



Passive in Bola Ahmed Tinubu's inaugural speech

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Abstract

This article identifies the orientations of the agentless passive in Bola Ahmed Tinubu's inaugural speech. To reach this objective, framing theory is applied. As results, the agentless passive is implemented to produce faster, shorter and simpler utterances. Indeed, it is used to give a great importance to the object and the action described by the verb, to shorten utterances, to stress the agent and unsay the agent when he/she is obvious. So, the agentless passive is a matter of obviousness, politeness, specification and emphasis.

Keywords: *agentless, framing, passive, speech, utterances.*

Passif sans agent dans le discours inaugural de Bola Ahmed Tinubu

Résumé

Cet article identifie les orientations du passif impersonnel dans le discours inaugural de Bola Ahmed Tinubu. Pour atteindre cet objectif, la théorie du cadrage est appliquée. Comme résultat, le passif est utilisé pour formuler des discours plus simples, courts et rapides. En effet, il est employé pour accorder plus d'importance à l'objet et l'action décrite par le verbe, pour écourter un discours, pour mettre l'accent sur l'agent et aussi pour supprimer l'agent lorsqu'il est évident. Le passif est donc une question de d'évidence, de politesse, de spécification et d'accentuation.

Mots clés: *cadrage, discours, énonciation, impersonnel, passif.*

Introduction

The Agentless passive is a type of passive. In fact, the agentless passive does not take the “by phrase”. The by phrase is missing because there is no need for it since the focus is on the action not on the performer of the action. The adjective passive derives from the Latin word “Passivum”. The term “Passivum” in its turn, comes from the Greek grammatical term “Pathos”. Pathos means ability of feeling, suffering or ability in matter for being acted upon, the fact of being affected by some actions according to (P. K. Anderson, 1989, p. 2). (R. Dixon, 1991, p. 12) points out that “not all verbs can be used as a passive, such as certain transitive verbs”. In fact, for many verbs, the ability to passivize depends on the nature of the object.

C. Amadi (2018) defines passive as the grammatical construction in which a head noun functioning as the subject of a sentence is affected by the action of a verb or being acted upon by the verb. The noun functioning as the grammatical subject is typically the recipient of the action denoted by the verb rather than the agent. It may be used to avoid assigning responsibility to the doer. In a passive sentence, “the logical subject – the agent – moves out of the position of grammatical subject and is relegated to a by-phrase” according to (L. Brinton and D. M. Brinton, 2010, p. 131). This assertion is backed up by (J. Albrespit, 2009, p. 252) when he states:

The passive is viewed either as the result of a transformation or derivation (also described as a movement or raising operation –from complement to subject position) or a syntactic construction which can be identified through formal elements (an auxiliary –



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generally *be*, a verb in the past participle form, an optional *by*-phrase).

A. Siewierska (1988) does not marginalize the notion of passivation in his writing. He asserts: “passives are constructions in which the subject corresponds to an active direct object while the active subject, if overt, is expressed in the form of an adjunct”. This way of conceiving passive is mostly about the remapping of syntactic functions that takes place in a passive construction. It means that the patient is promoted to the subject function in a passive construction. The agent is demoted either to an adjunct or is phonologically void.

The study of agentless passive in connection with Bola Ahmed Tinubu’s inaugural speech can be considered as an eye opener. Indeed, the different explanation and analysis of the concept of passivation testifies and teaches the necessity and the important role of passivation in political speeches. In fact, passivation is applied for stylistic, thematic and rhetoric reason. Indeed, it is used to produce faster, shorter, clearer and simpler discourse. It helps speakers go straight to the point in order to attract readers and listeners’ attention. This ascertainment helps people know where, when and how passivation should be applied in a discourse.

Passive is “rejected and discriminated against the active form” according to (N. Sheffield, 2015, p. 156). In fact, (N. Sheffield, 2015, p. 156) maintains that “the active voice is generally more straightforward, easier to understand, and less ambiguous than the passive form”. The assertions of both researchers imply that the use of passive can create awkward, long and complicated sentences. It can cause readers to lose interest. Regarding this assertion from (N.

Sheffield, 2015, p. 156), passivation needs to be analyzed in order to highlight its specific roles and orientations in Bola Ahmed Tinubu's inaugural speech.

The paramount problem deriving from agentless passive construction leads to raise the following questions: What are the markers of agentless passive in Bola Ahmed Tinubu's inaugural speech? What are their different roles and orientations in his inaugural speech? As objectives, this article aims at identifying markers of agentless and analyzing their different roles and orientations in Bola Ahmed Tinubu's inaugural speech. As hypothesis, the structures "Subject+ will- be-verbs in past participle" constitute the markers of agentless passive in his speech. As roles, they bring clarity, emphasis and specification in his speech.

1. Theoretical Framework

Framing theory is the linguistic theory applied for the scientific foundation of this article about passivation in Bola Ahmed Tinubu's inaugural speech. "Framing theory has five pioneers" according to (S. O. Arowolo, 2017, p. 21) and (A. Ardévol-Abreu, 2015, 427). The first is Gregory Bateson. The second is Erving Goffman. The third is Gaye Tuchman. The fourth is George Lakoff and finally Charles Fillmore.

Framing theory is a "linguistic theory used to examine social, political and media discourse" according to (K. Hallahan, 2008, p. 4855). The term "framing" refers to the act, the process or the manner of constructing something. Psychologically, (G. Bateson, 1972, p. 197) defines it as "a spatial and temporary bounding of set of interactive



messages that operates as a form of metacommunication¹". Indeed, "Framing describes the practice of thinking about news items and story content within familiar context" according to (K. Hallahan, 2008, p. 4855). Framing contributes to the understanding of social facts.

M. O. Alonso (2014) conceives the study of framing as a process that takes place at different levels. That is; in the understanding of cultures; in the minds of the elite and media professionals; in the understanding of text of the information. Therefore, framing is an individual psychological process. But, beside this psychological process, it is also an organizational process, a product and a tool of strategy. This tool of strategy can have significant effects on how people make and formulate an opinion about an issue. Framing is "essential to understanding the whole psychological process" according to (R. M. Entman, J. Matthes and J. Pellicano, 2009, p. 175).

(K. Hallahan, 1999, p. 11) regards "framing as a strategy of exclusion and inclusion". For him, framing is not only a potentially useful paradigm for examining the strategic creation of public relations messages and audience responses, but also a critical activity in the construction of social reality. That because it helps shape the perspectives through which people see the world. Thus, "framing involves processes of inclusion and exclusion as well as emphasis" according to (K. Hallahan, 1999, p. 10). Framing "helps people organize what is seen in everyday life" according to (D. Chong and J. N. Druckman, 2007, 121). In fact, human relation is established through exchanges of

¹ Metacommunication is what contextualizes a discourse and helps understand a situation of a communication.

information. That is; communication. This communication is framed according to the different social realities.

Framing can be construed in both positive and negative connotation. At the level of the negative connotation, it can be viewed as a strategy to manipulate and deceive individuals. For (P. Borah, 2011, p. 208), the fact of the frame “to highlight some aspects of reality while excluding other elements might lead individuals to interpret issues differently”. At the level of the positive connotation, framing refers neutrally to: “a learning process in which people acquire common beliefs, knowledge and social norms” according to (D. Chong and J. N. Druckman, 2007, p. 120).

In the view of (D. Chong and J. N. Druckman, 2007, 120), in the public opinion field, “framing takes unfortunately a negative connotation because framing effects suggest that distributions of public preferences are arbitrary”. Consequently, political elites can manipulate popular preferences to serve their own interests. But, in this work about media discourse, the positive connotation of framing is stressed. It helps analyze and demonstrate the necessity and usefulness of passive in terms of producing and knowing objective discourse.

(G. Fairhurst and R. Sarr, 1996, p. 173) point out “seven techniques of framing in language”. These techniques are the followings: metaphor, contrast, slogan or jargon, stories, artifact, spin and traditional rituals and ceremonies. (P. Borah, 2011, p. 208), added “exemplar, depiction and visual image” to these techniques. A metaphor is an imaginative way of describing something by referring to something else that has the qualities that an individual wants to express. Metaphor is a figure of speech in which a word or a phrase literally denoting one kind of object or idea is applied to



another to suggest a likeliness or analogy between them. (F. Zhang, 2009, p. 77) refers to Aristotle's definition of metaphor puts forth: "Metaphor consists in giving the thing a name that belongs to something else; the transference being either from genus to species, or from species to genus, or from species to species, or on grounds of analogy".

Slogan is a short phrase or a sentence designed to offer persuasive information about a brand. It is a framing technique aiming at drawing people attention on specific aspects during a political campaign. According to (S. Abdi and A. Irandoust, 2013, p. 62) "the term slogan derives from "Slough-ghairm", pronounced as Slogorm from Scottish Gaelic which means "battle cry". Slogan is usually an unforgettable phrase that is frequently used to express an idea or purpose. Slogan has been employed in religious and political areas since long time ago.

Jargon is called "jargonisms". It is the specialized vocabulary of any profession. Basically, Jargon helps establish oneself as a specialist of a professional field according to (M. Khadimatovna, 2020, p. 54). In fact, some scientists attempt to be considered as a professional of their disciplines by using specialist terminology. So, it is used to determine individuals' social class and their communities. This classification occurs because jargon is common to the general public and to the upper class, not to the lower class.

2. Methodology and Data Analysis

2.1. Descriptive Research as Research Type

This work about agentless passive in Bola Ahmed Tinubu's inaugural speech is a descriptive one. Descriptive research can be defined as a research type that describes the

characteristics of the population or phenomenon that is being studied. This methodology focuses more on the “what” of the research subject rather than the “why” of the research subject. In other words, descriptive research primarily focuses on describing the nature of phenomenon without focusing on “how” and “why” some phenomenon occurs. In fact, it is used to identify and obtain information about the subject of the research without covering why it happens.

Descriptive research favors the collection of quantitative and qualitative data. According to “N. Manjunatha, 2019, p. 864), “since the data collected is sometimes qualitative and quantitative, it gives a systematic understanding of the research topic”. That causes data that was not planned to be collected. Amount of data gathered by this research type can be used for future references. So, using this research type can help ascertain with much data the necessity of passivation in terms of producing objective discourse. The other advantage of descriptive research is the natural environment. In fact, natural environment is an environment in which human influences are extremely limited.

For (W. Lans and T. V. D. Voordt (2002, p. 54), “descriptive research concentrates on finding facts to ascertain the nature of something as it exists”. It is characteristic for descriptive research to be restricted to factual registration. There is no quest for an explanation why reality is showing itself this way. In principle, descriptive research is not aiming at forming hypotheses or development of theory. Another characteristic of descriptive research is objectivity. Descriptive research is about describing how reality is. In this regard descriptive research



differs from prescriptive research that is concerned with the question how the reality should be.

2.2. Qualitative and Secondary data as Type and Nature of Data

Qualitative data refers to the characteristics and the applicability of data collected. So, it can be listed two fundamental types of data. That is, qualitative and quantitative data. This study describing and analyzing the role and necessity of the agentive passive Bola Tinubu's inaugural speech opts for qualitative data. Qualitative data in so far as it presents data in form of sentence. According to S. M. S. Kabir (2016, 208), "qualitative data are mostly non-numerical and usually descriptive or nominal in nature". In other words, qualitative data are in the form of words and sentences.

Qualitative data captures feelings, emotions and subjective perceptions of something. Qualitative data address the 'how' and 'why' of a program and tend to use unstructured methods of data collection to fully explore the topic according to (S. M. S. Kabir, 2016, p. 208). Qualitative data questions are open-ended. They include focus groups, group discussions and interviews. (N. Walliman, 2011, p. 71) backs up this assertion when he states:

A lot of useful information cannot be reduced to numbers. People's judgments, feelings of comfort, emotions, ideas, beliefs etc. can only be described in words. These record qualities rather than quantities, hence they are called qualitative data. Words cannot be manipulated mathematically, so require quite different analytical techniques.

The secondary data are those which have already been collected by someone else. "It is data which have already been passed through the statistical process" according to (C. R. Kothari, 2004, 111). In other words, they refer to the data which have already been collected and analyzed by someone else. Secondary data mean data that are already available. For C. (R. Kothari, 2004, p. 111), "when the researcher applies secondary data, he has to look into various sources from where he can obtain them". In this case, it cannot certainly be confronted with the problems that are usually associated with the collection of original data.

Written sources that interpret or record primary data are called secondary sources. In the same view, (S. M. S. Kabir, 2016, p. 206) asserts:

Secondary data are data that have been interpreted and recorded. Just as we are bombarded with primary data, we are cascaded with secondary data in the form of news bulletins, magazines, newspapers, documentaries, advertising, the Internet etc. The data are wrapped, packed and spun into pithy articles or digestible sound bites. The quality of the data depends on the source and the methods of presentation.

This quotation ascertains that data collected from a source that has already been published in any form is called as secondary data. This nature of data tends to be less reliable. For (S. M. S. Kabir, 2016, p. 206), "secondary data is essential, since it is impossible to conduct a new survey that can adequately capture past change and developments". Secondary data may either be published data or unpublished data. In fact, published data are available in various publications maybe about central state, various publications of foreign governments or of international bodies, technical and trade journals. It includes books,



magazines, newspapers, reports and publications of various associations connected with business and industry banks and stock exchanges.

2.3. Participant

Bola Ahmed Tinubu's inaugural speech is the source of data. So, he is considered the participant. Bola Ahmed Tinubu was born in March 1952. He is a Nigerian politician serving as the 16th and current president of Nigeria since 2023. Bola Tinubu is from Yoruba ethnic group. He is a muslim. In the mid-1970s, he moved to the United States working at a variety of jobs while he finished his college education.

Bola Tinubu attended Southwest College in Chicago and then Transferred to Chicago States University where he earned a B.S. in business and administration in 1979. He returned to Nigeria in the 1980 and worked for Mobile Oil as an auditor. In 1987, he married his wife Oluremi Tinubu. He is the father of six children. In 2023, he was the candidate of APC for the presidential election. He won the election and sworn in as president on May 29, 2023.

2.4. Document Review as a Data Collection Method

This study is a qualitative and descriptive research. In so doing, qualitative and secondary data are taken for granted. Document review is the method used to collect data qualitative and secondary from Bola Tinubu's inaugural speech. Document review, according to CDCP (2018) is a way of collecting data by reviewing existing documents. Documents may be hard copy or electronic and may include reports, program logs, performance ratings, funding

proposals, meeting minutes, newsletters, and marketing materials according to CDCP (2018).

According to (D. J. Ary, 2010, p. 172), “the term document refers to a wide range of written, physical, and visual materials, including what other authors may term artifacts”. There are three types of documents. There are personal documents. They are produced by individuals for private purposes and limited use. They contain letters, diaries, autobiographies, family photo albums and other visual recording. Official documents are the second type of documents. They are produced by organizational employees for record-keeping and dissemination purposes such as memos, files and yearbooks.

Popular culture documents are the last type of document. Indeed, they are produced for commercial purposes to entertain, persuade, and enlighten the public such as commercials. They include TV programs, news reports, or audio and visual recording according to. Within the framework of this study about passivation in media discourse, the last type of document is stressed. That is, popular cultural document. For CDCP² (2018), document review method helps gather background information. In fact, reviewing existing documents helps understand the history, philosophy, and operation of the program that are evaluated and the organization in which it operates. Document review helps develop other data collection tools for evaluation. Basically, reviewing existing documents can help better understand the program and organization. It helps formulate questions for interviews, questionnaires, or focus groups or develop an observation guide.

² Center for Disease Control and prevention



2.5. Content Analysis Method as a Data Analysis Method

The content analysis is a data analysis method used to determine the presence of some themes, words, or concept within some given qualitative data. With the content analysis method, researcher can quantify and analyze the presence, the meanings and relationship such as certain words, themes and concept. As example, researcher can evaluate language used within a new article to search for bias or partiality. Sources of data could be from conversation or literary any occurrence of communicative language like books, discussions, speech, media and newspapers.

In the view of (H. Hsieh and S. E. Shannon, 2005, p. 1277), Content analysis is a widely used qualitative research technique. Rather than being a single method, current applications of content analysis show three distinct approaches: conventional, directed, or summative. All three approaches are used to interpret meaning from the content of text data and, hence, adhere to the naturalistic paradigm.

For (K. Krippendorff, 2004, p. xvi), “the content analysts view data as representations not of physical events but of texts”. They view data as images and expressions that are created to be seen, read, interpreted, and acted on for their meanings. Analyzing texts in the contexts of their uses distinguishes the content analysis from other methods of inquiry. (K. Krippendorff, 2004, p. xvi) provides the historical background in the following assertion:

The term content analysis is about 60 years old. Webster's Dictionary of the English Language included the term in its 1961 edition, defining it as analysis of the manifest and latent content of a body of communicated material (as a book or film) through

classification, tabulation, and evaluation of its key symbols and themes in order to ascertain its meaning and probable effect.

The content analysis entails a systematic reading of a body of texts, images, and symbolic matter, not necessary from an author's or user's perspective. The content analysis is a research technique for making replicable and valid inferences from texts to the contexts of their use. As a technique, the content analysis involves specialized procedures. It is learnable and divorceable from the personal authority of the researcher. In the view of (H. Hsieh and S. E. Shannon, 2005, p. 1277), "the content analysis goes beyond merely counting words". It aims at examining language intensely for the purpose of classifying large amounts of text into an efficient number of categories that represent similar meanings.

3. Data Presentation

Data are collected from Bola Ahmed Tinubu's inaugural speech are unified. These data are related to agentless Passive. That is; passive where the doer identity is not disclosed. These data, in the form of utterances are the following:

- Nigeria **will be impartially governed** according to the constitution and the rule of law.
- First, budgetary reform stimulating the economy without engendering inflation **will be instituted**.
- A nationwide program for storage and other facilities to reduce spoilage and waste **will be undertaken**.
- Agricultural **hubs will be created** throughout the nation to increase production and engage in value-added processing.



Soumission : 10/09/2025 Acceptation : 13/09/2025 Publication : 25/09/2025

- (5) The livestock sector **will be introduced** to best modern practices and steps taken to minimize the perennial conflict over land and water resources in this sector
- (6) Through these actions, **food shall be made** more abundant yet less costly. Farmers shall earn more while the average Nigerian pays less.
- (7) Interest rates need **to be reduced to** increase investment and consumer purchasing in ways that sustain the economy at a higher level
- (8) The policy shall **be reviewed**. In the meantime, my administration will treat both currencies as legal tender.

3.1. Data Analysis

Bola Ahmad Tinubu implemented agentless passive in his speech. Most of the agentless passives identified are in future. They describe some future action. The use of agentless passive in his speech is not at random. The implementation of this grammatical structure depends on some situations. In fact, the first situation is when the subject of the sentence or utterance is too long. A sentence or utterance is said to be long when it has more than hundred words. For him, any sentence or utterance made up of more than hundred words is already guaranteed to be complex, complicated and enormous to be deciphered.

When the fact of revealing the subject or the doers of the action makes their utterance too long, media use the passive in order to shorten it. Quoting the subject or the responsible can make the sentence or utterance difficult to understand. So, agentless passive is one of the good ways of permitting

the receiver of the information to fully understand it. It favors the negligence or the deletion of the subject or the agent by implementing the passive without a prepositional phrase. That is; the agentless passive. Through the agentless passive, Bola Tinubu succeeds in shortening his utterance so that it can be easy to understand. The last situation is the situation in which the doer identity is unknown, unimportance and obvious.

3.2. Findings of the Analysis

The use of agentless passive in Bola Ahmed Tinubu's speech can be a matter of politeness. Indeed, the implementation of passive can help readers and listeners feel comfortable. According to (Y. F. Erkinovna, 2021, p. 469) situation where using passive construction is useful is when "the speaker wants to convey politeness". Specifically, using the phrases "you" and "I" can sound aggressive. So, this form can be used to make writing and speaking sound less aggressive and avoid conflict. Putting the emphasis on the action instead of the agent sounds much more polite.

Bola Ahmed Tinubu implements the agentless passive for a matter of Communicative shortcut. Communicative shortcut is a quicker way of transmitting information than the usual way. It is a method of constructing a discourse more quickly or more easily than the usual methods. The agentless passive plays an important role in communication shortcut and the realization of an effective communication. Indeed, through the implementation of passive, the speaker can be simpler, clear and shorter. That favors an effective communication between the speaker and readers or listeners. For (T. A. Akanbi and O. A. Aladesanmi, 2014, p. 26), "communication involves a wide range of activities. It is



Soumission : 10/09/2025 Acceptation : 13/09/2025 Publication : 25/09/2025

in a sense by which thought, ideas, facts, knowledge and intentions are transmitted, shared to one person or a group of persons for knowledge”.

The understanding of the agentless passive can depend on extra-linguistics context. Indeed, the extra-linguistic context helps have specific idea about the agent. Through the extra-linguistic context, the agent can be known. Indeed, the extra-linguistic context permits to call off ambiguity and indicate referents. “It helps avoid repetition, replace some noun phrases, replace verb phrases and replace adverbial phrase of time and place” according to (L. Song, 2010, p. 877). The extra-linguistic context helps detect conversational implicature.

Agentless passive, being a grammatical form used by Bola Tinubu contributes to the formulation of informative discourse. In fact, passive helps deal with types and topics of informative discourse. Through passive, definitions, explanations, demonstrations and descriptions are provided in his speech. Beyond these types of informative discourse, passive is applied to highlights some topics of informative discourse. That is, the people, objects, concepts, process and issues.

4. Discussion

Bola Ahmed Tinubu uses agentless passive in order to struggle against verbosity and information overload. In fact, through the agentless passive, Bola Ahmed Tinubu avoids verbosity and information overload by producing clear and specific information. Verbosity refers to the quality of using wordy or more words than necessary to express an idea or

convey information. Utterances (5) and (6) are some examples:

(5) The livestock sector **will be introduced** to best modern practices and steps taken to minimize the perennial conflict over land and water resources in this sector

(6) Through these actions, **food shall be made** more abundant yet less costly. Farmers shall earn more while the average Nigerian pays less.

In these utterances, the non-disclosure of the actors' identities can be justified by the fact that the actors are numerous. In utterances (5) and (6), the agents are the president, his future government and the Nigerian population. Using the agentless passive helps Bola Ahmed Tinubu makes his speech more formal and less personal and shorter.

Bola Ahmed Tinubu applies the agentless passive is applied to emphasize on the passive subject and the action described by the verb. According to (P. Moaddab, 2014, p. 1414), "the good reason for using the passive structure is referred to as when the agent is unnecessary". Another reason is when the speaker/writer wants to emphasize a result. In the view of I. Pauze (2001, p. 81), "l'omission de l'agent résulte de la focalisation de l'énoncé sur le patient ou le procès et ne constitue que la conséquence de la mise en valeur dans la phrase d'un autre élément que l'agent"³. Utterances (3) and (4) are examples:

(3) A nationwide program for storage and other facilities to reduce spoilage and waste **will be undertaken**.

³ The omission of the agent results from the emphasis on the patient and the action in the utterance. It favors the valorization of another element rather than the agent in the utterance. (Translation mine)



Soumission : 10/09/2025 Acceptation : 13/09/2025 Publication : 25/09/2025

(4) Agricultural **hubs will be created** throughout the nation to increase production and engage in value-added processing.

In these utterances, the doer identity is unimportant and unnecessary. The actions described by the verbs are more important and necessary. So, Bola Ahmed Tinubu uses the agentless passive to emphasize the action.

The agentless passive is used by Bola Ahmed Tinubu for a matter of obviousness. Obviousness is a noun deriving from the word “obvious” meaning easily seen, recognized or understood. It is the property of being easy to see and understand. The word obvious roots from the Latin word “obvius” meaning in the way. According to (I. Pauze, 2001, p. 81), “on emploie la phrase passive quand on ne veut pas mentionner le sujet actif bien parce qu’il est evident⁴”. Utterances (1) and (8) testify the obviousness of the agent.

(1) Nigeria **will be impartially governed** according to the constitution and the rule of law.

(8) The policy shall **be reviewed**. In the meantime, my administration will treat both currencies as legal tender.

In these utterances, Bola Ahmed Tinubu uses the agentless passive because the agent is obviously himself. In fact, the agent is obviously the president Bola Ahmed Tinubu. It is generally the president who is supposed to govern a nation. So, talking about governance, Bola Ahmed Tinubu explains the different action he will undertake for the sake of Nigerian population. He uses the Agentless passive to avoid repetition and favors specificity and clarity

⁴ We use the passive construction when we do not want to mention the active subject because it is obvious. (Translation mine)

in his speech. It helps produce shorter, clearer, faster and simpler utterances.

The agentless passive is used in Bola Ahmed Tinubu's inaugural speech as a process of thematization and topicalization. In fact, the deletion of the "by-phrase" helps thematize or topicalize the subject who receives or undergoes the action. (T. Givon, 1979, p. 186) defines passivation as: "the process by which a non-agent is promoted into the role of a main topic of the sentence". Passivation can be regarded as on way of making a functional topic more prominent.

Conclusion

The agentless passive is implemented by Bola Ahmed when the agent is unimportant, unnecessary and obvious. The agent being obvious, mentioning it in the utterance becomes useless. So, the agentless passive can help express ellipsis. In fact, the agentless passive is implemented in order to avoid repetition and produce faster and simpler utterances. So, its application in Bola Tinubu's speech is a matter of ellipsis. According to (R. D. Beaugrand, 1979, p. 467), "ellipsis is the omission of the surface expressions of which conceptual content is nonetheless carried forward and expanded and modified by complete expressions".

The agentless passive has an influence on linguistic markers. This influence intervenes at the level of the first person "I" and second person "you". It helps delete the personal pronouns in media discourse. According to (R. B. Gunderman and L. A. Steinmeyer, 2015, p. 208), "the use of the passive form may reflect a reluctance to use personal



pronouns over and over again in recounting story". This reluctance of personal pronoun can put a weigh on the information conveyed. The agentless passive brings about the disappearance of the first person "I" and the personal pronoun "we". The deletion of these pronouns prevents the speakers from marking their engagement in the discourse and being at the centre of all interrogations.

The use of the agentless passive in Bola Ahmed's inaugural speech is an expression of politeness. Basically, the use of the agentless passive can be a matter of politeness. Indeed, the implementation of passive can help readers and listeners feel comfortable. Situation where using passive construction is useful is when the speaker wants to convey politeness. Specifically, using the phrases "you" and "I" can sound aggressive. The agentless passive can be used when the doer of an action is unknown. Indeed, in case of indictable offense, the actions and their performers are important for the readers and listeners.

As newness, the analysis of the agentless passive in connection with Bola Ahmed Tinubu reveals the necessity of passive in terms of formal and impersonal discourse production. Basically, passive is used for thematic, pragmatic and stylistic reasons. Indeed, through the agentless passive, Bola Ahmed topicalizes the actions. He avoids repetition and verbosity. He succeeds in producing faster, shorter and simpler utterances for Nigerian population. He resorts to the agentless passive to avoid using the first and second person "I and You". For further research, "passive in the quest of objectivity in Bola Ahmed Tinubu's inaugural speech" is going to be analysis.

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