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Ideological Representation of Rape Victims: A Transitivity Analysis of Pakistani Newspaper Editorials

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This article examines the news on the incident of death of a rape victim in four different Pakistani newspapers to explore the point of view in the selected newspapers. Game of “linguistic spin” Naz, Alvi, and Baseer (2012) is exercised to a great deal by the newspaper agencies to manipulate facts and to inculcate ideologies accordingly. Newspaper editorials of four Pakistani newspapers on the death a rape victim, named, “AaminaBibi” has been chosen for figuring out such depictions through Halliday’s Transitivity framework. A thorough analysis of the editorials chosen suggests that most of the time, primary actors are omitted to obscure the agents, while secondary actors are labeled as the only responsible entities, like state and society. The data has revealed that the criminals or the perpetrators are shown powerful member of society as information about who they are is illicit and overt. Moreover, discursive practices and power relations are also at work in such cases, so they too are dealt with. Since, these factors are very difficult to control and molded, as writers play upon words to (re)construct reality, so rape victims are shown to be completely helpless entities, with no one with them to lean on.

1. Introduction

Since last few decades, media has been developing progressively in playing a hypnotizing role in molding and constructing a particular ideology in order to captivate and fascinate the minds of people, by presenting the news in particular ways which are developed in accordance with certain social or political interests. Language, in recent age, has become a tool to be used according to interest of agencies in print media. The topic under research is “Ideological Representation of Rape Victim: Aaminabibi”. This work is meant to inspect the underlying ideologies represented in four different newspaper editorials of “THE NEWS”, “THE

NATION”, “THE DAWN” and “EXPRESS TRIBUNE” On news of a rape victim, through a comparative analysis. Victim belongs to a nearby village of Muzaffargarh. Moreover query is based on gender suppression, in order to find out male exertion of power over females in a male dominated society.

This power exertion is done by elite or more influential strata of the society to maintain their upper hand on subservient parts. It is very often so, when they are unable to do so by their voice, wealth and social influence, they use sexual assault as tool to exert their power and to suppress the weaker. However, this usage of power is termed as ‘dominance’ and is defined as the (illegitimate) use of power by an elite class or organization to bring out inequality among social aspects like race, gender, class, etc. Van Dijk, 1993). In alliance to all this focus is on the varied choice of vocabulary by newspapers to manipulate a particular ideology accordingly, their interest of the topic, depiction of social scenario prevailing in the country, the way they presented the victim in relation to society; for the achievement of this aim Halliday’s Transitivity analysis has been employed which regards the experiences through which one happens to move, as consisting of “‘goings-on’ -happening, doing, sensing, meaning, being and becoming”Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), which gain their meanings between members of a society by the vehicle of common language. Such analysis is significant for the understanding of the ways Pakistani newspapers construe rape victims in order to shape the beliefs system of readers.

Keeping in view these basic assumptions regarding representation of rape victims, this piece of study is aimed to trace answers of these particular aspects:

1. How the sequence of events is arranged by different newspapers with varying linguistic structures?
2. Whether the affected object is placed first or the responsible agent or is responsible agent omitted in order to mitigate the effect?
3. How the actor/s is mentioned? Whether the doer is completely eliminated, partially omitted or not talked about...
4. Is there any involvement of discursive practices?

1.1. Status of Women in Pakistan

In today's modernized era women are given equality all over in progressed countries. Pakistan, however, is a developing country where there is unfortunately less debate about the rights of women. There are some religious, cultural, traditional or social beliefs which make women rigidly sub-ordinate to men. These traditions are wrongly interpreted according to convenience of men. As a result women are subject to violence which is supported by chauvinist attitude, and representation of crimes and criminals in newspapers as well as behavior of police is supportive for men, because reporting of crime like rape creates a dehumanizing effect on victims. Rehman (2009) sees that women feel a sense of inferiority, and are suffering in their homes. Lack of education and economic gains are hindrances that prevent them to think about their due rights.

According to constitution of Pakistan, "*all citizens are equal before law and are entitled to equal protection of law*". However, the picture is totally different. Women face multiple problems like violence, discrimination, lack of economic resources, and even no complete 'control over their bodies', since so many cases in which young girls are raped are reported, face violence, and who even burn themselves with no support either from law or society. They are denied of their own identity, and labeled only in terms of "mothers, daughters and sisters". Being sources of reproduction, they are considered as only object of sexual satisfaction. Moreover, women are looked upon as 'commodities' moving from father's house to husband's house facing restrictions in their behavior, activities, and mobility; hence, they have restricted personality in their family. In addition to this, although, veil, is considered as a religious obligation, and is meant for protection and respect, but, in reality, is a source of insecurity and fragility for their status.

2. Literature Review

As (Fowler, 1991) sees that language in newspapers is never "neutral" and articles in newspaper should be considered as "stories" expressed from a definite point of view. T. Van Dijk (1998) proposes that editorials are likely to share opinions and ideological presumptions which are featured as their stance representative of institution. Editorials play a vital role within leafs of any newspaper, as there is less emphasis on 'objectivity', and are highly persuasive Lee and Lin (2006), so they show their involvement in open debate Le (2004)

In print media, much more focus is overwhelmingly on the grave and serious sort of crimes, portrayal of victim using foregrounding technique stresses on violent and forceful sexual criminal Marsh (1991); Reiner et al., (2000a). Violence is an act carried out with a perceived intention to physically hurt another person', Gelles and Straus (1979). Violence against women is an act committed to perpetuate "hierarchical gender relations" Schuler (1992). According to Stanko and Lee (2003), in media, violence is represented as 'random', wanton and intended act of 'evil-folk'. However, news reporting, on the part of journalists, of crime is for most of the time careful, selective and to some extent manipulated. Foregrounding, on the part of media, as noted by Reiner and his co-workers, is considered to be as one of the most important 'qualitative changes' since World War II in representation of crimes and their control in news media (Reiner et al., 2000a, b,(2003). Nominalization is a linguistic device that is used in news editorials to embed as much information as possible by decreasing possible words from the text. They are usually nominalized phrases from clauses (Quirk, Greenbaum, & Leech). According to Kress (1990) nominalization carries an ideological purpose, in order to implicit the central actions actors are omitted by manipulating and leaving the readers in doubt. Nominalization in editorials is due to lack of space, or time, or of both.

Print media prefer representation of women abuse, sexual harassment, atrocities and rapes prominently in long columns instead of focusing on news about their development, Dhar and Pattnaik (1996). Kumar (1995) suggests that, the way, women are portrayed in the press, is a reflection on the entire society. Sullivan (2009), while analyzing the ideological construal of female victims in *Courier-mail* and *Australian* newspapers, argued that 'construal of victim was neither biased nor objective, rather it was in accordance with the gender of victim.

Status of victim is affected and influenced by demographic factors: 'age, social class, ethnicity, race, gender and sexuality' Greer (2007). Attribution of crime blame is considered as key factor in the construction and narration of news story. Very often, in case of severe crimes there is a possibility that blame may be on an individual and is directed on offenders; however, in cases being social, it may be directed on society or institutions Chibnall (1977) as cited in; Sparks (1992). Crime victims are often given genuine and ample status of being an "ideal victims", including those people who are supposed to be innocent, helpless, fragile and deserving of sympathy and care Christie (1986). Reality is not reflected 'neutrally' through 'linguistic codes',

rather interpreted, organized and classified by the 'subject of discourse' in hand expressing the theories of how world is organized: "world-views or ideologies". Soothill and Walby (1991) argue that media represents a biased and distorted portrait of sexual violence by narrowing down the version of heinous sex crime. This distorted view is supported and reinforced by myths encircling rape and sexual assault. These myths may include "victim-blaming" or 'act of rape being committed by strangers', Kelly (2001).

T. A. Van Dijk (1996) highlights that media plays a vital role in social, economic, cultural and political structure of a society. He claims that there is need of much attention to be paid on the structure and strategies adopted by journalist in order to 'understand the role of newspaper as well as the message conveyed'. Van Leeuwen (1996) says "agency" is a valuable concept in CDA. CDA seeks information about which social actor is represented as actor and which as patient. Meanings belong not to language but to culture being confined to a specific situation. In any representation, in every single practice, there is involvement of certain actors, which are represented at front, others being excluded according to purpose and interest in relation to intended audiences. This exclusion is of vital importance when comparison is required between two or more different representations of same event or action Van Leeuwen (1996).

Simpson (1993) argued that media practices multiple means to encode a particular experience of a specific event in language. Circumstances in which happenings take place dictate our selection of words for its description. Our selection is from 'Transitivity System' of language: 'representation of meanings in a clause' showing the ways people encode picture and experience of real world encircling them; applied to expose the meanings that are foregrounded and meanings that are concealed. Transitivity is an indispensable relationship in language having multiple inferences (1993, 82, 96).

Men and women are represented in newspaper by naming and labeling practice. Clark (1992) inspects both transitivity patterns and naming practices about violence against women in articles published in *The Sun* newspaper. She states that naming is strong ideological tool because difference in perception depends upon the ways things are represented, and representation of men and women in different ways, perpetuates powerful gender stereotypes. However, transitivity also plays an integral part in gendered representation. Walsh (2001) as cited in Fisher argues that "transitivity analyses focuses on referential dimension of the ideational

metafunction”, while Fisher talks about the evaluative dimension highlighting the way transitivity relations in text help in representing females in certain ideologically significant ways.

3. Framework And Methodology

Halliday sees the world as ongoing processes involving participants in different process types under particular type of circumstances. Every utterance of language is any of the kind of processes. Participant’s involvement is direct, while indirect in case of circumstances. Core concept for the study of the meanings, is the grammar of “clause”, encompassing a way of projection, of actions, events and ideas. However, each process maintains its novelty, and a clause is dissected into:

- ❖ Process: *Verbal phrase*
- ❖ Participants: *Nominal phrase*
- ❖ Circumstance: *prepositional/adverbial phrase*

So transitivity analysis exposes the hidden ideologies represented in the ‘fabric of language’. Process is the primary bases of the clause; participants exist being ‘inherent’ within a process. Circumstance is an ‘optional’ part rather than being a necessary component.

Ideas are not looked upon as they stand, rather identified as participants and circumstances in relation to function performed and processes can be experienced from the world around us and going on inside.

3.1. Types

3.1.1. Major processes

Material Clauses:

It is clear from the name that these clauses are related to something concrete. Processes of ‘doing and happening’ fall under this category. Participants involved are: Actor (performer), and Goal (around whom action is performed). Then, there are transitive clauses (containing an object) and intransitive clauses (containing no object).

Example:

The Dawn (March 15, 2014)

Participant	Process	Goal	Circumstance
Shahbaz	Suspends	police officials	in Muzaffargarh rape case

Other kinds of participants, who can involve in material clauses, are Recipient, Client and Scope. First two participants are beneficiaries, hardly distinct from Goal: former is receiver of goods; while services are performed for later. Third is unaffected by the actions.

Mental Clauses:

Being grammatically different from previous, mental clause (also called process of sensing) describes the world inside us. It can be referred to Perception, affection, emotions, feelings, hearing and thinking about something or participants. Main participant of mental clauses is denoted as 'Senser', who is always a human being. Phenomenon, the second main element includes the objects, things, actions, facts, etc. watched, wanted, thought, sensed, felt or perceived by Senser.

Example:

Daily Times (March 15, 2014)

Participant	Process	Phenomena
Supreme Court	demands (wants)	Explanations for the incident

Relational Clauses:

They are also called processes of having and being: functioning to identify or characterize one participant in relation to other. Most frequently occurring verbs in relational processes are 'be' and 'have'. They are divided into two subtypes, each having two inherent participants, are (I) Relational Identificational, and (II) Relational Attributional. Participants of former are defined as 'Token' (identified), and 'Value' (identifier); participants of later are 'Carrier' (one who is described) and 'Attribute' (who describes).

Example:

The Dawn (15, March 2014)

Token	Process	Value
Rape	Is	Crime of the Shadows
Carrier	Process	Attribute
against which the society	Has	no power

3.1.2. Minor Processes

Behavioral Clauses:

These processes are typically associated with human physiological behaviour, such as dreaming, smiling, breathing, coughing, and staring, having no clear and definite characteristics. Inherent participant is labeled as ‘Behaver’ (a conscious human being) seems like a senser, while grammatically the process is like of doing.

Example:

Halliday (2004, 261)

Behaver	Process
She’s	Laughing

Verbal Clauses:

Being clauses of saying, they carry importance in different types of discourses; contribute to the organization of narratives, by setting up passages in dialogic form. Participants involved are ‘Sayer’ (narrator); ‘Receiver’: “a conscious being” (with whom the process is concerned), and ‘Verbiage’: function corresponding to what is said (nominalized explanation of process). However, the participant is not always a conscious Sayer.

Example:

The Dawn (from Editorial)

Sayer	Process	Receiver	Verbiage
Sources	Told	Dawn.com	That she died at 9 am Friday morning

Existential clauses:

They deal with the things which happen or exist and are rare and least common in discourse, but play an important role in production of texts and narratives; they purposefully serve to introduce the main participant. Word, 'there', have neither representational function, nor is a participant but only indicator of existential processes. They comprise of Process and Existent (being nominal group and only Subject

Example:

Express Tribune (Editorial)

Indicator	Process	Existent	Circumstance
There	Was	no justice	for this girl

3.2. Data Collection and Sampling:

The data for analysis has been taken from news archives using internet sources. The particular event occurred on March 13, 2013, so the relevant editorials are collected from the one published on 14th and 15th March, 2014. The four newspapers taken are "The News", "The Dawn", "The Nation" and "Express Tribune".

The factors taken in account for this analysis are the distinctive ways through which any particular ideology is followed; furthermore the distinctive titles that these editorials behold are also looked upon by the researcher as how it becomes a selling point of the text.

Lastly, the Transitivity model is followed for having a deep look into the ideologies and specifically constructed depictions of the victim and the criminals. The process types has been

identified first and are presented in the form of Tables (1,2,3,4,5), first four for each editorial and last one to show the comparative graph in discussion session. It means that first level of analysis processes are identified and at second level newspaper stance is discussed. The Transitivity model employed for this purpose is the one elaborated in the third edition of “An introduction to Functional Grammar” (the reference of which is given under the head of “References”).

4. Data Analysis And Discussion:

Tables showing the process types are presented as follow:

Name of Newspaper	Name of Editorial	Number of words
Express Tribune	Rape & Fire	377
The News	Murdered	556
The Nation	Rape Culture	406
The Dawn	Failed by State and Society	360

Table: 1

No of process types used in Express Tribune

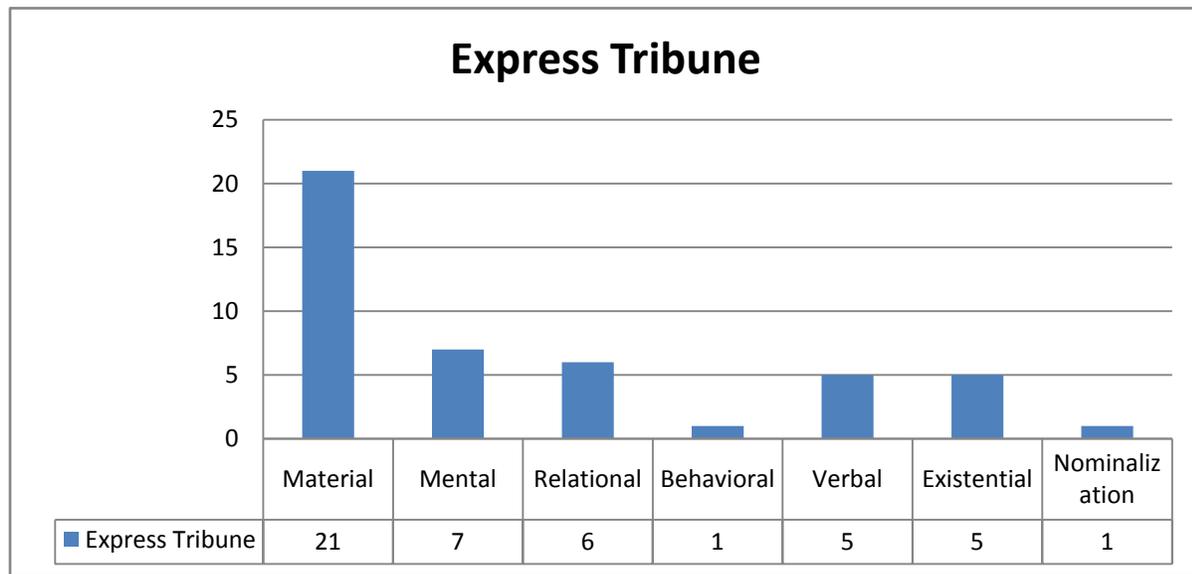


Table: 2

No of process types used in The News

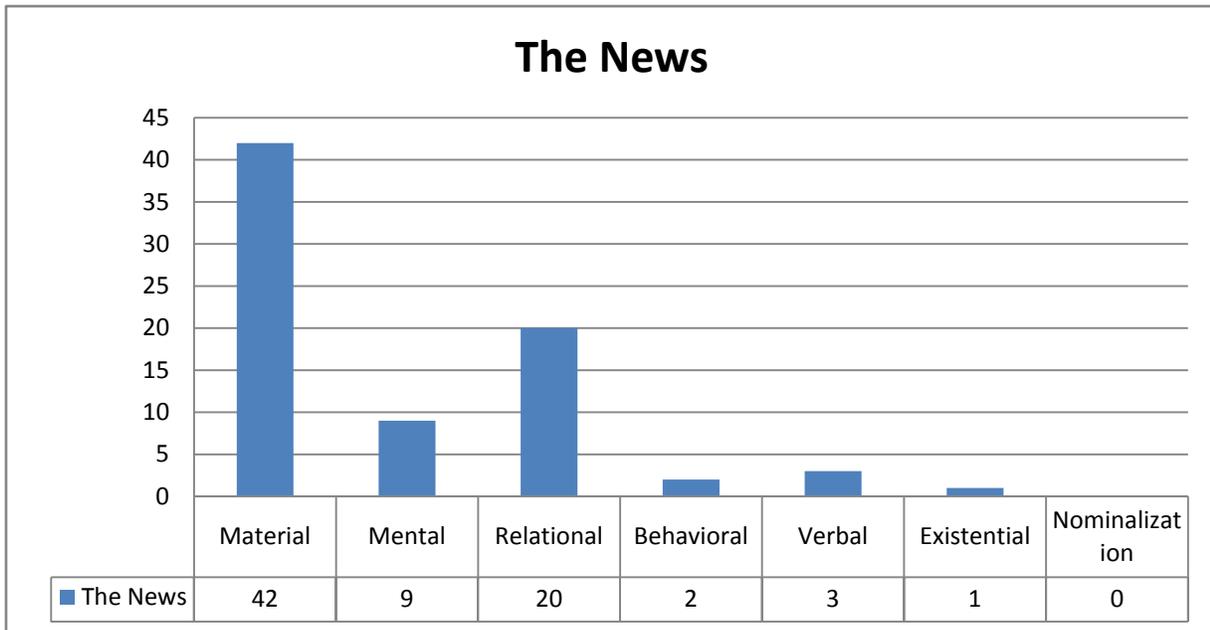


Table: 3

No of process types used in The Nation

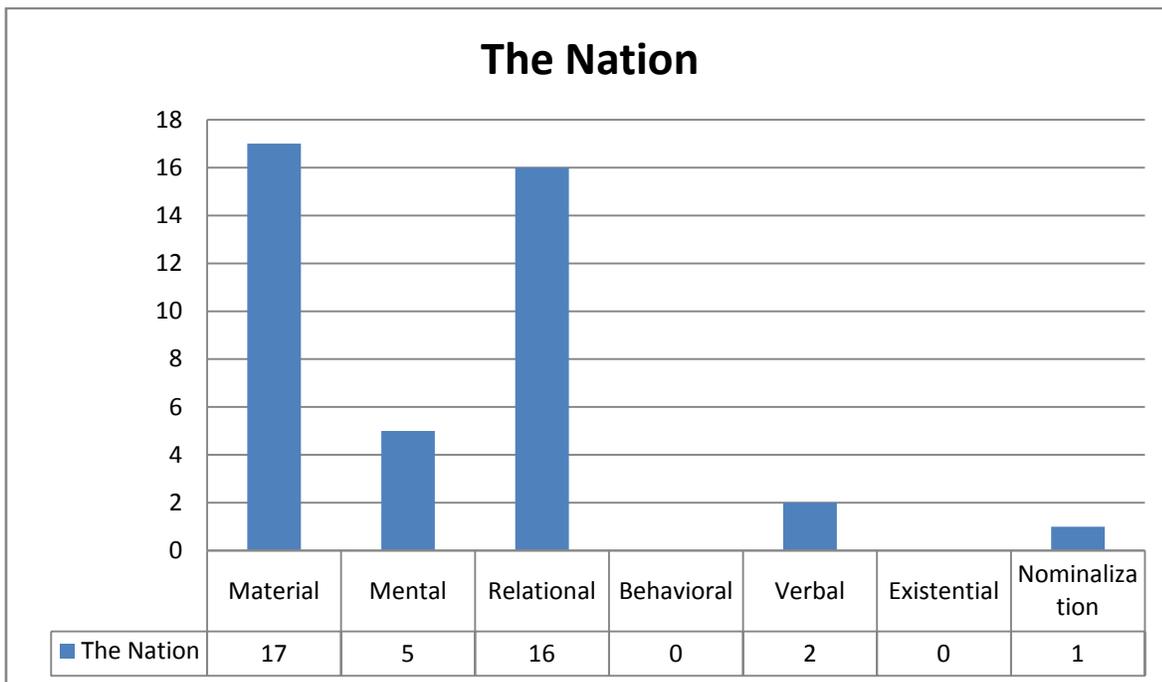


Table: 4

No of process types used in The Dawn

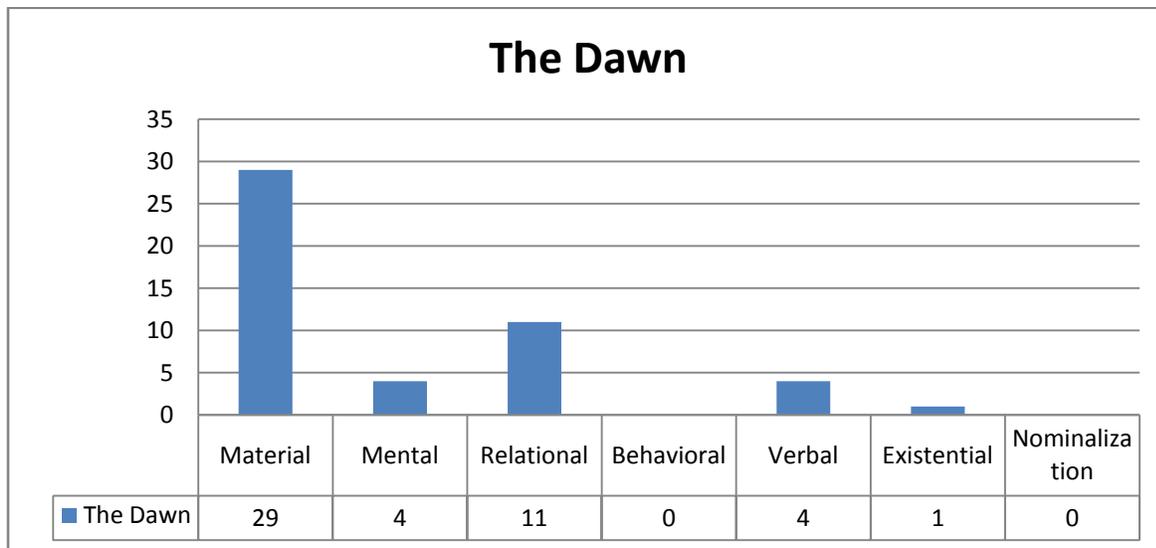
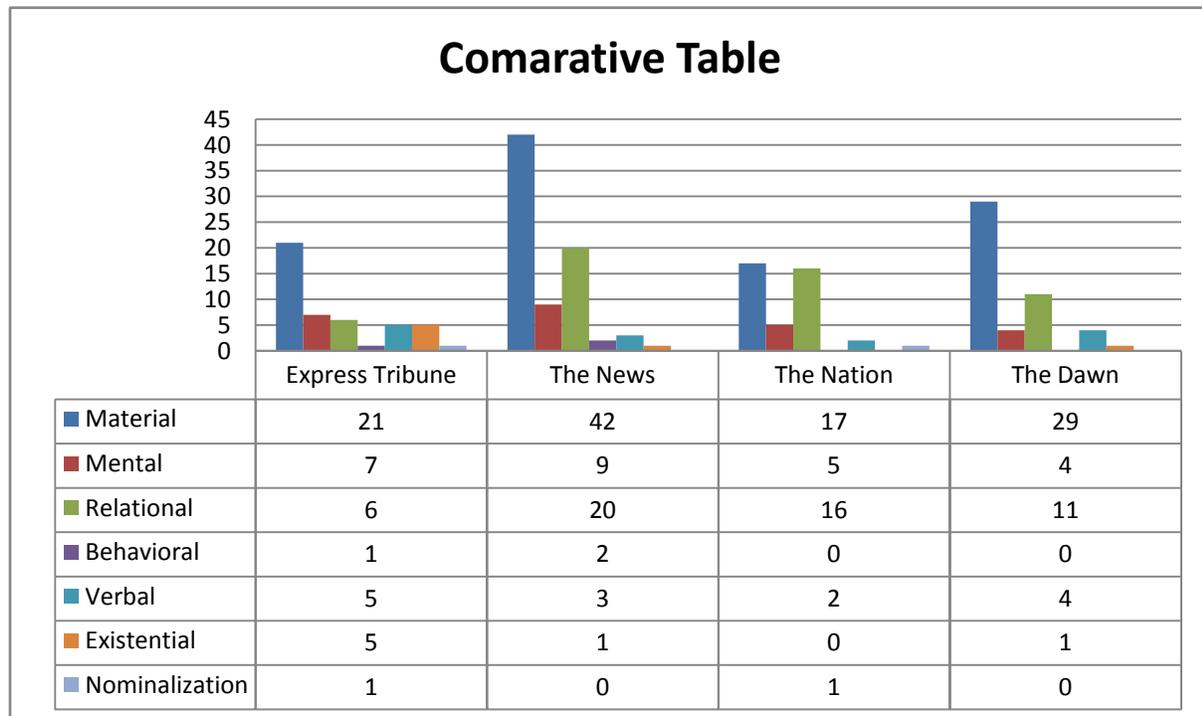


Table: 5

Comparative table of all the newspapers



As Young (in 1981) puts forward an argument that the readers do not have encountered the actual event that took place and therefore, are dependent on the information and depiction presented in front of them by the newspaper. Since, they are exposed to those events for the very first time, so the newspapers have an ample opportunity to present that instance of event “suddenly and dramatically”, which, apart from conveying the information of event, also creates a “design” of that event and the readers are made to view the happening in that paradigm. This “designing” is very much according to the ulterior motives of a news agency, and so, these can be traced from the discourse being employed for such purpose. A similar attempt to analyze the “patterned depiction” of a rape victim in different agencies is made as under:

4.1. RAPE AND FIRE (EXPRESS TRIBUNE):

- The very title that this editorial beholds attracts the reader by pointing towards two things: ‘rape’ and ‘fire, causing ‘her’ death. Both acts are related in such a way that first

leading towards the second: one being the cause, and the other its effect. Who is raped, in what circumstances and how the anger prevails, these are the questions that make a reader enthusiastic to read the underlying text, which is seen as an explanation of the queries aroused by the title.

- This text mainly talks in favor of the girl who is being raped and mostly, a sympathy arousing tone is followed in order to deliberately put forward the “stance” of that text. It opens with a third aspect that might be thought of missing in the title and that is “death by self-immolation”. Now one can come up with a chronology of these aspects “rape”,
- “Death by self-immolation” and “fire (in the sense of Rage). Another aspect that might be perceived from this “fire” is that of “burnt”. Meaning thereby, the victim might have been burnt after this event, but by whom?? This question is answered in the very opening words of this text.
- The writer pays more stress on the way, the victim died. Instead of coming to the point, he/she first quotes an incident from the history that is considered to be the first such suicide carried out due to unfavorable circumstances. An underlying motive could be to portray that such practices have been taking place and this is not only with women but the very first person who did so, was a male. So, it is a practice done due to frustration and desperate conditions, the victim of which could equally be male or female. The differences for putting forward such point of view was to mention that the very first person, who committed such suicide, was frustrated due to the behavior of civil authorities and here, these are rapists. The major difference drawn was that he got fame because he was the first person to do so and he was in a country where such happenings might not be taken for granted (and an opposite case might be prevailing here.)
- The actual incident is started to mention in 6th clause. Here the writer first describes that the girl did such suicide because she was raped. But while mentioning the rapists, the stone is jumbled up a bit, as rapists are not mentioned and are easily back grounded by using the expression of “accused” and later in 14th clause, rapists are mentioned for the second time, and here, they are referred as “alleged rapists”. The writer backgrounds the actual agency who is responsible for all this, and creates a tone in which there is much sympathy for the victim but when it comes to the pointing out of “actor”, he/she finds a sideway escape by usage of such expressions. Furthermore, these two expressions show

that these are the “suspected rapists” and are not confirmed. This also gives an edge to the aspect that they could be “innocent” and not the actual criminals to be blamed.

- Another practice done is by mentioning the rapists as “six men” in 6th clause. Again, they are not referred as who they are and from where they are, but as how many were they. In contrast with this, the girl who died, has been characterized by her age, place where she lived. This is how, it is portrayed that ‘it has happened to her’, rather than, ‘who did this to her’.
- Again in 7th clause, it is mentioned that the investigation officer gave them bail on the account that they were “innocent”. This gives rise to two types of interpretations. One is that if the investigation officer has said so, then they were really the “suspected” one and not actual criminals. Other possible interpretation could be that they might have been belonging to some influential background; therefore, they were released on such declaration. Whatever will be the case, it never gives even a slightest hint of who those persons actually were.
- In 7th and 8th line, the tone of writer becomes a bit political on mentioning that the political situations is still jumbling up on this matter as usually and are unable to arrive at any noticeable conclusion, as usually happens in such cases. In the same stream, the writer mentions that opposition leaders did walkout due to such failure of the government, while the government’s role is mentioned afterwards. Another such depiction can be related to the fact that writer uses the words “Punjab Chief Minister is reported to have taken notice”, and does not say that they have taken any sort of action in this regard, and “reporting” is not always reliable.
- Coming towards the ending clauses, writer adopts a tone that arouses much sympathy for that girl, by mentioning that how painfully that girl died and even then, she will not be remembered, nor given justice in any future time. An important expression in this regard, is “One can only *hope against hope*” that Supreme Court will become able to provide her justice (16th clause). Such attitudes put forward a hopefully continuing despair and injustice for even such similar cases in the future as well. It in points towards a complete loss and no positive gain even after facing such drastic circumstances and pains, and even after losing a life, thus, the text ends on a note that there is no justice for such victims

irrespective of this fact that how much they suffer, their pains are not valued. In other words, it gives a very horrible picture of society's attitudes towards a "rape victim".

4.2. FAILED BY STATE AND SOCIETY (THE DAWN):

- This text appears to open with a pre assumed fact that the reader knows about the event occurred and therefore, it is in the form of critical evaluation of that event. It portrays the victim as a helpless entity who has no one to back on and when tried to stand on her on feet, she fails because of lack of support and humanly emotions in the area in which she lives and thus, she meets complete failure in this regard from her society and her state.
- This text puts complete blame on two entities, as is evident from the title, i.e. the society and the state. It focuses mainly on the system failure and the scarcity of humanity. As is mentioned in the first three clauses of this text, she fails due to state because there is not any security prevailing, so was the case with her, that she was raped because of this insecurity, the elimination of which is a mandatory part of state's duties. She fails due to society because that society retains very false notions regarding this rape crime and victims, and thus, the sufferer suffers again and not the criminals. So, she is depicted as a completely helpless individual, not backed by anyone but by her own courage and spirit of fight and the writer appears to be praising her much for her this zeal.
- In the 4th clause, she is first time described and is introduced as an "18 years old girl", which again seems to be a sort of praise and high opinion of the writer about this girl which he/she is trying to inculcate in the readers as well. But when it comes to the mentioning of the primary criminals, writer uses the words "alleged attackers" in the same clause. This is very much ideological selection of expressions in the sense that they were the suspected and not confirmed criminals of this act, in the first place. Secondly, the use of "attackers" instead of "rapists" again carries an ideology. The attackers are not always obvious and this depends highly on the presence of people at that instant, and if no one is present, then the criminals are not known and thus cannot be traced easily. In case of rape, victim has, most of the time, knowledge of the criminal. So, in order to blur this fact of "exactly knowing" and keeping them back grounded, writer uses such expression and uses a relatively less wicked expression ("attackers" rather than "rapists"),

so, he himself is also being molded by the existing notions in the society (irrespective of being right or wrong).

- In the 5th clause, writer employs an ironical tone by saying that the system has “strange ways” of maintaining justice that “the main suspect” was bailed. Again, on one hand, lawlessness is being ridiculed and on the other hand, criminal is regarded as a suspect. So, the text apparently seems to be focusing the drawbacks bitterly, but carries out many such ulterior motives within, the major of which is of keeping the actual actor at the back and foreground other aspects related to the helplessness of the victim, for the purpose of arousing sympathy for her.
- In the 6th clause, the writer praises that girl by saying that she was “determined to fight back” for the investigation officer “apparently favoured” the criminals. This expression shows that he knew the one who was guilty but released him from charge. While again, the girl is said to have “accused” them (discussed earlier).
- The writer blames society and the state throughout and describes the girl as the one who is suffered by the tyranny n inhumane attitude of both, due to which she failed twice. The three main motives of this editorial appear to be; (a) the actual agents are not referred anywhere in the text and the techniques of passivation and back grounding are employed for this purpose, (b) the girl is again and again mentioned as a victim who is “helpless, suppressed by the powerful and courageous young individual” and (c) the lack of responsibility of state and society for its citizens.
- One last and important factor, which needs to be taken in account, is that, writer uses “state” and “society” again and again, but these are the entities that are run by individuals and cannot proceed on their own. But there is not even a single place, where she/he has mentioned them or the flaws in those individuals who are running it. He criticizes the system and not the system regulators apparently, but in such covered manner, he is trying to give them a point to ponder.

4.3. RAPE CULTURE (THE NATION):

- This editorial has been named as “Rape Culture”, which shows that writer is of the view that this practice has penetrated that much deeply and firmly in the roots of a society, that it can now be referred as a culture, a set pattern for the satisfaction of heinous

desires. And also because now it is looked over by other people (who are not victims) in a way as if it is a usual practice, except the one who become victims to it. So, it is prevailing as a culture, rather than an obnoxious crime.

- In the 3rd clause, writer refers to two incidents of rape, one is of a “20 year old woman in Liberty Market” and the other is of “rape of little girl dropped before Ganga Ram Hospital”. The mentioning of these two events particularly from a lot of others, might be ideological, as he/she mentions one in which the female is 20 years of age and in the other one, she is a little girl. The writer might be trying to say that it is not any particular group that is suffered, but any female of any age is not protected from this heinous practice. One incident took place at a market and the other girl was found outside a hospital, so to depict that no place can be regarded as the secured one.
- In the same clause, complete blame is put on the society and the state, which does not provide security to “women and underage boys and girls”. But in this line, where victims are mentioned, it is not mentioned that who are the criminals.....so, this aspect is left untouched.
- In the 5th line, writer regards this factor to be present in Pakistan, as well as, America. This comparison is done quite intentionally, as America is viewed as a successful and a sort of ideal state by a common Pakistani. So, it seems to be playing the role of an eye opener that this crime is present in Pakistan and in America as well. Same problem exists in a developed and a developing country.
- In the 8th clause, the writer mentions a survey of “Awaz Foundation Center for Development, according to which 2713 cases of this violence against women were reported from Southern Punjab”. Again, this statistical report might have been mentioned with a motive in hand, that Punjab is considered to be the most developed province among all the four provinces of Pakistan, and most of such cases are referred to be occurring in Baluchistan and N.W.F.P areas. So, the writer, instead of quoting incidents from the same areas, mentions these statics about Punjab, showing that the circumstances here too are not much different from the other three provinces.
- In the 10th clause, the aspect of “preserving honor” have been mentioned to contradict that it elevates this practice and does not reduce its rate. Here, the writer might be

referring implicitly towards that bill which was passed for the protection of women rights. According to the writer (probably), if only words are made use of under such circumstances and not properly organized system, then the rate of such practices elevate due to ineffective and unorganized system of forces.

- In short, writer wholly solely blames the entities of state and society for elevation in the rates of such crimes, for these are not able to control “men with such obnoxious intentions” and hence, promoting them “being rapists”. Throughout the editorial, writer does not seem to have inclined towards any particular group, but talks on a general note, on *wholes* and not *individuals*.

4.4. MURDERED (THE NEWS)

- The very title of this editorial readily catches the attention of a reader who is giving just a cursory glance to the newspaper. This is the selling point of this editorial that after having looked at the title, certain questions arise in one’s minds, that who is murdered, how and why murdered? And by whom?? For getting answers to all these questions, one starts reading the text. Furthermore, it points that something about a murder is going to be told, but as it proceeds, one comes up with the relation drawn by the writer between the actual suicide event and fore mentioned *murder*.
- The actors, i.e. the rapists have been mentioned in the 2nd clause as “five men”, in the 5th clause as “accused” and at another point in 2nd clause as “rapists”. But at no place, we can get any clue of who these actually are.....so, the actual agency or actor has not been mentioned anywhere in the text nor even a slightest glimpse of their identity.
- In the 8th clause, when the speech of her mother is *quoted*, she says that “the girl was being tortured and treated with contempt”.....same question can be posed here, as who did so?? At most of the points, writer does not give information of the agencies involved in heinous activities, but we do come to know that there was someone. All this is done by employing the techniques of passivation and thus keeping the agency back grounded. Some other examples of this could be; “the girl was murdered first by the *men* (identity?) and then by the authorities” (clause: 11), “that pillar seem to have crumbled (by whom?)” (Clause: 24).

- In 21st clause, the writer, while commenting on the role of Council of Islamic Ideology, argues that they do not readily accept even most of the positive changes, and since most of the people follow them, so they also become much powerful in that sense of being followed by majority of the people for the sake of religion and power does not give consent to changes which can ever become a danger of challenging it.
- The 29th clause is a comment, rather analysis of our role under such circumstances. The pronoun used here is “we”. It is again a blurred figure whether this “we” refers to the common citizens of the society, or does this refer to the state, the authorities....and so, this piece of text ends on a questioning note that what role we are playing in these circumstances. The writer gives a strain of thought at the end and tries to set the inactive minds on a thinking process.

5. CONCLUSION

This close analysis into the text of these editorials, answers to the questions posed in the beginning of this work, have been found to a considerable degree, which are;

- Rape is framed as sex crime as well as a violent crime. Identity of the raped is constructed and expanded through myths like “20-year-old-woman in Liberty Market” and “Tunisian street vendor”. Thus she was represented as a powerless female who could not defend her credibility. All that happened to her was result of a chain process of factors, one leading towards the next and so on until her death: insecurity, criminals, rape, injustice, state, society, culture, and failing of law and negligence. Men are seen as threat for women, because there is no support for women either from state or society.
- In all the editorials, victim is mentioned before the criminal or crime, and criminals quite after the victim with a passing note of description. The representation or non-representation of social actors highly depends on the fact that whether they are victim or the criminal and whether they are powerful or powerless. Keeping these factors in view, the writer decides to or not to mention them and the ways for mentioning them (passivation, back grounding, activation). Similarly, the concerned authorities’ representation also depends on the same aspects.
- Doer or actor can surely be regarded as being absent from the text on the account that at no place, one finds a slightest glimpse of who these rapists are. The most common

expressions employed are “alleged” rapists, which does not even confirm their being criminals of such a heinous crime. There is not even a single place, where it had been mentioned that from where they belonged. This weirdly common element surely implies the cover keeping of certain facts. Whereas, rape victim (in this case) is dealt with a sympathetic attitude, presented as an innocent girl, who made suicide attempt due to the negligence of authorities and society’s obnoxious behavior, which leave her helpless all the way, who moved forward on the feet of solely her on courage.

- Discursive practices are very much involved, for instance, the victim is mentioned as an ‘18 year old girl from Muzaffargarh’. Moreover, other examples where power is at work include “20-year-old-woman, “young girl, little girl” etc. While criminals are represented as “five men” collectively in the 2nd clause (The News) or as “accused” and “alleged” instead of being criminals. So naming through age and such labels highlight that power relations are at work in order to shape the stance accordingly.

Other possible conclusions which one can draw are;

- All these newspapers made most use of “material processes” for conveying their ideas. Since, these are the only processes which can be stated in passive structures and even agent can also be avoided, therefore, these are used mostly in these four editorials for a similar purpose.
- Lastly, interest does not vary much among the texts which are analyzed, since all seem to praise and console the victim, hide the criminals and blame society and state for such prevailing practices.

As argued by Marsh (1991) and Fishman (1981), that there are no particular rules for the illustration of these crime events. But most of the time, these are presented on a much larger scale and in a much exaggerated and superficial manner, so that they could catch the eye of an average reader. It is mandatory in such today’s age of frustration that some rules must be set for conveyance of these events, so that, the reader could get an actual picture of the news and can interpret the actual circumstances, rather than viewing the world designed by the writer. Furthermore, this is also a weird crime from ethical point of view in which writers play with words to construct or deconstruct a reader’s world of reality. Therefore, some rules must be devised to bring home an actual portrayal of the social reality to the reader.

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