Textual Metadiscourse of Kenyan Parliamentary Committee Reports

*1Safari Godfrey Ntalala, 2Daniel Ochieng Orwenjo, 3Fridah Kanana Erastus
1,3Department of Literature, Linguistics and Foreign Languages, Kenyatta University, P.O Box 43844-00100, Nairobi, Kenya
2Department of Language and Communication Studies, Technical University of Kenya, P. O Box 52428-00200, Nairobi, Kenya

Barely any studies have been carried out on the metadiscoursal aspects of parliamentary committee reports in Kenya and generally in Eastern Africa region. Consequently, this study sought to analyze the metadiscursive aspects of selected Kenyan Parliamentary Committee Reports (PCRs) and their communicative purpose. The study exposes the textual metadiscursive features used in parliamentary reports in order to achieve their communicative purpose. The study is premised on Hyland’s (1998, 2005) description of metadiscourse and their use to enhance communicative potential in a text. Descriptive research design was used with corpora being generated from fifteen Kenyan parliamentary committee reports sampled five each from selected County Assemblies, the National Assembly and the Senate. Findings from the study indicate that different aspects of textual metadiscourse are blended together geared at guiding, convincing and persuading legislators to adopt PCRs. Findings from the study offer insights on the interplay between parliamentary metadiscoursal styles, rhetorical patterns and contributes to the existing pool of knowledge in applied linguistics on issues related to PCR genre and metadiscourse analysis.

Key words: Communicative Purpose, Metadiscourse, textual metadiscourse, Parliamentary, Committee Reports

This article is based on a larger study on the Rhetorical strategies of Kenyan Parliamentary Committee Reports.

From a rhetorical perspective, parliamentary discourse can be regarded as a political discourse genre embedding norm regulated interactions which take place among politically elected or nominated legislators for deliberative and decision-making purposes (Ilie, 2015). Parliamentary discourses whether written or spoken exhibit a linguistic structure that is meant to enhance its communicative potential. Therefore, this study analyses aspects of rhetorical metadiscourse of parliamentary committee reports (PCRs) genre underscoring their use in parliamentary context to achieve specific goals and communicative purposes.

According to Hyland (1998, 2005) metadiscourse denotes aspects of a text which overtly organize the discourse, connect the audience and indicate the writer’s attitude. It refers to linguistic devices which writers include to help readers decode the message, share the writer’s views and reflect the particular conventions that are followed in a given speech community. It also includes features that help relate a text to its context by assisting readers to connect, organize, and interpret material in a way preferred by the writer with regard to the understandings and values of a particular discourse community. In this study metadiscourse is used as a cover term for expressions used to negotiate interactive and interactional meanings in a text, assist the writer to express a viewpoint and engage with readers as members of a particular community. It aims at guiding a reader through the text and influencing their understanding, engaging and maintaining contact between writers and readers and providing perspective for interpreting the message.

*Corresponding Author: Safari Godfrey Ntalala, Department of Literature, Linguistics and Foreign Languages, Kenyatta University, P.O Box 43844-00100, Nairobi, Kenya. E-Mail: safari.ntalala@yahoo.com; Tel: +254 720 580 659. Co-Author 2Email: orwenjo@daad-alumni.de; 3Email: KANANA.FRIDAH@ku.ac.ke
Parliament in this study, is a generic term that refers to legislative assemblies at the county and the national level. The genre of parliamentary discourse includes various sub-genres such as motions, bills, statements, plenary debates, questions, petitions and committee reports. Parliamentary debates are the formal deliberations on a particular topic which take place at the plenary and are strictly controlled by parliamentary standing orders and presided over by the speaker. PCRs on their part are a result of close inquiry and deliberation by members of a particular parliamentary committee and are meant for debate and approval at the plenary. The roles of the committees are twofold; investigative process, which involves gathering information on a particular issue, and deliberative process which entails debating and taking a stand on a matter before the committee. A Parliamentary Committee Report (PCR) is largely a crafting of language in which the committee hopes to persuade and convince fellow legislators to adopt it during debate. They involve strong deliberations, debates, consultations and sometimes divisions hence their reliance on elements of persuasion. Metadiscourse is one crucial element of persuasion in rhetoric as it serves the dual function of helping the writer to organize the content of the text and assists the reader to understand and interpret the text. Moreover, the government structure in the Republic of Kenya consists of the National government and forty-seven county governments. According to Article 93 of the Constitution of Kenya (2010), parliament consists of the National Assembly and the Senate. At the devolved level, every county government has its own County Assembly. The role of the County Assembly is similar to that of the National Assembly but limited to the county level. Indeed, the County Assemblies structure is a microcosm of the National Assembly and the county Assemblies in character mirror the National Assembly. Parliamentary discourse may take place either in the plenary or in the committee sitting (Gichohi, 2009). The roles of the committees are twofold; investigative process which involves gathering information on a particular issue and deliberative process which entails debating and taking a stand on a matter before the committee. The reports are then taken to the whole assembly where debates are done at the plenary under the guidance of the speaker.

Most studies on parliamentary genre have focused on debates in the plenary such as Ilie (2000, 2006), Treiman (2009, 2011), Van Dijk (2004), Van Dijk and Wodak (2000). Moreover, most research on parliamentary genres has been concentrated on European parliaments and African parliaments in general. Similarly, it appears that not much has been done on parliamentary committees though they are microcosms of the main assembly and allow legislature to organize and perform numerous functions simultaneously. Most studies on metadiscourse on the other hand have dwelt on text and writing features (Hyland, 1998, 2004, 2005, Hyland & Tse 2004), casual conversation (Schifrin, 1980), textbooks (Crismore, 1989, Hyland, 2000) and postgraduate dissertations (Bunton, 1998, Maroko 1999, 2008).

Parliamentary committee reports are like speeches which should present sound and well thought arguments in a persuasive language to attract the audience and convince them to act in a particular manner (Ilie, 2003). Therefore, since rhetoric is art of using language purposefully to convince or persuade, this study explores and assesses the effectiveness of the textual metadiscoursal features used in Kenyan PCRs.

**Theoretical Issues**

In this study, the definition of metadiscourse has been influenced to a large extent by Halliday’s distinction between ideational elements of a text and its textual and expressive meanings. Halliday (1994, 2006) argues that people use language in an attempt to give expressions to their experience, interacting with the audience and organizing their expressions cohesively hence the three metafunctions of language, namely, ideational, interpersonal and textual. Similarly, Hyland (1998, 2005) argues that metadiscourse may be viewed in two ways: interactive/textual metadiscourse which relates to Halliday’s textual metafunction of language and interactional/interpersonal metadiscourse which relates to interpersonal metafunction of language. The analysis of metadiscourse in this study is based largely on Hyland’s (1998, 2005) description of metadiscourse and their use to enhance communicative potential in a text. The researcher highlighted the various textual metadiscursive features used in parliamentary committee reports and explains the rationale for their use based on the framework below;

**Table 1:** Aspects of textual Metadiscourse Proposed by Hyland (1998:442, Hyland & Tse, 2004).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Textual/ Interactive</td>
<td>Connectives</td>
<td>Express semantic relation between main clauses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Frame markers</td>
<td>Explicitly refer to discourse acts or text stages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Endophoric markers</td>
<td>Refer to information in other parts of the text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Evidential</td>
<td>Refer to source of information from other texts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Code glosses</td>
<td>Help readers grasp meanings of ideational</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a descriptive research design. It employs both descriptive and inferential statistics that describe objects as they are and determines cause and effect. In total, the researcher had fifteen reports for analysis and the number was considered representative because minimal variation was noted within the genre being studied. Indeed, according to Hyland (2002) genres are spread along a continuum of approximation to the core genre examples with contextual restrictions on the organization, structure and rhetorical properties of texts. Multistage sampling procedure was used in data collection and involved the following stages;

- The first step involved identifying in advance the type of reports to be studied based on the level of parliament and the quota of the reports which fit the specified categories i.e. National Assembly, County Assemblies and Senate.
- Secondly, to ensure regional representation in the reports sampled from County assemblies, stratified random sampling was used to group and sample counties to be involved in the study based on former provinces. Subsequently, the forty-seven counties in Kenya were clustered into five regions based on an amalgamation of former provinces and proximity to each other and one county was randomly selected for the study. The county assemblies sampled were; Nairobi City County Assembly, County Assembly of Mombasa, Meru, Kericho and Siaya.
- Thereafter, the researcher randomly selected five reports each from the National Assembly and the Senate as well as one report from each County Assembly sampled for the study. Consequently, the researcher coded the data and identified the various metadiscursive features used in parliamentary committee reports based on the framework below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Metadiscourse</th>
<th>Level of Parliament</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>County Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connectives</td>
<td>147 36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frame Markers</td>
<td>164 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endophoric Markers</td>
<td>23 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidential Markers</td>
<td>43 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code Glosses</td>
<td>35 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>412 100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Textual metadiscursive strategies help to form a convincing and coherent PCR by relating individual propositions to each other and to readers. They are essential to readability of PCRs and allow committees to structure information flow to explicitly establish their preferred interpretations. On average 35% of all textual metadiscourse in PCRs analyzed was made up of logical connectives while 25% was frame markers, 6% endophoric markers, 25% evidential markers and 9% code glosses. The figure below summarizes the prevalence of different aspects of textual metadiscourse in PCRs.

**Figure 1: Aspects of Textual Metadiscourse**

Textual metadiscourse is concerned with ways of organizing discourse to anticipate readers' knowledge and reflect the writer's assessment of what needs to be made explicit to constrain and guide what can be recovered from the text. Below are results of the prevalence levels of different aspects of textual metadiscourse employed in PCRs.

**Transition/ Connectives Markers**

Transition markers are logical connectives that indicate semantic and structural relationship in a text. They express semantic and structural relations between different
Logical markers as a category of textual metadiscourse markers express semantic and structural relationships between discourse stretches, and help readers interpret pragmatic connections by explicitly signaling additive, adversative, and conclusive relationships in the text (Hyland, 2005). In the PCRs, they signal to legislators how different parts of the PCR are related to one another. Data on distribution of logical connectors in CA reports reveal that 45% of all logical connectors are additives which indicate addition, 22% are adversative which indicate contrast, 19% are causal which indicate relations of consequence and 14% are conclusive which indicate conclusions. In NA reports, additives represent 25 of all logical connectors, adversative 32%, resultative 28% and 15% conclusive. From Senate reports 30% of all logical connectors were additives, 32% adversative, 24% resultative and 14% conclusive. Below is a summary of the frequency of usage of different aspects of logical connectors in PCRs.

The above logical connectives serve as signposts to signal the meaning of the text and the writer uses them to organize the text in order to make argument clear and easy to follow. They help the reader follow the logical meaning and structure of the text (Kopple, 1997). Connectives in PCRs serve to make the relationship between different moves and propositions clear so that the legislators may interpret it in accordance with the committees intended meaning and elicit appropriate response. Additionally, they help the readers determine the logical relationships between propositional claims made in the report and their absence would make the PCR clumsy and difficult to follow. They are crucial in helping legislators to interpret connections between moves in a PCR hence grasping the argument as they show additions, contrast, results and signal conclusions in PCRs.

Frame Markers

Frame markers refer to text boundaries that explicitly refer to discourse acts or text stages. They indicate the topic shifts and sequencing by explicitly referring to text stages and discourse goals. In PCRs analyzed frame markers consisted of 40% of all aspects of textual metadiscourse in CA reports, 19% in Senate reports and 16% in NA reports. Frame markers help legislators to understand the construction of the PCR and its various steps in the move structure as well as shifts in arguments. They refer to elements of structure and provide interpretative framework for the genre. Below is a summary of usage of different frame markers in PCRs.
Findings on frequency of frame markers in CA reports indicate that sequencers which show sequence constitute 27%, shifters which indicate topic shift 33%, labelers which label text stages 30% and announcers whose role is to announce discourse goals were 10%. Data from NA reports sampled indicate sequencers constitute 37% of all frame markers, shifters and labelers at 22% each and announcers at 5%. Sequencers in Senate reports make up 20% of all frame markers, shifters 20%, labelers 32% and announcers 20%. These rhetorical strategies signal schematic text structure and helps to sequence, label, predict and announce different parts and arguments of a PCR. The high number of frame markers in CA reports may be interpreted as a deliberate strategy of easing clarity of understanding of PCRs among members of County assemblies. This may have been necessitated by the fact that the reports were written in the first County assemblies which called for more guidance. The findings are summarized in the table below.

Table 5: Frequency of Various Aspects of Frame Markers in PCRs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frame Markers</th>
<th>CA</th>
<th>NA</th>
<th>Senate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sequencers</strong></td>
<td>Show sequence/order: first, next, last, to begin with</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shifters</strong></td>
<td>Indicate topic shifts: back to, in regard to, return to, turn to, regarding, on the issue of, on the concern of</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Labelers</strong></td>
<td>Label text stages: all in all, at this point, in conclusion, on the whole, this section, part, this provision</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Announcers</strong></td>
<td>Announce discourse goals: the focus, goal/objective is to, we sought to, our purpose/aim was</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Evidential Markers**

Evidential markers indicate sources of textual information which originates outside the present text. They advance PCR’s arguments by demonstrating an awareness of background of the issue under deliberation, committee’s mandate, composition and legal framework of operation. In PCRs analyzed they constitute 34% of textual aspects of metadiscourse in Senate reports, 32% in NA reports and 10% in CA reports. The degree of occurrence of evidential markers reflects on the level of research, depth and sometimes length of PCRs. Most CA reports were relatively shorter than other PCRs and appeared hurriedly done hence the low level of evidential markers. This may reflect on the level of expertise and experience of staff and members at the CA sampled.

Moreover, evidential are used in PCRs to support arguments and boost both their credibility and logical persuasion. They guide in interpreting and establishing intertextuality by way of providing authority, mandate and expert opinion on the subject of the PCR. This is important as it bolsters the credibility, validity and authority of the propositions made in the PCR. It is used to support arguments and make propositions stronger, more credible and authoritative in pursuit of persuasive goals of the text. However, unlike in academic reports where evidentials are used to help the writer relate his work to earlier or related works in the field, in PCRs evidentials are used to contextualize reports by providing the legal provisions upon which it is grounded. Below is a summary of the frequency of usage of different aspects of evidential markers in PCRs.

According to Swales (1990) there are two forms of evidential markers: the integral which includes a cited source as part of the reporting sentence and non-integral which places a cited source within parenthesis. In this study there were no instances of non-integral evidential markers while cases of integral evidential were a total of 144 in Senate reports.
representing 34% of all aspects of textual metadiscourse, 54 instances in NA reports representing 32% and 43 instances in CA reports representing 10%. In PCRs analyzed citations were incorporated as part of the reporting sentence and no bibliography was provided. The findings of this study differ with those done on academic forms of writing notably Maroko (2013) where an analysis of the distribution of references in the study corpus revealed that non-integral citations were more prominently used than integral citations in all rhetorical sections except Conclusions and Recommendations. Surprisingly, as already noted there was no singular use of non-integral citations in any rhetorical section of the PCRs. This probably reveals the embedded nature of text and evidentials in PCRs thus the absence of a reference list. All (100%) citations in PCRs relied on integral evidential markers to refer to sources of information from other texts. Evidential markers function as a guide to the legislators’ interpretation and establish an authority of the subject or issue under discussion as well as representations of ideas from other sources and help to establish authorial command of the subject. In PCRs references involves citation of parliamentary standing orders, provisions of the constitution, Acts of Parliament and expert opinions to provide important support for argument. Dependence on contextual knowledge, legal provisions and mandates are the hallmark of parliamentary discourse which forms a fundamental basis in evaluation of PCRs. Below is a distribution frequency of usage of different aspects of evidential markers in PCRs.

Table 6: Frequency of Different Aspects of Evidential Markers in PCRs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evidential markers</th>
<th>Level of PCR and frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description &amp; Examples</td>
<td>f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integral</td>
<td>Cited source part of the reporting sentence: County Government Act requires that, X argues that, pursuant to, based on…..</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to Maroko (2013) evidential markers contribute to the social context of persuasion as they provide justification for arguments and demonstrate the novelty of one’s position. It serves to display knowledge of the subject and to establish authority and credibility. In PCRs evidential markers explicitly mention the legal background of the committee, its mandate and the source of information. Below is an extract from NA Report on Public Petition on the Imminent Collapse of Sugar Industry in Western Kenya, 2015.

Extract 1: National Assembly Extract on Evidential Markers

The Department Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Cooperatives is established pursuant to provisions of standing order 216(5). Under the provisions of standing order 216(5) the committee is mandated to……. The committee is also mandated to scrutinize the budget of line ministries as provided understanding order 235. Section 124 of the constitution (2010) also provide for the establishment of Committee by parliament.

In the extract above, the committee relies on the standing orders to justify their existence and to claim their mandate. Additionally, they boost their credibility and authority through reference to standing orders and the constitution. Therefore, evidential markers boost the persuasive goals of the PCRs by building credibility and legitimacy as the committee demonstrates an awareness of their mandate and adherence to parliamentary dictates and procedures. Indeed, evidential markers in PCRs indicate the context and authority of the report and may be viewed as an aspect of discourse community as suggested by Swales (1990). The citation provides justification for arguments and demonstrates the authority and legitimacy of the PCR by showing how the report came about, the legal basis for it and the background upon which it is based.

Endophoric Markers

Endophoric markers refer to information in other parts of the text which provide additional information to the reader. In PCRs they are used to remind legislators of previously mentioned information or refer to information in other parts of the report so as to help in recovering and stressing argumentative propositions. Endophoric markers comprise 8% of textual markers used in NA reports, 6% in CA reports and 5% in Senate reports as shown in the figure below.

Figure 5: Prevalence of Endophoric Markers in PCRs

Endophoric markers are used to avail additional information, provide reference for supporting arguments and ultimately steer the legislators towards a preferred interpretation and response. They are a means of relating the current discourse to report as a whole and thus enhancing explicitness and clarity of PCR. In this study
there were only 23 instances of endophoric markers in CA reports, 13 in NA reports and 20 instances in Senate reports. The outcome reveal that PCRs are usually written in a linear style and make little reference to information in other parts of the text. Below is a distribution of different aspects of endophoric markers in PCRs.

Table 7: Distribution of Different Aspects of Endophoric Markers in PCRs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Endophoric markers</th>
<th>Level of PCR and frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description &amp; Examples</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endophoric markers</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Endophoric markers make explicit references to the whole of the text's propositional meanings to provide the reader with additional information in another way. They are used to explain, elaborate or rework propositional meanings to provide the reader with additional information as a way of ensuring they recover what has already been said. Below is an extract from the Report on the Meru County Annual Development Plan for the Fiscal Year 2016/2017 (Result / Observation section).

Extract 2: County Assembly Extract on Endophoric Markers

The Committee considered the Annual Development Plan 2016/2017 chapter by chapter and made the following major observations:

1. That paragraph 2.2.3 (page 10) indicates that the large membership of the Assembly and competition between the elected and nominated MCAs are among the challenges that are facing the Assembly in the current fiscal year;
2. That under paragraph 2.3.2 (page 12) the Committee observed that there is an allocation of 900 million shillings for the Ward Development Fund. The Committee resolved that the money should be strictly used on Ward projects identified on need basis. Also, it was noted that there was no legal framework to govern the operations of the fund;
3. That the automation of revenue collection has not been all that efficient in achieving the projected revenue collection for the previous fiscal years since there has always been shortfalls;
4. That under paragraph 2.6.2.2 (page 39) under the department of Cooperatives, Enterprise Development and Tourism, the programme mapping of Business and Markets has been repeated;

In the above extract the committee engages legislators in the text by referring them to other parts of the PCR to ease their understanding and demonstrate how the findings were arrived at. They refer them using paragraphs and page numbers for instance paragraph 2.2.3 (page 10). Endophoric markers therefore serve as a means of making the PCR more interactive, easy to follow, refer to and locate information.

Code Gloses

Code glosses refer to restatement of ideational information in another way. They are used to explain, elaborate or...
From the analysis of the PCRs, exemplifiers constitute 57% instances of CA reports code glosses and Reformulators at 43%. In Senate reports both exemplifiers and reformulators constitute 50% each. NA reports have 52% prevalence rate of exemplifiers and 48% of reformulators. According to Hyland (2010), code glosses supply additional information by rephrasing, illustrating or explaining. They reflect the writer’s assumptions about the reader’s cognitive environment. The focus of code glosses in PCRs is to improve perception, boost comprehension and relate ideas to the legislator’s experiences, knowledge and interpretation requirements. Below is a summary of the frequency of usage of different aspects of code glosses in PCRs.

Table 8: Distribution of Different Aspects of code Glosses in PCRs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code Glosses</th>
<th>Level of PCR and frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exemplifiers</td>
<td>f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reformulators</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DISCUSSION

According to Hyland & Tse (2004) textual metadiscourse allows the recovery of the writer’s intention by establishing preferred interpretation of propositional meanings. It informs legislators about the organization of the PCR and presentation of its arguments by giving clues to the thinking process on how to perceive, interpret and respond to it. This employs connectors which express semantic relationship between main clauses and frame markers which explicitly refer to discourse acts or texts stages. Indeed, connectors and frame markers make up 54% of all aspects of textual metadiscourse in Senate reports, 48% in NA reports and 76% in CA reports. Additionally, there is wide use of evidential markers, code glosses and frame markers which together constitute 59% of all aspects of textual/interactive metadiscourse in the PCRs analyzed. Therefore, textual metadiscourse involves use of aspects such as; transition markers, frame markers, endophoric markers, evidential markers and code glosses to enhance the persuasive significance of the PCRs.

Metadiscourse serves as a rhetorical tool to guide readers’ perception of a text by use of cohesion and interpersonal features which help relate a text to its context. It helps PCRs to not only convey information but also bring out the organization of the text and engage the legislators on how to understand and interpret the report. Metadiscursive feature are used in PCRs to create a coherent text and engage the readers. In parliamentary discourse, metadiscourse involves a set of rhetorically structured communicative and interactional strategies used to signal, highlight, mitigate and evaluate texts (Ilie, 2003). It helps to articulate particular aspects of relationship between the author(s) and audience following conventionalized norms and patterns of interaction.

Ultimately, textual metadiscourse reveals the writer’s awareness of the readers and their need for elaboration, clarification, guidance and interaction hence their use in PCRs to persuade the members to take a particular view depending on the propositions presented as illustrated in the extract below.

Extract 3: Extract on Metadiscourse from National Assembly Report

The committee finds that certain companies were involved in widespread malpractices with the Judiciary. An example is JKUATES Ltd. which was contracted by the Judiciary as a consultant for various projects. This company was directly sourced under the guise of Government to Government procurement yet its income was privately shared to the tune of 95%.

The committee recommends that the Director of Public prosecutions swiftly institutes investigations and proceedings against those directly linked to financial impropriety and mismanagement as enumerated in the culpability chapter of this report.

The committee also recommends that those found guilty by a court of law make good the loss attributable to them in accordance to article 226(5) of the constitution.

In the extract above, both textual and interpersonal aspects of metadiscourse are used to guide the the readers. Textual aspects of metadiscourse include:

i) Transition markers such as also and yet. Also is used to show addition in the expression, ‘the committee also recommends’ while yet functions as an adversative in the expression, ‘the company was sourced under the guise of …yet its income was privately shared’.

ii) Evidential markers such as, ‘... in accordance with article 226(5) of the constitution.’ The citation of the constitution provision is used to legitimize the proposed action by the committee.
iii) Endophoric markers such as, ‘the culpability chapter of this report.’ The endophoric marker is used to refer to information in other parts of the report (culpability chapter) in order to provide additional information to the reader.

iv) Code glosses like, ‘an example’ is which an exemplifier to illustrate the widespread malpractices within the judiciary in the expression ‘...an example is JKUATES Ltd.’

Hyland & Tse (2004) argue that metadiscourse motivates writers to interact with readers; helps create their genre and convey their disposition. Furthermore, metadiscourse is distinct from propositional aspects of discourse and refers to aspects of the text that embody writer-reader interactions or those relations that are only internal to the discourse. When used in PCRs in its various facets as revealed in the data above, it creates cohesion in the reports and makes the argument flow as well as engaging the audience. In PCRs, metadiscourse is used in facilitating arguments, supporting propositions and interacting with the audience. It serves as the linguistic strategy used to organize the structure of the PCR or the stance towards either its content or the audience. Metadiscourse brings out the thinking and writing process of a writer through signal words in the text which inform readers on the development of thought as well as text. Attitudes towards the text and audience are revealed through signal words/phrases such as; the committee prays that, we believe, the committee felt, it is imperative among others. Expressions like Mr. Speaker Sir, I will show, compare, explain, conclude; bring out the confidence levels and commitment to the propositions made while logical connection in the report is expressed through words like; therefore, however, on the other hand.

Moreover, the use of language in PCRs may be explained based on Halliday (1994) views on metafunctions of language which are associated with ideational, interpersonal and textual meanings. In this view, metadiscourse is grounded on textual function as it facilitates organization of PCRs to achieve their communicative purpose. Additionally, according to Kopple (2002), discourse corresponds to Halliday’s ideation function and metadiscourse serves the textual and interpersonal function. Metadiscourse brings out features of a PCR that relates to its organization and stance towards either its subject or audience. It allows the writers and audience to have an interaction and relationship within the text, negotiate and make decisions (Hyland & Tse, 2004). This is critical in PCRs where members’ contributions and feedback are paramount in the adoption of the report. Metadiscourse in PCRs is grounded on the premise that PCRs are an engagement in which the committees project themselves to signal their commitments and attitudes. PCRs try to influence legislators by use of aspects of structure which go beyond the subject matter and show the presence of the authors. It means that writers predict their readers’ requirements and expectations, and respond to them. This comes out in PCRs by use of endophoric markers, which refer to information in other parts of the texts to boost understanding of arguments and code glosses which help the audience get meaning by use of examples of concepts. Finally, PCRs is a form of parliamentary communication in which the authors inform their colleagues about their findings and persuade them to support. This involves careful use of different aspects of textual metadiscourse. The choice of metadiscourse depends on the purpose of the PCR and a variety of textual metadiscourse aspects are incorporated together to allow flexibility and expression of the goals of the report. It is worth noting that various aspects of textual metadiscourse are interrelated in the sense that the committees achieve communication goals by using textual strategies such as transitions, endophoric markers, evidential markers and frames markers while also informing the readers of the linking and transition from one idea to the other.

CONCLUSION

This study set out to analyze aspects of textual metadiscourse in Kenyan PCRs. It has been established that different textual metadiscursive features are employed to guide, inform and persuade the audience as well as signal the organization of the text. It is evident that most textual markers consisted of connectives, evidentials and frame markers in all PCRs. The high number of connectives/ transitions show the importance of internal cohesion in parliamentary reports. They are used to help legislators signal connections between sentences and paragraphs in the PCR by establishing different relationships such as additive, resultative and contrastive relations in the genre structure. Frame markers is another aspect of metadiscourse that help to signal the organization of PCRs which was used in all PCRs showing the need to signal the developmental stages in the reports. Evidential markers are also crucial in parliamentary committee deliberations because they indicate the source of the committee mandate, awareness of their legal and contextual existence hence boosting their credibility. Code glosses and endophoric markers had least usage in all PCRs. This implies that there was little reference to information in other parts of the report and that there were few instances of explanations to what was written.

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