

AGENCY AND PROCESSES IN A PANDEMIC: CONFRONTING COVID 19 THROUGH PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESSES

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ABSTRACT

Grounded in the transitivity strand of Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar, this study investigates the transitivity patterns of the first two addresses delivered by the president of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akuffo-Addo, to Ghanaians after Ghana recorded its first six cases of the coronavirus to ascertain how the Covid 19 pandemic is construed in Ghana and how its initial reality is interpreted. Among many things, the addresses sought to give directives, call on various sectors and create awareness concerning the pandemic's causes, effects, and precautions. The study discovered the projection of the president of Ghana as the active agent who is placed in the driver's seat of Ghana's fight against the pandemic together with some ministries and parliament as well as the entire Ghanaian populace. The processes associated with these participants are of movement depicting that they are active in their quest to confront the pandemic. Unfortunately, the health officials who are ideally expected to be active under such circumstances are not given agent roles in the data. There is a great awareness of the interpretation of the reality of the pandemic that is being portrayed in these addresses. Even though it is beyond the scope of this study to examine the reception and impact of these addresses and draw conclusions, the study reveals that examining these addresses clarifies the government's position on the pandemic situation as well as strategies for creating awareness and promoting preventive behaviours and attitudes.

Keywords: Covid 19, Transitivity, Presidential Addresses, Political Discourse, Nana Addo Dankwa Akuffo-Addo

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INTRODUCTION

With the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (Covid 19) and its declaration by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a pandemic, it became necessary for certain key individuals, stakeholders, and the government to play some crucial roles in helping bring solutions as such a world crisis demands the active involvement of all. In March 2020, Ghana was not spared from the outbreak and spread of Covid 19 pandemic as the first six cases were recorded, and this prompted presidential directives to increase awareness among citizens by creating and disseminating information on various preventive measures. According to Hinckley (1990), heads of states or presidents of nations over time have come to be considered as ordinary fathers of their citizens who are laden with the responsibility of caring for the citizens who are seen as their little children. And because they represent the people and thus should speak for them, their voices are taken as the voice of the people. As the father of the nation, president of Ghana, Nana Akuffo Addo, took it upon himself to periodically address Ghanaians to create awareness and regularly disseminate information on various preventive measures.

These addresses form part of political discourse. In such political speeches, political leaders can influence the mental models, knowledge, attitudes and eventually the ideologies of their listeners (Van Dijk, 1993). This is so because political addresses have both linguistic and political purposes; linguistic in the sense of examining the choices made by the speaker and political in the sense that language has communicative underpinnings in all situational contexts. This study examines the transitivity analysis of the first two of the addresses given by the president of Ghana after Ghana recorded its first six cases of the virus to decipher who is doing what and to whom in the outbreak of a pandemic that makes the whole world run helter-skelter. Although it is certain that access to primary healthcare is the primary concern of everyone, linguistic understanding influences social participation. It improves the responses of the public to the whole pandemic situation.

Thus, the issues I set out to interrogate in the selected addresses are: what are the predominant processes and participants in the president's addresses on Covid 19? What does the transitivity pattern reveal about how the Covid 19 is being confronted in Ghana? Fairclough (2000) establishes that, among other things political speeches are used by politicians to reason, sustain their ideas, continue in power, oppress people and nations, establish, and

perpetuate ideas, and or defend people in their needs, to promote civil rights, and peace. By studying the language of a political discourse given in the middle of a pandemic, this study reveals the perceptions, convictions and identities that could be present in a political speech even in a pandemic. Studies on the analysis of political discourse, mostly focus on coherent sequences of sentences, propositions, speech, persuasion or turns-at-talk and they are also mostly inaugural speeches, manifestos, and campaign messages (Boakye 2014; Kondowe 2014; Naz et al 2012; Alvi & Baseer 2011; Wang 2010). Since pandemics rarely happen, the literature is limited in works on political speeches that focus on emergencies, pandemics, or disasters. However, since the outbreak of Covid 19 pandemic, some linguistic scholars have probed the discursive practices around the virus and how it is being dealt with linguistically.

For instance, Essel and Logogye (2021) concentrated on the measures laid down by the president of Ghana in his first 19 addresses with regards to developing and aiding the local fashion and textiles industry to produce PPE. Similarly, Mensah (2021) focused on the use of textile designs as a communicative tool to help curtail the spread of the coronavirus. By way of boosting the textile industry in Ghana, he recommended the need to print unique textiles, named after the various preventive measures of Covid 19 as a means of educating the public about these preventive measures to help curb the spread of the virus in Ghana.

In South Africa, Rudwick, Sijadu, and Turner (2021) analysed code-switching practices, translanguaging, and increasing African language usage among ministers of parliament during official COVID-19 speeches and briefings. They argue that even though English is the official language for government's engagement with the citizens, COVID-19 has broken this convention as the ministers they studied used indigenous South African languages rather than English in the briefings. Concentrating on songs, Thompson, Nutor and Johnson (2021) explored a thematic analysis of the lyrics of songs composed purposely to create awareness about COVID-19. The study revealed that examining song lyrics is useful in understanding local attitudes toward COVID-19, as well as strategies for promoting preventive behaviours.

Quite similar to the current study in terms of data choice is Ugoala and Israel (2020) who did a pragmatic comparative study of the first addresses by the Nigerian president and the Ghanaian president to decipher how they

were able to connect with their respective citizens in their first COVID-19 addresses. They examined the degree of urgency in these addresses and concluded that all the practs in both presidents' speeches point to the need for collective effort in fighting coronavirus as they successfully deployed the activity part and textual part which according to Mey (2001) is necessary to produce practs in speeches. From this review, it is apparent that linguistic issues relating to COVID-19 have been looked at from different angles with none on how the realities of the pandemic have been construed. In the case of this study therefore, I look at how the selected presidential addresses on COVID-19 reflect how the president construes the realities of the real world of the pandemic, his values, and system of beliefs as well as that of the other participants in the discourse. In this light, one way of examining language use is by applying the system of transitivity, an aspect of Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004).

TRANSITIVITY FRAMEWORK OF SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR

The system of transitivity is the grammatical system for analysing the clause as a representation. Transitivity is a system of the clause, impacting not only the verb serving as Process but also Participants and Circumstances (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Eggins (2004) postulates that transitivity analysis is the organization of the clause to realize ideational meanings; meanings about how we represent reality in language. Therefore, in conducting a transitivity analysis, it is essential to identify every verb and its associated process as well as the participants, realised as the noun phrase or pronoun and the circumstances, which are mostly realised by the adjuncts – prepositional phrase or adverb. According to the framework though, the circumstances are optional elements unlike the processes and the participants. Having identified the processes and the participants, it is then necessary to identify the pattern that will be revealed in the use of these processes. Halliday divides the system of transitivity into six processes, namely: material, mental, relational, behavioural, verbal, and existential.

The concepts of process, participant and circumstance are semantic categories that explain in the most general way, how the phenomena of our experience of the world are construed as linguistic structures (Thompson, 2014). The process is the most central element in the configuration.

Participants are close to the centre; they are directly involved in the process; they bring about its occurrence or they are affected by it in some way. Unlike participants, circumstances are not directly involved in the process; they are almost always optional augmentations of the clause rather than obligatory components (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014) so not much will be said about it in this study.

METHODOLOGY

The first two addresses delivered by the president of Ghana after Ghana recorded its first six cases of the coronavirus have been selected for this study. These two were selected because that was the point where the realities of the pandemic were apparent in Ghana. The addresses are retrieved from the Ministry of Health's website, read, and broken down into the various clauses. Information in the data relevant to the study which are the process types, and the participants were then selected and analysed by determining what sorts of processes there are, and which participant is engaged in which type of process and verifying who or what is affected or seems to be affected by each process (Burton, 1982). The process types of the two addresses used for the study were coded as MAT, REL, MENT, VERB, BEH, and EXT for material, relational, mental, verbal, behavioural and existential processes respectively to get the predominant process type in the data. To ensure reliability and to increase confidence in the study's findings, the coding was done thrice at different periods; three weeks interval.

The study adopted a qualitative method complemented by quantitative techniques such as frequency counts and percentages. Interpretive analysis of the qualitative research design was used. It helped me to explore and describe the data by looking at emerging themes and patterns of the data to achieve the purpose of the study.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

To determine the predominant process types and participants, I provide the frequency of their occurrences, discuss, and interpret their nature in this section.

At the end of the statistical analysis, 137 processes were identified in the data. All six process types (material, relational, mental, verbal, behaviour and existential) were present, though the figures for the behavioural and existential were insignificant. *Table 1.1* below shows the distribution of the process types:

| Process | Number of Occurrences | Percentage % |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Material Process | 81 | 59.2 |
| Relational Process | 22 | 16 |
| Verbal Process | 20 | 14.6 |
| Mental Process | 11 | 8 |
| Behavioural Process | 1 | 0.7 |
| Existential Process | 2 | 1.5 |
| Total Number of Processes | 137 | 100 |

Table 1.1: Process Types in the Data

183 participants were identified in the data. All participants of six process types were present. Again, the behavioural and existential participants were insignificant and hence didn't need to be accounted for in the discussion. *Table 1.2* below provides an insight into the data showing the number of occurrences of the various participants that were identified within the data:

| Participant | Number of Occurrences | Percentage % |
|--------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Actor | 34 | 18.6 |
| Goal | 45 | 24.7 |
| Recipient | 11 | 6 |
| Sayer | 18 | 9.8 |
| Verbiage | 12 | 6.7 |
| Receiver | 7 | 3.8 |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Sensor | 3 | 1.6 |
| Phenomenon | 8 | 4.4 |
| Carrier | 18 | 9.8 |
| Attribute | 20 | 10.9 |
| Subject | 2 | 1.4 |
| Existent | 2 | 1.1 |
| Behaver | 1 | 0.5 |
| Token | 1 | 0.5 |
| Value | 1 | 0.5 |
| Total Number of Participant | 183 | 100 |

Table 1.2: Participants in the Data

Material Process

As indicated above, the material processes, which are the processes of action and doing, are the predominant process types identified in the data. This predominance is attributed to the fact that the presidential address represents actions and events and the participants involved in them. The dominant actor-participants for the material process are the president, represented by the pronoun *I*, some ministries such as the ministry of health, the Ministry of trade and the Ministry of local government and the Ghanaian populace, presented by the pronoun *we*. The speaker i.e., the president is projected as the active agent who is placed in the driver's seat of our fight against the pandemic. The material process captures him as the chief actor or participant who wields influence on the addressee by offering to bring hope to Ghanaians. The president is constitutionally mandated to deal with contingencies that arise in the country, and this explains why he largely places himself in the actor position making him the dominant participant. His use of verbs such as 'combat', 'have come', 'protect', 'to ensure', 'shall overcome' etc. indicates his activeness in a time like this and how unflinching he is in confronting the pandemic. This resonates with findings of studies by Zhang (2017), Liao (2019) and Adjei and Ewusi-Mensah (2016) that the material processes are dominantly utilized in political speeches to show the politicians' concern about prevailing situations that their countries face. The

examples below for instance are clauses where the president assumes an agent role and performs actions such as ‘have come’, ‘to provide’, ‘chaired’, ‘have given’ and ‘I am going to be providing’:

Mat 1 | [Actor] **have come** [Mat] into your homes, again, this evening

Mat 2 to provide [Mat] an update [Goal],

Mat 3 to combat [Mat] the Coronavirus pandemic [Goal].

Mat 30 I am going to be providing [Mat] you [Recipient] regular updates. [Goal]

Mat 37 to which I [Actor] **have given** [Mat] assent. [Goal]

Mat 38 This morning, I [Actor] **chaired** [Mat] the daily Inter-Ministerial Committee Meeting on our Coronavirus Response to review the current position.

Mat 65 | [Actor] **applaud** [Mat] the efforts and courage [Goal] of Ghanaians in the forefront of the fight against the virus – health workers, immigration officials, customs officials, civil aviation officials, airport staff, port health officials, police and military personnel, and other essential service providers –

In addition to the president as the predominant actor are other actors such as ‘the Ministry of Transport’, ‘businesses and workplaces’, ‘the people’, ‘the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development’, ‘BECE and WASSCE candidates’, ‘we’ and ‘God’. God is found in the actor position to show our reliance on Him/divinity for deliverance. The president has willed his power and authority to the Supreme Being to intervene as he sees the problem beyond the human mind. This tells of his religiosity and by extension the religiosity of the Ghanaian people. Even though he believes and relies on science, he still calls on us to rely on God to help us through this pandemic. Other participants are the government, and the citizens are actors too. The president is seen to liaise with the government emphasizing that he is working with others as a team. He does not solely take praise for confronting this pandemic but involves the government, the Ministry of Health, other stakeholders, and the populace. This demonstrates how

democratic the president is as he calls everybody to join in confronting the coronavirus. Below are examples:

Mat 10 The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the Ministry of Communication, [Actor] **has been tasked to roll out [Mat]** distance learning programmes. [Goal]

Mat 11 However, BECE and WASSCE candidates [Actor] **will be allowed to attend [Mat]** school [Goal]

Mat 13 Businesses and other workplaces [Actor] **can continue to operate [Mat]**,

Mat 14 The Ministry of Transport [Actor] **should work [Mat]** with the transport unions and private and public transport operators [Recipient]

Mat 16 and The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development [Actor] **should co-ordinate, [Mat]** with the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies, [Goal]

Mat 21 we [Actor] **can prevent [Mat]** the spread [Goal] of the virus,

Mat 42 We [Actor] **must do [Mat]** everything [Goal] within our power to contain the spread of the virus.

Even though the coronavirus is claiming many lives worldwide, it is interesting to note that it remains passive in the presidential address and is not given agent role. This hints at the president's effort not to give the virus prominence, as the aim for the updates is to eradicate it completely from our land. Other participants of the material process identified, in addition to the actor are the goal and recipient. The goal is the participants affected by the action of the verb and the recipient is the participant who receives the action of the verb. The goals in the data include 'school', 'distance learning, with the predominant one as 'school' showing how our education system has been awfully hit by the COVID-19 pandemic:

Mat 7 All public gatherings, including conferences, workshops, funerals, festivals, political rallies, sporting events and religious

activities, such as services in churches and mosques, [Goal] **have been suspended [Mat]** for the next four (4) weeks.

Mat 8 but with limited numbers [Actor], **not exceeding [Mat]** twenty-five (25) [Goal] in attendance.

Mat 9 All Universities, Senior High Schools, and basic schools, i.e., public, and private schools, [Goal] **will be closed [Mat]** Monday, 16th March, 2020, till further notice.

Mat 10 The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the Ministry of Communication,

Relational Process

The next highest process identified was the relational process. The relational processes classify and identify with the class labelled as Attribute and the entity to which it is ascribed is Carrier (Halliday & Matthiessen 2004). They show how one aspect of experience is related to another. The relational processes identified were largely the Carrier and Attribute with verb forms such as *is, are, am, will be etc.* In the attributive mode, a participant has some class attributed or ascribed to it. The president is predominantly characterized and identified in the carrier participant position hinting on his identity and the relationship that exists between him and his job as the leader of the nation in the attributive position:

Rel 7 and I [Carrier] **am [Rel]** confident [Attribute] that, together, by the Grace of God,

Rel 10 I [Carrier] **am [Rel]** reliably informed [Attribute]

Rel 11 I [Carrier] **am [Rel]** deeply humbled [Attribute] by the widespread nature of the support from you, the Ghanaian people,

Rel 12 I [Carrier] **am [Rel]** encouraged [Attribute] by the numbers of Ghanaians

Rel 18 I [Carrier] **will be [Rel]** transparent [Attribute] with you,

Rel 19 But, I [Carrier] **am [Rel]** determined [Attribute]

Rel 21 | [Carreir] **remain** [Rel] confident [Attribute] that together, and by the Grace of God,

In other attributive positions, the president shows his appreciation and gratitude towards parties and entities that are helping him one way or another in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. By establishing a common ground using the relational process, the president has been able to dismantle the fear of alienation and closing the gap between himself and the people whom he leads.

Verbal Process

The verbal process is the process of saying. In this analysis, largely occupying the sayer position is the president while Ghanaians are the addressees. The citizens are in the receiver position of the saying while the measures taken against the pandemic are the verbiage. He is perceived to profess and avow his commitment in protecting the citizens of Ghana from dying from the COVID-19. He is not only being persuasive but also logical as he pledges himself to provide the framework and the master plan to eradicate Covid completely. His position as the giver of the speech and the leader of the nation emphasizes why he is the sole sayer of all the verbal clauses. The verbiage is largely the procedures and the protocols that the president outlines and entreats the people of Ghana to adhere strictly to. These are protocols outlined by the WHO in the fight against the pandemic. The president is depending on these as measures given by a higher body/ authority. The identified receivers are the citizens represented by the pronoun *you*, parliament as the third arm of government, the ministry of health and God. Parliament is being commended for its instrumental role in the fight and the reference to God goes back to our religiosity, still showing our reliance on Him and how far He has brought us in times like this.

Verb 7 Additionally, as the experts conduct contact tracing, I [Sayer] **appeal** [Verb] to all to co-operate with them

Verb 8 | [Sayer] **have directed** [verb] the Attorney General [Receiver] to submit immediately, to Parliament emergency legislation, in accordance with Article 21 (4) (c) & (d) of the Constitution of the Republic, to embody these measures, [Verbiage]

Verb 9 and I [Sayer] **have further directed [Verb]** the Minister for Health to exercise his powers, under section 169 of the Public Health Act, 2012 (Act 851), by the immediate issuance of an Executive Instrument, to govern the relevant measures. [Verbiage]

Verb 10 I [Sayer] **call [Verb]** upon Parliament to support the Executive in this national endeavour. [Verbiage]

Verb 14 Let me [Sayer] also **commend [Verb]** both sides of Parliament [receivers] for the expeditious and responsible manner in which they handled the passage of the Imposition of Restrictions Act, [Verbiage]

Mental Process

Mental process represents processes of sensing and signifies a quantum of change in the flow of events that are taking place in the speaker's consciousness (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004). This means that the mental process reveals the goings on in the speaker's mind. The trend of mental processes found in the data reveals the thought processes and consciousness of the president who gives these addresses. The mental process of cognition dominated the data and uncovers the president's observations and thoughts about the pandemic. In a global pandemic bedevilled by devastation and destruction, it is imperative that the president of the republic who occupies the highest office of the land tells Ghanaians what he has observed, feels, thinks, and wishes to show that he has well-thought plans about his commitment to the Ghanaian people. This is confirmed in a similar study by Agbo et. al (2019) on the analysis of a speech by President Buhari of Nigeria. They established that the mental processes are predominantly used by politicians to show their plans and commitment to serve their country. The following mental process clauses illustrate that:

Ment 3 The Government of Ghana's Travel Advisory issued **[Phenomenon]** earlier today **should be observed [Ment]** as announced;

Ment 1 You **[Sensor]** may recall **[Ment]** that on Wednesday, 12th March, 2020,

Ment 2 After deliberations, I **[Sensor]** have decided **[Ment]**, in the interest of public safety and the protection of our population, **[Phenomenon]**

Ment 4 but **should observe [Ment]** prescribed social distancing between patrons and staff; **[Phenomenon]**

Ment 5 Establishments, such as supermarkets, shopping malls, restaurants, night clubs, hotels and drinking spots, **[Sensor]** **should observe [Ment]** enhanced hygiene procedures by providing, amongst others, hand sanitizers, running water and soap for washing of hands; **[Phenomenon]**

Ment 6 to observe [Ment] prescribed social distancing and good personal hygiene **[Phenomenon]**

The president since he assumed office has always indulged his citizens to be citizens and not spectators and with *you* dominating the sensor position is an emphasis on this position. Also, it draws on the democracy we practise as a nation as the president calls on all to be a part of this process. Again, he appeals to the senses of the citizens to persuade them to follow the protocols outlined by WHO and this explains why majority of the phenomenon associated with the mental process emphasizes these protocols.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the transitivity analysis of selected presidential addresses on COVID-19 reveals the material process as the dominant process, with the president and the government as the primary agents in confronting the pandemic. The material process identified portrays the president as the active agent who has the intervening power in confronting the virus in the absence of a vaccine. It is observed that the president is the major actor, he positioned himself as the leader of the nation and made a collective call on Ghanaians and other agencies both government and non-governmental. Unfortunately, the health officials who are ideally expected to be active under such circumstances are not given agent roles in the data. There is a great awareness of the interpretation of the reality of the pandemic that is being

portrayed in these addresses and even though it is beyond the scope of this study to examine the reception and impact of these addresses and draw conclusions, the study reveals that examining these addresses is useful for understanding the government's position on the pandemic situation as well as strategies for creating awareness and promoting preventive behaviours and attitudes.

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APPENDIX

Fellow Ghanaians,

Mat 1 I [Actor] **have come [Mat]** into your homes, again, this evening

Mat 2 to provide [Mat] an update [Goal],

Mat 3 to combat [Mat] the Coronavirus pandemic [Goal].

Mat 4 all of people [Actor] who recently **travelled [Mat]** into the country [Goal].

Mat 5 Earlier today, Sunday, 15th March, 2020, I [Actor] **chaired [Mat]** a meeting of

Mat 6 to review [Mat] the public gathering advisories earlier announced as follows: [Goal]

Mat 7 All public gatherings, including conferences, workshops, funerals, festivals, political rallies, sporting events and religious activities, such as services in churches and mosques, [Goal] **have been suspended [Mat]** for the next four (4) weeks.

Mat 8 but with limited numbers [Actor], **not exceeding [Mat]** twenty-five (25) [Goal] in attendance;

Mat 9 All Universities, Senior High Schools, and basic schools, i.e. public and private schools, [Goal] **will be closed [Mat]** Monday, 16th March, 2020, till further notice.

Mat 10 The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the Ministry of Communication, [Actor] **has been tasked to roll out [Mat]** distance learning programmes. [Goal]

Mat 11 However, BECE and WASSCE candidates [Actor] **will be allowed to attend [Mat]** school [Goal]

Mat 12 to prepare [Mat] for their examinations, but with prescribed social distancing protocols;

Mat 13 Businesses and other workplaces [Actor] **can continue to operate [Mat],**

Mat 14 The Ministry of Transport [Actor] should work [Mat] with the transport unions and private and public transport operators [Recipient]

Mat 15 to **ensure [Mat]** enhanced hygienic conditions in all vehicles and terminals, by providing, amongst others, hand sanitizers, running water and soap for washing of hands; [Goal]

Mat 16 and The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development [Actor] **should co-ordinate, [Mat]** with the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies, [Goal]

Mat 17 measures to **enhance [Mat]** conditions of hygiene in markets across the country. [Goal]

Mat 18 to ensure that persons [Actor] who **have come [Mat]** into contact

Mat 19 to **prevent [Mat]** community spread [Goal].

Mat 20 to **do [Mat]** whatever [Goal]

Mat 21 we [Actor] **can to prevent [Mat]** the spread [Goal] of the virus,

Mat 22 and **protect [Mat]** the population.

Mat 23 All the measures [Goal] that **have been announced will be subject [Mat]** to constant review and enhancement, if necessary.

Mat 24 so, let us all **put [Mat]** our shoulders [Goal] to the wheel,

Mat 25 we [Actor] **shall overcome [Mat]** this challenge. [Goal]

Mat 26 May God [Actor] **bless [Mat]** us [Recipient] all, and our homeland Ghana,

Mat 27 and **make [Mat]** her [Goal] great and strong.

Mat 28 I [Actor] **have come [Mat]** into your homes

Mat 29 to give [Mat] you [Recipient] an update [Goal] on the progress of our fight against the Coronavirus pandemic.

Mat 30 I am going to be providing [Mat] you [Recipient] regular updates. [Goal]

Mat 31, which has, so far, infected [Mat] nineteen persons (19) [Goal] in the country.

Mat 32 passed away [Mat] in the early hours of today.

Mat 33 that all the other eighteen (18) persons [Actor] **are doing [Mat]** well,

Mat 34 and **are responding [Mat]** to treatment.

Mat 35 Indeed, eight (8) of them **are being managed [Mat]** from their homes, in isolation.

Mat 36 for the measures **I [Actor] have taken [Mat]** so far.

Mat 37 to which **I [Actor] have given [Mat]** assent. [Goal]

Mat 38 This morning, **I [Actor] chaired [Mat]** the daily Inter-Ministerial Committee Meeting on our Coronavirus Response to review the current position.

Mat 39 to take [Mat] additional measures [Goal]

Mat 40 to stem [Mat] the spread of the virus, [Goal]

Mat 41 and **protect [Mat]** our people's lives [recipient].

Mat 42 We [Actor] **must do [Mat]** everything [Goal] within our power to contain the spread of the virus.

Mat 43 Firstly, all our borders, [Goal] i.e. by land, sea and air, **will be closed [Mat]** to human traffic for the next two weeks, beginning midnight on Sunday.

Mat 44 Anybody [Actor] who comes into the country, before midnight on Sunday, **will be mandatorily quarantined [Mat]**

Mat 45 and **tested [Mat]** for the virus.

Mat 46 This closure [Actor] **will not apply [Mat]** to goods, supplies and cargo.

Mat 47 Secondly, the Ministry of Health [Actor] **will not only step up [Mat]** its contact tracing efforts, [Goal]

Mat 48 More personal protection equipment [Goal] **are being procured to beef up [Mat]** supplies [recipient] for our frontline health workers.

Mat 49 Fifty thousand additional test kits [Goal] **have been ordered, [Mat]**

Mat 49 Thirdly, the Ministry of Health [Actor] **is mobilizing [Mat]** new and retired healthcare professionals [Goal] to augment our preparedness in dealing with a possible surge in infections.

Mat 50 who **have stepped forward to offer [Mat]** their services, [Goal]

Mat 51 just as it is to note the Ghanaian entrepreneurs [Actor]

Mat 52 who **have responded [Mat]** to this crisis by producing greater quantities of sanitisers and 'Veronica buckets'.

Mat 53 Government [Actor] **will do [Mat]** its best [Goal]

Mat 54 to **support [Mat]** them. [Recipient]

Mat 55 We [Actor] **must wash [Mat]** our hands [Goal] regularly,

Mat 56 **Use [Mat]** alcohol-based sanitisers,

Mat 57 **stop shaking [Mat]** hands,

Mat 58 and **avoid [Mat]** unnecessary close body contact.

Mat 59 **Comply [Mat]** with these measures.

Mat 60 and **ramp up [Mat]** our efforts [Goal]

Mat 61 to **defeat [Mat]** this virus,

Mat 62 I [Actor] **urge** [Mat] all of us, [Goal]

Mat 63 also, **to seek** [Mat] the face of the Almighty. [Goal]

Mat 64 Let us **pray** [Mat] to God to protect our nation and save us [Recipient] from this pandemic.

Mat 65 I [Actor] **applaud** [Mat] the efforts and courage [Goal] of Ghanaians in the forefront of the fight against the virus – health workers, immigration officials, customs officials, civil aviation officials, airport staff, port health officials, police and military personnel, and other essential service providers –

Mat 67 for the yeoman’s work you [Actor] **are doing**. [Mat]

Mat 68 Fellow Ghanaians, all that Government [Actor] **is doing is intended to achieve** [Mat] five (5) key objectives –

Mat 69 **limit** and **stop** [Mat] the importation of the virus; [Goal]

Mat 70 **contain** [Mat] its spread; [Goal]

Mat 71 **provide** [Mat] adequate care for the sick; [Goal]

Mat 72 **limit** [Mat] the impact of the virus on social and economic life; [Goal]

Mat 73 and **deepen** [Mat] our self-reliance. [Goal]

Mat 74 and we [Actor] **should** all **brace** [Mat] ourselves to face them.

Mat 76 **to take** [Mat] whatever

Mat 75 and **not shirk** [Mat] from sharing the realities of our situation with you.

Mat 77 **to safeguard** [Mat] our society, our economy and our future. [Goal]

Mat 78 we [Actor] **shall overcome** [Mat].

Mat 79 This, [Actor] too, **will pass** [Mat].

Mat 80 May God [Actor] **bless [Mat]** us [Recipient] all, and our homeland Ghana,

Mat 81 and **make [Mat]** us [Recipient] great and strong.

Verb 1 as I [Sayer] **promised [Verbal]**, on the measures taken by Government [Verbiage]

Verb 2 when I [Sayer] first **spoke [Verbal]** to you [Receiver] directly on this matter,

Verb 3 I [Sayer] **announced [Verbal]** the first raft of enhanced measures taken in response to the pandemic [Verbiage].

Verb 4 Since then, six (6) confirmed cases [Verbiage] **have been announced [Verbal]**,

Verb 5 Advisories [Verbiage] on how to manage the developments **have also been announced [Verbal]** by the Ministries of Health and Information. [Sayer]

Verb 6 that citizens [Receivers] **are well advised [Verbal]** on preventive measures. [Verbiage]

Verb 7 Additionally, as the experts conduct contact tracing, I [Sayer] **appeal [Verb]** to all to co-operate with them

Verb 8 I [Sayer] **have directed [verb]** the Attorney General [Receiver] to submit immediately, to Parliament emergency legislation, in accordance with Article 21 (4) (c) & (d) of the Constitution of the Republic, to embody these measures, [Verbiage]

Verb 9 and I [Sayer] **have further directed [Verb]** the Minister for Health to exercise his powers, under section 169 of the Public Health Act, 2012 (Act 851), by the immediate issuance of an Executive Instrument, to govern the relevant measures. [Verbiage]

Verb 10 I [Sayer] **call [Verb]** upon Parliament to support the Executive in this national endeavour. [Verbiage]

Verb 11 As I [Sayer] **said [Verb]** earlier,

Verb 12 I [Sayer] **thank [Verb]** you [Receiver] for your attention.

Verb 13 On Sunday, 15th March, I [Sayer] **briefed [Verb]** you [Receiver] about the enhanced measures taken by Government to deal with the virus, [Verbiage]

Verb 13 On Sunday, 15th March, I [Sayer] **briefed [Verb]** you [Receiver] about the enhanced measures taken by Government to deal with the virus, [Verbiage]

Verb 14 Let me [Sayer] also **commend [Verb]** both sides of Parliament [receivers] for the expeditious and responsible manner in which they handled the passage of the Imposition of Restrictions Act, [Verbiage]

Verb 15 Let me [Sayer] **reiterate [Verb]** my appeal [Verbiage] to members of the pharmaceutical industry to scale up their domestic production of pharmaceutical products.

Verb 16 As I [Sayer] **have stated [Verb]** before,

Verb 17 I [Sayer] **am pleading [Verb]** with each and every one of you,

Verb 18 So, on Wednesday, 25th March, 2020, I [Sayer] **appeal [Verb]** to all Ghanaians, Christians and Muslims, to observe a national day of fasting and prayer. [verbiage]

Verb 19 I [Sayer] **thank [Verb]** the men and women of God [receiver] who prayed for the nation with me on Thursday, and with the Vice President on Friday, for their intervention.

Verb 20 and I [Sayer] **thank [Verb]** you [recipient] for your attention.

Rel 1 At the time, there [Carrier] **had been [Rel]** no reported, confirmed case of the Coronavirus in Ghana. [Attribute]

Rel 2 Public education [Carrier] **is being [Rel]** intensified [Attribute] to ensure

the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Coronavirus response [Goal].

Rel 3 Private burials [Carrier] **are [Rel]** permitted [Attribute],

Rel 4 with positive cases [Carrier] **are [Rel]** identified and supported.
[Attribute]

Rel 5 We [Carrier] **are [Rel]** determined [Attribute]

Rel 6 Fellow Ghanaians, these [Carrier] **are not [Rel]** ordinary times,
[Attribute]

Rel 7 and I [Carrier] **am [Rel]** confident that, together, by the Grace of
God, [Attribute]

Rel 8 This [Carrier] **is [Rel]** the third time [Attribute] in the last ten (10) days
that

Rel 9 Unfortunately, one (1) person, who tested positive for the virus, but
had [Rel] serious underlying health complications, [Attribute]

Rel 10 I [Carrier] **am [Rel]** reliably informed [Attribute]

Rel 11 I [Carrier] **am [Rel]** deeply humbled [Attribute] by the
widespread nature of the support from you, the Ghanaian people,

Rel 12 I [Carrier] **am [Rel]** encouraged [Attribute] by the numbers of
Ghanaians

Rel 13 However, it [Carrier] **has become [Rel]** necessary [Attribute]

Rel 14 and **are [Rel]** expected [Attribute] in the country very shortly.

Rel 15 It [Carrier] **is [Rel]** heartening [Attribute]

Rel 16 Our survival [Value] **is [Rel]** in our own hands. [Token]

Rel 17 Our nation [Carrier] **is [Rel]** deeply in your debt. [Attribute]

Rel 18 I [Carrier] **will be [Rel]** transparent [Attribute] with you,

Rel 19 But, I [Carrier] **am [Rel]** determined [Attribute]

Rel 20 steps [Carrier] **are [Rel]** necessary [Attribute]

Rel 21 I [Carrier] **remain [Rel]** confident [Attribute] that together, and by the Grace of God,

Rel 22 **Have [Rel]** a good night,[possession]

Ment 1 **You [Sensor] may recall [Ment]** that on Wednesday, 12th March, 2020,

Ment 2 After deliberations, I **[Sensor] have decided [Ment]**, in the interest of public safety and the protection of our population, [Phenomenon]

Ment 3 The Government of Ghana's Travel Advisory issued **[Phenomenon] earlier today should be observed [Ment]** as announced;

Ment 4 but **should observe [Ment]** prescribed social distancing between patrons and staff; [Phenomenon]

Ment 5 Establishments, such as supermarkets, shopping malls, restaurants, night clubs, hotels and drinking spots, [Sensor] **should observe [Ment]** enhanced hygiene procedures by providing, amongst others, hand sanitizers, running water and soap for washing of hands; [Phenomenon]

Ment 6 to **observe [Ment]** prescribed social distancing and good personal hygiene [Phenomenon]

Ment 7 that **are observing [Ment]** the prescribed social distancing and enhanced hygiene protocols announced earlier. [Phenomenon]

Ment 8 but **will also see [Ment: perception]** to it that all persons who have been identified as having come into contact with infected persons are tested for the virus.

Ment 9 to **hear [Ment]** of the numbers of retired healthcare professionals [Mat]

There [Carrier] **will be [Rel]** a constant review [Attribute] of the measures announced, and, if necessary, enhanced.

Ment 10 Fellow Ghanaians, the cases of localised infections **require** **[Ment: desideration]** that we maintain strict self-discipline, and continue to practice prescribed social distancing and enhanced hygiene protocols in all aspects of our daily lives. [Phenomenon]

Ment 11 and **inspire** **[Ment]** the expansion of our domestic capability [Phenomenon]

Est 1 there [Subject] **is** **[Ext]** every need [Existent]

Est 2 There [Subject] **are** **[Est]** obvious difficulties [existent] ahead of us,

Beh 1 Whilst we [Behaver] **continue to adhere** **[Beh]** to these measures,