A Grapho-Stylistic Analysis of Young Elihu's Discourse with Job in the Book of Job 32:1-37:24

OKATA Gift Ngozi, PhD

Department of Languages and Literary Studies, Babcock University Ilisan Remo. Ogun State

Abstract
The ability to interpret a discourse from the author's stylistic perspectives has proven to be a difficult task for information decoders. Using Toulmins six-layer-layout of everyday argument, this study explores the stylistic features of the discourse between Job and his friend Elihu (Job 32:1-37:24), with the view of underscoring Elihu's stylistic use of language in espousing his perspective in the debate regarding Job's suffering. Using qualitative analytical method and Elihu's speeches as the data for analysis, the study discovered that language use in the Bible especially, in the book of Job is void of ambiguity, vagueness or obscurity. Elihu's argument was sequenced in line with Toulmin's six layer of everyday argument- data, claim, backing, warrant, reservation and Rebuttal when interpreted from the contextual perspective and concludes among others that language use in any given discourse is better understood from the perspective of the style of the author.
Keywords: Vagueness, Obscurity, Ambiguity, Contextual, Style.

1. Introduction

Language has been viewed as a vehicle that transports thoughts, feelings, emotions and ideas from one entity to another and discourse is the use of the language. While, one cannot read the mind, there still exists certain bodily feature that is visible demonstration of language. This could be body movement, tone of voice, grimace, gestures, postures, body structure, dress code or ones pattern of writing. This is true to the fact that Language and communication are inseparable phenomenon and language is the method of human communication, either spoken or written, consisting of the use of words in a structured and conventional way. It can also be defined as a system of communication used by a particular country or speech community (Okata 2016). Language and communication depend on each other for continuous, smooth-flowing interpersonal relationship and peaceful co-existence. This is to say that individuals communicate continuously with one another irrespective of the event and topic of discussion. The process can toll the form of chatting, gossiping, fighting, teaching, preaching, talking, or writing. These processes underscore a common target and that is communication. The use of language is usually patterned, developed and constituted in every context to meet the needs of communication in all ramifications. Linguists are often interested in how language is expressed and the pattern of its communication in any communicative setting especially the written form in order to determine its purpose, function and style.

Crystal & Davy also argued that;

> to talk of studying the 'style of an author does not imply a study
> of everything in the language he has used, but only an attempt to
> isolate, define, and discuss those linguistic features which are felt
> felt to be peculiarly his, which help to distinguish him from other
> authors-a common use in literary criticism and questions of author-
> ship identification. (1969:77).

To Verdonk (2002:6), "Style does not arise out of a vacuum but that its production and effect are deeply embedded in the particular context in which both the writer and the reader play their distinctive roles".From the above perspectives, one can infer that a particular language user's style be it spoken or written is the ability to manipulate and synthesize his creative ability using language for the purpose of communicating his ideas meaningfully and effectively in a particular linguistic context. That is to say that language user's awareness of the available linguistic resources in his purview is not just enough rather; the language user should be able to manipulate these linguistic resources, graphological elements to achieve the desired objective(s) in communication and this underscores proficiency and style. The notion of style entails the use appropriate lexical items to communicate ideas.

This study reviews the stylistical and grapholical properties of the discourse of Elihu in Job 32:1-37:24 with the view to identify the linguistic element that was employed by Young Elihu in the bid effectively communicate his intended message to Job.

2.   Methodology

An academic enquiry on the grapho-stylistic form of language use in the discourse between Job and Elihu is never a search in obscurity. When discussed from the linguistic point of view, the subject-which is religious in nature, widens the knowledge of the language user and underscores the purpose behind the language use. The

study adopts Toulmin Edelston (1958)'s model of argumentation which contains a diagram of six interrelated components as the frame work for the present study. This is germane in that this framework believes that reasoning is less an activity of inference involving the discovery of new ideas, but more so a protest of testing and sifting already existing ideas. The act is achievable through the process of justification. To Tulmin, good argument succeeds in providing good justification to a claim, which will stand up to a criticism and earn a favourable verdict. (Copeland 2000). The data for analysis will be based on the discourse of Young Elihu with Job. Only relevant utterances will be selected for analysis and the New International Version of the Christian Holy Bible will be selected for the present study. The reason for the choice is based on the fact that the New International Version of the Holy Bible is written in modern English and lends itself to easy understanding.

3.   Approaches to Style

Style is sometimes seen as a deviation from the norm, as a choice from the variant form, as a situation, as individuality and as a temporary phenomenon. Style as a deviation from the norm suggests that there exist certain linguistic norms by which a language should be used either in a spoken or written communication. The norms cover all the levels of linguistic analysis such as graphology, phonology, morphology, lexico-semantics, syntax and discourse levels. There is said to be a deviation from the norm where a speaker/writer does not conform to the norm of language usage. However, language user can create his own style by deliberately deviating from the linguistic norm in order to give emphasis or draw attention to the deviant word or sentence. When this is done, such a word or sentence is foregrounded for stylistic effect. Style as a concept simply suggests that there can be an individual's style of writing and speaking which according to Babajide (2000:125), "is formed and shaped by the aggregate of his social and political background, religious inclination, cultural values, experience, educational attainment, exposure and so on." To him, style can also be a choice from variant forms when language users make lexical, rhetorical, stylistic or grammatical choices. Lexical choice is made when a writer or speaker selects a word out of several possible alternatives, rhetorical choice is made when the writer/speaker's intention is to persuade his interlocutor(s), stylistic choice is made when a writer selects between items or structures that mean roughly the same thing while non-stylistic choice is a selection between items that have different meanings, grammatical choice is made when a writer opts for a grammatically acceptable linguistic structure of the language of communication as against the ungrammatical ones.

According to Babajide, (2000), style can also be a temporal phenomenon because language is dynamic. It keeps on changing as time changes to meet and accommodate the prevailing social realities. So, language users should also change their styles in order to keep abreast of time. He maintains that;

> the style of any given time or period is recognizably predominant
> feature of the time or period'. Style is also described as situational
> where language users use different kinds of language and differen
> kinds of style of writing (or speaking) to suit different contexts of
> situation. The context in which a word or an expression is used det-
> ermines its meaning. Besides, the notion of style as situation regards
> style as social factors determining communication, and of course as
> register. (129)

Stylistics on the other hand is simply described as the study of style. Oladosu, (2003:16) defines stylistics as "the study of style in spoken and written language". Verdonk (2002:4), describes stylistics as "the analysis of distinctive expression in language and the description of its purpose and effect." Here, it is evident that stylistic analysis is not done without a purpose because every language user adopts a particular style with a view of achieving an end in communication.

This study therefore examines the stylistic features of the discourse between Job and his friend Elihu. Examining the stylistic features employed in this transaction, one will particularly want to explore the grammatical features and the lexical properties employed in the conversation using Toulmins six layer of everyday argument. With the view to explore Elihu's perspective in the debate regarding Job's suffering and to underscore how Young Elihu prepared Job for what the Lord will say.

4.   Summary of Young Elihu's Speech

The first set of friends visited Job and using the resource of language as a tool communicated to Job who is grieving that his sufferings are as a result of his sins. Elihu, the son of Barachel the Buzite, spoke after a prolonged silence from Job's three friends. His utterances depicted anger with Job for justifying himself rather than God and also by the inability of Job's friends (Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar) to provide an answer and solution to Job's situation. (32:1-33:7). He takes an exception to Job's claim of innocence and proposed that God often uses various way to keep humanity from dying. This includes chastening with pain and grieve typical of Job's experience. He further admonished Job to look at suffering as a form of discipline from God who is all loving and not punishment that emanated from the enemy. (33:8-33). Elihu focused on the judgment of God

which in his view, Job must have contravened the principles of God. He concluded by counseling Job to deviate from multiplying his woes by the claim of innocence but should rather ascribe righteousness to God. He tried to buttress this view by reviewing how God has related with man in the past and pointed that Job should stand still and consider the awesomness of God. (34:1-37:24).

5. Theoretical Framework

Toulmin Edelston Stephen is a British philosopher, who was influenced by the Austrian philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein. He devoted his works to the analysis of moral reasoning. Toulmin sought to develop ethics that is found behind moral issues. Toulmin (1958)'s model of argumentation which contains a diagram of six interrelated components is adopted as the frame work for the present study. This is germane in that this framework believes that reasoning is less an activity of inference involving the discovery of new ideas, but more so a protest of testing and sifting already existing ideas. This act is achievable through the process of justification. To him, good argument succeeds in providing good justification to a claim, which will stand up to a criticism and earn a favourable verdict. (Copeland 2000).

Layout of Toulmin's Argument

WARRANT

GROUND ←————————→ CLAIM
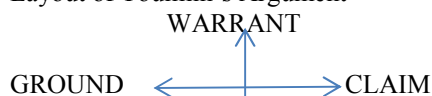
a. CLAIM: this is the point an arguer is trying to make. The claim in other words is the proposition or assertion an arguer wants another to accept. This answers the question "what is your point?"

Examples are as follows:

1. He should pay for John's meal, because he paid for him the previous day.
2. I sang last night, so this time it is your turn to sing

Three basics types of claims exists and they are;

(i) Fact: This includes Claims that are focused on empirically verifiable phenomena.

(ii) Judgement/value: this claims deals with opinions, attitudes, and subjective evaluations of utterances or things

(iii) Policy: These are Claims that advocate courses of action that should be undertaken

b. GROUNDS: grounds refer to the proof or evidence that an arguer offers. This answer the question "what is your proof?", "How come?" or "why?". It usually consists of statistics, quotations, reports, findings, physical evidence, or various forms of reasoning.

Examples are:

1. It looks like a chopper, the noise is deafening
2. The entire school compound is dirty, so I'll bet the restrooms will also be dirty.

Grounds can be based on;

(i) The evidence: that is, facts, statistics, reports, or physical proof.

(ii) The source credibility: authorities, experts, celebrity endorsers, a close friend, or someone's say so

(iii) Analysis and reasoning: reasons maybe offered as proof.

c. WARRANT: this is the inferential leap that connects the claim with the grounds. The warrant is typically implicit (unstated) and requires the listener to recognise the underlying reasoning that makes sense of the claim in the light of the grounds. It functions by establishing a mental connection between the grounds and the claim, examples are:

(i) Glory is finding it difficult to breath. I'll bet she is asthmatic.

Warrant: sign reasoning; difficulty in breathing is a reliable source of asthma

(ii) That house is probably the tallest in the city. It is the center of attraction.
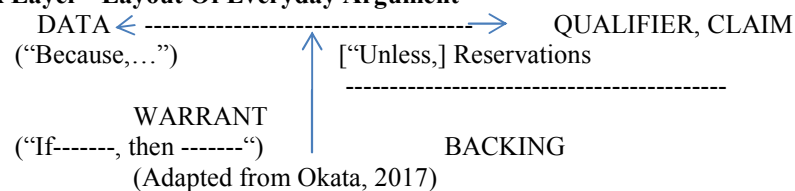
Warrant: generalisation: Most of the tallest buildings are the center of attraction. warrant can be based on ethos (source credibility, authority), logos (reason – giving, induction, deduction); pathos (emotional or motivational appeals, shared values etc). it should, however, be noticed that these categories aren't mutually exclusive; there is considerable overlap among the three.
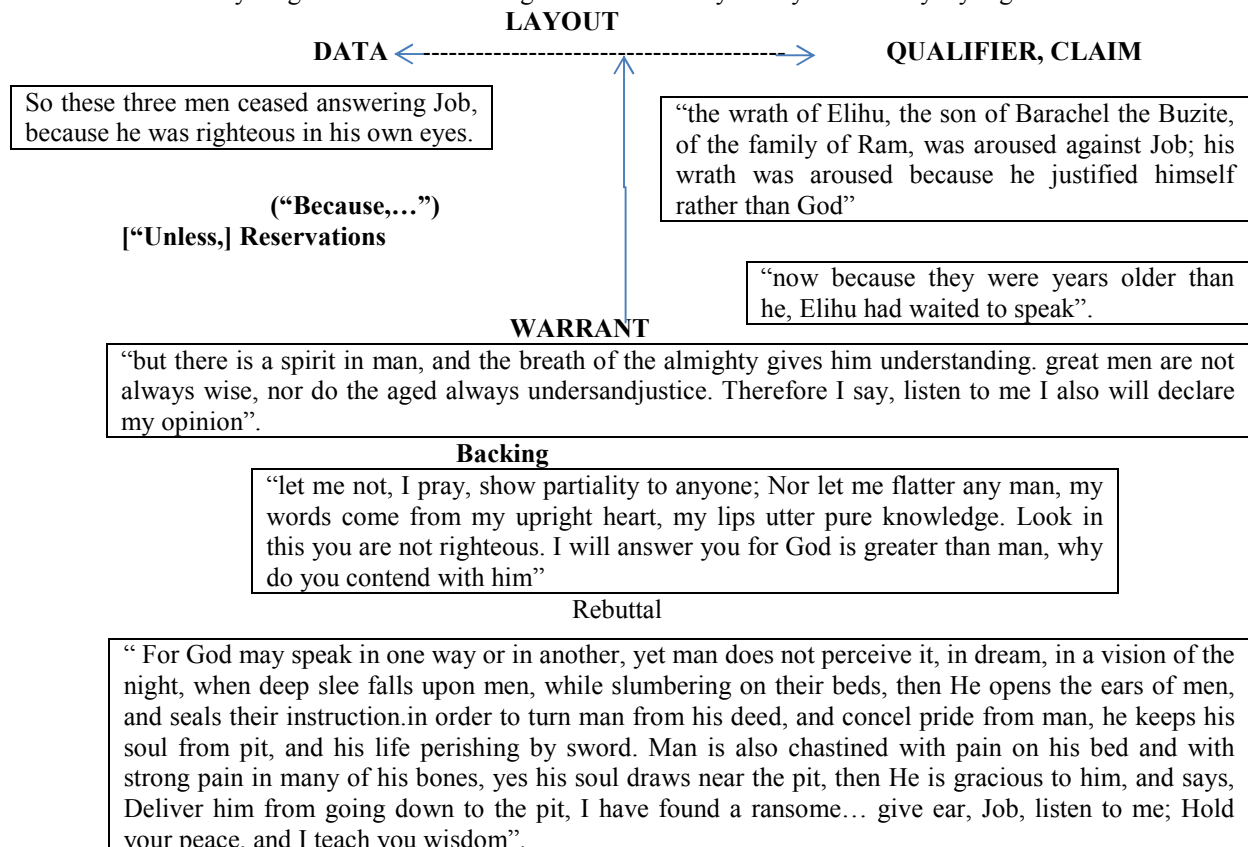
THE SECOND TRIAD OF TOULMIN'S MODEL

BACKING

QUALIFIER ←——————→ REBUTTAL

a. BACKING: this provides additional justification for the warrant, Backing usually consists of evidence to support the type of reasoning employed by the warrant.

b. QUALIFIER: The qualifier states the degree of force or probability to be attached to the claims. The qualifier states how sure the arguer is about his/her claim.

c. REBUTTAL: According to Oyekunle (2016), the rebuttal acknowledges exceptions or limitations to the argument. The rebuttal admits to those circumstances or situations where the argument would not hold. In Toulmin's view, every acceptable argument may be laid out using these elements. However, arguments in actual discourse situation sometimes express their warrant and backing in words. All these elements are usually suppressed by arguers. Most of the times, the arguments that arguers offer employ warrants that may be subject to exceptions. This is to say that despite the general circumstances in which applying the rule will lead to an unacceptable conclusion. In this case, it can be said that there are reservations or exceptions to the warrant. When this occurs, that is when there are reservations to the warrant, the arguer may need to meet them by showing that the case in hand in not exceptional or by reducing the rigour of the claim proposed. (when the argument is unacceptable, neither of these strategies will work). Rather, speakers reduce the rigour of their claims with qualifiers.

Toulmin's Six Layer - Layout Of Everyday Argument

DATA ←-----------------------------------→ QUALIFIER, CLAIM
("Because,…")   ["Unless,] Reservations

                WARRANT
("If------, then -------")   BACKING
                (Adapted from Okata, 2017)

6. Data Analysis

The Transaction of young Elihu with Job Using Toulmin's six layer - layout of everyday argument.

LAYOUT

DATA ←--→ **QUALIFIER, CLAIM**

| So these three men ceased answering Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes. |

("Because,…")
["Unless,] Reservations

| "the wrath of Elihu, the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, was aroused against Job; his wrath was aroused because he justified himself rather than God" |

| "now because they were years older than he, Elihu had waited to speak". |

WARRANT

| "but there is a spirit in man, and the breath of the almighty gives him understanding. great men are not always wise, nor do the aged always undersandjustice. Therefore I say, listen to me I also will declare my opinion". |

Backing

| "let me not, I pray, show partiality to anyone; Nor let me flatter any man, my words come from my upright heart, my lips utter pure knowledge. Look in this you are not righteous. I will answer you for God is greater than man, why do you contend with him" |

Rebuttal

| " For God may speak in one way or in another, yet man does not perceive it, in dream, in a vision of the night, when deep slee falls upon men, while slumbering on their beds, then He opens the ears of men, and seals their instruction.in order to turn man from his deed, and concel pride from man, he keeps his soul from pit, and his life perishing by sword. Man is also chastined with pain on his bed and with strong pain in many of his bones, yes his soul draws near the pit, then He is gracious to him, and says, Deliver him from going down to the pit, I have found a ransome… give ear, Job, listen to me; Hold your peace, and I teach you wisdom". |

Investigating the stylistic features in the discourse of Young Elihu is another way of inquiring on how language is structured in a given speech. This has to do with the stylistic and graphical choice made in the communicative event which include lettering (orthography), the style of word formation (morphology), the choice of vocabulary (lexis), the structure of sentences that make up the discourse (syntax).

7.   The Graphological Analysis of Young Elihu's Speech
Crystal and Davy (1969:18) define graphology as 'the analogous study of a language's writing system or orthography as seen in the various kinds of handwriting or topography'. They maintain that a graphological inquiry of any discourse entails the foregrounding of quotation marks, ellipses, periods, hyphen, special structures, gothic and bold prints, capitalization, italics, paragraphing and the likes. The relevant tools will be employed in the analysis of the selected data.

7.1 Capitalization of Letters
Throughout the discourse of Elihu, there exists the deviation in the use capitalization. Capital letters are used in Elihu's discourse to emphasis, differentiate a point from a point from another. Example;
Capital letters are also used for different purposes Apart from using it to set off titles, they are used in this excerpt to achieve the stylistic effect of foregrounding the name of God, Aside the fact that proper nouns should be started with capital letters, it is observed in Elihu's speech that pronouns begin with capital letters. Capital letters were employed for mere emphasis and not necessarily at the beginning of sentences. Examples are; 'I paid close attention to you; **And** surely not one of you convinced Job', '**Or** answered his word' (32:12). '**Now,** I open my mouth; **My** tongues speaks…**My** words come from my …**My** lips utter pure knowledge', '**If** you can answer me, **Set** your in order…**Take** your stand', 'For God may speak in one way', 'or in another, **Yet** man does not perceive it' (33:3-14).

7.2 Italicisation
The discourse of Young Elihu in the book of Job (NIV) is replete with italicization. This is employed in order to underscore vital expression that carries and conveys the core intended messages. Some of the italics are found in articles, verbs, pronouns, prepositions and nouns. Examples; "And surely not one of you convinced Job, *Or* answered his word" (32:12). "Surely you have spoken in my hearing, And I have heard the sound of *your* words *saying* I *am* pure, without transgression; I *am* innocent, and *there is* no iniquity in me"(33:8). "Look, *in* this you are not righteous" (33:12a), "For God may speak in one way, or in another, *Yet man* does not perceive it" (33:14).

7.3 Grammatical Features
A striking feature of the Elihu's discourse is the grammatical features. These grammatical elements makes accessible, the grammatical analysis of the discourse under study. It is then expedient to start by identifying some of the grammatical elements that is replete in the discourse of Young Elihu as they make the syntactic analysis readily accessible. Examples are;
7.3.1 Grammatical words and special syntax
 'yet, why slumbering in beds, and seals their instruction, keeps back his souls from pit, with strong pain in many of his bones, so that his life abhors bread, And his soul succulent food. Deliver him from going down the pit, I have found a ransome, Give ear Job… Hold your peace."
7.3.2 Similes and metaphors
Examples: "For the ear tests words As the palate tastes food", "what man is like Job, who drinks scorn like water" (34:7), "Age should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom", "He puts my feet in the stocks, He watches all my paths" (33:11). "He keeps back his soul from the pit, And his life from perishing by sword" (33:18). "So that his life abhors bread, And his soul succulent food"(33:20)., "Yes, his soul draws near the pit, And his life to the executioner"(33:22). "His flesh shall be young like a child's, He shall return to the days of his youth"(33:25).
7.3.3 Unusual word order/Archaic Coinage.
"Also against his three friends his wrath was aroused, because they had found no answer, and yet had condemned Job" (32:3), "they are dismayed and answer no more; words escape them"(32:15). "should I lie concerning my right? My wound is incurable, though I am without transgression" (34:6). "therefore listen to me, you men of understanding: Far be it from God to do wickedness, And from the Almighty to commit iniquity"(34:10).
7.3.4 Technical and Sub-Technical Words/Expressions
The specialized words are known as registers. The registers in this discourse are strictly religious. Examples: 'Far be it from God, and from the almighty, he pays man according to his work', 'let us choose justice for ourselves; let us know among ourselves what is good', 'I have sinned, and perverted what was right, And it did

not profit me', 'He will redeem his soul from going down the pit, and his life *shall* see light'. 'Behold, God works all these things, twice, in fact, three times with man'.

These are words that are applicable to other fields other than the particular discourse in progress. Examples are in words and expressions like: 'redeem', 'behold', 'pervert', 'delight', 'mediator', 'uprightness', 'executioner' 'wastes away', 'perishing', 'conceal', 'instruction', 'vision', 'slumbering', 'transgression' 'pardon', 'deliver', 'forgive', 'choose', 'upright', 'comfort', 'guide', 'give'. (32:1-37:24) Etc. The above expressions are also seen other disciplines such as; government, media, law health etc.

8. Findings

Having forgrounded some of the styles adopted in the content of the Elihu's discourse, it is discovered that language use in the bible especially, in the book of Job is void of ambiguity, vagueness or obscurity. Elihu.s argument was sequenced in line with Toulmins six layer of everyday argument- data, claim, backing, warrant, reservation and Rebuttal when interpreted from the contextual perspective. The study found out that Elihu spoke when his anger was aroused by the inability of Job's three friends to proffer solution to Job's problem. His anger was because Job justified himself. His age difference has made him to be afraid to speak at the initial time. He carefully listened to the reasoning of the elderly men and came up with his own resolution.

9. Conclusion

The study concluded that Elihu style of language use underscored the fact that it is the almighty that gives understanding and not necessarily age and that age alone does not always guarantee wisdom, and understanding. Speaking from pure knowledge and upright heart, his style of presentation depicted no flatter and partiality. Therefore, language use in any given discourse is better understood from the perspective of the style of the author.

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