

A Critical Discourse Analysis Of Ideological Structures In The Editorials Of Two English Newspapers Of Pakistan

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Abstract

Language is a tool of expression and communication in print media which is used for constructing the opinion of readers, also it signifies ideological stance on conflict related issues of society. The objective of current study is to investigate that how two English newspapers of Pakistan structure diverse ideologies through language during the coverage of PNS Mehran base attack. Therefore, the present study examined the language of editorials in two English newspapers of Pakistan i.e., Dawn and The News. Since, editorials reflect ideologies, so for examining such ideologies critical discourse analysis is used and it further explored style, slant, themes and discourses constructed in the editorials. According to results, slant of both the newspapers remained deleterious towards the flaws of both civilian and military leadership. Whereas, styles, themes and discourses of both the newspapers constructed different ideologies such as lack of coordination between civilian government and military leadership, challenges of external relations with US, India, Afghanistan, and failure of effective foreign policy etc. throughout the coverage of PNS Mehran attack.

Keywords: PNS Mehran, slant, themes, styles, critical discourse analysis.

Introduction

Language is considered as a powerful instrument when it is used consciously and purposefully. It can be utilized in alternative ways to manipulate and influence message. Therefore, press as a linguistic medium is considered as most significant for dissemination of ideas (Fowler, 2013). Messages disseminated through media act as a supporting tool for social change which is further observed from diverse viewpoints (Fairclough, 1988). Therefore, van Dijk (2000) expressed that media text is a form of media discourse which serves as a leading contributor for shaping minds of public. The important forms of media discourse are editorials in print media which highlight most important issues including

opportunities, problems, and societal issues of human (McCombs, 1997). Newspaper editorials as a dominant linguistic tool helps in propagation and origination of ideological developments that not only alters but also manage the readers (Janks, 1997).

It is merely impossible to deny the importance of editorials as they not only shape opinion but they construct the ideology of readers. Hall (1996, p. 26) defined ideology as conceptual framework of ideas, categories, languages and descriptive schemes of representation. Ideology also represents interests, opinions, perspectives, and different characteristics of groups (van Dijk, 1998). Since the role of editorials is to communicate and express persuasive opinions, so

they emphasize on body of media message which is used for analysis of major ideological conventions of society (Van Dijk, 1992).

Language used in editorials is neither simple nor easy. Use of words in editorials not only depicts ideology of editor, but it also fulfills basic function of newspaper which revolves around opinion formation specifically on issues related to politics and society. Therefore, CDA (critical discourse analysis) helps in investigating relation between language and ideology (Widdowson, 2000). CDA examines hidden meanings present in media text which makes difficult for the reader to understand its actual and real meaning. CDA also illustrates and investigates relation between ideologies, language, and also its social conditions (Wodak, 1999).

After press freedom in 1999, editorials in Pakistan emerged as influential media text for constructing public opinion. Since from time of war on terror editors have constructed diverse ideologies with the help of language in order to create awareness of media discourse among readers. It has helped in interpreting media's role in constructing a media discourse specifically on issues related to national security, civilian and military leadership including performance of security agencies for protecting country against terrorism. Events like OBL operation and then PNS Mehran Base attack have raised concerns on the performance of armed forces towards protecting their homeland from internal and external threats. Civilian government was also held questionable on the matter of non-effective foreign policy which became challenging for Pakistan in order to have sustained relations with US, Afghanistan and India. The event selected for analysis is PNS Mehran Base attack. On 22nd May, 2011 Pakistan naval headquarter popularly known as PNS Mehran was attacked by militants named as Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Al Qaeda. Mehran base is located closer to PAF Faisal Air Force Karachi, Sindh. This incident killed 15 attackers, 18 forces personnel and 16 got

wounded. This sophisticated attack destroyed two American P-3C Orion surveillance crafts, thus wasted billions on this attack. Moreover, these militants were well equipped, well planned and inside information helped these militants to have quick access to installations. This operation lasted for almost 17 hours and rangers, naval staff and military as whole with their full courage and devotion put an end to this attack. (Operation at PNS Base in Karachi comes to an end, 2011).

The problem statement for the current study deals with exploring the role of print media, specifically the construction of diverse ideologies in newspaper editorials during the coverage of PNS Mehran Base attack which took place on 22nd May, 2011. The study aspires to explore the editorial coverage of two daily English newspapers of Pakistan i.e., The News and Dawn with the help of critical discourse analysis. CDA further examined ideologies followed by thorough examination of discourses, styles, themes, and slant (positive, negative and neutral) constructed by the editor of both the two English newspapers of Pakistan. This thorough examination of print media discourses and the construction of diverse ideologies of two English newspapers of Pakistan would be highly valuable in interpreting the role of editor in relation to language and ideology. Further, this study would be academically supportive towards extending literature on language, ideology and CDA in the context of PNS Mehran Base attack.

Literature Review

Over the last few years, there has been a significant increase in literature specifically to study relation between politics and media, and also on diverse subject areas such as influence of media on ideology, economic situations, public's attitudes as well as political revolution. The role of media according to political and ideological differences started with the principle of semantic choices in the content which carries ideological stance. Language written or oral is expressed

from a specific ideological stance which has several ways of expressing same concept, and they are neither random nor unintentional alternatives. These differences in text carries ideological differences which depicts difference in representation (Fowler 1991:4).

Consequently, (Ahmadian & Farahani, 2014) focused on power of language which not only articulates but also influences opinion of public. Their study examined editorials of two newspapers i.e., Tehran Times and The Los Angeles Times. Their research work explored the ideological differences constructed by the editor of both newspapers during the coverage of nuclear program of Iran. Moreover, both the authors used van Dijk model of negative representation of others and positive representation of own self. Results reveal that both newspapers covered same event differently. According to (Hall, 1985 & Hartley, 1982) ideologies are defined as fundamental beliefs which becomes cause of social identifications for specific types of social groups. No matter communicative interaction is oral or written it has been assumed that ideologies are essentially acquired and expressed as a media discourse. Costelloe (2014) emphasized on the formation of ideologies by exploring media discourses, therefore he selected French newspapers to analyze the portrayal of urban violence in 2005. He examined the visuals of urban violence, consequently the study revealed that expression of patriotism and French national identity were dominant ideologies which prompted media dialogue. It is argued that relationship of media discourses created boundaries between US and others. Moreover, dominant strategy by print media was to reflect minority immigrants as “others”. Similarly (Poorebrahim & Reza, 2012) examined interrelationship of language and ideology and further explored representation of Muslims and Islam as a western discourse. They used headlines from four newspapers i.e., The Herald Tribune, The New York Times, The

Times, and the independent. Van Dijk ideological model was used which consisted of self-representation as positive and others as negative representation. The ideological stance hidden in the language revealed that Islam was frequently stereotyped whereas Muslims were negatively portrayed.

Editorials work as voice of newspapers particularly with reference to the use of language, choice of topic, sources of information and structures (Tunstall, 1996). At times editorials specifically portray structures of sociocultural settings as well as their particular stance on it (Le, 2010). In the similar fashion, (Naeem & Minhas, 2015) studied uprising of Libya and Syria and explored the coverage of editorials of two newspapers i.e., News International of Pakistan and Arab News of Saudi Arabia in entirely two different cultural settings. Researchers used ideological model for analysis of language. Results reveal that Arab News highlighted more severity in covering issues related to crises as compare to News international of Pakistan. The ideological analysis also reveal that protestors were presented as “US” whereas the authorities were presented as “THEM”.

Newspapers are popular discourse in which editorials are dominant type of media discourse. Editorials reflect sociocultural and political settings of particular concept and then shapes opinion in a specific context. Shah & Bilal, (2013) explored two Daily English newspapers of Pakistan i.e., Daily Nation and Dawn. They selected editorials to study the role of newspapers in constructing left wing and right wing ideology. The study focused on the editorial treatment of OBL operation. By examining discourse devices such as syntactic structures, choice of words, rhetorical structures, local and global semantics. According to results editorials have language bias. Therefore, editorials depict subjective realities when they cover events, issues and problems. Moreover, they also signify ongoing

ideologies of a particular newspaper. Therefore, present study examined editorial treatment given to the most significant issue i.e., PNS Mehran base attack in the editorials of two newspapers of Pakistan. The purpose of choosing this event is due the incident of OBL operation that took place before PNS Mehran base attack so it has raised concerns about national security, sovereignty of Pakistan and failure of security agencies to protect security installations. This event affected reputation of armed forces in a way that if secured installations are not protected then how citizens would be protected from internal and external threats. With such concerns both newspapers Dawn and The News gave desirable coverage to this attack and the choice of these two newspapers is based on their circulation and influence on readers. Method of critical discourse analysis is used to focus on analysis of linguistics and structure of media content.

Research Questions

RQ1 How style represent ideologies in the editorials of Dawn and The News during the coverage of PNS Mehran Base attack?

RQ2 How slant is used in the editorials of Dawn and The News during the coverage of PNS Mehran base attack?

RQ3 How themes of Dawn differ from The News during the coverage of PNS Mehran base attack?

RQ4 How discourses are used in the editorials of Dawn and The News during the coverage of PNS Mehran base attack?

Research Methodology

Discourse analysis is considered as the most approved methodology particularly with reference to media and communication studies. Moreover, in recent years research on discourse analysis has increased (Hall 1997, Phillips &

Jørgensen 2002). Fairclough & Wodak (2000) define discourse as a relation between discursive truth constructed by writer in a particular social framework which affects perception and behavior of recipients. According to Blache & Durrheim (1999), writer of such media text either implicitly or explicitly perform certain actions which motivates reader towards a particular action or may be towards a specific ideology. For the present study researcher has employed method of critical discourse analysis which is used as a tool for examining editorials in relation to some most important events. The written text explored in the current study are editorials from English newspapers which are considered as most important genre of print media. Editorials of newspapers not only shape the opinion of the readers but they also construct ideologies hidden in the lexical structure. For the current study researcher collected the data from two daily English newspapers of Pakistan i.e., Dawn and The News. Dawn and The News published 13 editorials out of the total 5 editorials were published by Dawn and 8 editorials were published by The News. To study predominant ideological structures editorials represent three different levels of representation. At first editorials explain event and then describe the summary of overall event. At the second level editorials present evaluation of event particularly with reference to the actors involved along with their actions. And at the third level editorials give rational conclusions in the form of warnings, suggestions, expectations and recommendations (van Dijk, 1992).

The reason for selecting these newspapers is: both are considered as major media giants thus enjoying major dominance in terms of their circulation (Mezzera & Sial, 2010: p.19). Moreover, these newspapers work independent of government influence and despite of circulation they can help mold public on critical issues. The time frame for editorials starts from 24th May, 2011 to 24th July, 2011. This time frame has

importance because PNS Mehran base attack took place on 23rd May, 2011 and both the newspapers gave desirable coverage to all the events related to war on terror during aforementioned time frame. For exploring editorials of two English newspapers of Pakistan Van Dijk ideological model (1998b:pp.61-63) is used which includes the following

- a) Analyzing context of discourse which includes social and political background of issue and also main actors
- b) Examining power relations, conflicts and groups involved
- c) Constructing implied and unambiguous assumptions
- d) Examining prescribed structure for example the syntactic structure as well as the lexical structure in order to highlight opinion of polarized groups

Results and Discussion

RQ1 How style represent ideologies in the editorials of Dawn and The News during the coverage of PNS Mehran Base attack?

Dawn during the coverage of PNS Mehran base attack used different styles in their editorials to develop diverse ideologies. Dawn critically examined editorials in the context of PNS Mehran base attack by stating COAS in the very first editorial as **“Pakistan military has no tolerance towards terrorism and terrorist attacks”**, COAS also said that **“public support on terrorist operations is substantial for eradicating the terrorist”**. Another style with heavy loaded ideological stance emphasized on recognizing the enemy of Pakistan as **“by breaching the defenses of a naval installation, as they did on Sunday with such ease, or of the GHQ in October 2009, the militants have wantonly displayed their power to attack and kill and destroy at will, wherever and whenever they wish”** (PNS MEHRAN Attack, May 24, 2011, Dawn). Soon after Mehran Base

attack editorial writer in Dawn has been a staunch critique and during the months of May and June editor has strongly criticized the performance of Pakistan Army and specifically pin pointed intelligence agencies of Pakistan because they remained handicapped from controlling skilled foreigners in the territory of Pakistan for carrying out sophisticated operation on particular targets by causing havoc and chaos, and also damaged Pakistan's sovereignty and lives of people.

Another editorial in Dawn represented facts and reasons behind PNS Mehran Base attack in the statement as **“the gross inadequacy of our intelligence system to both foreigners and those at home”** (Clinton's response, May 25, 2011, Dawn). Editor also explained that there were certain loop holes particularly in the security network of PNS Mehran attack and editors' criticism is categorically reflected. Another editorial explained the denial by Pakistan military towards the existence of a blind spot between premises of base as well as negligence on the part of technical instruments such as cameras became major cause of terrorist entrance (State of denial, May 26, 2011, Dawn).

In another editorial editor used an interrogative style to highlight another ideological stance by asking the question **“Whether Pakistan's nuclear technology is in the safe hands or not?”** because from outside world as well as people from inside Pakistan have started asking questions that being a nuclear state our weapons are secure or not? And whether Pakistan army has the strength to protect the people? When they were unable to protect their sophisticated installations? (Words and deeds, May 27, 2011, Dawn). Editor discussed statement of COAS Gen Kayani that the loop holes which exist in the intelligence system or security system of Pakistan will get filtered in order to make homeland peaceful. By addressing facts and reasons behind PNS Mehran base attack editor explained that this attack is the result of revenge of Osama bin Laden

death by TTP (Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan) and also death of Ilayas Kashmiri who was one of the most prominent terrorist from Hizbul Tehreek.

Dawn editor being more aggressive towards alarming situation of Pakistan discussed another ideological stance related to inside help of terrorist and mentioned that there were high level military personnel involved in PNS Mehran base attack. The editor also said that soon after Mehran base attack and Swat operation Pakistan is seen as a country of fundamentalist/terrorist by global world (Crime and terrorism, Oct 15, 2011, Dawn).

On the other hand, The News used similar style but editorials reflect different ideological structure and stated that **“half a dozen fully equipped terrorist entered the most heavily secured base and enforced damage also specifies detachment”** during the coverage of PNS Mehran base attack. The editor stated that this attack is on the sovereignty of Pakistan which has put a dark spot on Pakistan military as well as intelligence networks. During the coverage editor mentioned that Further, editor said this attack not only shows negligence on the part of security agencies but it also shows level of motivation, lack of awareness from the side of military personnel which allowed militants to enter inside Mehran base (An epic failure, May24, 2011, The News).

The News discussed Mehran attack and editor being concerned used an interrogative style of

writing and has raised different questions. The first question raised by editor was ‘are the nuclear weapons safe?’ And second question was ‘are all fully equipped militants who entered the base were alone or they had some inside information?’ (National security, July 8, 2011, The News,). Editor of The News took another significant ideological stance and discussed about internal conspiracy which occurred as the most important cause of PNS Mehran Base attack (Not dead yet, May25, 2011, The News).

The editor of The News has used some striking ideological structures when focused on the reputation of Pakistan security agencies as well as military and stated that **“We learn now that the enemy may have infiltrated deep into the core of our institutions, weakening them from within-as termites do when they eat into the woodwork of strong structures”** (Dangerous water, June 24, 2011, The News,). This ideological stance by editor was discussed in the context of Kabul’s press conference. The NATO secretary General Rasmussen addressed serious concerns towards the safety and security of nuclear assets of Pakistan’s nuclear assets. (Nuclear alarmism, May24, 2011, The News,). Finally, the editor gave good news to readers regarding PNS Mehran attack by stating that **“The slightly better news is that our rulers are discovering that civil society and the judiciary are getting better at demanding and getting the beginnings of accountability”** (The commissions, June21, 2011, The News).

RQ2 How slant is used in the editorials of Dawn and The News during the coverage of PNS Mehran base attack?

Slant of the editorials related to PNS Mehran				
	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Total
Dawn	3	1	1	05
The News	5	2	1	08

Dawn gave desirable coverage to PNS Mehran and published five editorials. One was neutral, another one positive and three were negative. During the coverage editor in Dawn negatively inscribed the issue by highlighting response from Clinton who criticized failing duties and performance of security agencies and military as a whole. The writer being aggressive mentioned that **“Pakistan should come out of the denial mode and should now identify the enemies within itself”** (State of Denial, May 27, 2011, The Dawn). Editor critically expressed that there were loop holes in security system and this gross negligence gave a favorable path to all militants both at home and outside (Clinton s response, May 25, 2011, Dawn). Editor also mentioned that Taliban have still existence in FATA and even in the other parts of Pakistan (PNS Mehran Attack, May 24, 2011, Dawn).

In another editorial editor mention “Dawn positively mentioned about naval personnel who were on duty during Mehran base attack, also number of naval personnel died which means that country as a whole value precious lives. But it has raised many questions towards giving training to naval personnel in order to overcome such attacks in future (PNS Mehran Attack, May 24, 2011, Dawn). Editor of Dawn in one of the editorial wrote negatively that **“if the sophisticated airbase of Pakistan is not secure from militants then how the citizens will feel safe and protected on their motherland”**. In the similar way, editor negatively framed failure of security agencies to counter attacks like Mehran base and at the same time questioned capacity and skills of naval headquarters and their security apparatus. Also naval staff was questioned regarding their honesty and their serious efforts for Pakistan’s agenda against terrorist attacks (Words and deeds, May 27, 2011, Dawn).

Accordingly, The News also gave coverage to PNS Mehran base attack and published a total of eight editorials out of which five were negative, two were neutral and, one was positive. Editor

being neutral in one of the editorial mentioned that after Mehran base attack people of Pakistan have to work hard for long in order to stand with other nations and they have to put all of their efforts to keep their heads high. Editor being apprehensive wrote negatively and explained that inside help was the significant cause of Mehran attack and also militants have penetrated so deep in sophisticated configurations that it will surely affect peace and sovereignty of Pakistan (Dangerous water, June 24, 2011, The News).

The News editor surprised with an amazing fact in one of the editorial in which the editor discussed updates on Mehran attack and specified that one of the armed forces squad in Lahore started their investigation and found three mysterious men with some from Pakistan military (Reviewing security, May25, 2011, The News). Another editorial mentioned death of Mullah Umar and stated that over the past few years many high ranked militants were killed by Pakistan military but still terrorist activities are taking place in Pakistan, which has damaged reputation of Pakistan military (Not dead yet, May25, 2011, The News). The editor being astonished used the word **“accountability”** and explained that after PNS base attack civil society, public and judiciary is now demanding accurate investigation under commission without any bias. In the similar way editor mentioned some important facts starting from unknown origin of militants, as they look very different. Moreover, in NADRA database there was no information related to militants who attacked Mehran base. So again it’s questionable that why security system was not aware of the people who entered Pakistan illegally or rather who look **“mysterious”** (The commissions, June 21, 2011, The News).

Editor also mentioned another statement with an emotional attitude that **“winning wars against militants is not important because their inventors have safe zones in Pakistan and they will keep pursuing the terrorist attacks with zeal”**. In order to evacuate militants from

Pakistan both the political actors as well as Pakistan army had to execute all the plans with unity. It was argued further that it is important to fight terrorism at the ground level so that Pakistan might able to overcome an additional war in Waziristan (Rare meeting, June 15, 2011, The News). In one of the editorial editor being neutral addressed concerns of the public and stated that Mehran base attack is silent message for the people of Pakistan because people might think if high value security installations are not secure then how Pakistan military will protect their security apparatus as well as the people of Pakistan (Nuclear alarmism, May 26, 2011, The News).

RQ3 How themes of Dawn differ from The News during the coverage of PNS Mehran base attack?

Editors have used diverse themes during the coverage of PNS Mehran base attack in editorials of Dawn newspapers. Some of the most striking themes used by editor in Dawn are **“grievous blow on the capability of naval personnel”** and **“top military commanders”** which clearly explains concerns of public towards security of nuclear weapons because it is about capacity of top military and naval staff to protect entire region by bringing peace and regional stability in the entire region. Secondly, it also addresses another apprehension which is related to national security of the region that is if security agencies failed to protect their own apparatus then how they will protect their motherland? (Words and deeds, May 27, 2011, Dawn).

Dawn covered some astonishing themes like **“American mistrust and negative perception”**, **“Docile puppet in the hands of America”** and another similar **“gross inadequacy”**. These themes clearly explain hidden ideology of editor towards rocky Pak-US relations. Moreover, Pakistan’s image in outer world got affected and the conference that was held at Kabul signifies America’s concerns towards terrorist activities,

also safety and security of nuclear weapons. Apart from that, flawed foreign policy is another factor which became cause of distrust and disbelief between the two (Clinton’s response, May 25, 2011, Dawn).

Another theme covered by Dawn is **“Deny Pakistan’s naval involvement in the operation”** and **“security concerns”**. These themes clearly indicate denial of Pakistan naval headquarters who categorically rejected that inside help became cause of Mehran base attack and also there was no technical flaw in security instruments. Further, editor of Dawn stated that **“upper hand is again of the terrorist yet they attacked the most secured naval installations”** (Security Concerns, May 26, 2011, Dawn).

Editor being critical about theme **“challenges of external relations “and ‘internal violence”** stated that due to current policies, Pakistan has to face some serious implications towards future of millions of people in Pakistan. Therefore, PNS Mehran attack is a wakeup call for Pakistan military because now this is the time to re think and revise foreign policy. It is vital for bringing regional stability, to overcome challenges connected to internal violence, and to manage external relations with America, India and Afghanistan (State of Denial, May 27, 2011, Dawn).

Similarly the themes used in the editorials of The News remained prominent such as **“Mysterious Identity”**. This theme explain facts related to four attackers whose DNA result showed that either they were cousins or brothers. Moreover, these four attackers were not detected in available database of NADRA. This fact clearly shows negligence of security agencies that if people who entered premises of Pakistan seems to be mysterious in terms of their racial identity, then why they were not investigated by Pakistan security agencies? (The commissions June 21, 2011, The News).

Editor used another theme **“Extortions on**

Nuclear Assets", which clearly shows capacity and strength of Pakistan military towards safeguard and security of installations as well as security weapons. And the most phenomenal is public whose life is at risk, as people think that duty of security agencies is not only to keep a check on security weapons but also to protect people from internal and external violence (Nuclear alarmism, May 26, 2011, The News).

Accordingly, editor mentioned another prominent theme **"Security Laps"**. This theme indicates factor of inside help i.e., without prior information this attack wouldn't have possible. Such type of attacks need a lot of research, training and thorough investigation. Editor when used this theme took an ideological stance towards failure of Pakistan military and stated that PNS Mehran attack is surprising for whole country because this attack shows lack of commitment and absence of timely information. Editor mentioned another striking theme **"Gallantry and Consecration of Armed Forces"** in which editor appreciated effort and devotion of Pakistan military and naval personnel who died and got injured. As a part of record editor reminded that Mehran base attack took life of eight naval personnel, two rangers and fifteen naval personnel injured on duty. This attack lasted for 17 hours and P-3C Orion aircraft destroyed too. At the end editor being aggressive mentioned that billions of rupees wasted in Mehran base attack (An epic failure, May 24, 2011, The News).

Editor critically used the theme **"Unachievable Battle against Extremism"** and critically mentioned the causes of terrorism in Pakistan and stated that **"poor governance, the spread of corruption, a failure to invest in education at primary level and a chronic failure of politicians to collectively think, plan and act together in a way that guarantees our future rather than lines their pockets"** (Rare meeting, June 15, 2011, The News). Editor expressed categorically that terrorism and terrorist activities

will never end until both civilian and military leadership works on changing ethical environment and values under which terrorist/militants plan these activities. Moreover, editor mentioned causes of terrorism in Pakistan and stated

RQ4 How discourses are used in the editorials of Dawn and The News during the coverage of PNS Mehran base attack?

Editors' constructed various discourses in Dawn editorials during coverage of PNS Mehran base attack. These discourses revolve around flawed foreign policy of Pakistan and at the same time through discourses editor has discussed challenges of external relations with US, India and Afghanistan. The discourses are **Strained relations cracking, making a distinction between good and bad Taliban, a hydra-headed monster, chaos destabilized, die-hard local terrorism, Folly of strategic depth, , breaching, wreak, plethora, delusional**. Editors of The News also used diverse discourses to interpret PNS Mehran base attack and discourses were related to poor civilian and military leadership and they raised issue of Taliban. Some of the discourses were related to threats which Pakistan is facing due to terrorism thus affecting national security and sovereignty of Pakistan. Discourses by The News are **epic leadership, countervail Loopholes, hallmark, bumbling, alarmism, impeccable, pursuit of sustainable security, a sincere focus, human security, ineptitude, uncurbed, planted, bungled and jigsaw, a blind spot, fertile mind, nukes, repercussions, terrorism needed to be tackled, debt burden**.

Conclusion

It is concluded that editors of Dawn and The News used diverse ideological structures by examining style, slant, themes, and discourses during coverage of PNS Mehran base attack. Interrogative and aggressive style of narrating

Mehran base attack remained significant towards performance and failure of security agencies including protection of sophisticated installations. Choice of themes by Dawn focused on internal violence, external relations with India, US and Afghanistan and also themes depicted flawed foreign policy of Pakistan towards managing peace and regional stability in the entire region by having sustained relations with countries mentioned above. The News focused more on themes related to Good and Bad Taliban and threat public is facing due to occurrence of unfortunate event. Similarly editor of The News also used slant by using statements which depict that inside help and lack of managing timely information were significant reasons for Mehran base attack. Editor of Dawn also used slant positively by appreciating efforts of naval personnel and rangers who died and got injured in Mehran base attack. It is concluded that editorials not only disseminate facts but they also interpret and explain facts with a particular context. This context varies because editors follow policies of newspaper by using different ideological structures such as slant style, themes and, discourses. Therefore, Dawn newspaper focused more on facts and remained unbiased during coverage of Mehran base attack, Dawn being more logical highlighted events by following a mirror approach whereas The News remained critical towards failure of both civilian and military leadership and also discussed reasons of terrorist activities particularly safe zones which has affected national security and sovereignty of Pakistan. Hence, both newspapers used different ideologies for covering PNS Mehran base attack and editors' play with words to manipulate event. Therefore, editorials play a vital role in constructing opinion and ideologies of their readers.

Recommendations

- As the current study focused on the editorial discourse of two daily English

newspapers of Pakistan, so it can be a possibility to conduct research on similar event by examining international newspapers in order to understand perspective of outer world towards terrorism and terrorist activities in Pakistan.

- Future researchers can analyze headlines of electronic media by using in depth structural analysis in order to expose hidden ideologies of electronic media particularly during portrayal of conflict related issues.
- Lastly, critical discourse of news should be investigated more meticulously by using other models of CDA for deeper understanding of media discourse which could lead towards reshaping and reconstructing the public opinion.

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