

# Theoretical Considerations to Analyzing Cameroonian Conflict-Prone Discourse

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**Abstract:** *This article is based on theoretical considerations to analyzing conflict-prone political discourse in Cameroon, especially in crises contexts. Driven by political linguistics studies, the article is a result of analyses of selected excerpts of political discourses of conflict that have characterized crises situation in the country. The corpus, made up of excerpts analyzed as “units of analysis,” was collected as references for identifying, describing and analyzing discourses of conflict, based on some political and psycholinguistic theories, using the mixed research methodology. In order to adequately explicate Cameroonian conflict-prone political discourse as a case study, theoretical considerations were utilized to analyze author’s method as well as researcher’s method. The analyses allowed for evaluating and interpreting the various excerpts as well as proposing justifiable alternative conflict-free discourse.*

**Key words:** *conflict-prone, political linguistics, conflict-free, alternative discourse*

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## I. Introduction

Theoretical considerations are crucial in analyzing conflict-prone political discourse. This is so because theory-driven approach provides well-defined and explicit basis of the various articulations of this article. This approach offers invaluable explanation of the validity, the outcome, as well as the significance of this scholarly scrutiny of Cameroonian conflict-prone political discourse.

By stating the problematicity of the phenomenon and theorizing the relevant concepts that underpin it, as well as considering the methodological approach and the illustrative analysis through some excerpts, this approach shows where and how, through this article, this researcher attempted to fill in gaps of knowledge and practice of political discourse of conflict, especially in crises situations.

### Statement of the problem

Cameroonian conflict-prone political discourse, like in most of the conflicts facing the world today, emanates principally from oral or written articulations that generate antagonistic and confrontational rhetoric, especially in conflict situations. Since politics permeates all facets of real life, conflicts, basically generated as a result of belligerent or “gun-powder” political discourse, have negatively impacted citizens’ wellness, severed social cohesion, generated hate speech and virtually compromised consensual democratic practices and processes in Cameroon.

In order to determine discourse-type in general, and conflict-prone political discourse with focus on Cameroon as a case study, this scholarly article is motivated by political linguistic approach and considerations. This is so because political linguistics studies underpin the choices of words and the uses that discourse articulators make of the words in specific and varying contexts. In the light of this, political linguistics approach reveals shades of meanings and insinuations, thus enabling us to differentiate cooperative or flat discourse from conflict-laden or potentially conflict-generating political discourse. These shades of meanings and nuances invariably enable discourse analysts and linguists to identify semantic contexts that are capable of igniting conflict be it implicit or explicit, in struggles for political dominance. Therefore, since most of the conflicts that are facing the world basically emanate from political discourse of conflicts, this article focuses on the problematicity of the phenomenon as it prevails in Cameroon.

## **II. Objectives**

Although the thrust of this article is on the theoretical considerations to analyzing Cameroonian conflict-prone political discourse, it is relevant to state the objectives of the study from which the article ensues. Therefore, after raising the issue of conflict-prone political discourse in Cameroon crises situations, and after raising the main and specific research questions, the following research objectives were considered.

### **The General objective**

To illustrate that there is a tacit relationship between language and conflict-prone political discourse in Cameroon.

### **Specific objectives**

- a. To identify and describe conflict-prone political discourse in Cameroon.
- b. To evaluate the outcome of conflict-prone political discourse in Cameroon.
- c. To assess if conflict-prone political discourse in Cameroon can be expunged.
- d. To propose justifiable alternatives fit to abate conflict-prone political discourse in Cameroon.

## **III. Methodology**

This section of the article focuses on: 3.1, politico-linguistic theories, 3.2, psycholinguistic theoretical considerations while 3.3 presents grid analysis.

Wanchia T. Neba (2017) posits that “In a bid to effectively analyze the excerpts that make up the corpus of this article, some tools and frameworks were used”. The following theoretical frameworks or considerations are therefore relevant in analyzing Cameroonian conflict-prone political discourse.

### **Politico-linguistic theories**

These considerations underpin the various politico-linguistic theories that have been utilized to identify, describe, understand and interpret Cameroonian conflict-prone political discourse.

### **Conflict-Theory**

Conflict has been theorized. Built upon Karl Marx 19<sup>th</sup> century analysis of class, conflict theory explains social structures and changes in it by arguing that “actors pursue their interests in conflict with others and according to their resources for social organization”

Conflict theory maintains that social order is maintained by domination and power rather than by consensus and conformity. According to Karl Max (2018), dominance and power is wielded by “influential and controversial thinkers”.

In analyzing the macro and micro data that bears on Cameroonian political discourse, this researcher detailed the urge and surge of discursive dominance, coercion, threat and ‘exterminationist’ rhetoric, and therefore overwhelmingly conflict-prone political discourse, as illustrated in grid analysis; section (3.3) of this article.

There are myriad assumptions of conflict theory. This article considers three main assumptions of the theory.

### **Conflict theorists consider that humans are self-interested**

In carrying out political acts, politicians tend to sugar-coat their rhetoric. Their political manifesto may overtly place citizens and their wellness at the center of it all. However, the motivating factor is often veiled, egoistic and egocentric desire for political dominance and personal objectives. Van Dijk (2006) posits that political discourse is “an intentional act which in every case is meant to reach certain objectives and those objectives as a rule are of material character.” The desire and design to dominate or exterminate or even threaten in order to attain material objectives through political practices is reason why Cameroonian political discourse is predominantly conflict-prone since it is basically “self-interested.”

### **Societies operate on perpetual scarcity of resources**

A second main assumption of conflict-theory is that societies operate on perpetual scarcity of resources. It is arguably so, that acute scarcity is increasingly promoting arm conflicts in societies and between societies and communities. In contexts of discourse of conflict, ideological or political stereotyping are only outlets to pent-up frustrations that are located in scarcity and dearth. The socio-political crisis rocking the Anglosphere in

Cameroon with ripple effects on the entire country, has been blamed, in part to “scarcity”, which scarcity stems from marginalization and deprivation of access to natural and national resources. In the light of this, Nyamjoh (2003.2) maintain that “there is a widespread feeling in the Anglophone regions that reunification with Francophone Cameroon in 1961 has led to a growing marginalization of the Anglophone minority in the state controlled by Francophone elites, endangering its political heritage and identity.” In this context, there is explicit scarcity of economic, political, socio-cultural and identity prowess. This scarcity has invariably contributed in no small way to the myriad of Cameroonian conflict-prone political discourse.

Furthermore, Anita Pant (2020) underpins this politico-economic and identity scarcity as follows: “Anglophone Cameroonians who predominantly reside in the North-west and South-west regions have suffered a long history of political, economic and socio-cultural marginalization, stemming from the legacy of European colonial rule” Therefore, when societies live in perpetual scarcity of resources, be they human, political or natural resources, discourse of conflict invariably prevails.

#### **Conflict is pervasive and unavailable within social groups and between social groups**

Conflict theorists consider that conflict is inherent and therefore unavoidable in groups as well as between groups. Macro conflicts manifest in groups and between groups while micro conflict manifests at individual levels. In analyzing macro and micro data bearing on political discourse in Cameroon, this researcher identified and described as overwhelmingly conflict-prone, a number of excerpts that characterize the discourses analyzed.

Parallel to the three main assumptions of conflict theory analyzed here above, other assumptions include competition, revolution, structural inequality and war.

#### **IV. Theory of Conceptual Metaphors**

Considered as fundamentally conceptual, familiar linguistic metaphors are “but surface manifestations of underlying conceptual relationships.” And that “the most fundamental argument of Conceptual Metaphor of Theory is that metaphor is not just a linguistic phenomenon but a reflection of how concepts are organized in our minds.” (Lakoff and Johnson 1980).

Conceptual metaphor or cognitive metaphor, as in cognitive linguistics, refers to the understanding of one idea or conceptual domain in terms of the other. Therefore, the conflict-loaded linguistic stretch “politics is war”, or “argument is war” implies that an understanding of the dynamics and practices of politics is tacitly reliant on the understanding of the dynamics and practices of war.

In the same light, the excerpt “L’Etat est un monstre froid” implies that the understanding of the state in question invariably depends on the understanding of what a monster is or what monstrosity is all about. This is indicative to the prism that words become lethal weapons at the behest and uses of antagonistic political actors.

Metaphor has come to mean a cross-domain mapping. In the light of this, everyday- abstract concepts like states, time, change causation and purpose even turn out to be metaphorical. Lakoff and Johnson (1980) posit that “metaphors may unconsciously shape the way we think and act”. However, any conscious or unconscious metaphorical articulation that is fraught with belligerent underpinnings will invariably generate discourse of conflict.

Cameroonian conflict-prone political discourse reveals metaphors that threaten, (“L’Etat est un monstre froid”), some that herald triumphalism, (“J’ai tire le penalty, j’ai marque le bat”), and others that express spite and indictment of ‘otherness.’

“Les Betis qui sont dans le systeme contitue un danger pour le Cameroun”.

Metaphors have been utilized by Cameroonian political actors basically to undermine, divide, threaten or spite otherness, thus ramping up conflict-prone political discourse in the country.

#### **Speech Act Theory**

Political discourse is basically political text and talk; that is, political speech act. J.L Austin’s Speech Act Theory underpins the degree to which “utterances are said to perform acts of any nature.” Austin (1975) posits that “by saying something we do perform an action, or just state things” . The implications of this is that words perform a dual purpose, namely to “state” or to “perform”.

Considering speech act theory from a purely linguistic prism, it is an act carried out by speech-types such as ordering, warning, greeting, promising, inviting, congratulating.

However, how political discourse would perceive speech acts will include, coercing, challenging, deconstructing or emancipating and cooperative discourse.

In conflict-prone political discourse, speech act is invariably characterized by antagonistic and polarized rhetoric that tend to reveal failure in mitigating or negotiating meaning.

Viewing Speech Act Theory as a subfield of pragmatics Richard Nordquist,(2020) considers that it all borders on how to do things with words, that is, it considers the degree to which utterances are said to perform acts. This implies that meanings and nuances of linguistic expressions should be explained in terms of the rules that govern their uses in performing various speech acts.

By conceptualizing speech act as a subfield of pragmatics, Nordquist (2020) underpins pragmatic factors which drive analysis of political speech. These factors include: the articulator's status; be it social or academic, as well as contents and intentions.

Furthermore, speech act is something performed by an individual that not only presents information, but performs action as well. Proponents of the theory therefore consider language as a sort of action, rather than a medium to express.

It is worthy to note that Austin's (1975) Speech Act Theory, a speech act can be perceived according to the following differentiation:

- i. Locutionary force, that is referential value or the meaning of code.
- ii. Illocutionary force, that is the performative function or implication of a speech.
- iii. Perlocutionary force, that is the perceived effect or inference by addressee.

This article handles some illustrative analyses of some political discourses in Cameroon crises contexts, driven by Speech Act Theory. This was informed, in part, by pragmatic or contextual paradigms. Those contextual paradigms which include who says what to who, under what circumstances and for what purpose, constitute crucial ingredients in analyzing conflict-prone political discourse in Cameroon.

Three excerpts of political discourses, presented and analyzed in grids, (3.3) of this article, reveal that alongside others theories, Speech Act Theory underpins that language is considered as action since it has to do with "words which tend to do things".

Analysis of such excerpts based on "author's method" or "researcher's method" reveal that speech acts or words have incited or energized some actions of political nature which have gone a long way to generate conflicting and "war-like" political rhetoric resulting to real-life threatening conflicts and violence. Conversely, as analyzed in the context of Cameroonian crises situations, Speech Act Theory scrutiny reveal that some political discourses or speeches lack potency of actualization.

### **Critical Theory**

Another theoretical consideration utilized is analyzing Cameroonian conflict-prone political theory is the critical theory.

Max Horkheimer (1937), a German philosopher developed an original interdisciplinary movement known as Critical Theory. Informed by empirical research, this theory combined Marxist oriented political philosophy with social science and cultural analysis. Critical theory underscores ramps up any "philosophical approach that seeks the emancipation for human beings and actively work for change". It is a theory that aims to critique and change society as a whole. Since the key tenets of Critical Theory include the quest for emancipation and the strife for change, the notion of emancipation is often perceptible in political discourse that articulate intentions and agendas meant to shake off the shackles of dominance and oppression and active works for change. Critical political discourse characteristically challenges the status quo and seeks alternative socio-political structures and institutions, and this invariably generates polarized, antagonistic, and conflict-prone political discourse.

Since critical theorists like Karl Max and Sigmund Freud content that a "primary goal of philosophy is to understand and to help overcome the social structures through which people are dominated and oppressed" Critical Theory underscores the stance that human beings must be liberated from circumstances that enslave them.

Cameroonian conflict-prone political discourses have been generated, in part, by articulations of some political actors and agents meant to challenge the status quo in the country which status quo they liken to enslavement or oppressive structures and institutions. In their critiquing of the governance system, and structure, some political actors and rights activists claim that theirs is a legitimate agenda to liberate themselves and others from circumstances, they claim enslave them. Such discourses which are potentially conflict-loaded characterize

opposing, challenging and deconstructivist rhetoric of political actors such as Professor Maurice Kamto of the Cameroon Renaissance Movement (C.R.M) party, and from activists and apologists of the separatist agenda.

It should be mentioned though, that what is expressed by one ideological stance as enslavement and oppression can arguably be considered, especially by dominant political structures as asserting or preserving “conquered” political space and gains. Worthy of note also, is the fact that critical theories basically highlight subjective values that guide communication behavior. And so, when these values clash in any communicative behaviors, it is never obvious whose values are better. This clash of values therefore constitutes the germs of conflict-prone political discourses, analyses of which are also rooted in critical theory.

### **Psycholinguistic Theoretical Considerations**

In conjunction with political theories examined in 3.1 above, this article considers some psycholinguistic theories that drive political discourse analysis from the perspective of the author or producer’s method and from the perspective of the researcher’s method. This is relevant because psycholinguistics combines methods and theories from psychology and linguistics. It seeks to link word and sentence processing to the deeper expressive processes of message construction and interpretation. John Field (2003) posits that “psycholinguistics is the study of how the mind equips humans to handle language.” This article considers the following psycholinguistic theories:

#### **Nativism**

Originated from the U.S.A, nativism defines an “ideology” characterized by: “intense opposition to an internal minority on the ground of its foreign connection.” (Higham 1955). It is driven by thoughts and practices of promoting or protecting the interests of native or indigenous inhabitants over those of immigrants, including the support of exclusionism structures and measures.

Nativism attitudes and practices that have characterized some political discourses in Cameroon have revealed the spite and fear of “otherness”. Some Cameroonians have been stigmatized as “outsiders” or intruders in some parts of the country.

In politico-linguistic discursive acts, nativism is a spirit of superiority that develops among native born or indigenes especially when they feel threatened by the immigration or “invasions” of different cultures, languages and religions. George Newth (2020) conceptualizes nativism as a far right structuring of racist and xenophobic discourse located around “exclusionary vision of the nation.”

Cameroonian conflict-prone political discourse has also been generated by nativist instincts and reflexes. Nativist rhetoric which emanates from political actors and agents who arrogate to themselves the “portfolio” and “duty” to save what they consider as their threatened heritage only to go a long way to generate further socio-political conflicts. Linguistic stretches such as “kam no go”, “son of the soil”, “bamis”, “anglos,” “frogs” among others have inundated the Cameroon socio political lexicography thereby revealing xenophobic, racist and tribal stereotyping which are characteristic of nativism.

Some nativist-type political discourses in Cameroon have fitted into the exclusionary ideology by considering certain socio-cultural communities as “internal minority” or “foreigners” by the dint of their past or historical acquaintances.

Therefore, political discourses motivated by anyone or a combination of these variables are invariably conflict-loaded or potentially so.

### **V. Behaviorism**

Behaviorism is another psycholinguistic theory considered in analyzing Cameroonian conflict-prone political discourse. In investigating the relationship between politics and behavior analysis, Carlos Eduardo Lopes (2015), maintains that political issues are a subject of interest among behavior analysts. On her part, Hannah Arendt (2007,) in attempting to answer the question “what is politics?”, has encouraged her readers to think about how it relates to radical behaviorism. Therefore, analysis of behaviorist- type practices and attitudes are contributive factors in defining and in understanding what politics is. Politics has to do with behavioral patterns in quest for political space, dominance and gains.

Different kinds of men or different people behave differently. Therefore, as Carlos Eduardo (2015) posits “the behavioral point of view presumes that no two people are alike.” Behavior analysis is thus relevant in interpreting political rhetoric because “such behavior analysis necessarily operates in the political field” (Carlos E. 2015), which political field includes social relations between differences.

Building from skinnerian text, Carlos E. (2015) conceptualizes on two possible theories of behaviorism namely, “the radical behaviorism as technocracy” and “radical behaviorism as micro-politics.” While “radical behaviorism as technocracy” maintains that “public policy must be planned and executed (or at the very least supervised) by experts Carlos E. (2015), “radical behaviorism as micro-politics begin in the critical dimension

about controlling agencies, defined as institutions that organize contingencies and formulate rules that allow a more homogenous and extensive social control of in-group” (Skinner 1953)

Conceptualized as a kind of political model in which the relationship between lay people and experts is conflictive and hierarchical, the knowledge of the laity in rulership and leadership is not only considered different from expert knowledge but also inferior, it is obvious that such political practices and psychological framework would generate discourse of conflict since the minimized and derided laity will seek to oppose, challenge and deconstruct the “expert” ideation.

In analyzing Cameroonian conflict-prone political discourse, radical behaviorism is revealed in the “superior knowledge” factor epitomized by the “elite” rhetoric. However, elitism in Cameroon context is basically characterized by some individual’s self-acclaimed socio-political aura and the arrogance of ignorance where expert knowledge and scientific prowess is virtually illusionary.

Conceptualized by Skinner (1953), as the critical dimension about controlling agencies to allow a more homogenous and exclusive social control of in-group, radical behaviorism as micro politics is characterized by practices and patterns of exclusionism and selfish manipulative strategies of control. Cameroonian conflict-prone political discourses have been fueled, in part, by actions and articulations by politicians across the board who have displayed behaviors and practices, and have paid allegiance to “agencies” or political structures that have manipulated situations and deployed mechanisms to still control individuals and institutions.

### **Empiricist Theory**

Linguistic empiricism is a perspective which theorizes that human knowledge comes principally from experiences. Guided by skepticism and rationalism, empiricism underpins the role of empirical evidence in the formation of ideas be they political or traditional or other types.

In analyzing Cameroonian conflict-prone political discourse, utilizing the empiricist theory, this article handles psycholinguistic analysis of “author’s method” and “researcher’s method” in the grid analysis, section 3.3. The analysis reveal that some political discourses are motivated, to some degree by empirical evidence. In the light of this, some texts and talks related to some of the outcomes of the ongoing crisis in Cameroon reveal factualities. The next section handles grid presentations of some political and psycholinguistic theories that drive analyses of some excerpts of Cameroonian conflict-prone discourses.

### **Grid analysis.**

This section presents an illustrative analysis of some 3 excerpts, (randomly selected from my thesis), of Cameroonian conflict-prone political discourse based on political and psycholinguistics theories. The encompassing nature of the grid handles the research objectives in that it illustrates the tacit relationship between language and conflict-prone political discourse, identities and describes conflict-prone political discourse, evaluates the outcome thereof, and proposes justifiable alternative discourse fit to expunge or abate discourse of conflict. The grid presentation equally illustrates how theoretical considerations were utilized in analyzing, understanding and interpreting Cameroonian conflict-prone discourse.

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#### **Excerpt 1**

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1	Discourse and source	“Le Cameroun est pourri” Garga Haman Adji. Mutation N <sup>o</sup> 5294 Lundi 08 Mars 2021	
2	Context of production	The statement in box 1, “Element of Interest”, was made by an opposition political party leader (ADD national President), during his analysis on the applicability of some articles of the 1996 constitution in Cameroon, especially article 66, bearing on the declaration of personal wealth of individuals upon appointment as government officials.	
3	Unit of analysis	<b>“Le Cameroun est pourri”</b>	
4	Linguistic description of unit of analysis	Adjectival phrase. Noun phrase+verb+adjective.	
5	Author’s intention	The author’s intention is to reveal deviant attitudes and conducts of dominant political actors who circumvent accountability in public service.	
6	CDA of unit of analysis	The image of decay is a deliberate linguistic construct for a specific impact.	
7	PDA of unit of analysis	“Explicit” political articulations meant to weaken the opponent and maximize self-political gains and space.	
8	Author’s method	CDA Perspective	<i>Image of socio-political, moral and ethical decadence.</i>
		PDA Perspective	<i>Explicit deconstructive political discourse.</i>
		Psycholinguistic analysis	<i>Empiricist behavioral approach.</i>
9	Analysis and value- judgement.	Author’s declaration is <b>conflict prone; it contradicts and deconstructs governments fight against corruption.</b>	
10	Proposed alternative discourse	Cameroon at crossroad of ethical values.	
11	Researcher’s method	CDA Perspective	<i>Affront and negation of political status quo.</i>
		PDA Perspective	<i>Theory of Conceptual Metaphor.</i>
		Psycholinguistic analysis	<i>Behaviorism</i>
12	Justification of researcher’s method	<i>Affront and negation of political status quo.</i> <i>Theory of Conceptual Metaphor</i> <i>Behaviorism</i>	
13	Transitional phrase	Excerpt 2 next page treats rhetorical discourse type.	

Excerpt 2		
1	Discourse and source	“Kam no go” South-West governor, May 1990
2	Context of production	The statement “Kam no go” was made in May 1990 by a state administrative authority, an indigene of the South-West region of Cameroon, referring to settlers of North-West origin who have established themselves in the South-West region.
3	Unit of analysis	<b>“Kam no go”</b>
4	Linguistic description of unit of analysis	Descriptive noun phrase.
5	Author’s intention	To manipulate cultural realities in order to subvert one cultural construct in favour of another.
6	CDA of unit of analysis	The three words, articulated in pidgin English are carefully selected and articulated, targeting wider audience for specific purposes.
7	PDA of unit of analysis	Critical Political Discourse analysis informs that some seemingly simple colloquialism (“Kam no go”) tend to reflect cultural in-groups and out-groups dichotomy and acrimony.
8	Author’s method	CDA Perspective Normative linguistic items revealing spite of “otherness”.
		PDA Perspective Subverting socio-political discourse.
		Psycholinguistic analysis Innate dread and spite of “out-group”.
9	Analysis and value- judgement.	Author’s declaration is <b>conflict prone; it’s a threat and hurt to social cohesion and living together.</b>
10	Proposed alternative discourse	<b>Civilians suffer excesses in the context of arm conflict NW,SW.</b>
11	Researcher’s method	CDA Perspective Conversational theory.
		PDA Perspective Social theory.
		Psycholinguistic analysis <i>Nativism</i>
12	Justification of researcher’s method	Conversational theory. Social theory. Nativism
13	Transitional phrase	Excerpt 3 next, treats deconstructivist discourse.



Excerpt 3		
1	Discourse and source	<p>“depuis le début de la crise Anglophone en 2016, le Cameroun a connu une recrudescence des violations des droits humains et une fermeture significative de l’espace civil et politique pour ceux qui prônent le dialogue et le respect de l’état de droit.”</p> <p>Maxime Bissay, le Président ACAT Fev. 2021</p>
2	Context of production	Statement issued in the context of international reactions to the ongoing Anglophone crisis in Cameroon.
3	Unit of analysis	“depuis le début de la crise Anglophone en 2016, le Cameroun a connu une recrudescence des violations des droits humains et une fermeture significative de l’espace civil et politique pour ceux qui prônent le dialogue et le respect de l’état de droit.”
4	Linguistic description of unit of analysis	A tirade.
5	Author’s intention	The producer intends to use ACAT as an outlet to lay bare what they consider gross violations of human and political rights in Cameroon, in the context of the Anglophone crisis.
6	CDA of unit of analysis	Graphic lexical stretches that reveal spikes in violations of political freedom and human rights.
7	PDA of unit of analysis	Political analysis of this discourse reveals shrinking socio-political space characterized by a dominant discourse that is projected as negating cardinal rights and democratic virtues.
8	Author’s method	CDA Perspective <i>Expository communicative strategy</i>
		PDA Perspective <i>Confrontational political discourse.</i>
		Psycholinguistic analysis <i>Behavioral approach.</i>
9	Analysis and value-judgement.	Author’s declaration is conflict prone; booster to opposing or challenging political actors.
10	Proposed alternative discourse	Good governance ensures rights and obligations.
11	Researcher’s method	CDA Perspective <i>Accusative communicative strategy.</i>
		PDA Perspective <i>Speech Act Theory</i>
		Psycholinguistic analysis <i>Behaviorism.</i>
12	Justification of researcher’s method	<i>Accusative political discourse.</i> <i>Speech Act Theory</i> <i>Behaviorism</i>

## VI. Final Considerations

This section handles some findings based on some of the researcher's objectives.

Driven by the research objectives stated in section 2 of this article, we therefore submit final considerations rooted on objectives-based findings.

An expansive and encompassing grid analysis as illustrated in 3.3 of this article reveals identified and described conflict-generating linguistic constructs and articulations in each of the "elements of interest." Responses from a survey questionnaire administered to measure the social evaluation of political discourse in Cameroon equally reveal that such rhetoric is basically polarized, antagonistic and conflict-prone, as illustrated by the table below in relation to prompt 8 of the questionnaire.

**Table 1: Do political actors in Cameroon avoid hard feelings by keeping their disagreement with others?**

Rarely	Sometimes	Always	Never	Total
16 = 32%	18 = 36%	4 = 08%	12 = 24%	50 = 100%

Table 1 above shows social evaluation of politicians' attitudes towards opponents Cameroon.

The fact that political actors in Cameroon "**Always**" avoid hard feelings by keeping their disagreements with others only by 08%, representing 4 responses is eloquent illustration that disagreement and antagonisms characterize their political relationships with "others". Furthermore, 16 responses representing 32% indicate that they "Rarely" avoid hard feelings and disagreements with others underpins the magnitude of Cameroonian conflict-prone political discourse.

In evaluating the outcome of Cameroonian conflict-prone political discourse as per specific objective 2, the consequences are political, social and economic.

### Political Consequences

Politically, analysis of Cameroonian conflict-prone political discourse exposes great challenges for the state. The structural and political situation in Cameroon as it prevails, appears to be hypothetically unstable especially with the deadly arm conflict in the North and South-West regions of the country. Furthermore, political litigations, the fall out of post-election political discourses and attitudes have left opposing political actors at daggers drawn both within and between political parties.

In the light of this, and with and with particular reference to the Anglophone crisis, Anita Pant (2020) posits that: "Whereas there seem to be a consensus on the dire need for dialogue there are eloquent discordant stances as to the nature of such a dialogue and especially on the identity and credibility of the participants as well as the venue." Such dilemma "makes the state even more susceptible to (more) conflict." Anita Pant (2020).

### Social Consequences

Social impacts of Cameroonian conflict-prone political discourse involve the hurt of social cohesion, the spite of otherness and breach of social contract. This scenario has triggered in "others" the feeling of reckless abandon, but also instinctual survivalist resilient reflexes. Anita Pant (2020) maintains that "due to the disdain and persistent neglect by the government, there are increased protests and dissatisfaction among the young anglophone population in particular, there are also demonstrations in the francophone part of Cameroon against a possible succession."

### Economic Consequences

Demographic and economic consequences of the Anglophone arm-conflict exacerbated by belligerent political discourse are enormous. And as Tadeusz Kugler et al (2013) underpin, "demographic and economic recovery from consequences of war last far longer and may be more devastating than the waging war." In this light, the economic consequences of the crisis in Anglophone Cameroon and other conflict hot spots in the country are so devastating that post-war recovery is almost illusionary given that post-war recovery is not effective unless it is massive and sustainable.

This article is not limited to theoretical consideration in analyzing Cameroonian conflict conflict-prone political discourse. Grid analysis of political excerpts equally proposes justifiable alternative discourse that can, and should abate discourse of conflict in Cameroon. When political opponents immerse themselves in political practices such as sharing political issues with "others" (prompt 3 of questionnaire) and especially rooting political discourse in democratic values and beliefs (prompt 10 questionnaire), then the culture of persuasive or corporative, or even benign political differences will replace hate speech, subversionism and conflict-laden political discourse.

## VII. Conclusion

This article has handled theoretical considerations in analyzing, understanding and interpreting Cameroonian conflict-prone political discourse. It has conceptualized the phenomenon as problematic with negative stereotyping that permeates all facets of Cameroonian real-life including the political, social and economic spheres among others. This article maintains that political discourse in Cameroon can and should be articulated otherwise so as to abate conflict and the frame of negativity.

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