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de la paix »**

“Creative Justice, Human Rights and Responsibility as Passes to Peace”

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Editorial

La *Revue Internationale de Langue, Littérature, Culture et Civilisation* (RILLiCC) est une revue à comité de lecture en phase d'indexation recommandée par le Conseil Africain et Malgache pour l'Enseignement Supérieur (CAMES). Elle est la revue du Laboratoire de Recherche en Langues, Littérature, Culture et Civilisation Anglophones (LaReLLiCCA) dont elle publie les résultats des recherches en lien avec la recherche et la pédagogie sur des orientations innovantes et stimulantes à la vie et vision améliorées de l'académie et de la société. La revue accepte les textes qui cadrent avec des enjeux épistémologiques et des problématiques actuels pour être au rendez-vous de la contribution à la résolution des problèmes contemporains.

RILLiCC met en éveil son lectorat par rapport aux défis académiques et sociaux qui se posent en Afrique et dans le monde en matière de science littéraire et des crises éthiques. Il est établi que les difficultés du vivre-ensemble sont fondées sur le radicalisme et l'extrémisme violents. En effet, ces crises et manifestations ne sont que des effets des causes cachées dans l'imaginaire qu'il faut (re)modeler au grand bonheur collectif. Comme il convient de le noter ici, un grand défi se pose aux chercheurs qui se doivent aujourd'hui d'être conscients que la science littéraire n'est pas rétribuée à sa juste valeur quand elle se voit habillée sous leurs yeux du mythe d'Albatros ou d'un cymbale sonore. L'idée qui se cache malheureusement derrière cette mythologie est que la littérature ne semble pas contribuer efficacement à la résolution des problèmes de société comme les sciences exactes. Dire que la recherche a une valeur est une chose, le prouver en est une autre. La *Revue Internationale de Langue, Littérature, Culture et Civilisation* à travers les activités du LaReLLiCCA entend faire bénéficier à son lectorat et à sa société cible, les retombées d'une recherche appliquée.

Le comité spécialisé « Lettres et Sciences Humaines » du Conseil Africain et Malgache pour l'Enseignement Supérieur (CAMES) recommande l'utilisation harmonisée des styles de rédaction et la présente revue s'inscrit dans cette logique directrice en adoptant le style APA.

L'orientation éditoriale de cette revue inscrit les résultats pragmatiques et novateurs des recherches sur fond social de médiation, d'inclusion et de réciprocité qui permettent de maîtriser les racines du mal et réaliser les objectifs du développement durable déclencheurs de paix partagée.

Lomé, le 20 octobre 2020.

Le directeur de publication,

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Ligne éditoriale

Volume : La taille du manuscrit est comprise entre 4500 et 6000 mots.

Format: papier A4, **Police:** Times New Roman, **Taille:** 11,5, **Interligne** 1,15.

Ordre logique du texte

Un article doit être un tout cohérent. Les différents éléments de la structure doivent faire un tout cohérent avec le titre. Ainsi, tout texte soumis pour publication doit comporter:

- un titre en caractère d'imprimerie ; il doit être expressif et d'actualité, et ne doit pas excéder 24 mots ;
- un résumé en anglais-français, anglais-allemand, ou anglais-espagnol selon la langue utilisée pour rédiger l'article. Se limiter exclusivement à objectif/problématique, cadre théorique et méthodologique, et résultats. Aucun de ces résumés ne devra dépasser 150 mots ;
- des mots clés en français, en anglais, en allemand et en espagnol : entre 5 et 7 mots clés ;
- une introduction (un aperçu historique sur le sujet ou revue de la littérature en bref, une problématique, un cadre théorique et méthodologique, et une structure du travail) en 600 mots au maximum ;
- un développement dont les différents axes sont titrés. Il n'est autorisé que trois niveaux de titres. Pour le titrage, il est vivement recommandé d'utiliser les chiffres arabes ; les titres alphabétiques et alphanumériques ne sont pas acceptés ;
- une conclusion (rappel de la problématique, résumé très bref du travail réalisé, résultats obtenus, implémentation) en 400 mots au maximum ;
- liste des références : par ordre alphabétique des noms de familles des auteurs cités.

Références

Il n'est fait mention dans la liste de références que des sources effectivement utilisées (citées, paraphrasées, résumées) dans le texte de l'auteur. Pour leur présentation, la norme American Psychological Association (APA) ou références intégrées est exigée de tous les auteurs qui veulent faire publier leur texte dans la revue. Il est fait exigence aux auteurs de n'utiliser que la seule norme dans leur texte. Pour en savoir

plus, consultez ces normes sur Internet.

Présentation des notes référencées

Le comité de rédaction exige APA (Auteur, année : page). L'utilisation des notes de bas de pages n'intervient qu'à des fins d'explication complémentaire. La présentation des références en style métissé est formellement interdite.

La gestion des citations :

Longues citations : Les citations de plus de quarante (40) mots sont considérées comme longues ; elles doivent être mises en retrait dans le texte en interligne simple.

Les citations courtes : les citations d'un (1) à quarante (40) mots sont considérées comme courtes ; elles sont mises entre guillemets et intégrées au texte de l'auteur.

Résumé :

- ✓ Pour Pewissi (2017), le Womanisme transcende les cloisons du genre.
- ✓ Ourso (2013:12) trouve les voyelles qui débordent le cadre circonscrit comme des voyelles récalcitrantes.

Résumé ou paraphrase :

- ✓ Ourso (2013:12) trouve les voyelles qui débordent le cadre circonscrit comme des voyelles récalcitrantes.

Exemple de référence

Pour un livre

Collin, H. P. (1988). *Dictionary of Government and Politics*. UK: Peter Collin Publishing.

Pour un article tiré d'un ouvrage collectif

Gill, W. (1998/1990). "Writing and Language: Making the Silence Speak." In Sheila Ruth, *Issues in Feminism: An Introduction to Women's Studies*. London: Mayfield Publishing Company, Fourth Edition. Pp. 151-176.

Utilisation de Ibid., op. cit, sic entre autres

Ibidem (Ibid.) intervient à partir de la deuxième note d'une référence source citée. Ibid. est suivi du numéro de page si elle est différente de

référence mère dont elle est consécutive. Exemple : *ibid.*, ou *ibidem*, p. x.

Op. cit. signifie ‘la source pré-citée’. Il est utilisé quand, au lieu de deux références consécutives, une ou plusieurs sources sont intercalées. En ce moment, la deuxième des références consécutives exige l’usage de *op. cit.* suivi de la page si cette dernière diffère de la précédente.

Typographie

-La *Revue Internationale de Langue, Littérature, Culture et Civilisation* interdit tout soulignement et toute mise en gras des caractères ou des portions de textes.

-Les auteurs doivent respecter la typographie choisie concernant la ponctuation, les abréviations...

Tableaux, schémas et illustrations

Pour les textes contenant les tableaux, il est demandé aux auteurs de les numérotter en chiffres romains selon l’ordre de leur apparition dans le texte. Chaque tableau devra comporter un titre précis et une source propre. Par contre, les schémas et illustrations devront être numérotés en chiffres arabes et dans l’ordre d’apparition dans le texte.

La largeur des tableaux intégrés au travail doit être 10 cm maximum, format A4, orientation portrait.

Instruction et acceptation d’article

A partir du volume 2 de la présente édition, les dates de réception et d’acceptation des textes sont marquées, au niveau de chaque article. Deux (02) à trois (03) instructions sont obligatoires pour plus d’assurance de qualité.

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Speech Act Analysis of Political Discourses: Case Study of Presidents Kagame's and Weah's Inaugural Speeches

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LINGUISTIQUE

Speech Act Analysis of Political Discourses: Case Study of Presidents Kagame's and Weah's Inaugural Speeches

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Abstract:

Drawing on Austin's (1962) Speech Act Theory, this paper investigates Presidents Kagame's and Weah's Inaugural Speeches for the purpose of decoding peace-related meanings. The scrutiny of the speeches has revealed that genocide and civil war have caused the death of thousands and thousands civilians. Besides, the predominance of assertive acts in President Weah's speech has marked both his attachment to democracy and peace and his gratitude and gratefulness to Liberians who long for peace. In President Kagame's context, the study has shown that assertive acts reveal the president's capacity to work for the development of Rwanda and his desire to collaborate with other African leaders.

Keys words: Assertive Acts, Expressive Acts, Illocutionary Acts, Speech Acts.

Résumé :

Cette étude examine les discours d'investiture des Présidents Paul Kagamé et George Weah suivant la théorie des actes du langage proposée par Austin (1962) en vue de décoder les messages de paix. L'analyse des discours a révélé que le génocide et la guerre civile ont causé la mort de milliers de civiles. En outre, la prédominance des actes de langage affirmatifs dans le discours du Président Weah a marqué aussi bien son attachement à la démocratie et à la paix que sa reconnaissance aux Libériens qui aspirent à la paix. Pour ce qui concerne le discours du Président Kagamé, l'étude a montré que les actes de langage affirmatifs ont révélé non seulement la capacité du Président à œuvrer pour le développement du Rwanda mais aussi et surtout son désir de collaborer avec les autres leaders africains.

Mots clés : actes de langage affirmatifs, actes de langage expressifs, fonction illocutoire d'actes de langage, actes de langage.

Introduction

Language is a complex semiotic system that human beings use for communicative purposes in order to satisfy their social needs. People use language to express their ideas, feelings and beliefs. In this regard, Hornby (1989) views language as a system of sounds, words, patterns used by human to communicate thoughts and feelings. In this view, it can be contended that language is used to perform specific acts in societies.

This research focuses on speech act analysis of president Kagame's and president Weah's speeches. Speech 1 has been delivered by President Weah whereas Speech 2 has been delivered by President Kagame. These speeches deserve scrutiny since oath taking is a solemn ceremony during which a state leader addresses his/her populations by not only engaging him/herself to respect and defend the constitution for the interests of the country but also by presenting his/her projects as well as his/her roadmap.

As pragmatics is viewed by Leech (1983) as a branch of linguistics which studies how people interpret and produce meaning in a specific context, these political leaders' speeches have been selected for the purpose of decoding peace-related meanings on the one hand and studying similarities and differences between them on the other hand. The analysis is based on the speech act theory originally developed by Austin (1962) in his book entitled *How to Do Things with Words* (1965) and furthered by Searle (1970).

1. Methodology

Quantitative and qualitative research methods have been used to carry out this work. On the basis of quantitative method, two political discourses have been selected from African leaders' speeches: An Inaugural Speech by the Liberian President George Weah and another Inaugural Address by the Rwandan new reelect President Paul Kagame. President Weah's Speech has been labelled Speech 1 whereas President Kagame's Speech has been labelled Speech 2. This method has consisted firstly in numbering each sentence in each selected discourse. Secondly, the

different types of speech acts have been identified and then the proportions of these speech acts have been determined in terms of statistics. Through the qualitative method, the statistical results have been explained, interpreted and discussed.

2. Theoretical Underpinning

The theory that underpins this research work is pragmatics which is an important linguistic tool that helps decode speakers' intended meanings in accordance with the context in which their written or spoken texts take root. It is now relevant to account for this theory.

2.1. Pragmatics

Pragmatics is the linguistic branch which studies how the transmission of meaning depends not only on structural and linguistic knowledge (e.g. Grammar, Lexicon, etc.) but also on the speaker and listener background. It encompasses speech act theory, conversational implicature, talk in interaction and other approaches to the language behavior. For Mey (2001), 'pragmatics studies the use of language in human communication as determined by the conditions of society' (Mey 2001). On his part, Leech (1983) simply views pragmatics as 'how language is used in communication' (Leech, 1983: 1). Crystal (1997: 301) defines pragmatics as 'the study of language from the point of view of users, especially of the choices they make, the constraints they encounter in using language in social interaction and the effects their use of language has on other participants in the act of communication' According to Horn and Ward (2016) Pragmatics is the study of the context-dependent aspects of meaning which are systematically abstracted away from in the construction of lexical form.

Some linguists define pragmatics as performing of speaker and hearer competence. Pragmatics seeks to 'characterize the features of the speech context which help determine which proposition is expressed by a given sentence' (Stalnaker 1972:383). The meaning of sentence can be regarded as a function from a context (including time, place, and possible world) into proposition, where a proposition is a function from possible world into truth value. Pragmatic aspects of meaning involve the interaction between an expression's context of utterance and the

interpretation of elements within that expression. The contemporary use of the term dates back to Austin's development of performative utterances and his history of perlocutionary, locutionary and illocutionary acts. After Austin (1962), Searle's (1976) introduces his classification of illocutionary acts in investigation of the various aspects of speech acts.

2.2. Speech acts

Speech act is an action performed via utterances. It is categorized by language functions or by their intents according to Austin (1962).

2.2.1. Type of Speech Acts

Austin's (1962) classified linguistic acts into three components: locutionary act, illocutionary act and perlocutionary act. Locutionary act is 'performing the act of saying something' (Leech, 1983: 199). In Nordquist's (2015) terms, it is 'the act of making meaningful utterance' (Nordquist, 2015). Perlocutionary act is 'performing an act by saying something' (Leech, 1983: 199). According to Nordquist (2015), it is 'an action or state of mind brought about by, or a consequence of, saying something' (Nordquist (2015). Illocutionary act is 'performing an act in saying something' (Leech, 1983: 199). In other words, illocutionary act refers to 'a speaker's intention in delivering an utterance or to the kind of illocutionary act the speaker is performing' (Nordquist 2015).

2.2.2. Austin's Classification of Speech Acts

Austin (1962) categorized illocutionary act in five classes : verdictives, exercitives, commissives, behabitives and expositives.

- Verdictives: This consist in the delivering of a finding, official, upon evidence or raisons as to value or fact as these are distinguishable. Examples of verbs in this class are; acquit, hold, calculate, describe, analyze, estimate, dater ank, assess, and characterize.
- Exercitives: One of this is the giving of a decision in favor of or against a certain course of action of action or advocacy of it. Some examples are: order, command, direct, plead, beg, recommend, entreat advise, appoint, dismiss, sentence.

- **Commissives:** Is to commit the speaker to a certain course of action. Some examples are: promise, vow, pledge, covenant, contract, guarantee, embrace, and swear.
- **Behavitives:** It includes the notion of reaction to other people's behavior and fortunes and of attitudes and expressions of attitudes to someone else's past conduct or imminent conduct. Some examples are: apologize, thank, deplore, commiserate, congratulate, felicitate, welcome, applaud, criticize, bless, curse, toast and drink.
- **Expositives:** They are used in acts of expositing involving the expounding of view, the conducting of arguments and clarifying of usages and reference. Some examples are: affirm, deny, emphasize, illustrate, answer, report, accept to, concede.

2.2.3. Searle's Taxonomy of Speech acts

Following Austin (1962), Searle (1969; 1976) proposed an alternative classification as follows:

- **Assertives:** commit the speaker to the truth of some proposition
examples: stating, claiming, reporting, announcing, describing, concluding, suggesting, predicting, etc.
- **Directives:** Attempt to bring some effect through the action of hearer
examples: requesting; ordering, demanding, questioning, pleading; inviting, begging; inviting; advising; commanding; daring; etc.
- **Expressives:** speech acts which express some psychology state
examples: thanking, apologizing, congratulating, appreciating, complaining, challenging, etc.
- **Commissives:** Commit speaker to some future action e.g. promising, offering, swearing, treating, warming, betting, guaranteeing, challenging, etc. to do something.
- **Declaratives:** Speech acts which bring correspondence between the propositional content and reality e.g. baptizing, resigning, dismissing, arresting, marrying, etc.

It is important to mention that Searle's classification of speech acts has been applied to the analysis of the selected speeches in this research work.

3. Data Analysis

On the basis of Searle's Taxonomy of illocutionary acts, a clause by clause speech act analysis of Speech One and Speech Two has been carried out and presented below. It is important to precise that Weah's Speech has been labelled Speech 1 whereas Kagame's Speech has been labelled Speech 2.

3.1. Speech 1

A clause by clause speech act analysis of President Weah's inaugural speech is presented as follows:

- **Assertive speech acts:**

(5) I have spent many years of my life in stadiums, but today is a feeling like no other. [claiming]. (7) Today, we all wear the jersey of Liberia, and the victory belongs to the people, to peace, and to democracy. [claiming]. (11) But I cannot do it alone. [stating]. (13) Together, we owe our citizens clarity on fundamental issues such as the land beneath their feet, freedom of speech, and how national resources and responsibilities are going to shift from this capital to the countries. [announcing]. (15) Today, we Liberians have reached an important milestone in the never - ending journey for freedom, justice, and democracy; a search that has remained central to our history as nation. [claiming]. (16) Many of those who founded this country left the pain and shame of slavery to establish a society where all would be free and equal. [claiming]. (18) That human longing for true and lasting freedom has revealed itself in many ways since Liberia's founding [stating]. (19) Sometimes the drive has been divisive and confrontational; and too often violent, bloody, and deadly, as it was in the 14 years of civil conflict, when the absence of equality and unity led us down the path of destroying our own country [describing]. (22) Almost 15 years ago, Liberians laid down their arms and renewed their hope for a better and more equal society. [reporting]. (23) With the help of regional partners and United Nations, we chose democracy as our path, and elected the first post-war government, which was led by Her

Excellency, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf [reporting]. (26) It is also a transition from one generation of leadership to new generation [stating]. (27) It is indeed a confirmation that democracy exists in Liberia, and that, it is here to stay! [stating]. (28) We have arrived at this transition neither by violence, nor by force of arms[claiming]. (29) Not a single life was lost in the process [claiming]. (31) This inaugural gathering also celebrates an important precedent: that we Liberians can, and will rely on established institutions and rule of law to resolve our political disagreements [stating]. (34) We have arrived here on the blood, sweat, tears and suffering of so many of our citizens, too many of whom died, longing for real freedom and equality [claiming]. (61) It is my belief that the most effective way to directly impart the poor, and to narrow the gap between rich and poor, is to ensure that public Resources do not end up in the pockets of Government officials. [stating]. (64) As officials of government, it is time to put the interest of our people above our own selfish interests [stating]. (67) We must pay civil servants a living wage, so that corruption is not an excuse for taking what is not theirs[suggesting]. (70) To the private sector, I say to you that Liberia is open for business [announcing]. (75) We cannot remain spectators in our own economy [stating]. (81) In the famous words of President Abraham Lincoln of United States of America ‘... government of people, by the people and for the people’ [reporting]. (105) Without Europe George Manneh Weah would not be standing here delivering this inaugural address as the 24th president of the Republic of Liberia [stating]. (110) China has emerged as one of Liberia’s most dependable allies [stating]. (112) The Samuel Kanyan Doe sports complex, built by the Chinese, where this inaugural ceremony is being held, is where I gained my exposure to the football world [reporting]. (116) It does not only stand as a monument of Chinese friendship toward Liberian’s, but It also stands as a symbol of peace and reconciliation for the Liberian people [stating]. (137) Let me close with these re-assuring words from our National anthem: [concluding]. (139) May God Almighty bless the works of our hands, and save the state [praising].

- **Directives speech acts:**

(09) Indeed, we must deliver the change that our people need, in order to transform their lives for the better [demanding]. (12) First, I call upon the revered institution that host us today and from which the vice president and I come - the Legislative - our co-equal branch of government, to work with me to create and pass essential laws that are needed to complete the foundation of this nation [demanding]. (16) We can do better, together [demanding]. (35) Today, we must remember.... not tearing each other down [demanding]. (48) We need men and women, boys and girls, whose integrity provides the foundation of the trust that is required for Liberian society to benefit her people [demanding]. (52) We must learn how to celebrate our diversity without drawing lines of divisions in our new Liberia [warning]. (53) We belong to Liberia first before we belong to our inherited tribes, or chosen country [begging]. (55) We must respect each other and act as neighbors, regardless of religious, social and economic differences [demanding]. (71) We want to be known as a business-friendly government [advising]. (87) We hope our international development partners will assist us in this transformation [requesting]. (98) UN peacekeeping missions have ensured unbroken peace within our borders for more than a decade, and will soon demonstrate their confidence in us, by transitioning its task from peacekeeping programs of UN organization which will continue in key sectors such as education, health and agriculture [demanding]. (126) I ask you to meet mine, for I cannot do it alone [demanding].

- **Expressive speech acts:**

(1). Her Excellency, Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.....
 Special Guests. Distinguish Ladies and Gentlemen [greetings]. (2) My fellow citizens, I am humbled and thankful for the trust and hope you have put in me. [thanking] (3) I am feeled with joy and pride to see so many friends from across the world joins us in celebrating what is truly an historic moment for our country [feeling]. (4) To all our citizens and international guests, we thank you for coming [thanking]. (6) I am overwhelmed with the crowd and the energy here today, and I guarantee you, when we finish, there will not be a winning or a losing side [feeling]. (20) Notwithstanding the harness and immeasurable cost of the

lesson, we have learned that equality and freedom are never just final destination that a people or a nation reaches [complaining]. (24) Your Excellency, I thank you for laying the foundation upon which we can now stand, in peace and to advance progress for our country [thanking]. (37) So their deaths would not be in vain, I solemnly pledge today, with the help of all of you, my fellow citizens, to build a Liberia of equality, freedom, dignity, and respect for one another [guaranteeing]. (38) Let us all stand for a moment of silence to remember those who died on our soil, in conflict, and by our own hands [guaranteeing]. (43) And I say 'my people, thank you, yaaaaaaaaa' for entrusting me with the responsibility of leading the effort to build this New and better Liberia [thanking]. (89) I thank the ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES, (ECOWAS), for standing with Liberia throughout these years [thanking] (92) We count these fallen West African soldiers among the martyrs of our history [condoling]. (95) I also thank the UNITED NATIONS for the important role it has played in Liberia [thanking]. (101) To the Government and people of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, we thank you for your strong support over the years [thanking]. (103) To the EUROPEAN UNION, I say thanks to you for your strong partnership with Liberia [thanking]. (108) To the PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, I say 'XIEXIE' [Thanking]. (117) To the AFRICAN UNION, I also say you for standing with Liberia over the past several years [thanking] (120) To other bi-lateral and multi-lateral partners, I say a sincere thank you [thanking]. (140) I THANK YOU [Thanking]. (41) My fellow citizens, ladies and gentlemen: [Greeting]. (49) My fellow citizens, ladies and gentlemen: [greeting]. (60) My fellow citizens, ladies and gentlemen: [greeting]. (77) My fellow citizens: [greeting] (81). (122) My fellow Liberians: [greeting].

- **Commissive speech acts**

(8) The tens of thousands of Liberia here today and many more in our communities across the country who are listening gathered together around radios in the palava hut, it is to we are responsible to deliver the change you deserve [challenging]. (10) I promise to do everything in my power to be the agent of positive change [promising]. (15) Today, we Liberians have reached an important milestone in the never-ending

journey for freedom, justice and democracy; a search that has remained central to our history as a nation [expecting]. (32) This demonstrates the maturity of our institutions and that we as people have learned valuable lessons from our brutal history [guarantying]. (33) My fellow Liberians, let not the splendor of these ceremonies, nor the celebration of electoral victory, make us forget how we arrived at this moment [warning]. (45) I have here taken an oath before you, and before the Almighty God, to uphold our Constitution and to preside over this government and this country to the best of my abilities [swearing]. (46) REST ASSURED, I WILL NOT LET YOU DOWN [promising]. (50) During my tenure as president of Liberia, the loudest battle cry that must ring from the mountains of Wologisi to the peak of Yekepa; from the ranges of Putu to the hills of Bomi; and from the coast of Harper to the Shores of Monrovia, must be the cry of Natural Unity [guarantying]. (54) We must not allow political loyalties prevent us from collaborating in national interest [warning]. (63) I promise to deliver on this mandate [promising]. (72) We will do all that is within our power to provide an environment that will be conducive for the conduct of honest and transparent business [promising]. (73) We will remove unnecessary regulatory constraints that tend to impede the establishment and operation of business in a profitable and predictable manner [promising]. (76) My government will prioritize the interests of Liberian-owned businesses and offer programs to help them become more competitive and offer services that international investors seek as partners [promising]. (84) Now, in my turn, I will go further to encourage and reinforce not only freedom of speech, but also freedom of political assembly [promising]. (91) This is a debt Liberians will never be able to repay [guaranteeing]. (94) ECOWAS will continue to play a very meaningful role during my presidency [promising]. (109) our administration will continue to support the 'one - China policy' [promising]. (111) It is my hope that Chinese - Liberian relationship will grow stronger during my tenure as president [promising]. (119) As a founding member of the African Union, I look forward to participating with my colleagues at forthcoming summits, where we intend to utilize the resources and expertise of African Union for the benefit of our country [challenging]. (123) My greatest contribution to this country as president may not lie in the eloquence of my speeches, but will definitely

lie in the quality of the decision that I will make over the next six years to advance the live of poor Liberians [challenging]. (130) That you will aim to do more for yourselves and expect other to do less [challenging]. (135) In doing so, we must also learn the virtue of patience, and learn to lower our expectations, for I do not promise you quick fixes or miracles [promising]. (136) Instead, my pledge to you today is that my administration, with your help, will make steady and deliberate progress towards achieving the hopes and aspirations that you cherish in your heart for Mama Liberia [promising].

• **Declarative speech acts:**
President Weah has performed no declarative acts. The frequency distribution of speech acts identified in Speech 1 is recapitulated in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Frequency distribution of speech acts in Speech 1.

	Assertive	Commissive	Expressive	Directive	Declarative	Total
Frequency	31	23	22	12	00	88
Percentage	35.22%	26.13%	25%	13.63%	0%	99.98≈100%

(Source : Dadjo 2021)
It appears that assertive speech acts are predominant in Speech 1 with 35.22% followed by commissive 26.13% and then expressive 25%. Directive speech acts are relatively low with13.63% whereas declarative speech acts are non-existent.

3.2. Speech 2

A clause by clause speech acts analysis of President Kagame’s inaugural speech is presented as follows:

• **Assertive speech acts:**
(1) Today is a day of renewal and gratitude [stating]. (5) Africa has been with Rwanda when we needed you most and nothing gives our people greater pride than contributing, together with you, to the greatness of our continent [appreciating]. (6) Standing alongside us today are numerous friends of Rwanda from around the world who have always kept our country in their hearts and worked hard to advance it

[claiming]. (11) Together we created a positive environment where no vote was cast against anyone, but rather all were cast for Rwanda [claiming]. (12) If we always succeed in rallying so strongly around the ideas and the leadership those work best for all of us, it would be a very good thing [claiming]. (15) It is our ideal for this time, and all the time [stating]. (19) Together we have lived a life, which at every turn has been unexpected, unprecedented, and often shocking [stating]. (22) In particular, our women and men have equal rights and opportunities [stating]. (23) Today defines no one as an enemy, whether domestic or foreign [stating]. (25) Rwanda's institutions are founded on the common good, as it should have been all along [claiming]. (26) The gains in public services, individual well-being, and national unity are now undeniable real [claiming]. (27) The enthusiasm and emotion expressed throughout the campaign is rooted in these realities [describing]. (33) Africa has no civilizational problems, only assets [claiming]. (43) Much as we have lost a lot of time, more recently we see that it is no longer business as usual in Africa [announcing]. (46) At the root of any success are good choices, built on a mindset which can be summarized in three words: Do It Yourself [suggesting]. (47) That is what we have done in Rwanda, and it is all any country needs to do to bring everyone together to chart a path into the future [Suggesting].

- **Directive speech acts:**

(24) Every Rwandan has a country, and with every other country, we seek partnership and cooperation [demanding]. (30) Every African country has to contend with efforts to force us to live on someone else's terms [demanding]. (38) It is important for Rwandans and our fellow Africans to feel reassured that attacks on our character only make us stronger, provided we respond with clarity and conviction [advising]. (40) So we might as well do what we know is right for our people, because the results are much better, and the costs are much lower [demanding]. (55) The governance and prosperity of Africa cannot be outsourced [Inviting]. (61) I want us to recognise you for that [demanding]. (64) We must ensure that Rwandans have high-quality education that fully equips us to compete in the services and industries of the future [demanding]. (69) Rwanda's prosperity and security, after all,

depends on the security and prosperity of all our neighbours, and beyond [demanding]. (70) Our commitment to the future must be sealed with a mindset of ownership, responsibility, and problem-solving [demanding].

- **Expressive speech acts:**

(2) I would therefore like to begin by thanking those who have joined us here [thanking]. (4) We thank you [thanking]. (5) Africa has been with Rwanda when we needed you most and nothing gives our people greater pride than contributing, together with you, to the greatness of our continent [appreciating]. (7) We welcome you home [greeting]. (8) I want to acknowledge the leaders and members of the eight other political parties who joined with the Patriotic Front to nominate me as their candidate [thanking]. (10) I also congratulate the two other candidates who brought their message directly to our citizens [congratulating]. (18) It is truly a privilege and an honor to serve you [greeting]. (20) Yet we have made progress, thanks to the distinctiveness of our choices and the resilience of our people [thanking]. (44) There is really no justification for all the effort that goes into cutting Africa off from itself, as sharing lessons and experiences with one another be harmful, without adult supervision [appreciating]. (63) We see your determination to work hard, achieve a lot, and become the pride of your families, as well as an asset to the entire nation [appreciating]. (67) We thank you, and ask you to please do even more [thanking].

- **Commissive speech acts:**

(29) All along, we have had to fight to protect our right to do what is best for us, and we will, without any doubt, continue to do so [promising]. (48) To that end, we in Rwanda will continue to be firm believers in real partnership and cooperation with friends around the world, which has benefited us a great deal and which we deeply appreciate [promising]. (56) Let's build on the reform spirit that has taken root in the African Union, and indeed in every African country, to quickly deliver the results that our people expect and have been waiting for [Expecting]. (55) The governance and prosperity of Africa cannot be outsourced [promising]. (58) The next seven years will be very important for our country [promising]. (59) Our priority is to deepen the moral pact with all the

young women and men who voted for the first time, and with such passion [promising].

• **Declarative speech acts:**
(45) There is no single model for nation-building [declaration]. (51) It goes on to say: when we are fighting for a just cause, there is no reason to fear anything whatsoever, because God is always on our side [declaration]. (57) Africa is on the right path and we are going to do just fine [declaration]. The frequency distribution of speech acts identified in Speech 2 is recapitulated in Table 2 below:

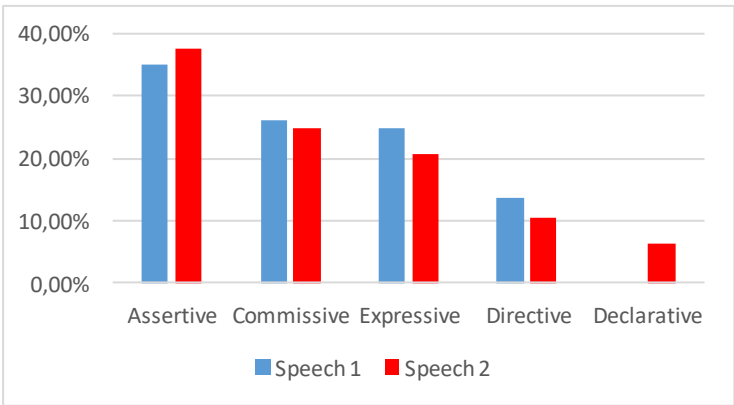
Table 2: Frequency distribution of speech acts in Speech 2

Speech types	Assertive	Expressive	Directive	Commissive	Declarative	Total
Frequency	18	12	10	05	03	48
Percentage	37.5%	25%	20.83%	10.41%	6.25 %	99.99% \approx 100 %

(Source: Dadjo 2021)

The results in Table 2 show that assertive speech acts are predominant in Speech 2 with 37.5% followed by expressive speech acts with 25% and then directive speech acts with 20.83%. Commissive speech acts are relatively low in proportions as they appear with 10.41% whereas declaratives ones are very low with 6.25 %. The graph below recapitulates the frequency distribution of speech acts in both Spech 1 and Speech 2.

Graph: Frequency distribution of speech acts in Speech1 and Speech 2



(Source: Dadjo 2021)

It appears in the recapitulative graph above that the frequency distribution of assertive, commissive, expressive, directive and declarative speech acts is equivalent following a decreasing order in both speeches:

- Assertive speech acts are the highest in both speeches,
- Commissive speech acts rank second in both speeches,
- Expressive speech acts rank third in both speeches,
- Directive speech acts rank fourth in both speeches,
- Declarative speech acts are the lowest in both speeches with the precision that they are completely nonexistent in Speech 1 (0%) but very low in Speech 2 (6.25 %).

4. Discussion of the Findings

The results of the analysis show that assertive speech acts are predominant in both speeches. Indeed, through stating assertive (30.33 %), President Weah shows the consolidation of democracy in Liberia and the necessity for prevalence of public interests over government officials’ interests so as to reduce poverty. The following instances illustrate this: (27) It is indeed a confirmation that democracy exists in Liberia, and that, it is here to stay! [stating]. (61) It is my belief that the most effective way to directly impart the poor, and to narrow the gap between rich and poor, is to ensure that public Resources do not end up in the pockets of

Government officials. [stating]. (64) As officials of government, it is time to put the interest of our people above our own selfish interests [stating]. Through claiming Assertive speech acts, he indicates how the victory depends on Liberians as the sentence (7) illustrates it: (7) Today, we all wear the jersey of Liberia, and the victory belongs to the people, to peace, and to democracy [claiming]. Further he emphasizes that the development and positive change of Liberia is most important for him. Claiming Assertive (24 %) in his speech indicate that Liberia freedom, equality and democracy result from a collective contribution of Liberians: (16) Many of those who founded this country left the pain and shame of slavery to establish a society where all would be free and equal [claiming].

On his part, President Kagame indicates through claiming assertive speech acts the foundation of Rwanda's institutions and its development under his leadership as key examples of success. These instances confirm this: (25) Rwanda's institutions are founded on the common good, as it should have been all along [claiming]. (26) The gains in public services, individual well-being, and national unity are now undeniable real [claiming]. (46) At the root of any success are good choices, built on a mindset which can be summarized in three words [claiming].

Using Directive speech acts President Weah makes the choice to change and transform Liberians lives. He also asks for unity and he intends to exhibit Liberia as opened business country. The following instances confirm this: (09) Indeed, we must deliver the change that our people need, in order to transform their lives for the better [demanding]. (48) We need men and women, boys and girls, whose integrity provides the foundation of the trust that is required for Liberian society to benefit her people [demanding].

As for President Kagame, he asks for continental complicity and help. He also invites African leaders to look in Africa to develop and govern their country. By asking not to let the development of Africa to be outsourced, President Kagame is inviting African leaders to solve Africans' problems in Africa. These examples are illustrative: (24) Every Rwandan has a country, and with every other country, we seek partnership and

cooperation [demanding]. (55) The governance and prosperity of Africa cannot be outsourced [Inviting].

Furthermore, through Expressive speech acts, President Weah thanks all Liberians for having elected him as president. He congratulates them for the peaceful and nonviolence path they have chosen. (2) My fellow citizens, I am humbled and thankful for the trust and hope you have put in me [thanking]. He has expressed his gratitude to her Excellency Helen Johnson for laying a foundation upon which he is standing in peace. (24) Your Excellency, I thank you for laying the foundation upon which we can now stand, in peace and to advance progress for our country [thanking]. He makes it an opportunity to thank his European partners for the chance they give him to make career on stadiums without which he cannot be at this level. He acknowledges United Nations as well as European Union and African Union for their assistance and help all the time, United States of America for the strong support. President Weah emphasizes on the relationship between Chinese people and Liberia by thanking them (108). All this illustrates the high proportion (64.70 %) of thanking expressive speech acts in his speech.

On his part, President Kagame has used 25% of thanking expressive speech acts. He demonstrates how African leaders' freedom is important for him. He appreciates more collaboration among African and dreams of equal regards on Africa as on Europe, Asia and America. He encourages by appreciating the role of African Union. By the same time, he wishes the independency of African institutions during decision making. President Kagame through thanking expressive speech acts, thanks African heads of states and former heads of states, he thanks also the leaders and members of eight other political parties who joined with him for his reelection.

Commissive speech acts enable President Weah to make promises as he offers his entire availability to protect and assure the respect of democratic rules in election during his presidency and for the great future of Liberia. This shows not only how opened mind and democratic he is but also his ambition to govern without reign on Liberia. Concerning President Kagame, commissive speech acts consist of promising and

challenging. He would like to see the effect of his reform on the democracy of Rwanda as he promises to protect at the best Rwandan rights.

President Weah has performed no declarative speech acts in his speech. The absence of these speech acts confirms his first contact with power. On the other hand, President Kagame has used declarative speech acts to emphasize his position about strategies which will work better than anything else. This indicates his authority as well as his experience of power. The performance of the different speech acts enables President Weah to indicate his attachment to peace in Liberia as well as its development. On the other hand, it enables President Kagame to disclose himself as an African Independence Ambassador.

It is also noticed that the dramatic past events are still influencing these political leaders. Both Liberia and Rwanda have suffered civil wars: the genocide in Rwanda in 1994, sparked by the death of the Rwanda president Juvenal Habyarimana, a Hutu, when his plane was shot down above Kigali airport on 6 April 1994. And between April and June, an estimated 800,000 Rwandans were killed in the space of 100 days. The current president was at that time the leader of Tutsi rebellions' group. As far as Liberia is concerned, a civil war (1989-1997) began when Samuel Doe came in power by a coup d'état and gave privilege only to his ethnic group, Krahns. The above reasons show the foundation of these political leaders' attachment to democracy, freedom and peace.

Conclusion

This research work has attempted to decode peace-related meanings from Presidents Weah's and Kagame's inaugural speeches through the application of speech acts theory. The analysis has revealed valuable findings. Indeed, assertive speech acts are predominant in both speeches. The high proportion of stating assertive speech acts in President Weah's speech show his attachment to peace and democracy as well as the development of his country. Thanking and congratulating assertive speech acts indicate his gratefulness to Liberians on the one hand and the

foundation for a good collaboration with Liberians, regional and international institutions as well as foreign partners on the other hand. On his part, President Kagame indicates through claiming assertive speech acts the foundation of Rwanda's institutions and its development under his leadership as key examples of success.

Both Presidents Weah and Kagame have used directive speech acts to show their sincerity to be peaceful and open to the world so as to work for positive change in accordance with their specific context. President Weah has performed no declarative speech acts in his speech. The absence of these speech acts confirms his first contact with power. On the other hand, President Kagame has used declarative speech acts to emphasize his position about strategies which will work better than anything else. This indicates his authority as well as his experience of power.

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