A LINGUISTIC STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF POLITICAL COMMENTARIES ON EDO 2020 UBERNATORIAL ELECTION ON ONLINE NEWSPAPERS

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Abstract
This study examined a linguistic stylistic analysis of political commentaries on Edo 2020 gubernatorial election. The researchers selected 3 political commentaries from one online newspaper (Daily Post). From the collected data, the aim of this study was to analyse syntactic, phonological, foregrounded elements and deviant features found in the selected political commentaries based on the objectives of the study. The analysis was anchored on Leech & Short's Checklist of Linguistic and Stylistic Categories as its theoretical framework while the method was qualitative research analysis. Descriptive survey method was however employed to analyse the collected data. Hence, the findings showed that sentences in the analysed commentaries are structurally dominated by non-simple sentences and functionally dominated by declarative sentences. Phonological devices such as alliteration, assonance, and consonance fully have rhythmic pattern. Also, there are deployments of foregrounded elements such as deviational and non-deviational foregrounding to captivate readers' attentions. Lastly, deviant features such as grammatical and lexical deviations are found in the analysed commentaries. Therefore, the manifestation of linguistic features inherent in the analysed commentaries shows that any of the writers of these commentaries use linguistic resources at their disposal to express their views.
Keywords: Communication, Linguistics, stylistics, grammar, and deviations

Introduction

From time immemorial, communication has been a tool for disseminating information and exchanging ideas. Communication is the "process" by which thoughts, attitudes, and opinions are communicated from one end to the other (Fawehinmi. 2007, p. 224). Because it modifies people's behavior to fit desired results, communication is viewed as a process. Dada and Ogunrinde (2020:154) confirm this assertion when they say that " Communication resolves round mutual understanding amount the participants". Yet, it is noted that language use and communication are inextricably linked and that communication cannot completely exist without language (Jimoh, 2007). Thus, the importance of language in communication vis-à-vis human affairs is not disputable. Onyekwere, Chibueze, Rosecolette, Martins, & Quinette (2012) emphasise that language is human distinctive in that it is human specific. It is only found in humans. Even though animals communicate, they do not do so through the use of language. Therefore, humans intentionally use language to interact, to preserve information, to influence others, to express themselves, to retain records, and to chronicle some concepts (Akabogu & Ajiwoju, 2015).

Language is used systematically for communication. People intentionally spread information in a particular way to influence it artistically. Ogunrinde, Isife and Bamisaye (2022:25) defines language as a medium of communication. They believe that each speech community has a langusge for mutual intelligibility (that is to understand each other). They further assert that every language user has a unique mode of expression of communication that is different from other users. Not only that, Dada and Ogunrinde (2020:154) agree that "the role s of anguage to human beings and in the society cannot be overemphasised". They conclude that language is a means of social interaction between people within a particular human society (p.,155).Therefore, style and language are thus two phenomena that are somewhat intertwined. If style is not employed in conjunction with language, it cannot function on its own. Style is meaning potential when language is employed for communication. On this note, Leech & Short (1981) opine that style can be referred to a writer's linguistic preferences as well as the way language is employed in a certain genre, era, or school of writing. To them, style is seen as an expression of a writer's writing ability as well as how language is employed in a certain field or subject and during a specific period of time. It is the manner in which language is employed by a specific person for a specific goal in a given setting. A style is specifically how language is employed in a given circumstance to produce some effects in order to accomplish specific aims. Hence, to produce a

meaningful literary text by any writer, such literary text must be embedded in style.

Importantly, style is indispensable in stylistic study and language analysis. Thus this shows the essentiality of style in language and stylistic analysis. Yemet (2019) avers that stylistics has a solid theoretical and methodological grounding for analysing language. Qian (2006) is of the opinion that stylistics examines how language is used in particular contexts and makes an effort to take into consideration the traits that distinguish the language use of particular people and social groups. So, it tries to underscore how suitable a language is to a particular audience. It is on this note that stylistics is concerned with the study and interpretation of any form of writings from a linguistic perspective (Suhadi & Baluqiah, 2017). Therefore, proper identification of linguistic choices peculiar to an individual writer in any literary work is the general goal of stylistic or linguistic stylistic analysis if the views of the above-cited scholars on stylistic and linguistic stylistic are taken into consideration. On this note, this study focuses on choices of language peculiar to each political commentator on online newspapers.

Aim and Objectives of the study
The aim of this study is to provide a linguistic stylistic analysis of selected political commentaries on Edo 2020 gubernatorial election. Specifically, the study is set to achieve the following objectives:
1. analyse and identify the structures and functions of the sentences in the selected commentaries;
2. determine which phonological devices have rhythmic patterns in the selected commentaries;
3. examine the foregrounded elements found in the selected commentaries; and
4. investigate any other deviations in the selected commentaries.

Literature Review
The term "stylistics" comes from the word "style." It is a recent development with the attempts to study style. So, reactions to imprecision of literary studies and an attempt to put criticism on a scientific basis gave birth to stylistics. To right the wrongs in the literary works expanded the scope of stylistics. In other words, the expansion of linguistic or literary works brought stylistics to the forefront. In fact, it has been called a novel idea in the study of language. According to Ogunsiji & Farinde (2010, p. 133), stylistics was developed after linguistics less than a century

ago. It is an effort to interpret texts using the linguistic tools that have been developed. Thus, stylistics could be stated to have its origin in traditional rhetoric. Missikova (2003) confirms that stylistics as a linguistic field developed along two trajectories of Rhetoric and Dialects. In a related trend, Muhammad (2015) emphasises that while stylistics is a phenomenon of the twentieth century, its studies may be traced back to the 18th century, when classical works served as the models. Ogunrinde, Ariremako and Amodu (2023:21) believe that stylistics in general " is a study of the language of literature in all its embodiment, a study of literature discourse which studies the styles used in language".

Subsequently, either traditional or modern, stylistics is a linguistic discipline primarily concerned with text analysis using linguistic framework, that is, linguistic levels of analysis as its analytical tool. As a field of language study, stylistics encompasses many concepts. Different people, linguistic groups, and literary critics have attempted to define stylistics in various ways using their linguistic knowledge. This means that stylistics is not just for literary study. Although stylistic works initially began with literary material, it is a discipline that has been tackled from different angles for providing various meanings, objectives ranging from communication to command and persuasion. Because of this, stylistics is often known as literary linguistics or literary stylistics (Suhadi & Baluqiah, 2017). However, they also assert that stylistics now covers a broad range of linguistic analyses, including those of manuals, recipes, novels, and advertisements. Complementarily, Tariq (2018) holds the opinion that stylistics in the present day is an analytical discipline that encompasses all the expressive components of language, including phonology, prosody, morphology, syntax, and lexicology. In addition to the aforementioned areas of linguistic analyses by Suhadi & Baluqiah (2017) and Tariq (2018), Yemet (2019, p. 93) adds his voice to the discussion of the focus of stylistics by stating that "Stylistics possesses a fundamental theoretical and methodological foundation which makes it possible to analyse new linguistic phenomena in the language of the internet, mass media, and in modern literary fiction." In the same development, media discourses such as films, news reports, song lyrics and political speeches have all come to be under the umbrella of stylistic analysis (Brown, 2005). See (Ogunrinde, Ariremako and Amodu 2023)

Furthermore, in linguistic stylistic analysis, prominence and foregrounding together with norm and deviation are its basic aspects. So, in linguistics, prominence and foregrounding are rudimentary. Thus, when certain aspects of

the language used in a text stand out in particular ways, the former is realised, whereas the latter is realised when the former is prompted. In any literary work, when the use of language is unusual and it is peculiar to a particular writer foregrounding is achieved. Ogunsiji & Farinde (2010), claim that foregrounding occurs when language is used in a way that draws attention and it is interpreted as unusual or non-automatic. Dada and Ogunrinde (2020,p.158) agree with Ogunsiji and Farinde that " the purpose of foregrounding in linguistic and non-linguistic environment is to add a usual and unique idea to a language". Meanwhile, norms which are the established patterns within a text focus on the linguistic components of a language such as graphology, phonology, grammar, and lexis. However, deviation which is a total departure from norms is an outcome of any divergent usage from the recognised writing norms of a given language. Consequently, this study, on the one hand, is interested in unusualness peculiar to each commentator's choices of language in terms of style such as code-mixing, code-switching, deviational and non-deviational foregrounding, phonetic spelling, among others. On the other hand, this study is also interested in any obvious departures from the writing norms leading to morphological, lexical and grammatical deviations in each commentator's choices of language as this may have psychological impacts on readers or analysts. It is therefore appropriate to say that deviant use of a language by any commentator certainly affects grammatical construction of such commentary.

Grammar is crucial to any type of language study (Adetuyi & Olatayo, 2015). Grammar, being a field of linguistics that investigates or explains the shape and structure of words (morphology) and their interrelationships in sentences (syntax), is a crucial aspect in language studies. The sentence structure of a language is dealt with by syntax, one of the aspects of grammar. Words can be combined to create phrases, clauses, and sentences based on a set of rules guiding the structure of a language (Miller, 2002; and Denham & Lobeck, 2010). Syntax therefore is a branch of linguistics that deals with the structures of a language. It is how words are combined to become larger units such as phrases, clauses, and sentences. It is rule-governed. Therefore, this study at this level of analysis underscores the syntactic features of simple and non-simple sentences in the selected commentaries. See Ogunrinde and Adedoja (2020).

Consequently, the researchers are interested in using online newspapers as a means of sourcing data to conduct research into the analysis of political commentaries considering the views of the above scholars on linguistic

components of language analysis. Thus, this study is set to make a difference from any previously conducted studies using linguistic stylistics as an analytical tool. In light of this, Ramzan, Khan, Khan & Jamil (2021) investigated into "Stylistic analysis of the short story "Call it a Sunshine" by Hamid Khan." The focus of this study was to examine some linguistic features in the short story. Thus, stylistic tools such as lexical, grammatical, and phonological schemes were focused in the course of analysing the story using Leech & Short's Checklist of Linguistic and Stylistic Categories. One of the findings showed that the whole story contains declarative sentences with some sentences of negation and deviant structured sentences. The study also found out that the writer of the story made abundant use of sound devices such as assonance alliteration and consonance which in turn led to a lot of sound repetitions. In addition, Jaafar & Jasim (2022) conducted a study into a corpus - based stylistic analysis of online suicide notes. The study examined stylistic linguistic features of a collection of suicide notes retrieved from the online platform Reddit from the period (2012-2020). The study aimed at checking specific selected stylistic categories. To achieve this, the study employed Leech & Short's Checklist of Linguistic and Stylistic Categories as its theoretical framework to guide the analysis. One of the findings revealed that the redditors in the online suicide corpus usually included simple words with fairly short sentences. It was also revealed that their writing tend to be less concentrating on one or two themes with a lower TTR (type-token ration), which indicated that their words were relatively repetitive.

This present study almost shares the same traits with the studies of Ramzan, Khan, Khan & Jamil (2021) and Jaafar & Jasim (2022) in its attempt to investigate linguistic stylistic features inbuilt in political commentaries on Edo 2020 gubernatorial election on online newspapers. However, its peculiarity lies in its linguistic stylistic framework covering syntax, phonology, foregrounding and deviations it aims at unraveling. Thus the present study intends to fill some of the gaps yet to be filled in the previous studies already carried out on linguistic stylistic analysis.

Theoretical Framework
This study is anchored on linguistic theory known as Leech & Short's Checklist of Linguistic and Stylistic Categories. It is a linguistic theory with a wider scope in language analysis, especially linguistic stylistic analysis. This model of linguistic stylistic analysis was developed in the early 1980s by Leech and Short in their book titled *Style in Fiction* but it was later modified in 2007. They primarily proposed

the model as a theoretical approach for addressing issues related to linguistic stylistic analysis by offering workable solutions. Khan, Ahmad, Ahmad, and Ijaz (2015, p. 2) claim that "The checklist provides a 'systematic basis' for the collection of relevant linguistic data from the text for the purpose of stylistic evaluation and offers four levels for analysing the linguistic choices made by the writer, in terms of style." They further posit that this checklist encompasses the lexical categories, grammatical categories, figures of speech, context and cohesion when analysing literary texts using linguistic stylistic analysis.

Going by the above opinion by Khan et al, four major categories of this checklist can be diagrammatically illustrated as follows:

Lexical Categories	General, nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs
Grammatical Categories	Sentence types, sentence complexity, clause types, clause structure, noun phrases, verb phrases, other phrase types, word classes, and general
Figures of Speech	Grammatical and lexical schemes, phonological schemes, and tropes
Context and Cohesion	Context and Cohesion

The present study is therefore focused on grammatical categories and figures of speech. The grammatical categories are anlysed in form of: 1. sentence types such as declarative, imperative, interrogative and exclamatory sentences, that is, the usage of statements, commands, questions, exclamations; and 2. sentence complexity such as dependent and independent clauses as well as simple and non-simple sentences. In a similar way, figures of speech are analysed in form of: 1. phonological schemes - phonological devices such as alliteration, assonance, consonance, etc.; and 2. tropes – obvious departure from the rules of grammar like neologism, syntactic (grammatical), morphological, lexical and graphological (foregrounding) deviations. Thus, to show the relevance of the linguistic choices made by political commentators in terms of style, this theory is relevant to this study because the analyses and discussions of the selected commentaries are done in line with the focuses of this theory as outlined in the above-mentioned two categories.

Methodology
The researchers collected data for analysis in order to conduct a study into linguistic stylistic analysis of political commentaries on Edo 2020 gubernatorial

election. The data collected for this study cover some areas of linguistic stylistic analysis such as syntactic, phonological and graphological (foregrounding) levels as well as deviant features. The data for the analysis were collected from one online newspaper (Daily Post). The collected data were sourced from this website: https://dailypost.ng. This was done by screenshotting some headlines and the comments therein after the researchers had read the news and the comments below them. Thereafter, a multi stage sampling technique was adopted by the researchers to select 1 headline and 3 comments from the selected headline for the analysis. Hence, using descriptive survey method for data analysis, the methodology in which this study was conducted was qualitative research analysis. The choice of this method was borne out of the fact that the study was interested in describing and analysing the linguistic stylistic features inherent in the selected political commentaries on Edo 2020 gubernatorial election on online newspapers.

Analyses And Discussions
The analysis for this study is based on linguistic stylistic features inherent in the selected political commentaries on Edo 2020 gubernatorial election on online newspapers using Leech & Short's Checklist of Linguistic and Stylistic Categories as its theoretical guide. It focuses on syntactic, phonological, graphological (foregrounding) and deviant features. All these features are identified in the selected data to realise the aim of this study which is to stylistically analyse some linguistic features inherent in the selected political commentaries. Consequent upon this, 3 comments are selected for analysis.

Paper Headline: **Buhari In Secret Meeting With APC Leaders After Defeat In Edo-** *Daily Post*
Datum 1:

> They didn't see anything yet, eyes are open now.
> Nigerians think Buhari is their messiah in 2015. But
> he failed and he didn't fulfill his promises.

Syntactic Features:

ꙮ   ꙮ
i.   /// They didn't see anything //yet, //eyes are open now.///

       ꙮ   ꙮ
ii.   ///Nigerians think //Buhari is their messiah in 2015.///

       ꙮ   ꙮ
iii.   **///** But //he failed //and //he didn't fulfill his promises.///

This comment comprises three sentences. They are however non-simple sentences; hence, each of them is a compound sentence with the structure of two independent clauses.

Phonological Devices:
  i.   Alliteration: /f/ alliterates in f̱ailed … f̱ulfill
  ii.   Consonance: /l/ repeats itself in fai̱led … fuḻfill; /d/ in faileḏ anḏ … diḏn't; and /n/ in aṉd … didṉ't
  iii. Assonance: /i/ assonates in he̱ di̱dn't fulfi̱ll hi̱s promi̱se̱s

Other Deviant Feature:
  i.   Grammatical deviation: The commentator deviated grammatically in the arrangement of words and the appropriateness of tense usage. Instead of "They didn't see anything yet," as used by the commentator, it should be "They have not seen anything yet." The reason for this is the continuation of the remaining part of the sentence in present tense. Therefore, the commentator deviated from observing the principle of parallelism in tense concord. In addition, the verbs in the two clauses in the second sentence are supposed to be in past tenses "thought" and "was" not present tenses "think" and "is" because reference was made to 2015.

Datum 2:

> you cannot appoint criminals to oversee your affairs and expect positive result, it's impossible. ganduge represents a thief while uzodimma represents a fruadster. but look at the caliber of people that represents pdp wike of rivers state represents a workaholic governor while the likes of Peter obi is a perfect epitome of what obaseki represents, these are the kind of people young Nigerians are looking up to as role models. no reasonable youth will want ganduge and uzodimma as role models.

Syntactic Features:

                ð   β
  i.   ///you cannot appoint criminals //to oversee your affairs //and// expect
             ð   ð
        positive result, //it's impossible.///
               ð   β
  ii.   ///ganduge represents a thief //while uzodimma represents a fruadster.///

            ɓ   β

iii.   ///but look at the caliber of people //that represents pdp //wike of rivers state

            ɓ   β

represents a workaholic governor //while the likes of Peter obi is a perfect epitome

            β

of //what obaseki represents///

        ɓ   ɓ

iv.   ///these are the kind of people //young Nigerians are looking up to as role models.///

        S   **P**   **C**   **A**

v.   ///no reasonable youth /will want /ganduge and uzodimma /as role models.///

This comment is made up of four non-simple sentences and one simple sentence. The first non-simple sentence is a multiple-complex sentence having the structure of three independent clauses and one dependent clause. The second one is a complex sentence with one independent clause and one dependent clause structure. The third one is also a multiple-complex sentence with the structure of three independent clauses and two dependent clauses. The fourth one is a compound sentence having the structure of two independent clauses. Meanwhile, the only simple sentence in the comment is a declarative sentence with a non-basic structure of SPCA.

Phonological Devices:
  i.   Alliteration: /j/ alliterates in you … your; /w/ in will want; /r/ in rivers … represents; and /p/ in Peter … perfect
  ii.   Assonance: /ai/ assonates in while … likes; /i/ in obi is … epitome; and /☐/ in workaholic governor
  iii.   Consonance: /p/ is repeated in Peter … perfect epitome; /s/ in positive result; /z/ in as … models; and /l/ in role models

Foregrounded Elements:
  i.   Foregrounding: There are instances of deviational foregrounding such as "you", "but", "these", and "no." Being words that start some of the sentences in the comment, their first letters are supposed to be written in upper cases "You", "But", "These", and "No" instead of lower cases. In the same vein, "ganduge", "uzodimma", "wike", obaseki", and "obi" are all started in lower cases. Being proper nouns denoting the names of

human beings, the first letters therein should start in upper cases "Ganduge", "Uzodimma", "Wike", "Obaseki", and "Obi" rather than lower cases. Also, the acronym of People Democratic Party written in lower cases "pdp" is an example of deviational foregrounding to attract readers' attention.

Other Deviant Features:

i.   Lexical deviation: The choices of "ganduge" instead of "Ganduje" as the name of Kano State governor and "fruadster" in place of "fraudster" can be accounted for as lexical deviations. However, as written by the commentator, these two words do not exist in the English language lexical items. So, they are likely typographic errors from the commentator.

ii. Grammatical deviation: The commentator deviated grammatically in his/her use of language by writing "…people that represents PDP…." instead of "…people that represent PDP…." There is no agreement between the verb "represents" in the adjectival clause and the preceding noun "people". Thus, this can be accounted for as grammatical deviation.

Datum 3:

what APC deliberately failed to understand is neither Ozodimma nor Gandola will bring Edo in the just concluded election, the reason is that both the duo they are not products of free and fair election.

Syntactic Features:

          β   ɗ

i.   ///what APC deliberately failed to understand //is neither Ozodimma nor

            ɗ

Gandola //will bring Edo in the just concluded election,///

    ɗ   ɗ

ii. ///the reason is that //both the duo they are not products of free and fair election.///

The comment comprises two non-simple sentences. The first one is a compound-complex sentence with the structure of two independent clauses and one dependent clause. The second one is a compound sentence with the structure of two independent clauses.

Phonological Devices:

i.   Alliteration: /f/ alliterates in f̱ree and f̱air; and /n/ in ṉeither … ṉor
ii.   Assonance: /ei/ assonates in deliber a̱tely fa i̱led; /i/ in conclud e̱d
      e̱lection; and /□u/ in b o̱th … du o̱
iii. Consonance: /l/ and /d/ are repeated in de̱li̱berately fai̱le̱d

Foregrounded Elements:
i.   Foregrounding: There are two foregrounded words in the comment. The
      acronym of All Progressives Congress "APC" is foregrounded by giving
      it a non-deviational foregrounding. Another example is "what." Being
      the word that starts the comment, the first letter "w" is supposed to be
      written in a capital letter. This, however, has given it a deviational
      foregrounding.

Other Deviant Features:
i.   Lexical deviation: The use of "Ozodimma" and "Gandola" is an instance
      of lexical deviation. The two words are neologism, as used by Nigerians,
      to mean *Supreme Court governor* as well as *bribery* and *corruption in dollar*
      respectively.
ii.   Grammatical deviation: There is a deviant use of language in the
      construction of the verbs in the first sentence "… neither Ozodimma nor
      Gandola will bring Edo in the just concluded election." The choice of
      these lexical items "will bring" is not an appropriate one.

Discussing the analyses above at the level of sentence complexity, it is shown that
ten sentences are structurally analysed containing nine non-simple sentences and
one simple sentence. The non-simple ones contain nineteen independent clauses
and five dependent clauses while the simple one contains non-basic structure of
SPCA. The finding of this research agrees with Dada and Ogunrinde (2020 pg.158)
and Ogunrinde and Ajenifari (2021) who claimed that COVID-19 Online
Advertisements make use non-simple sentences than simple sentences. They
believe that this negates the structure of other types of advertisement that use
more simple sentences than other types. Similarly, it is shown at the level of
sentence type that the analysed commentaries are all declarative sentences. This
implies that neither imperative sentence nor interrogative sentence was used by
any of the commentators in the analysed commentaries. It is suffced to conclude
that the writers of the analysed commentaries structurally employed more non-
simple sentences than simple sentence and more independent clauses than
dependent clauses. So, the finding of this study, at this level, agrees with that of
Murana (2017) that revealed that, with the non-simple sentences having more
occurrences, all structural sentence types were used by Barak Obama in his speech

at Hiroshima Peace Park. The same can be said in this study as almost all structural sentence types are found in the analysed commentaries except a multiple sentence. However, lack of any instance of imperative sentence in the analysed commentaries makes the finding of this study disagree with that of Sharndama & Agu (2015) which revealed that the syntactic components were mostly characterized by simple surface structures such as imperative sentences even though it agrees with that of Akinwotu (2018) which revealed that declarative sentences were the most used of all the sentences.

At the phonological level, it is shown that phonological devices such as assonance, alliteration and consonance fully manifested in all the analysed commentaries to show rhythmic patterns. Thus, the analysis reveals that the repetition of consonant and vowel sounds to link words in sentences so as to reinforce meaning and create special rhythmic pattern manifested in all the three analysed commentaries. It is imperative to stress here that the finding of this study at phonological level agrees with the finding of the study of Ramzan, Khan, Khan & Jamil (2021). It was revealed that the writer of the analysed short story made use of abundant sound devices in a compact way by selecting words and organised them in such a way that different sound devices are incorporated within the stretch of a single sentence.

At the levels of foregrounding and deviations, it is revealed that foregrounded elements such as deviational and non-deviational foregrounding, etc. are evidential in all the analysed commentaries. These linguistic stylistic devices were embedded in the writers' choices of language and styles for emphasis and to probably attract readers' attentions. This confirms the definition of foregrounding as put forward by Dada and Ogunrinde (2020:158) that " it is the concept of marking certain features for special effects against the background features in a text". Also, the finding of this research shows that online political commentators deviated lexically and grammatically in their commentaries with grammatical deviations having more occurrences. On this note, this study's finding agrees with the finding of the study of Ramzan, Khan, Khan & Jamil (2021) in the aspect of grammatical deviation. It was revealed that the writer of the analysed short story deviated in his sentence and clause constructions by using ill-structured sentences and clauses to attract reader's attention. In the same vein, the finding of this study agrees with the finding of the study of Udeze, Udeze & Orji (2017) in the aspect of lexical deviation. In these two studies, lexical deviation has the least occurrence.

Conclusion

Using online newspapers, this study has conducted a research on a linguistic stylistic analysis of political commentaries on Edo 2020 gubernatorial election. The study has been conducted to look into the analysis of linguistic stylistic features prevalent in the selected political commentaries. Consequent upon this, the results of the analysed commentaries are: structurally, sentences in the analysed commentaries are predominantly non-simple sentences while they are dominantly declarative sentences functionally; phonologically, all phonological devices such as alliteration, assonance, and consonance are embedded in the analysed commentaries. Both consonant and vowel sounds have special rhythmic patterns in every sentence in the analysed commentaries; graphologically, the dominant deployment of deviational and non-deviational foregrounding by some of the commentators to captivate readers' attentions are evidential; and lastly, deviant features such as grammatical and lexical deviations are found in the analysed commentaries. Thus, the manifestation of the aforementioned linguistic features in the analysed commentaries is an attestation that the choice of word in the use of language by any of the writers of these commentaries is as a result of using linguistic resources at their disposal to express their views.

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