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A call for freedom of speech in Nigeria

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Abstract
This article discusses the results of the data gathered concerning freedom of speech limitations in Nigeria. Case studies such as Cybercrime Act (2015), Frivolous Petitions Prohibition Bill (2015), NGO Regulatory Bill (2017), and Protection from Internet Falsehoods and Manipulation Bill (2019) helped to experiment with a step-by-step approach to Faircloughian Critical Discourse analysis. The social events analyzed were in the text taken from two newspapers – The Irish Times (2019) and Sahara Reporters (2019). The outcomes of the analysis point to a call for continuous campaign from civil society organizations to shape the transitional justice process in the country's interest.

Keywords: Repression, criminalize, control, power, freedom of expression, draconian, tyranny, Nigeria.

Introduction
This study examines the weaknesses in news stories limiting freedom of speech and the influence of social media legislation on protest groups. It also reflects the need for digital regulations in Nigeria. The study contributes to method and theory by presenting a step-by-step approach to conducting research using Faircloughian Critical Discourse and multimodal discourse analyses. It contributes knowledge by revealing resistance to proposals depicting censorship by Nigerian human rights organizations.

This article develops Fairclough's dialectical-relational approach to Critical Discourse Analysis (Fairclough, 2008; 2013) to explain the results of the material gathered on freedom of speech in Nigeria (Frivolous Prohibition Petition Bill, 2015; Cybercrime Act, 2015, NGO Regulatory Bill, 2017; Protection from Internet Falsehoods and Manipulation Bill, 2019). The social events analyzed in this article are two newspaper articles that reveal the support of the Protection from Internet Falsehoods and Manipulation Bill (2019) by the first lady of Nigeria, Aisha Buhari. They are; the SaharaReporters article (SaharaReporters, Nov. 30, 2019) and The Irish Times article (Hayden, Dec 2, 2019).

> SaharaReporters.com is an outstanding, ground-breaking news website that encourages citizen journalists to report ongoing corruption and government malfeasance in Africa. Using photos, text, and video dynamically, the site informs and prompts concerned African citizens and activists globally to act, denouncing officially-sanctioned corruption, the material impoverishment of its citizenry, defilement of the environment, and the callous disregard of the democratic principles, enshrined in the constitution (SaharaReporters, Nov 30, 2019).

Similarly,

> The Irish Times delivers top-quality news, opinion, and analysis since it was first published in 1859. As media technologies evolve, so do our methods of storytelling and delivery. The Irish Times continues the transition from print to multiplatform publication while upholding the journalistic principles that earned it the reputation as Ireland's paper of reference (O'Neill, Dec 17, 2019).

We chose SaharaReporters and The Irish Times because the SaharaReporters newspaper organization is an independent, established online platform that mediates the people of Africa through its struggle for human rights. The organization is based in New York and is independent. However, we chose to compare SaharaReporters with Irish Times Dublin newspaper outlet because Irish Times has a long-standing presence in global news reports, especially on critical events.

A Critical Discourse Analysis of SaharaReporters (SaharaReporters, Nov 30, 2019) and The Irish Times (Hayden, Dec 2, 2019)

In analyzing the texts mentioned above, I utilized Fairclough's (2003) notion of

CDA, which examines vocabulary and grammar in cognizance of the issues surrounding the language used in news stories. In doing so, we challenged the writer's position and suggested ways in which news discourse would have been presented. Similarly, we examined external and internal relations within the text, which is categorized into "three types of meaning – action, representation, and identification," as suggested by Fairclough (2003, p. 27). According to Thomson (2007, p. 4), action illustrates the text's format regarding declaration, persuasion, interrogation, and implication – a point also reiterated by Okon et al. (2018). The description of actions, people, and places are representations.

An example is the number of news stories that followed the second reading of Nigeria's Protection from Internet Falsehoods and Manipulation Bill (2015). The wife of the president of Nigeria – Aisha Buhari, was represented with different language choices in various news stories, such as; the first lady, Buhari's wife, and the like. Such representations of the text's intent are referred to as identification (Folayan et al., (2018). However, Teo (2000, p11) suggests that CDA helps in recovering and unlocking social meanings and ideologies of discourse, which distinguishes CDA from critical linguistics and other forms of analysis.

The Texts

The first text is from the African lower and middle-class market newspaper - SaharaReporters.com. This newspaper targets ordinary citizens of the African heritage. The second article is from the Irish market Irishtimes.com. This newspaper's audience is global as it publishes newspaper articles about social events that affect the everyday life of citizens positively and negatively. The Irish Times lists the author of the text, which was represented as Hayden Sally (Hayden, Dec 2, 2019). Whereas SaharaReporters did not include an author of the text (SaharaReporters, Nov 30, 2019). This development could result from how news is published in different newspaper establishments because Bell (1991, p33) suggests that articles are edited and written by 12 or more people. Every newspaper organization has its style of writing to attract preferred audiences (Bell, 1991, p47).

Internal Relations

In as much as both articles refer to the same event of the Protection from Internet Falsehoods and Manipulation Bill (2019) in Nigeria, how they are handled are disparate. Fairclough's internal relations, as initially described, are adopted in examining the differentiation in the newspaper articles in the following sessions.

Action

As argued by Fairclough (2003, p27), action describes the intent of the text, relating the event to the text. The differences in which both texts report event series are the representations. The clauses are structured as declarative in both texts.

Representation

In the text's representation, the writers convey the message to the world (Ibid.). SaharaReporters and The Irish Times chose different approaches to represent how the authors want to deliver the news.

Vocabulary

Differentiations in newspaper texts are observed first via the vocabulary used in the headlines to lead the readers into the news story. According to Caldas-Coulthard (1996, p. 257), "in newspapers, the headline and the lead (the first paragraph of the text), in most cases, fulfill the dual function of the abstract and the orientation. For all periodical articles, the lead is the most important paragraph of the story". SaharaReporters article begins with; Buhari's wife backs Hate Speech Bill, Says Nigerian Government Needs to 'Control' Like China (SaharaReporters, Nov. 30, 2019).

Furthermore, the sub-headline of SaharaReporters reads; According to her, since China, with about 1.3 billion people, can do so, there was nothing wrong with Nigeria adopting the first such measure (Ibid.). Such representations of the first lady of Nigeria as Buhari's wife in the headline inform the reader to picture the event as a political control discourse, which contains discourses of bias from the writer of the article.

The sub-headline goes further to inform the reader to picture the event as a repressive discourse since it mentions the state's vocabulary supporting China's repressive state model. The Irish Times headline, in contrast, begins with the Nigerian social media Bill under fire as the first lady suggests emulating China (Hayden, Dec. 2, 2019). The sub-headline reads; New rules would criminalize insulting the government online with three years in jail (Ibid.).

Firstly, the Irish Times headline refers to the wife of the president of Nigeria as the first lady, which is her official status in Nigeria, and moves on to reveal the in-house formal style of headline writing, in the sense that the vocabulary used in the writing of the headline does not suggest bias. Secondly, the verb "suggests" in the headline informs the reader to picture the event of the Protection from Internet Falsehoods and Manipulation Bill (2019) as a call for debate.

However, SaharaReporter's verb usage of "control" informs the reader to picture the event as a discourse that is not debatable. Similarly, the SaharaReporters subheadline portrays the event to the reader that the state authorities do not perceive a liberal authoritarian style of governance as wrong, as the quest to exercise powers on dissenting platforms is applauded. However, the subheadline of the Irish Times appeals to the reader the intent of the author to relay a message to the rest of the world about a new social media bill that criminalizes dissenting public discourse with a punishment of three years in jail.

SaharaReporters article representation of events is different from the Irish Times' representation of events. The former did not make mention of the punishment that goes with insulting the state authorities on digital platforms but rather represents its bias towards the state, as the vocabulary "control" and "nothing wrong" suggests to the reader that there is a problem that needs to be tackled. The different vocabulary used in the SaharaReporters, and the Irish Times are presented in the table below:

Table1: Vocabulary explaining the Protection from Internet Falsehoods and Manipulation Bill 2019

Sahara Reporters		**The Irish Times**	
Vocabulary	Times used	Vocabulary	Times used
Hate speech bill	1	Social media bill	4
Stiff	1	Criminalize	1
Control	3	Control	4
Social media	3	Social media	6
Tweet	1	Tweeted	1
Adopt such measure	2	Emulate	1
Aisha Buhari	4	Citizens	2
		Activists	1
		Draconian	1
		Defamation	1
		Protests	1
		Freedom of expression	2
		Constitution	1
		Regulate	1
		Prejudicial to national security	1
		Diminish public confidence	1
		Power	2
		Arrested	1
		Under fire	1
		Curating	1
		Aisha Buhari	4

Sahara Reporters, in contrast to The Irish Times, stressed how the wife of the President of Nigeria supports the enactment of the Protection from Internet Falsehoods and Manipulation bill (2019). Aisha Buhari was explicitly mentioned four consecutive times, further represented as "stiffening social media regulations" and supporting China's control mechanism. The choice of languages used in the article suggests that the state is willing to control the nation compared to China, without explaining to its readers what the Protection from Internet Falsehoods and Manipulation bill (2019) entails in detail and also without revealing resistance to the bill.

However, the Irish Times article employs various languages to disseminate the meaning of the Protection from Internet Falsehoods and Manipulation Bill (2019), its implication, and resistance by activists. It begins by explaining to its readers an activist's opposition to the bill and ends with resistance by another activist. "Activists are rallying in Nigeria after the country's first lady proposed using China as a model for how to control citizens' social media use" (Hayden, 2019, p. 1).

The Irish Times used the language "draconian" to explain the implication of the Protection from Internet and Falsehoods Manipulation Bill (2019). The news organization revealed that Deji Adeyanju, whom the state had previously arrested for defamation, was protesting against the enactment of the bill. Similarly, The Irish Times revealed how the state seeks to "take away the right to freedom of expression of the citizens which are constitutionally guaranteed in section 39 of the constitution" (Hayden, 2019, p. 1). The article also concluded with resistance from another activist, Amaize, who left the shores of Nigeria for the US six months before writing. He relocated due to threats from the state to re-arrest him because he continually curates dissenting public discourses on Kakaaki Social – a Nigerian television program (Hayden, 2019, p. 2).

Table 2: Vocabulary with negative connotations			
Sahara Reporters		**The Irish Times**	
Vocabulary	Times used	Vocabulary	Times used
Stiff	1	Control	4
Control	3	Shot to death	1
		Diminish public confidence	1
		Draconian	1
		Tyranny	1
		Arrested	1
		Under fire	1
Stiff	1	Control	4
Control	3	Shot to death	1

Sahara Reporter's article does not emphasize the problematic stance of the bill but instead focuses on Aisha Buhari supporting the enactment of the bill. However, the Irish Times article makes its readers aware that there is a problem concerning the Protection from Internet Falsehoods and Manipulation Bill (2019) due to the more important choice of languages employed. Strong words such as "tyranny," "under fire," "draconian," "shot to death," and "diminish public confidence" suggest to readers that there is a problem.

Quoted Sources

SaharaReporters and The Irish Times' choice of sources for direct quotes are contrasting. According to Coulthard (1994, p. 298), "the reporter only reports those part of the exchange that is significant for him/her according to his/her view of the world." Sahara Reporters cites two sources for direct quotes. The first source is a statement by the first lady of Nigeria condemning citizens' tweets and does not emphasize what the bill in question represents. The second source follows suit by revealing Aisha Buhari's support of China's social media control mechanism without revealing the implication of the social media bill to citizens.

The Irish Times article cites six direct quotes and four indirect quotes. The first two direct quotes began with the first lady's support of controlling the public sphere compared to China's social media control mechanism. The article further revealed resistance from a quoted tweet by a Nigerian resisting her statements by explaining the negative implication of China's social media authoritarian model. The following three quoted sources presented resistance to the Protection from Internet Falsehoods and Manipulation Bill (2019) by different Nigerian activists, insisting that social media is the hope of the ordinary citizen.

The four indirect quotes came from the first lady, Human rights watch, and activists resisting the bill, suggesting further that the Irish Times did not rely on only sources from the state. Also, the news organization employed sources from human rights organizations and media activists to create a balance in mediating the impact of the Protection from Internet Falsehoods and Manipulation Bill (2019) to a global audience.

Identification

According to Fairclough (2003, p. 164), "what people commit to themselves to in texts is an important part of how they identify themselves, the texturing of identities." The social actors and events of Sahara Reporters and The Irish Times were presented in the previous sessions. This session utilizes the representations to deduce the writer's ideologies.

SaharaReporters

SaharaReporters article opens with a headline that attracts the reader's attention with the use of "Buhari's wife" to emphasize the statement, followed by a lead paragraph that describes its use of "Buhari's wife" to begin the headline of the article. The next words follow a narrative structure. As observed in the sentence headline, the writer evaluated the narratives in the headline through its sentence: "Buhari's wife backs hate speech bill, says Nigerian Government Needs to 'control' like China" (Sahara Reporters, Nov. 30, 2019, p. 1). According to Francis (1994, p. 85), "a retrospective label serves to encapsulate or package a stretch of discourse …. it is presented as equivalent to the clause or clauses it replaces". This notion is employed in the headline of Sahara Reporters, as the catastrophic use of the word 'backs' serves as the writer's evaluation of how the state supports the hate speech bill.

The evaluation is revealed further through quotes from the first lady's speech: "on the issue of social media, you cannot just sit in the comfort of your house and tweet that the Vice President has resigned. It is a serious issue". The article also ends with the quote, "If China can control over 1.3bn people on social media, I see no reason why the Nigerian Government cannot attempt controlling only 180m people" (Ibid.). The writer is taking a stance against the social media bill but reporting its concerns emotionally by revealing only the repressive statements from the first lady without adding a broader analysis to the bill.

The Irish Times

The Irish Times article begins with a headline that attracts readers' attention through the phrase 'under fire' (Hayden, Dec. 2, 2019, p. 1), followed by a sub-headline that captivates the message to its readers. However, the Irish Times gives more information to the content of the social media bill through its narratives, in opposition to the evaluative stance in the SaharaReporters article. The events are narrated, and every paragraph of the article explains the repressive nature of the social media bill by non-state actors.

Multimodal Discourse Analysis

Fairclough (1999, p. 146) suggests that it is important to include visual images while carrying out CDA because readers perceive events through the images. Sahara Reporter's article included one image that can be analyzed, but the Irish Times did not include any image. According to assertions (Kress & Van Leeuwen (1999, p. 370; Omojola, 2016), viewing the objects from a distance affects image perception, including six distances such as:

- Intimate distance – can view the head only
- Close personal distance – can view head and shoulders
- Far personal distance – can see the person from the waist up
- Close social distance – can see the entire person
- Far social distance – the person is viewed with space around them
- Public distance – four or five people cannot be viewed.

The only image used in the Sahara Reporters article (SaharaReporters, Nov. 30, 2019) shows the first lady of Nigeria – Aisha Buhari, giving a speech, addressing an audience while standing far away. Readers are connected to the action in the image through the photograph taken at a distance far away. This connection suggests to the readers that this is the preferred handling of the situation.

Discussion

This article aligns with liberal democratic values (Vincent & Tunde, 2018). How can we differentiate between data that threatens national security and data that seeks to question the legitimacy of the state? For instance, a bill such as the

Frivolous Petitions and Prohibitions Bill (2015) proposes to give a death sentence to online data containing anti-military/anti-governmental discourse. What specific class of data can be classified as hate speech? Is it data generated by human rights activists intending to advocate for a better democratic nation, or is it user-generated data with grievances towards the state? Or data from extremist terrorist groups? Narratives of state-run hegemony come to play here, considering state censorship in the Nigerian digital media sphere.

The President Buhari administration supported the Frivolous Petitions Prohibitions Bill (2015) and suggested that hate speech offenders be punished in line with the Anti-Terrorism Act (2011) (Oladapo & Ojebuyi, 2017, p. 107). According to the Nigerian state authorities, continuous religious insurgents from the Boko Haram terror group in Nigeria informed the decision to draft the proposal. In the state's opinion, hate speech and fake news disseminated via social media promote Nigeria's organizing and mobilizing of religious militia terror groups (Ibid.).

The Frivolous Petition Prohibitions Bill (2015) led to an uproar among Nigerian Citizens concerning freedom of expression. Visibility was inherent through protests on Twitter, with the hashtag #NOTOSOCIALMEDIA BILL (Oladapo & Ojebuyi, 2017, p. 107), in addition to the collective action on physical environments, with the hashtag #MARCHTONASS, to resist enactment of the proposal (Ibid.). This article argues in line with the collective actions of ordinary Nigerian citizens that aided in the withdrawal of such a bill to limit freedom of online speech, which was supported by President Muhammadu Buhari, the Executive President of Nigeria (Eribake, 2015). Offensive and false statements connote different meanings (Omojola, 2008) because abusive statements could be termed hate speeches and false statements as fake news. As such, they should be separated rather than stating that it is prohibited to post any abusive statement that is false. The spread of fake news on social media is a problem that many repressive regimes around the globe are making efforts to tackle, such as China, Russia, Egypt, and France (Nikolayenko, 2019; McKeever, 2019; Unver, 2019).

According to Oladapo and Ojebuyi (2017), global media and human rights activists resisted the Frivolous Petition Prohibition Bill (2015) to limit freedom of speech in Nigeria. Nigeria is a nation that suffered repressive regimes during the military era (Akor, 2017), and forwards to the aftermath of the attainment of democracy in 1999; the nation still records low ratings in press freedom compared to other democratic-led African nations (House, 2015). Cases of censorship on media-government relations are recorded, as well as frequent clamping down of journalists and media houses (Human Rights Watch, 2017). However, the press system of operations in Nigeria has evidenced narratives of partisanship and lack of "professionalism as a result of ownership influence" (Ojebode & Oladapo, 2018), institutional, political bias, and house style.

Moreover, this article observes evidence of resistance to the Frivolous Petition Prohibition Bill (2015) from human rights activists in Nigeria and citizens. The International Press Centre and a former Governor of Ekiti State of the People's Democratic Party, Governor Peter Ayodele Fayose, resisted the bill in his tweets. BBC News Pidgin published the tweets on the 4th of March 2018, stating that "on this issue of hate speech, I stand with Nigerians and anything they say to improve the country. Those of us occupying public offices are doing so in trust for the people; we are not their lords. The power of the people is greater than that of the people in power" (Chiakera, 2019).

Similarly, more resistance to the bill to limit online free speech is evidenced in an article (Thompson, 2018). Professor Adibe of political science at Nasarawa state university resisted the bill by stating that "it could be used to curtail speech, to frighten people, the whole essence of freedom of speech, which is the bedrock of democracy itself, would be killed." It is tough to distinguish between what people call hate speech and offensive speech. Offensive speech may be uncomfortable, but it is generally accepted and contributes to the whole marketplace of ideas on which democracy thrives (Ibid.).

Professor Adibe added that with the rising ethnic tensions in Nigeria, a free and transparent media is vital to the democratic process in the 2019 elections, at the time of writing, as the earlier conducted 2015 election recorded a first-hand peaceful democratic transition of government. Similarly, the head of reporters without borders in Africa – Arnaud Froger, resisted the bill. He asserts, "we feel like the legislation could be turned into an instrument of censorship. Instead of getting more and more people rightfully pursued hate speech, we find more and more outspoken journalists prosecuted for hate speech" (Thompson, 2018).

The Frivolous Petition Prohibition Bill (2015) presented a narrative on how citizens of a nation can utilize the powers vested on social media to uphold freedom of expression (Oladapo and Ojebuyi, 2017, p. 109). The reactions of many ordinary Nigerians through Twitter and other social media platforms pushed for the rejection of the bill's enactment. The bill's timing coincided with the global movement for the inclusion of youths in ensuring accountability in governance (Action Aid, 2015). The kind of direct involvement in governance, which ActionAid proposes, remains an inspiration in Nigeria, where governance is still the preserve of the old politicians who have continued to recycle themselves in power (Omodia, 2007; Ogundiya, 2010; Charles and Osah, 2018). In the current democratic dispensation at the time of writing, Nigeria slides backward in youth representation in governance as known old faces were nominated, elected, and appointed into principal political offices (Oladapo & Ojebuyi, 2017, p. 109).

Nigerians have constituted a virile community of civil activists on social media, and Twitter has emerged as the hub of civic mobilization in the country (Chiluwa & Adegoke, 2013). While they are structurally excluded from mainstream political power, Nigerians, mainly youths, utilize Twitter and other social media to contest and negotiate the actions and decisions of government in the light of the implications of those actions and decisions on the citizens' democratic development. Traditionally, the role of defending democracy is entrusted to the press. That is why constitutional protection of the freedom of the press is characteristic of democratic countries. Over the years, constitutional provision for freedom of the press does not automatically translate into a free press (Ibid.). However, Price (2019) asserts that democracy has a binary character, and the reality in the West is that it is systemic. In other words, in the West, democracies survive through institutionalization in three forms:

- It is not the institutionalization of political parties but the institutionalization of part systems that have fostered the prospects for democratic survival in Europe.
- There is a threshold of systemic institutionalization that, once reached, will avoid democratic collapse.
- Systemic-over institutionalization does not seem so perilous for the survival of the democratic party (Casal Bertoa, 2017).

Opportunities have been offered for transparent democratic operations in Nigeria through the opportunities of a public hearing, for the entire citizens to debate and deliberate on policies that do not affect their daily lives positively and for inclusion to be the social order of the day (NASS, 2019). The recent enactment of data privacy by NITDA that protects Internet users in Nigeria from infringement of fundamental freedoms guarantees the application of human rights for users of digital media platforms without state interference (Greenleaf, 2019). Okunrinboye (2019) petitioned the Nigerian state on a social media bill that criminalizes hate speech with 79,208 signatures. Such an event suggests that mass resistance to legislative proposals that criminalize the spread of dissenting public discourse is a global problem.

The mainstream media in repressive regimes such as Nigeria, Ghana, China, Spain, and Egypt, are controlled by the state, and activists utilize social media to improve campaigns for change (Randall, 1993; Lee, 2000; Kurlantzick, 2003; Lynch, 2011; Sabido, 2019, p119). Thompson (2018) referred to online hate speeches as offensive speeches because, in his opinion, offensive speech is needed for citizens to mediate on issues affecting society. Sahara Reporters article and the Irish Times article possess strengths and weaknesses in conveying the message of the Protection from Internet Falsehoods and Manipulation Bill (2019) to its readers. The Irish Times did not include any image in reporting the bill's support by the first lady of Nigeria at the time of writing, but they both convey the message of restrictions on freedom of speech. However, Sahara Reporters included an image representing how the state establishes and maintains order through regulations of dissenting public discourse.

This development is similar to the British colonial rule in Nigeria, where the "colonial officials successfully arrogated to themselves extensive legal powers to deal with perceived threats to law and order" (Ibhawoh, 2002, p. 74). Although Sahara Reporters presented an image to present its analysis, there was minimal information on the content and intent of the bill. Similarly, the Irish Times did not include any image. However, the content and intent of the bill were more apparent to its readers through a broader analysis of the bill revealing sources from the state and non-state actors.

Findings from this article reveal that there are calls for closing civic spaces through drafting legislative proposals and presenting such legislations to the lower and upper chambers of the National Assembly of Nigeria (Olowolagba, 2017). The past and present democratic regimes from 2009 to date contributed to the development in a bid to limit dissenting public discourse. However, resistance measures by civil society organizations such as Spaces For Change, Centre for Social Justice, leaders of NGOs, and human rights activists are against such state censorship (Ibid.). This article suggests that some speeches that could be classified as hate speeches may not be criminal per se but are uttered intending to promote democratic values and mediate society.

Furthermore, for hate speech to be labeled as a hate crime, it should pass through proper vetting by an unbiased director of the hate crime office. Similarly, it should contain contents such as those represented by the recent IPOB movement group in Nigeria (Ugwuanyi & Ekwueme, 2018; Ojukwu & Oni, 2018; Ekpo & Agorye, 2018) and the Boko Haram Terrorist Group (Clubb, 2018; Nnam et al., 2018; Onuoha & Samuel, 2018). Some dissenting public discourse criticizing the state could be uttered for the state to make amends to stringent policies or attract local or international bodies on lousy governance. Similarly, this paper argues for good governance that guarantees a higher standard of living and better democratic values.

The United States, United Kingdom, and Germany support local NGOs and human rights organizations in Nigeria to promote human rights (Hoffman, 2016; Sandlin, 2018; Gegout, 2019). Moreover, in some situations where assistance is provided for internally displaced persons, the values are misrepresented, and the representatives often face a crisis (Ahmad, 2017). For instance, the victims of the Boko Haram crisis are supported by ICRC - a German NGO with relief materials (Brauman, 2017, p. 5). Similarly, the organization faces challenges because the terrorist group members attack them repeatedly. They do this by performing acts of violence and demanding the state shut down the operations of international humanitarian organizations (Emannuelar, 2015, p. 285).

Human rights activist groups resisted the 2017 NGO Regulatory Bill (Olowolagba, 2017). One of them is the group headed by Femi Falana, a human rights activist in Nigeria. In his statement to an indigenous newspaper in Nigeria – Daily Post, he termed the bill in Nigeria a "worst piece of legislation in the history of Nigeria" (Ibid.). Similarly, the bill threatens the existence of a free and fair, independent civil society in Nigeria. He attended the National Assembly public hearing of the NGO Regulatory Bill (2017) on December 13 and 14, 2017. There he urged Speaker Dogara to reject the bill, as it goes against the constitutional rights of the citizens of Nigeria, as provided in section 40 of the 1999 Nigerian constitution, Articles 21 and 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which Nigeria is a state party (Olowolagba, 2017).

Furthermore, the NGO Regulatory Bill (2017) offers the deregistering of NGOs that are not working in the state's interest. The bill denies local and international associations and suggests the denial of the registration of new NGOs with the goal of human rights advocacy on vague grounds, stating that they are not in line with the government's programs.

Moreover, charity associations and organizations operating without registration shall face criminal convictions as provided in the bill. Femi Falana further states that the bill "places undue restrictions on the right to freely associate, which is a fundamental freedom and essential component of democracy, as recognized by the United Nations Human Rights Council" (Olowolagba, 2017). He suggests that if the bill eventually gets enacted, he shall "vigorously challenge it in court on the grounds of its unconstitutionality and incompatibility with Nigeria's international and regional human rights obligations and commitments" (Ibid.).

Other activists also joined in the resistance to the NGO Regulatory Bill (2017). Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah of the Catholic attended the public hearing and mentioned that "he stands with the civil society. Without civil society, democracy would be in danger. Civil society is central to democratic governance and performance, which formed part of the reason why I formed the Kukah Centre. The debate is important because the political class has developed a feeling of disregard for the value of civil society. Although the bill's intentions are noble, the approach needs to be reviewed" (Olowolagba, 2017). Human rights activist Abdul Oroh also resisted the NGO Regulatory Bill (2017), stating that it intends to cripple civil society organizations in Nigeria, which only seek good governance in Nigeria (Ibid.).

Leaders of Nigerian Civil Society organizations in Nigeria did not support the NGO bill. They argued that "there is sufficient legal framework for regulating civil society and charitable operations in Nigeria" (Ibid.). Similarly, s. 15 and s. 20 of the NGO Regulatory Bill (2017) were also resisted by the Centre for Social Justice in Nigeria, stating that the provisions are vague and offer unchecked discretionary powers to the Minister of Interior. The BEARS foundation also resisted the provision that surrenders assets to the regulatory commission. Amnesty International rejected the bill because it violates freedom of expression and attempts to limit how individuals organize themselves.

The Centre for Democracy and Development stated in the hearing that organizations like theirs would be put at risk if NGO Regulatory Bill (2017) was enacted. In the hearing, the sponsor of the

NGO Regulatory bill (2017) was not present to defend the bill, as observed by Seun Onigbinde of BudGIT, representing Open Alliance (Olowolagba, 2017). SPACES FOR CHANGE director - Victoria Ohaeri believed that the NGO Regulatory Bill (2017) violates the provisions of constitutional rights in the Nigerian Constitution. She further questions the bill, wondering how Nigeria, which faced recession in recent times and is trying to recover from the recession, would secure funds for establishing a regulatory agency for NGOs (S4C, 2018)?

The NGO Regulatory Bill (2017), which connotes state censorship, is similar to China's new overseas NGO management law, enacted in the state's interest. (Hsu and Teets, 2016). In the case of Nigeria, the restriction of freedom of speech limits the ability of the media and citizens to defend the nation's democracy despite "the fundamental assumption that survival of democracy is unsure without a free press that provides a good platform for the public debates" (Oladapo & Ojebuyi, 2017, p. 107).

Given the partisan nature of the conventional media in Nigeria (Ismail, 2011; Ayodele, 1988; Jibo, 2003; Oso, 2012), the use of social media created an alternative media platform where citizens can freely air out their views on specific policies of the state and disaffections of democratic values (AModu et al., 2019; Ekeli & Onobakhare, 2013). They do this through debates in the digital media sphere. Ordinary Nigerian citizens utilize the affordability of social media to communicate as provided by Web 2.0 technologies in disseminating socio-political commentary (Campbell and Kwak, 2012; Chatora, 2012; Vesnic-Alujevic, 2012, cited in Oladapo and Ojebuyi, 2017, p. 108).

The public hearings organised by the legislative arm of government in Nigeria provide opportunities for ordinary citizens to participate in the process of enactment of legislation that could affect them positively or negatively. If a bill would impact negatively, the social media space offers people a platform to oppose it. So, why are such practices criminalized? Furthermore, this article suggests that providing opportunities for public hearings in democratic processes in Nigeria is just for formality because the elites of the society are not ready to embrace human rights and decolonize the justice system.

Whenever there is time for an election, one begins to find various bills from the leaders in a bid to restrict the public sphere. Democratic nations should be living in an era where human rights advocates should be elected to official positions for sustainable policies to be enacted in favor of all classes of people, which goes against elitism (Idike et al., 2019).

This development, in turn, would improve the growth of the economy and society at large. This article contributes to knowledge by extending Yusuf's (2018, p. 27) argument that there is "a need to engage with the implications of colonization, as it will shape and condition transitional justice processes." Similarly, this article contributes to knowledge by revealing Greenleaf's (2019) notion of the need for Nigeria to have a Data Protection Act that is free from state interference. The article calls on the NITDA to produce a Data Protection Act similar to the United Kingdom's 2018 Data Protection Act.

This article is against such anti-social behaviors by the ordinary citizens against the state authorities. However, as regards hate speech, if the economy of democratic nations continues to improve rather than fall into recession, and policies are put in place to foster good democratic values, then dissenting public discourses on social media platforms would be reduced to a minimum. If most citizens are unhappy with the state's policies and the economy does not favor them in a nation like Nigeria, where there is a growing ethnic and class antagonism (Yakubu, 2019), scathing criticisms will not cease on social media.

President Olusegun Obasanjo, in his swearing-in speech at the advent of democratic governance in 1999 in Nigeria (Gore and Pratten 2003, p. 212), promised to protect democracy. To promote transparency in the Nigerian society and for social justice to prevail, this article suggests that any elected officer to man the nation's affairs in building a sustainable economy should enact policies that would improve the growth of democratic values. According to Okoh and Chukwueke (2016, p. 2), s. 38 of the Cybercrime Act (2015), which gives service providers consent to store users' data, is a "regulatory load, particularly on the telecommunication sector and interferes with the regulatory competence of the Nigerian Communications Commission - NCC. The measure is a duplication of efforts, such as the SIM registration initiative. It may indeed be redundant as the NCC is empowered by s. 64 of the Nigerian Communications Commission Act (2003) to gather the same information" (Ibid.).

Similarly, s. 21 of the Cybercrime Act (2015) was resisted, stating explicitly that; the duty imposed by s. 21 is potentially arduous, requiring the report of all attacks or disruptions to the Nigeria Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT). However, the Act neither defines these terms nor refers to the attack's severity or success. A financial institution's ordinary business may be subject to multiple attempted breaches or other disruptions. The requirement to report all such occurrences within seven days imposes a substantial duty on institutions, and a mandatory fine is imposed for failure to do so. Additionally, CERT may further disrupt the institution's operations by denying it Internet access under s. 21 (Ibid.). Evans (2019) also suggests that the enactment of legislation to monitor hate speeches in the digital media sphere in Nigeria, especially during and after election periods, is to minimize dissenting public discourse and to promote the selfish desires of the state.

In new media spheres such as Facebook and Twittersphere, which promotes political participation, for ordinary citizens to participate and communicate freely on social media, some regulations restrict the everyday practices while participating/communicating on such technology-driven platforms. The deregulation of the digital media space in Nigeria is a condition for social justice in Nigeria.

The advocates of peace, justice, and reconciliation need to utilize social media as a means of mediating in society for democracy as opposed to the failed transitional justice system by General Abdusalami Abubakar (Yusuf, 2018, p. 16). Suppose a policy is existent in Nigerian society that tends to criminalize human rights advocacy, such as the NGO Regulatory Bill (2017). In that case, this paper begs a straightforward question: Do the Nigerian state authorities benefit from restrictions on freedom of speech? The Nigerian state authorities may benefit from the restriction of freedom of speech to "continue a colonial tradition of law-making" (Ibid.).

If democratic values are suppressed and the elites continue to control their resources in a self–serving, class antagonism becomes aggravated. How can such discourses be averted? The Nigerian Legislative Arm of Government organizes public hearings before enacting any legislation. Although human rights lawyers and activists have attended hearings to resist the NGO Regulatory Bill (2017), as shown above, the ordinary citizens of Nigeria should engage in continuous protests digitally and physically to remind the leaders of their constitutional rights. They should continue in their quest for the "shaping of transitional justice processes" (Yusuf, 2018, p. 27) in Nigeria.

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Non-verbal Communication: Anger and Dissatisfaction in Ghanaian Marriages

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Abstract
Problems and challenges are part of matrimony. This study focuses on how nonverbal cues express anger and dissatisfaction in Ghanaian marriages. Data from 30 married couples were thematically analyzed, resulting in three outcomes. One, married couples use various forms of nonverbal communication such as proxemics, occulesics or eye movements, chronemics, kinesics, and behavioral cues to communicate anger. The married couples also use nonverbal cues such as frowning, mean face, eye contact, fisting of hand, denial of sex, and refusal to eat to express their anger and dissatisfaction. Two, married couples encounter difficulties such as misinterpretation of cues by partners, suspicion, and ineffective communication in their use of nonverbal cues to express their anger. Third, there are essential difficulties among couples regarding interpreting nonverbal cues that express anger. These findings prove that the need strongly exists to educate couples on how to interpret nonverbal cues as a vital component of the strategy to improve matrimonial communication.

Keywords: Communication; Family communication; Non-verbal communication; Marriage, Conflict, Non-verbal cues.

Introduction

Communication is not only what we say but also how we say what we say. Nonverbal communication is an aspect of communication that involves the use of nonlinguistic cues to send meaning (Ran, 2016). Nonverbal communication has the potential to reflect the true feelings, attitudes, and expectations of communicators in a communication activity (Tabacam, 2016).

According to Plumb (2013), nonverbal communication is a collection of expressions and body language that an individual deliberately or unconsciously expresses to the audience. Facial expressions, postures, eye behaviors, voice tone, and gestures are examples of these behaviors. The importance of nonverbal behaviors in displaying emotions cannot be overstated (Bjerregaard, 2010). These nonverbal cues keep the discussion flowing smoothly, encourage turn-taking, provide feedback, and convey subtle meanings.

Gamble and Gamble (2007) defined nonverbal communication as actions or attributes of humans, including their appearance, use of objects, sound, time, smell, and space, that have socially shared significance and meaning to others. Kilmukhametovaa and Buba (2015) posited that nonverbal cues are the markers of communicators' emotional states. In other words, through nonverbal cues, one can detect the true emotional expression of a communicator.

The expression of nonverbal cues differs across cultures and individuals (Song, Curtis, & Aragon, 2021; Pearson, Nelson, Titsworth, & Harter, 2003; Malek et al., 2019). For instance, in contact cultures such as those found in Africa, there is an open expression of emotions of warmness, closeness, and availability, while in non-contact cultures such as those of the West, they do not openly express warmness, closeness, and availability (Gordon & Druckman, 2018; Song et al., 2021; Reed, Zeglen, & Schmidt, 2012).

Moreover, men tend to touch women and keep a front position than women in similar cases (Adebayo, Omojola & Evbuoma, 2021; McDuff et al., 2017; McCullough & Reed, 2017). As Gamble and Gamble (2007) put it, 'males are the "touchers" and not the "touches" and are the leaders rather than the followers.' Men are equally more likely to suppress their emotions than females. However, their nonverbal communication cues can provide glimpses of the true feelings and attitudes men and women bring into the communication event (Igbinoba et al., 2019; Kilmukhametovaa & Buba, 2015).

In family communication, the gender and cultural variables may impact the expression of emotions and attitudes in the communication event. According to Fitzpatrick (2004), family communication focuses on the use of communication to build and negotiate relationships and roles among family members. Family communication explores an aspect of interpersonal communication in the family context.

Fitzpatrick (2004) propounded the family communication patterns theory and argued that the area of family communication presents an understanding of the dynamic functions, processes, and outcomes over time in the family. One inevitable thing is the occurrence of disagreement among couples in the nuclear family. In a family disagreement context, the likelihood of expressing emotions by partners to register their displeasure is an area that can aid our understanding of the use of nonverbal cues in family communication.

Statement of Problem

Family communication patterns, and even theories, have been studied internationally by scholars like Fitzpatrick (2004), Aysen, Gregory, and Aviv (2006), and Kilmukhametovaa and Buba (2015), among others. In her study, Fitzpatrick (2004) discovered that ideology, interdependence, and conflicts are three key variables that determine the relational dimension patterns of couples. Ideology refers to the beliefs, values, and standards that individual partners hold in marriage. Interdependence focuses on the degree of connectedness that binds the couples together in the marriage context.

Finally, the conflicts variable covers the area of behavior avoidance of engagement. Based on this, Fitzpatrick (2004) found that couples may exhibit the traditional, independent, separate or mixed family pattern. The conflict avoidance bit in the typology explains how each family pattern minimizes conflict based on their unique practice of a particular relational pattern.

Aysen, Gregory, and Aviv (2006) discovered that the influence of family members in decision-making was based on socio-orientation and concept orientation. Socio-oriented family communication pattern emphasizes parent-to-child communication, while concept-oriented families emphasize more issue-focused debates (Aysen, Gregory, & Aviv, 2006). Based on this, the authors categorized the family communication pattern into laissez-faire pattern (low socio-orientation, low concept orientation); protective pattern (high socio- orientation, low concept orientation); pluralistic pattern (low socio-orientation, high concept orientation), and consensual pattern (high socio-orientation, high concept orientation).

In nonverbal communication, Pattersson et al. (2022) observed that sustained and systematic empirical research on nonverbal communication was not widespread until the middle of the twentieth century. Nevertheless, Plumb (2013) examined the effect of the absence of non-verbal cues in instant messaging and computer-mediated communication. The author found that the absence of nonverbal cues in messaging affects the expression of emotions by communicators. The advantage of face-to-face communication over computer-mediated communication is the presence of nonverbal cues in face-to-face communication (Plumb, 2013). Since family communication is a type of interpersonal communication, face-to-face communication in family communication is bound to be paramount. This development makes the use of nonverbal cues relevant in communication.

Family communication studies have skewed towards generic patterns despite using nonverbal cues in face-to-face family communication. More work is still needed to understand the specific communication styles of family members, especially couples. In this area, using non-verbal cues to register conflict is worth exploring in the Ghanaian context. Even though there have been studies in Ghana on conflict management in the family setting (Nkulenu, 2016; Gyamfi, 2009; Ampah, 2013, Gyan and Tandoh-Offin, 2014), there is little knowledge on how nonverbal communication cues are used to express anger in the conflict situation among couples. This study explores using nonverbal cues among couples to express their anger in the Ghanaian nuclear family setting.

Objectives of the Study

The study's objectives are the following:

1. Explore the forms of nonverbal communication used to express anger in Ghanaian marriage.
2. To investigate the challenges associated with using nonverbal cues to express anger and

dissatisfaction in Ghanaian marriages.

3. To examine the extent to which married couples can appreciate nonverbal communication cues used by their spouse to express anger and dissatisfaction.

Research Questions

1. What are forms of nonverbal communication used to express anger in Ghanaian marriage?
2. What challenges are associated with using nonverbal cues to express anger and dissatisfaction in Ghanaian marriages?
3. To what extent can married couples appreciate nonverbal communication cues used by their spouse to express anger and dissatisfaction?

Significance of the Study

This study contributes to the gray area of communication in the Ghanaian nuclear family setting, which currently has low visibility in Ghana. The study provides empirical evidence of how couples express emotions such as anger in the family setting.

The study will also help develop an understanding of the common strategies to communicate and express anger among family members. Even though nonverbal cues can be expressed unintentionally (Gamble & Gamble, 2007), the same scholars consented that nonverbal cues can be used intentionally to achieve a particular communication effect, thus the metacommunication function. In essence, this study will help couples be more competent in interpreting their spouses' nonverbal cues to understand the emotional state of spouses.

Review of Literature

Nonverbal Communication

Nonverbal communication as an aspect of human communication has been studied by scholars such as Wood (2007), Gamble and Gamble (2007), Hall (1997), and many others. Nonverbal communication refers to communication produced by some means other than words (eye contact, body language, or vocal cues, for example) (Knapp & Hall, 2002). Nonverbal communication usually performs functions in communicative encounters. One, nonverbal communication cues are used to express emotions and attitudes and emphasize verbal cues. Moreover, nonverbal cues can help contradict or reinforce verbal cues. For instance, people can utter words that exhibit happiness, but their nonverbal cues of a sad face or face smile could contradict or reinforce the verbal means. Gamble and Gamble (2007) found that nonverbal cues could be categorized into proxemic, chronemic, haptics, artifacts, and occulesics. These forms cover how distance, time, touch, physical adornments, and eye contact communicate.

Gender and Age Versus Nonverbal Cues

Communication scholars have discovered that gender and age affect the use of nonverbal cues. Gamble and Gamble (2007) discovered that males tend to express a high level of visual dominance, meaning that men look at others when speaking but look elsewhere when listening than women. Also, men are more likely to touch others than women in a communicative encounter. However, females tend to smile more than men in a communication encounter. Women are also known to be better interpreters of nonverbal cues than men. Regarding age, it is known that the level of competence in using nonverbal cues increases with age. This development implies that individuals can use and interpret nonverbal cues as they advance in age.

Emotions and Nonverbal Cues

One thing that has been highlighted is the authenticity of nonverbal cues' capability in expressing feelings and emotions. Emotions are physiological, behavioral, or communicative reactions to cognitively processed stimuli, manifesting emotionally (Planlap, Fitness, & Fehr, 2006). Muzichuk (2013) observed that non-verbal signs could manifest communicative intentions and emotions. Puccinelli, Motyka, and Grewal (2010) found that the retailers' customers expressed their feelings through nonverbal cues. Guerrero and Floyd (2006) distinguished two types of emotional classification: the affectionate prototype and the hostile prototype. The affectionate prototype shows the love and affection people show to others, but the hostile prototype is the expression of anger and disaffection towards others.

Shaver et al. (1987) divided emotion into primary and secondary emotions. Primary emotions are innate and usually experienced for short periods with little effort. For instance, anger, fear, surprise, joy, and disgust are primary emotions. These emotions have facial expressions that make them recognizable. On the other hand, secondary emotions are not innate as primary, and they are experienced in the long term with fewer facial expressions to make them recognizable. These emotions include love, guilt, shame, embarrassment, and jealousy. Since anger is the primary emotion and disagreement is bound to occur in marriages, it is vital to explore how nonverbal cues are used to express anger. In expressing anger, Shaver et al. (1987) discovered that nonverbal cues such as high pitching, hitting objects, withdrawal, frowning, mean facial expression, fisting, gritting teeth, and walking away, among others, are used to register anger.

Empirical Review

Gamble and Gamble (2007) found that nonverbal cues provide metacommunicative function. This provision means that nonverbal cues provide the true meaning of what words convey by either emphasizing, contradicting, regulating, or reinforcing, among others. This is done through nonverbal communication forms such as movements, facial expressions, distance, artifacts, and color. One crucial discovery of Gamble and Gamble in their study was that males and females use nonverbal cues differently. For instance, while males seek to emphasize the strength of ideas communicated and a dominant role in expressing nonverbal cues, females instead engage in relationship inviting cues with high emotional expression than males.

Moreover, despite such cues, too often we remain unaware of the messages our bodies, our voices, or the space around us sends to others. Even though interpersonal effectiveness depends on more than words, nonverbal messages are less likely than words to be intentionally deceptive. This development motivated the current study to understand the expression of nonverbal cues in emotion, such as anger.

In another study, Puccinelli, Motyka, and Grewal (2010) investigated the impact of customer nonverbal cues expressivity on retail marketing. Using literature and personal observation of purchase actions customers portray at retail centers, the authors discovered that customers use nonverbal cues to express their true feeling towards buying situations. Moreover, customers who mask their true feelings in their nonverbal expressions end up expressing feelings that are consistent with the nonverbal cues they portray. Puccinelli et al. (2010) discovered that expressing nonverbal cues during buying situations depends on the opportunistic situation, involvement level, personal characteristics, and cultural norms. The idea is that the knowledge of nonverbal communication cues among retailers can help them maximize their influence on customers' buying decisions.

In detailed works on normative masking, Safdar et al. (2009) discovered that the Japanese displayed rules that strictly limit the display of powerful emotions (anger, disgust, and contempt) more than those in U.S. or Canadian cultures. Likewise, Puccinelli, Tickle-Degnen, and Rosenthal (2004) found that the type of communication event determines the conformity to cultural norms. For instance, the discussion usually allows the diversion from the cultural norms, while task-based interaction requires conformity to the cultural norms. In the Ghanaian setting, cultural masking of how males and females should engage in communication has not been assessed.

As a way of deciphering these nonverbal cues expressions, the need exists to explore nonverbal cues used among Ghana couples, hence this study. Kilmukhametovaa and Buba (2015) explored the expression of emotions by movie characters. After examining the selected movies, the authors discovered that gestures and facial expressions were the dominant cues. Also, the characters and raconteurs expressed their emotions through the narration.

Theoretical Framework

Expectancy Violation Theory

This study adopts the expectancy violation theory by Burgoon, 1993. Burgoon's (1993) standpoint is that communicators expect every communication encounter can be met or defied. Emotions occur in response to deviations from expected behavior. When a person experiences high social value in the expectation of defiance, he or she will have positive reinforcement. On the other hand, if a person has low social value in the violation, the dissonance with the violation situation.

Regarding emotions, Burgoon (1993) argued that when expectancies are not met, negative emotion follows; when expectancies are exceeded, positive emotion follows. Specifically, Burgoon (1993) theorized that positive violations of expectancies (e.g., someone you like unexpectedly gives you attention) lead to emotions such as joy, relief, and pride, as well as nonverbal behaviors such as affection and involvement. On the other hand, harmful violations of expectancies (e.g., someone you like unexpectedly ignores you) lead to emotions such as anger, frustration, and disappointment, as well as flight-or-fight response tendencies. So, following a harmful expectancy violation, a person might withdraw from the interaction (flight) or become aggressive (fight). This theory will guide in understanding the anger expression strategies for anger expressivity among married couples in Ghana

Methodology

The Qualitative research approach adopted in the study allows the interpretation of reality from the perspective of the participants' understanding of reality (Rahi, 2017; Cresswell, 2014). Since the expression of anger is embedded in the individual, it is vital to use an approach that allows participants to express their views on the topic of investigation.

A total of 30 respondents were selected purposively for the study. Purposive selection because it offers the best way to achieve the set objectives. The 30 participants were graduate students in the Faculty of Arts, University of Cape Coast. Since Ghana is a multiethnic nation with six major ethnic groups and over seventy other cultural areas, the researchers considered the graduate students from different parts of the country studying at the university as suitable multiethnic respondents.

The ethnic distribution of the participants includes seven (7) Akans, three (3) Mole-Dagbani, six (6) Fantes, five (5) Gas, seven (7) Ewes, and two 2 Guans. This diversity was part of the research design matrix because of cultural orientation's role as an essential indicator of the use of nonverbal cues, according to Gamble and Gamble (2007). The respondents included 16 females and 14 males. The participants were married for at least one year to nine years of marriage.

For specific data collection, the researchers adopted the face-to-face interview approach to collect data. The interview was guided by semi-structured questions that allowed participants to share their views on the issues regarding expressing anger through nonverbal cues. The voice notes were transcribed and cross-checked before using the data to answer the research questions. The transcribed data were cross-checked with the recordings to ensure the transcription succinctly reflected the audio.

Regarding ethics, the participants were informed about the researchers' purpose and willingly consented to participate in the study. Moreover, the researchers assured them that the responses provided would be kept confidential with no disclosure to the third parties except for the academic purpose. The participants' real names were not disclosed in any part of the study so that the identity of the participants could remain anonymous.

Results and Analysis

The results of the study will be in categories based on the research questions that

Q1. What are forms of nonverbal communication used to express anger in Ghanaian marriage?

There are different forms of nonverbal communication, as outlined by Gamble and Gamble (2007). The current study showed that four of these nonverbal forms were used to express anger and dissatisfaction towards partners.

First, partners usually resort to occulesics - a nonverbal communication to express their anger and dissatisfaction. Occulesic is the use of eye contact to communicate. In the data gathered, participants indicated that they have a way of looking at their spouse that shows that they are angry. In the extract below, the participant indicated how he uses occultic to communicate anger.

I usually look at her sternly, and she has to depict that I am angry with her. Most of the time, the look is normally different from how I look at her when we are not quarreling. (Extract from participant 3).

Another female participant said she used eye contact to communicate anger and dissatisfaction. As she indicated, she did not look the husband in the face when they disagreed as she does in peaceful times. The refusal to have eye contact with her shows anger and dissatisfaction towards the spouse.

I usually don't look at him when angry because he will not like my face. (Extract from participant 16)

The use of eye contact to communicate was used as a nonverbal form to express anger and dissatisfaction. The data also indicated that male partners usually resorted to this more than the females. This revelation confirms Song et al. (2021) finding that eye contact helps express the emotion of anger.

Another non-verbal form of communication was used mainly as kinesics. Kinesics involves the use of body movements to communicate. Some participants indicated, in the data, that they used body movements to communicate. One participant indicated he usually fist his finger as a sign of anger.

I have a way I usually use my hand to show her I am angry. I fist my finger or raise the hand in a way. (Extract from participant 13).

A respondent indicated that she usually resorted to nodding and shaking her head as the only feedback to his husband when they had issues. This is usually done to avoid verbal responses that might express anger verbally.

Normally, when I am angry, and he speaks to me, I only nod my head or shake my head, but I will say a word to him. This is one way I use to communicate anger to my spouse. (Extract from Participant six)

Moreover, some participants used proxemic to communicate anger. Proxemics is the use of distance or space to communicate. One participant indicated that he usually sleeps in the hall instead of in the bedroom with his wife to register his anger.

I usually will not sleep in the bedroom with her because I am angry. I will go to the hall and sleep there. Sometimes, even if I am sleeping in the bedroom, I will sleep on a student mattress instead of the normal bed. (Extract from Participant 9)

Also, most of the male participants indicated that they usually would walk away as a way to register their anger or dissatisfaction.

Regarding chronemics, the participants indicated they would leave home and return late at night when everyone was already asleep. This lateness in returning home was a nonverbal cue to express their dissatisfaction and anger.

When we disagree, I will leave the house and come back very late. (Extract from Participant 3).

The last ones grouped were not captured in Gamble and Gamble's (2007) classification. This nonverbal form could be described as behavioral rather than cues in that they are based on partners' behaviors. For instance, some members reacted by refusing to eat the spouse's food, denying the partner sex, and denying the partner necessities as nonverbal ways of expressing their dissatisfaction and anger.

I usually will consent to his sexual advances when I am angry. Mostly, I will deny sex as a sign that I am angry. (Extract from Participant 29).

I don't eat her food when I am angry, and she knows that I am angry with her when I don't eat the food. (Extract from Participant 29).

From these excerpts, the participants use these behaviors to indicate their anger toward their spouses. In sum, the participants used nonverbal communication forms such as proxemics, occulesics, chronemics, kinesics, and nonverbal behavioral cues to express their anger and dissatisfaction to the audience. As Burgoon (1993) indicated, harmful expectations violations will always attract the expression of negative emotions such as anger. The current study found the hostile nonverbal cues identified by Shaver et al. (1987), including frowning, mean facial expressions, denial and withdrawal, fisting, and walking.

Safdar et al. (2009) argued that cultural normalcy might make people suppress the expression of emotions such as anger. The current study found the current bearing to be in the refusal to eat by males as a way to get the female attention. In the Ghanaian context, refusing to eat a spouse's food unsettles the spouse. Nevertheless, others, such as hitting and pitching, among others, are prohibited by culture.

Q2. What challenges are associated with using nonverbal cues to express anger and dissatisfaction in Ghanaian marriages?

The study found challenges in using nonverbal cues to express anger and dissatisfaction. Misinterpretation of the cues by partners was the most dominant in the participants' narratives. For instance,

Mostly when I stop eating the food, she may think I am eating from somewhere. (Extract from Participant 1)

Sometimes it takes time for him to know I am angry with him; that is why I am not talking to him. (Extract from Participant 6).

Also, some participants indicated that the partners usually suspect them of chasing others outside, which is why they are coming home late. Also, partners who resorted to refusal to eat found that they could not sustain it for long because the children were concerned about why he or she was not joining them at the dining table.

Sometimes, my children will say, " Dad, why are you not eating with us. This usually makes me reconsider my decision and start eating with the family. (Extract from Participant).

The nonverbal cues usually mar the effectiveness of communication. Feedback is usually delayed because partners have resorted to using nonverbal cues to express their displeasure.

Q3. To what extent can married couples appreciate nonverbal communication cues used by their spouse to express anger and dissatisfaction?

The major challenge was that a misinterpretation of nonverbal cues affected the effectiveness of nonverbal cues as a mode to express anger and dissatisfaction.

My partner might not understand the fisting of my hand until I openly inform him. (Extract from participant 12)
Mostly, he cannot interpret my frowning as a sign of anger. (Extract from Participant 2)

To a large extent, participants had difficulties interpreting nonverbal cues as a sign of anger and dissatisfaction. On the other hand, it appears that women had more competence in interpreting nonverbal cues than men. The men were consenting. Their wives could interpret it as a sign of anger, but the females generally could not say that of their husbands. This development confirms Gamble and Gamble's (2007) finding that females are better at interpreting nonverbal cues because of their relationship-centered communication than men, who are problem-centered communicators.

Moreover, the extent to which partners could interpret correctly depends mainly on the type of nonverbal cue used and the situation. For instance, in a situation of disagreement, nonverbal cues become clear signs of registering anger (Burgoon, 1993), but in mild emotional torture, the nonverbal cues will be interpreted differently. On the other hand, frowning, mean face, refusal to eat food, and denial of sex were easily interpreted by partners. However, lateness, fisting of fingers, and eye contact were less considered expressions of anger.

Conclusion

The current study has explored a gray area of family communication, thus using nonverbal cues to communicate anger and dissatisfaction. The study found three significant findings. One, married couples use forms of nonverbal communication such as proxemics, occulesics, chronemics, kinesics, and behavioral cues to communicate anger. The married couples use nonverbal cues such as frowning, mean face, eye contact, fisting of hand, denial of sex, and refusal to eat to express their anger and dissatisfaction. Also, married couples encounter difficulties such as misinterpretation of cues by partners, suspicion, and ineffective communication. Third, there are largely difficulties in interpreting nonverbal cues even though this was based on forms used and the situation.

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Organizational Communication and Influence of Personality Traits on Knowledge Hiding Behaviour of Students

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Abstract

One way of enhancing effective organizational communication is to encourage knowledge sharing. However, knowledge transfer can be problematic because organizations do not own employees' intellectual assets. Despite the benefits of knowledge sharing, some individuals like to hide knowledge. This work is about the knowledge hiding behavior and the influence of the Big Five Personality factors as they affect senior students. A survey of 381 postgraduates showed that 54.8% admitted that they engaged in knowledge hiding along the three dimensions of playing dumb, evasive hiding, and rationalized hiding. Among the five personality traits, only neuroticism had a significant relationship with knowledge hiding (β=0.378; p=0.000<0.05). Lecturers are encouraged to identify students that exhibit neuroticism and develop strategies and teaching methods that could make them engage in knowledge sharing. The study provides valuable empirical data for other researchers seeking to understand the role of personality factors in knowledge hiding behavior where communication and knowledge sharing are promoted and encouraged.

Keywords: Big Five Personality Factors, effective communication, evasive hiding, knowledge sharing.

Introduction

Knowledge is an intellectual resource for competitiveness in organizations and at individual levels. Its management is a priority for effective communication and performance. Studies have confirmed that an individual's or organization's performance depends upon effective communication through knowledge sharing (Ike, 2016; Zamfir, 2020). Communication activity is the transmission of messages, ideas, facts, opinions, information, knowledge, feelings, and documents between two or more people through verbal or non-verbal methods. This activity could be a one-way approach in that a person gives information or knowledge to others. It could also be from the ritual point of view: two-way communication based on the mutual exchange of ideas, opinions, information, and knowledge-sharing activities that bring people together (Savolainen, 2017). Communication is fundamental to the existence and survival of humans and groups, and effective communication is vital to all life skills.

One of the ways humans communicate is through knowledge sharing (Folayan et al., 2018; Ji & Zou, 2017; Kadmon Sella, 2007, p. 104). Knowledge sharing is a set of activities that provide knowledge to others proactively or upon request. Thus defined, knowledge sharing incorporates two significant aspects, i.e., giving knowledge to others and receiving knowledge that the knowledge giver has provided. Knowledge sharing presumes an act of externalization by knowledge owners (Hendriks, 1999, p. 92) and internalization by knowledge receivers. Externalisation can take many forms, e.g., codifying knowledge in a written document or explaining the meaning of an idea in a lecture. Internalization may also occur in many forms, including learning by doing and reading books (Hendriks, 1999, p. 92). Knowledge sharing exemplifies communication because externalization and internalization require communicative activities involving transfer from owners to receivers.

One way to enhance effective organizational communication is by encouraging knowledge sharing. However, organizations do not own the intellectual assets of employees and cannot force workers to transfer their knowledge to other organizational members (Connelly et al., 2012). Despite the benefits associated with knowledge sharing, some people are reluctant to share knowledge, which in most cases leads to an attempt to hide, withhold or conceal knowledge (Connelly et al., 2012). This reluctance is an obstacle to innovation, development, and good performance. Unwillingness to share can occur when people are encouraged and rewarded to share knowledge (Issac & Baral, 2018).

Knowledge hiding (KH) is an emerging concept and a spreading phenomenon in many work settings. Knowledge hiding means intentional concealment of knowledge; which now means that KH does not include cases where someone fails to share knowledge; but a situation where someone intentionally decides to conceal knowledge. KH also occurs when someone provides some but not all of the necessary requested knowledge, which implies deception (Connelly et al., 2012; Connelly & Zweig, 2015). Even though Connelly et al. (2012) describe KH as a low-base-rate event, it represents a significant threat to the performance of individuals and organizations (Černe et al., 2014; Peng, 2013).

KH is harmful to both individuals and organizational collaborations in developing innovations, ideas, procedures, or policy implementation whereby individual negative perspective influences their knowledge contribution (Issac & Baral, 2018; Zhao et al., 2016). KH counteracts individuals' creativity (Yuan & Woodman, 2010) and hinders growth and competitiveness because it inhibits innovation (Anand & Jain, 2014). Connelly and Zweig (2015) and Connelly et al. (2012) outline that KH encompasses three related behaviors: playing dumb, evasive, and rationalized hiding. Playing dumb is when the hider pretends as if he does not know and is ignorant of the relevant knowledge. At the same time, Evasive hiding is when the hider provides incorrect information or a deceptive promise to provide a complete answer in the future. However, there is no plan to do it in reality. Perpetrators who use this technique may also try to convince the knowledge seekers that the knowledge required is simple (while pretty complicated) and enforce them that they can try to acquire it by themselves. Rationalized hiding is when the hider provides a reason or justification for the failure to share the requested knowledge by explaining the difficulty of providing the requested knowledge or blaming another person or party for the failure.

There have been calls for investigations into the failure or reluctance to share knowledge within organizations because of knowledge-sharing in effective knowledge management. Several studies (e.g., Ji & Zou, 2017) have focused on enhancing knowledge sharing in organizations and at an interpersonal level. However, the focus was not on why organizational members hide or withhold their work-related knowledge from their co-workers until the study of Connelly et al. (2012). The study is an empirical study specifically examining how and why KH occurs in real-world organizations.

Some other studies have shown that KH is associated with some other factors: psychological traits such as Machiavellianism (e.g., Pan et al., 2018), perceived organizational politics (e.g., Malik et al., 2019), and competitiveness within the organization (e.g., Hernaus et al., 2019), personality traits (e.g., Anand & Jain, 2014; Demirkasımoğlu, 2016; Iqbal et al., 2020; Wu, 2021), lack of rewards for knowledge sharing, internal competition, and psychological entitlement (Issac & Baral, 2018; Wen & Ma, 2021), social relationships (Su, 2020), among others.

Individuals may also hide knowledge when they consider several potential costs that they may have to bear personally due to sharing their knowledge, for example, the loss of status or power (Cress et al., 2005). However, most of these studies have focused on KHB at the organizational level, mainly in non-academic institutions. This study focuses on students' personal and interpersonal KHB in an academic institution, where knowledge sharing is prioritized.

Several factors have been identified as KH predictors; however, the influence of personality traits on KH has not been sufficiently explored. Personality is a vital psychological mechanism that directs behaviors and can be an essential antecedent that influences an individual's behavior in hiding or sharing knowledge (Halder, Roy, & Chakraborty, 2010; Sosnowska, De Fruyt, & Hofmans, 2019). The literature describes the core aspects of personality with the Big Five Personality (BFP) factors (extraversion, neuroticism, openness to experience, agreeableness, and conscientiousness) (Petrides et al., 2010).

Some studies (e.g., Anand & Jain, 2014; Iqbal et al., 2020; Pei-Lee et al., 2011; Wu, 2021) have shown relationships between personality traits and knowledge-sharing behavior as KH. Some studies have investigated the relationships between personality traits and the academic performance of university students (Duff et al., 2008), approaches to learning (Zhang, 2003), and academic motivation (Komarraju & Karau, 2005). However, limited evidence is available about the influence of BFP factors on the KHB of students. KH is considered an obstacle to an individual and organization's growth, innovation, and competitive advantage, which calls for the need to investigate the KHBs of postgraduates of the University of Ibadan and the influence of the personality traits of the students on their KHBs.

Literature Review

Studies (e.g., Sosnowska et al., 2019) have shown that personality adds incremental value above and beyond mental ability or bio-data when predicting work-related behaviors and performance. This development makes personality assessment a valid criterion for many selections and recruitment processes (Judge & Zapata, 2015). Even though there is sparse literature on the influence of personality traits on KHB, some scholars have shown relationships between personality traits and KH.

Anand and Jain (2014) provided a theoretical framework that attempts to explain a possible relationship between the BFP types and KHB and suggests the need to test the relationships empirically. Wang et al. (2014) conducted an empirical study on what drives students' knowledge withholding intention in management education because knowledge-withholding behavior among students was an obstacle to social knowledge construction in the context of management education in Taiwan. The data collected from 365 undergraduate management students of Taiwanese universities showed that extraversion, conscientiousness, neuroticism, and openness to experience indirectly influenced knowledge-withholding intention through the mediation of perceived social identity. The study established a relationship between the personality traits of students in China and their KHB, which could also apply to students in Nigeria; hence, this study.

Demirkasımoğlu (2016) collected data from 386 research assistants and assistant professors from Turkish universities to analyze the KH types of academicians and their relationship between personality traits. Findings showed that KHB was not a prevalent phenomenon among academics. Extraversion was positively correlated with KH, while neuroticism was negatively correlated with KH. Demirkasımoğlu's study showed that personality traits could influence KH among academics, though not students in this case. Mangold (2017) investigated why employees engage in KH and the consequences of such behavior in an organizational and entrepreneurial environment. The study employed a qualitative approach based on a five-study design. It concluded that there might be other antecedents, such as personality traits and contextual factors, which future studies, such as the current study, could explore.

Iqbal et al. (2020) also investigated the personality traits predicting KHB of full-time teachers of public and private sector universities in Southern Punjab, Pakistan. The results showed that the people who scored high for extroversion and openness to experience did not hide knowledge compared to those who scored highly on agreeableness, conscientiousness, and neuroticism. This development means that the teachers who were extroverts did not engage in KH, while those who were agreeable (cooperative and trustworthy), conscientiousness (focused, determined, more achievement-oriented), and neurotics (emotionally unstable, easily irritable, and aggressive) hid knowledge. Wu (2021) also explored the role of personality traits and psychological ownership in online working environments to understand their impact on KH among managerial level employees of corporate organizations in China and how social status moderates these relationships. The findings showed that the personality traits of the Big Five model positively predicted KH, except for openness to experience.

Theoretical Framework and Development of Hypotheses

Personality is a vital psychological mechanism that directs behaviors and can be an essential antecedent that influences individual knowledge sharing or hiding behavior (Halder et al., 2010). A person can best describe the traits exhibited in the individual's cognitive, emotional, and behavioral tendencies. This study adopted the Big Five Personality Theory. The literature describes the core aspects of personality by the BFP factors or Five-Factor Model factors (extraversion, neuroticism, openness to experience, agreeableness, and conscientiousness) (Petrides et al., 2010). The big five traits emerged from decades of research and have been promoted to simplify an overwhelming number of traits, their cross-cultural capability, and their ability to predict behavior (McCrae & Costa, 1997). This study, therefore, investigated the influence of the five dimensions of personality traits on KHB.

The Big Five Dimensions of Personality and KH

Many contemporary personality psychologists believe that there are five basic dimensions of personality, often referred to as the "Big 5" personality traits. The five broad personality traits are extraversion, agreeableness, openness, conscientiousness, and neuroticism. Each of the five personality factors represents a range between two extremes. For example, extraversion represents a continuum between extreme extraversion and extreme introversion. Most people lie between the two polar ends of each dimension in the real world. Researchers (e.g., Anand & Jain, 2014; Demirkasımoğlu, 2016; Duff et al., 2008; Iqbal et al., 2020;

Komarraju & Karau, 2005) have investigated the relationship between personality traits and knowledge sharing and hiding behaviors and found varied results. The research framework, as presented in Figure 1, shows the relationship between the variables.

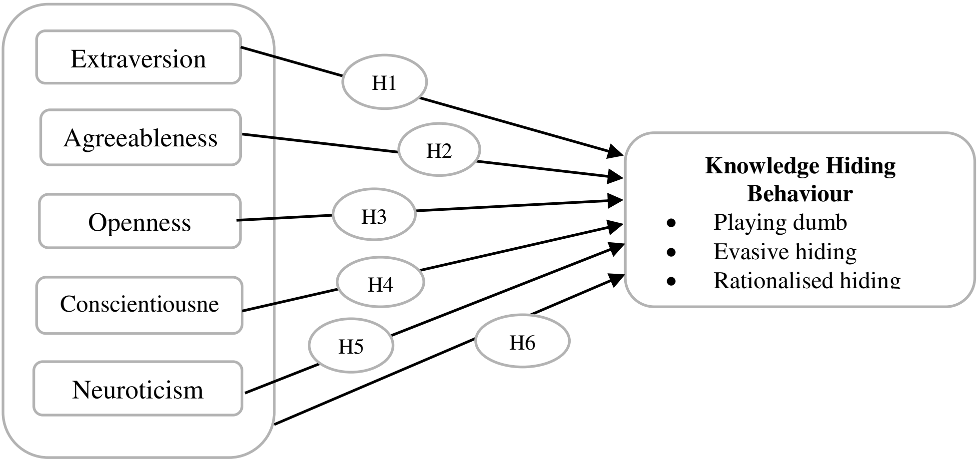

Figure 1: The Research Framework

Extraversion (extroversion) is the first dimension of the big five. Extraversion, also described as positive emotionality (Hampson, 2012), is the degree to which an individual tends to be warm, outgoing, energetic, and ambitious. Those high in extraversion are unlikely to hide knowledge because they are emotionally positive, inclined to be sociable, comfortable interacting with the environment, enjoy being the center of attention, like to start conversations, and have a wide social circle of friends and acquaintances (Anand & Jain, 2014; Cherry, 2021; Smith et al., 2021). However, people who are low in extraversion tend to be more reserved. Hence, such people would likely engage in KHB. Based on the arguments presented and in line with previous studies such as Anand and Jain (2014) and Wu (2021), the first hypothesis is proposed:

H1: There is a significant relationship between extraversion and KH.

Agreeableness

Agreeableness is a personality dimension in which individuals have preferences for the interpersonal and social aspects of human personality like friendliness, cooperation, and care. Highly agreeable people tend to be friendly, trustworthy, empathize with and are concerned for others, and enjoy helping and contributing to happiness (Barrick & Mount, 2005; Caspi et al., 2005; Cherry, 2021). However, those with a low agreeableness score are unfriendly, aggressive, take little interest in others, and do not care about how others feel (Anand and Jain, 2014; Cherry, 2021). It is expected that agreeable people will not engage in KH, while individuals who score low in agreeableness would hide knowledge. In line with these arguments and previous studies (e.g., Anand & Jain, 2014; Iqbal et al., 2020; Wu, 2021), we propose that:

H2: There is a significant relationship between agreeableness and KH.

Openness to Experience

Openness to experience reflects an individual's independent, liberal, and daring behavior. This trait features characteristics such as imagination and insight (Power & Pluess, 2015). The people with a high score in this dimension are open to new ideas, creative, intelligent, inventive, independent thinkers, and adventurous. Conversely, the individuals who score low on this scale are narrow-minded, often much more traditional, have no imaginative quality, and dislike change. An assumption is that individuals low in openness to experience would indulge in KHB while those high in this trait would not. Accordingly, the third hypothesis is proposed.

H3: There is a significant relationship between openness to experience and KH.

Conscientiousness

Conscientiousness or constraint emotionality refers to the degree to which people are organized, resolute, competent, responsible, and trustworthy (Caspi et al., 2005). Highly conscientious people tend to be mindful of details, enjoy having a set schedule, are mindful of deadlines, are dependable, achievement-oriented, and think about how their behavior affects others (Barrick & Mount, 1991; Cherry, 2021). However, individuals who score low for this factor are unreliable, can easily be distracted, dislike structure and schedules, do not take care of things, fail to return things or put them back where they belong, procrastinate essential tasks, and fail to complete necessary or assigned tasks (Anand & Jain, 2014; Caspi et al., 2005; Cherry, 2021). It is assumed that individuals low in conscientiousness would indulge in KH while the highly conscientious individuals would not; thus, the fourth hypothesis was proposed:

H4: There is a significant relationship between conscientiousness and KH.

Neuroticism

Neuroticism is the preference for an individual's disposition to adverse effects and emotional stability. The trait described as negative emotionality (Hampson, 2012) ranges from stability and low anxiety to instability and high anxiety. Individuals who are highly neurotic are nervous, easily depressed, emotionally unstable, aggressive, self-doubting, and experience dramatic shifts in mood (Caspi et al., 2005). However, individuals low in this trait are calm, emotionally resilient, rarely feel sad, and do not show extreme emotional reactions (Cherry, 2021). Martínez et al. (2010) found that neurotic people have poor emotional stability and can easily surrender under anxiety, depression, or insecurity. Iqbal et al. (2020) found neuroticism positively associated with KH. It is assumed that high neurotic individuals could indulge in KH while those low in this trait would not; hence, the fifth hypothesis:

H5: There is a significant relationship between neuroticism and KH.

Knowledge hiding Behaviour

KH behavior may be explained through psychological knowledge ownership and territoriality (Adebayo, Omojola & Evbuoma, 2021; Serenko & Bontis, 2016). KHB impedes knowledge transfer flow and has been found to weaken interpersonal and organizational performance (Evans, Hendron, & Oldroyd, 2014). Mangold (2017), in his empirical research, examined the multilevel analysis of antecedents and consequences of KH in organizations. The study revealed that engaging in hiding is not merely a simple refusal to transfer knowledge but intentional behavior to refuse to share knowledge. This study assumes that the BFP traits could jointly influence KH; hence, it is proposed that:

H6: There is a significant joint relationship between the personality traits (extraversion, agreeableness, openness, consci entiousness, and neuroticism) and KHB (playing dumb, evasive hiding, and rationalized hiding).

Methodology

The study adopted the descriptive research design aimed at accurately and systematically describing the target population, situation, or phenomenon to have a deeper understanding of those factors that influence students' behavioral intentions towards KH. The population of the study is postgraduate students of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Stratified random sampling helped to select 403 respondents. The questionnaire is divided into three parts: part A collected data about the demographics of the students, part B collected data on knowledge-sharing behavior, and part C collected data on the students' personality traits. KHB was measured via the Connelly et al.'s (2012) three-dimensional instrument with a four-point Likert scale ranging from "strongly agree" (4) to "strongly disagree" (1), while items used to measure personality traits were adapted from Sawal et al. (2016) and Zaidi et al. (2013). Two lecturers examined the questionnaire at the university for face and content validity. The reliability of the instrument was tested through internal consistency. The instrument was pre-tested among twenty postgraduates of another university. As shown in Table 1, the Cronbach alpha results reveal that all the variables, except one, have coefficients above 0.7, which shows that the instrument is reliable.

Table 1: Cronbach alpha results for the items in the questionnaire

Variable or Construct Name	Number of Measurement items	Cronbach Alpha Results
Extraversion	5	0.702
Agreeableness	5	0.613
Openness to experience	5	0.706
Conscientiousness	5	0.739
Neuroticism	5	0.762
KHB	14	0.751

A total of 390 copies of the questionnaire were distributed to the faculties of the respondents. Eventually, 381 copies of the questionnaire were completed and analyzed, which translated to a 94.5% response rate. Ethical procedures were followed during the design and administration of the instrument. Respondents were well informed about the study and were given the free will to participate, and their anonymity was protected. Descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage mean, and standard deviation), Pearson correlation, Linear, as well as Multiple

Regression analyses were carried out to determine the relationships between the independent and dependent.

Results

Table 2 shows the results of the analysis of the characteristics of the respondents. The total respondents were 381, of which 65.4% were males, while 34.6% were females. Those within the age bracket (26-30) were the most represented (58.3%). Most (87.4%) were 700-level students (Masters' students) and from the Faculty of Education (20.0%).

Table 2: Frequency and Percentage Distribution for the Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents		
Variable	Frequency (N=381)	Percentage (%)
Sex		
Male	249	65.4
Female	132	34.6
Age		
Below 20	108	28.3
20-25	38	10.0
26-30	222	58.3
31-35	9	2.4
36-40	2	0.5
Above 40	2	0.5
Level of Study		
700	333	87.4
800	48	12.6
Faculty		
Agriculture	31	8.1
Arts	52	13.6
Clinical Sciences	17	4.5
Econ and Mgt. Sciences	12	3.2
Education	76	20.0
Environmental Design and Management	15	3.9
Multi-Disciplinary Studies	16	4.2
Pharmacy	21	5.5
Renewable Natural Resources	13	3.4
Science	75	19.7
Technology	20	5.2
The Social Sciences	33	8.7

Knowledge Hiding Behaviour of the Students

Table 3 shows the students' responses to the three dimensions of KH. We categorized KH according to Connely et al. (2012) dimensions. Most of the students agreed to hide knowledge along the three dimensions. Most respondents agreed to the first KH factor, described as playing dumb (five items). This development shows that the students did deceive their colleagues by pretending to be ignorant of the relevant knowledge. The results of the second dimension (evasive hiding) with six items also show that most students were involved in knowledge deception by providing incorrect information or a misleading promise of knowledge, even when they had no intention to do this. Most students were also involved in the third dimension of KH, labeled rationalized hiding (three items). This type of hiding does not necessarily involve deception, but justifications were provided for failing to provide the requested knowledge.

Table 3: Frequency and percentage distribution of respondents' dimensions of KHB (N=381)

Statements	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	St. D
Playing dumb						
During knowledge-sharing sessions in class, I often leave the contribution of knowledge to other classmates	69 18.1%	173 45.4%	87 22.8%	52 13.7%	3.11	1.411
During knowledge-sharing sessions in class, I pretend I do not know the question even though I do	81 21.3%	148 38.8%	101 26.5%	51 13.4%	2.76	1.309
I always say I am not very knowledgeable about a topic even though I am	88 23.1%	153 40.2%	103 27.0%	37 9.7%	2.59	1.298
I always pretended I did not know what people asked of me, even though I do	115 30.2%	105 27.6%	134 35.2%	27 7.0%	2.56	1.270
I keep what I know from people intentionally	122 32.0%	134 35.2%	101 26.5%	24 6.3%	2.41	1.249
Evasive hiding						
During knowledge-sharing sessions in class, I do not contribute more knowledge than I know I can.	55 14.4%	173 45.4%	77 20.2%	76 20.0%	2.87	1.336
I always agree to share my knowledge but never really intend to	62 16.2%	163 42.8%	69 18.2%	87 22.8%	2.82	1.376
I usually offer my colleagues other knowledge instead of what he/she wanted	105 27.5%	144 37.8%	91 23.9%	41 10.8	2.64	1.359
I am not always willing to share knowledge at all time	111 29.1%	115 30.2%	43 11.3%	112 29.4%	2.50	1.352
I always tell my colleagues that I would help out later but stalled as much as possible	124 32.5%	111 29.1%	30 7.9%	116 30.5%	2.40	1.246
I always hide innovative achievements from my colleagues	123 32.3%	116 30.5%	28 7.3%	114 29.9%	2.31	1.212
Rationalized hiding						
When asked something, I always explain that the information is confidential and only agree to share it because of my relationship with the person.	79 20.7%	161 42.3%	106 27.8%	35 9.2%	2.77	1.305
When asked about something, I explained that I would like to tell him/her but was not supposed to.	89 23.4%	157 41.2%	108 28.3%	27 7.1%	2.61	1.280
I am always reluctant to share knowledge by giving excuses.	116 30.4%	114 29.9%	126 33.1%	25 6.6%	2.29	1.187

Influence of personality traits on knowledge hiding

Five null hypotheses were tested at a 0.05 level of significance. Pearson correlation and Linear multiple regression analysis were used to determine the correlation and the relative and joint relationships, whereby the correlation outcome between variables at a significant value of <0.05 (p-value) validates the alternative hypothesis; otherwise, the null hypothesis becomes valid. Correlation analysis provides the degree to which constructs are related (Sekaran & Bougie, 2010). Where the correlation coefficient is close to or equal to 1, it indicates a strong relationship between the variables. Otherwise, it would either be moderate or weak. Table 4 presents the correlation values among the variables. Only the relationship between neuroticism and KHB is significant, with a positive correlation of 0.374.

Table 4: Pearson correlation results for the test of hypotheses

Null Hypotheses	Correlation coefficient	Sig. (2-tailed)	N	Decision
H1: Extraversion → KHB	.063	.228	381	Not significant
H2: Agreeableness → KHB	.034	.519	381	Not significant
H3: Openness → KHB	. 097	.062	381	Not significant
H4: Conscientiousness → KHB	.034	.519	381	Not significant
H5: Neuroticism → KHB	.374**	.000	381	Significant
** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)				

The linear and multiple regression results in Tables 5 and 6 also reveal that only neuroticism has a significant relationship with KHB. The beta (β) between neuroticism and KHB is 0.374, indicating a moderate positive relationship. If neuroticism is to be increased by one standard deviation from its mean, KH would be increased by 0.374 standard deviations from its mean value if all other relationships are supposed to remain constant. The R^2 values, which measure the predictive accuracy (Hair et al., 2016), describe a combined effect of exogenous latent variables on the endogenous variable. The R^2 value is a significant criterion for measuring the model's predictive accuracy. Table 5 shows that neuroticism explained 13.7% of the variance in KHBs of the students. Table 5 also shows the t-statistics and p-values of the model. If t-statistics are greater than 1.96 with two tail-tests under a 5% significance level, then the path coefficient will be significant (Wong, 2013). The results show that only neuroticism has a t-value above 1.96

and p-values below 0.05, indicating a significant relationship with KHB.

Table 5: Linear Regression results for the test of hypotheses							
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	Decision
		B	Std. Error	Beta			
H_01	(Constant)	31.718	3.987		7.955	.000	Not significant
	Extraversion	.247	.205	.063	1.207	.228	
Notes: df = 1; F ratio = 1.458; p = .228; R = .063; R^2 = .004; Adj. R^2= .001							
H_02	(Constant)	34.423	3.217		10.700	.000	Not significant
	Agreeableness	.104	.161	.034	0.646	.519	
Notes: df = 1; F ratio = .417; p = .519; R = 034; R^2 = .001; Adj. R^2= -.002							
H_03	(Constant)	32.157	2.390		13.457	.000	Not significant
	Openness	.243	.130	.097	1.869	.062	
Notes: df = 1; F ratio = 3.493; p= .062; R= .097[a]; R^2 = .009; Adj. R^2= .007							
H_04	(Constant)	34.423	3.217		10.700	.000	Not significant
	Conscientiousness	.104	.161	.034	0.646	.519	
Notes: df = 1; F ratio = .417; p = .519; R = .034; R^2 = .001; Adj. R^2= -.002							
H_05	(Constant)	22.292	1.932		11.536	.000	Significant
	Neuroticism	.915	.119	.374	7.718	.000	
Notes: df = 1; F ratio = 59.566; p= .000; R= .374[a]; R^2 .140; Adj. R^2= .137							

Table 6: Multiple Linear Regression results for the test of hypotheses						
Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	Decision
	B	Std. Error	Beta			
(Constant)	17.722	4.259		4.161	.000	
Openness	.258	.139	.103	1.860	.064	Not significant
Neuroticism	.927	.120	.378	7.719	.000	Significant
Agreeableness	.043	.194	.014	0.224	.823	Not significant
Extraversion	-.055	.233	-.014	-0.234	.815	Not significant
Conscientiousness*				.	.	
a. Dependent Variable: Knowledge_hiding_behaviour						
Notes: df = 4; F ratio = 16.096; p = .000; R = .388; R^2 = .151; Adj. R^2= .141; SEE = 11.498 *Conscientiousness was not added to and/or not retained in the final regression model (Collinearity Statistics Tolerance = .000)						

a. Predictors: (Constant), Extraversion, Neuroticism, Openness, Agreeableness

Discussion of Findings

The study found that most students engaged in KH along the three dimensions of Connelly et al. (2012): playing dumb, evasive hiding, and rationalized hiding. This output shows that students engage in KH even though they are in an academic environment where knowledge sharing is encouraged. We hypothesized that extraversion, agreeableness, openness to experience, conscientiousness, and neuroticism would significantly relate to KH. Findings, however, show that only neuroticism had a positive and significant relationship with KHB, while no significant relationship was found for other traits. This development shows that the students who scored high for neuroticism engaged in KH. Thus, null hypothesis 5 is not supported. This finding supports the finding of Demirkasımoğlu (2016) that neuroticism had a significant correlation with KHBs. Iqbal et al. (2020) also found that respondents who scored high for neuroticism engaged in KH. However, this result contradicts Halder et al. (2010) and Pei-Lee et al. (2011). A high level of neuroticism has well-documented effects on the physical (Lahey, 2009), cognitive (Colbert et al., 2004), and emotional (Judge et al., 1999) facets of behaviors. Our results corroborate that neuroticism could make people sad, nervous, moody, depressed, unhappy, emotionally unstable, irritable, aggressive, and self-doubting, making them not sociable and favorably disposed to sharing knowledge (Caspi et al., 2005). Of the BFP dimensions, previous research has demonstrated that people with a high level of neuroticism display a high level of emotional exhaustion, which could result in KH (e.g., Bianchi, 2018).

Neuroticism is associated with a tendency to view the world negatively and see the environment as threatening (Bolger & Schilling, 1991; McCrae & John, 1992). People with high neuroticism have a chronic tendency to experience negative thoughts and feelings, be emotionally unstable, and feel insecure (Hampson, 2012). Also, people high in neuroticism tend to select situations that align with their personality and therefore end up experiencing more stressful (Bolger & Schilling, 1991) and adverse events (Magnus et al., 1993). Highly neurotic people are also characterized by increased stress sensibility. Therefore, they are more susceptible to negative stimuli than people low on neuroticism, which may also explain the link with KHB. It has also been found that neurotic people find it more challenging to cope with stressful events and thus use ineffective coping strategies, such as avoiding and distracting, denying self-criticism, and wishful thinking, which is yet another essential factor that could lead to KHB. Thus, our findings confirm that neurotic people would engage in KH.

The non-significant relationship between the other personality traits (extraversion, agreeableness, openness to experience, and conscientiousness) and KH may be due to a few factors. One reason may be the instrument utilized for data collection, which is self-structured and collected self-reports of the students. Connelly et al. (2012) have highlighted that KH may be a relatively underreported, low-base-rate event because KH covers undesired behaviors in a workplace setting. Hence, the students might have rated this even lower than the typical situation because of social desirability tendencies. Another reason is that KH responses may reflect the current picture of the students' tendencies, which is consistent with Muhenda and Lwanga (2014) and Oyero et al. (2020). Their findings did not provide concrete evidence of KH in higher educational institutions in Uganda. Also, the KH tendencies of students (academics) would be lesser than in non-academic organizations because students are in the university to acquire and share knowledge.

Conclusion and Implications

Knowledge hiding is an aspect of knowledge management that requires attention because of the adverse effects on individuals and organizations. As academic institutions are considered one of the most critical sectors for effective communication and knowledge management practices, this study focused on investigating the influence of personality traits of students on their KHBs. The study found that our respondents engaged in KH. Among the five traits of the Big Five model of personality, only neuroticism influenced the KHBs of our respondents. The academic environment is where knowledge is supposed to be shared as students are in the universities to learn, and learning is not restricted to their teachers. Students also gain much from tutorials and interpersonal learning from friends and colleagues; hence, KH should not be encouraged. It is recommended that students be made continually aware of the benefits associated with knowledge sharing. The students should be made aware that as KH prevents their colleagues from generating creative ideas, it could also have negative consequences for the hider's creativity.

There is no doubt that one of the key contributing factors to students' excellent performance is a conducive learning environment which helps aid sharing process among them. Facilities/resources needed for knowledge sharing, such as Internet access, regular electricity supply, break time, and leisure hours, should be provided to help promote knowledge sharing among students. Lecturers should also be encouraged to engage students by including more interactive classes, discussion sessions, online forums, and study groups to foster familiarity, which could help their communication frequency and knowledge sharing. Lecturers could help neurotics students engage in knowledge sharing by trying to identify the students with this personality trait and develop strategies to work on them. For instance, they could be made group leaders and tutorial leaders and ask them to contribute during lectures, making them open and enthusiastic about knowledge sharing. Academic institutions can help change the paradigm from "knowledge is power" to "sharing knowledge is more powerful," which is only possible by creating and developing a culture that facilitates and encourage knowledge sharing. The expectation is that this will eventually be replicated in society by the time the students graduate.

This study has contributed to the knowledge management literature, particularly on KH. The study builds on the stream of the KH phenomenon in organizations by examining it in a different setting (academia). The study also has substantial practical implications for universities to adopt strategies to identify students' personality traits for effective communication.

Limitations and Future Research Directions

This study has some limitations. It should be noted that the study was carried out among postgraduates in only one university in Nigeria, which cannot provide a generalization ground for all members of the academic world. Future research can replicate this by incorporating more university students to generalize the findings. Comparative studies among university students may also provide different results or allow generalizations. The study focused on the Big Five personality traits; other theories such as the Social Exchange Theory, Psychological Ownership Theory, the Social Cognitive Theory, and Social Capital Theory could be employed to identify other factors influencing students' KHB. Future research could also consider the types of knowledge (tacit or explicit). Students may be inclined to withhold certain types of knowledge but not others; hence, future studies can examine the influence of personality traits on the types of knowledge. This study employed the self-reported scales for analyzing the KH concept. Future studies should apply other methods to overcome the possibility of under-reporting.

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Data Journalism: Placing Content and Practice among Nigerian Journalists

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Abstract
This study attempts to provide the basis for restructuring data-driven reporting among Nigerian journalists by examining its content and practice. Field Theory and Normalization Theory provide the theoretic framework, while focus group discussions by 30 respondents help generate the requisite data. Findings show that Nigerian journalists are not only knowledgeable about the concept of data-driven journalism, but they are also actively engaged as practitioners. Discussants attest to the factuality, verifiability, and reliability associated with data-driven journalism, the challenges notwithstanding. It turned out that its reshaping and sustainability would hinge on two factors. The first is to intensify data-driven journalism training and research. The second is for government to formulate policies or popularize the legislations that guarantee access to data and make data-driven journalism more professional.

Keywords: Data Journalism, Digital Journalism, News Content, Communication, Journalists

Introduction

Data-driven journalism is one of the latest and fastest-growing innovations that have gained global momentum within the media landscape. Digital technology has been used to restructure journalism practice and content to regain the confidence and trust of the public or audience. This development means that the facts generated through data journalism are reliable and help satisfy the consumers' curiosity about factual information. Data never sleeps, and with new devices, sensors, and emerging technology, the rate of data growth is rapid in our world today. However, using data to find a story and create visualizations is not new. A few examples from the past two centuries where big stories came from data (Kalatz, Bratsas & Veglis, 2018).

Data journalism is the skill of searching, interpreting, understanding, visualizing, and making data factual. For Marfo (2018), it is "the use of data and numbers in journalism to uncover, better, explain and/or provide context news story." Data journalism is an emerging form of storytelling where the traditional journalistic skills mix with data analysis, programming, and visualization techniques (Nygren, Appelgren & Huttenrauch, 2012: Appelgren & Nygren, 2014). Bounegru (2012) argues that there are currently two communities of people working with data journalism methods; those that call themselves data journalists and those that belong to the older and more mature computer-assisted Reporting community(Baym, 2015).

Onwumere (2014) asserts that nowadays, complex headlines require supporting information. News media in countries like the United States of America and Britain had, since the mid-2000s, signed-up programmer-journalists to devise data-driven news projects within their newsrooms. Wright and Doyle (2018) cite sources (Rogers, Schwabish & Bowers, 2017; Mutsvairo, 2019), noting that there is a small but significant developing interest in studies that seek to investigate the growing expansion of data journalism in the Global South.

There is an increasing need to source the correct data and carry out the analysis to guide the consumers through the story in a simplistic style. Marfo (2018) asserts that information processing can be done at two levels: (1) analysis to bring sense and structure out of the never-ending flow of data, and (2) presentation to get what is essential to the consumer of the news story (Ferrucci & Vos, 2017).

Objectives of the Study

1. Identify the characteristics of data journalism practice in Nigeria.
2. Determine how data journalism is practiced in Nigeria, and
3. Ascertain the challenges of data journalism practice in Nigeria.

Research Questions

1. What are the characteristics of data journalism?
2. How is data journalism practiced in Nigeria?
3. What are the challenges of data journalism in Nigeria?

Significance of the Study

The study is significant in some respects to scholars and professional communicators. It helps bridge some gaps in literature while investors in digital technology systems can leverage the findings to develop related applications for use. Moreover, regulators get the opportune time with the findings to make policies or decisions that move the industry forward.

Theoretical Framework

The study adopts the Field Theory of Change (FTC). Field Theory of Change helps one understand the nature of the investigation, which borders on the knowledge, application, and challenges associated with the concept and practice of data-driven journalism. The theory relates to the method adopted - Focus Group Discussion (FGD) – in that, in a group discussion, scholars and practitioners exchange ideas and experiences in their fields of specialization to facilitate learning which this paper is driving.

Furthermore, Perreault and Ferrucci (2021) attempted to answer the question of what digital Journalism is while defining the practice and role of the digital Journalist. Using the interview method (with interviewees selected non-probabilistically), the study sought and established the definitions and practices of digital journalism from scholars and practitioners interviewed. The study was guided by the Field Theory and normalization process, culminating in outcomes similar to this study. Hence, the adoption of the same in this study.

Kurt Lewin's Field Theory of Learning states that human behavior functions in an individual's psychological environment. Developed in the

1940s by a German-American, one of the first pioneers of social and organizational psychologists, Lewin (1947), argues that learning is a relative process in which the learner develops a new insight and changes his old view. Learning is all about the change in the cognitive structure of an individual. This development occurs when a person uses his insight to restructure his life space, including his profession and practice.

The main strength and assumption of the theory is that persistence despite resistance and barriers produces the desired result/goal. Learning to adopt or apply a new idea or innovation will be faced with resistance and challenges. There are two sides to the theory; "approach-approach" conflicts. For instance, as journalists continue with the traditional approach and the modern approach (data-driven approach) to getting factual information or access to relevant data, unwillingness on the side of the custodian of such data or record gets tougher.

However, "avoidance-avoidance" conflicts also present the issue of maintaining the status quo, which poses the danger of lack of trust and loss of confidence in the news stories, which is even more destructive to the journalism profession as a whole. Hence, the need to continue with the "approach-approach" conflicts to get the desired result. The theory is relevant because the study is concerned with data-driven journalism and the adoption of the same to regain the trust and confidence of media content consumers.

Review of Related Literature

The Emergence of Data Journalism

Data has been used in journalism for hundreds of years and predates newspapers. In the early 1600s, there was a weekly account of deaths and births in London that sold for a few pennies (Rogers, Schwabish & Bowers, 2017). Ben Wattenberg coined the term data journalism in the mid-1960s. His work explains the use of narrative with statistics to support the theory that the United States has attained the Golden Age. In 1967, data analysis began as Philip Meyer, the Detroit Free Press journalist, used the mainframe computer and sociological method to analyze Detroit residents' survey and report his findings. The survey was carried out to explain the riots that broke out in the city in the summer of the same year.

Over the past two decades, the amount of data available for research, communication, and analysis has increased at unprecedented rates. Technological innovation has not only made more sources of data available; it has also made it easier to access, analyze, and share data. Journalists are reshaping them for media organizations to take better advantage of these new sources of information to serve their mission of providing news for consumers with a richer, more accurate understanding of the world (Rogers, Schwabish & Bowers, 2017).

Data Journalism Practice in Nigeria

Steensen and Westlund (2021) state that data journalism is the next best option for news reportage as it will shift the world away from the era of traditional journalism. Although data journalism has not replaced traditional journalism, it recognizes the evolving trends in today's world and the need to utilize facts, figures, numbers, and other sources of information to make sense of issues or matters arising in the news. In 2017, the United States of America trained 25 journalists in Nigeria in data journalism to aid their work and investigative abilities. The training focused on the tools for data journalism in a digital age. (Premiumtimesng.com, 2017; Wangui, 2018).

In 2019, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), in conjunction with the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics (NBS), hosted a workshop themed "Using Official statistics for storytelling in Nigeria." The training workshop was held to actualize the goal of "creating substantive newswire of data-driven news." The essence of the workshop was to explain the relevance of data journalism in Nigeria.

Arguments for Data Journalism

Gray, Bounegru & Chambers (2012) state that:

> Journalism is under siege. In the past, we, as an industry, relied on being the only ones operating a technology to multiply and distribute what had

> happened overnight. The printing press served as a gateway. If anybody wanted to reach the people of a city or region the next morning, they would turn to newspapers. This era is over.

They further explained how pioneering journalists had used data journalism to show the occurrences in our environment and their effects on us. Today, when newsrooms downsize, most journalists hope to switch to public relations. Data journalists or data scientists are already a sought-after group of employees, not only in the media. Companies and institutions worldwide are searching for sense makers or professionals who know how to dig through data and transform it into something tangible.

According to Haddad (2019), data journalism is a form of journalism where the interview subject is data. This description implies that data journalism is often platform-independent. The output can take on the form of a map, chart, written article, and even social media posts. Data skills are specialized and require time to develop; time pressure prevents aspiring data journalists from producing the stories they believe need reporting because there are few economic incentives for media houses to invest in data teams (Steensen & Westlund, 2020).

Ethical Issues in Data Journalism

Kuutti (2016) says, "It is difficult to separate the importance of data from the ethics in data journalism as a whole and compared with other journalistic activities in producing a data story. Ethical problems in a data story are difficult to discern, unlike misspelled interviewee quotes or obvious false information in a story. When credibility suffers, a news organization's ability to survive economically is adversely affected (Peters & Carlson, 2019; Semiu, Adejola & Folarin, 2012). Ethical code is a sine qua non in the journalism profession. Journalism today faces an increasing need for critical reporting, accuracy, fairness, and objectivity" (Uja, 2016; Ferrucci, Taylor & Alaimo, 2020).

In data journalism, it is not a simple task to get the fact and figures right when telling the final story. Uja (2016) further explains, "The high turnover of data and amount of data in public domain requires journalists that can mine, process and present stories that not only have an impact but conform to the highest ethical standard."

Mcbride (2016) states that data journalism is a growing trend that offers journalists new and exciting ways to tell stories. Data journalism has grown alongside the burgeoning computational technology industry, but similar gains have not followed these massive gains in technology in data journalism scholarship and education. Sunne (2016) states that the ethics of journalism - do not break laws, do not lie, lessen harm - apply to data use.

Methodology

The qualitative research method is employed to anchor the study. Focus Group Discussion (FGD) is used to elicit the primary data. Five groups of six practicing journalists, comprising 30 discussants, participated in the discussion. The interaction with the discussants helped generate the demographic data such as the name, sex, age, state, and occupation of each participant in the discussion. The purposive sampling technique was adopted to select the participants drawn from Nigeria's six geopolitical zones.

Focus group discussion was used for this study because the research focused on a specialized area (data-driven journalism) which requires the knowledge and experience of specialists to discuss the social issues involved. In other words, the perceptions, beliefs, attitudes, and the complex personal experience of the participants in the conversation are required to produce the appropriate result.

Data Analysis and Results

The subject matter of the study covers both the professional and the geopolitical zones to give a fair representation of the various parts of Nigeria, as the research is meant to cover the whole country.

The demographic details indicate their various states of origin and where the participants practice journalism or where they are residents and practice journalism. The first table below shows the participants' demographic details.

Table 1: Demographic Details of the Discussants

S/N	Sex	Age Range	State of Origin	Occupation
1	Male	40 – 50	Lagos	Broadcast Journalist with TVC News
2	Female	30 – 35	Ogun	Journalist with Thisday Newspaper
3	Male	35 – 40	Abuja	Journalist with The Sun Newspaper
4	Male	30 – 40	Imo	Journalist, The Nation Newspaper
5	Male	45-50	Cross River	Journalist with Punch Newspaper.
6	Male	55 – 60	Akwa Ibom	Journalist with Punch Newspaper
7	Female	23 – 25	Benue	Freelancer with Nigeria Info (95.1) FM
8	Male	45 – 50	Bauchi/ Gombe	Broadcast with Radio Nigeria
9	Male	50 – 60	Kano	Journalist with Daily Trust Newspaper
10	Female	25 – 35	Maiduguri	Broadcaster with Viable TV
11	Male	50 – 60	Delta	Journalist with Channels Television
12	Female	35 – 40	Ondo	Journalist with Arise News Television
13	Female	35 – 40	Taraba	Broadcaster and Online Journalist
14	Male	50 – 60	Edo/Lagos/Abuja	Journalist with Freedom Watch Newspaper
15	Male	24 – 30	Niger State	Journalist (self-employed).
16	Female	26 – 30	FCT, Abuja	Journalist with CBN
17	Male	35 – 40	Sokoto	Journalist with Guardian Newspaper
18	Female	36 – 40	Edo	Media Practitioner with CBN
19	Male	39 – 40	Abuja	Media Practitioner with CBN
20	Male	52- 60	Benue	Media Practitioner; Benue Television
21	Male	40 – 50	Kano	Broadcast Journalist with Arise News
22	Female	45 – 50	Oyo/Abuja	More than 10 years of experience; NTA
23	Male	27 – 40	Rivers State	More than 5 years of experience; AIT
24	Female	25 – 30	Anambra	Journalist with NTA
25	Female	35 – 40	Kwara	Broadcast Journalist with MAX FM Radio, Abuja
26	Male	40 – 50	Katsina	Broadcast journalist with Channels TV
27	Male	36 – 40	Oyo	Print journalist with the Punch Newspapers
28	Male	30 – 40	Bauchi	Nasarawa Broadcasting Service (NBS), Keffi.
29	Female	45 – 55	Imo	Journalist with Plateau TV, Jos
30	Male	35 – 40	Yobe	Journalist with NTA Yobe

The second table shows the statistical analysis of the demographic data of the discussants.

Table 2: Demographic Analysis of the Discussants

Characteristics		f	%
Sex	Male	19	63.3
	Female	11	36.7
	Total	**30**	**100**
Age of Discussants	18 – 30 years	9	25
	31 – 40 years	16	53.3
	41 – 50 years	2	6.7
	51 years and above	3	10
	Total	**30**	**100**
Occupation of Discussants	Employed	26	86.7
	Self-employed	4	13.3
	Total	**30**	**100**

Results

Q1: Nigerian Journalists' Awareness of Data-Driven Journalism

The discussants all affirmed that they are aware of data-driven journalism and practice data journalism. Discussant 5 in FG 4 states, "Yes, I am aware of data-driven journalism." This statement appears to be the standard answer among the discussants, as others responded by saying "yes." It is proof that the discussants were purposively selected for the study.

On "how it is being practiced," most participants have very similar responses addressing the study's second objective. FG 1 (focus group 1), D1 (discussant 1) states:

> "During the conceptualization stage, I research the horizontal and the vertical comparison of the issue and represent them through infographics using outfight figures, graphs, charts or symbols."

Q2: The Origin of Data Journalism in Nigeria

The discussants had diverse views and opinions about the origin of data-driven journalism in Nigeria. Some participants said, "during the last decade" (FG 5, D4). In the view of this participant, data journalism became prominent during the last decade. Another participant who is very frank about her idea of the origin of data-driven journalism states:

> Specifically, I can't say when DDJ started in Nigeria, but I recall that as of 2015, journalists in Nigeria were already beginning to report the dearth of data and information in many areas, and this advocacy led to the demand for Freedom of Information Act that was later passed into law. Prior to this time, journalists' access to information was more cumbersome.

This response explains why many of the participants and journalists in Nigeria cannot state the precise time it started. Instead, they became more conscious of the practice of data-driven journalism when the agitation for access to relevant data and or information became heated, and the advocacy ascended to the seat of power, legislation, and justice in the society.

Q3: Meaning of Data Journalism

During the discussion, participants approached the question differently, although they seemed to say the same thing in diverse ways. D3 (Discussant three) in FG 2 (Focus Group two) states:

> DDJ is factual journalism, evidence-based journalism backed up with reliable data, and not armchair journalism or hearsay or speculative journalism. It is solution-driven journalism, as it seeks to present the fact of the matter against the assumption of the populace or the audience.

Another exciting response from G5, D1, states that:

> Data Journalism is a form of storytelling that uses data to analyze a trend or phenomenon. It could be sourced from open sources available to the public or from requests from the public records, which might need the deployment of FOI (Freedom of Information) or even leaked materials.

This response implies that information or data can be obtained from sources that are not restricted. That is, such data or information is available on the internet/online, in documents, or any means through which data can be accessed.

Q 4: Nigerian Journalists' Practice of Data-Driven Journalism

All the participants confirmed that they practice data journalism in one way or the other. They proved this through the different ways they responded to the question. Some of the discussants in FG 1 (D1-D5); FG2 (D2 & D4); answered by saying "yes."

Q 5: Content of Data-Driven Journalism in Nigeria

From the discussion, the content of data-driven journalism should be the same everywhere it is practiced. Also, depending on the area in which the data is retrieved and analyzed, there should be a very high level of similarity in the content of the data journalism as captured by D3 (Discussant 3) in FG1 (Focus Group 1):

> It is not limited to Nigeria. Anywhere it is practiced, data-driven journalism requires concentration and thorough analysis. The content is mostly filled with figures. On another front, data-driven journalism seems to be mainly for experts in the field of discussion. It is not a general interest type of reporting. So, the content differs.
>
> Unlike conventional reporting, data-driven reporting requires a deeper concentration and investigation of the issues involved, particularly the authenticity of the data employed. It requires digging deep into the issues in focus and setting the correct parameters for presentation. It requires thoroughness in both investigation and presentation.

Q6: Merits of Data-Driven Journalism

Although the participants approached this discussion section differently, the central idea is the same. The common idea is encapsulated in the responses of the FG 4 D6 and FG 3 D5:

> It promotes the accuracy and keeps policymakers on their toes. It reduces sensationalism and improves objectivity in reporting. It also improves the credibility of the news story. Data Journalism reaches far and wide. The findings of data journalism are always reliable and factual. This is because the stories are not based on hearsay. If correctly done, it gives proper and measurable

perspectives to issues, particularly about the economy and the demographics - issues that drive growth and development. It helps in correctly appreciating the state of affairs and for proper planning, monitoring, and evaluation. It provides new storytelling approaches, helps journalists query or question data figures, and combines statistics and storytelling. There lies the future of journalism as it enables journalists to provide independent interpretation and analysis of official information.

It simplifies complex phenomena and helps broaden the story's perspective through research. When correctly done, it gives proper and measurable perspectives to issues, particularly about the economy and the demographics – issues that drive growth and development. It also helps in proper and adequate appreciation of the state of affairs and for proper planning, monitoring, and evaluation. Suitable for story presentation. Reporting business reduces words to graphs for easy understanding and comparisons. It is uninfluenced primarily by sources since you do not need to interview anyone - the data comes ready-made.

Q7: The Challenges of Data Journalism in Nigeria

All the participants affirmed that they encountered challenges while practicing data-driven journalism. FG5, D3, D4; FG4, D1, D6 State:

> The immediate challenges would be the source of credible information and proven data. The unreliable nature of otherwise relevant institutions is a significant challenge. A piece of information is as good as the source. In Nigeria, figures are thrown about by institutions that claim authority in specific fields; such information might not be reliable. For instance, figures about disease fatalities are often outrageous, and a collation of all the figures bandied about by the various agencies in respect of the several disease types may outstrip the entire population of the entity referred to.

> Different sources have different figures because they might have conducted their research based on vested interests. These have severe implications in reporting and are a significant drawback to clinical and credible reporting.

The responses of the discussants showed that it is challenging to access some information which stems from a lack of cooperation from public officials. The other aspect of the challenges includes the lack of data, perhaps one of the biggest challenges Nigerian journalists face in the practice of data-driven journalism.

Q8: Enhancing the Practice of Data Journalism in Nigeria

Discussants highlighted some suggestions on how data-driven journalism could be practiced optimally and sustained in Nigeria.

> Just like every other endeavor, diligence can take care of the challenges; but that would put the journalists on the track of both sourcing for and analyzing data for use in reporting. Except for those trained for such reporting, journalists might not have the competence, particularly in specialized areas. Data-driven journalism helps in planning, monitoring, and evaluation. It is a veritable branch of journalism that helps in policy analysis and decision-making for the planning and execution of development tasks. It is a genre that should be encouraged, given its beneficial potential for growth and development. However, it hardly would be able to thrive in an environment where activities of specialized agencies are not trusted to give their due in respect of credible outputs.

One of the critical issues raised during the discussion was the need to include data-driven journalism in the curriculum of journalism training in the country.

Discussion of Findings

The study addresses three objectives centered on the Nigerian journalists' knowledge and the challenges of data-driven journalism. Objective one sought to investigate the characteristics of data journalism in Nigeria; the participants' responses from the different states of the geopolitical zones in Nigeria showed that although data journalism became prominent within the last decade, it is being practiced by all the participants in the discussion. Data journalism's characteristics include comparing issues, infographics, figures, charts, symbols, and statistical information, among others. These agree with Felle et al. (2015) position that visualization, statistics, and infographics characterize data journalism. (Hamilton & Turner, 2009) also validate this assertion in their argument that data journalism is a kind of workflow characterized by analysis, visualization, and storytelling.

The study's second objective was to examine how data-driven journalism is practiced in Nigeria. The outcome of the discussion indicates that Nigerian journalists follow the data-driven journalism process of the inverted pyramid model. Their responses center on the conceptualization of the news idea, research, access to the relevant data for the news story, and filtering and analyzing the data to make sense of the issue being raised. This ramification does not leave out the final stage of communicating the result of the data analysis to the audience with a high level of accuracy. The other issue relating to the practice is the concern about the code of ethics; the participants also mentioned this when they discussed collaborations with others to make the story pop.

This development is in line with some authors' (Deuze & Witschge, 2020) affirmation that you cannot make your piece pop without data-driven journalism in the 21st century. The affirmation shows that working alone in data-driven journalism is unacceptable; there is a need for "cross-border cooperation" among journalists, media organizations, and all the information dissemination stakeholders in the contemporary digital technology era. These also validate the two theories by Kurt Lewin (2007b) that anchor the study; Field Theory which centers on the "approach-approach" technique as well as the "avoidance-avoidance" method, the choice and commitment to these techniques make all the difference.

The third objective of the research was to identify the challenges Nigerian journalists encounter while practicing data-driven journalism. The result of the discussion indicates a plethora of challenges encountered in the practice of data-driven journalism. This outcome validates the assumptions of the Field Theory vis-à-vis the Normalization Theory by Kurt Lewin (2007b). Ethical issues form part of the challenges, as asserted by Kuutti (2016), "It is difficult to separate the importance of data from the ethics in data journalism as a whole and compared with other journalistic activities in producing a data story." The implication is that ethical problems in a data story are difficult to discern, unlike misspelled interviewee's quotes or some other challenges of obviously false information in a story.

Conclusion

There is a significant relationship between conventional journalism and data-driven journalism. This relationship exists and should continue because while data-driven journalism is concerned with turning data into factual and verifiable news stories, the code of ethics of journalism practice and content should be upheld. Data journalism exists, and it is as old as journalism itself. It appears that the audience and journalists became conscious of it when advancement in digital technology became its primary driving force. Data is the driver of journalism. Every good story flies on the wings of data. Therefore, it is safe to state that there is no journalism without data.

However, it is what a journalist does with the data he has access to that matters. Furthermore, every data has a storyline embedded in it. Every data has a packaged story waiting to be identified, unpacked, and repacked by a nosy and undaunted news hunt.

Data-driven journalism is one of the latest innovations that are gaining momentum within the media landscape globally. Digital technology has been used to restructure journalism practice and content to regain the confidence and trust of the public or audience. The facts generated through data journalism are reliable and verifiable, satisfying the consumers' curiosity about factual information that can be verified. Against this backdrop, this study is undertaken to investigate whether or not journalists in Nigeria practice data journalism and how data-driven journalism has reshaped journalism practice and content in Nigeria.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the study recommends as follows:

1 Provide regular training and retraining of journalists in the field and journalism students in institutions of higher learning;
2 Media organizations and practitioners should encourage good ethical practice, especially fairness and objectivity;
3 Policymakers in Nigeria should improve on open access to data;
4 Communication and media scholars should advance advocacy for open access to data and freedom of information;
5 All Government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) should have up-to-date, functional, and accessible repositories and databases.

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Mobile Telephony Underlings? Women Airtime Hawking in South-South Nigeria

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Abstract
The Nigerian telecommunication sector operates a patriarchate. Women constitute less than 20 percent of the regulatory authority's staff and own less than 25 percent of telecom clients' equity. This study investigates a surprising dimension that makes women the most visible operators at the subaltern end of the telecom distribution chain but accords them the slightest recognition as industry contributors. The operating conditions and income profile of 497 women airtime sellers in the south-south region of Nigeria are investigated. Findings show that most of the respondents are women of 20 years of age or less, with secondary education, and unmarried. The majority make $1.50 a day and will never make airtime hawking their career unless they receive support. A regression analysis of the predisposing factors and their engagement in the business shows that they sell airtime primarily because it requires little or no formal sales technique. They also hawk airtime because they were not gainfully employed and since it requires a little startup capital. These findings are helpful for researchers and multilateral agencies, especially the United Nations, which needs data for the Sustainable Development Goal (5) to achieve gender equality and empower women and girls.

Keywords: Women, Mobile telephony, airtime, southern Nigeria, feminism, SDG 5.

Introduction

Mobile telephony is the chief driver of Nigeria's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector, which contributes 8.5 percent to the country's nominal GDP of $510 billion as of 2013. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2019), the contribution has increased to 10 percent, forming the core of the $1.2 trillion GDP in purchasing power parity. The country currently has 170 million mobile lines, with 150 connected to service the population of about 200 million. According to the nation's National Communication Commission (2019) report, these lines are shared by four networks, with MTN from South Africa having 55 million, Airel from India at 26 million, and 9Mobile (formerly) Etisalat) having 10 million. Glo Mobile, the only locally-owned network, has 40 million lines. Each of the four clients had grown its subscriber base by at least 10 percent as of 2022.

Mobile devices represent an extraordinary and unmatched shift in how Nigerians use the media (Friedrich et al., 2009). In addition to the improved service provision, made manifest in speed, cost, and quality of communication (Bedi, 1999; Norton, 1992), the contributions of mobile telecom to Nigeria's economy are strikingly significant in the area of employment. The sector is noted for its massive employment generation while providing the livelihood for several thousands of Nigerians. However, the socio-economic shaping of these opportunities, especially if gender is added to the matrix, elicits an unusual character that calls for an investigation.

Core feminists are of the view that women are under-represented in ICT. It would not make any difference whether it is a developed or an emerging economy, and this view is visible in literature (Griffiths et a1., 2007a, 2007b). One primary reason for this disparity in ICT access favoring the male gender in Africa and Nigeria is the disparities in education and training opportunities skewed against women (Igbinoba et al, 2019; Hafkin & Taggart, 2001; Gurumurthy, 2003). This trend will continue in the future ((Karenza Moore, Marie Griffiths, Helen Richardson & Alison Adam, 2008). The liberal feminists hold the futuristic view that women stand a better chance of occupying a more prominent space as ICTs expand (European Commission, 2004; Faulkner, 2001; Turkle, 1995; Wajcman, 2004; Rainer, Laosethakul, & Astone, 2003). However, it may take some time to reverse the current subjugation of women in the sector.

Women's visibility in Nigeria's mobile telephony can be explained in the primary and secondary value chain elements, which encompass technology creation and manufacture, policy and decision, procurement and ownership, and distribution (Yartey et al., 2021; Ikpefan et al., 2019). How these integrate is crucial to the survival of mobile telephony in the country. The reason is that technology is never an indistinct phenomenon but an agglomeration of multifaceted systems that must be in a continuum to make it consequential (Sein and Harindranath, 2004).

The creation and manufacturing aspect is domiciled in and dominated by the advanced countries of Europe and America, with intense competition coming from Asian countries, including China, Japan, and South Korea. Women's visibility is low in design and manufacture, and this low visibility is replicated at the level of those who make decisions and formulate policies. The low visibility is also seen in ICT ownership and procurement. At the same time, the under-representation of women in the context of connectivity and adoption is widely known and exemplified by both the core and liberal techno-feminist assertions, as stated earlier. However, the marketing and distribution component of the mobile telephony continuum in Nigeria presents a research problem that challenges the feminist submission about the under-representation of women in the ICT subsector and calls for an investigation. This study examines the unusual preponderance of women as the subalterns at the bottom of the ICT distribution chain in Nigeria and their rating in the country's telecom industry. This work is a follow-up to similar studies conducted in the southwest (Omojola et a1., 2021) of the country

Mobile Telecommunications Sector of Nigeria and Preliminary investigation on Women Airtime Hawkers in Nigeria

The Nigerian mobile telephony service comprises two major radio-based systems, namely the Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) and the Global System for Mobiles (GSM), the type operated by America's AT&T and T-Mobile Networks. Each is a hotchpotch of technologies created from different sources and agglomerated for mobile communications.

The CDMA (Code-division multiple access) systems run by Visaphone, Intercellular, and Reltel (similar to Verizon and Sprint in the United States) came in initially but have now been disabled owing to a poor subscriber base. The global system for mobile communication (GSM) has several subscriber-friendly features, including its alignment with endpoint equipment such as mobile phones and computer software. As listed earlier, Nigeria has four GSM carriers, namely the South African Mobile Telecommunication Network of Nigeria (MTN) and Bharti Airtel of India. The other two are 9 Mobile (formerly Etisalat Mobile company of United Arab Emirates) and the locally owned Glo Mobile Network Limited. The mobile outlet of Nigeria's former national carrier – MTEL- is either moribund or dead and not visible as the fifth carrier.

Mobile telephony technology might be a cluster of multifaceted and interdependent systems, but the distribution component of the continuum stands out as the main driver of the industry. Mobile phone technology is a socially-constructed constructed phenomenon whose cycle is influenced not just by those who create and adopt the technology but also, more importantly, by those who distribute it. The distributors constitute the superintendents in the marketplace where the adopters and the technology deployers meet to generate the vitality that makes the industry succeed.

The composition of the significant part of the distribution chain reflects the techno-feminist submission of under-representation and minoritization, similar to what obtains in the ownership, policy, and decision-making domains. None of the networks has ever had any woman as its chief executive officer since the beginning of the mobile telephone revolution in 1999. According to Bloomberg Businessweek (2014 http://investing.businessweek.com/research/stocks/private/board.), MTN Nigeria has 16 board members, out of which not more than three are women. The company's equity structure is such that the present situation will continue for a long time. Bloomberg Businessweek (2014) also reports that of the six board members of Airtel, none is a woman. A similar situation in Glomobile and 9 Mobile completes the scale.

The distribution system of the four networks follows the same or similar pattern. As its leading airtime distributors, a network has a select group of few 'trade partners' who remit millions of dollars' sales proceeds from network-generate personal identification numbers (PINs) to the network periodically. These partners distribute to sub-dealers who can either make them available to the customers through the internet or electronic platforms of the banks or print the PINS on paper and resell them to sub-distributors. After the sub-distributors, news breaks.

The techno-feminist submission of women's minimization in ICT, which aptly applies at the dealer, sub-dealer, and sub-distributor levels, becomes fragile as street hawkers or retailers become an instant majority at the subaltern end of the distribution chain. The female hawkers do not enjoy the comparative advantage of bulk sales by dealers, sub-dealers, and distributors. Therefore, each hawker must sell substantially to make up some profit. This majoritarian-minoritization transposition, which tests the techno-feminists' assertion of female under-representation, also informed the implementation of this investigation. The factors that predispose them to be the telephone airtime distribution subalternate elements were explored.

In Port Harcourt, the dual-role capital of Nigeria's oil industry and Rivers State, there is a preponderance of women airtime hawkers. This outlook is similar to that of other major cities in the country's southern parts (Omojola et al., 2021). This observation elicited the conjecture that females dominate airtime retail in Rivers State and the other five remaining states of the south-south subregion of Nigeria, namely Akwa Ibom, Edo, Delta, Cross River, and Bayelsa. Table 1 shows the results of the systematic sampling survey conducted to determine the male-female proportion of airtime hawking.

Table 1: Male-female proportion of airtime street hawkers in south-south Nigeria

States	M	F	N	Universe
Akwa Ibom	4	90	94	3,920,208
Bayelsa	3	50	53	1,703,358
Cross River	7	67	74	2,888,966
Edo	4	81	85	3,218,332
Delta	7	97	104	4,098,391
Rivers	4	112	116	5,185,400
Total	**29**	**497**	**526**	**17,796,323**
%	5.8	94.2	100	

Table 1 affirms the conjecture and corroborates what appears obtained in southwest geopolitical zone (Omojola et al., 2021). It is rare to see men selling airtime on the streets in these regions. It is not clear if this situation obtains in the northern parts of the country, where women are often confined to homes for religious reasons.

Seven women airtime hawkers, selected purposively, were also engaged in a discussion. They claimed the ability to speak on their business, including the conditions that predisposed them to hawking airtime on the streets. The focus group discussion, which lasted 56 minutes and 16 seconds, was designed to produce insight into how the women operate and sustain their trade. Transcripts of the discussion helped in setting the agenda for this study. The women aged 26 and 64 spoke in the Nigerian pidgin English, a dialect that combines a simple form of the English language and cultural phrases to bridge the communication gap between different ethnic groups (Folayan et al., 2018). The summary of the discussion, which takes after a similar study in southwest Nigeria, is as follows (Omojola et al., 2021):

1. Profits from airtime hawking are meager.
2. Airtime hawking is not attractive to the internal revenue service and local government authorities.
3. Little startup capital, as low as three dollars, is all one needs to start the business.
4. Unemployment and family problems can make people sell airtime on the streets.
5. You can only make airtime a career if traders earn as much as the captains of the business earn.
6. The government is insensitive to the plight of airtime workers and is only interested in people that pay considerable taxes.
7. No job interviews or certificate is required to start the business.
8. The business allows a higher degree of freedom to operate, unlike in an office setting.

These opinions help to signpost the direction of the research. They were articulated to form the main objective of the study.

Objective and Significance of the Study

This work investigates the factors that influence the engagement of the female folks in airtime retailing at the bottom end of the telecom distribution chain. This work is essential in some respects:

- It exposes the factors that predispose airtime street hawkers to work as subalterns of the telecoms sector in south-south Nigeria. The work appreciably adds to the literature and allays the impression of invisible scholarship held by researchers and scholars, including Castells et al. (2007, p.4), who assert that: “We know a good deal about Norway because of the quality of Norwegian research in this field, while we know little about

Nigeria because of the scant reliable evidence on this important country."

- The possibility exists that government, telecom/ICT administrators, and multilateral institutions, including the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), will consider the findings of this work a great asset as input into policy formulation. The United Nations are among the agencies seeking information to drive the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 6 to equalize women's rights with men and make girls useful to themselves and society.
- The study provides some insight into the role of women in Nigeria's ICT sector.
- One major characteristic of these techno-subalterns is that they operate in the informal sector. This study, therefore, creates a new trajectory for studies in the informal sector of the economy.

Theoretical Anchor

When compared to men, women are in low-paying jobs (Okon et al., 2018; Omojola & Morah, 2014; Kim, 2000, p.1; Luce & Weinbaum,2008, p. 21), meaning that they cannot support themselves and a few dependents from their earnings. These societal dynamics are typical in emerging economies compared to the advanced ones. The possibility exists that in an African or South Asian country, there are more women than men who work as cleaners in hospitals where more men than women work as doctors and surgeons. Radical feminists assert that men and women must be equal politically, socially, and economically (Goodfriend, 2014; 1992, p.115). Amazonian feminists physicalize their perspective, saying they are opposed to gender role stereotypes and discrimination against women based on the assumptions that women are supposed to be, look, or behave as if they are passive, weak, and physically helpless. Delphy & Leonard (1980) reject the idea that specific characteristics or interests are inherently masculine (or feminine) and uphold and explore a vision of heroic womanhood.

Techno-feminists also argue along the line of under-representation exacerbated by socio-political, economic, cultural, and educational considerations (Mitter, 2007; Greenfield et al., 2003; Millar and Jagger, 2002; MacKenzie and Wajcman, 1999; McQuillan and Bradley, 1999; Plant, 1997; Menzies, 1996; Henwood, 1993; Morris-Suzuki, 1988). Their focus is on technology creation and deployment, policy and decision-making, adoption, and connectivity differential. Literature is also visible on ICT women hawkers and vendors in Africa (Jiyane and Mostert, 2010; 2008; Olatokun, 2007; Fors & Moreno, 2002, Hossaine & Beresford, 2012). However, the role of women in ICT distribution in Nigeria is not well established. This gap motivated this investigation.

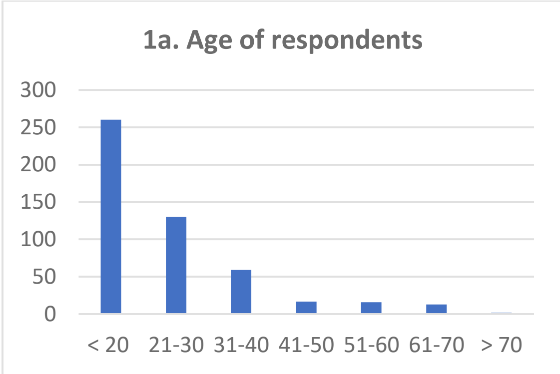
The women majority working as subalterns in the Nigerian telecom industry makes fragile the epistemology of techno-feminism that thrives on the minoritization of the female folks. In the first place, women are not underrepresented as they dominate men almost in the ratio of 9-1, as Table 1 shows. The minoritization-majoritarian transposition noticed at the low level of the distribution chain calls for a probe.

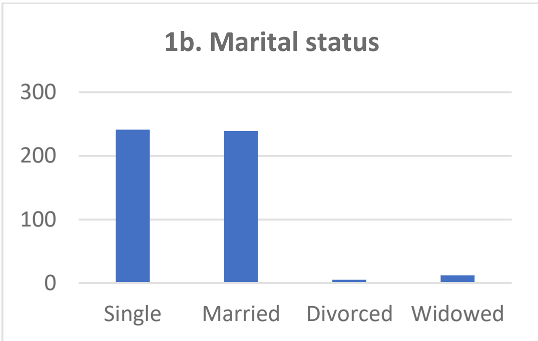
Methods

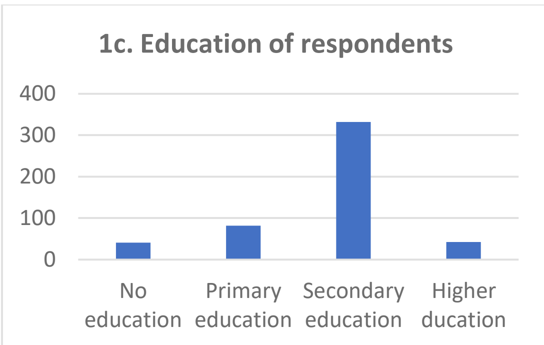
The survey design was adopted for the study. The questionnaire was used to gather data from the population of hawkers (497) already highlighted in Table 1. The survey zeroed in only on those women whose main occupation was hawking recharge cards. It is easy to identify them on street corners, road junctions, religious gatherings, bus stops, and so forth. They were asked to indicate proof in the questionnaire that the hawking of airtime is their primary occupation. The questionnaire items are few and limited to their demographic attributes and those ten factors predisposing them to hawk on the streets. Rather than ask the respondents to list those factors, they indicated in the list those factors that applied to them. This approach facilitated the 'wait and collect' strategy the researchers adopted to retrieve all copies of the questionnaire. The wait and collect approach is becoming popular among researchers in West Africa. It is part of the effort to minimize or eliminate the case of unreturned copies of the questionnaire.

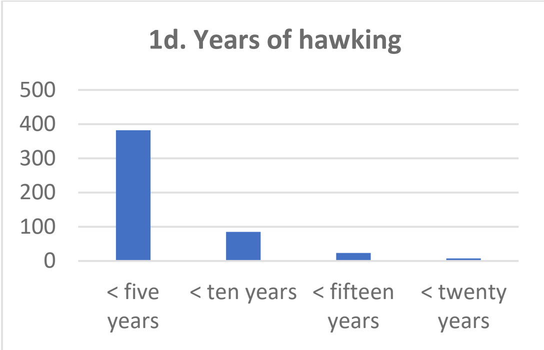
Survey Results

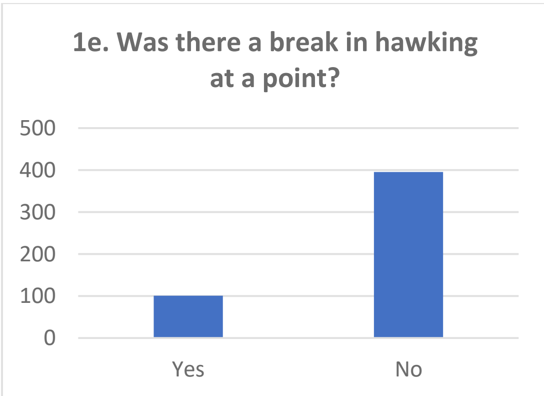
A frequency or percentage distribution of the study variables is necessary to give the results a general outlook. While this distribution is generally unreliable in measuring how a variable truly counts, especially in terms of its relationship with another, it helps to visualize, prima facie, the magnitude of the number of observations. The frequencies are visualized below as bar carts in Figure 1a -1i

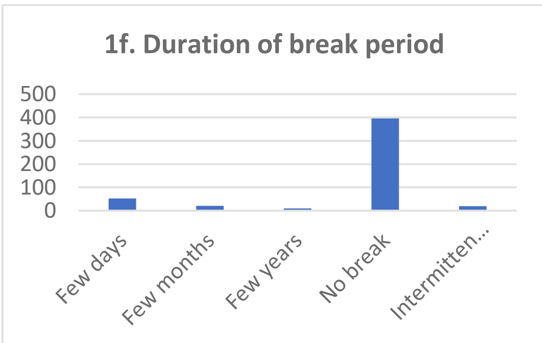

1a. Age of respondents
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
< 20
21-30
31-40
41-50
51-60
61-70
> 70

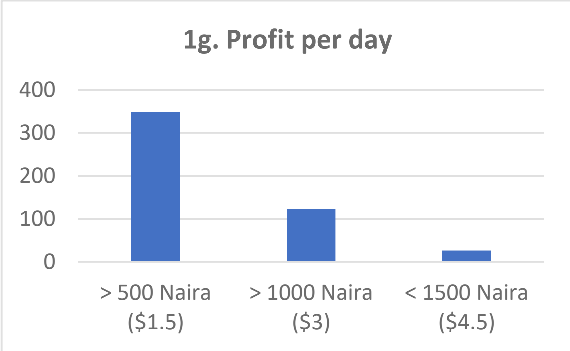

1b. Marital status
300
200
100
0
Single
Married
Divorced
Widowed

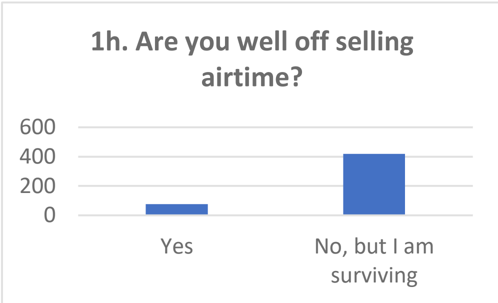

1c. Education of respondents
400
300
200
100
0
No education
Primary education
Secondary education
Higher ducation

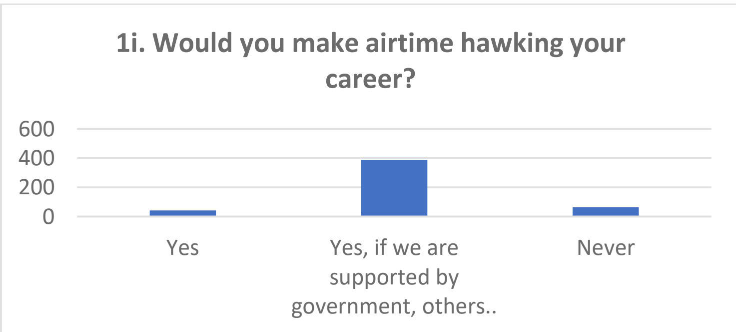

1d. Years of hawking
500
400
300
200
100
0
< five years
< ten years
< fifteen years
< twenty years


1e. Was there a break in hawking at a point?
500
400
300
200
100
0
Yes
No


1f. Duration of break period
500
400
300
200
100
0
Few days
Few months
Few years
No break
Intermitten...







In translating the frequencies on the charts to percentages, it is noteworthy that a substantial portion of the hawkers can be considered educated, as 66.8 percent have secondary school education. More remarkable is that women between 50 and 70 still hawk airtime on the streets! Particularly impressive is 0.4 percent- of the total 497 who are 70 years and above. It is not surprising that the majority of hawkers are younger people. A significant 3.4 percent of these respondents are either widowed or divorced.

In comparison, 1.4 percent have sold airtime for 20 years, meaning that their business is as old as the mobile telephony business, which started with GSM in 1999. A whopping 79.7 percent say they did not take a break at a point selling airtime, while the breaks experienced by some who claimed otherwise were intermittent. The majority said they were not well off in the business – almost the same majority – 78.5 percent – who said they could make a career out of it if only they received support or were encouraged.

Table 2: Frequency distribution of the factors that predispose women to airtime hawking in South-south Nigeria

	Airtime hawking predisposing factors	Yes (in %)	No (in %)
1	I hawk airtime because it generates a quick and steady profit	27.4	72.6
2	I hawk airtime because it carries little or no risk	86.5	13.5
3	I hawk airtime because it has little or no entry formalities	82.3	17.7
4	I hawk airtime because it requires little or no sales technique	31.2	68.8
5	I hawk airtime because it requires little or affordable initial capital to start the business	84.3	15.7
6	I hawk airtime because I was not gainfully employed	84.7	15.3
7	I hawk airtime because there is no law or ethics restricting airtime selling	26.4	73.6
8	I hawk airtime because there is no disturbance or demand for dues by local govt (council) officials	82.3	17.7
9	I hawk airtime because of financial pressures from family	41.9	58.1
10	I hawk airtime because of the desire for self-fulfillment	29.2	70.8

Five of the factors in Table 2 have preponderant yeses. These are where the business carries little or no risk, has little or no entry formalities and requires little or affordable initial capital to start the business. The others are where there is no disturbance from local government officials and because laws and ethics that guide the business do not exist or are not visible. The remaining five have more nos than yeses. They are the desire for self-fulfillment, no law, and ethics for the business, hawking owing to financial pressures. Others are that the business requires no sales technique and hawking because the business generates steady and quick profit. The descriptive Table 4 below gives a more in-depth insight into these variables.

Table 3: The Descriptive of the Variables

S/N	Variable (N=625 in all cases)	Min	Mid Point	Max	Mean	SD
1	Age of airtime hawkers	1.00	4.0	7.00	1.9	1.2560
2	Marital status of airtime hawkers	1.00	2.5	4.00	1.6	.6406
3	Educational status of airtime hawkers	1.00	2.5	4.00	**2.8**	**.7213**
4	Years spent hawking airtime	1.00	2.5	4.00	1.3	.6246
5	Was there a break hawking airtime?	1.00	1.5	2.00	1.8	.4028
6	Duration of break period as airtime hawker	1.00	3.0	5.00	**3.6**	**1.0129**
7	Average profit per day hawking airtime	1.00	2.0	3.00	1.4	.5774
8a	I hawk airtime because it generates quick and steady profit.	1.00	1.5	2.00	1.7	.4462
b	I hawk airtime because it carries little or no risk	1.00	1.5	2.00	**1.1**	**.3418**
c	I hawk airtime because it has little or no entry formalities	1.00	1.5	2.00	**1.1**	**.3821**
d	I hawk airtime because it requires little or no sales technique	1.00	1.5	2.00	1.7	.4637
e	I hawk airtime because it requires little or affordable initial capital to start the business	1.00	1.5	2.00	1.2	.3641
f	I hawk airtime because I was not gainfully employed	1.00	1.5	2.00	1.2	.3602
g	I hawk airtime because there is no law or ethics restricting airtime selling	1.00	1.5	2.00	1.7	.4410
h	I hawk airtime because there is no disturbance or demand for dues by council officials	1.00	1.5	2.00	1.2	.3821
i	I hawk airtime because of financial pressures from family	1.00	1.5	2.00	1.6	.4938
j	I hawk airtime because of the desire for self-fulfillment	1.00	1.5	2.00	1.7	.4550
k	Are you well off as an airtime hawker?	1.00	1.5	2.00	1.8	.3622
l	Would you make airtime hawking your career?	1.00	2.0	3.00	2.0	.4621

In Table 3, The standard deviation measure shows that data spread out significantly from the mean for most of the variables except educational status and duration of break period as airtime hawker marked in reverse colors (serial numbers 3 and 6), which clustered most around the mean. In the case of the predisposing factors, I hawk airtime because it carries little or no risk, and I hawk airtime because it has little or no entry formalities spread out most among the ten factors. Table 3 gives insight into the strength of the individual variable and its concomitant number of observations but does say little or nothing about the relationship of one variable to another, without which the core objective of this work cannot be achieved.

This challenge has necessitated the computation of the linear regression values to determine how independent variables pan out with one another and collectively with the dependent variable. The multivariate distribution offers a reliable way to determine how each of the ten predictor variables impacts the airtime hawking criterion. A logical step here will be to know the model that emerges overall from the regression analysis.

Table 4: model summary of linear regression analysis

R	R^2	Adjusted R^2	Std. Error of the Estimate
.189[a]	.036	.016	1.77886

Table 4 shows a positive, albeit low correlation (R) of .189 between women's airtime hawking (criterion) and the level predicted by the ten independent or predictor variables. The R^2 value .036 squares up R and indicates the proportion of the variance in women's airtime hawking accounted for by the ten predictors. Essentially, this is a measure of how good a prediction of women's airtime hawking is made with the knowledge of the predictor variables. It appears, however, that R^2 tends to overrate the success of this model from the perspective of ecological validity (that is when applied to the real world).

Many statistics software treat this issue by computing an adjusted R^2 – taking into cognizance the number of variables in the model and the number of observations the model is based upon. This resulting value of .016 means that this model accounts for 16 percent of the variance in women's airtime hawking, meaning that the model is unimpressive. This situation is demonstrated in the analysis of variance (ANOVA) in Table 6 below. The table shows the overall significance of the model. With the significant level set at 95 percent, an insignificant model emerges here at .058 as shown in the report ($F_{10, 486} = 1.803$, $p > 0.05$)

Table 5: The analysis of variance (ANOVA), showing how significant the model is

Model (1)	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	57.053	10	5.705	1.803	.058
Residual	1537.873	486	3.164		
Total	1594.926	496			

Table 5 has shown collectively that the ten predictors do not predict airtime hawking by women in south-south Nigeria. This omnibus presentation does not mean that all predictors do not predict the criterion variable. A breakdown of this prediction will be necessary to tell how much each predictor has predicted the criterion variable. Table 6 below displays some values, including the standardized Beta coefficients, which measure the contribution of each of the ten predictors.

Table 6: Beta coefficients, t, and significance values of 10 predictors

	Predictors	Beta	t	p
1	I hawk airtime because it generates quick and steady profit.	-.001	-.023	.982
2	I hawk airtime because it carries little or no risk	.007	.147	.883
3	I hawk airtime because it has little or no entry formalities	-.015	-.326	.744

4	I hawk airtime because it requires little or no sales technique	.130	2.858	.004
5	I hawk airtime because it requires little or affordable initial capital to start the business	.055	1.222	.222
6	I hawk airtime because I was not gainfully employed	.083	1.832	.068
7	I hawk airtime because there is no law or ethics restricting airtime selling	-.005	-.100	.920
8	I hawk airtime because there is no disturbance or demand for dues by local government (council) officials	-.014	-.317	.751
9	I hawk airtime because of financial pressures from family	.075	1.670	.096
10	I hawk airtime because of the desire for self-fulfillment	-.013	-.290	.772

The t and significance values in Table 6 give a rough estimate of the impact of each predictor variable on the criterion variable. However, the Beta coefficients are the critical measure needed in this work to achieve the set objective, which is to determine the factors that predispose women to sell airtime in south-south Nigeria and the strength of those factors. The more the contribution of the factor, the more significant the effect on the criterion variable. Table 6 is redrawn as Table 7 to present the predictors in the order of their contribution to the criterion variable. The rearrangement enables the determination of the strongest and weakest predictors.

Table 8: Ordered Beta coefficients, t, and significance values of 10 predictors

	Predictors	Beta	t	p
1	I hawk airtime because it requires little or no sales technique	.130	2.858	.004
2	I hawk airtime because I was not gainfully employed	.083	1.832	.068
3	I hawk airtime because of financial pressures from family	.075	1.670	.096
4	I hawk airtime because it requires little or affordable initial capital to start the business	.055	1.222	.222
5	I hawk airtime because of the desire for self-fulfillment	-.013	-.290	.772
6	I hawk airtime because there is no disturbance or demand for dues by local government (council) officials	-.014	-.317	.751
7	I hawk airtime because it has little or no entry formalities	-.015	-.326	.744
8	I hawk airtime because it carries little or no risk	.007	.147	.883
9	I hawk airtime because it generates quick and steady profit.	-.001	-.023	.982
10	I hawk airtime because there is no law or ethics restricting airtime selling	-.005	-.100	.920

According to Table 8, "I hawk airtime because it requires little or no sales technique" contributes most to the women's engagement as airtime hawkers in south-south Nigeria. The following two predictors have some semblance of significance – "I hawk airtime because I was not gainfully employed" and "I hawk airtime because of financial pressures from family."

All other predictors are non-performers, with the predictor "I hawk airtime because of financial pressures from family" being the worst non-performer. This predictor-showing has some ramifications to it.

Discussion

Niger Delta is another name for south-south Nigeria, and it is the area where about 80 percent of Nigeria's crude oil is produced. Incidentally, the region is a classic case of the oil curse, and the region's citizens have one of the highest poverty indexes in southern Nigeria.

The primary reason for this unfortunate situation is the over-reliance on oil and the non-diversification of its economy, resulting in the high unemployment rate of uneducated people. The characteristic of this situation is low education, which revolves mainly around secondary education. The data gathered on the respondents' education aptly typifies this situation as a whopping 91.5 percent are those with secondary, primary, and no education. At the same time, the remaining 8.5 percent represents the respondents with high education.

Moreover, no fewer than 265,000 children in Bayelsa State were out of school, while teenage pregnancies are commonplace in the state (Sahara Reporters, 2019). Though not as critical, this situation is replicated in more educationally developed states like Edo, Ondo Rivers, Cross River, and Akwa Ibom and States.

Concomitant with this poor education record is citizens' lack of skills for gainful employment in nearly all areas except probably in violent agitation against environmental degradation and militarized demand for more allocation to them from the oil proceeds by the infamous Niger Delta militants. The lack of education and skills offers a fertile ground, especially for women to engage in trades and businesses that, according to them, require fewer skills and techniques. One of the upshots of this poverty situation is pressure on the family, a sequel to the inability to fulfill the standard family obligations such as feeding, shelter, paying school fees, and the like.

The story has always been of development failures because of corruption (Omojola, 2011) attributed to all parties to the conflict in the Niger Delta – government (local, state, and federal), oil companies, and oil communities. Therefore, airtime hawking on the streets offers an attraction to exit these challenges, especially for the subaltern elements of society.

However, it is gladdening to note that government and policymakers seem to have realized that it is dangerous to have in the majority an army of unemployed persons. This development is why several interventions have been put in place not only by the government but also by organizations and multilateral agencies to alleviate the suffering and improve the citizens' socio-economic conditions. The visible interventionist programs were implemented by the Presidential Task Force, The Niger Delta Development Board, the Niger Delta Development Commission, and Oil Mineral Producing Area Development Commission. The focus areas of these bodies include skill acquisition and education. While men form the majority of these interventions' beneficiaries, women have also been visible recipients.

These three most substantial contributors also have theoretical ramifications. They appear to bear some similarity with the reasons women are under-represented in technology. Women are denied access to the lucrative domains of mobile telephony because they do not have the requisite education, technological skills, and the engineering capability to function there. This simply means that they are not gainfully employed in this subsector.

The challenges become more problematic, especially for those women with family responsibilities. These negative dynamics are potent enough to drive them to those occupations and engagements that are less demanding in these prerequisites, one of which is airtime hawking. However, there is a caveat. Techno-feminists have argued the prevalence of these predisposing factors from the point of underrepresentation. However, these factors relate to the over-representation of women in the marketing and distribution sector of the mobile telephony industry!

Conclusion

One striking observation regarding the interventionist programs is that the telecom companies are not visible. Where visible, it is often for the wrong reasons, including the unwholesome portrayal of women in advertisements (Nwabuikwu, 2017).

While the proof exists to show that some social responsibility activities of these companies target women outside the telecommunication sector, evidence of direct assistance to women actively engaged in the mobile telephony, such as the respondents in this work, is either non-existent or invisible. For instance, MTN has a record of encouraging female professionals in the mobile telephony sector by sponsoring awards ceremonies and female distributors with an eye on payback.

However, the women in the subaltern segment of the industry are hardly recognized. MTN Nigeria recently assisted police officers' wives (Ekwujuru, 2018). It is not clear if this is a way of securing guarantees from the Nigeria Police, whom the company relies on heavily to assist in protecting and securing its assets in Nigeria.

Proof exists to show that the lack of seriousness of some foreign firms in engaging women in a more pleasant manner is a carryover from their home country. An MTN (2018) press release quoted the South African Communications Minister's remark about how "woefully low" women's participation in the ICT sector in South Africa, MTN's country of origin. This low participation, the release referred to as a fact, is lower than the United Nations' figure of less than 30 percent globally.

Moreover, women are not receiving the support or encouragement needed in the sector. This is the same situation as captured by respondents' answers to the item that asked if they would like to make airtime hawking their career. A whopping 78.5 percent only want it as a career if they receive support from the government or telecommunications companies. Others said never!

It is on this note that the following recommendations are made:

- Telecommunication companies in Nigeria should wake up to the responsibility of relating to the women in the subaltern segment of the industry using the factors that predispose women to hawking airtime and the strength those factors exert on this criterion variable.
- The government should organize these women into a formidable entity within the telecom industry and formulate policies that

make them relevant in the industry.

- If the government fails to do this, the Nigerian Labor Congress or its relevant affiliate can perform this task and constitute them into a pressure group and, on their behalf, ask the government and telecom clients to live up to their responsibility concerning the women.

Suggestions for Further Studies

One area of concern is that the respondents' hawking business is threatened by banks and a few other platforms that distribute airtime online. This situation was also observed in other country regions (Omojola et al., 2021).

This alternative mode of airtime procurement has attracted millions of phone users who prefer to recharge their line from the comfort of their room rather than go to the streets where these women are to buy. Researchers should study how this impacts the hawking business and its socio-economic ramifications.

Furthermore, the techno-feminists' assertions that link the under-representation of women to the poor socio-economic dynamics are not in line with the findings of this study that link the same dynamics to over-representation as seen in the subaltern segment of the telecommunication industry. This calls for an investigation into the techno-feminist theory to update it.

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