THE STUDY OF *TERROR, TERRORISE, TERRORISM, TERRORIST* IN TWO NIGERIAN NEWSPAPERS

Michael Chimaobi Ochu and Thapelo J. Otlogetswe[1]

Abstract

This article studies words which cluster around or are found in the company of *terror, terrorise, terrorism,* and *terrorists* in two Nigerian online newspapers retrieved around the Nigerian elections of 2011. The aim is to get a better understanding of the term *terrorism* by studying its collocates as well as the collocates of its related terms *terror, terrorise* and *terrorist*. The study does not examine the political or ideological motives, the causes or goals of terrorism. Instead, it appeals to concordance analysis as well as Mutual Information (MI) measures as primary approaches of word association analysis. The results of the study reveal that words such as *kidnapping, armed robbery, assassination*, *oppression, killing,* and *heinous crimes* are found in close proximity with *terrorism*.

Keywords: Mutual Information (MI), concordance, terrorism, collocation, corpus, collocate,

1. What terrorism is

In the wake of September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Centre, Pappacharissi and Oliveira (2008) report that President George W. Bush made a declaration of a worldwide war on terror. However, it is not always clear what constitutes terrorism and who qualifies to be called a terrorist. The term terrorism is difficult to define. Given the advancement in technology, hi-tech chemistry and genetics and pathogen, there have been changing views on the definitions of terrorism, leading to different types of terrorism such as nuclear-terrorism, cyber terrorism, cultural terrorism, bioterrorism, agro-terrorism and many others.

According to Fine (2010), the word terrorism originated as a political term with varying connotations depending on whether it was being used by a perpetrator or a victim. He reports that terror is derived from the Latin verb terrere meaning "to frighten". Fine contends that neither the Greeks, the Romans, nor the Jews were the first to use terror to inflict fear on people to attain a specific goal. The Assyrians were the first to use terror for political and military means to inspire fear and horror in one's enemy.

Wartburg (1968:631) concurs that the French terreur, for terror, originated from Latin and appeared in French during the French Revolution with Robespierre's infamous *Reign of Terror (Régime de la Terreur). Terreur can mean violent emotion,*

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panic, act of fright or apprehension. Norries et al. (2003,p.6) consider terrorism as "the systematic use of coercive intimidation against civilians for political goals". Best and Nocella (2004, p. 10) define terrorism "as the intentional use of physical violence directed against innocent persons and/or non-human animals to advance the religious, ideological, political, or economic purposes of an individual or an organization, corporation, or institution".

Given its root word, terror, from the Latin *terrere* (to frighten) and the verb *to terrorize, terrorism* means to coerce by threat of violence (ibid: 49). Ezeldin (1987) stresses that in modern Arabic, the word for terror derives from *Irhab* which originated from *rahbah*, meaning fear or horror. *Irhab* or terrorism derives from the verb arhaba, which means terrorized. However, Lil-Malayin (2007) defines terrorism *(Irhab)* as horror that is inflicted by acts of violence, such as murder, throwing hand grenades and sabotage, while a terrorist *(Al-Irhabi)* is he who turns to terrorism by murder or setting explosive devices in order to enforce his political regime or to overthrow another. Nassar (2005, p.17) argues that *terrorist* is a political label given to people perceived to be planning or carrying out acts of violence for political motives. These definitions indicate that terrorism usually involves political objectives or goals, relies on violence or threats of violence, and involves an organization and not isolated individuals.

The definitions proffered by Koh (2002), Whitaker (2002), Norries, Kern, and Just (2003), Chomsky (1988), etc., regard terrorism as a violent act against non-combatants, civilians and the innocent, with the view of creating fear and tension. Norries, et al. (2003, p.6) indicate that the concept of terrorism is contested, value-laden, open to multiple meaning because, to some extent, it depends on one who defines. It is informative to note that the definitions presented by various researchers are characterised by semantically similar nouns, verbs and adjectives. They include the following verbs: *premeditated, coordinated, calculated attack, intimidate, disrupt, endanger, cause, kidnap, destroy, seize, manufacture, possess, acquire, transport, supply, use, interfere, disrupt, threaten, commit, inflict, frighten, assassinate and others. Common nouns include: death, hostage-taking, destruction, nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons, explosives, target, intimidation, dangerous substances, fire, flood, explosion, injury, violence, threat, murder, mayhem, etc. Adjectives are: deliberate, intentional, systematic* and many others.

In this study terrorism is considered as a systematic use of coercive intimidation against civilians for political goals (Norries et al. 2003). Most scholars agree that terrorism is a deliberate, systematic, calculated violent act, targeted at innocent and harmless civilians with the intent of instilling fear to achieve either a political or a religious goal. Some of the violent acts that could be labelled terrorism include: assassination or kidnapping, seizure of aircraft, release of dangerous substances,

setting off explosive devices. The repetition of the foregoing lexical items appears to suggest that there may be a general definition of terrorism. However, Laqueur (1987, p.46) argues to the contrary: "Any attempt to be […] specific is bound to fail, for the simple reason that there is not one but many terrorisms".

Having surveyed the different definitions of terrorism, we now proceed to consider previous studies on terrorist terminologies.

2.   Studies in terrorist terminology

In this section we consider specific lexical items and linguistic structures that characterize texts in terrorism research. This analysis wishes to expose how terrorist discourse uses words to construct terrorism. Developments on the international scene such as the 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall, the 1991 Gulf War, the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001 have contributed to the growth and development of terrorism discourse.

In the study of the political developments and the various terrorist attacks on the Serbs and other ethnic minorities in Albanian Kosovo, Matic (1998) states that the media are directly involved in the formulation of debates between authorities and alleged terrorists. These are identified in their language use and terminology choices. He identifies the terms *shipter terrorists*, *shipter gangs*, *shipter secessionists* which came into the public domain at the outbreak of terrorist operations in Kosovo in February, 1998 as a result of media discourse. Also, while the term *balist* is used in the Albanian Kosovo media to refer to the pro-fascist Albanian Kosovo troops, state bodies are mostly referred to as the *forces of order* showing bias towards state forces. Similarly, those who refused to fight for Kosovo were referred to as *enemies within or traitors* (Matic 1998, p.17).

In a similar development, Milizia and Spinzi (2008) conducted a study on the phraseology or the recurrent co-occurrences of words used in both written and spoken terror discourses. They identified such collocational features on the syntagmatic axis as *war on terrorism, war against terrorism, war against terror*, but none appeared as frequent as *war on terror*. The use of the phrases *war on terror* in President George Bush's language and *fight against terrorism* in Tony Blair's speeches shortly after the 9/11 attacks, reflects two distinct usages of phraseology. Bush's speech at the wake of the 9/11 attacks was also characterized by the repeated use of *allies and friends*, in close proximity to the expression *war on terror*, whereas Blair tended to choose words such as *co-operation, solidarity, unity, and support* when speaking of the f*ight against terrorism.*

Spinzi (2008) studied a corpus comprising twenty five diplomatic speeches made by Margret Beckett between May 2006 and June 2007 in her capacity as the

British Foreign Minister. The corpus has 64,780 tokens. He observed that *terrorism* is the most frequent word-form with 67 occurrences, whereas *terror* has only 4 occurrences. The singular noun *terrorist* has 25 occurrences and its plural form, *terrorists,* has 16 occurrences. Here the four instances of the lemma *terror* always collocate with words striking *fear and violence*, seen as *weapons* to fight, and terror is associated with despotic regimes like the one in Iraq, a country destroyed by a repressive government (Spinzi 2008, p.7).

In Hughes' (2008) view, the change in the lexicon of war and terror in the 20th Century appears to be as a result of randomly organized acts of terrorism or armed aggression and the subsequent military intervention. This change according to Hughes (2008, p.13), illustrates a catalogue of principal terms, such as, *rebels, government forces, superpower surrogates, atomic bomb, bomber, aircraft carrier, flame-thrower, fire bomb, guided missile, total war, nuclear bomb, warhead, guerrilla, holocaust, Resistance, Cold War, bazooka, air support, neutron bomb, chemical warfare, heat-seeking missile, defoliation and Iron Curtain*.

Hughes (2008, p.15) also shows that terminologies like *atrocity, outrage, massacre, atomic mafia, ethnic cleansing* (a euphemism for genocide), *press gang, jingoism, collaborator, infidels, crusaders, Weapons of Mass Destruction, War on Terror, F16, Desert Storm, attrition, MX missile, Shock and Awe, Chemical and Biological Warfare* (CBW), mission accomplished, B-2 bombers, cruise missiles, joint operation, etc, reflect technical developments. Hughes' contention is that technological advances are commonly exploited to increase the capacity of victims of terror.

Another contribution to the analysis of texts in terrorism is Mahony (2010). Mahony studied newspaper samples the week following the 2002 and 2005 bombings in Bali and the week following the 2004 bombing of the Australian Embassy in Jakarta. The data sample comprised of 332 articles from three major daily newspapers: *The Australian, the Sydney Morning Herald and The Daily Telegraph*. Mahony found that the following terms generated negative connotations in Australian media discourses about Muslim: *radical, extremist, fundamental, conservative, terrorist, and Muslim extremist*. Additionally *Islamic terrorist/terrorism* was used in Australian samples on 54 occasions in 35 articles. Cook (2006, p.2) contends that the use of such terms in the Australian media suggests "radical views and violent actions, and also political violence".

3.   Data and data analysis

The primary data used for this study is a corpus of online news reports downloaded from two Nigerian daily newspapers, namely: *Vanguard Newspaper* and The Nation. The newspapers were selected because of their widespread circulation both nationally

in Nigeria and because of their international presence as online newspapers. They were also selected because of their coverage of Nigerian national issues. The downloaded archives were newspaper reports from April to June, 2011. Texts from this period were selected because they cover reports of events of the campaign period before the Nigerian general election of April 26, 2011, as well as events surrounding the change of government in May, 2011. The period is important because it was characterised by bomb blasts which generated much terrorism discourse.

For this study a corpus comprising 5,784 articles was compiled. The corpus has 2,189,112 tokens and 40, 953 types. The tokens of a corpus refer to a single word count, that is, the number of running words. Each successive word form is counted as one, whether or not it had occurred earlier. The number of types in a corpus refers to the number of different words in a corpus, that is, each word is counted only once (Otlogetswe 2008). In this study mutual information measures and concordances lines are used to analyse the data. These are discussed below in some detail.

The target terms for this study are terrorism, terror, terrorist and terrorize. The aim is to study how these selected terms behave in context as well as determine the kind of words that they collocate with. The analyses will determine the patterns of usage of the target items focusing on their structure, meaning, and function.

3.1   *Mutual Information (MI) of target terms*

Evert (2005, p.22) argues that plain frequencies are often not as meaningful as associative measures for the amount of 'glue' between words. Provided that the words are sufficiently frequent, their co-occurrences might be pure coincidence. He posits mutual information as a statistical measure of word association. Salami (2011) further posits that in measuring collocational strength, an MI score of 3 or higher is taken as evidence that two items are collocates. This score is what McEnery and Wilson (2001, p.86) refer to as a "high positive mutual information scores", which is "more likely to constitute characteristic collocations" than those "with lower mutual information scores".

The study of MI scores begins with the word terrorism, and proceeds to consider terror, terrorise, and terrorist. Below we present the MI results of terrorism. The MI analysis results also display the joint frequency, that is, the number of times words co-occur in a number of texts.

Table 1: MI scores for *terrorism*

N	Word 1	Freq.	Word 2	Freq.	Texts	Gap	Joint	MI
1	Terrorism	158	ATS	11	5	2	5	5
2	Terrorism	158	Financing	29	6	1	6	11.49
3	Terrorism	158	Prevention	50	3	1	5	10.44
4	Terrorism	158	Squad	107	6	1	6	9.60
5	Terrorism	158	Charges	344	4	1	5	7.65
6	Terrorism	158	Country	3,240	7	3	7	4.90
7	Terrorism	158	Nigeria	5,178	6	2	6	4.00

Table 1 presents the MI scores for *terrorism*. It contains a number of columns which show the following: [Word 1] is the target word, that is, the word under study, the first word in the pair followed by its frequency in the whole corpus. [Word 2] is the word that collocates with the target term *terrorism* followed by its frequency in the corpus. The computation of the corpus is done from left to right; hence [Word 1] precedes [Word 2]. The *Texts* column refers to the number of texts in which Word 1 and Word 2 were found. *Gap* shows the most typical distance between [Word 1] and [Word 2]. Finally, *Joint* shows the joint frequency of the pair over the span. Consider the following illustration: *terrorism* [W1] has a frequency of 158 and it is usually found close to *financing* [W2] which occurs 29 times in the whole corpus. The pair *terrorism financing* occurs in a total of 6 texts with a joint frequency of 6 and MI of 11.49. The high MI score of *terrorism financing* indicates that their co-occurrence is not by mere chance. It suggests that terrorism, as an activity attracts financial support from its perpetrators. Other strongly collocating pairs in the corpus are terrorism prevention and terrorism squad with a joint frequency of 5 and 6, and MI scores of 10.44 and 9.60 respectively. In summary, ATS (Anti-Terrorism Squad), *financing, prevention, squad, charges, country, and Nigeria* are all collocates of terrorism and their individual frequencies have been determined by the application of MI. Furthermore, the frequency of *terror and terrorist* which are linguistic variations of terrorism will be determined by the application of MI.

The next results presented on Table 2 are the MI scores of the noun terror.

Table 2: MI scores for *terror*

N	Word 1	Freq.	Word 2	Freq.	Texts	Gap	Joint	MI
1	Terror	77	Innocent	314	5	5	2	5
2	Terror	77	On	19,778	19	1	21	4.92
3	Terror	77	People	4,904	4	3	5	4.86
4	Terror	77	Has	8,307	5	2	5	4.10

In the corpus, the word *terrorism* is more widely used than *terror*. The MI study of these words shows that they keep different linguistic companies in the corpus. Table 2 shows that *terror*, with a total frequency of 77, co-occurs with *innocent* in 5 different texts with an MI score of 5. It also has relatively strong collocations with *on* and *people* in the corpus with a joint frequency of 21 and 5, and MI scores of 4.92 and 4.86 respectively. Since *terror* has high MI scores with all of its collocates, it could be said that the string *terror on innocent people* is very common. This could suggest that *terror*, in Nigeria, is often perceived to be unleashed on innocent people.

Table 3 presents the results of the MI score of *terrorist*.

Table 3: MI scores for *terrorist*

N	Word 1	Freq.	Word 2	Freq.	Texts	Gap	Joint	MI
1	Terrorist	69	Attacks	366	11	1	12	10.02
2	Terrorist	69	Activities	650	5	1	5	7.93
3	Terrorist	69	Been	4,815	4	3	5	5.04
4	Terrorist	69	Who	8,189	3	1	5	4.28
5	Terrorist	69	Have	8,716	4	2	5	4.19

Table 3 shows that *terrorist* has an MI score of 10.02 with *attacks* and a joint frequency of 12. *Terrorist* also has a high MI score of 7.93 with *activities*. This means that *terrorist* is nearly always part of the combination *terrorist + attacks*. The gap is 1, indicating that in this particular corpus, *attacks* typically occurs 1 word away from terrorist. The pair *terrorist attacks* appears in 11 texts. These MI scores demonstrate that *terrorist attacks* and *terrorist activities* are characteristic collocates. However, these pairs are also indicative of spheres of specific offensive actions especially to the onset of planned aggression. Therefore, these collocates imply that terrorists organise and execute violent activities with destructive force.

3.2   *Concordance line analysis*

As pointed out previously, concordance lines show the patterns in which a target term is used in the immediate context where it appears. This enables one to see the company kept by such a term in the corpus. The analysis of concordance lines begins with the word terrorism. However, because of the different collocation patterns of terrorism, its concordance lines will be displayed twice. The first is presented in Figure 1 and the second in Figure 2.

Figure 1: Concordance lines for terrorism

16	their new ranks. Relatedly, the Anti-terrorism College in Nonwa, Rivers
23	Police Area Command, Warri, the Anti-Terrorism Squad, ATS, Joint Task Force,
24	addressed as personnel from the Anti-terrorism Squad (ATS) as well
25	was arrested by men of the Police Anti-Terrorism Squad over ballot boxes h
26	C task force, comprising men of the Anti-Terrorism Squad, ATS, Delta State, con
27	anti-riot Police Mobile Force, PMF, anti-terrorism squad, ATS, conventional pol
28	anti-riot Police Mobile Force, PMF, anti terrorism squad, ATS, conventional pol
29	forts of the Federal Government to check terrorism and money laundering , PENG
30	a Bill to Provide for Measures to Combat Terrorism and a Money Laundering Bill,
31	erence, which has the theme Combating Terrorism in Nigeria, would be cha
32	ocols and the UNSC resolution on counter terrorism. According to the document,
33	ration with the United States on counter-terrorism. (Additional reporting by Ze
34	the US to Bin Laden. White House counter-terrorism adviser John Brennan said th
35	he White House. Initially, chief counter-terrorism advisor John Brennan claimed
36	team leaders from the CIAs counter-terrorism centre, the special_act
37	naval commands. AISSON holds counter-terrorism confab Disturbed by the
38	In News .. as AISSON holds counter-terrorism confab By Emma Nnadozie
39	cty and we are working with the Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED)
40	wiggerie cooperation with the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force
41	hief. However, a senior American counter-terrorism official said the two never
42	heir expertise and experience in counter-terrorism operations were specifically
50	killings, cheating, deceit, lies, envy, terrorism, assassination, oppression,
51	o testify in his defence. Okah is facing terrorism charges in relation to the O
52	lives." "How can the officers be facing terrorism charges for what they allege
53	o testify in his defence. Okah is facing terrorism charges in relation to the O
54	partner Niger Republic military to fight terrorism Petinrin On May 16, 2011
55	ecurity agents in the state cannot fight terrorism alone, it is the collabor
56	military in evolving strategies to fight terrorism. He made the announcement on
57	er the laws, it is an offence to finance terrorism and launder proceeds of crim
59	the U.S. military prison housing foreign terrorism suspects at Guantanamo Bay i
60	ternational cooperation to combat global terrorism and for compliance of member
61	moments in the fight against global terrorism. Ban, in a statement,
62	lity for the attacks were part of global terrorism, which requires the involvem
63	ies are battling with acts of home grown terrorism such as bombings and explosi
64	ch into ways of dealing with Boko Haram, terrorism and other worrisome threats
65	Boko Haram terrorism: We have found the solution
66	ckled with all seriousness. That was how terrorism started in the Middle East;
68	ne to such a mastermind of international terrorism. nal terrorism.
69	evement in the war against international terrorism, said Agwu, who also noted
70	ics, religion, economy and international terrorism (alleged Al-Qaeda connection
71	of member states with all international terrorism conventions and related prot
72	committe fight against international terrorism. Jonathan stressed the n
73	d Nations dealing with the international terrorism sanctions regime. The ECJ fo
74	curb heinous crimes such as kidnapping, terrorism and armed robbery in the Nig

Terrorism is a derived noun form of *terror,* and its concordance lines show that it is used in three different structures. The first structure is indicated in Figure 1 which shows that *terrorism* is the head word in a compound word structure. This is demonstrated by *anti-terrorism* (lines 23-28), and *counter-terrorism* (lines 32-43). Each of the two instances is followed by nouns, such as, *confab* (lines 37 and 38), *college* (line 16), *squad* (lines 26-28), *advisor* (lines 34 and 35), *centre* (line

36), *official* (line 41), *operations* (line 42), *Executive Directorate* (line 39), and others. This shows that both *anti-terrorism* and *counter-terrorism* have become institutionalized, thereby attracting military support as shown by *Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS)* (line 24); academic and professional contributions as illustrated by *Anti-Terrorism College* (line 16), *anti-terrorism centre* (line 23-28), *counter-terrorism centre* (line 36), *counter-terrorism confab*... (lines 37 and 38), *counter-terrorism operations*... (line 42), etc. These are initiatives that the Nigeria government has put in place to fight terrorism.

Secondly, Figure 1 shows that *terrorism* is used as a noun object of verbs in expressions such as *end terrorism* (line 49), *fight terrorism* (lines 54-56), and *finance terrorism* (line 57). This shows that while there are those who wish to end terrorism, there are those who finance terrorism and attempt to sustain it. *Terrorism* is also used as a noun pre-modifier to another noun, as in *terrorism charges* (lines 51-53) and *terrorism suspects* (line 59). *Terrorism* also keeps the company of adjectives such as, *global terrorism* (line 60-62), *home grown terrorism* (line 63), and *international terrorism* (lines 68-73). These adjectives indicate the various types of terrorism including *Boko Haram terrorism* (lines 64 and 65) which indicates the kind of terrorism carried out by the terrorist organization of Boko Haram. There are some specific lexical items that are found both before and after *terrorism*. Such items include: *kidnapping* (line 74), *armed robbery* (line 74), *assassination* (line 50), *oppression* (line 50), and *killings* (line 50). This co-occurrence suggests that *terrorism* shares some semantic features with *armed robbery, assassination*, or *kidnapping* and *heinous crimes* (line 74).

Figure 2 below presents the study of the prepositional phrase of terrorism to determine what usually occurs before it.

Figure 2: Concordance lines for of terrorism

84	ceeds of crime, corruption, financing of terrorism and other illicit activities
85	provisions to prohibit the financing of terrorism, and the laundering of the pr
86	prohibition and combating of acts of terrorism and the financing of terrorism
87	n on the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, and prescribes penalties for
88	on, prohibition and combating of acts of terrorism and the financing of terrorism
89	rience on how to deal with the menace of terrorism and suicide bombings. Specifi
90	provisions to prohibit the financing of terrorism, and the laundering of the pr
91	Babatunde Ogun, lamented that issues of terrorism and money laundering had been
92	n on the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, and prescribes penalties for
93	ntion on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism as well as the Convention on
94	ntion on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism as well as the Convention on
95	erians to rise up to these challenges of terrorism, Boko Haram and other related
96	nvestigation of the cause of this act of terrorism by the Presidential Committee
97	me obvious that we have some elements of terrorism by the explosions in Nigeria.
98	it down. "All over the world, issues of terrorism cannot be easily wiped out. Y
99	ey Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism for Insurance Institutions am
100	President Nicolas Sarkozy The scourge of terrorism has suffered a significant de
101	would help in tackling crime and acts of terrorism in Ekiti. Bamidele urged nort
102	rgy to nip in the bud the rising wave of terrorism in the country. The federal l
103	erday, declared that the rising cases of terrorism in the Northern part of the c
104	yet. But where there is any evidence of terrorism in any household, the governm
105	began to witness bomb blast as an act of terrorism in the civilian era when some
106	he Police Headquarters and other acts of terrorism in Nigeria, saying Sudan was
107	f acts of terrorism and the financing of terrorism in Nigeria. It also provides

Figure 2 shows that the third way in which terrorism is used in the corpus is as a noun object of a preposition in a prepositional phrase forming part of a complex noun phrase. This occurs especially with the preposition of, preceded by nouns such as, acts (line 86), *menace* (line 89), *challenges* (line 95), *issues* (line 98), *scourge* (line 100), *wave* (line 102) (also as in the case of *terror*), *cases* (line 103), *evidence* (line 104), etc. This prepositional phrase which begins with *of* is used as a qualifier of many nouns referring to things and actions. This type of structure allows the noun to expand with a wide range of meanings. For instance, in the structure *prohibition and combating of acts of terrorism* (line 86), the prepositional phrase *of acts* (line 86) and *of terrorism* (line 86) are used as qualifiers of the nouns *prohibition and combating* which means that what could be prohibited and combated are not all acts, but only acts which consist *of terrorism*. That is to say that, *of terrorism* could be used to indicate what something is composed of, hence, *issues* which consist of *terrorism* (line 91), *cases* which consist of *terrorism* (line 103), *evidence* which consist of *terrorism* (line 104). Also noteworthy are the *-ing* verb forms of *finance* and *combat* used nominally as head words in complex noun phrases embedding of *terrorism*. This can be seen in *the financing of terrorism* (lines 84-85), and *the combating of terrorism* (lines 93-94).

Furthermore, as in the case of *terror*, there are places where the *acts of terrorism* (line 101), *issues of terrorism* (line 91), *wave of terrorism* (line 102), *evidence of terrorism* (line 104) *or financing of terrorism* (line 107) occur. This is shown in

the corpus by prepositional phrase structures functioning as place adverbials after of *terrorism*. For instance, *wave of terrorism in the country* (line 102), *cases of terrorism in the Northern part* (line 103), *acts of terrorism in Ekiti* (line 101) and e*vidence of terrorism in any household* (line 104).

We now turn to the study of concordance lines of *terror* which are presented in Figure 3 and Figure 4 in order to capture its various collocation patterns.

Figure 3: Concordance lines for terror

9	able to pursue his campaign of global terror. Former US President George
10	learn from them to solve the Boko Haram terror challenge. Ngige said the bomb
11	has also emerged that a top Indonesian terror suspect arrested this year in
12	explosions in Kaduna to international terror networks. For instance, dur
15	Louis Edet House as a satanic act of terror and evil personified. ied.
16	While sympathizing with the victims of terror attacks across the nation and co
17	hat to do although it takes four days of terror before one can finally recover
18	find an urgent solution to the reign of terror being unleashed on the people of
19	ence as president, but that the reign of terror by the Islamic sect, Boko Haram,
20	Governor called for a massive sweep of terror elements in the society with a v
21	rom expressed delight that the reign of terror has come to an end in Imo sayin
22	chas Okorocha also signalled the end of terror in the area while Imo Group for
23	said: Boko Haram must stop its reign of terror in the country. No cause can jus
24	rica.Boko Haram must stop its reign of terror in the country. No cause can jus
25	life. Boko Haram must stop its reign of terror in the country. No cause can jus
26	r progressed or survived in the midst of terror. No matter the grievances or ang
27	the United States on ending the reign of terror of Osama Bin Laden himself. Of c
28	ed why Nigerians could unleash a wave of terror on innocent citizens for whateve
29	ds the early detection and prevention of terror plots, adding that more educatio
30	ing and after the elections, the acts of terror should now be reduced, since the
31	pate of bomb attacks and general acts of terror spreading across the country, fo
32	United States to release photographs of terror suspect Osama bin Laden's body.
33	Amaechi rescued Rivers from the reign of terror. The governor should be careful
34	injuries during the hourlong reign of terror. The robbers, numbering about
35	International Cooperation in the War on Terror. Other speakers include d Mike
36	be a positive step in the worlds war on terror, but it won't eliminate terroris
37	stration has said is vital to the war on terror. Clinton maintained the U.S. mus

Like *terrorism*, *terror* attracts collocational patterns that isolate its various types. As can be seen in Figure 3, some of these patterns include: *global terror* (line 9), *Boko Haram terror* (line 10), *Indonesian terror* (line 11), and *international terror* (line 12). Soyinka (2011, p.1) confirms that there is a Boko Haram type of terror which he refers to as *home-grown terror*. It should be recalled that in the concordance lines of *terrorism, Boko Haram* collocates with *terrorism* to form *Boko Haram terrorism*, a linguistic pattern which classifies *terrorism* perpetrated by Boko Haram.

The most common structure of usage of the noun *terror* is in the form of a head of a phrase. The concordance lines show that it is often used either as the object of the prepositional phrase in a compound phrase structure, *of terror* (lines 14-34), or *on terror* (lines 35-37). *Of terror/on terror* (lines 14-37) is often preceded by nouns such as, *midst* (line 14); *act* (line 15); *victims* (line 16); *reign* (line 18); *wave* (line 28);

prevention (line 29); and *war* (lines 35 37). All these are found in phrase structures such as, *reign of terror* (lines 23-25), *acts of terror* (lines 30-31), *wave of terror* (line 28), *midst of terror* (line 26), *prevention of terror* (line 29), *victims of terror* (line 16), and *war on terror* (lines 35-37). Furthermore, these structures are followed by nouns such as, *attacks* (line 16), *elements* (line 20), *plots* (line 29), *suspect* (line 32), and the prepositional phrases *in the country* (lines 23 and 24), *on innocent citizens* (line 28), *by the Islamic sect* (line 19), *of Osama bin Laden* (line 27), etc. From the foregoing, it is suggested that *terror* is an unacceptable phenomenon which has invaded society. One therefore observes a metaphorical usage of the phrases such as *reign of terror* (lines 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 33, and 34), which is shown as belonging to Boko Haram, hence, *Boko Haram must stop its reign of terror* (lines 23-25), *wave of terror* (line 28), etc. *The reign/wave of terror* (lines 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 28, 33, and 34) has necessitated *prevention of terror* (line 29) and *war on terror* (lines 35-37). As a violent event, terrorism has a place of occurrence: *in the country* (lines 22-25), *in the area* (line 22); identity of actors: *by the Islamic sect* (line 19), *of Osama bin Laden* (line 27); and, identity of victims: *on innocent citizens* (line 28).

Figure 4 below presents concordance lines of other collocating patterns of *terror* in the corpus.

Figure 4: Concordance lines for terror

59	nd this denied them the power to unleash terror in these places in the way they
60	the night when they regroup and unleash terror, making it impossible for securi
61	d hoodlums had been hiding in to unleash terror on the residents. The communitie
62	lly departed with the Speaker to unleash terror on the area for booing him. Spea
63	still had another opportunity to unleash terror on innocent Nigerians. But it is
64	Land Management Committee, and unleashed terror on the hall that was filled to c
65	l in the hands of hoodlums who unleashed terror on the innocent citizens staying
66	s for Progressive Change, CPC, unleashed terror on innocent people while protest
67	ts of Ibadan Academy allegedly unleashed terror on their counterparts at Kudeti.
68	ity to protect them. Those who unleashed terror on Bauchi people were brought in
69	icle belonging to the PHCN and unleashed terror on a parent taking his child to
70	Transport Workers in the state unleashed terror on some innocent people two week
71	opposed to western education, unleashing terror in some parts of the North, part
72	from cell. Now they are back unleashing terror on the community and even the lo
73	weapons invaded the ACN base, unleashing terror on ACN supporters. The thugs we
74	weapons invaded the ACN base, unleashing terror on ACN supporters. The thugs we
75	Gabriel Suswam has been unleashing terror on the people for daring to vote
78	ab 30 meters away from the scene took terror to the neighbourhood. Sunday Ola
88	memb in Benue who suffered alleged terror in the hands of the ruling Peopl
91	powerful country, you can only manage terror attack and gradually suppress it
94	bin Ladins death wont stop terror, expert says On May 2, 2011
95	I t tackled terror problems and learn from them to

The concordance lines in Figure 4 demonstrate that the verb *unleash* and its various inflections of *unleashed*, and *unleashing* appears to be the most common verb used both monotransitively and ditransitively before *terror*. Lines 61, 65, 68, 70, and 72-75 show the ditransitive use of the verb and its objects. In the case of ditransitive usage, *unleash* attracts a prepositional phrase after the target term *terror,* which gives information on who the victims of terror are. For instance *unleash terror on the residents* (line 61), *unleash terror on innocent citizens* (line 65), *unleashed terror on Bauchi people* (line 68), *unleashed terror on some innocent people* (line 70), *unleashing terror on the community* (line 72), *unleashing terror on ACN supporters* (line 73-74), …*unleashing terror on the people* (line 75), etc. We observe that there are 23 lines in which terror is used as the object of verbs in the corpus. Of these lines, the verb *unleash* and its present continuous and past tense forms occur in 18 lines whereas other verbs such as *took* (78) *suffered* (88), *manage* (91), *stop* (94), *tackled* (97) occur in the rest of the lines. One can safely claim that the verb *unleash* is the most characteristic collocational verb in the corpus compared to such verbs as, *manage, stop, tackled*, and *took* which also collocate with *terror*. Evidently, *terror* is not observed as doing something, but being in the hands of an entity or someone. Further analysis will show who leashes terror and who suffers from *terror*.

We now turn to the study of the term terrorist.

Another derived form of terror is terrorist. Concordance lines show the characteristic collocates of terrorist as it is used in the corpus.

Figure 5: Concordance lines for terrorist

40	rrorism confab Disturbed by the spate of terrorist activities in the country, th
41	er Delta militancy also had its share of terrorist acts. As the conflict escalat
42	ity challenges occasioned by the wave of terrorist attacks across the country, h
43	ot just the IG, everybody is a target of terrorist attacks. I don't want to make
44	ot just the IG. Everybody is a target of terrorist attacks. I don't want to make
45	inst a backlash over Monday's killing of terrorist kingpin Osama bin Laden. Pass
46	poised to enlist Nigeria on the list of terrorist nations. For instance, in Jul
47	ce headquarters, Abuja, as well as other terrorist attacks in some parts of the
48	1,000 persons suspected to be potential terrorist recruits, the Nigerian Army
49	the long-time figurehead of the al Qaeda terrorist network, has been buried at s
50	tement said that as a victim of repeated terrorist attacks, Ethiopia felt and sh
51	fter the U.S. raid that killed the Saudi terrorist leader, and no countries have
52	the direction of Boko Haram. The sects terrorist activities during the last el
53	the direction of Boko Haram. The sects terrorist activities during the last el
54	ns that lost their citizens to senseless terrorist attacks. Although the death
55	ve. The most dangerous and sophisticated terrorist organisation leader in the wo
56	sm within the country. We recognise that terrorist groups and acts are thriving
57	the national commission examining the terrorist attacks. Jackie Lynch says he
58	n our efforts to confront and defeat the terrorist enemy and protect the America
59	iate aftermath of the airstrike that the terrorist leader had been beaten or sho
60	cance of the news before the body of the terrorist leader was displayed. I hope
61	y officials. The claims were made by the terrorist leaders wife, who apparently
62	by doing that you have already told the terrorist that they have won. Boko Har
63	there was a strong probability that the terrorist who was hiding there was Osam

Figure 5 shows that although *terrorist* is a noun, it is used predominantly as a pre-modifier adjective to nouns in noun phrases and prepositional phrases. Some of those nouns include: *activities* (lines 40 and 52), *acts* (line 41), *attacks* (lines 42-44), *kingpin* (line 45), *nations* (line 46), *recruits* (line 48), *network* (line 49), *leader* (line 51), *organizations* (line 55), *groups* (line 56), etc. Therefore one sees structures like: *spate of terrorist activities* (line 40), *wave of terrorist attacks* (line 42), *list of terrorist nations* (line 46), *al Qaeda terrorist network* (line 49), *repeated terrorist attacks* (line 50) *the Saudi terrorist leader* (line 51), *sophisticated terrorist organization* (line 55), *the terrorist enemy* (line 58), *the terrorist leaders* (lines 59 and 61) etc. This indicates that *terrorist* as a label is associated, not just with an individual, who *attack* (lines 42-44), but with members or recruits (line 48) working as an organized *group* (line 56) of people, with a *leader* (lines 59-60). There also exist *terrorist nations* (line 46) and a *network* (line 49) of communication among these *terrorist organizations* (line 55) who are determined to defeat *the terrorist enemy* (line 58).

Terrorise is another derived form of *terror*. What *terrorists* do is to *terrorise* individuals and communities to engender fear and tension. The concordance lines of *terrorise* show the various linguistic association it keeps in the natural usage.

Figure 6: Concordance lines for terrorise

1	PDP governors across the country to terrorise and intimidate political
2	DP men who were given police uniforms to terrorise people, including some civil
3	of the current situation to continue to terrorise our people. "With the perfor
4	,he chose to carry arms and continue to terrorise innocent people in the creek
5	in Ibadan, Oyo State, have continued to terrorise and unleash mayhem on travel
6	Anniversary by MEND, the use of bombs to terrorise has since increased in inten
7	should ensure that he never returned to terrorise the area. A trader said: "We

As mentioned above, *terrorise* is a verb derivative of the noun *terror*. Its concordance lines in Figure 7 show that it is used transitively and takes *people* (line 2), *our people* (line 3), *and innocent people* (line 4) as its objects. Patterns like, *terrorise people* (line 2), *terrorise our people* (line 3), and *terrorise innocent people* (line 4) demonstrate that terrorism targets individuals. The use of *our people* (line 3), and *innocent people* (line 4) suggests that terrorists are considered to be rebels and they do not belong to the society. Furthermore, the verb *terrorise* could have a semantic preference with such verbs as *intimidate* (line 1), and *unleash mayhem* (line 5).

4.   Conclusion

This paper set out to study the company that is kept by the words *terror, terrorise, terrorism,* and *terrorists* in two online Nigerian newspapers. Terrorism has become a global phenomenon, especially following the attacks on the Twin Towers in the USA on September 11, 2001. By using Mutual Information and Concordance lines,

this study has identified and isolated specific lexical items and linguistic structures that cluster around the selected terms of *terror, terrorism, terrorist* and *terrorize*. It is hoped that the paper will contribute to the global debate on terrorism discourse by using a national case study. The study has demonstrated that some of the expressions that cluster around the term *terrorism* include words such as e*nvy, operation, charges, assassination*; verb phrases such as *facing, be facing, cannot fight*; infinitive phrases such as to *fight*, and *to finance*. The concordance lines for *terrorism* demonstrate that it significantly has an object relationship with the preposition 'of' in phrase structures. *Terrorism* also has a coordinating relation with such noun phrases as the *financing of terrorism*, *illicit activities, suicide bombings* and *money laundering*. Similarly, *terror* is also used in the object relations with verbs such as *unleash, stop, took,* and *tackled* and significantly followed by prepositional phrases show both victims and places of terror. This study has shown that a number linguistics structures including prepositional phrase structures are found around *terrorism* and *terror. The structures* are used to indicate the place where an action occurs; the place where something is; the place they are going to, or coming from or the direction they are moving in. The use of MI and concordance lines has also demonstrated the potential of these methodologies in the identification of words which collocate with *terror, terrorism, terrorist* and *terrorise*. Through this study of word associations, the research has revealed the hostile activities associated with terrorism and the kind of government activities that attempt to undermine terrorist activities.

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