

Discursive Power Play: Analyzing Front Page Headlines in English and Urdu Newspapers During PDM's 'No-Confidence Motion'

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Abstract

The main objective of this research is to analyze the language used in the headlines of Pakistani Urdu and English newspapers in relation to Pakistan Democratic Movement's (PDM) 'no-confidence motion' against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's government. The study seeks to investigate whether the language and policies of the media are influenced by powerful groups within Pakistani society. To achieve this, the research conducted a comparative analysis of the discourse presented in the headlines of two English and two Urdu Pakistani newspapers concerning the 'no-confidence motion'. The data collected is subject to qualitative analysis, employing textual and contextual. The results of the study indicate a significant disparity in how Urdu and English newspapers portray the media event. The study concludes that the media's language and policies may not always represent public opinion, as they can be manipulated to support either opposition's or government's perspective. The study also found that Urdu Newspapers use more sensational words and phrases when compared to English newspapers. The study highlights the significance of exposing media exploitation to prevent the manipulation of public opinion and provide people with impartial and unbiased news information.

Keywords: Newspapers, Pakistan Democratic Movement, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Manipulation, Public Opinion

Introduction

Print media has been a major source of information for the masses for centuries. With the advent of printing technology in the 16th century, newspapers and books became readily available to the general public, providing them with a wealth of information about local, national, and international events (Briggs & Burke, 2009). Throughout history, print media has been a powerful tool for shaping public opinion and influencing societal attitudes and beliefs. However, it has also been used as a tool for manipulation and control, particularly by those in positions of power (Pavelka, 2015).

One of the earliest examples of print media manipulation is the use of propaganda during World War I. Governments on both sides of the conflict used newspapers and posters to disseminate information that was designed to sway public opinion in their favor. This propaganda was often misleading and often contained false information. This was done to create a sense of unity and to foster support for the war effort among the masses (Gullace, 2011).

In the 20th century, totalitarian regimes used print media as a tool for propaganda and control. In the Soviet Union, newspapers were used to spread Communist ideology and to praise the actions of the government (Remington, 1988). In Nazi Germany, newspapers were used to spread anti-Semitic propaganda and to support the policies of the Nazi Party. In both cases, print media was used to manipulate the masses and to create a sense of unity and support for the ruling regime (O'Shaughnessy, 2009).

In recent decades, the growth of the media industry has had a profound impact on society. The rise of the internet and the proliferation of digital media has made it easier for people to access information from around the world. However, this has also led to the spread of misinformation and fake news. In many cases, print media has been used to manipulate public opinion by presenting false information as if it were true. This is particularly concerning given the role of the media in shaping public opinion and perceptions of events.

One example of this is the way that print media covered the Iraq War. In the lead-up to the war, many newspapers published articles that were based on false information provided by government sources. This misinformation was used to build support for the war and to create a sense of urgency among the masses. In the aftermath of the war, many newspapers were criticized for their reporting, as it became clear that much of the information they had published was false (Altheide & Grimes, 2005).

The impact of media on society cannot be overstated in the 21st century. It is widely recognized as the fourth pillar of a state, exerting a profound influence on public opinion and shaping perceptions of events. The media industry has seen tremendous growth in recent years, and its ability to disseminate information has transformed the world into a truly global village. With just a click, individuals can access news about local, national, and international events, including news reported by the press (Kumar & Singh, 2019).

However, media also has the potential to manipulate and control the information it presents to the public. This was noted by Parenti (1997) and has been confirmed by numerous studies. This is particularly concerning when one considers the role of the media in shaping public opinion. The media serves as a powerful tool in society, and its impact cannot be underestimated (McCombs, 2002).

The language used in media, particularly in news reporting, is a crucial component in presenting events. Linguists have studied the language used in news media to understand the relationship between a story and its context (Bell, 1995). The language used in newspapers is distinct from that used in business or academia and can vary even between newspapers and news stories. According to Timuçin (2010) the style and structure of newspapers are also unique and can lead to vastly different approaches to covering the same issue.

This study aims to delve deeper into the relationship between linguistic choices and the presentation of news stories. In particular, the study conducts a comparative analysis of two Urdu newspapers; headlines related to the national issue of the "PDM's no Confidence Motion against the Government of PTI." The study explores how both newspapers present the same story with varying headlines and how language, style, and structure impact the presentation of a news story. It highlights the importance of language in both interpreting and constructing reality.

Media Discourse

The concept of "discourse" refers to the study of language in use, as noted by Bloor and Bloor (2013). If a statement lacks purpose, it is not considered to be part of discourse, according to Bloor and Bloor (2013). Discourse, in its written or spoken form, serves as a tool for bringing attention to the relationships between individuals and the external world, including political, economic, social, and religious relationships, as defined by Fairclough (2003). On the other hand, discourse analysis focuses on the techniques used by speakers or writers to shape their audience's interpretations and actions, as outlined by (Van Dijk, 1993). The strong connection between discourse, in either written or spoken form, and media, be it in print or electronic form, has drawn the attention of linguists.

Critical Discourse Analysis

Critical Discourse Analysis is an academic field that delves into the ways in which written or spoken texts reflect or challenge the existing power dynamics, dominance, and inequalities in society. This approach not only analyzes the text itself but also takes into account the institutional and socio-cultural context in which the discourse occurs (Blommaert & Bulcaen, 2000).

For the examination of media discourse, critical discourse analysis is often the preferred methodology. Researchers in this field aim to establish a connection between the text and the underlying social practices, paying close attention to the use of language in shaping and perpetuating worldviews.

One application of critical discourse analysis is the analysis of print media discourse using a theoretical model specifically designed for the examination of journalistic discourse, where written language holds significant importance (Blommaert & Bulcaen, 2000).

Significance of Headlines of a Newspaper

The headline is a crucial aspect of a newspaper and a showcase of a journalist's writing skills. It is essential because many readers only briefly scan the headlines, making the quality of the headlines a determinant factor in the success and popularity of a newspaper's articles. The author and reader communicate through the headlines, making it imperative that the headline writers have expertise in their craft (Sajjad, 2013).

Christianto referred to the language of headlines as "Block Language" and classified it into nominal, verbal, neutral, and particle forms. Headlines can be further divided into verbal and non-verbal, where verbal headlines contain a clause with a verb as the head word and non-verbal headlines consist of a phrase with a noun serving as the head word (Prášková, 2009).

The syntax of newspaper headlines, which constitutes its own language system, greatly differs from standard grammar. Most headlines contain complex clauses, and Prášková (2009) noted that the omission of some open and mostly closed words helps maintain brevity. Common practices in headlines include the use of present tense, omission of articles, nominal phrases, conjugation, and extensive metaphors.

The primary goal of headlines is to succinctly convey the central message of a news story, providing a quick and concise summary of a complex story. They pique the reader's curiosity, offer accurate information, and serve as a means of communication between the newspaper and its audience. Headlines play a crucial role in sustaining, initiating, and shaping news discourse, and they serve to introduce, express, and summarize the topic at hand. Some headlines are an

abstract of the complete story, while others promote its details (Develotte & Rechniewski, 2001). Montgomery and Feng (2016) suggest that headlines can also function as complex puzzles, not just as a summary or detail of the news. Headlines are like miniature versions of the main story and draw the reader's attention with their straightforward and concise language. The true potential of a headline lies in its ability to engage and interest the reader, leading to a complete reading of the article. The headline is the main reason for the sales of a newspaper, as it compels the reader to read the story. In conclusion, newspaper headlines play a significant role in attracting readers, persuading them, sparking their curiosity, conveying the central message, summarizing the news, and providing quick and accurate information (Dare & Avoaja, 2019).

Selection of the Newspaper

The researcher has selected two English newspaper-‘The Nation’ and ‘Daily Times’ and two Urdu language newspapers, ‘Daily Jang’ and ‘Daily Nawa-e-Waqt’. The choice of these newspapers was made due to their large and widespread circulation, and for their broad reader base. Furthermore, these newspapers are recognized for their significant influence and persuasive power in Pakistani society. They are considered the epicenters of national thought and opinion. However, it should be noted that these newspapers hold differing ideologies and approach to news representation due to their varying political perspectives. The research endeavors to explore how the newspapers present the same news event, the PDM's no confidence motion against the PTI government, in contrasting ways.

Event Selection

The ‘no-confidence motion’ was brought by Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) an alliance of Pakistan’s major political parties against the government of Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). After nearly a month long political wrangling, the PTI’s government was ousted from power. During this month long standoff, the media highlighted this issue significantly. Since it was a national issue and had a lot of importance for masses of the country, the media also highlighted it disproportionately. Therefore, headlines from the last three days’ have been selected. The main purpose of selecting the last three days was that on 8th April the Supreme Court of Pakistan gave the verdict of going forward with ‘no-confidence motion’ which was followed by a lot media hype and interest.

Research questions

- How did print media treat ‘no confidence motion’ in its headlines?
- What type of words and phrases are used in print media’s headlines to present ‘no-confidence motion’?
- How are headlines of Urdu newspapers different from English newspapers?
- How does Pakistani print media frame its headlines?

Objectives of the Study

- To find out print media’s treatment of no confidence motion
- To find out the linguistic features being used in print media
- To find out the presentation of news headlines in Urdu and English newspapers
- To investigate print media’s agenda patterns on political issues

Significance of the Study

This study will help in knowing the role of print media (Urdu) in covering political issues in Pakistan along with highlighting the political frames. Moreover, the study will assist in identifying sensational language in newspapers. The study will also forward recommendations to print media which will be helpful for maintaining journalistic ethics.

Method of the study

This study adopts a qualitative approach and uses critical discourse analysis to analyze newspaper headlines. The focus is on the "No Confidence Motion" against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) government brought by Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM). The headlines were sourced from online version of the newspapers for the period of April 8th, 2022 to April 10th, 2022 because during this period the newspapers highlighted the event most as the Supreme Court restored the National Assembly and ordered the government to go forward with tabling ‘no-confidence motion’ resultantly PTI’s government was ousted from power.

The critical discourse analysis in this study leverages multiple analytical tools to uncover hidden agendas in media text, as discussed by Richardson (2017). The study follows the theoretical framework of Carvalho (2008) which provides a framework for analyzing the data at both textual and contextual levels.

Results and Discussion

Structural Organization of the Front Pages

The current research focuses on the headlines of front page of two English and two Urdu newspapers. Three days of headlines from 8th April to 10th April have been taken, starting from Supreme Court's verdict to go forward with 'no-confidence motion' to ouster of Prime Minister Imran Khan. This will provide us with an in-depth overview of the hidden ideologies via interpretation of the published headlines which are hidden from common reader and they are unable to deconstruct the anecdotes and nuances used in media's language.

'The Nation' announced the Supreme Court's verdict by giving the following headline 'Supreme Court unanimously restores National Assembly'. The news was placed on the top of the front page. Total six news headlines were on the front page and four of them were related to no-confidence motion. In its main news headline, the newspaper keeps balance and tries to give a neutral stance. The next day front page is also filled with news related to 'no-confidence motion'. The main headline 'No trust vote on agenda as national assembly meets today'. 'The Nation' keeps its neutrality in the main headline on 9th of April as well. Out of five headlines on the front page, four were related to 'No confidence motion'. The 10th April's main headline reads 'Imran voted OUT'. All headlines on the front page are followed by a small introduction. The all headlines on the front page are related to no confidence issue. By analyzing three days of headline, it was evident that 'The Nation' gave a lot of value to this issue; except three news pieces all others were related to 'no-confidence motion'. Moreover, newspaper tried to stay neutral in its major headlines by using balanced wording.

'Daily Times' newspaper announces the news with the following headline 'No escaping no confidence: SC'. The wording of the headline seems to be sensational. Out of six news headlines of the front page, three are in relation to no confidence. The 9th April's newspaper comes with the headline on the top reading 'Last Episode' referring to no trust motion. Total 8 pieces of news headlines are there and 7 are in relation to 'no-confidence motion'. The 10th April's front page comes with more sensational headline on top reading 'THE END' with a picture of former Prime Minister Imran Khan scratching his head. The all six headlines are related to no trust motion. 'Daily Times' used sensational and catchy headlines to attract the readers. The headline is followed by highlights of the news.

'Daily Jang' has mentioned the supreme court's verdict on top headline using sensational words. The main headline on the 8th April reads 'Imran clean bold Iqdamat ghair Aaene karar, kal voting' (trans: Imran clean bold, move unconstitutional, voting to be tomorrow). The all news headlines were about no-confidence motion which shows that the newspaper gave too much importance to this issue. The statements of different political figures with sensational headlines are spread across the page with a small introduction and continued to next pages. The main headline of 9th April is also sensational using dual and connotative meaning. The headline on the main page reads 'Imran paspa, kal ehtijaj mein shamil hone ka faisala' (trans: Imran retreats, decides to join protest tomorrow). Out of 18 news headlines on the front page, 18 are about no confidence motion. The 10th April's main headline of 'Daily Jang' also uses sensational language and gives the impression of victory for PDM. The headline reads 'tamam ghair aanee hurbay nakam, Imran farig' (trans: All unconstitutional tactics fail, Imran removed). The headline is also supported with Imran's picture with his hands on head. Total 16 headlines are there on the front page and 13 of them are in relation to 'no-confidence motion'.

In daily 'Nawa-e-Waqt' the 8th April's main headline is also about supreme court's verdict which reads 'Assembly bahal kal adam ehtimad par voting' (trans: Assembly restored voting on no confidence to be tomorrow). The headlines on the front page are mostly about 'no-confidence motion'. The statements from the politicians of the both sides are given place on the front page. Out of 13 headline 7 are about 'no confidence motion'. The newspaper avoids sensational language and uses neutral and balanced language in the headlines. The headline is followed by a small introduction. The 9th April's main headline is also about 'no-confidence motion'. The headline reads 'Sab nazaren assembly par, adam ehtemad par voting aaj' (trans: All eyes on assembly, voting on no trust motion to be done today). Moreover, out of 14 headline on the front page, 8 are about 'no-confidence motion'. The 10th April's main headline is also about no-confidence motion which reads 'Imran hokumat out' (trans: Imran's government out). Out of 13 news headlines 11 are about no-confidence motion. The front page is also full of pictures of the happy faces of opposition members. In contrary to 'Daily Jang' 'Daily Nawa-e-waqt' uses somewhat neutral and balanced language in highlighting the issue.

Word Choices and Organization of headlines

Headlines of 'The Nation'

There is a general perception in Pakistan that English newspapers are often read by the elite or well-off class which is more educated. Because of this perception, the English newspapers try to avoid the sensational language and try to apply a balanced approach. After analyzing three day headlines of 'The Nation', the newspaper gave utmost importance to 'no-confidence motion'. Almost all the news published in these three days were about 'no-trust move. The editor of 'The Nation' newspaper is very careful in selection of words and phrases in order to maintain its neutrality. All of the headlines are written in a neutral way. The newspaper tries to keep balance neither to side with PDM nor government of PTI; however, on some stances, the selection of words like 'foreign conspiracy', 'Imported government', 'conspirators' gives the impression that editor indirectly wants its readers to think that 'no-confidence motion' was supported by outsiders.

- *"Supreme Court unanimously restores National Assembly"* (The Nation, April 8, 2022: p: 01).
- *"Opposition parties delighted at landmark SC decision"* (The Nation, April 8, 2022: p: 01).
- *"opposition has over 172 MNAs to vote out PM"* (The Nation, April 8, 2022: p: 01).
- *"PM to address nation today"* (The Nation, April 8, 2022: p: 01).
- *"No trust vote on agenda as National Assembly meets today"* (The Nation, April 9, 2022: p: 01)
- *"Cabinet decides to probe 'foreign conspiracy' against Imran"* (The Nation, April 9, 2022: p: 01)
- *"PTI on tricky track to delay no trust vote"* (The Nation, April 9, 2022: p: 01)
- *"opposition files no trust motion against deputy speaker"* (The Nation, April 9, 2022: p: 01)
- *"PM says won't accept 'imported govt'"* (The Nation, April 9, 2022: p: 01)
- *"Imran voted out"* (The Nation, April 10, 2022: p: 01)
- *"Cabinet rejects proposal for PTI MPs en masse resignation"* (The Nation, April 10, 2022: p: 01)
- *"Dramatic rise and fall of Imran Khan"* (The Nation, April 10, 2022: p: 01)
- *"Ex PM vows to continue struggle against 'conspirators'"* (The Nation, April 10, 2022: p: 01)

Headlines of Daily Times

Contrary to the general perception, 'Daily Times' a leading English newspaper uses sensational, catchy words and phrases. Like 'The Nation', the 'Daily Times' has also given 'No-Confidence motion' the most space on its first page with almost all news headlines are about the event but 'Daily Times' dramatizes the entire event using words and phrases like 'victory of democracy', 'No escape no confidence', 'Last episode', 'downfall', and 'The End'. 'Daily Times' supports the PDM's no-confidence move and feeds its readers with selective words against PTI's government which rejects the perception that English newspapers have neutral editorial policy towards the issues.

- *"No escaping no confidence: SC"* (Daily times, April 8, 2022: p: 01)
- *"Victory of Democracy"* (Daily times, April 8, 2022: p: 01)
- *"Verdict Unfortunate"* (Daily times, April 8, 2022: p: 01)
- *"PM to address nation today"* (Daily times, April 8, 2022: p: 01)
- *"Last episode"* (Daily times, April 9, 2022: p: 01)
- *"Opp submits no trust motion against KP CM"* (Daily times, April 9 2022: p: 01)
- *"No confidence motion submitted against Suri"* (Daily times, April , 2022: p: 01)
- *"Imran says won't accept Imported govt; gives call for protest"* (Daily times, April 9, 2022: p: 01)
- *"Threat letter: Lt Gen (r) Tariq refuses to head commission"* (Daily times, April 9, 2022: p: 01)
- *"The downfall of Imran Khan"* (Daily times, April 9, 2022: p: 01)
- *"The End"* (Daily times, April 10, 2022: p: 01)
- *"We won't do politics of revenge: Shahbaz"* (Daily times, April 10, 2022: p: 01)
- *"Welcome to old Pakistan: Bilawal"* (Daily times, April 10, 2022: p: 01)
- *"Asad Qaisar, Qasim Suri call it a day"* (Daily times, April 10, 2022: p: 01)
- *"PTI submits reference against 20 dissident"* (Daily times, April 10, 2022: p: 01)
- *"PTI sends review plea on NA verdict to SC"* (Daily times, April 10, 2022: p: 01)

Headlines of Daily Jang

Urdu newspapers, according to common belief in Pakistan, are for the lower and poor classes because Urdu is the lingua franca of the country and majority of the people can read and write Urdu. The readers of Urdu newspapers are considered less educated; therefore, the newspapers also sensationalize their headlines in order to attract more and more readers. Looking at the headlines of 'Daily Jang', for the newspaper, 'no-confidence motion' is the biggest event in these three days. Almost all headlines on the front page are in relation to 'no-confidence motion'. The newspaper has a biased editorial policy by openly siding with 'PDM's no-confidence motion'. Phrases and words like "Imran Clean Bold", 'Faisala Tareeki' (historic decision), 'Imran ke liye dachka' (Shock for Imran Khan), 'Imran paspa' (Imran retreats),

‘Imran farig’, (Imran sacked) and ‘Baharat Mein Imran pasundida shaksiat’ (Imran favorite personality in India) clearly show that newspaper has a sensational and biased approach.

- “Imran Khan clean bold, iqdamat ghair aaene qaarar kal voting: supreme court ka tareeke mutafiq faisala” (Daily Jang, April 8, 2022: p: 01)
- “supreme court ne nazria e zaroorat ko amesha ke liye dafan kardiya, aaj youm e tashakkur manaen ge: Muthaida opposition” (Daily Jang, April 8, 2022: p: 01)
- “Mera paigham hai, aakiri ghaind tak ladon ga: Imran Khan” (Daily Jang, April 8, 2022: p: 01)
- “Faisala tareeke, article 6 ke tehat kar rawai mumkin, nazaria zaroorat dafan: aaenni wa qanooni mahereen” (Daily Jang, April 8, 2022: p: 01)
- “fauj ke idare ne neutral honay ka sabot diya” (Daily Jang, April 8, 2022: p: 01)
- “Adalton ko salisi nahin, dastoor ke mutabiq faisalay karne hote hain Kamran Murtaza” (Daily Jang, April 8, 2022: p: 01)
- “Supreme court ka faisala Imran Khan ke liye dachka, Aalami Media” (Daily Jang, April 8, 2022: p: 01)
- Imran Khan aane thor par hamein koi surprise nahi de sakete, Javed Latif” (Daily Jang, April 8, 2022: p: 01)
- “Opposition rehnumahon aur kar kunoon ne supreme court ke faisaly par jashan manay” (Daily Jang, April 8, 2022: p: 01)
- “Imran paspa, kal ehtijaj mein shamil honay ka faisala” (Daily Jang, April 9, 2022: p: 01)
- “PTI munahraf arkan ko assembly na pohnchney dein” (Daily Jang, April 9, 2022: p: 01)
- “Imran mein sports man spirit naam ki koi cheez e nahi hai” (Daily Jang, April 9, 2022: p: 01)
- “Imran adam ehtemad kamyab karar diya, shoq se awam mein jaen, Muthaida opposition” (Daily Jang, April 9, 2022: p: 01)
- “Iqtidar ke liye is tarah kisi ko rotay pehli baar dekha, Maryam Nawaz” (Daily Jang, April 9, 2022: p: 01)
- “Tamam ghair aaeni hurbay nakam, Imran farigh” (Daily Jang, April 10, 2022: p: 01)
- “Lamha lamha soorat e hall tabdeel, raat gaey adalaten khul gaen, qadeon ki ghadi be talab, airports par high alert” (Daily Jang, April 10, 2022: p: 01)
- “Imran Khan raat dher gae tak kehtey rahey, aar nahi manon ga” (Daily Jang, April 10, 2022: p: 01)
- “Bahrat mein Imran Khan ki pasundeeda shaksiat ke thor par image building” (Daily Jang, April 10, 2022: p: 01)
- “syasi aadise dekh raha ho idaray neutral nahi rahen ge, Sheikh Rasheed” (Daily Jang, April 10, 2022: p: 01)
- “Tehreek Insaf ke 20 munahraf arqan ke khilaf speaker ko reference dahir” (Daily Jang, April 10, 2022: p: 01)

Headlines from daily Nawa e Waqt

Daily ‘Nawa e Waqt’ goes against the contrary belief - that the Urdu newspaper sensationalize every news. It applies a balanced and neutral editorial policy during this event. Like other newspaper, the ‘no-confidence motion’ is the biggest issue. On its three-day coverage, the front page headlines, are mostly vis-à-vis this issue. The newspaper is very careful in choosing the phrases and words and keeps neutrality. Both sides, PDM and government, get fair share of space.

- “Assembly bahal, kal adam ehtimad par voting” (Daily Nawa e Waqt, April 8, 2022: p: 01)
- “Pakistan aaen aur awam ki jeet koi nahi hara, mehngai kam Karen ge opposition” (Daily Nawa e Waqt, April 8, 2022: p: 01)
- “Akhiri ghaind tak lara aur larhon ga, Imran Khan, aaj qom se kitab” (Daily Nawa e Waqt, April 8, 2022: p: 01)
- “Mulk ghulami ki taraf le janey ki koshish, kiptan agali hikmat amali ka faisala Karen ge, Tehreek e Insaf” (Daily Nawa e Waqt, April 8, 2022: p: 01)
- “Supreme court ka faisala aaney ke bad Shehbaz Sharif ki rehaish ga par opposition ka ijlas, surat e hal par ghor” (Daily Nawa e Waqt, April 8, 2022: p: 01)
- “Opposition Punjab assembly mein dakil honay mein kamyab, speaker ke khilaf tehreek e adam ehtemad jamm” (Daily Nawa e Waqt, April 8, 2022: p: 01)
- “Sab nazaren assembly par, adam ehtimad voting ke liye aaj ijlaas” (Daily Nawa e Waqt, April 9, 2022: p: 01)
- “Adam ehtimad masahil se nikalnay ke liye sang e meel, Mehngai se staey awam ki dad rasi karna hai” (Daily Nawa e Waqt, April 9, 2022: p: 01)
- “Imran khat ke mamley mein jootay sabit ho chukay, sysasi shaheed nahi ban saktay, Muthaida opposition” (Daily Nawa e Waqt, April 9, 2022: p: 01)

- “Woh mujay kein nikalana chahatey hain, mera kya jurm, imported hukumat qabool nahi karon ga, Imran Khan” (Daily Nawa e Waqt, April 9, 2022: p: 01)
- “Wafaqi hukumat ke khilaf saizish, tehqiqati commission tashkeel, supreme court mein appeal ka faisala” (Daily Nawa e Waqt, April 9, 2022: p: 01)
- “Wazir aala KPK, deputy speaker speaker qomi assembly ke khilaf bi tehreek e adam ehtimad jammah” (Daily Nawa e Waqt, April 9, 2022: p: 01)
- “Supreme court ke faisaly par muthaida opposition ka mulk bar mein youm e tashakkur ralliyan muzahiray” (Daily Nawa e Waqt, April 9, 2022: p: 01)
- “Emergency governor raj ka kaha tha, ab kehta hon sab istifay de dho, Sheik Rasheed” (Daily Nawa e Waqt, April 9, 2022: p: 01)
- “Imran hukumat out” (Daily Nawa e Waqt, April 10, 2022: p: 01)
- “Awam ki duaen kabool, na na insafi ho gi, na badla lein ge, Shehbaz Sharif” (Daily Nawa e Waqt, April 10, 2022: p: 01)
- “Welcome to purana Pakistan, Jammoriat behtreen intiqam, Bilawal Bhutto” (Daily Nawa e Waqt, April 10, 2022: p: 01)
- “Pakistan ke liye ek shaks ke siwa sab se bath ho sakti hai, Aisf Zardari” (Daily Nawa e Waqt, April 10, 2022: p: 01)
- “Jamooriat qaim rakhnay ke liye, idaron ka ehtram lazum, faisalay mulki mafad ke liye kiye jaen, Chaudari Shujahat” (Daily Nawa e Waqt, April 10, 2022: p: 01)
- “Tareek ak syah dhor katam, Nawaz Shareef apka sabar jeet gya, Maryam Nawaz” (Daily Nawa e Waqt, April 10, 2022: p: 01)
- “Pehlay na haar mani, na ab manohn ga, Imran Khan wazir e azam house se, Bani Gala muntaqil” (Daily Nawa e Waqt, April 10, 2022: p: 01)
- “Qom ko fatah Mubarak, awam ki halat, mashiat behter banaen ge, Fazal ur Rehman” (Daily Nawa e Waqt, April 10, 2022: p: 01)
- “Noon League, PPP sameth, siyasi jumaetoon ke kar konon ka jashan, atish bazi, mitahi taqseem” (Daily Nawa e Waqt, April 10, 2022: p: 01)
- “Imran Khan ka naam ECL mein dala jaey, Islamabad High Court mein darkhwast sma’at ke liye manzoor” (Daily Nawa e Waqt, April 10, 2022: p: 01)

Comparative analysis of Major Headlines

For comparative analysis, the main headlines of the different newspapers have been taken. The all headlines are about ‘no-confidence motion’. The following headlines taken from English and Urdu newspapers.

8th April’s Main headlines

- “Supreme Court unanimously restores National Assembly” (The Nation, April 8, 2022: p: 01).
- “No escaping no confidence: SC” (Daily times, April 8, 2022: p: 01)
- “Imran Khan clean bold, iqdamat ghair aeene qaarar kal voting: supreme court ka tareeke mutafiq faisala” (Daily Jang, April 8, 2022: p: 01)
- “Assembly bahal, kal adam ehtimad par voting” (Daily Nawa e Waqt, April 8, 2022: p: 01)

All newspapers give different headlines on the same news. On the 8th April’s verdict of Supreme Court ‘The Nation’ gives no impression of siding with anyone. It gives a neutral headline mentioning no anecdotes or nuances. On the contrary the other English newspaper ‘Daily Times’ gives a more sensational headline of the verdict. The headline ‘No escaping no confidence: SC’ gives the impression that government is trying to run away from the no confidence deliberately. Comparing the headlines of both English newspapers, ‘The Nation’ has applied a non-biased policy while ‘Daily Times’ sides with PDM and sensationalizes the news with its wording. While the Urdu newspaper ‘Daily Jang’ clearly mentions the name of ‘Imran Khan’ pointing directly. The words are very sensational such as ‘clean bold’, ‘ghair aeene’ (unconstitutional) and ‘tareeke mutafiq faisala’ (historic unanimous verdict). On the other hand, ‘Daily Nawa e Waqt’ is neutral in its headline. The tone of the headline is also balanced. Comparing the both Urdu newspaper, ‘Daily Jang’ openly supports PDM’s stance while ‘Daily Nawa e Waqt’ is neutral.

9th April’s Main Headlines

- “No trust vote on agenda as National Assembly meets today” (The Nation, April 9, 2022: p: 01)

- “Last episode” (Daily times, April 9, 2022: p: 01)
- “Imran paspa, kal ehtijaj mein shamil honay ka faisala” (Daily Jang, April 9, 2022: p: 01)
- “Sab nazaren assembly par, adam ehtimad voting ke liye aaj ijlaas” (Daily Nawa e Waqt, April 9, 2022: p: 01)

All four newspapers give the same news in their main headline but with different angles. ‘The Nation’ gives neutral headline siding with no one. On the other hand, ‘Daily Times’ gives the phrase ‘Last episode’ which indicates that the newspaper has chosen a biased approach. ‘Daily Jang’ directly mentions the name of ‘Imran’ using a word ‘paspa’ (retreats) which shows that ‘Daily Jang’ is sensational. The second Urdu newspaper ‘Daily Nawa e waqt’ gives a balanced headline and doesn’t reach to any conclusion which shows that newspaper has a neutral policy about the event.

10th April’s main headlines

- “Imran voted out” (The Nation, April 10, 2022: p: 01)
- “The End” (Daily times, April 10, 2022: p: 01)
- “Tamam ghair aaeni hurbay nakam, Imran farigh” (Daily Jang, April 10, 2022: p: 01)
- “Imran hukumat out” (Daily Nawa e Waqt, April 10, 2022: p: 01)

The main headlines of 10th April are also about ‘no-confidence motion’. The all newspapers continue their previous policy. ‘The Nation’ gives a neutral headline while ‘Daily Times’ gives a sensational headline writing ‘The End’ referring to the ouster of PTI government from power. ‘Daily Jang’ like its previous headlines also gives a sensational headline mentioning ‘Imran’ and writing ‘farigh’ (sacked) which shows that it keeps biased and sensational approach towards the issue. ‘Daily Nawa e Waqt’ gives a sensational headline but it maintains its neutrality policy.

The comparative analysis of the all four newspapers show that each newspaper has its own style; the English newspapers being witty and succinct and the Urdu newspapers being more sensational in their approach. ‘Daily Jang’ openly favors the PDM’s ‘no-confidence motion’ and uses extremely sensational language. On the other hand, ‘Daily Nawa e Waqt’ keeps a neutral policy about the issue except in one headline where it uses sensational language.

Conclusion

In brief, the analysis of the text and its context demonstrates the media's ability to manipulate actual events to convey concealed ideologies, and the print media is often influenced by powerful members of society. The current research revealed that newspapers vary in their accuracy and impartiality when presenting news events. 'The Nation' newspaper provided impartial and unbiased information, although some government bias is sometimes detected. This implies that 'The Nation' to some extent is independent and operates under a neutral policy. On the other hand, ‘Daily Times’ sensationalized the all event and sided with opposition. Between the Urdu newspapers, “Daily Jang’ used extremely sensational language and openly supported PDM. It used harsh language for government and favorable headlines for opposition. By comparing multiple newspapers, we can conclude that ‘Daily Jang’ and ‘Daily Times’ are influenced by opposition while ‘The Nation’ and ‘Daily Nawa e Waqt’ are influenced by the government, which are used by each side to manipulate events for political gain. This results in a distortion of reality before it reaches the audience, who are only presented with one side of the story, while the other side is deliberately excluded.

Moreover, the manipulation of information that has negative impacts on society is a critical issue that requires the attention of linguists and social researchers, as emphasized by this study. Additionally, it suggests that analyzing the discourse of both print and electronic media is vital. The study's results can be highly beneficial in teaching students how to identify and expose discourse manipulation in print media, thus enhancing their comprehension of the presented information. Moreover, this approach may assist in investigating the discourse of different political groups to reveal their concealed ideologies. It is particularly essential to pay special attention to this issue in underdeveloped countries where media and political discourses are often exploited to take advantage of vulnerable and less-educated populations.

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