

EXPLORING THE GRAMMAR OF INTERPERSONAL MEANING AND TENOR FROM FLORA NWAPA'S *WIVES AT WAR* (1992)

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Résumé

Cet article vise à faire l'analyse des fonctions grammaticales relevant de l'interpersonnalité des acteurs dans un extrait de la pièce « Wives at War » (1992) de Flora Nwapa, une écrivaine Nigériane, ayant dénoncé les agissements de la guerre de Biafra. Il passe par l'identification et l'analyse des types et modes de phrase, des types de modalité et des types de compléments circonstanciels et retombe sur les trois variables de l'analyse de la tonalité linguistique dans l'extrait. La méthodologie de l'article repose sur des approches quantitatives et qualitatives. Elle a essentiellement aidé à découvrir le message linguistique fondamental véhiculé dans « Wives at War » de Flora Nwapa à travers l'analyse des types et modes de phrases et de la tonalité. L'analyse montre que le mode déclaratif est prédominant et l'interactivité plus modalisée que modulée.

Mots-clés : *SFL, sens interpersonnel, tonalité du discours.*

Abstract

This paper aims at analysing the interpersonal meaning grammar and tenor from Flora Nwapa's Wives at War (1992). It goes through the identification and analysis of the mood types, the modality types and the adjuncts types and falls down onto the three variables of tenor analysis in the extract. The methodology of the paper is upon quantitative and qualitative approaches. It has basically helped to uncover the fundamental linguistic message conveyed in Flora Nwapa's Wives at war through mood analysis and tenor. The analysis shows that the declarative mood is predominant and the interactivity is more modalized than modulated.

keywords: *SFL, interpersonal meaning, tenor.*

Introduction

Words are the reflection of the state of mind of a man. They can be oral or written or even gestured. They necessarily show the mood of a person. When it comes to be in a conversation, not only do they reveal the

personality of the users but also the interpersonality of the participants, the role relationship between them, the role relationship between the writer/speaker and the reader/hearer, and the role relationship between the interactants and the reader/hearer. The Hallidayan analysis of words in a text is through Systemic Functional Linguistic (SFL). In this paper, we have tried to decode Flora Nwapa's *Wives at War* by using some elements of Systemic Functional Linguistic (SFL) that are Interpersonal meaning Patterns and Tenor. The analysis has shown that declarative mood is mostly used as well as modalisation. The tenor of the discourse has shown that the power is unequal, the contact, infrequent and the affective involvement, low.

1. Literature review

In his analysis of the novel *The Inheritors* (Golding, 1955), Halliday (1971:354) has exposed how the patterns of transitivity in three selected passages at the beginning, middle, and end of the novel underscores the limited knowledge and vulnerability of the tribe. For instance, in his analysis of the first passage, Halliday has shown that the central character, Lok, is the actor of material processes but that the actions are constantly intransitive. There is never a goal or object that is affected by what Lok does. This low level of transitivity (where the action is not affecting any goal) climaxes Lok's and his tribe's limitations when confronted with a new group of people who have more erudite tools and ways of dealing with everyday life.

Jingxia, Na, & Qing (2015), stress on "Interpersonal Interpretation of Personal Pronouns in Marriage Advertising." Their study aims to discover the interpersonal function in marriage advertising texts. They try to point out that the use of personal pronouns participates in the realisation of interpersonal function. By statistical comparison, they find that the first personal pronouns and second personal pronouns make up the majority in advertisement. They point out that the first personal pronouns (I/we) provide information from the first person's viewpoint, making the personal information much more accurate and detailed. It can be maintained that the various choices of the personal pronoun system materialize the kind of interpersonal relationship that can be established between the speaker/addresser and any other or potential reader/listener.

Kondowe (2014) has conducted a study on “Interpersonal Metafunctions in Bingu wa Mutharika’s Second-Term Political Discourse: A Systemic Functional Grammatical Approach”. His analysis focuses on the choice of mood, modal operators and personal pronouns. His analysis of mood choice reveals that Mutharika’s address is dominated by declaratives for their potentials in providing as much information as possible to the audience. Imperative clauses rank second and no interrogative clause has been found in his analysis. Kondowe’s study makes known that Mutharika depicts himself and his administration to have „answers“ to the people’s needs. This “we” is exclusive to his administration and himself.

In their article on “Characterisation, Authority and Ideology in Ngugi’s Devil on the Cross, Koussouhon & Amoussou (2015) aim at analysing characterisation passages and identifying the use of modality. With a special focus on their identification of modality, they have shown how the predominant use of modalisation helps the narrators to mark their externality and subjectivity respectively to what they depict and with regard to their interpretations of capitalist characters’ actions.

2. Theoretical framework

Halliday hypothesized that a register is a variety of language in use consisting of three variables: field, tenor, and mode. The Field is about the activity language is being used to talk about, the Tenor is about the social relationships between participants in a text and the Mode concerns the medium or mode of communication. The big distinction here is that Martin found text types could share the same variable of field, tenor, and mode, “yet nonetheless produce different genres”. Register is shaped by the contextual variables present.

2.1. Mood patterns

As one of the register variables, Tenor is defined as the social role relationships established and maintained by interlocutors of a given communicative event or interaction, where either information or goods and services could be exchanged. Quoted by Eggins (1994:78), Halliday (1985a) says that “the tenor of a text can be associated with the realisation of interpersonal meanings; these interpersonal meanings are realised through the Mood patterns of the grammar”. My focus on the grammar

of interpersonal meaning means that I am going to mainly lay emphasis on Mood and modality systems. In this respect, “the Mood structure of a clause refers to the organisation of a set of functional constituents including the constituent Subject” (Eggins, 1994:152). The fundamental functional constituents of Mood structures are mood and residue.

2.1.1. The mood

Mood is the component of the clause that gets bandied back and forth. It stands for the first part of the clause. In other words, it is the element which comes first in the clause and serves as the starting point for the message. It is what the clause is about. It functions to carry the argument on. We have therefore identified two essential functional constituents of the mood component which is realized by the position in the clause of Subject and the Finite.

The subject is a nominal –type element. The definition of the subject offered by Halliday is that it realizes the thing by reference to which the proposition can be affirmed or denied. It provides the person or thing to whom / which is vested the success or failure of the proposition, what is “held responsible”. The identification of the subject can be achieved by the tag test. The element that is picked up by the pronoun in the tag is the subject.

The second essential constituent of the mood element is the Finite. Halliday (1985) defines the finite in terms of its function in the clause to make the proposition definite, to anchor the proposition in a way that we can argue about it. The Finite is a verbal – type element. The identification of the Finite again involves the tag test. The verbal part of the tag tells you which element the Finite is.

e.g: They were reading their lessons.

According to Halliday’s work (1985) there are two kinds of Finites: Temporal Finite Verbal Operators and Finite Modal Operators.

Temporal Finite Verbal Operators anchor the proposition by reference to time. They give tense to the Finite either past (He learnt Chinese language from Bob), present (life goes on forever) or future (I will go to America).

Finite Modal Operators anchor the proposition not by reference to time but by reference to Modality. Finite Modal Operators are Finite elements

which express the speaker's judgment of how likely/ unlikely something is. Example: They would have more cattle (modalization), you must obey your parents (modulation)

2.1.2. The residue

As far as residue components are concerned, they can also contain a number of functional elements: a predicator, one or more complements, and any number of different types of adjuncts. The predicator is the lexical or content part of the verbal group. It fills the role of specifying the actual event, action, process being discussed. A complement is defined as a non -essential participant somehow affected by the main argument of the proposition. A complement can become 'Subject' through the process of passivizing of the clause. Adjuncts are clause elements which contribute some additional (but non- essential) information to the clause. They are elements which do not have the potential to become subject. they are not nominal elements but are adverbial or propositional. There are three broad classes of Adjuncts, according to whether their contribution to any of the three types of meaning: circumstantial adjuncts which adding up experiential meaning, modal adjuncts relate to interpersonal meaning, and textual adjuncts, textual meaning.

2.2. Mood types

Within Systemic Functional Grammar account, at the lexico-grammatical stratum, interpersonal meaning includes, along with the expression of opinion and attitude, the mood of the clause, expressed by the presence/absence and ordering of subject and finite verb. In addition, in the semantics, interpersonal meaning includes the types of speech act (statement, offer, question and command), realised by grammatical options and encoded by means of syntactic Mood types (declarative, interrogative, imperative and modulated interrogative).

2.3. Modality

Modality refers to speakers' attitudes or opinions about the truth of a proposition/proposal expressed by a clause. It is also extended to their attitudes or opinions towards the situation or event described by a sentence. Through modality (Modal verbs, modal adverbs, etc.), speakers express some judgments or attitudes about a topic or event. Modality is of two kinds: Modalisation and modulation. That is to say the types of

modality are various, and their functions are also various, depending on modal words or phrases. They can express probability or usuality with regard to modalisation (could, may, might, possibly, maybe, perhaps, seldom, sometimes, usually, and so on). As for modulation, they express obligation, necessity or inclination (must, should, have to, it's obligatory that..., it's required that..., it's permitted that.... etc.).

2.4. Tenor of discourse

Tenor is part of the three register variables (situational variables) which make up context of situation. It is the social role relationships played by interactants. By quoting Poynton (1985), Eggins (1994:64) suggests that “tenor can be broken down into three different continua: power, affective involvement and contact”. As a result, it can be said that interlocutors can produce various levels of interactivity by the choice of text forms, as well as vocabulary in the various social contexts. That is, “politeness, formality, intimacy, the power relationship between speaker and listener and the degree that the speaker indicated willingness to negotiate the demand” (White, 2000:9) can be created variously. In short, these continua impact on how we use language.

3. Analysis of the interpersonal meaning patterns in the extract

This analysis consists in identifying and analysing mood, modality, and adjunct types.

3.1. Identification of mood, modality and adjunct types

We have used some keys to distinguish the functional constituents in the identification of clauses. These keys are presented as follows:

[S]= Subject; [F]= Finite; [Fn]= Finite negative; [Fms]=Finite Modalized; [Fml]= Finite modulated; [P]= Predicate; [Pml]= Modulated Predicate; [Pms]=Modalized Predicate; [F/P]= fused Finite and Predicate; [C]= Complement; [Ca]= attribute Complement; [A]= Adjunct; [Ac]= Adjunct circumstantial; [Am]= Adjunct mood; [Ao]= Adjunct comment; [Ap]= Adjunct polarity; [Av]= Adjunct vocative; [Aj]= Adjunct Conjunctive; [At]= Adjunct continuity; [WH]= WH-element; [WH/S], [WH/C], [WH/Ac]= fused WH-element; [mn]= minor clause; [[]]= Embedded clauses are shown within double square brackets. . I have also used some keys to differentiate the clauses that I have identified. Decl= declarative; WH-interro = WH-interrogative; Polar

interro = polar interrogative; Minor = minor clause; Modu-interro = modulated interrogative.

3.1.1. Quantitative analysis

In this analysis dealing with the statistics, the analysis of the mood types occurring in the selected extracts is carried out through statistical analyses.

Table 1 1: *distribution of mood-types among the participants*

MOOD-TYPES	INTERACTANTS					Total
	Representatives of Women's groups			Foreign Secretary	Narrator	
	N.W.C	B.B.C	W.A.S.(lawyer)			
Declaratives	02 02.15%	9 09.68%	38 40.86%	23 24.73%	21 22.58%	93 100%
	49 (52.69%)					
Imperatives	03 100%	00	00	00	00	03 100%
Polar Interrogatives	00	02 66.67%	01 33.33%	00	00	03 100%
	03 (100%)					
Wh-Interrogatives	01 25%	00	01 25%	02 50%	00	04 100%
	02 (50%)					
Minor clauses	02 40%	00	02 40%	00	01 20%	05 100%
	04 (80%)					
Abandoned	00	00	01 100%	00	00	01 100%

As it can be seen in the table above, the extract one is made up of five participants, namely the representatives of women's groups divided into three (N.W.C.; B.B.C.; and W.A.S.), the Foreign Secretary and the Narrator. We can notice that participants have altogether used 93 declarative clauses (85.32%). When we take into account this amount, the representatives of women have used 49 declaratives (52.69%) mainly by the representative of W.A.S. who is a lawyer 38 declaratives (40.86%), the representative of B.B.C., 09 declaratives (09.68%) and the representative of N.W.C., 02 declaratives (02.15%); also, the Foreign Secretary has used 23 declaratives (24.73%) and the narrator 21 (22.58%). The interactants have also used 03 imperatives (02.75%) all by the N.W.C representative. All the same, 03 polar interrogatives (02.75%) have been used all by two representatives of women: 02 (66.67%) by B.B.C. representative and 01 (33.33%) by W.A.S. representative. According to wh-interrogatives, they are 04 (03.67%) used as follows: 01 (25%) by N.W.C. representative, 01 (25%) by W.A.S. representative and 02 (50%) by the Secretary. As for the minor clauses, they are 05 (04.59%), 02 (40%) by N.W.C; representative, 02 (40%) by W.A.S. representative and 01 (20%) by the narrator. There is only 01 (00.92%) abandoned clause used by the lawyer, W.A.S. representative. When we combine the declaratives (93) and the interrogatives (07), they amount to 100/109 and we can assume that this conversation is more focused on the exchange of information. Besides, the use of imperatives means that interactants have not only exchanged information, but they have also exchanged goods and services.

To sum up, out of 109 clauses, we can say that representatives have used 62 (56.88%) as follows 43 (39.94%) by W.A.S., 11 (10.09%) by B.B.C. and 08 (07.34%) by N.W.C. The Foreign Secretary has used 25 (22.94%) and the narrator 22 (20.18%).

3.1.2. Quantitative analysis of modality types in the extract

The analysis of modality types is carried out through modalisations and modulations in every extract. This analysis gives a recapitulation of the statistics of modality found out.

Table 2 2: *statistics and distribution of modality used in the extract.*

Modality types	Participants				
	Representatives of women groups			Foreign Secretary	Narrator
	N.W.C	B.B.C	W.A.S		
Modalisation	00	03	02	02	03
	00%	30%	20%	20%	30%
Modulation	00	00	02	02	00
	00%	00%	50%	50%	00%
Total	00	03	04	04	03
Percentage	00%	21.43%	28.57%	28.57%	21.43%

It is clearly perceivable through the two tables above that there are 14 instances of the use of modality in total. The use of modality shows that participants have expressed judgements and attitudes about their utterances. Then, of this number, there are 10 modalisations (71.43%). 03 modalisations (30%) are used by the BBC representative. The narrator too has used the same number and the same rate of modalisations. W.A.S. representative and the foreign secretary have used 02 each; and this represents 20% for of them.

3.1.3. Analysis of adjuncts in the excerpt

To get the percentages per interactant, we have multiplied each interactant total adjuncts by 100. Then, we have divided the result by the total ranking adjuncts that are the partial total. Let us take these figures: $4 \times 100 \div 49 = 8.16\%$, this corresponds to NWC's representative's use of circumstantial adjuncts. The same process is used for the global distribution. Consequently, the multiplication of each interactant's total use of adjuncts by 100, divided by the total ranking adjuncts gives each interactant's distribution. For NWC's representative's rate, we have $07 \times 100 \div 96 = 7.29\%$.

Table 3 3: *Statistics of Adjuncts types in the excerpt, based on clause and Mood type identification*

Adjuncts types	<u>Interactants</u>					Totals
	representatives			Foreign Secretary	Narrator	
	NWC	BBC	WAS			
Circumstantial	04 [8.16%]	09 [18.37%]	16 [32.65%]	14 [28.57%]	06 [12.24%]	49
Comment	00 [00%]	00 [00%]	00 [00%]	03[100%]	00 [00%]	03
Polarity	00 [00%]	00 [00%]	00 [00%]	00[00%]	00 [00%]	00
Mood	01[07.69%]	00 [00%]	08 [61.54%]	02 [15.38%]	02 [15.38%]	13
Vocative	00 [00%]	01 [20%]	01 [20%]	03[60%]	00 [00%]	05
Continuity	00[00%]	00 [00%]	00 [00%]	00[00%]	00 [00%]	00
Conjunctive	02 [07.69%]	03 [11.54%]	08 [30.77%]	09 [34.62%]	04 [15.38%]	26
Totals & rate per interactant	07 [07.29%]	13 [13.54%]	33 [34.38%]	31 [32.29%]	12 [12.5%]	96
	53 [55.21%]					

The different adjuncts identified in ranking clauses account for the information that is conveyed in this excerpt. As shows in the table above, it is obviously demonstrated that the interactants have altogether used ninety-six (96) adjuncts of several types. Over this global total, there are forty-nine (49) circumstantial adjuncts, which represent (51.04%), and which rank first. The use of circumstantial adjuncts suggests that interactants have added some additional experiential elements to the clauses. Over the forty-nine (49) circumstantial adjuncts, the NWC has used 04 (8.16%), BBC 09 (18.37%), WAS 16 (32.65%), the Foreign Secretary 14(28.57%), and the narrator 06 (12.24%). The high proportion of these types of adjuncts in this text indicates information about the different circumstances in which the events happened. These circumstantial elements also contribute to a higher lexical density.

Conjunctive adjuncts rank second with twenty-six (26) which amount to 27.08%. This means that interactants have used some connectors or linking words to tie up the clauses, so to organize them into cohesive and coherent unit. Over this total number, two 2 (7.69%) are used by NWC, three 3 (11.54%) by BBC, eight 8 (30.77%) by WAS, nine 9 (34.62%) by the Foreign Secretary and four 4 (15.38%) by the narrator herself. They are also meant to add textual meaning to the mood patterns of excerpt N°1.

The third place is occupied by thirteen (13) mood adjuncts, which represent 13.54% of the total adjuncts in the extract. This justifies that some further interpersonal elements having to do with have been added to the clause. Of this number, one (1) is used by NWC, representing 07.69% of the total mood adjuncts, eight (8) representing 61.54% by WAS, two (2) representing 15.38% by the Foreign Secretary and two (2) by the narrator.

The fourth place is occupied by five (O5) vocative adjuncts, which amount to 05.21%. They function to add interpersonal meaning to the clause by explaining and justifying the relationship of proximity set up between interactants. The position of power of the Foreign Secretary makes him use three (3) out of five (05) vocative adjuncts representing 60%, BBC has also used 1 (20%) and WAS has used 1 (20%). The use of vocative adjuncts suggests that the Foreign Secretary shows obedience allegiance, cowardice and forgiveness, whereas, the representatives use their faith to justify abusing women.

Holding the fifth position, comment adjuncts are three (3) in number, and cover 03.13% of the global total. Comment adjunct used in this framework of this excerpt are uttered to express an assessment about the clause.

3.2. tenor of discourse.

Here, we have deduced the tenor of discourse from the mood, modality and adjunct analyses. There are Four Characters in the excerpt, three women representatives and one man, the foreign Secretary. In the structure of the dialogue the representatives are all talking to the foreign secretary. First, the power between the representatives and the foreign secretary is unequal. Taking into account the mood types used, we have noticed that the women's representatives are more powerful than the foreign secretary considering the imperative mood use, 100% used by the

representatives. Moreover, women's representatives seem to have talked more than the secretary; the representatives of women have used 52.69% declaratives mainly by the representative of W.A.S. who is a lawyer 40.86% declaratives, the representative of B.B.C., 09.68% declaratives and the representative of N.W.C., 02.15% declaratives; also, the Foreign Secretary has used 24.73% declaratives mainly just to feel sorry and explain the situation to the uncontrollable representatives.

Nevertheless, the power seems to be equal when we consider the equal number of modulation types used by the characters, the representatives 50% and the secretary 50%.

At the level of adjuncts, they have used vocative ones but here not through their first names but through the use formal situations vocabularies like "Sir" and "madam" to address each other. But the representatives appear radical by rebuking the term "madam" use by the secretary to set moral distance among them. For illustration, this the reaction of women being called "madam": "None of your madam here, Sir. We are ladies and must be addressed as such."

That utterance provides evidence that there is an unequal power between them. So, the inequitable use of vocative adjuncts, 60% for representatives and 40% for the secretary justifies the unequal of power between them.

4. Discussion and interpretation of the findings.

The findings reveal that the preponderant number of declaratives together with the interrogatives denotes that the focus of the interaction is on the exchange of information. Women in that Nigeria- Biafra war did a lot to satisfy their husbands through their organizations.

Besides, the 00 modulated interrogative mood is purposely designed by the author to show that there is no offer during the conversation. It shows the distance between the two parts at this moment: one with its conviction of being deceived, the other with its surprising and non-informed state.

The analysis of modality types reveals interactants have expressed their degree of commitment as regards the propositions or the proposals. The lawyer who is the representative of W.A.S, and the foreign Secretary are those who equally express their commitment towards the propositions

and the proposals the most followed by the B.B.C representative and the narrator who also equally express their commitment. In this way, the B.B.C representative and the narrator are the ones who used most modalisations and equally.

Regarding adjuncts types, it reveals that participants have added some additional information to their clauses. The 21 modal adjuncts help to add interpersonal meanings to the clauses used by participants. As for textual adjuncts, they help to keep links and connections within words, clauses and paragraphs and to add experiential meanings to the clauses.

The other side to be considered in the discussion of this extract is the tenor continua. The role relationship between the Secretary and the representatives of women is characterized by unequal power, infrequent contact and low affective involvement. Once the contact is infrequent, the affective involvement is therefore low. Consequently, the power is unequal; moreover, the language used is formal; for there is no continuity adjuncts and very low use of vocative.

Conclusion

The analysis of the extract has revealed to be one passionate art work through interpersonal meaning and tenor patterns in Flora Nwapa's *Wives at War*. The declarative mood overuse shows that the text is particularly informative. The analysis of modality types reveals that interactants have expressed their degree of commitment as regards the propositions or the proposals. The use of modalisations explains that participants have expressed probability and usuality in their conversation. The use of modulation shows that participants have expressed degree of obligations or inclinations. There is low affective involvement between them, since the use of those vocatives like "Sir", "madam" is not derisory. This fact also shows that the contact is infrequent. All adjuncts considered, it can be claimed that interactants have provided further information to the clauses to make them more understandable.

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Appendix

1 'When [WH/C] was [F] this [S]? 2 'the Foreign Secretary [S] asked [F/P]. 3 Last night [mn]. 4 Only [Am] last night [mn]. 5 We [S] received [F/P] the information [C] from a good source [Ac]. 6 So [Aj] don't [Fn] you [S] be [P] clever [Ca] with us [Ac]. 7 Who [WH/S] were [F] the women [C] 8 you [S] sent [F/P] to Britain [Ac]?'

9 'Who [WH/S] is [F] your source [C]?'

10 We [S] are not [Fn] here [Ac] to be asked questions [C], 11 'the leader of the B.B.C. [S] snapped [F/P]. 12 'Did [F] you [S] 13 or [Aj] did [F] you [S] not [A/n] send [P] a group of women [C] to Britain [Ac] last night [Ac]?'

14 'We [S] did not [Fn], madam [Av].'

15 'None of your madam here [Ac], Sir [Av] [mn]. 16 We [S] are [F] ladies [C] 17 and [Aj] [S] must [Fml] be addressed [Pml] as such [Am]. 18 You [S] wait [F/P] until the end of this war [Ac]. 19 There [S] is [F] going to be [P] another war [C], the war of the women [C]. 20 You [S] have [F] fooled [P] us [C] enough [Am]. 21 You [S] have [F] used [P] us [C] enough [Am]. 22 You [S] have [F] exploited [P] us [C] enough [Am]. 23 When [WH/Ac] this war [S] has [F] ended [P] 24 we [S] will [Fms] show [Pms] you [C] 25 that [WH/C] we [S] are [F] a force [C] to be reckoned with. 26 You [S] wait [F/P] 27 and [Aj] [S] see [F/P]. 28 What [WH/C] do [F] you [S] think [P] 29 we [S] are [F]? 30 Instruments to be used and discarded? [mn]'

31 'My lady lawyer [Av], if [Aj] I [S] must [Fml] be crucified [Pml], 32 at least [Am] I [S] must [Fml] be told [Pml] my offence [C], 33 the Foreign Secretary [S] said [F/P]. 34 He [S] was [F] now [Ac] relaxed [Ca]. 35 He [S] could [Fms] now [Ac] deal [Pms] with the problem [Ac]. 36 There [S] was [F] absolutely [Am] nothing [C] to hide. 37 No [An] such directive [S] came [Fn/P] from Her Majesty the Queen [Ac]. 38 So [Aj] why worry [mn]?'

39 Your offence [S] is [F] 40 that [WH/C] you [S] by-passed [F/P] us [C]. 41 Without the women [Ac], the Nigerian [Ca] vandals [S] would [Fms] have overrun [Pms] Biafra [C]; 42 without the women [Ac], our gallant [Ca] Biafran [Ca] soldiers [S] would [Fms] have died [Pms] of hunger in the war fronts [Ac]. 43 Without the women [Ac], the Biafran [Ca] Red Cross [S] would [Fms] have collapsed [Pms]. 44 It [S] was [F] my organization [C] 45 that [WH/S] organized [F/P] the kitchens [C] and [Aj] transport [C] for the Biafran [Ca] forces [C]. 46 You [S] men [Av] went [F/P] to the office [Ac] every day [Ac] doing [P] nothing [C], busy [Ca] but [Aj] doing [P] nothing [C].'

47 When [WH/Ac] the B.B.C leader [S] finished [F/P], 48 the young lawyer [S] took over [F/P]. 49 As [Aj] for the N.W.C. leader [Ac], she [S] was [F] calm [Ca] and [Aj] collected [Ca]. 50 We [S] are [F] the indigenous [Ca] group [C]. 51 We [S] have [F] been poised [P] for action [Ac] 52 ever [Am] since [Aj] war [S] was [F] declared [P]. 53 We [S] are [F] independent [Ca]. 54 We [S] are not [Fn] affiliated [P] to any redundant and planless group [C]. 55 We [S] are [F] the creation of Biafra [C] 56 and [Aj] our aim [S] is [F] to win the war of Biafra [C]. 57 Right from the word go [Ao], we [S] organized [F/P] the women [C] for a real fight [Ac]. 58 We [S] asked [F/P] for guns [C] to fight the enemy [Ac]. 59 We [S] asked [F/P] to be taught [P] how to shoot [Ac]. 60 Did not [Fn] women and girls [S] fight [P] in Vietnam [Ac]? 61 We [S] asked [F/P] to be taught how to take cover [Ac] and [Aj] how to evacuate women and children [Ac]. 62 But [Aj] those who [WH/S] did not [Fn] understand [P] 63 [S] mounted [F/P] strong [Ca] propaganda [C] against us [Ac]. 64 They [S] said [F/P] 65 we [S] were [F] upsetting [P] the women [C]. 66 But [Aj] we [S] were [F] realistic [Ca]. 67 We [S] knew [F/P] 68 Nigeria [S] would [Fms] fight [Pms] us [C], 69 so [Aj] we [S] must [Fml] be prepared [Pml]. 70 Now after all [Ac] we [S] did [F/P] in Enugu [Ac]

71 and [Aj] [S] **are [F]** still [Am] doing [P] in Umuahia [Ac], 72 **you [S] have [F/P]** the impudence [C] to send [P] an unknown [Ca] handful of women [C] to represent Biafran women [C]. 73 **It [S] is [F]** most [Am] unfair [Ca]. 74 **I [S] have [F]** never [Am] seen [P] anything like this before [Ac], 75 **it [S] is [F]**...

76 **Wait [P]** 77 and [Aj] **hear [P]** from the Foreign Secretary [Ac], 78 **the N.W.C's leader [S] said [F/P]**. 79 **She [S] was [F]** more [Am] experienced [P] than other two. 80 **She [S] had [F]** been watching [P] the Foreign Secretary [C], 81 and [Aj] [S] **suspected [S/P]** 82 that [WH/C] **they [S] might not [Fms]** be [Pms] correct [Ca] after all [Ac]. 83 If [Aj] **the Foreign Secretary [S] was [F]** trying [P] to hide something [C], 84 **she [S] would [Fms]** have known [Pms].

85 'Ladies [Av], **you [S] know [F/P]** me [C] very well [Ac]. 86 **I [S] was [F]** with you [Ac] at Enugu [Ac]. 87 **I [S] helped [F/P]** you [C] draft [P] a petition [C] to Her Majesty the Queen [Ac] and [Aj] to all prominent women of the world [Ac]. 88 **I [S] advised [F/P]** you [C] 89 that [WH/C] **the petitions [S] must not [Fms]** be cyclostyled [Pms], but [Aj] typed [Pms] separately [Ao]. 90 **I [S] gave [F/P]** you [C] the correct titles and [Aj] the addresses [C] 91 when [WH/Ac] **you [S] had [F/P]** trouble [C] with the presentation of used clothes [Ac] to the army [Ac]. 92 **I [S] stepped [F/P]** in 93 and [Aj] [S] **straightened [F/P]** everything [C]. 94 **You [S] are [F]** all women [C]. 95 **I [S] have [F/P]** a wife [C] 96 **who [WH/S] is [F]** a woman [C]. 97 **I [S] have [F/P]** sisters [C] 98 and [Aj] **I [S] have [F/P]** a mother [C]. 99 **I [S] swear [F/P]** by my mother [Ao] 100 that [WH/C] **the Biafran [Ca] government [S] received [F/P]** no such [Am] request [C] from Her Majesty the Queen [Ac] or [Aj] from any other prominent woman [Ac] in the world [Ac]. 101 What [WH/C] **you [S] heard [F/P]** 102 **[S] is [F]** absolutely [Am] untrue [Ca].'

103 **This [S] is [F]** terrible, [Ca] 104 **the militant [Ca] lawyer [S] said [F/P]**. 105 **She [S] had [F]** cross-examined [P] criminals [C] 106 so [Aj] **she [S] knew [F/P]** 107 **the Foreign [Ca] Secretary [S] was [F]** telling [P] the truth [C].

108 **'I [S]'d [Fms]** advise [Pms] you [C] to go home [Ac] and [Aj] continue [P] the good work [C]. 109 Soon [Ac] **we [S] are [F]** going to have [P] women [Ca] guests [C] from abroad [Ac].'