

A Corpus-Based Pragmatic Analysis of the use of Metaphor in President Umaru Yar' Adua's May 29th 2007 Inaugural Speech

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Abstract: This study is anchored on Odebunmi's Pragmatic contextual model and Lakoff and Johnson's theory of conceptual metaphor. Various intellectual arguments have been advanced as to the role of metaphor as an important pragmatic agent. The study is a corpus based pragmatic analysis which employs the quantitative method of data selection and analysis. The study employs the antconc digital software for data selection. As a result of the context sensitive nature of this study, ten lexical items were selected from the corpora and fed into the antconc concordance software. The results were then analysed based on their respective context of occurrence. This study is informed by the fact that presidential inaugural speeches as an aspect of political discourse have continued to attract academic interest. This is not unconnected with the fact that this category of discourse is actually employed to achieve certain communicative objectives. The presidential inaugural speech of Umaru Yar' Adua constituted the body of the data for the research. The text was subjected to a pragma-metaphoric analysis. The study discovered a rich deployment of lexical items whose pragmatic and metaphoric import can only be understood when the frequency and context of occurrence are considered. The study established that the president employed pragmatic metaphors to exemplify the past, the present and the anticipated future of the country. The choice of metaphors as a pragmatic tool in describing the state of the Nigerian nation both in terms of the economy and socio-political situations of the country is equally established. The study established the use of developmental metaphor to appreciate the contributions of certain institutions to the achievements recorded across the country; historical metaphor is equally employed in describing the historical antecedents of the country as well as the effects on the Nigerian body polity, evaluative metaphor which evaluates the state of the Nigerian nation. Summarily, the study established that the metaphors used in the inaugural speeches are a function of Nigeria's socio-political, economic and religious context.

Keywords: metaphors, inaugural speech, antconc, pragma-metaphoric, developmental metaphor, evaluative metaphor, prescriptive metaphor, descriptive metaphor, historical metaphor, context.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Language is an entity which continues to occupy a pride of place in the affairs of men. It can also be rightly argued that the ability to sustain or jeopardise the peace and unity of the human society depends largely on the adequate or inadequate deployment of our linguistic abilities. Human language operates at both the spoken and the written levels with each level possessing its intricate and unique peculiarities as a vehicle for conveying meaning. It is also the view of Dada (2010) that with knowledge of language at his disposal, man has the ability to create images, ascribe meanings and interpret symbols. As expressed by Thorne (2008:47), human language can be employed in expressing different opinions in various ways; it can be used in expressing anything and everything whether real or imagined.

This, in a way explains the fact that spoken and written language as means of communication different from other forms like gestures and sign language employ certain degree of communicative creativity necessary for achieving the needed communicative goal. This is in furtherance of the view expressed by Austin (1962) in his posthumously published work 'How to do Things With Words'. One important question that has continually triggered academic interest among language scholars is the need to unravel the different underlying motive in varieties of language use. In other words, language scholars have not only identified the creative tendencies of human language but have gone steps further by identifying and unraveling the pattern of usage of the different variables that contribute to the so-called linguistic creativity.

An important aspect of linguistic study in this regard is the study of meaning. The study of meaning centres on semantics and pragmatics. As explained by Griffiths (2006), Semantics on the one hand is the study of the "toolkit" for meaning: that is, meaning encoded in the vocabulary of the language and in its patterns for building more lexically encoded linguistic interpretations, up to the sentence level. Pragmatics on the other

handis concerned with the use of these tools in meaningful communication. Pragmatics is about the interaction of semantic knowledge with our knowledge of the world, taking into account contexts of use.

Corpus Linguistics

A corpus is a large principled body of natural texts. Principled in the words of Sinclair (1991) is evidenced by the fact that a corpus is not arbitrarily or randomly lumped together. Rather, elements that have been selected to form a corpus are selected based on certain linguistic criteria. For example, a corpus may comprise a combination of simple, compound or complex sentences in order to achieve particular syntactic structure necessary for a particular communicative objective. Also, a corpus may comprise a lot of indirect speeches in order to achieve a measure of mildness in communication. A corpus is an example or evidence that the language samples have been collected from naturally occurring linguistic situations in sharp contrast to language samples collected through surveys and questionnaires which are very much susceptible to manipulations.

Corpus linguistics as a method of linguistic analysis arose as a result of the need to adopt a functionalist approach to the study of language. Meyer (2002) argues that functionalists view language from a perspective different from that of the formalists because they believe that language is a purely communicative tool. Let us look at the following sentences for example.

- i. I killed the man;
- ii. The man was killed by me.

For a formalist, the second sentence has been generated from the first sentence. He is only interested in the form vis-à-vis the insertion of the auxiliary 'was' as well as the movement of the object NP from the sentence final position to the sentence initial position. The formalist is interested in how all of these have come together to transform the sentence from the active into the passive voice. For the functionalist however, the interest is not only in language, he considers both the social and contextual factors that favour the use of particular language structure(s). It can be argued that the functionalist is not interested in language for the sake of language. Rather, his focus is on language as influenced by certain extra linguistic factors. The concept of language variation in modern day corpora has given rise to what Meyer referred to as 'genre-variation'. In genre-variation, language is primarily studied as an output that has been influenced by certain factors as a conscious or unconscious effort to meet the communicative need of a particular discourse genre. In an attempt to do the afore-stated, the corpus linguistic approach is deployed in providing answers to the following; what is a speaker or writer actually trying to communicate in particular situations; what form(s) of spoken or written language have they employed in conveying their meaning; what linguistic changes are observable across language regions, social classes, gender etc.

As explained by Chilwa (2015), "Corpus linguistics utilizes electronic software which offer both quantitative and qualitative perspectives on textual data and present data extracts in such a way that a researcher, in solving any of the language issues listed above, can assess the individual occurrences of words, examine their collocational environment, describe salient semantic patterns, identify and describe discourse as well as pragmatic elements". Reppen & Simpson (2002) argues that corpus linguistics actually presents an empirical approach to language analysis. It has been applied to various linguistic studies including lexicography, gender studies, language variation studies, lexical semantics, synchronic and diachronic language studies, lexical semantics, discourse analysis, critical discourse analysis and pragmatics. Though this approach to language analysis cannot be said to be completely new, it is beginning to receive renewed academic acceptance in recent times due largely to the various technological advances that have given rise to the development of specially designed computer tools. These advancements have granted language scholars unfettered access to very large body of linguistic data as well as data processing tools. Chilwa (2015) argues that corpus linguistics should not be taken as another branch of linguistics like syntax or semantics but is in fact a method of doing linguistics that cuts across all levels of linguistic study. Chilwa further identifies five concepts in Corpus linguistics; frequency, dispersion, concordance, collocation and keyword. Frequency has to do with how often or frequently a word or word combinations occur in a text. This is premised on the belief that the frequency of occurrence of a word in a body of text is suggestive of the choice and style of the speaker or writer. Dispersion allows the analyst to discover the positioning of words in a text. It allows the linguist to determine whether a word occurs at the beginning, middle or at the end of the text. Concordance is a list of all the occurrences of a particular word or search term and their context of occurrence in a corpus. The concordance method which is usually employed in qualitative analysis reveals the structure of a discourse. In this method, a search terms also known as the 'node' is placed at the centre of the concordance. The concordance then displays the keyword in context. The keyword is usually displayed in context with certain number of words to the right and to the left. The software deployed for harvesting and displaying keywords in a concordance is known as a concordance. Collocation as a

method in corpus linguistics deals with the functioning of language as a meaning carrying unit and not on the strength of the individual words taking notes of idiomatic as well as figurative expressions. Chiluba argues that a collocate co-occurs with the node in a linear string which makes a node predicts that a preceding or following word does not occur absolutely in all context. Here there is a synergy between the frequency and the collocation methods. The collocation method attempts a balance between the conventional use of language and language structure(s) as against individual freedom. This method as a result of this, can be deemed fit for a stylistic analysis of written or spoken texts. The keyword approach gives an idea of what the text is about, the central idea and the subject matter. The keyword list reveals important information about the text and shows the lexical items which when investigated further, will give an adequate understanding of the theme and message of the text.

Political Discourse

Although rhetoric is one of the oldest academic disciplines which was concerned with certain aspects of political communication especially in the classical age, sociolinguistic studies, particularly in the field of Politics and language is a relatively young discipline (Wodak 2004). Very few research efforts were produced after the Second World War notably Lasswell and Leites (1949) which presents a treatise on quantitative semantics in the area of language and politics as observed during the Second World War. It can however be safely argued that the publishing of George Orwell's *Animal Farm* in 1984 signified a significant point of departure and a notable re-invention of the approach to the analysis of political communication that has continued to trigger academic interest in the field of political discourse. While Orwell's novel is an intellectual commentary on the use of language as a tool for massive propaganda in the course of the Second World War as well as in the ensuing cold war, the work can equally be said to have opened the floodgates of what Klein (1998) refers to as 'political linguistics'. According to Klein, political linguistics is an attempt to integrate scientific linguistic research with the analysis of the language of politics. He further argues that the study of political communication is a sub-discipline of linguistics that seeks to shed light on the language of politics from a functionalist perspective. Functionalism being the result of intellectual effort targeted at seeing language as the foundation of all of the experiences of man. It can therefore be argued that there exists a link between language and politics such that there seems to be a strong semantic cord linking the two (Oyekunle 2016). As argued by Opeibi (2005), the field of politics provides the platform for politicians to use language for various purposes. These purposes according to Opeibi (2007) include the need to either persuade or convince the populace to follow a particular course of action. As a result of the foregoing, politicians tend to employ language in various ways to achieve certain political objectives. The functional link between language and politics is further emphasized in Wodak (2004) where it is claimed that issues like security, economy, migration etc which combine to form our real life experiences as citizens are usually the major talking points in political discourse. Going by the afore-stated, it then becomes appropriate to argue that political discourse is a veritable platform where politicians explore real life situations as the basis for their use of language. Political communication in Africa is primarily deployed by African political leaders to persuade the African people on the expediency of various political and socio-economic policies and plans that are capable of enhancing African economic recovery and development (Alo 2012).

Political discourse can be viewed as covering a wide range of communication categories. As opined by Ayoola (2008), to understand a piece of political communication, it is important we understand the intent, the content, the context of the political discourse among others. Akinrinola (2016:87) also argues that political discourse is characterised by different communicative strategies deployed by political actors to drive home their views. This is because of the need to effectively communicate their views to their audience.

Inaugural Speeches

An Inaugural speech can be described as the first official speech delivered by an individual on assumption of any office of public trust. For the presidential inaugural speech however, we can go a step further by saying that the inaugural speech is a public piece of discourse that is usually formally presented to usher in the president as a political office holder and which signifies the commencement of a particular administration. As opined by Adebisi (2006), the political inaugural speech, whether it is prepared, memorized or delivered extemporal is geared towards motivating, mobilizing, educating, informing and in some cases entertaining the target audience. It can however be argued that Adebisi is perhaps oblivious of a salient point. This is the fact that a presidential inaugural speech being a form of political discourse can equally be deployed as a tool for criticism. This criticism can be in form of institutional or attitudinal criticism. In the views of Akinrinola (2016), presidential inaugural speeches are crafted to achieve specific objectives. This crafting therefore takes cognizance of certain factors which in turn determines the linguistic choices adopted in order to successfully achieve the set objectives. Since the beginning of the twentieth century, presidential inaugural speeches have become very important pieces

of text that have increasingly attracted academic interest from language scholars. This, according to Ademilokun (2015) is because inaugural speeches constitute a major platform for the dissemination of the views, thoughts and actions of politicians on matters of national concern which often affect the public directly. Ademilokun (2015) quoting Yohanne (2007) further posits that: political speeches are sought after not only because what politicians say matters, but also how and where they say it. The popularity of political speeches has no doubt contributed to the entrenchment of the field of knowledge known as political discourse and the growth of research in the area.

Taking a cue from the submission of Ademilokun cited above, it can be argued that ability of the audience to understand political speeches is intricately connected to their knowledge of the linguistic and extra linguistic factors that go into the making of such speeches. In examining the how and where of political speeches, adequate attention should be given to certain pragmatic or meaning negotiating elements of discourse. These meaning making elements include but are not limited to, form and structure of language choices, context of usage, role and relationship between the interlocutors and mutually inclusive contextual knowledge. It is in the light of the foregoing therefore, that the current study attempts a pragmatic dissection of the inaugural speech of Umaru Yar' Adua with considerable focus on the deployment of metaphor as a conveyor of meaning.

Metaphor as a Pragmatic Tool

For Lakoff & Johnson (1980:5), metaphor is in essence "understanding and experiencing one kind of thing in terms of another". It is a matter of thought rather than language. Lakoff & Johnson further claims that metaphor actually contribute to our being because "it is a fundamental mechanism of the workings of the mind, one that enables us as language users, to use what we know about our physical and social experience to provide understanding of countless other subjects. Because such metaphors structure our most basic understandings of our experience, they are 'metaphors we live by'—metaphors that can shape our perceptions and actions without our ever noticing them".

Metaphors can be described as the concept of giving a thing or situation a name that belongs to something else. Haste (1994) argues that metaphors which were originally deployed as figurative expressions mostly employed by poets and other categories of literary writers have now been recognized as very important parts of the understanding process. Lakoff & Johnson argue that dictionary definitions, though important in providing the meaning of words, do not adequately describe concepts, especially ambiguous linguistic concepts whose interpretation are intricately connected to certain contexts. Rather, we use concepts from a source domain which are more basic and empirically real to make sense of concepts within the target discourse domain.

A metaphor is an influential feature of language. The use of metaphors is apparent in the world as it is used in contexts ranging from everyday conversations to literature to its application to scientific theories. However, achieving a standard understanding of a metaphor's theory or meaning, is difficult. This is because metaphors seem to straddle so many important boundaries: between language and thought, between understanding an individual word and understanding the relation between words, and between rational communication and mere causal association. This must have informed the view expressed in Odeunmi (2010) where metaphor is viewed as a tool for connecting the impressions of the individuals with their beliefs and actions through language. In examining the use of metaphors in different categories of discourse, Eckert & McGinet (2003), Klingbeil (2006), Oni (2016) and Akinrinola (2016) examine metaphors from different pragmatic perspectives. Perrine (1971) identifies four forms of metaphors, they are: grammatical metaphor literal metaphor, figurative metaphor and contextual metaphor. The method for classifying these categories of metaphor is through grammatical analysis which focuses on identifying the parts of speech of the figurative term. According to this system, these categories are classified as noun metaphors, verb metaphors, adverb metaphors etc. Metaphors are classified as whether these metaphors are stated or implied. The second form of metaphor is literarily expressed. The reader is expected to infer the implied meaning of the metaphor. While the first form is clearly stated, the second is implied. The third category of metaphor is the figurative. This category is often used in proverbs and sometimes combines the features of the two categories mentioned earlier. The fourth category which is the focal point of this study is the contextual metaphor. Perrine (1971) explains that metaphors in this category become meaningful when situated in certain contexts of occurrence. He argues that "unless presented in a context which makes us understand the need to guess the answer contextually, this metaphor may appear as a perfect bit of nonsense"

Eckert & Mc-Connell (2003) examined metaphor as a pragmatic tool in sexual discourse among native speakers of the English language. The study concludes that the sexual discourse of native speakers of the English language is heavily laced with metaphors that are linked with 'eating' and 'heating'. They argue that native speakers of English spice their sexual discourse with words like 'devour' 'eating you up' 'hot lovers' 'hunger' etc. Examining the same concept of sexual metaphors among second language users of English, Oni (2016) identifies the use of coded metaphors. Most of the metaphors identified in the study were categorized as euphemistic metaphors, sport or leisure metaphors and slang metaphors. Relating metaphors with political

discourse, Akinrinola (2016) submits that Nigerian political leaders employ certain lexical, phrasal and clausal expressions wrapped in metaphors to reveal the socio-political economic realities in the country.

The Metaphor as a pragmatic tool is not particularly interested in language as a structure in a sense but is focused on the systematic and figurative application of language abilities as a sensitive conveyor of meaning. Much more important in this approach is the interest of pragmatics in forging a relationship between language form and language function. Spencer-Oatey and Zegarac (2002:74) argue that pragmatics is concerned with the communicated messages and language users. They argue that pragmatics seeks to explore linguistic exchanges in order to provide answers to one or all of the following:

how do people communicate more than what the words or phrases of their utterances might mean in themselves; how do language receivers make their interpretations;

why do people choose to say or interpret a piece of discourse in one way rather than the other;

how do people's perceptions of contextual factors, role relationship of interlocutors, who they are, their ideologies, the communicative event in which they are engaged all combine to influence the process of producing and interpreting language.

From the foregoing, pragmatics appears to clearly question the validity of the strict code system of communicating that was the fancy of prescriptive semantics.

Figurative language no doubt is an integral aspect of the life of any linguistic society where either spoken or written language is the medium of communication. Its deployment allows us as language users to do a lot of things with our language. It enables us emphasize, show respect and more importantly grants us the privilege of using few words to say many things. Figurative language sometimes comes in the form of polite utterances which according to Fafiyebi (2014) are employed to minimize the illocutionary force of certain locutions. In the views of Bayles (2009:13), impolite and direct speech acts like requests and commands (imperatives) which are likely to embarrass the addressee are substituted with questions (interrogatives). This is shown in the following example:

- i. Wash these beddings.
- ii. Would you mind washing these beddings?

By employing the direct imperative as expressed in (i) above, the speaker / writer communicates the opinion that the addressee has no say in the decision to have the beddings washed rather he or she is expected to obey the directive irrespective of personal emotions. On the other hand, the use of the interrogative form in (ii) above weakens the power of the speaker to command the addressee to perform the action in question. Unlike the speech act model however, metaphor is mostly a function of the human cognitive process. Lakoff & Johnson (1980) argue that metaphors give us a privileged peep into the worldview of the language users. He claims that metaphors are actually built by three main parts: the tenor, the vehicle, and the ground. The tenor is the topic. The vehicle is what is in comparison with the tenor. The ground is the assumed similarity between the topic and the tenor. Metaphors are handy because they help in expressing communication that may be ordinarily difficult or impossible to express.

Metaphor as a communicative device has received a reasonable dose of academic attention from language scholars. Goatly (2007) attempts an explanation of the relationship between our thinking and the way we use language in different fields which include architecture, engineering, education, politics, medicine, etc. Drawing data samples made up of lexical items from his databank, he argues that metaphor themes are created not only through the universal body but also through cultural experience. Odeunmi (2016) argues that 'every language is a product of the society within which it is used'. This makes it almost impossible for a piece of discourse to make any pragmatic sense when it is disengaged from its original context of use. He further argues that human language actually possesses intrinsic communicative resources which are systematically used for inter societal communication. He argued that language can be used metaphorically in particular linguistic sites to modify the original meaning of words. He goes further to argue that language at the metaphorical level can be used as a descriptive, persuasive, expressive, vocative and prescriptive tool. The motivation for metaphor as a pragmatic tool is informed by various factors which include the language user's awareness of shared contextual factors, object(s) of discourse and shared knowledge of issues within the space of discourse as well as the ability of discourse participants to harness their verbal resources to enhance meaning.

II. METHODOLOGY

The study is a quantitative explication of political discourse. The study being corpus based employs the AntConc and complemented by the Greenshot software for extracting data from a corpus. This is because the approach identifies a text as collocates whose meaning carrying potentials may extend beyond the individual attributes of the lexical items that make up the text. This approach recognizes that context: social, political, economic etc actually contribute to the meaning of collocates and as such language users identify to need to consider certain extra linguistic factors in arriving at the meaning of a piece of discourse.

III. DISCUSSION

TEXT 1- 'PEOPLE'

The item under analysis here is encountered four times in the body of the corpora. Three instances of the manifestation of this word present a very strong example of a slavery metaphor that describes the psyche of Nigerians. For example, 'where its people have a fair chance' is a metaphoric way of stating that Nigerians have not actually had a fair chance of fulfilling their potentials. This argument is further reinforced by the excerpt 'free our people from the leg chains of poverty' pointing us indirectly to the fact that the people of a people that have remained perpetually under the bondage of poverty.

ITEM 2- 'DEMOCRACY'

This Presidential inaugural speech is significant in the history of the nation in the sense that it marks an important milestone in the transitional democratic history of Nigeria. The search term 'democracy' appears three times in the body of the corpora. The contextual occurrence of this word clearly shows that Nigeria's democracy is at a teething stage. Despite the fact that it is attempting democratic government for the fourth time, with the first attempt at independence, the country is still seen as democratically immature. This is a kind of evaluative metaphor. It is an indirect way of stating the reason(s) for the shallowness of Nigeria's democracy. It will be recalled that the election that produced the speaker here was adjudged to be below standard by numerous international observers. The speaker here uses the evaluative metaphor to evaluate our democratic situation and conclude that the major reason why the country is not making democratic progress is because our electoral processes, electoral laws, voting system, campaign strategies are nothing to write home about.

ITEM 3- 'HAVE'

This sample is a subtle indictment of the country's electoral institutions as well as the various actors on the Nigerian electoral scene. The occurrence of this word in context shows a metaphoric criticism of the electoral of the electoral umpire as well as the judicial process. President Yar'Adua will no doubt be remembered as the first and only Nigerian president to have admitted that the election that brought him into office was fraught with irregularities. The use of contextual metaphor here aptly captures the political cum electoral context not only common in Nigeria but in most African countries.

ITEM 4- 'WE'

This search item appeared forty three (43) times drawing attention to its relevance to the message of the text. The sample here presents examples of different types of metaphors like the historical and the inclusive metaphor. The inclusive metaphor seeks to include all Nigerians in both the failures and achievements of the country.

This sample equally presents a descriptive metaphor that takes a dig at the failure of previous administrations in the area of power generation in the country. It is important to say that the issue electric power has been a major clog slowing the pace of economic development in Nigeria. It is equally important to state that previous administrations in the country had spent a lot of money on the power sector with little or nothing to show for it. The president here clearly captures the colonial experience of Nigeria and Nigerians as one that placed us under the bondage of the colonial masters. This historical metaphor can be viewed as politically daring in this context owing to the presence of the representatives of the erstwhile colonial masters (The British government). The speaker here metaphorically draws a link between our inability both as a nation and as a people, to transit from one democratically elected government to another in almost fifty years of existence and the shortcomings of our colonial progenitors. The president draws on his experience of history to describe the colonial explorations of the British government which ended almost half a century ago as placing Nigeria and Nigerians in shackles.

ITEM 5- 'I'

The lexical item 'I' which is a personal pronoun appeared about sixteen (16) times in the body of the corpora. This sample, unlike the two that preceded it, is a metaphor that signifies exclusion. However, a closer look at the contextual manifestations of this item shows it is followed by the auxiliary 'will' which commit the speaker to certain lines of action. Looking at these expressions from a figurative perspective however, one can argue that these promises present a subtle indictment of past leaders. For example, 'I will set a worthy personal example', 'I will be a listener and doer' all point to the failure of those who had occupied the position in the past to actually lead by example as well as their inability to listen to and act according to the yearnings of the people. This sample also presents some invitational metaphor, 'I ask to join me', 'I ask you to set aside negative attitudes', 'I ask you to march with me. This highlights the importance of teamwork. It is generally said that a leader with no follower is only taking a walk. In other not to appear as one, the speaker understands the need to avoid working at cross purposes with his followers.

ITEM 6- 'OUR'

Just like the preceding sample, this is another example of an inclusive metaphor that seeks to pinpoint or highlight the need for the people of Nigeria to see themselves as partners in the project of making Nigeria a great nation. Terms like 'our government' our infrastructures' 'our elections' 'our experiences' 'our mistakes' and others which appeared forty seven (47) times shows the centrality of the need for collectivity expressed in the inaugural speech.

ITEM 7 – 'REBUILDING'

The lexical item selected here appeared only four times in the corpora. However, it is worthy of mention that the word is followed by the possessive 'our'. The word shows that the speaker sees all Nigerians as partners in the rebuilding project. More importantly, the metaphor underscores a nation that is in a dilapidated state. The sample here can be described as a descriptive metaphor that depicts a country that lacks basic amenities. This excerpt employs descriptive metaphor in describing the state of infrastructure in the country. It is a metaphoric way of stating that the immediate past administration actually failed in the area of the production and maintenance of basic infrastructures which in turn inhibits economic growth.

ITEM 8 – 'US'

The lexical item under analysis here is another example of an invitational metaphor. The item appeared eleven (11) times in the corpora. This is evident in the lexical context of the word that shows that most of the words are preceded by the item 'let'. The invitation here is clearly showing a nation that is actually working at cross purposes. The deployment of this invitational metaphor here can be said to intend passing the information that attitudes like low expectations, cynicism and division have all contributed to hamper the development of the country.

TEXT 9- 'ME'

The sample here is another sample of a pronominal. Its manifestation in the body of the corpora is four (4) instances. This is clearly in sharp contrast to pronouns like 'we' (42) , 'our' (47) and 'us' (11). This contextual manifestation of this invitational metaphor here shows a president that values the contribution of the people towards the success of a nation. This argument is in contrast with the view expressed in Ayoola (2005) that political discourse, when coming from an individual that is already occupying a position of authority, are usually laced with personal pronouns that seeks to arrogate achievements to themselves.

TEXT 10-'Niger Delta'

The lexical item in this sample occurred only two times in the corpora. While one may probably consider it as insignificant in terms of number in a corporal of this nature, it is expedient to say that the item cannot but come up in virtually all of Nigeria's political discourse. This is not unconnected with the fact that the region is no doubt the cash cow of the nation which houses the crude oil that had for long been the mainstay of Nigeria's economy. The choice here however shows that the region is actually enmeshed in serious crisis and that political leaders have not been serious about resolving the Niger-Delta brouhaha.

IV. FINDINGS

In an attempt to examine the use of metaphoric expressions as pragmatic features of presidential inaugural speeches in Nigeria, it was discovered that politicians actually deploy figurative language through metaphors to enhance both the textual and pragmatic qualities of their presentations. As language receivers, we can better understand their feelings, attitudes conceptualisations of real life situations through the vehicle of language both as individuals and as participants in the social and linguistic environment. By investigating people's use of metaphors, we can better understand their emotions, attitudes and conceptualisations, as individuals and as participants in social discourse.

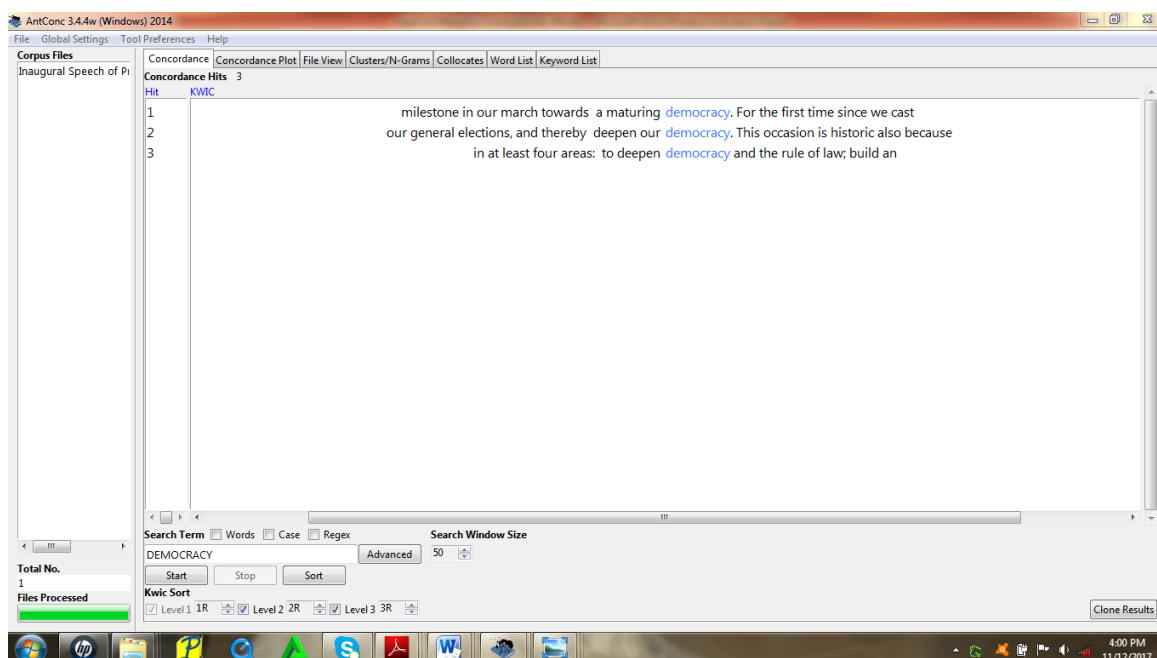
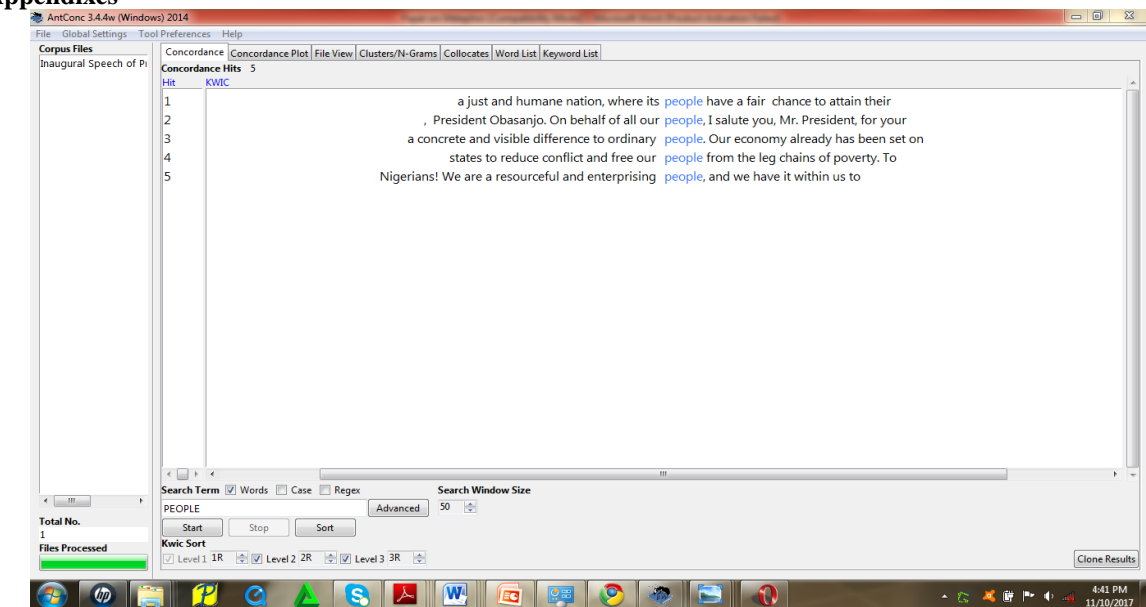
The study actually discovers that metaphors which have always been viewed as a literary element are in fact important pragmatic features of political discourse. The study observes that most of the claims made in political discourse as exemplified in presidential inaugural speeches are made with the use of indirect language forms. These forms are equally deployed as metaphors with a difference in their lexical and pragmatic qualities. The study establishes the use of various categories of metaphors in the inaugural speech under analysis. These include historical metaphor, evaluative metaphor and descriptive metaphor. While historical metaphor draws on the fact of history to advance the course of an argument, evaluative metaphor examines certain contextual occurrences in a bid to arrive at certain conclusions. Descriptive metaphors however, simply describe a state of affair leaving the language receiver with the choice and chance to make certain informed deductions. While all of these were established as features of political discourse, the present study observes a preference for the descriptive metaphor. This can be traced to the fact that presidential inaugural speeches, the

type used for the analysis here often afford the speaker the privilege of describing the Nigerian nation. This description comes in the form indirect critical appraisal that is either meant to either condemn or commend. The descriptive metaphor as observed in this study describes the economy of the nation as observed in text 5. Generally, the study believes that some figurative elements should be fully incorporated into the study of pragmatics as a result of their centrality in contemporary discourse

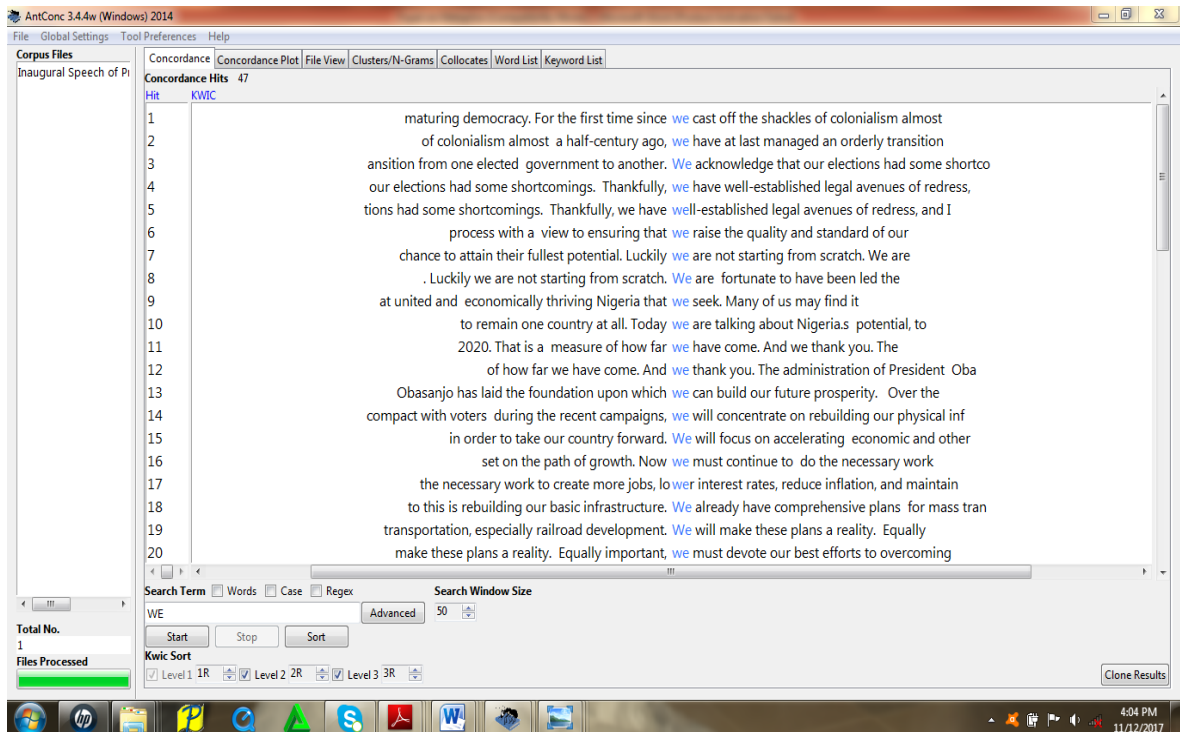
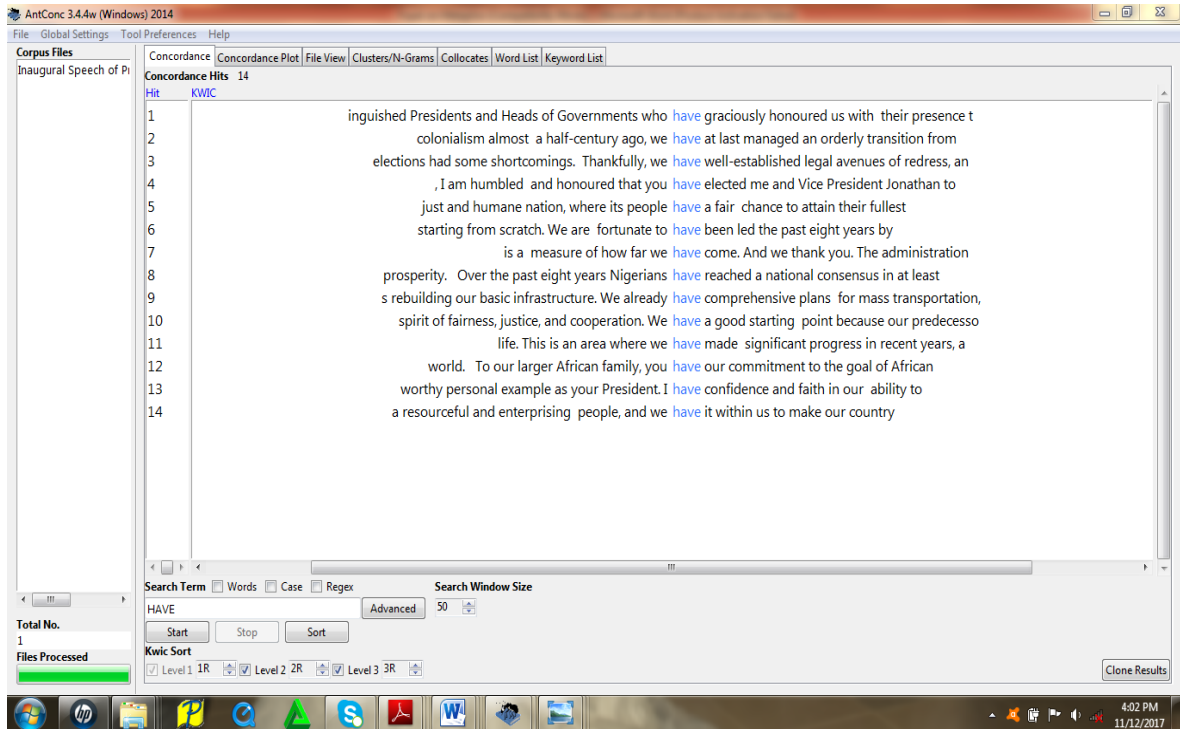
V. CONCLUSION

This study is a corpus based pragmatic analysis of president Yar'Adua's inaugural speech. The study adopts the corpus linguistic approach as its model of data selection. The choice is to enable the deployment of the scientific method of data selection which in turn gives more validity to the findings of the research. The study submits that metaphor is no doubt an important aspect of pragmatics which language scholars cannot afford to underestimate. Metaphor as a means of understanding and explaining language use in context has actually made little inroad into the study of pragmatics. This study makes a case for the importance of metaphor as a pragmatic concept as well its usefulness in understanding meaning as communicated from speaker to audience and writer to reader.

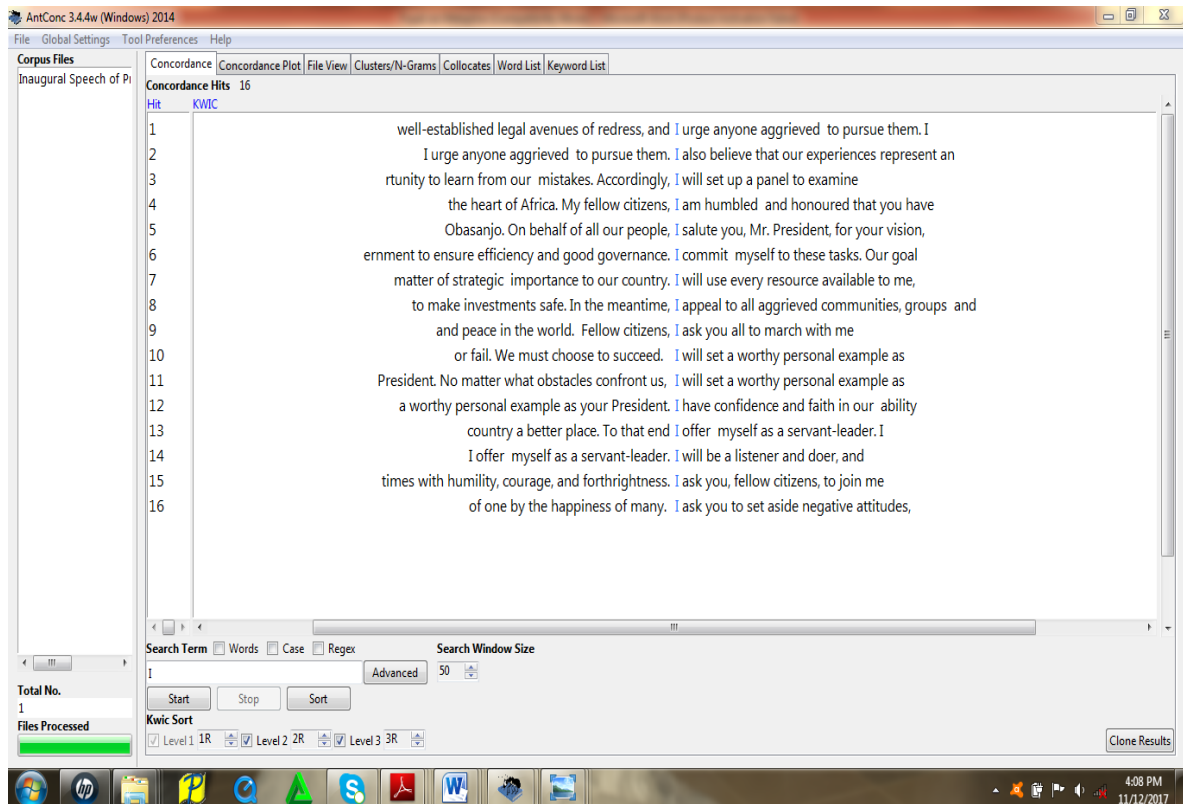
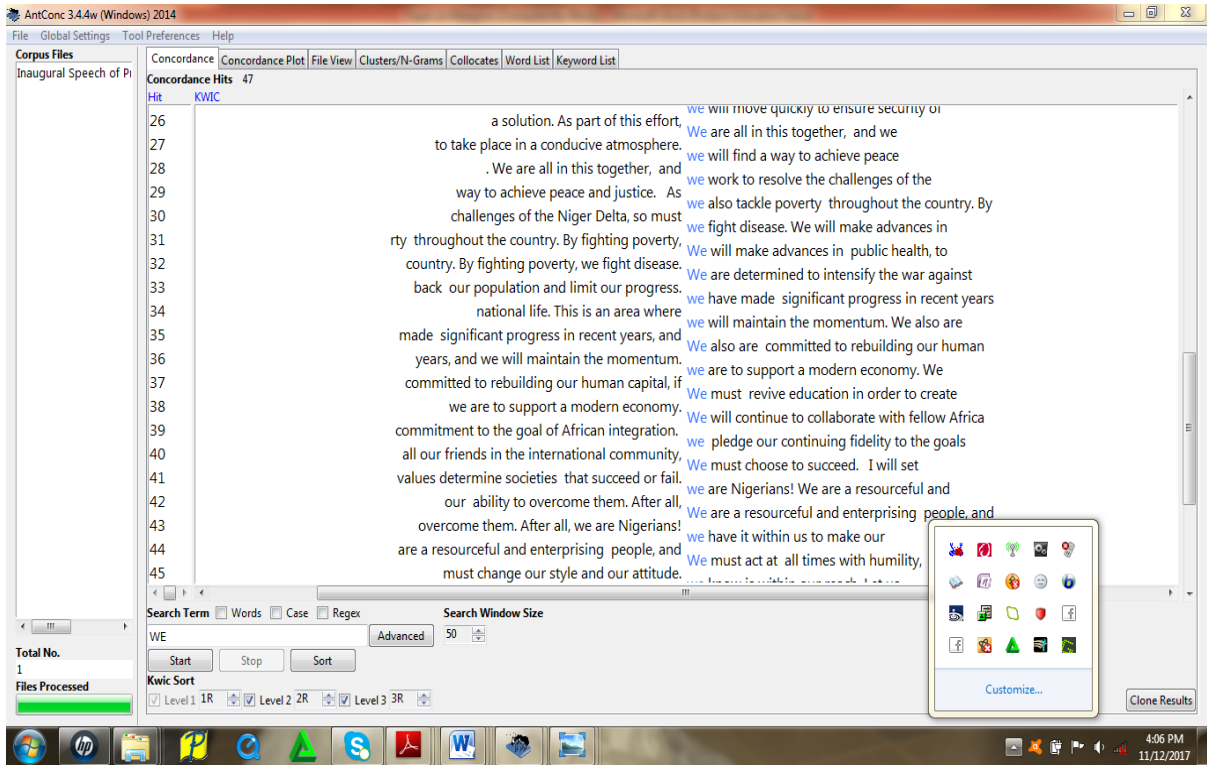
Appendices

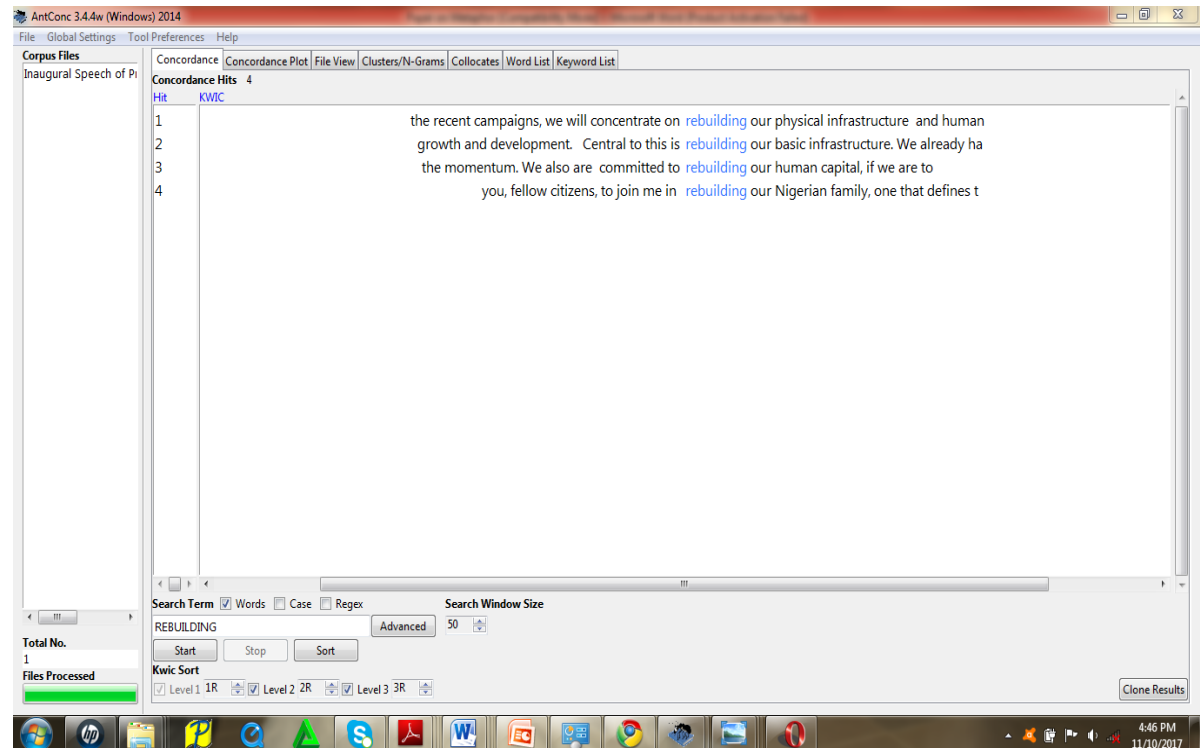
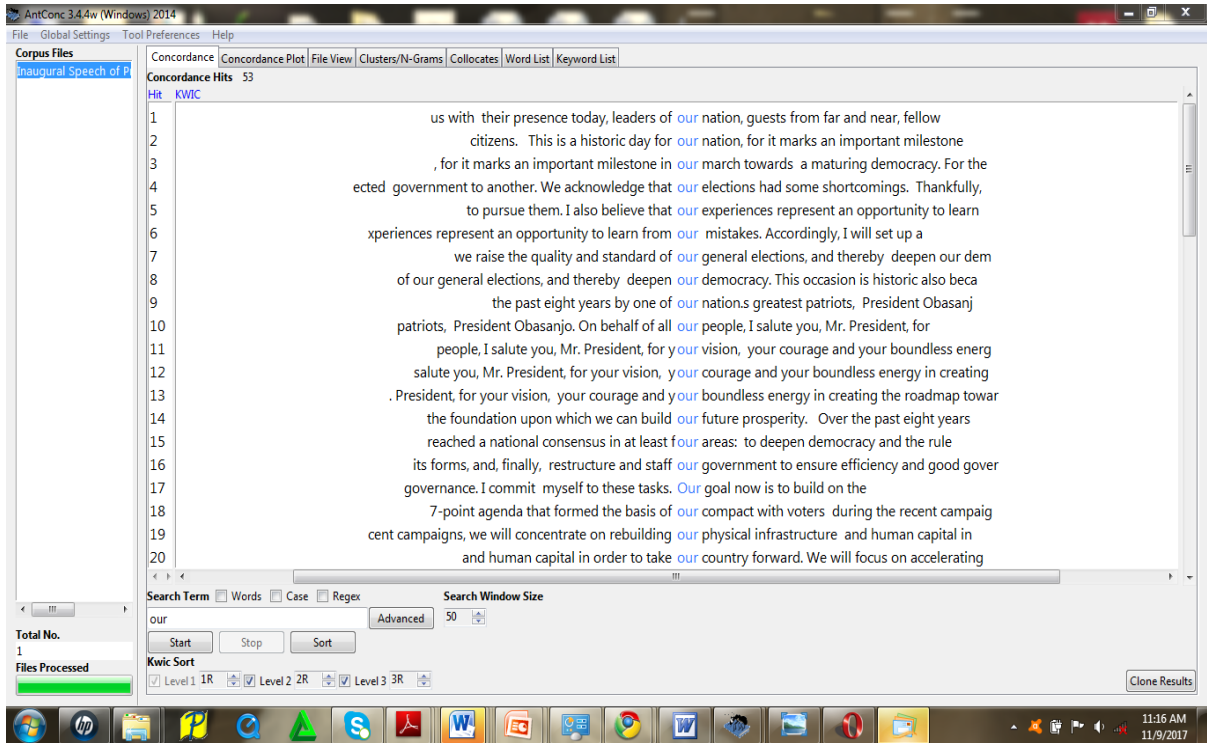


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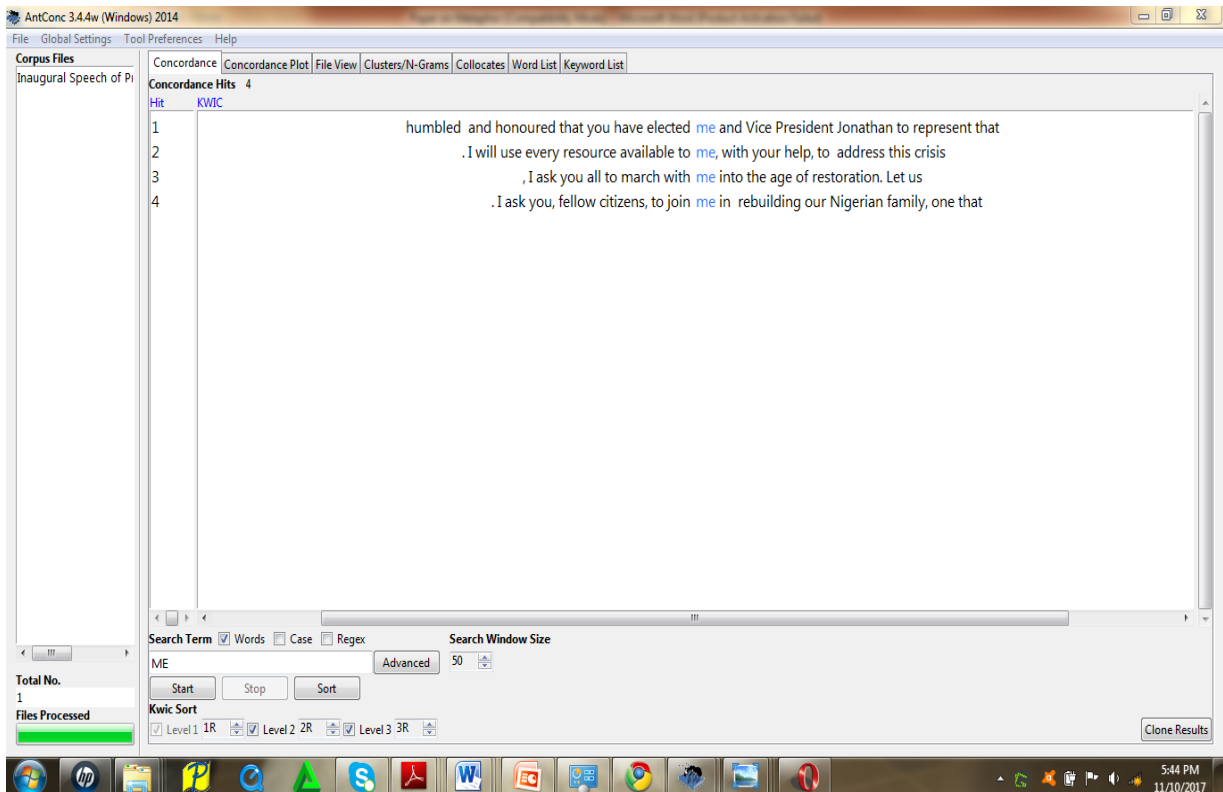
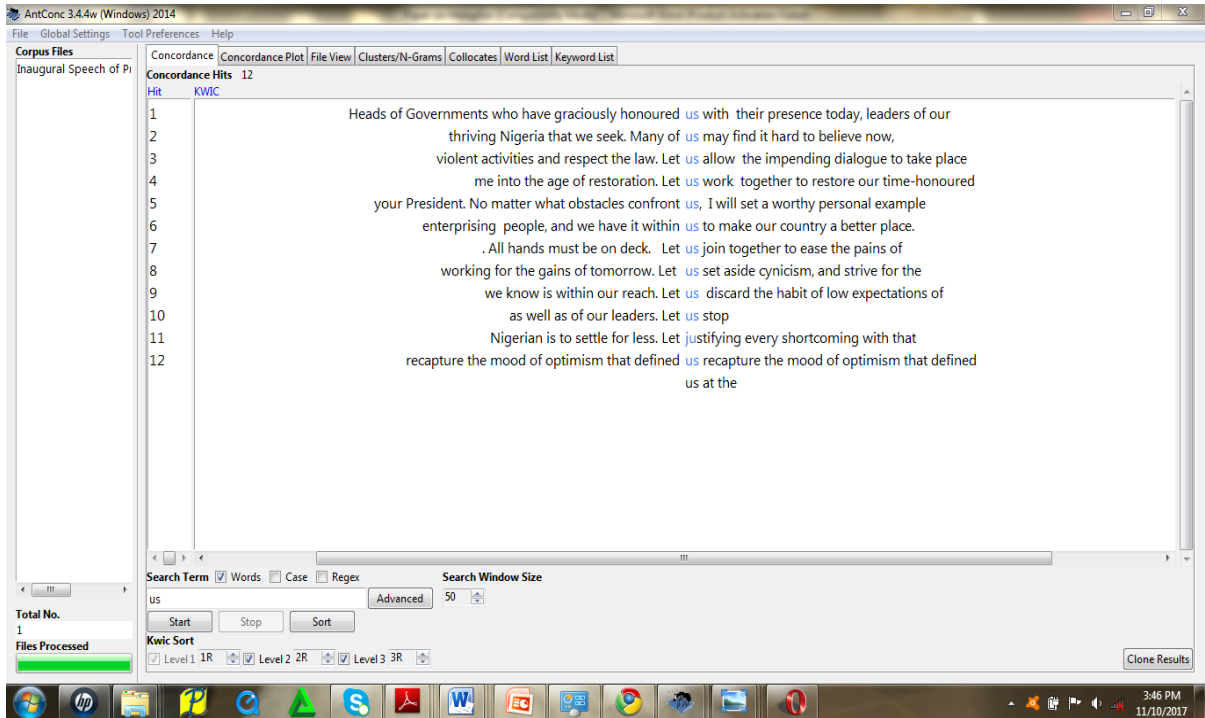


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