nearly** and the verbal phrase, **are thought to have died**. Therefore, it can be deduced that irregular migration is extremely risky and potentially life threatening as nothing is guaranteed. Unfortunately, the final sentence presents the summary of the whole excerpt, and this implies that despite the dangers involved in irregular migration, pauperised and persecuted Africans are still ready to weather the storm in their quest for a better life which might fatally become a bitter life.

Text 13

Many of **the Nigerian girls are from poor families in Edo**, who are psychologically manipulated during a **voodoo ritual before leaving**, Di Giacomo said. According to him, they are accompanied by a madam-linked to the traffickers on the long journey through Niger and Libya. The **increasing number of minors** arriving really do not have any idea even **what prostitution is, what sex is**. (*Punch*, July 21, 2017)

Text 13 presents poverty as the root cause of irregular migration, which leads to human trafficking of the identified **Nigerian girls**. The text as whole is an instance of verbal process as shown by the reporting verb **said**, whose sayer is **Di Giacomo** who is the spokesman of International Organisation for Migration as presented in the body of the news report. Aside being the verbiage of the verbal process, the first sentence also has two instances of relational clause. In the first relational clause, the prepositional phrase **from poor families in Edo** clearly uncovers the economic state of **the Nigerian girls**. Coming from **poor families** indicates that the girls are at a higher risk of vulnerability or susceptibility to human trafficking. As noted earlier, **Edo** is very notorious for sex-motivated human trafficking. In addition, the second relational clause, which serves as the modifier of **the Nigerian girls**, uncovers the diabolical means which human traffickers employ to get the girls to do their bidding since the girls have been **manipulated psychologically** through the use of **voodoo ritual**. Because the girls understand the consequences of not abiding by the terms of the **voodoo ritual**, they would be manipulated and forced to abide by the dictates of their traffickers, even if

their human rights and dignity are violated, thereby making them to be trapped in their situation.

More so, the second sentence in Text 13 depicts the fact that human trafficking is a highly networked cartel as **the Nigerian girls** are not left unaccompanied by their traffickers. The noun phrase **a madam-linked to the traffickers** shows the nature of international human trafficking with Nigeria as the source of the human goods. **Niger and Libya** as previously noted are the channel or route through which irregular migration and international human trafficking from Nigeria are directed to Europe. Interestingly, despite being a woman as presupposed by the meaning of the noun **madam**, it is rather disheartening that it is a woman who is the link between the Nigerian girls, who can be said to be ignorant and innocent, and the human traffickers, who will dehumanise and abuse the former. This accentuates the claim that human trafficking is not gender specific as both men and women are involved in the illicit trade. The third sentence represents how ignorant and innocent **the Nigerian girls** are because they are **minors** who do not understand what prostitution or sex is. Also, it is rather unfortunate that the **number** of arriving **minors** for sex trafficking is reinforced by the adjective **increasing**. Hence, unless the root cause of poverty at home is wholly addressed by the government and political leadership, Nigerians, especially Nigerian girls, will always be exploited by human traffickers; for reduction in poverty or eradication of the same will definitely break the supply chain of human trafficking in Nigeria.

Text 14

...Ambassador Martins Uhomoibhi, recently **stated** that in **2016 alone**, close to **9,000** people **were lost** while going through the **desert** and the **Mediterranean** in search of greener pasture because of widespread poverty at home.
(*The Guardian*, January 4, 2019)

Text 14 furthers the position that poverty is one of the leading push factors for migration from Nigeria to other parts of the world, especially Europe, as shown in the excerpt. Being poor precludes the migrating youths from regular migration, while utilising their only available option—irregular migration. The excerpt only contains one sentence which embeds clauses and lexicalised noun phrases. The main verb in the extract is **stated**, a verbal process, and its sayer is revealed in the news report in the noun phrase ‘the president and founder of the Pan African Institute of Global Affairs

and Strategy, Ambassador Martins Uhomoibhi'. The status of the sayer becomes important in the news report to give authority and ascribe validity to his stated claim. In his verbiage, it is revealed that **close to 9,000 people were lost** in their pursuit of **greener pasture**.

It is rather surprising that this huge number of people **were lost** within a year, that is, **2016 alone**. The verb phrase **were lost** can be said to be a euphemism for 'died' in the context of the news report. As previously noted, the route where these **9,000 people were lost** is identified in the prepositional phrase, **through the desert and the Mediterranean**, that is, the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea. This means that the lost people were irregular migrants, presumably poor, who cannot afford safe and regular means of migration to Europe. Hence, the sole reason adjudged by the reported sayer is captured in the noun phrase **widespread poverty at home**, that is, an abject and all-consuming poverty. The prepositional phrase **at home** loses its soothing, resting and caring denotations in context, forcing the lost people to seek refuge, comfort and rest elsewhere. Unfortunately, these people were unable to achieve their life goal of reaching the sought **greener pasture**, as their lives **were lost** in their pursuit.

Text 15

The EU has discovered that all the **measures** put in place to **stem the tide of illegal migration** across the Mediterranean Sea have not deterred the would-be migrants from embarking on the **tortuous and hazardous** trip to Europe. **Just like a balloon that is tied in one place only to expand in another**, they can't cope with the ever increasing influx of illegal immigrants from Sub-Sahara Africa. ...human beings have always wanted to escape poverty and misery and today many Africans see Europe as their Eldorado. (*The Nation*, September 6, 2019)

Text 15 depicts that in spite of all the implemented measures by the European Union, irregular/illegal migration from Sub-Sahara Africa is unending. The journey is qualified by two negative adjectives **tortuous and hazardous**. These descriptive adjectives aptly capture the nature of illegal migration. Also, the trip is compared with **a balloon that is tied in one place only to expand in another**. This means that all efforts to rein in on the ever increasing influx of illegal immigrants from **Sub-Sahara[n] Africa** by the member-states of the EU, especially Spain, Italy and France,

are not bringing their desired results. The clause **they can't cope** is very important. The pronoun **they** refers to the mentioned countries, while the verb phrase **can't cope** means the countries' resources have been overstretched due to **the influx of illegal immigrants**. More so, that **they can't cope** may make the citizens or even the governments of these countries to employ inhuman methods against the tide of illegal immigrants from Sub-Saharan Africa as previous studies such as Mohd Don and Lee (2015) and Lirola (2016) revealed.

The report sees migration as a human nature as it asserts that the flow of migrants cannot be reversed or diminished by any warships conducting patrols and monitoring the Mediterranean Sea. Poverty and misery, which are contextually synonymous, are the notable causes of the influx of illegal immigrants, and as a matter of fact, humans will surely seek to escape them through any available means. A huge contrast is evident between **Africa**, which is full of poverty and misery, that the people are always trying to escape from, and **Europe**, which is considered as **their** (immigrants') **Eldorado**, denoting any place which is rich in gold, opportunity, etc. This can be said to be what the African migrants are searching for through migration. Therefore, these Africans in their desperation to live their desired life will defy any restrictive measures implemented as inhibitions on their way to reaching their goal. The only measure that can stem the tide of illegal immigration from Africa to Europe is reduction of poverty and misery with enabling environment for Africans to thrive in their countries of birth/origin.

4.1.4 Unemployment as a discourse issue in Nigerian newspaper reports on migration

Closely related to poverty is unemployment as a discourse issue in Nigerian migration discourse. It can even be said that unemployment is a major cause of poverty. Unemployment is the state of not having a job when one is competent and ready to work. It is the fact that people who want jobs cannot get them. It is one of the reasons people, especially the youth, migrate from their country of origin to another in order to access employment opportunities in other climes. In the migration literature, the term, labour or economic migrants, is used to denote people who migrate for employment purposes. Thus, unemployment is dominant in world migration discourse, and it

features extensively in Nigerian newspaper reports on migration. This is discussed textually subsequently.

Text 16

...I am a **graduate** but there is **no work** for me after completing my NYSC over seven years ago. I was teaching in a **private school** but what I get in a month is so little that I can't even take care of myself. I **feel** pained looking at **my aged parents** who needed my support which is not forthcoming. I was left with no option than to **travel out**. Now that I am back in Nigeria, I would continue to struggle while looking for a **green card**, he said. (*Daily Trust*, March 21, 2021)

Text 16 captures the experience of a young Nigerian, who is identified in the news report as **Kenneth Joseph**. Dominantly, the personal pronouns **I, me** and its adjectival counterpart **my** show that the experience is a personal one. This is why the actual words of the human subject are presented in the report, giving authenticity to the discourse issue of unemployment. This is evident in all the sentences in Text 16. Despite the fact that Joseph is educated, which is captured in the clause **I am a graduate**, he avers that he has no employment opportunities. This means that unemployment in Nigeria does affect both educated and uneducated youths in the country. This is, further, reinforced by the subordinate clause **after completing my NYSC over seven years ago**. This typifies a deep-seated and high unemployment rate in Nigeria.

While some young persons might have escaped unemployment in the country, most of these people are mainly under-employed. Contextually, a **private school**, especially at primary and secondary levels, is usually the place where many of the young people seek succour to their unemployed circumstance. In many of such private schools, underemployment is the order of the day. This is what is captured in the extract. Hence, it is pathetic that the human subject cannot even provide for himself neither could he support his **aged parents** as shown in the text. This becomes a multiple-effect problem as the man, his parents and the society at large are negatively impacted due to the fact that invaluable human resources are continually wasted. The unpalatable state of the human subject is what forces him out of Nigeria. Joseph is co-textually one of the **over 13, 000 Nigerians** who are deported back to the country. In the last sentence

of the excerpt, despite being deported, Joseph still maintains that he will not be deterred by his deportation as he promised **to struggle while looking for a green card**. This statement implicates that unemployment rate is high in the country, and the general condition of living in Nigeria has remained unimproved and even worse, hence the passionate drive and quest to access a better life abroad, especially in America, which is presupposed in the noun phrase **a green card**.

Text 17

He said nurses were among those who hold **the strong belief that life is rosy abroad** and have travelled without having the necessary information about the reality on ground. **Duru** maintained that most of the nurses, who travelled out, **ended up roaming the streets of Europe frustrated** or engaging in **social vices** including **prostitution**. (*The Nation*, August 2, 2019)

In Text 17, unemployment as a discourse issue in Nigerian newspaper migration reportage can be inferred. As typical of news report, the excerpt is an instance of verbal process as evident through the use of the reporting verb **said**. The sayer of the verbal process is both represented by the third person personal pronoun, **he**, and the speaker's surname **Duru**. Within the context of the report, Duru is a founder of a non-governmental organisation interested in giving correct information to potential Nigerian migrants on the issue of irregular migration to Europe. In Text 17, Duru counters **the strong belief** of a group of people denoted by the noun phrase **nurses** who are the subject of the relational process **were**. **The strong belief** of the identified social actors is that **life is rosy abroad**, and it is on the basis of this belief that the nurses perform the material action **have travelled**. However, their profession, according to the sayer, seems to give them some false perception **about the reality** of life in Europe, since the nurses perform the material action **without having the necessary information**. The clausal circumstance, that is, the prepositional phrase, depicts the ignorance of the nurses and the false reality of Europe that they had before their emigration.

The sayer goes on to assert that **most of the nurses** could not realise their dreams of a better life in Europe, which ultimately makes them to end up **roaming up the streets of Europe**. The adjective **most** is very significant in this extract. It is interesting to note that the sayer deploys a number game, which a potent tool in migration news report by

using the word **most**. However, no source is provided for this statistics, which may be subject to doubt, but since the sayer is a founder of an NGO that is saddled with the responsibility of educating the populace on the issue of irregular migration, it can be argued that he has some data which are not available to the news readership as an authority whose words should be correct since he works within the contextual affordances of domain. Having realised the falsity of their perception of Europe after emigrating, **the nurses** then are presented as **frustrated** and have no other option but to engage in **social vices**, such as **prostitution**. More so, the implication of this counter narrative by the sayer is to warn potential Nigerian migrants, irrespectively of their professions to endeavour to do their due diligence before deciding to emigrate from Nigeria, so that they too will not be frustrated and take to social vices as a survival strategy in foreign lands, reinforcing that **reality on ground** in Europe is distinctively different from perception afar, especially by Nigerians. It can, therefore, be inferred that unemployment is also one of the reality on ground in Europe as it is in Nigeria, even though its level in both places may differ.

Text 18

There is the **urgent need** for all of us to ponder on the state of our nation and **tame the monster** that drives people away. The rate of **unemployment** is daily **skyrocketing**... while basic social amenities and infrastructure continue to be out of the reach of the common man. (*Punch*, April 30, 2016)

Text 18 identifies immediate necessity to address the issues driving citizens of Nigeria from their country of origin to other places in the world. Being an instance of verbal clause, though its sayer and verbal process are not seen in the extract, the news report reveals that the sayer is a sociologist whose name is identified in the news story as **Ayotunde Dalton**. He employs animal imagery, especially metaphor, in his verbiage to present the unpalatable and pathetic living conditions of Nigerians in their country, which make them to seek a better life elsewhere. Animal imagery is captured by the transitive verb **tame** and its object **the monster**. Semantically, the verb **tame** means to domesticate an animal, particularly a wild animal, so that it can be used as desired by the tamer, while the noun **monster** denotes a large imaginary creature that is ugly and frightening.

In the second sentence of the excerpt, **unemployment**, insecurity, high cost of living, corruption and **infrastructural decay** are the metaphorised ‘monsters’ that need to be tamed by all concerned persons, especially the Nigerian leaders. Using parallelism, the monstrous state of the nation, Nigeria, is further reinforced in the extract as unemployment rates are rising rapidly on a daily basis, security concerns have reached their highest level, the cost of living has become unbearably expensive and corruption is prevalent. The absence of fundamental public facilities and infrastructure indicates a state of severe poverty. This situation makes life difficult and encourages people to migrate in search of a better life. The sociologist, **Ayotunde Dalton**, therefore, recommends that the nation reflect on its current state and take action to address issues such as unemployment, insecurity and poverty. These steps are necessary to improve the quality of life in the country.

Text 19

It was discovered that **unemployment** was what **pushed thousands** of Nigerians, especially **youths**, to seek work overseas, but the COVID-19 pandemic has **reduced** employment opportunities in other countries... (*Daily Trust*, March 20, 2021)

Text 19 shows that **unemployment** is a major factor that pushes citizens of Nigeria from their country to other parts of the world. The voice in Text 19 is that of the newspaper, commenting on the news story. The youths are specifically identified as the group that **seeks work overseas**. Since there is no employment opportunity for the vast majority of the Nigerian youths, they have to resort to immigrating to other countries for the purpose of getting jobs. However, COVID-19, the codename for Corona Virus Disease 2019, which is a virus that is ravaging different parts of the world, which leads to it being dubbed a pandemic, has further **reduced employment opportunities in other countries**. The implication of this is that numerous individuals from Nigerian, particularly young people, are now in a strait as they cannot get employments in Nigeria, neither could they get elsewhere during to the biting period of the pandemic, resulting in many Nigerians being left stranded.

4.1.5 Immigration as a discourse issue in Nigerian newspaper reports on migration

Being one of the types of migration, immigration is the act of entering and settling in another country to live permanently. Immigration is one of the dominant issues in news reports on migration in Nigerian newspapers. In many of these reports, the Nigerian newspapers mostly concentrate on the immigration policies and programmes of powerful nations of the world, which affect Nigeria and Nigerians. Among these nations are the United States, Great Britain and other First World countries. Immigration as a discourse issue is textually illustrated in the extracts presently.

Text 20

Within two weeks in January, the United States of America issued **two bans** on Nigeria and Nigerians. First it was a visa ban on pregnant Nigerian women who want to go to that country to have their babies. ...**Then a week later**, the **Trump administration**, **all in a bid** to expand its **controversial** travel ban policy, announced that immigrants from six countries, including Nigeria, will no longer be eligible for visas allowing them to live as permanent residents in the United States. (*Leadership*, February 13, 2020)

Text 20 interrogates the immigration policy of the Trump administration of the United States of America. The administration was known for its anti-immigration stance and rhetoric. Notably, from the beginning to the end of Text 20, the voice of the reporter runs through. The first sentence, which summarises the whole excerpt, introduces the news readership to the anti-Nigeria-and-Nigerians' immigration policy of the administration of Donald Trump, former president of the United States. The US is represented as a powerful country whose immigration policy is targeted negatively at Nigeria and Nigerians. The prepositional phrase, which performs an adverbial function, **within two weeks in January**, shows the acceleration in which the two bans on Nigeria and Nigerians are issued. Other sentences in the extract illuminate the two areas that the US-imposed-immigration bans cover. Contextually, **Nigerian women**, especially the elite and wealthy, have made migrating to the US or the UK to get their babies delivered a way of life. The purpose of this is to acquire citizenship by birth for their children so that they (the children) will be able to enjoy the benefits of being

citizens of powerful countries. This is tagged **birth tourism**, which the Trump administration decided to ban.

Interestingly, another adverbial phrase of time, **then a week later**, which modifies the verbal action **announced** in the final sentence of the excerpt, is deployed by the news reporter to present the second part of the ban. While the first ban does affect mainly the elite and wealthy Nigerians, the second seems to include both the rich and the poor in **six countries, including Nigeria**. That immigrants from Nigeria and other five countries would not be eligible to get visas **to live as permanent residents in the United States** means that the Trump administration decided to cut off and deny such immigrants the benefits and status that many quest for. Evident in the excerpt is the negative attitude of the news reporter and the newspaper to the anti-immigration policy of the former president of the United States, Donald Trump. This is gleaned mainly from the prepositional phrases and adverbial phrases, which function as time and reason adverbials, in the text. The phrases are **within two weeks in January, then a week later** and **all in a bid to expand its controversial travel ban policy**. Deductively, this news report can be said to be a kind of protest which seeks to co-opt the news reader to join the protest against the anti-immigration stance and policy of the Trump administration. However, the reporter is silent on why Nigerian women go on **birth tourism** and why immigrants from Nigeria are denied permanent resident visas in the United States.

Text 21

Home Secretary Priti Patel said the Conservative government wanted to **encourage people with the right talent...** It would open up the UK to **the brightest and the best** from around the world... We're ending free movement, **taking back control** of our borders, she said, adding that the changes will bring overall migration numbers down. (*The Nation*, February 20, 2020)

Text 21 presents immigration as one of the discourse issues in migration news reports in Nigeria. The news reporter asserts that more stringent immigration proposals have been put forth by the British government in the aftermath of Brexit. The purpose of these plans as revealed in the news report is to reduce the flow of *low skilled* labour. This implicates that the British immigration plans have always been difficult; making it more stringent further increases the level of the difficulty. Brexit means the withdrawal

of the United Kingdom from the European Union. It is revealing that these immigration plans are targeted at low skilled labour. This means that the UK welcomes highly skilled labour and professionals, leading to brain drain and underdevelopment of the countries of origin of the professionals. Home Secretary's, Priti Patel, verbiage presents this in Text 21.

That the British government paints baiting highly skilled labour and professionals from other parts of the world as **encouraging people with the right talents** shows that powerful nations always exploit invaluable human and natural resources of weak countries, as evident through colonisation and neo-colonisation. The noun phrase **people with right talents** is antonymous to **low skilled labour** in the report that is unwanted. In addition, the nominalised adjectives, **the brightest and the best** refer to **people with the right talents**. Presupposition is gleaned in the infinitival phrase **taking back control of our borders**. This means that hitherto with **the tougher immigration plans** British borders have been left without any control, which makes many **low skilled labour** to have **free movement** into the United Kingdom, precipitating huge migration flow in the country.

This lexicalisation and phrasing is deployed by the Home Secretary to perhaps rouse the British citizens against the immigration of foreign nationals, especially those with low skills, into their country and to cause fear amongst the citizenry to present the immigration situation of the country as being lawless and free-for-all. Further, the phrasing reveals that the British government is discriminatory and self-centred. The appropriation of the voices of all British citizens by their government is also worthy of note. The inclusive pronoun **we** and noun phrase **Conservative government** that Priti Patel, the Home Secretary, represents in the excerpt, suggest that all Britons and members of the government are in support the more stringent immigration proposals announced by Priti Patel.

Text 22

...Ibrahim recalled **with nostalgia** as he shared his touching story with our correspondent who traced him to the small drinking joint in Surulere.... Two police officers had come to **pick and hand** me over to the immigration because according to them, **I** was not permitted under the law to visit any other state yet aside from California where I lived. I had left Los Angeles two days earlier after some guys who **racially abused and molested me threatened to kill me.** (*Punch*, April 30, 2016)

Text 22 chronicles the immigration/deportation experience of a Nigerian, named **Ibrahim**, in **New York**. Since it was a personal story that was being shared, the pronoun **I** is the most significant pronoun in the extract. Relational and material clauses are also evident in the text due to the fact that it was states of being that were being described and a number of actions that were being performed, though the whole extract is hinged on verbal processes, **shared** and **said** in the report. The sayer begins his story by mentioning his location, which is crucial in migration news reportage, which is **New York**, as revealed in the news report. The newspaper presents Ibrahim's feeling as nostalgic through its comment in the phrases, **with nostalgia** and **his touching story**. The import of this comment is to foreshadow the sayer's bittersweet yearning and sense of loss that he feels about his immigration experience in New York. This implies that New York, being a representation of the United States of America, is a better place compared to **the small drinking joint in Surulere**, a representation of Nigeria, from where Ibrahim was recalling his experience.

Full of material processes, the report shows the persons behind the knock on the door that the sayer heard in the preceding sentence to the excerpt are **two police officers**. The noun phrase, **Two police officers**, is the actor, the pronoun, **me**, the goal, while the noun phrase, **the immigration**, is the beneficiary of the coordinated material processes **had come to pick and hand me over**. The choice of these material actions is possibly used to tone down the nostalgic experience against a more violent material verb – arrest. In presenting the reason for his arrest, the sayer distances himself from and disagrees with the **two police officers** on their reason for coming to arrest him. This is gleaned from the construct **according to them**. The given reason by the police officers was that he was only allowed to visit **California**, and no other state due to legal restrictions. This shows that the sayer, despite his distancing and

disagreement, is an immigration lawbreaker according to the law enforcement agents.

However, his own reason for leaving his legally approved place of residence, **California** in **Los Angeles**, is the threat of murder he gets from some individuals, **some guys**, who subject him to racial abuse and physical harassment. The noun phrase, **some guys**, implies that the actual identity of these actors may be unknown to the sayer or he may not want to disclose their identity. Moreover, that the sayer was racially abused and physically harassed implicates that he is not seen as a human being whose humanity is at par with that of the unknown guys to the extent of issuing him murder threats. Thus, since his life is threatened, it can be argued that leaving his place of residence happens to be the only available alternative. Pathetically, the sayer seems to suggest that there is no justice for black immigrants in America as presented in the latter part of the news report. Inferentially, it can be said that the police, as represented here, is unreasonable, and perhaps racist, since they fail to investigate the matter impartially before detaining the sayer, and ultimately deporting him to Nigeria as revealed in the whole news story.

4.2 Pragmatic acts in Nigerian newspaper reports on migrations

A number of pragmatic actions are performed in the Nigerian newspaper reportage of migration. The performers of these actions are also numerous social actors. News reports can be said to be (covertly) dialogical in nature since the newspapers have the public as their readership in mind while reporting events, incidents and happenings that make up news, and until the reports get to their readership, they are no news. Amongst the practs performed in Nigerian newspaper reports on migration are conscientising, informing, warning, indicting, rebuking, supporting, advising, denying and accusing. Each of these is presently illustrated below.

4.2.1 Conscientising practs

To conscientise means to educate someone or people on a particular issue, problem or situation of things in order for them to be abreast of the goings-on in a specific context or place so as to find solutions to the identified problem or to avoid getting enmeshed in it. Conscientising practs in the data are performed by social actors such as

governors, national assembly members, international organisations, non-governmental organisations and the newspapers. In performing these practs, the authority or status of the performers is a key component as they show that they are acting on the premises of being privy to valued pieces of information, which their direct or indirect recipients should take seriously. The practs are textually analysed presently.

Text 23

The Edo State Governor, Mr Godwin Obaseki, **has called** for the **closure** of **illegal** entry points into the country to curb **nefarious** activities of some **illegal** migrants. (*Leadership*, October 24, 2019)

Text 23 is an instance of pragmatic act of conscientising which is achieved through speech act, reference (REF) and inference (INF). The pract helps to bring to the fore the significance of securing Nigeria's porous border. Contextually, the governor, in spite of his social and political status and authority, has no constitutional power in securing the nation's borders against illegal migrants. He, therefore, wants the federal government, particularly the president whose duty is to protect the territorial integrity of the country, to close **illegal entry points** for the purpose of **curbing nefarious activities of some illegal migrants** in the country. Through the use of reference (REF), the reporter reveals the identity and status of the speaker, which is used to amplify the force of the pract. Being a governor, the speaker, whose words are captured in the report, represents the government at the state level, and being a major stakeholder in the Nigerian project, his words should be taken seriously by the government at the federal level represented by the president who controls most, if not all, of the security agencies of the country. Provided **the illegal entry points** are closed, it could be inferred that the country will be safe from externally fuelled aggression, and will be able to manage its internal security challenges.

Text 24

The House of Representatives... **raised** the alarm that the **continuous** trafficking of Nigerian women would **dent** the image of the country and provide room for other West African countries to **disrespect**, not just Nigerian **women**, but all **Nigerians**. (*The Guardian*, March 13, 2020)

In Text 24, the pragmatic act of conscientising is performed by **The House of Representatives**, which also is the sayer of the verbal action **raised** and the claim is that the continuous trafficking of women of Nigerian origin will damage the reputation of Nigeria and create an opportunity for other West African nations to show disrespect not only towards Nigerian women but also towards all Nigerian citizens. This pract is realised mainly through direct speech act, reference (REF) and inference (INF). *The Guardian* newspaper brings the issue of human trafficking to the fore by presenting the House of Representatives as the performer of the action, thereby appealing to authority. Reference (REF) is evident, due to the fact that the House of Representatives is the Nigerian lawmaking body, elected by the citizens of the country, their words and actions can be arguably said, through INF, to represent the wishes of the general populace.

In addition, the essence of this pract is to let the citizens of Nigeria on the one hand, and particularly on the other hand, the executive arm of government, which is the executor of government policies and programmes, be aware of the state of the nation as far as the issue of human trafficking is concerned and to rise up to its responsibility of safeguarding the nation from shame and disrespect, which may come through **the continuous trafficking of Nigerian women**. Here is the feminisation of victims through the use of nominalisation. The reference (REF) to **other West African countries, Nigerian women** and **Nigerians** also becomes very significant here. Through inference (INF), it is revealed that the action of *woman* trafficking will result in loss of respect for Nigeria in the comity of nations, especially in the West African subregion.

Ordinarily, Nigeria, which has been dubbed ‘a giant of Africa’ in some quarters, will not want to be disrespected by the referent West African nations that are no ‘giants’ of anywhere. In the extract, the ‘object’ which will bring about image-denting and disrespect to the House of Representatives and all Nigerians is *Nigerian women*. This means that if **Nigerian women** are not protected and saved by **all** Nigerians, other West African nations will not respect Nigeria and all Nigerians any more. Interestingly, the noun phrase, **all Nigerians**, though on the surface includes everyone who is a Nigerian, critically and contextually here, can be inferred to only refer to

Nigerians who are male, thereby excluding the women who are Nigerians and giving positive self-presentation to Nigerian men while ascribing negative other-representation to Nigerian women. This interpretation is gleaned from the phrase *not just Nigerian women, but all Nigerians*. It can, therefore, be inferred that the Nigerian women are not worth saving in themselves, but for the purpose of preventing the image of the country and by extension, that of the men, from being dented, and saving **all Nigerians** from being disrespected by **other West African countries**, rescuing Nigerian women from human traffickers becomes inevitable.

Text 25

According to the UNHCR... **Europe received** about **300,000** refugees who arrived after crossing the Mediterranean from North Africa in 2015. In 2014, the number was **219,000**. The number **keeps increasing on a yearly basis** and there seems to be no end in sight. ...Unless drastic changes occur in their various countries, they will continue to **flee in their droves**. (*The Nation*, September 6, 2019)

The pragmatic act performed in Text 25 is conscientising and indicting. The reporter performs the pragmatic actions by appealing to authority through a reference (REF) to the claim of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and by deploying number game, as in the phrases **300,000 refugees**, **219,000** and in the relational clause **the number keeps increasing on a yearly basis**. The reporter then goes beyond conscientising to indicting. The textual tools used in achieving these pragmatic acts are reference (REF) and shared situation knowledge (SSK) by mentioning **Europe** and **North Africa**, which the sayer presumes the recipient, news readership, should understand, and metaphor (MPH) and inference (INF). In the last sentence of the excerpt, the leaders of the countries whose people **continue to flee in their droves** can be said to be indicted and labelled as irresponsible. As an implication of this, if the leaders are responsible, responsive and caring, their citizens will not be fleeing their countries **in their droves**. Also, metaphorisation (MPH) as an ideological and pragmatic device is employed in the main clause **they will continue to flee in their droves**. Animal imagery is used to reinforce the helplessness and hopelessness of the people in flight. The noun 'drove' is used to denote 'a herd or flock of animals being driven together'. Therefore, the pluralisation of the noun 'drove' represents

disorderliness, discord, and unquantifiable problems for the fleeing people and their countries of destination. The conditional clause, **unless drastic changes occur in their various countries**, is, therefore, serving as a warning to the leaders of the African countries of a likely political, social and economic implosions and explosions awaiting them and the world at large, if they (African leaders) do nothing **drastic** to arrest the ugly trend of irregular migration.

Text 26

Executive Director of AYGf, Dr. Arome Salifu ...said that even though migration remains **the right of citizens**, appealed that they should follow established **legal** procedures before embarking on journey abroad. He noted that individuals who undertake such irregular migration are always **exploited by criminals** along **desert routes** as they are often exposed to dangers of inhuman treatments including **prostitution, organ harvest** and in some cases **death**. (*Leadership*, December 18, 2020)

The pragmatic act performed in Text 26 is conscientising with appealing as its embedded pract. There is a meshing of voices in the extract; in the sense that the voice of actual speaker is conflated with the reporting voice. The practs are realised through mainly speech act, reference (REF), shared situation knowledge (SSK), relevance (REL) and inference (INF). The performer of the pragmatic actions is revealed in the noun phrase with its apposition, **Executive Director of AYGf, Dr. Arome Salifu**. In the body of the news report, the meaning of the acronym, **AYGF**, is 'Africa Youth Growth Foundation'. Shared situation knowledge (SSK) is evident in the clause, **migration remains the right of citizens**. Here, the speaker asserts and recognises migration as a human right, which his listeners, and by extension the news readers, also share – an instance of SSK. This assertion and recognition is important because it provides the basis upon which the argument of the speaker is built. Being a concessive clause, its opposite in the main clause is effectuated in the appealing pract. In the pract, reference (REF), relevance (REL) and shared situation knowledge (SSK) are seen. The sayer employs REF by mentioning unspecified **individuals** who can be said to refer to potential migrants of Nigerian origin, and **criminals** who the sayer presumes the news readership should understand its meaning through SSK. These are revealed in the stretch **follow established legal procedures before embarking on journey abroad**. In other words, the speaker encourages regular or legal migration while discouraging

irregular or illegal migration. The prepositional phrase, **on journey abroad** in the Nigerian context is significant. In the country, a number of people believe **abroad** is where the greener pasture is, and they try as much as possible to **embark on journey abroad** so as to escape the unfavourable socioeconomic situation of Nigeria.

Furthermore, for the pragmatic act of conscientising is reinforced through exemplification in the second sentence in the extract. This is portrayed in the embedded passive structure, **individuals who undertake such irregular migration are *always* exploited by criminals along desert routes as they are often exposed to dangers of inhuman treatments including prostitution, organ harvest and in some cases death**. The presence of frequency adverb, **always** which is an instance of a discontinuous verb phrase, **are *always* exploited**, is to foreground the sufferings and problems which irregular migrants encounter. This is further accentuated in the final subordinate clause of the extract – **as they are often exposed to dangers of inhuman treatments including prostitution, organ harvest and in some cases death**. The reference (REF) to **inhuman treatments**, which is a superordinate term that embodies **prostitution, organ harvest and death**, should make a sane and reasonable human being not to embark on such a life-threatening journey. The relevance (REL) of the performer's assertion is to discourage Nigerian citizens, especially youths who are the target audience of the speaker's nongovernmental organization as revealed in the full meaning of AYFG above, from embarking on migration that is likely to result in their death by conscientising them.

4.2.2 Informing practs

This is one of the major practs in the Nigerian newspaper reports on migration. The pract is closely related to conscientising pract. The core function of the media is to inform; this justifies the fact that informing pract is one of the main pragmatic acts performed in the data. However, the pract goes, most times, hand-in-hand with other practs such as indicting, cautioning, assuring and supporting. The extracts below are used to illustrate this.

Text 27

Nigeria is ranked the **highest** in records of irregular migrants moving from **Africa** and the **8th** in **global slavery index**, said ...Rev. Emmanuel Gabriel. The Country Coordinator ...said thousands of Nigerian youths are **sold** into slavery in **Europe** and other **parts of the world**. (*The Nation*, September 13, 2020)

In Text 27, informing pract is performed. The pract is anchored on speech act, reference (REF) and inference (INF). The actual performer of the pract is **Rev. Emmanuel Gabriel**, who is said to be **the Country Coordinator, Symbols of Hope Project Nigeria (SOH)**. In the first sentence, Nigeria is asserted to have the highest number of irregular migrants from Africa. The reference (REF) to the rank of the country in the records of irregular migrants is damning. It can be inferred (INF) that Nigeria is not favourable to many of its citizens, for them to have opted for irregular migration in their pursuit of better life. More so, the fact that the citizens of the country are not migrating according to the principles, regulations and procedures of safe and legal migration shows that the majority of them cannot afford the fees which are essential as far as legal migration is concerned, thereby foregrounding the massive and endemic poverty and worsening living conditions in the country.

It has been said that news report thrives on appealing to authority. Hence, in this extract, Rev. Emmanuel Gabriel, the Country Coordinator of Symbols of Hope Project Nigeria, is the source-authority, and due to the nature of what the non-governmental organisation he coordinates does, he can be said (INF) to be privy to the **records of irregular migrants** from where the rank of the country is revealed. However, not only is Nigeria ranked the highest amongst the countries producing irregular migrants from Africa, but it is also **the 8th in global slavery index**. Despite the abolition of the slave trade in the nineteenth century, it is rather unfortunate that citizens of Nigeria are still massively enmeshed in what has been tagged modern-day slavery. Ranking 8th amongst the 195 countries in the world is shameful and worrisome. In addition, the speaker claims and asserts that **thousands of Nigerian youths are sold into slavery in Europe and other parts of the world**. The reference (REF) to the noun phrase, **thousands of Nigerian youths** captures the innumerable number of young Nigerians in slavery **in Europe and other parts of the world**. Inferentially (INF), the verb

phrase, **are sold**, in the expression reveals that these numerous young Nigerian people do not willingly surrender themselves to slavery, for they have been dehumanised, objectified or turned to goods, and have no option but to succumb to the whims and caprices of their owners — the traffickers.

Text 28

Rescuers have found **no** more **survivors** from the shipwreck of a boat in which **400 migrants** are believed to have drowned, the Italian coastguard said.... Italian coastguards, who intercepted **42 boats** on Sunday and Monday alone carrying **6,500 migrants** attempting to make the hazardous crossing to Europe, confirmed that they had saved **145** people from the sunken boat and found nine bodies. (*The Guardian*, April 15, 2015)

The pract performed in Text 28 is mainly informing, which further embeds some cautioning and indicting practs. The news reporter is the major performer of these practs by reporting what is said by **the Italian coastguard** and **rescuers**. These pragmatic acts are realised by speech acts, reference (REF), shared situation knowledge (SSK) and inference (INF). In the first sentence of the extract, the subject, **Rescuers**, asserts that **no more survivors** are found **from the shipwreck of a boat in which 400 migrants are believed to have drowned**. The reporter uses reference (REF) to signal the participants involved in the news event. The nouns, **rescuers** and **survivors** can be said to be antonymous within the context of this news report. Shared situation knowledge (SSK) and reference (REF) are acted on because of the definite article which serves as a modifier in the noun phrase, **the shipwreck of a boat**. Also, the phrase is further qualified by an adjectival clause **in which 400 migrants are believed to have drowned**. Pre-modification and post-modification reveal that the reporter assumes that the news reader shares the knowledge of the situation or what is being referenced. In addition, lack of certainty can be inferred (INF) within the post-modification, **are believed to have drowned**. This can be linked to the rescuers' assertion that **no more survivors** are found. From this, it can be deduced, using INF, that uncertainty is a possibility in irregular migration, especially if boat capsizing or shipwrecking is the case.

In the second sentence, the noun phrase, **the vessel** co-textually refers (REF) to the ship in the first while **charity workers** can be said to anaphorically point (REF) at

rescuers. The reference (REF) to the location, **off the Libyan coast**, and the day, **on Sunday**, when the incident takes place are germane. Contextually, the Mediterranean Sea is the intervening sea between North Africa, Libya, and Europe, Italy. The uncertainty noted above is further accentuated in the clause, **that as many as 400 others perished**. Moreover, the subject of the third sentence with a focus on its adjectival clause qualifier, **Italian coastguards**, who intercepted **42 boats** on Sunday and Monday alone carrying **6,500 migrants** attempting to make the **hazardous crossing to Europe**, is very revealing. The fact that **42 boats** which have **6,500 migrants** in them could be **intercepted** in two days implicates that something sinister might have been pursuing the migrants to have decided to leave their countries of origin. Also, that the **crossing to Europe** is described as **hazardous** portrays how dangerous and unsafe irregular migration is to the health and safety of migrants. Therefore, the inferred pragmatic acts, beyond informing, are cautioning and indicting. The excerpt cautions potential migrants against illegal migration and indicts the leaders of African countries of their culpability in the increase in the number of illegal migrants.

Text 29

A recent report by WAKA Well by IOM X has indicated that **irregular migrants** from **Nigeria** and other **West African countries** face various forms of **violence, exploitation** and other **abuses** along the Central Mediterranean route. ...According to the report, irregular migration from Nigeria is mainly directed towards **Europe** through North Africa, with Nigerians almost exclusively using the Central Mediterranean route. (*The Guardian*, May 16, 2020)

Text 29 is an instance of pragmatic acts of informing and conscientising. The voice here is that of the newspaper. The practs are realised by speech acts in the activity part, and reference (REF) and shared situation knowledge (SSK) in the textual part. In the excerpt, the reporter informs and conscientises the news reader on the challenges which **migrants from Nigerian and other West African countries face** in their bid and attempt to get to Europe. These referents (REF) identify clearly the people migrating irregularly from Nigeria and other West African countries to Europe. Europe, as presented in the extract, is therefore a place the migrants perceived as where their socioeconomic problems will be solved. However, **the recent report by**

WAKA Well, presents an untold hardship in Europe – a contrary view to the perception of the migrants. This is captured in the noun phrase **various forms of violence, exploitation and other abuses**. In the prepositional phrase which qualifies the identified noun phrase, that is, **violence, exploitation and other abuses**, the negative experiences of the African migrants are portrayed with the deployment of negative lexical terms.

Also, the complement of the prepositional phrase, **along the Central Mediterranean route**, has been noted to be a notorious and dangerous route from West Africa to North Africa. This route begins from sub-Saharan Africa, mainly from the south of the Sahara Desert to Libya and Tunisia but also Algeria, where migrant slavery and human smuggling and trafficking are rife. This, thus, emphasises, the **various forms of violence, exploitation and other abuses** that migrants are exposed to. In addition, in the last sentence in the excerpt, there is an assertion that irregular migrants from Nigeria are **mainly directed towards Europe through North Africa**. Further, for credibility, the source of **the recent report** reported in the newspaper is **WAKA Well by IOM X**. Contextually, the phrase **WAKA Well**, though an acronym, can be said to be a Nigerian Pidgin expression which can be said to mean **walk or travel appropriately**. It is an International Organisation for Migration campaign in West Africa, which seeks to educate young people to make informed decisions about their lives at home and abroad in order to prevent exploitation. Therefore, the excerpt cautions and warns potential migrants from migrating irregularly so as to avoid experiencing **violence, exploitation and other abuses**, thereby discouraging irregular migration.

Text 30

The Nigeria Immigration Service **says** it has arrested a suspected **human trafficker** travelling to Europe **with five female victims** via Niger Republic. (*Punch*, November 24, 2019)

In Text 30, the pragmatic acts performed in the excerpt are informing and assuring. This is achieved through the deployment of mainly direct speech act and reference (REF). The verb **says** explicitly captures the informing pract, while the whole excerpt typifies an indirect speech act of assuring. It means the performer of the action, **the Nigeria Immigration Service**, assures Nigerians, especially female victims, of being

safe from the hands of human traffickers. The reference (REF) to **Europe** and **Niger Republic** is significant because the former is usually the final destination for trafficked women, who are mostly sold into sexual slavery, and the latter, **Niger Republic**, is the gateway that leads to North Africa, which borders Europe. It can, thus, be inferred (INF) from this extract that the Nigeria Immigration Service presents itself as a competent, patriotic and effective manager of migration flow into and out of the country.

Text 31

Japanese immigration authorities **said** on Tuesday a **Nigerian man** who **died in detention** in June starved to death while **on hunger strike**, in the **first** officially acknowledged case of its kind. ...The man in his forties, whose name has been withheld, died on June 24 after falling unconscious at Omura Immigration Center and being taken to a hospital in southern Japan. (*Punch*, October 1, 2019)

Text 31 is another example of an informing pract with blaming as its embedded pract. It captures the life of an unnamed Nigerian man in a Japanese detention. This pragmatic act is achieved mainly through a speech act which is anchored on the reporting verb **said**, and contextually realised by reference (REF), relevance (REL) and inference (INF). The *Punch* newspaper shows that the news event is not directly covered by its reporter. This is gleaned from the reporting voice **told AFP** in the body of the report. In Text 31, the performer of the informing pract is revealed through referencing (REF) to **Japanese immigration authorities**, which is the subject of the first clause. The only thing with which the victim in the text is identified is his country of origin – Nigeria. Protesting, which is signalled by the noun phrase, **hunger strike**, can be seen within the informing pract. Perhaps the man uses his hunger strike to protest his incarceration in the Japanese detention. It is important to highlight that his demise, caused by his refusal to eat, is recognised as the first instance of its kind to be officially acknowledged.

Critically, in the phrase, **the first officially acknowledged case of its kind**, blaming is implicated through its construction. It can be inferred (INF) that it is possible that there might have been cases like that of the unnamed Nigerian man who died of hunger strike in Japanese detention, which are not **officially acknowledged**. Therefore, acknowledging officially the man's death means the Japanese immigration authorities

are complicit in his death. Furthermore, this interpretation is supported textually from the statement of the victim's lawyer, who seems to be blaming the Japanese immigration authorities for detaining the man **for over three years**. Hence, his detention **for over three years** can be inferred (INF) as a violation of his human rights. More so, suspects are not expected to be detained perpetually without being charged to court in order to have a fair hearing and their cases decided by an independent and impartial court of competent jurisdiction. The relevance (REL) of the lawyer's statement is to show that the man has no other option but to protest via hunger strike, which unfortunately leads to his death, since he has been denied of his right to a fair hearing that all humans, whether citizens or non-citizens of a country, irrespective of their crimes and locations, should enjoy.

4.2.3 Warning pract

Warning pract is targeted at irregular migrants by their performers who are usually security chiefs saddled with the responsibility of protecting their country against any illegal incursion. Like conscientising, the authority of the performer of this pract is very important in projecting the force embedded in their pragmatic actions.

Text 32

Babandede... **warned** that NIS would not treat any case of abuse of Immigration laws **lightly**. He noted that the service was doing everything possible to ensure that **only** regular migrants enter and reside or do **approved** businesses in Nigeria. (*The Sun*, June 25, 2020)

The pragmatic act performed in Text 32 is warning. This pract is realised largely through a direct speech act on the one hand, and reference (REF) and inference (INF) on the other hand. The first sentence of the extract contains the warning practs. The voice of the subject of the first clause is presented by the reporter to clearly delineate the performer of the pragmatic act, even though reported speech is deployed in the news reportage. Contextually, the acronym, **NIS**, means 'Nigeria Immigration Service' – a paramilitary immigration management agency. The referents (REF) in the text are **Babandede**, **NIS**, **Immigration laws**, **regular migrants** and **Nigeria**. Critically, it can be said that irregular immigrants are, inferentially (INF), targeted in the text. The position of the subject/sayer of the clauses is very significant, and since he, **Babandede**, is the boss of the NIS, he represents the constituted authority that can

issue warnings to illegal immigrants, thereby giving more force to the pragmatic act. In the second sentence of the extract, the performer is referentially (REF) identified with the use of pronoun, **he**, which co-textually points to **Babandede**, the Nigeria Immigration Service boss. Therein, he asserts that **the service** was competent and up and doing to make sure that irregular migrants are not allowed into the country. Furthermore, the noun phrase, **approved businesses**, shows that the NIS will not allow any regular migrants to do businesses which are not sanctioned and legal in Nigeria. At a deeper level of analysis, it can be inferred (INF) that irregular or illegal migrants will not be allowed to enter, reside or do any business, whether approved or not in the country. Thus, the warning pract performed in the extract becomes significantly effective and well directed. Even though irregular migrants are not vividly stated in the text, they can be obviously inferred (INF).

4.2.4 Indicting and rebuking practs

Indicting and rebuking are used to show that African leaders are the ones who fail to address the issues of human trafficking and poverty on the continent. To indict is to formally accuse someone of committing a crime while to rebuke is to show a strong disapproval or criticism of the person's behaviour or actions. Text 33 is used to illustrate these practs.

Text 33

Nigeria is... Africa's **largest** oil producer and ranks **sixth** in the world... **Yet... 64 percent of Nigerians** live below the **poverty line** and **trafficking in persons continues unabated**. (*The Guardian*, September 11, 2018)

On the surface, Text 33 typifies a pragmatic act of asserting, but the intentions behind the excerpt are indicting and rebuking. Co-textually, the performer of these pragmatic actions is **Maria Grazia Giammarinaro**, who is a special rapporteur of the United Nations on human trafficking. She performs these acts by making reference (REF) to the status of Nigeria as the Africa's largest producer of oil. The inclusion and fronting of the adverbial element **yet** introduces a shocking twist in the text. This means that despite the largeness and the vastness of Nigeria's oil production, more than half of the citizens are in extreme poverty. It is this poverty that leads to the continuous trafficking of the poor populace. She infers (INF) that the wealth of Nigeria as evident in the huge production of oil cannot be seen in the lives of the ordinary citizens of the

country. This, in a way, reveals that the Nigerian political leaders are indicted and rebuked for sabotaging the nation's commonwealth and amassing the wealth of the nation only for themselves.

4.2.5 Supporting pract

Since human migration, whether legal or illegal, is a social phenomenon that involves different stakeholders locally, nationally and internationally, cooperation and support of these stakeholders are always sought at one point or the other to properly manage migration issues and challenges. This is evident in the excerpt below.

Text 34

German Ambassador to Nigeria, Birgitt Ory, **has called** for global action against illegal migration. ...She called for support from all stakeholders to **tackle illegal migration**.
(*Punch*, October 9, 2019)

The pragmatic act performed in Text 34 is supporting. The performer of the pract is captured in the noun phrase, **German Ambassador to Nigeria, Birgitt Ory**. Through reported speech, the words of the performer are presented in the voice of the news reporter. This pract is instantiated through speech act in the activity part, and reference (REF), shared situation knowledge (SSK) and inference (INF) in the textual part. The supporting pract is hinged on the verb phrase **has called**. The status of the performer is noteworthy as she is not just an ordinary German citizen but a German Ambassador. An ambassador is a significant government representative who resides in a foreign nation and advocates for the interests of their own country. Thus, it can be inferred (INF) that it is the interest of Germany, which its ambassador represents in Nigeria, to seek a global support against illegal migration. The speaker acts on reference (REF) and shared situation knowledge (SSK) when she refers to **illegal migration**. Since Germany is one of the European countries that suffer the consequences of **illegal migration**, it is therefore reasonable for the German ambassador to seek global support against illegal migration from Nigeria. More so, in the second and third sentences in the extract, the speaker reiterates her country's responsibility and dedication to the fight against illegal migration with the support of **all stakeholders to tackle illegal migration**.

4.2.6 Advising and indicting practs

These practs are used to challenge the Nigerian government on its lack of commitment to tackle the problem of human trafficking, especially in the area of ineffective prosecution of human traffickers in the country. The performer of the practs is the representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as illustrated below in Text 35.

Text 35

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Representative to Nigeria, Oliver Stolpe on Monday **urged** the Federal Government to **intensify efforts** in the **fight** against **human trafficking**....He said though the National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons had detected **4,215 victims** of trafficking in persons so far, the number of convictions remained comparatively **low with 101**. (*Daily Trust*, November 24, 2020)

Text 35 is an example of pragmatic acts of advising and indicting. The performer of the practs is **Oliver Stolpe** who is the **United Nations Office and Crime Representative to Nigeria**. The practs are realised through direct and indirect speech acts, and reference (REF), relevance (REL) and inference (INF). Most times, the news media use the office, position or status of the persons being reported to give force and credibility to their words and statements. Advising pract is anchored on the verb phrases, **urged** in the first sentence of the extract, and **advised** in other part of the report. The position of the practs-performer puts him on a pedestal and gives him some kind of authority. It can be said that the performer is privy to some pieces of information on human trafficking as a representative of the United Nations on Drugs and Crime to Nigeria. Inferentially (INF), the speaker is implying that the Nigerian government, referred co-textually by the noun phrase, **the Federal Government**, is not doing enough in its fight against human trafficking, and he, therefore, wants the government to be alive to its duties and responsibilities of securing Nigerians by **enhancing the criminal justice system** where human traffickers will be appropriately and timely sanctioned and punished, so as to serve as deterrents to others who are or might be interested in the 'business' of human trafficking.

In addition, through reference (REF), relevance (REL) and inference (INF), the indicting pract is performed. On the surface, the speech act performed in the second

sentence is that of informing. However, at a deeper level of analysis, the indicting pract is gleaned. He, Oliver Stolpe, recognises the agency in charge of curbing, arresting and prosecuting human traffickers, and rescuing and rehabilitating their victims, **the National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons**. Nevertheless, the huge disparity between the number of detected victims of human trafficking, **4, 215** and the convictions of the masterminds of trafficking in persons, **101**, is worrisome and shows lack of commitment and political will on the part of the government and its agency to punish human traffickers. This revelation is, therefore, an indictment on the Nigerian government. Thus, this excerpt is a wake-up call for the government to do more for its law-abiding citizens.

4.2.7 Denying and accusing practs

Accusations and denials are common features in different domains of human endeavours. They are, however, very common and prominent in political context. Denying pract is deployed to negate the accusation(s) levelled against someone as a way of defending oneself (Odebunmi & Unuabonah, 2014; Oluwayemi, 2020). The excerpt below is used to illustrate these practs textually.

Text 36

The Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment **has denied** accusations that it is complicit in human trafficking **involving Nigerian girls** to other parts of the world. The Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Diaspora, Tolulope Akande-Sadipe, had on Thursday, 16 July, 2020, **accused** the ministry of illegally issuing licences to private employment agencies, claiming that a moratorium had been placed on the issuance of such licences **since 2017**. (*Daily Trust*, August 14, 2020)

In Text 36, two main pragmatic acts are noteworthy. The first is denying pract while the second is accusing pract. There are two performers of these practs, which are realised through direct speech acts and reference (REF). In the first sentence, the denying pract is signalled by the verb phrase, **has denied** and in the second sentence by the verb, **accused**. The noun phrase, **The Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment**, is the performer of the denying pract, while the appositive construct, **the Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Diaspora, Tolulope Akande-Sadipe**, is the performer of the second pract. It is interesting to note that

accusing pract normally precedes denying pract. A clash between the legislative arm and the executive arm of government can be seen in the excerpt. While the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment represents the executive arm, the Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Diaspora, represents the legislative. Contextually, even though these two are within the same government, they could be at loggerheads, at times. The legislature has an oversight function on the actions and deeds of the executive arm, which is the executor of the government's programmes and policies. This means that a clash of interest cannot be unusual.

Therefore, since human trafficking is one of the major and dehumanising crimes being perpetrated by criminals, the ministry does decide to deny their involvement in the nefarious activity. The reference (REF) to **Nigerian girls** in the extract is very significant. Socially and within the Nigerian context, girls and by extension, women, are still considered 'the weaker vessels' that need to be nurtured and cared for, and not exploited by anyone, not to mention a federal ministry being complicit in the Nigerian girls' alleged exploitation. The prepositional phrase, **to other parts of the world**, modifying the noun phrase, **Nigerian girls** makes one to infer possible dehumanising treatments and experiences the **Nigerian girls** will be subjected to in places without the protection of their loved ones and family.

The accusing pract is predicated on the issuance of illegal **licences to private employment agencies**. The premise of the accusation is hinged on a claim – **that a moratorium had been placed on the issuance of such licences since 2017**. The meaning of the word **moratorium** refers to a temporary pause of an activity or law that will be lifted in the future when further review justifies ending the suspension (Hayes, 2020). More so, the reference (REF) to the temporal adverbial, **since 2017**, reveals that the suspension of issuing **such licences** has been in place for a while which further accentuates the accusing pract. Thus, it becomes illegal for the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment to issue licences to private employment agencies – thereby foregrounding their complicity.

4.3 Representations of social actors in Nigerian newspaper reports on migration

The social actors' representations in Nigerian newspaper reports on migration are 'leaders as guardians', 'leaders as culprits', 'migrants as criminals', 'migrants as victims' and 'youth as ignoramus'. These are achieved through discourse strategies of activation, backgrounding, specification, nomination, identification, exclusion, suppression, association, dissociation, determination, indetermination, functionalisation, differentiation, genericisation and categorisation. The major transitivity processes that are identified in the data are verbal, material, mental, existential and relational. The processes are deployed in explicating the representations given to the social actors in the data.

4.3.1 Leaders as guardians

Leaders are represented as guardians, which mean that the leaders are competent, proactive, foresighted, accountable, solution-oriented, responsible and caring for the needs of their citizens. This representation in the data can be either self-ascription or other-ascription. Most times, it is used by political officeholders or people in authority such as security chiefs to present themselves as people-centric and on top of any situations or challenges that their people are facing in the society. The texts below are used to analyse this representation.

Text 37

Magashi said: When **we** heard of **this unfortunate killing** of the Chadian President, **we** knew that problem is bound to be replicated among neighbouring countries and Nigeria will be most hit by his absence. ...The problem is **now going** to be **aggravated**. Because we are not sure the direction in which that country is going to face. But **I** assure **you** that we are mindful of our borders, we are mindful of the development.... (*Daily Trust*, April 22, 2021)

The ascribed representation in Text 37 is leaders as guardians. This is a positive self-representation given to self and members of the same group. The discourse strategies used in this representation are nomination, identification, functionalisation, exclusion and suppression. The excerpt features dominantly verbal clauses with the sayer, **Magashi**, fronted at the beginning. By mentioning the name of the social actor, nomination and identification as discourse strategies are deployed. While identification

reveals the permanent identity of the sayer, nomination distinctly identifies him. Contextually unmasked is what role the sayer, **Magashi**, performs within the Nigerian political space, which is captured by functionalisation, for he is Nigeria's minister of defence. The sayer's verbiage concerning security is within his contextual affordances, thus authoritative. It is, therefore, not surprising that he, alongside the government he represents, ascribes a positive representation to self.

Noteworthy is the deployment of pronouns and pronominal elements in the excerpt. The deployed pronominal terms are **we**, **he**, **his**, **I** and **you**. These pronominal items are deployed strategically. **He** and **his** anaphorically point at the Chadian President, **I** refers to the sayer, himself, and **you** exophorically references the addressees, especially Nigerians or any other concerned persons. The first personal plural pronoun **we** is used to either refer to the Nigerian government or its people. Coupled with the negative noun phrase, **this unfortunate killing of the Chadian President**, the minister, in a way, commiserates with Chad, a neighbouring country and ally in the Nigeria's war against terrorism and insurgency. The sayer's assertion, thus, recognises the important position and influence of the killed Chadian President, as he is functionally represented in the text. The representation of leaders as guardian is further revealed as leaders are expected to be able to predict areas that are prone to turmoil and security breaches, and be prepared to make sure that such places are secure to forestall any breakdown of law and order. Hence, his assertion that **we knew that problem is bound to be replicated among neighbouring countries and Nigeria will be most hit by his absence**.

Also, the killer(s) of the Chadian President is not known in the text, hence exclusion as a discourse tool is deployed. Inferentially though cautiously, it can be guessed that it is the terrorists, perhaps Boko Haram and their affiliates, that the Chadian President was fighting, are the ones who may likely killed him. On the other hand, in the sayer's assertion, **The problem is now going to be aggravated**, passive agent deletion is employed to achieve suppression and veil the would-be aggravator(s) of the problem of terrorism and insurgency in the region. Further, the minister reveals that he and the government are in a joint military relationship with other neighbouring countries of Nigeria, especially Chad, Niger and Cameroon. Even though he asserts that the problem of insecurity would be worsened, he gives his assurance that peace would be restored **in that country**, that is, in Chad, despite the **unfortunate killing of their**

(Chadian) **President**, thereby giving a positive self-representation of leaders as guardians of Nigerians.

Text 38

Mr. Ketil Karlsen, **has said** that efforts by the **Edo State Government to stem** human trafficking have resulted in the state dropping from **first** to **sixth** position, among originating sources of illegal migrants to Europe. ...They are a **model** as well as a **strategic** place to work in, as Nigeria **tackles** the **scourge**. Karlsen said this after an inspection tour to different locations in Benin City, the Edo capital, where migrant returnees would be sheltered and trained. (*Leadership*, December 6, 2018)

Text 38 also gives a positive representation of leaders as guardians. While this is different from Text 37 above, which ascribes positive representation to self and member of the in-group, the kind of positive representation in Text 38 is ascribed by other based on assessment. Using the discourse strategies of functionalisation, nomination and identification, *Leadership* reveals the identity of the assessor, who is by no means an ordinary person but an EU ambassador to Nigeria and the ECOWAS. This typifies functionalisation in van Leeuwen's orientation, that is, representing social actor(s) as a matter of what they do and functions they perform in the context, while identification and nomination capture clearly the permanent identity of the speaker through the inclusion of his full name, **Mr Ketil Karlsen**. By bending the reporting voice and that of the ambassador, the newspaper appeals to authority, which is a major source of news authentication in news reportage. The double portfolio of the sayer – the excerpt is dominantly verbal – reinforces the commendation and positive representation given to the government of Edo State and its governor, Godwin Obaseki, who is presented through the same discourse strategies.

As previously established, Edo State has been noted to be the hot bed of illegal migration and human trafficking. Hence, **the state dropping from first to sixth position** in the ranking of states and places where illegal migration is rife deserves some commendation. Since Europe is usually the main destination of many irregular migrants and trafficked persons, the commendation and positive representation given by the European ambassador to **the Edo State Government** is in appreciation of the result-yielding positive efforts of the state. This means that Europe is thankful to

Godwin Obaseki for his well-directed policies in stemming human trafficking and illegal migration from Nigeria, particularly from Edo State.

Moreover, the attitude of the newspaper is in sync with that of the ambassador, as both of them conceive irregular migration and human trafficking as **the menace** by the newspaper and **the scourge** by the ambassador. The former means something that is likely to cause serious harm or injury to people, and the latter refers to something that causes a lot of trouble or suffering to a group of people. While illegal migration and human trafficking are dominant in the excerpt, return migration can also be seen. Though backgrounded, the adjectival clause – **where migrant returnees would be sheltered and trained** – depicts an all-encompassing policy of the Edo State Government, which not only addresses the menace of illegal migration and human trafficking but also caters to the need of return migrants. While suppressing the actor of the material actions in the adjectival clause, contextual features identify the Godwin Obaseki-led administration as the performer, hence the positive representation ascribed to his government – which other states in Nigeria are inferentially encouraged to follow in stemming the tide of illegal migration and human trafficking without neglecting return migration (migrants).

4.3.2 Leaders as culprits

This representation, leaders as culprits, presents Nigerian leaders negatively in the newspaper reportage of migration. A culprit is a person responsible for a crime or misdeed. Being culprits denotes dereliction of duties, self-centredness and selfishness, lack of accountability and empathy, corruption and irresponsibility on the part of the leaders, leading to the disappointment and disillusionment of their followers or citizens. This representation is mainly ascribed to leaders by the newspapers, citizens, migrants, opposition parties, non-governmental organisations and international organisations. In the excerpts below, Nigerian leaders are represented as culprits.

Text 39

A week before they **were deported**, a **viral** video emerged on social media showing **some Nigerians wrapped in black polythene bags lying on the floor in a packed room**. A male narrator in the video... said, **We** are here for more than **three months, six months, seven months, without any action, no better information on transport to**

Nigeria. Most nationals of other countries have been flown back to their countries. Only we Nigerians don't have any source or way of getting back. (*Daily Trust*, March 20, 2021)

The representation deducible from Text 39 is leaders as culprits. Exclusion, differentiation, nomination and association are the discourse strategies deployed in Text 39. The newspaper, *Daily Trust*, opens the report from a narrative angle in order to set the background and gives a vivid description of the reported incident. This is evident in the first two sentences of the extract. Starting with an adverbial clause of time, **A week before they were deported**, which modifies the main verb **emerged** in the succeeding clause, the reporter provides the first circumstantial information about the third person plural pronoun **they**. This pronoun cataphorically refers to the noun phrase, **some Nigerians**, which typifies nomination, identification and association. Exclusion is also observed through the usage of passive construction which obscures the actor of the material action, **were deported**, by fronting the goal. Moreover, that the referenced video, which serves as the main source of the news is described as **viral**, depicts how rapidly and widely circulated it (the video) was on the Internet.

Having identified the participants in the video as **some Nigerians** which is qualified by the elliptic adjectival clause **wrapped in black polythene bags lying on the floor in a packed room**, the reporter portrays graphically the sorry and pathetic state of the qualified noun phrase. Ordinarily, polythene bags are not meant to serve as clothing for humans, much less being used to wrap themselves. Unfortunately in this case, these Nigerians are not only **wrapped in polythene bags** but they are also **lying on the floor**. As if this is not enough, the prepositional phrase **in a packed room** further accentuates the terrible and pitiable situation of the people. Corroborating the graphically depicted state of the participants, the newspaper goes on to lend credence through both paraphrasing and direct reportage of actual words of one of the Nigerians in the video. The pronoun **he** which is the sayer of the verbal process refers anaphorically to the noun phrase **a male narrator**. In his verbiage is the culpability and uncaring nature of Nigerian leaders projected. Using the inclusive pronoun, **we**, the narrator reveals the number of months, which is **three, six and seven**, respectively, in which the passive participants in the video have been where is referred to as **here**. With this place adverb, **here**, surfaces two possible interpretations. One, it either refers

to the prepositional phrase, **in a packed room** deducible from the first sentence of the extract, or two, it points to another prepositional phrase, **in the West Asian country**, which is co-textually Saudi Arabia.

Revealing this leadership culpability and irresponsibility is the prepositional phrase **without any action, no better information on transport to Nigeria**. This presupposes that despite the willingness of the identified Nigerians to return to their country of origin from Saudi Arabia where they are being exposed to inhuman treatment and condition, their leaders fail to come to their rescue to bring them back home. Reinforcing this interpretation is the penultimate sentence of the extract where it is asserted by the narrator that **other countries** have come to the aid of their nationals in bringing them back to **their countries**. This is not the case of the Nigerian nationals as obviously shown in the last sentence of the extract, **Only we Nigerians don't have any source or way of getting back**. It can, thus, be deduced that it is the same irresponsible action and inaction of the Nigerian leaders that force these Nigerians out of their country to seek greener pastures in the first instance.

Text 40

Yinka Odumakin, the spokesman of **Afenifere**, a **Yoruba** socio-cultural group, said: The registration of migrants **will not force the government to enforce the law against criminal herdsmen/terrorists**, which the government is not doing at the moment. The exercise cannot make the government to stop acting as **the media office of Miyetti Allah**. (*The Guardian*, July 17, 2019)

In Text 40, the government of Nigeria, especially the administration of Muhammadu Buhari, is presented as culpable, sectional and irresponsible. The discourse strategies deployed in this extract are identification, nomination, and functionalisation. Text 40 is mainly verbal. The sayer of the extract is **Yinka Odumakin** who is identified and nominated. The position and function of the sayer is captured in the noun phrase **the spokesman of Afenifere**, which is a **Yoruba socio-cultural group**. The deployment of these discourse strategies as evident in the subject of the sentence is to properly give force to assertions of the sayer – some tactical way of appealing to authority. It is this sayer that performs the verbal action – a reporting verb – **said** in the excerpt. In his verbiage, the sayer asserts that the decision/policy of the government to register

migrants **will not force the government to enforce the law against criminal herdsmen/terrorists.**

For context, when this news was reported, the president of Nigeria in power then, Muhammadu Buhari, is a Fulani man, while the spokesman, with the sociocultural group he represents, is Yoruba. Hence, differentiation is noteworthy here as the two representatives of the divides are for their individual group and against the other. Interestingly in the Nigerian parlance, herdsmen are mainly Fulani. By implication, the spokesman conceives the registration of migrants, especially Fulani herdsmen, as a way of granting undue citizenship to the migrant herders. With this background, the sayer further avers that the government is not enforcing the law against criminal herdsmen/terrorists. That the government, which is elected by the majority of the electorate is shielding and protecting **criminal herdsmen/terrorists**, is incredible, scary and dangerous to the corporate existence of Nigeria as a country with various profound diversities and nationalities. This means that the government/leaders are culprits.

Additionally, the sayer labels the government as **the media office of Miyetti Allah**. Miyetti Allah is an advocacy group that seeks to ensure and protect the welfare of herdsmen or pastoralists in Nigeria, who are mainly of Fulani extraction. Hence, it is a height of culpability and irresponsibility on the part of a government that claims to be national and all-inclusive in orientation to be **acting as the media office** of a sectional group. The report goes on reveal that **Yinka Odumakin** further asserts that **no level of registration** – in an existential process – that is done for migrants, particularly herdsmen, **will make Nigeria a safe place**. As contained in the news report, **Odumakin** submits through a conditional clause that only if the government is really national in protecting the interests of **all citizens against special interests** will there be safety and security in the country. The implication of this is that the leader/government of Nigeria is sectional, irresponsible, nepotistic and largely culpable in the present state of the country.

Text 41

A United Nations Refugee Agency Report **in 2011** stated that about **10,500 Nigerians** sought **asylum** in **industrialised** countries that year alone with many of them unwilling to return to their homeland.... (*Punch*, April 30, 2016)

Also in Text 41 is the government/leaders represented as culpable and uncaring. The sole voice in this extract is that of the *Punch* newspaper. Like many of the extracts, this one is also a verbal clause which embeds material process and existential process. As previously established in media discourse, here, the newspaper appeals to authority to project credibility of claims made in their reports. The noun phrase, **A United Nations Refugee Agency Report in 2011** is the authority appealed to, and it also serves as the sayer of the verbal process, **stated**. The choice of an indefinite article **a** in the identified noun phrase, which the newspaper claims as its source and authority, casts some doubt on the validity of the claim reported in this extract because there is lack of specificity on which of the 2011 United Nations Refugee Agency Reports is referenced.

Nevertheless, in the verbiage, number game, nomination and association are deployed as ideological and discourse strategies. These three are evident in the prepositional phrase **about 10,500 Nigerians**. Again, lack of specificity is observed in the usage of the preposition **about** in the quoted prepositional phrase. This means that the news reporter, including the newspaper, is not sure of the actual number of Nigerians who perform the material action **sought** in the succeeding elliptic adjectival clause. The patient of the material process is **asylum**. Denotatively, asylum is protection or stay granted by a state or a government to someone who has left his or her country of origin or homeland as a result of political persecution or threat. The prepositional phrase, **in industrialised countries** provides the clausal circumstance. This embedded material clause suggests that the homeland, Nigeria, is uninhabitable, smothering and life-threatening, while the host land, **industrialised countries**, is flourishing, welcoming and inhabitable.

However, their unwillingness to come back to their homeland is anchored on the irresponsibility of the government in its failure **in catering for them upon their return**. This is shown in the existent of the existential clause **there is nothing for them to fall back on**. This presents the government and leadership of Nigeria as

culprits in the state of the nation. Interestingly, the United Nations report that is referenced in the extract was **in 2011** while the newspaper report was in 2016. For context, politically, Nigeria has two different presidents from two separate dominant political parties between the year 2011 and 2016. Unfortunately, for the newspaper to have made this news report after 5 years of the UN's report implicates that nothing has really changed for good in the lives of Nigerians, despite the change in the political leadership and party at the helms of affairs of the country. Therefore, culpability and irresponsibility of leaders is neither a function of party nor social affiliation; it is a fundamental problem that runs in the very veins of the political class and system of Nigeria.

Text 42

UK Immigration officers are losing it. They **just kill these immigrants** and hide under the story that they **resisted** deportation. When they **kill** these people, they **do not tell** their families that they are dead. What they do is to bury them in mass graves. These things are happening because African Governments do not care about their citizens," she said. (*The Sun*, March 20, 2016)

Text 42 also portrays governments/leaders as culprits and highly irresponsible. The excerpt contains eight clauses which are the verbiage of the sayer identified by the third person singular feminine pronoun, **she**, who performs the verbal action **said** in the news report. Within the context of the report, the pronoun **she** locates anaphorically the noun phrase **A Nigerian-British politician and activist, Professor Alexia Thomas**. This is identification, nomination and functionalisation in van Leeuwen's categorisation. It is upon this background and discourse strategies that the sayer's assertions in the excerpt are presented as authentic and perhaps believable – an appeal to authority. In the first sentence, the sayer claims that **UK Immigration officers are losing it**. This is a relational clause, which is an idiomatic expression, meaning 'to become extremely angry or upset'. Association and specification are used to classify **UK Immigration officers** as social actors.

While the reason for getting 'extremely angry or upset' is not mentioned, the sayer goes on to unveil how the angry demeanour of the **UK Immigration officers** is carried out in the second sentence to the last of the extract. In the second sentence which contains three material clauses, the pronoun **they**, which refers to the **UK**

Immigration officers, is the actor of the material action **kill** while the noun phrase **these immigrants** is the patient of the action. The inclusion of the adverb **just** to modify **kill** suggests that the actor has contemptuous perception for the patient, hence the lack of value for the lives of the patient, **these immigrants**. The second material action and circumstance **hide under the story that they resisted deportation** is also carried out by the identified actor – **UK Immigration officers**. This is the technique which the officers employ to get away with the wanton killing of **these immigrants**, since resisting deportation gives room for the officers to enforce compliance using any means possible.

Further, the third sentence reinforces the imbalanced power relations between the UK Immigration officers and the immigrants. This imbalance is evident in the officers' failure to perform the verbal action, **tell**, immigrants' families that **they** (these immigrants) **are dead**, thereby making the families to continue to search for their 'missing' loved ones. Having killed **these immigrants**, the fourth sentence, **What they do is to bury them in mass graves** uncovers what the officers do to the bodies of the immigrants. This sentence is relational. Burying people in mass graves, without informing their families to get their consent, is criminal. Notwithstanding, in the news report, the sayer depicts **African Governments** as culpable and irresponsible due to their nonchalant and uncaring attitude about the welfare of their citizens in the United Kingdom, in other foreign lands and even in their homeland.

4.3.3 Migrants as criminals

Criminalising migrants is common in migration news reports in different parts of the world. Criminals are people who frequently commit crimes and cannot do without committing crimes, and they are lawbreakers. Mainly, migrants' crimes are represented as survival strategy in foreign lands. Two categories of criminalisation of migrants are observable in Nigerian newspaper reports on migration. The first is criminalising migrants of Nigerian origin, and the second is criminalising non-Nigerian migrants. Most of the latter are usually irregular migrants. In criminalising non-Nigerian migrants, the actual crimes are clearly and vividly portrayed in the news reports, but in that of Nigerian migrants, the newspapers collectively named the crimes committed, with the exclusion of the details. These two categories are textually illustrated subsequently.

Text 43

A total of **13,235 Nigerians** have been **deported** from **at least 10 countries in four years**, *Daily Trust* investigation has revealed. Findings uncovered the countries to include Libya, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, South Africa and Cameroon. Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Oman and some countries in Europe also deported Nigerians. The deportation of Nigerians was mostly attributed to immigration related offenses and other criminal activities. (*Daily Trust*, March 20, 2021)

Text 43 typifies a negative representation of migrants as criminals. Criminalising migrants is prevalent in media reportage all over the world. It is, therefore, not surprising that this negative portrayal is featured prominently in Nigerian newspaper reports on migration. The sole voice observable in the excerpt is that of the *Daily Trust*'s reporter. The text is full of assertions and claims which are the results of the investigation the newspaper conducted. In the whole excerpt, number game, which is a major ideological tactic in migration reports, is deployed. The first sentence, using genericisation, specification and association as discourse tools, presents the total number of Nigerians **deported from at least 10 countries in four years**. The implication of this is that migrants of Nigerian origin are criminals. In addition, the fact that 10 countries could deport Nigerians from their countries accentuates this negative representation, which is reinforced by the prepositional phrase **in four years**. Even though the newspaper is silent in revealing the identities of the persons/institutions that deported Nigerians, that these Nigerians are deported by the named countries is obvious.

Further, the newspaper goes on to deploy nomination and specification to unveil the ten countries, which have been associatively categorised in the first sentence, in the second and third sentences of the excerpt. Three continents are depicted in naming the countries involved: Africa, Asia and Europe. Libya, Burkina Faso, Mali, South Africa, Ghana and Cameroon are the African countries; Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Oman represent the Asian countries, while the European countries are not named, but only captured in the phrase **some countries in Europe**. This reveals association as a discourse strategy. If ten countries in three continents of the world could deport migrants of Nigerian origin separately, it can be inferred that such migrants are really criminally minded. The role given to these countries is that of the actor, and the

deported Nigerians are the patient that suffers the consequences of the actor's action. Additionally, Libya, one of the countries that deported Nigerians, is portrayed as the one that leads on the deportation chart with **over 80 per cent of the total deportation**. This is not surprising due to the fact that the country, Libya, is the major route for irregular migrants whose destination is Italy and other parts of the European continent. With this portrayal, it can, therefore, be deduced that migrants of Nigerian origin have a higher possibility of breaking immigration laws of their countries of residence or destination and carrying out 'criminal activities' in such countries. One can, thus, say that this kind of representation perpetuates discriminatory attitudes and treatments of Nigerian would-be regular and legal migrants at the embassies of these countries, even in Nigeria.

Text 44

The Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Solomon Arase, has **said most herdsmen that cause trouble in Nigeria are foreigners**, specifically from **neighbouring** Mali and Chad. ...We should also know about the history of migration. Most of these herdsmen are not Nigerians. ...That is why we have to be very careful. Our **borders** are very **porous**. Predominantly, our own herdsmen are **law-abiding** people. (*Punch*, February 15, 2016)

One of the major talking points in Nigeria socio-political space is the herder-farmer conflict, which has continued to plague the Nigerian state to date. Due to the nomadic nature of the herdsmen and stable nature of the farmers, different dimensions of clashes and violence have been commonplace in the country. The date, February 15, 2016, when this news report in Text 44 was published, does become significant. In the text, migrants as criminals representation is ascribed to others, foreigners, by the then **Inspector-General of Police, Mr Solomon Arase**, as the law enforcer of Nigeria. In the excerpt are deployed discourse strategies of nomination, identification, association, dissociation and differentiation by the *Punch* and the main social actor, the police chief, respectively as evident in the coalescence of voices in Text 44.

Being dominantly verbal clauses, the status and official position of the sayer is revealed through functionalisation while his full name typifies identification and nomination. The deployment of these strategies gives some authority and force to the claim made by the sayer, whose words – owing to the position he occupied at the

material time – are supposed to be the most authentic and evidence-based on the subject of discourse, security. In his actual words, working within the ideological construct of polarisation, the Inspector-General of Police asserts that the herders who are causing trouble in the country are from Mali and Chad. However, the IG implicitly implicates himself and the institution he represents, the police, and by extension other security apparatuses in Nigeria and the government. If **our borders are porous** and the government and its security agencies are aware of this, then they are complicit in the troubles engulfing the land, for they have failed in their responsibility of safeguarding the country and its citizens from any aggression, whether internal or external.

Therefore, he identifies foreign herdsmen as the cause of herder-farmer conflict in Nigeria. He also refers to the foreign herdsmen as cattle rustlers. Deploying association as a discourse strategy, the police chief categorises all herdsmen in Nigeria as a group on the one hand, and using differentiation, he further separates foreign herdsmen from their Nigerian counterparts on the other hand. This differentiation is for the purpose of ascribing negative other-presentation to foreigners, particularly the herdsmen. He asserts, using an inclusive pronominal term **our** in the noun phrase **our own herdsmen**, that Nigerian herdsmen are law-abiding, which implies that foreign herdsmen are lawbreakers, hence foregrounding us versus them dichotomy. The argument of the police chief in the excerpt is premised on the non-Nigerianness of the foreign herdsmen, which brings about their lack of any sense of belonging in the country. Therefore, the negative representation of migrants, in this case foreign herders, as criminals is attributed by the sayer.

Text 45

The United States of America (USA) has **deported 41 Nigerians** for the breach of various laws in the country. The 41 Nigerians (**all males**) were flown into the country through the Murtala Muhammed International Airport.... *Daily Sun* learnt that **nine** of the deported Nigerians were **repatriated for drug related offence, 26** for various police cases, while the **other six** were returned for the **breach of the US immigration laws....** (*The Sun*, June 22, 2016)

Text 45 is another instance of the negative representation of migrants as criminals. Here, activation is the first discourse strategy employed. The newspaper foregrounds the actor, **the United States of America**, of the material action, **has deported**, in the

first sentence by fronting it. This activation implies the power that the US wields in the world, particularly as regard the issue of criminal activities of immigrants, especially from Nigeria. Deploying the usual number game, determination and association as ideological and discourse tools, the sufferers of the material action of deportation are revealed as **41 Nigerians**, while the clausal circumstance provides the justification of the punitive action of the activated powerful United States **for the breach of various laws in the country**. Hence, the deported migrants of Nigerian origin are criminals, for only criminals could break or breach **the various laws** of a country. Interestingly, the qualifier of the noun phrase, **the breach of various laws** is a strategic number game deployed to show that the **41 Nigerians** do not just break one or two laws but many of the US laws – which are tactically revealed in the excerpt.

As if the number of the deported migrants is not enough, the newspaper goes on to employ specification as a strategic move to reveal their gender, which is captured in parentheses (**all males**), thereby indirectly representing ‘men as criminals’. Perhaps for the purpose of specificity, the name of the airport and that of the airplane, with its registration number, that brings in the ‘deportees’ to Nigeria and even the time in which the plane touched down in the country are fully mentioned in the excerpt. One can infer from this detailed reportage that the US sees to the letter that the men are properly deported to their country of origin, Nigeria, so as to get rid of foreign criminals from their own land. Moreover, as noted earlier, the already established grouping of **the 41 Nigerians** is further divided through association and specification as discourse strategies to their respective crimes-categorisation: **9 for drug related offences, 26 for various police cases and 6 for the breach of immigration laws**. Ultimately, the newspaper links the deportation of the 41 Nigerians from the United States to a recently (less than a week) similar but greater number of deportees (162 Nigerians) who entered Libya through illegal means.

Text 46

He said, This year, **we** have retrieved **over 700 voter’s cards** from **non-Nigerians**. We promise that we **will stop at nothing** to ensure that non-Nigerians do not participate in the 2019 general elections. We will make sure that they don’t vote and they are not voted for.... (*Leadership*, December 9, 2018)

Text 46 further typifies the negative representation of migrants as criminals in relations to elections. Elections can be said to be formal and organised processes in which a person or a group of people are voted to occupy official or political positions in a country. In many places in the world, electoral fraud is a recurrent issue in different democratic states. While only the indigenes or citizens of a country are constitutionally allowed to vote, foreigners are not permitted to vote in their countries of residence, irrespective of their legal or illegal status. The pronoun **he** which is fronted in the first clause of the extract refers to **the immigration boss**, contextually identified as **Muhammad Babandede**, as the main actor and sayer in this extract. In a nascent democracy like Nigeria's, all security agencies are always used to secure the integrity of the electoral process. Since the Nigeria Immigration Service is the one in charge of immigration into and emigration from the country, its boss becomes a major stakeholder in the country's electoral process. Even though the body in charge of elections in Nigeria is Independent National Electoral Commission, it collaborates with other groups and agencies to achieve its mandate.

As observed above, identity and authority are important in news reportage. This is why Osisanwo (2016c) avers that the media always focus on newsworthy and influential people. Using the inclusive pronoun, **we**, the NIS boss reveals that within the referenced year, which was 2018, his agency has **retrieved over 700 voter's cards from non-Nigerians**. The strategies deployed here are association and differentiation. The sayer groups non-Nigerians together and differentiates them from Nigerians. This polarisation is to clearly depict who are eligible to vote during the Nigeria's elections and who are not. For context, 2018 was the year preceding the 2019 General Elections in Nigeria. Thus, if **over 700 voter's cards** could be retrieved from non-Nigerians, it can be argued that it is easy for foreigners to get the cards which are meant for only citizens, and it is possible that there would be more of such cards that the immigration and its sister agencies would be unable to retrieve from non-Nigerians. Hardly is any measure put in place to verify the claimed identity of anybody who wants to register as a voter in Nigeria, thereby jeopardising the integrity of elections. In line with this background, it is almost impossible for the immigration boss to actualise his promise that they would ensure that non-Nigerians do not participate in the elections, either as candidates or as voters. The excerpt implicitly unveils the weaknesses of different

institutions in Nigeria. If foreigners could enter the country and get voter's cards, then stopping them from voting or being voted for may be impossible.

Text 47

Two nationals of Niger Republic have been **arrested** at Kongolam border in Katsina state, the Nigerian Immigration Service announced on Saturday. ...they were arrested in possession of **pistols, computers and phones**. He said vigilant officers arrested the two Nigeriens who had attempted **to open fire** in defiance and to evade arrest. ...leaving one **dead** in the cross fire, while the **survivor** is helping with useful information about their activities. (*The Nation*, September 28, 2019)

In Text 47, *The Nation* strategically rearranges the normal ordering of a sentence to achieve prominence and foregrounding in the first sentence of the extract. Through determination and identification as discourse strategies, the news reader is made aware of the arrest of **two nationals of Niger Republic**. The 'announcer' and sayer of this arrest is **the Nigeria Immigration Service**. Though the performer of the material action of arrest is hidden within the employed passivised construction, it is presupposed that it is the NIS that does the arrest. The location where the arrest is carried out is very revealing. **Kongolam border in Kastina state** is bordered by Niger Republic, which means that it is not unusual having Nigeriens entering Nigeria illegally through this border due to its proximity to Niger Republic and the porosity of the Nigerian border. Hence, the first criminal act of the two arrested Nigeriens is illegal migration.

As the mouthpiece and spokesperson of the NIS, James Sunday, whose rank is Deputy Comptroller of Immigration (DCI), the newspaper appeals to authority for credibility. He further uncovers other criminal activities of the two arrested Nigeriens. Still veiling the actor of the action and fronting the patient with the use of a third person plural pronoun, **they**, the prepositional phrase **in possession of pistols, computers and phones** which captures the clausal circumstance reveals the criminally-minded migrants. It should be noted that items found in the hands of the Nigeriens are in plural form, which gives the impression that they are likely to be criminals indeed. While nothing is incriminating in the possession of computers and phones, fronting **pistols**, which are life-threatening weapons, in the list is very intentional to accentuate the

representation. More so, possessing these pluralised gadgets, especially computers and phones, at the border when one is not a security agent raises some suspicion and question.

Furthermore, deploying activation in unveiling the actor of the material action, he describes the officers as **vigilant** – a positive attribute, and the Nigeriens are said to have **attempted to open fire** in order to escape being arrested. **To open fire** means (to begin) to shoot. Though the clause does not reveal the persons the Nigeriens attempted to shoot, the contextual features pick out the **vigilant officers** as possibly the sufferers of that material action. This provides the justification for overpowering the Nigeriens, **leaving one dead in the cross fire**. This clearly absolves **the vigilant officers** and the immigration service of any extra-judicial killing. Besides, the newspaper, through use of the -ing non-finite clause, achieves obscuring and backgrounding any actor in the report. Perhaps seeing his partner dead in the cross fire, the other Nigerian has no choice but to provide **useful information about their activities**.

4.3.4 Migrants as victims

Migrants as victims is a representation which is used to uncover the experiences of migrants of African or Nigerian origin in other parts of the world, particularly to capture how unpalatable their experiences are in their host land where they presume would be their greener pastures. A victim is someone who has suffered as a result of actions or beliefs of someone else or as a consequence of unpleasant circumstances. This representation is mostly seen under human trafficking as a migration discourse issue. The excerpts below illustrate migrants as victims.

Text 48

...the representatives **decried** the **increasing** number of **Nigerian women** trafficked to neighbouring African countries as **sex slaves**. ...the House said that several others were scattered around the world in the unholy act.....the Nigeria's lower house asserted that between **20,000 and 30,000 Nigerian girls** are sex slaves, with **50** additional girls being added to the list every day. (*The Guardian*, March 13, 2020)

Text 48 presents women as victims of transnational human trafficking. The dominant actor of the processes in Text 48 is **the representatives**, which co-textually refer the

Nigerian House of Representatives, the lower national legislative arm of government. The representatives are captured as social actors through nomination, association, functionalisation and determination as discourse tools. Other lexical words in the excerpt used to refer to the representatives are **the House** and **the Nigeria's lower house**. Constitutionally, the House of Representatives is consisted of 360 members elected by their individual constituencies across the country. Having mainly law-making and oversight functions, they are supposed to represent the people in the parliament. Their voice and words are the most important in performing their duties as lawmakers. This background establishes the importance and authority of the sayer, the House, whose voice is coalesced with that of the newspaper in this text.

The first verbal action in the extract is **decried** which means to strongly criticise something. This action is performed, as the newspaper presents it, wholly by the House. The object of the verb, **decried**, is the noun phrase, **the increasing number of Nigerian women** which is further modified by the adjectival clause **trafficked to neighbouring African countries as sex slaves**. The verbal adjective, **increasing** in the noun phrase uncovers the rise in the amount of trafficked women from Nigeria. These women are not only trafficked but also sexually exploited **as sex slaves** by the traffickers in Africa, Europe, Middle East and other parts of the world. This is deducible from the verbiage **several others** (referring to Nigerian women) **were scattered around the world**. Who does the scattering of the trafficked women is excluded. Sex slavery involves different types of servitude such as forced prostitution, child sex rings, pornography, nude dancing, nude modelling, etc.

Employing categorisation and association, Nigerian women, including under-age girls, are grouped together as an entity in the excerpt. Since there is always a need to show the validity of claims in news reportage and (political) arguments, the newspaper refers the source – the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) – alluded to by the lawmakers. This helps in establishing the authenticity of the House's assertions, using the most potent ideological tool in migration reportage, number game. It is scary and definitely alarming that **between 20,000 and 30,000 Nigerian girls** are entangled in sex slavery worldwide with **50 additional girls** joining the list of trafficked victims daily. This denotes that women and girls are weak and easily susceptible to human trafficking. As a largely patriarchal society and the House

of Representatives being predominantly male populated, the lawmakers, therefore, present themselves as saviours who care about the trafficked Nigerian women and perhaps ready to save them from their sexual servitude.

Text 49

Kano State Command of the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) has **paraded eight victims of human trafficking** who came from **Edo**, and **Delta** states en route **Kano** and heading to **Italy** through **Niger** and **Chad** in search of greener pasture abroad. Parading the victims who are all females the state Commandant, Alhaji Ishag Yusuf said his men were on the trail of both the agents who are Nigeriens and the victims since they received **intelligent report** concerning their movement until their arrival in Kano where they fall into the **dragnet** of the command. (*Leadership*, March 30, 2019)

In line with the foregoing analysis, Text 49 also portrays women migrants as victims. Activation is the first discourse strategy utilised as the actor, **Kano State Command of the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS)** of the material process **has paraded** occupies its normal functioning position. Notably is the namelessness of the **eight victims of human trafficking** who are the patient of the identified action. It can be said that the newspaper opts to anonymise the victims as a face-saving mechanism. However, *Leadership* employs naming technique to uncover the states of origin of the victims, which are **Edo** and **Delta**; interestingly, these states border each other. Within the Nigerian socio-political milieu, one's state of origin is important in accessing or being denied some benefits and opportunities. The two states of origin of the trafficked persons are in the southern part of the country, while the rescuers are residents or possibly indigenes of Kano; even the newspaper is of northern extraction. Hence, their states of origin becomes important in projecting the north as saving southern women – giving some kind of superior position to the north. More so, Europe is the destination of the victims while Kano, Niger and Chad are the routes to reaching their destination. The prepositional phrase **in search of greener pasture abroad** captures the desire of the victims to use migration as a means to reach their goal of living a better life Europe or elsewhere aside their country as **greener pasture** denotes a better or more promising and prosperous situation.

Interestingly, the adjectival clause post-modifying the noun phrase, **the victims who are all females**, unequivocally depicts the negative representation of women as victims. The noun phrase with its appositive construct, **the state commandant, Alhaji Ishag Yusuf**, and the noun phrase **his men** orient masculine and patriarchal ideological inclinations. The eight trafficked female southern victims are rescued and saved by the unnumbered-but-definitely-more-than-one-northern men from the grip of the foreign human traffickers. Furthermore, the sayer, Alhaji Ishag Yusuf, applauds the action of **his men** for they **were on the trail of** the traffickers and their victims. The idiomatic expression, ‘to be on the trail of someone or something’ denotes to follow, pursue or track the person or thing diligently and carefully. The foreignness of the traffickers – being Nigeriens – reveals the earlier illustrated representation of migrants as criminals. Although the person(s) who supplies **the intelligent report** with which **his men** used in trailing the traffickers and the victims is excluded, the state commandant indirectly recognises the role of cooperation and collaboration of stakeholders in the success of their operation. The lexical word **dragnet**, used as a metaphor, is very significant as it brings to the fore the picture of a prey caught and entangled in a premeditatedly set trap. Dragnet is typically a net drawn through the bottom of a river or across ground to trap fish or game. It is also a systematic search for someone, especially criminals by law enforcement agents. In this instance, the said dragnet of the command, the NIS, ultimately catches their prey, the Nigerian traffickers, and rescues the latter’s victims, Nigerian women.

Text 50

A non-governmental organisation, RARDUJA International, has said that **1,200 Nigerians** seeking greener pasture abroad **died** in their attempt to reach Europe... The group also revealed that while about **12,000 Nigerians** were **brought back** last year from Libya alone, **63,000** are still **currently trapped**.... (*The Guardian*, April 11, 2019)

Text 50 presents migrants as victims. In Text 50, number game, authority, nomination and association are the dominant discourse and ideological strategies utilised in presenting the migrants as victims. As usual, the extract is largely full of verbal processes, which subsume other processes, especially material. Hence, the sayer of the verbal actions, which doubles as the authority whose assertions are reported by *The Guardian*, is **RARDUJA International**. The initialism stands for ‘Re-educating

Africans on the Risk and Dangers in Unplanned Journeys Abroad’ – a non-governmental organisation. It is the verbiage that depicts the number of people who **died in their attempt to reach Europe**. These people are not just ordinary and unidentified migrants, but they are Nigerians. Thus, in the course of **seeking greener pasture** irregularly, the Nigerian migrants encounter their fatal end. That **1,200 Nigerians** died in the desert and at sea within a year is not only scary but should also discourage other potential irregular migrants from embarking on such fatal journeys. The desert and the sea referred in the report are Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea. The continuous nature of the search for better life is shown in the elliptic adjectival clause in the noun phrase, **Nigerians seeking greener pasture**. Why these Nigerians are **seeking greener pasture** is completely excluded from the excerpt.

While **1,200 Nigerian migrants** encounter their fatal end in the first sentence of the text, **about 12,000 Nigerians** are saved and **brought back** to their country of origin ‘from Libya alone’. The insertion of the preposition in the prepositional phrase **about 12,000 Nigerians** suggests that the newspaper deploys hedging, which by implication suggests some lack of certainty. In this second sentence also, the actor of the material process **brought back** is wholly excluded. Unfortunately, the discontinuous verb phrase, **are still currently trapped**, which is the last material process in the excerpt, has its patient **63,000** fronted for the purpose of foregrounding, with the exclusion of the actor, that is, their trappers. The number **63,000** modifies the deleted nominal head, **Nigerians**. The verb **trapped** injects a metaphorical dimension, which brings animal imagery or a-hunter-and-prey frame, into the report. Hence, this metaphorisation makes the picture of irregular or illegal migration frightening and intimidating to the news reader, specifically potential irregular (Nigerian) migrants, so as not to venture into such journeys.

Text 51

...there is a **high patronage** of **human traffickers**... who lure or **assist** migrants across borders, promising them jobs, education and a better living condition. Many of them, mostly **women** and **children**, **are sold** into **prostitution**, **rape**, **child labour**, **child marriage** and other **abuses**. Many victims of human trafficking never live to tell their story.... (*Punch*, December 21, 2016)

Also, Text 51 depicts migrants as victims. Material and existential clauses fill this excerpt. The main voice in Text 51 is that of the newspaper, which asserts that Nigerian migrants are aware of **the risk involved** in irregular migration, but they still embark on such journeys. Exclusion is the major discourse strategy used here. Using an existential construct, **there is**, the newspaper projects this awareness. The nucleus of the assertion is captured in the highly lexicalised and modified qualifier of the noun phrase, **a high patronage**, which is the existent of the existential clause. The multiple qualifiers **of human traffickers** are replete in material and verbal processes. The material actions are **charge** and **lure** or **assist** while the verbal action is **promising**. The first material action has **unimaginable amounts** as its patient. The adjective **unimaginable** shows the negative attitude of the news reporter to the subject matter. Moreover, this attitude is further reflected in the negative verb **lure** which means to trick someone to go to a particular place or to do something they would not normally do. Since human traffickers make their money through trafficking of their victims, it is very possible that they will always try to lure **migrants across borders** to achieve this end.

The verbiage of progressive verbal action of promising, that is, **jobs, education and a better living conditions**, which is targeted at the pronoun, **them** that anaphorically refers to **migrants** can be said to be what the irregular migrants lack and are the proverbial greener pastures that the migrants seek in the first instance. This connotes that their country, in this case, Nigeria, fails to provide them with these basic things of life, which citizens of a country should ordinarily enjoy in their land. Most times, the essence of luring someone is to exploit him or her. Therefore, the weak position of the migrants, **mostly women and children**, is exploited by the human traffickers through objectifying them as captured in the verb phrase **are sold** into all sorts of slavery and servitude such as **prostitution, rape, child labour and marriage**. Furthermore, the newspaper reinforces its assertion by revealing that many of these victims **never live to tell their story** because of the harsh, terrible and inhuman circumstances and experience they go through without their fundamental human rights being respected or preserved. The actors of the last sentence in the text, which perform material actions of exposing and denying are not revealed, therefore excluded. A number of possible actors of

these actions are the human traffickers, themselves, the migrants' buyer(s) or the situation the migrants find themselves.

4.3.5 Youths as ignoramuses

Another social actors' representation in the Nigerian newspaper reports on migration is youths as ignoramuses. An ignoramus is person who lacks knowledge or awareness of the state of a particular thing or place. It is their ignorance that makes the youths to migrate irregularly with hopes of a better life in their countries of destination, which may turn to a bitter life if they get to their destination. The Nigerian newspapers, through their reportage on migration, educate potential migrants, especially the youths on how uncertain, unsafe and dangerous irregular migration is. The extracts capture this representation.

Text 52

...In 2016, **over 20,000** involved in the Mediterranean Sea **crossing** were reported to be **from Nigeria**. For instance, an IOM study conducted in September 2019 in Oredo and Ikpoba Okha, **Edo** Nigeria revealed that **58 percent** (out of 419 respondents) aged between **13** and **40** have not heard or seen information **on the dangers of irregular migration** in the last year.... (*The Guardian*, April 14, 2020)

In Text 52, Nigerian youths are portrayed as ignorant of the risks and dangers involved in the irregular migration. Employing number game and nomination, *The Guardian* reveals that Nigerian youths make up **the largest population of the growing flow of migrants from Africa**. Two attributive adjectives significant in this noun phrase are **largest** and **growing** which are qualifying **population** and **flow**, respectively. Although the adjectives **largest** and **growing** should normally qualify something positive, the opposite is the case here. Despite being the largest, the population and the flow are still growing, which means that other young Nigerians are trying to join the already huge population of those who are tired of the state of their country. Producing the largest population and growing flow of migrants connotes a state of anomie, hopelessness and chaos. Important is the place of origin or departure of these young migrants, that is, Africa, especially Nigeria, depicted as chaotic, violent and lawless on the one hand, and the place of destination, Europe, portrayed as accommodating, welcoming and prosperous on the other. No wonder the huge number **20,000** of people was involved crossing the Mediterranean in 2016 alone are said to be from Nigeria.

Nevertheless, the reporter refers to a study conducted by International Organisation for Migration, to appeal to authority for validity and credibility, in Edo, specifically in Oredo and Ikpoba Okha areas of the state. As previously established, Edo State, Nigeria was one of the hotbeds of irregular migration from Nigeria. The findings of the study unveil how ignorant many of the Nigerian potential migrants are as **58 per cent** of the respondents who are between age **13** and **40** display lack of knowledge **on the dangers of irregular migration**. Further deploying statistics and number game, another **58 per cent** get the migration-related information primarily from their friends while **66 per cent** of the respondents only rely on words of mouth for information related to job opportunities in other countries. Thus, their sources of information about migration and employment opportunities abroad can be argued to be unreliable. It is, therefore, dangerous to premise one's decision to migrate whether legally or illegally on unreliable sources. Making such a major decision on inaccurate information clearly portrays youths as ignoramuses.

Text 53

There are ongoing discussions between Nigerian Foreign Affairs Ministry and Germany on how to repatriate these illegal immigrants to Nigeria, **he** said. ...Over **60 percent of Nigerians**, especially **youths**, believe that life ends in Europe or you can only be successful when you travel to Europe or United States. That is not true. Germany is planning to deport as many as **over 30,000 Nigerians**....
(*The Guardian*, June 9, 2019)

In Text 53, youths are also represented as ignorant of the reality of life in Europe, where they are migrating to. Text 53 captures the direct voice of the second person singular pronoun, **he**, which co-textually refers to **Eddy Duruji** who is the founder and president of a governmental organisation, RARDUJAR. He is the sayer of the verbal processes. Using nomination and identification as discourse strategies, the sayer makes known of the plan of Nigerian Foreign Affairs Ministry and Germany to send back **illegal immigrants to Nigeria**. The determiner **these** which is used to qualify **illegal immigrants** can be said to show the kind of attitude the sayer has for illegal immigrants – disdain. As if the immigrants were present in the physical context, **Owerri**, of the report, the use of **these** implicates that the sayer has a negative perception and attitude towards irregular migration.

Authority and status as ideological tools are used here to achieve credibility. The sayer, in his assertion, poses as if he were part of the ‘ongoing discussions’ to repatriate ‘these’ illegal immigrants from Germany to Nigeria. The newspaper validates this covert inclusion of the sayer due to his status and position – a founder and president – which may make him privy to some pieces of information that others may not be aware of. More so, it is from this privileged position of authority that he implores **the government and concerned agencies** to do better in educating Nigerians, specifically the youths. Describing the perception of Europe by Nigerian youths as erroneous suggests that he, Duruji, is more knowledgeable and has the duty to guide the youths, who are depicted as ignoramuses.

Further, number game is deployed to show authenticity by claiming that **over 60 per cent of Nigerians, especially youths, believe that life ends in Europe**. If **over 60 per cent of Nigerians** have a strong belief in the prosperity and abundance of Europe, then the continued existence of Nigeria as a country is so threatened, as its youths have lost hope of redemption in their country. To show that this belief is false, the sayer avers strongly using a simple sentence **That is not true**; the pronoun **that** refers to the preceding sentence which contains the **erroneous perception**. To show that life does not end in Europe, the sayer further unveils Germany’s plan to **deport as many as over 30,000 Nigerians**. Hence, deporting **over 30,000 Nigerians** to their country of origin denotes that Europe, particularly Germany in this instance, is not as accommodating and welcoming as ‘erroneously’ perceived by **over 60 per cent Nigerians, specifically the youths** who need proper migration education and orientation to correct the identified **erroneous perception**.

Text 54

It will interest you to know that it is **some of the parents** that are even **encouraging** their **children** to **leave** this country with the believe (sic) that their lives would be better while in the **foreign country**. Yusuf said it is not true that some of these **countries** are **better** than **Nigeria** adding that most times the victims are **dehumanised** and **reduced** to **sex machines**... (*Leadership*, March 20, 2019)

Although different, Text 54 is close to Text 53 in its representation of youths as ignoramuses. Here, identification is employed as the surname of the sayer, **Yusuf**, is mentioned. Contextually, the sayer, whose full name is **Alhaji Ishag Yusuf**, is the

Kano State Comptroller of the Nigeria Immigration Service. In his verbiage, the sayer does not only claim that the youths are ignorant of migrant experiences in their countries of destination but also aver that **some parents** are the ones who are emboldening their sons and daughters to leave Nigeria. His position clearly shows in his assertion as someone who is more versed in migration and migrant-related issues. The adjectival clause **that are even encouraging their children to leave this country** which qualifies **some of the parents** captures this assertion, even though the noun phrase is indeterminate because the parents being referenced and accused of encouraging irregular migration of **their children** are not clearly specified by the sayer. Naturally, parents want good life for their children. Consequently, seeing that their country, Nigeria, is no longer beneficial to their children, the parents can be said to have been compelled by the economic woes, which are brought upon the citizenry of the country by its leadership which Yusuf represents, to encourage their children to seek better life elsewhere, perhaps as a survival strategy.

Interestingly, the newspaper manages the voice of the sayer by switching from his actual words to reporting what he said indirectly. Hence, on the contrary, the sayer disagrees with the parents' reason for **encouraging their children to leave** by asserting that **it is not true that some of these countries are better than Nigeria**. Notably is the fact no name of any country is mentioned before the noun phrase **some of these countries**. This is an instance of indetermination as a discourse strategy. The newspaper, in the real sense, does not mention any country, yet it deploys **these countries** as if they have been identified earlier in the text. The proximity of **these** is then difficult to track because the referent is unknown. If the indirectly reported sayer has clearly specified and identified **these countries**, his claim of credibility and authenticity of the assertion that about parents and their children may be questioned, hence the indetermination and blurriness employed.

Moreover, using passivisation and frequency adverbial, the newspaper goes on to show the falsity of the parents' belief about migration and to uncover the possible fate of the irregular migrants. This is captured in the verbiage of the sayer **most times the victims are dehumanised and reduced to sex machines**. The adverbial phrase **most times** suggests a high possibility of occurrence of the actions that are described in the clause. However, the actors of the actions **dehumanised** and **reduced** are excluded completely in the extract. To dehumanise is to deprive some of the good human

qualities, and to reduce someone is to bring that person to a worse or less desirable state or condition. The noun phrase, **sex machines**, evokes a strong sense of objectification of a person. Originally, **sex machines** denote persons, especially women, who perform sexual roles or functions mechanically without feeling and mostly involuntarily. This dehumanisation and reduction to sex machines is anchored on the modifying conditional clause – **if they arrived their destinations safely**. Yusuf, the sayer, provides the other side of the conditional clause – if they **failed to make it to Europe** – it is still tragedy for the irregular migrants who may be left behind and stranded in the deserts of Mali, Libya and Niger, leading to their unfortunate and premature death. Ultimately, the sayer is cautioning and educating the youths to stop migrating irregularly and their parents to cease encouraging irregular migration.

4.4 Ideologies of social actors in the Nigerian newspaper reports on migration

The ideologies observable in the Nigerian newspaper reports on migration are nationalism, anti-racism, humanitarianism and anti-despotism. The ideological tools used in the realisation of these ideologies are number game, authority, polarisation, us-them dichotomy, positive self-presentation, negative other-representation, burden or argumentation, metaphor, implication, presupposition, victimisation, evidentiality, disclaimer, illustration and rhetorical question. Each of these ideologies is textually illustrated presently.

4.4.1 Nationalism

Nationalism as an ideology is identifying with one's country and supporting its interests, especially to the exclusion or detriment of the interests of other nations. This is why nationalism is closely related to racism, especially in migration discourse. Nationalism is one of the major ideological orientations in the Nigerian newspaper reports on migration. It has been said that migration is highly controversial and political (Kok, 1999). Hence, social actors always express their nationalistic tendencies overtly and covertly in their speeches, and these are manifestly shown in the data as illustrated and analysed subsequently.

Text 55

He said, There are about **1, 490 illegal entering points** into the **country** and this is **encouraging** illegal migration into the country. Some of **these illegal migrants** commit **crimes** in the country and even have the **Nigeria Voter Card**....
(*Leadership*, October 24, 2019)

In Text 55, the underlying ideology is nationalism. The excerpt is dominantly verbal: this embeds other processes such as existential, material and relational. The pronoun **he** denotes the speaker who is identified contextually as Godwin Obaseki, the Governor of Edo State. He projects himself as a nationalist who cares about the well-being and security of the country, Nigeria. He deploys number game by asserting that **about 1, 490 illegal entering points** into Nigeria. Authority as an ideological device is covertly inferred in this assertion. It can be said that because the sayer, who is a governor of a state, acclaimed to be the chief security officer of his state, has some authentic and authoritative pieces of information on the number of **illegal entering points** in the country. However, the prepositional 'about' implicates hedging, which suggests that the speaker would not want his claim to be proven inaccurate or incorrect if a definitive number is given, thereby presenting himself as a tactful person.

Nevertheless, knowing the illegal entry points into the country suggests a right step towards addressing the identified problem of illegal migration and human trafficking. This is evident in the relational clause **this is encouraging illegal migration into the country**. The demonstrative pronoun **this** refers to the preceding clause. The implication of this assertion is revealed in the second sentence of the excerpt, which is a combination of a material clause and a relational clause. The material action **commit** has **some of these illegal migrants** as its actor and **crimes** as its patient. This, therefore, portrays illegal migrants as criminals. Even the pre-modifying adjective **illegal** is a negative label that is used to demonise and criminalise migrants. Also, in the relational clause, the process is **have** whose carrier is also the identified material actor **some of these illegal migrants** while **the Nigeria Voter Card** is the possessed.

Presupposition and implication here are that illegal migrants are firstly foreigners who are not supposed to enter the country illegally, and they are not expected to have **the Nigeria Voter Card** which is the property of Nigerian citizens. In addition, with the possession of **the Nigeria Voter Card**, illegal migrants can easily undermine the

political process, specifically Nigerian elections using the most powerful electoral tool of the electorate – the Nigeria Voter Card – to vote during elections in Nigeria. Since the sayer is not only a Nigerian but also a politician, it can be argued that he is protecting his political empire from being weakened and probably taken over by foreigners who may be used by political opponents, as many politicians often allege, to subvert the integrity of the electoral process and the sovereignty of the country, Nigeria. Implicitly observed also is the polarisation between the **illegal migrants** and the unmentioned citizens of Nigeria. The sayer indirectly represents Nigerians as people who do not **commit crimes** while asserting that illegal migrants are criminals. The final sentence of the excerpt is used as an argumentative strategy that provides the burden to accept the sayer's claim as self-sufficient and valid. Therefore, protecting Nigeria as an independent and sovereign state and calling for the security of Nigerians from illegal incursion and criminality depict the sayer as a nationalist.

Text 56

These **two illegal immigrants** were arrested by men of the NIS at Yala LGA of the state on March 31.... Our investigation also revealed that **the Pakistani national** was smuggled into Nigeria by **his Cameroonian accomplice**. As it concerns **security**, the **intention** of the Pakistani and his Cameroonian accomplice is **threatening** and we must further check them accordingly, **she said**. (*Punch*, April 2, 2016)

Text 56 is another instance of nationalism as an ideology in Nigerian newspaper migration reports. Security, which is one of the major discourse issues in migration news report, is always associated with nationalist ideology. Like Text 55, this extract is verbal. The reporting verb which is the also verbal process **said** has **she** as the sayer. The pronoun **she** refers contextually to **Mrs. Funke Adeuyi** who is Cross River State Comptroller of Nigeria Immigration Service. In the verbiage of sayer, different processes can be seen. Using passive construction, the noun phrase **these two illegal immigrants** is the patient of the material process **were arrested** which has **men of the NIS** as its actual actor. This makes the sayer to foreground the patient who is presented as **illegal** and possibly criminals that are likely to harm Nigerians.

Us versus *them* dichotomy can be deduced in this excerpt. By virtue of being one of the heads of security agencies in Nigeria, the sayer implicitly categorises ‘these two illegal immigrants’ as *them*, and the Immigration and Nigerians as *us*. Nominal and pronominal elements clearly depict this dichotomy. On the one hand, the noun phrases **These two illegal immigrants, both of them, the Pakistani national, his Cameroonian accomplice** and **them** represent *them*. On the other hand, **our preliminary investigation, our investigation** and **we** depict *us*. This dichotomy reveals the negative other-representation ascribed to the illegal immigrants while presenting self positively. Also, the adjectival **thorough** in the prepositional phrase **After a thorough profiling** typifies a positive self-presentation. In carrying out their duties, security agencies and agents always claim to be **thorough**. This situates appropriately the assertion that the illegal immigrants do not possess legitimate travel documents to be present in Nigeria – which further implicates possible criminality of the illegal immigrants.

Interestingly, names of social actors and location are ideologically significant in this extract. The name of the location where the arrest takes place is **Yala LGA, Cross River State** and that of the sayer is **Mrs. Funke Adeuyi**. Within the cognitive context, these names are southern Nigerian names which are dominantly Christian. Cross River is a state in the South-South geopolitical zone of Nigeria, while Funke Adeuyi is a Yoruba name, also in southern Nigeria. However, the noun phrase **Pakistani national** is someone from Pakistan – an Islamic country in the South Asian part of the world. Thus, nationalist tendencies, which are closely related to racist, of **the men of the NIS** and their state comptroller can be said to be aroused seeing a **Pakistani national** around the southern Christian land border of Nigeria. It is, therefore, not surprising that the noun phrase **his Cameroonian accomplice** is backgrounded as the performer of the material action **was smuggled into Nigeria**. This is perhaps as a result of the proximity between Cameroon and Nigeria which share border together, making the Cameroonian to easily **smuggle the Pakistani national** into Nigeria. More so, the word **accomplice** is a negative label used in portraying the illegal immigrants as criminals. Ultimately, acting on their nationalist instinct, **the intention** of the illegal immigrants is negatively labelled as **threatening**, which provides the premises (burden) necessitating the

imperative of further examining, questioning or verifying them (the illegal immigrants) properly.

Text 57

Unfortunately, you **can't believe** that **30,000 Nigerians** have been **rescued** from the **high sea** in Italy alone. Of course, greater number of others who travelled by road are also trapped in **Libya**, Niger among other countries. **Our** responsibility is to make migration **safer, regular** and above all **efficient** to Nigerians.... (*The Sun*, October 29, 2016)

In Text 57, nationalism is evident. The newspaper presents the actual words of the main social actor in Text 57. The context of the news report shows that the sayer denoted by the pronoun **he** refer to Mohammed Babandede, the Comptroller General of the Nigeria Immigration Service. As a common feature of verbal process in migration news reports, it embeds other processes. Here, the first clause contains a mental process **can't believe** that is performed by the sayer **you**. This pronoun **you** can be said to refer to the journalists – since the statement is made during a **media parley in Abuja** – and by extension, the Nigerian people. The phenomenon which is sensed is **that 30,000 Nigerians have been rescued from the high sea in Italy alone**. Obviously, here is number game deployed. That **30,000 Nigerians** could have been rescued from the high sea raises some questions about the sanity of the rescued Nigerians and their leaders. This huge number of rescued Nigerians connotes that some things are definitely not working well with these Nigerians, their leaders and their country, which are making them to take to the **high sea** as a means of accessing a better life. No wonder the sayer declares the unbelievability of his assertion, while the fronted adjunct **unfortunately** reveals his unhappy state of mind about the experience of Nigerian migrants.

The prepositional phrase **in Italy alone** presupposes the possibility of having other Nigerians who are not rescued from either high and low seas or even land in other countries, especially in Europe. This interpretation is reinforced in the second sentence of the text. It asserts that **greater number of others (Nigerians) who travelled by road are also trapped in Libya, Niger among other countries**. Metaphor as an ideological tool is employed in describing the state of these Nigerians. The material verb **trapped** evokes hunter-game imagery. Here, the game is clearly Nigerian

migrants while the hunter is not named nor identified. This cognitively accentuates the unfavourable and terrible state of Nigerian migrants **in Libya, Niger among other countries**. Hence, the first two sentences in the extract provide the needed illustration and burden as tools which are deployed to show that the sayer, with the government he works for, is nationalistic and welfarist.

This nationalistic representation is vividly presented in the last two sentences of the extract. In achieving this, pronominal items **our** and **we** are deployed to represent in-group, political and security leadership. The sayer avers that **Our responsibility is to make migration safer, regular and above all efficient to Nigerians. Safer, regular and efficient** are positive adjectives used by the sayer to modify **migration** whose beneficiary is **Nigerians**. This denotes that the sayer cares about the welfare of Nigerian migrants and would not want them to continue to risk their lives on **the high sea** much less being **rescued**. On the other hand, the pronoun **they** is used to refer to Nigerian migrants who are promised of full reintegration into the country when they are returned.

4.4.2 Anti-racism

Racism, the belief that some races are inferior to others, and this belief prevents people of some racial groups from having the same privileges and opportunities as people from other races, is prominent in media reportage of migration in different parts of the world. Anti-racism, which is the opposite of racism, is unmistakably present in Nigerian newspaper reports on migration. This may be as a result of the fact that Africans in general and Nigerians in particular are always the victims of racial biases and treatments in the Europe, America and Asia. Therefore, the Nigerian newspapers use their platform to write back and respond to the racial treatments given to their compatriots in other climes. All instances of anti-racist ideology observable in this study are directed towards Europe, America and Asia. This ideology is textually interrogated subsequently.

Text 58

PCI **said** reports available to it showed that there are **no fewer than 8,000 Nigerians** confined in **Chinese prisons**.... It **claimed** that while there are Nigerians who genuinely committed crimes, such as drug-trafficking, majority of those **languishing** in Chinese prisons are victims of circumstances, **who were convicted based on improper investigations**.... (*Punch*, March 10, 2016)

In Text 58, the newspaper deploys reported speech in the reportage of the news. Tactically, the newspaper distances itself from the claims made in the text. As seen in the elliptic adjective clause **available to it** which qualifies **reports**. The pronoun **it** anaphorically identifies **PCI** which co-textually means **Patriotic Citizen Initiatives**. This denotes that the newspaper does not have the same **reports** that the group, PCI, alludes to, even though reporting the news indirectly shows some tacit solidarity and alignment with such claims. Mainly, there are two groups in the text and they are clearly dichotomised. Representing *us* is **PCI** and **Nigerians**, while **Chinese** and **China** represent *them*. The dominant voice in this report is that of PCI which is resisting its identified Chinese discriminatory and racist treatments being meted to Nigerians in China. The excerpt is dominantly verbal as seen in the verbal processes **said**, which is mentioned twice, and **claimed**.

In the first existential clause in the excerpt, the group employs evidentiality and number game as ideological tools by asserting that at least **8,000** Nigerian citizens are currently imprisoned in Chinese detention centres. This claim is not only scary but also should be concerning, especially to Nigerians and their government. The implication of this assertion is that either Nigerians are prone to committing **immigration offences** in China or the Chinese people are discriminatory against migrants of Nigerian origin. Reinforcing the latter's implication is the claim, that approximately **40** of these Nigerians **are allegedly executed** each year on average. Here, the group deploys victimisation as an ideological technique to foreground the inhuman treatment of Nigerians in the hand of the Chinese. Ideally, execution should not be the punishment for breaking immigration laws of any country. This means that Chinese immigration and perhaps its people are racist. Another instance of the newspaper's distancing is noted in the use of the adverbial **allegedly** in the material process **are allegedly executed**. Intentionally, the actor

of this preceding material action is excluded, probably as a means of furthering this distancing.

Admittedly, the group, utilising disclaimer in the second existential clause, agrees that it is aware of some **Nigerians who genuinely committed crimes, such as drug-trafficking**. However, it goes on to accentuate the established negative characteristics of the Chinese as the **majority of those (Nigerians) languishing in Chinese prisons are victims of circumstances**. This disclaimer involves number game **majority** and victimisation to achieve its significance. The progressive verb **languishing** has ‘wasting away’, ‘deteriorating’, ‘sickening’ and ‘withering’ as its synonyms. This, according to the group, reveals the pathetic state of the majority of Nigerians in Chinese prisons. In addition, the two alternative adjectival clauses, which qualify the noun phrase **victims of circumstance**, depict the extent of Chinese discrimination and racism against Nigerians **who were convicted based on improper investigations or are unfairly roped into crimes they never committed**. The adjectival **improper** and adverbial **unfairly** modifiers conspicuously project Chinese racism against Nigerians in China. Therefore, the PCI presents itself as anti-discriminatory and anti-racist.

Text 59

She said ...**Some** of them have been there **for two years**. I remember in 2008, I said **terrorists** are not kept in detention centres for more than **28 days**. So, why would they keep people **who have not committed any offence** for more than 2 years? The immigration law in the UK is very abusive. Whenever they are not able to deport you, they just leave you there to **waste away**. (*The Sun*, March 20, 2016)

Text 59 is another instance of anti-racist ideology in Nigerian newspaper reports on migration. The major voice in this extract is that of the person denoted by the pronoun **she** which refers to **Professor Alexia Thomas** who is also a **Nigerian-British politician and activist**. Her dual citizenship and social roles are very notable in this excerpt. In her verbiage, the noun phrase **some of them** refers to **black people**, particularly **Nigerians**, while the deictic item **there** refers to **immigration detention centres**. It is these Nigerians who are said to **have been there for two years**. The sayer deploys illustration as an ideological device to reinforce her claim. She makes reference to year **2008** which helps to situate her argument properly. In the illustration,

she compares two extreme groups – categorisation. The first group is **terrorists** and the second is **people who have not committed any offence**.

Presupposition is covertly implied in the categorisation of terrorists as she assumes that the news reporter and the reader understand who terrorists are. Denotatively, **terrorists** are persons that use unlawful violence and intimidation, particularly against civilians in pursuit of political, religious or economic goals. Interestingly, the adjectival clause **who have not committed any offence** which is used to qualify the noun **people** is very important to graphically compare the two extremes. This illustration also serves as the burden on which she amplifies her argument against inhuman treatment of Nigerians in UK immigration detention centres. The sayer finds it extremely discriminatory and racist on the part of the UK Immigration laws and by extension the UK immigration officers to **keep people who have not committed any offence** in detention centres **for more than 2 years**; when terrorists who are known and declared enemies of the state **are not kept in detention centres for more than 28 days**.

Further, she asserts and describes the UK immigration law as **very abusive**. The intensifier **very** magnifies the abusive nature of the immigration law. Ordinarily, law, an inanimate entity, should not take an animate attribute, but here, giving a negative human attribute to a nonhuman entity implies some covert intention. Therefore, it can be said that it is the people who made the law and enforce the same that are implicitly described as **very abusive**, that is, discriminatory and racist. The final sentence, which is conditional, unveils what may possibly be the lot of immigrants. In the sentence, the pronoun **they** contextually refers to ‘UK immigration officers’ while **you** perhaps locates **immigrants** and **Nigerian migrants** in context, particularly who are left to **waste away** as evident in the main clause. The lexical item **just** captures the nonchalant, uncaring and abusive nature of the actor (they) while the phrasal verb **waste away** means to perish by becoming thinner and weaker with time and possibly leading to death (of the Nigerian migrants). Thus, speaking up for these voiceless victims of abusive immigration law casts the sayer as an anti-racist person.

Text 60

Although I **faced** some **challenges** – particularly **racism**. When I arrived here, the **people** in the neighbourhood... often **stare** at **me** like an **alien** from another planet. A little **girl** once asked me where **my tail** was, which was **very embarrassing**. ...every time **I walked on the street**, I had **people** open their **window blind** to **peep** at **me**. It was **really depressing** at first but then I got used to it... (*Daily Trust*, December 18, 2020)

Text 60 presents a personal experience of a female Nigerian migrant, who is pseudonymously named in the report as **Olaoluwa Adesina**, in the United States of America. To show that the experience recast in the report is personal, the first person singular pronoun **I** is used. The correlates of the pronoun are **me**, **my**, **black** and **African**, and these are utilised to unveil the otherness of the main human subject within the social context of the American society. **A little girl**, **people in the neighbourhood**, **here** and **another community** refer to sameness as against Olaoluwa's otherness. These deictic terms foreground *us* versus *them* dichotomy that uncovers the racially biased treatment given to the sayer. Recognising racism as one of the challenges the human subject faces in America implies that she is anti-racist.

To vividly narrate her experience, she decides to employ example or illustration, which is a very strong ideologically persuasive strategy. In her verbiage, the mental action **often stare** and the phenomenon **at me like an alien from another planet** are performed by **people in the neighbourhood**. The phenomenon clearly reveals that the sayer does not see the speaker as a member of their in-group but as an out-group person. Also, the adverb **often** shows the intensity and frequency of the mental action **stare**. Normally, staring at someone should not make them uncomfortable, but when the **stare** becomes **often**, feeling uneasy or disturbed may be inevitable, hence affecting the mental health of the object of the intentional racial stare. Moreover, the sayer cites another instance in which she finds **very embarrassing**. That **a little girl** could ask her where her **tail was** implies how ingrained and rooted racism is in the psyche of Americans, corrupting the known innocence of even **a little girl**. The metaphor of **tail** serves as an intertextuality and allusion to the slavery experience of Africans who were then likened to the primate, ape, in Europe and America, so as to perpetuate racial inequalities and prejudices, which were used to exploit Africans and their continent.

Even moving to **another community** does not alter the racial abuse the sayer experiences as she claims that she is **not just the only black but the only African**. It is on the basis of her skin colour that whenever she performs the material action **walked on the street**, people, in this context, white, would **open their window blind to peep at me**. Hence, the lexical terms **stare** and **peep** in this text are contextually synonymous, and they are used to racially intimidate and dehumanise the speaker who finds them **depressing at first**. Notwithstanding, she shows her resistance to racism by developing a thick skin against their racially motivated abuse through her anti-racist stance.

4.4.3 Humanitarianism

Humanitarianism is an ethical system that centres on humans and their lives, values, needs, interests, abilities, dignity and freedom. A humanitarian provides assistance to other humans to alleviate their sufferings and improve their conditions or situations for altruistic, moralistic or logical reasons. The fact that irregular migration from Africa to Europe has become a humanitarian crisis brings to the fore humanitarianism as an ideology in Nigerian newspaper reports on migration. Humanitarian organisations and groups are those who have this ideology, which the media/newspapers, through their reporting voice, tacitly share. Extracts below are analysed to tease out humanitarianism in the data.

Text 61

The International Organisation for Migration... said **thousands of Nigerian migrant girls brought to Italy** were **in great danger of being forced into prostitution** in Europe. The number of **female Nigerians**, many of them **minors**...arrived by sea in Italy surged over the past three years from **1,454 in 2014** to **11,000 in 2016**.
(*Punch*, July 21, 2017)

The ideology observable in Text 61 is humanitarianism, and the text largely verbal. The sayer here is **the International Organisation for Migration**, and its verbal process is **said**. In its verbiage, the humanitarian side of the organisation is revealed. In the noun phrase **thousands of Nigerian migrant girls brought to Italy**, number game is deployed as an ideological device. **Girls** are supposed to be under the protection and guidance of their parents. However, in this excerpt, these

Nigerian migrant girls are portrayed as young people who have left the critical protection of their parents and are **brought to Italy**. The actor of the preceding material action is unknown, but from the context, it can be inferred that the girls are **brought to Italy** by human traffickers. Then, the verb **brought** is contextually a euphemism for **trafficked**.

This interpretation provides the basis for the assertion that the girls have a high risk of being coerced into engaging in prostitution in Europe, since human traffickers exploit vulnerably ignorant persons, especially girls – due to their innocence – to make their illicit money. It is the same human traffickers who will surely **force** the girls into prostitution. The expression **being forced** denotes some kind of power play between the forcer (human traffickers) and the forced (Nigerian migrant girls), with the former having a plus higher role while the latter have a minus higher role. It can, thus, be said that it is against the will and the wish of trafficked girls to become prostitutes **in Europe**. Additionally, the noun phrase **the number of female Nigerians** in the second sentence refers to **thousands of Nigerian migrant girls** in the first sentence. That many of the girls are described as **minor** and **naïve** implies how innocent, ignorant and vulnerable they are, and this is why human traffickers could easily exploit their immaturity. Also, **the** (increasing) **surge** of this dangerous migration trend is scarily depicted, using number game, that the number has increased from 1, 454 in 2014 to 11, 000 in 2016 over the last three years.

The implication of this is that there is a great humanitarian crisis in Nigeria which is pushing young and ignorant girls and other female Nigerians out of the country to the extent of risking their lives through the desert and the sea. This humanitarian crisis is what makes the female gender to be susceptible to the deception of human traffickers, who will later commodify them in Europe for their (traffickers’) wealth. Therefore, International Organisation for Migration shows that it cares about and is committed to the welfare of migrants (trafficked persons and would-be victims of human trafficking) and is clearly calling for a better and humane management of migration and improved condition of living in Nigeria, which is the country of origin of these **Nigerian migrant girls**.

Text 62

A **four day-old baby** belonging to Mariam Ohene, a Nigerian, was among over **480** migrants **rescued** by humanitarian ships.... The **29 year-old Nigerian woman** had lived with her husband, Richard Ohene, for over two years in Libya and decided to leave for Europe after they had the baby. **We** want to go to **France** or **Germany**, there is a future for our family there, Richard said. (*The Sun*, April 3, 2017)

In Text 62, humanitarianism as an ideology in migration discourse can be inferred. This is particularly hinged on the material process **rescued** whose actor is passivised and revealed in the prepositional phrase **by humanitarian ships**. Passivisation is significant here because it is employed to arouse pity and sympathy for the rescued victims, with the inclusion of graphic description that shows the age, full names and nationalities of the human subjects in the extract. It is unbelievable that **a four day-old baby** would be amongst migrants rescued on the Mediterranean Sea, and even a **two year-old son**. Revealing the ages of two children evokes a strong sense of concern for humans migrating irregularly, especially children and women, who are usually considered weak and in need of protection. Also, the woman, who is rescued with her family, in the excerpt is also young, going by her age **29 year-old**. The nationalities of the couple (Nigeria and Ghana) reveal that they are West Africans in pursuit of a better life in Europe – **France or Germany**.

The dominant voice is that of the news reporter, hence the newspaper's, in the extract while credibility is injected into the report through the direct speech of the husband **Richard Ohene**. To further amplify the circumstance of the rescued persons, the newspaper employs number game and illustration as ideological strategies. Number game is gleaned in the prepositional phrase **among over 480 migrants**. It has been established that lack of certainty is one of the major denominators in irregular migration due to its unpredictability. Hence, the reporter is not specific about the exact number of the rescued migrants, even the possibility is high that some of the migrants might not be lucky to get rescued, losing their lives consequently. Moreover, being a Nigerian newspaper, *The Sun* is perhaps interested in the Nigerianness of the woman and this is profoundly accentuated within the context of the report.

Using illustration, the prepositional phrase **for over two years in Libya** indicates that they (the couple) are (irregular) migrants, for they are both West Africans living in a North African country that borders Europe. As a result of this, it can be deduced that even their **two year-old son** is born in Libya, and that the couple possibly meet each other in Libya, since they have **lived** there **for over two years**. Their decision to **leave for Europe** is said to be **after they had the baby** – referring to the **four day-old baby**. This presupposes that the parents desire a good life for their children, and they believe that Europe will afford them this opportunity. The husband's assertion, especially the existential clause that **there is a future for our family there**, shows the strong belief that the husband has in their destination as seen in the deictic term **there**, that is Europe. **Future** in this context means *prospect* – high possibility of being successful. Therefore, rescuing migrants **by humanitarian ships** depicts humanitarian ideology which is reinforced by the newspaper to show their concern, and caution potential irregular migrants of the dangers and uncertainty involved in such migration.

Text 63

Five-day-old twins were among **6,500 refugees and migrants rescued** yesterday off the Libyan coast while **attempting** to reach Italy via the Mediterranean Sea. The twins were travelling with their mother before they were **rescued** by Italian coastguard and **airlifted** to an Italian hospital, according to [...] Doctors without borders.... (*The Sun*, August 31, 2016)

Humanitarianism as an ideology is gleaned as well in Text 63, which is closely related to Text 62 above, but also different. Here, age, number game, authority, victimisation, and gender are the ideological and discourse tools used to foreground humanitarian ideology. The voice in this report is that of the newspaper, *The Sun*. Despite having many rescued people in the reported incident, the newspaper intentionally fronts the age of the noun phrase **Five-day-old twins**. Ideally, this noun phrase should not collocate with terms such as **migrants** and **rescued**. Having these words within the same sentence connotes an abnormal, pathetic and miserable situation of the human subjects. Babies/children are supposed to be adored, pampered and protected, but in this text, they, specifically the **five-day-old twins**, are portrayed as threatened and endangered. Thus, fronting the noun phrase is to prompt and provoke sympathy and

compassion, even a rude awakening of the evils and dangers of irregular migration in the news readership.

Number game is used to reinforce the pathetic circumstance of migrants in the report as evident in the noun phrase **6,500 refugees and migrants**. Rescuing this enormous number of people is not only shocking, but also unbelievable – evoking a huge humanitarian crisis at **the Libyan coast on the Mediterranean Sea** in an attempt **to reach Italy**. By implication, this means that the African continent is threatening and uninhabitable, if indeed **6,500** people of African origin could be attempting to have a life elsewhere irregularly, especially in Europe. That they have taken to irregular migration in their bid to immigrate to Europe connotes that most of them are poor and/or impoverished in/by their different African countries.

Moreover, the noun phrase **their mother** reveals whom the **five-day-old twins** are travelling with. The female gender is associated with fertility and productivity. Expectedly in a sane and safe situation, a woman who has just been delivered of a baby (babies) is not supposed to be involved in a rigorous journey, much less a hazardous and life-threatening one like the Libya-Mediterranean one. Thus, presenting a newly delivered mother and her less-than-a-week-old children in this situation typifies an ideological strategy of victimisation. That the rescued persons are **airlifted to an Italian hospital** implicates possible physical, psychological and mental injuries of the refugees/migrants in the course of their journey, which furthers the uncertainty of irregular migration. Deploying authority, the newspaper strategically manages the voice of **Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)** to bring credibility to the report, since the organisation, MSF, is said to **take part in the operations**. Hence, the Italian coastguard and **Doctors without Borders** are portrayed as being humanitarian for coming to the rescue of **6,500 refugees and migrants**.

4.4.4 Anti-despotism

As an ideology in Nigerian newspaper reports on migration, despotism can be seen as an exercise of absolute power by a person, especially a political leader, in a cruel, uncaring and oppressive manner. Anti-despotism, the opposite of despotism, calls out any despotic traits in the political leadership. It resists despotic behaviour, actions and statements of political leaders. The consequence of despotism can be said to be what

makes many citizens of African countries, specifically Nigerians, to try as much as possible to get out of their country of origin in search of a better life elsewhere. This is what anti-despotic ideological orientation stands against through any available means. The extracts below are in conversation as Text 64 presents a despotic ideology, Text 65 resists the same. This is considered presently.

Text 64

This administration is very clear that we do not support anything illegal and anybody who feels that his country does not offer him what he should be offered and decides to defy the Mediterranean is doing so at his own risk. (*The Guardian*, September 1, 2018)

Despotic ideology can be deduced in Text 64. Within the context of the report, the sayer, whose direct speech is wholly presented, is **Muhammadu Buhari**, the President of Nigeria. Being a former military dictator, Buhari's military garb is still evident in his choice of words even as a civilian president in Text 64. Although he claimed to be a reformed military dictator during the electioneering in 2014 at Chatham House, London, his actions and speeches over the years as the number one citizen of Nigeria have continued to betray his pre-election claim as a reformed military dictator – a democrat. In the text, which is a verbal clause, the despotic ideology of the sayer, Muhammadu Buhari, is revealed. Even though the reporting verb is not included in the excerpt, contextual cues show that Text 64 is the sayer's verbiage. The target of which is Nigerians, specifically (potential) irregular migrants of Nigerian origin. Being the president of the country, Buhari is supposed to care and cater to the needs and yearnings of his countrymen and women, Nigerians, by creating enabling environment for them to thrive. However, in this extract, he clearly displays his despotic nature and military background.

Disclaimer and polarisation are the major ideological devices deployed in the text. These ideological devices are revealed in the first two clauses of the extract **This administration is very clear that we do not support anything illegal**. Here, Buhari separates his administration from **anything illegal** which refers to illegal migrants of Nigerian origin, even though he deploys an inclusive **we**. It can, therefore, be argued that his inclusive **we** is exclusively restricted to himself, his administration and his party to the exclusion of illegal Nigerian migrants, who might at one point or the other

have voted for or supported him. These disclaimer and polarisation are to further the gap between the leadership and the led, especially to project the former as lawful and legal while presenting the latter as lawless and illegal. Thus, the inclusive **we** is ideologically laden with exclusion.

In addition, being anti-dissent and having uncaring disposition are major features of despotism, and this is clearly captured in the excerpt, as the sayer asserts rather forcefully in the assertions **This administration is very clear and anybody who feels that his country does not offer him what he should be offered and decides to defy the Mediterranean is doing so at his own risk.** The use of an indefinite pronoun **anybody** shows that Buhari does not care about the identities of the people who are defying the Mediterranean in search of greener pastures, which he and his administration, and by extension past rulers of Nigeria, have failed to provide for the citizenry for decades. Also, the use of **anybody** shows how distant the Nigerian rulers are from the ruled, and the former do not serve the latter but themselves. That his fellow citizens who he is ruling are defying the Mediterranean should ordinarily be an issue of great concern for a caring, democratic and responsible leader, but it is the opposite that is manifest in Buhari's assertion. As much as possible, the sayer tries to invalidate the experience and reality of his indefinite referent. This is anchored on the mental process **feels** whose sener is **anybody**. The prepositional phrase **at his own risk** is filled with lack of care and absolute distancing.

Text 65

The **party** said **President Buhari** has shown he is **not bothered** that no fewer than **10,000 Nigerians died** in the deserts **between January and May 2017 alone**, while trying to escape the **economic hardship** and **escalated insecurity** occasioned by **his misrule....** (*The Guardian*, September 2, 2018)

Text 65 is a reaction to the verbiage of the sayer, Muhammadu Buhari, in Text 64. Anti-despotic ideology is evident in this extract. Three classifications of participants are observable in the excerpt: one, **the party** which refers to the People's Democratic Party (PDP); two, President Buhari; and three, Nigerians. The political context is very instructive in this extract. The PDP is the main opposition party in Nigeria, and President Buhari is of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), while Nigerians are the ones these parties always seek to govern or rule. Thus, the ideological devices used

in the extract are polarisation, victimisation, number game and rhetorical question. Polarisation is used to project Buhari's despotic ideology in the party's statement. In Nigerian politics, opposition parties, whether at the state or federal level, always present themselves as anti-government and pro-people. This is a political gimmick that is easily noticeable by any critical person. Even though when the opposition parties ascend power, they tend to do worse than the ruling party they criticise and displace in the first instance.

Text 65 is a verbal clause as revealed in the reporting verb **said** and it is in the verbiage that the party shows President Buhari, the target of their verbal missile, as a despot. That Buhari has displayed a lack of concern for the reported deaths of at least **10,000 Nigerians** in the desert between the first month and the fifth month of 2017 alone portrays the target as uncaring and insensitive to the plights of his citizens, therefore despotic. The expression **no fewer than 10,000 Nigerians** captures the deployment of number game by the party to reinforce the lack of care and absolutist orientation of the president. Victimisation is gleaned from the circumstantial detail provided by the PDP **while trying to escape the economic hardship and escalated insecurity occasioned by his misrule.**

Depicting Nigerians as **trying to escape the economic hardship and escalated insecurity** in their country presents the people as victims and furthers despotism as an ideology of the target, since these negative realities of Nigerians are **occasioned by his** (President Buhari's) **misrule**. In the news report, the party, deploying a rhetorical question by appealing to authority, indicts the Nigerian president of insensitivity to his people who he claims to serve. Since the Nigeria Immigration Service is answerable to the president, the party uses the NIS's reports as the burden for its argument that the president is despotic. For if the NIS could report that **more Nigerians have been trapped in detention and slave camps in various parts of the world**, yet the president does not care that his people have become preys and slaves **in various parts of the world**, then he, President Buhari, is nothing but a despot, thereby, the PDP presents itself as pro-masses and anti-despotic.

Interestingly however is the party's critical management of the time frame referenced in their statement as seen in the prepositional phrase **between January and May 2017**. This critical management of time is politically ideological. For context, the PDP

ruled Nigeria between May 29, 1999 and May 28, 2015. It can, therefore, be argued that Nigerians, who the PDP pretends to defend here, have been defying the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea long before the ascension of Buhari as the President of Nigeria. Thus, restricting the time frame to only January and May 2017 reveals the insincerity of the PDP itself, for the party, like Buhari, is a major stakeholder in pillaging and propagating collective disillusionment of the Nigerian people.

4.5 Discussion of findings

This study has shown the interplay between discourse representations and ideologies in selected Nigerian newspaper reports on migration. With critical discourse, pragmatic and transitivity tools, the analysis has teased out different discourse issues, pragmatic actions, representational strategies and ideologies inherent in Nigerian newspaper reportage of migration. Discussion of findings is done under the following subheadings:

- (a) The discourse issues in selected Nigerian newspaper reports on migration;
- (b) The pragmatic acts in selected Nigerian newspaper reports on migration;
- (c) The social actors' representations in selected Nigerian newspaper reports on migration;
- (d) The ideologies in selected Nigerian newspaper reports on migration.

(a) The discourse issues in selected Nigerian newspaper reports on migration

The discourse issues identified in the study are security, human trafficking, poverty, unemployment and immigration. Overtly, migrants are represented as *other* in security as a discourse issue in Nigerian migration news reports. This corroborates the findings of migration studies such as Burroughs (2012), Milioni, Spyridou and Vadratskas (2015), Nwiyi (2016), Salahshour (2017), etc., in which migrants are subjected to different kinds of racially fuelled discrimination, suppression and oppression. Human trafficking features significantly in Nigerian newspaper reportage of migration, southern Nigerian youths are prone to being trafficked, especially youths from Edo State and other neighbouring states, as the corridor of human trafficking or smuggling

through irregular migration. This is consistent with the position of Hoffmann (2018), Adeniyi (2019) and Arhin-Sam and Sanker (2019). However, the study further reveals that local human trafficking is also rife in different parts of the country; all for the promise of a better life away from the victims' residence or home. The study observes the norm of parading crime suspects and victims before the media by security agents to show they are effective and efficient in Nigeria. However, this study agrees with Madubuike-Ekwe and Obayemi (2019), and Ajayi and Inasa-Thomas (2021) that even though the public perceives parading suspects and victims by security agents positively, the human rights of the people should not be violated.

The age and gender of the victims of human trafficking are included in media reports to show that women and girls are the most prone to human trafficking. The newspapers utilise this to appeal to the reader's emotions. This agrees with Dare's (2016) submission that the Nigerian elite seem to be gender-sensitive, making news reporters to project women issues in their news reportage. Interestingly, Dare's (2016) scepticism about women's involvement in crime gets validated in this study as it is shown that women do not only have the tendency to commit crimes, but also could commit such crimes against anybody, including their blood relations. Also, this study finds out that Niger-Libya route is a dominant route which human traffickers use to transport their victims from Nigeria internationally; this route is also prominently featured in irregular migration from/in Africa as evident in the studies of Tinti and Westcott (2016), Molenaar (2017), and Yayboke (2020).

(b) The pragmatic acts in selected Nigerian newspaper reports on migration

The identified pragmatic acts are conscientising, informing, warning, indicting, rebuking, supporting, advising, denying and accusing. The combination of textual and activity parts of pragmeme informs these pragmatic acts, which are performed by social actors in the data. In addition, this study complements the position of Odebunmi and Oloyede (2016) that there is an underlying 'pragmatic interactivity' between the news reporter and the audience/reader that consumes the news and gives feedback, providing the basis the deployment of pragmeme in the analysis of news reports on migration. The study is in line with Odebunmi and Unuabonah (2014) and Oluwayemi (2020) that posit that denying pract is deployed to negate the accusation(s) levelled against someone as a way of defending oneself by providing evidence of being

innocence. In this study, denying pract is used to by the social actors to show that they are not guilty of the allegations they are accused of. Other practs in the study are deployed to foreground different discourse issues in Nigerian newspaper migration reportage, protect the citizens against human traffickers, provide necessary information on safe and unsafe migration practices and guard the Nigerian state against insecurity as a result of irregular migration.

(c) The social actors' representations in selected Nigerian newspaper reports on migration

The representations ascribed to major social actors in the study are leaders as guardians, leaders as culprits, migrants as criminals, migrants as victims and youths as ignoramuses. The study agrees with Taiwo (2007) that posits that there are at least two positions in newspaper reportage: the view of those whose interests are being served and that of those whose interests are being undermined. This brings about the dichotomy between the southern Nigeria and northern Nigeria on the one hand, and the citizens and immigrants on the other hand. The southern-northern Nigerian divide is foregrounded in the study. The North is presented, particularly in *DailyTrust* and *Leadership* newspapers as being superior, due to the fact that the Nigeria Immigration Service in the North rescues victims, usually of southern origin, of human trafficking being ferried through its borders to North Africa and Europe, thereby valourising the North.

With negative other-representation being the principal social actors' representational strategy, this study agrees with Burroughs (2012) and Allen and McNeil (2018) that the media prefer negative reports on migration to positive ones. The dominant social actors' representation in this study is 'migrants as criminals'. Even though the representation of migrants in Nigerian newspapers is peculiar, this study corroborates the findings of previous studies such as Abdul Razzaq (2012), Mohd Don and Lee (2014), Milioni, Spyridou and Vadratskas (2015) that migrants are represented as *other* and different from *us*. Although migrants of Nigerian origin are also represented as criminals in the newspapers, the manner of their representation is conspicuously different from how non-Nigerian migrants are represented, especially the citizens of third world countries. In representing Nigerian migrants as criminals, the newspapers categorise the crimes committed by these Nigerians through nominalisation and non-

finite clauses to blur actors and actions. However, in the representation of non-Nigerian migrants in Nigeria, the newspapers vividly deploy material, relational and existential clauses to uncover actors and actions with highly lexicalised descriptions to provide details of the crimes committed by the non-Nigerian migrants, thereby projecting biased and ideological reportage.

(d) The ideologies projected in selected Nigerian newspaper reports on migration

Nationalism, anti-racism, humanitarianism and anti-despotism are the ideologies drawn from the social actors' representations in selected Nigerian newspaper reports on migration. Number game and authority are leading ideological tools deployed in projecting the ideologies and positionings in media reportage of migration. This agrees with Patrascu (2016) and Quiñonez (2018), and reinforces the scholarly position that the language of the media is non-neutral, value-laden and ideological (Taiwo, 2007; Odebunmi and Oloyede, 2016; Dare, 2016; Osisanwo, 2016c; and van Dijk, 2015a and 2018). While number game is used to unveil the magnitude of irregular migration and its social and economic correlates of security, human trafficking, poverty, corruption and unemployment from Nigeria and Africa, authority is used to validate the assertions and claims made by the social actors and the newspapers to achieve reliability, validity and credibility.

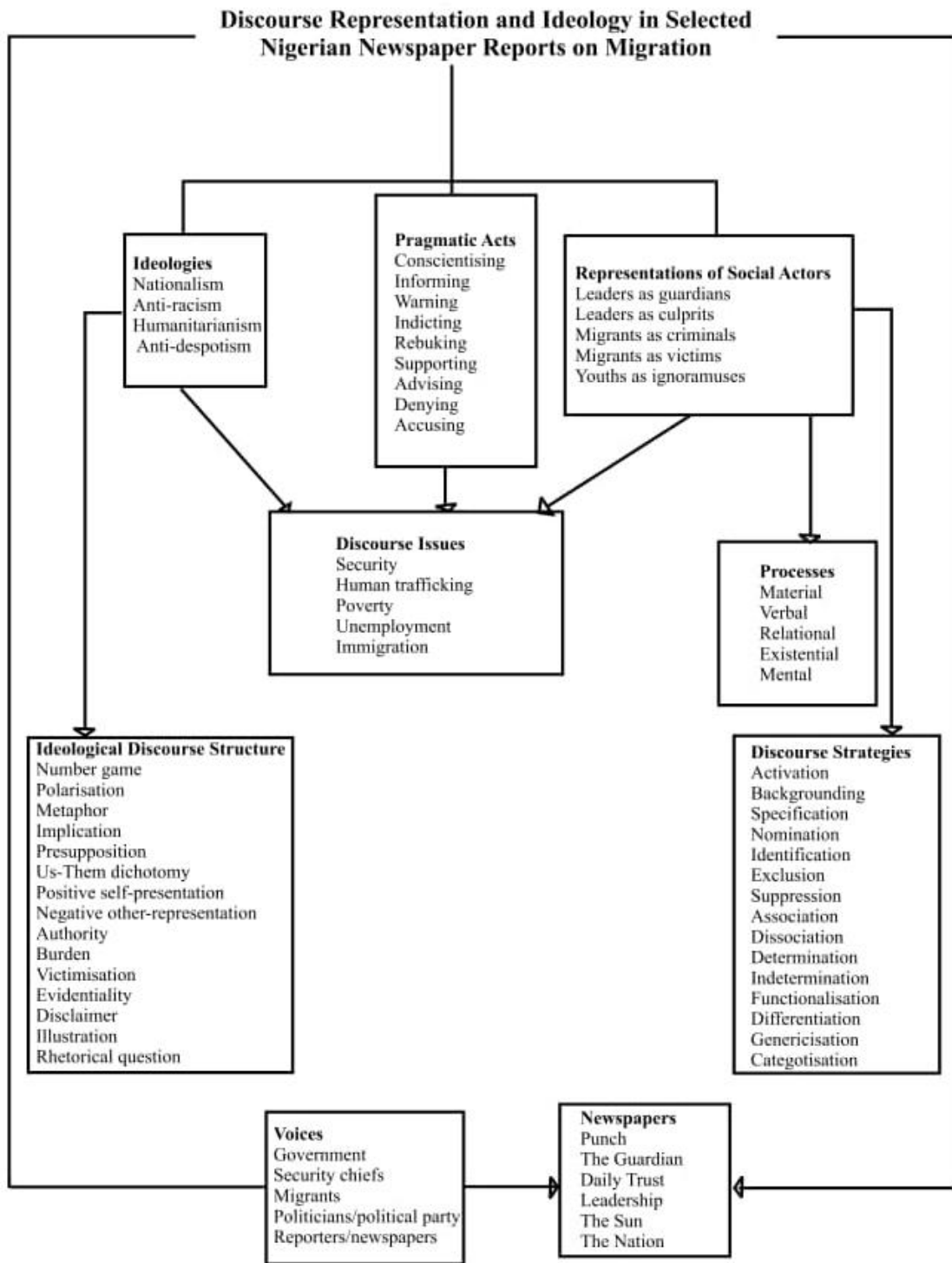


Figure 4.1: Schema showing the findings of the study

Source: Researcher (2022)

The schema above in Figure 4.1 shows, as a whole, the findings of the study. It is a fully developed version of the conceptual framework presented in the third chapter of this thesis, having analysed and interpreted the data for the study.

4.6 Chapter summary

This chapter has analysed discourse issues of security, human trafficking, poverty, unemployment and immigration in selected Nigerian newspaper reports on migration. Also, it has examined pragmatic acts performed by the social actors in the data, which are conscientising, informing, warning, advising, supporting, accusing, denying and indicting. Further, it has teased out the social actors' representations, which are leaders as guardians, leaders as culprits, migrants as criminals, migrants as victims and youths as ignoramuses.

Discourse strategies and transitivity indices which are employed in the representations of social actors are nomination, identification, specification, activation, exclusion, suppression, backgrounding, functionalisation, association, dissociation, categorisation, differentiation on the one hand, and verbal, material, mental, relational and existential processes on the other. The chapter also interrogates ideological orientations of the social actors in migration news reports in Nigeria. The identified ideologies are nationalism, anti-racism, humanitarianism and anti-despotism. They are realised through transitivity systemic tools of verbal, material, mental, relational and existential processes, and ideological discourse structure of number game, polarisation, metaphor, authority, victimisation, positive self-presentation, negative other-representation, amongst others. The chapter concludes with a discussion of findings, situating how the study aligns with previous studies and how it is different from them and with a schema showing the findings of the study as a whole.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary of the study

This study has looked at discourse representation and ideology in selected Nigerian newspaper reports on migration. The thesis gives a detailed background to the study in which it emphasises the hydra-headedness and contentious nature of migration as a socio-political issue in the contemporary world. It recognises migration as a way of validating human survival instincts and the multifaceted nature of human migration. It establishes that humans, especially Nigerians, take to irregular migration when they do not meet the requirements for regular/legal migration. It observes that there is a dearth of scholarly research on the newspaper reportage of migration from critical discourse analytic standpoint in Nigeria, especially on how migrants of Nigerian origin and those of other developed or developing countries are represented in news reports on migration, hence the significance of this study as it identifies different beneficiaries of the findings of the study. To address this problem and fill the research gap, the research questions, which are answered in the study, and the aim and objectives are clearly stated. The scope of the study is between 2015 and 2021 in which the issue of migration becomes a major national and international crisis.

Reviewing existing literature, the study is able to situate itself properly and clearly reveal the existing knowledge gap in previous studies. Amongst the reviewed concepts are discourse and its various manifestations, media discourse, discourse and identity, importance of context in communication and context-dependability of migration, human migration and its types, the interplay between migration and media, newspaper as a genre of the media, the Nigerian migration profile, politics of migration and National Migration Policy of Nigeria, and the nexus between migration and (in)security. It also reviews previous empirical studies on migration and (im)migrants, media discourse and ideology. The theoretical framework, which embeds van Dijk's Socio-cognitive approach to Critical Discourse Analysis, complemented by van

Leeuwen's Representation of Social Actors Theory, M. A. K. Halliday's Transitivity System and Jacob Mey's Pragmatic Acts Theory, is explained.

The interpretive design was the preferred the research design in the study, while also presenting the study population, the sample size, the sampling techniques, the method of data collection, the method of data analysis and the conceptual framework for data analysis. With the data drawn from six widely read newspapers in Nigeria: *The Guardian*, *The Nation*, *The Sun*, *Daily Trust*, *Leadership* and *Punch*, the electronic versions of the news reports were preferred in the study, which formed the data for the study. The data were subjected to Critical Discourse Analysis to tease out discourse issues, linguistic devices, pragmatic acts, social actors' representations and ideologies in selected Nigerian newspaper reports on migration.

The analysis answered the research questions: (i) What are the discourse issues identified in the study? (ii) What pragmatic acts are performed in the study? (iii) How are social actors represented in the study? (iv) What ideologies are conveyed in the study?

(i) What are the discourse issues identified in the study?

Five discourse issues are identified in the study: security, human trafficking, poverty, unemployment and immigration. The linguistic devices used to in the realisation of the discourse issues are verbal, material, mental, relational and existential processes. In security as a discourse issue, assertions, negative lexical terms and collocates are used to present immigrants as threats to national security and to rally citizens, Nigerians, together against the potential threat of immigrants; appeal to authority is the major strategy used under security as a discourse issue.

Also, the study finds out that personal pronouns are deployed to show that the experiences narrated in the data are personal to the victims of human trafficking. The study reveals that human traffickers dehumanise their victims, who are mostly ignorant of their situation at the outset of their journey, by turning them to dispensable goods, objects and commodities which can be used as their owners so desire. For poverty as a discourse issue, Africa is presented as persecuting, poverty-stricken and lawless, while Europe is shown as receptive and welcoming. It is this state of Africa that forces its citizens to seek a better life, through irregular migration, in Europe, even though many

of these Africans do not reach their destination in the long run. This validates the observation that uncertainty is a major index in irregular migration. In addition, first personal pronouns and the actual words of the human subjects are used to present unemployment as a discourse issue to show authenticity of experience and assertions.

At times, the newspapers provide a run-down of the state of unemployment in Africa as the voice of the newspaper/reporter is usually the main in such reports. For immigration as a discourse issue, Nigerian newspapers mostly concentrate on the immigration policies and programmes of developed countries, especially United States and United Kingdom, which affect migrants of Nigerian origin. This is basically to show that they, the media, are against such anti-immigration policies through the use of prepositional phrases which function as adverbs of time and reason to mark their negative attitude or reception to the policies.

(ii) What pragmatic acts are performed in the study?

The pragmatic acts in the study are conscientising, informing, warning, indicting, rebuking, supporting, advising, denying and accusing. These practs are performed by social actors such as governors, national assembly members, international organisations, non-governmental organisations and the media. The authority and political status of the performers of the pragmatic actions give force to the claims and assertions made in the data. Conscientising practs, which subsume appealing and indicting, are used to challenge the federal government of Nigeria to secure the territorial integrity of the country by closing the porous borders and forestalling the trafficking of Nigerian women to other parts of the world. Also, the newspapers employ conscientising practs to indict and call upon leaders of African countries to address poverty and unemployment in their countries so as to forestall dangerous irregular migration from Africa and humanitarian crises in Africa. Further, the pract is used to appeal to potential migrants to follow regular migration.

Informing, which embeds indicting, supporting and blaming, is used to unveil the rank and status of Nigeria as one of the highest countries in the world in which irregular migration is rife. The pract is employed to warn Nigerians of the dangers inherent in irregular migration. Also, the informing pract is utilised to capture how effective the Nigeria Immigration Service is in rescuing victims of human trafficking, especially

girls and women, from human traffickers. This pract is also used to apportion blame to immigration agencies of other countries for the maltreatment of Nigerians in their detention centres. Warning practs are employed to scare irregular migrants from entering Nigeria while encouraging regular migrants to engage in only legal businesses in the country. Security chiefs are main performers of these practs. Indicting and rebuking practs capture the irresponsibility of Nigeria's political leaders, which is fuelling irregular migration and human trafficking as consequences of poverty and unemployment.

Supporting pract is used to rally critical stakeholders together since regular and irregular migration as a social phenomenon involves local, national and international cooperation to achieve efficient governance. Advising and indicting practs are employed to challenge the government of Nigeria in the area of timely and efficient prosecution of suspected human traffickers to stem the tide of human trafficking in the country. The pragmatic acts performed in this study are realised through the combination of activity part and textual part of the pragmeme. Direct speech acts, indirect speech acts and physical acts are deployed on the activity part, while reference (REF), inference (INF), relevance (REL), metaphor (MPH) and shared situation knowledge (SSK) are the contextual tools.

(iii) How are social actors represented in the study?

The social actors' representations in this study are leaders as guardians, leaders as culprits, migrants as criminals, migrants as victims and youth as ignoramuses. The discourse strategies employed in the realisation of these representations are activation, backgrounding, specification, nomination, identification, exclusion, suppression, association, dissociation, determination, indetermination, functionalisation, differentiation, genericisation and categorisation. Verbal, material, mental, relational and existential processes are the transitivity devices utilised in the representations. The preponderance of verbal and material clauses shows that migration itself is an action-based phenomenon, and migrants, especially illegal immigrants and refugees, are always on the run, while the media reports on migration thrive on verbalisation. The representation, leaders as guardians, is the only positive representation in the study, while other representations are instances of negative other-representation. In this study, the positive representation is either ascribed by self or other.

Additionally, while the voice of Nigerian migrants is, at one point or the other, injected into the news reports on migration to humanise migrants of Nigerian origin and to achieve authenticity and credibility of reportage, the voice of non-Nigerian migrants is completely excluded in the newspaper reports. There is no instance in which a non-Nigerian (irregular) migrant is privileged to air their view or side of the overlexicalised stories about them in the data. These non-Nigerian migrants are, therefore, revealed as passive and voiceless – there are simply at the mercy of the news reporters, other social actors, specifically politicians and security chiefs. Number game is employed to monger fear amongst the citizenry of Nigeria so as to give the impression that there is absolute lawlessness in the country to make many illegal immigrants to easily access the country from theirs.

Representing migrants as criminals is the most prominent of all the social actors' representations in the study. Migrants are shown as unwanted and treated as the *other* in the countries of destination. Criminalising migrants, therefore, justifies security officers' use of force to enforce obedience. Although Nigerian migrants are also criminalised with their non-Nigerian counterparts, their crimes are always underlexicalised and generalised against a vivid and overlexicalised reportage of crimes allegedly committed by non-Nigerian migrants of third world countries. The representation of migrants as victims is mostly featured under human trafficking as a discourse issue in migration reports. The representation reveals the unpalatable experiences, even death, of African or Nigerian migrants in their bid to migrate irregularly to other parts of the world, especially Europe.

Most times, girls and women are the emphasised victims of human trafficking. In this representation, men are projected as saving women on the one hand, and Northern Nigeria is depicted as saving Southern Nigeria on the other hand. Animal and natural metaphors are deployed to make irregular or illegal migration frightening and intimidating to the news readers, specifically potential irregular Nigerian migrants, so as not to venture into such journeys. These metaphors are also used to dehumanise irregular migrants of under-developed African countries in Nigeria. Youths as ignoramus is the representation deployed to dispel the ignorance of Nigerian youths to avoid taking to irregular migration. The media, government officials and non-governmental organisations try to educate the youths on the dangers of irregular

migration and to unveil that the grass is not always greener in Europe and other countries, which the youths are yearning to immigrate to.

(iv) What ideologies are conveyed in the study?

Four ideological orientations are teased out of the analysis. These are nationalism, anti-racism, humanitarianism and anti-despotism. Different ideological devices are used in revealing the ideologies of the social actors in this study, which are number game, polarisation, *us-them* dichotomy, rhetorical question, positive self-presentation, negative other-representation, authority, burden/argumentation, metaphor, implication, presupposition, victimisation, evidentiality, disclaimer, and illustration. Nationalist ideology is gleaned from the words and actions of social actors, especially politicians and security chiefs, to show that they are ever ready to protect the country, Nigeria, from any externally fuelled aggression or insecurity. Nationalist ideology in migration news reports is very similar to racism in which all sorts of segregating actions and words are used to clearly separate citizens from irregular migrants in order to perpetuate covert national hatred and discrimination.

Anti-racist ideology is also featured in the data. This ideology is used to challenge racially discriminatorily treatments meted to Nigerians and Africans in Europe, America and Asia, which are prominently projected in the media of these continents. The ideology is vividly manifest in Nigerian newspaper reports on migration to write back and right the wrongs experienced by their people, using their platforms. This is why all instances of anti-racist ideology in this study are directed to the above-mentioned continents. Nigerian migration news reports can, therefore, be said to be a form of protest literature or media.

As a result of humanitarian crises which are precipitated by irregular migration in the Sahara Desert and on the Mediterranean Sea, humanitarianism as an ideology in Nigerian newspaper reports on migration is apparent. International organisations and NGOs are embodiments of the humanitarian ideology. Also, through the use of dehumanising metaphor and euphemism, migrants are represented as ‘thousands’, ‘waves’ and ‘droves’ to depict humanitarian crises in Africa which are consequences of leadership culpability and irresponsibility, poverty, unemployment and endemic corruption on the continent and in various African countries, especially in Nigeria.

Anti-despotic ideology is portrayed in reactions of the opposition party to Muhammadu Buhari's despotic stance on irregular migration. The consequence of Buhari's despotic ideology can be said to be what makes many citizens of Nigeria try as much as possible to get out of their country of origin in search of a better life elsewhere. With the opposition party's resistance to this despotic ideology, the party presents itself as pro-masses and anti-despotic.

5.2 Conclusion

This study has examined discourse representation and ideology in Nigerian newspaper reports on migration. It conceives migration as a social phenomenon which is always controversial and political in the world. This is due to its close relationship with other socially and politically sensitive issues such as security, human trafficking, poverty, amongst others. It affirms that migration is one of the legitimate ways of achieving one's dreams. Using the tools of Critical Discourse Analysis, specifically Teun van Dijk's Socio-cognitive approach, which is blended with Theo van Leeuwen's Representation of Social Actors, Jacob Mey's Pragmatic Acts Theory and M. A. K. Halliday's Transitivity System, the analysis, critically, engages the prominent discourse issues of security, human trafficking, poverty, unemployment and immigration. On these discourse issues are built other aspects of the analysis which investigates social actors' representations of 'leaders as guardians', 'leaders as culprits', 'migrants as criminals', 'migrants as victims' and 'youths as ignoramuses'. The underlying ideologies teased out of these representations are nationalism, anti-racism, humanitarianism and anti-despotism.

Largely, this work has shown that many social actors have negative attitude to irregular migration. The newspapers, working in sync with the social actors, deploy all the available tools to discourage Nigerians from venturing into irregular migration due to its uncertainty and unpredictability. Even though the social actors and the newspapers display nationalistic and anti-racist tendencies to safeguard and protect their country and countrymen and women, they also overtly and covertly demonise and criminalise irregular migrants of non-Nigerian origin. Hence, Nigerian newspapers deploy various discourse representational strategies, grammatical and pragmatic tools to negatively capture irregular migration and illegal immigrants as threats and unwanted in the country.

Nigerian newspapers represent migration as socioeconomically engendered through dominant negative discourse representations and ideologies.

5.3 Limitations of the study

Since the study preferred electronic versions of the selected Nigerian newspapers, some of the websites of the newspapers were weak: their archive sections on the websites did not have up to ten (10) years news reports. Some Nigerian newspaper website archives did not even go beyond two years of news reports and perhaps some did remove the news reports and other newspaper entries from their websites from time to time. This limited the study as data gathered could have covered a period of at least ten (10) years to track the beginning of the surge in (irregular) migration from and into Nigeria in the news reports, which might probably provide more insights on the dynamics of migration and further enrich the data for the study. There was also a possibility of some of the newspapers not indexing some migration news reports on their websites, but featured such reports in their hard copies. Also, there was no database to properly check and verify the number of news reports that were published on human migration in Nigeria daily, weekly, monthly or yearly as the case may be. This made it difficult to make categorical statements about the nature of the data gathered from the selected newspapers. Also, the study is limited to only texts without any interrogation of images or cartoons on migration in the newspapers.

Nevertheless, these limitations were overcome by selecting Nigerian newspapers with national coverage of critical and national issues, and the selected six-year period of the news reports covered to a large extent parts of the beginning of the surge in (irregular) migration to the time the issue reached its climax and thereafter. The selected data were very representative as far as migration reportage is concerned in Nigerian newspapers. The online archives of most of the selected newspapers are arguably amongst the top-ranked ones in Nigeria. In addition, Critical Discourse Analysis of the text-only data helped in engaging issues on migration in an in-depth and focused manner, providing findings that are consistent with previous studies on migration in different parts of the world and revealing ones that are context-specific to discursive practices in migration as a social phenomenon in Nigeria as reported in the newspapers. Overall, therefore, the findings still achieve the set objectives of the study.

5.4 Recommendations

Having analysed and interpreted its data in answering its research questions that guided the focus of this study, the following are its recommendations:

1. Nigerian government should provide enabling environment through viable national and state policies and programmes to reduce the endemic poverty and high rate of unemployment in the country, and provide social infrastructure and secure lives and property of the citizenry, so that there will be a massive reduction in the exodus of Nigerians to avoid state collapse.
2. The National Orientation Agency in conjunction with relevant nongovernmental organisations, religious bodies and the media should sensitise the populace, especially the youth, by providing correct, verifiable and easily accessible information on safe and secure migration.
3. The government should empower the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) with adequate funding and manpower to prosecute human traffickers and give proper rehabilitation to victims of human trafficking.
4. Nigeria Immigration Service should be empowered to secure Nigeria's porous borders, thereby improving internal security of Nigeria and safeguarding the territorial integrity of the country.
5. Nigerians in the Diaspora should endeavour to be good ambassadors of their country by obeying the rules and regulations of their host countries.
6. Nigeria's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM) should be dedicated to working for Nigerians who may be facing prosecution or persecution in their countries of residence and ensure that such people get a fair hearing and are not being persecuted on the basis of their skin colour or nationality.
7. Newspaper reporters and editors should avoid sensationalism in language use in their presentation of migration news to avoid causing unnecessary fear that may threaten the polity. Also, aside reporting negative news on migration, newspapers

should also feature positive news on migration to give a balance and accurate reportage of migration.

5.5 Contributions to knowledge

This research contributes greatly to the body of literature on migration studies in general and African migration studies, using Nigeria as its source domain and specifically focusing on the interconnection between migration and media. It has closely examined social practices and representations in Nigerian newspapers' reportage on migration. Against previous migration studies in Nigeria which are largely resident in other humanistic and social scientific perspectives such as economics, history, literature, religious studies, sociology, political science, this study is rooted in linguistics, especially Critical Discourse Analysis with further theoretical insights drawn from aspects of pragmatics and systemic functional grammar for in-depth analysis and enrichment. Because of the hydra-headedness of migration and its interpenetration into other areas of social and national importance, deeper understanding of migration from relevant but related theoretical approaches becomes inevitable.

This is why the study privileges Teun van Dijk's Socio-cognitive model of Critical Discourse Analysis in teasing out discourse issues, ideological constructs and ideologies in the data; Theo van Leeuwen's Representation of Social Actors in unpacking how social actors are framed, labelled and represented for different ideological purposes; Jacob Mey's Pragmatic Acts Theory in unveiling social actors' and newspapers' intentions and pragmatic strategies in their utterances, modes of reportage and linguistic choices made; and M. A. K. Halliday's Transitivity System in laying bare the clausal structures, processes and roles assigned to social actors. This has further enriched and enhanced scholarship in understanding discourse issues, ideological orientations, grammatical and lexical choices, and media representations of social actors in Nigerian migration newspaper reports, which will benefit scholars, policy makers and people who are interested in the connection between migration and media in Nigeria; specifically, potential migrants of Nigerian and non-Nigerian origin will have a better understanding of the politics of migration and media practices through the study.

As an ideological study, aspects of Nigerian newspaper reports on migration are dubbed as protest literature in which the reportage is directly against mistreatment and subjugation of Nigerian citizens in other parts of the world, especially in Europe, America and Asia. This calls for better treatment of Nigerians in other climes, emphasising their humanity above their nationality. However, some aspects of the newspaper reports also bare the double standard of the Nigerian state and its powerful citizens who oppress and suppress not only nationals of other developing and underdeveloped countries but also their fellow citizens. Therefore, the study contributes to knowledge that, depending on context and power dynamics at work, protesters or the oppressed can also be oppressors or the suppressors, foregrounding the evident inequality in the world.

In addition, this study has provided the advantages and disadvantages of regular and irregular migration, which will be helpful to potential migrants, especially Nigerian youths. As shown in the analysis, due to the uncertainty and unpredictability of the nature of irregular migration, irregular migrants are prone to encountering life-threatening circumstances during their journey, and their expected better life may invariably turn to bitter life – sexual slavery, imprisonment, organ/human trafficking and even death. While advocating improved and better economic and living conditions of living for Nigerians, the study challenges the government to be people-centric in their policies and programmes so as to curb the menace of irregular migration from Nigeria, and calls for collaborative efforts on the part of the critical stakeholders to eradicate or mitigate the challenge/flow of irregular migration.

5.6 Suggestions for further studies

This study has looked at discourse representation and ideology in Nigerian newspaper reports on migration. While metaphor is an aspect of this study, further studies may be carried out to extensively interrogate metaphor and its kind in migration reports in Nigeria. Also, this study does not consider multimodality as it excludes images and pictures of social actors in the newspapers. Further studies may decide to explore the kind of images and perhaps cartoons that are featured in Nigerian newspaper reports on migration. In addition, ethnographically-based discourse studies can be conducted on return migration, migrants and victims of transatlantic and local human trafficking to uncover directly their experiences. Also, other migration studies may use focus group

discussion or interviews to collect data from migration news reporters and editors who may share some of their experiences in the course of their news gathering and provide insights into areas that are left uncovered in the newspaper reportage. More so, further studies may prefer hard copies of newspapers, especially if such will provide enriched data. Since this study is based solely on newspaper reports on migration, further studies may consider explore migration in relation to other newspaper entries, such as opinions, editorials, features, etc. Lastly, further studies may examine how local newspapers within the areas noted to be hotbed of irregular migration and human trafficking report news on migration.

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APPENDIX

DAILY TRUST

Fight Human Trafficking, UN Agency Tells FG

<https://dailytrust.com/fight-human-trafficking-un-agency-tells-fg>

November 24, 2020

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Representative to Nigeria, Oliver Stolpe on Monday urged the Federal Government to intensify efforts in the fight against human trafficking.

He made the call in Abuja at a workshop for the development of the National Plan of Action on Human Trafficking in Nigeria 2021 – 2025, sponsored by UNODC and the Switzerland Embassy.

He also advised the government to enhance the criminal justice response to the issue of trafficking in persons in Nigeria.

He said though the National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons had detected 4,215 victims of trafficking in persons so far, the number of convictions remained comparatively low with 101.

Migration Adviser, Switzerland Embassy in Nigeria, Manuel Muhlebach, said trafficking in persons had been a major cause of human insecurity as it affected the lives of migrants in the most negative ways.

Ministry Of Labour Denies Involvement In Human Trafficking

<https://dailytrust.com/ministry-of-labour-denies-involvement-in-human-trafficking>

Joshua Odeyemi

August 14, 2020

The Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment has denied accusations that it is complicit in human trafficking involving Nigerian girls to other parts of the world.

The Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Diaspora, Tolulope Akande-Sadipe, had on Thursday, 16 July, 2020, accused the ministry of illegally issuing licences to private employment agencies, claiming that a moratorium had been placed on the issuance of such licences since 2017.

However, in a statement signed by the Deputy Director, Press in the ministry, Charlse Akpan, the ministry denied any wrongdoing.

FG Worries Over Situation In Chad, Moves To Control Influx Of Refugees, Weapons

<https://dailytrust.com/fg-worries-over-situation-in-chad-moves-to-control-influx-of-refugees-weapons>

Muideen Olaniyi

22 Apr 2021

The Federal Government has expressed concern over the current situation in the Republic of Chad, following the death of President Idriss Deby.

The Minister of Defence, retired Major-General Bashir Magashi disclosed this to State House reporters on Thursday in Abuja while fielding questions at the seventh edition of the ministerial briefing organised by the Presidential Media Team. Magashi, who said he knew Nigeria would be most hit by the demise of Deby, voiced the commitment of the Federal Government to control the influx of refugees and weapons. He said the absence of Deby's influence on the borders which might worsen security situation in Nigeria and other neighbouring countries underscored the need to beef up security around borders, particularly with the Republic of Chad in view of the ongoing unrest in the country.

According to him, "If there's no security in Chad, there will be a lot of trouble for all neighboring countries. But thankfully, we have a lot of ongoing military cooperation, through the Multinational Joint Task Force (MJTF), which we expect to continue. We remain mindful of our borders and developments in Chad."

Immigrations Intercepts 7 Trafficked Persons In Jigawa

<https://dailytrust.com/nis-nabs-seven-trafficked-persons-in-jigawa>

Mohammed Abubakar

May 8, 2021

The Jigawa State Command of the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) says it has intercepted seven victims of suspected human trafficking in the state.

Parading the victims before newsmen Friday in Dutse, the State Comptroller of Immigration, Ismail Abba Aliyu, said they were aged between 16 and 28 and were intercepted around 3pm on Wednesday at Giurai village, along Babura road, heading from Kano to Niger Republic en route Libya...

The rescue was carried out by Operation Salama Team 'A' of the NIS operating along the Kazaure, Babura and Ringim axis of the state.

Aliyu said the suspected victims were all females from the southern part of the country, including one each from Lagos, Kwara and Oyo states; and two each from Ogun and Imo states.

I Was Sold 4 Times To Human Traffickers, Says Nigerian Who Just Returned From Libya

<https://dailyupdates.news/2021/02/05/i-was-sold-4-times-to-human-traffickers-libyan-returnee/>

No author

Feb 5, 2021

Terry Ikponmwosa, a 31-year-old man has narrated how he was sold four times by human traffickers before he could get to Libya en route to Europe, where he hoped for a good life.

Ikponmwosa, in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Friday in Benin, Edo State capital, said he was taken into modern-day slavery in Nigeria without him realising it.

"I embarked on a journey to Europe and ended up being sold four times in Nigeria before I got to Libya," he said.

"After my secondary education, I went into business. I opened a cement retailing shop which was very lucrative and I was making money, but I needed more.

"While doing the cement business, a friend introduced me to a man in Benin who promised to help me to travel to Europe.

10 Countries Deported 13,235 Nigerians In 4 Years

<https://dailytrust.com/10-countries-deported-13235-nigerians-in-4-years>

Hamisu Kabir Matazu and Haruna Ibrahim

March 20, 2021

A total of 13,235 Nigerians have been deported from at least 10 countries in four years, Daily Trust investigation has revealed.

Findings uncovered the countries to include Libya, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, South Africa and Cameroon.

Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Oman and some countries in Europe also deported Nigerians.

The deportation of Nigerians was mostly attributed to immigration related offenses and other criminal activities.

However, of the 13,235 Nigerians that were deported between 2017 and 2021, Libya led the chat with 9,759, which represents over 80 per cent.

Immigration Bursts Human Trafficking Ring At Katsina Border, Apprehends 28

<https://www.dailytrust.com.ng/immigration-bursts-human-trafficking-ring-at-katsina-border-apprehends-28.html?fbclid=IwAR0fr8-ZEKQnhygHEL-NLM7Ni8wsAt9VMf5-gYPuA3zHWGgTNIeD2A-JeAM>

No author

December 1, 2019

Operatives of the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), Border Control at Kongolam, Katsina State, have apprehended 28 persons on the verge of being smuggled out of the country.

NIS' Public Relations Officer, Mr Sunday James, who disclosed this in a statement on Saturday, in Abuja, said 19 females and nine males were now in the custody of NIS.

James said they were apprehended when they attempted to cross the Kongolam border heading to Niger Republic, in company of the human smugglers under the pretext that they were going to Agadez, in Niger Republic, to take up jobs.

Over 650 Illegal Migrants Rescued Off Libyan Coast, Says UNHCR

<https://dailytrust.com/over-650-illegal-migrants-rescued-off-libyan-coast-says-unhcr>

No author

May 17, 2021

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on Monday said that more than 650 illegal migrants have been rescued and returned to Libya.

“Over 650 persons were returned on Sunday to Tripoli by Libyan authorities.

“Survivors departed aboard four rubber boats from Zuwara (Western Libya), and were intercepted/rescued and returned in two different disembarkations.

UNHCR & IRC (International Rescue Committee) offered urgent humanitarian & medical aid to all survivors,” the UNHCR tweeted earlier on Monday.

Rescued migrants often end up inside overcrowded reception centers across Libya, despite repeated international calls to close those centers.

According to the International Organisation for Migration and UNHCR, migrants and refugees in Libya continue to be subjected to arbitrary detention, ill-treatment, exploitation and violence, conditions that push them to take risky journeys especially sea crossings that may face fatal consequences. (NAN)

130 Killed In Libya Shipwreck, Despite SOS Calls, Says IOM

<https://dailytrust.com/130-killed-in-libya-shipwreck-despite-sos-calls-says-iom>

No Author

April 23, 2021

A shipwreck off the Libyan coast has claimed the lives of 130 people, despite SOS calls for help, the UN migration agency, IOM, said on Friday.

The tragedy was confirmed late on Thursday by the volunteer rescue vessel, Ocean Viking, which found dozens of bodies floating in the water northeast of Tripoli.

It had been in distress since Wednesday morning, the NGO said in a statement.

IOM spokesperson, Ms. Safa Msehli, told journalists in Geneva, Switzerland, that the victims had been on board a rubber dinghy for two days before it sank in the central Mediterranean.

“For two days, the NGO alarm phone, which is responsible for sending distress calls to the relevant maritime rescue centres in the region, has been calling on States to uphold their responsibilities towards these people and send rescue vessels. Unfortunately, that did not happen.”

Impunity Makes Human Trafficking More Profitable Than Small Arms, Says IOM

<https://dailytrust.com/impunity-makes-human-trafficking-more-profitable-than-small-arms-says-iom>

Abdullaleef Aliyu

April 21, 2021

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) says widespread impunity is making human trafficking more profitable for criminals than smuggling small arms.

The crime amounts to \$150 billion a year, and promises high profit and low risk for traffickers. It came as the organisation launched the Blue Bus project, a one-stop-shop where vulnerable migrants and community members can get information on the risks associated with human trafficking.

Through the project, people can also report cases, and get on-the-spot counselling.

The project targets many communities in the project States of Lagos, Edo and Delta. The IOM Chief of Mission in Nigeria, Frantz Celestin who spoke at the launch of the initiative in collaboration with the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in persons (NAPTIP) and support of the Swiss Government reiterated that trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants are serious crimes which should not go unpunished.

10 Countries Deported 13,235 Nigerians In 4 Years

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Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Oman and some countries in Europe also deported Nigerians.

The deportation of Nigerians was mostly attributed to immigration related offenses and other criminal activities.

However, of the 13,235 Nigerians that were deported between 2017 and 2021, Libya led the chat with 9,759, which represents over 80 per cent.

According to the statistics, Libya deported 3,086 Nigerians in 2017; 3,996 in 2018; 2,085 in 2019; and 267 in 2020. This is largely because Libya is the transit route for migrants, especially Nigerians, journeying to Italy and other parts of Europe.

However, these Nigerian men, women and children who decided to gamble with death in attempt to cross to the West, usually pay the supreme price.

600 Nigerians Stranded In Saudi Arabia Call For Help To Return

<https://dailytrust.com/600-nigerians-stranded-in-saudi-arabia-call-for-help-to-return>

Jan 22, 2021

A video has gone viral on social media showing some Nigerians stranded in Saudi Arabia—some as long as seven months.

In apparent reaction to the video, chair of the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM), Abike Dabiri-Erewa, on Friday said, “Nigerian irregular migrants in Saudi Arabia are due to be evacuated on the 28th and 29th of January, pending any unforeseen issues.”

She appeared to refer to them as “irregular migrants in Saudi Arabia”, numbering as much as 600.

“Their evacuation was delayed due to issues relating to COVID-19. We appeal to Nigerians to resist travelling abroad without proper documents,” she said.

Guardian

UN blasts Nigeria for human trafficking

By AFP

<https://guardian.ng/news/un-blasts-nigeria-for-human-trafficking/>

11 September 2018 |

The United Nations on Monday criticised Nigeria for failing to tackle human trafficking, after a human rights mission looked at efforts to stamp out the organised trade in people.

“What is being done is not enough,” the world body’s special rapporteur on the subject, Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, told reporters at the end of an eight-day visit.

Some 18,000 Nigerians arrived in Italy via the Mediterranean Sea from North Africa in 2017, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The number of arrivals in Europe fell sharply in the first six months of this year but Giammarinaro said there was “no indication of a decrease in the trafficking trend”.

“Some are already recruited by their traffickers in the country of origin, others may start their migration journey voluntarily,” she told a news conference in Abuja.

“Due also to the absence of safe and regular migration channels, the vast majority of them fall prey to traffickers in transit countries, especially in Libya, and (are) subject to all forms of human rights violations including torture, rape, extortion, and exploitation amounting to trafficking, slavery and forced labour.”

According to the latest IOM figures, some 36,000 Nigerians were stuck in Libya or neighbouring Niger in December last year.

Nigeria’s own immigration service has estimated that about 10,000 nationals died in the Sahara desert or in the Mediterranean Sea between January and May last year.

No more survivors found from Italy migrant shipwreck

By **AFP**

<https://guardian.ng/news/no-more-survivors-found-from-italy-migrant-shipwreck/>

15 April 2015

Rescuers have found no more survivors from the shipwreck of a boat in which 400 migrants are believed to have drowned, the Italian coastguard said Wednesday.

The vessel capsized off the Libyan coast on Sunday, with survivors who were brought to Italy telling charity workers that as many as 400 others perished.

Italian coastguards, who intercepted 42 boats on Sunday and Monday alone carrying 6,500 migrants attempting to make the hazardous crossing to Europe, confirmed that they had saved 145 people from the sunken boat and found nine bodies.

The International Organization for Migration and the charity Save the Children said that 150 survivors of a shipwreck had arrived on Tuesday morning in the southern Italian port of Reggio Calabria, but they were as yet unsure whether they were from the same boat coastguards said had sunk.

Coastguard spokesman Commander Filippo Marini told AFP that they had not found any more “survivors or anything else which would indicate more victims”.

Irregular migrants from Nigeria face violence, exploitation, says IOM

16 May 2020

<https://guardian.ng/news/nigeria/irregular-migrants-from-nigeria-face-violence-exploitation-says-iom/>

Gloria Nwafor

A recent report by WAKA Well by IOM X has indicated that irregular migrants from Nigeria and other West African countries face various forms of violence, exploitation and other abuses along the Central Mediterranean route.

WAKA Well by IOM X is an International Organisation for Migration (IOM) working in Nigeria. According to the report, irregular migration from Nigeria is mainly directed towards Europe through North Africa, with Nigerians almost exclusively using the Central Mediterranean route.

The report noted that an estimated 84 per cent of migration within West Africa is towards another country in the region, which is seven times greater than migration flows from West Africa to other parts of the world.

‘Illegal migration, major cause of brain drain in Africa’

14 April 2020

<https://guardian.ng/appointments/illegal-migration-major-cause-of-brain-drain-in-africa/#:~:text=AFP%20PHOTO-Illegal%20migration%20has%20been%20identified%20as%20a%20huge%20problem%20in,of%20manpower%20in%20different%20fields>.

Gloria Nwafor

Illegal migration has been identified as a huge problem in Africa, and as such, a major cause of brain drain.

Undoubtedly, it has robbed Africa of talents, hence promoting the shortage of manpower in different fields.

Besides, youths, who make up the larger percentage of the migrants, leave the continent in order to explore and showcase their skills for ‘befitting’ reward. But when these talents leave, things become more difficult in the sectors that needed them, thus, crippling the economy.

Indeed, reports by International Organisation for Migration (IOM) showed that Africa is one of the continents with the highest number of migrants, legal and illegal.

Monarch wants task force to combat human trafficking, irregular migration

By From Michael Egbejule, Benin City

<https://guardian.ng/news/monarch-wants-task-force-to-combat-human-trafficking-irregular-migration/>

01 March 2020 | 3:36 am

The Benin Monarch, His Royal Majesty, Oba Ewuare II, has advocated the establishment of Royal Palace Task Force to combat human trafficking and irregular immigration in the country.

The monarch made this statement when the Swedish Ambassador, His Excellency, Carl Michael Grans paid a courtesy visit to his palace, along with Swedish Television team.

Oba Ewuare II, who sued for Swedish Embassy’s collaboration, said the proposed task force should comprise members of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) and Oba Ewuare II Foundation.

According to him, the organisation would be saddled with the responsibilities of embarking on advocacy enlightenment campaigns to rural areas in Edo State.

Recalling the events that propelled him to revoke curses placed on human trafficking victims by their traffickers in 2018, the traditional ruler said as Nigeria Ambassador to Rome, Italy, he got closer to the then endemic problem of prostitution and human trafficking, which put Africa in disrepute and bad perspective.

He said activities of very few women, referred to as ‘Madams,’ formed themselves into cartels that dehumanised, frightened and threatened their victims because of their greed, selfishness and monetary interests.

Obaseki, Aregbesola, Immigration seek better response to illegal migration

By Michael Egbejule, Benin City

<https://guardian.ng/news/obaseki-aregbesola-immigration-seek-better-response-to-illegal-migration/>

25 October 2019 | 3:29 am

Edo State Governor Godwin Obaseki yesterday called for the closure of illegal entry points into Nigeria, pointing out that the move would tighten the country’s porous borders in the fight against illegal migration and other nefarious activities.

He made the appeal while opening the 2019 Comptroller-General of Immigration’s Annual Conference in Benin City.

Earlier, the Minister of Interior, Rauf Aregbesola, hinted that the Federal Government was working towards the introduction of a better technology for the issuance of the national passport such that there would not be a physical contact between the seeker and issuer.

Edo calls for synergy against human trafficking

By Michael Egbejule, Benin City

<https://guardian.ng/news/edo-calls-for-synergy-against-human-trafficking/>

01 August 2019 | 3:46 am

Towards addressing the menace of irregular migration and human trafficking, Edo State government has harped on the need for synergy to aggressively tackle the issues.

Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Anti-Human Trafficking Issues, Solomon Okoduwa, made the appeal during an awareness campaign to mark the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons.

Okoduwa, who was the convener, commended the United Nations for setting a day aside to create awareness against trafficking in persons and irregular migration.

Buhari under fire over plan to register illegal migrants

By Seye Olumide, Odita Sunday (Lagos), Terhembra Daka (Abuja) and Tina Todo (Calabar)

<https://guardian.ng/news/buhari-under-fire-over-plan-to-register-illegal-migrants/>

17 July 2019

- ‘It’s backdoor to populate nation with alien Fulani herdsmen’
- Presidency, immigration unclear over scheme’s target

- **M’Belt Forum, Afenifere warn of conspiracy against citizens**
- **Don’t receive bribes from foreigners, agency cautions staff**

The move by the Federal Government to electronically register illegal migrants in the country has come under criticism, with some observers describing it as a backdoor to unleash an “army of occupation” on Nigerians.

President Muhammadu Buhari hinted of the e-registration last Friday when he declared: “It is on this note therefore, that I am declaring a six-month amnesty period for illegal migrants already in the country to submit themselves to the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) for the purpose of this registration.”

Represented by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation Boss Mustapha, the president explained: “The registration will be carried out without any payment or penalties. I’m enjoining all migrants staying in Nigeria whether regularly or otherwise, to take advantage of the amnesty window to register with the NIS.”

Nigeria has over 30,000 illegal immigrants in Germany — Group

By Collins Osuji, Owerri

<https://guardian.ng/news/nigeria-has-over-30000-illegal-immigrants-in-germany-group/>

09 June 2019 | 3:41 am

No fewer than 30, 000 Nigerian illegal immigrants in Germany, would be deported soon, according to a non-governmental organisation, RARDUJAR International.

Founder/President of the NGO, Eddy Duruji, yesterday, disclosed this during a sensitisation campaign on dangers of illegal migration and unplanned journey overseas held in Owerri, the state capital.

“There are ongoing discussions between Nigerian Foreign Affairs Ministry and Germany on how to repatriate these illegal immigrants to Nigeria,” he said. He urged the government and concerned agencies to put in more efforts to educate Nigerians, especially youths, against erroneous perception that life ends in Europe.

‘1,200 Nigerian migrants died in 2018’

By Muiyiwa Adeyemi (Ibadan), Adelowo Adebumiti (Lagos) and Isa Abdulsalami Ahovi (Jos)

<https://guardian.ng/news/1200-nigerian-migrants-died-in-2018/>

11 April 2019 | 3:35 am

- **‘63,000 still trapped in Libya’**
- **Group urges FG to declare state of emergency on illegal migration**
- **U.S. says youths remain Nigeria’s greatest assets**

A non-governmental organisation, RARDUJA International, has said that 1,200 Nigerians seeking greener pasture abroad died in their attempt to reach Europe through the desert and the sea last year. The group also revealed that while about 12,000 Nigerians were brought back last year from Libya alone, 63,000 are still currently trapped in that country awaiting repatriation. Founder and President of the group, Eddy Duru disclosed this yesterday at a seminar organised in conjunction with University of Lagos and Nollywood Actress, Funke Akindele-Bello at the institution. Duru decried the low level of awareness among the populace on the dangers associated with unplanned migration, saying that more than 80 per cent of Nigerians are still in the dark.

Meanwhile, the United States (U.S.) has said that youths represent the greatest resource for a prosperous Nigeria's future. The U.S. Consul-General, F. John Bray, stated this while addressing participants at the 2019 Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) conference for emerging entrepreneurs held at the Ibadan Business School (IBS), Bodija, Ibadan.

PDP berates Buhari over comments on illegal migrants

By **Azimazi Momoh Jimoh, Abuja**

<https://guardian.ng/news/pdp-berates-buhari-over-comments-on-illegal-migrants/>

02 September 2018 | 4:32 am

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has criticised President Muhammadu Buhari's statement to German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, that Nigerians caught up in their attempt to illegally enter the Europe are on their own.

The party said Buhari's comments further exposed him as an insensitive leader, who doesn't care about the plight of his compatriots. The PDP, in a statement released by its National Publicity Secretary, Kola Ologbondiyan, said while it does not, in any way, support illegal migrations, it does not warrant incendiary statement against citizens by no less a person than the President, who should be seeking ways to solve the problem.

Nigerians defying desert, Mediterranean Sea to Europe on their own, warns Buhari

By **Terhemba Daka, Abuja**

<https://guardian.ng/news/nigerians-defying-desert-mediterranean-sea-to-europe-on-their-own-warns-buhari/>

01 September 2018 | 4:32 am

Streets Of Germany Not Paved With Gold, Says Merkel

President Muhammadu Buhari, yesterday, warned that Nigerians defying the harsh desert conditions and the Mediterranean Sea to illegally migrate to Europe were doing so on their own, as his administration would never condone any form of illegality or indiscipline.

The President, who stated this while fielding questions from newsmen during a joint press briefing between him and visiting German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, at the Presidential Villa, Abuja, assured his guest that the federal government would continue to discourage Nigerians from embarking on illegal migration to Europe, saying those stuck in foreign countries would continue to be repatriated back home.

100 Edo Secondary students trafficked to Libya in 4 months, says Obaseki's aide

By **NAN**

<https://guardian.ng/news/100-edo-secondary-students-trafficked-to-libya-in-4-months-says-obasekis-aide/>

20 May 2018 | 8:23 pm

No fewer than 100 students of Idogbo Secondary School, Benin, have been trafficked to Libya in the last four months.

This was disclosed in Benin on Sunday during an advocacy programme by the Senior Special Assistant to Gov Godwin Obaseki on Human trafficking and illegal migration, Mr Solomon Okoduwa.

Okoduwa said this fact was disclosed to him by some teachers in the school, concerned about how the institution has become the harvesting ground for traffickers.

Okoduwa said government will not allow the evil to continue to thrive in the state.

LEADERSHIP

Insecurity: Reps Seek To Halt Migration Of Foreign Herdsmen Into Nigeria

JUNE 10, 2020

<https://leadership.ng/?s=insecurity%3a+reps+seek+to+halt+migration+>

The House of Representatives has called on the Federal Government to stop further entry of herdsmen from other African countries into Nigeria. The call is contained in a motion sponsored by Hon. Ndudi Elumelu on Tuesday, wherein noted that herdsmen have been on rampage, destroying farm lands, burning villages and killing innocent Nigerians indiscriminately in many states across the federation for some years now. Elumelu also noted that security agents have consistently pointed out that those herdsmen were not Nigerians but migrants from neighboring countries. He added that the killer herdsmen, who operate in militant style, have consistently instilled fears in the lives of local farmers and villagers residing in the affected areas. According to the lawmaker, the herdsmen use coercion, intimidation, brute force and extreme violence in most cases, leaving a large number of persons dead. “The violent conflicts between the nomadic herders from neighbouring countries and local farmers is escalating by the day to more states of the federation, and if left unchecked will further threaten the security and stability of the nation. “The clashes are becoming potentially as dangerous as the Boko Haram insurgency in the Northeast.

US Immigration Ban On Nigerians

FEBRUARY 13, 2020

<https://leadership.ng/.../us-immigration-ban-on-nigerians/>

Within two weeks in January, the United States of America issued two bans on Nigeria and Nigerians. First it was a visa ban on pregnant Nigerian women who want to go to that country to have their babies. Visa officers were suddenly given more powers at the American embassy to block these women from visiting the United States so as to stop what they termed ‘birth tourism,’ or trips designed to obtain citizenship for their children.

Then a week later, the Trump administration, all in a bid to expand its controversial travel ban policy, announced that immigrants from six countries, including Nigeria, will no longer be eligible for visas allowing them to live as permanent residents in the United States. What this means is that once the ban takes effect from February 21, Nigerian-Americans who are still processing the papers of their loved ones to migrate to the US would be stuck for as long as no one can predict. And the separation of families like is already the case with Latino migrants in the US would be replicated here.

Foundation Urges Nigeria Youths To Shun Irregular Migration

December 18, 2020

In a move to tame the tide of illegal migration in Nigeria, Africa Youth Growth Foundation (AYGF) in collaboration with German Foreign Office Nigeria has urged Nigeria youths to stop embarking on irregular migration to foreign countries for their safety and dignity.

Executive Director of AYGf, Dr. Arome Salifu while speaking at the grand finale of the 2020 Migration Information and Communication Campaign (MICC) in Abuja said that even though migration remains the right of citizens, appealed that they should follow established legal procedures before embarking on journey abroad. He noted that individuals who undertake such irregular migration are always exploited by criminals along desert routes as they are often exposed to dangers of inhuman treatments including prostitution, organ harvest and in some cases death.

Wrong Economic Choices Create Conditions For Irregular Migrations – Emir Sanusi [NOVEMBER 23, 2018](#)

Emir of Kano, Alhaji Muhammed Sanusi II yesterday blamed the desperation of youths to seek greener pastures in European countries on the wrong economic choices made by the country.

The Emir said that Nigeria should reconsider its economic policies, as the country has nothing to show for several years of open economy.

“If we have opened up our capital market and our goods markets and if the result of that is that there is so much poverty, it is time to start asking ourselves what we can do to address some of these things,” he said.

Illegal Migration From Edo State Declines On Obaseki’s Effort, Says EU [DECEMBER 6, 2018](#)

The European Union (EU) Ambassador to Nigeria and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Mr. Ketil Karlsen, has said that efforts by the Edo State Government to stem human trafficking have resulted in the state dropping from first to sixth position, among originating sources of illegal migrants to Europe.

Commending the Governor Godwin Obaseki-led government’s approach to addressing the menace, the ambassador said: “They are a model as well as a strategic place to work in, as Nigeria tackles the scourge.”

Karlsen said this after an inspection tour to different locations in Benin City, the Edo capital, where migrant returnees would be sheltered and trained.

The Obaseki-led government has sustained a mix of strategies, ranging from institutional, sensitisation campaign, reintegration of returnees and empowerment programmes, amongst others, in tackling the menace.

Immigration Arrests Foreigners Over Possession Of PVCs [DECEMBER 9, 2018](#)

The Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) has disclosed that it has arrested non-Nigerians for being in possession of permanent voter’s cards (PVCs).

NIS comptroller general, Muhammad Babandede, who stated this at the 2018 NIS award presentation yesterday in Abuja, revealed that the service had retrieved over 700 PVCs from foreigners living in the country.

LEADERSHIP Sunday also learnt exclusively that over 323 national identity slips had also been seized from foreigners in the last six months.

An inside source who pleaded not to be named also revealed that about 1,729 irregular migrants were also repatriated between the second and third quarter of the year.

LEADERSHIP Sunday reports that only Nigerian citizens are eligible to vote in elections in the country.

The immigration boss also warned politicians against engaging in “political smear campaign,” even as he gave assurance that his agency was fully involved in the election process to ensure that no foreigner votes during the forthcoming 2019 general elections.

Viable Economic Opportunities In Developing Countries Will Ease Global Migration Crisis – Obaseki

[DECEMBER 19, 2018](#)

The Edo State Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki, has said that one of the ways to ease the global migration crisis is for global actors to join forces in creating viable economic opportunities in developing countries.

The governor said that such an effort would benefit from the input of multilateral organisations, corporate bodies, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and public-spirited individuals in building capacity of youths, in developing countries for global competitiveness.

The governor made the submission in commemoration of the International Migrants Day, marked by the United Nations every year, on December 18.

Kano Immigration Service Parades 8 Human Trafficking Victims

[MARCH 20, 2019](#)

Kano State Command of the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) has paraded eight victims of human trafficking who came from Edo, and Delta states enroute Kano and heading to Italy through Niger and Chad in search of greener pasture abroad.

Parading the victims who are all females the state Commandant, Alhaji Ishag Yusuf said his men were on the trail of both the agents who are Nigeriens and the victims since they received intelligent report concerning their movement until their arrival in Kano where they fall into the dragnet of the command.

Yusuf said although the agents have run away and abandoned the victims yet the command will extend the long arms of the law and apprehend them wherever their hideout is. The Kano immigration boss faulted parents for not taking their parental obligations seriously thereby allowing their wards to take inappropriate decisions in life.

“It will interest you to know that it is some of the parents that are even encouraging their children to leave this country with the believe that their lives would be better while in the foreign country.”

Tackle Causes Of Illegal Migration, ECOWAS Parliament Urges Members

[SEPTEMBER 4, 2019](#)

The Parliament of Economic Community of West African States, has called on states and governments of ECOWAS member states to tackle the causes of illegal migration in the sub-region.

The ECOWAS Parliament, in its declaration on migration in West Africa in Niamey, Republic of Niger, at the end of a three-day Parliamentary Sensitisation Forum on Migration in West Africa, further called on member states to tackle the causes through awareness raising, education and training, as well as through good governance in order to motivate the young people to remain in their home territories.

The ECOWAS Parliament also called on member states to promote economic alternatives to the trafficking in the region and to develop the resilience of local populations by improving access to basic services and creating employment opportunities, particularly for the young people.

Obaseki Seeks Intensified Global Fight Against Human Trafficking, Illegal Migration, Others

[DECEMBER 2, 2019](#)

The Edo State Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki has called for increased collaborative efforts among nations, governments and their agencies in the fight against human trafficking, illegal migration and all other forms of modern-day slavery.

The governor said this in commemoration of the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery marked every December 2, by the United Nations and its sister agencies.

Obaseki noted that collaborative efforts across international borders would go a long way to identify, arrest and prosecute traffickers and smugglers in their different countries and states of origin.

Trump To Solidify Immigration Agenda After U.S. Election Loss

December 3, 2020

President Donald Trump's administration is pushing to finalise new immigration restrictions before his term ends in January, according to three senior homeland security officials.

This is a last-gasp effort in a policy area that was a central focus during his four years in office.

The moves come even as Democratic President-elect Joe Biden has pledged to rescind many of Trump's immigration policies.

By finalising rules that have just been proposed, or issuing last-minute orders, the administration could slow down Biden's efforts to undo many of Trump's signature measures that have made it harder for immigrants to enter and settle in the U.S.

THE NATION

Wave of illegal migration across the Mediterranean Sea

September 6, 2019

<https://thenationonlineng.net/wave-of-illegal-migration-across-the-mediterranean-sea/>

Spain's two enclaves in Morocco—Ceuta and Melilla have been favoured entry points into Europe for African migrants who either clamber over their border wire perimeter fences or swim across their coastline. After thousands crossed in 2014 and 2015, Spain stepped up security by raising the security fences and since then, Libya has become a common departure point cum staging post for African migrants who attempt the perilous crossing to Italy in rickety and dilapidated boats and rubber dinghies that are most times not sea-worthy and often break down at sea. Many African migrants have died in their attempts to cross the gargantuan Mediterranean Sea. The deaths and the attempted crossings are a part of a sustained bid by thousands of Sub-Saharan Africans in Libya and other North African countries including Morocco to reach Spain and Italy. Some have made it to their dream land while the unfortunate ones have met their untimely death.

'Nigeria ranks highest in irregular migration in Africa'

September 13, 2020

<https://thenationonlineng.net/nigeria-ranks-highest-in-irregular-migration-in-africa-2/>

From Juliana Agbo, Abuja

Nigeria is ranked the highest in records of Irregular migrants moving from Africa and the 8th in global slavery index, said the Country Coordinator, Symbols of Hope Project Nigeria (SOH), Rev. Emmanuel Gabriel.

The Country Coordinator who made this known yesterday in a statement issued to journalists in Abuja said thousands of Nigerian youths are sold into slavery in Europe and other parts of the world.

Rev Gabriel while speaking at the Economic Empowerment For Returned And Potential Migrants In Benin, Edo State, said research shows that the drive for survival and security of life and property has continued to push many Nigerians and Africans at large to gamble their lives away.

Immigration detains two Indian nationals over illegal entry

June 22, 2020

<https://thenationonlineng.net/immigration-detains-two-indian-nationals-over-illegal-entry/>

Kelvin Osa Okunbor

Two Indians nationals have been detained by the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) in Lagos for entering Nigeria without proper documentation.

The Indians were intercepted by officials of the NIS at Murtala Mohammed International Airport, Ikeja, Lagos.

The Lagos Airport Comptroller of the NIS, Abdullahi Usman said the two male suspects were intercepted during the screening of nationals to be evacuated from Nigeria through the Murtala Mohammed International Airport Lagos.

Immigration intercepts two Niger nationals with weapons at Katsina border

September 28, 2019

<https://thenationonlineng.net/immigration-intercepts-two-niger-nationals-with-weapons-at-katsina-border/>

Two nationals of Niger Republic have been arrested at Kongolam border in Katsina state, the Nigerian Immigration Service announced on Saturday.

According to the Public Relation Officer of the Service, DCI James Sunday, they were arrested in possession of Pistols, computers and phones.

Sunday explained that their arrest was on the heels of the visit of the Comptroller of Immigration, Muhammad Babandede and his counterpart in Customs, Hammeed Ali to the border town following the launch of a drill operation.

Huge number of irregular migrants in Nigeria — Immigration boss

September 7, 2019

<https://thenationonlineng.net/huge-number-of-irregular-migrants-in-nigeria-immigration-boss/>

FOLLOWING the ongoing e-registration of migrants in major parts of the country, the Comptroller-General (CG), Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), Muhammed Babandede on Friday revealed that the country has a large number of irregular migrants.

The e-registration of migrants, Babandede said, would help improve Nigeria's national security.

He said that the registration was part of the service's statutory responsibilities prescribed by the Immigration Regulation 2017.

Babandede, who disclosed this while updating reporters in Abuja on the ongoing registration process, said: "In Abuja alone, 2, 175 migrants have registered. Majority of those who registered are staying irregularly. It means if they are wanted by security operatives, we can trace them. Out of the 2, 175, we have noted that 1, 194 are staying irregularly. It is good that we have captured them. Only 981 "For Ogun State, it is more interesting. They started capturing a few days ago. They have captured 433 migrants. Out of them, 401 are irregular migrants. So they will be regularized and it is a good thing for our national security.

NGO decries illegal migration

August 2, 2019

<https://thenationonlineng.net/ngo-decries-illegal-migration/>

A Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), RARDUJA International, has organised a one-day workshop for nurses in Imo State, on the dangers of illegal migration. Speaking at the workshop, which held in Owerri, the state capital, RARDUJA founder Dr. Endy Duru said it was part of the organisation's efforts to drive home the message against unplanned journey abroad to all. He said nurses were among those who hold the strong belief that life is rosy abroad and "have travelled without having the necessary information about the reality on ground". Duru maintained that most of the nurses, who travelled out, ended up roaming the streets of Europe frustrated or engaging in social vices including prostitution. He stated that the workshop was to expose nurses and other medical practitioners, who intend travelling and working abroad, to the inherent dangers and risks of illegal migration, as well as equip them with the right information on how to secure legal jobs and have meaningful life over there. The Comptroller disclosed that while profiling the men, it was discovered that they entered Nigeria through the land border and had visa on arrival application approval which they failed to present to Immigration at the border.

British govt launches tougher immigration rules

February 20, 2020

<https://thenationonlineng.net/british-govt-launches-tougher-immigration-rules/>

THE British government has presented tougher post-Brexit immigration plans, aimed at reducing the flow of "low skills" labour.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said the Conservative government wanted to "encourage people with the right talent".

The envisaged system, due to take effect as of January 2021, would be based on a points-based immigration system similar to that applied by Australia.

It would "open up the UK to the brightest and the best from around the world," Patel said in a statement.

"We're ending free movement, taking back control of our borders," she said, adding that the changes will "bring overall migration numbers down."

Buhari committed to checking scourge of irregular migration, says APC

September 2, 2018

<https://thenationonlineng.net/buhari-committed-scourge-irregular-apc/>

The All Progressives Congress (APC) has said that President Muhammadu Buhari has demonstrated the political will to check the scourge of irregular migration of Nigerians to other parts of the world, describing as unfortunate attempt to politicize the President's recent comment on the issue.

Acting National Publicity Secretary of the party, Yekini Nabena said in a statement made available to newsmen in Abuja that it was unfortunate that the main opposition PDP is displaying typical insensitivity to the issue of irregular migration of Nigerians which has cost the lives of several Nigerians.

The APC said that as a result of the concern expressed by Nigerians, the President directed the evacuation of Nigerians from Libya with the support of the International Office of Migration.

The party said it "strongly condemns the unfortunate attempt by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to politicise President Muhammadu Buhari's statement on the illegal migration and trafficking of Nigerians during the visit of the German Chancellor, Angela Merkel.

"The PDP in its typical insensitive and unguarded stance on matters affecting the country is exploiting an issue that bothers on the lives of Nigerians (mostly youth). It is a known fact that many Nigerian families have suffered grief as a result of deaths and other inhuman treatment that have befallen relatives attempting migration to Europe and other parts of the world.

Immigration arrests illegal immigrants heading for Ekiti

July 5, 2018

<https://thenationonlineng.net/immigration-arrests-illegal-immigrants-heading-for-ekiti/>

Illegal immigrants numbering over 100 who were allegedly travelling to Ekiti ahead of next week's governorship election were yesterday intercepted by officers of the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), in Lokoja, Kogi State.

Unconfirmed sources said that the aliens were intercepted at Banda in Kogi State on Tuesday night by the Navy

A source at the Kogi State Command of the NIS disclosed that the Navy handed them over to the NIS yesterday.

The source, who craved anonymity, said some of those arrested confessed that they were headed for Ekiti to vote.

They allegedly displayed their voters cards.

PUNCH

Immigration kills Nigerien with pistol, arrests another

Adelani Adepegba

<https://punchng.com/immigration-kills-nigerien-with-pistol-arrests-another/>

Published September 30, 2019

The Nigeria Immigration Service has intercepted two Nigeriens with pistols, computers and phones at the Kongolam border in Katsina State.

The two men were said to have opened fire on the border security operatives, but one of them was gunned down, while his accomplice was arrested.

The Public Relations Officer, NIS, Sunday James, who disclosed this in a statement in Abuja on Saturday, said the surviving suspect was assisting the operatives with useful information.

He explained that the arrest was facilitated by the swift operation by the NIS border operatives.

“This action by the operatives was after the visit by the NIS Comptroller-General, Muhammad Babandede, and his Customs counterpart, Col. Hammeed Ali (retd), to assess the level of cooperation, synergy and successes so far recorded,” the spokesman said.

Embassy partners centre to fight trafficking, migration

Sola Shittu

<https://punchng.com/embassy-partners-centre-to-fight-trafficking-migration/>

Published October 13, 2019

The Embassy of Switzerland has thrown its weight behind Edo State’s fight against human trafficking and irregular migration with the upgrade of a Vocational Skills Acquisition Centre in Ubiaja area of the state.

The centre owned by Global Initiative Against Illegal Migration, is one of the three skills acquisition project funded by the embassy in the state under the small-scale programme in Nigeria.

The Swiss Embassy Migration Adviser, Jolanda Herren, who was in Ubiaja to inaugurate the project, said the centre was done within the framework of GIAIM’s project, ‘Combating illegal migration through skills acquisition.’

Nigerian on hunger strike dies in Japanese immigration centre

<https://punchng.com/nigerian-on-hunger-strike-dies-in-japanese-immigration-centre/>

Published October 1, 2019

Japanese immigration authorities said Tuesday a Nigerian man who died in detention in June starved to death while on hunger strike, in the first officially acknowledged case of its kind.

“An autopsy has found the man died of starvation,” an official at the Immigration Services Agency told *AFP*.

The man in his forties, whose name has been withheld, died on June 24 after falling unconscious at Omura Immigration Center and being taken to a hospital in southern Japan.

He had been on a hunger strike for at least three weeks to protest being detained by immigration authorities for over three years, lawyers said.

It was the 14th death in Japanese immigration detention facilities since 2007, according to the Japan Federation of Bar Associations.

The man lost more than 13 kilogrammes (28.7 pounds) over the approximately three weeks since officials noticed he was on a hunger strike, the immigration agency said.

German envoy seeks support against illegal migration

Adelani Adepegba

<https://punchng.com/german-envoy-seeks-support-against-illegal-migration/>

Published October 9, 2019

German Ambassador to Nigeria, Birgitt Ory, has called for global action against illegal migration.

Ory reiterated Germany’s commitment towards fighting illegal migration.

She called for support from all stakeholders to tackle illegal migration.

The envoy stated this at the regional conference on ‘Migration in West Africa: Challenges and Solutions’ in Abuja on Tuesday.

The event was organised by Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, a German Foundation under the auspices of the German Government.

Ory said, “I call on relevant stakeholders and government involved in migration management to come together and fight this challenges bedevilling the country.”

Immigration arrests trafficker, frees five victims

Afeez Hanafi

<https://punchng.com/immigration-arrests-trafficker-frees-five-victims/>

Published November 24, 2019

The Nigerian Immigration Service says it has arrested a suspected human trafficker travelling to Europe with five female victims via Niger Republic.

The Comptroller General, NIS, Muhammad Babandede, said the arrest was made by the NIS operatives at Kongolam border, Katsina State.

Babandede, in a statement on Saturday by the service Public Relations Officer, Sunday James, said days of crossing borders without valid travel documents was over as the Special Border Corps and regular border control officers were always on their toes.

Killer Fulani herdsmen are Malians, Chadians, says IG

Ayodele Oluwagbemi

<https://punchng.com/killer-fulani-herdsmen-are-malians-chadians-says-ig/>

15 February 2016

The Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Solomon Arase, has said most herdsmen that cause trouble in Nigeria are foreigners, specifically from neighbouring Mali and Chad.

He also argued that cattle rustlers were able to gain entry into Nigeria with their cattle as a result of the country's porous borders.

Arase said this on Friday during an interactive session between him and stakeholders in Ondo State. Majority of those at the occasion held at the Officers' Mess, Akure, the state capital, were farmers.

The IG, who paid a courtesy visit to the state and the neighbouring Ekiti State on the same day, however, noted that Nigerians among the herdsmen were not notorious, saying "they are law-abiding."

Nigerians in Chinese prisons allege mysterious deaths, organ harvesting

10 March 2016

<https://punchng.com/nigerians-in-chinese-prisons-allege-mysterious-deaths-organ-harvesting/>

Ayodele Oluwagbemi and Ramon Oladimeji

A group, Patriotic Citizen Initiatives, says there is a need for President Muhammadu Buhari to investigate the allegation of mysterious deaths and organ harvesting among Nigerians serving terms in Chinese jail.

The Executive Director of PCI, Osemene Osita, said at a civil societies forum in Lagos last week, that the group had been inundated with distress calls from Nigerians serving terms in Chinese prisons.

According to Osita, those who reached PCI claimed that Nigerian inmates often disappear in manners suspicious that they were being taken out and killed extrajudicially by Chinese prison officials for the purpose of harvesting and trading in their organs.

PCI said reports available to it showed that there are no fewer than 8,000 Nigerians confined in Chinese prisons based on immigration offences such as invalid travelling documentations, over-staying, smuggling etc.

115 illegal migrants rescued off coast of Tripoli

<https://punchng.com/115-illegal-migrants-rescued-off-coast-of-tripoli/>

Zovoe Jonathan

12 April 2016

Libyan coast guard on Monday announced that 115 illegal immigrants have been rescued off the coast of Tripoli, while they were on their way to European shores.

The coast guard said that the information about the existence of a distressed boat carrying a group of people of various African nationalities reached the authorities in Tripoli.

The source added that two coast guard boats went looking for them and found the makeshift boat, saving the 115 people who were on board.

Staff of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees has provided assistance to the immigrants and first aid to the injured.

NIS repatriates 334 illegal immigrants in Niger

<https://punchng.com/nis-repatriates-334-illegal-immigrants-in-niger/>

Taiwo Ojoye

9 April 2016

No fewer than 334 illegal immigrants suspected to be nationals of Niger Republic have been repatriated by the Niger State Command of the Nigeria Immigration Service.

The Comptroller of NIS in the state, Mr. David Adi, revealed this during the 2016 General Annual Conference in Lafia, the state capital on Friday.

He told newsmen that about 500 people were arrested in some parts of the state during a raid carried out by officers of the command recently where the aliens were arrested.

NIS arrests two illegal immigrants in C' River

<https://punchng.com/nis-arrests-two-illegal-immigrants-in-c-river/>

2 April 2016

Mudiaga Affe

The Cross River command of the Nigeria Immigration Service on Friday said it has arrested two illegal immigrants, Shahid Mahmood a Pakistani national and Nji Haeges-Chi from Cameroon.

The state Comptroller of NIS, Mrs. Funke Adeuyi, said in Calabar that the illegal immigrants were arrested on Thursday March 31, at Yala Local Government Area of the state.

Adeuyi added that the illegal immigrants were arrested by the border patrol team of the NIS.

She said that after a thorough profiling of the two illegal immigrants, it was discovered that both of them did not have the valid travelling documents to be in Nigeria.

I slept with 400 men in five months – 22-year -old trafficking victim

<https://punchng.com/slept-400-men-five-months-22-year-old-trafficking-victim/>

19 May 2016

Samson Folarin

A human trafficking victim, Love John, says she slept with more than 400 men in less than five months in the Sango Ota area of Ogun State.

Love, 22, and her 23-year-old sister, Happiness, were lured into prostitution sometime in January by their eldest sister, Mary.

Mary also tricked a cousin, Joy Lawrence, 25, promising the three ladies that she could give them jobs that would help them make a decent living.

However, by the time they discovered that they had been trafficked, the victims said they had become trapped.

Reps to restrict employment of foreigners

14 July 2016

<https://punchng.com/rep-restrict-employment-foreign-nationals/>

John Ameh, Abuja

The House of Representatives sought tougher measures on Thursday to restrict the employment of foreign nationals by firms or organisations in the country.

A bill to “restrict” the issuance of work permits to foreigners by the Federal Government passed second reading at the House.

The bill, which was sponsored by the Majority Leader of the House, Mr. Femi Gbajabiamila, was the House’ response to how to address the growing unemployment in the country.

The bill, an amendment to the Immigration Act, 2015, raised the penalty for violation from the extant N1m to N2m.

In addition, it provided that foreigners would be considered for a job only when it was proven that no Nigerian possessed the requisite qualifications for the job.

4,000 Nigerian girls arrive Italy, may be forced into prostitution –IOM

<https://punchng.com/4000-nigerians-may-be-forced-into-prostitution-in-italy-iom/#:~:text=Thousands%20of%20Nigerian%20girls%20taken,for%20Migration%2C%20said%20on%20Friday.>

21 July 2017

The International Organisation for Migration on Friday said thousands of Nigerian migrant girls brought to Italy were in great danger of being forced into prostitution in Europe.

The number of female Nigerians, many of them minors, often naive about their fate at the hands of traffickers, arrived by sea in Italy surged over the past three years from 1,454 in 2014 to 11,000 in 2016.

The organisation’s spokesman, Flavio Di Giacomo, said at a news briefing in Geneva that some 4,000 Nigerian girls had arrived so far in 2017.

THE SUN

Nigerian lady, 4 day-old baby rescued on Mediterranean Sea

3rd April 2017

<https://www.sunnewsonline.com/nigerian-lady-4-day-old-baby-rescued-on-mediterranean-sea/>

A four day-old baby belonging to Mariam Ohene, a Nigerian, was among over 480 migrants rescued by humanitarian ships, on Saturday, in the central Mediterranean Sea.

Also rescued with Ohene were her two year-old son named Benjamin and her Ghanaian husband, Richard.

They were all travelling on one of two rubber boats carrying over 200 migrants from North and Central Africa, Sri Lanka and Yemen and seen drifting some 22 nautical miles north of the

Libyan town of Sabratha, the most frequently used departure point currently used by people smugglers in Libya.

172 Nigerians deported from Libya

12th March 2016

<https://www.sunnewsonline.com/172-nigerians-deported-from-libya/>

ABOUT 172 Nigerians were yesterday deported from Libya for the breach of the country's immigration laws. Those deported included 166 males and six females. They arrived Nigeria through the Hajj wing of the Murtala Muhammed International Airport around 7:00am via a chartered aircraft from Libya. Spokesman for the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) Mr. Ekpedeme King told Aviation correspondents that the deportees were returned to the country for staying beyond the dates, which were stipulated in their visas in Libya and for other immigration offences in the North African country, which he didn't state.

British politician raises alarm over deaths of Nigerians in UK

20th March 2016

<https://www.sunnewsonline.com/nigerians-migrants-said-to-be-dying-in-uk-detention-centres-buried-in-mass-graves/>

A Nigerian-British politician and activist, Professor Alexia Thomas has raised the alarm over underreported deaths and mass burial of Nigerian and other African immigrants in the United Kingdom (UK).

In an exclusive interview with Daily Sun, Professor Alexia who is also the founder and chairperson of The Commonwealth Liberation Party in the UK, as well as founder and president of Independent Diplomat Commission, many Nigerian immigrants are kept in detention centres for more than 2 years before they are deported.

About 200 Nigerians were recently deported to the country from the UK. The UK Government, following uproar from pressure groups, had cited alleged breach of immigration laws as the reason behind the mass deportation. Other Nigerians have also been deported from other countries like Italy, Liberia, among others in recent times.

Nigeria accounts for 8,700 of 283,532 irregular migrants in EU – Young

10th June 2016

<https://www.sunnewsonline.com/40-nigerians-deported-from-australia-uk-2/>

Facts have emerged that Nigerians accounted for an estimated 8,700 out of the 283,532 irregular migrants entering European Union (EU) borders, many of which risked their lives crossing the Mediterranean Sea. Mr. Richard Young, Deputy Head of Delegation, EU, made this disclosure yesterday in Abuja during a seminar on how the EU works, for Abuja Council of Nigeria Union of Journalists. He, however, said great majority of Nigerians enter and reside in EU legally while millions of Diaspora Nigerians also live in the EU. "As a regional economic power, Nigeria is also on the receiving end of migration, attracting an estimated three million labour workers from neighbouring countries," he said.

41 Nigerians deported from the USA

22nd June 2016

<https://www.sunnewsonline.com/41-nigerians-deported-from-the-usa/>

The United States of America (USA) has deported 41 Nigerians for the breach of various laws in the country. The 41 Nigerians (all males) were flown into the country through the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Ikeja, Lagos with a chartered aircraft, Miami Air International with the registration number N733MA. The aircraft touched down the Lagos airport at about 12:20pm Nigerian time.

Daily Sun learnt that nine of the deported Nigerians were repatriated for drug related offence, 26 for various police cases, while the other six were returned for the breach of the US immigration laws. Their deportation comes less than a week after 162 Nigerians were returned from Libya for entering the country illegally.

Five-day-old twins among 6,500 migrants rescued from Mediterranean Sea

31st August 2016

<https://www.sunnewsonline.com/five-day-old-twins-among-6500-migrants-rescued-from-mediterranean-sea/>

Five-day-old twins were among 6,500 refugees and migrants rescued yesterday off the Libyan coast while attempting to reach Italy via the Mediterranean Sea. The twins were traveling with their mother before they were rescued by Italian coastguard and airlifted to an Italian hospital, according to Médecins Sans Frontières' (MSF) also known as Doctors without borders, which took part in the operations. MSF ship Dignity 1 and the Spanish humanitarian group Proactiva Open Arms rescued the refugees and migrants believed to be mostly from Somalia and Eritrea, who were aboard 15 rubber boats and one wooden vessel. As many as 3,000 of the migrants were rescued off the coast of Libya by MSF, Proactiva Open Arms and Italian coast guard crews and one rescue took place in Maltese waters.

Migrant crisis: 200 die in shipwrecks off Libya

4th November 2016

<https://www.sunnewsonline.com/migrant-crisis-200-die-in-shipwrecks-off-libya/>

More than 200 migrants are believed drowned in two shipwrecks off the coast of Libya, migration officials said yesterday. The UN refugee agency was told the news by survivors brought ashore on the Italian island of Lampedusa, spokeswoman Carlotta Sami said. Twelve bodies were recovered as at press time. More than 4,200 migrants have died making the dangerous journey across the Mediterranean Sea this year, International Organization of Migration spokesman Leonard Doyle says. The UN has warned 2016 could be the deadliest for migrants making the journey. Nearly 330,000 migrants have crossed the sea so far this year, compared with more than one million in 2015.

Illegal migrants: 30,000 Nigerians rescued from high sea in Italy

29th October 2016

<https://www.sunnewsonline.com/illegal-migrants-30000-nigerians-rescued-from-high-sea-in-italy/>

No fewer than 30,000 Nigerian irregular migrants seeking greener pastures in Europe have been rescued from high sea in Italy with many more stranded at the land borders in Libya, Niger Republic among others.

The Controller-General of the Nigeria Immigration Services (NIS), CGI Mohammed Babandede, who made the disclosure while giving an update on the challenges of border control during media parley in Abuja yesterday, also revealed that discussions are already in top gear with European countries for the safe repatriation of the stranded immigrants.

Avoid Libya or get killed, Dabiri-Erewa tells intending migrants

23rd January 2017

<https://www.sunnewsonline.com/avoid-libya-or-get-killed-dabiri-ereawa-tells-intending-migrants/>

Senior Special Assistant to President Muhammadu Buhari on foreign affairs and Diaspora, Abike Dabiri-Erewa, has warned Nigerian migrants against travelling to Libya, saying the penalty, when caught, is death.

Dabiri-Erewa made the warning in a statement she issued, on Monday, following the emergence of videos and photographs of Nigerians being killed in the North African country.

10,000 illegal immigrants apprehended in Oyo

22nd February 2017

<https://www.sunnewsonline.com/10000-illegal-immigrants-apprehended-in-oyo/>

No fewer than 10,000 illegal immigrants were apprehended in Oyo State between January and December 2016 by men and officers of the Nigeria Immigrations Service (NIS), Zone F, Ibadan.

The disclosure was made at a press conference addressed by the Assistant Comptroller General of NIS in the zone, Olaseni Lawal, on Wednesday.

The zone comprises commands of NIS in Oyo, Osun, Ondo and Ekiti states.

535 Nigerians in China prisons for drug trafficking

1st May 2017

<https://www.sunnewsonline.com/535-nigerians-in-china-prisons-for-drug-trafficking/>

There are at least 535 Nigerians in prison in China, jailed for drug-related offences. Sources in Guangdong Province in The People's Republic of China told Daily Sun, at the weekend, that at least two, out of 200 Nigerians, who visit the country, are arrested on drug-related offences in the capital, Guangzhou.

“Almost every week, we have drug-related issues. On Thursday, April 27, 2017, officials of the Nigerian Consulate went to some prisons to interview some of our citizens there and it was drug-related issues all through. Most of the drug pushers are from a particular state and a particular local government from that state. On the average, 200 Nigerians come into Guangzhou, and, out of that figure, at least, two are arrested on drug-related charges.

Irregular migration: We've lost over 290 persons on Mediterranean Sea within four months — Eddy Duru

22nd April 2021

<https://www.sunnewsonline.com/irregular-migration-we-ve-lost-over-290-persons-on-mediterranean-sea-within-four-months-eddy-duru/>

President/founder, Re-educating Africans on the Risks and Dangers of Unplanned Journeys Abroad, (RARDUJA), Hon. Eddy Duru, on Thursday, quoted the UN to have said that over 290 persons have reportedly died while trying to cross the Mediterranean sea to Europe within January and April this year.

He disclosed this during a stakeholders conference held in Benin City, the Edo State capital.

“According to the United Nations International Organization Migration (IOM) section, says, we lost over 290 persons this year already that were trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea.

Irregular migration: 1,483 Africans die in 2020 – IOM

18th December 2020

<https://www.sunnewsonline.com/irregular-migration-1483-africans-die-in-2020-iom/>

As the world marks the 2020 International Migrants’ Day today, December 18, data from a United Nations agency, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), indicates that the global migrants’ death within the year involved more Africans than citizens of other continent. The IOM reported that no fewer than 3,101 migrants lost their lives globally in 2020, while trying to reach different international destinations through irregular routes, with Africa recording 1,483 deaths out of the number.

70 percent of Nigeria’s migration comes from Edo – UNHCR

12th March 2020

<https://www.sunnewsonline.com/70-percent-of-nigerias-migration-comes-from-edo-unhcr/>

The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has announced that Edo State accounts for 70 percent of migration from Nigeria.

UNHCR Liason Officer, Amah Assiama-Hillgartner disclosed this at the “Tell the Real Story (TRS) testimony dissemination meeting in Benin City.

He said although she might not be able to provide an answer to the root cause of it, “but data available to us show that a lot of departures, people who claimed to have left Nigeria, they claimed Edo State as being the place of origin.