A SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF SELECTED NIGERIAN ELECTRONIC ADVANCE FEE FRAUD MAILS

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CERTIFICATION

This dissertation has been read and approved as meeting part of the requirement for the award of

a Master of Arts Degree in the Department of English of the Faculty of Arts, University of Ilorin,

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to:

The Almighty God

My family

Lovers of language

DECLARATION

I, Akinmusuyi, Samuel Akindeji, hereby declare that this dissertation, entitled "Systemic Functional Linguistic Analysis of Selected Nigerian Electronic Advance Fee Fraud Mails", is a record of my research work. It has neither been presented nor accepted in any previous application for a higher degree. All sources of information have been specifically acknowledged. In addition, the research work has been ethically approved by the University Ethical Review Committee.

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Akinmusuyi, Samuel Akindeji   Date

ABSTRACT

Language, as a system of communication, is used for building interpersonal relationships; exchanging ideas and thoughts; and passing information in a meaningful and logical way. Cybercriminals utilise the flexible and heterogeneous nature of language in a deceptive and persuasive manner to defraud people of their valuables. This study aimed at examining the experiential, interpersonal and textual meanings embedded in the selected Advance Fee Fraud (AFF) mails. The objectives of the study were to discover the predominant process types of experiential meaning in the selected AFF mails; identify the modality choices made in the mails; and explore the thematic patterns in the mails. The researcher employed 'purposive sampling technique' to select ten electronic AFF mails which were sent between August, 2019 and July, 2020, and received via email accounts of various respondents, who were students of the Faculty of Arts, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Kwara State. Each of the ten mails was broken down into its constituent clauses and analysed using the three metafunctions of language identified by Halliday (1994), and Halliday and Matthiessen (2014). At the end of this study, 325 processes were found in the ten selected mails out of which material (45.2%) and relational (26.8%) processes were dominantly used by the fraudsters to identify and describe certain physical actions which will guarantee the success of the scam deal, and to establish trust and confidentiality by sharing their identities and appealing to the recipients of the mail to do the same. It was also discovered that the fraudsters largely used more of declarative moods (84.9%) to convey specific information to their unsuspecting victims with the intent of persuading and coercing them to take a particular action. Also, the analysis revealed that textual themes (48.3%) had more occurrences than any other theme types; these themes were mostly used by these fraudsters to provide links between different ideas and messages embedded in the mails. It can therefore be concluded that through the predominant use of declarative mood type and material process of experiential meaning, fraudsters seek to manipulate their victims' behaviours; coerce and convince them to act in a certain way; and establish and maintain relationship with them with the ultimate aim of swindling them of their assets.

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CHAPTER ONE

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.1   Background to the Study

Language has been described by various scholars and researchers as the core of the communication process and it is the pivot around which man's social, political, economic and environmental endeavours revolve. Language is a potent tool which is used to communicate our thoughts, emotions, ideas and social control. Halliday and Matthiessen (2000, p. 5) posit that language evolved for three major purposes which are: to talk about what is happening, what will happen, and what has happened; to interact and/or to express a point of view; and to turn the output of the previous two functions into a coherent text. Language can therefore be said to be a system of communication which is used for building interpersonal relationships; exchanging of ideas and thoughts; and passing of information in a meaningful and logical way.

Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) was chiefly developed by Michael Halliday in the 1960s, and "it refers to a new approach to the study of grammar that is radically different from the traditional view in which language is a set of rules for specifying grammatical structures" (Bavali & Sadighi, 2008, p. 14). SFL views language as a resource for making meanings and grammar therefore aids in creating meaning by means of wording. Setyowati (2016, p. 7) says SFL is a study of language that views language as having two features – "systemic" and "functional". According to Setyowati, language is systemic because "SFL uses theory of meaning as a choice, by which a language or any other semiotic system is interpreted as networks of interlocking options. Language is also functional because it is designed to account for how language is used."

Halliday (1994) identifies three functions of language, which are: the ideational (or experiential), interpersonal and textual metafunctions. The ideational metafunction of language deals with the use of language to encode one's experience or view of the world. It helps humans to build a mental picture of reality and to be able to understand their experience of what goes on around them. The interpersonal function is observed in the use of language for interaction among people. The textual function is the use of language to organise one's experiential, logical and interpersonal meanings into a linear and coherent whole (Butt, et al., 2003, pp. 5-6).

Lampe (1992) defines fraud as "a form of deceitfulness that involves theft of money by means of criminal deception, the use of false representation, dishonest artifice or trick to benefit thieving" (p. 189). It involves one or more parties taking money from others, without their knowledge. There are several different types of fraud that are perpetrated online, including electronic auction or retail-based fraud schemes, stock scams, and work-at-home plans (Grabosky, et al., 2001; Newman & Clarke, 2003).

However, in the nineteenth century, a particular kind of fraud, which was closely associated with African-based criminal groups (Schneider, 2018), was discovered and acknowledged internationally. This kind of fraud is called Advance Fee Fraud (AFF), which is also sometimes known as 4-1-9 scam. According to Tanfa (2006, p. 3), AFF "has become a major business and has, accordingly, generated very large profits for those who are successful at it...and it remains a little understood type of fraud, within the academic arena, law enforcement agencies and business community in general."

Therefore, there is an urgent need to undertake a thorough examination of these AFF mails with the aim of gaining more insight into the nature of this type of scam. This analysis is

undertaken using Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistic approach - a theory of language which focuses on language in context and language in use. Focusing on the three metafunctions of language identified by Halliday, this theory will provide a greatly enhanced insight into electronic AFF mails; offer the right instruments to analyse aspects related to form and content; and help in making explicit the nature of language use, and also in understanding the implicit meanings of these fraudulent mails.

1.2   Statement of the Research Problem

Electronic mails are used to pass information and exchange electronic texts among people. The advent of the internet has brought along its unique language use, forming a genre with peculiar way of representing texts. Citing Taiwo (2010), Alake (2017, p. 98) notes that "the arrival of the internet has had a great impact on language to the extent that the medium has led to the evolution of new genres that appear to be suitable only in the context of online discourse." Fraudsters or cybercriminals exploit the advent of electronic mails to defraud people of their valuables by persuading them that they will receive a substantial benefit in return for providing some modest payment in advance.

French (2004) cited in Onyebadi and Park (2012, p. 181) states that former US Secretary of State, Colin Powell was reported to have characterised and dismissed Nigeria as a nation of 'scammers'. This former top US diplomat was referring to the unique brand of international scam known as 4-1-9 advance fee fraud, whose origin is mostly associated with Nigeria. This has therefore put a dent on the image of Nigeria as a nation.

When people are using language to communicate, they give due consideration to their choice of vocabulary and grammar, that is, the lexical items to be used to pass across their

messages to others. These lexical items are chosen based on the underlying intentions of the language users (Halliday & Hasan, 1976). In Advance Fee Fraud mails, language is mostly used to con unsuspecting recipients of such mails and ultimately, swindle them of their assets. This study therefore seeks to investigate the ideational (or experiential), interpersonal and textual meanings embedded in the selected Advance Fee Fraud mails by using Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) in order to explore how meanings are construed and interpreted by the application of these metafunctions.

1.3   Aim and Objectives of the Study

The research aims at a systemic functional linguistic analysis of the ideational (or experiential), interpersonal and textual meanings embedded in the selected Advance Fee Fraud mails (AFFM).

The specific objectives of the study are to:

i.   identify the clause patterns which constitute each of the selected fraudulent mails;

ii.   discover the predominant process types of experiential meaning in the selected AFFM;

iii.   identify the modality choices made in the selected mails and interpersonal meaning conveyed;

iv.   examine the mode of interpersonal meaning between the fraudsters and their victims as well as the persuasive devices employed; and

v.   explore the thematic patterns in the AFFM.

1.4 Research Questions

By the end of this study, an attempt would have been made to provide answers to the following questions:

  i.   What are the clause patterns which constitute each of the selected fraudulent mails?

 ii.   What are the predominant process types of experiential meaning in the selected Advance Fee Fraud Mails?

iii.   What are the modality choices made in the selected mails and interpersonal meaning conveyed?

 iv.   What is the mode of interpersonal meaning between the fraudsters and their victims as well as the persuasive devices employed?

  v.   What are the thematic patterns in the selected mails?

1.5 Justification of the Study

There have been many scholarly works from the theoretical framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), such as Gonzales (2008), who uses SFL to examine how the language of texts written by a certain university president to the student body creates interpersonal relationships between administration and students, as well as the extent to which such language changes when significant contextual issues become a factor, and Bankole (2015), who investigates the extent to which playwrights' choices and the structures of the elements of mood system in their texts affect their abilities to express the interpersonal meanings they set out to convey. Also, Farhat (2016) studies the political discourse of Barrack Obama which embodies Islamic world issues. The aim of Farhat's study is to expose the representation of the issues in the discourse of Obama through its transitivity processes and modality patterns. Other

researchers who have worked from the perspective of SFL are Wattles & Radić-Bojanić (2007), Feng & Liu (2010), Adetomokun (2012) and Ayoola (2013).

However, no researcher, to the knowledge of this researcher, has attempted to investigate Electronic Advance Fee Fraud mails using the SFL approach. Alake (2017), who also works on Advance Fee Fraud, uses pragma-stylistic approach in her analysis of Electronic Advance Fee Fraud texts, where the styles of texts are explicated through the use of pragmatic elements.

This research will be channeled to better our knowledge of internet-based fraud and identity theft by attempting to demonstrate the various writing techniques that are used by these fraudsters to generate response and information from their victims; and also explore the structure, phraseology and content of advance fee fraud messages. This research work will be of immense value to those who have particular interests in SFL and Electronic Advance Fee Fraud. It will serve as a referential source for any scholarly research to be carried out in areas similar to the focus of this research work.

1.6   Scope of the Study

This study attempts to investigate how meanings are construed and interpreted by the application of Halliday's metafunctions of language in the selected Electronic Advance Fee Fraud mails. The researcher examines ten authentic cases of advance fee fraud sent between August, 2019 and July, 2020, and received via email accounts of various respondents, who are students of the Faculty of Arts, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Kwara State. The contents of these emails are analysed meticulously to identify the means employed to manipulate the behaviour of victims. SFL principles of Experiential, Interpersonal and Textual Metafunctions are applied in

analysing the selected mails. The focus of the research is on the identification and analysis of all the clauses that constitute the electronic mails.

1.7   Research Methodology

This study does a Systemic Functional Linguistic analysis of ten Electronic Advance Fee Fraud mails, which were sent between August 2019, and July, 2020. The selected mails are forwarded to the email address of the researcher by various respondents, who are students of the Faculty of Arts, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Kwara State. Each of the ten mails is broken down into its constituent clauses. Clause-level analysis is being done in this research, rather than sentence-level, because in SFL, "clause" is the unit of analysis; a unit in which experiential, interpersonal and textual meanings are combined.

The researcher employs the "purposive sampling technique" in arriving at the samples to be researched on. A purposive sampling, also known as judgemental sampling, is a non-probability sampling method in which the researchers rely on their own judgement when choosing members of the population to participate in the study (Sharma, 2017, p. 751). This researcher has adopted this technique to select the AFF mails to be analysed in this study since the data are limited and hence, not easy to obtain, and the exploration is of an under-researched but important area.

1.8   Summary of the Chapter

This chapter of the dissertation is the introductory chapter which has given a general idea of the research area, the purpose and justification of the study, as well as the scope and limitation of the study. The means of data collection and analysis have also been made known. In the next chapter which is the literature review, the various contributions of scholars and researchers to the field of SFL, as well as other relevant and related concepts about the study will be reviewed.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1   Introduction

This chapter focuses on the review of Systemic Functional Linguistics as an aspect of language study. The study gives adequate definitions of language as well as its functions, with specific focus on Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) metafunctions. The review also covers the relation between language and scam e-mails; and various approaches to syntactic study alongside their contributions to English syntax. Finally, the origin, nature and forms of Advance Fee Fraud are also examined.

2.2   Language and Fraudulent Mails

Language is a tool which human beings employ for the purpose of conveying specific intentions to a targeted audience. Language is all about experience and communication and linguistics is the scientific study of language, which by implication is the study of our experiences and communications. According to Idegbekwe (2017, p. 38), "one important characteristic or nature of the human language is the fact that it is structural". This means that "languages exist in different layers which combine to aid communication" (p. 38). Many scholars and researchers have given various definitions of language, and this affirms the fact that language is an organised and systematic code geared towards communication.

People use language to achieve diverse goals and express ideas. Through language, individuals establish and maintain social identity and relationships. According to Thompson (2004, p. 30):

We use language to talk about our experience of the world, including the worlds in our own minds, to describe events and states and the entities involved in them. We also use language to interact with other people, to establish and maintain relations with them, to influence their behaviour, to express our own viewpoint on things in the world, and to elicit or change theirs.

Finegan (2008, p. 6) sees language as "a vehicle of thought, a system of expression that mediates the transfer of thought from one person to another". In everyday life, language also serves important social and emotional functions. Halliday and Matthiessen (2014, p. 3) are of the opinion that language is a resource for making meaning; and discourse is the basic unit of language, not sentence. Language is principally seen as a tool used for communication among humans.

In Systemic Functional Linguistics, language is studied by focusing on the functions it performs in context; while in communication, texts are constructed. Texts serve as the data used by systemic functional linguists to study a language. A functional grammar aims to match forms to function and meaning in context. Since there is no definition that can comprehensively account for the concept of language, the researcher adopts the view of the systemic linguists since in every text meaning must be communicated.

Naksawat, Akkakoson and Loi (2016) opine that the role of English in the world today cannot be overemphasised. The function of English language in international communication has rapidly risen since the start of the 21st century and globalisation. Naksawat, Akkakoson and Loi claim English "has been widely used in internet-based communication methods, especially in

the form of electronic mail (e-mail) which has become an increasingly popular mode of interpersonal communication and intra-/inter-organisational communication" (p. 1). The advent of e-mail communication has consequently become an important tool in internet crimes.

Fraudulent e-mails, which are also called Nigerian 4-1-9 scam e-mails (419 is the article of the Nigerian criminal code dealing with fraud), are those mails in which fraudsters target victims to convince them to make advance payments for financial gains that do not materialise. These swindlers make use the flexible and heterogeneous nature of language in a deceptive and persuasive manner to defraud people of their valuables by convincing them that they will receive a substantial benefit in return for providing some modest payment in advance. Common persuasive strategies employed by these fraudsters, as identified by Schaffer (2012, p. 157), frequently involve "apologies, flattery, attempts to intrigue recipients, and appeals to greed, altruism, trust, and religious feelings".

2.3   Other Approaches to Syntactic Study

Yule (2010, p. 96) asserts that "the word 'syntax' comes originally from Greek and literally means 'a putting together' or 'arrangement'". Syntax is the study of the function of words and how they are arranged into groups (constituents) and sentences. It studies how words are combined to form meaningful and grammatical sentences. According to NOUN (2008, p. 15), the study of syntax is concerned with "the structural representation of sentences in human languages. It constitutes a part of the study of grammar, which also includes the study of sound (phonology) and meaning (semantics)". We can therefore conclude that syntax is the part of grammar that studies the patterns of how words are arranged to form a phrase, clause or clause complex in order to make meaning in a language.

There are different theories or approaches through which the grammar of a language is studied - Traditional Grammar, Structural Grammar, Transformational Generative Grammar, and Systemic Functional Grammar. This suggests that to study the syntax of a language, a particular grammatical theory or a combination of two or more theories may be used.

Traditional Grammar is an attempt to summarise various attitudes and methods that characterised the study of grammar in the ancient and medieval periods, particularly in the 18th and 19th centuries. According to Smith (2003, p. 1), "grammar, in this traditional sense, is the study of the structure and formation of words and sentences, usually without much reference to sound and meaning." In the more modern linguistic sense, grammar is the study of the entire interrelated system of structures - sounds, words, meanings, and sentences - within a language. Traditional grammar is inadequate and full of shortcomings that paved the way for so many models of modern grammar. Since it is mainly based on Indo-European classical languages like Latin and Greek, it provides an inadequate model for the grammars of languages that differ from them. This approach to grammar is normative and prescriptive rather than explicit and descriptive. The rules of Latin grammar were imposed on English. Some of these rules are "do not split an infinitive and do not end a sentence with a preposition. Despite all these criticisms leveled against traditional grammar, this approach laid the foundation for modern study of English grammar. Wallwork (1969) and Lamidi (2008) also claim that traditional grammar is the easiest form of understanding the grammar of English, and is the most widely used model for teaching English language, especially in Africa.

Another approach to syntactic study is Structural Grammar. Broadly speaking, any grammar in which there is an attempt to describe the structure of grammatical sentences is structural grammar. But the term has come to refer more narrowly to the type of grammar

brought to its maximum development in the early 1950s by scholars such as C. C. Fries, Leonard Bloomfield, Ferdinand de Saussure and Zelling Harris. According to Ojo (2011, p. 11), this model of grammar is identified with the Prague School; the Pragueans regarded themselves as structuralists, that is, as advocates of the view that language is a structure with levels and interrelated components. Structural linguists analyse language in accordance with external form. This typically involves isolating, classifying, and segmenting the observed language data. Yule (2010, p. 87) says that the main concern of structural analyst is to investigate the distribution of forms in a language.

Transformational Generative Grammar (TGG) is another approach to language study that was developed by Noam Chomsky in his first major publication, *Syntactic Structures* (1957). Olujide (2007, p. 56), on the transformational and generative features of grammar, says "a grammar is transformational if it is preoccupied, not only with the surface structures, but also with deep structures (transformations) of sentences...a grammar is generative if it lay claims to projectivity (predictiveness) and explicitness." A generative grammar must therefore be capable of producing both actual and possible (or potential) sentences in a particular language. According to the transformational grammarians, the syntactic description of sentences has two aspects - Surface Structure and Deep Structure. Surface structure is the aspect of description that determines the phonetic or orthographic form of sentences; while deep structure deals with the underlying syntactic and semantic components of sentences (Olujide, 2007). Also, this approach to syntactic study is not only focused on actual sentences that have been produced before, but also on all potential sentences of a language. According to Olujide (2007, p. 56), one important feature of TGG is its high degree of abstraction. Its rules are highly formalised and abstract.

Chomsky introduces the phrase structure approach to the study of grammar to analyse utterances according to their syntactic constituents.

However, the approach to syntactic study employed in this research is Systemic Functional Linguistics; a theory of language which focuses on language in context, that is, the actual use of language. It deals with how language functions in a particular context to create meanings.

2.4   The Foundation of Systemic Functional Linguistics

Systemic Functional Linguistics (henceforth, SFL) is an approach to language developed largely by Michael Alexander Kikwood Halliday and his followers during the 1960s in the United Kingdom, and later in Australia. According to O'Donnell (2012, p. 5), SFL is built on previous works of some influential linguists such as Bronislaw Malinowski and J.R. Firth. Malinowski (1887-1942), a Polish anthropologist who did most of his works based in England, provided two concepts for studying any language - context of culture and context of situation. He stated that environment and culture had an influence on language use. The second linguist, J.R. Firth, who established linguistics as a discipline in Britain, developed Malinowski's theory about the centrality of the context of situation and applied it through his linguistic model.

Halliday, in the 1960s, specialised in linguistics at the Prague school and developed SFL based on Malinowski's view; his doctoral dissertation on this view was published in 1961. As stated in Farhat (2016, p. 15), Halliday described this theory first when he investigated the structure and meaning of Chinese language at the University of Lingam and under the supervision of Wang Li. In 1960, Halliday brought his notion of grammar to London and

expanded it to analysing English language. Later, the work was applied to study other languages in Europe such as French and German.

Almurashi (2016) asserts that "the SFL approach is used world-wide, especially in language education, and for a number of purposes like discourse analysis" (p. 71). SFL has continued to be closely associated with sociology due to the fact that the theory is more interested in the manner at which language is utilised in social settings so as to attain a specific target (Almurashi, 2016). Because of the concern of SFL with the use of language, great emphasis is placed on the function of language, such as what language is used for, rather than what language structure is all about.

M.A.K. Halliday's first work was published in 1985 with the title - *An Introduction to Systemic Functional Linguistics*. The second edition was published in 1994. Halliday then updated his work in 2004 with the help of Christian Matthiessen. The last edition, with a new title *Halliday's Introduction to Functional Grammar,* was published in 2014 by Halliday and Matthiessen (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2014).

2.5   The Concept of Systemic Functional Linguistics

The emphasis of SFL on sociological aspect of language makes it a potent theoretical framework for this research. SFL is an approach which can be said to be an influential model for the study of texts. Halliday in his work on SFL explained language as meanings rather than a combination of words and sentences. SFL identifies how language can be used in social contexts to achieve particular purposes.

Adetomokun (2012, p. 44) says that "this theory (SFL) looks at language from the outside as well as the inside, because it analyses language as used naturally in any social setting". SFL can be used to analyse texts in order to have a better understanding of the descriptions of grammatical resources and the general functions of language within discourse. Halliday (1978) is of the view that the most important feature of SFL is its orientation outside linguistics towards sociology. This orientation brings with it a view of language as social semiotic. Hence, it can help us to discover tendencies and patterns in texts which would otherwise remain obscure through description, interpretation and making meaning of texts.

Halliday (1994) claims that SFL model views language as "a resource that is fundamentally shaped by the uses that people make of it; it therefore aims to explain the forms of language in terms of the meanings that they express" (p. xv). SFL is grounded in the notion that language is inherently functional, and it explores how language is used to enable social communication and the representation of ideas (White, 2000). Within this field of SFL falls Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG). SFG is not grammatical structure orientation, but it is concerned with exploring meanings. Thus, SFG is a form of grammatical and meaning description, and is a part of the SFL which is a social semiotic approach.

According to Martínez Lirola (2010) cited in Castello (2014, p. 4), SFG "is primarily concerned with the way in which grammar functions to realise meaning in text and allows the intentions of interlocutors to manifest through choices made in the selection and organisation of language". It differs from the formal or traditional approach to grammar, which outlines a set of rules that determine the parameters of how the building blocks of a language – syntax, word classes and so on – can be coherently structured. In contrast, Butt, et al. (2003) say that SFG adopts a broader and less abstract perspective, examining how language works within social

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structures. SFG is therefore considered as a framework for describing, interpreting and making meaning.

Context is indisputably a key factor in language choices. According to Halliday (1994), language can only be understood by examining the ways in which it is used in certain contexts, both cultural and situational. Therefore, context is integral to the overall process of making meaning. SFL studies language in context in terms of three aspects - Field, Tenor and Mode.

Field refers to the subject matter of discussion at any situation. It answers questions such as "what is going on in the text," and "what are people doing". According to Martin (1984, p.16) cited in Montes, Barboza and Olascoaga (2014, p. 106), "examples of fields are activities such as tennis, opera, linguistics, cooking, building constructions, farming, and so on."

Tenor refers to relationships of main characters and roles of people in social status. As Halliday and Hassan (1989, p. 13) point out, tenor "refers to who is taking part, to the nature of the participants, their statuses and roles: what kinds of role relationship obtain among the participants"

Mode deals with the medium or channel of communication. Mode of discourse can be by both written and oral means. Halliday and Hassan (1989, p. 13) say that "mode of discourse refers to what part language is playing, what it is that the participants are expecting the language to do for them in the situation: the symbolic organization of the text."

SFL presents language as a series of system and it has some interrelated categories of system. The four categories proposed by Halliday (1961) are unit, structure, class and system. According to Martin (2014), SFL adopts a tri-stratal division of a linguistic system namely: Semantics, Lexico-grammar and Phonology. **Semantics,** as a level of linguistic system, is a

resource for making meaning, and it consists of three metafunctions – ideational, interpersonal and textual. **Lexico-grammar** is the resource for turning those meanings into wordings; it includes both grammar and vocabulary in one stratum and represents the view of language in both lexis and grammar. **Phonology** is the resource for turning those wordings into sounds. The figure below illustrates the tri-stratal division of a linguistic system.

Figure 1: The systemic model of language strata, showing the three levels of discourse-semantics.
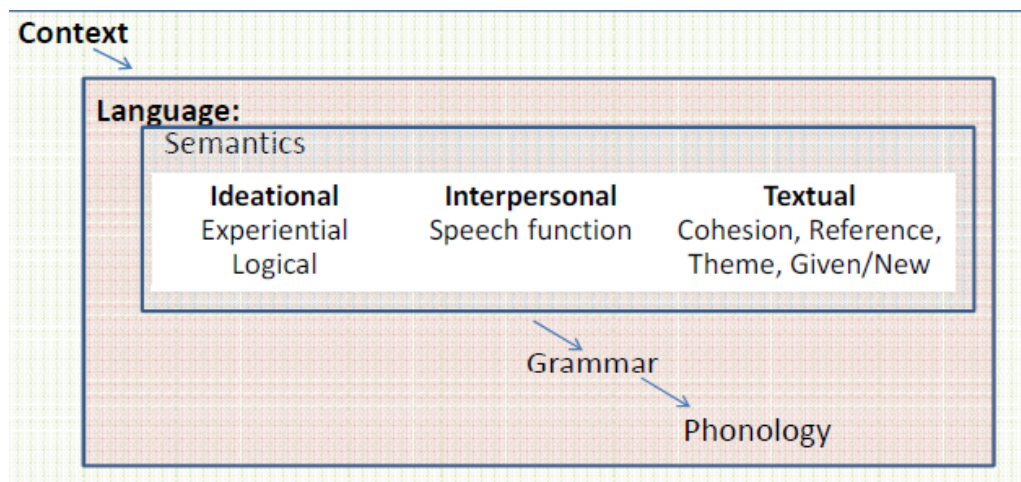
(Halliday and Hassan, 1989)

Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) also distinguish between a text and a clause. According to them, a text is "a semantic entity, that is, a construct of meaning, whereas a clause is a lexico-grammatical entity, that is, a construct of wording". The clause, as a basic lexico-grammatical unit, creates and gives meaning to the text of which it is a constituent. A clause is the actualisation of the text; it creates a text. On the other hand, a text is an inter-subjective event, in which speakers and listeners exchange meaning in a context of situation. This suggests that the advance fee fraud mails under consideration are meanings embedded, but how the meanings

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were created by the fraudsters in the clauses they used to lure their victims is what this study intends to examine.

2.6   Metafunctions of Language

One of Haliday's (1994) major contributions to linguistic analysis is his development of a detailed functional grammar of modern English which shows how simultaneous strands of meaning - ideational, interpersonal, and textual metafunctions - are expressed in clause structures. The metafunctions in SFL, according to Hasan (2009), "are not hierarchised; they have equal status, and each is manifested in every act of language use: in fact, an important task for grammarians is to describe how the three metafunctions are woven together into the same linguistic unit" (p. 9). Hasan argues that the metafunctions operate simultaneously, and any given utterance is a harmony of choices across all three functions. To Alaei and Ahangari (2016), "these three types of meanings are expressed through language because these are the strands of meaning we need to make in order to make sense of each other and the world." These metafunctions can be illustrated in the figure below:
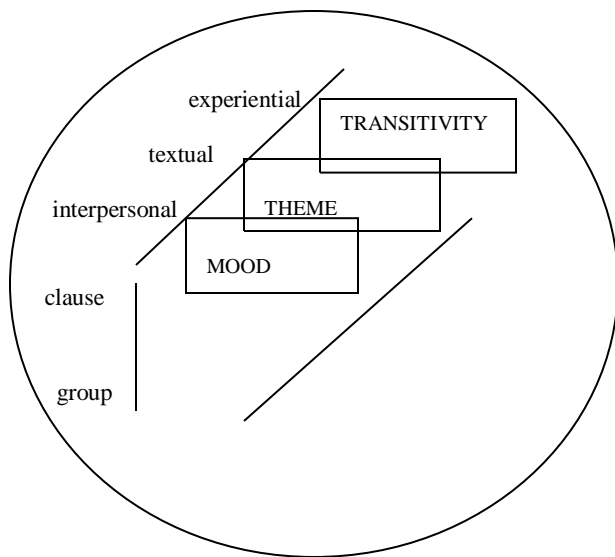
Figure 2: Metafunctions of Language (Muir, 1972)

2.6.1   Ideational (or Experiential) Metafunction

The ideational meanings are the meanings about how humans represent experience in language. In other words, language performs a representative function of encoding people's experiences of the world. Whenever language is being used, people are always talking about something or someone doing something. Eggins (2004) explains that in SFL, the ideational strand of meaning involves two components - experiential meaning in the clause, and logical meaning between clauses in clause complexes.

Halliday distinguishes between the two components: "experiential functions refer to the grammatical choices that enable speakers to make meanings about the world around us and inside us; the logical functions are those systems which set up logical-semantic relationships between one clausal unit and another" (2003, p. 17). This study, however, deals largely with the experiential function of language, since Halliday (2003) points out that the meanings we make in logical metafunctions are most closely related to the experiential function. Therefore, he puts the experiential and logical functions together into the ideational function.

The experiential meaning deals with the way reality is represented and the grammatical resources for construing our experience of the world around us - as to what is going on; who are involved in the activities; and when, where, and how the activities are going on. Experiential meaning is expressed through the system of **Transitivity** (or process type), with the choice of process implicating associated participant roles and configurations (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2004). Transitivity structures express representational meaning, that is, what the clause is about or in Halliday's term "clause as representation". SFL adopts the labels - process, participants and

circumstances - to describe the happenings and states, the entities and the conditions in which these events occur respectively.

Castello (2014, p. 5) asserts that "word classes (as used in the formal approach to grammar) are not the primary domain of SFL, but the three elements of experiential metafunctions are interlinked with them". The process, which identifies the occurrence or the state in which the reality takes place, is typically realised by verbal groups. Participants, which are entities that are the target of or directly connected to that process, are realised by nominal groups. Lastly, circumstance, give context to the processes and participants, are denoted through the use of adverbials or prepositional phrases (Butt, et al., 2003).

Types of Processes and Roles of Participants

Halliday and Matthiessen (2004, p. 168) present six different process types which construe people's experience of the world: Material, Mental, Behavioural, Verbal, Relational, and Existential. The participant elements are different from one process to another.

1.   **Material Processes:** According to Eggins (2004, p. 215), material processes are processes of "doing" or about actions, usually concrete, tangible actions. They express the notion that some entity does something or undertake an action which may be done to some other entity. Potential participant roles are: ACTOR (or doer of the process); a GOAL (or thing affected by the process); a RANGE (or thing unaffected by the process); and a BENEFICIARY of the process (Butt, et al., 2003, p. 52).

2.   **Mental Processes:** Butt, et al. (2003, p. 56) aver that "mental processes encode the inner world of cognition, perception, inclination or liking/disliking." These processes do not focus on actions in a tangible, physical sense, but mental reactions about thoughts, feelings, and

perceptions. Potential participant roles are: SENSER (or doer of the process) which must be realised by a human or at least conscious participant; and a PHENOMENON, realised by a nominal group or embedded clause summing up what is thought, wanted, perceived or liked/disliked.

3.   **Behavioural Processes:** Behavioural processes are typically processes of physiological and psychological behaviour. According to Butt, et al. (2003, p. 54), the majority of behavioural processes have only one participant, which is the BEHAVER (or doer of the process; and it is often a conscious being and, if it is not, the clause is said to be personification). Behavioural processes thus express form of doing that does not usually extend to another participant. However, sometimes, there is a range-like participant known as BEHAVIOUR, which extends the process.

4.   **Verbal Processes**: Halliday (1994) cited in Eggins (2004, p. 235) explains that a verbal process typically contains three participants: sayer, receiver and verbiage. SAYER is the doer or participant responsible for the verbal process; RECEIVER is the participant to whom the verbal process is directed; while VERBIAGE is a nominalised statement of the verbal process, that is, it sums up what is said in one nominal group or embedded clause.

5.   **Relational Processes**: Butt, et al. (2003, p. 58) identify the main feature of relational processes as relating a participant to its identity or description. There are two main types of relational processes: RELATIONAL ATTRIBUTIVE, which relates a participant to its general feature or description; and RELATIONAL IDENTIFYING, which relates a participant to its identity, role or meaning. In relational attributive clauses, the participant carrying the characteristics or attributes is known as the CARRIER and the characteristic is known as

ATTRIBUTE, while in relational identifying clauses, the form used to identify a function is known as TOKEN and the function is known as VALUE.

6. **Existential Processes**: Existential processes are easy to identify as the structure involves the use of the word 'there'. Eggins (2004, p. 238) explains that "*there* when used in existential processes, has no representational meaning: it does not refer to a location." The only obligatory participant in an existential process which receives a functional label is called EXISTENT. This participant usually follows the "there is/are" sequence.

2.6.2 Interpersonal Metafunction

The interpersonal metafunction is considered as a piece of interaction between the speaker (or writer) and the listener (or reader). Its purpose is to enable exchange of roles in rhetorical interaction - statements, questions, offers and commands. According to Butt, et al. (2003), when we employ interpersonal metafunction in a text, we use language "to encode interaction and to show how defensible or binding we find our proposition or proposal" (p. 86). In interpersonal analysis, meaning is considered from the point of view of its function in the process of social interaction. Halliday and Matthiessen (2004, pp. 29-30) note that:

> … it (clause) is also a proposition, or a proposal, whereby we inform or question or make offer and express our appraisal of and attitude towards whoever we are addressing and what we are talking about. This kind of meaning is more active… We call it interpersonal metafunction, to suggest that it is both interactive and personal.

Interpersonal meaning is therefore used to establish the speaker's role in the speech situation and relationship with others. At its most basic, interpersonal meaning is demonstrated through statements (in the form of declaratives), questions (in the form of interrogatives) and commands (in the form of imperatives) that facilitate the speaker's desire to give or demand information, goods or services. The interpersonal metafunction is depicted through the analysis of its main grammatical system - **Mood** and **Modality** (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2014, p. 134).

The Concepts of Mood and Modality

Language involves interactions where we initiate or respond to the act of giving (and taking) or demanding (and being given). Nur (2015, p. 55) explains that "giving refers to the speaker who is giving something to the listener or the speaker is inviting the listener to receive. Demanding refers to the speaker who is requiring something from the listener or the speaker is asking the listener to give." In other words, giving and demanding are the two ends of the continuum and thus function as role in exchange. The commodity exchanged can be grouped into two kinds: (i) goods-and-services; and (ii) information (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014, p. 136). These speech roles and commodity exchanged can be illustrated in the table below:

Table 1: Basic speech roles and commodity exchanged.

Role in exchange	Commodity exchanged	
	(a) Goods-and-services	**(b) Information**
(i) Giving	'Offer' Would you like this teapot?	'Statement' He's giving her the teapot.
(ii) Demanding	'Command' Give me that teapot!	'Question' What is he giving her?

(Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014, p. 136).

The speech roles and commodity exchanged can make four speech functions - statement, question, offer and command. Statements can be realised by declarative clause, question is related to the interrogative clause and command is realised by the imperative clause. All the four primary speech functions are related with the grammatical system - the MOOD network.

Citing Young (1980), Bankole (2015) asserts that "mood is the name given to those grammatical systems that express the speaker's relation to a proposition" (p. 32). It is an indication of what the speaker wants to do with the proposition in a particular discourse context. In other words, mood is a grammatical reflection of the speaker's purpose in speaking. The mood of a clause can be identified from its grammatical structure. For instance, a statement is realised by declarative mood, a question is realised by interrogative mood, while a command is realised by imperative mood.

The mood, which is also technically referred to as 'mood block', has three grammatical elements. The two crucial elements are **subject** and **finite**. The subject is realised by a nominal group which construes the validity of the clause, while the finite is realised by the first marker of the verbal group in the clause. The third element is **polarity** (whether a statement is positive or negative - for example *does* and *doesn't* respectively). Butt, et al. (2003, p. 89) believe that "all English clauses have either positive or negative polarity, but only negative polarity is shown; positive polarity is assumed unless negativity is marked".

An optional constituent of the mood block is the **Modal Adjunct**, which comprises both Mood and Comment adjuncts. Mood adjuncts are used to modify the argument of a clause; they may do this by expressing usuality, probability, typicality or obviousness, while comment

adjuncts allow speakers to comment on experiential meanings; they represent the intrusion of a speaker into a clause (Butt, et al., 2003, pp. 122-123).

The rest of the clause which falls outside the mood block is called **Residue** (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2014, p. 135). The grammatical elements that make up the residue are predicator, adjunct and complement. According to Butt, et al. (2003, p. 92), **predicator** refers to the rest (which is often a non-finite element) of the verbal group including any other auxiliaries; **adjuncts** refer to adverbial groups, and prepositional phrases that acted as circumstances for the experiential meaning of a clause; while **complements** are other nominal groups that complete the argument set up in the clause.

Aside from mood, 'modality' is another component of the interpersonal function of language, and it refers to "the speaker's judgement on the status of what is being said" (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2004, p. 143). This means that modality reflects the opinions and judgements of people on the topics they talk about. Butt, et al. (2003) say modality refers to "all positioning by speakers about probability, usuality, typicality, obviousness, obligation and inclination" (p. 113). It is relevant to note that modality is not only expressed through the traditional use of English modal auxiliaries (such as must, shall, will, can etc.) or semi-modal verbs (such as have to, need to, ought to, etc.), but can also be expressed through the use of modal words and expressions. For instance, words, such as *possible, probably, certain, surely, likely,* etc., express certainty. In the same way, words, such as *necessary, obligatory, compulsorily, essential,* etc., express obligation.

Modality deals with the degree of certainty and truth of statements about the world. von Fintel (2006) defines modality as "a category of linguistic meaning having to do with the expression of possibility and necessity" (p. 1). Modality consists of modalization and

modulation. **Modalization** is realised by modal verb operators such as 'may', 'will' and 'must'; and as presented by Halliday and Matthiessen (2004, pp. 147-150), it involves the expression of two kinds of meanings: probability (where the speaker expresses judgements as to the likelihood or probability of something happening) and usuality (where the speaker expresses judgements as to the frequency with which something happens). **Modulation**, on the other hand, is realised by the mood adjuncts; and it is a way for speakers to express their judgements or attitudes about actions and events (Eggins, 2004, p. 181).

2.6.3   Textual Metafunction

White (2000) avers that "textual metafunction organises text in a coherent manner appropriate to a particular situation, generating the necessary signals to lift a collection of words or clauses into something that is recognisably a text" (p. 215). This suggests that textual metafunction is concerned with the creation of text and the way humans organise their meanings into the text that makes sense. Textual metafunction refers to how the experiential and interpersonal meanings are organised into a linear and coherent whole (Butt, et al., 2013, p. 134). This function enables the presentation of experiential and interpersonal meanings as information that can be shared, and it also provides the speaker with strategies for guiding the listener in his/her interpretation of the text.

According to O'Halloran (2006), the textual metafunction relates to *mode* (an aspect of context of situation); the internal organisation and communicative nature of a text. Halliday (1994) states that in the textual domain, there must be a point of origin for the message that is at the heart of the matter we are concerned with. This point is called the **Theme**, which forms the beginning of any clause and incorporates every element including the first participant, process or

circumstance of the experiential meaning. The theme, as well as the rheme, is therefore a crucial element of the textual function of language.

The Concepts of Theme and Rheme

Halliday (1994, p. 38) defines theme as "what the message is concerned with: the point of departure for what the speaker is going to say." This means that the theme functions as a starting point or signpost, that is, the frame the speaker has chosen for the message. Butt, et al. (2003, p. 135) says:

> What comes first in a clause expresses an important and separate
> kind of meaning. English speakers and writers use the first position
> in the clause to signal to their audience what the message is about.
> In English, the first position in a clause contains *textual* meanings
> because it signposts the development of a text. To analyse and
> discuss textual meanings, we need a simple and distinct
> metalanguage: we call the first element THEME and the rest of the
> clause RHEME.

The identification of the theme is therefore based on arrangement; it is the element which comes first in the clause, and it typically contains familiar, or 'given' information. On the other hand, rheme, according to Eggins (2004, p. 300), is "the part of the clause in which the theme is developed". Since we typically depart from the familiar to head towards the unfamiliar, the rheme typically contains unfamiliar, or 'new', information. There are three different types of themes – topical, interpersonal and textual.

1. **Topical Theme:** When an element of the clause to which a transitivity function can be assigned occurs in first position in a clause, we describe it as a topical theme (Eggins, 2004, p. 301). The topical theme is therefore the whole nominal group, verbal group, adverbial group or prepositional phrase that fills the *first* participant, process or circumstance slot of a clause.

2. **Interpersonal Theme:** According to Butt, et al. (2003, p. 138), interpersonal meanings can sometimes begin a clause which indicates the kind of interaction between speakers or the positions which they are taking. At these times, we are using interpersonal themes. The most common interpersonal theme is the finite in interrogative clauses (where it precedes the subject). Other interpersonal themes are initial vocatives, and mood and comment adjuncts.

3. **Textual Theme:** The third clause constituent that can occur in thematic position is the category of textual elements. These are elements which do not express any interpersonal or experiential meaning, but which are doing important cohesive work in relating the clause to its context (Eggins, 2004, p. 305). Conjunctions are common instances of textual elements, and therefore must be considered thematic.

These three strands of meaning are summarised and exemplified in the table below:

Table 2: Types of Meanings in the Systemic Model (Eggins & Slade, 1997, p. 49)

Types of meaning	Gloss or definition	Examples
Ideational	Meaning about the world, representation of reality (e.g. topics, subject matter)	Conversation, expressions; French language: cigarettes
Interpersonal	Meanings about roles and relationships (e.g. status, intimacy, contact, sharedness between interactants)	Conflictual relationship, Supportive relationship, Provoking talk, assertive, less assertive
Textual	Meanings about the message (e.g. foregrounding/ salience; types of cohesion)	Rapid turn-taking: cohesion through ellipsis and reference; foregrounding of expression/ idioms

2.7   The Concepts of Crime and Fraud

Tanfa (2006) asserts that "crime is a dynamic social phenomenon, which, to a certain extent, is the barometer of the well-being of society" (p. 1). He further said that "the increased ability of criminal organisations to operate internationally is a potential danger for social and economic order in every country" (p. 1). Crime is simply an action or omission which constitutes an offence and is punishable by law. John Scott (2014) in the book *A Dictionary of Sociology* defines crime in a more complex way: "an offence which goes beyond the personal and into the public sphere, breaking prohibitory rules or laws, to which legitimate punishments or sanctions

are attached, and which requires the intervention of a public authority." This definition approaches the issue of crime in a more social way - drawing attention not only to the act itself but the law and whose interests it seeks to protect. An example of criminal activities is fraud.

Fraud, therefore, can be said to be a crime (or a criminal act). The crime of fraud, according to Snyman (2008, p. 531), is derived from two different Roman laws, namely (a) *stellionatus* and (b) *crimina falsi. Stellionatus* was the criminal law equivalent of the delict *dolus*. It developed from the *actio de dolo* in private law and involved an intentional misrepresentation resulting in harm, or prejudice, to others. *Crimina falsi* was the collective term for a number of crimes relating to falsification. Le Roux (1991) defines fraud as "an unlawful and intentional misrepresentation that causes actual or potential harm to another person" (p. 2). Based on this definition, we can deduce four elements of fraud, which are unlawfulness, intention, misrepresentation and harm.

The U.S. Department of Justice (2000) cited in Chang (2008) defines internet fraud as "any type of fraud scheme that uses one or more components of the Internet, such as chat rooms, e-mail, message boards, or websites to present fraudulent solicitation to prospective victims, to conduct fraudulent transactions, or to transmit the proceeds of fraud to financial institutions or to others connected with the scheme." According to Button, Lewis and Tapley (2009, p. 6), fraud encompasses a wide range of behaviours that are linked by trickery or deceit with the intention that it will culminate in some form of gain.

There are a wide range of techniques used to commit frauds, which can be divided into four areas: victim selection techniques, perpetration strategies, detection avoiding strategies and securing the gains (Button, Lewis and Tapley, 2009, p. 5). A form of deceitfulness that involves

theft of money by means of criminal deception, the use of false representation, dishonest artifice or trick to benefit thieving can simply be regarded as fraud. It involves one or more parties taking money from others, without their knowledge (Lampe, 1992, p. 189).

2.8   Advance Fee Fraud

Advance Fee Fraud (henceforth, AFF) is a type of fraudulent activity which occurs very often, far more than the conventional fraud perpetrated against individuals, companies and governments. This type of fraud has become a major business and has, accordingly, generated very large profits for those who are successful at it. Despite the corresponding losses suffered by individuals, businesses and banks, Tanfa (2006, p. 3) claims AFF "remains a little understood type of fraud, within the academic arena, law enforcement agencies and business community in general."

AFF is a confidence trick in which victims are persuaded to advance relatively small sums of money in the hope of realising a much larger gain. According to Onyebadi and Park (2012), AFF (also known as 4-1-9) is "a scheme designed by fraudsters who purport to have lucrative but bogus business, humanitarian or philanthropic related deals where the victim is promised large sums of money for no initial investment" (p. 183). The potential victim is contacted via an unsolicited email message and he or she is only required to assist the promoter of the scam to retrieve a 'legitimate' fortune the con artist claims to have inherited or a stash of cash he or she accidentally discovered.

AFF is a quintessential example of internet fraud, and Chang (2008, p. 3), citing NCL (2006), claims that this fraud ranks number four in 'Top Internet Scams'. The U.S. Secret Service also reported that AFF rakes in hundreds of millions of dollars globally per year and

describes it as a "growing epidemic". The next section will therefore examine the origin of this fraudulent act.

Origin of Advance Fee Fraud

The origin of the advance fee fraud scheme seems to be obscure. Akinladejo (2007) cited in Onyebadi and Park (2012, p. 183) traced the history of the scam back to the 1840s, and also noted that in the 1920s, Spanish criminals used it extensively in what was then known as 'the Spanish prisoner con.' However, there is a fairly common agreement among scholars that the scam, which is also currently known as 4-1-9 is of Nigerian origin (Thompson, 2003; Tanfa, 2006; Chang, 2008; Onyebadi and Park, 2012).

Citing Thompson (2003), Chang (2008) avers that AFF originated in the 1970s from Nigeria and "was marketed via traditional means such as mail and facsimile transmissions" (p. 3). Due to their limited reach back then, they mainly targeted corporations. Tanfa (2006, p. 21) also reports that AFF originated and is well-developed in Nigeria; and the perpetrators are mostly Nigerians. According to Tanfa, due to a general decline of the standards of living in the country, "some Nigerians began to devise various fraudulent scams, often with the assistance of expatriate nationals in the United States and other developed countries" in order to raise funds and live a comfortable lifestyle (p. 22).

Recent researches put it that Nigeria consists of over 250 different ethnic groups and about 500 languages. The three main tribes are Hausa (dominant in the Northern part of the country), Igbo (dominant in the South-Eastern part) and Yoruba (dominant in the South-Western part). Igbo and Yoruba are regarded as the most educated tribes in Nigeria and are known for their entrepreneurial endeavours. According to the Adaora Reports (2002), the majority of these

fraudsters (also called 4-1-9 scammers) come from the South-Eastern or South-Western part of Nigeria. The reports find this difficult to explain, but they are of the opinion that the sheer complexity, audacity and 'intelligence' required to plan and execute this crime is way beyond the faculties of the less educated Northerners.

This assertion that AFF originated from Nigeria has also been emphasised by an article published by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in 1998 titled "World: Middle East". This article revealed that Britain received approximately 50,000 4-1-9 scam letters, which came via the International Postal System. The article particularly stated that "over the last 10 years, Nigeria has been the principal base for such scam offers with more than 50,000 scam letters were read in Britain by the beginning of that year" (Tanfa, 2006, p. 26).

US Department of State (1997, p.5) cited in Tanfa (2006, p. 26) maintains that "fraudulent schemes such as AFF succeeded in Nigeria, because Nigerian criminals took advantage of the fact that Nigerians speak English, the international language of business, and the country's vast oil wealth and natural gas reserves, ranked 13th in the world, offer lucrative business opportunities that attract many companies and individuals". The Nigerian connection is reinforced by the reality that the title '4-1-9' actually refers to section 419 of the Nigerian penal code which deals with penalty for fraudulently obtaining money from victims

On the contrary, Orji (2011) argues that it is erroneous to hold that AFF originated in Nigeria, because it (AFF) "does not have its origin in modern times" (p. 408). He however claims "the fact that available statistics have revealed that many Nigerians are involved in the perpetration of advance fee fraud scams, and this has given rise to the impression that the scam originated in Nigeria" (p. 408). It is worthy to note that the alleged Nigerian origins of the fraud

have damaged the credibility of business between the western world and Nigeria, and consequently, Africa as a whole.

Nevertheless, today, AFF is regarded as an international phenomenon and perpetrators are of different nationalities from around the globe. The presence of this fraud now cuts across Europe, the USA, Australia, the Caribbean, with Asia being the new sphere of operation by the scammers (Smith, Holmes & Kaufmann 1999, Akinladejo, 2007, and Ultrascan Advanced Global Investigations [UAGI] Report, 2010 cited in Onyebadi and Park, 2012, p. 183). This spread has been actively facilitated by modern technology, especially the electronic mail (e-mail).

Nature of Advance Fee Fraud

AFF basically involves the payment of advance fees under the pretence that such payment is needed to consummate a business deal, which the perpetrator knows will never materialise, as the objective is to defraud the other party. Tanfa (2006, p. 10) therefore describes AFF as "an upfront payment, by a victim to a fraudster, to allow him to take part in a much larger financial transaction, which he believes will either bring him profit or will result in credit being extended to him." In this case, the victim is asked to pay an advance fee of some sort such as "transfer tax", "processing fees", "attorney fees", "money to buy chemicals", "performance bond" or "money transfer charges". If the victim pays the advance fee, there are often many "complications" which require even more advance payments, until the victim either quits, or becomes bankrupt.

According to Smith, Holmes and Kaufmann (1999), the gist of AFF is to trick prospective victims into parting with funds by persuading them that they will receive a

substantial benefit, in return for providing some modest payment in advance. AFF cases that have been discovered to date have taken a variety of forms. All entailed that victims were approached by letter or, recently, by electronic mail, without any prior contact. Victims' addresses are obtained from telephone and email directories, business journals, magazines or newspapers.

Onyebadi and Park (2012) assert that the 4-1-9 email messages largely share common properties, and they identify the most prominent of these properties, which are:

1. They are usually addressed to an 'unknown recipient,' suggesting that what any potential victim receives has probably been sent to thousands of recipients around the world.

2. To establish trust and confidentiality, the sender shares his/her 'identity' and suggests a reciprocal gesture. That is, the sender provides his or her contact address, email, telephone and fax numbers and appeals to the recipient to do the same. Furthermore, the sender requests for the name of the bank and account number into which he/she will deposit the recipient's share of the dividend from the transaction.

3. Each 4-1-9 email message has an appeal such as sharing in an inheritance or participating in a 'business' proposal. The writer can also plead for help in retrieving a large sum of money.

4. Recipients are promised attractive rewards for no initial financial investment in the deal.

5. The email messages are not always written in a grammatically correct manner (Onyebadi and Park, 2012, pp. 182-183).

As observed by Chang (2008), these fraudsters usually claim to be Nigerian officials, royalty, business people, or their relatives trying to transfer money out of their country, offering

to divide the proceeds with the victim for their help in facilitating the transfer. If a victim responds to the initial offer, the victim may receive numerous documents with official looking stamps, seals and logos testifying to the authenticity of the proposal. The victim is then typically asked to provide blank company letterheads, bank account details, as well as some advance fees to cover various taxes, transfer costs, attorney fees, or bribes. The victim may even be encouraged to travel to Nigeria or a relevant country to complete the transaction.

Sometimes, the fraudsters will produce cases of dyed money to prove that it exists, claiming that the money is dyed for security reasons. Then, they claim to require special chemicals to remove the dye so that the money becomes usable. The victims is shown that the dye can be cleaned with a special cleaning fluid, while in fact only a number of the notes used in the demonstration are real, with the rest being blank, blackened paper (Smith, Holmes and Kaufmann, 1999). As part of the scam, the victim will be asked for funds to purchase this special cleaning fluid to render the notes usable again. As the scam progresses, other issues arise, requiring more of the victim's money and delaying the 'transfer' of funds. In the end, there are no profits to share, and the fraudster will have escaped with the money. This scheme is known as the 'black money scam' (Chang, 2008, p. 5).

Forms of Advance Fee Fraud

Since the evolution of the "4-1-9 Fraud" letters from the 1980s, scammers have evolved and updated their tactics. Today, the types of advance fee fraud schemes are limited only by the imagination of the perpetrators who create them. Tanfa (2006) avers that the proposals of these scammers share a common thread; they "are often unsolicited, emphasise the urgency and confidentiality of the deal, and require the victim to pay various government and legal fees and

taxes before receiving what turns out to be non-existent money" (p. 34). Most common forms of these fraudulent business proposals fall into these main categories:

- Transfer of funds from over-invoiced contracts

- Contract fraud (C.O.D of goods and services)

- Conversion of hard currency (black-money, money cleaning or "washwash")

- Sale of crude oil at below market prices

- Purchase of real estate

- Disbursement of money from wills (benefactor of a will)

- Held for ransom/kidnappings and murder   (Tanfa, 2006, p. 34).

Wood, et al. (2014) opine that AFF schemes "may involve the sale of products or services, offering of investments, lottery winnings, "found money", or other opportunities". They identify some common forms of AFF, which are:

1.   **Beneficiary fund scam**: The scammers often present some type of story about needing one's help to get money from a bank in another country. The story will usually involve someone who has died and the perpetrator alleges that if they do not act quickly, the money will be turned over to the government.

2.   **Lottery scam**: This scam claims that one has won money in an overseas lottery. The e-mail will usually ask for personal information to confirm a person's identity, so that such person can collect his/her winnings.

3.   **Investment scam**: An investment company contacts a person and needs such person's assistance in investing money overseas. The e-mail will look as though it is coming from a reputable investment firm or government official. The e-mail will ask the person to contact the

company, where he/she will be asked to pay some sort of fee up front in return for a hefty profit that does not exist.

4.   **Romance scam**: Scammers pull at the heart strings of those on internet dating websites and chat rooms by asking for money for sick relatives, or money for a plane ticket to meet them in person.

Therefore, it can be concluded that various forms and methods of AFF have evolved, even from outside of Nigeria, but employing the same principles, and generally, any technology that enables internet accessibility or direct electronic communication between two individuals can be used as a medium for perpetrating Advance Fee Fraud.

2.9   Empirical Review

A number of works have been done from the perspective of Systemic Functional Linguistic analysis, whether in discourse analysis, literature or language learning and teaching. The focus of each study differs in terms of which of the three metafunctions of language and their systems are to be analysed. Farhat (2016), applying Halliday's SFL, investigated the political discourse of the former President of USA, Barrack Obama which embodies Islamic world issues. The main aim of the study was to expose the representation of the issues in the discourse of Obama through its transitivity processes and modality patterns. The results of the study revealed that the president mobilised various types of transitivity processes and participants, and modality types in order to express his views.

A systemic functional analysis of English mood system in selected dramatic texts was carried out by Bankole (2015), which aimed to examine the extent to which Bernard Shaw's and Femi Osofisan's choices and the structures of the elements of mood system in their texts, *Arms*

and the Man and *Women of Owu* respectively affect their abilities to express the interpersonal meanings they set out to convey. Bankole (2015) discovered that there is no major difference in the ways the first user of English language and the proficient user of English as the second language have structured the mood system, and that playwrights use indicative mood more than imperative mood.

Gonzales (2008), also employing SFL, studied the language of the university by examining how the language of the chosen texts constructed interpersonal relationships between administration and students, as well as the extent to which such language changed when significant contextual issues became a factor. The findings of the research suggested that the university values its relationship with the students and desires to preserve a delicate balance of authority and solidarity, even in challenging situations. Noor, et al. (2015) also worked on a SFL mood analysis of a religious text, specifically the last address of the Holy Prophet. They analysed 56 clauses and revealed that 32 clauses are declaratives, 22 clauses are imperatives; and only one is interrogative clause. The study also highlighted the power relations of the participants.

Based on all the studies that have been reviewed using various forms of data, no research, to the knowledge of this researcher, has employed SFL theory to analyse electronic Advance Fee Fraud (AFF) mails. Alake (2017) adopted a pragma-stylistic approach in her analysis of electronic AFF texts. She claimed that AFF is targeted at defrauding people of their assets, and therefore there is an urgent and significant need to understand the implicit meanings of these fraudulent texts. She examined the styles of these texts through the use of pragmatic elements.

A lexical study of 4-1-9 international advance fee fraud email communications was conducted by Onyebadi and Park (2012), which examined the framing of email communications

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used in this fraud and content-analysed their lexical features. The study revealed that the scammers used 'realism' as the main persuasive lexical characteristic in their messages, that is, language that suggests meeting tangible needs in people's everyday lives, and also, the scammers framed their messages as 'business' proposals to disguise their fraudulent tactics and plans. In view of this, this present study attempts to employ Halliday's SFL approach to uncover the experiential, interpersonal and textual meanings in the selected fraudulent mails.

2.10   Summary of the Chapter

In this chapter, an attempt has been made to review various literatures relevant to this study. The concept of language in relation to fraudulent mails has been examined. The researcher also reviewed the theoretical framework of this study, Systemic Functional Linguistics; its foundation; and other approaches to syntax. The three metafunctions of language alongside their grammatical systems as identified by Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) were also examined. In the same way, the concept of crime and fraud, as well as the origin, nature and forms of Advance Fee Fraud was reviewed. The researcher will then proceed to the next chapter, which is where the data will be analysed and interpreted using the SFL approach.

CHAPTER THREE

DATA ANALYSIS

3.1 Introduction

Ten Advance Fee Fraud mails have been purposively selected as the data for this research. The analysis of these ten mails is conducted at the level of the clause, which is defined according to White (2001) cited in Castello (2014, p. 9) as "the smallest unit in language that is able to convey a complete message". The clauses are analysed using the metafunctions of language identified by Halliday – experiential, interpersonal and textual metafunctions. A clause-by-clause breakdown of the mails according to these metafunctions is carried out by the researcher, and the analysis of the data is presented in a tabulated form, illustrating the frequency distribution of each datum and its interpretation.

3.2 Analysis

3.2.1 Datum One: Attention Dear Customer

1. I'm Harriet Gon, from western union office

	I	'm	Harriet Gon,	from western union office

Experiential	Token	Process: Relational Identifying	Value	Circumstance

Interpersonal	Subject	Finite (Present)	Predicator	Complement	Adjunct
	Mood Block (Declarative)		Residue		

Textual	Theme	Rheme

2. bringing to you this good news

	bringing	to you	this good news

Experiential

	Process: Material	Beneficiary	Goal

Interpersonal

(No Subject)	Finite (Present)	Predicator	Complement	Complement
Mood Block (Declarative)		Residue		

Textual

Theme	Rheme

3. and I only need your understanding to this message.

	and	I	only	need	your understanding	to…message

Experiential

	Senser		Process: Mental	Phenomenon	Circumstance

Interpersonal

Adjunct: Conjunctive	Subject	Adjunct: Mood	Finite (Present)	Predicator	Complement	Adjunct
Res-	Mood block (Imperative)			-idue		

Textual

Textual	Topical	
Theme		Rheme

4. I have emailed to inform you about the recovering of your outstanding fund

I	have emailed to inform	you	about the…outstanding fun

Experiential

Actor	Process: Material	Goal	Circumstance

Interpersonal

Subject	Finite (Present)	Predicator	Complement	Adjunct
Mood Block (Declarative)		Residue		

Textual

Theme	Rheme

5. which was made possible by this office through the help of United Nation

	which	was made	possible	by this office	through the…Nation
Experiential	Goal	Process: Material	Circumstance	Actor	Circumstance

Interpersonal	Subject	Finite (Past)	Predicator	Adjunct	Complement	Adjunct
	Mood Block (Declarative)		Residue			

Textual	Theme	Rheme

6. this means that your total fund of US$10,500,000.00 has been recovered

	this	means	(that your total…been recovered)
Experiential	Token	Process: Relational Identifying	Value

Interpersonal	Subject	Finite (Present)	Predicator	Complement
	Mood Block (Declarative)		Residue	

Textual	Theme	Rheme

7. that your total fund of US$10,500,000.00 has been recovered

	that	your total fund of US$10,500,000	has been recovered
Experiential		Goal	Process: Material

Interpersonal	Adjunct: Conjunctive	Subject	Finite (Present)	Predicator
	Res-	Mood Block (Declarative)		-idue

Textual	Textual	Topical	
	Theme		Rheme

8. and we have made an arrangement of sending you this fund on daily basis

	and	we	have	made	an agreement…fund	on daily basis

Experiential

	Actor	Process: Material		Goal	Circumstance

Interpersonal

Adjunct: Conjunctive	Subject	Finite (Present)	Predicator	Complement	Adjunct
Res-	Mood Block (Declarative)		-idue		

Textual

Textual	Topical	
Theme		Rheme

9. and as well create a western union account in your name

	and	as well	create	a western…account	in your name

Experiential

		Process: Material		Goal	Circumstance

Interpersonal

Adjunct: Conjunctive	Adjunct: Mood	Finite (Present)	Predicator	Complement	Adjunct
Res-	Mood Block (Declarative)		-idue		

Textual

Textual	Interpers Onal	Topical	
Theme			Rheme

10. so that you will easily access your fund

	so that	you	will	easily	access	your fund

Experiential

	Actor	Process: Material			Goal

Interpersonal

Adjunct: Conjunctive	Subject	Finite (Future)	Adjunct: Mood	Predicator	Complement
Res-	Mood Block (Declarative)			-idue	

Textual

Textual	Topical	
Theme		Rheme

11. Furthermore, I want to let you know

	Furthermore,	I	want	to let you know
Experiential		Senser	Process: Mental	Phenomenon

Interpersonal	Adjunct: Conjunctive	Subject	Finite (Present)	Predicator	Complement
	Res-	Mood Block (Declarative)		-idue	

Textual	Textual	Topical		
	Theme		Rheme	

12. that your first payment of US$4,800.00 has already been sent to you

	that	your first…US$4,800	has already been sent	to you
Experiential		Goal	Process: Material	Beneficiary

Interpersonal	Adjunct: Conjunctive	Subject	Finite (Present)	Adjunct : Mood	Predi cator	Compleme nt
	Res-	Mood Block (Declarative)			-idue	

Textual	Textual	Topical		
	Theme		Rheme	

13. and is available right now

	and		is	available	right now
Experiential			Process: Relational Attributive	Attribute	Circumstance

Interpersonal	Adjunct: Conjunctive	(No Subject)	Finite (Present)	Predicator	Complement	Adjunct
	Res-	Mood Block (Declarative)		-idue		

Textual	Textual	Topical	
	Theme		Rheme

14. but we need to activate your funds payment file

	but	we	need		to activate your funds payment file

Experiential

		Senser	Process: Mental	Phenomenon	

Interpersonal

Adjunct: Conjunctive	Subject	Finite (Present)	Predicator	Complement	
Res-	Mood Block (Declarative)		-idue		

Textual

Textual	Topical	
Theme		Rheme

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15. before you can pick it up your daily payment

before	you	can	pick	it	up your daily payment

Experiential

	Actor	Process: Material		Goal	Circumstance

Interpersonal

Adjunct: Conjunctive	Subject	Finite (Modal)	Predicator	Complement	Adjunct
Res-	Mood Block (Declarative)		-idue		

Textual	Topical	
Theme		Rheme

Textual

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16. The activation of your funds payment file is $100

The activation…payment file	is	$100

Experiential

Token	Process: Relational Identifying	Value

Interpersonal

Subject	Finite (Present)	Predicator	Complement
Mood Block (Declarative)		Residue	

Textual

Theme	Rheme

17. and once it's paid

	and once	it	's	paid

Experiential

	Goal	Process: Material

Interpersonal

Adjunct: Conjunctive	Subject	Finite (Present)	Predicator
Res-	Mood Block (Declarative)		-idue

Textual

Textual	Topical	
Theme		Rheme

18. your funds payment file will be activated

your funds payment file	will be activated

Experiential

Goal	Process: Material

Interpersonal

Subject	Finite (Future)	Predicator
Mood Block (Declarative)		Residue

Textual

Theme	Rheme

19. and your pick up references no. will be activated to be used by you with immediate effect in other to have your transfer released

	and	your pick up…no.	will be…used	by you	with…transfer released

Experiential

	Goal	Process: Material	Beneficiary	Circumstance

Interpersonal

Adjunct: Conjunctive	Subject	Finite (Future)	Predicator	Complement	Adjunct
Res-	Mood Block (Declarative)		-idue		

Textual

Textual	Topical	
Theme		Rheme

20. Furthermore, you advised to call us as the instruction was passed

	Furthermore,	you	advised	to call us…instruction was passed		

Experiential

		Receiver	Process: Verbal	Verbiage	

Interpersonal

Adjunct: Conjunctive	Subject	Finite (Past)	Predicator	Complement	
Res-	Mood Block (Declarative)		-idue		

Textual

Textual	Topical	
Theme		Rheme

21. that within 48hours without hearing from you, count your payment canceled

	that	within 48hours…you,	count	your payment canceled	

Experiential

		Circumstance	Process: Mental	Phenomenon	Circumstance

Interpersonal

Adjunct: Conjunctive	Adjunct	Finite (Present)	Predicator	Complement	Adjunct
Res-		Mood Block (Imperative)	-idue		

Textual	Topical	
Theme		Rheme

Textual

22. You can track your transfer here with the below info

You	can track	your transfer	here with the below info

Experiential

Actor	Process: Material	Goal	Circumstance

Interpersonal

Subject	Finite (Modal)	Predicator	Complement	Adjunct
Mood Block (Imperative)		Residue		

Textual

Theme	Rheme

23. Here is your Money Transfer Control Number

	Here	is	your Money Transfer…Number
Experiential	Token	Process: Relational Identifying	Value

	Subject	Finite (Present)	Predicator	Complement
Interpersonal	Mood Block (Declarative)		Residue	

	Theme	Rheme
Textual	Theme	Rheme

Table 3: Frequency of the process types and their percentage in datum one

No.	Process Types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Material	13	56.5%
2	Mental	4	17.4%
3	Relational	5	21.7%
4	Behavioural	0	0%
5	Verbal	1	4.4%
6	Existential	0	0%
Total		23	100%

From the above table, it can be seen that there are 23 processes in datum one. The analysis reveals that material processes (56.5%) and relational processes (21.7%) are predominantly used in the mail, while mental processes (17.4%) and verbal processes (4.4%) take third and fourth positions respectively. There are no instances of behavioural and existential processes.

Table 4: Frequency of the participant roles and their percentage in datum one

No.	Participant Roles	Quantity	Percentage
1	Actor	6	46.1%
2	Senser	3	23.1%
3	Sayer	0	0%
4	Behaver	0	0%
5	Existent	0	0%
6	Token/Value	4	30.8%
7	Carrier (Attributive)	0	0%
Total		13	100%

Table 4 reveals the frequency of the participant roles employed in the mail. The dominant participant role is the actor role, with 6 occurrences (46.1%); this is followed by token/value role (30.8%) and senser role (23.1%). There are no cases of sayer, behaver, existent and carrier roles.

Table 5: The percentage of mood types in datum one

No.	Mood Types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Declarative	20	87%
2	Interrogative	0	0%
3	Imperative	3	13%
Total		23	100%

The analysis of interpersonal meanings as depicted in table 5 shows that there are two mood types found in datum one, which are realised by declaratives (87%) and imperatives (13%). The other type of mood - interrogative mood - is not found in any of the clauses constituting the mail.

Table 6: The percentage of modality types in datum one

No.	Modality Types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Modalization: Probability	12	52.2%
	Usuality	1	4.4%
2	Modulation: Obligation	5	21.7%
	Inclination	5	21.7%
	Total	23	100%

Based on the percentage of modality types in datum one, the researcher discovered that the expression of probability (52.2%) is largely used. Both obligation and inclination of the modulation type take up 21.7% each, while usuality type of modalization takes up 4.4%.

Table 7: The percentage of textual meanings in datum one

No.	Theme types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Topical	9	37.5%
2	Textual	14	58.3%
3	Interpersonal	1	4.2%
	Total	24	100%

Table 7 provides the percentage of textual meanings in terms of textual (58.3%), topical (37.5%) and interpersonal (4.2%) themes. The analysis of the 23 clauses which constitute this datum reveals 24 instances of themes. This discrepancy arises due to the occurrence of multiple themes in one (clause 9) of the clauses; this particular clause features the trio of topical, textual and interpersonal themes.

Analysis of Datum One

Datum one consists of twenty-three clauses, and each of these clauses is analysed in the tables above. 13 of these clauses are analysed as material processes (56.5%), 5 are relational

processes (21.7%), 4 are mental processes (17.4%) and 1 is verbal process (4.4%). The dominant use of material processes shows the various actions that are performed by the author of the mail - such as *bringing, emailed, create* - as well as the actions that the recipient of the mail is expected to perform - such as *access, pick, track*. These processes are employed with the intention of luring the unsuspecting victim into parting with some funds. Relational processes are the second most used processes in the mail, and they are often described as processes of 'being'. Relational identifying processes such as "I*'m* Harriet Gon" (clause 1) are used in the text to assign an identity or description to a participant, while relational attributive processes such as "and *is* available right now" (clause 13) are used to ascribe a quality to an entity.

In datum one, the analysis of identifying the subject and finite shows that all of the clauses adopt declarative mood except clauses 3, 21 and 22 which are imperative clauses. Statistically, out of the 23 clauses that constitute the mail, there are 20 declarative clauses, accounting for 87%, while 3 clauses are imperatives, which cover the rest of the percentage of the mail. There are no instances of interrogative clause. The author of the mail seeks to give information and demand service; hence he decides to adopt this mood pattern. The dominant usage of declarative clauses in the mail makes it more convincing and persuasive.

Twenty-three modality operators have also been identified in the mail. The author of the mail uses the probability type of modality more than any other type, taking up 52.2% of the total percentage. The dominant use of this modality type with a high value of certainty gives the author the opportunity to give sufficient information about the deal and ultimately, convince the recipient of the authenticity of various events or actions embedded within the mail.

When analysing the textual metafunction, it is necessary to examine the thematic patterns of each clause. The prevailing themes used in this mail are textual themes (14; 58.3%), followed by topical themes (9; 37.5%). Interpersonal theme is used once in the text (4.2%). The author of the mail has used more of textual themes to give thematic prominence to textual elements with a linking function. This has helped the author of the mail to achieve cohesion in the text by uniting different ideas and messages embedded in the mail.

3.2.2 Datum Two: From Christopher A. Wray Executive Director

Datum two is made up of thirty-one clauses. The sender of the mail, who claims to be a representative of Federal Bureau of Investigation assures the recipient about some funds which have been legally approved to be paid to him (the recipient). The sender therefore instructs the recipient to take certain actions that will guarantee the successful payment of the funds. The frequency distributions of experiential, interpersonal and textual meanings embedded in datum two are presented in the tables below.

Table 8: Frequency of the process types and their percentage in datum two

No.	Process Types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Material	13	41.9%
2	Mental	6	19.4%
3	Relational	6	19.4%
4	Behavioural	0	0%
5	Verbal	6	19.4%
6	Existential	0	0%
Total		31	100%

The analysis of experiential meanings reveals the presence of 31 instances of process types in datum two. The breakdown as presented in table 8 shows that material processes

(41.9%) are mostly used by the author of the mail. Other process types found in the mail –

mental, relational and verbal – share the remaining 58.2%; each takes up 19.4%.

Table 9: Frequency of the participant roles and their percentage in datum two

No.	Participant Roles	Quantity	Percentage
1	Actor	10	50%
2	Senser	2	10%
3	Sayer	2	10%
4	Behaver	0	0%
5	Existent	0	0%
6	Token/Value	3	15%
7	Carrier (Attributive)	3	15%
Total		20	100%

As depicted in table 9, the predominant participant role is actor, taking up 50% of the

total percentage. Token/value and carrier roles share a total of 30% (15% each), with 3

occurrences each. Senser and sayer share the remaining 20%, with 2 occurrences each.

Table 10: The percentage of mood types in datum two

No.	Mood Types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Declarative	24	77.4%
2	Interrogative	0	0%
3	Imperative	7	22.6%
Total		31	100%

At the level of interpersonal meanings, table 10 reveals 31 cases of mood types. It is seen

clearly that declaratives (77.4%) are dominant, while imperatives (22.6%) are seldom used.

There is no instance of interrogatives in datum two.

Table 11: The percentage of modality types in datum two

No.	Modality Types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Modalization: Probability	14	45.2%
	Usuality	1	3.2%
2	Modulation: Obligation	8	25.8%
	Inclination	8	25.8%
	Total	31	100%

As seen in table 11, the four types of modality are represented in datum two. Clauses expressing probability are prevalent, taking up 45.2%; these are followed by clauses expressing obligation (25.8%) and those expressing inclination (25.8%). Usuality type (3.2%) is least represented in the mail.

Table 12: The percentage of textual meanings in datum two

No.	Theme types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Topical	16	51.6%
2	Textual	13	41.9%
3	Interpersonal	2	6.5%
	Total	31	100%

The frequency of textual meanings is presented in the table above. This table reveals that the author of the mail mostly employs topical (51.6%) and textual (41.9%) themes in the mail. Interpersonal themes (6.5%) are only used twice.

Analysis of Datum Two

The clauses that make up datum two are 31, out of which 24 are analysed as declaratives (77.4%) and 7 as imperatives (22.6%). The sender of the mail uses more of declarative moods to provide information to the recipient about a sum of US$12,500,000.00, which is purportedly said

to be owned by the recipient of the mail. The sender therefore uses these declaratives to inform the recipient on the steps to take in order to claim this package. The imperative moods employed by the sender of the mail are used to command or instruct the recipient by persuading him to take some certain actions that will facilitate the release of the funds.

However, certain clauses in the mail express some underlying meanings that are quite different from the surface meanings. For instance, on the surface, clause 13 - *you are required to choose one option which you will be able to pay the required fee* - is declarative because it appears to give a piece of information. The real function, however, is imperative. Such expressions as this have the force of a command. This implies that the interpersonal meaning of a particular clause may not necessarily be the same as the lexico-grammar of such clause.

The analysis of transitivity system in the mail reveals that material processes are predominantly used, taking 41.9%, followed by mental, relational and verbal processes which share the rest of the percentage evenly, taking 19.4% each. Behavioural and existential processes are not evident in the text. As identified in the mail, the material processes express the various physical actions, such as *investigated*, *paid*, *submitted*, *loaded*, *send*, that are carried out by certain actors who have a role to perform in the execution of the fraudulent scheme. The author of the mail uses 6 instances of verbal processes to instruct and advise the recipient to take certain actions which would consequently cause mischief to the recipient. Mental processes used in the mail reflect the sender's mental strength to manipulate his unsuspecting victim.

While exploring the textual meanings of the datum, the researcher discovers that topical themes are predominant in the mail (51.6%), and this is followed by textual themes (41.9%) and then, interpersonal themes (6.5%). The sender has used more of topical themes in the text to give

prominence to certain elements that occur in the first position of each of the clauses that constitute the mail. Instances of such elements are participants (*it* (clause 1), *you* (clauses 6, 13, 16); processes (*looking forward* (clause 30)); and circumstances (*today* (clause 2), *at this period* (clause 19)).

3.2.3   Datum Three: Fund Released Order

Among the ten mails selected for this analysis, datum three has the highest number of clauses. Datum three is made up of fifty-three (53) clauses. The sender of the mail informs the recipient about a certain amount of $2.5 million, which supposedly belongs to the recipient and has not yet been claimed by him. The recipient is therefore requested to pay a modest fee of $199 so as to have access to the larger fee of $2.5 million. The tables below depict the frequency distributions of the metafunctions of language employed in datum three.

Table 13: Frequency of the process types and their percentage in datum three

No.	Process Types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Material	22	41.5%
2	Mental	8	15.1%
3	Relational	17	32.1%
4	Behavioural	1	1.9%
5	Verbal	5	9.4%
6	Existential	0	0%
Total		53	100%

As seen in table 13, material (41.5%) and relational (32.1%) processes are the dominant process types discovered in the mail. Mental processes (15.1%) come next; this is followed by verbal (9.4%) and behavioural (1.9%) processes.

Table 14: Frequency of the participant roles and their percentage in datum three

No.	Participant Roles	Quantity	Percentage
1	Actor	12	30.8%
2	Senser	8	20.5%
3	Sayer	2	5.1%
4	Behaver	1	2.6%
5	Existent	0	0%
6	Token/Value	9	23.1%
7	Carrier (Attributive)	7	17.9%
Total		39	100%

In datum three, there are 39 instances of participant roles, among which, actor role takes up 30.8% as the majority; this is followed by token/value role which takes up 23.1%; senser role takes up 20.5%; carrier role has 17.9%; sayer role has 5.1%; and behaver role take up 2.6%, as shown in table 14.

Table 15: The percentage of mood types in datum three

No.	Mood Types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Declarative	51	96.2%
2	Interrogative	0	0%
3	Imperative	2	3.8%
Total		53	100%

The investigation of the mood types employed in the datum reveals the dominant use of declarative moods, taking up 96.2%. Imperative moods (3.8%) are only employed twice in the mail. There is no instance of interrogative mood.

Table 16: The percentage of modality types in datum three

No.	Modality Types		Quantity	Percentage
1	Modalization:	Probability	27	50.9%
		Usuality	5	9.4%
2	Modulation:	Obligation	10	18.9%
		Inclination	11	20.8%
Total			53	100%

As shown in table 16, there are 53 cases of modality types found in datum three. From the analysis, it is observed that probability clauses (50.9%) greatly dominate this datum; then comes inclination clauses which take up 20.8%; this is closely followed by obligation clauses which take up 18.9%; and lastly, usuality clauses which take up 9.4%.

Table 17: The percentage of textual meanings in datum three

No.	Theme types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Topical	28	50.9%
2	Textual	23	41.8%
3	Interpersonal	4	7.3%
Total		55	100%

At the textual level, the analysis of the 53 clauses which constitute this datum reveals 55 instances of theme types. This discrepancy arises due to the occurrence of multiple themes in two (clauses 18 and 28) of the clauses; each of these two clauses features the trio of topical, textual and interpersonal themes. As seen in table 17, topical themes are predominant, occurring 28 times (50.9%); this is closely followed by textual themes, with 23 occurrences (41.8%), and interpersonal themes, occurring only four times (7.3%) in the mail.

Analysis of Datum Three

The frequency distribution presented in the tables above reveals that material processes occur mostly in the mail, taking up to 41.5%, and this is closely followed by relational processes (32.1%). Other process types of transitivity system found in the mail are mental processes (15.1%), verbal processes (9.4%) and behavioural processes (1.9%). It is worthy to note that most of the participants in the subject positions in the clauses are expressed using the personal pronouns *you, we*, *I* and *they.* Pronoun '*you*' is used 9 times (3 as actor; 2 as receiver; 2 as beneficiary; 1 as behaver; 1 as senser); pronoun '*we*' is used 6 times (3 as senser; 2 as actor; 1 as carrier); pronoun '*I*' is used 2 times as senser; and pronoun '*they*' is used 1 time as senser. This implies that both the perpetrator of the scam and the victim certainly have their various roles to perform before the scam deal can be successfully completed.

As regards the analysis of interpersonal meanings embedded in the mail, the researcher discovers that out of the 53 clauses analysed, 51 clauses are declaratives (96.2%) while the remaining 2 are imperatives (3.8%). It is also observed that one of the declarative clauses in the mail (clause 40) has an underlying force of command, which makes it indirectly imperative. In clause 40, the sender of the mail attempts to coerce the recipient in paying an advance fee of $199 in order to have access to the larger fee of $2.5 million. It can therefore be said that the information given in AFFM are not factual information, but rather misleading and manipulative information with the ultimate aim of swindling the victims of their assets.

The analysis of the textual meanings embedded in this particular mail reveals that topical themes take up 50.9% of the total thematic patterns in the text; this is followed by textual themes which occupy 41.8%; while interpersonal themes take 7.3%. The breakdown of the elements

which carry topical themes (28) in the mail shows that 21 are participants; 6 are circumstances; and 1 is a process. The author of the mail has used the topical themes recurrently to place emphasis on each of these 28 elements as they occur in the first position in their respective clauses. These elements bearing the topical themes therefore serve as the starting point for the author's message in the mail and indicate what the clauses will be about. The sender of the mail uses interpersonal themes 4 times to explicitly construe his opinion and ideas. The interpersonal themes in the mail are realised by the use of finite (*couldn't* (clause 18)); comment adjuncts (*officially* (clause 28); *therefore* (clause 41)); and mood adjunct (*once again* (clause 50)).

3.2.4   Datum Four: I Need a Foreign Partnership

Datum four is a short mail with a total of 15 clauses. The sender of the mail, who claims to be a banker, solicits the support of the recipient in moving to a different account the sum of $7.3 million dollars which resides in a fixed account that belongs to his late client, Mr. Franz Kerkhofs. The sender therefore seeks to partner with the recipient in executing this fraudulent act for their 'mutual benefits'. The frequency distributions of experiential, interpersonal, and textual metafunctions used in the mail are presented in the tables below.

Table 18: Frequency of the process types and their percentage in datum four

No.	Process Types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Material	9	60%
2	Mental	1	6.7%
3	Relational	4	26.6%
4	Behavioural	1	6.7%
5	Verbal	0	0%
6	Existential	0	0%
Total		15	100%

As observed in table 18, it is apparent that material processes (60%) are the dominant process types employed. Other process types used in the mail are relational (26.6%), mental (6.7%), and behavioural (6.7%) processes.

Table 19: Frequency of the participant roles and their percentage in datum four

No.	Participant Roles	Quantity	Percentage
1	Actor	6	54.5%
2	Senser	0	0%
3	Sayer	0	0%
4	Behaver	1	9.1%
5	Existent	0	0%
6	Token/Value	2	18.2%
7	Carrier (Attributive)	2	18.2%
	Total	11	100%

Out of the 11 participant roles analysed in this datum, actor roles are used more often, taking up 54.5%; this is followed by both token/value and carrier roles; each taking up 18.2%. Behaver role is the least used role in the mail, with only once occurrence (9.1%).

Table 20: The percentage of mood types in datum four

No.	Mood Types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Declarative	14	93.3%
2	Interrogative	0	0%
3	Imperative	1	6.7%
	Total	15	100%

From the table above, it can be seen that declarative moods are the dominant mood type in datum 4. Out of 15 clauses that make up the mail, 14 clauses are declaratives (93.3%), while the remaining one clause is analysed as imperative.

Table 21: The percentage of modality types in datum four

No.	Modality Types		Quantity	Percentage
1	Modalization:	Probability	11	73.3%
		Usuality	0	0%
2	Modulation:	Obligation	2	13.3%
		Inclination	2	13.3%
	Total		15	100%

As presented in table 21, the distribution of modality in this datum reveals that probability (73.3%) as type of modalization is frequently used, while obligation (13.3%) and inclination (13.3%) as types of modulation are less frequent.

Table 22: The percentage of textual meanings in datum four

No.	Theme types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Topical	11	73.3%
2	Textual	4	26.7%
3	Interpersonal	0	0%
	Total	15	100%

Based on the textual meanings of this datum, the overwhelming majority of the clauses fall into the topical type of themes. Topical themes take up 73.3% of the total percentage while textual themes take up the remaining 26.7%.

Analysis of Datum Four

The analysis of the clauses constituting the mail shows that 14 out of the total 15 clauses are declaratives. The sender, who attempts to establish a relationship between himself and the recipient, predominantly employs the declarative moods to give background information about himself; his name and what he does for a living. He also shares the purpose for writing the mail

with the recipient, with the intention of persuading him (the recipient) to ally with him (the sender) in executing the scam deal. Based on the percentage of modality type in this datum, the researcher discovers that the expression of probability/likelihood reflected through various modal expressions and modal finites is the dominant modality type used in the mail, occurring 11 times (73.3%) from total of 15 clauses.

There are four process types of the transitivity system employed in the mail: material, mental, behavioural and relational processes. Material processes (9) appear mostly in the text, taking up 60%. Material process mainly involves two participants – actor and goal. Out of 6 actors evident in the mail, the sender uses the first person pronoun '*I*' 4 times in the mail to function as actors of certain material processes. The dominant use of this pronoun reveals that the sender is the ultimate beneficiary of the deal while the recipient is at the detriment of parting with his valuables. This therefore explicates the determination of the sender in duping the recipient.

The investigation of the thematic patterns in the mail brings to the fore the prevailing use of topical themes which appear 11 times (73.3%) out of possible 15 instances of themes. Textual themes take the remaining 4 occurrences (26.7%). Majority of the clauses in the mail are formed using the simple SVO sentence pattern. Hence, the first element in each clause is often the subject, and such element exhibits the topical theme. The sender adopts these thematic patterns to achieve clarity of his thoughts and messages.

3.2.5   Datum Five: Western Union Office

The total clauses that make up datum five are thirteen. Among the ten mails analysed in this study, this mail (datum five) has the lowest number of clauses. The sender attempts to con

the recipient by informing him about the sum of $5000 which has been deposited in his (recipient's) name. The recipient is therefore expected to contact the Director of Western Union on how to receive the funds. The results of the analysis carried out in this datum are presented in the tables below.

Table 23: Frequency of the process types and their percentage in datum five

No.	Process Types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Material	9	69.2%
2	Mental	2	15.4%
3	Relational	1	7.7%
4	Behavioural	0	0%
5	Verbal	1	7.7%
6	Existential	0	0%
Total		13	100%

Table 23 shows that material processes (69.2%) occur more than other process types. Mental processes (15.4%) take the second place in terms of frequency. There is a slight use of relational and verbal processes; both taking up 7.7% each.

Table 24: Frequency of the participant roles and their percentage in datum five

No.	Participant Roles	Quantity	Percentage
1	Actor	7	87.5%
2	Senser	0	0%
3	Sayer	0	0%
4	Behaver	0	0%
5	Existent	0	0%
6	Token/Value	1	12.5%
7	Carrier (Attributive)	0	0%
Total		8	100%

The transitivity analysis of datum five reveals the use of only two participant roles – actor and token/value. While the actor role is predominantly used in the mail, taking up 87.5%, token/value role is used less frequently, with just one occurrence (12.5%).

Table 25: The percentage of mood types in datum five

No.	Mood Types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Declarative	8	61.5%
2	Interrogative	0	0%
3	Imperative	5	38.5%
Total		13	100%

From the table above, it can be seen that there are two mood types found in this datum – declaratives and imperatives. Out of the 13 clauses that make up the mail, 8 clauses are analysed as declaratives (61.5%), constituting the dominant mood type, while the outstanding 5 clauses are analysed as imperatives (38.5%). None of the clauses is analysed as interrogative.

Table 26: The percentage of modality types in datum five

No.	Modality Types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Modalization: Probability	4	30.8%
	Usuality	1	7.7%
2	Modulation: Obligation	7	53.8%
	Inclination	1	7.7%
Total		13	100%

The four modality types are present in datum 5. Regarding the percentage, the researcher found out that clauses expressing obligation are dominant, taking up 53.8%. This is followed by expressions of probability, which take up 30.8%. Each of usuality and inclination types of modality appears once in the mail, both taking up 15.4% altogether.

Table 27: The percentage of textual meanings in datum five

No.	Theme types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Topical	5	38.5%
2	Textual	7	53.8%
3	Interpersonal	1	7.7%
Total		13	100%

At the level of textual meanings, textual themes are predominantly used in the mail, with 7 occurrences (53.8%) out of 13 clauses. Topical themes come second, with 5 instances (38.5%); interpersonal theme has the least appearance, occurring only once (7.7%).

Analysis of Datum Five

The frequency distribution of the process types found in this datum indicates that material processes are mostly used, occurring 9 times in the mail (69.2%). This process type has been deliberately used by the author of the mail to specify the various physical actions that have been taken and other actions that will still be taken by both parties – sender and recipient of the mail – involved in the execution of the scam deal in which the recipient will eventually be at a greater loss. Other process types employed in the mail are mental processes, which occur twice (15.4%), while relational and verbal processes appear only once (each taking up 7.7%).

From the analysis of interpersonal meanings contained in datum five, it is observed that declarative moods and imperative moods are significantly used in the text. While declarative mood clauses appear 8 times out of 13 clauses and take up 61.5%, imperative moods occur 5 times (38.5%). This implies that as the author of the mail gives certain information to the recipient as regards the fund, he also gives instructions and authoritative advice which the recipient is expected to follow. The swindler therefore realises that in order to successfully scam

his unsuspecting victim, giving out explicit information alone will not suffice but imperative moods must also be employed to compel the victim in taking certain actions.

The three types of textual meanings are also discovered in the analysed clauses, although with different frequency. Textual themes (7) occur more than any other theme types in this datum, taking up 53.8%. This is followed by topical themes (5), which carry 38.5% and then, interpersonal theme (1), with 7.7%. The predominant use of textual themes indicates that conjunctive adjuncts have been used by the sender to connect his messages together so as to achieve cohesion and to structure the text properly. There is only one case of interpersonal theme in the mail, and the sender has expressed this by beginning clause 11 with an interpersonal meaning through the use of the comment adjunct '*please'*. This comment adjunct is therefore thematic and it reflects the sender's desperation to take advantage of the recipient.

3.2.6 Datum Six: Your Abandoned Package for Delivery

Datum six contains thirty-nine clauses. The sender attempts to establish trust with the recipient by sharing his identity and also appealing to the recipient to do the same. The sender claims to have found an abandoned shipment which contains an undisclosed sum of money; he therefore solicits the help of the recipient in retrieving the content of the package, and promises him (the recipient) 70% of the money. The results of the analysis carried out on the clauses which constitute datum six are presented in the tables below.

Table 28: Frequency of the process types and their percentage in datum six

No.	Process Types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Material	20	51.3%
2	Mental	6	15.4%
3	Relational	7	17.9%
4	Behavioural	0	0%
5	Verbal	6	15.4%
6	Existential	0	0%
Total		39	100%

From the analysis of datum six, it can be stated that this mail is mainly constructed by material processes with 51.3%, and followed by relational processes, which take 17.9%. Mental and verbal process types have the same number of occurrences (6) in the mail; each taking up 15.4%. Behavioural and existential processes are not accounted for in the mail.

Table 29: Frequency of the participant roles and their percentage in datum six

No.	Participant Roles	Quantity	Percentage
1	Actor	13	44.8%
2	Senser	5	17.3%
3	Sayer	4	13.8%
4	Behaver	0	0%
5	Existent	0	0%
6	Token/Value	4	13.8%
7	Carrier(Attributive)	3	10.3%
Total		29	100%

The dominant participant role in the datum, as shown in table 29, is the actor role, which accounted for 44.8% of the total percentage; this is followed by senser role of the mental process, taking up 17.3%. Sayer and token/value roles come next; both account for 27.6%. Carrier role

appears thrice in the mail with 10.3%. The absence of behavioural and existential processes results in the absence of their respective participant roles – behaver and existent.

Table 30: The percentage of mood types in datum six

No.	Mood Types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Declarative	33	84.6%
2	Interrogative	0	0%
3	Imperative	6	15.4%
Total		39	100%

The exploration of the mood types which constitute datum six shows that declarative clauses are largely employed by the author of the mail, taking up 84.6%. There is a limited occurrence of imperative clauses, which account for 15.4%. Interrogative clauses are not discovered in the mail.

Table 31: The percentage of modality types in datum six

No.	Modality Types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Modalization: Probability	15	38.5%
	Usuality	2	5.1%
2	Modulation: Obligation	8	20.5%
	Inclination	14	35.9%
Total		39	100%

Table 31 reveals the frequency of the various modality types employed in datum six. Probability type of modalization occurs more frequently, with 38.5%; this is closely followed by inclination type of modulation (35.9%). Other modality types employed are: obligation type of modulation (20.5%) and usuality type of modalization (5.1%).

Table 32: The percentage of textual meanings in datum six

No.	Theme types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Topical	12	29.3%
2	Textual	23	56.1%
3	Interpersonal	6	14.6%
Total		41	100%

As represented in table 32, textual themes are largely employed by the author of the mail, accounting for more than half of the total percentage (56.1%). Topical themes take the second place, with 29.3%, while interpersonal themes are rarely used, taking up 14.6%. The occurrence of 41 themes in 39 clauses is as a result of the use of multiple themes in two (clauses 2 and 30) of the total clauses; these particular clauses feature the trio of topical, textual and interpersonal themes.

Analysis of Datum Six

At the level of experiential meanings, 20 clauses are analysed as material processes (51.3%), 7 are relational processes (17.9%), 6 are mental processes (15.4%) and 6 are verbal processes (15.4%). The absence of behavioural and existential processes is quite typical of most scam mails. As observed in datum 6, the authors of such scam mails are often not interested in describing the physiological or psychological behaviours of the participants nor concerned with the existence of a phenomenon, but rather, they are interested in expressing physical actions and describing certain events; expressing mental activities and utilising their mental strengths to manipulate their unsuspecting victims; telling or instructing their victims to act in a certain way; and identifying or ascribing qualities to certain entities within the text.

The dominant mood blocks discovered at the level of interpersonal meanings are declarative moods, with 33 occurrences (84.6%), while imperative moods, occurring 6 times,

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cover the rest of the percentage of the mail. Interrogative moods are absent in the mail since scammers are more interested in giving information to their unsuspecting victims with the ultimate purpose of coercing them to take a particular course of action, rather than demanding information from them. Hence, the author of this mail adopts this mood pattern to achieve this aim. The imperative moods have been used in datum six to demand for the recipient's trust (clause 2) and to subtly command him to take specific actions, such as providing his details; sending his details to a certain email address; and assuring the sender of his share of the fund.

The analysis of modality in the datum reveals that there are 39 cases of modality types. A breakdown of this shows 17 cases of modalization (15 clauses express probability; 2 clauses express usuality); and 22 cases of the modulation type (8 clauses express obligation; 14 express inclination). The predominant use of modulation type, which takes up 56.4% of the total percentage, reflects the mail sender's desperation to defraud the recipient of his assets. The modulation clauses allow the sender to propose certain responsibilities that have been carried out and those that will still be carried out by him. The sender also imposes some responsibilities on the recipient. For instance, the modal auxiliary "must" is used in clause 2 to intimidate the recipient by obliging him to put his trust in the sender.

The study of the thematic patterns employed in the mail shows that multiple themes are used recurrently. 28 out of 41 clauses that make up the mail have multiple themes (70.7%), while the remaining 12 clauses have simple themes (29.3%). While textual themes provide links between different ideas and messages embedded in the mail, interpersonal themes provide comments on the propositions encoded in the clauses.

3.2.7 Datum Seven: From Dora My Full Life Story with Love and Trust

Datum seven is made up of 52 clauses, and has one of the highest numbers of clauses among the ten data analysed in this research. The sender of the mail, who claims to be a refugee in Dakar, Senegal, attempts to solicit the help of the recipient in transferring into his (recipient's) personal account the sum of 7.5 million dollars which belongs to the sender's late father. The sender therefore employs various persuasive techniques to manipulate the recipient into believing her ordeal and hence, adhering to her instructions. The frequency distributions of the analysis are presented in the tables below.

Table 33: Frequency of the process types and their percentage in datum seven

No.	Process Types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Material	15	28.8%
2	Mental	13	25%
3	Relational	21	40.4%
4	Behavioural	0	0%
5	Verbal	3	5.8%
6	Existential	0	0%
Total		52	100%

From table 33 above, it can be deduced that there are 52 processes in datum seven. The analysis reveals that relational processes (40.4%) and material processes (28.8%) are predominantly used in the mail, while mental processes (25%) and verbal processes (5.8%) take third and fourth places in that order. There are no instances of behavioural and existential processes.

Table 34: Frequency of the participant roles and their percentage in datum seven

No.	Participant Roles	Quantity	Percentage
1	Actor	14	31.1%
2	Senser	9	20%
3	Sayer	2	4.5%
4	Behaver	0	0%
5	Existent	0	0%
6	Token/Value	10	22.2%
7	Carrier(Attributive)	10	22.2%
Total		45	100%

As depicted in table 34, the predominant participant role is actor role, accounting for 31.1% of the total percentage. Token/value and carrier roles share a total of 44.4% (22.2% each), with 10 occurrences each. Senser role takes 20% while sayer role is slightly used in the mail, taking up 4.5%.

Table 35: The percentage of mood types in datum seven

No.	Mood Types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Declarative	39	75%
2	Interrogative	1	1.9%
3	Imperative	12	23.1%
Total		52	100%

In datum seven, there is a great difference in the distribution of the mood types, particularly between declarative moods and other mood types. Declarative mood type, as the dominant mood type, takes up 75%. This is followed by imperative mood type which accounts for 23.1%, and then, interrogative mood type, which takes 1.9%.

Table 36: The percentage of modality types in datum seven

No.	Modality Types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Modalization: Probability	35	67.3%
	Usuality	2	3.9%
2	Modulation: Obligation	9	17.3%
	Inclination	6	11.5%
Total		52	100%

Table 36 reveals that 52 instances of modality types are used in this mail. From the analysis, it is observed that probability clauses (67.3%) significantly dominate this datum; this is followed by obligation clauses which account for 17.3%; and inclination clauses which take up 11.5%; and lastly, usuality clauses which take up 3.9%.

Table 37: The percentage of textual meanings in datum seven

No.	Theme types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Topical	29	55.8%
2	Textual	20	38.5%
3	Interpersonal	3	5.8%
Total		52	100%

The frequency of textual meanings is presented in the table above. This table reveals that the author of the mail predominantly employs topical themes (55.8%). Textual themes with 20 occurrences (41.9%) are also used in most cases in the mail. Interpersonal themes (5.8%) are only used three times.

Analysis of Datum Seven

The analysis of transitivity shows that relational processes are predominant in the mail, occurring in 21 clauses with 40.4%. The breakdown of relational processes in the mail shows that 11 finite verbs convey relational attributive processes (21.2%) while 10 finite verbs bear

relational identifying processes (19.2%). The sender of the mail uses these relational processes to describe her feeling, her plight, the situation of things around her in Dakar, and the actions the recipient must take to help her. After relational processes, the second most used process type is material process. The sender also employs 13 finite verbs which express mental processes (25%) to gain the recipient's trust and confidence by attempting to manipulate him psychologically. The finite verb "*like*" which is used to express affection is employed 4 times in the mail to influence the recipient by appealing to his emotions and subtly commanding him to take certain actions.

By analysing the types of mood in the mail, the researcher discovers that declarative moods are mostly used, with 39 occurrences (75%). This reveals the relationship between the sender and the recipient of the mail. While the sender is the provider of information, the recipient is the receiver of information. The sender uses these declaratives to assume the position of authority in the deal and to state some facts about her state of living in Dakar, Senegal. In the sender's attempt to connect and familiarise intimately with the recipient, she utilises an interrogative mood, which demands for information, in clause 2.

The dominant theme type employed in the mail is topical theme, which appears in 29 clauses out of the total 52 clauses (55.8%). This is followed by textual themes, occurring in 20 clauses (38.5%), and finally, interpersonal themes, with 3 occurrences (5.8%). Among the three grammatical elements that can carry topical theme, participants are thematised more than the other two elements, i.e. process and circumstance. These participant roles are often played by the sender, using the first person pronoun "*I*", or by an entity related to the sender. The excessive use of the first person pronoun "*I*" (appearing 24 times) in the mail, even when preceded by a textual element, shows the desperation of the sender in coercing the recipient to do her wishes.

3.2.8 Datum Eight: Dear Friend Greetings

In this datum, the sender, who claims to be a barrister, requests for the help of the recipient in repatriating a sum of $5.5 million, which belongs to his late client. The sender therefore promises the recipient 45% of the money once it is recovered. The twenty-seven clauses that constitute datum eight have been carefully analysed and the frequency distributions of this analysis are presented in the tables below.

Table 38: Frequency of the process types and their percentage in datum eight

No.	Process Types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Material	10	37%
2	Mental	5	18.5%
3	Relational	10	37%
4	Behavioural	0	0%
5	Verbal	2	7.5%
6	Existential	0	0%
Total		27	100%

From the above table, 27 processes are noticed in datum eight. It can be seen that the material process (37%) and relational process (37%) make up the majority (74%) of the total percentage. Mental process comes next, accounting for 18.5%, while verbal process has the least occurrence with 7.5%.

Table 39: Frequency of the participant roles and their percentage in datum eight

No.	Participant Roles	Quantity	Percentage
1	Actor	3	16.7%
2	Senser	4	22.2%
3	Sayer	1	5.6%
4	Behaver	0	0%
5	Existent	0	0%
6	Token/Value	4	22.2%
7	Carrier (Attributive)	6	33.3%
Total		18	100%

Table 39 shows the frequency of the participant roles employed in the mail. The dominant participant role is the carrier role, with 6 occurrences (33.3%); this is followed by token/value and senser roles, which share the same percentage, accounting for 44.4% of the total process types. Actor and sayer roles are the least used process types in the mail, taking up 16.7% and 5.6% respectively.

Table 40: The percentage of mood types in datum eight

No.	Mood Types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Declarative	25	92.6%
2	Interrogative	0	0%
3	Imperative	2	7.4%
Total		27	100%

It can be interpreted from table 40 that the declarative mood has the highest frequency of occurrence of mood types (92.6%). This is followed by imperative mood which takes up the remaining percentage (7.4%). There is no case of interrogative mood in the datum.

Table 41: The percentage of modality types in datum eight

No.	Modality Types		Quantity	Percentage
1	Modalization:	Probability	15	55.6%
		Usuality	1	3.7%
2	Modulation:	Obligation	3	11.1%
		Inclination	8	29.6%
	Total		27	100%

As presented in table 41, the distribution of modality types in this datum reveals that probability type (55.6%) is largely employed in the mail. Inclination (29.6%) comes next; and this is followed by obligation (11.1%). Usuality (3.7%) is less frequent in the mail.

Table 42: The percentage of textual meanings in datum eight

No.	Theme types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Topical	13	48.1%
2	Textual	13	48.1%
3	Interpersonal	1	3.8%
	Total	27	100%

The investigation of theme types used in the mail reveals that both topical and textual themes, which share the same percentage, are the predominantly used themes, accounting for 96.2% of the total theme types. Interpersonal theme occurs only once in the mail, with 3.8%

Analysis of Datum Eight

The mood block analysis of the datum reveals the recurrent use of the declarative moods. Declaratives, expressed in 25 clauses, take up (92.6%). The sender of the mail employs these declarative moods in a successive order, starting from clause 1 down to clause 26, excluding clause 2. Clauses 2 and 27 are however imperatives. The sender adopts this pattern to sufficiently

give the necessary information about his offer to the recipient. The information is provided with the intent of convincing and influencing the recipient to give a positive response to such offer.

There are 27 cases of modality types in the mail. The most commonly used modality type is probability (15; 55.6%). The probability type is reflected in most of the declarative statements used in the mail to notify the recipient about certain events and actions regarding the deal. The occurrence of probability type in the mail is followed by inclination (8). Two modal operators are used to express this particular modality – *"can"* (clauses 21 and 22) and *"will"* (clauses 25 and 26). Other modal expressions such as *"making you this offer"* (clause 3), *"decided to contact you"* (clause 12), *"decide to seek your consent"* (clause 20), and *"I guarantee"* (clause 24) also convey inclination. These modal operators are used to show the sender's readiness to fulfill an offer, and to commit the recipient to a future action with the ultimate aim of securing the trust and confidence of the recipient.

At the level of experiential meanings, the analysis reveals that there are two process types that occur more frequently in the mail, and these are material (10) and relational (10) processes, each taking up 37%. Other types of processes discovered in the datum are mental (5) and verbal (2) processes, taking up 18.5% and 7.5% respectively. The dominant use of material and relational processes reveal the sender's desire to identify and describe various actions that can lead to the success of the deal. He also uses a relational process to introduce himself and inform the recipient about his occupation.

3.2.9 Datum Nine: I Will Wait for Your Positive Response

Just as the previous datum analysed, datum nine also contains twenty-seven (27) clauses. The sender of the mail demands the help of the recipient in safeguarding a sum of $11.5 million

which is claimed to have been found during a military operation. Thus, the sender pledges to award the recipient with 35% of the money. The tables below depict the frequency distributions of the metafunctions of language employed in datum nine.

Table 43: Frequency of the process types and their percentage in datum nine

No.	Process Types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Material	11	40.7%
2	Mental	9	33.3%
3	Relational	7	26%
4	Behavioural	0	0%
5	Verbal	0	0%
6	Existential	0	0%
Total		27	100%

Table 43 shows that material processes take the highest percentage of process types (40.7%) compared to other process types. Mental processes (33.3%) take the second place in terms of frequency. Relational process has the least percentage (26%).

Table 44: Frequency of the participant roles and their percentage in datum nine

No.	Participant Roles	Quantity	Percentage
1	Actor	8	34.8%
2	Senser	8	34.8%
3	Sayer	0	0%
4	Behaver	0	0%
5	Existent	0	0%
6	Token/Value	2	8.7%
7	Carrier (Attributive)	5	21.7%
Total		23	100%

In datum nine, there are 23 instances of participant roles, among which, actor and senser roles share the same quantity, taking up 69.6% altogether; these two process types are followed by carrier role which takes up 21.7%; and token/value role which accounts for 8.7%., as shown in table 44.

Table 45: The percentage of mood types in datum nine

No.	Mood Types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Declarative	25	92.6%
2	Interrogative	0	0%
3	Imperative	2	7.4%
Total		27	100%

At the level of interpersonal meanings, table 45 reveals 27 cases of mood types. It can be seen clearly that declaratives (92.6%) are dominant, while imperatives (7.4%) are slightly used. There is no instance of interrogatives in datum nine.

Table 46: The percentage of modality types in datum nine

No.	Modality Types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Modalization: Probability	16	59.3%
	Usuality	0	0%
2	Modulation: Obligation	3	11.1%
	Inclination	8	29.6%
Total		27	100%

As shown in table 46, all the modality types, except usuality type, are present in datum 9. Regarding the percentage, the researcher discovered that clauses expressing probability are dominant, taking up 59.3%. This is followed by expressions of inclination, which take up 29.6%. Obligation type of modulation appears thrice in the mail, taking up 11.1%.

Table 47: The percentage of textual meanings in datum nine

No.	Theme types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Topical	10	37%
2	Textual	15	55.6%
3	Interpersonal	2	7.4%
Total		27	100%

As seen in table 47, textual themes are the major theme type in the mail, occurring 15 times (55.6%); this is followed by topical themes, with 10 occurrences (37%), and interpersonal themes, occurring only two times (7.4%) in the mail.

Analysis of Datum Nine

The transitivity analysis of this mail has been carried out by identifying the process patterns of each clause; identifying the associated participants and the roles those participants play. The percentage of each process types and the participant roles have been presented in the tables above. In this datum, there are 27 clauses, among which, material processes take up 40.7% as the majority, with 11 occurrences, then comes mental processes which take up 33.3%, and finally, relational processes take up 26%, as shown in table 43. There are no instances of behavioural, verbal and existential processes. The corresponding participant roles discovered in datum nine are actors, which appear 8 times, taking up 34.8%; sensers also take up 34.8%, followed by carriers which occupy 21.7%, and lastly, tokens which occur only twice and take up 8.7%. From the datum, it was observed that sensers of the mental processes are mostly *'I'*, occurring 8 times out of possible 9 mental processes. The use of this first person pronoun reflects the sender's determination in coercing the recipient to accept his offer and share the same opinion as him. Apart from pronoun *'I'* functioning as sensers in the datum, it also serves other

participant roles such as actors (occurring 5 times), carriers (2 times) and token (1 time). The sender employs the use of *'I'* to convey his thoughts and ideas; however, the excessive use of this pronoun makes the text subjective and imposing, and shows the authority of the sender over the recipient.

The analysis of interpersonal meanings embedded in the mail reveals two types of clausal moods - declarative moods, which occur 25 times (92.6%) and imperative moods, occurring twice (7.4%). Each of these two mood types indicates different sort of interpersonal relationship among the sender and the recipient of the mail. As shown in table 43, declaratives mood occur more frequently in the datum. The recurrent use of declaratives indicates that the communicated information is very dear to the sender, and hence, it is important for the recipient to take such information seriously and act on it. This mood type helps the sender of the mail to appeal to the emotion of the recipient with the aim of persuading him to believe the legitimacy of the shared information. The two cases of imperative moods employed in the text – clauses 2 and 27 – express authority and imposition.

At the level of textual metafunction of language, the analysis of the thematic patterns adopted in the datum shows that textual elements are often made thematic. Textual themes occur 15 times, with 55.6%. This is followed by topical themes (37%) and interpersonal themes (7.4%). Textual elements are made prominent to ensure that the text is coherent, and the information is clear and understandable to the recipient. Interpersonal themes in the mail are expressed via the use of the comment adjunct '*please'* (clauses 2 and 27). The author of the mail makes thematic this interpersonal element with the intention of limiting the imposition or authority exerted upon the recipient.

3.2.10 Datum Ten: From Mrs. Susan Shabangu

Datum ten is made up of forty-two (42) clauses; each clause contains a finite verb. The sender of the mail solicits the help of the recipient to act as a beneficiary to the sum of $30.5 million. The fund is claimed to belong to the sender's late husband; the sender therefore promises to offer the recipient 20% of the total sum, which amounts to $6.1 million. The frequency distributions of the analysis carried out on datum 10 are presented in the tables below.

Table 48: Frequency of the process types and their percentage in datum ten

No.	Process Types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Material	25	55.6%
2	Mental	9	20%
3	Relational	9	20%
4	Behavioural	1	2.2%
5	Verbal	1	2.2%
6	Existential	0	0%
Total		45	100%

The analysis of transitivity in datum ten, as seen in table 48, reveals the dominant use of the material process type (55.6%), occurring in 25 clauses out of 45 clauses that constitute the mail. Mental and relational processes, which share the same quantity and percentage, come next, accounting for 40% altogether. Behavioural and verbal processes are scarcely used in the mail; both take up 4.4%.

Table 49: Frequency of the participant roles and their percentage in datum ten

No.	Participant Roles	Quantity	Percentage
1	Actor	17	47.2%
2	Senser	9	25%
3	Sayer	1	2.8%
4	Behaver	1	2.8%
5	Existent	0	0%
6	Token/Value	2	5.5%
7	Carrier (Attributive)	6	16.7%
Total		36	100%

The frequency of the participant roles in the mail, as seen in table 49, shows that actor role is frequently used, accounting for 47.2%; this is followed by senser role (25%), carrier role (16.7%), and token/value (5.5%). Sayer and behaver roles appear once each, taking up 5.6% of the total percentage.

Table 50: The percentage of mood types in datum ten

No.	Mood Types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Declarative	37	82.2%
2	Interrogative	0	0%
3	Imperative	8	17.8%
Total		45	100%

As seen in table 50, the prevailing mood type is the declarative mood, which takes up 82.2% of the total percentage. Imperative mood type is also discovered in the mail, with 17.8%. There is no instance of interrogative mood.

Table 51: The percentage of modality types in datum ten

No.	Modality Types		Quantity	Percentage
1	Modalization:	Probability	25	55.6%
		Usuality	1	2.2%
2	Modulation:	Obligation	11	24.4%
		Inclination	8	17.8%
Total			45	100%

As depicted in the above table, the four types of modality are represented in datum 10. Clauses expressing probability are dominant, taking up 55.6%; these are followed by clauses expressing obligation (24.4%) and those clauses expressing inclination (17.8%). Usuality type (2.2%) is least represented in the mail.

Table 52: The percentage of textual meanings in datum ten

No.	Theme types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Topical	14	31.1%
2	Textual	27	60%
3	Interpersonal	4	8.9%
Total		45	100%

At the level of textual metafunction, textual theme type is predominantly used in the mail, with 27 occurrences (60%) out of 45 clauses. Topical theme comes second, with 14 instances (31.1%); interpersonal theme has the least appearance, occurring only four times (8.9%).

Analysis of Datum Ten

Table 48 shows the occurrences of experiential meanings in the mail. As shown in the table, there are altogether 45 processes in the mail, and it can be seen clearly that material processes (55.6%), mental processes (20%) and relational processes (20%) make up the majority

(95.6%) of the percentage. Verbal process and behavioural process, which share the same percentage in the text, are the least used, accounting for 4.4% of the total process types. The material processes are predominantly used in the mail as a persuasive technique to describe various physical actions that could appeal to the emotions of the recipient. The material processes, such as '*view*', '*read*', '*contact*, '*coming down*', '*provide*,* etc.,* are used to draw attention to certain actions that must be performed by the recipient of the mail. This will therefore inform the sender about the recipient's willingness and compliance to the offer. Mental processes employed in the mail are used to express the sender's belief, ambition, hope, expectation and feelings. For instance, "*I decided*" (clause 5); "*I discovered*" (clause 10); "*I never knew*" (clause 18); "*I want*" (clause 26); "*you have to assure me*" (clause 35); "*I do not need*" (clause 45). Most of the mental processes here have *"I"* as the sensor. The sender hence wants to influence the recipient to accept her opinion and to carry out her wishes.

The analysis of the identification of subject and finite shows that the ordering of subject and finite in most of the clauses that constitute the mail is subject + finite pattern, which signals that most of the clauses in the mail are declarative clauses. By statistics, of 45 clauses in the data, 37 clauses are declarative clauses, taking up 82.2% of the speech; while 8 clauses are imperatives, taking up the rest of the percentage. The intention of the sender of this mail is to principally defraud the recipient of his money. To accomplish this, the sender seeks to express his viewpoint on things in the world, to elicit or change the recipient's attitudes and to arouse the recipient's passion to consider the proposal of the sender. It is therefore vital and evident for the sender to give information and demand services.

People use clauses to give information about their thoughts and ideas, so the function of a clause is considered to be a message. This function is labeled to textual meaning. The analysis of

textual meanings in this mail focuses on the thematic structures adopted by the author. Table 52 shows the percentage of textual meanings found in the mail, and it can be seen clearly that textual themes occur more often than any other theme types, taking up 60% of the total percentage. The textual themes, which are responsible for cohesive ties of a text, connect the various clauses in the mail together. These themes are realised through conjunctive adjuncts. The sender of the mail uses many textual themes to control the flow of information and to organise the information by showing relationships between the various clauses.

3.3 Summary of the Tables

The frequency distributions of the various levels of analysis – experiential, interpersonal and textual - carried out altogether on the ten selected fraudulent mails are presented in the tables below.

Table 53: The total quantity of the process types and their percentage

No.	Process Types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Material	147	45.2%
2	Mental	63	19.4%
3	Relational	87	26.8%
4	Behavioural	3	0.9%
5	Verbal	25	7.7%
6	Existential	0	0%
Total		325	100%

From the above table, it can be seen that there are altogether 325 processes in the ten mails selected for this analysis. It is observed that material process (45.2%), relational process (26.8%) and mental process (19.4%) make up the majority (91.4%) of the total percentage.

Verbal process ranks fourth, accounting for 7.7%, while behavioural process takes the fifth position, with 0.9%. Existential process is not employed in any of the 10 data analysed.

Table 54: The total quantity of the participant roles and their percentage

No.	Participant Roles	Quantity	Percentage
1	Actor	96	39.8%
2	Senser	48	19.9%
3	Sayer	11	4.6%
4	Behaver	3	1.3%
5	Existent	0	0%
6	Token/Value	41	17%
7	Carrier (Attributive)	42	17.4%
	Total	241	100%

The transitivity analysis of the data reveals the frequency of the participant roles used in the mails. Actor role is predominantly used, taking up 39.8%; this is followed by senser role (19.9%); carrier role (17.4%) and token/value role (17%). Sayer and behaver roles are used less frequently, with 11 (4.6%) and 3 (1.3%) occurrences respectively.

Table 55: The total quantity and percentage of mood types

No.	Mood Types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Declarative	276	84.9%
2	Interrogative	1	0.3%
3	Imperative	48	14.8%
	Total	325	100%

As seen in table 55, the mood type analysis of the selected data reveals the predominant use of declarative mood type, taking up 84.9% of the total percentage; imperative mood comes next, with 14.8% while interrogative has the least percentage (0.3%).

Table 56: The total quantity and percentage of modality types

No.	Modality Types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Modalization: Probability	174	53.5%
	Usuality	14	4.3%
2	Modulation: Obligation	66	20.3%
	Inclination	71	21.9%
Total		325	100%

Table 56 depicts the presence of the four modality types in the data. Clauses expressing probability are largely used, accounting for 53.5%. The dominant probability type of modalization is followed by the inclination type of modulation (21.9%), obligation type of modulation (20.3%), and finally, usuality type of modalization (4.3%).

Table 57: The total quantity and percentage of textual meanings

No.	Theme types	Quantity	Percentage
1	Topical	147	44.7%
2	Textual	159	48.3%
3	Interpersonal	23	7%
Total		329	100%

The percentage of textual meanings is presented in table 57. Textual theme type is seen to be dominant (48.3%); this is followed by topical theme (44.7%) and interpersonal theme (7%). The analysis of 325 clauses which constitute the selected mails reveals 329 instances of themes. This discrepancy arises due to the occurrence of multiple themes in four of the total clauses; these particular clauses feature the trio of topical, textual and interpersonal themes.

3.4   Discussion

After analysing the ten data selected for this study, the researcher discovers that the data are made up of 325 clauses altogether; each clause contains a finite verb. From 325 processes that can be found, the occurrence of material process is 147 (45.2%); relational process is 87 (26.8%); mental process is 63 (19.4%); verbal process is 25 (7.7%); and behavioural process is 3 (0.9%). There is no instance of existential process in the ten data; this implies that advance fee fraudsters are not interested in describing the existence of an occurrence or phenomenon. It can be seen that the most dominant process type in the Advance Fee Fraud mails analysed in this study is material process, which gains almost half of the total quantity and percentage of process occurrence. The prevailing use of material process permits the authors of these mails to identify and describe various physical actions that have been taken or those actions that will be taken in the future which will guarantee the accomplishment of the scam deal. For instance, in datum 1, the author of the mail uses material processes to identify various actions that are performed by him - such as *bringing, emailed, made, create* - as well as the actions that the recipient is expected to perform – such as *access, pick, track*.

The analysis of the participant roles reveal 241 instances of participants which are often used in the subject position in a sentence. Actor, as the corresponding participant in a material process, appears more than any other participant in the data, taking up 39.8% of the total percentage. The occurrence of actor role is followed by senser of the mental process (19.9%), carrier of the relational attributive process (17.4%), and then, token/value of the relational identifying process (17%). Other participant roles identified in the analysis are sayer of the verbal process (4.6%) and behaver of the behavioural process (1.3%). The analysis revealed that some of the participants in the subject positions in the clauses constituting the mails are

expressed using the personal pronouns *you, we*, *I* and *they*. As observed in datum 3, pronoun '*you*' is used 9 times (50%); '*we*' is used 6 times (33.3%); '*I*' is used 2 times (11.1%); and '*they*' is used once (5.6%). This implies that both the perpetrator of the scam and the victim certainly have their various roles to perform before the scam deal can be successfully completed.

At the level of interpersonal meanings, the dominant mood blocks discovered are declarative moods, with 276 occurrences, largely taking up 84.9%, while imperative moods, occurring 48 times, take up 14.8%. Interrogative mood, which occurs only once in the ten data analysed, covers the rest of the percentage of the mail (0.3%). The overriding instances of declarative moods reveal that advance fee fraudsters, while assuming the position of authority, are more interested in stating facts and giving information to their unsuspecting victims with the ultimate aim of coercing them to take a particular course of action, rather than demanding information from them. Based on the analysis of modality types in the ten data, 325 cases of modality are discovered. The classification of these 325 instances of modality shows 188 cases of modalization (174 clauses express probability; 14 clauses express usuality); and 137 cases of the modulation type (66 clauses express obligation; 71 express inclination). In modalization, it can be seen that usuality is rare when compared with probability. This is because scammers do not frequently express information based on how often such information being exchanged is true, but rather, they make propositions based on how likely is the information being expressed is true. The modulation type is often used by fraudsters to commit their targets into taking certain responsibilities which will ultimately lead to swindling the targets of their assets.

The analysis of thematic patterns employed in the data sampled shows that textual themes (159) occur more than any other theme types, taking up 48.3%. This is closely followed by topical themes (147), which carry 44.7% and then, interpersonal themes (23), with 7%. The

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predominant use of textual themes implies that conjunctive adjuncts occur at the beginning of most of the clauses that constitute the data; hence such conjunctives are thematic. These various conjunctives have been used by the sender to connect his messages together so as to achieve cohesion and to structure the text properly. Topical themes, however, are used in the text to give prominence to certain elements – participants, processes and circumstances - that occur in the first position of each of the clauses that constitute the mail. These elements bearing topical themes serve as the starting point for the author's message in the mail and indicate what the clauses will be about.

3.4   Summary of the Chapter

This chapter has reported the findings and discussions of ten Advance Fee Fraud mails analysed within the scope of this study, and also presented the summary of the tables featured in the analysis. This analysis was carried out at different levels of the SFL approach to language study. First, the analysis of transitivity was done to reveal the process types and participant roles employed in the mail. Through the analysis of transitivity as a system of the experiential meaning, the study reveals the intents of fraudsters and the various techniques used in manipulating their unsuspecting victims. Also, the researcher analysed the interpersonal meanings embedded in the mails with the purpose of identifying the mood types and modality choices employed by fraudsters. The interpersonal meanings reveal the opinions and attitudes of these scammers as well as their relation with their victims. Finally, through 'theme' and 'rheme', the thematic patterns that constitute the mails were analysed in order to understand how the authors of these mails have structured their messages. In the next chapter, summary, findings, conclusion of the study, and recommendations will be presented.

CHAPTER FOUR

SUMMARY, FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

4.1   Introduction

In the preceding chapter, an analysis of ten selected Advance Fee Fraud mails was done using the systemic functional linguistic approach with the aim of explicating the experiential, interpersonal and textual meanings embedded in the mails. Hence, this chapter, which is the last chapter in this research, comprises summary, findings, conclusion of the study, and recommendations.

4.2   Summary

This study has carried out an analysis of ten authentic cases of advance fee fraud received via email accounts of various respondents, who are students of the Faculty of Arts, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Kwara State using the metafunctions of language identified by Halliday – experiential, interpersonal and textual metafunctions. Halliday's theory of Systemic Functional Linguistics provides a methodical description of the relationship between function, meaning and grammar; hence, the application of this theory in this study clearly illustrates the interaction that exists among the three metafunctions, which facilitate the understanding of the nature of language use in fraudulent mails as well as the implicit meanings of these mails. The contents of these mails are analysed meticulously to identify the various means and techniques employed by advance fee fraudsters to trick their victims into parting with funds.

4.3   Findings

Advance Fee Fraud (AFF) scam is a coordinated effort to lure recipients of unsolicited email messages into a plot that will supposedly enrich them for little or no investment, but which

ultimately ends up swindling them of their assets. Based on the analysis of the selected scam mails, the salient findings discovered by the researchers can be summarised as follows:

A clause-level analysis is done in this research, since clause is the unit of analysis in SFL. A clause-by-clause breakdown of the mails according to the metafunctions is carried out by the researcher, and various clause patterns have been identified in the mails with such elements as subject (S), finite (F), predicator (P), complement (C), and adjunct (A). Based on the analysis of the 325 clauses which constitute the selected mails, 8 clause patterns were discovered, which are: i) S + F + P + C + A (50.8%); ii) S + F + P + A (17.5%); iii) S + F + P + C (13.2%); iv) F + P + C + A (12%); v) F + P + A (2.8%); vi) F + P + C (1.5%); vii) S + F + P (1.2%); and vii) F + P (0.9%). While some clauses in the selected mails do not contain some of these elements (particularly, subject, complement, and adjunct), elements of finite and predicator are present in all the clauses since these parts of the clause show primary tense and encode the opinion of the fraudsters.

Generally speaking, the analysis of transitivity reveals that material processes (45.2%) and relational processes (26.8%) are relatively prevailing processes in AFF mails, while mental (19.4%), verbal (7.7%), and behavioural (0.9%) processes are seldom used. Absence of existential process in the selected data shows that AFF fraudsters are not interested in describing the existence of an event or phenomenon. The dominant use of material process permits the authors of these mails to identify and describe various physical actions that have been taken or those actions that will be taken in the future which will guarantee the success of the scam deal.

Through the use of relational processes, it was discovered that fraudsters, in their attempt to establish trust and confidentiality, often share their identities by providing their contact

address, email, telephone numbers, and appeal to the recipient to do the same. A good example of this was found in datum 8 where the sender of the mail uses relational processes predominantly to introduce himself and inform the recipient about his occupation.

From the perspective of the interpersonal metafunction, it was discovered that declarative moods (84.9%) largely dominate AFF mails; this is followed by imperative moods (14.8%). There is only one instance of interrogative mood (0.3%) in the data selected which was found in datum 7 to demand for information from the recipient with the intention of establishing trust and negotiating a relation. The dominant uses of declarative moods in the scam mails revealed that fraudsters, while assuming the position of authority, are more interested in stating 'facts' and conveying as many as possible messages to their unsuspecting victims with the ultimate aim of persuading and coercing them to take a particular action. Imperative moods, on the other hand, are used by these fraudsters to command or instruct the recipient, mostly in the form of authoritative advice, to take some certain actions that will facilitate the success of the scam deal.

Aside from the mood system, the research also revealed that modality is another way of expressing interpersonal meanings in AFF mails. After investigating the modality choices employed by these fraudster in revealing their attitudes and feelings, it was discovered that modalization type (57.8%) occurs more than the modulation type (42.2%). This implies that AFF mails operate more on proposition which occurs through exchange of information between the fraudsters (who act as providers of information) and their unsuspecting victims (recipients of information). Regarding the modalization type, it was observed that probability type (53.5%) have more occurrences than usuality type (4.3%) because scammers do not frequently express information based on how often such information being exchanged is true, but rather, they make propositions based on how likely is the information being expressed is true. Hence, these

fraudsters often use high probability type (or certainty) which reflects their determination to defraud their victims of their resources by telling them (victims) facts about certain issues that will aid the accomplishment of the scam.

At the level of modulation, while inclination type took 21.9% of the total instances of modality, obligation type took 20.3%. With the use of modal expressions that convey inclination, fraudsters often attempt to lure the interest of their victims and win over their trust by suggesting the benefits the victims stand to gain if they decide to agree to the proposal. It was also discovered that meanings evoked through the use of obligation were expressed mostly in the form of assertions and authoritative advice to commit the unsuspecting victims and to ascertain their willingness to partake in the fraudulent deal.

In the investigation of the thematic patterns employed in the mails, it was discovered that textual themes (48.3%) have more occurrences than any other theme types; this is closely followed by topical themes (44.7%) and then, interpersonal themes (7%). Textual themes are predominantly used by these fraudsters to provide links between different ideas and messages embedded in the mails; hence, textual themes structure the text properly. Topical themes, however, are used in the text to give prominence to certain elements, such as participants, processes and circumstances, which occur in the first position of each of the clauses that constitute the mails. These elements bearing topical themes serve as the starting point for the author's message in the mail and indicate what the clauses will be about. Furthermore, it was observed that fraudsters thematise certain interpersonal elements, especially comment and mood adjuncts, to express their attitudes and provide comments on the propositions encoded in the clauses.

4.4   Conclusion

This research has conducted a systemic functional linguistic analysis of selected electronic Advance Fee Fraud mails with the intent of explicating the implicit meanings of such mails as well as the nature of language that is adopted by the cybercriminals. From the study, we can therefore conclude that through the predominant use of declarative moods and material process of experiential meaning, fraudsters seek to manipulate their victims' behaviours; coerce and convince them to act in a certain way; establish and maintain relationship with them; and to elicit and change their attitudes with the ultimate aim of swindling them of their assets.

4.5   Recommendations

This current study has investigated the manipulative use of language in Advance Fee Fraud (AFF) mails. This investigation has been carried out through the analyses of transitivity processes; moods and modality types; and thematic patterns to realise experiential, interpersonal and textual meanings respectively. Hence, in view of the above findings, the study wishes to recommend that further researches should be conducted on the subject matter of internet fraud by examining the nature and linguistic features of scam mails in order to unravel other manipulative techniques employed by fraudsters to defraud their unsuspecting victims. Such researches can be conducted using a different method or approach, and will consequently prevent the general public from becoming a prey to internet fraud.

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Datum One: Attention Dear Customer

Fwd: Attention Dear Customer
1 message

Mustapha Dhikr Kayode <sikirumustafa@gmail.com>   Tue, Aug 6, 2019 at 21:17
To: samuelakindeji@gmail.com

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Harriet Gon** <jimmyjim@t-email.hu>
Date: Sun, Jul 21, 2019, 10:55 PM
Subject: Attention Dear Customer
To:

I'm Harriet Gon, from western union office, bringing to you this good-news and I only need your understanding to this message. I have emailed to inform you about the recovering of your outstanding fund which was made possible by this office through the help of United Nation, this means that your total fund of US$10,500,000.00 has been recovered and we have made an arrangement of sending you this fund on daily basis and as well create a western union account in your name so that you will easily access your fund.

Furthermore I want to let you know that your first payment of US$4,800.00 has already been sent to you and is available right now but we need to activate your funds payment file before you can pick it up your daily payment. The activation of your funds payment file is $100 and once it paid, your funds payment file will be activated and your pick up references no will be activated to be use by you with immediate effect in other to have your transfer released. Further more you advised to call us as the instruction was passed that Within 48hours without hearing from you, Count your payment canceled.

You can track your transfer here with the below info:
Here is your Money Transfer Control Number
(MTCN) 6243491905
Tracking Website: https://www.westernunion.com/global-service/track-transfer
Amount: US$4,800.00.

Management.
Mr. Harriet Gon
Text and call us on: +1 (443) 888-0247
Email: mrharrietgon@gmail.com

Datum Two: From Christopher A. Wray Executive Director

Fwd: FROM CHRISTOPHER A. WRAY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
1 message

Mustapha Dhikr Kayode <sikirumustafa@gmail.com>   Tue, Aug 6, 2019 at 21:11
To: samuelakindeji@gmail.com

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **FBI OFFICE** <fbi@gov.us>
Date: Sun, Jul 28, 2019, 2:08 PM
Subject: FROM CHRISTOPHER A. WRAY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
To:

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI) UNITED STATES.
FBI SEEKING TO WIRETAP INTERNET.

Attention Beneficiary Email ID,

It has come to the notice of the authority the federal bureau of investigation (FBI) Division United States of American through our intelligence-monitoring network today we have discovered that the transaction that the bank contacted you previously was legal. Recently the fund has been legally approved to be paid to you via Coris bank.

So, we the federal bureau of investigation (FBI), in conjunction with the United Nations (UN) financial department have investigated through our monitoring network regarding your payment of $12.5 million, You have the legitimate right to complete your transaction to claim your fund US$12,500,000.00 (Twelve million five hundred thousand united states dollars)

Because of so much scam going on in internet now We the federal bureau of investigation decided to contact the delivery Courier Company service for them to give us their procedures on how to send this money to you without any further complain or delay. We just got an information from the Coris bank and they have loaded your US$12,500,000.00 into an ATM CARD that will be submitted to the delivery courier company service for immediate delivery to your doorstep as soon as you send their required shipping fee stated below to Coris bank President and Chief Executive Officer Mr Idrissa Nassa.

You are required to choose one option which you will be able to pay the required fee and also ask the management of Heritage bank to give you the information you will use to send the required shipping fee and also convenient for you for quick delivery of your parcel containing your ATM CARD and other two original back up documents that will enlighten you on how to use the ATM card.

Service Type, Delivery, Duration Charges, Fees

FedEx Express (24hrs Delivery)
Mailing $90.00
Insurance $310.00

Vat $50.00
TOTAL $450.00

DHL Courier (2 Days)
Mailing $90.00
Insurance $215.00
Vat $45.00
TOTAL $350.00

UPS Express (4Days)
Mailing $60.00
Insurance$180.00
Vat (0%)10.
TOTAL $250.00

You are hereby required to advice the Coris bank Chief Executive Officer Mr Idrissa Nassa , on your parcel delivery option by filling the required form stated above.

Please note that the deadline for claiming your funds is exactly one week after the receipt of this email. At this period your funds will return back to the government account as a government property. That is the instruction given to us from the United Nations (UN) financial department.

So take note. We advise you to contact Mr Idrissa Nassa the President and Chief Executive Officer of Coris bank with this payment code {FBI25FUNDS} and your {mailing address and full name and your contact number} to ensure conformity with our record for immediate dispatch of your parcel to you. Only valid residential, Office address and postal address are certified OK. We are here to protect you from any problem until you receive your package, But make sure you text Mr Idrissa Nassa on this number +1 (716) 296-4959 yourself with above information and ask him to give you the info you will use to send the required shipping fee to enable quick releasing the ATM card to you because bankers is always engage with many customers activities.

Below is President and Chief Executive Officer of Coris Bank contact details:

Contact Person::: Mr Idrissa Nassa .
President and Chief Executive Officer of Coris bank United States Fund Compensation representative
Contact Number::: +1 (716) 296-4959 <--text message only
Contact Email::: { corisbank@secure.directbox.com }

Looking forward to hear from you as soon as you receive this funds

Best Regards,

Christopher A. Wray
Federal Bureau of Investigation
J. Edgar Hoover Building 935
Pennsylvania Avenue,NW Washington, D.C.

Datum Three: Fund Released Order

Fwd: FUND RELEASED ORDER.

1 message

Mustapha Dhikr Kayode <sikirumustafa@gmail.com>   Tue, Aug 6, 2019 at 21:09
To: samuelakindeji@gmail.com

––––––– Forwarded message –––––––
From: **Mr. Charles P. Rettig** <info@usa.org>
Date: Fri, Aug 2, 2019, 3:25 PM
Subject: FUND RELEASED ORDER.
To: Recipients <info@usa.org>

FUND RECONCILIATION DEPARTMENT,INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICES AND DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY
ACCESSIBILITY UNITED STATES.(FUND RELEASED ORDER)

In adherence to the specifications of the United States Government, the management of the Fund Reconciliation
Department here in New York, USA, wishes to let you know that your fund totaling the amount of $2.5 million is long over
due, every precept regarding your funds has been concluded. You will be receiving your funds from this office any
moment from now. We shall keep document report of every transaction done here in the USA. Investigations gathered by
the Fund Regulatory Agency {IMF}, shows you have been receiving numerous emails from several offices requesting you
to claim your funds. In some cases, you tried a lot but still the transfer or delivery was not completed due to one reason or
the other. The fact is that you are stuck between the chains which make it impossible for you to differentiate the real
office from its counterfeit.

I know you will be expecting to hear from me regarding this delivery after the last attempt to get it over. The fact is that I
understand you're been into so many transaction and I decided to stay clear so that you will understand the truth about
everything going on within the internet.

We learn that the only real office that has ever contacted you in respect to your funds is Federal Reserve Bank of New
York. It was brought to our notice that the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank, Jerome Powell, made voluntary effort to
have your funds transferred into your account or delivered to you in form of an ATM Visa Card but couldn't complete the
process due to some fall-out on your ends as you couldn't meet up with the fee demand for the transfer, so they gave up
on you. In a more proper and legalized manner, the Fund Reconciliation Department and the Federal Reserve Bank
solicited us to allow your fund to be written as a Cashier's Check or Credited as an ATM Visa Card and have it shipped to
your home address through USPS Priority Mail Express. This option is considered to be the best, easiest and the most
efficient way to have you get your long awaited United Nations approved funds.

For the purpose to avoiding double payment on your end, we had an agreement with the IMF and the Federal Reserve
Bank to document every charge necessary until your funds worth $2.5 million get to you. The analytical group of the two
offices mentioned above estimated an accurate sum of US$199.00 as the Fund Release Order Certificate. So it was
constituted and officially submitted to the Court of Justice that "the only" charge you will ever pay before your package
leaves our office here in USA is US$199.00 which is the fee for your Procurement File to be signed and sent to us here in
the USA after which you'll never spend a dime again. We are renowned and reputable USA Agency and we don't like
undocumented processes. This is why it has to be written down on paper that you will never pay any other money. The
US$199.00 is for "FUND RELEASE ORDER CERTIFICATE". The Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank, Jerome Powell will
be coming to Tennessee in few days time, so he will have the Power of Attorney to stand in and sign on your behalf and
bring along with her your Procurement File to us here to enable us post your loaded ATM Card/Check to your mailing
address without any hitch.

You are required to make the administrative payment of $199 for the FUND RELEASED ORDER CERTIFICATE through
western union or money gram though our issuing officer at the bank to enable us make the delivery to your designate
home address.

Receivers' Name;DELI
City;PORTO NOVO
Country;BENIN REPUBLIC
Amount; $199

MTCN/Reference number

Therefore, the days of you being subjected to paying fees after fees is over as that is the case with some corrupt officials down there in Africa, whom always strive to subject beneficiaries to hard bureaucratic bottle-necks, thereby making it impossible for most innocent USA citizens and the likes to claim what rightfully belongs to them. Thank God that your fund is here in New York, USA. We have decided to follow the USA constitutions so as to ensure that your money is in your hands this week. Without mincing words, it will be desirous if you consciously adhere to the above instruction by remitting the Fund Release Order Certificate is calculated to be US$199.00. You are advised to kindly reply this email with the below details enclosed to help ensure safe mailing of your ATM Visa Card:

Kindly Still Update Us With:

1. Your Name which you prefer we use when shipping your ATM Card
2. Your Current mailing (Delivery) Address where your ATM Card should be mailed
3. You're Private Mobile Number for the Priority Express Mail to Contact you when they arrive at your door step.

Once again, we are sorry for the inconveniences you might have encountered in the past, in pursuit of your funds. Now that this office, Fund Reconciliation Department is involved, you will have no cause to ever regret again as soon as you adhere to the above given instructions.

Regards,
Yours Sincerely,
IRS Commissioner,
Mr. Charles P. Rettig.
+1(424)257 6835

Datum Four: I Need a Foreign Partnership

Fwd: I Need A foreign Partnership
1 message

Mustapha Dhikr Kayode <sikirumustafa@gmail.com>   Tue, Aug 6, 2019 at 21:12
To: samuelakindeji@gmail.com

-------- Forwarded message --------
From: **Mr. Matthew Edohossa** <test@vodokanal.poltava.ua>
Date: Fri, Jul 26, 2019, 9:15 PM
Subject: I Need A foreign Partnership
To:

Mr. Matthew Edohossa is my name, I work in a Bank here in Benin. And I personally handles transactions of Mr. Franz Kerkhofs who eventually died on the 9th of January 2012 of a heart attack at the age of 67 in Cairo Egypt, 7 years ago.

Before his death, Mr. Franz Kerkhofs has his enterprises included engineering, construction, maintenance petroleum, water, chemicals, and was a Contractor with Benin Energy dept. He has $7.3M (Seven Million, Three Hundred Thousand United State Dollars) in a fixed account with the bank without any next of kin to inherit the deposited amount. I write to seek your consent to present you as a foreign partner to stand in as the next of kin to the late Mr. Franz Kerkhofs.

The deposited fund will be approved to you as only beneficiary for our mutual benefits. If by the end of this year and no body comes up to claim the fund, it will be move to government account as unclaimed fund and the corrupt politicians will share the money by themselves. Let me know if I can work with you.

My best Regards
Matthew Edohossa
mrmatth.ewedohossa@aol.com

Datum Five: Western Union Office

Fwd: Western Union Office

1 message

Mustapha Dhikr Kayode <sikirumustafa@gmail.com>   Tue, Aug 6, 2019 at 21:10
To: samuelakindeji@gmail.com

------- Forwarded message -------
From: **Mr. Michael Smith** <info@usa.org>
Date: Tue, Jul 30, 2019, 7:55 PM
Subject: Western Union Office
To: Recipients <info@usa.org>

Attention,

We have deposited the check of your fund (1.5 MILLION DOLLARS)
through Western Union department after our finally meeting
regarding your fund, All you will do is to contact Western
Union director, Mr.Michael Smith (western.unionofice01@gmail.com)
He will give you direction on how you will be receiving the
funds daily.Remember to send him your Full information to
avoid wrong transfer such as,

Receiver's Name_____
Address: _____
Country: _____
Phone Number: _____

Though, Mr.Michael Smith has sent $5000 in your name today so
contact him or you call him +234-07051861544 as soon
as you receive this email and tell him to give you the Mtcn,
sender name and question/answer to pick the $5000 Please let
us know as soon as you received all your fund.

Best Regards.
Mr.Michael Smith.
Director Western Union Benin Republic.

Datum Six: Your Abandoned Package for Delivery

Fwd: YOUR ABANDONED PACKAGE FOR DELIVERY
1 message

Mustapha Dhikr Kayode <sikirumustafa@gmail.com>   Tue, Aug 6, 2019 at 21:14
To: samuelakindeji@gmail.com

------- Forwarded message -------
From: **HECTOR CASTILLO** <test@joshige.jp>
Date: Tue, Jul 23, 2019, 8:07 PM
Subject: YOUR ABANDONED PACKAGE FOR DELIVERY
To:

Interim Assistance General Manager,
(Operations, Maintenance, Transportation)
San Antonio International Airport
Guide To San Antonio,
Texas 78233 USA.

Hello Good Friend

          Your Abandoned Package For Delivery

I have very vital information to give to you, but first I must have your trust before I review it to you because it may cause me my job,so I need somebody that I can trust for me to be able to review the secret to you.

I am Mr.Castillo Hector, head of luggage/baggage storage facilities (Operations, Maintenance, Transportation) here at the San Antonio International Airport USA. During my recent withheld package routine check at the Airport Storage Vault, I discovered an abandoned shipment from a Diplomat from London and when scanned it revealed an undisclosed sum of money in a Metal Trunk Box weighing approximately 110kg. The consignment was abandoned because the Contents of the consignment was not properly declared by the consignee as "MONEY" rather it was declared as personal effect to avoid interrogation and also the inability of the diplomat to pay for the United States Non Inspection Charges which is $3,700USD. On my assumption the consignment is still left in our Storage House here at the San Antonio International Airport till date. The details of the consignment including your name, your email address and the official documents from the United Nations office in Geneva ar
e tagged on the Trunk box

However, to enable me confirm if you are the actual recipient of this consignment as the assistant director of the Inspection Unit, I will advise you provide your current Phone Number and Full Address, to enable me cross check if it corresponds with the address on the official documents including the name of nearest Airport around your city. Please note that this consignment is supposed to have been returned to the United States Treasury Department as unclaimed delivery due to the delays in concluding the clearance processes so as a result of this, I will not be able to receive your details on my official email account. So in order words to enable me cross check your details, I will advise you send the required details to my private email address for quick processing and response. Once I confirm you as the actual recipient of the trunk box, I can get everything concluded within 48 hours upon your acceptance and proceed to your address for delivery.

Lastly, be informed that the reason I have taken it upon myself to contact you personally about this abandoned consignment is because I want us to transact this business and share the money 70% for you and 30% for me since the consignment has not yet been returned to the United States Treasury Department after being abandoned by the diplomat so immediately the confirmation is made, I will go ahead and pay for the United States Non Inspection Fee of $3,700 dollars and arrange for the box to be delivered to your doorstep Or I can bring it by myself to avoid any more trouble but you have to assure me of my
30% share.

I wait to hear from you urgently if you are still alive and I will appreciate if we can keep this deal confidential. please get back to me via my private Email:(hectorscastillo9@gmail.com) for further directives.

Datum Seven: From Dora My Full Life Story with Love and Trust

From Dora My Full Life Story with Love and Trust

1 message

Dora Bahi <dorabahi@yahoo.com>   Wed   tay6   20   (at 08:46
To: Samuel Akindejji <samuelakindeji@gmail.com>

Dearest
I am more than happy in your reply to my mail this morning.How is your day?Mine is a little bit hot over here in Dakar Senegal.In this camp we are only allowed to go out only on Mondays and Fridays of the weeks. It's just like one staying in the prison and i hope by Gods grace i will come out here soon.I don't have any brother,sister or relatives now whom i can go to all my relatives ran away in the middle of the war the only person i have now is Rev father who is (REV Father Chris) of the (Life Christian Church) here in the camp he has been very nice to me since i came here but i am not living with him rather i am leaving in the women's hostel because the camp have two hostels one for men the other for women.The Pastors Tel number is (**+221-772-871-564**) if you call and tell him that you want to speak with me he will send for me in the hostel.As a refugee here i don't have any right or privilege to any thing be it money or whatever because it is against the law of this country.I want to go back to my studies because i only attended my first year before the tragic incident that lead to my being in this situation now took place.Please listen to this,i have my late father's statement of account and death certificate here with me which i will send to you latter,because when he was alive he deposited some amount of money in a leading bank which he used my name as the next of kin,the amount in question is! $7.5M
(seven Million five Hundred Thousand Dollars). So i will like you to help me transfer this money to your account and from it you can send some money for me to get my traveling documents and air ticket to come over to meet with you.I kept this secret to people in the camp here the only person that knows about it is the Reverend because he is like a father to me. So in the light of above i will like you to keep it to yourself and don't tell it to anyone for i am afraid of loosing my life and the money if people gets to know about it.Remember i am giving you all this information due to the trust i deposed on you.I like honest and understanding people,truthful and a man of vision,truth and hardworking. My favorite language is English but very fluently.Meanwhile i will like you to call me like i said i have allot to tell you,Have a nice day and think about me. Am waiting to hear from you soonest,
yours in love Dora.

Datum Eight: Dear Friend Greetings

Fwd: Dear friend Greetings'

1 message

Mustapha Dhikr Kayode <sikirumustafa@gmail.com>   Wed, May 27, 2020 at 23:17
To: samuelakindeji@gmail.com

------- Forwarded message -------
From: **BARRISTER** <jsaikawa@sky.plala.or.jp>
Date: Wed, May 13, 2020, 11:07 PM
Subject: Dear friend Greetings'
To:

Dear friend Greetings'

I am BARRISTER SAMUEL AUSMAN from Cotonou, Benin-Republic western sub Sahara west Africa, Advocate at Law (SA)

Pardon me for not having the pleasure of knowing your mindset before making you this offer and it is utterly confidential and genuine by virtue of its nature. I am the personal Lawyer to Late Bruce McMillan a citizen of U.S.A, Working in an oil servicing company,Benin Government referred to as my client On April 3rd 2018. My client, his wife, and their two children were involved in a car accident along Cotonou express way Benin-Republic. All occupants of the vehicle unfortunately lost their lives.

Since then I have made several inquiries to the embassy to locate any of my clients extended relatives, this has also proved unsuccessful. After this several unsuccessful attempts, I decided to contact you to assist in repatriating the money my late client left behind before it Get confiscated or declared unserviceable by the Bank where this huge deposits were lodged, particularly the UBA(United Bank For Africa) Benin-Republic LIMITED Where the deceased had an escrow suspense contract account Valued at about(US$5.5 millions dollars).

The United Bank For Africa (UBA) has Issued me a notice to provide the Next of Kin Or have the account confiscated within the next ten official working days Since I have been unsuccessful in locating the relatives for over 1 year plus now, Due to this notice from the bank I decide to seek your consent to Present you as the Next Of Kin of the deceased, So that this account valued at (US$5.5 million dollars) can be paid to you and then You and Me Can share the money, 55% to Me and 45% to You. All I require is your honest cooperation to enable us seeing this deal through. I guarantee that this will be executed under a legitimate arrangement that will protect you and me from any breach of the law. Kindly reply back to me via my office Email:ausmanchamber1@gmail.com for more details about my proposal.
Yours sincerely,
Barrister Samuel Ausman
Email:ausmanchamber1@gmail.com

Datum Nine: I Will Wait for Your Positive Response

Fwd: i will wait for your positive response

1 message

Mustapha Dhikr Kayode <sikirumustafa@gmail.com>   Wed, May 27, 2020 at 23:14
To: samuelakindeji@gmail.com

------- Forwarded message -------
From: **capt john w** <lisaudigier@eircom.net>
Date: Wed, May 20, 2020, 11:34 PM
Subject: i will wait for your positive response
To:

Hello,
I am John White of the U.S Army force and one of the Commanding officers of the U.S Central Command here in Syria.
Please I urgently need you to help me safeguard the amount of money I have here in my possession which is worth the
sum of eleven million five hundred thousand US Dollars (11.5 Million).
I came across this mega cash while on the operation, as we were on the massive attack against the ISIS terrorist group
and has made a private investigation and found out the money was left by the runaway terrorists so I decided to keep the
money in my possession, but minding how horrible and risky it is here in this military camp, I deemed it necessary to look
out for a trusted fellow whom would assist me in safeguarding the cash until I get out of this horrible zone. It was on this
effect that I started search here online for an honest person whom I can trust to help me safeguard the cash and I came
across your mail address and I want to know if you are willing to help me do this.
I want you to know that I am willing to offer you 35%-Percent of the total amount if you do help me safeguard this money
and get it out of here Syria.
I will email you the details on how I plan of moving the cash out of this place as soon as I receive your response
Please get back to me ASAP
Thanks,
John White

Datum Ten: From Mrs. Susan Shabangu

Fwd: Good Day
1 message

akintunde joseph <tunamania94@gmail.com>   Sat, Jul 4, 2020 at 18:10
To: Samuel Akindejji <samuelakindeji@gmail.com>

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **MRS.SUSAN** <ii54@gtabop.in>
Date: Sun, Jun 14, 2020, 2:25 PM
Subject: Good Day
To:

FROM MRS. SUSAN SHABANGU
Minister of Social Development,
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Email:susanshabangs.gov@gmail.com

Good Day,

First, let me start by introducing myself My name is Mrs. Susan Shabangu, I am visually impaired Widow, a mother of three children and former Deputy Minister for Safety and Security of the Republic of South Africa under the auspices of the former President of South Africa, Mr.Jacob Zuma, and was formerly elected as Minister of Women in the Presidency 03 June 2014

under the auspices of the new President of South Africa, Mr.Cyril Ramaphosa and now presently the Minister of Social Development from 2018-02-27. After due deliberation with my children, I decided to contact you for your assistance in standing as a beneficiary to the sum of US$30.5M (Thirty Million, Five Hundred Thousand United States Dollars Only). You can view my profile at my (website by clicking (http://www.women.gov.za) and read about me.

THE PROPOSAL, after my swearing in ceremony making me the former Minister of Safety and Security, my husband Mr. Ndebele Shabangu died while he was on an official trip to Trinidad and Tobago. After his death, I discovered that he had some funds in a dollar account which amounted to the sum of US$30.5Million with a security and finance institution in South Africa of which I will divulge information to you when I get your full consent and support to go for a change of beneficiary and subsequent transfer of the funds into your comfortable and conducive account of your choice. This fund emanated as a result of an over-invoiced contract which he executed with the Government of South Africa. Though I assisted him in getting this contract but I never knew that it was over-invoiced by him. I am afraid that the government of South Africa might start to investigate on contracts awarded from 1990 to date.

If they discover this money in his security company account, they will confiscate it and seize his assets here in South Africa and this will definitely affect my political career in, government. I want your assistance either by coming down to South Africa in person or provide your complete bank details information, so that these funds could be wired directly into your overseas account without any hitch. I am offering you 20% of the principal sum which amounts to US$6,100.000.00 (Six million One Hundred Thousand United States Dollars Only) and 5% will be for any expenses that both of us may Insure in this transaction. And another 5% will go for Motherless babes home. However, you have to assure me and also be ready to go into agreement with me that you will not elope with my fund. If you agree to my terms, kindly as a matter of urgency send me an email.

Also, I can give you my banker phone number so that you can contact him and discuss with him directly as he already promised to use his position to move this fund out of South Africa, it's okay and fine by me. Please I do not need to remind you of the need for absolute Confidentiality of this transaction.

My regards to your family
Yours faithfully,