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Exploring the Construal of Death Victims in News Headlines: A Case Study

Tazanfal Tehseem

Lecturer

Department of English,

University of Sargodha,

Sargodha.

&

Sidra Amir

Student

Department in a Graduate Program.

Introduction

In this article, an attempt, to analyze the “Representation of death victim” in seventeen different news agencies, has been made. The discourse under study is the news on the death of a former Pakistani political leader named “Benazir Bhutto”.

The topic, under study, will be dealt through a comparative analysis of discourses of different national and international newspaper agencies: “Daily Times”, “The Dawn”, “The Modesto Bee”, “Union Tribune”, “The Sun”, “Los Angeles Times”, “The Dallas Morning News”, “The Miami Herald”, “Sun-Sentinel”, “The Honolulu Advertiser”, “Chicago Tribune”, “The Washington Times”, “Journal Star”, “The New York Times”, “The Wall Street Journal”, “The Register Guard” and “The News”. Since the gist of topic is same but the way journalists present is different. Representation of ideology; what is the agenda of agencies, what are they trying to promote, how are they trying to mold the thoughts of people through the choice of words, will be explored by keeping in view Halliday’s concept of transitivity. Transitivity analysis examines who is doing what in what circumstances.

Main motives of this piece of research are to explore certain underlying facts, which include;

1. *How such a sensitive issue is portrayed in different newspapers and which is the most dominant practice in this portrayal?*
2. *Secondly, what are the ulterior motives lying within such representations and how this interest varies with each newspaper or does any collective variation occurs in this regard?*

This model practices a grammar that is function focused in order to make alienate functions and participants represented in clauses to express joint ideologies of social actualities combined with linguistic semantics. Transitivity is the most important part of “semantic organization of experience” and it undertakes all functions that are performed by the participants as well as all experiential functions in relation to the “syntax of the clause” (Halliday, 1981:134).

Purpose of this article is to assess media representations of death victims. Now a days language of media has got a much more focus for media studies as well as for discourse analysts and sociolinguistics. A lot of work is done in the field of discourse analysis to focus

on the transforming practices of media discourse in relation to broader processes of social and cultural change. This piece of work is intended to inspect the ideological changes and the role of media in their development. Moreover, how the ideology is reflected differently in newspapers about same instance of events. Following the Hallidyan framework, it is intended to expose out the social dynamics among the “SubjectActor” and “Object Goal”, furthermore, to express the linguistic structure that embodies and supports the social process.

Correlated studies

Media discourse means an interaction that is taking place through press media. Whatsoever, spoken or written is delivered to some non-present listener, reader or viewer. Anne O' Keeffe in his work 'Media and discourse analysis' shares the view that linguistic analysis of news is often cynical or it may happen sometime that reality is misrepresented by linguist. Tuchman (1978) takes up news as window to the world, an established system to make the information available to the readers, listeners and viewers. This information is collected and then disseminated by the people working in news agencies.

Teun A. Van Dijk discusses his view point that discourse is a multifaceted component of language form, meaning formation and event which might be examined by the conception of a communicative event (1998b). According to Schifferrn (1994), definition of discourse may be studied under the theory of formal as well as functional analysis. The 'discourse is language above the sentence perspective' is inclined toward formalist, whereas the 'discourse is language in use' is towards functionalist. Our knowledge tells us that the way stories are presented in news is totally different from the way they are formulated in the children's books and novels.

Chris Greer in his work “News Media Victims and Crimes” explores how the status of victim, as well as, act that of criminal victimization are presented in social media. Victim's status is influenced by social factors such as gender, ethnicity, class, race and age. Stanko and Lee (2003: 10) share the belief that media is fabricated as 'arbitrary and intended action of some evil folk'. The way social media, whether it is a newspaper, TV channel or a journal, report the crimes, is often very selective and illusionary. Critical analysis of media representation of victims is noteworthy because crime victims have been under the focus of media discourse since last few years. Reiner and his co-workers noted that foregrounding of crime victim in the news is among the most crucial and qualitative changes in media representation of crime and their control since second World War (Reiner et al., 2000 a, b, and 2003).

As Fowler (1991) sees, 'the press as containing ideas, not facts.' This is very much justified when we discover the fact that there is selection of a specific event to become news and another event or even a part of the same event is kept at the background; which could have been a mandatory element for the initiation of that particular incident. These choices are made on the basis of ideological distinctions prevailing in that group of media participants. The very specific selection is also made in the construction of media stories of events as there have been a much debate going on, on how the media identifies, rather presents, the world and how the actors or participants of that event are ideologically attributed.

Another aspect of this selection can be viewed from the fact that the freedom of a writer or reporter is highly limited by the space, provided to them, for the headlines. They need to attract the attention of the reader and report the incident along with the inclusion of particular ideologies. All this is carried out, then by the very particular lexical choices. The specific connotations used, may be emotionally or ideologically impregnated. Lexical words are preferred over the grammatical structures as they may introduce the element of ambiguity in some pieces of news (Reah, 1998).

All this is interpreted by a reader on the basis of his own knowledge of the context and of the world around him (Van Dijk). This takes him one step further away from the reality. So, in order to come up with the implicit agenda of a newspaper discourse, one has to read between the lines without being particularly biased toward his own knowledge of incident or towards the complete authenticity of the news headlines.

Clark (1992) proposes that often criminals are not represented as 'responsible' for their crimes and their law breakings are depicted as their delinquencies, while the major aspect of that crime is made to incline towards any other entity. They are presented in such a vague, but quite clear manner, that the reader is almost convinced of the criminal not possessing barbarous nature. Similar, rather supportive argument is given by Fairclough (1991) when he observes that certain very specific choices are made in order to regard a heinous action as an event. Writers or the authors have to be remarkably specific in the use of precisely arranged words as to convey the event, rather ideology, in most suitable and accurate way.

Michael Halliday has proposed his model for the analysis of such representations, named "Transitivity" (1971). In this framework, a relation is established between the process and the participants and the way, these participants are made to be involved in a process (circumstance). Kress (1976, p. 169) suggests that transitivity is 'representation in language processes'. What Fowler (1991) examines, is that, transitivity forms the very basis for evaluation of an event or action by the reader or listener and Simpson (1993) also comments that transitivity is a way to come across the particular meanings that are represented in a clause. This article finds its way for critical analysis of news related to death victims, here a politician Benazir Bhutto, through this framework of Transitivity. The methodology, which is going to be followed in this analysis, is described briefly under the following head.

METHODOLOGY:

Data Collection and Sampling:

This particular piece of research is based on the data taken from seventeen different newspapers, including national, as well as, international journals. Basic aim of the study is to trace out different ways in which particular ideologies are tried to exercise and inculcate in reader's mind by the author and to uncover the way in which these type of ideologies affect reader's perception of an incident.

Basic aim of selection from both, national and international journals was to carry out most probable unbiased research, as well as, to come up with different point of views and areas of focus on both the levels regarding the same event, that is, death of former prime minister, Benazir Bhutto (27 December, 2007).

Data has been collected through news archives using internet sources, and different studies, made in this regard, are also done with the help of previous researches available on internet (the links of which are given under the head of 'References'). It has been tried by the researcher to gather the news published on the very next day of Benazir Bhutto's death, that is, 28 December, 2007, so that the very first representations of the incident can be tried to evaluate.

One more important aspect is that, the research attempt has been conducted qualitatively, as well as, quantitatively ("Mixed method approach"). The motive behind such nature of the research is to compare different aspects of the news agencies, as well as, highlight similarities and differences between them ('comparative analysis', as mentioned earlier).

Each headline, along with its assigned number and transitivity model applied, is mentioned under head of 'Appendix'. A headline consists of two parts, i.e. Main line and Lead line. Both these have been pondered on for the analyses of these headlines.

Moreover, the researchers have tried to make a critical approach towards these news discourses by using Michael Halliday's model of transitivity, which deals with a discourse on a clause level (The statistical analysis of these clauses have been presented in the tables under head of "Data Analysis And Discussion"). An additional aspect of the enquiry includes the graphics, italicization, apart from the very specific word selection. In other words, it deals with macro, as well as, micro structures in order to accomplish the goal, as all these structures play their part in the conveyance of information, in one way or the other. Transitivity model of Halliday, as taken in account, will be elaborated under the next head.

Theory of Transitivity

Transitivity is a helpful approach for the analysis of how a particular reality that is unwanted, for most of the time, is transformed. Transitivity is an important linguistic concept in the field of discourse analysis; for it enables an analysis to interpret the same situation and event which is represented differently. Moreover, it is useful tool in the decoding of ideational function carried by clause. This function deals with the representation of experiences or in more broader sense, 'processes', and how these processes which are conscious events or actions are associated with participants. (1985: 53). Following factors are involved in the semanticization of the processes.

- ***the process:*** verbal group
- ***the participant:*** nominal group
- ***the circumstance:*** adverbial group or prepositional group

So transitivity uncovers the implicit worldview encoded in the fabric of language (Halliday 1971, Burton 1982, Kennedy 1982)

I. Types

There are three main types of processes

- i. Processes of doing : Material

These are the material type of processes which are usually tangible and physical actions. Halliday terms them as phrases of action revealing the fact that “*someone or some entity carries out or does some action or something*”. Participants involved, are the Actor, who carries out the process, and the Goal, the person or thing influenced by the process. Circumstance carries some extra information about the process.

“///Bhutto murder [actor] inflames [pr: material] Pakistan [goal]///

[The Honolulu Advertiser, December 28, 2007]”

ii. Processes of projecting: Mental

Processes which encode mental reactions, dealing with the cognition, affection, desperation and consideration are called mental processes. They can be explored by asking “*what you are thinking/feeling about someone or something*”. Participants of mental processes are the Sensor, the individual who is sensing, and the Phenomenon, what is thought or felt by the sensor.

“///THE SLAYING OF PAKISTAN’S OPPOSITION LEADER [phenomenon] THREATENS [pr: mental] DEMOCRACY [sensor]//

[The Miami Herald, December 28, 2007]”

iii. Processes of being: Relational

The processes which construe a sort of relation of having or being among the participants of a clause are called relational processes. These are further categorized into two processes. One is relational identification processes, which probe the identity of the participants involved are Token and Value, and identity of Token id defined by Value, and the other is relational attribution processes, which assists to describe the participants. Participants are Carrier and the Attribute, and the give Attribute describes its Carrier.

“///PAKISTAN [carrier] ’S (in) [pr: relational (attribution)] PAIN [attribute]//

[South Florida, Sun-Sentinel, South Broward County, December 28, 2007]”

There are three other subsidiary types of processes. They share characteristics of the three main processes described above. Behavioral processes lie between *mental* and *material* processes, express our *physiological* and *psychological* behaviors for example, crying, laughing and breathing, and these processes usually contain a single participant called Behavior, the person carrying a specific behavior.

“///Cry [pr: behavioral] the beloved country [behavior]//

[The News, December 28, 2007]”

Verbal processes include the actions of saying. They are in between *mental* and *relational* processes typically include three participants: the Sayer (narrator of the action); the Receiver (person around whom process is centered; and the Verbiage (the nominalized account of process).

“...//what the government [sayer] described [pr: verbal] as a gun-and-bomb suicide attack [verbiage]//

[The Dawn, December 28, 2007]”

Existential processes are the processes of being, and they are between *material* and *relational* processes, using the verb or *be* or its substitutes, show a situations of being, occurring, happening and existing, and the participant involved in the process type is Existent following *are/ there* is structures.

“There was [pr: existential] a king [existent].”

No process is superior to other. There is a sort of interrelationship between processes which assist us in portraying our experiential meanings of world, how we observe what action is going on (Halliday 1976). Moreover, they are helpful in exposing the participants involved.

After concisely explaining the framework, we will move forward to analyze the data. Our focus is not only on linguistic forms, but also on how they are used to express meanings and characters.

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION:

According to Fairclough (1995a), “language is a material form of ideology and “invested” by ideology”. Since, it is not easy for a common reader to interpret such hidden agenda that are present in a text, one gets the picture of an event as is portrayed and only views the depicted side of the coin. The very specific choices made in order to hold a firm hand on the explicit and implicit, and thermalized and unthematized, on the aspects need to be foregrounded, as well as, the one back grounded (Fairclough, 1995b). Such patterned explanations and ideologically loaded depictions of events lead to the portrayal oriented perceptions, mostly unconsciously. Therefore, such an attempt has been taken in order to put forward the very aspects that disclose a writer’s biasness and mental arena. Following analyses of the news headlines (listed under the head ‘Appendix’) were made with the help of Halliday’s Transitivity analysis;

HEADLINE-1:

- The very first news uses the expression of ‘Assassination’ for the death of Benazir Bhutto, which is connotatively assumed as the killing of someone for some political reasons.....the very first aspect of writer’s perception, rather representation is quite obvious from the use of this particular word.....this Assassination is a process noun, or nominalization, so, agency behind Benazir’s murder also remains uncovered and writer too finds sideway escape from mentioning of the murderer. This might be an intentional effort, as Benazir’s murderer was unknown during days immediately after her death. Apart from this fact, writer also promotes a mainstream ideology that she has been killed for some political purpose. So, the whole headline revolves around the direct victim (Benazir Bhutto) and indirect victim (Pakistan), and the assault.

- In the Main line, goal of this material process is declared to be the whole country, i.e. Pakistan, and the main verb used is ‘rocks’...pointing towards somewhat, the country is completely and helplessly thrown on the way of destruction and restlessness and the cause is referred to be a process, rather than any particular actor.
- The use of material verbs ‘triggers’ and ‘heightens’ in the lead line can be taken to be depicting writer’s view, as the country was already in an unstable circumstances and Bhutto’s death added to the jumbling affairs of the country.
- Viewing from another aspect, writer has labelled the victim as “Bhutto”.....one may assume that he is indirectly pointing towards all the three members of this Bhutto family, who had been killed, or assassinated (Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, Shah Nawaz Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto), and each of the death from this family created this restlessness on its own part. So, one may consider him to be the supporter or admirer of the Bhutto family as politicians.
- To make the reader attention captured, writer states the main line with the perspective of a country in turmoil and then states the cause, which was actually the main event, in the lead line. In other words, effects are described earlier and more prominently, as to arouse human curiosity of becoming aware of the cause of such effect on the whole country which ultimately leads him read the whole news. In other words, one may regard such representation as ‘cataphoric reference’ technique in order to create feeling of anticipation in the reader about the news going to be stated.
- Apart from all this, main focus of the news is on the aftereffects of that particular event on Pakistan, the actual cause is mentioned just once and among the category of ‘as an actor’, such representation ultimately trivializes the main issue of her death.

HEADLINE-2:

- The second news presents the death event as affecting different entities differently. The main line discloses the news by using the same expression ‘Assassinated’. But here, passavization technique is employed instead of nominalization to achieve the same goal, i.e. keeping the agency back grounded (might be because agency was not known at that time), even then mentioning that it is done so for some political cause.
- The most important aspect of this headline is that the victimized individual is depicted in relation with the whole country, Pakistan and this line appears most prominently on the paper with enlarged fonts. This might be to convey the severity of loss by a country on death of its world renowned political leader. For this very reason, relational process is employed as to identify Benazir, the daughter (value) of Pakistan (token) and the very relation employed, is that of ‘a daughter’ of ‘the whole country’, so her death would be a huge shock for the whole nation and all would be affected badly by this incident. Another aspect due to which this relationship was might have been made intentionally, could be the ‘mental blow’ to a parent on the loss of their daughter. So, the writer might be of the opinion that the whole country is facing

similar mental dilemma and at present, does not know the direction to move in and come out of the aftereffects of this incident.

- This blow casts severe effects on the country. The “turmoil” mentioned in this headline might be referring to the economical drawbacks (in terms of the expected elevated economic progress after this leader enters into the major government). So, these conditions might also be looked upon from this perspective as well.
- The aftereffects of this event are described by using material processes, “thrust”, “loses” and “erupts”. The aspects which are focused as results of this assault are ‘the expected chaos near elections’ and ‘the United States’; loss of an enthusiastic and firmly supportive alliance in their fight against Islamic extremism .So, the important issues arising after her death could be regarded as fuss during elections and U.S.’ lost of supporter in the war against extremism.
- A very profound depiction is the combination of a negative practice with that of a religion, that is, Islam. Instead of this expression, the journalist had choices like ‘extremist factors’ or ‘militant elements’ on his/her disposal, for promoting an unbiased view, but such representation clearly places him/her among the members of a mainstream ideology whose perceptions about this religion, are not very positive.
- Lastly, giving a concluding touch, writer mentions the appraisal of Leaders of world for her as to refer to their positive attitudes towards a Pakistani political leader. After mentioning such negative aspects of the religion, followed most in the country and the practices prevailing after her death, with the (expected) motive of not ending on a harsh or disappointing tone, the writer mentions this appraisal at the end of the headline, as to show their positive attitudes towards the positive aspects of the same country and promote their ‘neutral’ point of view and dealings. Moreover to mold the perceptions of a reader that they are not against Pakistan, but their sympathies do lie with them.

HEADLINE-3:

- The third news, apart from conventional expression of “assassinated”, points towards ‘threat to democracy’. The aspect of this news which is noteworthy, is that the death has not been presented as a process that went on its own, but rather as a process, that has been initiated by some unknown actor and therefore’ to pay stress on this aspect, it has been written in enlarged fonts and appears as the most prominent line of the page. Writer uses the mental process, “threatens” for the abstract entity of democracy, as to present it in a tangible form, so that the very aspect of ‘threatening’ and seriousness of the situation can be perceived by the reader, because is a mental state that casts horrifying effects on one’s mind.
- Again, the alliances of U.S. with Benazir Bhutto for fighting against extremist elements have been given due attention and thus, also attracts reader’s attention towards this aspect. This might be because Pakistan and United states had not been at

much good terms with each other and she might had been seen as a Bridge between the two countries, so, her death again clouded the hopes of democracy in Pakistan for the natives and of fight against militant elements for U.S.

HEADLINE-4:

- This news, after the main line “Assassinated” employing the techniques of deagentalization or passivation, states in a bit different manner by relating the very abstract of pain with a country, which if taken as an area of land, would not be having these abstract aspects, so, one may regard such representation as merely for arousing sympathy and depicting the helpless state of such a country (having no helping hands at their disposal). Another of the writer’s probable intention could be to refer to all the citizens of that country, as if they all are in utter sorrow and pain in such circumstances. The relational process has been employed as advocating this attribute. Again a living creature’s sensed feeling is allotted to a country. Reason behind this use could be the arousal of feeling of sympathy for such a state and it can also be for depicting the passive or non-responding and out of control and weakened law and order circumstances in a country by pointing that ‘riots erupted’ after her death.
- Synchronization of events have been developed in a way, that riots came out suddenly after she was shot, creating an impact that her sudden and unexpected death aroused that much rage and restlessness among people that they started acting violently, putting back all the laws and orders. The actual event of Bhutto’s death is stated in the end, and in a way, that depicts the writer presupposing that readers already know about her death.
- The verb used for the emergence of riots is “erupt”, which takes one more towards interpreting a sort of situation which is uncontrollable and ‘lawlessness’. Furthermore, the use of “gunned down” is very particular and to a great extent ‘clever’ selection on the writer’s part, because through use of such words, he conveys to the reader that Benazir was shot by a gun and also keeps himself away from mentioning the agency who shot, or the expected backing hands behind this event.

HEADLINE-5:

- In the main line of this news, writer uses the main verb ‘inflames’ for the reaction of Pakistan on the death of Benazir. It can be viewed from two perspectives; first, taking it in the sense of ‘anger, rage’ at the unnatural death of their leader; in this way, it would be termed as a ‘mental process’, the other possible interpretation could be the pointing of this expression towards the mass destruction caused by violent riots after her death, which sets the country on fire, and such interpretation would declare this process as ‘material’.
- The lead line of the same news points towards the outcomes of this event by highlighting that the *event* created fuss and restlessness among the people. The important perspective of this lead line is that “shooting, suicide blast” again keep the

agency implicit (most probably, done intentionally) and eliminated in a way that the reader almost remains unconscious of this fact. The initiator for mental process of “threatening” has not been mentioned, nor the one whose hopes are threatened, rather, this mental process has been directed towards the abstract entity of “hope”, so, in this way the writer consciously and very smoothly passes from the narrow passage with the help of nominalized and abstract figures.

- The main line of this news is stated more prominently on the very first page of the newspaper, taking hold of reader’s attention by describing the reaction or effect of a leader’s death on the country, as to arise one’s curiosity about, how a nation is reacting in such jumbled up circumstances, or how the “*mob psyche*” dominates at such an instant.

NEWS-6:

- The mainline again treats the slaying of Bhutto as an actor for bringing the state of turmoil in the country. In this passive structure, Bhutto’s slaying is acting as a subject, but the object, i.e. the murderer has been eliminated and the slaying, i.e. a process, itself, is presented to be held responsible for unfavorable circumstances in the country. To put it in another way, a process is declared to be an actor and held responsible for certain mishaps, rather than a person or conscious entity who initiates this process.
- Some aspects of lead line of this news, which are worth mentioning, are; firstly, the superiority of United States is clearly demonstrated by arranging the sentence to depict that U.S. is left with few options to pick or take in consideration from this nation. A clear cut power distinction can easily be traced out as U.S. is given an upper hand over Pakistan which is positioned passively, as looking forward for U.S. to choose an option from within it. The use of verb “plunges” might be done deliberately, so to depict that the country is completely under chaotic conditions and is facing great difficulty in coming out of it.....secondly, Pakistan has been called ‘nuclear-armed Muslim nation’ as to bring out the perspective from which subject views the lower positioned entity according to its needs, or it can also be regarded as used by the writer in order to show the subservience of a country in front of a more powerful country, instead of the fact that it is a strong nuclear power. Such construction very clearly depicts the discursive practices in discourse production and handling.
- Pakistan has been referred to by its three characteristics; (a) “nuclear, (b) armed and (c) Muslim nation”. The mentioning of these peculiarities could have an implicit agenda of portraying that such a strong country is in trouble and to recognize this piece of land with that of Muslim world.

NEWS-7:

- It deals with the same instance of event with passive structure of “assassinated” in the main line, which is the top most and most prominent line of front page due to enlarged fonts, in accordance with the significance considered in earlier news headlines (ibid.), and by employing the nominal group, declares this incident to be a ‘heavy blow’ to mediocre strata of society or the middle class. This encloses a complete background from the political career of Bhutto family, rather PPP (Pakistan People’s Party), as they raised the slogans of politicians under the service of common man and to provide them with all the necessities of life; food, clothes and house (“roti, kapraaurmakaan”). What this headline could possibly implies, is that, the middle class was in great hope for a better lifestyle if Benazir would have won the elections, but unfortunately, it didn’t happen and Benazir Bhutto was *assassinated*. So, her death put an end to all their hopes of better survival of this particular social class and this led to a great blow to them.....so, what writer wants to depict, is that, she used to work for betterment and welfare of common man and was a ray of hope for them.

NEWS-8:

- This newspaper talks on the same issue by using the similar technique of passivation and subject is labelled as ‘Former Pakistani Prime Minister Bhutto’.....a bit more formal way of identifying a person by his position or rank....but again, agency have not been highlighted by the writer and process is described as to take place without any actor.
- The second, rather the main line, catches the attention of reader by prominently large fonts and the curiosity arousing statement that a country is in state of chaos. The use of article ‘a’ further intensifies the urge to know about such a country. Most or almost all the headlines are arranged in a very careful order as to intensify the urge and curiosity of the reader to know more about such an event, stated afterwards. This very headline performs the same function by the use of relational process to give the attribute of “chaos” to an ‘*unknown*’ country.
- ‘Leader’s death’ as stated in the third line, may arise two aspects for calling Benazir Bhutto, a leader.....firstly, the writer may intend to call her a leader, simply because she was a political leader of Pakistan.....the other possible aspect can be, that she might be called as a leader in relation with the statement which follows, meaning thereby, she might be called as the leading force or a firm supporter of the forces that are fighting against “Islamic extremism”....what might be the writer’s intent, the reader is mostly inclined, rather perceives the first aspect mostly.
- Apart from these interpretations, another ideology which the writer might have been trying to inculcate among the readers, is the relationship of ‘extremism’ with ‘Islam’, rather stating it in a manner, as if such practices exist on a large scale and currently these have been developed as retaining a separate identity of their own.

- Material process is employed in order to refer to the forces which are fighting against extremist elements. All the *abstract terms* are given *concrete effects*. Writer has not informed about, by whom such forces are used to fight and against whom they are used. In short, no agency, whether in terms of actor or goal, has been mentioned clearly by the writer.

NEWS-9:

- This newspaper presents the news in more or less similar manner as earlier newspapers have done. The very first chunk declaring the death of Benazir Bhutto is passively structured, while its other part describes its after effects on the country. Two mental phenomena are described as being faced by the country.....“rage and more turmoil” (instead of ‘turmoil’)......this ‘more’ has certain ideology behind its usage, as it can be assumed on writer’s part that he/she says, in an implicit way, that the country was already facing a situation of tumult and Benazir’s death, almost, added to their miseries and suffering, as she was seen as a hope, or sign of relief for the *fatigued* and *exhausted* citizens.
- The other part of the same news also describes an agentless activity or event (“slain”) that was held at a rally and the actor had not been portrayed as ‘slain’ acts as a subject and the object, i.e. the actor has been eliminated completely; the circumstances have been described, without taking in account the one who is responsible for creating such circumstances.

NEWS-10:

- It uses the same mental process ‘inflames’, as was analyzed in ‘Headline-5’.... (This has already been discussed in detail).
- The other part of this news or the lead line includes the stronger and weaker perspectives of Pakistan at the same time. On one hand, Pakistan is referred as ‘A Nuclear Power’, which points towards the strengthened aspect of the country, and on the other hand, writer states that such a power is in state of turmoil, which is the weaker area....moreover, being a nuclear power ensures the *outer* defense of a country, whereas, turmoil prevails *inside* the minds of citizens. So, the writer, very minutely balances both the inner and outer, stronger and weaker aspects of the country.....so, the very ideology lying behind could be to make them aware of the very fact that the country might be stronger to face outer world challenges...but it is growing weaker from inside.

NEWS-11:

- In this news, the same ‘assassination’ is portrayed to be spread on a wider domain, i.e. Pakistan. It gives some sort of exaggerated view of one event that took place in one city of the country and is represented to be all over Pakistan....this very first line of the news does not give information about the goal, nor the actor of the process, rather directly points out the one affected....so, the reader, just by reading this line, is not able to grab, what actually has happened.
- The second, rather most prominent line, directly jumps from such a wider domain to specifically, the killing of Bhutto....but again, is presented with major part encountering the aftereffects of the event and the one mentioned is the “raising of outcry before election”, which are indirectly suspected to become hurdle in the upcoming elections...so, the writer can be declared of presenting his own reservations regarding the future elections because of this fuss creating tragedy.
- In the third and last line, again there is indirect expression of writer’s fears, rather his implicit predictions....masked in a way, as conveying the information....but, the reader’s mind also gets unconsciously impregnated with the underlying fears, or the created reservations, described by the writer that there might be much more unrest among the citizens after this incident.

NEWS-12:

- ‘The Modesto Bee’ discerns Benazir as being assassinated, without any acting agency or the murderer, the similar tradition which most of the newspapers have followed (ibid.).
- The interests of ‘West’ associated particularly with Benazir Bhutto, described by mental processes of “seen” and “vital” are focused. The proper noun ‘West’ is used instead of pointing out any particular entity and is mentioned as someone superior, expecting from someone subordinate or submissive (“...seen as.....interests.”). This is again a mark of the power distinction foregrounded by the particular use of words.
- This use of ‘West’ may also be described as creating boundaries between interests of ‘East’ and ‘West’, dividing the areas on the basis of *geographical regions* and ‘*who gives more priority to what*’.

NEWS-13:

- This headline first refers to the circumstances the nation faces as a result of Bhutto’s death. An Abstract quality, of ‘turmoil’ is attached with a whole country, as a state of confusion prevails all across, according to the writer. Relational process is used as to mention identified and the identifier, so that the mentioning of ‘*actual goal*’ and ‘actor’ could be avoided effectively.

- The distinctive aspect of this news is that, Benazir Bhutto has been mentioned as ‘ex-premier’...a bit more inclined towards the expected instability and restlessness in political circles after this.....the agency, as in all others, have not been depicted as a part of the actual event.

NEWS-14:

- In “The Sun”, the news has been dealt with in accordance with two types of outcomes of this ‘assassination’....one is mental, represented through relational process and the other is physical one, represented by material process. In relational process, ‘grief and fury’ are referred to as takeover whole of the country....all the citizens are under the pressures of anxiety and depression on the death of their leader.....the other aspect deals with the outburst of this enraged and depressed mental condition in form of ‘violent protests’....causing mass destruction...as throwing inner rage and anxiety to the outside world.
- Bhutto’s assassination has been mentioned with much less focus than on that of the circumstances prevailing after her death....along with the absence of any criminal agency. So, the actual focus of this news is on the *after effects* of this incident, rather than the actual incident.

NEWS-15:

- It portrays the country in a different manner, as compared to all others. It has been referred from the perspective of one, who became the victim, i.e. Benazir Bhutto, by mentioning it as “beloved country” as she had come back to her homeland for the elections, and *for her country*. This might have been done in order to give an emotional touch to the news, as her country is depicted to be “crying” at her death....
- While mentioning the condition of the country, writer uses the term ‘nation’ instead of country, as to bring more harmonious effects and the grief is felt unanimously. This might also be done to unite the people in such circumstances by tracing out the similar mental dilemmas, which they all are facing at the same time, in order to prevent violent behaviors at this feeble moment.
- The act of violent behavior is associated with only PPP workers and they are described as ‘enraged’. Apart from them, physical violence is not described as a common activity or a forcefully prevailing situation everywhere.
- All the clauses, whether representing the “injured” ones, or the “stunned” ones, or the “killed” or “enraged” ones...there is not even a slightest sign of the actor or the criminal agency.

- A sort of narrative technique is applied in order to explain all the events and losses after or as a result of this incident in a chronological order, to the point description, without unnecessary exaggeration or over explanation.

NEWS-16:

- In this headline, Benazir has been mentioned as “Daughter of East”.....this might have been done in order to make the people realize that her death is a loss for whole of the East and this grief is same for all....the similar effort, which had been done in ‘Headline-15’ above.....
- The very event has been mentioned as “suicide attack on PPP rally”, instead of mentioning Benazir as the targeted victim. She is described to “die” in the hospital, and the term ‘assassinated’ is not used for her death as in most of the newspapers discussed above. The only violent activity portrayed to have taken place, is the “*smashing of windows of the hospital by ‘enraged PPP workers’*”.
- Only in this news, Nawaz Sharif has been mentioned, as he came and ‘comforted’ the activists. This is to show that, at this very moment, leader from opposing parties also came forward to bring some relief in such stressful situation....or in other words, they forgot their conflicts in such a condition.

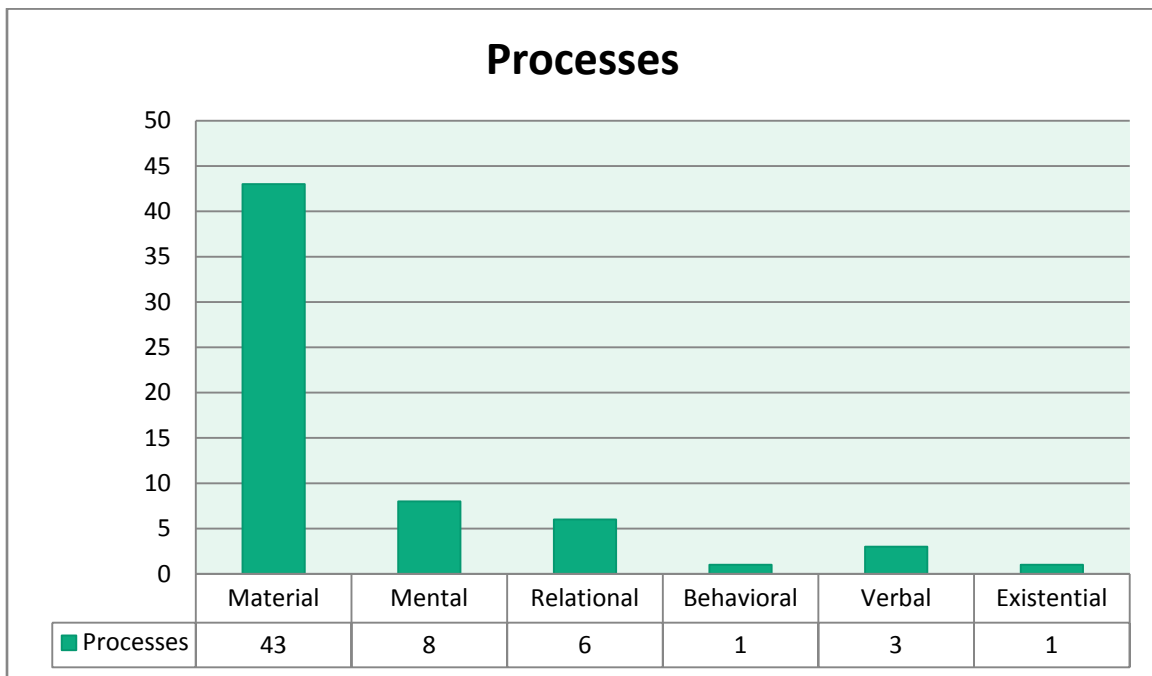
NEWS-17:

- The news opens with a hope for new and great leader from the same place and area....an attempt to bring down the stressed minds. Bhutto is described to be ‘felled’ by “assassin’s bullet”, the very term of ‘assassinated’ is not employed for her over here. This “assassin’s bullet” is mentioned twice in the news, which points towards the fact that Bhutto’s death is referred towards that bullet *which struck her* and not the one *who shot that bullet*. This might be done consciously in order to lower down the hatred against the murderer and lower down the prevailing aggression.
- Immediately after the news of Benazir’s death, the effect is tried to lessen a bit by giving information about others who died and then about the taking of her remains to her hometown and the circumstances that prevailed before the attack and the description of government “as a suicide bomb attack” about the tragic incident, and not as a *preplanned act of murder of Benazir Bhutto*.
- The subject takes a sudden shift from Benazir’s death to the other people who died during this attack. This sudden shift and almost just a cursory glance over the news of death of Benazir Bhutto might have been done intentionally with the ulterior motive of not exaggerating the news and lowering the effect by describing about the part which people of this country are *used to* listening.

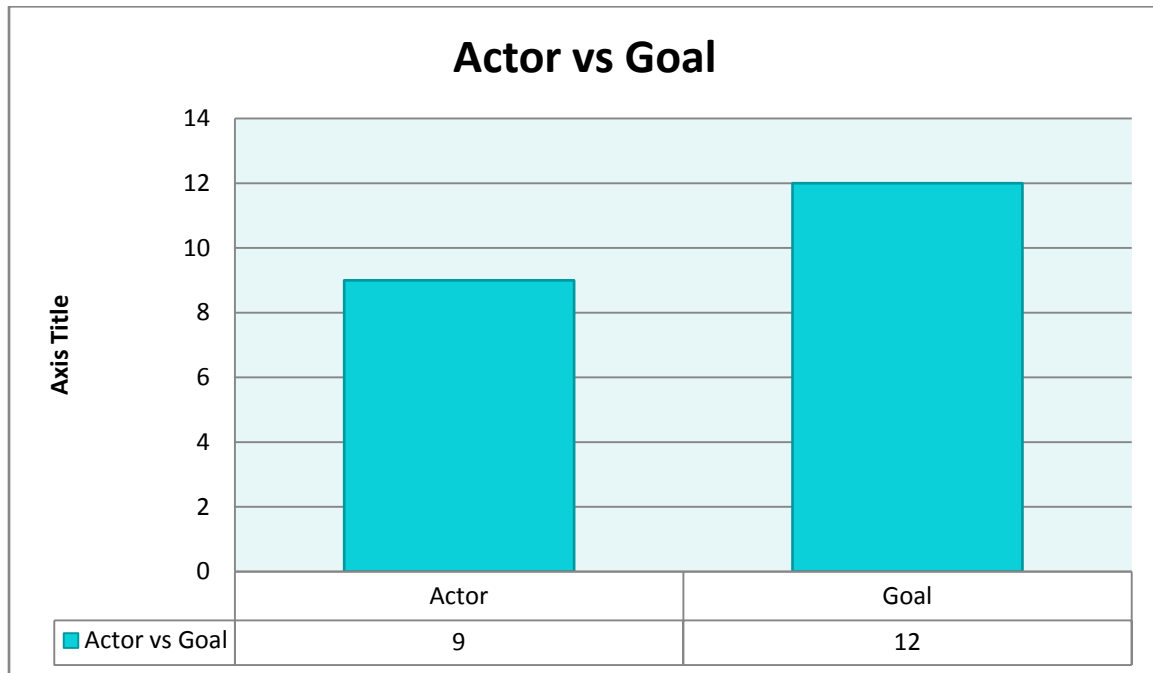
GENERAL FEATURES:

There are basically three types of features which are found in most, if not in all of the headlines. These are;

- Firstly, most of the newspapers state this news on the top of front pages and in much enlarged fonts, so that it could easily grab reader’s attention and this also proves to be a sort of ‘selling point’ of these newspapers in order to be circulated more widely.
- Secondly, most of the headlines refer to Benazir Bhutto by calling just “Bhutto”. This is also very much ideological as she was the daughter of a great political leader of Pakistan, i.e. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and she herself was a much supported politician of this country and also to point out towards that family which is becoming a part of politics in every generation. So, for this time, Benazir was carrying forward that family tradition, rather *attitude*.
- Thirdly, in almost every news (in which this aspect of subject is mentioned), countries’ names are mentioned, i.e. U.S. and Pakistan. The writer very aptly finds escape from mentioning specific persons or politicians engrossed in such interests.



Second table compares number of time Benazir represented as Actor with number of times represented as Goal



CONCLUSION:

Having a deep look of these analyses distinctly depict the differences between all these headlines and their actual point of focuses, one can easily find out that all the newspapers, with exception of last three (News-16, News-17 and News-18), lay basic focus on the negative aspects of the event, and to a great extent, exaggerated the ongoing negative circumstances, turning up with conflicts, and restlessness and gradually weakened law and order and the loss of control of government over 'enraged' protests and complete failure to bring piece, as well as, demarcation of hopes of better future survival of an average man, while the last three tried to pick out the comforts out of absurdities, trying to calm down the readers and making an attempt to maintain the image of the country as well on international level, by not highlighting all the underlying conflicts, or by controlled or actual depiction of the situation.

So, the research motives stated in the beginning of this piece of work, have been answered. (These findings may or may not be generalizable.)

1. The **most dominant practice** in stating of this particular event, was of keeping the agency implicit and for this purpose, nominalizations, passivations and use of abstract entities in terms of concrete are made use of. This practice can be done because agency was not known at that time and the writers had to be very conscious of not pointing at anyone, even by mistake, as this was an extremely sensitive issue.
2. The other question related to variation of interests, can also be answered now that most of the newspapers depict Pakistan as a country in which law and order

situation have been ruined completely and chaotic situation prevails with no sense of direction. While the national newspapers (15, 16 and 17) are trying to get most possible least harsh effects of the news while disclosing the news by initiating with a note of hope and maintaining that nation is united in such difficult circumstances.

The application of transitivity analysis on these selected seventeen newspapers clearly draw distinctions among the way of presentation of the same event and the same victim in much diverse ways, based mostly on certain implications which writer wants to assert his/her readers and molding their perception of the same incident and making them view from their eyes. What Richardson (2007) states, is that, the journalists are the one whose profession is telling stories to others and they always suppose an expected reader of their stories. They never write without that already assumed reader or receiver of their created discourse. So, the discourse is organized in a way as to keep the reader 'well-informed' by perceiving the world from the eye of the 'first viewer'.

APPENDIX:

1 ///Assassination [nominalization] rocks [pr: material] (in) Pakistan [scope/goal]///

///Bhutto's death [Actor] triggers [pr: material] violence [attribute]//

.....//and heightens [pr: material] instability [attribute].///

[Los Angeles Times, December 28, 2007]

2 ///Bhutto [goal] Assassinated [pr: material].///

///'Daughter of Pakistan [goal]' (is) lost [pr: material]///

///South Asian nation [goal] thrust [pr: material] into turmoil days before election [circumstance: location (temporal)]///

///U.S. [actor] loses [pr: material] a charismatic ally [goal] in fight against Islamic militancy [circumstance: cause (purpose)]///

///Violence [actor] erupts [pr: material] across her country [scope];//

.....//world leaders [sayer] praise [pr: verbal] her [receiver]///

[The Dallas Morning News, December 28, 2007]

3 ///ASSASSINATED [pr: material]///

///THE SLAYING OF PAKISTAN'S OPPOSITION LEADER [phenomenon] THREATENS [pr: mental] DEMOCRACY [sensor]//

.....//THROWING [pr: material] THE U.S. ALLY [goal] INTO TURMOIL [circumstance]///.

[The Miami Herald, December 28, 2007]

4 ///ASSASSINATED [pr: material]///

///PAKISTAN [carrier] 'S (in) [pr: relational (attribution)] PAIN [attribute]//:

.....//Riots [actor] erupt [pr: material]//

.....//after [circumstance: location (temporal)] Bhutto [goal] gunned down [pr: material].///

[South Florida, Sun-Sentinel, South Broward County, December 28, 2007]

5 ///Bhutto murder [actor/phenomena] inflames [pr: material/mental] Pakistan [goal/sensor]///

///Shooting, suicide blast [actor] bring [pr: material] chaos [attribute]//,

.....//threaten [pr: mental] hopes for democracy [phenomenon] ///

[The Honolulu Advertiser, December 28, 2007]

6 ///Bhutto slaying [actor] plunges [pr: material] Pakistan [goal] into turmoil [Circumstance]///

///U.S. [carrier] (is) left [pr: relational (attribution)] with few options [attribute] in nuclear-armed Muslim nation [scope]///

[Chicago Tribune, December 28, 2007]

7 ///Bhutto [goal] assassinated [pr: material]///

///Heavy blow to moderate factions [nominal group]///

[The Washington Times, December 28, 2007]

8 ///FORMER PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO [goal] (has been) ASSASSINATED [pr: material]///

///A COUNTRY [carrier] (is) [pr: relational (attribution)] IN CHAOS [attribute]//

///Leader's death [actor] deals [pr: material] stunning blow [attribute] to forces [goal]//

.....//fighting [pr: material] the rise of Islamic extremism [goal]///

[Journal Star, December 28, 2007]

9 ///[BHUTTO [goal] IS KILLED [pr: material]//,

.....//AND PAKISTAN [sensor] FACES [pr: mental] RAGE AND MORE TURMOIL [phenomenon]///

///SLAIN [goal] (was held) [pr: material] AT A RALLY [circumstance]///

[The New York Times, December 28, 2007]

10 //Bhutto Killing [phenomenon/actor] Inflames [pr: mental/material] Pakistan [sensor/goal]///

///A Nuclear Power [carrier] (is) [pr: relational (attribution)] in Turmoil [attribute]///

[The Wall Street Journal, December 28, 2007]

11 //ASSASSINATION [attribute] (is) [pr: relational (attribute)] IN PAKISTAN [carrier]///

///Bhutto's killing [actor] raises [pr: material] outcry [goal] before election [circumstance: location (temporal)]///

///Greater violence [existent] may now be [pr: existential] in store [circumstance]///

[The Register Guard, December 28, 2007]

12 //BHUTTO [goal] ASSASSINATED [pr: material]///

///Slain party leader [participant] (was) seen [pr: mental (perception)] as bridge [phenomena 1] to West [sensor], vital to U.S. security interests [phenomena 2]///

[The Modesto Bee, December 28, 2007]

13 //Pakistan [carrier] (is) [pr: relational (attribution)] in turmoil [attribute]///

///Ex-premier's death [actor] causes [pr: material] chaos [attribute] just days before election [circumstance: location (temporal)]///

[Union-Tribune, December 28, 2007]

14 //GRIEF AND FURY [actor] SWEEP [pr: material] PAKISTAN [scope]///

///Assassination of Bhutto [actor] sparks [pr: material] violent protests [goal]///

[The Sun, December 28, 2007]

15 //Cry [pr: behavioral] the beloved country [behavior]//

.....//Benazir [goal] assassinated [pr: material] ///

// 29 others [goal] (were) also killed [pr: material] in Pindi blast [circumstance];//

.....//100 [goal] injured [pr: material]//;

.....//nation [sensor] stunned [pr: mental]//,

.....//enraged [pr: mental] PPP activists [sensor]//

.....//go [pr: material] on rampage[goal].///

[The News, December 28, 2007]

16 //Daughter of East [goal] slain [pr: material]///

///Around 38 people [goal] (were) killed [pr: material]//,
//48 [goal] injured [pr: material] in suicide attack on PPP rally [circumstance: location (spatial)]//
//*Benazir [behave] dies [pr: behavioral] in hospital [scope]//
//Angry workers [actor] smash [pr: material] hospital windows [goal]//
//*Nawaz [actor] reaches [pr: material] hospital [circumstance]//,
//comforts [pr: mental] PPP workers [sensor]///

[Daily Times, December 28, 2007]

17 ///GarhiKhudaBux [actor] awaits [pr: material] another Bhutto [client]://

.....//Benazir [goal] felled [pr: material] by assassin's bullets [actor]//;

.....//21 others [goal] (were) killed [pr: material] in suicide bombing [circumstance: cause (reason)]//;

//AsifZardari, children [actors] taking [pr: material] remains [goal] to Larkana [circumstance: location (spatial)]///.

RAWALPINDI, Dec 27: ///An assassin's bullet [actor] killed [pr: material] Benazir Bhutto [goal] on Thursday [circumstance: location (temporal)]//

.....//in what the government [sayer] described [pr: verbal] as a gun-and-bomb suicide attack [verbiage]//

.....//immediately after [circumstance: location (temporal)] the former prime minister [actor] had addressed [pr: verbal] an election rally[receiver] of her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) at Rawalpindi's LiaqatBagh Park [circumstance: location (spatial)]///

[The Dawn, December 28, 2007]

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