

**Linguistic Analysis of Political Cartoons  
Published During the 2015 General Election in Nigeria**

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**Abstract**

In communication, different methods are used in transmitting information, one of which is the cartoon. Cartoons are the artistry metaphoric expression of messages pictorially and in words. Cartoons were widely exploited during the 2015 election in Nigeria to subtly inform, educate and entertain the politicians, their supporters, the electorates and the general public. The trust of this paper is to critically analyse some political cartoons from selected national dailies. The objectives of the study are to investigate the patterns of communication used in the cartoons and the linguistic features. A total of 15 cartoons were randomly selected from 3 national dailies, representing 5 from each source. Since cartoons are metaphorical codifications, connotative theoretical frame is adopted as our theoretical frame. The analysis shows that the pattern of communication used are pictorially with verbal illustrations. Different pan methods are used which

are single, double and triple pans. Linguistically, the cartoonists adopted different features such as ellipses, phrases, contracted words, various sentence structures and functional types of sentences, idiomatic/metaphorical expressions to transmit their messages to the general public. It is recommended that adequate attention be paid to the editing of cartoons as part of editorial columns.

**Keywords:** Linguistics, Cartoons, Metaphorical, Satirical, Semantics