

A Genre Analysis of Linguistic Vocabularies, Word Choices and Dictions in Job Interviews by the Judicial Service Commission Kenya in 2011

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Abstract

The purpose of this research article is to identify and describe the linguistic vocabularies, word choices or dictions that are used in the job interviews conducted by the Judicial Service Commission of Kenya during the vetting process to recruit or maintain public office holders in Kenya, in 2011. The Kenyan judiciary has been facing a lot of challenges since the country got its independence in 1963. These challenges range from corruption, incompetence, violation of human rights to dishonesty among others, Makwera, M. et al (2011). So when the new constitution was promulgated in 2010, one of the components of the new constitution was the vetting of public office holders. Vetting is a process that involves finding out publicly about a person's past life, experiences, academic qualifications, one's personality in general and any other attribute. The vetting process is done using language as a tool of communication and therefore enhances good values including integrity, transparency and accountability. However, sometimes the language used may act as an impediment to the achievements of the set goals. The methods of data collection included library research and internetsearch. This article therefore investigates how the use of linguistic vocabularies, word choices or dictions promote the positive values that are meant to improve the judiciary or how they contradict, contravene or violate some of the values enshrined in the Kenyan new constitution. The findings and results reveal that some of the vocabularies, word choices and dictions used in the interviews by the JSC promote the positive values while others contradict the same values as enshrined in the Kenyan new constitution. The article attempts to offer solutions to the language challenges that emerge when participants in an interview use linguistic terms that violate the rights of others. Key words: genre, linguistic vocabularies, diction, promulgated, vetting process, enshrined.

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