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A Stylistic Study of “Sustenance of Democracy” by Nigeria’s President Olusegun Obasanjo

C. O. Awonuga

Department of English, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

E-mail: megola18@yahoo.com

KEYWORDS Pronoun; coupling; strings (of words); metaphor; analogy; repetition

ABSTRACT This paper examines the linguistic features that are manifested in the broadcast to the nation by Nigeria’s President Olusegun Obasanjo on 25th August, 2002 entitled “Sustenance of Democracy”. It was found that the speech contains examples of the use of personal pronouns, coupling, strings of words, eight types of metaphor, analogy, repetition and Biblical echoes. It was also found that President Obasanjo’s use of coupling and strings of words puts his language in the mainstream of language use by other Nigerian politicians of Yoruba extraction, such as Chief Adegoke Adelabu and Chief Obafemi Awolowo on the one hand, and the creative writer Wole Soyinka on the other.