Linguistic Modality in Ghanaian President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo’s 2017 Inaugural Address

Owuye, Mercy Opeyemi
Corresponding Author, Languages and Literary Studies Department
Babcock University
E-mail: owuyemercy@gmail.com

Idowu, Olubunmi Ajoke
Languages and Literary Studies Department
Babcock University

Abstract
Politics is a struggle for power in order to put certain political, economic and social ideas into practice. In this process, language plays a crucial role, for every political action is prepared, accompanied, influenced and played by language. One of the key factors that determine the success of political figures in reaching their goals and winning the public consensus in this continuous power struggle is their ability to persuade and impress their audience that they are trustworthy to accomplish their promises. This is very typical of most inaugural speeches; most elected candidates during their inaugural speeches raise the hopes of their audience by persuading, and strongly affirming the benefits their tenure in power would bring. They do this by the use of distinct language tools to achieve the sole purpose of impressing on their audience their integrity and virtuosity. Following the same purpose, this paper aims to investigate the use of linguistic modals in President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo’s 2017 Inaugural Address. Using the concept of modality within the framework of Halliday’s Systemic Functional Linguistics, this study investigates how the President elect of Ghana persuades his audience through the subtle linguistic tool of modality in the speech that he is capable and credible to lead them. The findings of this study reveal that there are seventy three linguistic modals in President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo’s Inaugural Address. The classifications of the identified modals based on their communicational functions are; possibility, proposition, obligation, commitment, certainty and wish. The use of modals expressing commitment has the highest percentage which reveals the level of persuasion and dedication the President has towards the Ghanaian people to serve them selflessly.

Keywords: Politics, Modality, Inaugural address

Introduction
The prominent role of language in every human society cannot be under-estimated or over-emphasized. Language is used as a medium of tranquility, persuasion and progression on one hand, and a medium of uproar, anarchy and retrogression on another hand. Sapir (1939) considers language as a purely human and non- instinctive method of communicating emotions and desires by means of a system of voluntarily produced symbols. Language is a given expression in different contexts, amongst which include media, religious familial or domestic and societal settings. The use of language gives rise to the
term ‘discourse’, and discourse is textualized in varying mediums, sometimes referred to as ‘genre’. The present study focuses on an essential and a notable form of political discourse, the presidential inaugural address.

One of the key factors that determine the success of political figures in reaching their goals and winning the public consensus in this continuous power struggle is their ability to persuade and impress their audience that they are trustworthy to accomplish their promises. This is very typical of most inaugural speeches; most elected candidates during their inaugural speeches raise the hopes of their audience by persuading, and strongly affirming the benefits their tenure in power will bring. They do this by the use of distinct language tools to achieve the sole purpose of impressing on their audience their integrity and virtuosity. Following the same purpose, this paper aims to investigate the use of linguistic modals in Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo’s 2017 Inaugural Address. Using the concept of modality within the framework of Halliday’s Systemic Functional Linguistics, this study investigates how the President elect of Ghana persuades his audience through the subtle linguistic tool of modality in the speech that he is capable and credible to lead them.

Modality refers to the speaker’s attitude towards the judgment of/ or assessment of what he says. Expressing modality in English, i.e., the speaker’s attitude toward what he says (Palmer 1979; El-Hassan 1990); or ' the manner in which the meaning of a clause is qualified so as to reflect the speaker’s judgment of the likelihood of the proposition of the sentence being true' (Quirk et al. 1985: 219); or in Halliday’s (1970) words “the speaker’s assessment of the probability of what he is saying” (p.189) entails the manipulation of a complex linguistic system that does not lend itself easily to analysis, comprehension, and systematization. They can be described in terms of their formal and semantic functions, such as permission, inclination, possibility, necessity, and so on, but they also convey psychological associations, such as condescension, politeness, tact, and irony (Leech 1971:66). El-Hassan (1990:150) reminds us that “the subtlety and complexity of the meaning and function of these modal auxiliaries are so very often disguised beneath a simple structural organization”.

**Literature Review**

Linguists have approached the English modals in various ways, formally and logically. Much of the literature in modality (Coates 1983, Perking 1983, Lyon 1977, Palmer 1986, Chafe and Nichols 1986) often assumes that the sole function of modals is to reveal the speaker’s/ writer’s state of mind or knowledge, to indicate that the speaker/ writer is uncertain or tentative and is not committed to the truth value of the propositions. Lyons (1977) points out two kinds of modality: ‘epistemic’ and ‘deontic’. In his view, epistemic modality is related to issues in terms of knowledge, belief or opinion rather than fact while deontic modality refers to matters in terms of “the necessity or possibility of acts performed by morally responsible agents. While Lyons (1977) classifies them into epistemic and deontic; the generative grammarians often deal with them as root and epistemic modals (Aziz 1992). Lyons (1977) characterizes epistemic modals as concerned with matters of knowledge, belief, or opinion rather than facts while deontic modality with the necessity or possibility of acts performed by morally responsible agents (p.823). Halliday (1970) views modality as part of the interpersonal constituent of language and subsequently classifies the English modal auxiliaries in terms of modality and modulation (i.e. the ideational constituent of language).

Moreover, Palmer (1974) describes the English modals along two axes: (i) their inherent property to express a certain degree of knowledge, a guess, or a conjecture about a certain event in the present or past time, and (ii) the source of their modality, being the subject of the sentence or one of the interlocutors in the discourse. Accordingly, Palmer observes a distinction along two parameters: (a) epistemic/ non-epistemic (i.e., passing judgment on the proposition of the utterance, or not), and (b) orientation (that is, subject or discourse-oriented). Thus, linguistic modals can be classified into modal auxiliary verbs, epistemic, deontic and dynamic modals.
Modal Auxiliary Verbs

A modal auxiliary verb is a type of auxiliary verb that is used to indicate modality of likelihood, ability, permission, and obligation. Modal auxiliary verbs give more information about the function of the main verbs that follow them. Thus, they have a great variety of communicative functions that range from possibility ‘may’ to necessity ‘must’.

Epistemic Modality

Epistemic modality refers to the type of knowledge that the speaker or writer has about what he is saying or writing. It deals with what the speaker or writer knows about the world. Besides, it implies that the speaker ‘assesses’ the probability that the proposition is true in terms of the modal’s certainty, probability or possibility (Downing and Locke 1992:332). Epistemic modality is subjective, meaning that epistemic modals do not express objective, known reality, but the inferential judgment of the speaker as informed by circumstantial evidence and/ or experience (El-Hassan, 1990). They express a degree of certainty. Seven modal auxiliary verbs that are used to convey epistemic modalising meanings are can, could, may, might, need, will, would. Specifically, epistemic modality expresses possibility (may), likelihood, (can, could, might); necessity (must, should-compulsion, have to); prediction (will, would), certainty (will, would-weaker certainty); probability (may, might).

Deontic Modality

This is concerned with the possibility and necessity in terms of freedom to act (including ability, permission and duty). Deontic modality means more specifically that the speaker or writer ‘intervenes in the speech event by laying obligations or giving permission’ (Downing and Locke 1992:332). As Lyons (1977) remarks, deontic modals are concerned with the necessity or possibility of acts performed by morally responsible agents. Thus, they are used to express desires, wants, commands, obligation, necessity, undertaking and permission. They include must; may and can of permission; should/ought to, daren’t, needn’t and shall of undertaking. Deontic may, might and can/ could are used for permission. However, can of permission is less formal than may. The use of can for permission is more frequent in spoken dialogues (Quirk et al., 1972).

Deontic modals denote desires, wants, commands, obligation, necessity, undertaking, and permission. They exhibit a performative function and refer to the present time only (El-Hassan 1990:158). As shown in the format below, deontic modals are basically discourse oriented. They include must of obligation, may of permission, and shall of undertaking. Deontic modals also cut across the basic degrees of both possibility and necessity. The issue of futurity as a modality is not settled amongst linguists. Although will and shall meet the four ‘nice properties’ of auxiliaries, negation, inversion, code, and emphasis (Huddleston 1976; Khalil 1999: 216), they rarely indicate plain futurity. Nevertheless, there is evidence for considering futurity as modality. After all, shall and will are formally modals and all modals can refer to the future time.

Dynamic Modals

Dynamic modals include can, must of obligation/necessity and have to of obligation as well as volitional will/shall, and would, should, and could, thus exhibiting function overlapping. Dynamic can expresses various modalities, such as ability at the present or future time, or general/theoretical possibility in addition to requests, offers, suggestions, invitations, implied commands, and others. Dynamic will/shall express volition, willingness, and requests. On the other hand, must and have to in the sense of obligation express dynamic modality, particularly when followed by a dynamic (activity) verb.
Theoretical Framework

The conceptual thrust of this study is underpinned by the concept of modality within the framework of Halliday’s Systemic Functional Linguistics. Sometimes called ‘helping verbs’, modal auxiliary verbs are ‘little’ words that precede the main verb of a sentence, and are largely used (across registers) to express a speaker's or writer’s "opinion or attitude towards the proposition that the sentence expresses or the situation that the proposition describes (Quirk and Greenbaum, 1973). For this reason, modal auxiliary verbs may be involved in the expression of time, necessity, possibility, permission and obligation as well as such grammatical phenomena as negation, affirmation and questioning.

Halliday (1979: 189-210) views modality as part of the interpersonal constituent of language and subsequently classifies the English modal auxiliary verbs in terms of modality and modulation (i.e. the ideational constituent of language). As noted by Halliday (1970:335), deontic modality can be regarded as “a form of participation of the speaker in the speech event.” It plays a significant role in the interpersonal process of negotiation of meaning. Deontic modality pertains to the use of language to express desires, wants, commands, obligations, undertaking and permission. In other words, deontic modality expresses permission (e.g. may, can, may is more formal in English than ‘can’); obligation-necessity (must, should, ought to, have to); expectations (e.g. ought to); advisability (ought to); volitions-desirability (should, would) and prohibition (e.g. must, must not).

Several empirical studies show the relevance of modals in political discourse; Shayegh and Nabifar (2012) demonstrate that Barack Obama uses modality, among other linguistic resources, to create positive or negative power in his interviews. Again, the potentiality of modal verbs to reflect power and ideology relations is accentuated in Wang’s (2010) critical discourse analysis of Barack Obama’s speeches. Boicu (2007) brings a different, but interesting perspective, to bear on studies on modality in political discourse. Analysing Ashley Mote’s political speeches, he finds that the speaker’s use of modal verbs contributed to the mitigation or aggravation of the illocutionary forces instigated by the speech acts he enunciates. The study therefore amply supports the position that modal verbs, depending on their contextual usage, have the inclination to attenuate or exacerbate the proposition of an utterance. Menezes (2006) also investigates how linguistic expressions of deontic modality act in a sense of making the audience’s participation possible in standpoints defended in political speeches, while drawing on a functionalist theory. The findings reveal that politicians use must to consolidate their obligations, and when necessary, strategically distance themselves from established deontic values. The review of literature above, first and foremost, shows that there is a dearth of studies on modality or the use of linguistic modals in political inaugural speeches. Second, not much of such studies within an African context is scarce, hence, the justification and usefulness of the present study. The study aims to identify and classify modals based on their communicational functions in order to discover the impact of the use of linguistic modals in the inaugural address of President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo’s.

Methodology

This section discusses the methodological procedures of the study, viz-a-viz the data and procedure of analysis. The data for this study is the 2017 inaugural address of the Ghanaian President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo. This study uses the descriptive research design which employs both the qualitative and the quantitative research. The qualitative aspect in this study accounts for the content analysis. The quantitative aspect accounts for the frequency of the occurrence of the identified linguistic modals and the frequency of the communicational functions of the identified modals in the data. The tools for analysis are the linguistic modals can, must, could, would, will, may, might, shall, and would.
Analysis and Discussion of Findings

Table 1: The identified modal auxiliaries in the data are represented in the table below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>MODAL</th>
<th>FREQUENCY</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Will</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>49.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Can</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Should</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6.85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Must</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>23.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Would</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Shall</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Could</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.74%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total- 73

Table 1 reveals that President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo’s uses a total of 73 linguistic modals. The modal ‘will’ has the highest frequency which has the simple percentage of 49.32% followed by ‘Must’ 23.29%, the third highest is ‘can’ 12.33%, should has 6.85%, ‘shall’ and ‘may’ has the same percentage which is 2.74% and ‘would’ and ‘could’ share the least percentage 1.37%.

In this study, analysis of modality shall be carried out also in respect of the context in which the modal auxiliaries observed in the data are used, and the functions that each is made to perform shall equally be based on the context of usage. Besides, discourse communicational functions in this work are conceived in terms of the standard compliant roles that the modal auxiliaries are used to perform in the speech. The findings of the study revealed that Based on the functions of modal auxiliaries namely; possibility, proposition, wish, obligation, certainty modals are observed and found to characterize the speech.

Possibility

The examples of possibility modals that are found to be predominantly used in the data are ‘can’ and ‘will’

1. We have an exuberant and young, growing population that wants the best of what the world has to offer and will not settle for “Third World” or “developing world” standards. We have an adventurous people who are in a hurry for success. I have no doubt that the talents, energies, sense of enterprise and innovation of the Ghanaian can be harnessed to make Ghana the place where dreams come true.

2. It will require sacrifice, but it can be done. Others have done it. So can we. Our best days still lie ahead. Though our challenges are fearsome, so are our strengths.

3. We can start with little changes in our own individual attitudes and practices. The change can and should start now and with us as individuals.

4. I ask the Legislature and Judiciary to join with me. But no President, no Parliament, no Government can undertake this mission all by itself.

In excerpt 1, using the modal ‘can’ the President expresses his belief that it is possible that the resources that the nation has can be harnessed to make Ghana a better and well developed country. In excerpt 2, with the use of the modal ‘can’ he acknowledges that there are sacrifices that need to be made with to achieve the greatness they desire. He also immediately raises the hope of possibility of his audience by using the modal ‘can’ again to emphasize that nothing is impossible since other countries have succeed that they can also achieve their desired status in the world. In excerpt 3, the speaker uses the modal ‘can’ twice to depict the possibility of every citizen working together as a big family towards the desired change the nation needs to grow. In excerpt 4, the speaker uses ‘can’ to express his need of help and support to attain the possible. He also recognizes the fact that it is possible for him to lead Ghana as long as he has the support of the Legislature, the Judiciary. The ‘can’ also indicates both the possible and impossible. He uses it to demonstrate that working alone can be frustrating hence, he cries for help to make the impossible possible.
Proposition

The example of proposition modal that is found to be predominantly used in the data is ‘should’.

1. Our success or failure should be judged by the quality of the individual, by his knowledge, his skills, his behaviour as a member of society, the standard of living he is able to enjoy and by the degree of harmony and brotherliness in our community life as a nation.

2. We should move on to deepen our democracy. It is time to make sure that we have a true separation of powers between the various arms of government.

In excerpts 1 and 2, the speaker uses the modal ‘should’ to suggest what ought to be the norm in Ghana. In a bid to encourage the Ghanaian people to have the right attitude that will help bring out the best in his administration, he advises in excerpt 2, that they should truly practice democracy so that the positive change they have envisioned would become a reality.

Obligation

The examples of obligation modals that are found to be predominantly used in the data are ‘must’, ‘shall’, ‘should’ and ‘will’.

1. Our Parliament, the legislative arm of government, must grow into its proper role as effective machinery for accountability and oversight of the Executive, and not be its junior partner.

2. The Ghanaian Parliament, the Ghanaian Member of Parliament, must stand out as institutions that represent all that we hold dear and citizens can take pride in.

3. Our judiciary must inspire confidence in the citizens…

4. A Ghanaian judge must be a reassuring presence and the epitome of fairness.

5. I shall protect the public purse by insisting on value-for-money in all public transactions. Public service is just that – service and not an avenue for making money.

6. We must create wealth and restore happiness to our nation. We must expand our horizons and embrace science and technology as critical tools for our development.

7. We should all recognise the danger we face by the alarming degradation of our environment and work to protect our water bodies, our forests, our lands and the oceans. We should learn and accept that we do not own the land, but hold it in trust for generations yet unborn and, therefore, have a responsibility to take good care of it and all it contains.

8. Being a Ghanaian must stand for something more than the holder of a birth certificate or a certain passport.

9. Calling yourself a Ghanaian must mean you have signed up to a certain definable code and conduct. Being a Ghanaian puts an obligation on each one of us to work at building a fair, prosperous and happy nation.

10. And calling yourself a Ghanaian must mean we look out for each other.

11. Now we must do the work the season demands. To that work, I now turn with all the authority of my office.

12. Fellow citizens, you must be at the centre of the change.

13. The change we have voted for will have to start with each of us as individuals.

Usually, the modal ‘must’ is used to express obligation. This is evident especially in the speaker’s judgment on the actions another person is obligated to perform. The speaker here in excerpts (1,2,3,4,6,8,9,10,11,12) uses the modal ‘must’ predominantly to strongly express necessity, compulsion and resilient determination on what he expects from the citizens of Ghana in his administration. He expresses the obligations he expects from the Legislative arm of government, the Ghanaian Parliament as a whole and each individual parliament member. He expects the judiciary to be fair to the people. He believes everyone to do all it takes to legitimately create wealth in order to alleviate poverty. He expects them to embrace science and technology. He obliges every Ghanaian to be warm, caring,
honest and well behaved. They should represent their country well at home and abroad. He obligates everyone to be hard-working at building a fair and prosperous and happy nation.

Still in the process of sharing obligations to citizens and government bodies, the President did not leave himself out of the duties. In excerpt 5, using the first person singular pronoun ‘I’ and the modal ‘shall’, the President pledged to protect the public the public purse and not make his tenure a time to amass wealth as most dubious politicians in power do. He assigned himself the obligation to monitor the finance of the nation so that money will not be squandered.

Commitment

The example of commitment modal that is found to be predominantly used in the data is ‘will’.

1. We **will** provide vision and direction and shine the light down the path of our entrepreneurs and farmers. We are, indeed, counting on a vibrant private sector to drive growth and create jobs.
2. We **will** stimulate the creative juices of innovators. We **will** bring back to life the adventurer in you. It is time to imagine and to dream again; time to try that business idea again. We **will** reduce taxes to recover the momentum of our economy. The doors
3. We **will** build a confident Ghana which is united, at peace with itself and takes pride in its diversity.
4. We **will** rekindle the spirit that made Ghana the leading light on the African continent, and make our conditions deserving of that accolade. We **will** work with our neighbours and friends on the continent to enhance peace, democracy and political stability in our part of the world. We **will** reassert vigorously the Pan African vocation to which our nation has been dedicated. Integration of our region and of our continent **will** be a strategic objective of Ghanaian policy.
5. A new dawn has arisen in Ghana, which **will** enable us to build a new Ghanaian civilization which **will** be the beacon of Africa and the wonder of the world. I thank you all, my fellow citizens, for making me the president of this beautiful country.
6. Public service is just that – service and not an avenue for making money. Money is to be made in the private sector, not the public. Measures **will** be put in place to ensure this.
7. We believe that the business of government is to govern. Ours is to set fair rules. We **will** provide vision and direction and shine the light down the path of our entrepreneurs and farmers. We are, indeed, counting on a vibrant private sector to drive growth and create jobs.
8. I assure you, my fellow citizens, who have entrusted me with this mandate, that I **will** advance my convictions with civility, I **will** serve the public interest with courage, I **will** speak for greater justice as well as compassion, and I **will** call for responsibility and I **will** live it, as well.
9. The rule of law **will** be the underlying tenet of our lives; and the law **will** be applicable to all of us, and not just some.
10. We **will** have to work hard, harder than we have ever done before; and the hard work **will** be done by all of us, and not just some. There **will** be discipline in all sectors of our lives; and this applies to all of us, not just some.
11. Our public service **will** be accorded the dignity and respect it deserves, and be made to attract the bright young people it needs.
12. We acknowledge there **will** always be the need for a safety net for the vulnerable in our society, as in all other societies. Our nation **will** work when the marginalised and vulnerable are catered for and treated with respect.
13. Our elderly people **will** be recognised for their roles in building Ghana and assured of care in the dusk of their lives.
In a bid to establish his trustworthiness, integrity, credibility and good intentions, in excerpts (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12), the President uses the modal ‘will’ solely to express his strong and willing commitment to the Ghanaian people. He verbally committed himself to do the following:

- a. provide vision and direction for the people
- b. encourage entrepreneurs and farmers
- c. create employment
- d. build a confident and united Ghana
- e. make Ghana number one in Africa
- f. make the public service fair and honest
- g. assert justice and rule of law, he assert that nobody will be above the law and
- h. he also assured care for the aged

He establishes his credibility by impressing on the audience that all those that will work with him will not be allowed to compromise good values. He assures the people that his administration will bring hope, better livelihood to the nation.

**Certainty**

The Example of certainty modal that is found to be predominantly used in the data is ‘will’.

1. It will not be easy. We have no illusions whatsoever about the enormity of the task that we face, but I know that Ghanaians at home and abroad will rise to the occasion; they always do.
2. On March 6, in a few weeks’ time, Ghana will attain 60 years as an independent nation. I suspect that those early nationalists would be disappointed, if they came today and saw the level of development we have achieved in 60 years of independence.

In excerpts 1 and 2, using the modal ‘will’ the President asserts two facts; firstly, that the journey to greatness will not be easy and that Ghana will be 60 years old soon thus, they have to work hard. He emphasizes the difficulty ahead and in the same vein encourages his audience home and abroad that it is certain that they can achieve the desired change.

**Wish**

The example of wish modals that is found to be predominantly used in the data is ‘may’.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and may God bless our homeland Ghana and make her great and strong. And may God bless us all and Mother Africa.

Finally, with the use of the Modal ‘may’ in the excerpt above, because of his profound love for Ghana, he expresses his prayers for Ghana specifically and the African continent specifically.

**Table 2:** visual representations of the communicational functions of the identified linguistic modals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Communicational Functions</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Possibility</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12.73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Proposition</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Obligation</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>27.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Commitment</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>47.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Certainty</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5.47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Wish</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In table 2, the modals expressing commitment has the highest with the frequency of 26 and simple percentage of 47.7% which reveals that the President has dedicated himself to the growth of his nation. The 2nd highest is the modals expressing obligation with the frequency of 15 modals and the
simple percentage of 27.27%. The third highest is the modals expressing possibility with the frequency of 7 modals and the simple percentage of 12.73%. The fourth highest is the modals expressing certainty with the frequency 3 modals and the simple percentage of 5.47%. The modals expressing proposition and wish are the least with the frequency of 2 and simple percentage of 3.64% each.

Summary of Findings
The findings of the study revealed the following.
1. There are seventy three linguistic modals in President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo’s Inaugural Address.
2. The classifications of the identified modals based on their communicational functions in Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo’s Inaugural Address are: possibility, proposition, obligation, commitment, certainty and wish.
3. The use of modals expressing commitment has the highest percentage which reveals the level of dedication the President has towards the Ghanaian people to serve them selflessly.

Conclusion
The examination of the inaugural speech of President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, reveals the use of different linguistic modals to achieve different goals. The outcome of the study shows that linguistic modals have several functions which can only be understood based on the context of use in the inaugural address. Linguistic modals are tools used in persuading the audience that he has the qualities that make him a capable and a credible leader. The modals are extensively used especially the modal ‘must’ in the inaugural speech to express a sense of obligation and commitment to the national goals and that his administration will not compromise to corruption. The multipurpose use of 73 modals depicts that the President relied consciously on it as a strategy and effort to persuade the citizens of Ghana about his political intentions. This paper has added to the exiting body of knowledge on rhetoric, and has added to the understanding of the political agenda of President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo.

References