

POLITENESS AND FACEWORK IN A POLITICAL INTERVIEW: SEUN OKINBALOYE AND SENATOR DINO MELAYE ON CHANNELS TV

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ABSTRACT

This study examines how politeness and facework are managed in one television interview, in which Seun Okinbaloye interviewed Senator Dino Melaye on the programme Politics Today (Channels Television, 1 August 2025). Using Brown and Levinson's (1987) politeness theory and a qualitative content analysis of the full transcript, the study coded 73 politeness acts: 37 positive politeness (50.7%), 19 negative politeness (26.0%) and 17 bald on record face threatening acts (FTAs) (23.3%). Nine of Brown and Levinson's fifteen positive politeness strategies occurred. Joking was the most frequent (12 instances), followed by goodwill expressions (6), exaggeration (5) and in group identity markers (5), the last used only by the guest, mainly through the kinship address my brother. Negative politeness was realised mostly through thanking and deference. The host produced more unmitigated FTAs than the guest (12 against 5), but both speakers used humour to soften challenges. Positive politeness was more frequent than negative politeness (exact binomial test, $p = .022$). The findings describe this single interview and are not generalised to other programmes.

Keywords: *politeness, facework, political interviews, Channels TV, Seun Okinbaloye, Nigerian media, discourse analysis, Brown and Levinson, face threatening acts*

1. INTRODUCTION

Language allows people to express thoughts, emotions, feelings and opinions (Fitria et al., 2020). Speakers do not always use it politely, however, and talk that ignores the listener's feelings can hurt. The study of how speakers manage this risk belongs to pragmatics, and politeness is one of its central topics.

In pragmatics, politeness does not mean etiquette, such as letting someone go through a door first or using a napkin. It refers to the choices speakers make in language that give other people room and show a considerate attitude (Cutting, 2002, pp. 44–45). Put differently, politeness is the means by which speakers show that they are aware of the other person's face (Yule, 1996, p. 60). Face is a person's public self image, with emotional and social components that everyone expects others to recognise (Goffman, 1967; Brown & Levinson, 1987). Conversation therefore needs strategies that keep the exchange comfortable for both sides, and speakers must judge how to put things so that they sound acceptable and avoid words that wound (Yule, 1996).

Political interviews are a demanding setting for politeness. The interviewer is expected to press the guest with difficult questions, while the guest must defend a position and still keep the exchange civil. This study analyses one such interview, "2027 Elections is Nigeria versus APC", broadcast on Channels Television on 1 August 2025. The host, Seun Okinbaloye, interviewed Senator Dino Melaye shortly after Melaye had resigned from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and joined the African Democratic Congress (ADC). The topics (party loyalty, religion, the 2027 elections and the performance of the government) are sensitive, so the interview offers many points at which face is at risk.

The study aims to describe the positive politeness strategies, negative politeness strategies and bald on record FTAs used by the host and the guest in this interview. It addresses two research questions:

- **RQ1.** Which politeness strategies (positive and negative) and bald on record FTAs occur in the interview, and in what proportions?
- **RQ2.** Which sub strategies are used most often, and how do the host and the guest differ?

The findings apply to this interview only. They are offered as a detailed case description, not as a claim about Okinbaloye's programme or about Nigerian media talk in general.

2. THEORIES OF POLITENESS

Research on linguistic politeness and face is extensive. Most of it treats politeness either as a way of avoiding conflict or as a way of building cooperative interaction (Eelen, 2001; Watts, 2003). Overviews are available in Fraser (1990) and Kasper (1990), and cross cultural comparisons such as Fukushima (2002) show how requests and politeness differ between languages. This paper does not attempt a full survey. It concentrates on Brown and Levinson's (1987) model, which supplies the analytic categories used here, and on the main criticisms of that model.

2.1 Brown and Levinson's model

Brown and Levinson (1987) hold that almost every speech act can threaten the face of the speaker or the hearer, so speakers use strategies to reduce the threat (Sapitri et al., 2019). They distinguish four options: bald on record, positive politeness, negative politeness and off record. A bald on record utterance is direct and unmitigated. It is the least polite option and can seem confrontational, but it may be used when the speaker holds power over the hearer or when efficiency matters most (Brown & Levinson, 1987; Hakim & Novitasari, 2022). Negative politeness addresses the hearer's wish for freedom from imposition. It keeps a respectful distance, offers choices and avoids coercion (Hakim & Novitasari, 2022). Positive politeness addresses the hearer's wish to be liked and approved of by treating the hearer as a friend or member of the group, someone whose wants are known and valued (Brown & Levinson, 1987). Off record strategies convey the message indirectly, by hints, so that the speaker cannot be held to a single meaning.

Brown and Levinson list fifteen positive politeness strategies and ten negative politeness strategies. Table 1 gives the list, with the numbering used in the coding below.

Table 1. Brown and Levinson's (1987) positive and negative politeness strategies

Positive politeness (S = speaker, H = hearer)	Negative politeness
1. Notice, attend to H	1. Be conventionally indirect
2. Exaggerate (interest, approval, sympathy)	2. Question, hedge
3. Intensify interest to H	3. Be pessimistic
4. Use in group identity markers	4. Minimize the imposition
5. Seek agreement	5. Give deference
6. Avoid disagreement	6. Apologize
7. Presuppose, raise or assert common ground	7. Impersonalize S and H
8. Joke	8. State the FTA as a general rule
9. Assert knowledge of H's wants	9. Nominalize
10. Offer, promise	10. Go on record as incurring a debt
11. Be optimistic	
12. Include both S and H in the activity	
13. Give (or ask for) reasons	
14. Assume or assert reciprocity	
15. Give gifts to H (goodwill, sympathy, cooperation)	

Note. Numbering follows Brown and Levinson (1987).

2.2 Criticisms and alternatives

Brown and Levinson present their theory as universal and build it around a "Model Person" who reasons rationally from communicative goals to the best means of achieving them (Eelen, 2001). They accept that cultures will differ in what threatens face, which strategies are preferred and which relationships call for protective strategies. Their own data came from only three languages (English, Tzeltal and Tamil), which weakens the universality claim, and much of the later debate concerns whether face and politeness are universal or culture specific (Watts, 2003).

The notion of face has a long history as a metaphor for honour, respect and self esteem. Two seminal sources are Hu (1944), on Chinese face, and Goffman (1967), who drew on Hu. Scholars working on Chinese, Japanese and Igbo have argued that face is more public, group oriented or situational than Brown and Levinson allow (Gu, 1990; Ho, 1994; Ide, 1989; Lim, 1994; Mao, 1994; Matsumoto, 1988; Nwoye, 1992). Werkhofer (1992) criticises the model as individualistic, because it portrays speakers as rational agents free of social constraint, and as too static, because power, distance and imposition are treated as fixed variables that determine polite meaning. The model also arranges the speaker's options as a decision tree, which seems to rule out choosing two strategies at once (Watts, 2003).

Watts (2003) proposes a different approach. He separates the everyday, lay notion of (im)politeness (first order, or politeness1) from the theoretical notion (second order, or politeness2), a distinction Eelen (2001) also stresses. Building on Bourdieu's (1977) account of social practice, he argues that theory should study how people argue over what counts as polite. He introduces the term *politic behaviour* for behaviour that participants treat as appropriate to the interaction. On his view, politeness1 is behaviour that goes beyond what is politic, and no linguistic form is polite in itself. Whether a form is polite depends on the situation and on how the participants interpret it. Watts also returns to Goffman's (1967) idea that face is attributed to people in line with the "line" they take in a given encounter, so that facework must be negotiated afresh in each interaction.

Vilkki (2006) agrees with Watts that politeness and face should not be equated, but identifies three difficulties in his account. First, Goffman's notion of face is still individualistic (Bargiela-Chiappini, 2003), so it may suit poorly cultures that place group identity above individual identity. Second, defining politeness1 as behaviour in excess of the politic seems to reintroduce a moral judgement that Watts wants to avoid. Third, it is not known whether cultures differ in how far face is renegotiated from one occasion to the next, and this needs cross cultural testing.

2.3 Leech and Lakoff

Two other well known accounts are Leech's (1983) Politeness Principle and Lakoff's (1973) rules of politeness. Leech derives his principle from Grice's (1975) Cooperative Principle, whose maxims are Quantity, Quality, Relation and Manner. His aim is to reduce impolite beliefs and increase polite ones, and he organises the principle into six maxims: Tact, Generosity, Approbation, Modesty, Agreement and Sympathy. Lakoff treats politeness as a system for reducing conflict, built on three rules: distance, deference and camaraderie. Taken together, these accounts show that politeness is central to successful communication.

This study uses Brown and Levinson's model because it gives explicit, named categories that can be applied to a transcript. The criticisms above are kept in view. In particular, Watts's point that no form is inherently polite means that every coding decision below is an interpretation of an utterance in context.

3. EMPIRICAL STUDIES

A large body of empirical work has examined politeness across cultures, genres and institutions. Much of the work discussed in this section is drawn from the review by Sarfo-Adu and Osei (2021), and studies not read directly are cited as reported there.

In education and writing, Seyyed et al. (2016) found that Iranian EFL learners used positive politeness both with their instructor and with each other on a class blog. Agbaglo (2017, as cited in Sarfo-Adu & Osei, 2021) found that writers of English research articles prefer negative politeness in the analysis and discussion sections. Work on African languages includes Akpanglo-Nartey's (2017, as cited in Sarfo-Adu & Osei, 2021) study of requests among Ga speaking learners of English, and Ofusuaa and Bosiwah's (2015, as cited in Sarfo-Adu & Osei, 2021) ethnographic study of requests among the Akyem of Ghana, which found that indirectness is the norm and that age, gender and socioeconomic status shape how requests are made.

The studies closest to the present one concern media talk. Edu-Buandoh (2011, as cited in Sarfo-Adu & Osei, 2021) examined syntactic politeness markers in Ghanaian media panel discussions and identified "let me" as a distinctively Ghanaian marker. Pinto (2015, as cited in Sarfo-Adu & Osei, 2021) studied televised debates in the 2014 Brazilian presidential election and found that the moderator's and candidates' strategies were shaped by the audience, political ideology and unequal relations. Stodulkova (2013, as cited in Sarfo-Adu & Osei, 2021) examined gender in British and American television talk shows and reported that women's talk was more polite than men's and that British speakers were more polite than Americans. Hamed (2014, as cited in Sarfo-Adu & Osei, 2021) compared British and Egyptian sports media analysts and found that both preferred positive to negative politeness, with the Egyptians using more positive politeness and the British more negative. Kuang and Maya (2013, as cited in Sarfo-Adu & Osei, 2021) found that front counter staff in Malaysian private hospitals used more impolite openings but polite closings.

Sarfo-Adu and Osei (2021) themselves analysed Ghanaian media panel discussions. They reported that positive politeness was most frequent, followed by negative politeness and then FTAs without redress, and they noted kinship terms as a marker of positive politeness. Their findings give a useful point of comparison for this study (Section 8).

Taken together, these studies show how politeness is realised in many cultures and settings. The studies reviewed here, however, do not examine a Nigerian televised political interview in which a host presses a guest on sensitive political questions. The present study addresses this gap by describing one such interview in detail.

4. MATERIALS AND METHODS

4.1 Design

The study uses a qualitative descriptive design with content analysis. Natural data are preferred because only natural data show what happens in real interaction (Golato, 2002). The analysis is mainly interpretive, and simple counts are used to describe how often each strategy occurs.

4.2 Data

The data are the complete transcript of one interview, “2027 Elections is Nigeria versus APC”, broadcast on the Channels Television programme *Politics Today* on 1 August 2025 (Channels Television, 2025). The interview is the only source of data. The study does not use random sampling. The interview was chosen purposively, because it is a politically sensitive interview with a high profile guest, and all of it was analysed, so there is no sampling of excerpts.

The transcript in the Appendix was generated from the broadcast. It contains recognition errors, which have been left as they appear (for example, “Mallay” for Melaye and “article” or “Artiku” for Atiku). Only the speaker labels were standardised, and each speaker turn was numbered (T1 to T97) so that every coded instance can be located. All quotations in this paper reproduce the transcript wording.

4.3 Procedure and coding rules

Each speaker turn was read in full and coded by hand. The unit of analysis is one politeness act: an utterance, or part of one, that performs a positive politeness strategy, a negative politeness strategy, or a face threatening act without redress (a bald on record FTA). The following decisions were applied throughout:

- A strategy that is repeated within a single turn is counted once for that turn. For example, Melaye says *my brother* three times in T60 and this is counted as one instance.
- A challenge that is softened by a joke is coded as positive politeness (joke), because its function is mitigation. A challenge with no mitigation is coded as a bald on record FTA.
- “Let me” is coded as negative politeness (minimizing the imposition) only when it introduces a question or request.
- Honorific address (*Senator*) and “with due respect” are coded as giving deference; thanking is coded as going on record as incurring a debt (Brown & Levinson, 1987); expressions such as “Good to see you” and “My pleasure” are coded as giving gifts (goodwill).
- Routine acknowledgements and utterances without a clear politeness function were not coded.

4.4 Hypothesis

To compare the two main politeness types, the following hypotheses were tested with an exact binomial test on the counts of positive and negative politeness acts.

H₀: There is no difference between the frequencies of positive and negative politeness strategies.

H₁: Positive politeness strategies are more frequent than negative politeness strategies.

4.5 Limits of the procedure

The coding was done by one coder, and no inter coder agreement is reported. Because coding depends on the interpretation of utterances in context (Watts, 2003), other analysts could code some items differently. The counts are therefore best read as a transparent description of this interview, not as exact measurements.

5. FACE

In Brown and Levinson’s (1987) account, “face” is the public self image that every person wants to claim, not the physical face. They distinguish two kinds, following Goffman’s (1967) notion of face:

- **Positive face** is the desire to be liked, approved of and valued as a member of a group. It is threatened by acts that suggest the person is disliked, criticised or disapproved of.
- **Negative face** is the desire for autonomy, freedom of action and freedom from imposition. It is threatened by acts that restrict that freedom, such as a direct command or a request that is hard to refuse.

Both kinds of face matter in a political interview. A guest’s positive face is bound up with his public title, his party loyalty and his reputation, while his negative face is at stake when the host presses him to answer or to justify a decision.

6. FACE THREATENING ACTS AND POLITENESS STRATEGIES

Some acts, called face threatening acts, inherently threaten the face of the speaker or the hearer. Examples are criticism, disagreement, accusation and request (Brown & Levinson, 1987). Because people want to protect their

own and others' face, they usually soften such acts with politeness strategies, a process Goffman (1967) described as "facework". Brown and Levinson's (1987) options for performing an FTA can be summarised as follows:

- **Bald on record:** the FTA is performed directly, with no redress (for example, a blunt challenge or command).
- **Positive politeness:** the FTA is softened by showing approval, shared ground or friendliness (for example, a joke or an in group address term).
- **Negative politeness:** the FTA is softened by showing deference and respect for autonomy (for example, a hedge, an honorific or a request framed as a small imposition).
- **Off record:** the FTA is conveyed indirectly by a hint, so the speaker can deny the intended meaning.

In short, politeness in this view is a strategic choice for managing social relationships, balancing the speaker's goals against the risk of causing offence. This study codes the first three options. Off record hints are difficult to identify reliably in an automatically generated transcript, so they were not coded.

7. DATA ANALYSIS

7.1 Coded instances

Tables 2 to 4 present every instance coded in the interview (73 in all). The turn number (T) refers to the numbered transcript in the Appendix, and "Host" and "Guest" refer to Okinbaloye and Melaye. The excerpt shows the words that carry the coded strategy.

Table 2. Positive politeness instances (n = 37)

ID	Turn	Speaker	Strategy (B&L no.)	Excerpt from transcript
P1	T3	Host	Avoid disagreement (6)	"Always a senator. Once you are a senator"
P2	T5	Host	Exaggerate (2)	"forever will be just like a governor will forever be a governor"
P3	T9	Host	Exaggerate (2)	"You're already proving your case."
P4	T9	Host	Give gifts: goodwill (15)	"Good to see you."
P5	T10	Guest	Give gifts: goodwill (15)	"My pleasure."
P6	T13	Host	Joke (8)	"You're almost a grandfather."
P7	T14	Guest	Joke (8)	"It's not too late to learn."
P8	T17	Host	Exaggerate (2)	"Good. Good. Good."
P9	T17	Host	Intensify interest to H (3)	"But how has it been?"
P10	T19	Host	Presuppose common ground (7)	"Where are the canker worms now?"
P11	T23	Host	Exaggerate (2)	"you don't you don't hide your friends."
P12	T43	Host	Joke (8)	"So you know God. Wow. I will be surprised."
P13	T44	Guest	Joke (8)	"This guy knows this guy knows God."
P14	T52	Guest	Joke (8)	"Once I was blind, now I can see."
P15	T55	Host	Joke (8)	"Maybe you do not have the gift of interpretation of tongues."
P16	T58	Guest	Exaggerate (2)	"you are an investigative journalist"
P17	T58	Guest	In group identity marker (4)	"my brother I've gone to many programs"
P18	T60	Guest	In group identity marker (4)	"My brother, my brother, I think you will show me some regard"
P19	T63	Host	Seek agreement (5)	"So ADC is an altar call. It's a national altar call."
P20	T65	Host	Seek agreement (5)	"Yeah. Understand?"
P21	T70	Guest	Presuppose common ground (7)	"You know the role of an opposition and you know how powerful Nigerian governors are."
P22	T72	Guest	In group identity marker (4)	"my brother there will be been gay in this country"
P23	T76	Guest	In group identity marker (4)	"My brother, I am not here to preach south or north."
P24	T76	Guest	Seek agreement (5)	"Understand? And you say you are snoring"
P25	T77	Host	Seek agreement (5)	"All right, Senator because that is the only solution."

ID	Turn	Speaker	Strategy (B&L no.)	Excerpt from transcript
P26	T79	Host	Joke (8)	"I know you are a supporter of a failed football club in England"
P27	T80	Guest	Joke (8)	"Um I beg your pardon you and Basaki."
P28	T81	Host	Joke (8)	"You're a supporter of and it's shame."
P29	T83	Host	Joke (8)	"We can we can take you as IDPS into Chelsea team"
P30	T85	Host	Include both S and H (12)	"But let's leave that"
P31	T86	Guest	Joke (8)	"I'm surprised you are supporting Chelsea."
P32	T88	Guest	In group identity marker (4)	"My brother, you have you have an album"
P33	T89	Host	Give gifts: goodwill (15)	"I wish you and your friend in the ADC the very best."
P34	T92	Guest	Give gifts: goodwill (15)	"It's always a pleasure."
P35	T93	Host	Give gifts: goodwill (15)	"It's good to see you again."
P36	T94	Guest	Give gifts: goodwill (15)	"It's mine."
P37	T95	Host	Joke (8)	"you were not all white bearded"

Table 3. Negative politeness instances (n = 19)

ID	Turn	Speaker	Strategy (B&L no.)	Excerpt from transcript
N1	T1	Host	Incur a debt: thanking (10)	"Thank you so much indeed for joining us tonight."
N2	T2	Guest	Incur a debt: thanking (10)	"Thank you very much. But I will correct"
N3	T8	Guest	Incur a debt: thanking (10)	"You can say that. Thank you."
N4	T48	Guest	Question, hedge (2)	"at at this stage. Honestly speaking,"
N5	T54	Guest	State the FTA as a general rule (8)	"if not because of codes of operation"
N6	T54	Guest	Impersonalize S and H (7)	"you don't need a prophet to tell you what is happening in this country"
N7	T58	Guest	Minimize the imposition (4)	"Let me let me ask you."
N8	T61	Host	Minimize the imposition (4)	"let me ask you quickly"
N9	T67	Host	Minimize the imposition (4)	"Let me ask concerned"
N10	T69	Host	Question, hedge (2)	"question I'm putting up to you"
N11	T71	Host	Give deference (5)	"with due respect"
N12	T73	Host	Give deference (5)	"Senator, tell us in all of what is going on in Nigeria today"
N13	T75	Host	Question, hedge (2)	"Would you say that it will be fair that the presidency should go to the south in 2027?"
N14	T77	Host	Give deference (5)	"All right, Senator"
N15	T89	Host	Give deference (5)	"Senator, thank you so much indeed"
N16	T89	Host	Incur a debt: thanking (10)	"thank you so much indeed and I wish you"
N17	T90	Guest	Incur a debt: thanking (10)	"Thank you very much."
N18	T91	Host	Incur a debt: thanking (10)	"Thank you so much. Senator Dino Malaye"
N19	T97	Host	Incur a debt: thanking (10)	"Thank you so much indeed."

Table 4. Bald on record face threatening acts (n = 17)

ID	Turn	Speaker	Type of FTA	Excerpt from transcript
F1	T1	Host	Positive face: undermining title	"a lawyer and a former senator"
F2	T6	Guest	Positive face: correction of host	"you can't address a senator as a former senator"
F3	T21	Host	Positive face: challenge to loyalty	"So you left your beloved PDP"
F4	T27	Host	Positive face: challenge to loyalty	"you've dumped him in the PDP"
F5	T29	Host	Positive face: challenge to conduct	"And you don't regret not supporting your friend?"

ID	Turn	Speaker	Type of FTA	Excerpt from transcript
F6	T41	Host	Positive face: challenge to identity	“Are you a Christian?”
F7	T44	Guest	Positive face: counter challenge to host	“is you that actually need some celestial touch”
F8	T49	Host	Positive face: challenge to competence	“But how do you do that?”
F9	T51	Host	Positive face: accusation	“which you helped bring to power”
F10	T53	Host	Positive face: challenge to conduct	“So you regret helping APC”
F11	T56	Guest	Third party (APC): insult	“APC and this government is a car being driven by a drunken driver.”
F12	T57	Host	Positive face: challenge to claim	“So you don't see hope even when they are preaching renewed hope.”
F13	T59	Host	Positive face: challenge to motive	“Are you saying this just because you supported Atiku Abubakar?”
F14	T67	Host	Positive face: challenge to claim	“PDP has been purchased by who? By APC. Who exactly?”
F15	T71	Host	Positive face: challenge to claim	“Is that the voice of an opposition person?”
F16	T72	Guest	Positive face: counter challenge to host	“Is that a statement coming from somebody who is not a member of APC?”
F17	T84	Guest	Negative face: bald imperative	“Leave that story.”

Note. Excerpts are quoted exactly as transcribed, including recognition errors.

7.2 Illustrative excerpts

The following samples show how the coded strategies work in sequence. They were chosen to illustrate the main patterns and to support the claims made in the Discussion.

Sample 1: Title and positive face

[T1] **Okinbaloye:** “...Senator Dino Mallay, a lawyer and a former senator.”¹

[T2] **Melaye:** “Thank you very much. But I will correct that there are no former senators.”

[T3] **Okinbaloye:** “Always a senator. Once you are a senator”

[T6] **Melaye:** “you can't address a senator as a former senator”

[T7] **Okinbaloye:** “as a former federal lawmaker.”

[T8] **Melaye:** “You can say that. Thank you.”

Okinbaloye's introduction describes Melaye as a “former senator”, which threatens Melaye's positive face by questioning his public identity and honorific title. Melaye corrects the host, but he first thanks him (negative politeness), which softens the correction. Okinbaloye then repairs the threat by agreeing (“Always a senator”), a case of avoiding disagreement. Melaye repeats the correction without mitigation, and the host settles on “former federal lawmaker”, which Melaye accepts with thanks. The exchange shows both speakers using facework to protect Melaye's identity.

Sample 2: Teasing and humour

[T13] **Okinbaloye:** “You're almost a grandfather.”

[T14] **Melaye:** “It's not too late to learn.”

Okinbaloye's remark draws attention to Melaye's age and could threaten his positive face. Melaye answers with humour and turns the remark into a virtue (it is “not too late to learn”). Both turns are coded as jokes, a positive politeness strategy that keeps rapport despite the implied threat.

Sample 3: Independence and negative face

[T22] **Melaye:** “...there are those who say anywhere article goes do you know goes. Is that the case for you? Anyway, um I will start by saying I'm not 18... but um I'm a man of my own.”²

¹The transcript spells the guest's surname “Mallay” in the host's opening turn. The correct spelling, Melaye, is used throughout this paper.

²“Article” is a recognition error for “Atiku” (Atiku Abubakar), the former vice president of Nigeria.

This passage appears inside Melaye's own turn in the transcript. It is therefore not treated as a question put by the host, and no FTA is coded for it. It may be a transcription merge of a host question and the guest's answer, which should be checked against the video. Either way, the passage shows how Melaye defends his negative face (his autonomy). He reports the criticism that he simply follows Atiku Abubakar and answers with a bald assertion of independence ("I'm a man of my own") with no hedging, which shows his commitment to protecting his image as an independent politician.

Sample 4: Religion and mitigated challenge

[T39] **Okinbaloye:** "Not because you are Daniel."

[T41] **Okinbaloye:** "Are you a Christian?"

[T42] **Melaye:** "Not be not because I not because I'm Daniel. Because I've been purchased by by our Lord Jesus Christ."

[T43] **Okinbaloye:** "So you know God. Wow. I will be surprised."

[T44] **Melaye:** "This guy knows this guy knows God. It it is you that actually need some celestial touch to understand to understand the things we Christians understand."

Religion is a sensitive part of identity, and the host's question "Are you a Christian?" is coded as an unmitigated FTA on Melaye's positive face. Melaye reclaims his face by affirming his faith with conviction. The host's remark "I will be surprised" works as a joke that eases the tension, and Melaye answers with a joke of his own ("This guy knows God") followed by an unmitigated counter challenge to the host ("it is you that actually need some celestial touch"). The sequence shows religious identity as a site of face negotiation, with both speakers mixing mitigation and challenge.

Sample 5: Attacking a third party

[T56] **Melaye:** "...But APC and this government is a car being driven by a drunken driver. The possibility of getting to your destination is not there."

Melaye performs a deliberate FTA against the collective positive face of the All Progressives Congress (APC) government, whose image is that of a competent ruler. The metaphor is bald on record and has no mitigation. It signals boldness and aligns Melaye with ordinary citizens, and so can enhance his own positive face as a truth teller. The target is a third party that is not present, which explains why no redress is offered.

Sample 6: Kinship address

[T60] **Melaye:** "My brother, my brother, I think you will show me some regard by thinking that I will myopically be talking from sentiments or be talking from relationship and friendship."

Here Melaye reproaches the host for suggesting that his criticism of the government is driven by loyalty to Atiku. The reproach is itself an FTA, but it is softened by the double *my brother* and by the hedge *I think*. *My brother* marks the host as an in group member, which is a positive politeness strategy. Across the interview Melaye uses the term 8 times in 5 turns, and the host never uses it.

Sample 7: "Let me" and requests for permission to ask

[T58] **Melaye:** "Let me let me ask you."

[T61] **Okinbaloye:** "let me ask you quickly"

[T67] **Okinbaloye:** "Let me ask concerned"

The phrase "let me" appears in 4 turns (3 by the host and 1 by the guest). In each of the three cases above it introduces a question and presents it as a small imposition, so it is coded as negative politeness (minimizing the imposition). The host also uses "let me speak with" in his opening turn, which is a routine introduction and not coded.

Sample 8: Familiarity between the speakers

[T9] **Okinbaloye:** "Anyways, interesting. Good to see you."

[T93] **Okinbaloye:** "It's good to see you again."

[T95] **Okinbaloye:** "The last time I saw you, you were not all white bearded."

These remarks, together with the mutual teasing about age and football (Table 2), indicate that the two men have met before and are at ease with each other. This is textual evidence from the broadcast itself, and it does not rely on any outside knowledge of the speakers' relationship.

8. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

8.1 Overall distribution (RQ1)

The first research question asked which politeness strategies occur in the interview and in what proportions. The interview contains 73 coded acts (Table 5). Positive politeness is the most frequent type (37, 50.7%), followed by

negative politeness (19, 26.0%) and bald on record FTAs (17, 23.3%). Positive politeness therefore accounts for just over half of the coded acts, a majority but not an overwhelming one. Together, the two politeness types (56) outnumber the unmitigated FTAs (17) by more than three to one.

Table 5. Distribution of coded acts by type and speaker

Speaker	Positive politeness	Negative politeness	Bald on record FTAs	Total
Host (Okinbaloye)	21 (46.7%)	12 (26.7%)	12 (26.7%)	45
Guest (Melaye)	16 (57.1%)	7 (25.0%)	5 (17.9%)	28
Both speakers	37 (50.7%)	19 (26.0%)	17 (23.3%)	73

Note. Percentages are of each speaker's coded acts.

To compare the two politeness types, an exact binomial test was run on the 56 positive and negative politeness acts, under the null hypothesis that they are equally likely. Positive politeness was significantly more frequent (37 against 19, two sided $p = .022$), so H_0 is rejected and H_1 is supported. The test treats each act as independent, although acts in a conversation are not, so the result should be read as indicative only.

8.2 Sub strategies (RQ2)

Nine of the fifteen positive politeness strategies occur (Table 6). Joking is the most frequent (12 instances, 32.4% of positive politeness), used by both speakers, mostly in teasing about age, religion and football. Goodwill expressions (6) and exaggeration of approval or interest (5) follow, then in group identity markers (5) and seeking agreement (4). Joking, not exaggeration, is therefore the leading positive politeness strategy in this interview.

Table 6. Positive politeness strategies by speaker

Strategy (B&L no.)	Host	Guest	Total
Joke (8)	7	5	12
Give gifts: goodwill (15)	3	3	6
Exaggerate (2)	4	1	5
In group identity marker (4)	0	5	5
Seek agreement (5)	3	1	4
Presuppose common ground (7)	1	1	2
Avoid disagreement (6)	1	0	1
Intensify interest to H (3)	1	0	1
Include both S and H (12)	1	0	1
Total	21	16	37

Negative politeness (Table 7) is realised mainly through thanking (7), most of it at the opening and closing of the interview, and through giving deference (4, all by the host, who addresses the guest as *Senator* and says "with due respect"). Hedged questions (3) and "let me" requests (3) occur mostly in the host's turns, in front of his more sensitive questions. Impersonalization and stating the FTA as a general rule each occur once, both in the guest's turn in which he acknowledges the host's professional role ("codes of operation") before criticising the government.

Table 7. Negative politeness strategies by speaker

Strategy (B&L no.)	Host	Guest	Total
Incur a debt: thanking (10)	4	3	7
Give deference (5)	4	0	4
Question, hedge (2)	2	1	3
Minimize the imposition (4)	2	1	3
State the FTA as a general rule (8)	0	1	1
Impersonalize S and H (7)	0	1	1
Total	12	7	19

The 17 unmitigated FTAs are not evenly shared. The host produces 12, almost all of them questions that challenge the guest's loyalty, conduct, motives and claims (for example, "So you left your beloved PDP..." and "So you regret

helping APC”), which fits the interviewer’s role of holding the guest to account. The guest produces 5: two corrections or counter challenges aimed at the host, a bald imperative (“Leave that story.”) and one insult aimed at a third party, the APC government. The host’s challenges cluster around the party switch, the guest’s motives and religion.

8.3 Discussion

Positive politeness and familiarity. A likely reason for the preference for positive politeness is that the speakers know each other. Brown and Levinson (1987) associate positive politeness with relationships in which social distance is small, and the textual signs in Sample 8 and the frequent teasing point to such a relationship. Where distance is small, formality gives way to friendliness and jokes, and the host can press the guest hard because the relationship absorbs the threat. This is an interpretation of this interview and should not be extended to other interviews without further data.

Kinship address. Sarfo-Adu and Osei (2021) noted kinship terms as a marker of positive politeness in Ghanaian media panel discussions. The present interview shows a similar pattern, in the form of the guest’s repeated *my brother* (8 uses in 5 turns, Sample 6). Two points should be stated carefully. The term is used only by the guest, not by the host, and it often comes just before or after a face threatening remark, so it seems to soften challenges and to claim solidarity. Both speakers are men, but the interview offers no basis for saying that this is the reason for the term. Whether *my brother* is characteristic of Nigerian media talk can only be decided by comparing more interviews.

“Let me”. Edu-Buandoh (2011, as cited in Sarfo-Adu & Osei, 2021) identified “let me” as a politeness marker in Ghanaian media panels. In this interview “let me” occurs in 4 turns, and in three of them it minimizes the imposition of a question (Sample 7). This is consistent with the earlier finding but is too limited to show that it is a Nigerian politeness marker.

Comparison with earlier work. The order of frequency found here (positive politeness, then negative politeness, then unmitigated FTAs) is the same as that reported for Ghanaian media panel discussions (Sarfo-Adu & Osei, 2021), although this study analyses one interview and the Ghanaian study many, so the proportions are not comparable. The result also fits the general finding that media talk favours positive politeness (Hamed, 2014, as cited in Sarfo-Adu & Osei, 2021).

Hedging and mitigation. The host uses hedged questions and “let me” requests mainly before his most sensitive questions, while many of his direct challenges are unmitigated. The guest mitigates his own challenges with jokes and kinship address and speaks in general terms (“you don’t need a prophet to tell you...”). Mitigation therefore shows up in different forms for the two speakers, in line with their different roles.

9. CONCLUSION

This study described the politeness strategies and face threatening acts in one televised interview between Seun Okinbaloye and Senator Dino Melaye. Of 73 coded acts, 50.7% were positive politeness, 26.0% were negative politeness and 23.3% were bald on record FTAs, and positive politeness was significantly more frequent than negative politeness. Joking was the most frequent positive politeness strategy and the kinship address *my brother*, used by the guest, was a notable in group marker. The host produced most of the unmitigated FTAs, consistent with the interviewer’s role in a political interview, but both speakers softened many of their challenges with humour, thanks, deference and requests to ask.

The study has clear limits. It analyses one interview, coded by one analyst, from an automatically generated transcript, so its findings cannot be generalised to other programmes or to Nigerian media talk. Future work should analyse more interviews of the same and different hosts, report agreement between independent coders, check quotations against the original video, and compare the use of kinship terms and “let me” across male and female participants as well as across Nigerian, Ghanaian and other media contexts.

DECLARATIONS

Conflict of interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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Data availability: The interview analysed in this study is publicly available on the Channels Television YouTube channel (Channels Television, 2025). The numbered transcript used for coding is provided in the Appendix.

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Highlighted entries are incomplete and must be checked against the original sources before submission.

APPENDIX: INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

The interview below is between Senator Dino Melaye and Seun Okinbaloye. It is titled “2027 Elections is Nigeria versus APC” and was aired on 1 August 2025 on Channels Television. The transcript was generated automatically, and recognition errors have been left as they appear. Speaker labels have been standardised and each turn is numbered (T1–T97).

T1 Seun: Tonight we'll be hearing from a very respected elder state man in every sense of it. A political economist, Professor Paltor who is live for us in Lagos. I'll be going to him in a moment. On the state of the economy, the tunable government says we are on the right track. things are getting better and that Nigerians will now start benefiting after 2 years of what has become a pain based on the policies of the government which they say is a tough curve and we are already turning the curve in getting better but first and foremost let me speak with a former lawmaker Senator Dino Mallay who resigned from the PDP citing the party's inability to rescue Nigeria from what he described as prevailing political cankerawarmms Senator Mallay, a former senator for Kogi West, made his known on his social media handle where he shared a signed resignation letter addressed to the PDP chairman in Wanayto local government area of Kogi state. He said that uh he shown the membership card of the ADC is new party in a laterdated 4th of July 2025. Let's now speak with Senator Dino Mallay, a lawyer and a former senator. Thank you so much indeed for joining us tonight.

T2 Dino: Thank you very much. But I will correct that there are no former senators.

T3 Seun: Always a senator. Once you are a senator,

T4 Dino: you are a senator of the public of Nigeria.

T5 Seun: You by title you you are a senator and forever will be just like a governor will forever be a governor. So so but by active participation you are not in the national

T6 Dino: but you can't address a senator as a former senator

T7 Seun: as a former federal lawmaker.

T8 Dino: You can say that. Thank you.

T9 Seun: You're already proving your case. Anyways, interesting. Good to see you.

T10 Dino: My pleasure.

T11 Seun: After a long time of holiday from public uh

T12 Dino: Yeah. I went to school. I was on sabatical.

T13 Seun: You're almost a grandfather.

T14 Dino: Yeah. It's not too late to learn.

T15 Seun: Yeah.

T16 Dino: I'm I'm as I speak, I'm still a student.

T17 Seun: Good. Good. Good. But how has it been?

T18 Dino: Very well. We live in um times of approprium but um God is helping us.

T19 Seun: Where are the canker worms now?

T20 Dino: They are still around and um some of them around the villa, some of them in um the federal sector. They're all around.

T21 Seun: So you left your beloved PDP, the party you you hugged to kick away the APC.

T22 Dino: Yeah. So what happened? Because uh the PDP became sick and unfortunately Um the party completely lost direction. The party lost leadership and um the existing leadership compromised and um we should not be loyal to banners. We should not be loyal to parties. We should be loyal to our faith. We should be loyal to the people we call um either our followers or fellow citizens. So I chose to be loyal to the people not to um a political party. Yeah. So I mean there are those who say

anywhere article goes do you know goes. Is that the case for you? Anyway, um I will start by saying I'm not 18 and um I've won elections in this country to the House of Representatives to the Senate. If there's convergence of ideology with Atiku Abubakar, it's a fantastic thing, but um I'm a man of my own.

T23 Seun: You've been you you've had friends and you don't you don't hide your friends.

T24 Dino: Not at all.

T25 Seun: You you always show when you were both my friend.

T26 Dino: He's my friend and he's still my friend.

T27 Seun: And you've of course you've dumped him in the PDP. You left him behind in the PDP. But you have I mean Google like you ran for presidency.

T28 Dino: I didn't support him and that that did not have any negative con committant effect on our friendship.

T29 Seun: And you don't regret not supporting your friend?

T30 Dino: No. At all.

T31 Seun: That's what I'm telling you that article that is what I'm telling you that

T32 Dino: Yeah. I would rather be it is greater to be loyal to humanity than to be loyal to your friend because um at the end of the day it is the people that matter and I move with the people.

T33 Seun: So I is your man any day any time. article.

T34 Dino: I have by the grace of God indestructible relationship with President um oh so may be so vice president at Abubakar but that does not mean that I do not have my own principle as a human being. I do not have my own ideology as a human being and whenartiku is not doing the right thing I would say so in fact any human being at all for that matter but I have I share a very strong political relationship with Abuakar and there's no regrets.

T35 Seun: Mhm. So you didn't follow into the ADC. You on your own valition.

T36 Dino: I am a member of the ADC. I follow no one. I only follow Christ. Yes. But I have political relationship.

T37 Seun: You follow Christ?

T38 Dino: Yes.

T39 Seun: Not because you are Daniel.

T40 Dino: I follow no one.

T41 Seun: Are you a Christian?

T42 Dino: Not be not because I not because I'm Daniel. Because I've been purchased by by our Lord Jesus Christ.

T43 Seun: So you know God. Wow. I will be surprised.

T44 Dino: This guy knows this guy knows God. It it is you that actually need some celestial touch to understand to understand the things we Christians understand. It's established. By the way, my other name that you don't know by the virtue of this conversation,

T45 Seun: I'm Andrew actually.

T46 Dino: Uh you may be Daniel and you is Eden. Dr. Pan.

T47 Seun: Yes. Will you be supporting art for president in 2027?

T48 Dino: at at this stage. Honestly speaking, I do not want us to put that in the front banner, especially those of us in the ADC. We need to create a comfortable, stable platform and I believe that platform will produce a candidate that will unseat uh President Ahmed Bola tinobu in 2027. But to start talking about I have made it a point of duty that I will not be talking about a presidential candidate or presidential aspirant or preference for anybody until we get the party completely stabilized and organize a transparently honest convention.

T49 Seun: But how do you do that? That will produce a presidential candidate of the ADC who by the grace of God will kick. How do you do that?

T50 Dino: Because a lot of people already said the stage is set that this looks like an article vehicle of running for election the ADC. Anyway, Artiku is yet to declare his intention to run for the 2027 election. Atiku is yet.

T51 Seun: What art is doing is rescuing this country, bringing together men of honor and valor to amilarate, to correct, to palate the satanic manifestation of the APC in this country which you helped bring to power.

T52 Dino: Once I was blind, now I can see.

T53 Seun: So you regret helping APC and uh going to the podium. You were the MC of most of the you spoke you spoke in totality just like you every day through the Lord's prayer confess your sins and ask for forgiveness every day you do that Catholics go every day they confess their sins so you regret ever being associated with the APC anyone who has moved with the devil anyone who has moved with an unholy tendency definitely should regret it how would you describe the APC as devil the APC that says that he wants to to to to straighten the path for Nigerians.

T54 Dino: APC that says that their policies are for the average Nigerian people to make their lives better. If not because of your job here in China, if not because of codes of operation, if not because of some tenants and doctrines of operation as a journalist, you don't need a prophet to tell you what is happening in this country. You don't need anyone. It is visible even to the blind and audible to the deaf that we are in a precarious situation in this country like we have never been. It has never been this disastrous. It has never been this terrible. The hunger in the land is shattered. People are dying of malnutrition in the rural communities of this country. People are beginning to visit garbage center to look for crumbs and food. Take a trip today to your village and just announce that you want to share two bags of rice. If you are not careful, there will be dead casualties as a result of the struggle just to get one tin or two tins of rice. That is the situation we are in this country. Senator Those who I mean in this government they said look we they're taking tough decision over the past years of indecision and inability or lack of audacity of past leaders to take those difficult decision and this government says we're taking those tough decisions and in the end it will pay off.

T55 Seun: Maybe you do not have the gift of interpretation of tongues.

T56 Dino: APC speak in tongues and what they are telling you that they are taking tough decisions. They are selling you that we are putting you Nigerians on a tough tough. We are taking you through rigorous struggle. We are taking you through hunger.

We are taking you through malnutrition. We are taking you through um insecurity. We are taking you through problems like we have never seen in this country before. And at the end of the day, we'll be better off instead of kicking the car down the and at the end of the day, when you have a road map, when you are using a GP RS, you are likely to get to your destination. But APC and this government is a car being driven by a drunken driver. The possibility of getting to your destination is not there.

T57 Seun: So you don't see hope even when they are preaching renewed hope.

T58 Dino: What they meant by renewed hope is renewed hope for the hopelessness for the hopeless in the sense that those who believe in hope. They are they are announcing the obituary of hope to hopeless Nigerians. What I can tell you categorically is that you are an investigative journalist. Go to the streets of Abuja, go to the interiors of Kuba or in Kubo and have just one minute interview with people ask them if there's hope. There's no hope in a country where you have two national anthems. You know there's one that has been uh that has been my brother I've gone to many programs even government organized programs they sing two at times they say no sing one sing this one in a country where you have a a denomination of your currency two type of denomin two two two two denominations of a particular currency when as a child in my social studies I was told that money is a legal tender and in every country of the world you have one denomination of one particular um type of the currency. You have two two types of 1,000 NRA notes. It has never happened anywhere in the world. You have two denomination of 500 NRA notes. You have two of 200. You have two of 100 and you and you are thinking there will not be fake currency everywhere and that is what you are spending. Let me let me ask you. We are in a outrageously calamitous situation. We are in a confused state in this country.

T59 Seun: Are you saying this just because you supported Atiku Abubakar?

T60 Dino: Because some of the policy of this government I also preached by in the campaigns by someone like Abubakar. My brother, my brother, I think you will show me some regard by thinking that I will myopically be talking from sentiments or be talking from relationship and friendship. No, I am a distinguished Nigerian. I am an honorable person. I am a child of God. When I speak, I speak for the people. When I speak, I speak the truth, not minding whose horse is God. When I speak, I speak because I am pained as one who has blood flowing through his veins and not kerosene. I speak as one who respond to stimuli. So, I'm telling you, my brother that we have never in this country seen what we are seeing here. What if you say policies were being crusaded being eradicated being discussed and the similarity of policy statements by atiku and this particular government it is not about what you are saying this government told us that borrowing is killing during bary this particular government at inception said they are not going to borrow because the we have over borrowed But today as I speak to you the same government in fact Nigeria is a chartered borrowing nation we have so much borrowed and I am yet to see what we have seen all right as I'm speaking with you in the next two three budgets Nigeria will be spending 100% of our revenue on servicing senator debts.

T61 Seun: let me ask you quickly um this ADC what makes it different because I saw a lot of you who are there former PDP, former APC. Why should Nigerians think differently about what you are bringing to the table?

T62 Dino: Why Nigerians should think differently is that once there's an altar call in the church of God, only those who are emotionally affected, only those who have conscience, only those who are ready to leave darkness and move to light respond to altar calls.

T63 Seun: So ADC is an altar call. It's a national altar call.

T64 Dino: And those of us who have conscience, those of us who believe in a new order, those of us who want to see a Nigeria where we will be able to answer questions from our grandchildren who will ask us in the next maybe when we are 90 and toothless that when Nigeria was getting bad, grandpa, what did you do? We want to be able to say we did A B C and D. Not everybody in in ADC.

T65 Seun: Yeah. Understand?

T66 Dino: It's a saint. But senator but what I am telling you is that everybody who moved into ADC is concerned about Nigeria.

T67 Seun: Let me ask concerned about so you think that PDP cannot be an opposition and doesn't have is not veritable enough to able to fight or contest the election against the APC and PDP has been purchased by who? By APC. Who exactly?

T68 Dino: APC PDP PDP is a parastatal of APC. Really PDP is a department of APC. In fact, they take dates for nexk meetings and dates for when to have NWC from the villa when they have more than uh two two digits of uh of uh of governors. They control the PDP control states. They have they are leading opposition international. Many just look at the number of governors in PDP today.

T69 Seun: Are these governors acting like opposition governors? It's a it's a question I'm putting up to you.

T70 Dino: You know the role of an opposition and you know how powerful Nigerian governors are.

T71 Seun: Are they playing opposition role as governors and those who are remaining in PDP are holding forth for PDP is saying that they will fight and rebuild the party. The likes of Professor J. The likes of Babangu, the likes of you with due respect, all of them respect to my uncle. You heard him just two days ago saying that on our rise. He said if we can tolerate Buhari for 8 years, then we should tolerate Tinubu for another four years. Is that the voice of an opposition person?

T72 Dino: Is that a statement coming from somebody who is not a member of APC? So what I'm telling you in essence is that we live in precarious times. We live in terms of visit and vaccination. We live in times when the devil determines the next menu for his for his children. And what we are seeing if not abated my brother there will be been gay in this country.

T73 Seun: Senator, tell us in all of what is going on in Nigeria today and I look at your state, I are you still hoping that you will contest for governor in Kogi state?

T74 Dino: Like I said when you asked me if I will support presidency we personally I am not talking about contesting anything for now for governor. I'm as I speak to you now that is not my primary preoccupation. But what about issue of what is important to me to you to every Nigerian outside there to the Makos to the Megoro to the Baduku to the farmer to the Pine tapper in um what is important now is for us to build a platform to rescue Nigeria from APC. Those who are saying that it's going to be it's going to be a tough tough call. to be able to defend before. There are 85% of Nigerians that are hungry. So it is Nigerians versus APC. Tell any northern today all these people shouting APC and Tinubu they should brand a car APC and drive it. Drive the car from Kaduna to Canobrand and then come back. I've advised a lot of my friends who are in APC cuz I have a lot of good

friends in APC and I've advised them recently that before helmet head helmet before it becomes expensive they should go and buy because what we saw in Gome and what we saw in Kuna Nigerians are angry do say there will be there will be a lot of crisis because hungry people are angry people.

T75 Seun: Would you say that it will be fair that the presidency should go to the south in 2027?

T76 Dino: My brother, I am not here to preach south or north. I'm here to build. My brother, there's a popular Yoruba proverb. [Music] If you it is now your roof cannot be on fire. Understand? And you say you are snoring. That is disastrous. What we are praying for now is to have a platform that will help us to reorganize this country. That will help us to accompany Bola and Med Tinubu and all the present occupants of the villa including those staying in the quarters to leave.

T77 Seun: All right, Senator because that is the only solution.

T78 Dino: Yeah.to our to the national calamity we are going through.

T79 Seun: A lot of people know you as a senator, now as a lawyer, but uh there's a part of you that we have not seen much recently is although I know you are a supporter of a failed football club in England.

T80 Dino: Um I beg your pardon you and Basaki.

T81 Seun: You're a supporter of and it's shame.

T82 Dino: My younger brother too is a supporter of us.

T83 Seun: We can we can take you as IDPS into Chelsea team a Chelsea football club number two.

T84 Dino: Leave that story.

T85 Seun: Chelsea was number one on the table. We all qualified for Champions League. But let's leave that and you are not a spare part dealer.

T86 Dino: I'm surprised you are supporting Chelsea. But what we have not what we have not seen much is you have a family member who imports electronics.

T87 Seun: Your ability your ability to sing. You have not we've not seen that lady.

T88 Dino: My brother, you have you have an album for what you are going through right now. You can only speak. You cannot sing when no you can only sing when the environment is okay when the country is okay when there when there's security you will be happy and you sing. But when every day you go out tune your TV is stories of doom kidnapping 100 killed inuri. Yeah. 17 77 killed in Modi. Under such situations, what do you want to sing about? The only song we sing now are burial songs. Till we meet again, till we meet. Ah, those are the songs we are singing now. Songs of sorrow, songs of bitterness, songs of darkness. And that is why we are saying that change genuine must come.

T89 Seun: Senator, thank you so much indeed and I wish you and your friend in the ADC the very best.

T90 Dino: Thank you very much.

T91 Seun: Thank you so much. Senator Dino Malaye, a lawyer and a former federal law maker representing who represented Kooi said in the national assembly.

T92 Dino: It's always a pleasure.

T93 Seun: It's good to see you again.

T94 Dino: It's mine.

T95 Seun: The last time I saw you, you were not all white bearded.

T96 Dino: But now I am I am back and we'll fire from all cylinders and ABC should be ready because we will speak, we will protest where we need to protest. We will ask questions where we need to ask questions. Nigeria belongs to all of us.

T97 Seun: Thank you so much indeed.