

**FRAMING NATURAL DISASTSER : A SOCIOCOGNITIVE STUDY OF THE MEDIA
REPRESENTATIONS OF 2022 NIGERIA FLOODS**

BY

Confidence Ofa NAPOLEON (Miss)

PG/ART2015137

**A THESIS WRITTEN IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND LITERATURE AND
SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES IN
PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARD OF THE DEGREE
OF MASTER OF ARTS (M.A.) IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF BENIN.
BENIN CITY**

JANUARY 2025

CERTIFICATION

We certify that this research was carried out by Confidence Ofa NAPOLEON (Miss) in the Department of English and Literature, Faculty of Arts, University of Benin, Benin City.

Professor Felix N. Ogoanah
(Supervisor)

Date

Professor H. O. Okolocha
(Head of Department)

Date

DEDICATION

To my beloved parents, Mr. P. Napoleon and Mrs. R. Napoleon, whose unwavering support, selfless care, and dedication have been the cornerstone of my academic journey.

Above all, to God Almighty for His boundless grace and guidance.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am profoundly grateful to God Almighty for His grace, guidance, and provision throughout my academic journey and for granting me the opportunity to achieve this milestone.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to my supervisor, Prof. Felix N. Ogoanah, for his invaluable guidance, encouragement, and unwavering support in bringing this work to fruition.

I am deeply indebted to all my lecturers who imparted knowledge and wisdom during this program. Special thanks to Dr. Ray N. Chikogu for his selfless effort, mentorship, and consistent support in helping me actualise this achievement. I also express my gratitude to Dr D. O. Olatunji, Dr A. I. Egba, Dr L. D. Efobi, and all others who have contributed to my academic success in various ways.

My sincere appreciation goes to my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Napoleon, for their unwavering support, prayers, and encouragement. To my siblings, Thank-God, Loveth and Favour, I am eternally grateful for your love, understanding, encouragement, kindness, and support throughout this journey.

To everyone who has played a role in making this accomplishment possible, thank you. Your contributions have been invaluable, and words cannot fully express the depth of my gratitude.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title page	i
Certification	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgements	iv
Table of Contents	v
Abstract	viii
CHAPTER ONE:	
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 purpose of study	1
1.2 Background to Study	1
1.3 Objectives to Study	5
1.4 Statement of Problem	5
1.5 Research Questions	6
1.6 Scope of Study	6
1.7 Operational Definition of Terms	7
1.8 Limitation to Study	11
CHAPTER TWO	
2.0 REVIEW OF RELATED SCHOLARSHIP AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND	
2.1 Theoretical Background	13

2.2 Discourse Analysis	13
2.3 Critical Discourse Analysis	14
2.4 Van Dijk's Sociocognitive Method to CDA	15
2.5 Ideology	17
2.6 Review of Related Scholarship	19
2.7 Justification of Study	41
2.8 Thesis Statement	41
CHAPTER THREE	
3.0 METHODOLOGY	
3.1 Research Design	42
3.2 Sampling Technique	43
3.3 Method of Data Collection	43
3.4 Method of Data Analysis	44
CHAPTER FOUR	
4.0 DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS	
4.1 Actor Description	46
4.1.1 Media Representation of the Government	46
4.1.1.1 Identity Framing	46
4.1.1.2 Manipulative Use of Pronouns	62
4.1.1.3 Victim Playing and Blame Transfer	72
4.1.2 Media Representation of The Victims	79
4.1.2.1 Identity Framing	80

4.2 Argumentation	
92	
4.2.1 Narrativization and Comparison	92
4.2.2 Disclaimers	106
4.2.3 Exemplification and Evidentiality	110
4.3 Evaluation	126
4.3.1 Blame Attribution, Emotive Language and Objective Statistical Evaluation	127
4.3.2 Amplification of Ineptitude, Proactiveness and Victimhood	138
4.3.3 Emphasizing negative “other” representation	145
CHAPTER FIVE	
5.0 DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS	155
CHAPTER SIX	
6.0 SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION	
6.1 Conclusion	168
6.2 Summary	169
6.3 Recommendation	170
Works Cited	172

ABSTRACT

Flooding has been a recurring natural disaster in Nigeria, with the 2022 flood being one of the most devastating in the nation's history. This study investigated the linguistic and discursive strategies employed in media representations of the 2022 Nigerian flood discourse, focusing on their role in shaping public perception, framing narratives, and revealing underlying ideologies. Utilising a qualitative research approach, 90 purposively selected media reports, out of which 50 excerpts were extracted and analysed, with a specific focus on those covering Delta, Edo, Kogi, Ebonyi, Anambra, Benue, Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa and Abuja—the most severely affected regions. The study adopted Teun van Dijk's socio-cognitive theory as its framework, emphasising the interplay between language, cognition, and societal structures.

The study revealed that the media employed linguistic tools such as actor description, argumentation, and evaluation to construct narratives that project dominant ideologies, shape social identities, and highlight power dynamics. The media assigned blame, constructed authority, evoked empathy and amplified the urgency of the flood crisis through language use. These strategies influenced public perception, reinforced systemic inequalities, urged collective responsibility, and advocated proactive governance.

By analysing the linguistic elements and socio-cognitive dimensions of the flood discourse, this study contributed to the field of critical discourse analysis by demonstrating how language was used to frame societal crises and influence public discourse. It underscored the

importance of language as a tool for critiquing, shaping, and mobilising responses to disasters in a way that aligned with Nigeria's complex sociopolitical landscape.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of Study

The 2022 Nigerian flooding data serves as a perspective through which the relationship between language, power, and public perception can be analyzed. Language is pivotal in constructing and disseminating information, shaping public perception, and influencing opinions and attitudes. This research aims to analyze language use in the 2022 Nigerian flooding discourse. The study examines the discursive elements employed by various actors involved and the underlying ideologies in the discourse. The research shows how language shapes narratives, influences public perception, and highlights power dynamics in the 2022 Nigeria flood disaster context.

1.2 Background to Study

Disasters (natural or human-caused) are common worldwide and have continued to occur without warning. They are perceived to be on the increase in their magnitude, complexity, frequency, and economic impact. Floods are significant disasters affecting many world countries annually, especially in most floodplain areas (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2019). Floods do not only damage properties and endanger the lives of humans and animals but also produce other secondary effects like psychological or mental issues and outbreaks of diseases such as cholera and malaria as well which lead to massive loss. According to the

National Geography, floods are considered the second most prevalent natural disaster after wildfires (np).

Flooding is a natural occurrence in Nigeria – it is one of the country’s most prevalent natural disasters and has occurred for over a decade (Nkwunonwo et al. 740). Floods occur when water exceeds the limits of its channels and when water bodies cannot absorb or retain water in ponds, lakes, and/or dams. It quickly develops with little sign/warning, and they are the product of interaction among rainfall, wind, evaporation, sea level, and local topography. This natural hazard has led to damage and loss of human life and livelihood sources, deterioration of the environment, and retardation of development. Floods are a common phenomenon in Nigeria, and as such, data on the impact of flooding can be lacking, or reports on events are incomplete (World Bank, np). There have been incidents of flooding (Flash floods, urban floods, channel floods, back-swamp floods, coastal inundation, etc.) in the last 40 years in Nigeria with its consequences, but the flood of 2012 took the nation by surprise. Peduzzi et al. assert that “the rate of flood occurrence in recent times has been unprecedented, with 70 million people globally exposed to flooding every year, and more than 800 million living in flood-prone areas” (1149–1159). Rentschler and Salhab estimate that “1.47 billion people, or 19% of the world population, are directly exposed to substantial risks during 1-in-100-year flood events” (np).

In 2012, Nigeria experienced a devastating flood that had far-reaching consequences. According to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), This natural disaster affected 30 of the country’s 36 states, causing significant harm. Approximately 7 million people were impacted, facing displacement and disruption. The flood destroyed 597,476 houses, leaving countless individuals without homes. Additionally, it led to the displacement of 2.3 million people, uprooting them from their communities and causing immense hardship. The flood toll

also tragically included 363 reported deaths (np). Furthermore, the extensive damage caused by the flood resulted in the loss of vital farmland and other means of livelihood, severely impacting the affected individuals and communities. The natural environment and biodiversity were also adversely affected by this catastrophic event. The country also lost about 500,000 barrels of crude oil output per day due to the severe flooding in 2012 (NEMA, np). The comprehensive Post Disaster Needs Assessment, which was carried out between November 2012 and March 2013 with assistance from the World Bank, Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, United Nations, Development partners, and pertinent Ministries, Departments, and Agencies, estimated the total value of infrastructure, physical, and durable assets destroyed at \$9.6 billion in terms of economic loss, according to the Punch Newspaper of May 27, 2013. It was projected that losses in all economic sectors totaled \$7.3 billion (Punch Newspaper, np). In Nigeria's history, no flood has been more destructive.

The severe effects of flooding are linked to poverty, lack of knowledge, low livelihood sources, lack of insurance, weak institutions, and problems with emergency response and early warning preparation. The impact of flood destruction has always wreaked havoc and brought misery to numerous people, especially in rural areas. Floods result in an outbreak of serious epidemics, especially malaria and cholera. Simultaneously, scarcity of water also arises. It has a drastic effect on agricultural produce. Sometimes, water remains standing over large areas for a long, hampering the crop.

The floods continued to be more devastating since 2012. *However*, the 2022 floods, on a multidimensional scale, had more catastrophic effects. In the history of Nigeria's rainy season, 2022 is recorded to be the most devastating, leading to a massive loss in the nation. Records indicate that 662 persons lost their lives, 3,174 others have suffered injury, and 2 430 the floods

have displaced 445 individuals. About 82,035 houses were damaged, and 332,327 hectares of land were also affected (NEMA, np). According to the GRADE report, all 36 states plus the Federal Capital Territory were adversely hit by the 2022 flood in Nigeria, which caused varying degrees of damage and people to be affected (np). The analysis estimates that the total direct economic damage, based on currently reported statistics as of November 25th, is in the range of \$3.79 billion to \$9.12 billion, with the best (median) estimate at \$6.68 billion (Rentschler and Salhab, np). Flood loss is worse than the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019/2020 (The Guardian, np). Climate change, or the shifting weather patterns brought on by global warming, is the first factor thought to be a cause of flooding. Although it is clear that the climate is changing, flooding is caused by various connected natural and man-made variables. The tides' "river and ocean surges," which force water to breach its borders downstream, are a major contributor to Nigeria's recurring flooding. The states most impacted border the major rivers, like Benue, Kogi, Anambra, Adamawa, and others. The main reason the Niger and Benue rivers overrun their banks into nearby settlements is because they are shallow and silted, making it impossible for them to hold the amount of water that rushes downstream. As a result, the water pours off into the arid regions, creating flooding. In the same way, the ocean also encounters these overflows when there is a lot of wind or rain. In the meantime, it has been established that flooding in Nigeria is also a result of water released from the Lagdo Dam in Northern Cameroon. While victims blame the government for the disaster, the government, in turn, blames the masses for not caring about their environment and the climate. Unfortunately, despite the early warnings that there would be massive rain, this warning was poorly yielded, and the government still could not avert the crisis. Although billions of naira have been allocated to the government on flood matters, nothing significant has been put in place to solve the flooding problem in Nigeria. This

study analyses language choices in media reports to show the ideologies reflected in the flood discourse.

1.3 Objective of the Study

The study aims to highlight the role of language in the media representation of the 2022 Nigeria flooding discourse. The specific objectives are:

- i. to examine the use of language and discursive strategies in the media reports;
- ii. to investigate emergent power dynamics in the discourse of the social actors;
- iii. to identify and evaluate underlying ideologies in the media representation of the flooding discourse;
- iv. to examine the role of language in shaping narratives and influencing public perception regarding the flood discourse.

1.4 Statement of Problem

The Nigerian government's habitual lethargic responses to natural and other disasters affecting the populace have been a constant concern for most Nigerians. So, on this occasion of the 2022 flooding disaster in Nigeria, it is unclear for many how the governments and other agencies at different levels have been roused from their lethargy to respond to public outcry following media reports of the flooding disaster discourse.

The problem this study addresses is the lack of understanding of the linguistic and discursive strategies deployed in the 2022 Nigerian flooding disaster discourse to frame

identities, ideologies and narratives, highlight power dynamics, and provoke empathy that shaped public perception and attracted the attention of government agencies to the plight of the flooding victims.

1.5 Research Question

- i. What discursive strategies are deployed in the media report of the flood discourse?
- ii. What are the indications of power play evident in the discourse of the social actors?
- iii. What are the ideologies underlying the interactions of the prominent social actors?
- iv. What is the role of language in shaping narratives and influencing public perception regarding the flood discourse?

1.6 Scope of Study

The scope of this study encompasses an in-depth analysis of the linguistic features, ideologies, and discursive elements used by actors in the 2022 Nigerian flooding reports using several states, which are Delta, Edo, Bayelsa, Ebonyi, Kogi, Anambra, Benue, Rivers, Akwa Ibom and Abuja. The focus will be on how language is used by various actors, such as media organizations, government bodies, victims and humanitarian agencies, to communicate information about the flooding events and their aftermath. The study will primarily rely on Teun A. van Dijk's socio-cognitive framework as the analytical tool to examine the discourse in the reports. It will involve a qualitative approach, using content and discourse analysis to identify patterns, themes, and

rhetorical strategies employed in the reports. The analysis will cover a range of sources, including news articles, official statements, press releases, and reports from reputable organizations related to the Nigerian flooding in 2022. By examining the diverse set of materials, the study aims to comprehensively understand the representations and narratives that emerged from different perspectives.

1.7 Operational Definition of Terms

1. Discourse is the written or spoken communication surrounding an event. It encompasses the words and sentences used in communication and the social, cultural, and historical factors that shape and influence the conversation. Michel Foucault asserts that discourse is “a system of statements that determines what can be said about a particular topic at a particular time” (28). He emphasised that discourses are not simply a collection of individual statements but a network regulating what can be expressed about a given subject within a particular temporal and societal context. This view emphasizes that discourse is a multifaceted phenomenon embedded in broader sociocultural structures.

Van Dijk further buttresses discourse as a form of social interaction involving language use to communicate and negotiate meaning within a specific context (455). He sees discourse as an inherently social and cognitive process influenced by the social, cultural, and historical contexts in which it occurs. One of Van Dijk’s key contributions to the study of discourse is his concept of “discourse strategies.” He argues that discourse is not a neutral form of communication but is shaped by the strategies employed by speakers to achieve specific goals

(78). These strategies can include the selection and framing of topics, the use of specific language choices, or the manipulation of social and cultural norms.

According to Van Dijk, discourse is not only about transmitting information but also about negotiating power and social relations. He highlights the role of ideology in discourse, asserting that discursive practices maintain or challenge dominant social, cultural, and political structures (215). Ideological aspects of discourse can include the reproduction of stereotypes, the promotion of particular interests, or the construction of social norms and values. He argues that ideological structures shape discourse and can contribute to their reproduction. He describes this as the interplay between macro-level structures and micro-level processes. Discourse both reflects and reinforces existing power relations and social hierarchies.

Another important aspect of Van Dijk's work is his attention to the role of cognition in discourse. He emphasizes the cognitive processes involved in making meaning from language and argues that discourse is a dynamic interplay between linguistic structures, societal knowledge, and individual comprehension.

2. Socio-cognition: The psychological mechanisms that affect how individuals perceive, decipher, and negotiate social cues are known as socio-cognition. People can comprehend social behavior and react in suitable and advantageous ways because to these mechanisms. It involves comprehending and interpreting social cues, understanding social norms and expectations, and making inferences about others' thoughts, feelings, and intentions. This concept is crucial for everyday social interactions and significantly shapes our behaviour and decision-making. Van Dijk's work revolves around the study of social interactions and the role of discourse in shaping our understanding of the social world. His approach emphasizes the importance of social structures, power relations, and ideologies in socio-cognition.

According to van Dijk, socio-cognition is not just an individual cognitive process but is strongly influenced by the social context in which it takes place. He argues that social structures, such as gender, race, and class, influence our perception and interpretation of social events. These structures provide us with pre-existing schemas and categories that we use to make sense of the social world. For example, our socialization and exposure to stereotypes and cultural norms can shape our interpretation of gender roles, racial prejudices, and social hierarchies. He also emphasizes the role of power relations in socio-cognition. He argues that power relations in society influence our access to information and how we interpret and understand that information. Those in positions of power can control the narrative and shape the discourse, which in turn influences our socio-cognitive processes. For example, media representations and discourse around certain social groups can shape our stereotypes and biases towards them.

4. Linguistic strategies and techniques: Linguistic strategies are the methods, tools and approaches people use to communicate effectively to achieve specific goals or effects. The purpose of communication generally determines the strategies people use, the context in which communication occurs, and the relationship between the people involved: specific language usage, rhetorical devices, and persuasive techniques employed in the discourse.

5. Discursive elements: Discursive elements constitute discourse's building blocks, shaping how language is structured and interpreted within a given context. The analyses of discursive elements involves meticulously examining linguistic components, rhetorical devices, and contextual factors contributing to communication's multifaceted nature. About socio-cognition, discursive elements refer to how individuals communicate and interpret social information within a social context. These elements include language, conversation, discourse structures, and

social norms, among others. They are crucial in shaping how people understand and interpret social interactions, relationships, and the world around them.

In socio-cognition, discursive elements help individuals make sense of social situations, infer others' thoughts and intentions, and navigate social interactions. Language, for example, serves as a discursive element that allows individuals to express their thoughts, beliefs, and emotions and understand and interpret the expressions of others. Conversation and discourse structures provide frameworks for organising and exchanging information, leading to shared understandings and knowledge.

6. Framing refers to how information is presented or “framed” to influence people’s perceptions, opinions, or decision-making. It involves emphasizing certain aspects of an issue while minimizing or omitting others to shape the cognitive framework through which people interpret information. Framing can strategically influence public opinion, shape political discourse, or sway individuals’ attitudes and behaviours. Different frames can evoke different emotional responses and lead to various interpretations, even when the underlying facts remain the same. In order to support a certain problem description, causal interpretation, moral assessment, and/or treatment prescription, Teun van Dijk defines framing as “the selection and highlighting of some aspects of a perceived reality and the exclusion of others” (119). In other words, framing involves deliberately presenting information that shapes how people understand and interpret a particular issue or event.

Van Dijk argues that framing is not a neutral act but rather a form of social influence employed by powerful groups in society, such as politicians, media organizations, or interest groups, to shape public opinion or advance their agenda. By emphasizing certain aspects while downplaying or omitting others, framing can shape how information is perceived, interpreted,

and remembered. Framing is not restricted to individual messages or news articles but also operates at a higher level in terms of larger discourse structures. Media institutions and the larger social and cultural context in which they operate can establish long-term frames that influence how specific events or issues are understood (28).

7. Media

The term media refers to the various platforms and channels used for communication, including traditional outlets like newspapers, radio, and television, as well as digital technologies such as blogs, social media, and online news websites. Media serves as a tool for informing, entertaining, and influencing audiences. It encompasses professional journalism, user-generated content, and interactive platforms facilitating global communication and cultural exchange. Media encompasses all means of communication, serving as the channels through which information is disseminated to the public. This includes traditional platforms like newspapers, radio, and television, as well as digital forms such as blogs, social media, and news websites. Media delivers content and shapes public opinion, culture, and societal norms. Marshall McLuhan, a prominent media theorist, described media as “extensions of man,” emphasizing their role in amplifying human capabilities and transforming perception and interaction (McLuhan 3).

McLuhan’s work, *Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man*, highlights media’s profound influence on human consciousness and society. He introduced the idea that “the medium is the message,” suggesting that the nature of the medium itself, rather than its content, significantly affects how messages are interpreted (McLuhan 7). This view aligns with the idea that media act as powerful tools for social and cultural development, impacting everything from individual cognition to collective behavior.

For this study, the term media refers to writers, journalists, or content creators published on media platforms. While “media” broadly encompasses the tools and platforms used for mass

communication, it often colloquially includes the professionals who generate and share the content.

1.8 Limitation to Study

While this study aims to provide a deeper understanding of the linguistic features, ideology, and power dynamics in the Nigeria flooding reports discourse, the study is limited by the number of reports on the Nigerian flooding disaster available for analysis. The researcher analyses only fifty (50) excerpts from ninety (90) news reports from national online newspapers and web pages. Due to the limited availability of these reports and the fact that they may not fully represent all major actors, the findings may not be generalizable to the entire spectrum of Nigerians. It solely depended on the discourse samples surrounding the 2022 flood event in Nigeria.

In addition, the interpretation and analysis of linguistic features, ideology, and power dynamics are subjective. The researcher gives interpretations and analyzes the data based on the purpose of the study and understanding of the research.

Finally, the study is limited by the access to information on the Nigerian flooding reports. Some reports were not publicly available or accessible. Because of the limited data used in analyses, the study cannot capture the perspectives and experiences of all individuals affected by the flood, particularly those who may have been marginalized or underrepresented in the discourse.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED SCHOLARSHIP AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Theoretical Background

This study applies van Dijk's Socio-cognitive theory to Critical Discourse Analysis. This approach accounts for the ideological patterns enacted by the government and citizens. It helps understand the interactions between social structures and cognitive processes in shaping discourse's production, interpretation and effects.

2.1.1 Discourse Analysis

Discourse Analysis (DA) is a rich and diverse research method that examines language in its social context to understand its actual usage and meaning conveyed within a given context. It is not confined to a single discipline, but rather encompasses an interdisciplinary approach that

sheds light on various social domains. DA involves systematically analyzing the structure, content, ideas, and relationships encoded within a text (Hamuddin 42).

“Discourse” refers to any form of language employed in society, as defined by van Dijk (qtd. in Van Dijk 75). It is important because it reveals the ideology of the discourse producer. Discourse can be divided into two aspects: the non-critical (descriptive) approach and the critical one, as Gee described (52). The non-critical approach aims to describe how language functions to understand language, while the critical approach goes beyond description and engages with social and political issues, problems, and controversies. Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is a comprehensive and multi-methodological approach that investigates social phenomena by making interconnected relationships visible (Fairclough 15).

2.1.2 Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is a comprehensive and multi-methodological approach that values and promotes interdisciplinary collaboration. It investigates social phenomena by making interconnected relationships visible (Fairclough 15). The fundamental premise of CDA is its view of language as a social practice, emphasizing the importance of language content in understanding social structures and power dynamics (Fairclough 22). Describing discourse as a social practice implies a linguistic relationship between a discursive event and its surrounding situation, raising questions about power dynamics and social structures (Fairclough 28). CDA underscores the need for interdisciplinary collaboration to comprehend how language functions in the constitution and transmission of knowledge, the organization of social institutions, and the exercise of power (Graham et al. 42; Lemke 57; Martin and Wodak 71).

The primary focus of CDA is on social problems, particularly the role of discourse in the (re)production of power abuse or domination (van Dijk 93). It aims to analyze transparent and opaque structural relationships of dominance, discrimination, power, and control manifested in language (Wodak 105). CDA is a form of critical social science that illuminates problems individuals face due to specific forms of social life and contributes resources to tackle and overcome these problems (Fairclough 81). Its analytical viewpoint explores the relationship between power and discourse, investigating construction, sustenance, reproduction, and resistance of authority, dominance, and social inequality in written and spoken texts (Kazemian and Hashemi 112).

CDA is a research movement that is deeply problem-oriented, seeking to uncover and address dominant discourses concealed from ordinary people. It aims to account for ideology and power dynamics, examining the enactment, reproduction, legitimisation, and resistance of social power abuse and inequality through text and talk in social and political contexts (van Dijk 140). As a problem-oriented interdisciplinary research movement, CDA encompasses various approaches with different theoretical models and agendas (Fairclough et al. 155). This field assists analysts in uncovering hidden realities within discourse. It focuses on social problems and political issues, providing discourse structures to explain them in terms of the properties of social interaction, especially social structures.

The field of CDA has attracted contributions from various scholars, each developing their approaches and perspectives. Norman Fairclough, for instance, focuses on analysing discourse as a social practice embedded in power relations, combining linguistic analysis with social theory (Fairclough 172). Ruth Wodak developed the Discourse-Historical Approach (DHA), emphasising discourse's historical, social, and political dimensions (Wodak 190). Theo van

Leeuwen's approach focuses on visual and multimodal discourse analysis, incorporating semiotics and social theory (van Leeuwen 213). Sara Mills adopts a feminist perspective, exploring how language contributes to constructing gender identities and power relations (Mills 230). van Dijk's CDA approach focuses on analysing power relationships, social inequalities, and ideological perspectives within text and discourse (van Dijk 245). These scholars offer diverse perspectives and methodologies for analyzing discourse about power, ideology, and social inequality, providing valuable insights and tools for critically examining the role of language in shaping and reflecting social structures and power dynamics.

2.1.3 Van Dijk's Socio-Cognitive Method to CDA

van Dijk's socio-cognitive theory offers an approach to CDA that draws from social representation theory (Moscovici 32). This approach considers discourse structures, cognition, and society as integrated components, with cognition serving as a bridge between society and discourse. van Dijk relies on socio-cognitive theory to understand linguistics in a broad 'structural-functional' sense (van Dijk 253). He contends that a theory of context need to serve as the foundation for CDA and highlights the fact that social actors depend on collective frames of perception, or social representations, in addition to their individual experiences and tactics. Discourse is a type of social practice, according to van Dijk. This method shows how language and society are mediated by social cognition. According to van Dijk, several types of social cognition that are common to social collectives (groups, organizations, and institutions) should be taken into account by CDA. Shared representations of social structures, relationships, and groups, as well as cognitive processes like interpretation, reasoning, and thinking, make up social cognition (van Dijk 267).

Language users' mental representations, both as individuals and as members of a social group, serve as a bridge between discourse structures and social structures. Thus, through people's perceptions of their social surroundings, social interaction, social circumstances, and social structures impact text and speech. Through the cognitive interface of mental models, knowledge, attitudes, and ideologies, discourse can affect social interaction and social structures. Memory, cognitive processes, and representations involved in creating and understanding discourse are all included in the cognitive component of discourse analysis. Although each person has a different mental model, humans all have different types of socially shared cognition. As a result, we all have common knowledge about the world. We create individual mental models that reflect our unique experiences, perceptions, and interpretations of events and situations using this socially shared knowledge. Van Dijk suggested that the study of the connection between discourse and social structure should not be the exclusive focus of critical discourse analysis (CDA). Rather, language usage and discourse assume the presence of the language user's broad social representations (knowledge, attitudes, ideologies, norms, and values), as well as mental models and aims. In other words, a key component of Van Dijk's socio-cognitive method is the triangulation of discourse, cognition, and society in the study of speech. The purpose of this text analysis is to show the discursive structures and tactics used to exercise hegemonic authority, as well as to clearly expose the ideological dimension of "us" vs "them."

2.1.4 Ideology

Teun A. van Dijk's socio-cognitive model within Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) provides a comprehensive understanding of ideology. In this model, ideology is not merely seen as a set of explicit beliefs but as a dynamic system deeply intertwined with cognitive processes and

language use. van Dijk defines ideology as a system of shared beliefs, values, and attitudes that characterize a particular social group. This system influences how individuals perceive themselves, others, and the world around them (van Dijk 45). In this context, ideology is not limited to explicit political ideologies but encompasses broader socio-cultural beliefs that shape cognitive representations.

A key feature of van Dijk's socio-cognitive model is the emphasis on how ideology is mentally represented. Individuals construct cognitive models of social structures, power relations, and social categories through discourse. These mental representations are influenced by and, in turn, shape the ideological dimensions present in language (van Dijk 32). Ideology is an integral part of individuals' cognitive structure to make sense of their social reality. "Ideological beliefs are not only social representations but also cognitive representations, that is, mental models about social relations, events, and structures" (van Dijk 32).

van Dijk's methodology of Critical Context Analysis is closely linked to exploring ideology within the socio-cognitive model. This approach examines the broader social context in which discourse occurs to understand how ideological structures are maintained and reproduced through language (van Dijk 93). It considers the influence of social structures, power relations, and cultural norms in shaping ideological dimensions in discourse. "Critical context analysis involves a comprehensive examination of social context, including social structures, power relations, and ideologies that are reflected and reinforced by discourse" (van Dijk 93).

The "Ideological Square" is a practical tool within van Dijk's model designed to systematically analyse ideological dimensions in discourse. It involves mapping out the positions and expressions of different social groups, revealing their power relations and conflicts. The Ideological Square allows for identifying ideological dimensions in discourse and examining

how these ideologies are constructed and maintained through language (van Dijk 65). Within the socio-cognitive model, van Dijk emphasizes that discourse plays an active role in reproducing ideology. Language is not merely a passive reflection of pre-existing ideologies but a medium through which ideologies are enacted, sustained, and contested. Discourse actively contributes to reproducing ideological structures, shaping how individuals perceive and understand the social world (van Dijk 51). “Discourse is not only the reflection of our (socially shared) knowledge and ideologies but also a way of using language that can help to enact, confirm, legitimize, naturalize, and even contest social structures and ideologies” (van Dijk 51).

The socio-cognitive model integrates the understanding that ideologies often serve the interests of dominant social groups, reinforcing existing power structures. By analyzing discourse, scholars can uncover how language functions as a tool for the legitimation and perpetuation of power imbalances (van Dijk 45). “Ideologies often serve the interests of dominant groups and social institutions, and thus many social practices expressed in ideologies are at the same time practices of social power” (van Dijk 45).

van Dijk's model recognizes the multidimensionality of ideology and its intersectionality with other social categories. Ideological structures are interconnected with issues of race, gender, class, and other social factors. This acknowledgement allows for a more comprehensive understanding of the complex ways social identities are constructed and maintained through discourse (van Dijk 77). “Social inequality is a multidimensional phenomenon; thus, ideologies of social inequality are also multidimensional and affect the whole range of social practices” (van Dijk 77).

In conclusion, Teun A. van Dijk's socio-cognitive model provides a nuanced and interdisciplinary understanding of ideology. In this model, ideology is not a static set of beliefs, but a dynamic

force actively involved in shaping cognitive representations of social structures through discourse. By integrating cognitive processes, social structures, and language use, van Dijk's socio-cognitive model enriches the analysis of ideology within Critical Discourse Analysis.

2.2 Review of Related Scholarship

This review on the one hand covers studies of flood hazard as a natural disaster and on the other hand, a few works applying socio-cognitive theory to its study. Mheta Gift and Grace Temiloluwa Agbede investigate the pragmatic acts and discourse strategies employed by Nigerian newspaper editorials in conveying messages, mainly focusing on reports about insecurity within the nation and globally (124). Drawing on Jacob Mey's pragmatic act theory, which categorises acts such as informing, accusing, insulting, and convincing, and Teun van Dijk's socio-cognitive approach to critical discourse analysis, the study delves into the contextual analysis of utterances (130). The purposive sampling technique is applied to select sixteen newspaper editorials, with four from each of the four chosen newspapers. The research underscores the significance of critical discourse analysis in unravelling hidden ideologies within Nigerian newspaper editorials. Additionally, adopting the socio-cognitive approach facilitates a nuanced examination of editorials on insecurity, considering the contextual situations in which the utterances are situated. The study suggests that linguists and language users can benefit from employing the socio-cognitive approach for enhanced meaning negotiation in discourse interactions.

Ecolinguistics, a field explored by Stibbe, delves into the intricate relationship between language and the natural world, scrutinising "the stories we live by mental models that influence behaviour and lie at the heart of the ecological challenges we are facing" (Stibbe 2). These stories, operating as cognitive structures, play a pivotal role in shaping how individuals think,

talk, and ultimately act concerning ecological matters (Stibbe 10). Within the realm of ecolinguistics, the focus is on language patterns and their profound influence on perceptions and responses to ecological issues. Agwuocha Anaekperechi Ugomma and Ephraim Chukwu contribute to this discourse by adopting the conceptual metaphor approach, analysing discourses on flooding through data from four national daily newspapers spanning 2012 to 2020 (102). Conceptual metaphors, regarded as potent linguistic tools, are scrutinised in-depth to discern their impact on the language used in reporting flood disasters. The study identifies metaphorical conceptualisations, revealing that concepts drawn from source domains such as war, angry monster/warrior, animate being, and container substance are systematically employed to discuss the target domain of flood (106–110). Language, through the vehicle of conceptual metaphors, is unveiled as a powerful agent shaping mental models that guide reasoning and discussions about ecological issues. For instance, framing floods as a “war” or an “angry monster/warrior” in the Nigerian context underscores these disasters' severe and devastating impact, thereby emphasising the urgency of managing and preventing floods to safeguard the environment. The study further underscores the indispensable role of language in addressing ecological issues and demonstrates how inference patterns from source domains are systematically employed to draw attention to flood crises. Also, it advocates effective measures to manage and prevent floods, ultimately serving as a call to action for protecting and preserving the ecosystem. In essence, the research reveals the intricate interplay between language, conceptual metaphors, and the narratives that shape public perception and discourse surrounding ecological challenges, specifically focusing on Nigeria's flooding context.

In the critical investigation of spoken language on climate change, Koussouhon et al. delve into an analysis of President Barack Obama's climate change speech, aiming to expose

how language serves to establish ‘ideological effects,’ constructing preferred mental models to perpetuate unequal power relationships (349). Employing Van Dijk’s critical discourse analysis approach, the study utilises this theoretical lens to unveil the nuanced meanings embedded in the text. The findings illustrate that Obama’s speech is steeped in ideologies that mirror socially shared beliefs stored in episodic memory. The former President strategically sought to influence the recipients’ mental models, constructing a “preferred model” aimed at encouraging other country leaders to take action against climate change. The speech outlines three primary solutions—Mitigation, Transparency, and Financing—to address what Obama perceives as a ‘threat’ and ‘danger’ to the international community. The application of socio-cognitive theory to the speech aids in demystifying the ideological meanings behind the framing of these solutions, laying bare how the speaker's discourse is intended to permeate the cognitive models of the recipients (348–352).

In response to the escalating flood hazard in Nigeria, Oladokun O.V. and D. Proverbs conducted a comprehensive review, shedding light on the challenges and characteristics inherent in Flood Risk Management (FRM) practices within the country. As emphasized, the FRM system closely reflects the institutional behavior, ecological makeup, infrastructure development, and other techno-socioeconomic characteristics of its environmental setting (485). Even if the recent spike in flooding disasters has raised awareness of FRM efforts, there is still a noticeable lack of coordination and integration of important FRM systems and processes. The absence of comprehensive or methodical thought in urban planning and development exacerbates this deficiency. As a result, there is an obvious gap between FRM systems and other built environment subsystems. The FRM systems as a whole become inefficient and useless as a result of this unintentional disconnect (486-492). Addressing these challenges demands a concerted

effort to foster an approach to FRM, emphasizing the interconnectedness of various components within the broader environmental framework. To effectively manage the risk of flood, a more cohesive and integrated strategy is needed.

Othman Farrah et al. examined the mental, social, and health impacts of flooding on students at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Negeri Sembilan branch who were directly affected by the event. Employing a qualitative research methodology, the researchers gathered data through an online survey distributed to 46 students who experienced the hazard. The collected data were analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS), providing insights into the mental and social effects endured by the students in the aftermath of the flood. The findings indicated that students were less affected by the post-flooding consequences compared to older family members due to their more minor household roles. Additionally, the study revealed that the extent of the responsibilities of a victim within the family influenced their mental, social, and physical well-being. Individuals with heavier responsibilities experienced more profound effects on their overall well-being following a flood occurrence (2570–2580).

Ebuzoeme, Ogechukwu Divine-Favour conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the effects of flooding in six communities within Awka, specifically Agulu, Amaenyi, Ezi-Awka, Amikwo, Ifite, and Nkwelle. The main objective was to propose practical solutions to mitigate this recurring menace. The research employed the questionnaire survey method to gather and analyze data systematically. Flood is an environmental hazard often linked to meteorological phenomena, the study highlights the significant role of human activities in inducing or exacerbating this natural occurrence through improper utilization or abuse of the physical environment. The investigation outcomes revealed that these six communities experienced similar repercussions from flooding, including road congestion, accidents, structural damage to

buildings, destruction of properties, health-related issues, diminished aesthetic beauty of the environment, elevated poverty levels, and loss of life. Furthermore, the research revealed a noteworthy discrepancy in rental values between properties in flooded areas and those in non-flooded zones (26–36).

Oke O. Muritala et al. thoroughly examined the media's role in communicating disaster information, assessing its effectiveness in fulfilling the social responsibility of creating awareness efficiently and proactively in communities. The researchers argue that timely and informative communication with communities can enhance awareness, subsequently reducing the risk and vulnerability of community members during disasters. They emphasize that effective communication reduces fatality rates and diminishes secondary morbidity in disaster situations (633–643). Applying McComb and Shaw's (1972) agenda-setting theory and Siebert et al.'s (1956) social responsibility theory, the study operationalized these frameworks with a focus on environmental disasters posing serious threats to societal well-being. The researchers assert that the media plays a crucial role in averting disasters by providing pre-disaster information to vulnerable communities. Employing a survey method with an open-ended questionnaire distributed to 120 respondents in six communities in Benue State—Rice Mill Wadata, New Kanshio, Idye, Achusa, and Wurukum villages—the study found that disaster information was primarily conveyed through radio and television. However, the researchers observed limited emphasis on community-based disaster risk management approaches, neglecting informal communication channels such as town hall meetings, community-based seminars, and interpersonal interactions. They note that media content often featured timely and frequent sympathy messages from various stakeholders, following a more top-down approach that rural inhabitants might not understand well, potentially leading to higher victim levels (106). In

conclusion, the paper suggests integrating community-based communication processes, utilizing informal channels like interpersonal communication, seminars, and town hall meetings, to enhance disaster awareness creation and complement the media's efforts.

Aung Thandar Khin et al. explored the repercussions of flooding on its victims' physical and mental health, delving into the concealed dangers and challenges experienced during and after the disaster. Recognizing floods as a natural calamity with widespread adverse effects on society, the study acknowledges that the health impacts can manifest directly or indirectly, contingent upon the flood's characteristics and the affected areas' environmental, economic, and social contexts (5197). Physical impacts encompass various consequences such as drowning, injuries, and animal bites, while mental effects extend to mental disorders and psychosocial needs, with potential long-term implications. The dangers and challenges during and after flooding events pose additional health hazards, including but not limited to chemical hazards, electric hazards, unsafe food, and contaminated water (5198). The study concludes that the mortality rate among victims of flood disasters results from the multifaceted impacts on both physical and mental health. To address these challenges, the researchers recommend emphasising enhanced public health planning and interventions tailored to the specific needs of the disaster victims. Furthermore, they advocate for proactive preparedness within the medical personnel and public health sector to effectively administer care to those affected and manage the aftermath effects of the hazard.

Othman, Zaidin Ahmad et al. conducted a study to identify the occupations most affected by women who are survivors of flood hazards in Kuala Selangor, Malaysia. Floods, as natural disasters, have daily consequences for victims, and women, often tasked with caregiving responsibilities, face heightened challenges during such events. The researchers employed

purposive sampling, gathering data from 131 participants through the Occupational Therapy Practice Framework (OTPF) 3rd Edition (AOTA, 2014) questionnaire. Data analysis using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 21.0 revealed that rest and sleep were particularly affected among middle-aged individuals (36-59 years old), those with health issues, larger households (6-11 members), different educational backgrounds, fewer experiences of flooding (0-2 times), and unemployment. The study underscored women's significant challenges during disasters, emphasising the societal expectations that often burden them with domestic responsibilities. This occupational imbalance during disasters negatively impacts women's health, wellness, well-being, and overall quality of life (Othman et al. 397-402).

Ladan Iguda, Suleiman, and Jummai Yusuf Saulawa examined the response and recovery efforts undertaken by victims during the 2018 flooding in Jibia, Katsina State. The researchers employed a combination of direct field observations and twelve (12) focus discussion groups to gather data on the response to and recovery from the disaster. Additionally, the study utilized secondary sources, including textbooks, journal articles, conference papers, daily newspapers, environmental assessment reports, and internet-sourced materials, which were subjected to analysis using descriptive statistics (9). While acknowledging the support provided by the Federal and State governments and other relief organizations in search and rescue operations, interim shelter, and the provision of relief materials for flood victims (11, 12), the study highlighted the challenges faced by individuals in the recovery phase. The limitations in reconstruction, rehabilitation, and relocation contributed to the difficulties experienced by those affected by the flood (14). The research emphasized the attention garnered from national and international bodies, leading to the donation of relief materials for the victims. The recommendations from the study underscored the importance of ensuring prompt and adequate

government responses to disaster situations to facilitate the timely recovery of affected individuals (16).

Salami K. Kabiru et al. evaluated the structural readiness of the Nigerian health sector to address the health needs of victims during and after a flood event. Utilizing a qualitative research method, the study included in-depth interviews with thirty respondents, comprising nineteen women and eleven men who were married and elderly (136). The research findings highlighted the vulnerable living conditions within the community, characterized by poorly planned environmental structures lacking government-approved building plans. These buildings are built in such patterns that obstruct waterways, contributing to the severity of the flood impact. While the government tried to provide relief services, the implementation process faced criticism from affected individuals. Challenges included long travel distances to relief distribution points, extended waiting times in queues, and difficulties establishing victim status to qualify for government support (138). There was a significant gap in healthcare infrastructure as the government failed to provide adequate functional health facilities capable of accommodating comprehensive, quality, and long-term support for flood victims (139–142). The study recommended improving urgently the health security and infrastructure, prioritizing vulnerable groups and enhancing accessibility to both emergency and post-emergency care and support (143).

Floods, a widespread disaster with increasing frequency globally, pose a significant threat to human development and existence. Ganiyu, Mutiu Adekunle, and colleagues sought to address crucial challenges journalists and disaster managers face in fulfilling their roles in disaster risk reduction. Recognizing the pivotal role of the media, disaster management, and other stakeholders in disseminating crucial information to the public, especially during disaster events,

the study aimed to identify and recommend solutions to enhance their effectiveness. Employing a qualitative research method, the researchers conducted in-depth interviews with journalists and disaster managers, involving 16 respondents from four government-owned disaster management organizations and two major national newspapers in Nigeria. The interviews were meticulously analyzed using NVIVO 10 software, revealing issues such as poor communication between the two principal bodies before the disaster occurrence and strained relationships during and after the hazard event (122 – 128). The study concluded by emphasizing the need for effective cultivation of the media as a critical public of disaster management organizations, advocating for active media participation in all stages of disaster management. A well-established relationship with the media before a flood disaster strikes was underscored as crucial for the benefit of stakeholders and national development (129).

In order to improve flood risk management capabilities, Odunsi, Oluwafemi, and Margaret Onanuga carried out a study in Lagos that looked at the relationship between households' resilience and several factors affecting their resilience. Through a multistage sampling process, the researchers used a cross-sectional survey approach and a quantitative study design to randomly pick 512 households for questionnaire administration. Using SPSS Version 20 software, the Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) technique was used to evaluate the data. The study found that household flood resilience was positively impacted by environmental ($\beta_1 = 0.197, p \leq 0.05$), institutional ($\beta_2 = 0.180, p \leq 0.05$), and socioeconomic ($\beta_3 = 0.529, p \leq 0.05$) characteristics in a statistically significant way. The behavioral factor, on the other hand, showed a negative impact ($\beta_4 = -0.035, p < 0.05$). The study ends on a note that highlights the significance of developing policies that address households' social and economic welfare in order to strengthen their resilience (101–108). As the most important predictor of households'

resilience to flood disasters, the socio-economic factor emerged, with education, occupation, income, and culture playing crucial roles.

In order to determine the reasons behind flooding and critically analyze the connections between urbanization dynamics and urban flood disasters in the Gombe metropolis, Daniel and Dabara Ibrahim carried out survey research. With a target population of 1,923 households, data were gathered from nine research sites using questionnaires; 13% of these households were chosen as the sample size. Spearman's rank correlation and multiple linear regression analysis were used in addition to basic statistical tools like tabulation, percentages, and charts. The results showed that the main causes of flooding in Gombe city were urbanization dynamics, specifically the location of residences (increasing informal settlements in flood-prone areas), inadequate drainage facilities, the proximity of properties to drainage facilities, the lack of a proper layout plan, careless waste disposal in drainage channels, haphazard construction on waterways, plot sizes, and inadequate development control measures. The study demonstrated how urbanization dynamics have a crucial influence in flood occurrences, defying the widely held belief that floods are primarily caused by heavy rainfall. In order to direct urban growth and interfere in the urbanization process, the authors suggested cooperative efforts involving town planners, real estate developers, and legislative and administrative powers, guiding the process towards ecological sustainability (5–13).

Harifuddin and Rasyidah Zainuddin conducted an insightful study exploring the multifaceted impacts of floods on Segeri society, emphasizing the unique meanings ascribed to these natural disasters within their cultural and religious framework. Situated in a community where floods are viewed not merely as random events but as significant signs of divine power and the will of Dewata Seuwwae (God), the Segeri people interpret these occurrences through a

lens of surrender and submission to God's plan. This distinctive perspective is intricately woven into their rituals and shapes their collective response to floods. Employing a phenomenological approach, the researchers delved into the intricate tapestry of Segeri society's beliefs and practices, conducting in-depth interviews with key figures such as Bissu and farmers. Observations of the natural environment further enriched these qualitative insights. The study unveiled the profound influence of Islamic Sufism on the Segeri community's worldview, intricately intertwined with local and religious beliefs. The social structure in Segeri, as elucidated by the researchers, represents an objective and subjective reality, with its meaning comprehensible solely from the local community's perspective. The findings underscore the socio-cultural construction of Sufism, permeating the consciousness and daily conduct of the Segeri society, especially in navigating the challenges posed by floods. In Segeri's collective consciousness, floods are not merely adversities but are perceived as manifestations of divine will and, at times, retribution. The community's resilience in the face of these challenges stems from their conviction that enduring such trials serves as a means of purifying oneself from sins, and, importantly, floods are seen as heralds of positive impacts and divine blessings. This profound belief system fosters a sense of resignation among the Segeri people, shaping their response to the disruptions caused by floods and reinforcing their connection with the divine (46-50).

Lawal Abdulrashid conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the utilization of indigenous knowledge within communities, specifically in Jibia, Kaita, Mashi, Maiadua, Zango, and Baure, situated in Katsina state. The primary focus was on forecasting the risks associated with flood disasters in both urban and rural settings. The methodology for this research involved the distribution of semi-structured questionnaires, encompassing both open-ended and close-ended

queries, among 221 participants, with 77% representing males and 23% females. This data collection method facilitated the retrieval and organization of crucial information. Before this, reconnaissance and Pilot Surveys were conducted to establish familiarity with the study area and assess the reliability and effectiveness of the research tools and techniques. The outcomes of the study shed light on the communities' adept use of indigenous knowledge to predict weather and climate-related hazards. This indigenous knowledge draws upon keen observations of various natural elements, including animal behaviours, birds, insects, shrubs, trees, wind patterns, temperature fluctuations, and cloud formations, among other factors. In light of these findings, the study recommends the identification and promotion of sustainable indigenous practices to address environmental challenges, aligning with the overarching goal of sustainable development. Additionally, it advocates for the integration of indigenous knowledge with modern scientific approaches in global initiatives aimed at environmental protection and disaster risk reduction. Emphasizing the importance of localized risk reduction policies, the research underscores the potential of indigenous knowledge to provide valuable grassroots insights rooted in historical and cultural contexts. By recognizing and leveraging this rich source of information, the study underscores the capacity of indigenous knowledge to enhance understanding and contribute to the development of disaster risk reduction strategies tailored to the unique circumstances of local communities (472-474).

In order to effectively reduce the risk of flood disasters, Kamble et al. strongly recommend using the ecosystem approach, explaining how it aligns with ecosystem management concepts, tactics, and resources to maximize ecosystem services. In the end, this viewpoint prioritizes individuals in the decision-making process by placing a strong emphasis on integrating social and ecological systems. Using India as an engaging case study, the authors

demonstrate the real-world implementation of the ecosystem-based approach to flood disaster risk reduction. Floods have continuously caused suffering, especially in rural regions, given India's susceptibility to a variety of disasters resulting from its geoclimatic and socioeconomic circumstances, notably as one of the ten most disaster-prone nations in the world. The consequences of floods in India extend beyond immediate damage, encompassing severe epidemics like malaria and cholera and water scarcity, significantly impacting agricultural yields. The study emphasizes that India is among the nations most vulnerable to flooding, and it attributes this to the fundamental features of its natural ecological systems. The ecosystem method serves two important purposes, making it a powerful tool for lowering the risk of disaster. First of all, ecosystems like forests, wetlands, and coastal systems act as buffers or natural barriers that lessen the effects of natural hazards and physical exposure. By acknowledging that ecosystems support human livelihoods by supplying necessities like food, fiber, medications, and building materials, the strategy also tackles socioeconomic vulnerabilities. These elements are pivotal for enhancing human security and resilience against disasters. While the conventional focus often revolves around the protective and regulatory functions of ecosystems, the authors assert that well-managed ecosystems also play a vital role in safeguarding against a spectrum of common natural hazards, including landslides, flooding, avalanches, storm surges, wildfires, and drought (71–80).

In scrutinizing the effectiveness of Disaster Relief Operations (DRO) in mitigating the impacts of flood disasters from 2012 to 2022, Febrina et al. undertook a Systematic Literature Review (SLR). Extracting data from 50 papers available on Open Knowledge Maps and Research Gate, chosen for their accessibility and paper quality, the study aimed to provide a comprehensive overview. The data were categorized by publication year, region, and publisher,

revealing a noteworthy finding: the current flood DRO lacks an integrated information system. This deficiency, along with identified issues like inadequate collaboration among governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), volunteers, and local communities, and delays in information exchange, hampers the optimization of DRO activities. The research suggests various technologies, such as an integrated web-based information system and real-time satellite monitoring for flood mapping, to be utilized in addressing these shortcomings. Furthermore, the study emphasizes the imperative of strengthening collaboration among diverse entities involved in relief efforts to enhance responsiveness to the needs of disaster victims (206-214).

In order to identify and suggest solutions for the issues impacting Nigerian news media's participation in disaster risk reduction in Yobe State, Ibrahim and Adamoko Mohammed performed a study. The study offers first results that highlight the obstacles to new media's successful involvement in state flood catastrophe management and offers solutions. Key informant interviews (KII) were conducted using a qualitative methodology with 19 participants (11 men and 8 women, ages 25 to 54). According to the study, connections between the media and disaster management are characterized by mistrust, tension, conflict, blaming, and other crises both during and after catastrophes, and there is little interaction between them before to disasters. The media organizations, disaster management agencies, and other stakeholders, are the issues identified. Emphasizing the role of media in creating disaster risk awareness and educating the public on preparedness, the study recommends a shift from solely reporting on casualties and losses to actively participating in disaster risk reduction. It emphasizes how important it is for journalists to collaborate with others and see themselves as important stakeholders. Particularly in rural and semi-urban regions, it is important to take into account

how the community views the media's role when assigning journalists to cover flood disasters (434–438).

In examining the health and economic consequences of floods in Nigeria, Daniel Faithful et al. illuminate the nation's preparedness for future incidents. The paper underscores the adverse health impacts of flooding, encompassing waterborne diseases, psychosocial issues, and the necessity of pandemic preparedness, asserting that the country is ill-equipped (14). The aftermath effect of the 2022 flood disrupted lives and damaged assets, causes from challenges in identifying the root causes to governmental inefficiencies hindering risk mitigation efforts. Nigeria's limited number of operational dams, just 408, combined with poor transboundary collaboration, further exacerbates the flood risk. Despite existing agreements on risk communication with Cameroon, the lack of effective transboundary collaboration hinders disaster mitigation efforts and access to multilateral climate funds. OCHA predicts increased poverty rates despite projected economic growth in 2023, attributed to the widespread flooding crisis in 2022 and declining oil production. Economic challenges pose additional concerns, including a soaring inflation rate of 22% and a 23% increase in food prices as of September 2022. Increased adversities and stresses threaten resilience, which is essential for mental health and makes Nigerians more vulnerable to psychosocial problems, anxiety, and depression. Women, kids, the elderly, and those with disabilities are among the most vulnerable groups during floods, and their misery is made worse by a disregard for their special requirements. In order to protect towns near large rivers from frequent floods, the document urges government action, highlighting the necessity of building new dams and dredging rivers (14–19).

In Africa, floods are identified as the most prevalent natural hazard, inflicting substantial adverse impacts (Cilliers 537). Over the past 30 years, West Africa has encountered its most

severe floods, posing a significant threat to sustainable development in affected countries and resulting in considerable losses for governments, individuals, households, and communities (Yin et al. 2328). Community flood disaster preparedness in flood-prone rural and urban areas in Kaduna State was assessed by I.A. Joshua et al. using a mixed-method comparative cross-sectional study design and multistage sampling techniques. Data were collected from 202 household heads in each study group (rural and urban communities) using pretested structured questionnaires, focus group discussions (FGDs), key informant interviews (KIIs), and observational checklists. Quantitative data were analyzed using SPSS version 23.0, and content analysis was performed on the qualitative data. The results showed that there was a lack of preparedness for flood disasters, with 99.0% and 86.1% of rural and urban communities lacking readiness, respectively, and that only 34% and 10% of those communities had specific flood disaster plans. Compared to barely 1% in rural regions, 19.3% of urban towns have early warning systems. Interestingly, urban and rural areas were significantly worse prepared for flood disasters ($p = 0.001$) (39). Although slightly better in urban areas, flood preparedness was generally considered inadequate in both environments. The study emphasizes how important it is for pertinent parties, including the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), to provide flood disaster preparedness training to their community (41-43).

Flood challenges in developing countries are exacerbated by poverty and a lack of technological expertise in flood management. Nigeria, in particular, has seen limited attention given to studies on flood perception and adaptation. In a research effort by Ologunorisa, Temi E, and Ademola Adeyemo, the aim was to understand how residents in flood-prone areas perceive the risk of flooding. Through systematic random sampling, approximately 500 questionnaires were distributed to landowners in fifteen selected settlements in the study area (40-41). The

analysis's findings demonstrated that the public primarily attributes floods to river overflow and heavy, protracted rainfall. The frequency of severe floods and flood mitigation measures, however, are not well understood. Many flood victims do not receive aid or compensation during flood disasters, and jobs like fishing, subsistence farming, and the presence of crude oil influence their decision to stay in the area. These occupations draw migrants who cannot afford expensive housing, forcing them to live in areas that are vulnerable to flooding. The study comes to the conclusion that cooperation between the government, community initiatives, and awareness campaigns using environmental education and the media is necessary for the region to effectively prevent flooding. Furthermore, the researchers recommend promoting flood insurance as a crucial strategy for flood adaptation (42-44).

The 2012 flood event in Rivers and Bayelsa prompted Ruby Enyioma Osuji et al. to investigate women's traditional coping strategies within affected communities. Their findings provide valuable factual and evidence-based insights to the public and various organisations, emphasising the imperative roles and contributions of these entities, including the government, in ensuring flood victims' welfare, security, and well-being in times of crisis. Following the selection of the first three directly impacted local governments using a multi-stage sampling technique, purposive sampling was used to determine which communities within these local government councils were impacted. The final step was to choose 400 female respondents (1288) using a systematic random sampling technique. The study clearly illustrates a number of traditional coping mechanisms that were used to adapt to and deal with the difficulties presented by the flood disaster, such as planting trees and crops that would withstand flooding, using traditional storage methods, building temporary platforms and bridges, and using local weather warning systems (1289–1291).

The impact of human activities on climate was initially localised, given the relatively constant quantity of greenhouse gases in the environment, as observed by Onyenechere (137-147). Floods manifest when the land's soil and vegetation can no longer absorb all the water, leading to runoff in quantities that exceed the capacity of stream channels or natural ponds and constructed reservoirs. K. D. Ogunesan et al. conducted a comprehensive examination of climate change and its correlation with flood incidences in Nigeria, with a specific focus on Ibadan, and proposed measures to address the consequential challenges. The methodology involved consulting journals and publications and conducting personal field surveys in selected affected areas (9). Inferences were drawn subjectively from the survey. The findings revealed extreme floods in Ibadan in 1951, 1955, 1960, 1963, 1969, and 1978, with the 1980 flood disaster resulting in the loss of over 700 lives. The 2011 flood disaster, marked by an estimated 187.50mm of rainfall, was the highest recorded in the last fifty years. The magnitude of the devastation included settlement dislocation, population displacement, and the collapse of buildings, infrastructure, culverts, and 25 major bridges, among other impacts. The recurrence of floods in Ibadan indicates a historical lack of effective and timely responsiveness to natural disasters by the government at all levels since 1951. The study concludes with recommendations, emphasising the need for coordinated actions between government tiers, intensified meteorological data and reports, establishing a Flood Plain Management and Control Committee, spatial planning, and implementing resilient flood risk strategies. Casualties will drastically reduce in future flood disasters in Ibadan and the country through this measure (11-12).

Flooding, a pervasive and impactful hazard, poses significant challenges to developing countries by causing the loss of lives, damaging properties, and triggering acute economic setbacks. In a comprehensive study, Akanle, Olayinka, et al. evaluated the intricate socio-cultural

and technical aspects of flooding in Ibadan, anchoring their research in ecological and social action theories. The ecological perspective unveiled a web of negative human-environment interactions, including indiscriminate refuse disposal, subpar town planning, deforestation, illegal dredging, and the construction of buildings on water channels. This culminates in recurring flood disasters. Guided by Weber's Sociology, which revolves around social action, the research delved into interpreting social actions and providing causal explanations for their courses and consequences (506-519). Methodologically, the study employed purposive sampling and qualitative techniques, incorporating in-depth interviews (IDIs), key informant interviews (KIIs), visual displays, and client-centered therapy. With meticulous care, 25 IDIs and 9 KIIs were conducted to ensure the reliability of the findings. The research uncovered that while a significant destructive flood occurred in 1980, the more recent 2011 event proved even more devastating, attributing identical causes to human activities. Some respondents associated the phenomenon with supernatural acts or the will of God. Contributing factors included poor drainage systems, climatic conditions, inadequate urbanisation, flat terrain, inflows from nearby creeks, surcharges due to blocked drainages, and insufficient waste management. Government interventions in Oyo state were characterised by short-term palliatives and emergency infrastructure maintenance, lacking a comprehensive socio-cultural and physical (re)engineering approach. Respondents' suggestions for mitigating flood effects were significantly influenced by their beliefs about flooding (16-26). The study underscores the urgency of adopting sustainable measures that address both human activities and the broader environmental context to mitigate the impact of flooding in Ibadan effectively.

Amadi, Luke and C.U. Mac Ogonor undertake an examination of the recent environmentally induced challenges faced by the people of the Niger Delta due to coastal floods

on October 7th and November 3rd, 2012. This coastal flooding is proof of the ongoing and unavoidable susceptibility to climate change, a globally alarming problem with possible implications for human life, environmental safety, displacement, and far-reaching effects. The study explores the effects of natural disasters like flooding on the area, evaluating the state's and the international community's response levels. The study's findings indicate that most of the local population has little knowledge of climate change vulnerability. Moreover, the study highlights dissatisfaction among flood victims, mainly artisans and peasants engaged in fishing and subsistence agriculture, with the government and policymakers' response to their plight. In examining the climate change scenarios in the Niger Delta region, vulnerability, impacts, and potential mitigations are explored to address global warming and environmental degradation. The essay connects these issues to Nigeria's commitment to global environmental protocols, shedding light on the impact of such commitments on awareness regarding climate change vulnerability. Through the use of primary and secondary data sources, the research predicts the impending threats associated with climate change susceptibility. Oral interviews, questionnaires, and focused group discussions (FGDs) were employed as major data sources in a participative technique. Reports from the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), UNDP, UNEP, newspapers, journals, and publications from governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were examples of secondary data sources. Because of the delicate nature of the issues under investigation, the sampling strategy was purposive. The results highlight how the 2012 flooding affected the area negatively, resulting in poverty, out-migration, relocation, and a drop in food output. The paper concludes with policy recommendations for mitigating climate change vulnerability, emphasizing the need to reduce anthropogenic activities as a crucial step in addressing this global challenge (56–63).

Joan N. Ozoh's comprehensive investigation into flood crises in Ogbaru Local Government Area, Anambra State, sheds light on the profound and multifaceted socio-economic repercussions experienced by the community. Each community formed a distinct stratum using a stratified sampling technique, with five communities randomly chosen for data collection. The study unveiled a cascade of challenges, including forced relocations, substantial losses in terms of properties, crops, and food stocks, and the severe disruption of educational and healthcare infrastructures due to the damaging effects of flooding. Residents, however, exhibited remarkable adaptive strategies, demonstrating an ability to predict floods and implementing on-the-ground measures, such as relocating valuables and constructing elevated wooden structures. Furthermore, farmers in the region showcased resilience by adjusting agricultural practices, engaging in early planting, and modifying farming regimes to mitigate the impact of flood disasters. An insightful aspect of the study was the analysis of government interventions, highlighting their pivotal role in supporting the community's resilience and mitigating the adverse effects of flooding. In light of these findings, the study emphasizes the pressing need for concerted efforts from government authorities and stakeholders to facilitate the permanent relocation of vulnerable communities to elevated areas. Ideally, this should be accompanied by the provision of essential amenities and the exploration of advanced water management infrastructure, including the construction of dams and canals, to establish sustainable and comprehensive solutions to the persistent challenges posed by floods in the region (608 – 613). Joan N. Ozoh's study serves as a robust foundation for policy considerations and strategic planning to enhance the resilience and well-being of communities grappling with the socio-economic impacts of recurrent flood crises.

The study by Ezeokoli F. O. et al. explores how the 2012 floods affected the building fabrics and structural elements in Anambra State's Ogbaru Local Government Area. The study analyzes the impact on structures and looks at the relationship between flood levels, foundations, and ground floor heights. Employing a questionnaire survey and physical examinations, the research findings indicate that many buildings in the area experienced complete or partial submersion during the flood. It is noteworthy that substantial damage was not common on the structural components, even though the majority of the structures had shallow foundations (68%) below 300mm and low ground floor levels (74%). But when the flood climbed one meter above the ground floor, construction materials and components—like finishes and electrical fixtures—were severely damaged. The study underscores older, weaker, and mud-based buildings were particularly vulnerable to severe damage. Consequently, the research recommends several measures to enhance building resilience in flood-prone areas, including raising ground floor levels to at least 1 meter above the ground, suspending buildings on plinths, utilizing deep stripe or raft foundations, incorporating water-resistant materials, and integrating oversite concrete in construction or refurbishment endeavours (132-135).

2.3 Justification of Study

The existing body of research has extensively explored diverse facets of flood-related challenges, encompassing risk management practices, the societal, mental, and health impacts on varied populations, and other relevant aspects. However, there is a noticeable research gap in understanding the socio-cognitive dimension of flooding disasters, particularly the linguistic features and underlying ideologies in the 2022 Nigerian flooding reports. This study aims to contribute to the existing literature by investigating this overlooked area, shedding light on how

language, power dynamics, and public perception interact within the context of the 2022 Nigeria flooding.

2.4 Thesis Statement

The deliberate use of actor description, argumentation and evaluation intricately shapes the narratives and public perception of the 2022 Nigerian flooding discourse. These discursive elements play a crucial role in projecting dominant ideologies, framing social identity, shaping public perception, controlling narratives, and impacting the power dynamic within the discourse surrounding the devastating floods in Nigeria.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

According to Shawn Loewen and Luke Plonsky (153), this study employs the qualitative research approach, which is an empirical investigation based on non-numerical data. According to Zoltan Dornyei, qualitative research entails methodologies for gathering data that yield non-numerical, open-ended information that is then examined using a non-statistical approach (24).

Qualitative research has a unique objective portrayal of social phenomena within their “natural setting”, and it accommodates subjective opinions, experiences, and feelings of individuals with the explicit goal of exploring participants' perspectives on the studied situation (Zoltan 38). The researcher is allowed to make subjective interpretations based on the data. Matthew B. Miles et al. describe the researcher as the essential “measurement device” in such studies (31-34). This recognition emphasises the personalised and interpretative nature of qualitative research.

In this light, a qualitative research approach is adopted in this study, enabling holistic exploration of the subjective dimensions of the 2022 flood discourse in Nigeria, capturing the nuanced experiences, opinions, and feelings of those involved in or affected by the flooding event.

3.1 Research Design

The research design applied in this study is based on John W. Creswell et al. 's definition of the term as “a procedure for collecting, analyzing and reporting research” (210). Therefore, a research design is a framework that serves as the basis for the organization or structure of a study—the arrangement of data collection and analysis. In light of this, the sample strategy, data gathering method, and data analysis method are described below.

3.2 Sampling Technique

The data for this study are purposively selected online from a pool of ninety media reports of the 2022 flooding in Nigeria, which comprises various states discourse of the flooding such as Delta, Edo, Bayelsa, Ebonyi, Kogi, Anambra, Benue, Rivers, Akwa Ibom and Abuja, which we impacted severely. Emphasis is placed on ensuring that each chosen report is directly relevant to the discourse on the 2022 flooding in Nigeria. The data collection period spans 2022 and 2023, aligning with the specific timeframe when substantial conversations and discussions regarding the 2022 flooding were prominent in the media. This timeframe is chosen to encapsulate the most pertinent and contemporaneous information related to the 2022 flooding discourse in Nigeria. The study focuses on analysing and evaluating both the linguistic features and socio-cognitive elements present in the media construction of the 2022 flooding narrative in the relevant States.

3.3 Method of Data Collection

The data for this research are sourced online in text format from media publications on the 2022 flooding disaster in Kogi, Delta and Bayelsa States of Nigeria. This made it unnecessary to engage in any form of transcription that would have been required for data collected in audio, video, or audio-visual formats.

The research entails an in-depth examination of online publications reporting the 2022 flood disasters in the states present in the reports. The data was retrieved online from media platforms. The internet search engines that source the data include Chrome, Edge, and Microsoft Bing. A purposeful selection process was employed to ensure a comprehensive and representative dataset, focusing on ninety distinct online media reports and publications related to the flooding incidents in 2022. The publications include news articles, news reports in online newspapers, and press releases.

The careful curating of these ninety online reports aims to capture the diverse perspectives presented in media discourses surrounding the 2022 flooding in the relevant States of Nigeria. From these reports, a meticulous process was undertaken to extract the fifty most relevant excerpts for an in-depth analysis of linguistic and socio-cognitive elements associated with the 2022 flood discourse.

3.4 Method of Data Analysis

This research adopts a qualitative research method to gain comprehensive insights into human beliefs, behaviour, and values regarding social and non-social issues within their specific environments. The chosen approach for the analysis of the data involves three integral analytical procedures: description, interpretation, and explanation. These steps contribute to thoroughly exploring the phenomena studied, fostering open-ended and flexible subjective interpretations.

Understanding how discourse structures impact social structures is enhanced by including Teun van Dijk's socio-cognitive theory. The "discourse-cognition-society" triangle serves as the focal point of the theoretical framework, emphasizing the cognitive mediation that underlies this interaction. The study intends to reveal the underlying attitudes and values influencing the representation of these events by closely analyzing the language used in media reporting of the flooding events in multiple states in 2022.

In addition, the research seeks to identify instances where language is strategically utilized to form public perception, control narratives, and impact the power dynamic.

In analyzing the data in this study, the research adopts description, interpretation and explanation. The ninety (90) reports collected were categorized into four groups. The four classified groups are the government responses to the flood (29 reports), the impact of the flood (50), general (4), and assessment reports (7). Out of the ninety (90) reports, fifty (50) excerpts were extracted and further reviewed to analyse the ideologies, linguistic strategies and discursive elements present in the texts and examine how these help frame the perspective of various actors and show the power dynamics at play.

The input of the researcher's judgement in this study is not overly subjective to the extent of impairing knowledge and degrading objective criticism. Instead, its 'subjectivity' characterises only the researcher's interpretation of the texts based on extensive reading and studying.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Actor Description

Actor description refers to how individuals or groups are portrayed within a discourse. The government, its agencies and the flood victims are the principal social actors in the 2022 Nigerian flood discourse. For this reason, these actors' descriptions are central to the flooding. The government, its agencies and the flood victims are the principal social actors in the 2022 Nigerian flood discourse. For this reason, these actors' descriptions are central to the flooding, and the discursive strategies deployed revolve around them. Moreover, the discursive strategies

deployed revolve around them. According to van Dijk, actor description involves the linguistic and discursive strategies used to construct representations of social actors within texts (156).

4.1.1 Media Representation of The Government

In the representation of the 2022 flooding, the media adopts the strategies of blame transfer, victim playing, identity framing, and manipulative use of pronouns to achieve a positive self- and negative other-representation of the Nigerian government and its agencies.

4.1.1.1 Identity Framing

Excerpt 1: The *Director-General* of the Delta State Contributory Health Commission, Dr Ben Nkechika, who disclosed this while briefing newsmen in Asaba at the weekend, revealed that the state government was providing the *extraordinary health insurance service* to residents who have been temporarily displaced from their communities *purely as a humanitarian gesture* meant to provide them access to free, qualify healthcare for one year. Aside being deprived of their regular means of livelihood, most of the people, including *the aged, children, lactating and expectant mothers*, affected by the floods have become more susceptible to outbreak of certain diseases due to the harsh environment created by the flooding. Nkechika said, “The Commission is an agency of government established to implement the mandatory Delta State Contributory Health Scheme which is a health care financing programme geared towards ensuring access to quality health care services for all residents of Delta state. “The programme started in January 2017, and till date we have *over 1.2 million enrollees* which is the highest in the country. The scheme is powered by 500

health facilities both government and private health care facilities accredited to provide health services under the scheme. (Omon-Julius Onabu, 2022)

Through identity framing, the media portrays the Delta State government as a compassionate and capable institution addressing the needs of displaced residents. This aligns with ideologies of humanitarianism, inclusivity and equity, and legitimacy of state power and responsibility. The excerpt frames Dr Ben Nkechika as a credible authority by emphasizing his official title, “Director-General”, and associating him with a government agency. This legitimizes his statements and establishes the government’s health commission as reliable. The Delta State government is portrayed positively, emphasizing its role in providing an “*extraordinary health insurance service*” to displaced residents. The use of the phrase “*purely as a humanitarian gesture*” positions the government as compassionate and altruistic, prioritizing the welfare of its people. In contrast, the displaced individuals, described as including “*the aged, children, lactating and expectant mothers,*” are framed as vulnerable victims of flooding, justifying the need for state intervention and enhancing the perceived success of the contributory health scheme. This portrayal shows their dependence on government intervention, reinforcing the state's narrative as a provider and protector in times of crisis. The framing also emphasizes the harsh conditions created by the floods, which increase susceptibility to diseases, further justifying the state’s intervention. Statistical data and milestones—such as mentioning “over 1.2 million enrollees” and “500 health facilities”—are used to establish the success of the health insurance program. These details emphasize the competence and scope of the scheme, portraying it as a model initiative. This reinforces the perception of the government as effective and proactive. The media reinforces a narrative of governmental efficiency by focusing on success metrics, such as the number of enrollees and accredited facilities. However, the omission of

challenges, such as funding sustainability or long-term impacts, creates an unbalanced view that skews public opinion toward a favourable perception of the program.

Excerpt 2: The Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs (MNDA) in collaboration with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), distributed relief materials to 2022 flood victims in Edo state. Speaking while handing over the items to NEMA for onward distribution to the beneficiaries on Monday in Benin, the Minister of Niger Delta Affairs, Umana Umana, said the relief items by the federal government are *designed to cushion the effect of the flood on the beneficiaries*. “*The flood destroyed the livelihood of the people and the entire ecosystem of the Niger Delta. Homes, farmlands, and businesses were lost to the flood. Niger Delta is always worse hit by a flood in the country because of its topography and location*”, he said. The Minister said President Muhammadu Buhari, in his *concern and love for the people of the Niger Delta region*, approved that relief materials be given to the flood victims in the States of the Niger Delta to alleviate the challenges that came with the flood. Umana represented by a director in the ministry, Mr Mathew Pukuma, said that *no amount of relief provided by the Government can replace the losses* as a result of the flood, but the relief items would help alleviate the burden currently faced by the people.... Also speaking, the Edo state governor, Godwin Obaseki represented by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Idehen Dorcas, commended the federal government, MNDA, and NEMA for identifying with the flood victims in the state. He said the items would go a long way in alleviating the plight of the victims whose means of livelihood were destroyed. The governments

of Edo, Delta, and Bayelsa as well as relevant stakeholders have expressed readiness to mitigate the effects of possible flood disasters in the three states.

(Idahosa Moses, 2023)

The excerpt talks about how the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs (MNDA), and other stakeholders worked together to provide aid to flood victims in Edo State. The federal government, represented by the MNDA and NEMA, is framed as empathetic and proactive. Statements such as the relief materials being “*designed to cushion the effect of the flood on the beneficiaries*” and references to President Buhari’s “*concern and love for the people of the Niger Delta*” construct an image of a compassionate government acting in the interest of its citizens. This framing positions the government as attentive to the needs of flood victims, emphasizing its humanitarian efforts. The flood victims are framed as vulnerable and heavily affected by the disaster. Phrases such as “*the flood destroyed the livelihood of the people and the entire ecosystem*” and “*homes, farmlands, and businesses were lost*” depict them as deeply impacted and reliant on government intervention. This identity reinforces the necessity and legitimacy of relief efforts. The region’s topography and location are showcased as factors that make it “*always worse hit by a flood.*” This framing situates the Niger Delta as a particularly vulnerable area requiring special attention from the government. It establishes the need for continued and tailored support for the region. The focus on the Niger Delta’s “*topography and location*” as factors that exacerbate flooding aligns with an ideology of regional equity. It suggests that some areas require tailored approaches to disaster management due to their geographical and environmental conditions. The statement that “*no amount of relief provided by the Government can replace the losses*” reflects an understanding of the limits of post-disaster interventions. This frames the government as realistic and transparent,

acknowledging the gravity of the victims' situation while emphasizing its effort to alleviate their burden. The discourse emphasizes collaboration among federal, state, and local governments and stakeholders. The ideology of humanitarianism is revealed in the above text, portraying the government as morally obligated to provide support to its citizens in times of crisis. The relief materials are described as an effort to alleviate the challenges, reinforcing the idea that governments must protect and assist their most vulnerable populations. The roles of NEMA, MNDA, and the Edo State government in addressing the victims' plight are revealed, creating a narrative of inter-agency unity and collective action.

Excerpt 3: National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and Ikwo local government area of Ebonyi State have commenced the distribution of relief materials to victims of the 2022 flood in the area. Addressing the victims at the council headquarters in Onuebonyi, the representative of NEMA, Mr Kadiri Olanrewaju, said the distribution of the materials was *to cushion the effects of the 2022 flood disaster on them*. He expressed concern that the people who are *predominantly farmers* had their crops destroyed and many were rendered homeless. Olarewaju said the distribution would come in *batches in order to capture all the affected victims* and *extolled the beneficiaries for their orderly conduct* and assured them that the *government will always stand by them*. (Obinna Ogbonnaya.)

The distribution of relief supplies to Ebonyi State flood victims in 2022 is covered in this section, with a focus on the roles played by local government and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). As a responsive and compassionate organization, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is portrayed favorably in the passage. The

representative, Mr Kadiri Olanrewaju, is presented as a concerned and proactive figure who acknowledges the hardships faced by the victims, such as destroying crops and homelessness. Phrases like “*to cushion the effects of the 2022 flood disaster*” and “*government will always stand by them*” construct an identity of NEMA as a reliable and supportive agency. This further emphasizes the ideologies of humanitarianism and equity. The flood victims are framed as vulnerable and dependent on aid. The emphasis on their status as farmers (“*predominantly farmers*”) whose crops were destroyed reinforces their identity as a disadvantaged group needing assistance. This framing situates the victims in a loss and helplessness narrative, emphasizing their reliance on government intervention. The assurance that the “*government will always stand by them*” frames the government as a protector and provider. The emphasis on distributing relief materials in “*batches to capture all the affected victims*” suggests a systematic and inclusive approach, reinforcing the perception of a government that is thorough and considerate in addressing the needs of its citizens. The victims are also framed as cooperative and orderly, with the phrase “*extolled the beneficiaries for their orderly conduct*”, creating a narrative of gratitude and harmony between the government and its citizens.

Excerpt 4: It is noteworthy that the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and other associated agencies have been *reactive* in handling issues of flooding *rather* than being *proactive*. *What is usually done can be described as post-disaster management. It is very sad that the regular pattern has been that NEMA waits until there is a disaster; then they go and distribute mattresses, foodstuffs, and paltry sums to the flood victims.* I would also like to confirm that the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) releases regular weather data and predicts the rainfall pattern which is seldom used for planning by the agencies of

government in charge of disaster management. (Godswill Aguiyi, “Tackling the Problem of Flooding in Nigeria” 2022)

In this excerpt, the speaker, the program officer, adopts the strategy of labelling (“reactive”, “proactive”, and “post-disaster management”) as an identification marker and the contrastive marker “rather” to show responsive strategies of the government agencies to the flood outbreak. These lexical choices convey the unperturbed attitude of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and other government agencies towards the well-being of the Nigerian masses. The statement, “*what is usually done can be described as post-disaster management*”, labels the activities of NEMA as following a pattern of negligence. This implies that this agency, NEMA, does not implement preventive measures; instead, it comes into the situation and only offers minimal services which temporarily alleviate the situation. This excerpt portrays, criticizes and satirizes the implicit power dynamics within the government. Government agencies such as NEMA are negatively portrayed as inefficient and negligent in their duties. There is also critiquing of relevant governmental agencies’ approach to flood disaster management. In contrast, the citing of the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) presents this agency as efficient and accurate in its available information for anticipatory planning. The media use this implicit comparison between NEMA and NIMET to demonstrate that not all governmental agencies are corrupt, inefficient, careless and negligent. This comparison presents a disconnect between data availability and its integration into decision-making processes. Thus, in achieving a positive representation of NIMET and a negative representation of NEMA, the media questions the efficacy of current Nigerian socio-political and economic practices and networks. This representation is used to provoke a critical reflection on the flood management approaches and initiate adequate strategies that enhance preparedness. However, sentence three (“*it is very sad*

that the regular pattern has been that NEMA waits until there is disaster then they go and distribute mattresses, foodstuffs, paltry sums to the flood victims”) projects the speaker’s disappointment and frustration. It also conveys the perceived inadequacy of the agency’s current approach to flood outbreak management. By emphasizing the agency’s activities in the sentence (*distribute mattresses, foodstuffs and paltry sum to flood victims*), the speaker satirizes the bad/poor responses from and the corrupt practices of the Nigerian government agencies. The description of their typical response—distributing “*mattresses, foodstuffs, and paltry sums*”—portrays their efforts as insufficient and superficial. The term “*paltry sums*” diminishes the perceived value of their assistance, emphasizing the inadequacy of their interventions. This narrative suggests that NEMA focuses more on temporary relief than addressing the root causes of flooding or preventing disasters.

Excerpt 5: *The governors of Delta, Bayelsa, Kogi, Anambra and Benue states yesterday appealed to the Federal Government to immediately come to their aid to avert a looming humanitarian crisis, following the devastating effects of floods in their states. Speaking separately on the devastating impact of this year’s flood in their states, the governors said the situation has overwhelmed them, hence the need for urgent support from the Federal Government. According to data released by the Federal Government on Monday, 603 persons have died, two million displaced and hundreds of hectares of farmlands destroyed in this year’s flood across the country, making it the worst ever... FG taking steps to mitigate effects — Source Reacting to the call for assistance, a source in the Federal Ministry of Environment told Vanguard that the Federal Government is concerned and had initiated steps to mitigate the effects of climate change which is*

responsible for the increasing rate of floods in several countries, Nigeria inclusive. The source, who craved anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said: “*The Federal Government, as you know, has empowered the National Emergency Management Agency, NEMA, in collaboration with states to provide relief* for persons in affected communities. “To show the level of *seriousness* of this administration to tackle this challenge brought about by the *effect of climate change*, President Muhammadu Buhari inaugurated the Council for Climate Change in September. “While doing so, he reiterated this administration’s determination to strengthen national response and accelerate the implementation of actions to reduce the impact of climate change on the people and economy. (Festus Ahon, et.al.,2022)

The excerpt reflects a power imbalance between the state and federal governments, revealing the state’s dependence on federal intervention during crises. The governors’ appeal, “*The governors of Delta, Bayelsa, Kogi, Anambra, and Benue states yesterday appealed to the Federal Government to come to their aid immediately,*” illustrates their vulnerability and limited capacity to respond to disasters independently. This framing reinforces the perception that state governments are subordinate to the federal authority in managing large-scale crises. Conversely, the federal government asserts its institutional control through agencies like the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and initiatives like the Council for Climate Change. The statement, “*The Federal Government has empowered the National Emergency Management Agency, NEMA, in collaboration with states to provide relief,*” positions the federal government as proactive and capable, emphasizing its dominance in disaster response. The crisis is framed as a humanitarian disaster with unprecedented consequences, as shown by the data: “*603 persons*

have died, two million displaced, and hundreds of hectares of farmlands destroyed in this year's flood across the country, making it the worst ever." This quantitative approach legitimizes the governor's call for assistance and underscores the urgency of the situation. The use of emotionally charged phrases such as *"looming humanitarian crisis"* and *"devastating impact"* evokes sympathy, drawing attention to the dire need for federal intervention. Additionally, by attributing the disaster to climate change, the narrative aligns with a global understanding of environmental challenges. The statement, *"steps to mitigate the effects of climate change which is responsible for the increasing rate of floods,"* shifts responsibility away from governance failures, situating the crisis within a broader international context. The text strategically represents the governors and the federal government in contrasting roles. The governors are portrayed as overwhelmed and dependent, as seen in the statement, *"The situation has overwhelmed them, hence the need for urgent support from the Federal Government."* This depiction legitimizes their plea and reinforces their subordinate position in the national power hierarchy. On the other hand, the federal government is presented as organized and proactive. The media emphasizes the government's commitment, noting, *"To show the level of seriousness... President Muhammadu Buhari inaugurated the Council for Climate Change."* This portrayal aligns the federal government with global environmental action and portrays it as taking decisive steps to address the crisis. The narrative transitions smoothly from the governors' plea to the federal government's response, minimizing any perception of inaction. The source states, *"The Federal Government, as you know, has empowered the National Emergency Management Agency, NEMA,"* immediately positioning the government as responsive and prepared. Furthermore, the attribution of the crisis to *"the effect of climate change"* shifts blame from governance or infrastructure deficits to an external, global phenomenon. This strategy

modifies public opinion by sidestepping possible critiques of national readiness for disasters. Linguistically, the use of emotionally charged language such as “*devastating effects*” and “*seriousness*” constructs a mental model of a government working diligently under challenging circumstances. By presenting specific actions like the inauguration of the Climate Change Council, the narrative reinforces the government’s credibility and commitment to addressing both immediate and long-term challenges.

Excerpt 6: The Edo State House of Assembly has urged the State Government to *collaborate* with the Federal Government in *building housing estates on higher ground* for people living in flood-prone areas in the state while calling for a *lasting solution* to the perennial flooding being experienced by some communities in the state. *This followed the adoption of a motion by Mr Ahmed Oshioma* (All Progressives Congress-Etsako Central), under matters of urgent public importance on the perennial flooding in Osomhegbe, Udaba, Ofukpo, Agbabu, Udochi and Anegbette communities. Moving the motion, Oshioma said it had become necessary to find a permanent solution instead of the regular *palliatives* which, he said, in most cases do not get to the victims. (Perennial Flooding In Communities: Edo State Assembly Seeks Lasting Solution, Voice of Nigeria, 2023)

In the excerpt, the media reportage of the response of the (legislative arm of the Edo State Government) the Edo State House of Assembly achieves a positive self-representation and a negative description of the Executive arm of the Edo State Government and the Federal Government within the micro and macro contexts. Within the micro context, the media reportage presented in the excerpt highlights the action on flooding resolution and asserts the (the House's) commitment to citizen's well-being and welfare. Thus, there is a positive representation of this

arm of government as the group is positioned as an influential actor in addressing the issue. To reinforce the actualization of this representation, there is the concealment of ideological polarization of this group, which is achieved through the voting process (see the expression: “This followed the adoption of a motion by Mr *Ahmed Oshioma*...”). This representation constructs the Edo State House of Assembly as unified and committed to true governance, political process, and citizens' well-being. It also presents this group with an ideology of this arm as empathetic, sensitive and seeking lasting solutions to flood disasters. However, to reinforce the positive projection of this group, the media ideologically conceals the identity of the State lawmakers who were not committed to or who voted against the motion. However, the implicit call for cooperation between the State and Federal governments suggests a negative representation of the Executive arm of the Edo State government within the micro context and a negative representation of the federal government in the macro context. The executive arm of the Edo State government (State Government) is criticised for implementing short-term relief measures (i.e. giving of palliative), which the victims do not access most of the time. Thus, the state government is constructed as corrupt, deceitful, uncaring and uncommitted to good governance. Also, the federal government is identified as more reactive than proactive to sustainable approaches and programmes that address the root causes of perennial flooding in the country. In this media report, the Edo State House of Assembly emphasises the paramount possibilities of the FG and SG in resolving the flood outbreak. The use of the terms and phrases “collaborate”, “building housing estates on higher ground”, and “lasting solutions” suggests a focus on long-term planning and collaboration between the two government entities. Given this, the Edo State House of Assembly implicitly blames the federal and state governments for the frequent yearly flood outbreaks caused by the floods in the country and state. Thus, while the

media tries to create a positive representation of the Edo state legislative arm and a negative representation of the Edo State executive of government and the Federal government, it also emphasises the need for a proactive approach in addressing subsequent flood outbreaks and the place of collaboration and long-term planning.

Excerpt 7: It was not accidental that the Delta State Government under the leadership of Governor Ifeanyi Arthur Okowa has *keyed into the World Bank sponsored Nigeria Erosion And Watershed Management Project (NEWMAP)* to reduce the vulnerability of erosion in the state. *Delta State Government has over the years placed much premium on the issue of mitigation of flood and erosion in erosion/flood prone communities in the state.* This is one cardinal point, His Excellency, the Governor, Senator Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa places much priority on, in his five-point agenda, tagged SMART, meaning: *Strategic wealth creation initiative and provisions of jobs for all; Meaningful peace building platforms aimed at political/social stability; Agricultural reforms and accelerated industrialization; Relevant education and health policies; and Transformation of the environment through massive urban renewal.* It is in this light that informed the World Bank/Federal Government of Nigeria to establish NEWMAP to support *the country's transformation agenda to achieve greater environmental and economic security.* It is also aimed at assisting states and local governments on *large-scale erosion/flood projects that could be financially cumbersome for them to execute.* This is why the Delta State Government keyed into the project to be among the second league of nineteen (19) states admitted into the NEWMAP family in the country to address the erosion menace and to bring succor to the

affected communities in the state through the empowerment of Project Affected Persons (PAP).... *The visitation of the officials to the various erosion/flood communities were greeted with a lot of enthusiasm by the people who have long craved for government intervention for the projects over the years.* (Userportal, 2022)

This excerpt shows the media's account of flood and erosion mitigation efforts in Delta State through the World Bank-sponsored Nigeria Erosion and Watershed Management Project (NEWMAP). The discourse employs identity framing to underscore the actors' roles and contributions to disaster management and sustainable development. The excerpt portrays the Delta State Government as proactive, stating, "Delta State Government has *placed much premium on the issue of mitigation of flood and erosion in erosion/flood-prone communities in the state.*" The government's decision to "*key into the World Bank-sponsored Nigeria Erosion And Watershed Management Project (NEWMAP)*" frames it as strategically leveraging international resources to address environmental challenges and prioritizing the needs and welfare of the state's citizens. Governor Ifeanyi Okowa is portrayed as a leader with a strong commitment to environmental issues, particularly through his five-point SMART agenda, described as: "*Strategic wealth creation initiative and provisions of jobs for all; Meaningful peace-building platforms aimed at political/social stability; Agricultural reforms and accelerated industrialization; Relevant education and health policies; and Transformation of the environment through massive urban renewal.*" This positions him as a leader who prioritizes long-term, sustainable solutions to socio-environmental issues. As such, the state government is not dependent on the federal government for immediate assistance; rather, it resorts to other available solutions to enhance the comfort of citizens. The initiative is described as supporting

“the country’s transformation agenda to achieve greater environmental and economic security.”

It is framed as vital for *“assisting states and local governments on large-scale erosion/flood projects that could be financially cumbersome for them to execute,”* reinforcing its importance in overcoming financial and technical limitations at the state level. The affected communities are depicted as enthusiastic recipients of intervention, with the excerpt noting that *“The visitation of the officials to the various erosion/flood communities were greeted with much enthusiasm by the people who have long craved for government intervention for the projects over the years.”* This framing positions the communities as reliant on external aid and government intervention.

Excerpt 8: The minister said apart from the 12,000 metric tonnes of grains distributed to states to affected states, approved by President Muhammadu Buhari, the government, also delivered three consignments of food and non-food items to Bayelsa State since July 2022. Umar Farouq in a statement yesterday by her Special Adviser on Media, Nneka Ikem Anibeze, commended the Bayelsa State government for its support to its people during the initial time of distress. *“Given the magnitude of the devastation in the State and most parts of the country at large, I wish to inform you that His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari approved the release of 12,000 metric tons of assorted food commodities from the National Strategic Reserve for distribution to victims of this flood disaster in the country as a way of assuaging their suffering. “In addition, there are relief materials and other interventions that have been provided since July 2022 by NEMA, an Agency under the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs. “I wish to also commend Bayelsa State Government for providing support to the flood*

affected persons and to acknowledge the understanding of the public on the intervention by the Federal and State Governments”. (Akintola, 2022)

In the above text, the media achieves a positive representation of the federal government (FG) and Bayelsa state government by pointing out the various actions undertaken. Along with the framing techniques used by Minister Umar Farouq, this excerpt emphasizes the power dynamics between the federal and state governments. The Federal Government is portrayed as the primary source of relief and assistance. By adopting statistics and presidential approval as a means of evidentiality, Umar Farouq constructs a positive political image of both governments. The statement, “*President Muhammadu Buhari approved the release of 12,000 metric tons of assorted food commodities from the National Strategic Reserve for distribution to victims of this flood disaster;*” emphasizes the Federal Government's role in alleviating suffering. This framing positions the government as empathetic and proactive in disaster management. The Bayelsa State Government is acknowledged for its role in providing relief. The minister states, “*I wish to also commend Bayelsa State Government for providing support to the flood-affected persons,*” framing the state government as a cooperative and effective partner in disaster response. The affected individuals are implicitly framed as recipients of assistance who rely on governmental support. This is reflected in the emphasis on “*assuaging their suffering*” and the detailed mention of the “*relief materials and other interventions.*” It also disclaims the media's negative representation of the FG in Text 5. For instance, the media report portrays President Buhari's involvement in the post-flood outbreak as decisive and empathetic (*see I wish to inform you that the Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari approved the release of 12,000 metric tons of assorted food commodities...*). NEMA is presented as a crucial actor under the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, with the statement: “*In addition, there are relief materials and other*

interventions that have been provided since July 2022 by NEMA.” This framing underscores the importance of institutional mechanisms in disaster relief efforts. The positive portrayal of both governments and NEMA constructs a narrative of responsibility, assistance and public perception within the context of the flood disaster. This media portrayal implicitly questions the adequacy of the assistance provided by both governments about the magnitude of the scale of the disaster.

4.1.1.2 Manipulative Use of Pronouns

In CDA, the pronoun “we” is used to achieve three identities, namely inclusive “we”, exclusive “we”, and plural majestatis or non-plural “we” According to van Dijk, inclusive “we” refers to a collective identity that encompasses both the speaker and the listener, creating a sense of unity. Exclusive “we,” on the other hand, divides the world into distinct groups and emphasizes the speakers' identity as separate from others. Lastly, non-plural “We” involves the use of pronouns like “we” or “us” to refer to a single entity or authority, disregarding individual differences (351).

Excerpt 9: *The NDDC boss, who was accompanied by other Directors of the Commission, was briefed on project by the contractor, the Manager for SETRACO, Mitchell Issa. Audu-Ohwavorua noted that the devastation was massive, necessitating the directive by the federal government, through the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs, to the NDDC to move in immediately to restore the road and make it motorable. He stated: “We were here a week ago with the Minister of Niger Delta Affairs on the directives of President Muhammadu Buhari who was concerned about the devastation caused by the flood. The day we visited it was impossible for any vehicle to ply between Rivers and Bayelsa States. “These are the kinds of things that the NDDC was created for, to intervene in critical situations. Now, there is some thoroughfare between Rivers and Bayelsa*

State. Hopefully in the coming days there will be thoroughfare between Bayelsa and Delta states. The Ahoada section is already motorable.” The NDDC boss commended the project contractor on the progress of the rehabilitation work on the road, noting: “*We* expect more progress in the coming days in the interest of the people of the Niger Delta region that have endured a lot of pains on account of the flood,” he added. “Most of them have to leave their domains and relocated as IDPs in Yenagoa, 90 per cent of traditional rulers in Bayelsa State were victims of flood. “I need not remind anyone that *we* well know that the oil and gas resources used to lubricate the wheels of governance in Nigeria come from the bowels of the land mass on which *we* stand. I mean from the bowels of the Niger Delta, where Bayelsa State is located. “*We* also need not reiterate that *our kingdoms and clans, our flood ravaged kingdoms and clans*, constitute crude oil blocs owned by persons and business concerns which regrettably, *we* do not own.” (Segun Samuel and Blessing Ibunge, 2022)

Excerpt 9 above is a press statement by NDDC Boss Audu-Ohwavorua. The media report of this press statement conveys the authority and actions of NDDC Boss. It depicts that he is handling the crisis and overseeing the success and progress of projects. Also, the reference to specific political stakeholders, such as the FG, the Ministry of Niger Delta and President Muhammadu Buhari, demonstrates that these stakeholders are powerful social actors whose instructions must be obeyed. However, there is the use of the pronoun “*we*” to establish the ideology of power, unity and solidarity as well as to manipulate the perception of the general audience. For instance, the use of the inclusive “*we*” throughout the text aligns with the speaker (Audu-Ohwavorua), *the NDDC Boss, the ministry of Niger Delta*, and the people of the Niger

Delta region. The deployment of the inclusive pronoun “we” in this context creates a shared identity for the involved social actors and a sense of solidarity and responsibility. It also exemplifies that the speaker and the audience are actively involved and affected by the effects of the flood crisis. Through this ideological strategy, the speaker (Audu-Ohwavboma and the NDDC Boss) position themselves as a part of the collective entity having shared interests and concerns in the Niger Delta region. The ideological effect of this representation is fostering solidarity and unity among the Niger Delta regions. Moreover, the pronoun “our” helps to strengthen the shared identity created by the speakers. For example, the phrases, “*Our kingdoms and clans*”, “*Our flood-ravaged kingdoms and clans*”, construct a sense of ownership and love for the region. This shows that the ongoing project in the region is not a white elephant project but a project that will benefit the speaker and the public. Also, these possessive phrases convey the cultural and historical significance of the Niger Delta region. Thus, the Niger Delta region is framed as a rich in shared identity and cultural heritage. However, the NDDC Boss adoption of the pronoun “I” suggest his subjective stance towards the economic viability of the Niger Delta. While this stance can be proven true, the speaker adopts the subjective singular pronoun to avoid contentions and counter-views. The implicit purpose of citing the region’s economic viability is to appeal to a sense of national unity and shared interests.

Excerpt 10: Umar Farouq, in a statement yesterday by her Special Adviser on Media, Nneka Ikem Anibeze... “*We* are also rolling out the Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme (GEEP 2.0) designed for *vulnerable and low-income Nigerians* who are involved in productive activities but have no access to loans. “The first phase of the GEEP programme registered about 8,762 potential beneficiaries in Bayelsa State across the 8 LGAs after which verification

was carried out and about 828 beneficiaries were selected. “These selected beneficiaries have undergone enumeration and today *I have come to roll out the programme in the Bayelsa State*. “Hence, successful beneficiaries of the GEEP programme will start receiving credit alerts from Access bank from today by God’s grace.” In his response, the Bayelsa State Deputy Governor, Lawrence Ewhrudjakpo thanked the Minister for her visit and urged her to give more loans to farmers in the state to assuage their losses to the floods. “It is better to be late than not come at all. The cause is beyond the state and the country. Man has treated the environment badly and the environment has decided to fight back. *We* are happy that you have finally come.... “*We urge you to increase* the number of beneficiaries of the GEEP programme so that more farmers can produce more food, having lost most of their farmlands to flood.” In the same vein, the Minister also sympathized with the Governor of Delta state, Dr Ifeanyi Okowa on the flooding in the state. “*On behalf of the Federal Government and the entire Management and staff of the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, we have come to commiserate with the Government and good people of Delta State and to express our sympathy and condolences to you over this unfortunate incident of flood disaster*. (Akintola, 2022)

In the excerpt above, the inclusive pronoun “we” is deployed by the speaker, Umar Farouq, to align the FG and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs with the evidence, i.e. *vulnerable and other low-income Nigerians*. The repeated use of the pronouns “we” and “our” suggests collective action and involvement between the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and the FG in

addressing the needs of the affected communities and vulnerable in the country. This creates a sense of unity and shared responsibility between these social actors (i.e., the ministry and FG). Through this inclusive pronoun, the speaker, Umar Farouq, positions the ministry and the FG as members of the same group having similar interests and shared objectives. This reflects a sense of solidarity and mutual support between both of them (ministry and FG) as well as the institutional authority and legitimacy that support their actions. This, therefore, reinforces the positive representation of the Nigerian government as caring and benevolent. This is further achieved through the speaker's reference to the federal government and the ministry in *"on behalf of the federal government and the entire Management and staff of the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, we have come to commiserate with the Government and good people of Delta State and to express our sympathy and condolences to you over this unfortunate incident of flood disaster."* The use of the exclusive "we" and the possessive pronoun "our" in the preceding example strengthens Farouq's portrayal of a sense of collective responsibility, empathy and concern from the government (see: *"we have come to commiserate..."*, *"our sympathy and condolences..."*, *"our visit"*). These pronouns imply that the FG is actively addressing the flood challenges in the affected areas. The ideological effect of the aforementioned portrayals is framing the government as a body of responsibility and empathy, building the citizen's trust in the government, creating a sense of shared purpose, and legitimizing the actions and response of the government towards the flood outbreak. However, the non-plural/plural magistrate "we" is used by the former deputy governor of Bayelsa state, Lawrence Ewhrudjakpo, to elicit more support from the ministry and FG. (see: *we urge you to increase...*). This implicitly suggests that the flood outbreak caused more havoc for the state, and the state is financially handicapped in reaching out or meeting the needs of the victims. Thus, the

deputy governor implicitly achieves victims by playing through the pronoun “*we*”—also, the realization of emotional appeal from the populace. The audience tries to feel the financial plight of the state government and assumes that the state government is also interested in the victim’s welfare. The Minister uses the first-person pronoun “*I*” to assert authority and establish a direct connection with the audience: “*Today I have come to roll out the programme in Bayelsa State.*” This pronoun creates a sense of personal involvement and responsibility, portraying the Minister as a committed and hands-on leader. The use of “*I*” personalizes the government’s actions, fostering trust and minimizing perceptions of bureaucratic detachment. However, it manipulates the audience into equating individual action with systemic governmental efforts, masking broader institutional inefficiencies.

Excerpt 11: Commissioner for Information, Delta State, Mr. Charles Aniagwu, in a chat with Vanguard said what Garba Shehu meant was not clear. “The flood *we* are having today is not a flash flood, where you say maybe because there is too much rain in one state; several states have been dealing with such ecological challenges, according to their strength. “But for *us* to deal with the flood that covers *over 30 states* in the country, it will require the Federal Government to take a holistic decision. Is it the state governments that will dam the River Benue and River Niger, or is it the state governments that will dredge the River Niger and River Benue to carry more water? “Sometimes it is not good to *play politics*, I expect that those who lead *us* or those who speak for those who lead *us* to come out clean on several issues so that *we* can make progress. “The Federal Government is not an individual; the Federal Government is *our* government, so this idea of always *looking for regime protection* cannot take *us* anywhere. “*Let*

all of us come together and discuss how we can solve a problem that has become common to all of *us*, rather than look for who to blame,” he said.... The Commissioner for Information, Orientation and Strategy, Hon Ayibaina Duba, speaking at the Oxbow Lake IDP camp said: “*We* call on the Federal Government to do something about this flooding. They said the dam in Cameroon is causing it; let them contain the water when Cameroon releases the water. If they are to build reservoirs, let them build, because *we* realise that all the water empties on *us*.” (Emma Amaize, 2022)

From the above excerpt, the inclusive pronouns “*us*” and “*our*” are used by the Commissioner for Information, Delta State, to address the need for collective action. The use of these pronouns in the excerpt aids government officials in expressing their concerns, shifting responsibility, and demanding action from the Federal Government. It conveys their frustration and reflects the need for collective problem-solving rather than finger-pointing. These pronouns unite the listeners’ thought process with Mr. Charles Aniagwu. He emphasizes that the flood is a shared problem that requires a collaborative approach rather than playing the blame game see; “*let all of us come together and discuss how we can solve a problem...*”. In addition to establishing group affiliations, the pronouns attribute actions and responsibilities. For example, the Commissioner for Information, Delta State questions whether the state government or the Federal Government should take specific actions to address the flood. The ideological implication of using pronouns is to help the speaker clarify the roles and responsibilities of each party, holding them accountable for their respective actions or lack thereof.

Further, the language used reveals the frustration and concern of government officials in Delta State regarding the flood situation and the role of the Federal Government. The use of

pronouns such as the inclusive “we,” “us,” and “our” creates a sense of collective responsibility and emphasizes the notion that the flood affects all parties involved. The officials are calling for a joint effort, stating the need for the Federal Government to take decisive action. Also, there is an element of criticism towards the Federal Government. The statements suggest that the government should be more transparent and honest in its communication and decision-making processes. Using phrases like “*play politics*” and “*looking for regime protection*” reveals a perceived lack of accountability and a call for greater transparency. Using pronouns also shifts responsibility from the state governments to the Federal Government, equivalent to blame transfer. The officials argue that it is beyond the capacity of the state governments to address the flood situation on their own because they believe the solution to the flood disaster is at the federal capacity, not the state. They show the need for federal intervention in terms of damming rivers, dredging, and building reservoirs. The language employed in this excerpt emphasizes the urgency of the situation and the need for swift action. The officials are calling for a solution to the flood problem that affects *over 30 states*, which is more than half of the nation, suggesting that it is not just a localized issue but a national one that requires comprehensive and collaborative efforts.

Excerpt 12: Director-General of the agency, Mr. Mustapha Ahmed, who spoke at a national consultative workshop on 2022 Flood Preparedness, Mitigation and Response in Abuja, said advisory letters and maps showing predicted flood risk areas in various states had been sent to respective states. “*We have also produced risk maps for vulnerable local government areas* as forecasted by NIHSA’s Annual Flood Outlook,” Ahmed said. In addition, he said state emergency management agencies as well as local emergency management committees must

be proactive. According to him, *NEMA received over 50 flood disaster alerts daily, with more 100 communities affected*. The NEMA DG said if states had taken the reports sent to them seriously, there would have been improvements. “*Maybe they’re not taking the reports we are sending to them very seriously*”, Ahmed stated. “Immediately NiMet releases a report, *we send the risk mapping to states*, identifying risk areas that will be hit by disaster. (Flood Months: Tensions in Kano, Lagos, Delta, Edo, Jigawa, Niger, others as 18 states shun warnings, 2022)

In this excerpt, the use of pronouns such as “*we*” and “*they*” help to establish a distinction between the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the states. By using “*we*,” Ahmed, the NEMA DG, includes himself and the agency in the process of producing risk maps and sending reports that self-project positive activities put in place to help mitigate the flood event (“*We have also produced risk maps for vulnerable local government areas*”). The pronoun “*we*” aligns NEMA with proactive and authoritative action. It positions the agency as responsible, capable, and scientifically grounded. By emphasizing their efforts (“*we send the risk mapping to states*”), NEMA constructs an image of diligence and expertise. Using “*they*,” he refers to the state governments and emphasizes their responsibility in taking the reports seriously. Ahmed highlights the frequency and impact of flood disasters by stating that NEMA receives over 50 daily flood disaster alerts and that more than 100 communities are affected (“*NEMA received over 50 flood disaster alerts daily, with more 100 communities affected*”). By quantifying the alerts and impact, Ahmed emphasizes the urgency and seriousness of the situation. “*Maybe they are not taking the reports we are sending to them very seriously.*” The pronoun “*they*” creates a clear divide between federal (NEMA) and state/local agencies. By

attributing negligence to “*they*” (state agencies), NEMA distances itself from blame and responsibility for flood-related disasters. This dichotomy frames “*they*” as the passive or irresponsible party in the disaster management chain. This attribution of behaviour to the states’ lack of seriousness implies a potential problem in communication or action-taking by the states despite all provided to alleviate the problem of the flood. The pronouns also serve to establish a timeline and sequence of events. Ahmed mentions that when NiMet releases a report, NEMA immediately sends risk mappings to states. This sequencing of actions helps to emphasize the proactive approach taken by NEMA and highlights the expectation that the states should act promptly upon receiving the risk mappings. The use of pronouns in this excerpt assists in attributing actions and responsibilities, distinguishing entities involved, and establishing a timeline of events. It allows for the effective communication of the urgency and seriousness of the flood situation and shows the need for proactive measures by state governments and local emergency management committees.

4.1.1.3 Victim Playing and Blame Transfer

Excerpt 13: Diri, who gave the commendation during a courtesy visit by the SDP candidate yesterday, called on the federal government to fund the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) adequately just as it has been funding the North-East Development Commission, to enable it effectively respond to natural disasters.... A statement by the Deputy Governor’s media aide, Mr. Doubara Atasi, quoted the governor as saying the *federal government has been very swift at funding the North-East Development Agency* in response to the flood in the north to the detriment of other flood ravaged states in the Niger Delta, He

expressed regret that the NDDC which ought to be an interventionist agency had become *highly politicised....* He also added that the people of *the state were suffering from high prices of petroleum products and foodstuffs that had skyrocketed due to the damaged road infrastructure of the East-West Road* thereby making the state barely inaccessible. (Samuel Segun, and Blessing Ibunge, “Flood: NDDC Commences Restoration of East-West Road.” 2022)

In excerpt 13 above, the Governor of Bayelsa state, Diri, constructs the discourse of resource allocation and the effects of flood outbreak on the state to achieve the strategies of victim playing and blame transfer. In the media reportage of the courtesy visit of the SDP candidate to the governor of Bayelsa state, Diri is presented as a concerned political leader and as a voice for the marginalized Niger Delta region. By beckoning to the FG for adequate funding of the region through NDDC and the Niger Delta region criticising the high cost of living in the state, he emphasises the narrative of neglect and marginalization which are faced by the region. It also reveals the economic hardship faced by the people of Bayelsa state, such as high costs of petroleum products and foodstuffs as well as poor road infrastructure (“...*the state were suffering from high prices of petroleum products and foodstuffs that had skyrocketed due to the damaged road infrastructure of the East-West Road...*”). With this narrative, Diri constructs himself and his government as victims (of both natural disasters and infrastructural neglect). Of poor support from the FG and NDDC. This representation's ideological effect elicits empathy and support for the state's plight. This narrative also projects the power dynamics in the country, i.e. between the FG and the state (“...*federal government has been very swift at funding the North-East Development...*”). With reference to the FG's involvement in the Northeast Development Agency and the neglect of NDDC, Diri emphasises the FG's ideology of ethnic discrimination, inequity,

injustice and inequality. This demonstrates that the FG deliberately ignored the needs and plights of the Southerners while the few Northern victims received the attention of the FG. This, thus, enhances the negative representation of the FG, the presentation of the power struggles between the FG and the Niger Delta states, and the transfer of a failed government from the southern governors to the FG. While the FG has complete control of power, the southern states are at the mercy of the FG. Also, Diri transfers the blame for poor governance to the NDDC by projecting this agency as “highly politicised”. He implies that the effectiveness of this agency has been undermined, and as such, it will be difficult for the agency to address the needs of the region in critical times.

Excerpt 14: Speaking on Sunrise Daily, a Channels Television programme, yesterday, *Anambra State governor, Professor Chukwuma Soludo said eight local governments in his state had been submerged, adding that bridges, roads and houses had been washed off.* He called on the Presidency and the National Assembly to be proactive in seeking *immediate and long-term solutions* to the issue of flooding. “Beyond the immediate coping strategy and our own long-term agenda as a government in dealing with the environment, there is a national conversation that needs to happen. *We* can no longer deal with perennial flooding as an emergency. “*We knew it would happen. We* know the next one will come. A year or two from now, another massive one will come, and the country must begin to prepare and ask: what if it happens again? What would be our response? “That conversation must become a national conversation in the run-up to next year’s election. I think the National Assembly and the presidency must give *a more forceful response*, especially in the next two to three weeks when the flooding

recedes”. ... Governor Samuel Ortom of Benue State yesterday said the flood crisis has overwhelmed his state and called for *immediate assistance from the Federal Government*. “*We are already grappling with the persons displaced by the armed Fulani herdsmen attacks and then this. This is too much of a burden for the state government and we are already overwhelmed because the state government lacks the capacity to handle the situation. We are appealing to the Federal Government, international and local humanitarian organizations and spirited individuals to come to our aid,*” he said. (Ahon Festus, 2022)

In the media reportage of the statement made by the Anambra and Benue States governments, the media presents the state as victims of not only environmental degradation but also national insecurity and poor national governance. The discourse reveals an ideology of regional marginalization. Ortom highlights Benue’s dual crises of displacement from “*armed Fulani herdsmen attacks*” and floods, framing the state as doubly victimized. This evokes the perception that regions like Benue and Anambra face unique challenges that receive inadequate federal attention. Governor Soludo’s statement emphasizes the scale of destruction: “*eight local governments in his state had been submerged, adding that bridges, roads, and houses had been washed off.*” This creates a vivid image of helplessness and devastation. He also conveys the neglect experienced by the FG in critical periods. Thus, achieving a negative representation of the federal government. From the data presented above, Soludo, the governor of Anambra, seeks proactive measures from the federal government due to the devastation of his state. He is of the notion that the crisis demands an “*immediate and long-term solution*”. He urges the president and national emergency to assist them since he believes his administration is powerless to handle the flood situation as an emergency. This flood must be addressed despite all the state

government's efforts because it has become a recurrent occurrence in the country. The media identified the government as one of the victims. The use of the inclusive “we” shows that both the victims and the government are in the same group. This shows that the government is empathetic about the situation and embraces the victims rather than rejecting them. The governor poses rhetorical questions about what will be done the next time it happens. The state government is presented as perturbed about the flood and how it affects the nation. Soludo calls for “*a more forceful response*” from the Presidency and National Assembly, suggesting these bodies have failed to act decisively. The repeated phrase “*we knew it would happen*” criticizes the lack of preparedness despite predictability.

Benue state government appeals for “*immediate assistance from the federal government*” because of the overwhelming flood crisis. He says that they are still recovering from the armed Fulani herdsmen attack and, therefore, adding that the flood crisis is “*too much a burden for the state government*” to handle. Governor Ortom underscores the compounded crises in Benue: “*We are already grappling with the persons displaced by the armed Fulani herdsmen attacks and then this.*” By presenting the state as already burdened, Ortom amplifies its victimhood. Ortom directly appeals for external intervention: “*The state government lacks the capacity to handle the situation. We are appealing to the Federal Government...to come to our aid.*” This transfers the burden of action and accountability to external authorities.

Excerpt 15: Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Hajiya Sadiya Umar-Farouq, who disclosed these at a press conference in Abuja, on Sunday... “I also briefed the National Economic Council on 22nd September 2022, where I outlined preparedness strategies that all state governments should take to mitigate the 2022 floods. “I have laid this

background so that you will appreciate the concern of this Ministry that despite all these efforts, we still appear to have become *overwhelmed* by the flood when it came.... *“Although flood has become an annual disaster with devastating consequences and the effect of Climate Change makes it difficult to prevent in Nigeria, it can be mitigated and managed”* There was enough warning and information about the 2022 flood but states, local governments and communities appear not to take heed; thus the meeting agreed to form a high-powered delegation to state governors to advocate for more commitment to strengthen state response mechanisms as stipulated in the National Flood Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan.” She said,” Stakeholders will work within their respective mandates to prevent deaths due to flood or other health-related diseases that are the aftermath.” (Joseph Erunke, “Nigeria Not Safe Yet Says FG After Floods Claim 603 Lives.” 2022)

In the above excerpt, the media presents the federal government and its agencies as having done their best, but the flood was too massive, and this event “*overwhelmed*” them. The government had prepared adequately to deploy strategies to mitigate the 2022 flood, but all to no avail. When the flood came in its magnitude, the same government was seen to be handicapped by the situation. The media represents them as victims of the occurrence. Therefore, they should be appreciated for their concerns as a body for taking so much responsibility regarding alleviating the flood. Being a recurring decimal, the flood should have given the government a heads-up. However, here they are seen complaining that due to “climate change”, flooding has become challenging to mitigate (*“Although flood has become an annual disaster with devastating consequences and the effect of Climate Change makes it difficult to prevent in Nigeria, it can be*

mitigated and managed”). Here, the government blames the climatic nature of the country for being the cause of the flood and for making its mitigation quite impossible. Instead of the federal government and its agencies actively pursuing strategies to optimize their performance and identify potential gaps in their regulatory framework, they are seen blaming the “*climate change*” and further blaming “*states*”, “*local government*”, and “*communities*” for not adhering to the warnings and information about the 2022 flooding. The minister explicitly attributes the failure to mitigate the flood's impact to states, local governments, and communities (“*There was enough warning and information about the 2022 flood but states, local governments and communities appear not to take heed.*”) By emphasizing the negligence of other actors, the ministry deflects criticism from itself, positioning the federal government as proactive though without the strategic support of subordinate levels government and the communities. This reinforces a top-down ideology, where the federal authority assumes a directive role and expects compliance from subordinate levels of governance.

Excerpt 16: Responding to the *devastating impact of the flood* in his state, Bayelsa state Governor, Douye Diri yesterday urged the Federal Government to *declare a national emergency* on the disaster. ... Diri in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Mr. Daniel Alabrah, lamented the magnitude of this year’s flooding, which he noted had surpassed that of 2012. His words: “This year’s flooding has surpassed that of 2012, which is the highest we have witnessed so far. It has become a *security emergency*. *Bayelsa is below sea level* and when the flood comes, *virtually everywhere is flooded*. *Even the Government House is being threatened.*” “As we speak, the Academic Staff Union of Universities, ASUU, has called off its strike. But as universities are opening, our own state

university cannot open because *the only road linking the university has been broken into three parts*. (Clifford Ndujihe, et. al., 2022)

In this excerpt, Governor Diri employs victim-playing to highlight Bayelsa State's vulnerability and garner empathy. The choice of words like “*devastating impact*,” “*virtually everywhere is flooded*,” and “*even the Government House is being threatened*” portrays Bayelsa as a helpless victim of natural and structural forces. This framing underscores the state’s precarious geographical position, as Diri notes, “*Bayelsa is below sea level*,” which exacerbates the impact of flooding. This narrative aligns with an ideology that emphasizes the state’s susceptibility to climate and environmental crises, thereby deflecting responsibility from local governance structures and emphasizing external factors. The language used by Bayelsa State Governor reflects the urgency and concern regarding the devastating impact of the flood in his state. The inclusion of phrases such as “*declare a national emergency*” and “*security emergency*” conveys the severity of the situation and emphasizes the need for immediate action from the Federal Government. By comparing the 2022 flooding to 2012, described as “*the highest we have witnessed so far*,” the governor constructs a narrative of unprecedented calamity, amplifying the perception of the state’s victimhood. The implicit message is that the disaster exceeds the capacity of the state to address it independently, justifying the call for federal intervention. Blame transfer is evident in Diri’s appeal to the Federal Government to “*declare a national emergency on the disaster*.” Focusing on the Federal Government’s responsibility, the governor shifts accountability away from his administration. This strategy reflects an underlying ideology of dependency, where state governments position themselves as subordinate to federal authorities in addressing crises. The governor’s description of the flood threatening even the Government House exemplifies the gravity of the situation, creating an image of victimization due to the

flood event. The governor also highlights the specific challenges faced by the state, such as the impact on education. The mention of the ASUU strike being called off and universities reopening underscores the urgency for the state university to resume classes. The statement, “*the only road linking the university has been broken into three parts,*” further underscores this dependency. It reveals the state’s infrastructure deficits, suggesting systemic neglect that requires federal attention. While this draws attention to the severity of the problem, it simultaneously implies a lack of proactive measures at the state level to mitigate such vulnerabilities.

4.1.2 Media Representation of The Victims

The media used the discursive strategy of identity framing to represent the 2022 flooding, eliciting public empathy and criticizing the government's inaction.

4.1.2.1 Identity Framing

Excerpt 17: Alluding to the recent comments by the Humanitarian Affairs Minister, Sadiyat Farouk about Bayelsa not being among the top ten most flood impacted states, Adebayo condemned what he described as stay-at-home analysts who make comments on things, they have not seen.... Chairman of Bayelsa State *Traditional Rulers Council* and Ibenanaowei of Ekpetiama Kingdom in Yenagoa local government, King Bubaraye Dakolo, while speaking with newsmen yesterday, said about *90 per cent of the traditional rulers in the state were displaced from their palace during the peak of flooding in the state*. According to him, the 2022 flood unleashed unprecedented havoc on the state and beyond, and also opened the floodgates of ignorance on the subject of the misery floodwaters, *He urged the federal government to help the state address some of the post-flood ailments as the water recedes*. He said: “If you look from my left and right, you

are actually looking at people who were internally displaced, *lifetime saving of furniture and priceless equipment inherited by their forefathers* completely rust away by flood waters. (Samuel Segun, and Blessing Ibunge, “Flood: NDDC Commences Restoration of East-West Road.” 2022)

In order to identify the ideological status of the flood victims, the media adopts disclaimer and framing strategies. The above excerpt reflects a disclaimer of the comments made by the humanitarian Affairs minister, Sadiyat Farouq, about Bayelsa's flood impact. While focusing on the critique presented by Adebajo and the position of the Bayelsa State “*Traditional Rulers*”, the media shows the severity of the 2022 flood outbreak on the state and the plight of the citizens of the state. In his comment, the chairman of Bayelsa State's “*Traditional Rulers Council*” identifies most of the traditional rulers in the state as one of the victims of the flood event. This group of victims lost its cherished ancestral possessions, which are from the cultural heritage of the people (see the evaluations: *90% of the “traditional rulers” were displaced from their palace during the peak of flooding in the state*). With this assertion, the media demonstrate that the negative implications of the flood outbreak are not limited to economic and socio-political realities. It also has cultural implications. By beckoning on the federal government for support and intervention, the speaker, King Bubaraye Dakolo, disclaims the position that the Federal Government (FG) has responded to the crisis. He also critiques the government's silence to the crisis and advocates for more proactive measures to mitigate the effects of post-flood challenges on the affected. In order to play the discourse role of victimization, the media, through the position of Adebajo and King Dakolo, achieves a negative representation of the federal government. For instance, urging the FG for intervention presupposes that the state (Bayelsa) is financially handicapped and incapable of implementing necessary actions for its citizens' welfare

(*“He urged the federal government to help the state address some of the post-flood ailments as the water recedes”*). Also, the FG is framed as negligent and deceptive in its political activities, thus reiterating the political silence from the FG (*“lifetime savings of furniture and priceless equipment inherited by their forefathers”*) completely nested away by flood waters.

Excerpt 18: National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and Ikwo local government area of Ebonyi State have commenced the distribution of relief materials to victims of the 2022 flood in the area. Addressing the victims at the council headquarters in Onuebonyi, the representative of NEMA, Mr Kadiri Olanrewaju, said *the distribution of the materials was to cushion the effects of the 2022 flood disaster on them*. He expressed concern that the people who are predominantly farmers had their crops destroyed and many were rendered homeless. Olanrewaju said *the distribution would come in batches in order to capture all the affected victims and extolled the beneficiaries for their orderly conduct* and assured them that *the government will always stand by them*. (Obinna Ogbonnaya)

In the excerpt above, the victims are portrayed as predominantly vulnerable individuals affected by the disaster but also as resilient and orderly people deserving of assistance. The statement *“the people who are predominantly farmers had their crops destroyed, and many were rendered homeless”* emphasizes their vulnerability, framing them as dependent on external intervention. This narrative reinforces the ideology of helplessness due to environmental and systemic factors, as their livelihoods are tied to farming, which is highly susceptible to flooding. Their orderly behaviour during the distribution (*“extolled the beneficiaries for their orderly conduct”*) constructs an identity of resilience and worthiness, aligning with an ideology of social cohesion

and deservingness. This framing positions the victims not just as passive recipients but as active participants in the recovery process.

The representative of NEMA, Mr. Kadiri Olanrewaju, positions the agency as a compassionate and proactive body committed to alleviating suffering. The statement “*the distribution of the materials was to cushion the effects of the 2022 flood disaster on them*” projects an image of responsiveness and concern. This aligns with an ideology of institutional responsibility, where disaster management agencies are depicted as empathetic and reliable in addressing crises. The phrase “*the distribution would come in batches to capture all the affected victims*” underscores the thoroughness and inclusivity of NEMA’s efforts, framing the agency as an organized and systematic aid provider. This reflects an ideology of equitable governance, where no one is left behind in relief efforts. The discourse reinforces the government’s identity as a dependable and protective entity. The assurance that the “*government will always stand by them*” positions the government as a constant source of support and stability. This framing reflects an ideology of state paternalism, where the government is viewed as a guardian of its citizens, particularly during crises. It also projects a sense of accountability and commitment to the welfare of the populace, aligns with an ideology of national solidarity, and emphasizes unity between the government and the people in times of disaster.

Excerpt 19: Speaking while handing over the items to NEMA for onward distribution to the beneficiaries on Monday in Benin, the Minister of Niger Delta Affair, Umana Umana, said the *relief items* by the federal government are designed to *cushion the effect* of the flood on the beneficiaries. “The flood destroyed the livelihood of the people and the entire ecosystem of the Niger Delta. *Homes, farmlands and businesses were lost to the flood....* “We had meetings with

Camp 74 fish farmers, Dennis Osadebay Cluster fish farmers and Akapko fish farmers to sensitise them on flood, its prevention and management. “During the meetings, we urged them to *clear blocked drainages* to allow free flow of water and protect their fishes from the effects of flood. (Idahosa Moses, 2023)

The specific identify of the victims is identified in the text by Umana Umana, the minister of Niger Delta affairs. By framing the flood as a destructive force which does not only affect individual livelihoods but also disrupts the entire ecosystem of the Niger Delta, the minister presents the victims and state as vulnerable and in need of government support, provision and protection. The victims are framed as helpless individuals whose “*homes, farmlands, and businesses were lost to the flood.*” The repeated emphasis on losses reinforces their dependency on the government for survival and recovery. The terms “*relief items*”, “cushion the effects”, and “sensitize them on the flood” portray the Federal Government (FG) as being proactive towards addressing the impact of the flood. Also, the repetition of flooding emphasizes the severity of the disaster and its widespread consequences on the livelihoods of the people in the Niger Delta region. This repetition enhances the mental image evoked by the victims and their plights. The media presentation of Umana's position also achieves a positive representation of the Federal Government. By involving groups like “*Camp 74 fish farmers, Dennis Osadebay Cluster fish farmers, and Akapko fish farmers,*” the discourse positions them as proactive participants. Encouraging them to “*clear blocked drainages*” suggests they bear some responsibility for flood prevention.

Excerpt 20: In September, a ravaging flood submerged some areas in Delta State, destroying many properties and halting the people's lives in a grimmer fashion than it did in 2012. But apart from forcing many people out of their homes, *the*

flood left its victims with unmistakable signs of poverty and unprecedented hardship. FIJ's **EMMANUEL UTI** visited some of these communities: *Between February and March 2022, Emmanuel Onya manually cultivated cassava stems on seven acres belonging to his family in Obuiwe.* His plantation blossomed into lush green stalks, and he looked forward to harvesting them someday. Today, however, the outlook of his farmland did not reflect the eight months of labour he poured into it. Nature turned against him. With his farm completely submerged in water, Onya knew he had nothing to show for his time and effort on the farm. He estimated that had he reaped the fruit of his labour, he would have been worth N2 million. But this was a height he could no longer attain. "It all started in late September. *Without a sign, the flood took over my farm, and I could not even rescue a pin,*" Onya told FIJ. "Before the flood receded, my cassava tubers had rotted away. I could not save them. The flood was so powerful that until now, I cannot exactly locate my farmland." (Userportal, *Delta NEWS* 2022)

Identity framing is employed here to construct the narrative of victimhood and resilience while simultaneously revealing systemic neglect. The discourse positions the flood victims as individuals who, despite their industrious efforts, are rendered powerless by nature and lack institutional support. The text portrays the victims as hard-working individuals stripped of their livelihoods by an unstoppable force. For instance: "*The flood left its victims with unmistakable signs of poverty and unprecedented hardship.*" This shows the lasting socio-economic impact on the victims, framing them as individuals trapped in a cycle of hardship without recourse. "*Without a sign, the flood took over my farm, and I could not even rescue a pin.*" Despite the hardships, the narrative underscores the victims' initial industriousness and aspirations: "*Between*

February and March 2022, Emmanuel Onya manually cultivated cassava stems on seven acres belonging to his family in Obuiwe.” This detail underscores Onya’s hard work and determination, reflecting the resilience of individuals in the face of adversity. Onya’s personal account evokes a sense of helplessness and emphasizes the sudden and overwhelming nature of the disaster. Also, Onya’s inability to locate his farmland after the flood underscores the powerlessness of individuals in the face of calamities. It further shows the unequal distribution of resources and opportunities in the country. Thus, through Onya’s story, the media implicitly criticizes the lack of adequate support and infrastructure for farmers who are always left to cope with the aftermath of unfavourable situations such as flood disasters. This then achieves the implicit negative representation of the government.

Excerpt 21: Caroline Ogbotobo, 48, without minding if she gets drowned, moved swiftly through the dirty water that had engulfed the entire Abari village — a coastal community in **Delta State**, to rescue to a rooftop her children and others displaced by floods. Mrs Ogbotobo alongside dozens of residents of her community sought refuge in an uncompleted storey building. They were without food, potable water and any form of medication for several days. She said the rooftop was their only hope for survival pending when succour would arrive. *“We are dying; we are very hungry. Please help us,”* Mrs Ogbotobo screamed last October, on sighting this reporter approaching the submerged building in a boat. *“The water chased us out, we didn’t know where to stay. If not for this house, we don’t even know where we would have been by now,”* the mother of five said.... if actions were not taken, the community might go into extinction within the next 20 to 30 years. The degree of the flood experienced suggests the countdown may

have just begun. “Inside my own house, the water engulfed me to my chest level before I quickly moved upstairs,” Mrs Ogbotobo narrated. Having lost everything to the disaster, she is now struggling for survival. Another victim, Preowei Kendabie, 54, described the flood disaster as the worst they had experienced in a decade.... “*We have never seen a flood like this one at all,*” he said. “Right now, we are at the mercy of God,” said another displaced resident, Fraka Amabetare. Mr Kendabie said. He explained the danger of going near the shoreline area. “Now, if you go to that place, the current is sure to push you down and that is just the end of your life,” he said. “I am telling you that everywhere is flooded, you are talking about feeding....As for Mrs Ogbotobo, she is scared of the hunger that looms among the displaced residents. She said they have been sipping garri (cassava flakes) since they were displaced by the flood. “Hunger wants to kill us here,” she said.... “Government should please help us, we do not want this to be the end of the road for us.” (Benedicta Akpede, 2023)

The above text encapsulates victims with the collective identity of the community members in Abari village who were affected by floods. Their shared experiences and struggles create a sense of solidarity and emphasize their vulnerability as a social group. The victims are portrayed as helpless and overwhelmed by forces beyond their control: “*We are dying; we are very hungry. Please help us,*” Mrs Ogbotobo screamed. This direct appeal emphasizes the desperation and urgency of their situation. The phrase “*please help us*” reflects their dependence on external intervention due to lacking local resources or institutional support. The residents are depicted as powerless and at the mercy of the government for assistance. They express their need for help and describe their inability to access necessities such as food, water and medication. This

emphasizes the power dynamics and inequality between the community and the government. *“The water chased us out, we didn’t know where to stay.”* The flood is anthropomorphized as an aggressor, symbolizing the overwhelming and inescapable nature of their plight. *“We have never seen a flood like this one at all.”* This underscores the unprecedented nature of the disaster, framing the victims as unprepared and vulnerable to environmental calamities. Despite their victimhood, the narrative emphasizes the victims’ determination to survive *“Without minding if she gets drowned, [Mrs. Ogbotobo] moved swiftly through the dirty water... to rescue her children.”* Mrs. Ogbotobo is framed as a protective mother, willing to risk her life for her family, showcasing the resilience of the community amidst adversity. *“If not for this house, we don’t even know where we would have been by now.”* The uncompleted building symbolizes a fragile sanctuary, demonstrating their resourcefulness in finding ways to survive despite their dire circumstances. They describe the severity of the flood as the worst they have experienced in a decade and highlight the dangers associated with the flooded shoreline. This knowledge and belief shape their actions. For example, Mr Preowei Kendabie explains the danger of going near the shoreline stating *“Now, if you go to that place, the current is sure to push you down and that is just the end of your life”* The text portrays the community as victims of a natural disaster, facing starvation and displacement.

Excerpt 22: Ebimode Ebowm was in his family house in Odoburu, a community in Patani Local government in Delta State when the flood began exactly a year ago (in August 2022). But because he could not walk, he stayed indoors, on top of his bed and watched as the water level increased. Soon, the water found its way into the house, a one-room thatched building, constructed with mud and held together by bamboo. The room was gradually being covered; his bed was soaked

in water. Still, he remained indoors. *“I was helpless and cried every night for over two months”, recalled Ebowm. “Me and my family could not move to the roadside like others were doing”.* Ebowm caught a fever because of exposure to cold. *He was vomiting, peeing and pooping in the same spot. He could not visit any hospital and had to depend on herbs to get back to normal.* New Year, Ebowm’s father said that *the flood went away with household items and also destroyed foodstuffs.* He said it destroyed his cassava, pepper and potato farmlands which were completely submerged. *“We started begging for foodstuff from neighbours who still had some to spare, the water level got to my waist,”* New Year said. *I stayed in my room with my seven children till the water dried up”.* *His wife, Finere had to go fishing to fend for the family....* Sleeping by the roadside became the only option Ebiere Bunu lost her cassava, pepper and plantain farm to the flood which also affected her house. She, her husband and five children constructed a makeshift tent covered with mosquito nets by the roadside where they spent the whole of September and October. *“When it started coming in at first, we raised our beds and other household items. But it soon became serious and crossed window level and we escaped to the main road. My big foam spoilt and we had to squeeze ourselves into one”.* (Arinze Chijioke, 2023)

The flooding and its subsequent effects on the community create a social structure that disrupts the normal functioning of individuals and their families. The flood destroyed houses, crops, and livelihoods, forcing people into alternative living arrangements. The individual in the text navigates various cognitive processes in response to the flooding. The media representation perpetuates a dominant ideology that prioritizes the interests of the powerful (government) over

the marginalized (flood victims). The residents' narrative conveys an ideology that normalizes suffering and survival within marginalized communities. This normalization is reflected in their language of endurance (see; "*We started begging for foodstuff from neighbours*" and "*we had to squeeze ourselves into one*"). This reflects a marginalized community where resilience and self-sufficiency become embedded values, even at the cost of extreme hardship. The narrative reinforces social inequalities, revealing the struggles of the poor and vulnerable. The lack of institutional support for flood victims in rural communities highlights a significant power imbalance. Ebom's inability to access medical care makes him depend on herbs instead, and Bunu's focus on practical solutions like salvaging food and seeking shelter on the roadside are reflective of structural inequalities that leave marginalized communities underserved. The discourse suggests that government and societal structures have implicitly accepted these living conditions, reinforcing a sense of abandonment. The narrative relies heavily on recounting personal suffering and loss, which serves to create empathy and bring visibility to their plight. The descriptive language ("*vomiting, peeing, and pooping in the same spot*") helps convey the severity of the situation, reinforcing the urgent need for attention and support. The framing of rural communities as resilient yet neglected, as seen in the descriptions of residents making makeshift tents by the roadside or Finere fishing to provide for her family, reinforces an ideology of "fending for oneself." This framing implicitly suggests a resigned acceptance of abandonment, normalizing that rural communities cannot expect substantial support. The experiences of the victims reflect their social identities, which describe feelings of helplessness, loss, and resilience, as well as constructing their social realities and communicating their perception of the flood event.

Excerpt 23: When the floodwater levels started rising in his village, 48-year-old Mr Emos John and his wife were torn about what to do. Leaving their land in the village (Ejulejebe Community in Ibaji Local Government Area, Kogi State), which they relied on for food, was a tough decision. "The experience was terrible as I woke up at midnight and stepped into the water. It was like a dream, and my family had to move. *I lost my farmland of more than 5 hectares of rice and other investments worth N 500,000.* The flood has chased my family from home, *and I am currently jobless and facing financial hardship*", he said. For the past few weeks, they have been living at a seminary located in Idah, in Kogi State, and the non-flooded seminary now houses about 178 people displaced by the flood. During this period, John's wife had a miscarriage losing her six-week pregnancy. *"The loss of the pregnancy and sudden disruptions have been affecting me psychologically.* Our farmland and almost all the buildings, including the health facility in our town, have been submerged. I am yet to hear from some of my elderly relations trapped in the flood because they refused to go out to Idah. *I cannot reach my uncle's 70-year-old widow to know her health condition*", he lamented. (Voice of Nigeria, Over 2.4m Persons Affected By 2022 Floods In Nigeria- NEMA, Hudu Yakubu, 2023)

The excerpt frames Mr. Emos John as a victim of systemic and environmental challenges, emphasizing his vulnerability, resilience, and disrupted livelihood. The identity constructed for him is tied to his role as a farmer, a husband, and a displaced individual. Through this framing, the text underscores broader ideologies of marginalization and governmental inadequacy. The emphasis on his loss ("*I lost my farmland of more than 5 hectares of rice and other investments*

worth N 500,000”) positions him within a marginalized group whose economic security and cultural identity (as a farmer) have been destabilised. The text critiques socio-environmental governance and the state’s failure to protect vulnerable communities, implicitly attributing responsibility for the crisis to systemic neglect. His loss of economic independence is reflected in his statement (“*I am currently jobless and facing financial hardship*”), showing how the flood disrupts livelihoods and the dignity and autonomy of individuals like him. This links his identity to his economic role, showing the severe impact of environmental disasters on rural economies. It further reveals the precariousness of rural livelihoods in Nigeria, emphasizing how environmental disasters exacerbate socio-economic inequalities. By sharing the story of his wife’s miscarriage (“*The loss of the pregnancy and sudden disruptions have been affecting me psychologically*”), the narrative humanizes Mr John, illustrating how environmental displacement also causes emotional and psychological trauma. This personal struggle is interwoven with collective suffering as others in his community face similar challenges. This critiques the structural inequalities that leave vulnerable groups unsupported in times of crisis, pointing to the lack of a robust safety net for displaced persons. The mention of his elderly relatives and the widow trapped in the flood (“*I cannot reach my uncle's 70-year-old widow to know her health condition*”) highlights the fragmented nature of community ties due to the disaster. This adds a layer of cultural disruption, as elder care and family connections are central to communal identities in Nigerian rural societies. The text implicitly critiques the weakening of traditional social structures under environmental and institutional pressures, reflecting the erosion of communal systems due to inadequate disaster management.

4.2 Argumentation

Argumentation is making a logical case for a particular position or claim. It involves presenting a series of reasons, evidence, and logical reasoning to support a conclusion or stance on an issue. In the media reportage of 2022, argumentation can be used to achieve three (3) things: story categorization, problem-solution schema, and group schema.

4.2.1 Narrativisation and Comparison

Narrativization/Comparison involves the use of storytelling or making comparisons to convey arguments, ideas or viewpoints. Narrativisation refers to the process of constructing or presenting a narrative or story as a means of making a point or argument. In CDA, this involves analyzing how speakers or writers use narratives to frame an issue, convey particular perspectives, or make ideological claims. This could involve examining a narrative's characters, plotlines, and symbolic elements to understand the underlying messages or agendas being communicated.

Comparison, on the other hand, involves explicitly contrasting different discourses, perspectives, or contexts to project differences, power relations, or ideological positions. In CDA, this might involve comparing how the same issue is framed or discussed across different media sources, by different stakeholders, or in different historical periods. The goal is to uncover the underlying logic, assumptions, and motivations that shape how a topic is represented and debated.

Excerpt 24: Moving the motion, Oshioma said it had become necessary to find a permanent solution instead of the regular palliatives which, he said, in most cases *do not get to the victims. “Since 2012, the six coastal communities have been suffering from massive flood problems, which destroyed human lives, livestock and farm produce. “In August 2022, flood destroyed completely the entire farm produce of the communities, leaving the people empty without food and nothing to pay school fees. “The people are, as we speak, experiencing untold hardship*

following the *devastating flood* that has ravaged the communities in Etsako Central, Etsako East and Esan Southeast, among others,” he said. (Perennial Flooding In Communities: Edo State Assembly Seeks Lasting Solution, 2023)

In the text above, the speaker, Oshioma, uses narrativisation to highlight the country's socio-economic issues and advocates for a permanent solution instead of something temporary concerning the flood incident. By deploying narrativisation, he frames flooding as a problem that has been occurring since 2012. He also emphasizes the devastation caused by flooding to human lives, livestock, and agricultural production. Through his selection of evidential marked by dates and time adverbial (“*since 2012*”, “*in August 2022*”), he tells stories about past flood outbreak experiences and the current state of the affected communities. Through this strategy, the media evokes empathy and concern from the government and Nigerian populace for the affected victims and communities. It is also implicitly used to align the flooding outbreak with Nigeria's poor governance and the negligent attitudes of the government. The speaker frames the government's proactive response as a matter of urgency by emphasizing the sufferings of the inhabitants of the affected communities. Verbal phrases like “untold hardship” and “devastating flood” put the reader or listener in a sympathetic and empathetic mood. By emphasising the negative consequences of the flooding, such as leaving the affected community without food and the inability of the victims to pay school fees, the media reportage of Oshioma’s position creates a sense of urgency. It justifies their words and the need for immediate action. The speaker is further presented as someone positioning himself as an advocator for the affected communities, as he presents them as victims of natural disasters and government neglect. Through this narrative technique, the speaker, Oshioma, appeals to the conscience of the readers and listeners by revealing the negativity and devastation associated with the flood event. The ideological

effect of this strategy is appealing to the audience's emotions and beliefs to shape their understanding of the issue. By deploying narrativization, Oshioma builds a problem/solution schema. He constructs the Nigerian socio-political space to be characterized by the following problems: poor citizen welfare, neglect, corrupt practices and deception (see the expressions “... *do not get to the victims*”, “*the six coastal communities have been suffering from massive flood problems...*”). He also constructs the solutions to these problems as government intentional involvement in the socio-political space of the country, sincerity and long-lasting solutions to flood outbreaks in the country. The ideological purpose of this problem-solution schema is to criticize the destructive activities of government, dissociate the State House of Assembly from the irregularities in Nigeria's governance, and manipulate the populace and victims' perception of the Edo State House of Assembly.

Excerpt 25: Benue witnessed one such incident in *2012* when *most parts of Makurdi and its environs went underwater*, forcing affected residents to flee their homes. Then came the *2017* disaster when heavy rains and the *opening of the dam in neighbouring Cameroon* left *houses, cars and farms submerged* or swept away *with over 100,000 persons rendered homeless. This year is not an exception.* Makurdi has already witnessed massive flooding *though not comparable to the magnitude of the 2017 or 2019 disasters* when several parts of the city went underwater, *leaving hundreds of families displaced and devastated.* Governor Samuel Ortom recently called on the Federal Government to take steps to dredge River Benue to save the state from the perennial flood. (Flood Months: Tensions in Kano, Lagos, Delta, Edo, Jigawa, Niger, others as 18 states shun warnings, 2022)

In the report above, the media accentuates recurring issues of flooding in Makurdi. Using narrative and comparison techniques, they describe the incidents of flooding in 2012, 2017, 2019 and 2022, respectively. The flood has caused significant damage to the region, forcing residents to flee their homes and leaving many homeless. Through these techniques, the media illustrates the severity of the situation by describing houses, cars, and farms that are submerged or swept away. With this description, they create an image of the devastating plight of victims, evoking empathy and sympathy in the reader's minds towards the affected individual or residents. They frame the flood event as a recurring problem, emphasizing that this year's (2022) flood is not an exception. Through these frames, the audience clearly understands issues as a long-standing and ongoing problem that needs immediate address. Inclusively, there is a reference to Governor Samuel Ortom's call for the federal government to take action, positioning the issue as requiring higher-level intervention and potentially influencing policy decisions. It can be noted that the readers or audience already have existing knowledge and beliefs about the impact of flooding on communities through reference to the previous flood events in 2012, 2017, and 2019 and the devastation caused. The speaker uses this to activate these mental schemas and prime the audience to view the current situation through experience. This cognitive framing can help shape the audience's interpretation of the issue and potentially influence their attitudes and actions.

Through the adoption of comparison, the speaker highlights the unbothered attribute of the Nigerian government towards social problems in the country. With this strategy, the intense havoc caused by flooding across various years and the framing of Benue state has become one of the most victimized and deprived states in the country. The purpose of the narration and comparison by the speaker is to critique the unsympathetic and non-challant attitude of the government. For instance, the speaker's selection of the conditional and comparative expression

“though not comparable to the magnitude of 2017 or 2019 disasters” shows subsequent cases of flooding outbreaks in the country as severe and devastating. This provides detailed information about the severity of the flooding outbreak, and it also constructs subsequent flooding within the context of recurrent disasters. The use of comparison is also used to create a mental picture of the impact and varying level of the disaster as well as to emphasise the vulnerability of the Nigerian population (see the phrases *“...with over 100,000 persons rendered homeless,” “This year is not an exception,” “leaving hundreds of families displaced and devastated”*). Narrativisation is used to achieve three things. First, it is used to achieve a temporal structure which constructs a narrative of recurring disasters, a frequent pattern of suffering, and the urgency of government intervention in this situation. This temporal structure is realized through a chronological presentation of events by the speaker, from the 2012 flood incident to other flood events in 2017, 2019 and “this year” (that is, 2022). Second, narrativisation is used to achieve emotional appeal and engagement. By adopting vivid and concrete descriptions (such as *“most parts of Makurdi and its environs went underwater,” “houses, cars, and farms are submerged...”* etc.), the speaker evokes empathy and concern from the Nigerian populace and government. It is also used to draw the government's attention to the impacts of flood disasters. Lastly, narrativisation is used to achieve blame-giving. By selecting the causal phrase “opening of the dam in neighbouring Cameroon,” the speaker argues that uncontrollable external factors have exacerbated the flooding outbreak. The effect of this narrative is constructing the complexity of the flooding disasters.

Excerpt 26: The Edo Concerned Stakeholders Development Initiative (ECSDI) has lamented that the ordeal of the people of Edo State occasioned by the release of water from Lagdo Dam in Cameroon and said the event is often under-reported. President of ECSDI, Oluwafemi Scufield Idiakhwa who made this

known in a statement made available to newsmen recently in Lagos disclosed that, *while the headlines frequently spotlight the devastation in Kogi, Niger and others, that of Edo State is not often heard*, noting that, the state, with its rich cultural heritage and agricultural prowess, has seen thousands of its inhabitants displaced, farmlands submerged, and a cultural fabric strained under the weight of repeated flooding. According to him, “the construction of the Lagdo Dam *began in 1977 and was completed in 1982*, with the initial aim of providing electricity and supporting irrigation in Northern Cameroon. In anticipation of the potential impact downstream, Nigeria and Cameroon entered into an agreement. *Nigeria promised to construct the Dasin Hausa Dam in Adamawa State, a shock-absorber designed to contain and mitigate potential flooding from the Lagdo Dam releases.*” “*However, four decades have passed, and the Dasin Hausa Dam remains an unfinished dream.* The consequence of this oversight is felt most acutely in states like Edo, which face the brunt of the flooding,” he said. Continuing, he pointed out that, “in Edo, the delicate balance between modern urbanization and traditional communities is upset annually. The state’s infrastructure, not designed to handle such deluges, crumbles a little more each year, setting back development efforts and impacting the socio-economic dynamics.” (Raheen Akingbolu, 2023)

In the excerpt above, Oluwafemi Scufield Idiakhwa contrasts how flood outbreaks in Northern and Southern Nigeria are reported by the media. As the text explains, the Edo Concerned Stakeholders Development Initiatives (ECSDI) bemoans the underreporting of floods in Edo State brought on by the water flow from Cameroon's Lagdo Dam. Nigerian media is

consequently portrayed as emotive and biased as a result. As a remedy, ECSDI President Oluwafemi Scufield Idiakhwa highlights the effects of the floods on Edo State residents, including their displacement, farmland submersion, and the strain on the cultural fabric. The speaker's complaint about under-reported flooding outbreaks in some states suggests that the media is focused on other states like Kogi and Niger. In contrast, the plights of other states go unnoticed "*while the headlines frequently spotlight the devastation in Kogi, Niger and others, that of Edo State is not often heard.*" This comparison reveals an ideology of inequity in media representation, suggesting that some regions are prioritized over others in national discourse. This frames the speaker's cognitive process by raising awareness of the problem and potentially activating his schema about media bias or neglect. By emphasizing the displacement of individuals, submerging farmlands and strain on the cultural fabric through language, he also appeals to the emotions of the reader, soliciting empathy from them and fostering a sense of urgency to address the issue. The text builds a mental model of Edo as a victim of systemic failure and neglect. Through comparison, it positions Edo against other states, challenging existing attention and resource allocation hierarchies. These strategies reinforce the ideology of Edo's marginalization while advocating for a more balanced and inclusive approach to national issues. The speaker gives historical background by bringing up the 1977 construction of the Lagdo Dam and the Cameroonian-Nigerian concession to mitigate possible floods downstream. He draws attention to the Dasin Hausa Dam's construction delay, which is meant to lessen the effects of the Lagdo Dam releases, by using this backdrop. The speaker frames this situation as a result of negligence and oversight. This narrativization and historical framing can influence the audience's interpretation of the problem and their attitude towards the responsible parties. This shows the socio-economic impact of the flooding and the strain on infrastructure and

development efforts. By linking the flooding to the hindrance of progress, the speaker appeals to the audience's mind, shaping their understanding of the problem and potentially influencing their attitudes and actions. Through the deployment of time adverbial (such as, "*began in 1997, ...completed in 1982,*" "*...four decades have passed and the Dasin Hausa Dam remains an unfinished dream*), the speaker reveals the negative impacts of white elephant project and unfinished projects on the nation's social and environmental landscape (see, *Nigeria promised to construct the Dasin Hausa Dam in Adamawa State, a shock-absorber designed to contain and mitigate potential flooding from the Lagdo Dam releases.*" "*However, four decades have passed, and the Dasin Hausa Dam remains an unfinished dream.*). Implicitly, the speaker criticized the government for its insincerity, incapacities, and corrupt practices. Thus, the speaker constructs a problem-solution schema by adopting comparison and narrativisation. Such problems are prolonged delays in the completion of projects by the government, embarking on white elephant projects and the misallocation of resources. The solution to these problems is strong, sincere and uncorrupt political leadership.

Excerpt 27: Receiving the items on behalf of the Edo State Government, the Deputy Governor, Rt. Hon. Comrade Philip Shaibu commended the Federal Government for the gesture while suggesting that collaborative efforts will help to tackle the disastrous phenomenon. He said, "Edo State will continue to collaborate with the Federal Government, knowing fully well that government at all levels remain one indivisible entity". "*Some communities in Edo State, especially those close to the River Niger belt experienced unprecedented floods that rendered some people homeless.* Following this, there was an intervention by the State Government last week". "The issues of flood and hunger in Nigeria is a

collective responsibility of government at all levels”. “*This measure of providing relief materials to flood victims has become a recurring decimal. we cannot continue this way but find a permanent solution to the flooding issue in Nigeria. One such solution is to engage the services of professionals to dredge the River Niger; until this is done, we will continue to have this same problem of flooding in Nigeria*”. “The dredging should not be a *contract for political dredging*, but *experts* should be engaged”. “The distribution of the relief materials to the flood victims will commence immediately”, Shaibu added. (Ayoola Adeleke, 2022)

The text employs a narrative structure to present the issue of flooding in Edo State, emphasizing its impact on communities and the government's responses. The Deputy Governor’s statement highlights the severity of flooding in Edo State: “*Some communities in Edo State, especially those close to the River Niger belt, experienced unprecedented floods that rendered some people homeless.*” By describing the plight of affected communities, the narrative personalizes the issue and creates a sense of urgency, invoking empathy and concern from the audience. The speaker in the aforementioned statement, Deputy Governor Rt. Hon. Comrade Philip Shaibu, implies that the problem of famine and flooding in Nigeria is a shared duty of all tiers of government. This portrays that Philip Shaibu believes that the government has an important role in addressing these problems and that it is not solely the responsibility of individual citizens. He criticized the “*recurring decimal*” of providing relief materials to victims, suggesting that this is a temporary solution and that a more permanent solution is needed. The narrative shifts to a broader systemic perspective when he suggests, “*One such solution is to engage the services of professionals to dredge the River Niger; until this is done, we will continue to have this same problem of flooding in Nigeria.*” This positions the proposal for dredging as a pivotal turning point in the ongoing

story of flood management. The Deputy Governor contrasts the temporary relief efforts with the need for a long-term, sustainable solution, revealing the inefficiencies in current practices. He further proposes that engaging the services of professionals to dredge the river Niger could be a permanent solution to the issue in Nigeria. With this proposal, the speaker, Mr. Shaibu, can show his belief that the underlying cause of the flooding can be addressed through this specific course of action. Emphasizing the need to engage “*experts*” for the dredging process rather than allowing it to become a “*contract for political dredging*” suggests the speaker’s belief that the required solution should involve qualified professionals rather than being influenced by political considerations. This comparison critiques politically motivated projects lacking technical rigour, advocating for professional competence to address the root causes of flooding instead. The speaker displays a sense of urgency in addressing the current situation through the distribution of relief material to flood victims, which should commence immediately. He critiques the recurring reliance on relief measures: “*This measure of providing relief materials to flood victims has become a recurring decimal. We cannot continue this way but find a permanent solution to the flooding issue in Nigeria.*” By juxtaposing short-term relief with the vision of a permanent solution, the text underscores the inadequacy of current approaches and advocates for systemic change.

Excerpt 28: The current flood which has affected 31 states of the country and Abuja is the worst in the history of Nigeria. Before now, the 2012 flood was the worst as rivers burst their banks and submerged vast lands in 30 of the country’s 36 states, *killing over 400 people, displaced 2.1 million people, affected seven million others and caused N2.5 trillion damage*, according to the Nigeria’s National Emergency Management Agency, NEMA. The seriousness of the 2012

flooding, referred to as *the most harmful in the last 40 years*, was attributed to a combination of two events: *very heavy local rainfall* and *the release of excess water from the Lagdo Dam* in neighbouring Republic of Cameroon. In 2013, heavy rains and floods, which started in mid-July, affected more than 81,500 people across Nigeria. Almost 8,000 people were displaced and more than 6,500 homes were damaged. No fewer than 25 deaths were recorded and 2,217 farmlands were destroyed. In 2017, NEMA said that 27 states experienced devastating flood disasters, in which no fewer than 90 people died. In 2018, death toll from rampaging flood across the country was 242. In 2019, a total of 277,555 people were affected by floods and 158 were killed. In 2020 the number of those affected by floods was *2,353,647 resulting in the deaths of 69 people*, according to Muhammadu Muhammed, NEMA's former head. In 2020, no fewer than 68 people died from flooding in various parts of Nigeria. (Clifford Ndujihe, 2022)

The above text focuses on Nigeria's flooding history from 2012 to 2020. The narration reflects the severity and impact of major flood events in different years. The recurring narrative of floods year after year reflects an implicit ideology advocating for long-term, sustainable interventions. Focusing on the devastating consequences calls for a shift from reactive measures to proactive strategies such as infrastructure development, better urban planning, and environmental management. The passage employs numerical values to buttress the scale and scope of the flooding event. The use of specific numbers to demonstrate the individual affected, death and damage caused engages the mental schema of the audience as this shows the evidence of devastation caused by the flood and reinforces the urgency of addressing the problem. For example, the 2012 flood *“killed over 400 people, displaced 2.1 million people, [and] affected*

seven million others,” while in 2020, “2,353,647 [were] affected,” resulting in the deaths of “69 people.”. The repeated mention of fatalities, displacement, and damage reflects a critique of governance, pointing to systemic failures in flood prevention and management. The use of narrativisation and comparison (or historical comparison) to construct the seriousness of each flood event. It is noted that the current flood (2022 flood event) is the worst thus far in the history of Nigeria, stating the previous floods in 2012, 2013, 2017, 2018, and 2019. This has transferred a sense of progression and escalating severity. With the presentation of the recurring disaster, the audience is left to interpret the current flood as a critical issue and elicit a stronger emotional response. Significant rainfall and the outflow of surplus water from Cameroon's Lagdo Dam are the main causes of the floods that have been documented. By presenting this information, the speaker creates a perception of the flood that will ultimately affect the audience's opinions on the individuals in charge. The text further presents information about the impacts of the floods, including the displacement of people, damage to homes and farmlands and loss of lives. The emphasis on the consequences elicits empathy from the audience and fosters a sense of urgency to address the issue. There are contrasts between the magnitude and frequency of floods over time, drawing attention to the worsening trends and the lack of adequate intervention. By comparing the current flood to the 2012 flood, which was previously “*the most harmful in the last 40 years,*” the text shows how the scale of flooding has grown significantly. This progression frames the current situation as the climax of a longstanding pattern of neglect and environmental mismanagement. The juxtaposition of natural causes like “*very heavy local rainfall*” with human-induced factors such as “*the release of excess water from the Lagdo Dam.*” This comparison underscores the interplay of environmental and governance-related factors, suggesting that the crisis is not entirely beyond human control. The statistics across different

years (e.g., “68 people died in 2020” versus “over 400 in 2012”) suggest fluctuations in the impact of floods, which could reflect variations in government preparedness and response. This implicitly critiques the inconsistency of mitigation efforts.

The text constructs a mental model of flooding as a chronic and intensifying crisis in Nigeria. It connects past and present events, emphasizing the inadequacy of current responses while fostering a sense of inevitability if systemic changes are not implemented. The discourse fosters a critical evaluation of governmental and societal responses by contrasting the scale of different floods and attributing their causes to natural and human factors. It prompts readers to consider the possibility of alternative outcomes through better planning and cooperation.

Excerpt 29: Incidents of flooding in recent years have been devastating and continue to pose a serious challenge to food production, food security, and livelihoods. In 2020, *floods affected 320 local government areas in 35 states including the FCT, displaced over 129,000 persons, killed 68 persons, and destroyed many properties and farmlands.* In 2021, the UN reported that *over 100,000 people were directly affected by flash floods in Adamawa State alone.* The latest figures from the government as of September 2022 estimate that *around 600 people have died and 1,546 injured and over 100,000 persons displaced* by floods across Nigeria since February 2022. Looking at the figures, it is obvious that *the loss incurred from flooding is worse than the COVID-19 pandemic.* (Godswill Aguiyi, 2022)

The above text uses narrativization and comparison to convey the dilemma of the flood disaster in several years. The text uses a narrative framework to depict the increasing severity of flooding in Nigeria, emphasizing its catastrophic impact on lives, livelihoods, and food security. The

narrative focuses on specific statistics to illustrate the devastating effects of flooding. For example, in 2020, “*floods affected 320 local government areas in 35 states... displaced over 129,000 persons, killed 68 persons, and destroyed many properties and farmlands.*” By providing quantifiable data, the narrative paints a vivid picture of these disasters' human and economic toll. The text chronologically recounts flooding incidents from 2020 to 2022, highlighting worsening impacts over time. For instance, in 2021, “*over 100,000 people were directly affected by flash floods in Adamawa State alone,*” and in 2022, “*around 600 people have died... over 100,000 persons displaced.*” This creates a sense of escalation, portraying flooding as an ever-growing national crisis. This comparison is further to other sectors, projecting flooding as a major chaotic disaster. The narrative explicitly links flooding to broader societal issues, stating it “*continue[s] to pose a serious challenge to food production, food security, and livelihoods.*” This shifts the discourse beyond immediate physical destruction to long-term socio-economic consequences, fostering a more comprehensive understanding of the crisis. The text employs comparison to emphasize the gravity of flooding by juxtaposing it with the COVID-19 pandemic and illustrating its disproportionate impact. The statement, “*the loss incurred from flooding is worse than the COVID-19 pandemic,*” frames flooding as an even greater crisis than the globally significant pandemic. This comparison highlights the under-recognition of flooding as a national emergency, indirectly critiquing societal and governmental priorities. The 2020, 2021, and 2022 figures reveal the varying scales of flooding's impact. For example, while 2020 saw “*68 persons killed,*” 2022's toll rose dramatically to “*600 deaths.*” This comparison underscores the increasing severity of flooding and the insufficient progress in mitigation efforts. The text contrasts localized incidents like the 2021 Adamawa floods, which affected “*over 100,000 people,*” with the nationwide devastation of 2020 and 2022. This illustrates the

widespread flooding across Nigeria, emphasizing its systemic and pervasive nature and further revealing the structural vulnerabilities in the affected areas, such as inadequate infrastructure.

4.2.2 Disclaimers

Disclaimers are statements or clauses that serve to limit or negate the legal liability or responsibility of the author or speaker concerning the information provided. In critical discourse analysis, disclaimers are argumentative strategies to shape perceptions, manage expectations, or distance oneself from potentially controversial or objectionable statements.

Excerpt 30: National Emergency Management Agency, NEMA, in Edo State has alerted residents of the state of *imminent flood* and urged residents to *clear drainages* to reduce its impact, especially in flood-prone areas. Head, NEMA Edo Operations office, Mr. Dahiru Yusuf, gave the warning in Benin at a workshop on 2022 Flood Preparedness, Mitigation and Response organised for stakeholders in Disaster Management. Yusuf said the call became necessary following the 2022 seasonal climate prediction that forecasted that there would be *high rainfall across the country*. “Drainages, culverts and all waterways should be cleared for water to flow freely without affecting buildings and also *reduced the impact of flood*, especially in the urban centres. “*The 2022 seasonal climate prediction* length of the growing season in the state is predicted to be above normal. “This prediction is already playing in Edo as reported by the representatives of the frontline local governments where there has been an increase in the volume of water leading to some communities being cut off”, he stated. According to him, the increase in water levels would lead to flooding of houses, structures, and farmlands in communities situated along the riverbanks, stressing that the

predicted rainfall for Etsako East, Etsako Central and Esan South-East local government areas would be slightly high and likely to experience floods along the banks of the River Niger. While advising living in riverine communities to *start moving to higher grounds*, Yusuf called on *farmers in the affected areas to be guided by the predictions to avoid loss of lives, resources and livelihoods*. He assured that “NEMA would continue to sensitise the people on the risks associated with flooding.” (Gabriel Enogholase, 2022)

The above excerpt is a statement by Mr. Dahiru Yusuf, the head of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Edo Operation Office. His statement is a warning to residents of Edo State about the imminent risk of flooding and the actions they should take to mitigate its impact. The speaker, Mr Yusuf, explains the flood menace based on the 2022 seasonal climate prediction and his agency’s monitoring of the situation. He raises awareness and encourages proactive measures among the residents to reduce the potential damage caused by the flood. He uses phrases like “*imminent floods*”, “clear drainages,” “reduce the impact of flood”, and “start moving to higher grounds” to convey warnings and recommended actions. These phrases suggest a sense of urgency and a proactive approach to addressing the flood risk. It further shifts a significant portion of the responsibility for flood preparedness to the public. This is reinforced by statements like, “*farmers in the affected areas [should] be guided by the predictions to avoid loss of lives, resources and livelihoods.*” The speaker, Mr. Yusuf, presents NEMA's role as a responsible and responsive agency that is taking proactive measures to inform and prepare the residents of Edo State for the predicted flooding. By stating the 2022 seasonal climate prediction and the observed increase in water levels, he is establishing a factual basis for the warning and the recommended actions. His advice to farmers and residents in riverine communities on taking

precautions shows his focus on protecting the vulnerable groups and livelihood. By attributing flooding to “*high rainfall across the country*” and framing it within the context of the “*2022 seasonal climate prediction*,” the discourse reflects an ideology of natural inevitability. This portrayal obscures the role of systemic failures in urban planning, infrastructure development, and environmental management in exacerbating flooding risks. This text serves as a disclaimer that is often neglected and poorly informed about the changing climate conditions of the various states in the country. Yusuf, in this text, claims that one of how NEMA has been providing long-lasting solutions to flood outbreaks is through sensitization and educating the citizens of the affected states on the proactive steps to be taken. Through this strategy, Yusuf blames the victims for the conditions they have found themselves in due to the disaster. Thus, the unwillingness of residents in the affected areas poses a problem to the country's devastating effects of flood disasters.

Excerpt 31: Environmentalist and Head, Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria (ERA/FoEN) Comrade Morris Alagoa, said: “It is most unfortunate that such *doublespeak* is coming from the Federal Government. It is common knowledge that the Nigerian government entered a Memorandum of Understanding, MoU with Cameroon after the 2012 flood, that it should alert Nigeria anytime water was to be released in Lagdo Dam in Cameroon. “*In 2018, the Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency queried why Cameroon did not inform Nigeria on time before releasing water. That year’s flood was of a monster magnitude. So, what are they saying?* “This is how they have been keeping *secrets* of oil theft until now that it is being blown open. The *evidence are glaring* and so, it would be *mischievous to point at other reasons for this highly*

destructive elephantine, monster flood. If they were declaring war on the Niger Delta through the instrumentality of flood, then we would understand.” (Amaize Emma, et. al., 2022)

The text above is a statement made by Comrade Morris Alagoa, who is of the Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria (ERA/FoEN). His statement is a disclaimer to the federal government’s claims about the causes of the recent devastating flood in Nigeria. His statement suggests his critical and sceptical stance towards the federal government’s explanation for the flood. He believes that the government is engaging in “*double speak*” and keeping “*secrets*” about the real causes of the flood. This means that the government is untrue, corrupt, and unfaithful in its promises to the concern of the masses. The speaker uses phrases such as “mischievous to point at other reason,” “highly destructive elephantine, monster flood”, and “if they were declaring war on the Niger Delta through the instrumentality of flood” to challenge the government’s narrative. The tone shows that it is confrontational and accusatory. Words like “*secrete*” and “*evidence are glaring*” imply that the government is actively trying to conceal the truth. The speaker discredits the government’s explanation by revealing their past failures in alerting Nigerians about water releases from the Lagdo Dam in Cameroon (See; “*In 2018, the Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency queried why Cameroon did not inform Nigeria on time before releasing water*”). He opines that the government’s current claims are part of a broader pattern of “*keeping secrets*” and engaging in “*double speak*”. “*That year’s flood was of a monster magnitude. So, what are they saying?*”. The disclaimer structure continues, where the speaker questions the government’s ability to enforce agreements. The speaker implies a pattern of neglect or incompetence by juxtaposing the 2018 incident with the present situation. “*If they were declaring war on the Niger Delta through the instrumentality of flood, then we would*

understand.” This rhetorical statement uses irony as a disclaimer. While it ostensibly gives the government an excuse for its failures, it simultaneously introduces the idea of deliberate harm against the Niger Delta. This aligns with the theory’s focus on how language can reproduce or resist power structures, subtly suggesting that systemic neglect could be intentional.

4.2.3 Exemplification and Evidentiality

Exemplification, on the one hand, involves showcasing specific instances, cases, or examples that illustrate or exemplify the main argument. By providing concrete examples, the speaker or writer can make their argument more persuasive and easier to understand for the audience. Exemplification helps ground abstract arguments in real-life situations, making them more compelling and relatable. Evidentiality, on the other hand, refers to the use of evidence, data, facts, or sources to substantiate the claims or arguments being presented. Evidentiality involves providing credible and verifiable information to support the argument's validity. By citing sources, statistics, expert opinions, or research findings, the speaker or writer can establish the credibility and reliability of their argument.

In critical discourse analysis, exemplification and evidentiality play crucial roles in constructing persuasive arguments and influencing the audience's beliefs, attitudes, and behaviours. By providing concrete examples and supporting evidence, the speaker or writer can strengthen their position, refute counterarguments, and convince the audience of the validity and soundness of their point of view.

Excerpt 32: Catholic Bishop of Bomadi, Most Rev. Hyacinth Egbebo said that communities in *Bomadi and other locations that are prone to flooding will go into extinction if nothing is done to deal with the perennial flooding issue*. “People will be forced to migrate because it has become a yearly occurrence, he said. “It makes

life difficult because *water bodies are polluted, even the gas that is being emitted by oil companies comes down as acid rain and with no other option residents drink all kinds of contaminated water;*”. He explained that *Bomadi town is usually not badly affected because there are roads* which stand against the water finding its way into people’s homes, adding that. According to him, the way out will be for the government to expedite action in the construction of a dam that will receive water each time it is released from Cameroon and also dredge the river Niger which usually overflows its banks. (Arinze Chijioke, 2023)

In the excerpt above, the speaker, Most Rev. Hyacinth Egbebo, gives the forecast of the state of the Bomadi community. With reliance on adequate examples, he delineates his arguments through the creation of mental pictures that his readers can relate to. For instance, in his argument that Bomadi will go into extinction in few years if the yearly flooding outbreak is not properly handled by the government (“*Bomadi and other locations that are prone to flooding will go into extinction if nothing is done to deal with the perennial flooding issue*”), Egbebo cites water pollution in Delta State, such as emission of oil into the river by companies and poor drinking water conditions in Bomadi as relatable evidence which are used to enhance presentation of the challenges faced by citizens of the community (“*...water bodies are polluted even the gas that oil companies are emitting comes down as acid rain and with no other option residents drink all kinds of contaminated water;*”). The use of specific environmental issues like pollution and acid rain reinforces the dire effects of systemic neglect and corporate activities on people’s health and survival. By citing the importance of good roads, Egbebo argues that Bomadi town is the only town among eleven communities in Bomadi that is not badly affected by flood outbreaks. This is because Bomadi town has good motorable roads which prevent

houses in this community from being flooded (see; “...*Bomadi town is usually not affected badly because there are roads...*”). Through this exemplification, Egbebo identifies poor drainage systems and bad roads as causes of flooding in some of the affected areas. Also, in citing and criticizing the insignificant role of NDDC in the local government, the speaker adopts the paradoxical expression, “The Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), which should provide some of the roads across communities, *is non-existent*.” Through this expression, the speaker provides evidence of the incompetence and skewed structure of the NDDC and the government. Thus, it enhances the negative representation of socio-political agencies, such as the NDDC, in the country. These agencies are projected as opportunistic and corrupt bodies. Thus, through the strategy of exemplification and evidentiality, the speaker connects the audience to real-life situations in the country. This enables the audience to construct a mental picture of the affected communities' environmental state and connect with the speaker's personal schema. In conclusion, Egbebo concludes his argument by constructing a problem-solution schema. He offers proactive responses from the government as the best solution to frequent/yearly flood outbreaks in the country. He argues that most dams should be built in order to relieve the drainages into the Niger and from Cameroon. The bishop's voice represents the community's plea to higher authorities, juxtaposing the powerlessness of rural dwellers against the influence of governmental and corporate entities. By foregrounding the dire consequences of inaction, the discourse exposes the power imbalance and calls for accountability from those in positions of authority.

Excerpt 33: Corpses litter Bayelsa, Delta communities Raising alarm yesterday over the health implication of floating corpses in their community, residents of Yenagoa in Bayelsa called on the state government for immediate action to avoid

a public health crisis. *Confirming the incident*, a resident, Mr Emmanuel Oden, lamented that the floating corpses had become a recurring development during floods, adding that *relocation of the cemetery is long overdue*. Oden further alleged that *corpses at the cemetery were often buried in shallow graves of about 3 feet, rather than the recommended six feet prescribed by law*. Another resident Mr Ebi Owoupele, pleaded with the Bayelsa State Government to understand the plight of the people and assure them that the cemetery will be relocated. *Vanguard's findings also revealed that* the morgue at Bomadi General Hospital and Olodiana had been submerged, also with floating corpses as a result.

Bayelsa govt reacts Contacted, the state commissioner for environment and chairman of Bayelsa Flood Committee, Mr. Iselema Gbaranbiri, *who confirmed that three floating corpses were recovered* and reburied with the environment properly fumigated. His words, *“the floating of corpses were actually reported*. First, as commissioner for the environment, *I got the report of a floating corpse* and directed my head of health and sanitation to get the corpse reburied. *Later two more corpses were recovered and reburied and the environment was properly fumigated.”* (Akinrefon Dapo, et.al., 2022)

The discourse presented above involves the residents of Yenagoa in Bayelsa and the Bayelsa state government. The excerpt critiques the government's systemic failure to address longstanding infrastructure and environmental issues. Underlying this discourse are the residents' mental models and knowledge about the causes of the issue on the recurring floods in the region. This shocking opening statement exemplifies the dire consequences of flooding on public health and human dignity, setting a tone of urgency. *“Corpses at the cemetery were often buried in*

shallow graves of about 3 feet, rather than the recommended six feet prescribed by law". The mention of shallow graves exemplifies systemic failures in cemetery management, indirectly pointing to negligence and poor enforcement of regulations. The phrase "*relocation of the cemetery is long overdue*" indicates years of neglect and deferred action despite recurring flooding. The report of shallow graves ("*about 3 feet*") reflects inadequate enforcement of burial regulations, further exposing institutional lapses that exacerbate the problem. "*Floating corpses were actually reported... reburied and the environment was properly fumigated.*" While this suggests some action, it reflects a short-term, surface-level response rather than addressing root causes, such as the need for cemetery relocation or improved morgue facilities. This reactive governance perpetuates a cycle of crises rather than preventing them. While emphasizing the adverse effects of flood outbreak, the speaker adopts expressions marked by verbal evidential ("*confirming the incident,*" "*lamented that the floating corpses had become a recurring development during flood*", "*vanguard findings also revealed that...*", "*got the report of a...*") nominal clause ("*who confirmed that three floating corpses were recovered...*") and time adverbial ("*later two more corpses were recovered...*"). These markers signal the factuality of the media's information about the country's yearly flood disasters and the responses of some state governments. They also help create a mental representation that the readers can align with and create their responses/reactions towards the state of the affected areas. This, in turn, helps manipulate the schema that the reader forms about socio-political problems in the country.

Excerpt 34: Uzum called on the Federal Government, corporate organisations and charitable individuals to *come to the people's aid* and provide relief materials to *ameliorate their sufferings* at this auspicious time. He said while the immediate intervention is to save the impacted persons, their families and their properties,

the Federal Government should build new dams along the coastal areas to ensure a more permanent solution to the yearly flooding.... *“As we speak, all the eight LGAs in Delta South; six LGAs in Delta North and five LGAs in Delta Central Senatorial Districts have been taken over by flood. “Presently, we have both short and long-term solutions to this problem of yearly flooding; the current intervention to save lives and properties is one.”*The long-term solution has to do with the dredging of the River Benue and the River Niger as well and build the needed dams to take away the large volume of the water that flows across the impacted states. *“So, we are appealing to the Federal Government, corporate organisations and individuals to give their support to the impacted communities in the state,”* Uzum said. (Ochogwu Sunday, 2022)

The above text discusses the issue of flooding in Delta State, which is a pressing social problem in the given statement. Uzum beckons to the government, corporate organizations, and individuals for assistance in dealing with the flooding situation in Delta State. Here, Uzum frames the flood event as a problem that requires urgency. He appeals to ameliorate their suffering, the empathy and sympathy of the reader by using phrases such as *“come to the people’s aid”* and *“ameliorate their sufferings”*. Uzum adopts adverbial clauses, showing evidence and examples, to construct the deplorable state of the six local governments, the effects of flood outbreak on the affected areas in Delta State, and the response of the state government in ameliorating future outbreaks (see: *“As we speak,”* and *“presently”*). This strategy aims to frame the state government as being concerned, empathetic, and proactive in dealing with social issues (see; *“presently we have both short- and long-term solutions”*). Uzum positions himself as a credible and informed advocate by grounding his assertions in logical, observable plans. This

enhances the persuasiveness of his appeal to stakeholders. They are also used to achieve the negative other representation of the FG with the micro context. By appealing to the FG, Uzum suggests that the federal government has been reluctant to address the state's social problems and environmental disasters. In other words, there is a positive representation of the Delta State government and a negative representation of the FG within the micro context. While this strategy may persuade the FG to respond to the needs of the affected states/communities, it can only manipulate the public's perception of the Nigerian government towards social issues in the country. Uzum beckons to the government, corporate organizations, and individuals for assistance in dealing with the flooding situation in Delta State. Here, Uzum frames the flood event as a problem that requires urgency. He appeals to the empathy and sympathy of the reader by using phrases such as *“come to the people’s aid”* and *“ameliorate their suffering”*. This potentially influences their perception of the situation. He further proposes a long-term solution involving the construction of a new dam along coastal areas and dredging rivers. This solution aligns with infrastructural development, often associated with progress and modernization. The speaker (Uzum) uses rhetorical strategies to appeal to various entities for assistance, emphasizing the severity of the situation and the need for both short-term and long-term solutions (see; *“As we speak, all the eight LGA’s in Delta Central Senatorial District have been taken over by flood,”* *“we are appealing to the Federal Government, corporate organizations and individuals to give their support to the impacted communities in the state”*.) Uzum, as a political figure, uses his discourse to influence the decision-makers and stakeholders to provide the necessary assistance and long-term solutions. Uzum exercises power and authority to mobilize resources and support for the affected communities by appealing to the federal government, corporate organisations, and individuals. *“The long-term solution has to do with the dredging of the River Benue and the*

River Niger as well and build the needed dams to take away the large volume of the water.” This calls attention to insufficient infrastructure as a root cause of the community’s vulnerability. Implicitly, in Uzum’s statements, there is an acknowledgement of structural inequalities affecting the impacted communities. The emphasis on the repeated occurrence of flooding and the lack of adequate mitigation measures reflects a critique of systemic neglect in disaster-prone regions.

Excerpt 35: Governor Abubakar Sani Bello, who paid a sympathy visit to the people affected by the flood in Kontagora, donated *100 fabrics, and 500 bags of grains, comprising rice, maize and millet, as relief materials*. Bello directed that all structures built along waterways be demolished to forestall future occurrences. *“A lot of those affected were actually paid compensation to leave and they refused. We are now going to go ahead and pull down the houses along waterlines,”* he stated. The state Commissioner for Environment, Daniel Habila Galadima, said the required design for a lasting solution to flooding will be ready by the end of September.... Governor Samuel Ortom recently called on the Federal Government to take steps to dredge River Benue to save the state from the perennial flood. The governor, who made the call *during one of his visits to some flooded communities in the state*, said: “Dredging of River Benue remains the best option to curtail flooding in Benue State. *If the river is dredged, the perennial challenge of flooding in the state will be tackled permanently.*” (Flood Months: Tensions in Kano, Lagos, Delta, Edo, Jigawa, Niger, others as 18 states shun warnings, 2022)

To prove the validity of the shared relief materials to victims in Nigeria state, Governor Abubakar Sani Bello cites the items given out, such as “...*100 fabrics, and 500 bags of grains*

comprising rice, maize and millet, as relief materials.” Such gestures bolster the public image of leadership while simultaneously deflecting focus from underlying systemic failures. Through this strategy, the governor believes that the distributed relief materials can be proven true. Also, the donation of relief materials reflects an ideology of state-led humanitarianism. The governor projects his administration as benevolent, caring, and empathetic. The media achieved this through a direct speech in which compensation was given to victims of destroyed homes and relocation, portraying leaders as compassionate and attentive to citizens’ needs. However, many of these victims refused such an offer (see; *“a lot of those affected were actually paid compensation to leave and they refused”*). There is an implicit ideology of blaming the victims for their suffering. Through this strategy of blame transfer, the governor, through the media, passes the blame for poor infrastructural development from the government to Niger citizens. This framing suggests that the affected individuals bear partial responsibility for the disaster, reducing the burden of accountability on the government while justifying harsh measures like demolition. As a result, the governor resorts to open threats in order to seek the needed response from the citizens (see; *“we are not going to go ahead and pull down the houses along waterlines”*). This strategy is used to achieve a face-saving act for the Niger government and to construct the power dynamics that exist between the government and the citizens. In the case of the Benue State governor's response to the flood outbreak, evidentiality is used to specify when the governor's speech was made. This evidence is achieved through the time adverbial, *“during one of his visits to some flooded communities in the state,”* It becomes determined to specify which of the visits is being referred to. Thus, hedges, as evidential markers, are used to conceal specific actions by the government to achieve a positive representation of the governor and to manipulate the populace's perception towards the governor's actions. For instance, the governor

uses the modal verb “will” to express his willingness to be proactive in inevitable events such as the yearly flood outbreak. The calls for dredging and infrastructural redesign reveal an acknowledgement of structural inequalities perpetuating vulnerability. Governor Ortom’s statement emphasizes this: *“If the river is dredged, the perennial challenge of flooding in the state will be tackled permanently.”* This underscores a disparity in resource allocation and infrastructure development, where affected communities are at risk due to systemic neglect.

Excerpt 36: Farouq further explained that the GRADE Note was a *fast first-order approximation* of the economic impact and provided a *rapid high-level estimate* of damages used to inform ongoing decision in a timely fashion. *“It was developed using the empirical data defined in this document, calibrated against historical data and experience, including the 2012 Nigeria Floods (Post-Disaster Needs Assessment). The period of analysis is from June 2022 to November, 25, 2022,”* the minister stated. She called on the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons to utilise the GRADE assessment to plan the recovery and rehabilitation of victims of the flood. The Permanent Secretary of the ministry, Nasir Sani-Gwarzo, said the ministry and the National Emergency Management Agency jointly sought a preliminary and quantitative spatial damage assessment, which was considered to be faster than a traditional Post Disaster Needs Assessment and fairly accurate, with technical support from the *World Bank Group*. He said, *“The GRADE approach was with the collaboration of many stakeholders including NIMET, NARSDA, NIHSA, NSCDC, and the GRADE assessment was conducted between November*

14 to 28, 2022, after the flood water had receded in most parts in the country from June to November 2022. (2022 Flood Caused N4.2trn Economic Loss To Nigeria– FG, 2023)

To prove the validity of the shared relief materials to victims in Nigeria state, Governor Abubakar Sani Bello cites the items given out such “...100 fabrics, and 500 bags of grains comprising rice, maize and millet, as relief materials.” Such gestures bolster the public image of leadership while simultaneously deflecting focus from underlying systemic failures. Through this strategy, the governor believes that the distributed relief materials can be proven true. Also, the donation of relief materials reflects an ideology of state-led humanitarianism. The governor projects his administration as benevolent, caring, and empathetic. The media achieved this through a direct speech in which compensation was given to victims of destroyed homes and relocation, portraying leaders as compassionate and attentive to citizens’ needs. However, many of these victims refused such an offer (see; “*a lot of those affected were actually paid compensation to leave and they refused*”). There is an implicit ideology of blaming the victims for their suffering. Through this strategy of blame transfer, the governor, through the media, passes the blame for poor infrastructural development from the government to Niger citizens. This framing suggests that the affected individuals bear partial responsibility for the disaster, reducing the burden of accountability on the government while justifying harsh measures like demolition. As a result, the governor resorts to open threats in order to seek the needed response from the citizens (see; “*we are not going to go ahead and pull down the houses along waterlines*”). This strategy is used to achieve a face-saving act for the Niger government and to construct the power dynamics that exist between the government and the citizens. In the case of the Benue State governor's response to the flood outbreak, evidentiality is used to specify when

the governor's speech was made. This evidence is achieved through the time adverbial, “*during one of his visits to some flooded communities in the state,*” It becomes determined to specify which of the visits being referred to. Thus, hedges, as evidential markers, are used to conceal certain actions by the government to achieve a positive representation of the governor and to manipulate the perception of the populace towards the governor's actions. For instance, the modal verb “*will*” is used by the governor in expressing his willingness to be proactive to inevitable events such as the yearly flood outbreak. The calls for dredging and infrastructural redesign reveal an acknowledgement of structural inequalities that perpetuate vulnerability. Governor Ortom’s statement emphasizes this: “*If the river is dredged, the perennial challenge of flooding in the state will be tackled permanently.*” This underscores a disparity in resource allocation and infrastructure development, where affected communities are at risk due to systemic neglect.

Excerpt 37: Nigeria’s flooding is mostly *human induced* and exacerbated by human-nature interactions. *Poor or non-existent drainage systems are a major cause of flooding. Many residential areas have no drainage system and rely on natural drainage channels. Increasing urbanisation also means more areas are built with concrete and cannot absorb water, increasing runoff.* Poor waste management is another recognised factor. *Citizens’ poor attitude to waste disposal* and non-provision of waste disposal services by municipal authorities *contributes to flooding. It is not uncommon to have drains blocked by refuse in urban areas.* Other factors are unregulated urban expansion – Nigeria is experiencing high urbanisation rates without commensurate provision of urban infrastructure and amenities. Agricultural lands are increasingly being converted

to residential areas to accommodate housing needs. But there's lax implementation of planning laws. One consequence of this is there have been construction projects on natural floodplains and storm water paths. This has exacerbated flooding. Corruption is also a factor. *It is not uncommon for town planning officials to accept bribes and overlook issues.* These may include unauthorised use of land and alteration of approved construction plans. Some citizens also capitalise on the loophole of ineffective development control and extend their buildings over the approved areas. Sometimes they go as far as building over drains. (Adaku Jane Echendu)

The text above is a detailed account of the various factors contributing to flooding in Nigeria. With examples and evidence, the speaker can demonstrate how the interplay between social, environmental and individual behaviour can lead to a complex problem such as flooding. The excerpt uses specific examples of causes and consequences to illustrate the systemic issues contributing to flooding. *“Poor or non-existent drainage systems are a major cause of flooding. Many residential areas have no drainage system and rely on natural drainage channels.”* This provides concrete evidence of infrastructure failure, drawing attention to how inadequate planning exacerbates flooding. His argument is that the flooding in Nigeria is primarily *human-induced* and rooted in social, environmental and governance-related factors. The lack of proper drainage systems and waste management services in residential areas, urbanization and land use change, governance and regulation are the social factors contributing to the flood menace. Similarly, the mention of blocked drains caused by poor waste management exemplifies everyday urban challenges *“It is not uncommon to have drains blocked by refuse in urban areas.”* These examples help to localize the problem, making it relatable and grounded in

observable realities. The “*citizen poor attitude to waste disposal... contributes to flooding*” shows citizens’ knowledge and attitudes towards waste management influence their behaviour, leading to clogged drains and flooding. This illustrates how lack of awareness can exacerbate the menace. Also, there is a cognitive bias and decision making is considered corrupt (see: “*accepting bribe’s, overlooking issue*”) and the further contribute to the flood problem and reflects an ideology that highlights systemic failures in governance. All the above problems reinforce and perpetuate social issues such as corruption and ineffective development control. The use of evidentiality supports the discourse by referencing observable patterns and expert understanding, reinforcing its credibility: “*Increasing urbanisation also means more areas are built with concrete and cannot absorb water, increasing runoff.*” This draws on widely accepted knowledge about urbanization and environmental science. The statement on corruption further relies on societal observations to establish authenticity: “*It is not uncommon for town planning officials to accept bribes and overlook issues.*” By connecting corruption to poor urban planning, the discourse emphasizes structural factors while validating these claims through real-world examples.

Excerpt 38: The first culprit of flooding is always the big word ‘Climate Change’, which is basically the changing weather patterns associated with global warming. It is obvious that the climatic conditions are changing; however, there are many related, natural, and manmade factors that contribute to flooding. *One major cause of perennial flooding in Nigeria is ‘river and ocean surges’ by tides, pushing water to overflow its boundaries downstream....* Meanwhile, in Nigeria, it has been confirmed that the *release of water from the Lagdo Dam in Northern Cameroon also contributes to the flooding.* It is noteworthy that the National

Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and other associated agencies have been reactive in handling issues of flooding rather than being proactive.... To forestall further threats to food security, the economy, health, security, and the environment, the government must adopt the following recommendations as a way to reduce the impact of perennial flooding in Nigeria. First, NEMA must begin to act proactively by utilizing geographical information systems and metrological data to improve their early warning systems and reduce people's exposure to flood risk. The communication must be timely and effective and adequate provisions must be made in case of an emergency evacuation. Secondly, the Nigerian government must begin to consider the construction of a buffer dam to accommodate excess water from the Lagdo dam in Cameroon. This is very critical given that aside from dam absorbing excess water, a buffer dam will provide irrigation for thousands of hectares of land, stimulate fishing, and most likely support the generation of electricity. Thirdly, the government must invest in the dredging of the major rivers to accommodate high volume of water, promote inland waterways as well as capture fishing. Finally, the government must build, reactivate, and maintain the urban drainage systems, and prevent people from erecting structures on waterways. Godswill Aguiyi, Program Officer, Alliance for A Green Revolution in Africa (Godswill Aguiyi, 2022)

The above excerpt reflects the problem-solution to the flood menace provided by the program officer Aguiyi. He uses the issue of perennial flooding in Nigeria as an exemplification to illustrate the various factors contributing to this flood problem and proffer the necessary solution. The speaker, God'swill Aguiyi's understands of the causes of flooding in Nigeria is evident in the

text. He identifies climate change, river and ocean surges, and the release of water from the Lagdo Dam in Cameroon as the primary culprit. The excerpt uses specific examples to illustrate the causes and consequences of flooding, linking it to global, regional, and local factors. “*One major cause of perennial flooding in Nigeria is ‘river and ocean surges’ by tides, pushing water to overflow its boundaries downstream.*” This highlights natural forces, situating flooding within broader environmental phenomena. Another example directly connects human-induced actions to the problem: “*The release of water from the Lagdo Dam in Northern Cameroon also contributes to the flooding.*” This exemplifies cross-border impacts and external influences on Nigeria’s flooding crisis. The specificity of these examples lends credibility to the analysis. This cognitive representation of the problem helps in framing the recommendations proposed. The speaker’s discourse is designed to inform and persuade the reader about the need for a comprehensive approach to mitigate the impact of flooding in Nigeria. The use of specific examples, such as the Lagdo Dam and the importance of dredging rivers, serves as an exemplification to support his arguments. The recommendations provided include the construction of a buffer dam, investment in urban drainage systems, and proactive emergency management, which are meant to address the multifaceted nature of the flooding problem. Through the use of examples to portray the problem of the flood menace in Nigeria, The speaker aims to raise awareness, advocate for policy changes, and encourage the government and relevant agencies to take the necessary steps to reduce the adverse effects of perennial flooding in Nigeria.

4.3 Evaluation

Evaluation involves expressing an opinion, judgment, appraisal, or assessment of a person, group, object, idea, event, or situation in a discourse. It can be explicit or implicit, assigning something a positive or negative value. In discourse, evaluation is critical as it contributes to the formation of meaning, reproduction of social hierarchies, and negotiation of power relationships. Teun A. van Dijk extensively studies the role of evaluation in social, political, and media discourses. He emphasizes that evaluation is influenced by various factors such as power dynamics, social identities, cultural norms, and ideological beliefs. Van Dijk examines how language constructs and conveys evaluations, how evaluations contribute to the negotiation of social meaning, and how they shape perceptions and attitudes (13). Evaluation plays a crucial role in shaping individuals' understanding of the world and their interactions within social contexts. The use of negative descriptors, positive and negative phrases/expressions, rhetorical strategies (such as metaphor, irony, simile, etc.), active sentences, modals, cause and effect phrases/expressions are utilized when evaluating a text.

4.3.1 Blame Attribution, Emotive Language and Objective Statistical Evaluation

Excerpt 39: The Federal Government, on Sunday, said the floods ravaging parts of the country have so far *claimed 603 lives*. The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Farouq, disclosed this at a press conference in Abuja. She said, “*As of today, the number of persons affected nationwide is 2,504,095. The number of those displaced nationwide is 1,302,589; the number of injuries is 2,407, and the number of deaths is 603. “The number of houses that are partially damaged is 121,318; the number of houses that are damaged is 82,053; farmlands that are partially damaged, are 108,392*

hectares, while damaged farmlands are 332,327 hectares. This is the statistics of today, October 16, 2022.” She said the government was concerned that despite all our efforts of averting the consequence of the 2022 flooding season, the country had unfortunately recorded the loss of over 600 lives. (Okechukwu Nnodim et. al., 2022)

The above excerpt is a report on the consequences of the nation's flood disaster. The media's evaluation of the government's response can be seen as mixed. The excerpt presents the government's efforts in “*despite all our efforts averting the consequence of the 2022 flooding season,*” suggesting an acknowledgement of their attempts to mitigate the situation. It also reflects a defensive stance and ideology. This framing shows the government's recognition of its role but also implies that external, uncontrollable factors contributed to the disaster, potentially downplaying lapses in preparedness. However, the government's inability to prevent “*the loss of over 600 lives*” can be seen as a failure or shortcoming in their disaster management efforts. This means that the media's evaluation of the government's response will influence how the readers perceive the government's responsibilities, resources, efforts, and constraints in disaster management. The efforts they claim to be effective are not yielding the desired results. The excerpt presents the victims of the floods in a neutral, factual manner, providing statistics on the number of people affected, displaced, injured, and killed (see; “*As of today, the number of persons affected nationwide is 2,504,095. The number of those displaced nationwide is 1,302,589; the number of injuries is 2,407, and the number of deaths is 603*”. “*The number of houses that are partially damaged is 121,318; the number of houses that are damaged is 82,053; farmlands that are partially damaged, are 108,392 hectares, while damaged farmlands are 332,327 hectares*”). This suggests a more objective, informative approach by the media rather

than an overtly sympathetic or critical portrayal of the victims. This helps shape the reader's understanding of the victims' circumstances, vulnerabilities, and the broader social and economic context in which the disaster occurred. Also, the speaker adopts phrases with a negative semantic implication and expressions such as "*affected*," "*displaced*," "*injuries*," "*deaths*," "*partially damaged*," "*damaged farmlands*," "*claimed...lives*" and "*unfortunately recorded the loss of...lives*" to construct a mental picture of the negative implications of the floods on Nigerian citizens. These phrases/expressions convey the victims' helpless state, pains, and vulnerability. The affected citizens are portrayed as poor and suffering hunger as a result of losing their source of livelihood, which is mainly farming. These figures and evaluative descriptions illustrate the scale of the economic damage caused by the floods, which will likely require substantial recovery efforts and resources and squarely attribute blame for the flood tragedy to the government.

Excerpt 40: The 2022 flood tells a sad story – it is a tragedy with a complex plot with themes of displacement, hunger, and scarcity. In it are sub-themes of death, negligence, and fecklessness—*every victim with his own story*, and *every community their tales and narratives* detailing their plight. Citizens in affected areas live in uncertainty, despair, and fear, while a few struggle to hope and display love and compassion amid adversity. According to reports, about 603 people have died, and more than 1.3 million have been displaced, while *over 108,393 hectares of farmlands* have been destroyed across the country. Some flood-affected states include Bayelsa, Rivers, Delta, Edo, Lagos, Kano, Adamawa, Jigawa, Benue, and Borno. This year's flood is believed to be the worst that Nigeria has experienced in decades, as *it has created humanitarian*

crises and compounded economic challenges in the affected areas. Some communities are inaccessible and cut off from goods and services. In September, Rann and Damasak local government areas in Borno State, host areas of many Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), could only be accessed by helicopters, and commuters along Lokoja-Abuja Road were left stranded because of the flood. The flood also resulted in a major tragedy in Anambra State, where people had to rely on boats as major roads had been destroyed. (Wealth Dickson Ominabo, 2022)

In text 40, the media's reportage and evaluation of the 2022 flood outbreak across ten Nigerian states (Bayelsa, Rivers, Delta, Edo, Lagos, Kano, Adamawa, Jigawa, Borno, Benue) is a narrative of suffering and the complexity of the Nigerian socio-political, economic and environmental situation. The text frames the flood as a significant, deadly, and multifaceted event rather than a typical natural disaster. By stating that the 2022 flood story covers the theme of displacement, hunger and scarcity, the media emphasizes the severity of the flood as well as its widespread impact on human lives (see the evaluation: "*it has created humanitarian crisis*"). Also, other evaluations, encapsulated in the sub-themes of death, negligence and fecklessness, are used to achieve blame-giving and call for responsibility. They also construct the problem-solution schema as it pertains to flooding. For instance, negligence and fecklessness imply that human action and inaction have exacerbated the tragedy caused by the 2021 flood. Both sub-themes also contribute to the failures of governance and preparedness to confront the flood and its adverse effects across the country. Moreover, emotive expressions such as "*every victim with his own story*" and "*every community with tales and narratives*" project personal and collective suffering among citizens and the affected states. This representation makes the flooding disaster relatable and poignant. The ideological implications of highlighting the vulnerability of citizens

and the affected states in the text are to create a sense of empathy, urgency and emotional appeal. They are also used to critique the systemic failures of the Nigerian government and its institutional response to the disaster. Similarly, the use of objective statistical data in “the destruction of *over 108,393 hectares of farmlands*” highlights the economic and environmental consequences of the flood. This focus on agricultural loss underscores the broader implications of the disaster for food security and livelihoods in Nigeria, for which blame is also placed at the doorstep of the government.

Excerpt 41: The governor *confirmed* that no fewer than *24 persons have lost their lives* in 12 Local Government Areas, LGAs, of the state, due to the *surging* flood that hit Benue State while *74 others sustained serious injuries*. In a detailed account of the situation in the state, the governor, through the Executive Secretary of the Benue State Emergency Management Agency, SEMA, Dr. Emmanuel Shior disclosed that the *flood also sacked a total of 134,797 persons from their homes while 18,349 households were affected in the disaster*. He noted that 127 communities in 12 LGAs including Agatu, Apa, Tarka, Gboko, Gwer West, Logo, Guma, Vandeikya, Otukpo, Buruku, Katsina-Ala and Makurdi were affected by the flood. He stated that 1,818 houses were either lost or submerged in the affected LGAs while 20,468 hectares of farmland were washed away. The Governor explained that *responders were still profiling more victims, lamenting that the state government was already overwhelmed by the situation*. (Festus Ahon et.al., 2022)

The excerpt above concerns the devastating impact of surging floods in Benue State, as “confirmed” by the governor and Benue State Emergency Management Agency. The use of the

verb “confirmed” shows the authenticity of what is provided as impacts of the flood. The media has effectively conveyed crucial information about the impact of the flood, including the number of casualties, injured individuals, displaced persons, affected households, communities, and infrastructure damage. The verb “surging” enables the readers to understand that this situation is not abating but is rather in a state of progression. This helps raise awareness among the public about the severity of the situation. By reporting the governor's confirmation of the disaster and the efforts of the State Emergency Management Agency, the media holds the government accountable for its response to the crisis. This inadvertently urges transparency and accountability in managing such emergencies. The Governor’s statement that the government is “*overwhelmed by the situation*” is an implicit acceptance of blame and constructs the narrative of a strained response system. This suggests that while efforts are being made, they are inadequate and call for external intervention or a more robust national disaster management system. The media reveals to the readers the state of victims through the use of emotive negative phrases (“*sustained serious injuries*”) and personification (“*...flood also sacked a total of 134,797 persons from their homes...*”). These evaluative expressions are used to present the victims as weak and vulnerable to the flood, just like an employer having the right to sack his employees, that is, to relieve the victims of their duties in “*their homes*”. Explicitly, the flood is framed as an agent of destruction, rendering a massive number of people homeless and helpless (“*...the flood also sacked a total of 134,797 persons from their homes while 18,349 households were affected in the disaster....*”). The media portrays the victims as uprooted and exposed. This reinforces the idea of citizens as powerless in the face of disaster and dependent on external support, reinforcing anti-humanitarianism's ideology based on their vulnerability. It also projects the personal aspects of the disaster. Stating the personal stories of those affected, such as the victims

who lost their lives or had their homes destroyed, evokes empathy and solidarity from the audience. The mention of “*responders still profiling more victims*” emphasizes the progressive impact of the flood and the extent of the humanitarian crisis. This draws attention to the immediate and long-term needs of the affected population. The emotive portrayal of the State “*government as overwhelmed by the situation*” underscores the challenges faced in responding to natural disasters of this scale. This prompts discussions about the need for better disaster preparedness and response mechanisms and stresses the point that the burden is becoming too excessive for the government to bear. The inclusion of specific statistics (e.g. *1818 houses were either lost or submerge ...*) helps to emphasize the extent of the damage caused by the flood, thus making the abstract suffering of the victims more tangible and the need for a substantial response more urgent. The media uses precise figures such as “*24 lives lost,*” “*74 injuries,*” and “*18,349 households affected*” to highlight the scale of human suffering. This numeric framing conveys the enormity of the disaster, creating an image of widespread vulnerability and urgency.

Excerpt 42: As *Nigerians* continue to lament the impacts of flooding across the country, the federal government has said the country was not yet out of the wood, disclosing that five states are still at risk of experiencing flooding up to November, this year. This came as it disclosed that the natural disaster claimed 603 lives, affected 2,504,095 persons and displaced 1,302,589 persons across the country. Similarly, the government disclosed that the disaster injured 2,407 persons, partially damaged 121,318 houses, totally damaged 82,053 houses, partially damaged 108,392 hectares of farmlands and totally damaged 332,327 hectares of farmlands, all across Nigeria. The government which named the states still at risk this year as Anambra, Delta, Cross River, Rivers and Bayelsa, have called for the

immediate evacuation of residents of the identified areas to avert a catastrophic outcome. ... She expressed sadness over the loss of lives and destruction of property occasioned by the recent flooding across the country. She said, “*The Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development is concerned that despite all our efforts of averting the consequence of the 2022 flooding season, unfortunately, we have recorded the loss of over 500 lives, partial or total damage of more than 90,000 houses, damage of more than 140,000 hectares of farmland, so many roads and other critical infrastructures were also affected.*” (Vanguard, October 16, 2022Nigeria not safe yet says FG after floods claim 603 lives, Joseph Erunke, 2022)

From the above excerpt, the federal government is portrayed as having authority and power in managing the response to the flooding. They are shown to be authoritative in the discourse, with the authority to name the states at risk and call for evacuation (see; “*The federal government has said the country was not yet out of the wood, disclosing that five states are still at risk of experiencing flooding up to November this year.*”) while “Nigerians” who are the victims continue to “lament” due to “*the impacts of flooding across the country*”. This shows that flooding has been a norm, and its impact on its victims has become progressively cumulative. The media uses the verb “lament” to show the sorrowful and saddened state of the victims to the extent that they do not only cry but cry out in pain, sobering over their situation. In the reportage, the government uses a metaphor: “*...the federal government has said the country was not yet out of the wood...*” to remind the masses (Nigerians) of the state of the nation. Ideologically, it can be implied that the government is reminding its citizens that there is yet no cause for joy as the event of a flood is likely to persist due to the non-availability of a permanent solution to the

crisis, invariably leaving the masses (victims) in jeopardy, restlessness, depression and distress and heightening their vulnerability to the flood and increasing their dependence on government. The media uses verb phrases marked by personification, such as “*the natural disaster claimed 603 lives, affected 2,504,095 persons and displaced 1,302,589 persons across the country,*” to attribute blame for the crisis on the flood. This is to divert the citizens’ attention from the failures and negligence of the government. Other emotive evaluative comments negatively describe the victims as “*affected...displaced...injured*”. This frames the Nigerian citizens as weak, helpless, deplorable and vulnerable. For instance, by describing the deplorable state of the victims (see; *...partially damaged 121,318 houses, totally damaged 82,053 houses, partially damaged 108,392 hectares of farmlands and totally damaged 332,327 hectares of farmlands, all across Nigeria*), the media shows that the Nigerian citizens are impoverished and starving because of the lack of food caused by damaged farmlands and houses. It also shows that the dilemma is affecting almost every state in Nigeria. The mention of “*damage of more than 140,000 hectares of farmland*” and the destruction of “*critical infrastructure*” reflects the disaster's broader economic and environmental consequences. This highlights the fragility of livelihoods in the affected areas and the cascading impact of flooding on food security and infrastructure. To further portray the helplessness of the victims, the media says the government “*called for the immediate evacuation of residents of the identified areas to avert a catastrophic outcome*”. The call for “*immediate evacuation of residents of the identified areas to avert a catastrophic outcome*” reflects a precautionary stance. However, it also implies that the response has been largely reactive, with an emphasis on evacuation after the incident. This highlights the absence of robust preemptive measures to address flooding risks. Noun phrases like “*immediate evacuation*” show the urgency involved in providing help to the victims due to their helplessness and

vulnerability because of the possible “*catastrophic outcome*”. The media frames this group identity by presenting Nigerians as a collective body affected by the floodings, emphasizing the shared experience of loss of lives and destruction (See; “*She expressed sadness over the loss of lives and the destruction property occasioned by the recent flooding across the country*”). This reflects a sense of unity, emotion and solidarity with the affected population, thereby emphasizing the collective impact of the flooding. The media further evaluates the government through the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, positioned as having expert knowledge about the situation and the efforts being made to address the consequences of the flooding (see; “*The Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development is concerned that despite all our efforts of averting the consequences of the 2022 flooding season.*”) This reinforces the idea that although the government is actively involved in managing the crisis, it is more advisable to take proactive measures to prevent the flood rather than expend resources trying to mitigate risks and protect lives and property.

Excerpt 43: As Nigerians affected by the massive flooding which has killed over 500 persons, *submerged* several houses and displaced thousands of persons across the country, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has revealed that about 2,504, 095 persons were affected by the worst natural disaster that ravaged the country in several years.... The federal government recently confirmed that at least 500 persons had died in the last few weeks due to the devastating impact of the natural disaster. Aside the 500 persons that were said to have died then as a result of the national disaster, the federal government had also revealed that 45,249 houses have been totally destroyed while 70,566

hectares of farmlands have been damaged.

The latest data was contained in the updated 2022 Flood Data released yesterday by the agency, which also stated that about 1, 302, 589 persons had been rendered homeless as a result of the humanitarian crisis. The figures also indicated *a spike* in the number of deaths from the figures that were announced last month by *NEMA*. According to the emergency agency, about 603 persons were killed by the flooding caused by heavy rainfall in the last two months. *The Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs*, Disaster Management and Social Development had already likened the flooding in Nigeria this year to the last major flooding in 2012, which killed 363 people and displaced 600,000. Most of this year's victims were either *submerged* when their canoes capsized or were *drowned* by high waters which completely *submerged* their houses. *NEMA* added that 2,407 persons also suffered varying degree of injuries arising from the humanitarian crisis. It stated that 82,052 houses were partially damaged by floods while 121, 318 houses were destroyed beyond repairs. *The data also warned the public of impending food scarcity nationwide occasioned by the humanitarian fiasco* which severely affected parts of Kogi State in the north-central zone and many downstream communities in Anambra State in the south-east. It stated that *about 332,327 hectares of farmlands were totally destroyed by flash flood which washed away many food crops nearing harvesting and large areas that produced aquatic foods*. In addition, the data put the size of farmlands partially damaged as a result at 108, 392 hectares of land. (Segun James and Olawale Ajimotokan, 2022)

The above news report is about the massive flooding crisis that has affected millions of people and resulted in significant loss of life and property. The use of emotive negative descriptive phrases such as people being “*submerged*” or “*drowned*” helps to emphasize the personal experiences and suffering of the victims. The media portrays the flood event as the cause of the deplorable state of the victims using a complex prepositional phrase: “... 2,504, 095 persons were affected by the worst natural disaster that ravaged the country in several years...” despite the fact that it has been a recurring disaster in the nation. The media further projects the factuality of the incidence through the use of the verb “confirmed” to show evidence of the impact of the disaster on the victims. (see; *The federal government recently confirmed that at least 500 persons had died in the last few weeks due to the devastating impact of the natural disaster. Aside the 500 persons that were said to have died then as a result of the national disaster, the federal government had also revealed that 45,249 houses have been totally destroyed while 70,566 hectares of farmlands have been damaged*). This evidentiality enhances the readers’ evaluation of the flood. Implicitly, it shows that flooding can be regarded as more dangerous than any other socio-political issue in the nation because no one has recorded such massive destruction within a short time as this flood disaster. The use of the noun phrase “*a spike*” shows that the quantum of massive destruction and impact of flooding on the masses is on the rise. The comparison to the 2012 flooding incident and the planned delegation to Cameroon projects the government’s efforts to learn from past experiences, including the media’s understanding and representation of the disaster based on the information provided by the government (*NEMA and Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs*), and coordinate regional responses. The representation of the government’s response shows an attempt to attribute blame to it and hold the authorities accountable for their actions and the overall management of the crisis. The

vulnerability and suffering of the affected population are emphasized by statistical data, which indicates the media's empathetic stance towards the victims and their plight. (see: “*The data also warned the public of impending food scarcity nationwide occasioned by the humanitarian fiasco... about 332,327 hectares of farmlands were totally destroyed by flash flood which washed away many food crops nearing harvesting and large areas that produced aquatic foods*”). This means that the affected victims are impoverished, vulnerable and in a despicable state as starvation is ravaging the entire ecosystem, leaving not only the victims but also the entire masses stranded and handicapped and perpetually relying on the government for aid.

4.3.2 Amplification of Ineptitude, Proactiveness/Reactiveness and Victimhood

Excerpt 44: Nigeria is battling its worst floods in a decade with more than 300 people killed in 2022 including at least 20 this week, as authorities said the situation is “*beyond our control.*” The floods in 27 of Nigeria’s 36 states and capital city have affected half a million people, including 100,000 displaced and more than 500 injured, Nigeria’s National Emergency Management Agency said. The disaster has also destroyed thousands of hectares of farmland, worsening fears of a disruption of food supply in Africa’s most populous country.... The Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency predicted more floods in 2022 than last year due to “*excessive rainfalls* and contributions from external flows” such as the *dam in Cameroon*. On Monday, Nigeria’s disaster management agency alerted more than a dozen states of “*serious consequences*” in the coming weeks as two of the country’s dams started to overflow. “I want to advise all the governments of the frontline states to *move away communities at risk of inundation, identify safe higher grounds for evacuation of persons and prepare adequate stockpiles of*

food and non-food items,” said the head of Nigeria’s National Emergency Management Agency, Mustapha Habib Ahmed. In the north-west Jigawa state, floods killed more than 20 people in the last week, Yusuf Sani Babura, head of the Jigawa State Emergency Management Agency, told the AP. The state has recorded 91 deaths from flooding this year – more than any state in the country. “*We are facing devastating floods beyond our control,*” said Babura. “*We have tried our best and we couldn’t stop it.*” (Nigeria battling floods ‘beyond control’ as warning given of dams overflowing, 2022)

The media reports the victims of the floods as vulnerable and helpless. The numbers provided, such as *300 people killed, 100,000 displaced, and over 500 injured*, emphasize the scale of the disaster and the human toll. The media state that the disruption of food supply and the destruction of farmlands further exacerbate the challenges faced by the victims, underscoring their precarious situation. Phrases such as “*serious consequences*” convey a sense of the victims’ dire straits in the face of the natural disaster. The media reports that the government is taking preventive steps, such as issuing warnings and advising evacuations. For instance, the head of NEMA urges governments to “*move away communities at risk of inundation, identify safe higher grounds for evacuation of persons and prepare adequate stockpiles.*” This positions the government as aware of the danger and attempting to mitigate it through anticipatory actions. However, the phrasing “*I want to advise*” suggests a lack of authoritative enforcement or decisive intervention, portraying the government’s role as merely advisory rather than authoritative. The media is also categorical in stating that the government’s response is inadequate and underwhelming. The quote “*beyond our control*” from the head of the National Emergency Management Agency suggests the government is struggling to cope with the

situation. They frame the government's warnings and efforts to evacuate communities at risk as reactive rather than proactive, implying a lack of preparedness. The media's reporting on the government's inability to “stop” the floods and the “*serious consequences*” in the coming weeks suggests a perception of the government's ineffectiveness in managing the crisis. The agencies are also depicted as reactive, responding to events rather than preventing them. Phrases like “*we have tried our best and we couldn't stop it*” from Jigawa State's emergency agency head underline this reactive stance. The media portrays the government as overwhelmed by the crisis, reflected in statements such as “*we are facing devastating floods beyond our control.*” This construction of helplessness undermines the perception of the government's capacity to handle socio-environmental crises. The emphasis on external contributors, such as the “*dam in Cameroon*” and “*excessive rainfalls,*” shifts partial blame to external factors beyond Nigeria's control. This framing can be seen as an attempt to deflect criticism from domestic governance deficits to external influences. The aggregate of all the evaluative comments is the amplification of the mass's victimhood and the government's inadequacies, emphasising its reactivity.

Excerpt 45: *The governments of Edo, Delta and Bayelsa, as well as relevant stakeholders have expressed readiness to mitigate the effects of possible flood disasters in the three states. Government officials who spoke in separate interviews with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in the three states said they had increased awareness on ways to mitigate the effects of flood in the respective states. The three state governments said that the increased sensitisation was to avert a recurrence of last year's flood crisis, following early warnings this year by the Nigerian Meteorological Agency's (NiMet) prediction. NAN reports that the 2022 floods resulted in 662 deaths in 33 states, while agricultural investments and*

other properties estimated at trillions of naira were ruined. The Federal Government estimated that *more than two million Nigerians* were displaced, while the national economy lost more than N4.2 trillion to the 2022 floods. (Festus Ahon and Ochuko Akuopha, 2022)

The phrase “*governments of Edo, Delta and Bayelsa, as well as relevant stakeholders*” reflects an ideology of collective action, emphasizing that disaster mitigation requires multi-level collaboration between state governments, federal agencies, and local communities. The above text evaluates the institutional roles and activities of three state governments and non-government agencies in the country regarding governance and disaster management across the country. In the text, the media positions these governments and other stakeholders such as the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), as proactive and responsible bodies that have taken measures towards protecting the populace from flood disasters. This representation reinforces the roles and management of these governments and stakeholders in managing public safety and disaster mitigation (see: *the three states government said that the increased...*). This example suggests an institutional effort to prevent future flood disasters. It also indicates that NAN serves as a medium for regulating how official narratives are disseminated to the public. Also, by citing the government's increased awareness and sensitization efforts and NIMET, the media emphasizes a proactive stance, which is implicitly aimed at building public trust and confidence in the government's actions. In addition, evaluative lexical choices such as “*expressed readiness to mitigate*”, “*had increased awareness*”, and “*to avert a recurrence of last year's flood*” are used to convey preparedness and proactive efforts towards reducing the negative impact of flood disasters on the citizens. They also suggest that the government is learning from past mistakes and taking steps to avoid them in the future. These evaluations further reinforce the positive self-

representation of these bodies as they are projected as competent and responsible. However, by citing the prevention of the recurrence of last year's flood crisis, the State government implicitly critiques the failures and inadequacies of past administrations. The excerpt highlights the devastating economic losses, including "*agricultural investments and other properties estimated at trillions of naira*" and the displacement of "*more than two million Nigerians.*" This reflects a state of socio-economic ineptitude on the part of the government and vulnerability on the part of the victims, emphasizing how disasters exacerbate poverty and undermine national development. It frames floods not just as environmental challenges but as crises that threaten the economic stability of individuals and the nation and amplifies ineptitude and victimhood in evaluating the efforts of previous administrations.

Excerpt 46: As the rains arrived Nigeria in March 2022, the Minister of Water Resources, Engr Suleiman Adamu, Thursday, unveiled the 2022 Annual Flood Outlook, which indicated that high flooding will hit 233 Local Government Areas in 32 States and the Federal Capital Territory, FCT. This was contained in a statement signed by the Deputy Director, Press and Public Relations Unit in the Ministry, Funmi Imuetinyan, where Adamu made the disclosure during the presentation of the 2022 Annual Flood Outlook, AFO, by the Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency, NIHSA, in Abuja. According to him, *the AFO has aided the abatement of flood risks in the country through early warnings and forecasting, and applauded the Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency for improving on its predictive capacity through the introduction of new approach to the 2022 AFO* which are designed into three respective scenarios of flood outlook for the months of April to June(AMJ); flood outlook for September to July (JAS);

and flood outlook for the months of October to November (ON) respectively. He said: “The general outlook of 2022 Annual Flood Outlook, AFO, shows that 233 local government Areas in 32 States of the Federation and FCT fall within the Highly Probable flood risk Areas, while 212 Local Government Areas in 35 States of the Federation including FCT fall within the moderately probable flood risk Areas. “The remaining 392 Local Government Areas fall within the probable flood risk Areas. (Gabriel Ewepu, 2022)

This example creates a context of governmental efforts geared towards managing flood risks in the country. Central to this context are the predictive efforts of the Nigerian Hydrological Services Agency and the annual unveiling of the flood outlook by the Ministry of Water Resources. This context evaluates the activities of both parties as authoritative sources of information and action. It also presents these parties as proactive and capable in terms of forecasting and mitigating flood risks (see the attributions of Agency to these parties in “*risks in the country through early warnings and forecasting*” “...applauded the Nigeria Hydrological Service Agency for improving...”). This representation enhances the positive image of these parties as they are presented as competent and effective in disaster management. Through the Ministry of Water Resources and NIHSA, the Nigerian government is constructed as proactive in managing flood risks. The unveiling of the 2022 AFO and its detailed predictions suggest that authorities are taking preemptive measures to address potential crises. This also reflects an ideology of scientific foresight and preparedness, positioning predictive technologies as essential in managing natural disasters. For instance, by the unveiling of the 2022 Annual Flood Outlook and the implementation of new predictive approaches (“*The introduction of new approach to the 2022 AFO*”), the media suggests a forward-thinking and more vibrant and responsive approach

to disaster management. This creates an image of evolving institutional capacity and a commitment to scientific advancement. Also, by adopting relevant official statements and detailed predictions, the media reflects the government and its agencies' transparency and willingness to communicate openly with the Nigerian populace. This amplification of the proactiveness of these agencies reinforces the government's public image as open, accountable, and innovative. This evaluation implicitly shapes the populace's perception, builds trust and legitimizes governmental actions with the broader context of environmental challenges.

4.3.3 Emphasizing Negative 'Other' Representation

Excerpt 47: Bayelsa appears to be one of the worst affected states in the year's flood, as about *seven out of the eight local government areas in the state are submerged in water*, 300 communities and villages have been totally or partially submerged in water, *700,000 persons have been displaced or affected*. *The two major entry points into the state by road from Delta and Rivers States are impassable as water has washed off most parts of the road*. *Essential goods and services cannot come into the state, creating economic and human security crises*. *Prices of goods and services have skyrocketed*. *Fuel price ranges from 550 to 750 naira in Yenagoa, the state capital, and even higher in the hinterlands*. *Footages of the lived experiences of people across the state are pathetic*. We have seen people *cooking and living on the water; some sleep on the road for lack of shelter*, and others surrender to fate and insist on living in flooded houses despite the danger. (Wealth Dickson Ominabo, 2022)

The above text creates a broader context of natural disasters' wide-reaching implications on Nigerian states, specifically flooding. Through the selection of negative descriptions and phrases

such as *partially submerged*, *displaced*, *impossible*, and *skyrocketed*, the media portrays the flood as an uncontrollable force that wreaks widespread havoc. It also critiques the unavailability and inadequacy of infrastructure in the country and the government's poor disaster preparedness. These evaluative expressions convey a sense of economic devastation and urgency by emphasizing the negative aspects of government conduct and their adverse consequences. For instance, the inadequacy of infrastructure, such as roads in the country, has disrupted trade and mobility (see: "*The two major entry points into the state... are impassable as water has washed off...*", "*Essential goods cannot come into the state...*"). This situation has resulted in shortages and spikes in prices, thereby exacerbating economic hardship. In addition to this, the flood has caused inflation and price gouging. This is expressed through descriptive expressions ("*prices of goods and services have skyrocketed*") and examples ("*fuel price ranges from 550 to 750 naira*"). This situation has strained household budgets and reduced purchasing power. Moreover, the displacement of people and loss of homes, businesses, and farmlands create a mental image of disruption to the livelihoods of many Nigerians. This situation also contributes to long-term economic instability and poverty as the victims try to find solace in roads and flooded houses. This narrative points to the severity of the human security crises and the economic and health implications of the flood. The report stresses the soaring fuel prices ("*550 to 750 naira*") and goods, linking ecological disasters directly to economic instability. This choice of details draws attention to the fragile nature of the state's economy and its dependency on external supplies. The constant destruction of roads also implies a constant and continuous economic burden on the government. Impassable roads ("*washed off most parts of the road*") and the skyrocketing prices of goods and services indicate a failure in infrastructure and governance. The lack of accessible relief ("*economic and human security crises*") indicates inefficiency in disaster response,

perpetuating public distrust. The governments are made to seek significant investment in rebuilding and improving infrastructure. The strategy underlying these evaluations is the media's amplification of the flood as more deadly than other socio-political crises in the country. By describing Bayelsa as inaccessible (*"essential goods and services cannot come into the state"*), the media portrays a state cut off from national support systems. This framing constructs Bayelsa as a victim of both environmental and systemic neglect. The fronted scale of devastation (*"700,000 persons displaced"* and *"footages of lived experiences...pathetic"*) reflects the vulnerability of marginalized communities. The description of people *"cooking and living on the water"* and *"sleeping on the road for lack of shelter"* underscores systemic inequality and lack of preparedness for such crises. This shows the ideology of inequality and marginalization. Flooding is portrayed as a catastrophic force disrupting all aspects of life in Bayelsa, showing how ecological systems can dictate human and economic conditions. The statement *"seven out of the eight local government areas... submerged in water"* conveys an overwhelming dependency on and vulnerability to nature.

Excerpt 48: The 2022 flooding was the worst in a decade, with 662 *people reported to have lost their lives while over two million were displaced*. A report by the World Weather Attribution showed that it occurred as a consequence of above-average rainfall throughout the 2022 rainy season exacerbated by shorter spikes of very heavy rain leading to flash floods as well as riverine floods and the release of the Lagdo Dam in Cameroon. *"The devastating impacts were further exacerbated by the proximity of human settlements, infrastructure (homes, buildings, bridges), and agricultural land to flood plains, underlying vulnerabilities driven by high poverty rates and socioeconomic factors (e.g.,*

gender, age, income, and education), and ongoing political and economic instability,” the report found. Nigeria’s then Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Hajiya Sadiya Umar Farouk said that the country lost between US\$3.79 billion to US\$9.12 billion in economic damage due to the flooding.... A review of the 2022 *budget* for Delta State shows that the state government *spent* more than its *budget* for flood and erosion control, yet it was a major challenge in the state. Out of N307 million (307,700,000.0) *budgeted*, the government *spent* N1.7 billion (1,724,583,173.16) in the first quarter, N22 million (22,798,277) in the second quarter, no amount for the third quarter and N958 million (958,445,569.15) in the fourth quarter, taking the total amount *spent* to 2,705,827,019.81 and *surpassing* the original *budget* with N2.3 billion (2,398,127,019.81). Between 2021 and 2022, the state government received a total of N1.4 billion as its share of the ecological fund. In January 2023, it was given another N123.2 million. Yet, *floods wreaked havoc across communities*. Out of N305 million (305,700,000) budgeted for flood and erosion control in 2023, N177.9 million (177,935,075) has already been released in the first quarter. (Arinze Chijioke, 2023)

This example situates flooding outbreaks within the country's broader socio-political and economic context. It projects and foregrounds the enormous financial allocations and expenditures for flood control and the institutional responses to the disasters. By selecting appropriate and specific budgetary figures and comparisons, the media highlights the economic strain of natural disasters. Lexical choices such as “*budget*”, “*spent*”, and “*surpassing*” provide a detailed picture of the vast resources and expenditure committed to the response to the flood and

the extent. By evaluating the very destructive effects of the 2022 flooding on human lives despite the enormous resources invested in the efforts to mitigate them, the media projects the negative representation of the government's endeavours, even proceeding to highlight the direct implications for the labour market, goods and services, productivity, and economic stability (see *"with 662 people reported to have lost their lives while over two million were displaced"*). In other words, the havoc caused by the flood has resulted in the reduction of manpower as well as agricultural produce. It has also strained public services and infrastructure. The excerpt suggests that the government and associated institutions have failed to adequately prepare for or mitigate the impacts of flooding despite significant expenditures and ecological funding. The ideological implication is that institutional inefficiency and mismanagement are partly to blame for the disaster. For example: *"Despite receiving N1.4 billion as its share of the ecological fund between 2021 and 2022 and an additional N123.2 million in January 2023, floods wreaked havoc across communities."* This statement positions the government as accountable for the poor utilization of funds, implying that structural inefficiencies exacerbate natural disasters.

Another negative implication of the flood is over-expenditure and reactive planning. Through the comparison strategy, the media evaluates the budgetary implications of the flood, such as creating a significant over-expenditure; that is, there is the reallocation from other budgetary areas, thus negatively impacting other developmental and infrastructural projects. Moreover, the proximity of human settlements, infrastructure and farmland to flood plains implies widespread economic damage, i.e. there is damage to food security, local economics and rebuilding substantial efforts, as well as high poverty rates and socio-economic vulnerabilities. Implicitly, the sole aim of this evaluation is to emphasize the negative attributes of the government and call for integrated socio-political and economic policies that address the

negative implications of natural disasters in the country. The excerpt highlights how poverty and socioeconomic inequalities amplify the devastating effects of flooding. For instance: “*The devastating impacts were further exacerbated by the proximity of human settlements, infrastructure... to flood plains, underlying vulnerabilities driven by high poverty rates and socioeconomic factors (e.g., gender, age, income, and education).*” Here, the ideology suggests that marginalized groups disproportionately suffer from environmental crises due to systemic neglect and inadequate support systems.

Excerpt 49: The 2022 floods in various parts of Nigeria led to an estimated economic loss of \$9.12bn (N4.2tn as at Friday’s official exchange rate of N460.78/\$), the Federal Government announced on Friday. It said this was revealed after a post-disaster assessment on the 2022 flooding, as the report on this was released in Abuja by the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development. Presenting the report, the humanitarian minister, Sadiya Farouq, said the objective of the Global Rapid Damage Estimation Note, developed by the World Bank’s Disaster-Resilience Analytics and Solutions team, was to assess the economic impact of the June – November 2022 floods across the country. She said the GRADE assessment gave an overview of the nature of the flood disaster and its impact across Nigeria as well as sectoral and state-by-state effects critical for planning. On some of the key findings of the flood assessment, the report stated that all the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory were affected by the 2022 flood in Nigeria with varying degrees of damages and people affected. It read in part, “This analysis estimates that *the total direct economic damages*, based on currently reported statistics as of

November 25, 2022, are in the *range of \$3.79bn to \$9.12bn*, with the best (median) estimate at \$6.68bn. *“This includes damages to residential and non-residential buildings (including building contents), as well as damages to infrastructure, productive sectors and to cropland.”* (Okechukwu Nnodim, 2023)

The above text underscores the country's severe economic implications of the 2022 flood outbreak. From the Federal government's evaluation of the disaster, multiple sectors of the society are affected by the extent of the economic damage caused by the flood. It includes infrastructure, productive sectors, farmland, and economic losses. This evaluation is reinforced through the selection of quantitative data and specific figures to project the estimated economic and financial loss and varying degrees of economic and infrastructural damage. Using exact figures and ranges constructs the flooding as a significant economic event: *“The total direct economic damages... are in the range of \$3.79bn to \$9.12bn, with the best (median) estimate at \$6.68bn.”* *“The 2022 floods in various parts of Nigeria led to an estimated economic loss of \$9.12bn (N4.2tn).”* These numbers are used to evoke the large scale and severity of the disaster, emphasizing the financial toll on infrastructure, agriculture, and housing. By anchoring the narrative economically, the media constructs the floods as a financial and developmental challenge rather than a purely environmental or humanitarian issue. This figure is economic in that the losses include damage to the country's buildings, infrastructure, farmland, and other productive sectors. The damage to infrastructure suggests a long-term economic challenge as the government will be involved in repairing and rebuilding damaged infrastructure. This will, however, require substantial financial allocation and consequently affect budgetary allocations for the successful implementation of other development projects. Also, the damage caused to the productive sectors can result in reduced economic activity, loss of jobs, unemployment, and

poverty and exacerbate already existing economic challenges. The excerpt embeds the ideology that natural disasters are not just environmental phenomena but are deeply tied to socioeconomic systems. For example: “*This includes damages to residential and non-residential buildings... as well as damages to infrastructure, productive sectors, and to cropland.*” This discourse positions the floods as a systemic issue, affecting the nation's economic and social fabric, and calls for integrated disaster management strategies. The use of quantitative data and the highlighting of the extent and long-term effects of the flood disaster on the nation's economic fabric serves to amplify the negative representation of the government. Thus, the media portrayal of the 2022 flood outbreak is an implicit critique of infrastructure vulnerability, poor planning and poor flood management.

Excerpt 50: Presenting the report on Friday in Abuja, the Minister, Sadiya Umar Farouq said that *the objective of the Global Rapid Damage Estimation Note, developed by the World Bank’s Disaster-Resilience Analytics and Solutions team, was to assess the economic impact of the June-November 2022 floods in the country. She said that the GRADE assessment gives an overview of the nature of the flood disaster and its impact across Nigeria as well as sectoral and State-by-State effects critical for planning.... According to the Key findings of the GRADE report, all the 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory were affected by the 2022 flood in Nigeria with varying degrees of damages and people affected. “This analysis estimates that the total direct economic damages, based on currently reported statistics as of November 25th are in the range of US\$3.79 billion to US\$9.12 billion with the best (median) estimate at US\$6.68 billion. This includes damages to residential and non-residential buildings (including building*

contents), as well as damages to infrastructure, productive sectors and to cropland”. *The Minister explained that the number of persons affected rose above 4.9 million as of November 25th, 2022, with significant damage to infrastructure including roads, irrigation, and river infrastructure as well as WASH and electricity infrastructure with around \$1.23 billion (\$0.959-\$1.724 billion) in damage expected.* Umar Farouq called on the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) to utilize the GRADE Assessment to plan the recovery and rehabilitation of victims of the flood as well as the responding MDAs in Federal, States and Local Governments to also use the report to *ameliorate the plight of victims* of the 2022 flood. (Chimezie Godfrey, 2023)

The text presents the Minister, Sadiya Umar Farouq, in a positive light, showing her role in presenting the report on the flood’s economic impact. The government’s response is portrayed as proactive, with the Minister calling on the NCFRMI to utilize the GRADE assessment for the recovery and rehabilitation of flood victims. The text emphasizes the scale of the disaster, stating that all 36 states and the FCT were affected, with over 4.9 million people affected (*all the 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory were affected by the 2022 flood in Nigeria with varying degrees of damages and people affected*). The details on the damage to infrastructure, the productive sectors, and farmland suggest the severity of the impact on the victims. The text portrays the victims as needing assistance and rehabilitation, with the Minister calling for government agencies to use the report to “*ameliorate the plight of victims.*” The text states that the total direct economic damage is estimated to be US\$3.79 billion to US\$9.12 billion, with a best (median) estimate of US\$6.68 billion. This includes residential and non-residential

buildings, infrastructure, productive sectors, and farmland damage. Infrastructure, such as roads, irrigation, river infrastructure, WASH, and electricity infrastructure, is predicted to sustain damage of about \$1.23 billion (\$0.959-\$1.724 billion), as indicated in the text. By focusing on monetary losses, the media shifts the discourse from environmental and social consequences to economic implications, framing the floods as a developmental setback. This frames the disaster regarding its damage to critical infrastructure, which can have far-reaching implications for the affected communities, disrupt essential services and hinder economic recovery. This framing has the effect of evaluating the flood and the effort of the government, such that the negative representation of the government is amplified. The Minister's call for the NCFRMI and other government agencies to use the GRADE assessment for recovery and rehabilitation efforts suggests the need for substantial government intervention and funding to support the affected communities. The magnitude of the harm in terms of monetary losses and the number of impacted individuals underscores the substantial obstacles and resources needed for the process of recovery. The reliance on the World Bank's GRADE assessment emphasizes the low level of locally developed and culturally more effective strategies of self-sustenance and self-sufficiency. To illustrate, "*The objective of the Global Rapid Damage Estimation Note, developed by the World Bank's Disaster-Resilience Analytics and Solutions team, was to assess the economic impact.*" This reflects an ideology of dependence on foreign aid and suggests that local systems and expertise may lack the capacity to independently address the magnitude of the disaster for a long time.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

The findings are discussed in alignment with the objectives and research questions.

The research data analysis has shown that the media employs a range of discursive strategies in its reporting of the flood discourse, aiming to shape public perception and influence narratives about the disaster. The prominent strategies are actor description, argumentation, and evaluation.

1. (a) Actor description

Under the broad heading of actor description, several other discursive strategies are deployed. One of these is identity framing, where social actors such as government agencies, flood victims, and officials are represented in specific ways to evoke desired reactions which are either positive or critical, as is the case with the Delta State government and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) respectively. The portrayal of these actors shapes how individuals perceive the competence and responsiveness of these groups, influencing trust and accountability. Also, identity framing is deployed to construct narratives of victimhood and resilience while emphasising systemic failures and neglect.

Another key strategy is the use of labelling, where words like “empathetic,” “proactive,” and “negligent” are carefully selected to frame the narrative. Positive terms are associated with proactive actors, while negative terms criticise perceived inefficiencies. In addition, emotive

language such as “vulnerable victims” and “devastating impact” is employed to elicit sympathy and reveal the urgency of the situation. These choices, combined with contrastive framing, compare the actions of different agencies to emphasise disparities. For instance, the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) is praised for its efficiency and foresight, while NEMA is criticized for its delayed and inadequate responses.

Blame transfer and victim playing also play significant roles in the media’s framing of the flood discourse. Federal, state, and local governments strategically shift responsibility to one another. The Federal Government (FG) often blames state and local governments for failing to heed warnings and act proactively, with statements like “states, local governments, and communities appear not to take heed.” Conversely, state governments such as Bayelsa and Benue portray themselves as victims of federal neglect, highlighting their geographical vulnerabilities and inadequate federal support. This blame game deflects accountability while justifying calls for increased intervention.

Omission and concealment are other discursive strategies employed within the actor description framework to shape narratives. Positive stories often emphasize successes, such as the release of “12,000 metric tons of food commodities” by the FG, while omitting challenges like funding constraints or inter-agency conflicts. By selectively highlighting or excluding certain aspects, the media creates a narrative that aligns with specific agendas or interests. Additionally, narrativisation is used to recount past and present flood events in chronological order, linking incidents from 2012 to 2022 and illustrating the escalating severity of the disaster. Comparisons between floods, such as the 2012 and 2022 events, underscore the worsening nature of the crisis, reinforcing the need for urgent and sustained intervention.

Finally, the media employs solidarity and shared responsibility through the manipulative use of pro-nominals as framing devices. The use of inclusive pronouns like “we” and “our” fosters a sense of unity between the government, agencies, and citizens, emphasizing collective responsibility in addressing the crisis. At the same time, victim narratives highlight the plight of affected individuals and communities, portraying them as vulnerable yet deserving of support. These narratives appeal to national solidarity and underscore the need for government accountability.

1. (b) Argumentation

Within this framework, such discursive strategies as narrativization and comparison, disclaimers, as well as exemplification and evidentiality are employed.

Narrativisation is used, for instance, at the Edo State House Plenary to project the socio-economic issues of flooding across the State and call for more enduring rather than cosmetic measures to address them. This is achieved essentially through narratives and stories of previous disasters. In the media reportage of the flood incidence in Makurdi, Benue State, comparison is used to assess the extent and effect of different flood incidents across the years of 2102, 2017, 2019, and 2022.

Disclaimers are also deployed as an argumentation strategy by the media in the 2022 flood discourse as in the case of Comrade Morris Alagoa of the Environmental Right Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria (ERA/FoEN) disclaiming the statement of the Federal Government regarding the causes of the 2022 flood crisis with his skeptical and critical assessment of the statement.

The media also relies heavily on exemplification and evidentiality to ground its narratives in factual evidence. Reports often cite statistics such as “603 deaths,” “2.5 million people

affected,” and “332,327 hectares of farmland damaged” to emphasize the scale of the disaster. These figures provide tangible evidence of the flood’s impact, enhancing the credibility of the reports while helping audiences visualize the extent of the crisis. Similarly, personal narratives strengthen emotional appeals, such as the accounts of displaced individuals and communities. These stories personalize the crisis, fostering readers' empathy and a sense of urgency.

1.(c) Evaluation

In the reportage of the 2022 flood crisis, the media equally use evaluative expressions, which mainly involve blame attribution, emotive language, and objective statistical evaluation; amplification of ineptitude, proactiveness/reactiveness, and victimhood; and emphasizing negative ‘other’ representation.

In its response to the claims of the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development as regards the Federal Government’s efforts to deal with the flood crisis, for example, the media uses statistical data and evaluative descriptions such as *The number of those displaced nationwide is 1,302,589* to underscore the magnitude of the economic damage caused by the floods and based on it attribute blame for the flood tragedy to the Federal Government. The media also deploys the strategy of amplifying the ineptitude of the government through the use of emotive expressions, inundating the public with numbing figures of death and destruction, as well as projecting the government’s over-reliance on foreign aid. In the same vein, there is the deployment of the negative ‘other’ representation involving the Federal Government through the deliberate selection of negative descriptions and phrases such as *submerged, displaced, impossible and skyrocketed* in presenting the plight of the victims while by the same token consciously highlighting the negative aspects of governance. Other strategies used here include the reiteration of the unavailability of social infrastructure and the emphasis on

the severity of the socio-economic crisis attending the flood disaster. All of these serve the sole purpose of emphasizing the negative attributes of the government in order to create a sense of urgency regarding the situation and thereby attract immediate and adequate attention to the issues.

2. The discourse surrounding the flood crisis in Nigeria reveals several indications of power play among social actors, highlighting dynamics of authority, dependency, and contestation. One prominent indication is the dominance of the Federal Government (FG) over state governments, underscoring a top-down governance structure. State governments are depicted as reliant on federal intervention to manage large-scale disasters, evidenced by statements such as “the governors of Delta, Bayelsa, Kogi, Anambra, and Benue states appealed to the Federal Government.” This reliance highlights the limited capacity of state governments to address crises independently, reinforcing the centrality of federal authority. However, the FG’s portrayal as “overwhelmed by the situation” also positions it as a victim of uncontrollable forces like climate change, mitigating criticisms of inefficiency.

Power dynamics are further evident in the blame-shifting strategies employed by different levels of governance. The FG often attributes responsibility to state and local governments, accusing them of failing to heed warnings and take proactive measures. Statements like “states, local governments, and communities appear not to take heed” reflect this tactic, emphasizing the FG’s role as a guiding authority. Conversely, state governments such as Bayelsa and Benue deflect accountability by emphasizing geographical vulnerabilities and insufficient federal support. These states often portray themselves as victims of marginalization, with governors calling for national emergency declarations to shift responsibility to the FG while justifying their administrative limitations.

Institutional power is another significant aspect of the discourse, particularly in the roles of agencies like the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET). NEMA is positioned as a central actor in disaster management, but its perceived inefficiency is frequently criticized by state governments and the media. This critique exposes tensions between federal agencies and state actors, with NEMA portrayed as reactive and focused on temporary relief rather than long-term solutions. In contrast, NIMET receives praise for its accuracy and proactive warnings, creating a dichotomy in the public perception of federal agencies. The media's role in amplifying these critiques underscores its power to challenge institutional authority and influence public discourse.

Intra-state power struggles also emerge within the discourse, particularly between legislative and executive arms of government. For instance, the Edo State House of Assembly criticizes the state executive for its focus on short-term relief measures, projecting itself as more committed to long-term solutions. This contest for authority and public favour reflects the fragmented nature of governance at the state level. Similarly, traditional rulers and local communities assert their voices, challenging centralized narratives and highlighting systemic neglect. By emphasizing grassroots perspectives, these actors disrupt the top-down power structure and draw attention to localized impacts of flooding.

The role of international influence further complicates power dynamics. Delta State's proactive engagement with the World Bank-backed Nigeria Erosion and Watershed Management Project (NEWMAP) demonstrates its ability to leverage global resources. This contrasts with its reliance on federal agencies like NEMA for immediate interventions, revealing a nuanced balance between local autonomy and external dependency. The inclusion of international

organizations in the discourse underscores Nigeria's reliance on global expertise and funding, framing these actors as indispensable in addressing systemic challenges.

Additionally, the media's role in shaping narratives highlights its influence on the power play among social actors. By critiquing NEMA's inefficiency and praising NIMET's effectiveness, the media challenges institutional accountability and reshapes public perceptions of governance. The media also amplifies victim narratives and grassroots advocacy, creating a counterbalance to government authority. Personal stories of displaced individuals and critiques from advocacy groups, such as accusations of federal neglect in the Niger Delta, expose socio-political inequalities and reinforce calls for systemic change.

The interplay between government representatives and citizens further illustrates power dynamics. The government asserts its authority through evacuation orders and warnings, positioning itself as a decision-maker while portraying citizens as passive recipients of directives. However, this hierarchical relationship is challenged by citizens and advocacy groups, who highlight systemic failures in urban planning and infrastructure development. Blame attribution to citizens for actions like blocking drains with waste shifts attention away from governmental inadequacies, reinforcing existing power imbalances.

3. The discourse surrounding the flood crisis reveals multiple ideologies that shape the interactions of social actors, reflecting broader societal values, governance principles, and systemic challenges. A prominent ideology underpinning these interactions is state-led humanitarianism, where governments and agencies are portrayed as morally obligated to provide relief to vulnerable populations. This is evident in actions such as the Delta State government's provision of health insurance as a "humanitarian gesture," reinforcing the narrative of a benevolent state that prioritizes the welfare of its citizens. These representations frame

governmental intervention as a moral imperative, underscoring the responsibility of authorities to alleviate human suffering.

Equity and inclusivity also emerge as central ideologies, particularly in the discourse surrounding the Niger Delta and other flood-prone regions. The media and advocacy groups emphasize the unique vulnerabilities of these areas, advocating for fairness in resource allocation and disaster response. This equity-driven narrative calls attention to the systemic neglect of certain regions and demands tailored solutions to address their specific needs, highlighting the broader societal expectation of fairness in governance.

The discourse reflects an ideology of efficiency versus corruption, where proactive and competent bodies, such as the World Bank-backed Nigeria Erosion and Watershed Management Project (NEWMAP) and the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET), are juxtaposed against perceived inefficiencies in the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and certain state executives. This contrast underscores a societal demand for better governance, accountability, and transparency in disaster management. The recurring critique of NEMA's inefficiency and the praise for NIMET's accuracy reflect the public's growing disillusionment with ineffective institutions and a preference for organizations that prioritize long-term, sustainable solutions.

A recurring dependency ideology positions flood victims as helpless and reliant on government or international aid, reinforcing the power and authority of those providing support. Victims are portrayed as economically and socially vulnerable, dependent on external interventions to rebuild their lives. This narrative underscores the systemic failure to empower communities with the resources and infrastructure needed to mitigate disaster risks

independently. At the same time, this dependency is framed as a necessity, given the scale of the crisis and the lack of preparedness at local levels.

The focus on climate change introduces an ideology of global interdependence, situating Nigeria's flooding within a broader, internationally recognized environmental crisis. By linking the floods to external factors such as the release of water from Cameroon's Lagdo Dam and global climate trends, the discourse shifts some responsibility away from governance failures to external and shared global challenges. This framing creates a narrative of collective responsibility and highlights the interconnectedness of environmental and governance issues, emphasizing the need for international collaboration in addressing these crises.

An ideology of proactive governance is also evident, promoting long-term planning and strategic approaches as the ideal model for disaster management. Delta State's SMART agenda and calls for infrastructure development, such as the dredging of the River Niger and completion of the Dasin Hausa Dam, are highlighted as examples of forward-thinking leadership. These narratives critique the short-termism of relief measures and advocate for sustainable solutions that address the root causes of flooding, positioning proactive governance as the hallmark of responsible leadership.

The discourse further reflects an ideology of regional marginalization, with states like Bayelsa and Benue emphasizing neglect by the Federal Government (FG). These states argue that regions like the Niger Delta are disproportionately affected by flooding but receive less attention and resources compared to regions like the Northeast. This narrative draws attention to systemic inequalities and calls for more equitable governance, challenging the FG's dominance in resource allocation and decision-making.

At the same time, an ideology of centralized authority emerges, with the FG portrayed as the primary actor responsible for disaster management. This ideology perpetuates a hierarchical governance structure where state governments and local actors depend on federal resources and decisions. However, this centralization is critiqued for inefficiencies, as federal agencies like NEMA are often blamed for delayed or inadequate responses.

The media also reinforces an ideology of resilience and victimhood, portraying flood victims as hardworking individuals who, despite systemic failures, strive to overcome adversity. This framing aligns with broader calls for government accountability and solidarity in addressing disasters, emphasizing the resilience of affected communities while highlighting the systemic neglect that exacerbates their plight.

Finally, the discourse reveals an ideology of collective responsibility embedded in the use of inclusive language such as “we” and “our,” which aims to unite governments, agencies, and citizens under a shared sense of purpose. However, this collective narrative is juxtaposed with implicit critiques of previous administrations and systemic failures, highlighting tensions between shared responsibility and individual accountability.

4. Language serves as a powerful tool in constructing narratives, shaping public perception, and influencing discourse surrounding the flood crisis. It is employed by various actors, including the media, government officials, and advocacy groups, to evoke emotional responses, assign responsibility, and mobilize support for interventions. Through strategic lexical choices and rhetorical devices, language shapes how the public perceives the scale of the disaster, the role of different stakeholders, and the urgency of proposed solutions.

One way language shapes narratives is by constructing authority and credibility. Titles and formal designations such as “Director-General” or “Program Officer” lend legitimacy to the

voices of government officials and institutional representatives. The use of direct quotes from these authorities reinforces their expertise and positions them as reliable sources of information. Similarly, quantitative data, such as statistics on displaced populations or destroyed farmlands, adds an air of objectivity to the discourse. For instance, figures like “50 daily alerts” or “over 100 communities affected” help frame the crisis as severe and warranting immediate attention. This strategic use of language creates a perception of accountability and structured governance, even as it may mask systemic inefficiencies.

Language also frames narratives through selective focus, guiding public interpretation of the flood crisis. Phrases such as “unprecedented disaster” and “worst-ever flood” emphasize the magnitude of the crisis, creating a sense of urgency. Positive framing of governmental interventions, such as President Buhari’s approval of relief materials or Delta State’s proactive health insurance scheme, casts the government as a compassionate and capable actor. Conversely, critiques of agencies like NEMA, described as providing “paltry sums” or failing to prepare adequately, highlight inefficiencies and shift public opinion toward skepticism. This selective framing not only informs but also influences the way audiences assess the effectiveness of various stakeholders.

Emotive language plays a central role in eliciting empathy and fostering solidarity. Words and phrases like “destroyed homes and livelihoods” and “sacked from their communities” humanize the crisis, drawing attention to the plight of flood victims. Figurative expressions, such as “The water chased us out,” amplify the emotional impact of the disaster and underscore its disruptive nature. Inclusive pronouns like “we” and “our” create a sense of unity and collective responsibility, suggesting that governments, agencies, and citizens are partners in addressing the

crisis. Conversely, exclusive pronouns such as “they” and “them” are used to delineate lines of blame and accountability, often targeting perceived negligent actors or indifferent institutions.

Power dynamics and blame narratives are also reinforced through language. Phrases such as “urgently needed federal intervention” underscore the hierarchical dependency of state governments on federal resources. The media’s critique of governance failures, using terms like “poor urban planning” and “government neglect,” shifts responsibility to authorities while advocating for systemic reform. At the same time, narratives that highlight citizens’ actions, such as “refusing relocation” or “ignoring flood warnings,” reflect subtle victim-blaming ideologies. These narratives deflect attention from institutional shortcomings and place some responsibility on affected populations.

Language amplifies the scale and urgency of the crisis through the use of numerical and temporal markers. References to displaced people destroyed infrastructure and economic losses lend credibility to reports and emphasize the widespread impact of flooding. Time markers, such as “four decades have passed,” underscore the recurring nature of the problem, framing it as a systemic issue that requires long-term solutions. Metaphors and temporal framing further dramatize the disaster’s impact, creating a heightened sense of urgency for action.

Furthermore, language links local flood issues to global challenges, establishing ideological alignment. Terms like “environmental degradation” and “global interdependence” frame floods as part of broader international phenomena, such as climate change. This framing shifts some responsibility from local governance to external factors, suggesting the need for collaborative solutions at both local and global levels. By aligning the flood crisis with international priorities, this narrative positions local governments within a broader context of environmental responsibility and shared accountability.

The discourse balances critique with advocacy through strategic linguistic choices. While some narratives emphasize governmental shortcomings, such as inadequate preparedness or corruption, others highlight proactive measures like the SMART agenda or interventions by organizations such as NEWMAP. Modal verbs like “will” and phrases like “engaging professionals” suggest forward-looking approaches, offering hope and emphasizing potential solutions. This balance between critique and advocacy ensures that the flood discourse is not purely critical but also constructive and solution-oriented.

Personal stories and direct quotes from flood victims add a human dimension to the discourse, fostering emotional connections between audiences and those affected. Accounts such as Onya and Mrs Ogbotobo provide tangible examples of the crisis’s impact, making the narrative relatable and compelling. By showcasing resilience alongside vulnerability, these stories portray victims as deserving of support while highlighting their agency in overcoming adversity. This humanizing element strengthens calls for collective action and reinforces the urgency of addressing the crisis.

Contrastive descriptions further shape public perception by comparing the performance of different agencies. For example, NIMET is often praised for its accurate predictions, while NEMA is criticized for delayed responses. Such comparisons influence public trust in institutions and highlight the need for reforms in disaster management practices.

CHAPTER SIX

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

6.1 Summary

This study analyzed the linguistic strategies employed in the 2022 Nigerian flooding reports to show how language was used to construct and disseminate information, shape public understanding, and influence opinions and attitudes. The objectives of the study include the examination of the use of language and identification of the discursive elements used by the different actors to frame identities, perspectives and positions; the investigation of the linguistic strategies used to convey urgency and empathy; the analysis of the power dynamics at play, and the unveiling of the underlying ideologies present in the reports.

The study focused on the States affected by the 2022 flooding, including Delta, Edo, Bayelsa, Ebonyi, Kogi, Anambra, Benue, Rivers, Akwa Ibom and Abuja. The data collected spanned from August 2022 to May 2023. It employed a qualitative approach, using van Dijk's socio-cognitive theory in discourse analysis to examine various sources, such as news articles, official statements, press releases, and reports from various organizations.

It specifically analysed the deployment of discursive strategies under the broad headings of actor description, argumentation and evaluation in identity framing, victim playing, and blame transfer amongst others. The study further examined the use of narrativization, comparison, disclaimers, exemplification, and evidentiality to shape public perception, shift blame, and advocate for comprehensive, long-term solutions. The media's representation of the economic implications of the flood disaster underscores the severe impact on Nigeria's ecological and economic systems, urging policymakers and the public to recognize the dire consequences of natural disasters and the need for integrated socio-political and economic policies.

The analysis revealed a nuanced representation of the government's response, with the media highlighting the government's efforts in providing relief along with its shortcomings in proactive flood management. The media also constructed the victims as vulnerable and disadvantaged, emphasizing the emotional, psychological, and cultural impact of the disaster on their lives.

6.2 Conclusion

The way the government and the victims are portrayed in the media representation of the flood catastrophe demonstrates a complex and multidimensional strategy. This involves the deployment of specific discursive strategies such as actor description, argumentation and evaluation, which also entailed the application of such other strategies as identity framing, the manipulative use of pronouns, victim playing and blame transfer. Others include narrativization and comparison, disclaimers, exemplification and evidentiality, blame attribution, emotive language and objective statistical evaluation, amplification of victimhood and emphasizing negative "other" representation.

The media is not simply presenting a binary narrative but delving into the complex power dynamics, structural constraints, and socioeconomic and cultural factors that shape the experiences of the various stakeholders involved. This critical analysis allows the audience to engage with the flood disaster's multifaceted nature and diverse perspectives.

In addition, the analysis reveals how these discursive strategies work in tandem to shape the audience's understanding of the flood crisis in Nigeria. The narratives, disclaimers, and use of examples/evidence criticize the government's response, evoke empathy and urgency, and advocate for more proactive and permanent solutions. The ideological effects of these strategies are to hold the government accountable, manipulate public perception, and influence policy decisions.

Further, the media's analysis of the economic consequences of the flood disaster paints a sobering picture of the vulnerabilities and systemic challenges within Nigeria's ecological and economic systems. This representation aims to spur collective action, drive policy reforms, and encourage investment in disaster preparedness and resilience-building measures to mitigate the devastating impacts of future flood events.

In conclusion, these results show how the media significantly influenced how the general population saw and comprehended the government's response to the Nigerian flood crisis in 2022. It is possible to properly convey the significance of language in creating and sustaining social identities as well as its potential influence on public policy decisions by examining the tactics used in the media's portrayal of the government. Multifaceted and varied, the media's portrayal of the Nigerian government's response to the flood catastrophe reflects the intricate power relations, institutional limitations, and political strategy used by the government. The media's critical examination of these issues allows the audience to engage with the multifaceted nature of the government's role and responsibilities in the context of the flood crisis.

6.3 Recommendations

On the basis of this study, the following recommendations are presented.

1. The role of manipulative language techniques such as pronoun usage and emotive language in influencing public perception and shaping identities should be further analysed.
2. There should be an examination of the pragmatic implications of language choices, such as narrativization and comparison, in reflecting power dynamics and structural constraints in crisis reporting.

3. An analysis of how identity framing and representation of “otherness” contribute to the ideological positioning of the media should be encouraged.
4. There should be further investigation of how the linguistic portrayal of systemic challenges and vulnerabilities in the media drives policy discussions and public discourse.

By focusing on these areas, a language study can unveil the particular ways that media discourse impacts public understanding and social dynamics during crises.

Works Cited

“2022 Flood Caused N4.2trn Economics Loss To Nigeria-FG”. *The Tide*, 30 January 2023,

<https://www.thetidenewsonline.com/2023/01/2022-flood-caused-n4-2trn-economic-loss-to-nigeria-fg/>.

“Flood Months: Tensions in Kano, Lagos, Delta, Edo, Jigawa, Nigeria, others as 18 states shun warnings”. *Vanguard*, 25 September 2022, <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/09/flood-month-tensions-in-kano-lagos-delta-edo-jigawa-niger-others-as-18-states-shun-warnings/>.

“Floods Affect Millions Every Year.” *United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction*.

www.undrr.org/disaster-data/floods-affect-millions-every-year.

“Nigeria Battling Floods 'Beyond Control' as warning given of dams overflowing.” *The Guardian*, 19 Sept. 2022, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/sep/19/nigeria-battling-worst-floods-in-a-decade-with-more-than-300-people-killed-in-2022>.

“Nigeria Flood Disaster: Damages, Losses Estimated at \$9.6bn.” *The Punch*, 27 May 2013, www.punchng.com/news/nigeria-flood-disaster-damages-losses-estimated-at-9-6bn.

“Nigeria Flooding Devastates Millions.” *National Geographic*, www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/nigeria-flooding-devastates-millions.

“Nigeria: 2022 Flood Worse Than COVID-19 Pandemic, Says FG.” *The Guardian*, www.guardian.ng/news/nigeria-2022-flood-worse-than-covid-19-pandemic-says-fg/. Accessed 4 Nov. 2024.

“Perennial Flooding in Communities: Edo State Assembly Seeks Lasting Solution.” *Voice of Nigeria*, 12 Oct. 2023. www.von.gov.ng/perennial-flooding-in-communities-edo-state-assembly-seeks-lasting-solution/.

Adedeji, Isaac A., and Kabiru K. Salami. “Health Risks and Healthcare Delivery in Flood Disaster Affected Communities in Southwest Nigeria.” *Scholars Journal of Applied Medical Sciences (SJAMS)*, vol. 8, no. 4, 2020, pp. 992–1004, <http://www.saspublisher.com/journal-details.php?jid=246>.

Adelekan, Ibidun O. “Vulnerability of Poor Urban Coastal Communities to Flooding in Lagos, Nigeria.” *Environment and Urbanization*, vol. 22, no. 2, 2010, pp. 433–450.

Adeleke, Ayoola. "FLOODING: Edo Receives Relief Materials from NEMA". *Platinum News*, 31 October 2022, <https://platinumnewsng.com/flooding-edo-receives-relief-materials-from-nema/>.

Aguiyi, Godswill. "Tackling the Problem of Flooding in Nigeria." *This Day*, 25 Oct. 2022, www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2022/10/25/tackling-the-problem-of-flooding-in-nigeria/.

Agwuocha, Ugomma Anaekperechi, et al. "Ecolinguistic Analysis of Flood Representations in Select Nigerian Print Media Reports: The Conceptual Metaphor Approach." *International Journal of Social Science and Humanities Research*, vol. 11, no. 2, 2023, pp. 101–112. <https://www.researchpublish.com/journal-details.php?jid=2348-3164>.

Ahon, Festus, et. al. "Floods: Delta, Kogi, Anambra, Benue govs cry to FG for help". *Vanguard*, 19 Oct. 2022, <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/10/flood-delta-kogi-anambra-benue-govs-cry-to-fg-for-help/>.

Ahon, Festus, Ochuku Akuopha. "Flood: Woman, boy swept away in Delta, road cut off." *Vanguard*, 9 Oct. 2022, <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/10/flood-woman-boy-swept-away-in-delta-road-cut-off/>.

Ajibade, Idowu, and Gordon McBean. "Climate Extremes and Housing Rights: A Political Ecology of Impacts, Early Warning and Adaptation Constraints in Lagos Slum Communities." *Geoforum*, vol. 55, 2014, pp. 76–86.

Akanle, Olayinka, and G. S. Adejare et al. "Ethnography of Flooding in Ibadan Metropolis, Nigeria: Agencies of Flooding in Developing Countries." *Ibadan Journal of Sociology*, vol. 2, 2015, pp. 5–15, <http://www.ibadanjournalofsociology.org/index.php/lbj/article/view/6>.

Akingbolu, Raheen. "ECSDI Raises alarm over flood ordeal by Edo state from Lagdo Dam."

This Day, 26 Sept. 2023, <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2023/09/26/ecsdi-raise-alarm-over-flood-ordeal-faced-by-edo-state-from-lagdo-dam/>.

Akinrefon, Depo, et al. "Floods: Panic as corpses float in Bayelsa, Delta cemeteries." *Vanguard*, 18 Oct. 2022, <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/10/floods-panic-as-corpses-float-in-bayelsa-delta-cemetries/>.

Akintola, Kehind. "Humanitarian Affairs Minister visits Bayelsa, Delta over flooding." *Tribune*, 16 Nov. 2022, <https://tribuneonlineng.com/humanitarian-affairs-minister-visits-bayelsa-delta-over-flooding/>.

Akpede Benedicta. "How floods damaged Delta community caused starvation." *Premium Times*, 12 Jan. 2023, <https://www.premiumtimes.com/regional/south-south-regional/575148-how-floods-damaged-delta-community-caused-starvation.html?+2tc=1>.

Amadi, Luke, and Mac Ogonor, C. U. "Climate Change, Environmental Security and Displacement in Nigeria: Experience from the Niger Delta Flood Disaster, 2012." *Africa Journal of Environmental Science and Technology*, vol. 9, no. 3, 2015, pp. 216–231, <http://www.academicjournals.org/AJEST>.

Amaize, Emma, et al. "Ecological Funds: Don't Politicise flood, Akwa Ibom, Delta tell FG." *Vanguard*, 24 Oct. 2022, <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/10/ecological-funds-dont-politicise-flood-akwa-ibom-delta-tell-fg/>.

Aung, Khin Thandar, et al. "Health and Flood: Hidden Dangers and Challenges of Flood Disaster." *Scholars Journal of Applied Medical Sciences*, vol. 5, no. 12, 2017, pp. 5197-5199.

- Chijioke, Arinze. "FEATURE: Untold story of Delta communities where flood submerged houses, destroyed livelihoods (Part 2)". *Ripples Nigeria*, 3 Sept. 2023, <https://www.ripplesnigeria.com/feature-untold-story-of-delta-communities-where-flood-submerged-houses-destroyed-livelihoods-part-2/>.
- Creswell, John W., et al. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*. 5th ed., Sage P, 2018, pp. 210.
- Dalil, M., and N. H. Mohammad et al. "An Assessment of Flood Vulnerability on Physical Development along Drainage Channels in Minna, Niger State, Nigeria." *African Journal of Environment Science and Technology*, vol. 9, no. 1, 2015, pp. 38–46.
- Daniel, Dabara Ibrahim, and Rueben Juji Gummie et al. "Analysis of the Relationships of Urbanization Dynamics and Incidences of Urban Flood Disaster in Gombe Metropolis, Nigeria." *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa*, vol. 14, no. 2, 2012, pp. 272–288, https://jsdafrica.com/Jsda/Vol14No2_Summer2012_Special_Issue/PDF/Daniel_Dabara_Gummie.pdf.
- Dornyei, Zoltan. *Research Methods in Applied Linguistics: Quantitative, Qualitative, and Mixed Methodologies*. Oxford U P, 2007, pp. 24, 38.
- Ebuzoeme, Ogechukwu Divine-Favour. "Evaluating the Effects of Flooding in Six Communities in Awka Anambra State of Nigeria." *Environment and Earth Science*, vol. 5, no. 4, 2015, <https://iiste.org/Journals/index.php/ESS/article/view/22036>.
- Echendu, Jane Adaku. "Nigeria has flooding challenge: here's why and what can be done." *Queen's Gazette*, 5 Nov. 2021, <https://www.queensu.ca/gazette/stories/nigeria-has-flooding-challenge-here-s-why-and-what-can-be-done>.

- Enogholase, Gabriel. "EDO: Flood's coming, relocate upland now." *Vanguard*, 28 Aug. 2022, <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/08/edo-floods-comijg-relocate-upland-now/>.
- Erunke, Joseph. "Nigeria not safe yet says FG after floods claim 603 lives." *Vanguard*, 16 Oct. 2022, <https://www.vanguardng/.com/2022/10/nigeria-not-safe-yet-says-fg-after-flood-claim-603-lives/>.
- Ewepu, Gabriel. "High flooding to hit 233 LGAs in 32 states, FCT-Adamu." *Vanguard*, 14 May 2022, <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/10/flood-to-hit-233-lgas-in-32-states-fct-adamu/>.
- Ezeokoli, F. O., and P. U. Okoye et al. "The Upshot of the 2012 Flooding on Structural Components and Fabrics of Buildings at Ogbaru, Anambra State Nigeria." *American Journal of Civil Engineering and Architecture*, vol. 3, no. 4, 2015, pp. 129–136, <http://pubs.sciepub.com/ajcea/3/4/3>.
- Fairclough, Norman. *Discourse and Social Change*. Polity P, 2001.
- Ganiyu, Mutiu Adekunle, and Awan Ismail et al. "Effective Media Involvement in Flood Disaster Management in Nigeria: Pressing Problems and Recommendations." *Asia Pacific Journal of Education, Arts and Sciences*, vol. 4, no. 1, 2017, pp. 120–127, <https://www.apjeas.apjmr.com/journal-details.php?jid=2362-8030>.
- Gee, James Paul. *An Introduction to Discourse Analysis: Theory and Method*. 3rd ed., Routledge, 2014.
- Godfrey, Chimezie. "2022 Floods: Humanitarian Affairs Ministry releases post disaster damage estimation report". 27 Jan. 2023, *News diary online*, <https://newsdiaryonline.com/2022-floods-humanitarian-affairs-ministry-releases-post-disaster-damaged-estimation-report/>,

- GRADE. "Economic Impact of the 2022 Floods in Nigeria." *Global Resilience Assessment Framework*, 2022, www.grade.org/nigeria-floods-2022.html. Accessed 1 Dec. 2022.
- . "Nigeria 2022 Flood Disaster: Situation Report." *GRADE*, 2022.
- Graham, Phil, et al. "A Call to Arms at the End of History: A Discourse-Historical Analysis of George W. Bush's Declaration of War on Terror." *Discourse & Society*, vol. 15, no. 2–3, 2004, pp. 199–221.
- Graham, Sage. *Ethics in Critical Discourse Analysis*. Edited by R. Wodak and M. Meyer, *Methods of Critical Discourse Analysis*, Sage, 2002, pp. 45-62.
- . *Language and World: A Defence of Linguistic Idealism*. Oxford U P, 2002.
- Hamuddin, Berlian Shalihin. *Discourse and Identity: A Critical Study on Language*. UIN Raden Fatah P, 2018.
- Hamuddin, Nukmal. *Introduction to Discourse Analysis*. Routledge, 2012.
- Harifuddin, Rasyidah Zainuddin. "Flood Disaster, Local Belief, and Islam-Sufism." *El Harakah*, vol. 19, no. 1, 2017, pp. 1-16.
- Ibrahim, Adamkolo Mohammed, and Mohammed Mala Daura et al. "Modelling the Challenges of News Media Engagement in Community Flood Disaster Management: Preliminary Research Evidence from Yobe State, Nigeria." *International Journal of Media and Information Literacy*, vol. 7, no. 2, 2022, pp. 434–440, <https://ijmil.cherkasgu.press/article/view/2022-2-434>.
- IgudaLadan, Suleiman, and Jummai Yusuf Saulawa. "Flood Disaster Response and Recovery in Nigeria: A Case Study of 2018 Jibia Flood Disaster, Katsina State." *IOSR Journal of Environmental Science, Toxicology and Food Technology*, vol. 15, no. 4, 04 2021, pp. 08–18, <http://www.iosrjournals.org/iosr-jestft/papers/vol15-issue4/Series-1/08-18.pdf>.

- James, Segun, Olawale Ajimotokan. "NEMA: 2.5 Million Persons Affected by Flooding." *This Day*, 17 Oct. 2022, <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2022/10/17/nema-2-5-million-persons-affected-by-flooding/>.
- Joshua, I. A., and M. S. Ibrahim et al. "Community Flood Disaster Preparedness in Flood-Prone Rural and Urban Communities in Kaduna State, Nigeria." *African Journal of Health, Safety and Environment*, vol. 4, no. 2, 2023, pp. 34–44, <https://www.ajhse.org/index.php/AJHSE/article/view/400>.
- Kamble, R. K., et al. "Ecosystem Approach to Flood Disaster Risk Reduction." *International Journal of Environment*, vol. 2, no. 1, Nov 2013, pp. 280–308, <http://www.ijenv.org/Volume-2-Issue-1-Sep-Nov>.
- Kazemian, Bahram, and Marzieh Hashemi. "Critical Discourse Analysis: The Critical Study of Language." *Journal of Education and Practice*, vol. 5, no. 15, 2014, pp. 111-16.
- Kazemian, Bahram, and Sareh Hashemi. "Critical Discourse Analysis of Barack Obama's 2012 Speeches: Views from Systemic Functional Linguistics and Rhetoric." *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*, vol. 4, no. 6, 2014, pp. 112–118.
- Kumaravadivelu, B. *Understanding Language Teaching: From Method to Postmethod*. Routledge, 2006.
- Lemke, Jay L. "Language Development and Identity: Multiple Timescales in the Social Ecology of Learning." Edited by R. Wodak and P. Chilton, *A New Agenda in (Critical) Discourse Analysis: Theory, Methodology, and Interdisciplinarity*, John Benjamins Publishing, 2002, pp. 96-128.
- Loewen, Shawn, and Luke Plonsky. *An A–Z of Applied Linguistics Research Methods*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2016, pp. 153.

- Martin, J. R., and Ruth Wodak, editors. *Re/reading the Past: Critical and Functional Perspectives on Time and Value*. John Benjamins Publishing, 2003.
- McLuhan, Marshall. *Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man*. MIT P, 1964.
- Mheta, Gift, Grace Temiloluwa Agbede. "Pragmatic Acts and Discourse Strategies in Nigerian Newspaper Editorials: A Socio-Cognitive Approach." 2023, pp. 117-130, <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/373109742>.
- Miles, Matthew B., et al. *Qualitative Data Analysis: A Methods Sourcebook*. 3rd ed., Sage Publications, 2014, pp. 31-34.
- Mills, Sara. *Discourse*. 2nd ed., Routledge, 2004.
- . *Gender and Politeness*. Cambridge U P, 2003.
- Moscovici, Serge. *Social Representations: Explorations in Social Psychology*. Polity P, 2000, pp. 32.
- Moses, Idahosa. "FG distributes relief materials to 2022 flood victim in Edo." *Tribune*, 22 May 2023, <https://tribuneonlineng.com/fg-distributes-relief-materials-to-2022-flood-victims-in-edo/>.
- National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). *Nigeria's 2022 Flood Disaster: Situation Report*. NEMA, 2022.
- . *Report on the 2012 Flood Disaster in Nigeria*. NEMA, 2012.
- National Geographic. "Floods: Facts and Information." *National Geographic*, www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/natural-disasters/floods/. Accessed 4 Nov. 2024.

- Ndujihe, Clifford, et al. "603 dead, 2m displaced as flood wreaks havoc in Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers, others." *Vanguard*, 17 Oct. 2022, <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/10/603-dead-2m-displaced-as-flood-wreaks-havoc-in-delta-bayelsa-rivers-others/>.
- Nkwunonwo, U. C., et al. "Flooding and Flood Risk Reduction in Nigeria: A Review." *Earth Systems and Environment*, vol. 4, 2020, pp. 739–753.
- Nkwunonwo, Ugonna, et al. "A Review of the Health Impacts of Flooding in Sub-Saharan Africa." *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, vol. 17, no. 3, 2020, pp. 45–79.
- Nnodim, Okechuku. "2022 flood caused N4.2tn economic loss, says FG". *Punch*, 28 Jan 2023, <https://punchng.com/2022-flood-caused-n4-2tn-economic-loss-says-fg/>.
- Nnodim, Okechukwu, et. al. "FG says flood killed 603, blames states, LGs." *Punch*, 17 Oct. 2022, <https://punchng.com/fg-says-flood-killed-603-blames-states-lgs/>.
- Ogbonnaya, Obinna. "NEMA, Ebonyi govt distributes relief materials to 2022 flood victims." *Leadership*, <https://Leadership.ng/nema-ebonyi-govt-distribute-relief-materials-to-2022-flood-victim/>.
- Oladokun, O.V., and D. Proverbs. "Flood Risk Management in Nigeria: A Review of the Challenges and Opportunities." *International Journal of Safety and Security Engineering*, vol. 6, no. 3, 2016, pp. 485-497.
- Ologunorisa, Temi E., and Ademola Adeyemo. "Public Perception of Flood Hazard in the Niger Delta, Nigeria." *The Environmentalist*, vol. 25, 2005, pp. 39–45, <http://www.springerlink.com.ezproxy.risd.edu/content/q215u31136425752/fulltext.pdf>.
- Ominabo, Dickson Wealth. "2022 Flood: A tragedy foretold, the crises within." *The Cable*, 26 Oct 2022, <https://www.thecable.ng/2022-flood-a-tragedy-foretold-the-crises-within/>.

- Osuji, Enyioma Ruby, et al. "Traditional Local Adaptation Strategies of Women to the 2012 Flooding in Communities in Rivers and Bayelsa States, Nigeria." *International Journal of Advanced Research*, vol. 6, no. 1, 2018, pp. 1282-1292.
- Othman, Ahmad Zaidin, et al. "The Impact of Flood Disaster on Daily Activities and Quality of Life amongst Women Flood Disaster Survivors." *AMER ABRA*, 2017, pp. 395-406.
- Ozoh, Joan N. "Flood Crisis and Socio-Economic Livelihood of People in Ogbaru Local Government of Anambra State, Nigeria." *International Journal of Economics, Commerce and Management*, vol. 8, no. 2, Feb. 2020, p. 604,
<http://ijecm.co.uk/journal/index.php/ijecm/article/view/71>.
- Peduzzi, Pascal, et al. "Global Trends in Human Exposure, Vulnerability, and Risk of Floods." *Environmental Research Letters*, vol. 7, no. 4, 2012, pp. 1149–1159.
- Rentschler, Jun, and Michel Salhab. "Flood Risk and Economic Impact Analysis: A Global Perspective." *World Bank Working Paper*, 2022.
- Salami, Kabiru K., et al. "Health Risks and Healthcare Delivery in Flood Disaster Affected Communities in Southwest Nigeria." *IOSR Journal of Environmental Science, Toxicology and Food Technology*, vol. 15, no. 4, ser. 1, Apr. 2021, pp. 8-18.
- Samuel, Segun, Blessing Ibunge. "Flood: NDDC Commences Restoration of East-West Road." *This day*, 9 Nov. 2022, <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2022/11/09/flood-nddc-commences-restoration-of-east-west-road/>.
- Stibble, A. *Ecolinguistics: Language, Ecology and the Stories We Live By*. Routledge, 2015.
- Sunday, Ochogwu "Delta Open 10 IDP Camp, as 19 LGAs go under Flood". *Daily Post*, 14 Oct 2022, <https://dailypost.ng/2022/10/14/delta-opens-10-idp-camps-as-19-lgas-go-under-flood/>.

The Guardian. "2022 Nigeria Floods: Over 600 Dead, 3,000 Injured, 2.4m Displaced." *The Guardian*, 26 Oct. 2022, www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/26/2022-nigeria-floods-over-600-dead-3000-injured-24m-displaced.

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). "What Is the Problem?" www.undrr.org. Accessed 4 Nov. 2024.

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. "Devastating Floods in Nigeria." *OCHA*, 7 Oct. 2022, www.unocha.org/story/devastating-floods-nigeria.

Userportal. "NEWMAP: World Bank Okays Intervention in Delta Erosion/Flood Communities." *Delta NEWMAP*, 13 Dec. 2022. www.deltanewmap.org.ng/2022/12/13/newmap-world-bank-okays-intervention-in-delta-erosion-flood-communities/.

van Dijk, Teun A. "Critical Discourse Analysis." *The Handbook of Discourse Analysis*, edited by Deborah Schiffrin et al., Wiley-Blackwell, 2001, pp. 352–371.

---. *Society and Discourse: How Social Contexts Influence Text and Talk*. Cambridge UP, 2009.

---. *Discourse and Knowledge: A Socio-Cognitive Approach*. Cambridge UP, 2014.

---. *Discourse and Power*. 3rd ed., Palgrave Macmillan, 2008. pp. 32, 45, 51, 65, 77, 93.

---. "Discourse Semantics and Ideology". *Discourse & Society*, vol. 6, no. 2, 1995, pp. 243-89.

---. *Discourse Studies: A Multidisciplinary Introduction*. 2nd ed., SAGE Publications, 2011.

---. *Ideology: A Multidisciplinary Approach*. Sage, 1998.

---. *Macrostructures: An Interdisciplinary Study of Global Structures in Discourse, Interaction, and Cognition*. Erlbaum, 1980.

---. *Society and Discourse: How Social Contexts Influence Text and Talk*. Cambridge UP, 2009.

van Leeuwen, Theo. *Discourse and Practice: New Tools for Critical Discourse Analysis*. Oxford U P, 2008.

Wodak, Ruth. "What CDA Is About - A Summary of Its History, Important Concepts, and Its Developments." Edited by R. Wodak and M. Meyer, *Methods of Critical Discourse Analysis*, Sage, 2001, pp. 1-14.

---, Jennifer Mulderrig, and Norman Fairclough. "Critical Discourse Analysis." *Discourse Studies: A Multidisciplinary Introduction*, 2nd ed., edited by Teun A. van Dijk, Sage, 2011, pp. 357-78.

World Bank. "Nigeria - Floods Leave More Than 80 Dead, Hundreds of Thousands Displaced." *World Bank*, 2 Oct. 2017, www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2017/10/02/nigeria-floods-leave-more-than-80-dead-hundreds-of-thousands-displaced.

Yakubu, Hudu. "Over 2.4m persons affected by 2022 floods in Nigeria-NEMA" *Voice of Nigeria*, <https://von.gov.ng/over-2-4m-persons-affected-by-2022-floods-in-nigeria-nema/>.