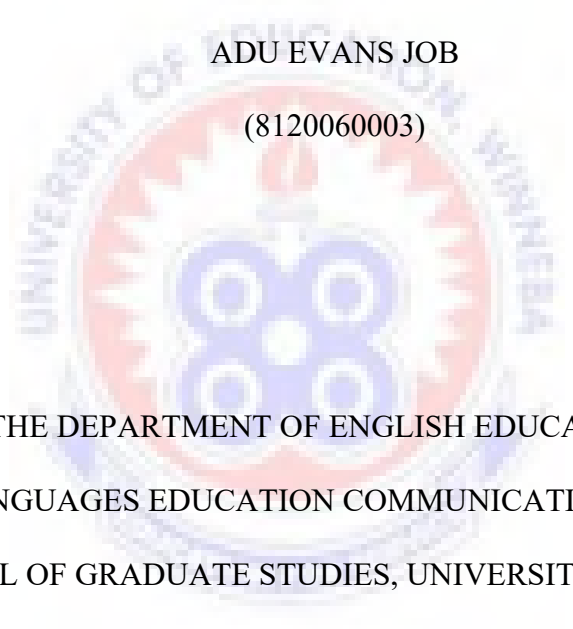UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA

EPISTEMIC MODALITY IN POLITICAL DISCOURSE – A STUDY OF TWO SELECTED STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESSES BY EX-PRESIDENT JOHN AGYEKUM KUFOUR OF GHANA

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OCTOBER, 2015

DECLARATION

Student's Declaration

I, **Adu Evans Job**, do hereby declare that apart from references to other works and quotations which have been duly acknowledged, this thesis is entirely the result of my original research. I have neither submitted this work in part or whole for the award of another degree anywhere.

Signature:……………………………….

Date: ……………………………….

Supervisor's Declaration

I hereby declare that the preparation of this research work was supervised in accordance with the guidelines for the supervision of thesis laid down by the University of Education, Winneba.

Supervisor's Name: …………………………………

Signature: …………………………………………

Date: ………………………………………….

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DEDICATION

To my late father, Mr. Amo Godfred Banson for laying the foundation upon which this project is based.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE WORK

Abbreviation Form	Full Form
Aux.	Auxiliary
Cert.	Certainty
Mod.	Modality
SONA Address	State of the Nation
Tent.	Tentative
Uncert.	Uncertainty

ABSTRACT

This study investigates the use of epistemic modality in two selected State of the Nation Addresses delivered by Ex-president John Agyekum Kufour of Ghana on 16th February, 2001 and 14th February, 2008respectively. The two texts were purposely selected, closely read and analyzed through mixed method of qualitative and quantitative dimensions. The analysis employs analytical frameworks of Kratzer's Context-dependency and Lexical Specialization and Halliday and Matthiessen Modal Taxonomy. The study was to find out epistemic notions of certainty, uncertainty and tentativeness through the comparative frequency of distribution and communicative purposes of elements of modal auxiliary verbs, semi-modal verbs, modal lexical verbs and modal adjuncts. The modal forms are quoted manually with the sentences, electronically checked and then analyzed together for their epistemic meanings. The total number of sentences containing the epistemic modal elements that is analysed is 112. There are a total of 14 representing 12.5% occurrences of modal auxiliary verbs and 9 occurrences of modal adjuncts representing 8.05% while the remaining is shared by adjuncts of intensity and adjuncts of temporality representing 25 representing 22.32% and 64 representing 57.14% respectively. The study reveals that the distribution of epistemic modality devices was not uniform in terms of meaning and that modal adjuncts are predominant in the expression of certainty. The study bears implications for pedagogy, the theory of epistemic modality and discourse analytical studies on political speeches, particularly, on the State of the Nation Address.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0. Background to the study

The idea of a State of the Nation Address dates back to the British practice of opening Parliament with a speech from the Throne. It was later adopted by the United States of America where President George Washington delivered the first message before a joint session of Congress in New York on January 8, 1790 (Gerhard, 2006). Many countries including Ghana have since adopted this 'State of the Nation Address' and have actually enshrined it in their respective constitutions as a presidential requirement (Bayram 2009). The State of the Nation Address is the account or evaluation of the condition of a country and the future programme for the said country (P. 23).

Generally, some of the themes of concern in the various State of the Nation Addresses in many countries appear to be similar, depicting the common aspirations and challenges confronting societies across the globe. For example, as one of his State of the Nation Addresses presented before the Parliament on 24th May, 1994, in South Africa, the late president Nelson Mandela of South Africa stated, among other things, ''We look forward to the private sector as a whole playing a central role in achieving the significantly high and sustainable rates of economic growth'' (www.anc.org.za/show.phpid) Mandela's statement resonates well with what Ex-president Kufour also stated in his sessional address some fourteen years later on 14thFebruary, 2008, thus, 'Mr. Speaker, on assumption of office, I declared the ushering in of the Golden Age of Business, hence the critical focus on the Private

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Sector which inherently generates more employment than the Public Sector (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

In Ghana, Article (67) of the 1992 constitution which is the supreme law of this country states, ''The President shall, at the beginning of each session of Parliament and before a dissolution of Parliament, deliver to Parliament a message on the state of the nation.'' This means that once the president delivers the State of the Nation Address, he has lived up to expectation and has fulfilled fully that constitutional provision. TheState of the Nation Address is a constitutional requirement of the president to account to Parliament the 'state of the nation' and plans for the future. The State of the Nation Address was first introduced under the administration of the second President of the third Parliament of the Fourth Republic of Ghana Ex-president John Agyekum Kufour. Records show that in 18 years at the helm of Ghana, his immediate predecessor, ex-president Jerry Rawlings did not deliver a single State of the Nation address (Asare, 2009). So far, there has been fifteen State of the Nation Addresses delivered to Parliament by various presidents as required by the national Constitution of Ghana. Usually, after the presentation of the address, there is a legislative duty in debating the address of the president. Also, there are reactions from the political parties both represented in and outside Parliament, civil society and the general public.

Apart from the State of the Nation Address, other political speeches such as Inaugural addresses, Independence Day Speech and Campaign speeches have also been delivered in Ghana. For example, Jantuah (2000) observes that Ex-president Kufuor's second Inaugural address was overwhelmingly dominated by assertives. The present study focuses on a notable form of political discourse - epistemic modality of two selected state of the nation addresses of Ex-President John Agyekum Kufuor who was the

second President of the Fourth Republic of Ghana. His presidency spanned from 2000 to 2008. In all, he gave eight State of the Nation Addresses during his tenure of office. His victory over the late President, John Atta Mills, after the end of former President Jerry Rawlings' second term, marked the first peaceful democratic transition of power in Ghana since the country's independence in 1957 (see Jantuah, 2000; Agyeman-Duah, 2006). The State of the Nation Address often informs Parliament subcommittee decisions and votes (Ayensu &Darkwa, 2012).Therefore, it appears successive presidents, since its inception, have learned to use this occasion as an appeal to the nation because the message has evolved from being a report to Parliament to a direct address to the Ghanaian people. It is now a platform from which the president announces, explains, and promotes his legislative agenda (Opoku-Mensah, 2012). Furthermore, according to Van Dijk (2001:23), the State of the Nation Address, as a political discourse, is a ''very powerful tool with a considerable influence.'' In this case, the President can use such an occasion to persuade the public to adopt his political agenda, stance or political ideology.

Having explained the idea of State of the Nation Address, I would now like to turn to the concept of epistemic modality. Palmer (1990: 85) states that epistemic modality connotes how much certainty or evidence a speaker has for a proposition expressed by his or her utterance. Epistemic modality, therefore, deals with a speaker's evaluation or judgment of what he says, whether it is true or not. The linguistic strategies, especially epistemic modality, can reveal perceptions, nuances, attitudes, confidence, political ideology, cultural identity, social status, covert intentions and priorities of a politician. These human qualities, however, can be influenced by different contextual factors related to the specific language devices used. This is so because in a language, one can

identify, for example, epistemic and non-epistemic modality devices that express various meanings in specific contexts. Epistemic modality is about the speaker's judgment about whether what he or she says is true. For example, ''You may be right''. ''That *must* be the worst book ever written. ''Non-epistemic modality, on the other hand, refers to actual facts or events. Coates (1983) has suggested that expressions of epistemic modality can be differentiated from non-epistemic expressions in terms of certain contexts and environments. Coates argues that epistemic meaning is "typically associated with the following syntactic features: 'perfective-have construction', 'progressive aspect', 'existential subject', 'stative verb', and 'inanimate subject (p: 245)'. She admits, however, that these associations may vary in strength. According to (Palmer 2001: 51),

''epistemic modality deals with a speaker's perception, evaluation or judgment of, degree of confidence in, or belief of the knowledge or reason upon which a proposition is based'' He adds that ''the category of epistemic modality concerns the degree of commitment by the speaker to what he or she is saying whilst in non-modalized declarative sentences, a speaker is fully committed to the fact of the utterance made'' (p. 53)

According to Aikhenvald (2004: 1), epistemic modality can be put into some subtypes. These are modality of evidentiality and judgment modality. Evidentiality, which is the indication of the source of the information upon which a proposition is based, is considered to be a type of epistemic modality, while judgment modality is a subtype which is based on the speaker's own judgment (p. 4). Some linguists, however, feel that evidentiality is distinct from and not necessarily related to modality and that some languages even mark evidentiality separately from epistemic modality'' (Palmer, 2001: 5). Song (2008: 12) confirms Aikhenvald's definition when he states that the semantics

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of epistemic modals consists of an evidential component which signals a source of information and an epistemic component which reflects the speaker's assessment of the source of information. This may assist in understanding the speaker's choice of epistemic modals in an utterance and the difference in strength between epistemically modalized sentences and unmodalized ones. This study specifically focuses on the variety, meaning, distribution and communicative purposes of the use of epistemic modality in expressing certainty, uncertainty and tentativeness in the two selected State of the Nation Addresses.

Generally, modality can be expressed through several linguistic categories, principal of which are modal auxiliaries, semi-auxiliaries, modal lexical verbs, modal adjuncts, imperative mood, subjunctive mood and non-linguistic cues (Palmer &Jakobson, 1974: 37; Nordquist 2003: 2-3). Epistemic modal variants can be used to construct social reality, including a speaker's identity, speaker-listener relations, certainty or otherwise. If a speaker, for example, does not have sufficient evidence justifying a 'bare' indicative sentence and wishes to mitigate his or her claim for other reasons say, politeness, he or she can weaken the degree of commitment by 'modalizing' the statement in some way, for instance, with a modal auxiliary such as 'must' or 'may'   For example, if one says, 'The doctor is sleeping,' one is committed to the truth of utterance. If the doctor is, in fact, not sleeping, one would be regarded as insincere. If a speaker does not have sufficient evidence justifying a 'bare' indicative sentence as in the example given or wishes to mitigate his or her claim for other reasons say, politeness, he can weaken the degree of commitment by 'modalizing' the statement in some way, for instance, with a modal auxiliary such as 'must or may':

    1. The doctor *must* be sleeping

    2. The doctor *may* be sleeping.

These two examples with 'must' and 'may', make weaker claims than the first non-modalized, declarative one, without modal verbs, The usage of 'must' or 'may' indicates that the information provided is not based on direct evidence but on beliefs or inferences This is because epistemic modal markers are used for two types of reason: 'content-oriented caution' , which means, a speaker is not sure and 'addressee-oriented caution' which means speaker does not wish to appear bold or boastful (see White, 2003: 25). Thus, it intends to leave room for other opinions and so on. Finally, Tasmowski & Dendale (1994) suggest the use of modal verbs to show evidentiality, which is an entity that marks speaker's attitude towards his or her knowledge of reality. The use of modal verbs to code evidentiality is also referred to as epistemic modality.

Lyons (1977: 797) asserts that various devices are available to refer to how certain the speaker or writer feels about the content of his or her utterance. Even though modal auxiliaries are still regarded as the prototypical realizations of epistemic modality, a number of lexical verbs, nouns, adjectives, adverbs and multi-word units can be used to express epistemic modality associated with a number of discourse functions (p.790).

1.1. The Study of Epistemic Modality in the State of the Nation Address

Joseph(2006: 118) claims that epistemic modality in particular has a propensity to reveal very subtle attitude and nuance of the president as a politician, and can indicate his sense of intention in his conscious and strategic attempt to persuade and win people to his side. Indeed, the importance of modality in language is summed up by Bally when he says: ''modality is the soul of the sentence. There is no utterance without modality" (Bally: 1932: 2). Indeed, ''epistemic modality and content of speech interact to influence citizens. It influences the ability to form evaluations about the president's character, shape perceptions of his incivility, and alter judgments of political trust and

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message credibility. It can even be used as a means by a politician to ''manipulate public perceptions about his performance in government'' (Cho, 2009).For instance, in the expression: 'That must be Uncle Ben,' though the speaker expresses epistemic notion of less certainty, the fact still remains that there is commitment to the truth of the proposition.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

The purpose of the State of the Nation Address by the president is to report on conditions in the country, recommend programme and present his views or vision for the present and future. Some studies have investigated modality and the language of political discourse. Most of the studies on Ghanaian modality studies such as that of Frimpong, K. (2007) have focused attention on modality in general, thereby neglecting the specific study of such sub-types of modality as epistemic modality as used in presidential speeches. Some researchers on political discourse in Ghana have also done some studies that bother on deontic notions inherent in only modal auxiliary verbs. For example, Nartey &Yankson (2014)research on modality in the New Patriotic Party's manifesto, (which is also a political discourse) reveals that modal auxiliary verbs were used extensively in the manifesto to give the message a sense of **intention, promise, obligation** and **necessity** in a conscious and strategic attempt to persuade the electorate. It appears that more is left to be done in exploring such semantic implications of modal auxiliary verbs and other such modal elements as modal adjuncts, lexical verbs and so on, in other political genres, especially, State of the Nation Address. There should be adequate studies that reveal not only 'intentions', 'promises', 'obligations' but also epistemic sense of judgments, opinions, commitments, certainties or uncertainties of

politicians, which are woven into speeches either implicitly or explicitly. It is in this regard that this study is timely.

The types of epistemic devices and their frequency used in speech, for example, when analysed, may provide cues or indications to the implicit thought and purpose of a politician the electorate needs to know in order to accept or reject his stance. Obviously, a research in this direction will also fill the vacuum of the political discourse where there is lack of guide-study in political discourse for interpretations of political speeches and evaluation of stance of speakers.

1.3. Purpose of Study

The purpose of this study is to investigate the epistemic modality in selected State of the Nation addresses. Specifically, the objectives of this work are to find out the frequency of occurrence of the epistemic modal elements that the Ex-president prefers to express in the selected State of the Nation Addresses of Ghana, examine the epistemic meanings that are expressed by the modality elements in the State of the Nation address of Ghana and the communicative purposes they have in the selected speeches of the political discourse.

1.4. Research Questions

This research basically focuses on the following specific questions:

1. What is the frequency of occurrence of the epistemic modal elements that the Ex-president prefers to express in the selected State of the Nation Address of Ghana?

2. What epistemic meanings are expressed by the modality elements in the State of the Nation address of Ghana?

3. What communicative purposes do the epistemic modality has on the State of the Nation address in Ghana?

1.5. Significance of the Study

This study is worthy of time and effort in a number of ways. First, it will strengthen the idea in public speakers and writers that epistemic models are sensitive as they pick meaning from their contexts and their frequency have semantics implications. Politicians in particular, will be mindful of the epistemic modal choices they make. Additionally, the results of this research may be of relevance to politicians, sociolinguists, students, researchers and political analysts as they will be able to analyze direct or hidden political agendas of other politicians, accepting the fact that epistemic modality express meanings.

This study will serve as a guide to the electorate, political parties and, indeed, the politicians to understand political speeches better because epistemic modality express meaning which builds interpersonal relationship, attitudes and ideologies involved in the political speeches by epistemic agents. Also, the study will bring to light the major rationale behind the use of certain epistemic modality by political figures in their quest to state their commitment to the state of affairs and to win the electorate to their side.

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1.6. Scope of the Study

The present study focuses on a notable form of political discourse - epistemic modality of two selected State of the Nation addresses of 2001 and 2008 delivered by Ex-President John Kofi Agyekum Kufuor who was the second President of the Fourth Republic of Ghana. The study focuses on the epistemic modality in the State of the Nation addresses since epistemic modal elements are used as 'means' to express attitudes, opinions, judgments, meanings of certainty, uncertainty, tentativeness, and so on by the president during such political speeches. Even though modal elements can express such various meanings, this work specifically limits itself to the expressions of certainty, uncertainty and tentativeness through epistemic modality elements like modal auxiliary verbs, semi-auxiliary verbs, modal lexical verbs and modal adjuncts (see Halliday, 1985). The meanings and the epistemic modality categories that this study focuses on are selected without any prejudice. Admittedly, a scientific study requires working around the all the shades of meaning and the various sub-types of modality in as many presidential speeches as possible for a more balanced result. However, all the epistemic meanings and categories of modality cannot be explored within the scope of this study. The State of the Nation Address is also selected for some reasons. First, the State of the Nation Address serves as source of information such as current affairs, education and direction of the economy. It gives assessment of the country's progress, future projections and strategies for their execution by the government. The first and the last State of the Nation Addresses were specifically selected for the study so that one can make comparative conclusions as to why the use of a particular epistemic modality category more than the rest and for what communicative purposes. It will give the rationale behind expression of certain meanings in certain contexts.

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Furthermore, the semantic meanings that are not studied in this work include alethic modality, boulomaic modality and teleological modality (see Fintel 2005). For all the moods in particular, it is deemed not necessary for frequency survey simply because the focus of the work is specifically on epistemic modality. This is not to say that the fact of their minimal distribution that may occur will not be alluded to when necessary. Two reasons are also responsible for the choice of the two State of the Nation Addresses. In the first place, the duration of this project will not allow for a study of all the nation's addresses in Ghana. However, the entire study is based on the notion that language is analysable and that any sample of language may have characteristics that forms part of the broader characteristics of the language of which it is a part. The two sessional addresses examined were also strategically selected because it was 2001 that Ex- president of Ghana, John Agyekum Kufour, delivered his maiden State of the Nation Address. One would want to find out the meanings such as certainty, uncertainty and tentativeness through the use of modality elements about the state of affairs and his plans for the nation from that of 2008 when his tenure of office comes to an end.

1.7. Organization of the Study

This study comprises five chapters. *Chapter one* focuses on the introduction of the work. This is made up of the introduction, that is, the background to the study, the statement of the problem, the purpose and objectives of the study, the research questions and significance of the study. It also includes the scope of the study, limitation and the organization of the study.

Chapter two deals with the review of the related literature on epistemic modality and general concepts of State of the Nation Address which serve as the base on which the epistemic modality will be analysed.

Chapter three presents the methodology - the research design, criteria for text selection, size of the corpus, framework, methods of sampling, reasons behind the choice of the State of the Nation Address, procedure for text processing and compilation, procedure for data analysis, and selecting the epistemic modal elements from the State of the Nation Address.

Chapter four presents the analysis of data from the point of view of meaning and purposes of epistemic modality in the State of the Nation Addresses of 16th February 2001 and 14[th]February, 2008.

Chapter five concludes the study by presenting the summary of findings, recommendations, references and appendices.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0. Introduction

This chapter is devoted to the review of literature related to the work. The chapter is divided into three parts. The first concept that the chapter explains is English modality.

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It provides its major syntactic and semantic features. The explanation covers the notions scholars have about (modality and its types) and how modality is expressed. The second part also looks at types, levels and coding of epistemic modality. It also discusses the theoretical framework that will help to put the study in proper perspective. The final part focuses on previous studies relating to political speeches.

2.1. What is Modality?

In the linguistic literature, one finds a good many definitions and explanations of the term 'modality' given by scholars such as Lyons (1977), Quirk et al., (1985), and Huddleston (1988). According to Palmer (2001: 122-125), ''modality comes from ''Latin word 'modus', which means measure, shape or method, and it may be defined as the speaker's assessment of, or attitude towards the potentiality of a state of affairs.'' Modality is subjective and concerned with utterances of a non-factual kind because it expresses the opinion and attitude of the speaker. In a general sense, modality is related to the speaker's or writer's ''opinion or attitude towards the proposition that the sentence expresses or the situation that the proposition describes'' (Lyons, 1977: 452). Looking at modality from a semantic point of view, some scholars however, frequently refer to aspects of modality as speaker and addressee involvement in the situation described by the modally modified proposition (see Bybee, 1994).

This means that modality indicates the degree to which a person is committed to a statement, whether it is true or not, possible, probable, likely, certain, permitted, or prohibited In short, one can say that modality refers to the way in which the truth of a sentence is to be assessed, taking into account possible situations other than the actual present one.

2.2. Types of Modality

Several categories of modality can be distinguished based on how their used and their contexts by many writers on the subject. Some of the early researchers into modality such as Wright (1951: 68-82), for example, distinguishes four kinds of modality namely: alethic, epistemic, deontic, and existential (Palmer, 1990: 6). The alethic type in particular, is somewhat related to the epistemic modality type. It is subtype of modality that is translated from Greek to mean 'truth' in English. Generally, modalities of truth, in particular, is often associated with epistemic modality in research, and it has been questioned whether this modality should be considered distinct from epistemic modality which denotes the speaker's evaluation or judgment of the truth. The criticism states that there is no real difference between ''the truth in the world'' (alethic) and ''the truth in an individual's mind'' (epistemic).

An investigation has not found a single language in which alethic and epistemic modalities would be formally distinguished, for example by the means of a grammatical mood. In such a language, ''A circle can't be square'', 'can't be' would be expressed by an alethic mood, whereas for 'He can't be that wealthy', 'can't be' would be expressed by an epistemic mood. As one can see, this is not a distinction drawn in English grammar (see Wrights, 1952)

Rescher (1968) rather identifies and describes eight kinds of modality namely: alethic, epistemic, temporal, boulomaic, deontic, evaluative, casual and likelihood (Perkins, 1983). Rescher makes an interesting observation as he adds that the interpretation of the type of modality is sometimes clear, for example, 'He may know the answer' is epistemic, but generally it depends on the context .'He may come tomorrow' can be epistemic, that is, 'perhaps he will come' or deontic, meaning 'he is permitted to come'

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Lyons (1977: 68), however, disagrees with Rescher as the former suggests that modality can be broadly classified into epistemic and deontic. And that whereas deontic modality is concerned with the necessity or possibility of acts performed by morally responsible agents, epistemic modality, on the other hand, is concerned with issues of knowledge and belief of a proposition. ''Epistemic modality is further divided into subjective epistemic modality and objective epistemic modality. This is the basic notion of modality in most discussions of modality semantics'' (p. 69).

Coates (1983: 1- 4), also proposes a different classification of modality, which is partly different from Lyons'. She talks of root modality, which is supposed to subsume deontic modality and all other aspects of dynamic modality (the subject's own ability or willingness to act). According to her, from a diachronic point of view, epistemic modality derives from ''root'' modality which are also referred to as deontic modality. In some way, this is a groundbreaking development in semantics modality, in that, apart from the two main classifications of modality provided, Coates' work also sees modality as shades of degrees of attitude, from weaker certainty to stronger certainty on the part of the speaker.

Quirk et al., (1978: 119), agree with the two types of modality as proposed by Lyons but they rather propose the terms, 'intrinsic' modality which involves some kind of human control over events, and 'extrinsic' modality which involves human judgment of what is or is not likely to happen.

Berk (2004: 46- 50) also posits that modality as a whole is not a clear area of study, for several reasons, and that the most important thing is that we can identify two different kinds of modality: ''root'' (deontic) modality dealing with obligation, permission,

ability, and so on, and epistemic modality dealing with probability, possibility, certainty, and so on.

Von Fintel (2006) examines types of modal meanings. He identifies alethic, epistemic, deontic, bouletic or boulomaic, circumstantial, dynamic and teleological meanings. His discussion of these issues is not detailed though. Moreover, he focuses on evidentiality and treats mood as a peripheral subject of his discussion. Linguistic categories for modal expression, however, are more expansive in scope in Fintel's discussion. Admittedly, though some nouns are vehicles for modality, they will not be included in this discussion. Modal nouns include possibility, probability, likelihood, certainty, and so on. This is a good area for further exploration.

This work is based on Palmer' classifications because the categories of modality is better and specifically explained by (Palmer, 2001). He says specifically that there are three kinds of modality. These are deontic, dynamic and epistemic modality. The word 'deontic', is a Greek word for ''duty.'' Deontic modality is concerned with the speaker's directive attitude towards an action to be carried out, as in obligation. For example, 'You must not go out'. It can also be used to express something that is forbidden. Deontic modality is concerned with possibility and necessity in terms of freedom to act (including permission and duty). It can be used in the expression of permission. Dynamic modality may be distinguished from deontic modality because with the dynamic modality, the conditioning factors are internal – the subject's own ability or willingness to act. Dynamic modality does not express the speaker's opinion, nor does the speaker affect the situation. For example: 'He can speak perfect French' (see Palmer, 1990). Furthermore, dynamic modality can be used in describing a factual

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situation. For example, he can speak perfect French. It is used in expressing ability. For example, I can swim. It can also be used in expressing volition.

The third classification is referred to as 'epistemic modality'. Epistemic comes from the Greek word 'episteme', which means knowledge. Epistemic modality deals with a speaker's evaluation or judgment of, degree of confidence in, or belief of the knowledge or reason upon which a proposition is based. In other words, epistemic modality refers to the way speakers communicate their doubts, certainties, and guesses.. Technically, epistemic modality may be defined as 'the linguistic expression of an evaluation of the chances that a certain hypothetical state of affairs under consideration will occur, is occurring or has occurred in a possible world which serves as the universe of interpretation for the evaluation process'(Palmer. & Jacobson, 1974:2). It is therefore concerned with an estimation of the likelihood that some aspect of a certain state of affairs is or has been or will be true or false in the context of the possible world under consideration. In short, epistemic modality is the possibility of proposition being true or not, including likelihood or certainty. For example: 'It might be true.' This expresses the possibility of something that might be true, but not being actually certain.

This work agrees with Palmer's categorization of modality because among all the types or classifications of modality proposed by the writers in this discussion, epistemic, deontic and dynamic are more clearly distinguishable. Since Palmer distinguishes these three kinds of modality vividly, most of the aforementioned writers and researchers generally refer to this classification in one way or the other.

2.3. Expression of Modality

Modality is usually expressed by a variety of linguistic devices. The best-known means of expressing modality in English is through the use of modal auxiliary verbs (Palmer,

1965). Indeed, the early literature on English modality has mainly been concerned with the use of such modal auxiliary verbs as **may, must, can, could, will, would**, and so on. Other linguistic categories used to express modality include modal adjectives such as **possible, likely, probable, certain, sure** etc.; modal adverbs which include **perhaps, certainly, possibly, probably**; and some main verbs of modality like **allow, permit, oblige,** and so on'' (Huddleston, 1988). According to Besga (1978: 82), ''modality in English has traditionally been interpreted in terms of the use of modals, although this is not the only resource available for the expression of this notion.'' Indeed, there is a wider range of other linguistic resources available for modality expression because there are various meanings that modality elements express in sentences. This study, however, focuses on expression of certainty, uncertainty and tentativeness through modal auxiliary verbs, semi-auxiliary verbs, modal lexical verbs and modal adjuncts, as well as their effects on the texts of two selected State of the Nation Addresses to be discussed in this study.

It is said that the modal auxiliary verbs are the most used devices employed to express modality, however, there are other known language resources used for this (Chalker and Weiner, 1998). This study in particular, looks at the use of modal auxiliary verbs, semi-modal, modal adjuncts and modal lexical verbs in expressing epistemic modality of certainty, uncertainty and tentativeness, as well as their communicative purposes in this work.

Halliday & Matthiessen, (1976) make a significant contribution to the functional paradigm of modality. They believe modality is a form of participation by the speaker in a communication process. It is this social function, and the meaning resources of modality that make their work very relevant to this study. In sum, modality expresses

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different semantic implications and it is used to perform different communicative acts within socio-cultural contexts.

2.4. Nature of Epistemic Modality

Lyons (1977: 793) characterizes epistemic modals as ''concerned with matters of knowledge, belief, or opinion rather than facts while deontic modality with the necessity or possibility of acts performed by morally responsible agents.'' Palmer (1986) says that observes that one can identify epistemic or non-epistemic expressions. In this sense, an epistemic expression passes judgment on the proposition of the utterance, or not. The second refers to a statement which is factual and that does not involve notions, evaluation or speculations. For example,

    a. Evans **can't** have gone to school yesterday

    b. Evans **couldn't** go to school yesterday.

Both utterances express past events. However, **couldn't** in the second example, indicates the inability of the subject to perform the act. The modal itself is marked for past tense; it is, therefore, non-epistemic whereas the first one is viewed from the interlocutor's point of view and it is the proposition, **go** (going to school), not the negative modal **can't** that is marked for past tense. **Can't,** therefore, serves as an epistemic modal verb designating the non-actuality of the action in the past. That the second example is past is adduced by the conjoined past time specifier 'yesterday' and the perfective aspect as well.

Furthermore, epistemic modality can be expressed within a range of commitment of the speaker to a proposition. For example, one can express an idea of possibility, which

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may indicate the lowest commitment on the part of the speaker to the fact that a proposition may be true, as in example (1) below. Then there could be expressions of probability that indicate greater commitment on the part of the speaker, as in (2). There could also be expressions indicating much stronger commitment, which strongly implies that the speaker has reasons to suggest the proposition is true, as in (3) (seeBybee,1994)**.**

1. Evans **can** be leaving. (possibility)

2. Evans **may** be leaving. (probability)

3. Evans **must** be leaving. (stronger commitment or inferred certainty)

2.4.1. Effects of the use of Epistemic Modality

Political discourse lends itself to studies of epistemic modality because one of the characteristics of the genre is the frequent use of hedging and possibility which are notions in the expression of epistemic modality (see Biber et al., 1999; Coates, 1983). Again, the expression of ability, modification of statements appropriately such as conveying the degree of certainty in claims or proposition is very relevant to a political speech. It is a skill, therefore, that political figures need to master while the listeners need to figure out the implicit meaning of such epistemic devices.2.4.2.

2.4.2. Types of Epistemic modality.

According to Aikhenvald (2004), epistemic modality can be put into two subtypes. These are modality of evidentiality and judgment modality. Evidentiality, which is the indication of the source of the information upon which a proposition is based, is a subtype of epistemic modality, while judgment modality is a subtype which is based on

the speaker's own judgment (p.4). Some linguists, however, feel that evidentiality is distinct from and not necessarily related to modality and that some languages even mark evidentiality separately from epistemic modality (Palmer, 2001).

Song (2008) also adds that the semantics of epistemic modals consists of an evidential component which signals a source of information and an epistemic component which reflects the speaker's assessment of the source of information. This may assist in understanding the speaker's choice of epistemic modals in an utterance and the difference in strength between epistemically modalized sentences and unmodalized ones. For example:

a. I doubt that it rained yesterday (judgment of information source)

b. I heard that it rained yesterday (identification of information source)

In the first example, the speaker does not establish any premises for his assertion. He merely expresses his doubt about the rain having fallen yesterday. In the second statement, the speaker expresses his knowledge of the rain fall yesterday based on his information about it from someone else.

2.4.3. Levels of Epistemic Modality

Having dealt with the types of epistemic modality, it is important to look at the levels of epistemic modality. According to Bybee (1994: 192-193) ''modality has a wide variety of communicative functions, and these functions can be related to a scale ranging from possibility 'may' to necessity 'must'''. He adds that epistemic modality is concerned with the theoretical possibility of propositions being true or not true, including likelihood and certainty. Deontic modality on the other hand, is concerned with possibility and necessity in terms of freedom to act, including permission and duty

Rubin et al., (2004) studies epistemic continuum scales: 'absolute certainty', which refers to a stated unambiguous indisputable conviction or reassurance and 'uncertainty' 'high certainty,' that is, high probability or firm knowledge defined as hesitancy or stated lack of clarity or knowledge, 'moderate certainty', which is estimation of an average likelihood or reasonable chances. Finally, there is 'low certainty,' representing a distant possibility. It can be argued that some of these dimensions are doubtful. For example, in the case of 'absolute certainty', it suggests that there a complete certainty, and this may represent absence of epistemic modality. Indeed, epistemic modality is about a proposition, whether it is possible, probable or necessarily. It is about matters of knowledge, belief, or opinion of a speaker rather than facts.

2.4.4. Epistemic Modality and Evidentiality

Modality is the expression of the speaker's mental attitude but not the second/third person's attitude. Secondly, the speaker's attitude is at the time of utterance, but not at past or future time (Papafragou, 2002: 5-90). Epistemic modality can be said to be the expression of the speakers' extent of certainty or commitment to the truth of their statement or the assessment of the likelihood of something being, or having been the case (Coates, 1983). Halliday (1985:14) also states that epistemic modality is the speaker's assessment of probability and predictability. It is external to the content, being a part of the attitude taken up by the speaker: his attitude, in this case, towards his own speech role as 'declarer'.

Palmer (1986: 54-55) has said that epistemic modality indicates the status of the proposition in terms of the speaker's commitment to it. This suggests that epistemic modality deals with inference based on known or afore-knowledge of the speaker.

Quirk et al., (1985:219), posit that it concerns itself with "human judgment of the likelihood and unlikelihood of what is to happen'. This means that epistemic modality has something to do with the speaker's or users' belief with regard to the truth of proposition. Based on a similar note, Coates (1983: 18) makes an assertion that epistemic modality express the speaker's assumption or assessment of possibilities showing his/her certainty or uncertainty in the truth of proposition. Epistemic assessment results in deduction and conclusions drawn by the speaker.

Bybee 1994: 193) says ''epistemic is clausal-scope indicators of a speaker's commitment to the truth of a proposition''. It is argued that epistemic modals must be analysed as evidential markers. This argument is further explained by Papafragou (2002) that epistemic modality in natural language marks the degree and /or source of the speaker's commitment to the embedded proposition. According to this view, the proposition expressed by the utterance in (1) can be paraphrased by (2), and the modal force of the utterance indicates that the speaker entertains the embedded proposition with a low degree of commitment:

   (1) Stephen may be in school.

   (2) Stephen is in school.

A small number of auxiliary verbs also termed modal auxiliaries (**can, could, may, might, must shall, should, will, would**), are regarded as the prototypical morphological realization of epistemic modality.

Additionally, epistemic modality is also expressed by number of lexical verbs For example, believe, infer, know and, adjectives, such as definite, probable, unlikely, and adverbs such as arguably, certainly, possibly and multi-word units and colligations involving lexis expressing degrees of certainty, for example, call into question, chances are, it seems plausible, and so on.

Dendale and Tamowski (2001:33) in their discussion of the relation between evidentiality and epistemic modality argue and show clearly that the references to the sources of information are linked closely to attitudes about the epistemic status of information because the linguistic markers encoding both domains are often the same.

According to Dendale & Auwera (2001: 24), there is overlapping of modality and evidentiality as they partly intersect. The interface between the two concepts is then occupied by the evidential value 'inferential' (or 'inferential evidentiality'), which he claimed it to be identical to the modal value of epistemic necessity.

Again, Dendanle and Tamowski (2001:343)pointed out that the diverging opinions as to the relationship between evidentiality and modality are largely due to the empirical fact that in the evidential systems of many languages ;the forms marking the source of the information also mark the speaker's attitude towards the reliability of that information.

Bybee (1994) adds that'' the difference manner of acquiring knowledge corresponds to different degrees of certainty about the truth of the proposition''. He states that modality shades off imperceptibly into several other categories and one of these is evidentiality. His assertion is in line with Palmer (1990) who shares the views that evidentials are modals.

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It is important, however, to note that White (2003: 87) subsumes modality, hedging, evidentially, consequentiality, intensification, polarity, attribution within inter-subjectivity. This classification can, in some sense, be justified in the sense that these categories express the stance of the speaker or a shared belief echoed in a speech situation. But the observation is that notions of hedging, evidentially, consequentiality, intensification, polarity and attribution are normally treated as aspects of modality. But the purpose of his work explains why he lumps all these notions together with modality. White's prime motive was to look beyond modality and hedging, and rather look at it from a more dialogic and rhetorical perspective. In this dialogic stance, he suggested that the function of epistemic expressions is tentativeness rather than commitment to the truth value of the proposition.

2.4.5. Coding Epistemic Modality

Epistemic modality encodes the speaker's commitment to the expressed proposition and his or her assessment of its probability. While encoding a message concerning a particular state of affairs, the sender expresses certainty, belief or doubt about its actual occurrence - in the past, at the moment of speaking or in the future. As Wright (1952: 63) observes, ''the problem is not whether the statement concerning a particular state of affairs and the state of affairs in the real world tally, but how the relation between the two is construed by the speaker.''

Epistemic modality expresses either possibility or necessity that something is, or is not the case (Palmer, 1986: 91), with epistemic possibility encoding the speaker's lack of

confidence in the proposition expressed and epistemic necessity relaying the speaker's confidence in the truth of the statement (Coates, 1983: 4). This is shown in examples (1) and (2) respectively.

1. This may be the doctor

2. This must be the doctor

In these instances of epistemic possibility (1) and necessity (2), the speaker asserts that a proposition is possibly or necessarily true, relative to some information or knowledge. If the proposition is only possibly true, the propositional attitude is that of uncertainty; if it is necessarily true, the propositional attitude is that of a high degree of certainty. It should also be noted that the modals **may** and **must** can be used both for situational and for epistemic modality

In her cross-linguistic study of epistemic modality in research articles, Cho &Darvan (2009) identify epistemic modality markers according to the following criteria:

I. The marker must explicitly qualify the truth value of a certain propositional content (to the   exclusion of such verbs as **propose**, which being reporting verbs, contribute to the propositional content and if they qualify it at all, then it is an implicit qualification;

II. It must be a lexical or a grammatical unit.

2.5. Previous Studies on Political Speeches

Some studies have investigated the language of political discourse; for example, Jantuah (2000), Menezes (2006),Bista (2009),Moses (2009),Pham (2010) and Shayegh (2012). According to Yusuf (2003), the language used in political discourse such as

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speeches, manifestos and other political texts are identified to be associated with different rhetoric and figurative expressions like irony, symbolisms, innuendos, euphemisms, and metaphors.

Jones & Peccei (2004) also observe that one of the obvious features of a language is its persuasive quality, and that language can be used to influence people's political views by exploring in detail the ways in which politicians can use language to their own advantage. It appears this is one of the reasons underlying politicians' use of epistemic modality in political speeches.

In his research work entitled *Our democracy has been tested to the utmost limit - An exploration of the use of assertives in Ghanaian presidential inaugural addresses*, Jantuah (2000), for example, observes that Ex-president Kufuor's second inaugural is overwhelmingly dominated by assertives (judgment that a speaker draws from occurrences). Jantuah conjectured that the rationale behind this high frequency of assertives may possibly be due to the president's drive to use his second inaugural to characterise the Ghanaian politics with much attention to the conditions which prevailed in Ghana after independence. He adds that the president allots a great space in his inaugural in performing this role, hence the dominance of assertive.

Menezes (2006) investigates how linguistic expressions of deontic modality act in a sense of making the audience's participation possible in standpoints defended in political speeches, while drawing on a functionalist theory. The findings reveal that politicians use *must* to consolidate their obligations, and when necessary, strategically

distance themselves from established deontic values. This study, on the other hand, focuses on epistemic modality in the selected State of the Nation Addresses.

Boicu (2007) conducts a research on modality in political discourse. He analyses Ashley Mote's political speeches and finds that the speaker's use of modal verbs contributed to the mitigation or aggravation of the illocutionary forces instigated by the speech acts he speaks of. Boicu, therefore, affirms the position that modal verbs, depending on their contextual usage, have the inclination to lessen or worsen the proposition of an utterance.

Bista (2009) also focuses mainly on the syntactic and semantic properties of modality in "Yes We Can", a catchy expression used by Barack Obama, president of the United States of America. This is very relevant to this study. As noted by Bista, the phrase, ''Yes, We Can'', represents various forms of meaning - challenge, possibility, ability, permission and opportunity - in social, political and linguistics domains alike. As a popular repetitive expression in Obama's speeches, he concluded that the phrase supposedly ''highlights his political will, temerity and boldness in addressing an alleged despondent American citizenry. It was in a bid to inspire and motivate the Americans along the tangents of progress and prosperity'' (p. 45-49). The present work is also a political discourse but differs from Bista's work. It appears the semantic implications of epistemic modality in the selected State of the Nation Addresses of the Ex-president Kufour are yet be studied even though such epistemic modality category has the propensity to reveal very subtle meanings of the nature of political discourse. This work, therefore, fills a gap in the investigation into meanings and communicative

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purposes of epistemic modal elements in the selected State of the Nation Addresses of Ghana.

Moses (2009) studies a rhetorical study of selected political speeches of prominent African leaders of five major countries of Africa, with a view to seeing how these leaders persuade their people about the expediency and urgency of their policies, plans and actions. He concluded from his analysis that African leaders are preoccupied with the political and socio-economic problems of the continent and the need for change. He also observed that those leaders, especially, Ghana's Ex-president Mills mainly used epistemic modal elements and personal pronouns in their political speeches to express their opinions, perception and judgments. According to Moses, Ex-president Mills, in his Acceptance Speech as the president- elect of Ghana, persuaded all Ghanaians to welcome and support his emergence as the president as an opportunity for transformation and change in Ghana.

Pham (2010) investigates the linguistic and pragmatic features of modality markers in political speeches by United States' presidents. He focuses on examining the linguistics and pragmatic characteristics of modal expressions in political speeches by United States' presidents and offers some suggestions for teaching and studying of English concerning modality markers used in political speeches. Obviously, his work has prescriptive and didactic purposes, and so bearing in mind that modal expressions are used to signal the interpersonal meaning associated with the content of the message, he adds that his non-native Vietnamese target population was somehow ignorant of it. He states in the rationale for the study that the research was for the maximal benefit of the second language learners in the context of cross - cultural communication, and that

more attention should be paid to ways of expressing their knowledge, judgment and attitude towards the content of their speeches.

He believes that in that sense, the second language learners could be equipped with insights into deeper and subtler understanding of the meaningful patterning of organizing thought, ideas, judgment in the source language and target language. His study primarily deals with the grammatical and lexical means of modal expressions.

Shayegh (2012) presents a critical discourse analysis of modality in the political discourses of Barack Obama and Martin Luther King. Drawing on a combined framework of Hallidays' Systemic Functional Grammar and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) theory, Shayegh's study shows that both speakers preponderantly use the modal *will* as a means of insisting on the validity of information in terms of probability and usuality.

 In a related study, Shayegh and Nabifar (2012) demonstrate that Barack Obama uses modality, among other linguistic resources, to create positive or negative power in his interviews. Shayegh's work is of relevance to this study since it looks at modality in the political discourse even 'can' is specifically of deontic type

In Ghana, there are some studies on modality in some genres other than a political discourse that specifically involves State of the Nation Address. The focus of our local linguists has, for most part, been constructions and the expressions of modality in manifestos, inaugural addresses and so on. Some of the studies include that of Jantuah, Opoku-Mensah (2012), Nartey and Yankson (2014). So far, one could not find any

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literature on epistemic modality in State of the Nation Addresses of 2001 and 2008 by Ex-president John Agyekum Kufour of Ghana.

In a search for comprehensive semantic implications of the phenomenon of epistemic modality in the State of the Nation Addresses, the researcher observes that there is a gap in this kind of information.

This study, therefore, seeks to explore the frequency of distribution, meaning and communicative purposes of epistemic modality through some selected modal markers in the speeches.

Opoku-Mensah (2012) analyses the use of 'metaphors' and 'modality' respectively in political speeches in Ghana. He examines metaphors in Ghanaian political discourse. He examined the "tenant and the landlord metaphor" of the former president of Ghana, Flt. Lt. Jerry John Rawlings, during the June 4th celebration, 2011.

Again, whilst this present study may relate to the works examined above in terms of political discourse analysis, it is uniquely different. For instance, as it has already been referred to in this chapter, Jantuah (2000) studied the use of assertives through modal elements in Ex-president Kufuor's second inaugural address. The present study, on the other hand, studies the frequency, meanings and communicative purposes of epistemic modality used in 2001 and 2008 State of the Nation Addresses by Ex-president Kufour. Again, Nartey and Yankson (2014)'s study, for example, was based on a Ghanaian political discourse, which is a manifesto.

The present study is also based on Ghanaian political discourse but it only discusses epistemic modality used in two selected State of the Nation Addresses in Ghana by Ex-

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president Kufour. These examples, among others, therefore, show a gap that this study aims to fill by exploring, specifically, the use of modal elements such as modal verbs, semi-modal verbs, modal adjuncts and modal lexical verbs as they expressed certainty, uncertainty and tentativeness in the selected State of the Nation Addresses.

Various theoretical frameworks have been employed in the analysis of epistemic notions of modality in not only political speeches but also in many other genres. The theories used in this study are two. These are Context Dependency Theory and Specialization (Kratzer, 1981) and Halliday & Matthiessen Modal Taxonomy (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004).

Halliday and Matthiessen (2004: 18-49) say that ''language is a resource for making meaning, and that meaning resides in the systemic patterns of choice.'' Halliday & Matthiessen Modal Taxonomy is mainly used to explain and describe the organization of these ''meaning-making resources,'', as they function in sentences. It is used to analyse epistemic modality elements such modal verbs, modal adjuncts and modal lexical verbs in clauses or sentences of the selected State of the Nation addresses. For example, ''the modal adjuncts express the speaker's judgment regarding the relevance of the message'' (p. 49).

An adjunct can be circumstantial, conjunctive, or modal, and that these adjuncts are respectively related to the ideational, textual, and interpersonal meta-functions of language…'' They add that ''modal adjuncts involve the judgment of the relevance of a message, they are clearly important for stylistic analysis'' (p.66). For example the adjuncts items such as 'always' and 'seldom' would be interpreted to mean expression of 'usuality' . Others like 'surely' and 'clearly' will mean 'obviousness' (of certainty).

The use of modal verb 'will' can express prediction of certainty in some contexts while 'might' could express uncertainty, and so on.

This study is also analysed within linguistic context based on the Context dependency and Lexical Specialization theory by (Kratzer 1981, 1991). It finds out the contextual meanings inherent in epistemic modal utterances within the political discourse. Von Fintel (2006), agrees that modal meanings should be conceived as the product of ''context-dependency.'' This means that, modal elements are in themselves skeletal out of context. Whether they are epistemic or deontic, depends largely on the linguistic environment. Thus, a grammatical category can realize different semantic sub-types depending on the linguistic environment or context. Units within one grammatical model can realize different modal meanings in different situations.

2.5.1. Summary of Review of Related Literature

The chapter looked at definition, types and expression of modality. It also discussed nature, types and levels of epistemic modality, as well as the correlation between epistemic modality and evidentiality. Also, ways (epistemic strategies) of coding epistemic modality were examined.

Furthermore, general concepts on political speeches were also explained. It is observed that many studies on modality and political discourse focus more on corpus-based research, for example, Ngula's work as well as Owusu- Ansah's work is purely corpus-based study on modality (see Ngula, 2009) However, this study can be referred to as 'a case study' on Ex-president Kufour because it exclusively looks at epistemic modality in two of his State of the Nations Addresses as a political discourse.

This study particularly focuses on epistemic modality that may reveal the stance, attitude and judgments of the former president to statements he made to win the electorate to his side. This study is therefore important for analysis through speech act theory.

This study, in particulartly, is quite timely since it brings out a new area for further research. This section of study also talked about frameworks of Context dependency and Specialization of Kratzer (1991) and Halliday & Matthiessen Modal Taxonomy (2004) as theories for analysing the semantics of epistemic modality in the selected speeches.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0. Introduction

This chapter is devoted to the methodological procedures employed in this study. The methodology explains the kind of data, methods and procedures that were used to collect and process them to arrive at the conclusions of this study.

Since all of the State of the Nation addresses cannot be explored in this work, two selected State of the Nation addresses are used in this study. Once the State of the Nation Address is presented to Parliament, it becomes a public document. Thus, it is more easily accessible for the collection of data for research such as this study. Copies of State of the Nation addresses can be obtained from the National Archives, the headquarters of the party and the regional offices of the political parties. Copies of the State of the Nation addresses can also be accessed via (http://www.parliament.gh/publications/49)

It is anticipated that trends of epistemic modality meaning to be examined in the selected State of the Nation addresses are replicated in other State of the Nation addresses delivered in the country. The two addresses are selected without any prejudice. Admittedly, a scientific study requires working around various regimes of the political divide and varied political speech contexts for a more balanced objective results. However, since the entirety of the State of the Nation Addresses presented in the country cannot be explored within the scope of the current study (assuming that all the archives of all the State of the Nation addresses are accessible), two selected State of the Nation addresses are chosen for this study.

In this study, the methodology employed can be described as a ''mixed-method'' since it has both qualitative and quantitative dimensions. Mixed methods in research include the mixing or combination of qualitative and quantitative methods(Andres, 2012). In short, both quantitative and qualitative research designs were employed to ensure reliable and valid results from the study.

The methodology begins with gathering the data from the State of the Nation addresses by retrieving, extracting, categorising and analyzing of information from the data to

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help the researcher to answer his research questions. This chapter, therefore, presents the design and procedures for the data analysis and interpretation. The difficulties relating to the methodology and challenges which were encountered are also discussed.

Finally, this chapter focuses on the research design and instruments used for the study. Other areas covered in this chapter include data collection and sampling procedures, as well as data analysis procedures.

3.1. Research Design

This study explores meanings of certainty, uncertainty and tentativeness as expressed in the selected State of the Nation addresses through modal elements such as modal auxiliary verbs, semi-auxiliaries, modal lexical verbs, modal adjuncts, and modal adverbs. The investigation of the meanings of modal elements in this work is based on written (printed) material. It is about analysis of the occurrences and distribution of epistemic modality in the selected written texts and the possible determination of their distribution, meanings and their communicative purposes in such apolitical discourse.

As it has been pointed out in the introductory part of this section, the methodology for this study can be described as 'mixed method.' The goal of this mixed method is to undertake this research work from two types of investigative perspective in order to achieve a balanced analysis. In view of this, both qualitative and quantitative dimensions are employed in the analysis. A qualitative design is employed in this study because Strauss and Corbin (1990:17) say that a ''qualitative research is any kind of research that produces findings not arrived at by means of statistical procedures or other means of quantification''.

One can say that a qualitative research is concerned with understanding the context in which behaviour occurs. This method is used to investigate selected modal elements in the study.

This research does not focus on one theme only but on the interaction of multiple variables which occur in real life situations of communication. The modal elements examined are of different categories which can have varying epistemic meanings such as certainty, tentativeness and uncertainty based on context of texts. Qualitative enquiry accepts that the world is complex and dynamic.

Therefore, this method can be used to analyse any communication phenomenon about which little is yet known and also to gain a new perspective on what is already known in order to obtain more in-depth information that may be difficult to convey qualitatively alone. The qualitative design offers the opportunity to capture and describe the central themes within the selected sentences or clauses. Thus, the qualitative technique was design used more in determining the meanings expressed by the categories of modality in the sentences and contexts in which they occurred.

 The quantitative method was also employed to aid the research in making interpretations and inferences from the observation of the epistemic modality expressions based on the qualitative design used in this study. Simple quantitative analytical frequency tables are specifically constructed to demonstrate the distribution of modal, semi-modals, modal adjuncts, modal lexical verbs and meanings of modal auxiliaries in the data. For lexical verbs, the main concern will be more of determining which semantic-syntactical environment their likely to be found in the data.

This will suffice, at least, for this preliminary study. The use of frequency counts allowed for the determinations that relate to frequencies of occurrence of items in the political discourse.

3.2. Criteria for Text selection

Two State of the Nation addresses have been sampled for the primary data of this work. The two selected addresses are: State of the Nation Address: 16th February, 2001, and State of the Nation Address: 14thFebruary, 2008. These periods are chosen not for any socio-political or other reasons.

Furthermore, this study is not concerned with subject matter of the texts chosen but rather their textual analysis. Therefore, no attention is given to any kind of socio-economic topics in the selected addresses during the periods. It should be noted, however, that the texts were selected covering two political years just to investigate how the politician uses epistemic modality in different political discourse contexts.

The focus is on the semantics of epistemic category of modality and other related variables within the contexts that they are used. The length of each text was also not considered since the State of the Nation Address is usually about annual (not daily or monthly) evaluation and direction of the socio-economic sectors of the country presented by the president to parliament.

A number of factors formed the basis for selecting the text samples for the analysis. These were the dates and the period of presentation, the type of speeches, and nationality of presidential speech writers, education level of such writers and the availability of the texts for research. With regards to date and time of presentation, it

was intended that the political texts from which the data were selected would reflect the semantics of epistemic modality as used in political discourse.

Moreover, with regards to text type, the State of the Nation address, in particular, is selected for the fact that it is the official statement of the president of the country about the state of affairs of the country. It represents, as it were, the authoritative assessment and evaluation of the development of the nation to the rest of the world.

As a result of this, it is envisaged that personal judgments, attitudes, ideology and nuances are invested in epistemic modal elements in the text for communication. In that direction, care is taken to choose certain words deliberately and to check any sloppy use of language in order to maintain favourable public impression.

It can, therefore, be said that the presidential speech writers are employed with care as regards the above reasons. Speech writers of State of the Nation Address are employed with care as regards their educational background (Joseph, 2006).

Also, the discourse functions of the State of the Nation Address, which are to evaluate the economy, state the priories of government, direct resources, express judgment, covertly reveal ideology, subtly win over the electorate and so on, make it a very likely source for virtually all the speech acts. Thus, it is anticipated that various forms of epistemic modality will be required. As to how they are expressed is the purpose of this work.

Finally, in terms of availability of materials, the selected State of the Nation Addresses are relatively the most widely published and paraphrased in both print and electronic media as well as National Libraries and Archives. Again, the regional offices of the party in power within those selected periods and the Parliament of Ghana all have well-

stocked archives and websites that have records of presidential sessional addresses. Thus, obtaining copies by the researcher was not a problem.

Furthermore, the importance attached to such a presidential address in the country once it is in the public domain, shows that it has linguistic influence in Ghana. The respective selected addresses for the research are 'State of the Nation Address on 16th February, 2001 and 'State of the Nation Address': 14thFebruary, 2008.

The present research limits itself as practically as possible in terms of number of the texts for the study because studying all the State of the nation addresses presented to the parliament in order to arrive at generalizing information would therefore be impracticable, thus the need for sample selection.

According to Silverman (1993), a qualitative research analysis of only small numbers of text is aimed at understanding that categories and how they are used generally in concrete activities.

The main interest in the sampling is to extend the result of analysis based on the sample, to the rest of the sessional speeches from which the sample is drawn. Analysis of a large text by an individual would thus not be easy. That is why the present work limits itself as practical even though generalization from the study might not always be applicable to different situations as a result of the limited corpus.

3.3. Number of Speeches Examined

There were eight State of the Nation addresses that the Ex- president John Kufour delivered during his tenure of office but only two of them are analysed in this study. The selected addresses are seen as a good starting point to determine tendencies in the meaning expressed by the selected modal categories. The investigation of this

phenomenon can subsequently be undertaken in a larger data from more State of the Nation Addresses and other similar genres to complement this study. Again, there were other political speeches that were given by the country's leaders or other political leaders.

3.3.1. Methods of Sampling

The purposive sampling approach was used to select samples of the State of the Nation addresses. The State of the Nation addresses of two years were picked for the study. The years are: 16th February, 2001, and 14[th]February, 2008. These were chosen for three reasons. The first reason is that both years happened to be diverse political context covering a period when the government had just been voted into power for the first time, and just when the Ex-president was about to end his second term of office as per the constitutional requirement.

Finally, it affords the researcher diverse scenarios of speech act involving epistemic modality that reflected the diverse interpersonal usage of those expressions and expressions of stance and judgments through language use in two different political contexts.

3.3.2. The Choice of the State of the Nation Address

The State of the Nation address could be seen as an authoritative but conscious expression of the president's position on the state of affairs and future projections for the country (Joseph, 2006). It could be seen as the official voice of the leader of the country to evaluate, inform, admonish, influence, direct, appeal and motivate citizens and development partners concerning important issues in the country. To the reader,

the State of the Nation address reports and declares the state of progress and new path to be charted for the country.

Indeed, according to MacDougall & Haltings (1973), modern-day readers are inundated with information and are, consequently, at times unable to come to conclusions. As a result, readers often assume a submissive reading position and are simply happy to accept the undoubted superior knowledge of the writer. This undoubtedly implies that the State of the Nation's address represents the president's informed assessment of the economy, which possibly makes people hold it as superior, official knowledge and report on the state of affairs in the country.

It may be concluded from the foregoing account that State of the Nation address carries explanations of the economy as it encourages citizens to think about the various sectors and support some priorities they may otherwise not have considered before. The people are to draw their attention to some issues, especially pressing ones that may have otherwise been ignored. It is also likely that the State of the Nation address is also written by specially trained presidential speech writers with the full co-operation or participation of the president.

The main purpose of the address is to give report on the economy and proposition on issues through parliament to the public. This makes it different from the ordinary speech on the campaign platform. To this end, the State of the Nation address has the potential to shape opinion, create reality and covey ideologies. The discourse functions of State of the Nation address, makes it very likely source of virtually all the speech acts. It is anticipated that various forms of modality would be required.

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3.4. Procedure for Data Analysis

Both qualitative and quantitative techniques were used to analyse the data gathered from the speeches. General observations and in-depth contextual analysis of data were also employed. According to Williams (2005: 3), ''while the quantitative method provides an objective measure of reality, the qualitative method allows the researcher to explore and better understand the complexity of a phenomenon.''

In this study, the quantitative method used in working with the data is frequency of distribution. The use of frequency counts allowed for the determination of which category of modality are exploited more to convey epistemic modal sense as well as which ones are used less or ignored. It also looked at what specific epistemic modal meaning the modal elements expressed. This was done by the identification of instances of the epistemic modality meaning with particular semantic labels based on my subjective judgment.

Palmer (1986) has shown that in identifying which usage belongs to which category of meaning, one has to apply one's idiosyncratic judgments. Accordingly, meanings were collectively classified under three main semantic groupings, namely, certainty, uncertainty and tentativeness. The occurrences of the epistemic modal elements were counted using computer software which highlighted each occurrence of the categories of the epistemic modality expressions in the data. The epistemic modal elements as well as the sentences in which they occurred were then manually copied for further verification. These processes made the frequency count faster, effective and accurate.

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The occurrences were presented in tabular form and calculated. Frequency tables are devised to demonstrate the distribution of the categories of the epistemic modality expression. The information in the data shows the relevant clauses or sentences containing modal expressions that are sampled within the contexts of epistemic meanings in the texts.

3.5. Difficulties during Data Collection

Some difficulties were encountered during data collection of this work. For example, there was scarce literature on this study and also an uncooperative attitude from office clerks and librarians in charge of archives and libraries of political parties in political offices during the collection of data. Again, the acquisition of books on political discourse, presidential speeches and other political documents posed a challenge as the books were limited in stock for the reading public and, therefore, librarians were not willing to allow them to be taken out. Finally, the researcher was confronted with issues of time limitation in gathering the data.

3.6. Collecting the Modal Elements from the State of the Nation Addresses

After reading the speeches, the data was collected with sentences that contained the modal auxiliaries that expressed the epistemic notions of certainty, uncertainty and tentativeness. The modal auxiliary verbs extracted from the speeches include **would, could, should, may and might.** Modal adverbs (adjuncts) such as **likely, probably, maybe, possibly, perhaps,** and **surely** were identified in the various sentences and highlighted and copied onto cards. If a sentence contained two, three, of these modality forms, or if the same form occurred two, three times, they are copied on two, three or more different cards highlighting the epistemic modal elements that occurred in the data.

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CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION OF RESULTS AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

4.0. Introduction

This chapter is divided into two sections - section ('A' and 'B'). Section 'A' begins with a presentation of the results of the data and frequency of distribution of modal auxiliary verbs and other epistemic modality elements that occurred in the texts. Section 'B' presents an analysis on the epistemic meaning revealed through the modal elements.

This section also examines the semantic implications of the results and the analyses of the data. The frequency of occurrence, various meanings and communicative purposes of these epistemic modality forms in the data are also discussed. It also presents discussions on modal adjuncts which include both mood adjuncts and comment adjuncts (Halliday, 1990).

According to Halliday, modal adjuncts form part of the mood block and they provide additional information on likelihood, unlikelihood, opinions, and so on. The discussion also covers modal adjunct subtype of temporality. The identification of the epistemic modal elements and their particular semantic labels were made possible with the aid of the frameworks of Context Dependency and Specialiazation by Kratzer (1981, 1991) and Halliday & Matthiessen Modal Taxonomy (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004).

The total number of sentences containing the epistemic modal elements that is analysed is 112. There are a total of 14 representing 12.5% occurrences modal auxiliary verbs and 9 occurrences of modal adjuncts representing 8.05% while the remaining is shared by adjuncts of intensity and adjuncts of temporality representing 25 representing 22.32% and 64 representing 57.14% respectively. They are analysed to find out epistemic notions of certainty, uncertainty and tentativeness as well as their communicative purposes in the speeches.

The other types of modal elements do not receive treatment in this study, not because they are absent in the data. Considering the scope of the epistemic elements that this study is designed to discuss, the inclusion of discussion of those sub-types will not,

obviously, fall within the scope of the study. Appropriate references, however, are made to them when necessary.

SECTION A

4.1. Presentation of Results of Data

The data is limited to the State of the Nation Address (SONA) of 16th February, 2001 and the State of the Nation Address (SONA) of 14th February, 2008, for this research work. The sentences that contain the modal elements needed for this work are selected for the analysis. In other words, the modal forms are quoted with the sentences and then analyzed together for their epistemic meanings. The unit of analysis was generally a sentence but complex sentences were split into two or more simple sentences, if each simple sentence expressed a different idea qualified by a distinct epistemic modal marker. This was to help the modal element to be analysed within respective contexts.

The remainder of this section presents the findings and the epistemic meanings of the modal elements in the speeches. Moreover, modal adjuncts are also studied here for their epistemic quality. The data of the distribution of the epistemic modal elements of this work is presented in 8 (eight**)** tabular forms and then analysed. There is a separate table (Table 1) showing modal adverbs (adjuncts) and modal auxiliary verbs while there is another showing modal adjunct of temporality and intensity (i.e. Table 8). This is done to avoid mix up of figures for the comparative frequency count between modal auxiliary verbs and modal adjuncts.

The tabular presentation helps one to see which particular epistemic modality elements have high or low frequency of occurrence, and how such elements fare in the data. It should be noted that there was no occurrence of any modal lexical verb or semi-modal verb that specifically expresses epistemic modality of certainty, uncertainty or tentativeness.

Even though there were numerous expressions with dynamic and deontic notions through modal lexical verbs and the semi-modal verbs, they are not presented in the tables nor analysed because such an effort may not help to achieve the objective or fall within the scope of this study. The following statement which contain semi-modal, '**is to**' for instance, expresses notion of 'intention', which is of dynamic modal type rather than epistemic one that this study focuses on:

> Our party's policy **is to** liberate the energies of the people for the growth of a property-owning democracy in this land, with right to life, freedom and justice as the principles to which the government and the laws should be dedicated. (SONA, 16-02- 2001)

Another expression which contains a lexical verb, **'require'**, does not express epistemic sense but obligation or requirement, and in that sense, has a deontic notion rather than epistemic one:

> Mr. Speaker, law and order also **require** enforcers in the right numbers proportional to the population. In 2001, the Police Service stood at 15,983. It has since gained by an additional 10,132. (SONA, 14-02- 2008).

Table 1 presents the results obtained from the frequency count and the corresponding epistemic meaning of the modal elements in the investigation. On the left-hand column, one may see the modal auxiliary verbs and modal adjuncts analyzed. On the second column, we have the record of number of times which a particular modal element has been used to express certainty in the data; column three also shows the frequency of modal elements to express uncertainty; column four shows frequency of occurrence of the modal elements to express tentativeness; column five presents the total number of frequency occurrences of the categories, and column six shows the percentage level of frequency occurrence of each modal element.

Below is the table 1, showing the frequency distribution of the epistemic modal categories of modal adjuncts (modal verbs only) and modal auxiliary verbs and their corresponding epistemic meanings:

Table 1: Distribution of Epistemic Modality Categories and their Meanings

Epistemic Elements	Certainty Frequency	Uncertainty Frequency	Tentativeness Frequency	Total	Percentage 100%
Modal Aux. Verbs	7	0	7	14	60.87
Modal Adjuncts	7	2	0	9	39.13
Total	14	2	7	23	100.0

At a glance, one can observe there is a low margin between the uses of the two categories of modality, indicating the preferred category, with higher frequency of occurrence, over the other. There are a total of 14 and 9 occurrences of epistemic

modality expressed through the both categories of modal auxiliary verbs and modal adjuncts respectively. The modal auxiliary verbs have the higher occurrences of 14, representing 60.87 percent while the modal adjuncts occur 9 times, representing 39.13 percent.

It can also be observed from Table 1 that frequencies of occurrence of the certainty markers and other epistemic meanings differ from category to category. For example, under 'certainty', modal verbs and modal adjuncts have the same occurrence of 7 while under 'uncertainty' there was no occurrence of modal adjuncts expressing that epistemic notion even though there are 2 occurrences of modal auxiliary verbs that express that notion. The modal auxiliary verbs have the higher occurrences of 7 that express 'tentativeness' but there was no occurrence of this modal group expressing the notion of 'uncertainty'. This study looks at the implications of such a situation of occurrence in the selected speeches.

Table 2 below presents the comparative frequency of occurrence among the epistemic modal categories.

Table 2: Comparative Frequency Table of the Epistemic Modality Categories
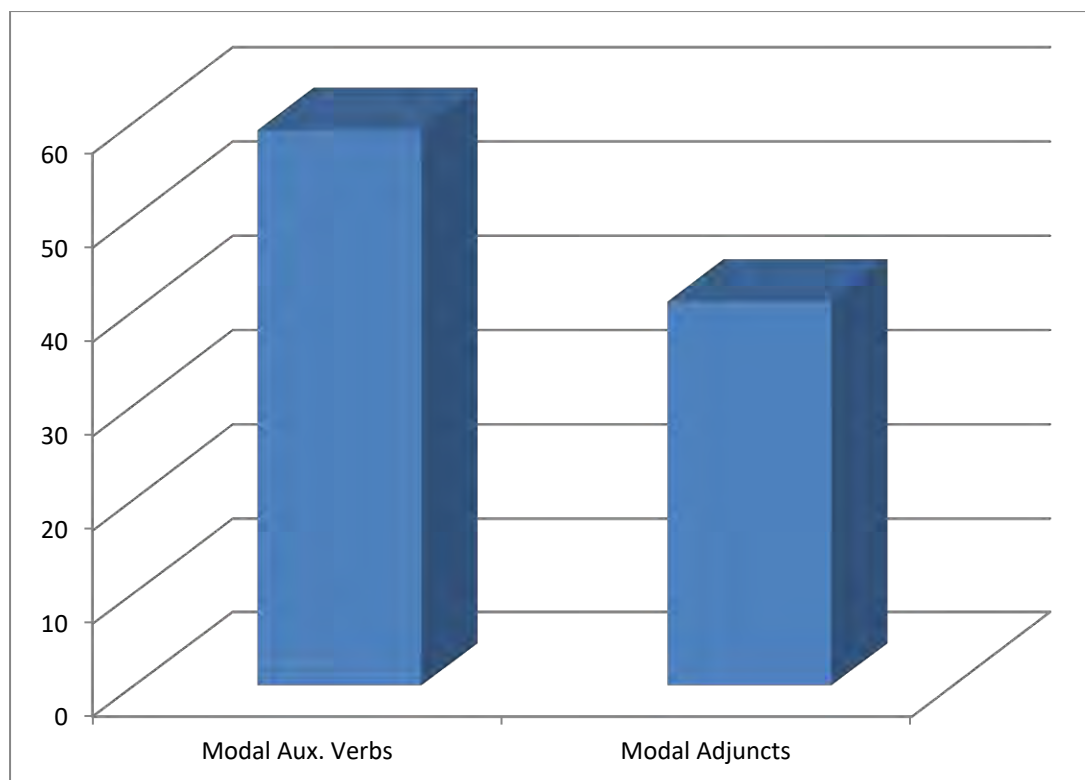
Two tables (i.e. 3 and 4) have also been generated to present the frequency distributions of the individual modal verbs since they have the higher occurrence. Table 3 presents the distribution of the individual modal verbs in the data whilst table 4 also presents comparative frequency distribution of the modal auxiliaries. The data collected and analysed showed that the modal verbs - **will, would, could, should, may, and might**- are all present in the data examined. It is also observed from the data that some of the epistemic modal forms are of more frequency occurrence than others. Table 3 displays the total number of occurrences of each modal in the data, in order of frequency, followed by its percentage distribution.

4.2. Modal Auxiliary Verbs

Table 3: Frequency of Distribution of Modal Auxiliaries in the Data

Modal Aux. verbs	Total number of occurrence	Percentage 0/0
Would	4	28.58
May	3	21.43
will	3	21.43
Might	2	14.29
Could	1	7.14
Should	1	7.14
Total	14	100.0

Attempt at charting a comparison of modal auxiliaries has also been made in table 4 below. A broader analysis of the data would have included the comparison of the other categories of the epistemic meaning that this study originally focuses on. However, tables on modal auxiliary verbs and modal adjuncts with their respective meanings are those presented. This is because these modal categories are the ones that are used to express epistemic notions of certainty, uncertainty and tentativeness. The rest of them (modal lexical verbs and semi-modal verbs) mainly express intention, obligation, permission and ability that are outside the scope of this study. Below is the table 4 that shows the comparison of frequency of the modal auxiliaries verbs in the speeches examined.

Table 4: Comparative Frequency Table of Modal Auxiliaries in the Data
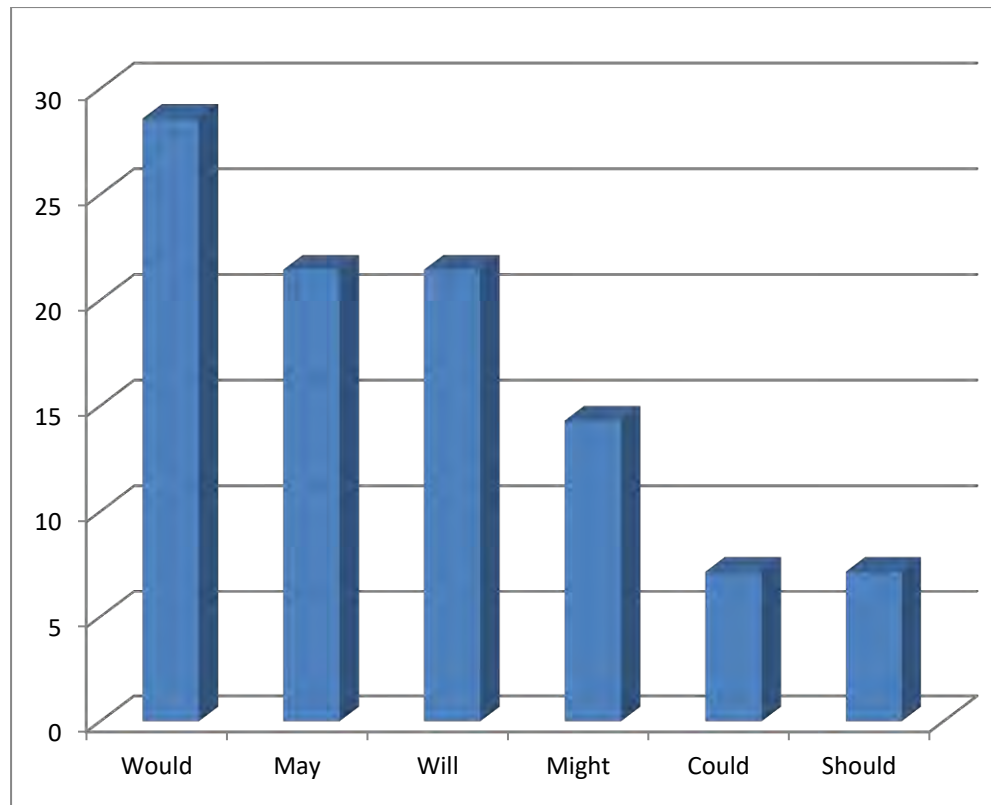
It is observed from this study that modal auxiliaries pick up meanings according to the contexts in which they are expressed, and they have communicative purposes they serve. This is in line with Kratzer's theory already cited in chapter 2 of this work. Table 5, therefore, presents a representative classification of these possible meanings, and does not claim to be exact in terms of meanings designated. Again, the number of appearances of meaning types indicated in the table 5 is only to indicate a rough estimate of the prevalence of that particular meaning type.

Table 5: Distribution of Meanings of Modal auxiliary Verbs in the two Speeches

Modal Aux. verb	Meaning		Percentage%
Would	Tentativeness	4	28.58
May	Certainty	3	21.43
Will	Tentativeness	2	14.28
	Certainty	1	7.14

Might	Certainty	2	14.28
Could	Tentativeness	1	7.14
Should	Certainty	1	7.14
Total		14	100.0

4.3. Modal Adjuncts

According to Crystal (2003:45), ''an adjunct, broadly defined, is an optional constituent of a construction.'' Modal adjuncts were used in the data mainly to express epistemic notions such as certainty, uncertainty and tentativeness.

Table 6 below presents the distribution of the modal adjuncts. There are two types of modal adjuncts identified in the data. One can identify simple lexical units like 'obviously', 'clearly,' and so on. There are also phrasal adjuncts such as 'of course', and so on.

Table 6: Classification and Distribution of Modal Adjuncts (adapted: Halliday& Matt., 2004)

Adjunct type	Meaning	Frequency	Percentage %
Adjuncts of modality	Certainty	7	7.14

	Tentativeness	-	-
Mood adjuncts	Uncertainty	2	2.04
	Intensity	25	25.51
Adjuncts of Temporality	Time	64	65.30
	Typicality	-	
Total		98	100.0

Modal adjuncts in the data fall into 3 groupings as indicated in Table 6. These are modality adjuncts, temporality adjuncts and mood adjuncts. It must be admitted that this is not a fine classification. Several categories could overlap. This classification is only for the purpose of this analysis .It must also be pointed out that the expressions containing comments adjuncts in the data was negligible while there was no instance of polarity that indicates epistemic modality, which the focus of this work.

Out of 98 total cases of modal adjuncts from table 7, there were 7 occurrences of certainty meaning through mood adjuncts while there are 2occurrences of the same category for the notion of uncertainty (refer to table 1). One of the observations from the data of table 7 is that there were 25 occurrences of adjuncts of intensity notion (a form of adjunct) in the data which is worthy attention because it has epistemic notions. Furthermore, adjuncts of temporality have 64 occurrences, bringing the ratio of total adjuncts on table 7 to be 2: 7: 25: 64 frequencies respectively.

Table 7: Comparative Analysis of Frequency Distribution of Epistemic Modality in the 2 Speeches

Modal Verbs & Elements	2001 Speech	2008 Speech	Total Occurrence
Would	Tentativeness 1	Tentativeness 3	4
May	--	Certainty 3	3
Will	Tentative 2 Certainty 1	-	1
Should	--	Certainty 1	1
Might	--	Certainty 2	3
Could	--	Tentative 1	1
Modal adjuncts	Certainty 2	Certainty 5	7
		Uncertainty 2	2
Temporality	Certainty 9	Certainty 55	64
Mood adjuncts	Certainty 4		
		Certainty 21	25
Total	17	93	111

Table 7 above shows comparative frequency occurrence of all the epistemic modal categories investigated in this study. Analysis of the data in the section ''B' below and the findings of the comparison of the frequency occurrence and their contextual meanings in the 2001 and the 2008 State of the Nation Addresses, as well as relevant data presented may reveal the frequency, meaning and communicative purposes of the epistemic modality of the two State of the Nation Addresses that this study seeks to investigate.

The table 8 below also shows percentage distributions of certainty, uncertainty and tentativeness as expressed by modal verbs and modal adjuncts in the two speeches investigated. It is analysed here to find out which year has the highest or lowest occurrence of the epistemic meanings under investigation. Conclusion will then be drawn from the analysis based on the theoretical framework guiding this study.

Percentage Distributions of Certainty, Uncertainty and Tentativeness in 2001 & 2008 Speeches.

Meaning	2001 Speech	2008 Speech	Percentage%
Certainty	15	88	79.28
Uncertainty	0	2	1. 80
Tentativeness	2	4	5.40
Total	17	111	100.0

SECTION B

4.3.1 Analysis of the Findings

The results of the data presented above are analyzed in terms of their meanings and communicative purposes in the selected speeches. The modal categories were analysed with regards to the expression of meanings of certainty, uncertainty and tentativeness. First, the sentences that contain the epistemic elements are all quoted or picked as excerpts from the State of the Nation Addresses. Then, with the aid of the theoretical

frameworks discussed in chapter 2, sentence structures with the epistemic modality are interpreted from their respective contexts.

Once the meanings are obtained, deduction and conclusions are drawn depending upon, for instance, the implications of frequency of occurrence of a category and the semantic implications of the use of those particular structures in the texts. This section also looks at the frequency distribution of the epistemic modality elements in the data.

4.3.2. The Expression of Certainty in the Selected Speeches

Certainty is said to be ''the expression of full commitment to a statement'' (De Haan, 2004:28). In short, certainty refers to an absence of doubt. This part of the study presents the analysis of certainty markers and other epistemic meanings as they are expressed by the two modal categories of modal verbs and modal adjuncts.

It should be noted, however, that in modality, certainty may not necessarily refers to 'absolute absence of doubt' which may suggest complete certainty, without a modal marker. Quite clearly, most of the modal elements employed in the State of the Nation Addresses expressed the notion of certainty with higher degree of frequency than other meanings. For example, from table 1, it is observed that the auxiliary verbs and the modal adjuncts are primarily used to express 'certainty' Out of the total of 23occurrences of the modal elements, more than half of them (i.e.14) express the sense of certainty. Moreover, from table 3, one can observe that the specific modal auxiliary verb such as **would** has the highest frequency of 4, followed by **may, will and might** with the ratio 3, 3 and 2 respectively. These modal verbs are mostly used to express certainty and tentativeness by the Ex-president.

The occurrence of other auxiliary verbs such as '**can**' and '**shall**' and '**must**' that were present in the speeches were mainly used to express deontic and dynamic modality notions, and so they are not analysed since they are not the focus of this work.

In table 3, one can observe that modal **could** occurrs once while modal **should** also occurred once respectively in expression of certainty. They, therefore, are negligible. Below are the discussions and illustrations of the epistemic modal elements in the expression of certainty

4.3.3. Expression of Certainty through Modal Verbs

There are 7 occurrences of modal auxiliary verbs, out of the total of 23, that express certainty as can be seen from table 1. Of course, in the data, modal adjuncts have the higher frequency of occurrence than the modal verbs. They have a total of 89 instances in the data. Some examples of the modal auxiliary verbs that express certainty in the speeches are presented for illustration:

1. Mr. Speaker, smaller dams are to be constructed on the Ankobra, Tano and Pra rivers, and negotiations are on-going with the contractors on the Bui project towards that end. I am confident that successful implementation of the policy **will** provide the country's energy requirement for Industrialization (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

2. Mr Speaker, under the Constitution of the Fourth Republic, it is to be noted that no office, appointive or elective, **may** be encumbered forever by any one person (SONA, 14-02- 2008**).**

3. Currently, government's policy is towards value-addition and is therefore welcoming both local and foreign investors into the sector. It **may** prove to be the long-awaited opportunity to transform and modernize the rural economy through mechanization (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**.

4. Still, within the limits of the law, political parties **may** run their campaign in any manner that they choose (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**.

5. Mr. Speaker, in future, the House **might** consider preparing a comprehensive budget of its needs for funding in the same way as the Judiciary does (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

6. I dare say they **might** do better, if they focused more on what they would do different, if they received the people's mandate (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

7. In offering this advice to the House, I am tempted to say it is because "I care for you". The reason **should** be obvious, because I was twice elected to the House (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

In excerpt 1, the Ex-president uses the modal **will** to express certainty with the reinforcing word 'confidence', by saying that successful implementation of the Bui project policy would ''provide the country's energy requirement…''It has just 1 occurrence in the data for expression of certainty, representing 7.14 percent in table 5. This expression shows that he was committed to the truth of the statement and was sure

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of his promises, plans and expectations. Conversely, the use of '**would**' in any of these contexts would have indicated that he was unsure or uncertain about the truth of his propositions.

Some scholars have even pointed out that meanings of modal verbs are, sometimes, reinforced by other modality elements such as modal adjectives and modal adverbs. This is commonly called 'modal harmonization' or 'modality harmonic' by Lyons (1977: 805).

This explains the way in which the modal auxiliary and another word both express nearly the same degree of modality in the clause. In an earlier work, Halliday (1976: 98) calls two harmonic forms as 'mutually reinforcing'. Some examples of modal items that reinforce **will** in conveying certainty meanings are listed as follows: 'confident', 'certainly', 'never', 'continue,' and so on.

When this happens, the speaker assumes a posture of certainty in the proposition he or she makes. It can be observed from the data that **will** combines with other modal items to reinforce the modality of 'certainty'. It must be pointed out that the certainty of a speaker of an assertion can also be identified contextually when one is able to identify the commitment of the speaker to the proposition. In sum, the modal **will** expresses the Ex-president's attitude toward the factuality of the situation (i.e. the fact that implementation of smaller dams policy could provide energy requirement for industrialization). He indicates the likelihood or certainty that smaller dams policy would be able to provide the country's energy requirement. Modal **will,** therefore, expresses notion of certainty.

In excerpt 2, the Ex-president reminded the Parliament that per the Constitution, no political office of any form, could be held forever by any one person. In this case, modal

may is used to express a level of certainty of such a situation. The use of **may,** therefore, leaves room for other possible situations. For example, there could be a case where a citizen is appointed as permanent representative to the United Nations or a constitutional amendment to that effect could be possible. Politicians use this strategy so that they are not found unreliable should a situation changes with time or context.

It is observed from the data that in most of the instances where modal **may** is used, it expresses certainty of the possibility of an action. Similarly, in the excerpt 3, the Ex-president shows some level of certainty of possibility about the fact that 'value-addition' could be the welcoming policy that could modernize and transform the economy.

May, in this context, indicates certainty of possibility of ''value-addition'' being able to ''transform and modernize the rural economy through mechanization.'' The use of expression, ''value addition...may prove to belong-awaited opportunity…''can be paraphrased as, ''It is possible the case that ''value addition'' could be a welcoming chance …''

In view of this, the Ex-president indicates that he was certain of the possibility of the situation described above. According to Palmer (1979), it is possible to indicate the concept of possibility using the modal verbs **may** and **might**. He illustrates this point with the following sentences:

    1. He may be hiding somewhere.

    2. He might be hiding somewhere.

He indicates that the main modal meaning conveyed by the modals in these two sentences is one of possibility even though each sentence is slightly different in

meaning. In his own words, "'might' is used exactly as 'may' is. It merely indicates a little less certainty about the possibility." (p.48).

In excerpt 4, The Ex-president can be paraphrased as saying, 'I am certainty that once political parties will function within the confines of the law, there is a possibility for them to manage their campaign in any way that they choose. This implies that modal **may** can be used to imply certainty of the potentiality (limited possibility) or authority to do something. It is observed that in the context of this excerpt 4, modal **may** is frequently the same as qualifying a statement with the word **perhaps.**

In excerpt 5, modal **might** is used to express a low level of certainty. **Might** is used as the past modal form of **may,** which expresses remote possibility. However, **might** is also used in its own right as a present tense modal (see Quirk & Greenbaum, 1993).

Coates and Leech (1980: 27) also posit that **might**, for instance, expresses epistemic 'possibility' not just as the past form of **may.**

In this excerpt, the Ex-president expresses the idea the he was certain of possibility in future that Parliament could consider preparing its budget of its needs for funding much the same way as judiciary did. He uses the modal **might** to indicate the idea of certainty of possibility of this process or action by Parliament.

In excerpt 6, the former president again expresses a low level of certainty when he uses **might** to express his opinion. He said that had the other political parties focused more on what they would do different, if the people voted for them, they could do better (but this never occurred anyway).This expression of this level certainty hinges on a condition which had not been fulfilled. Therefore, the implication of **might** in this context can also be described as unreal because the situation that could be possible was

conditional and had not, in fact, occurred. We use '**might**' to talk about situations which were not real, especially, when we have low certainty towards a proposition that does not come to reality because it first depends on a fulfillment of another condition. In short, modal **might** is used to express a unreal possibility in the past.

In example 7, The Ex-president opined that there should not be any doubt that he was very much concerned with the welfare of Parliament because he was ''twice elected to the House.'' In epistemic sense, **should** is used to make an assumption about what is probably true, if everything is as we expect.

The Ex-president, therefore, was not in doubt about the proposition and expected so from the House as he quoted the popular ''I care for you'' mantra to buttress his certainty of the proposition.

4.3.4. Expression of Certainty through Modal Adjuncts

Modal adjuncts include both mood and comment adjuncts (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004: 127). In this study, however, modal adjuncts of temporality, and intensity, which have epistemic notions are the types investigated. Comment adjuncts such as 'beyond doubt', 'no doubt', and 'undeniable fact', which are found in this study are negligible in the data. They are not analysed because they may not have any significant impart worth investigating. Certainty is expressed through modal adjuncts (modal adverbs), with frequency occurrences of 7 in the expression of certainty 2 cases of uncertainty, both together representing 39.13%, as can be seen from tables 1. The following are examples of modal adjuncts for illustration:

1. **Clearly,** the institutions that should have acted as watchdogs to confront the problems of inefficiency and corruption as they arose, failed catastrophically(SONA, 16-02- 2001)

2. It has taken us a long and sometimes tortuous route, but by this historic vote, we, as a nation have made that choice. We have tried other options and we have now stated **clearly** what we want. (SONA, 16-02- 2001)

3. Ghanaians are displaying a strong yearning to be the best or with the best in Africa, as was manifested **clearly** during the just-ended soccer Tournament (SONA, 14-02- 2008)

The word **clearly** as used in excerpts 1and 2 means 'without any doubt,' 'obviously' or 'with certainty'. In excerpt 1, the Ex-president expresses the fact that he has no doubt in his mind about institutional failure to prevent 'inefficiency' and 'corruption' in the system when they emerged, adding that such institutions had failed woefully. He uses ''catastrophically'' to indicate the abysmal level of failure by the mandated institutions. He uses **clearly**, to express his certainty of the glaring failure of the 'watchdog institutions' which should have fought against 'inefficiency and corruption as they arose' in the country. Excerpt 2 can also be paraphrased as 'undoubtedly, we have stated, through the peaceful democratic elections the form of government that we want' (i.e. democratic government)

In excerpt 3, the Ex-president expresses his evaluation of the way Ghanaians displayed their willingness to ''be the best or with the best in Africa'' through a soccer Tournament held a few days earlier. The Ex-president expresses the notion of certainty

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with the use of **clearly** (i.e. without doubt) his opinion that Ghanaians had always wanted to be of their best or with the best in Africa. Thus, to him, this was obvious, without doubt.

4.3.5. Expression of Uncertainty by Modal Adjuncts

An expression of uncertainty indicates that the speaker is not sure of his statement, and is not committed to its proposition. There were only 2 occurrences of uncertainty expressed through only modal adjuncts in the data. In the data, there is no occurrence of uncertainty through modal auxiliary verbs. The following are the examples of the 2 instances of occurrence for illustration

The uncertainty notion is expressed by modal adjuncts alone in the speeches. There was no occurrence of modal verb that expresses uncertainty in the data. There are only 2 cases of occurrences of modal adjuncts in that direction. Excerpts from the texts are presented below:

1. The financial sector, **perhaps** the most vibrant**,** continues to do well, with an influx of many new banks, both local and foreign (SONA, 14-02- 2008**).**

2. Mr. Speaker, I was aware at the time of a loan facility of USD 25 million waiting to be utilized. It was only later that I learnt that the loan had been diverted to an **apparently** more urgent purpose by those who secured it (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

In example 1, the statement can be paraphrased as 'the financial sector, (even though I am not quite sure), is the most active and continues to grow, especially, with the emergence of many new banks, both local and foreign. The adjunct **perhaps** is used in

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the statement to give an opinion, especially, as the Ex-president does not want to be too definite. This implies that, the he is not sure that the financial sector was really the most vibrant among all other sectors in the country. He, therefore, expresses some level of lack of confidence in the truth of the statement by using the modal adjunct, ''**perhaps**''.

His statement can also be paraphrased as ''it may be true or possible that the financial sector is the most vibrant…''He gave room for other possibilities, knowing too well that there could be a different sector that was rather 'vibrant.' In view of this, he used 'perhaps' to indicate something that might or might not be true. This shows an expression of uncertainty.

In the example 2, the Ex-president expressed his uncertainty with the word 'apparently', which is used to indicate that he had leant that a certain loan facility of USD 25 million had been diverted to a more urgent purpose. He expressed a notion of uncertainty because he was not completely sure about it.

4.3.6 Tentativeness and Modal Auxiliary Verbs

Tentative statements do not make direct, categorical ones. In order to express tentative statements, we use limiting words, modal verbs, and softening or hedging verbs. There were instances where the Ex-president was not straightforward in expressing some statements in the speeches examined. So, in such situations, he was tentative. Among the modality categories investigated, the modal auxiliary verbs were the only category used to express tentativeness with 7 cases out of the total of 23 occurrences as can be seen from table 1**.**

Would indicates the past tense form of **will** and past intentions**.** But it can be used to perform other epistemic functions such as tentativeness as can be observed from the selected speeches. This is what is analysed in the study, and not that of tense past intentions. An example of would expressing past intention of **will** in the study is as follows:

> I recall that in my very first Sessional Address, I made a promise that the House **would** be provided adequate resources for its work. SONA, 14-02-2008)

Modal auxiliary verbs **would** and **will** were the only modals used primarily to express tentativeness in this work as can also be seen from table 5.

Quirk & Greenbaum (2000) have said that the past forms such as **could** or modal **would** may be used to refer to present or future action as a more tentative or a more polite alternative to the present tense. The following are the examples of tentative expressions for illustrations:

1. Mr. Speaker, much as I **would** wish not to tread on the prerogatives of either the legislature or the judiciary, I am of the firm conviction that good governance can only be attained if the three arms of government cooperate in the national interest (SONA, 16-02- 2001**)**.

2. There are those who **will** want to disturb the peace but we shall not let them kill our dream (SONA, 16-02- 2001)

In example 1, the Ex-president would not want to be direct and categorical with his wish as he used a more polite modal verb **would** to express this 'desire'. It is also an

observation that the former president used tentativeness to indicate hypothetical notion. **Would** is used to express a tentative desire in polite requests, offers and invitations. In such uses, hypothetical **would** is often followed by such verbs as 'like', 'want', 'love' and 'prefer' (Quirk et al, 1985). In example 1, the word 'wish' can be replaced with 'want' or 'like', thus, ''… I would want / like not to tread on the prerogatives …'' In table 5,Modal **would** occurs 4 times, accounting for 28.58 per cent out of the total occurrences of modal verbs in the sample while there is only 1 modal **will** that expresses tentativeness.

Moreover, the Ex-president wanted to maintain rapport, unity and mutual respect among the three arms of government, he, therefore, said that he would not like to temper with the rights of the other arms of government and indirectly appealed for their mutual cooperation for good governance. In order to appear more formal, indirect and polite, modal **would** was used to express tentativeness in this instance.

In example 2, the Ex-president appears hesitant in suggesting that there were still some people who would want to (or could) bring trouble to the society. The expression, ''will want…'' clearly shows that the Ex-president was not direct but tentative in his stance.

4.3.7. Tentativeness and Politeness

1. Mr. Speaker, if I **may** now turn briefly to foreign relations; respect for our country shows in the number of international conferences attracted here in recent times (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

2. I **would** like to take this opportunity to commend government's main social partners – organized labour and employers, for displaying good faith in our relationship over the past seven years (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**.

3. Mr. Speaker, you **will** recall that in this very House, government announced a programme of five priorities, namely, the following; Vigorous infrastructural development; Modernized agriculture centred on rural development; Enhanced social services delivery, with special emphasis on education and health Good governance; Private Sector development (SONA, 14-02- 2008).

4. Additionally, the country's dependency on external donor support **would** be reduced, thereby strengthening the self-confidence of the nation and people (SONA, 14-02- 2008)

In example 1, the Ex-president appeared to be polite through his use of **may** as he respectfully and formally drew the attention of the House from local issues to ''foreign relations.'' This formal skill of diverting attention makes him appear not only tentative but also polite, sensitive and sure of communication skills worthy of emulation. Boicu (2007:8) has said 'in political discourse, politeness is strategically used to substantiate the general objective of legitimizing the political speaker'. It follows, therefore, that the Ex-president showed politeness through tentativeness expression in the nation's addresses in order to receive legitimacy and respect in return.

Examples 2, begins with the formal expression, ''I **would** like to take this opportunity to commend…'' instead of 'I commend…' and ''the country's dependency on external

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donor support would be reduced…'' instead of using categorical modal 'will' in such a statement. Moreover, most cultures in Ghana require politeness in dealing with certain issues and even personalities (see Sey, 1973). It is likely that this cultural requirement is a recipe for the Ex-president's use of the epistemic tentative modal **would** from that cultural background.

In fact, according to Quirk & Greenbaum (2000: 45), the past tense forms "could" and "would" may be used to refer to present or future action "as a more tentative or more polite alternative to the present tense''. Therefore, the likelihood here is that the Ex-president, taking cognizance of this cultural orientation of Ghanaians, though it is a mark of over-generalization, decided to use epistemic **would** as tentative mode in order to remain in good books of the audience. With this cultural orientation and the political context in mind, for example, straightforward grammatical expressions with the use of **will** appears to be overlooked or disregarded for political and cultural reasons.

The example 3 the tentative contextual use of **will** can be paraphrased as 'Mr. Speaker, I am sure you **may remember** that in this very House, government announced a programme of five priorities…'' The Ex-president implores the Speaker of Parliament to remember statement with the use of modal 'will' tentatively to depict the formal occasion. He reckons that he was appealing to the speaker to recall a statement to buttress his (the latter's) point, so, he uses **will** to appear uncategorical and less coercive.

There were situations in which **may** is also used in the speeches but is not used to express modal notion but a desire or valedictory statement. The following illustrations

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show a relationship between 'tentativeness' explained above and 'politeness' in the expression of desire, want or wish:

1. Mr. Speaker, we have an exciting time ahead of us. I urge all well-meaning Ghanaians to join us in moving towards the realization of our common dream of peace, progress and prosperity. It is within our grasp. **May** God help us all. Thank you (SONA, 16-02- 2001)

2. Mr. Speaker, I thank you and the House for receiving me. **May** God bless you**.** (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

In both examples 1 and 2 above, **may** is used as the formal expression of wish, desire, or a valediction, and does not express epistemic notion. It is a personal farewell after delivering a speech by the Ex-president to Parliament. This has been virtually a ritual after each delivery of sessional address in Parliament. It is an act of departing politely. Here, ''may'' is used as a subjunctive verb, and not as a modal auxiliary. There is no permission being asked. This, however, does not fall within the scope of the study.

4.4. Temporality

Temporality has the highest frequency in the data, recording 64 occurrences in the data as can be seen in table 7. According to Halliday & Matthiessen (2004:127), ''Adjuncts of temporality relate either to the time itself, which may be near or remote, past or future, relative to the speaker now. It also relates to an expectation, positive or negative, with regard to the time at issue.''

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Again, according to Klein (1994), ''there are many ways in which temporality is encoded in natural language, notably, through the grammatical categories: tense and aspect; temporal adverbials of various types; special particles; and its complements; complex verb clusters, such as 'to begin to sleep', and so on''.

The specificity or definiteness of time, has given rise to the interpretation of certainty notion since there is a commitment to the eventuality described in the sentence. The following are examples temporal expressions for illustration:

1. We will rehabilitate their barracks which have been neglected over a long period of time. Work on this project will start this **year** (SONA, 16-02- 2001).

2. **In the next few months,** Government will establish modalities for the determination of a smooth transition from the "Cash and Carry" system to an alternative Health Insurance Scheme. We have serious problems with our human resources in the health sector (SONA, 16-02- 2001)

3. Mr. Speaker, the House will be happy to learn that new FIFA rankings were released **just yesterday**, with Ghana ranked first in Africa and 14th in the world (SONA, 14-02- 2008).

4. This is the **first time ever** that Ghana has been ranked this high in the FIFA listings (SONA, 14-02- 2008).

5. Mr. Speaker, Ghana is making great strides towards a more inclusive society. **Last year**, government appointed the first female Chief Justice in the nation's

history. We should be proud that the male stranglehold on the headship of the Judiciary has at long last been broken. (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**.

6. Mr. Speaker, the progress recorded in the **past 7 years** has proved beyond doubt that the decision "to go HIPC" was a master stroke (SONA, 14-02-2008).

7. Ghana is **now** solvent and the economy is strong and resilient (SONA, 14-02-2008).

8. Mr. Speaker, the House will be happy to learn that new FIFA rankings were released **just yesterday**, with Ghana ranked first in Africa and 14th in the world (SONA, 14-02- 2008).

9. This is the **first time ever** that Ghana has been ranked this high in the FIFA listings (SONA, 14-02- 2008).

10. Mr Speaker, Ghana is making great strides towards a more inclusive society. **Last year**, government appointed the first female Chief Justice in the nation's history. We should be proud that the male stranglehold on the headship of the Judiciary has at long last been broken. (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**.

In example 1, the Ex-president expressed his certainty of the rehabilitation of barracks within a future projection (next few months). Indeed, expression of futurity meaning is

considered as a temporal unit and an aspect of modality. In this case, the epistemic notion here is that the Ex-president shows definiteness or specificity of time for the project (i.e. 'this year'). Such definiteness of time, has given rise to the interpretation of certainty.

The example 2 also expresses futurity about when plans would be put in place to replace the 'cash and carry' health system with National Health Scheme. This observation is rightly so in the sense that 'Expression of futurity meaning is considered as a temporal unit. In example 3, 4 and 5, the Ex-president expressed the same past actions that happened within specific time frames. The use of the past of narration seems to signal the degree of commitment of the speaker to the proposition of a statement.

It is obvious from the fore-going account that adjuncts of temporality were used by Ex-president to indicate time past, present or future schedules for projections and plans for execution. They were also used to express positive expectation with regard to the time frames stated.

4.5. Semantics of Intensity of Mood Adjuncts

According to Halliday & Matthiessen (2004: 126), adjuncts can be interpreted as ''being objective and represent different types of assessment of the proposition or proposal" Modal adjuncts form part of the mood block and are related to the meaning expressed by the mood system such as modality, temporality and intensity.

Halliday & Matthiessen (2004) add that there are two classes of intensity degree, which may be total such as **totally, utterly** or high such as **quite, almost.** Then there is also or low such as **scarcely**, **hardly** and so on. We also have intensity counter-expectancy,

which may be either exceeding like **even**, **actually** or limiting such as **just, simply,** and so on. In this study, however, the name of intensity is maintained for both sub-types for intensity expression. There were 25 occurrences of intensity of mood adjuncts as can be seen from table 7. Examples of such adverbials are 'clearly', 'even', 'absolutely,' always, 'indeed', 'only' and so on. Some of the adjuncts mostly used in the study are those that indicate degree. They were used to show level of commitment of the Ex-president to propositions he made.

Capone (2001: 29–32) refers to an expression like, ''I am **absolutely** convinced', to show that speakers use a word 'absolutely' to reiterate commitment or to answer a challenge to an assertion''

Based on this claim, one can conclude that the Ex-president showed his commitment to his statements when he resorted to the use of adjuncts of intensity to emphasize his propositions. The following are examples of adjuncts expressing intensity notion from the selected speeches for illustration.

1. Guinea worm infestations which declined **substantially** have in the past four years become a major health problem and indeed today, Ghana is number one on the list of affected countries. We are taking measures to fully eradicate it by the middle of next year (SONA, 16-02- 2001)

2. The expectations of our people are very high, and **justifiably** so. (SONA, 16-02- 2001)

3. The economy was also entrapped by **incredibly** high levels of inflation of over 40% and interest rates of over 50% (SONA, 14-02- 2008).

4. **Indeed,** our ultimate objective is that Ghana becomes a leading Agro-based industrial country in Africa by the year 2010.

   The Electoral Commission has received international commendation over the years for its neutrality and professionalism. **Indeed,** it is much sought after in other countries to provide technical assistance. The Commission can perform better still, with constructive criticism (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

There is a predominant use of intensity markers that implicitly indicate the ex-president's performance in lofty terms. It was obvious that the epistemic modal adjuncts were strategically used to positively project the Ex-president before the electorate with the use of adjuncts of total intensity degree or 'emphasizers' while at the same time, highlight the supposed inefficiencies and incompetence of the opposition parties especially, the immediate government.

Indeed, one of the semantic functions of those adjuncts was to emphasize propositions or state of affairs. For example, an adjunct such as **indeed** is used to emphasize a point in the speech. Expressions of intensity play a very important role in the political discourse and cultures of Ghana especially, in Akan in particular. It is not surprising therefore that adjuncts of intensity should be dominant in the data. Perhaps, a form of transference may be at work here. For instance, Akan speakers frequently use such interjectors of intensity adjuncts as 'paa', 'pii', 'saa. This situation is analysed in line with Context dependency perspective by Kratzer (1991) that has been explained in Chapter Two of this work as one of the frameworks employed here. The context clearly necessitated the choice of the kind of adjuncts used.

Therefore, this behaviour seems to be replicated in the speeches examined. The use of intensity adjuncts can be appreciated in two ways. In one way, it can be said that the intensity adjuncts tend to be employed by the ex-president to fill the stylistic gap in the political discourse. In another way, it could be that such adjuncts of intensity, as it has been pointed earlier in this Chapter, were used to implicitly mark the ex-president's performance in 'lofty or superlative' terms while assigning same in its negative sense in a subtle comparison of performance between his government and his predecessors

In excerpt 1, the Ex-president wanted like the world to hear that his efforts and programmes had yielded positive result in reducing significantly the guinea worm infestations. He used the intensive word '**substantially**, to express it in that lofty term, showing his commitment to the level of reduction of the guinea worms infestation.

In excerpt 2, the Ex-president, shows his commitment to the fact that Ghanaians were justified with their high expectation, especially, after years of hardships. He used the word ''justifiably'' because he shows his personal commitment and endorsement of people's expectations of the government.

In excerpt 3, he heightens the description of Ghana's level of inflation as '**incredible**' while describing the subscription of Ghana bond cited in example 3 as the **first ever** on international market. He shows his commitment, as in the other excerpts cited, to the propositions of the excerpts.

In excerpt 4, the Ex-president used '**indeed**' to indicate the depth or extent to which the government was committed to the objective of making the country become 'Agro-based

one in Africa. This same notion runs through excerpt 6 as the adjunct **indeed** is used to express the extent to which the Electoral Commission was held in high esteem and the fact that it was ''much sought after in other countries to provide technical assistance.''

It can be summed up that the Ex-president used modal adjuncts of degree, showing 'total' or 'high' levels such as those of lofty descriptions about his programmes whilst he used limiting adjuncts and exceeding ones (when one compares 'substantially' in excerpt 1 and 'incredible 'as used in excerpt 3) to describe the seeming abysmal performance of his political opponents in the areas of 'inflation' and 'interest rates.'

4.6. Comparative Analysis of Frequency Occurrence of Epistemic Modal Category

Table 8 presents the frequency distribution of the modal categories as they occurred between 2001 and 2008. It can be observed from the table 8 that there was a predominant expression of certainty through modal verbs and modal adjuncts in 2008, representing 88 as against 15 occurring in 2001, both of them sum up to 103 representing79. 28 percent.

From the same table 8, there are 2 uncertainty instances in 2008 but there was no occurrence of the same in 2001.

Furthermore, there are 8 occurrences of tentativeness. From table 8 again 2 of the tentativeness occurred in 2001 whilst 4 occurred in 2008 respectively. Clearly, one can say that tentative notion is not the preferable type expressed in the study, and, therefore, quite negligible

From the data, one can observe that the Ex-president used more epistemic modality with expression of certainty since that happens to be the highest or predominant between the two years. Again, modal adjuncts were used more in expressing certainty than the rest of the elements of modal verbs, recording as high as 18 in 2001 and as low as 7 in 2008 respectively. Moreover, comparatively, expression of uncertainty recorded the lowest occurrence with total of 2 between the two years as can be seen from table 8.

Furthewrmore, the Ex-president used more of modal adjuncts to express certainty in 2008 than 2001, with the instances of 29 and 73 adjuncts respectively. This confirms the fact that the former president largely avoided being seen as unsure person, as time went by, at least, as shown with the wide difference of 45 between the two years. He rather appears sure, reliable and factual person. In expressing certainty, he used more direct expressions of commitment through modal adjuncts rather than modal auxiliary verbs which could make him appear rather hedgy.

However, one can conclude that he was more certain, sure and confident in his address in 2008 than he was in 2001 because the expressions of certainty are predominant in that year than that of 2001. It is likely he resorted to this strategy because he appears to have glaring records of performance upon which he exuded such confidence in 2008, after eight years of his tenure of office. He, however, expressed more certainty as time went by as can be seen from 2008 data in table 8.

In 2001, he was a bit hesitant in expressing certainty because there were not enough inferences from known premises (records of performance, for instance) in the speech.

He had just assumed office but there was no physical evidence of performance or enough information upon which to express enough confidence and commitment. It was, therefore, observed that he rather expressed more of intentions, ability, willingness and promises in 2001, which are outside the scope of this study.

The deductions made in this chapter are used to come by the findings and recommendations that are fully discussed in the chapter that follows. The total aggregate of the analysis however shows that he was more certain of his statements as both the auxiliary verbs and the adjuncts were mainly used to express notion of certainty.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDING, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0. Introductions

This study sought to analyze the use of epistemic modality in two selected State of the Nation Addresses delivered on 16th February, 2001 and 14th February, 2008 by Ex-president John Agyekum Kufour of Ghana.

The epistemic modal elements were analyzed in the light of their frequency distribution, meanings as expressed in the speeches and their communication purposes. Indeed, there are other meanings that modal elements can express but which are not treated in this thesis because of its focus and scope.

5.1. Summary of Findings

It was realized that the epistemic modal elements studied in the texts expressed specific meanings. The key points of the findings are outlined below:

   a. coding epistemic modality

   b. certainty

   c. uncertainty

   d. tentativeness

5.2. Coding Epistemic Modality

The analysis identified how epistemic modality is coded. According to the study, epistemic modality concerns the speaker's commitment to the truth of his statements or his assessment of its probability. When someone wants to say something about a particular state of affairs, the person expresses certainty, belief or doubt about its actual occurrence - in the past, present or in the future.

As Wright (1952: 63) observes, ''the problem is not whether the statement concerning a particular state of affairs and the state of affairs in the real world tally, but how the relation between the two is construed by the speaker''

It was observed from the study that the Ex-president used language items such as modal auxiliary verbs and modal adjuncts to express epistemic modality. It should, however, be pointed out that there were other possible elements like modal nouns, catenative verbs, and so on, that could have been investigated for their epistemic modality qualities but they were not the focus of this work.

Moreover, the fact that the use of certain modal verbs is more frequent than others substantiates the point that modal auxiliary verbs are contextually deployed to achieve specific communicative intents and purposes in different registers. Hence, one can maintain that the preponderance or otherwise of specific modals in the two speeches examined is neither borne out of coincidence nor randomization, but by the specific objective(s) of the State of the Nation Address, and the political genre itself. To this end, the researcher posits that the use of modal auxiliary verbs can be conditioned by the nature and type of discourse – in this study, political discourse (see Kratzer, 1991)

5.2.1. Certainty

Certainty is said to be a speaker's expression of full commitment to a statement (see De Haan, 2004). In this work, certainty notion shows that the speaker was sure and convinced of his proposition. It was found out that most of the epistemic categories more especially the modal adjuncts, expressed certainty but the distribution was not uniform. Certainty was also frequently expressed by the modal verbs, particularly, modal verbs **may** and **might** which out-number the rest of the modal verbs in the data.

Another interesting observation was that there were more expressions of certainty during the 2008 State of the Nation Address than the first one delivered by the Ex-president. It is likely that he expressed more of certainty to portray that he was a confident leader who was sure of his information about the economy and hopeful of development of the country. More importantly, as an election year, he wanted to win the electorate to his side by proving that he was on top of issues.

Additionally, it is observed, that the selection of a particular modal element in a particular context is, to a large extent, influenced by the interplay of the speaker and the participants involved. Therefore, an epistemic modal element used in a different linguistic environment may have a different contextual meaning from another.

5.2.2. Uncertainty

An expression of uncertainty indicates that the speaker is unsure of the truth of his statement. There were low expressions of uncertainty by the epistemic modal elements recording just 2 instances each except modal verbs that recorded 2 instances in table 8. The minimal occurrence of expression of uncertainty shows that the Ex-president was stable, reliable and confident as a leader.

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Obviously, the lower expressions of uncertainty during the last State of the Nation, which ends the tenure of office of the Ex-president, shows that he was sure he had performed well and was bold to make categorical statements. It could be that because he confident that the electorate was aware that his personal tenure of office was ending on a good note, there was no need to be uncertainty since his government would surely be returned to power.

5.2.3. Tentativeness

Tentativeness is the expression where the speaker is not straightforward or direct. The study exhibited some occurrences of expression of tentativeness with the use of modal verbs alone. All the categories recorded any instance of tentativeness. Obviously, the Ex-president intentionally appeared tentative to exhibit formality and politeness in his speeches to parliament through his use of some modal verbs and modal adjuncts, notably, the use of modal 'would' as he, for example, occasionally address the speaker when he wanted to draw attention to an issue.

Again, this tentativeness made the ex-president appeared not only polite but also sensitive to communication skills worthy of emulation. The ex-president showed tentativeness out of formality and mutual respect in nation's addresses in order to receive legitimacy and respect.

5.2.4. Concluding Remarks

The study has made it apparent that the expression of certainty is predominant. The data also indicates that the Ex-president has a greater tendency to use more modal adjuncts followed by the other modal auxiliary verb categories in expressing certainty in the

selected State of the Nation Addresses during his State of the Nation Addresses. One question that arises is, why the Ex-president had a greater tendency to express more certainty in his State of the Nation Addresses. The answer is that Ex-president was fully sure and convinced of the information on the nation's development and future programmes captured in the addresses. Thus, he appeared confident, trust-worthy and knowledgeable leader.

Furthermore, this research has revealed that the use of epistemic modality in the State of the Nation Addresses is neither haphazard nor coincidental. Instead, it is informed by reason of a specific communicative intent.

This work focused on epistemic modality, a sub-type of modality. Other classifications are merely mentioned without detailed treatment. These classifications include deontic modality, dynamic modality, alethic modality, evidential modality and bouletic modality. These are related areas one may want to research into in future. That is, one may focus on any of the rest of modality sub-types and explore how they are used in political discourse and which grammatical elements encode these semantico – pragmatic categories.

Finally, an observation is that, because the president and his speech writers are aware what they write represent the image of the country and personality of the president, they are likely to be more careful with their use of language. The State of the Nation addresses, therefore, were noted to have been carefully edited.

5.2.5. Recommendations

Based on the finding of this study, the following recommendations are made:

i.   The scope of the data for this thesis can be expanded to include, for instance, Inaugural speeches, Independence Day Speeches, Founder's Day Speeches and so on, in order to be able to study epistemic modality more broadly. This exploratory dissertation has concentrated on State of the Nation Addresses by the ex-president but there could be more firmer and informative work if political speeches of the president in government as well as political manifestoes are also investigated through epistemic modality. This way, a more objective trend can be established

ii.   Furthermore, this research has been concerned solely with the text of the presentation, but a study that takes into consideration extra-linguistic multimodal features could lead to new revelations. For instance, prosodic or para-linguistic features of language may speak volumes of a speaker's judgment, opinion and evaluation.

iii.   In most cases, the modality used in different political platforms by politicians, vary markedly. In fact, to paraphrase Jantuah, political leaders use more assertives during their inaugural speeches (Jantuah, 2000). This makes a comparative study of the epistemic modality in different contexts a promising one. It will unveil the realities in terms of language used in the two worlds.

Public speakers and politicians should take the epistemic markers into consideration when writing the State of the nation Address or any other texts in order to clarify shared opinion. It is also recommended that public speakers should be cautious to indicate their information source and how they obtain them. This will help maintain their credibility.

iv.   The Faculty of Language of the University of Education of Winneba should consider the concept of epistemic modality as course of study in all various Language Departments including Department of Communication Skills. This is to improve documentations such that issues relating to epistemic modality, which should be ready or available for studies.

v.   The semantic and pragmatic roles of epistemic modality in language classroom should be taken seriously especially, in basic and secondary levels of education.

vi.   It is also recommended that politicians, spokespersons and speech writers should be cautious to indicate their information source and how they obtain them. This helps maintain political credibility, which is the dominant index of the electorate's quest for people who are knowledgeable of the real condition and problems prevailing in the country and their solutions.

5.2.6. Suggestions for Further Studies

This study, being the first work of its kind in epistemic modality in political discourse in the Language Faculty in general and the Department of English in particular, future researchers should explore other means of coding epistemic modality in language use. They should also investigate the areas of epistemic modality used in different Ghanaian Languages to code epistemic modality in everyday communication. This could be comparative analysis of a Ghanaian Language and English Language or analysis of the concept of epistemic modality in two different Ghanaian languages.

A research work could also be conducted on how children express epistemic modality in their speeches and how epistemic modality can help them to express themselves effectively and enrich their language.

Furthermore, similar studies can, for instance, be conducted on the speeches of other political leaders in Ghana in order to ascertain the extent to which the findings of the present study can be generalized. Second, other studies could adopt a more detailed comparative approach to examine the political speeches of other Ghanaian political leaders in a bid to establish whether or not the use of epistemic modality in Ghanaian State of the Nation Addresses is conditioned by leadership-specific tendencies.

Moreover, it should be possible for future studies to compare Ghanaian sessional addresses with non- Ghanaian ones. Finally, the present study examined two selected State of the Nation Addresses from a specific perspective.

Finally, would be useful to investigate the general type of modal (for example, epistemic, deontic and dynamic at a stretch) that is prevalent in political discourse and the possible reason(s) behind such prevalence.

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APPENDICES

SAMPLE DATA OF STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT J. A. KUFUOR AT PARLIAMENT ON 16THFEBRUARY, 2001.

1. **Clearly**, the institutions that should have acted as watchdogs to confront the problems of inefficiency and corruption as they arose, failed catastrophically(SONA, 16-02- 2001)

2. Guinea worm infestations which declined **substantially** have in the past four years become a major health problem and indeed today, Ghana is number one on the list of affected countries. We are taking measures to fully eradicate it by the middle of next year (SONA, 16-02- 2001)

3. The expectations of our people are very high, and **justifiably** so. (SONA, 16-02- 2001)

4. Mr. Speaker, much as I **would** wish not to tread on the prerogatives of either the legislature or the judiciary, I am of the firm conviction that good governance can only be attained if the three arms of government cooperate in the national interest (SONA, 16-02- 2001**)**

5. **In the next few months,** Government will establish modalities for the determination of a smooth transition from the "Cash and Carry" system to an alternative Health Insurance Scheme. We have serious problems with our human resources in the health sector (SONA, 16-02- 2001)

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6. With your cooperation, that task is **now** substantially complete (SONA, 16-02-2001).

7. **From now on**, people will no longer need to produce membership cards in this or that political Party in order to enjoy the benefits of public policy (SONA, 16-02- 2001).

8. Details of the thrust of this policy plan as well as specific details of our policies will be spelt out **shortly** (SONA, 16-02- 2001).

9. There is **still** a predominance of infectious diseases. Malaria, diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections, tuberculosis and increasingly now, HIV/AIDS are the leading causes of morbidity and mortality nationwide (SONA, 16-02- 2001)

10. **Already**, the fact of having voted out one government and voted in another has so empowered many people they will note asily allow any adventurer to rob them of their elected government (SONA, 16-02- 2001)

11. This is the **first time ever** that Ghana has been ranked this high in the FIFA listings. (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**.

SAMPLE DATA OF STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT J. A. KUFUOR AT PARLIAMENT ON 14THFEBRUARY, 2008.

1. Mr. Speaker, smaller dams are to be constructed on the Ankobra, Tano and Pra rivers, and negotiations are on-going with the contractors on the Bui project towards that end. I am confident that successful implementation of the policy **will** provide the country's energy requirement for Industrialization (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

2. I **would** like to take this opportunity to commend government's main social partners – organized labour and employers, for displaying good faith in our relationship over the past seven years (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**.

3. With proper management of the find, the country should be free from the inadequate liquidity which has been a major constraint to effective discharge of development programmes. Additionally, the country's dependency on external donor support **would** be reduced, thereby strengthening the self-confidence of the nation and people (SONA, 14-02- 2008)

4. Mr Speaker, in canvassing for any elective office, political parties have the machinery for marketing their favorite candidates for a choice to be made by the electorate. But it is increasingly becoming evident that some prefer the marketing strategy of presenting their opponents in the worst possible light. I dare say they **might** do better, if they focused more on what they would do different, if they received the people's mandate SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**.

5. In offering this advice to the House, I am tempted to say it is because "I care for you". The reason **should** be obvious, because I was twice elected to the House (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

6. Polling Agents have acquired experience from each round of elections, and with training **could** get better still (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

7. Currently, government's policy is towards value-addition and is therefore welcoming both local and foreign investors into the sector. It **may** prove to be the long-awaited opportunity to transform and modernize the rural economy through mechanization (SONA, 14-02- 2008**).**

8. Mr. Speaker, if I **may** now turn briefly to foreign relations, respect for our country shows in the number of international conferences attracted here in recent times (SONA, 14-02- 2008**).**

9. Mr Speaker, under the Constitution of the Fourth Republic, it is to be noted that no office, appointive or elective, **may** be encumbered forever by any one person (SONA, 14-02- 2008**).**

10. Still, within the limits of the law, political parties **may** run their campaign in any manner that they choose (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

11. Mr. Speaker, in future, the House **might** consider preparing a comprehensive budget of its needs for funding in the same way as the Judiciary does (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

12. The financial sector, **perhaps** the most vibrant**,** continues to do well, with an influx of many new banks, both local and foreign (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**.

13. **Clearly,** the institutions that should have acted as watchdogs to confront the problems of inefficiency and corruption as they arose, failed catastrophically.

14. Mr. Speaker, I was aware at the time of a loan facility of USD 25 million waiting to be utilized. It was only later that I learnt that the loan had been diverted to an **apparently** more urgent purpose by those who secured it (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

15. Ghanaians are displaying a strong yearning to be the best or with the best in Africa , as was manifested **clearly** during the just-ended soccer Tournament (SONA, 14-02- 2008).

16. Mr. Speaker, the progress recorded in the **past 7 years** has proved beyond doubt that the decision "to go HIPC" was a master stroke (SONA, 14-02- 2008).

17. Ghana is **now** solvent and the economy is strong and resilient (SONA, 14-02- 2008).

18. Mr. Speaker, the House will be happy to learn that new FIFA rankings were released **just yesterday**, with Ghana ranked first in Africa and 14th in the world (SONA, 14-02- 2008).

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19. This is the **first time ever** that Ghana has been ranked this high in the FIFA listings (SONA, 14-02- 2008).

20. Mr. Speaker, **after years** of neglect, the railway sector is **at long last** receiving attention (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**. **So far**, more than 3,000 tractors have been sold to farmers at highly subsidized rates. Small scale irrigation projects are also being promoted, especially in the northern parts of the country (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**.

21. Through various interventions including the supply of improved planting materials, extension services and micro-credits to farmers, significant results have been recorded. Food has been available **around the year** at affordable prices (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**.

22. The cocoa sector in particular registered the highest ever production level of over 740,000 tonnes during the 2005/2006 crop year. The target is to attain a million tons in the **next couple of years**(SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

23. The cocoa sector in particular registered the highest ever production level of over 740,000 tonnes during the 2005/2006 **crop year** (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

24. **Currently**, government's policy is towards value-addition and is therefore welcoming both local and foreign investors into the sector. (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

25. Mr. Speaker, **in the past**, the public sector tended to stand aloof from the private sector**.** Government is reforming it to be very professional and very supportive of the private sector (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**.

26. Mr. Speaker, Ghana prides herself as a beacon of good governance. But as self assessment is **ever** so suspect, we should be happy with the African Peer Review Mechanism which provides external monitoring (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**.

27. **Last year** saw the public hearings of the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament for the **first time**. Some of the revelations were mindboggling (SONA, 14-02-2008**)**.

28. Compared to the UN ratio of Police to citizen at 1:500, Ghana **currently** reports a ratio of 1:994. While beefing up the numbers is receiving attention, resources lately provided to the police include vehicles, communication equipments, ammunition and uniforms. (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**.

29. Mr Speaker, **in the past,** communities could form volunteer units for community protection. It is an idea worth revisiting. This, however, is no recommendation for instant justice which must be condemned in no uncertain terms. (SONA, 14-02-2008**)**.

30. Mr Speaker, Ghana is making great strides towards a moreinclusive society. Last year, government appointed the first female Chief Justice in the nation's history.

We should be proud that the male stranglehold on the headship of the Judiciary has **at long last** been broken. (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**.

31. There is representation also in all branches of the security services. Both Parliament and the Executive also have their share of gender mix, though balance **is yet to** be achieved. Mr Speaker, it is for paying prompt attention to such under-representation that the Ministry of Women and Children has been established. The Ministry is doing a good job already. (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**.

32. Mr Speaker, it is for paying prompt attention to such under-representation that the Ministry of Women and Children has been established. The Ministry is doing a good job **already**. (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**.

33. Mr. Speaker, in coming to the end of this address, I should remind the House that there is **still** a long list of unfinished business (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

34. Mr. Speaker, in coming to the end of this address, I should remind the House that there is **still** a long list of unfinished business (SONA, 14-02- 2008).

35. But I do not want to begin a culture where a long catalogue of things **yet** to be done becomes the basis for an extended term (SONA, 14-02- 2008)..

36. Through this august House, Mr Speaker, I want to thank all our compatriots for the opportunity given me to serve as the country's President **for two terms** (SONA, 14-02- 2008)**.**

37. **At the moment** over 9,000,000 individuals, representing 48% of the population, are full members of the scheme (SONA, 14-02- 2008).

38. **At this rate**, it is envisaged that in the five years, all Ghanaians should be covered (SONA, 14-02- 2008).

39. **Late last year**, when the European Union and Africa engaged each other to devise strategies for mutual survival in the global market (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**.

40. Mr. Speaker, **in future**, the House might consider preparing a comprehensive budget of its needs for funding in the same way as the Judiciary does (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

41. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of Ghana 2008, the country **now** has four state of the art stadiums in four regions. It should be possible over time for each region to have one of its own (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

42. **Last year** saw the public hearings of the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament for the first time (SONA, 14-02- 2008)

43. Ever **so often**, as regulated by law, holders of elective office, as President or Member of Parliament, must seek fresh mandate by submitting to election (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

44. **Still,** within the limits of the law, political parties may run their campaign in any manner that they choose (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

45. So, what I say today should not be thought of as an attempt at belittling what others did. Rather, it should be appreciated as a report of my government's performance **over the past seven to eight years** in office, to improve the conditions of our people. (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

46. Mr Speaker, the electoral arrangements **currently** in place have been put to test four times (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

47. Mr Speaker, the electoral arrangements currently in place have been put to test four times **already** since 1992, with outcomes that have been endorsed as reflecting the true wishes of the people. (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

48. Staff at the Commission includes some who have also been at post since 1993. The Commission has received international commendation **over the years** for its neutrality and professionalism (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

49. I have directed the Ministers for Finance, and Manpower, Youth and Employment to ensure that funding for this programme is streamlined and sustained, to ensure **regular** and timely payment of allowances (SONA, 14-02- 2008)

50. Mr. Speaker, the House will be happy to learn that new FIFA rankings were released **just yesterday**, with Ghana ranked first in Africa and 14th in the world (SONA, 14-02- 2008).

51. This is the **first time ever** that Ghana has been ranked this high in the FIFA listings (SONA, 14-02- 2008).

52. Ever **so often**, as regulated by law, holders of elective office, as President or Member of Parliament, must seek fresh mandate by submitting to election (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

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59. Mr. Speaker, the House will be happy to learn that new FIFA rankings were released **just yesterday**, with Ghana ranked first in Africa and 14th in the world (SONA, 14-02- 2008).

60. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of Ghana 2008, the country now has four state of the art stadiums in four regions. It **should** be possible over time for each region to have one of its own (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

61. Ever**so often**, as regulated by law, holders of elective office, as President or Member of Parliament, must seek fresh mandate by submitting to election (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

62. **Still,** within the limits of the law, political parties may run their campaign in any manner that they choose (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

63. So, what I say today should not be thought of as an attempt at belittling what others did. Rather, it should be appreciated as a report of my government's performance **over the past seven to eight years** in office, to improve the conditions of our people. (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

64. Mr Speaker, the electoral arrangements **currently** in place have been put to test four times (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

65. Mr Speaker, the electoral arrangements currently in place have been put to test four times **already** since 1992, with outcomes that have been endorsed as reflecting the true wishes of the people. (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

66. Staff at the Commission includes some who have also been at post since 1993. The Commission has received international commendation **over the years** for its neutrality and professionalism (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

67. I have directed the Ministers for Finance, and Manpower, Youth and Employment to ensure that funding for this programme is streamlined and sustained, to ensure **regular** and timely payment of allowances (SONA, 14-02- 2008)

68. Mr. Speaker, the House will be happy to learn that new FIFA rankings were released **just yesterday**, with Ghana ranked first in Africa and 14th in the world (SONA, 14-02- 2008).

69. This is the **first time ever** that Ghana has been ranked this high in the FIFA listings (SONA, 14-02- 2008).

70. In the period since 2001, government has focused on providing the platform for accelerated growth. I believe that this has been **largely** achieved through macro-economic stability (SONA, 14-02- 2008).

71. Mr. Speaker, the difference is that specifications of the major trunk and arterial roads are much improved, with an **expected** time span of 20 years. (SONA, 14-02- 2008).

72. The greatest litmus tests of this includes the successful and spectacular issuance of a Euro-bond on the London Stock Exchange to raise USD750 million for infrastructural development. This bond was over-subscribed by over USD3billion, and this was Ghana's first attempt **ever** on the market (SONA, 14-02- 2008)

73. Mr. Speaker, Ghana prides herself as a beacon of good governance. But as self assessment is **ever** so suspect, we should be happy with the African Peer Review Mechanism which provides external monitoring (SONA, 14-02- 2008)

74. Sadly, there are still conflicts and tensions that do not make anybody happy. But no effort is being spared by the AU to provide remedies. Relations with our immediate neighbours were **never** better. (SONA, 14-02- 2008**).**

75. **Indeed**, Parliament is where I cut my political teeth some forty years ago (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)..**

76. **Of course**, my home is not going to be available to the next President. On the other hand, the Castle, a former slave post, is so unsuitable for residence that it should surprise no one that none of our Prime Ministers and Presidents of the past chose to live there full time. (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

77. Further evidence of the consistent progress is that the GDP, **even** in the face of many difficulties, has moved beyond 6.5%(SONA, 14-02- 2008)

78. Further, 15 of them have been designated science colleges to be steeped **even** deeper in these subjects to provide specialist education for Science, Mathematics and Technology teachers (SONA, 14-02- 2008).

79. This government is **fully** committed to the concept of quality teaching as the guarantee for molding our youth into being high achievers, with technical and scientific frame of mindset (SONA, 14-02- 2008).

80. Plans for Sunyani are **almost** completed. This is expected to radically tackle the water-borne diseases plaguing many parts of the country (SONA, 14-02- 2008). .

81. Mr. Speaker, agriculture forms the biggest part of the private sector and employs the larger population in the rural area. It is also the **obvious** sector to lead industrialization (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

82. But **even** as we pat ourselves on the back, let us not forget that maintaining structures and expanding the facilities to all regional capitals should be the responsibility of present and future governments and society. (SONA, 14-02- 2008) (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

83. Mr. Speaker, both the Tema and Takoradi ports are undergoing various forms of rehabilitation for modernization and expansion. **Partly** due to this, the volume of

freight with the sister landlocked countries in the Sahel region has increased immensely (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**.

84. Mr. Speaker, both the Tema and Takoradi ports are undergoing various forms of rehabilitation for modernization and expansion. Partly due to this, the volume of freight with the sister landlocked countries in the Sahel region has increased **immensely** (SONA, 14-02- 2008**)**

85. The first free-flow of nitrogen has been done. This Project is expected to impact positively on energy generation in the country since gas is a **relatively cheaper** source of energy than crude oil (SONA, 14-02- 2008**).**