Rhetorical Moves of Kenyan Parliamentary Committee Reports

ABSTRACT

Numerous studies have been carried out on move analysis in academic and scientific settings. However, scarcely any studies have been done on parliamentary discourse, especially on structural and rhetorical organization of Parliamentary Committee Reports. Indeed, most research on parliamentary genres has been concentrated on European parliaments with little study done on African parliaments. Consequently, this study sought to analyze the rhetorical moves of selected Kenyan Parliamentary Committee Reports (PCRs) using a genre-based approach. The study uncovers the rhetorical moves used in parliamentary reports in order to achieve their communicative purpose. It involves a survey of generic conventions and overall schematic move structure of PCRs. Descriptive research design was adopted in the study while the corpora was 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 delivery of arguments in PCRs employs a rhetorical strategy combining rhetorical moves geared at informing, convincing and persuading legislators. The study has identified a distinctive realization of moves in PCRs which include Preface, Introduction, Method, Results and Recommendation (PIMRaR). Ultimately, this study contributes to the existing pool of knowledge on genre and move analysis.

Keywords: Communicative purpose; Genre analysis; Moves; Parliamentary committee reports.

1. Introduction

Genre analysis in the field of applied linguistics is used to analyze and describe rhetorical structure and stylistic features of texts (Coffin, 2003). Usually, individuals make rhetorical and linguistic choices guided by the ideology and practices of the institution that they belong. Parliament is one such institution. According to Bhatia (2002) analysis of institutional genres such as parliamentary committee reports should consider; the general organization of the discourse, the degree of observing/violating the institutional norms and constraints as well as the general structure of argumentation. Similar genres manifest relatedness in their rhetorical structure, organizational style, some aspects of content and target audience hence a move analysis helps to identify entrenched set of standardized conventions shared by most members of a particular speech community. In this regard, this study analyses Parliamentary Committee Reports (PCRs) to
determine how rhetorical moves are used to reflect the speech community of parliament and their effectiveness in achieving specific goals and communicative purpose. Parliamentary discourses whether written or spoken exhibit a rhetorical move structure that is meant to enhance their communicative potential. Therefore, since texts belonging to the same genre are viewed as sharing some communicative purposes and structure, the features and conventions of PCRs are explained in relation to the realm of the speech community of parliament.

According to Ilie (2006), the word parliament is derived from old French parlement, originally from parler which means to speak. Nonetheless, it is used in this study as a generic term for legislative assemblies in Kenya both at the county and national level. Parliament as one of the institutions of government performs very critical functions in governance. It acts as an avenue for the citizens to have their voice heard in the management of national affairs through their chosen representatives. Parliament is a key arm of government that examines the legislative proposals in the process of their enactment and is entrusted with oversighting the executive and all other state organs. The Constitution of Kenya (2010), establishes two levels of government which includes the National Government and forty-seven County Governments. The National Government is made up of three arms namely; Legislature (Parliament), Executive and Judiciary. According to Article 93 of the Constitution, at the National level, the Legislature (parliament) consists of the National Assembly and the Senate. The legislature is responsible for enactment of legislation, oversight and representation. At the devolved level (County Governments), the government consists of the County Assembly and the County Executive. The role of the County Assembly is similar to that of the National Assembly but limited to the county level. Indeed, the County Government structure is a microcosm of the National Government and the county Assembly in character mirror the National Assembly.

Therefore, in Kenya, parliamentary discourse takes place either in the plenary or in committee sittings. At the plenary, debate takes place in the chamber under the guidance of the speaker where members debate on the motions, bills, petitions and statements. The committee sitting on the other hand, involves members meeting to scrutinize different matters and then reporting to 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. Consequently, a PCR is largely a crafting of language in which the committee hopes to persuade and convince fellow legislators to adopt it during debate. Indeed, parliamentary discourse is to a large extent a rhetorical deliberation in which rhetorical strategies are employed to inform, convince and persuade. Whilst, PCRs form part of news headlines, shape national debate, influence decision making and may have far reaching ramifications in the governance of the country or a particular county; little research exist especially on their rhetorical structure and communicative goals.

Parliamentary discourse is broadly viewed as a sub-genre of political discourse which is basically distinguished by its contextual properties and need a contextual approach of analysis (Ilie, 2006). However, from a rhetorical point of view, parliamentary discourse is viewed as belonging to the deliberative genre of political rhetoric. It involves discourse meant for an audience that is called upon to make a verdict by assessing the propositions made. Van Dijk (2004) points out three characteristic features of parliamentary discourse genre namely, it is a formal and institutionalized brand of political language, it reveals rigid, recurring communication patterns which form and control the style of communication and finally require interpretation based on contextual situation. Hence, parliamentary activities are conducted by discussions, consultations, debates, votes and consensus which take place at both plenary sessions and in committees.

affairs, 2009)), Power elite conflict in Kenya's ninth parliament and the implications for democratic transition (Gachigua 2006), Kenyan parliamentary discourse on the fight against corruption (Gachigua, 2010) and Hate speech in the creation of socio-political dominance in Kenyan parliamentary debates (Atieno, 2016). However, most research on parliamentary genres has been concentrated on European parliaments with little study done on Kenyan parliaments. Similarly, it appears that not much research has been done on parliamentary committees though they are crucial in constructing reports which should convince and persuade legislators leading to adoption. Pointedly, PCRs are products of research, scrutiny and deliberation among members of a particular parliamentary committee (Gichohi, 2009).

Most genre-based studies previously done ostensibly focus on discourse in academic and scientific settings. Examples include: Move analysis of research articles introductions (Swales 1990, 2004), Result section (Brett, 1994), Discussion section (Holmes, 1997), Berkenkotter and Huckin (1995) and Research articles (Nwogu, 1997). Other studies include: Abstracts (Hyland 2000), Dissertation acknowledgment (Hyland, 2004), Academic book reviews (Babaii, 2003), Research theses (Maroko 1999, 2008), Medical case reports (Helan, 2012) and Academic research blogs (Katrina, 2012). This study focused on parliamentary discourse and particularly parliamentary committee reports because the work done by parliament cannot all be carried out in the plenary hence most work is done in the committees. Parliamentary committee system ensure that different parliamentary interests and points of view are taken into account when the assembly makes its decisions hence the critical role of PCRs.

Largely, genre and move analysis reveal not only the utilizable form-function correlations between texts and their structures but also contributes significantly to our understanding of the cognitive structuring of information in specific areas of language use. Applied linguists agree that the author's purpose is of primary importance in creating a certain genre. Move analysis looks not only at rhetorical structure and communicative purpose of different moves but also takes into consideration the speech community that utilize them. The findings of genre and move analysis include move structure, including moves and steps in organizing texts, which can serve as a guideline enabling speakers and writers to produce well-organized texts. Therefore, this study may make a contribution to the speech community of parliament and ESP practitioners in constructing appropriate parliamentary committee reports geared at achieving desired communicative outcomes within the speech community of parliament. An understanding of the general schema of PCR will also enhance legislators' appreciation of the reports since inadequate understanding of text organization is one factor that may result in communication breakdown. This article presents a summary of move analysis used in PCRs and provides text samples of move structure employed. It is hoped that this article will contribute to a better understanding of PCRs as well as illuminate on how moves play an important role in the genre of parliamentary reports.

2. Literature Reviews

This study is premised on genre theory. Genre Theory is a collective term used to describe theoretical approaches that are concerned with how related situations produce typified responses (genres) which provide an avenue for both constructing and understanding texts based on shared expectations and social context (Bhatia, 1993). The main approaches to the analysis of genre according to Genre Theory are:

i) English for Specific Purpose (ESP) perspective which looks at genre in terms of consistency in structural conventions and language to achieve set communicative purposes, Swales (1990, 2004), and Bhatia (1993, 2002)

ii) The Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) approach based on views of Halliday (1978, 2006), Hasan (1985) and Halliday and Hasan (1985, 1989) which focuses on understanding the generic organization and purposeful units of a text that helps in realizing the social function of a particular genre.

iii) The Rhetoric Genre Studies (RGS) view of genre which postulate that the analysis of typifications of rhetorical action is the essence of genre analysis (Miller 1984, 2005).
Miller (1984) argues that genre ought to be distinguished by the substantive and formal characteristics that they exemplify as well as by the social actions they achieve.

Nonetheless, these perspectives on genre overlap and differ in a number of ways hence their complementary use in this study. ESP approach regards genres as communicative events characterized by their communicative purposes as well as rhetorical features which typify the genre in the speech community. SFL on the other hand, perceives genre as the cultural purpose of texts, achieved through a genre’s structural and organizational patterns where meanings are made within the genre hence its centrality in describing the move structure of PCRs. Finally, RGS views genre as a form of social action involving analysis of genre through detailed accounts of the social and cultural contexts with an emphasis on how a genre fulfills its social purpose and actions and was crucial in describing various rhetorical moves within the context of parliamentary practices and traditions. The three approaches (ESP, SFL and RGS) hold a common view of genre as being integrated in a situation in which genres are recognized as linking texts and contexts by their structure and language (Bawarshi & Reiff, 2010).

Significantly, Swales (1981) apart from studying the Introduction sections which resulted in the three-move structure of Create a Research Space (CARS model) also investigated the overall textual organization of Research Articles (RAs) from different disciplines. He argued that research papers have a rhetorical structure organized as follows: Introduction (I), Method (M), Result (R) and Discussion (D), which is commonly referred as IMRaD structure. The format was used in this study in describing the move structure as well as the communicative purpose of each move. Moreover, according to Nair (2014) and Lore's (2004) research papers, reports and academic writings usually use the IMRaD format in their move structure to present their arguments and achieve their communicative goals. The IMRaD model may be summarized as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Defines the nature and extent of the problem(s) studied, relates the research to previous work and explains the objective of investigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methods</td>
<td>Presents what has been done, how and when. Explain how the data was analyzed and presented.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results</td>
<td>Presents the results/findings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>Explain the meanings and implications of results</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The analysis of moves in PCRs was done based on the above model although other sections of the reports were also identified and their contribution to the overall communicative purpose of the genre highlighted. Focus was place on IMRaD because it represents the main moves identified in previous genre-based studies and would form a basis for the analysis of PCRs.

To complement the IMRaD model, the CARS move analysis model proposed by Swales was used to analyze the rhetorical structure and text patterns of PCRs. Swales (1990, 2004) came up with a three-move schema for research article introduction known as Create a Research Space (CARS) model. He divided texts into their general organization pattern and discovered the texts contained recurring functional units which contributed to the overall communicative purpose of the genre. Swales referred to these steps as moves and claimed that they are definable and predictable functional components within a specific genre. The main purpose of the three moves in CARS model were explained as follows: move 1 (Establish a territory) used to convince the audience of the significance of the study by making strong claims with reference to the published research literature. Move 2 (Establishing a Niche) applied by researcher to identify the more specific areas of research requiring further investigations. Move 3 (Occupying the niche) used to introduce the purpose, main findings and the structure of the articles as shown in the table below.
Table 2. Swales 2004 CARS Model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Move</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Move 1- Establishing Territory</td>
<td>Provides background information, Citations required, Moves from general to specific.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Move 2- Establishing a Niche</td>
<td>Identifies main issue or problem area which will be discussed, citations possible, presenting justifications.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Move 3- occupying the Niche</td>
<td>Establish the purpose and possible outcomes, outlining the value of present research.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parliamentary Committee Reports were therefore analyzed to determine their underlying generic structure given the view that any text classified as an instance of a particular genre is a reproduction of that genre's conventions. The researcher embarked on the analysis of PCRs by an examination of the genre's organization which involves the rhetorical moves it undertakes and their communicative purpose.

3. Method

The study adopted a descriptive research design. Descriptive research involves gathering data that describe events and leads to organizing, tabulating, depicting and explaining outcomes (Glass & Hopkins, 1984). It employs both descriptive and inferential statistics that describe object as they are and determines cause and effect. Kisulu and Tromp (2006), point out that in descriptive research the researcher reports findings of the state of affairs as it is. Multistage sampling procedure was used in sampling because it is best suited for a study extending to a considerable geographical area such as the entire country as in this case. It involved the following steps:

1) The first step involved identifying in advance the type of reports to be studied based on the year of writing and level of parliament and the quota of the reports which fit the specified categories i.e. National Assembly, County Assemblies and Senate.

2) 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.

3) Subsequently, the forty-seven counties in Kenya were clustered into five regions based on an amalgamation of the former eight provinces and proximity to each other i.e. those from Coast and North Eastern, Eastern, Nairobi and Central, Rift valley, Western and Nyanza. County assemblies from these regions were grouped together and one was randomly selected for the study.

4) From the County assemblies selected the researcher collected all reports debated in the year 2015 while at the National Assembly and the Senate reports of the year 2015/2016 were considered. Reports done in 2015-2016 were considered most appropriate because it was at the middle of the parliamentary term and legislators would have fully settled in their roles and acquainted themselves with parliamentary rhetorical practices and procedures.

5) Therefore, five different reports from the National Assembly and the Senate as well as one report from each county Assembly sampled for the study based on the framework in table 3.
Table 3. Framework for Move Coding in PCRs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Move</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Guiding question(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction (I)</td>
<td>Gives background of the report, mandate of the committee and objectives</td>
<td>What is the background and mandate of committee; what is the report about?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Method</td>
<td>Explains how data was collected, analyzed and public participation</td>
<td>How was information collected? Who was involved and why?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results (R)</td>
<td>Presents observations and findings</td>
<td>What did the committee observe/find out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion (D)</td>
<td>Explain implication of results findings</td>
<td>What do the results mean/What action should be taken?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any other</td>
<td>Sections/ text segments not within IMRaD</td>
<td>Does it serve a significant purpose?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In total, the researcher had fifteen reports for analysis and the number was considered representative because we noted minimal variation within the genre being studied. Data analysis was carried out through two main steps. First PCRs were studied according to IMRaD as mentioned above and thereafter each section was analyzed in terms of comprising sub moves as proposed by Swales (1990), Nwogu (1997) and Lore’s (2004). Secondly, occurrence of other sections not within IMRaD were evaluated to determine whether they fit in the definition of a move. In the end, the criteria for justifying and classifying the frequency of each move was defined according to Kanoksilapatham (2005). If a particular move occurs in every PCR (100%), it is regarded as ‘obligatory’, if the occurrence of a move is below 60 %, it is ‘optional’, and if the occurrence ranges from 60-99%, the move is classified as ‘conventional’ 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 hence the low dissimilarity.

Consequently, to ensure the reliability of the data coding and categorization as well as to minimize subjectivity, the 15 sampled PCRs were analyzed by two other assistants apart from the researcher with whom a framework of categorization, coding and analysis was agreed upon. After each did the coding their results were compared to test for the equivalence of measurement using Cohen’s reliability coefficient as suggested by Kothari (2004). Cohen’s kappa reliability measures showed high reliability with the mean interreliability coefficient of 0.93 in rhetorical move analysis. The few variations that emerged were resolved by re-reading the reports followed by focus group discussions among the raters to build consensus.

4. Results

From the outcome of the analysis, it is evident that Kenyan parliamentary committees’ reports are not written randomly. There is a general organization schema of PCRs which helps in making the reports both organized and aids in their communicative purpose. The findings affirm the assertion by Muangsamai (2018) that the combination of moves reveal the structural patterns of a genre assuming that its overall purpose is met through a sequence of stages, each stage achieving an intermediate rhetorical purpose. They are guided by a set of moves which may be divided into sub moves or steps. A move can be seen as part of a text which achieves a particular communicative purpose within the text; hence it contributes to the accomplishment of the ultimate purpose of the genre. The moves in PCRs help them to efficiently communicate in a uniform manner and allow them to be read at several different levels. Therefore, legislators may skim titles to find out the subject, others may examine the executive summary while others may just look at conclusions and recommendations as they prepare to contribute during debates at the plenary.

Moreover, the general organization of PRCs helps in making the reports cohesive and aids in their communicative value. Regarding their organization, genre involves ways in which structures and language enhances expression of set communicative goals, hence different genres are structured
depending on the specific situation they are meant to respond to. In this way, rhetorical moves in PCRs are tailored to meet specific communicative goals within parliamentary discourse. However, the identification of boundaries in each section was sometimes challenging as some reports did not include clear cut divisions for each move. In such cases and where there were overlapping moves, the researcher relied on the communicate purpose of the text segment to assign a move. The following is a summary of the main moves and their communicative purpose:

### 4.1. Introduction move

This section of PCRs presents the rationale for undertaking the work, including what the committee has been asked (or chosen) to do, the reasons for doing it and the background of the issue. It provides an overview of the PCR by contextualizing the report through supplying readers with background information and an overview of the matter at hand. Bhatia (2002) argues that different PCRs contain recurring functional steps which aid in their genre communicative purpose hence PCR introductions comprised several steps. The sub-moves in PCRs introductions are predictable and primarily function to achieve the purpose of the move which they belong and the genre which they ascribe (Bibber, 2007). The moves usually progress from the general to the specific thus PCRs usually begin by establishing a context followed by demonstrating legitimacy/mandate and finally stating the purpose and expected outcome.

Similarly, the outcome from this study indicate that PCRs begin with general information on the constitution of the committee and provisions of standing orders upon which it is anchored. Thereafter it refers to the Constitution of Kenya, the County Government Act, Parliamentary Standing Orders or other provision of the law which describe its mandate. This is in the tandem with Swales (2004), Nwogu (1997) and Hyland (2012) assertion that there is a tendency for Introduction section to move from general to specific. Moreover, the Introduction of PCRs serves the rhetorical function of connecting themselves with the readers, establishing contact and ascertaining legitimacy, credibility and authority. Therefore, the first sentences of the Introduction section of different PCRs are a reference to provision of the law that guides its operations as exemplified in table 4.7 below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of PCR</th>
<th>First Sentence of Introduction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Senate: The Report of Special Committee on the Removal from Office by Impeachment of Hon Mwangi Wairia, Governor of Muranga County 6th, November 2015</td>
<td>Pursuant to article 181 of the Constitution and Section 33 of the county Government Act No. 17 of 2012, the County Assembly of Muranga approved a motion “to Remove from Office by Impeachment” the Governor of Muranga County.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kericho County Assembly. Committee of Justice and Legal Affairs Report on the Petition Lodged by Geoffrey Langat, October 2015.</td>
<td>The Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs is established pursuant to the Kericho County Assembly’s Standing Order 194 and Schedule 2 which states that it shall investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters and operations with regards to: Constitutional affairs, the administration of law and justice including the election.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The analysis of PCRs shows a sequence of information organization patterns or steps within the rhetorical move of Introduction. According to Bhatia (1993), in order to effectively execute a move, a writer may use different strategies and steps in order to realize a particular communicative purpose at the level of the move. All the PCRs analyzed (100%) started by either citing the standing orders provisions of the constitution (2010) or County Government Act (2012). This is because
Parliamentary Committees are expected to execute their mandate within the provisions of the law and their operations are guided by parliamentary rules, norms and procedures. Moreover, in order to perform the role of oversight, legislation and representation enshrined in the constitution, Parliamentary Committees must be bound by the law and conform to Parliamentary standing orders. Therefore, they must always establish their authority and allegiance to established laws and traditions to build credibility in their undertakings including PCRs.

To analyze the sub moves in the Introduction section of PCRs, CARs (Create a Research Space) model was used. According to Swales (2004) the Introduction section is made up of three sub-moves. Sub-Move 1- Establishing a territory, Sub- Move 2- Establishing a niche and Sub-Move 3- Presenting the present work. The main purpose of the Introduction move of PCRs is to provide background and justify the report of the committee. Thus, the Introduction defines the nature and extent of the problem, case, event or situation dealt with by the committee. It gives brief background information of the committee mandate, membership, the necessity of the report and states expected outcome of the PCR. This information comes out in stages though it may vary from one PCR to another. It contextualizes the report by supplying information about the committee and the task accomplished. A close reading and analysis of the Introduction of PCRs revealed that the Introduction rhetorical move consists of three sub moves/steps as shown in the table 5.

Table 5. Sub Moves in PCRs Introductions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rhetorical Move</th>
<th>Sub Move/Step</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>SM1- Establish a context/background</td>
<td>Involves contextualizing the PCR by providing background information on the constitution of the committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SM2- Establishing legitimacy</td>
<td>Indicates the mandate and membership of the committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SM3- Stating the purpose</td>
<td>Involves highlighting the aim of the PCR and its expected outcomes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Senate extract 1 is used to demonstrate and illustrate the sub moves highlighted in the table above.

**Extract 1: Senate Introduction of a PCR** (Senate Committee on Labour and Social Welfare Report on the Petition for legislative intervention to address the plight and welfare of former councilors, 4th Session, February 2016).
The extract above establishes that Introductions of PCRs present information that legislators need to understand and make considered judgment about the reports. Additionally, they state what the report is about, the starting point, background to the subject and expected outcomes as illustrated in the table below.
Table 6. Sub Moves in Introduction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Steps/Sub Move</th>
<th>Illustration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Step/SM1- Establishing the context</td>
<td>The Petition for Legislative Interventions to Address the Plight and Welfare of Former Councilors was presented on the floor of the Senate by Senator (Prof.) Lo-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd step/SM2- Establishing Legit- macy</td>
<td>Pursuant to Senate Standing order No. 227 (1), the Petition was subsequently committed to the Senate Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare, on 16th September, 2015.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd step/SM3- Stating the purpose</td>
<td>Senate Committee on Labour and Social Welfare met with former councilors on 22nd October, 2015, who presented their case for the Petition.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sub Move 1 focuses on contextualizing the report by providing background details on the formation of the committee and the relevant legal provisions upon which it is premised. Sub Move 2 is used to legitimize the PCRs. Therefore, the mandate of the committee is clearly spelt, membership stated and relevant sections of the constitution, standing orders and other provisions of the law cited. PCRs are therefore constrained by constitutional provisions and the interaction determines patterns of inquiry, meaning, reference and action. Sub Move 3 focuses on the rationale for undertaking the task. The purpose for the task is explained since parliamentary interactions are task related and goal oriented. Feedback is ultimately provided at the plenary where PCRs are subjected to formal debate and approval. This is intended to facilitate collective decision making and stand (Ilie, 2015).

Similar sub moves can be identified in the extract below taken from a County Assembly PCR.

**Extract 2**—County Assembly of Mombasa, Committee on Water, Environment and Natural Resources Report on Mr. Francis Kombe—Nominee for the position of Chief Officer, in the Department for Water, Environment and Natural Resources, 3rd Session 2015.

| SM1 Establishing context       | Mr. Speaker Sir and Honourable Members of the County Assembly, it is my humble pleasure to present to you the report on the vetting of Mr. Francis Kombe, the person nominated for the position of Chief Officer, in the Department for Water, Environment and Natural Resources in our County Government of Mombasa. The nominee was nominated by His Excellency, the Governor vide his letter to Honourable Mr. Speaker dated 1st September 2014. |
| SM2 Establishing Legitimacy     | Pursuant to section 45 (I)(b) of the County Governments Act, 2012 and Interim Standing Order No. 42 and 191 (5), the nomination stood committed to the relevant sectoral committee in this case the Committee on Water, Environment and Natural Resources of this honourable county assembly. |
| SM3 Establishing Further Legit- macy | The said sectoral committee put in motion processes and procedures to ensure the law was complied with. Hence, the public was duly notified through the press of the vetting of Mr. Francis Kombe and anyone with information that could help the committee make a proper and fair determination was invited to present evidence or pertinent information. Thereafter, the Committee notified Mr. Francis Kombe personally and invited him to a vetting meeting conducted by the Committee on Thursday, 18th December 2015. |
| SM4 Stating Purpose            | This report is based on the proceedings of that particular vetting meeting and in very briefly encapsulates the observations and findings of the Committee thereof on the nominee. |

4.2. Method/ Materials Move

The Method rhetorical move is an account of the process used to produce the PCR and provides sufficient information about the methods and material used to produce the report. Method rhetorical move is used to present what has been done, how and when. The section carries all information to demonstrate that the PCR is valid and that there was public participation as the
committee gathered information before writing the report. In this study, the Methods move included details on data collection such as fact-finding tours, public presentations, committee meetings and any documents referred to by the committee. The rhetorical function of the move is to ultimately describe the procedure and activities involved in writing the PCR. Extract 3 is a sample Method Section from National Assembly report.

**Extract 3:** NA Method Section of PCR (Kenya National Assembly 3rd Session 2015, Departmental Committee on Justice and legal Affairs Report on the Approval for Appointment of Dr. Samuel Njuguna)

An analysis of the Method section of PCRs identifies four sub-moves in the Method and Material section as indicted above. SM1 dwells on providing a context or background of the task and mandate of the committee, SM2 deals with data collection procedures and involves the committee generating a schedule of activities and sources of data to compile their report. In most reports this stage focuses on public participation and may call for input from the public, stakeholders, fact finding and interview. SM3 sheds light on data analysis procedures which may involve the committee retreat to draft the report for lying to the plenary. SM4 which summarizes data collection, analysis and adoption of the report may be included in the Method move or be part of the Preface. Similar sub moves can be identified in the extract below taken from a County Assembly PCR.

**Extract 4**-Nairobi City County Assembly Committee on Labour and Social Welfare Report on Committee Consideration of Person with Disabilities Bill, 2015.
Mr Speaker, Sir,

The principle objects of the Bill is to provide for the rights and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, to achieve equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities.

The Bill also seeks to establish the Nairobi City County Board for Persons with Disabilities which will provide for administrative framework, functions and powers. The bill also provides for the rights of persons with disabilities and further requires Nairobi City County Government to take progressive measures to the maximum of its ability to avail resources for the full realization of the rights.

3.0 DELIBERATIONS ON THE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES BILL, 2015

Mr Speaker, Sir,

In processing the Bill, the Committee, through an advertisement appearing in the local dailies on 9th October, 2015, called for memoranda from stakeholders pursuant to Article 196(1) (b) of the Constitution and Standing Order 121(3).

The Committee would like to report it received submissions from five stakeholders namely: National Council for Persons with Disabilities, Commission of Human Rights, National Gender and Equality Commission, Nairobi City County – Department of Education, Youth, Gender, Social Services and Sports, Nairobi City County Assembly – Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations, submissions by members of the public, namely; Ms. Nyambura Nzungu, Mr. Martin Njoroge, Mr. F.T O’maronda, whose views were taken into account in this report.

The Committee was in agreement with the contents of the Bill. However, the Committee has proposed amendments to some sections as contained in the “Amendments” section of this report. In principle, the Committee was in agreement with the contents of the Bill. However, the Committee has proposed amendments to some clauses as contained in the “Amendments” section of the report.

The analysis of PCRs in this study, reveal that Method/Material move is an account of the process used to produce the report. It provides the general methods and materials used to enable the committee produce their work. It helps legislators, who are the ultimate consumers of PCRs, to judge whether appropriate procedures were used and this helps in forming their judgments on results and conclusions. Appropriate methods must therefore be used in generating PCRs for them to be credible and valid. This is because parliament delegates their role to committees to collect information and give feedback.

Public participation is a critical element of Parliamentary committee report since the constitution gives sovereign power to the people. Within a democracy like Kenya, parliament is the central institution through which the will of the people is expressed, laws are passed and government is held to account to the people. Ilie (2015) argues that as elected bodies that represent society in all diversity, parliaments are considered to embody the will of the people in government and to shoulder their expectations. Public participation is therefore crucial in generation of PCRs to ensure that legislators’ serve the expectations of the people and ensure government is responsive to their needs as envisaged in Article 1 of the constitution of Kenya (2010) which states: “All sovereign power belongs to the people of Kenya and shall be exercised only in accordance with the constitution.

Construction of PCRs must involve wide consultation and public participation to reflect the needs and aspirations of the citizens. If appropriate methods are not used, members of the public may seek redress in the courts which give interpretations and sometimes nullify proposed laws.
and recommendations of PCRs where it is deemed there was no public participation. In the same vein, legislators debate PCRs in order to own them and provide an avenue for collective decision making. This is in concurrence with Swales (1990) definition of a discourse community as having participatory mechanisms primarily to provide information and feedback. Indeed, parliamentary activities are conducted by discussions, consultations, disputes, votes and consensus with an aim of embracing democracy, collective decision making and giving the outcome validity and legitimacy. Parliamentary Committees consider policy issues, scrutinize the workings and expenditure of National and County Governments and examine proposals for legislation which must be based on accepted procedures to boost their credibility and reliability hence enhancing acceptability.

4.3. Results Move

According to Brett (1994) the Results section indicates the finding/observations of the PCRs based upon the methodology applied. The findings are directly related to the purpose identified by the committee in the introduction. The results/Findings are usually presented in a brief summary form which helps legislators to find the main points and key details to guide them in debating the report in the plenary.

Moreover, since many legislators may not find time to read the entire report, they may only be interested in looking at certain parts of the report to form a judgment about the report; one such part is the Result section. Therefore, the function of the Result section is to objectively provide key observations and findings in an orderly and logical sequence. Depending on their subject, PCRs present results in form of scrutinized policies, proposed bills, issues and other incidental matters so that parliament is well informed during debate and this gives a stable foundation for decision making. The results are used for political deliberations, problem solving and decision making which are crucial to parliamentary deliberations as articulated by Ilie (2006) and should be clear, factual and informative. Below is a sample extract of Result section of a Senate report.

Extract 5: Senate Result Section of PCR -Appendix III. (Report of the Committee of Health on the Mombasa County visit, 3rd session, June 2015).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee Observations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The committee makes the following observations from its interactions with the Mombasa health team and their visit to the Coast General Provincial Hospital:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Files for Health workers are still in Afya House (National Government), while the workers are answerable to counties. This is affecting issues of promotions, training and leave. Also, counties have not developed capacity to deal with the huge volumes of personnel files;

2. The salaries of former municipal workers and county workers are not harmonized and this affects the morale of the staff;

3. There are still challenges in financing of the Level five hospital; though the National Government gives conditional grants to these hospitals through counties, the funds go to the County Treasury along with others;

4. The hospital was trying to address the access to health services by the disabled persons and other marginalized groups through waivers and creation of service charters. It was also incorporating their concerns when rehabilitating physical structures. The Committee noted that the mobile clinics do not address the issue of disabled mothers; and

5. The Committee was impressed by the Mombasa County’s rapid response and subsequent containment of the Cholera case that had been discovered on 12th April, 2015 in Likoni area of the County.

In the extract above, the committee makes five observation (1-5) as a result of their interactions and visit to Coast Provincial General Hospital. The Results move serves to bring out the observations/results/main findings of the PCR. The move, in this study is intended to capture the observation of the committee, draw attention to key findings and allow members to form conclusions). Below is
an extract taken from a County Assembly PCR on Committee Results/ Findings.


Mr. Speaker Sir,

One of the key findings that the Joint Committee makes; is the glaring absence of land demarcation plan that delineates the varied land uses within the Swamp especially the area under Dominion Farms and the community land boundaries. The lack of clarity on where the farm starts and ends and where the community land begins is the major cause of constant conflict between the community and Dominion Farms. The Committee further noted that Dominion farms appear to have started using 3,200ha, of land that had not been officially leased to them, which if established to be true constitutes an illegality.

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**4.4. The Discussion Move**

The Discussion section is the final move of the IMRaD Model. However, there was no Discussion section in parliamentary committee reports analyzed in this study, instead the reports included recommendations. According to Nwogu (1997) the purpose of the discussion move is to show the principles, relationships and generalizations implied by the results of your study. The discussion may be applicable in academic and scientific reports but not in PCRs where legislators are more interested in findings and the way forward. As representative bodies, parliaments are democratically constituted forums for political deliberation, problem-solving, and decision-making. According to Ilie (2015), discourses enacted in parliament not only reflect political, social, and cultural configurations in an ever-changing world, but they also contribute to shaping these configurations discursively, cross-rhetorically, and cross-culturally. Consequently, discussion of PCR takes place in the plenary where sometimes legislators do not agree with the results and recommendation of PCRs and this leads to confrontational dialogue, debates and divisions among members. At the end of such debates the speaker puts a question and the results of the PCRs are adopted, amended or rejected by a majority vote or according to the dictates of prevailing laws. The absence of the Discussion move reflects both the genre's purposes and the conventions of the discourse community regarding the composition of the PCRs. Furthermore, genres have conventionally been distinguished according to the communicative function and recurring features of content and form in a text (1984, 2005).

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**4.5. The Recommendation Move**

Unlike other forms of reports that are presented for implementation and are not open to further debate after compilation, PCRs have to undergo rigorous scrutiny and debate at the plenary. Recommendations suggest course of action, and it is the part of the report that is frequently referred to during parliamentary deliberations. The recommendation section therefore attempts to persuade legislators to take a desired course of action. The recommendation section of PCRs studied was brief and made conclusions and recommendation. The brevity may be informed by the need to be clear and precise on the expected outcome given legislators are engaged on a myriad of issues any particular time. By highlighting the outcome and explaining conclusions, PCR recommendations should guide the legislators in forming an opinion about the report and the way forward. Below is a sample Recommendation Section of a Kericho County Assembly report.

**Extract 7: Kericho CA Report Recommendation Section.** (Report on the Petition Lodged by Geoffrey Langat, October 2015, Kericho County Assembly Committee of Justice and Legal Affairs, 3rd Session, October 2015).
Recommendations

The committee recommends the following as per the petitioner's prayers;

1. The committee cannot grant prayer number one since it is a procurement function of the executive as they are to uphold the principle of competitive bidding.

2. The AI services cannot be offered for free as the House had passed a resolution that the said services be offered at a subsidized rate.

3. The department of Agriculture Fisheries and Livestock are in order to involve the department of Trade, Industrialization, Co-operative Management, Tourism and wildlife since Co-operatives is a section of Trade Department

The Committee, having executed its mandate under Standing Order 205(2) of the Standing Orders found the prayers not to have been substantiated hence the petition is hereby dismissed due to lack of evidence by the petitioner.

The section above is made up of two sub moves, 1- Recommendation and 2- Conclusion although some reports only made recommendations only. In the report cited above the committee makes three recommendations 1-3 and then makes a conclusion in the last sentence/paragraph. Recommendations and conclusions often appear together in PCRs although they may serve different purposes as explained in the table below.

Table 7 Steps/ Sub moves in Recommendation section.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Move</th>
<th>Sub move</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recommendation</td>
<td>SM1-Recommendation</td>
<td>Suggest action to be taken in response to the findings of the report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SM2-Conclusion</td>
<td>Summarize or review the main ideas of the PCR.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As the purpose of persuasive text is to persuade and convince, PCRs include recommendations to give a solution or a way forward on the issues delved into in the report. Moreover, the Recommendations and conclusions must be justified by the findings of the report and both the investigative and deliberative processes of the committee. The report's Recommendations help parliament in one of its major roles of contributing to problem solving tasks regarding legal and political deliberations as well as decision making processes. As elected bodies that represent society in all its diversity, parliaments are considered to embody the will of the people in government and to carry their expectations. Parliaments should be truly responsive to the needs of the entire society under their remit and help solve the most pressing problems that confront its members in their daily lives (Ilie, 2015). Below is an extract taken from a National Assembly PCR on Committee Recommendations.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee recommends:

(i) **THAT**, the government implements the sugar industry strategic agenda for increased competitiveness and reduction in consumer prices. There is need to lower production cost, improve extension services among others to reduce and eventually eliminate the incentive to smuggle sugar into the country.

(ii) **THAT**, the government establishes a permanent inter-agency enforcement unit on sugar trade which should enhance capacity to verify, scrutiny and monitor cross-border trade and step up border patrols to eradicate sugar smuggling. The unit should draw membership from KPA, Public Health, AFFA, KEBS, the Kenya Police, KRA and any other relevant government agencies.

(iii) **THAT**, KRA officer(s) should be investigated and appropriate action taken clearing sugar without permit from the sugar regulator. Equally any company that imported sugar without a permit from the regulator should be banned.

(iv) **THAT**, relevant laws and regulations governing sugar imports and exports should be amended to provide for higher accountability and public health standards for re-packaged sugar and for stiffer penalties for offenders. The Government should cancel the trading licences for the following companies: Kenafiric Industries, Czarnikov E. A. Ltd and Rising Star Commodities Ltd.

(v) **THAT**, the reinforcement of re-packaging regulations to ensure consumer safety and that KEBS be held responsible for failure to prevent abuse of its seal which is supposed to be a standard measure for safety of goods in the country but has consistently been abused.

Furthermore, according to Treimane (2009) parliaments are highly structured due to the complex use of conventionalized norms, procedural standards, patterns of interactions and decision-making routines. Therefore, PCRs are meant to achieve specific purposes; persuading, opinion building, agenda setting, law formulation or repealing and should ultimately embody the will of the people and ensure governments are fully accountable. Therefore, conclusion and recommendations form an important part of any PCR since they give the significance of the findings of the committee and propose action to be taken. Indeed, it is the part of the report that is frequently referred to for decision making and forms most of the debate at the plenary.

4.5. Other Moves of PCRs

Swales (1990, 2004) views a move as rhetorical division of academic text that conveys different communicative purposes. Moves reflect both the writer’s purposes and the conventions of the discourse community regarding the composition of the text being constructed. Apart from those sections included in IMRaD there are other parts that make up a report such as Title, Authors, Abstract, Conclusions, Acknowledgement, References and Appendices. However, these sections are treated in this study, as elements of the generic structure potential of PCRs and does not fit the definition of move. Generic structure potential is made up of obligatory and optional components which are functionally motivated by contextual features and the communicative purpose of the text. They comprise the total range of obligatory and optional components and their ordering, variations in their sequence and reiterative potential (Ansary and Babaii, 2005). Nevertheless, an analysis of PCRs depicts the Preface as a major segment that help to unravel the communicative purpose of PCRs. In PCRs, the preface appears before the introduction and may include mandate and functions of the committee, membership of the committee, background of the issue under deliberation, executive summary, acknowledgements, confirmation of the adoption of the report at the committee level and a call for its adoption at the plenary as highlighted below.
4.6. Preface

A preface is an introduction at the beginning of a book which explains what the book is about or why it was written. According to Bhatia (1997), the preface is a subcategory of academic introductions which has the communicative purpose of introducing the work. However, introductions and prefaces are different as regards their function for the introduction is informative while the preface performs both promotional and informative roles. There may be variation in the use of the preface depending on the PCR purpose but generally the preface contains the sub moves shown in the table below.

Table 8: Sub moves of PCR Preface.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Move</th>
<th>Sub moves</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preface</td>
<td>Mandate of the committee</td>
<td>Show the constitutional mandate, function and jurisdiction of the committee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Committee Membership</td>
<td>Give ownership of the committee by indicating its members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Background of the issue</td>
<td>Provide context on the matter under deliberation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Executive summary</td>
<td>Provide a brief overview of the PCR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Acknowledgement</td>
<td>Appreciate those who have contributed in bringing the PCR to live</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Confirmation of adoption at committee</td>
<td>Authenticate the PCR by showing ownership and collective responsibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Call for adoption at plenary</td>
<td>Inviting members to support the report</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Conclusions

From the analysis of different PCRs in this study, it is evident that the IMRaD rhetorical move structure described by Nair (2014), Lore's (2004) and Nwogu (1997) does not entirely apply to Parliamentary Committee Reports. From the study, it was evident that PCRs employ their own distinct structure which includes: Preface, Introduction, Method, Results and Recommendation (PIMRaR) model. Additionally, each move was realized by one or more steps but not all moves comprised of sub moves. The moves and sub move(s) serve to structure the reports and aid in relaying information and the persuasive purpose of PCRs. Therefore, the results of this study have revealed that there are five rhetorical moves of PCRs which include; Preface, Introduction, Method, Result and Recommendation (PIMRaR). The overall purpose of informing convincing and persuading is met through a sequence of moves, each move achieving an intermediate rhetorical purpose in the PCR. Each move is identified by recognizing the functional role it plays in a text as shown in the table below.
The findings of the study are not surprising because previous research has shown that rhetorical move structure is related to communicative purpose of the genre. Even in similar genre depending on the approach of analysis and interpretation of communication purpose different moves may be identified. For example, analysis of Research Abstracts (RAs) by Nwogu (1997), Lore's (2004) identifies four moves Introduction, Method, Results and Discussion (IMRaD) while an analysis by Hyland (2004) identifies five moves Introduction, Purpose, Method, Results and Discussion (IPM RaD). PCRs are therefore made up of moves and each move is the result of combination of different sub moves/ steps. The pattern of Moves in PCRs suggests the importance of moves in meeting genre convention, communicative purposes and organizing content within different genres. The findings are in line with the suggestion by Muangsma (2018) that the combination of moves reveals structural patterns of the rhetorical discourse, and the sequence based on authors’ communication goals. The moves in PCRs help legislators to focus on what they consider important and make reference to it during debate.

Moreover, in order to achieve their communicative purpose PCRs, use different rhetorical moves which are made up of steps/ sub moves and their combination brings out a unity that enhances the communicative significance of the genre. Moves in PCRs contain the main themes and help legislators in selecting key thematic areas that they find crucial to their understanding and judgment of the reports. From the analysis it is evident that Kenyan PCRs are not written randomly but there is a general rhetorical structure which helps in making the reports organized and aids in their persuasive purpose. Indeed, in analyzing a genre, linguists begin to analyze a genre assuming that its overall purpose is met through a sequence of stages, each stage achieving rhetorical purpose. The division into moves therefore, contributes to the fulfillment of overall communicative purpose of the genre though each move has its own communicative purpose.

Finally, the front matter sections such as the title and the authors as well as the back matter such as the appendices were not included in the rhetorical moves of PCRs. This is informed by Swales (1990, 2004) view that in genre analysis a move is identified by recognizing the functional role it plays in a text. In this regard, the move structure of PCRs begins with the preface and ends with the recommendation. Additionally, the executive summary and the acknowledgement are not viewed as moves in PCRs since they mostly appear as sub moves in the preface. After all, the identification of a move does not only involve the boundaries of a text as a move may consist of several sub moves which when considered together serve a specific communicative purpose in the genre (Bawarshi and Reiff, 2010). Furthermore, some genres can be identified by their moves while in others not including some moves does not change the genre identity since they are used as complementary steps and are therefore optional.

Table 9. Move Structure of PCRs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Move</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preface (P)</td>
<td>Gives an overview of the report by focusing on mandate of the committee, membership, background of the issue and summary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction (I)</td>
<td>Provides necessary background to allow legislators understand the context of the PCRs and the issue under deliberation. It orients members on the subject, genesis, focus and importance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Method (M)</td>
<td>Explains what was done to gather material for the report and the process of its drafting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results (R)</td>
<td>Describes what the committee found out. Gives observations/ findings usually in a brief, concise and factual manner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendations (R)</td>
<td>Proposes action to be taken upon adoption of the PCR based on the findings.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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