
Discourse analysis on the city ordinances of Tagum City

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Abstract: This study entitled **DISCOURSE ANALYSIS ON THE CITY ORDINANCES OF TAGUM CITY** describes and analyzes the stance markers, lexico-grammatical patterns of verbs, and semantics of verbs in the city ordinances. The method of analysis of this descriptive-qualitative study is based on the frameworks of the elements of stance by Hyland (2005), sub-categories of verb groups by Burton-Roberts (1994), and classification of verbal prototypes by Dixon and Aikhenvald (2004) employing Wetherell et al.'s (2001) four approaches to discourse analysis. This study analyzed five (5) randomly selected city ordinances of Tagum City from 2000 to 2017 with topics focusing on health, women, children, gender, and family. Based on the analyses of data, the findings revealed that in the city ordinances' (a) boosters are used to express persuasion; (b) complex transitive verb groups are used to provide justification or support to the provisions; (c) affective verbs are used to express commitment and responsibility; and (d) stance markers, lexico-grammatical patterns of verbs and semantics of verbs contribute to the overall meaning and understanding in the city ordinances and helped in the easy understanding of the local law. The results of this study are found to have implications concerning the students, language teachers, government officials, and future researchers.

Keywords: Discourse, Language, Ordinances, Philippines, Tagum City

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1. Introduction

A local law, also known as an ordinance, is established to impose order in every local government unit. This ordinance can be subjected to various interpretations since it may offer different meanings to ordinary people. According to Dihan (1998), an ordinance is a discourse in a text form. It is a regulation of a general, permanent in nature, and a rule established by authority. The language used in the ordinance is crucial, considering that it must be construed by the people based on its legislative intent and purpose.

In the legal setting, effective communication requires both acceptable performance and interpretation. According to Bhatia and Breaux (2017), the legal language is attacked for its cryptic idioms and circumlocutions, extended sentences, intricate formulations and tortuous syntax, seemingly pointless repetitions, and archaisms. Tiersma (2020) further asserts that if the law is to achieve its function of establishing norms, maintaining order, resolving disputes, and protecting liberties and rights, legal discourse or legal text must use everyday language. As a result, the written legislation must be construed in the same way that it was intended. Effective legal communication relies on both competent performance and interpretation. According to Bhatia (2017), the law's language is criticized for its ambiguity.

The Louisiana legislature, for example, had approved a statute forcing black and white inhabitants to travel in distinct but equal train cabins such as Homer Adolph Plessy, seven-eighths Caucasian, was imprisoned in 1892 for declining to move to a different rail cabin designated for blacks and instead of sitting in a railway car labeled "whites only." Before pleading to the Supreme Court in 1896, Plessy had failed in every court in Louisiana. The statement "to ride separate but equal railway cars" caused a lot of confusion and inconsistency. It could either indicate two independent railway cars with the same construction and containing one with a white mark and the other with a black label or two train cabins with similar construction and elements but different labels. The Court ruled in Plessy's favor 7-1, holding that their separation was satisfied if the facilities were equal. In this case, the Constitution was either colorblind or unable to explain the clause clearly. (*Plessy v. Ferguson*, 18 May 1896) (Why in bold?).

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According to Section 1 of Article 3 of the Philippine Constitution, no one shall be denied life, liberty, or property without judicial process. Equal treatment under the law shall not be denied to anyone. The Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos' Act of 1995 were challenged in court in 2004 because it denied a person the right to work or earn a living, thereby robbing them of property rights (Exec. Secretary v. CA, 2004). Section 1 of Article 3 of the Constitution can be interpreted by laypeople to suggest that a person's constitutional right, liberty, and property can be valued in any order. On the other hand, the literal rule is the basic rule in legal discourse. As a result, this constitutional provision must be taken literally. This means that constitutional rights are granted in a hierarchical order, meaning that they are given in the following order: life, liberty, and property. Granting the right to property does not apply if the act deprives people of their lives. The discourse of legal language differs from that of everyday speech.

Likewise, a vagrant individual is defined as anyone seen lingering about public or semi-public buildings or locations, tramping or rambling around the countryside or the cities without obvious means of support, according to Article 202, paragraph 2 of the Anti-Vagrancy Law of Davao City. In 2009, *People of the Philippines vs. Evangeline Sison y Sacil et al.* challenged the validity of this clause, claiming that it unfairly targets against poor and unemployed, therefore violating the Constitution's equal protection provisions (Ynares-Santiago, 2009). The term "visible means of support" has two meanings: it can refer to being in a public location when a person has the capacity (money to spend) to be there, or it can refer to being in a public area when a person does not have the capacity (money to spend).

In Tagum City, the *Real Property Tax ordinance* was petitioned for a severe breach of trust due to the problem of the use of language in the ordinance. Section III paragraphs C and D of the Real Property Tax ordinance classifies lands for commercial and industrial use and lists Tagum City's streets and barrios. Without respect to the concept of actual use, the ordinance created a broad classification of real estate. Hence, that ordinance provision contravenes the Local Government Code of 1991, Section 217. The Civil Case of *Aala et al. v Uy et al.* in 2017 was due to the erroneous interpretation of how Section II paragraphs C and D were worded in the ordinance. However, in response to the petitioners, the city government said that despite the fact that the code designates specific roads and areas in Tagum City as commercial and industrial, this does not imply that all properties in these areas are automatically categorized as such (Supreme Court, 2017). This is a classic example of the confusion caused by the vagueness of the ordinances brought about by the words used in a legal document.

Among Tagum City's thrust is the preservation, development, and promotion of programs relating to health, women, children, gender, and family issues (Annual Investment Plan 2018 of the City of Tagum). Ordinances relating to these areas are crucial since they form part of the basic unit of society. Similarly, it is imperative that the people construed what was intended in the ordinance. That is why there is a need to study the discourse of legal texts such as ordinances.

The use of discourse analysis is one method for examining an ordinance. Discourse analysis is a way of investigating related speech and writing at a higher level than the sentence level, as well as the interaction between linguistic and non-linguistic activities. It is a means or strategy for bridging the hole between legitimate and colloquial writing. As a result, linguistic arrangements can be assessed, exposing the meaning of words in a sentence. In addition, discourse analysis gives external elements significance, to the context, because they are thought to play an essential role in communication. Context is crucial in drafting an ordinance. It is not possible that an ordinance was prepared by a person not residing in the locality nor knew anything about the community because what is in the ordinance are the reflections of the goals and beliefs of the community, who would like to put an order through a specific permanent rule. According to Zodi (2019), legal language has an authoritative stylistic influence. How these writers connect or commit to their writing also differs. The expression of stance in an ordinance is vital to measure the extent of knowledge and applicability of the ordinance. Moreover, the lexico-grammatical patterns and semantics of verbs assist in making sure that the intent and purpose of the ordinance are carried out.

Hence, the researcher was motivated to explore the linguistic characteristics of the city ordinances in Tagum City, focusing on the stance markers, lexico-grammatical patterns of verbs, and semantics of verbs. Moreover, this study sought to uncover the language used in the local laws.

2. Literature review

2.1. Discourse analysis

The relationship between people's knowledge of language norms and how they use those rules in conversation is worth looking into. In applied linguistics, this rule, as well as the conventions of usage and the conventions of use, are distinguished. In a Chomskyan idea, use norms represent the linguistic user's grasp of conventional language methods. The rules of usage, on the other hand, are responsible for the linguistic user's comprehension of speech acts and are his main source of communication information (Austin, 1962; Searle, 1969). When using these standards, individuals may comprehend what it means to clarify something and what is meant by agreement inside the norms established in our specific social activity range, but this does not imply that they understand what constitutes a rational explanation or a legal agreement. Rules are issue to change at any time. People come into difficulties when attempting to transfer the norms of use from one universe of speech to another. As a result, the importance of context cannot be overstated. A term may have a different meaning than another in one context. The core concept of discourse analysis is this type of study.

To have a better view, Wetherell et al. (2001) proposed four different techniques for discourse analysis, which are as follows:

- First, discourse analysis considers language to be a system; therefore, finding patterns is crucial for scholars taking into consideration the different linguistic characteristics of the language used in the discourse, such as the use of verbs, pronouns, nouns, and adverbs, stance, and others.
- Second, discourse analysis is based on language use activity rather than the language itself, and language is considered as a process rather than a product. As a result, the researcher should concentrate on how these linguistic qualities interact in the discourse. These are evident in the occurrences of verbs that contribute meaning to the sentences, pronouns used to express stance, and other interactions in a discourse caused by the language used.
- Third, discourse analysis looks for language patterns related to a particular topic or activity, such as legal discourse or city ordinance discourse.
- Lastly, discourse analysis searches for trends in larger contexts like society and culture. At this point, language is seen as an integral aspect of significant processes and activities, and as a result, the fascination extends beyond language, like a study conducted to discover racism or sexism in the newspaper through the analysis of discourse.

Discourse analysis, in general, is the study of how language is organized above the level of a phrase or a clause. As a result, larger language units such as conversational interactions or written texts are studied. As a result, discourse analysis is concerned with the use of language in social contexts, namely inter-speaker interaction or dialogue.

2.2. Stance markers

The methods and linguistic features of how interactants build and signal relationships with the propositions they say and the persons with whom they interact are generally understood to be referred to as stance (Han & Zhu, 2018). Akbas and Hardman (2018) studied textual characteristics that can reveal the source of a speaker's knowledge, their level of assurance, and their attitudes toward the assertions they make.

According to Hyland (2005), stance defines voice as to how researchers transmit their judgments, ideas, and commitments. In contrast, engagement refers to how researchers recognize the presence of their audience and react to them in the text. Hedges, boosters, attitude indicators, and self-mentions can all be used while presenting a stance.

Elements of Stance

Hedges are expressed when writers calculate how much weight to assign a statement, attesting to the level of precision or dependability desired, and possibly claiming defense if it is overturned (Hyland, 1998). On the other hand, hedges imply that a statement is based on practical logic rather than specific knowledge, indicating the level of confidence that should or should not be given to it. Hedges tries to make readers feel that they're a part of the ratification process by communicating reverence, modesty, or regard for their coworkers' opinions (Hyland, 1998).

Alternatively, boosters function to emphasize shared understanding, group membership, and reader interaction (Hyland, 1999). Boosters can assist authors in presenting their work with confidence while fostering interpersonal camaraderie, which counteracts hedges' caution and self-effacement.

Both boosters and hedges acknowledge academic rules of appropriate argument and response of the writer to probable reader opinions. They strike a balance between empirical data, subjective assessment, and social negotiation, which can aid in the acceptance of arguments. Both styles emphasize the importance of statements in conveying ideas and the writer's attitude toward them and readers.

Moreover, the writer's dynamic rather than an epistemological perspective is indicated via *attitude markers*. Writers articulate a stance and draw readers are drawn into a conspiracy of an agreement by the presumption of shared attitudes, ideas, beliefs, and reactions to information, making it difficult to contest these judgments.

In addition, first-person pronouns and possessive adjectives are used to express propositional, emotional, and interpersonal information is known as *self-mention* (Hyland, 2001). Authors can't help but project an image of themselves and their position regarding Their reasoning, discipline, and readers are all excellent. The presence or lack of evident author connection is frequently a conscious choice by writers to take a particular perspective and authorial voice character based on their disciplinary environment.

2.3. Lexico-grammatical patterns

The traditional "wisdom of postulating discrete domains of lexis and syntax" is challenged by Lexico-grammar, which considers lexicon and grammar as two essentially related elements of a single organism (Sinclair, 1991). Lexico-grammar is not a separate system or "module" from meaning; rather, it is a crucial element of a word's meaning-making system, similar to how lexis and grammatical structures are thought to form a single level. According to this viewpoint, a grammatical structure can be lexically constrained (Hu et al., 2019), and lexical items are frequently grammatical, as their use often has grammatical consequences. Similarly, lexico-grammar sees language as a meaning conveyance of words in grammatical parameters (Arfianti et al., 2018). Biber et al. (2021) claim that anything in language possesses adapted to represent very particular discourse roles, in the form of situation "registers" (lexico-grammatical resources related to specific interpersonal transactions, such as term taxonomies, nominal style, impersonal expressions, and so on) and "genres" (speech events that are goal-oriented and culturally particular, such as a discussion on a scientific topic, a description in scientific journals, narrative in a research piece, and so on). Thus, lexico-grammatical (LG) structures have the following characteristics: first, an LG structure is an observable but also constructive series of signs that, as a whole, share a steady, cohesive point of reference; second, an LG outline can be constituted of lexical symbols or more conceptual signs, such as linguistic structures and constructions; and third, an LG outline is made up of permanent 'pivotal' signals and a more productive 'paradigm.'

In legal language, verbs are frequently nominalized. Tiersma (1999) emphasizes that permitting the actor to be excluded is an acceptable rationale for nominalizations; nominalizations allow legal drafters to cover the possibility of anyone performing stated conduct. This allows legislation to be displayed in the broadest sense feasible.

With lexico-grammar, the analysis of the use of verbs in an ordinance can be explored. Ratnaningsih and Azizah (2019) examine verbs in technical writing in English. He concludes that the present tense is typically used to depict definitions, descriptions, and observations, but the perfect tense is generally employed to describe research procedures.

Burton-Robert (1994) categorizes the verbs into six sub-categories of verb groups, such as transitive, ditransitive, intransitive, intensive, prepositional, and complex transitive.

A *transitive verb* only needs one NP to complete it. The NP that serves as the direct object of a transitive verb is known as its complement.

In the VP, an *intransitive verb* does not require any additional constituents, such as a sister. The term 'intransitive' refers to a verb that has (and does not require) a complement. Because an intransitive verb does not involve any additional elements to produce a whole predicate, it counts as a complete VP in and of itself.

A *ditransitive verb* requires two NPs as complements.

A single complement is required for *intensive verbs*, such as an AP, an NP, or a PP. Be is the most evident and widely used intense verb. The copula is the central example of the intensive sub-category of a verb. The complement of an intensive verb performs a predicative function.

An intense verb has only an AP as a complement. Because intense is the sole sub-category of verbs that can only receive an AP complement, this is the case. Intensive verbs can be complemented by either an NP or a PP, and when an NP complements a verb, it can be V+NP, which is a transitive V + direct object or an intensive V + predicative example. Understanding the difference between predictive and direct objects is essential to grasping the concept of 'predicative.' Predicatives give attributes to the entities that other expressions refer to. Adjective phrases can complement vigorous verbs since they only take predicatives; APs only ever identify qualities.

A direct object NP and an object-predicative are required complements for *complex transitive verbs*. Once again, the predicative can take the structure of an AP, NP, or PP. The predicative in a complex transitive VP characterizes (assigns a property to) the phrase object-predicative refers to the direct object rather than the subject.

A *prepositional phrase* is complemented by a prepositional verb (PP). There are three types of VP made up of V+PP: (a) V[intens] + PP, (b) V[intens] + PP, and (c) V[intens] + PP. (b) V[prep] + PP is a complement (subject predicative). V[intrans]+ PP is an optional modifier, and the PP is a complement (prepositional complement). Prepositional verbs get their name because they can only be completed with a PP.

2.4. Semantics

Fromkin and Rodman (1993; 2003) state that a morpheme is a grammatical unit that consists of an arbitrary combination of a sound and a meaning that cannot be further explored. Similarly, semantics is the study of morphemes, words, phrases, and sentences in terms of their linguistic meaning. Likewise, according to Yule (2020), semantics is the study of how meaning is expressed through language. Meaning is also defined by Nursulton (2020) as the sense or idea content that a word or expression is meant to convey: the mental image generated in the awareness of the hearer of a speech, or the reader of a written word or phrase.

The verb is frequently referred to as the 'heart' of the sentence, and verbs play a critical role in determining the meaning of utterances. However, there is an ongoing debate over the specific kind of their involvement. Many verbs have more than one literal, representational meaning, which poses a number of semantic difficulties.

In her book *Taxonomy of Verbs and Their Classes*, Levin (1993) reveals that the meanings of verbs and their structural behavior in a broad range of English verbs are connected (about 3200). The book indicates that several aspects of verb semantics are strongly linked to structural behavior and the understanding of their arguments.

Dixon and Aikhenvald (2004) have classified the different semantic classifications of verbs based on the description of verbal prototypes, namely: motion verbs, verbs of rest, affective verbs, verbs of attention, and verbs of speech.

Motion verbs are verbs like *run, leave, throw, take, and carry* that is used to make to move as a sign for someone to do something.

Verbs of rest are verbs like *rest, sit, and hold* that have to do with locomotive activity.

Affective verbs are verbs like *throw, beat, burn, and peel* used to show the effects of an activity.

Verbs of attention are verbs like *see, hear, roast, and smell* that describe actions involving any of the five sense organs.

Verbs of speech are verbs like a *shout, talk, tell, and answer*, referring to verbal actions/activities involving anatomical language features.

2.5. Legal discourse

Legal discourse is a sort of linguistic use primarily reliant on the roles of words within a communication situation that is inextricably linked to its societal context (Kwarcinski, 2003). The type and composition of the words that constitute legal texts fall very naturally within the field of linguistic study, while non-linguistic variables also influence context and function.

Furthermore, a legal text differs significantly from everyday language. This is especially true with official writings, which establish, amend, or terminate an individual's or institution's rights and obligations. Examples of authoritative

legal texts are constitutions, statutes, wills, deeds, orders, contracts, statutes, and judgments. Each type has its own structure, which is commonly expressed in legalese and combines one or more legal discourse activities to achieve its goals.

This bolsters the argument that legal texts cannot be evaluated in the confines of a single field, but must be viewed in conjunction with both of its constituents (text and context) in an integrative attempt. The book of Appalo's (2003) *Statutory Construction* provides an interpretation of legal texts. In general, the legislature's intent to be established and then given effect is the intention stated in the statute's writing. Similarly, when the words or phrases are unambiguous, their content must be taken from the wording used, and the statute must be read in such a way that it implies exactly what it means.

As a result, legal speech demonstrates the broad traits defined by Duke (Duke, 2019). For starters, legal terminology is prescriptive, traditionalist, reluctant to adapt, and systematic. Legal discourse holds that the law is a cohesive system that evolves spontaneously from generation to generation. The law is consistent, and it has grown and developed consistently over a lengthy tradition. Legal language reflects these concepts; each word choice and turn of phrase in law speech is influenced by a strong awareness of precedent. As a result, legal jargon is typically conservative. It is sluggish to evolve and retains phrases and formulations that have gone out of fashion in popular language. Because the interpretation of these expressions has been sanctified by continuous use, legal language relies significantly on established formulas of expression. It is critical to ensure that legal terminology is as uniform and dependable as possible for successive generations.

Second, legal language is accurate, distinct, and precise. In ordinary language, people frequently prefer to leave the recognizable unsaid, assuming that others see what they are considering and comprehend what they have in mind.

Third, legal writing is notorious for spelling things out in minute detail. The legal message must be conveyed in extremely distinct and accurate language. Words must be used in precise compliance with definitions that all parties involved understanding.

Fourth, formality characterizes all aspects of legal language. Fifth, the complication of certain legal concepts necessitates a complication in sentence structure. Finally, many foreign expressions, particularly Latin, can be found in the legal language.

Legal speech is distinguished by its complicated nominal phrases, thick word embedding, and long texts. Legal language has earned some prominence as a result of the intricacies of its lexico-grammatical structures, which influence the reading and interpretation of legal writings (Bhatia, 2017).

2.6. City ordinance

An ordinance is a local law passed by lower-level jurisdictions, such as a local government. The local government is a political and community body granted powers to be applied in accordance with the statute (Section 15 of Republic Act 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991). The laws and regulations are put in place to guarantee that everyone is considered equally and maintains order in society. The city ordinance, as local law, has a manipulative personality. Some parts of the city ordinance can be interpreted differently when viewed through the lens of linguistics. Despite the fact that it is written in English, the context, language, and the academic background of the individual who composed it make it more open to interpretation. Because it is a statute, its intent and content (language) should be robust in order to avoid future legal conflicts.

2.7. Structure of an ordinance

An ordinance must meet a set of standards for it to be considered legal. Dihan (1998) mentioned that all ordinances must possess these qualifications to align their idea and provisions to the statute of the land. First and foremost, it must not violate the Constitution or the laws of any state. Second, it cannot be unjust or harsh. Third, it must not be discriminating or partial. Fourth, it must not forbid trade but may control it. Fifth, it must be broad in scope, coherent with government policy, and not unreasonable.

As a result, Dihan (1998) argues that an ordinance must contain all of its sections or structures to be termed comprehensive. This means that the ordinance will provide the information and/or answer all the necessary questions/inquiries that may arise during its implementation.

Firstly, in the *Title of an ordinance*, it must not cover more than one subject, and that subject must be stated in the title. (Sec. 21(1) Art. VI, Philippine Constitution of 1935 and Sec. 19 (1), Art. VIII of the Philippine Constitution of 1973). Secondly, in the *Enacting or ordaining clause* as its title implies denotes the authority enacting or ordaining the ordinance or the source of the ordinance. Thirdly, the *Body of the ordinance* contains all the provisions divided into articles, and sections, whichever is appropriate, and necessary to impose order in the locality. Fourth, the *Penalty clause* contains the penal provisions to be imposed for whoever violates the ordinance. Fifth, the *Repealing clause* is essential whenever there are petitions on the parts of the ordinance and/or if some of the parts of the ordinance contravene a national statute, only the part which is declared not valid shall be repealed. Another use of the clause is when an ordinance is declared invalid because of the passage of the new ordinance. Lastly, the *Effectivity clause* is the basis for when an ordinance is to be declared effective. It could be upon its approval or publication in a newspaper of general or local circulation. Moreover, this clause will guide if the ordinance still has to undergo publication or not.

3. Research methodology

The study was seen through the approach to discourse analysis of Wetherell et al.'s (2001) four (4) approaches to discourse analysis (DA). Wetherell et al. (2001) hold that language is a part of major processes and activities, and as such the interest goes beyond language.

Moreover, this study was also seen through the lens of the following: First, Hyland's (2005) four main elements of the *stance*. Stance is an attitudinal dimension and includes features that refer to the ways writers present themselves and convey their judgments, opinions, and commitments. It is comprised of four main elements, namely: hedges, boosters, attitude markers, and self-mentions. Second, Burton-Roberts (1994) sub-categorization of verb groups. Verb groups are distinguished through the following sub-categories, namely: transitive, intransitive, ditransitive, intensive, complex transitive, and prepositional. Finally, this study was also seen through the lens of Dixon and Aikhenvald (2004) on the classification of verbal prototypes, namely: motion verbs, verbs of rest, affective verbs, verbs of attentions, and verbs of speech.

This study used the descriptive-qualitative design. Specifically, it analyzed and described the elements of stance, the lexico-grammatical patterns of verbs, and the semantics of verbs of the five randomly selected city ordinances of Tagum City. These city ordinances were special ordinances on health, women, children, gender, and family-approved by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Tagum City between the years 2000 and 2017. The researcher selected these special ordinances because they are most important to the broad public and are a fundamental societal unit that must be maintained, improved, and advocated to maintain a living society and a harmonious community.

4. Findings and discussions

The results suggest that *stance markers* are used in the five corpora to express persuasion, obligatory and mandatory acts, added information, denies permission, set conditions, express necessity and certainty, oneness, and important functions giving effect to the intention of the local law. In city ordinances, legislators used these modal verbs to express persuasion, obligatory and mandatory acts, added information, denies permission, set conditions, express necessity, certainty, and future actions. It is consistently found in the body of the ordinance, penalty clause, repealing clause, and the effectivity clause where an expression of command and authority are usually expressed. This is also used to intensify reasoning and truthfulness in the provisions.

Likewise, the common five corpora verbs' *lexico-grammatical patterns* are *prepositional, complex transitive, intensive, and transitive verb groups*. These verb groups turned out to be the most commonly used in the city ordinances because of the number of elements they can hold, thereby giving enough information about the legal subject and the intended legal action.

Finally, the *semantics of verbs* are used in the five corpora to express authority and command exactly what the legislators intended it to say. Congruently, verb meaning was generated by linking it to its argument realization. According to Levin (2009), verbs name events or states with participants, they serve as the phrase's organizing center, and their meaning is critical to sentence meaning. This answers the idea that the meaning of the verbs in the city ordinances is realized based on the arguments. This study also revealed that the common semantic classification of verbs in the city ordinances are *motion verbs, verbs of rest, and affective verbs*.

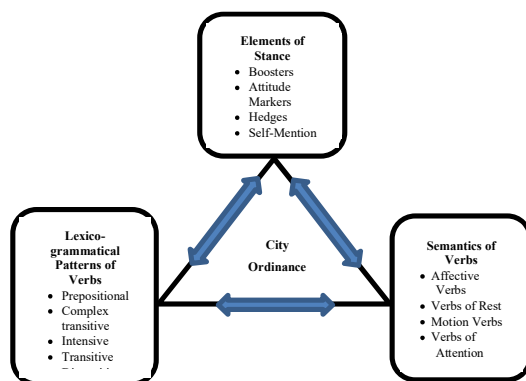


Figure 1: Model in analyzing a city ordinance

Figure 1 illustrates that the three levels of representations: elements of stance, lexico-grammatical patterns of verbs, and semantics of verbs are part of the city ordinance's repertoire of resources for meaning and representation of ideas. Using the aspects of stance, lexico-grammatical patterns of verbs, and semantics of verbs, the city ordinance would have a significant impact on the readers' understanding and enjoyment, according to this model. The arrow symbolizes the elements' causal relationship, in which each element has an effect on the others or the absence or presence of each element has a significant impact on the construction of the provisions. The clarity and authority offered by the lexico-grammatical patterns of verbs and the semantics of verbs affect the degree of persuasion in the provisions of city regulations provided by the elements of the stance.

Similarly, the clarity and transparency supplied by the lexico-grammatical patterns of verbs in the provisions of city regulations are impaired without the persuasion and command offered by the elements of posture and verb semantics. Likewise, without persuasion and clarity in the provisions offered by the elements of posture and lexico-grammatical

patterns of verbs, the expression of command and authority reinforces how the legislator's means to state the provisions provided by the semantics of verbs is affected. Each element contributes to the effectiveness of the city ordinance's wording in terms of its goal and purpose.

So far, evidence reveals that the aspects of attitude are a representation of legislators' objectives and aspirations. Similarly, verb lexico-grammatical patterns are a method of explaining, reasoning, and articulating a legal matter in order to achieve clarity and transparency in the planned legal activity. Similarly, the semantics of verbs are realized depending on the arguments' intentions. Readers must dig into these representations and tie them together in order to better understand the lengthy convoluted legal jargon. This will provide readers with greater knowledge and respect for the city ordinances based on their aim and purpose.

5. Conclusion

The lawmakers that crafted the city ordinances of Tagum City expressed their persuasion, certainty, authority, and command in the ordinances' provisions to influence the readers to believe in the intention of the local law through the employment of stance markers. Likewise, the language used in the city ordinances uses complex transitive verb groups to express justification and support for the provisions. And the verbs in the city ordinances of Tagum City indicate the results of the actions being described in the provisions, thereby showing the legislators' determination in implementing the local law. Finally, stance markers, lexico-grammatical patterns of verbs, and semantics collectively contributed to the overall meaning and understanding of city ordinances. They helped in the easy understanding of the local law.

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