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Discourse of Intolerance: An SFL Analysis of Newspaper Editorials

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Abstract:

This paper attempts to analyze the editorials published in two newspapers viz. 'The Tribune' and 'The Indian Express' from Systemic Functional Linguistic perspective to find out the way different media houses view and present the debate concerning intolerance in India. The immediate context is Amir Khan's observations at the eighth edition of the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards ceremony on 23rd November 2015. This led to a heated debate in public as well as in different media houses, both print and electronic. In continuance of this debate, 'The Tribune' and 'The Indian Express', along with other newspapers, published editorials reflecting their ideological perspective. The investigation reveals that these two newspapers look at the same event from different socio-political angles and come to diverse conclusions.

Keywords: Intolerance, Transitivity, Process, Participant, Circumstance, Material, Relational.

Introduction:

Ever since the BJP led NDA government came into power at the centre, it has attracted the attention of the people in India as well as in the world, partly for the wrong reasons. Most of the controversy it generates has its roots in the ideology of Hindutva propagated by its votaries and supporters. Such an ideology seems to give a privileged place to the majority community while the minority communities, especially the Muslims, are pushed towards the margin. In order to counter this divisive discourse a number of Sahitya Akademi Award winner writers have returned their awards. Protesting against the protesters, Anupam Kher, a well-known film personality led a march in the national capital and even got the privilege of having a meeting with Narindera Modi, the Prime Minister of India.

It is in this context that Amir Khan, a famous film personality and a face of 'Incredible India', made a statement while speaking at the eighth edition of the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards ceremony on 23rd November 2015. He said, "My wife Kiran Rao has suggested that they should move out of the country as she fears for the safety of her children." This remark has generated a heated debate and different people belonging to different political

parties and ideological groups reacted to it according to their own perspective. The editors of the various newspapers of the region have written editorials to put forward their perspective to the whole debate.

This paper is an attempt to analyze the editorials related to this issue published in the various newspapers of the region. For the purpose of detailed study, the editorials published in “The Tribune” and “The Indian Express” are selected. Systemic Functional Linguistics as propounded by Michael Halliday and others is used as a theoretical framework for the purpose of analysis. This framework is chosen because it assigns equal importance to structural as well as functional aspects of language. It takes into account not only the paradigmatic relations of the systems but also the syntagmatic relations of structure and sequence. The analysis aims to explore the way the language of the editorials reflects the ideological mental make-up of the editors and also of the media houses they represent.

Objectives of Study:

1. To analyze the editorials published in ‘The Tribune’ and ‘The Indian Express’ concerning the said issue from Transitivity perspective
2. To find out the suitability of Systemic Functional Linguistics as a model to analyze socio-political discourse.
3. To find out why the editorials under study mean what they do and why they are valued as they are.

Methodology of Study:

The selected editorials will be analyzed by following the subsequent steps:

1. Analysis of the editorials into clauses and clause-complexes, showing interdependencies and logical-semantic relations.
2. Analysis of the clauses for transitivity, showing process type, participants and circumstantial functions.
3. Interpretation of the selected data based on overall ideational patterns that emerge through the analysis of the editorials.

Theoretical Framework of Study:

For the purpose of analysis, Michael Halliday’s ‘Systemic Functional Linguistics’ is used as a theoretical framework. It deals with the way language functions in social and cultural contexts. It demonstrates the various purposes served by the language and the way these are realized at the lexico-grammatical level. It puts forward three grammatical relevant functions of language.

1. Ideational Function,
2. Interpersonal Function, and
3. Textual Function.

Ideational Function:

The focus of this paper is to analyze the various editorials published in India newspapers regarding Amir Khan's utterances and the reaction of other political and other important personalities from the Transitivity angle. The system of Transitivity is employed to express Ideational meaning in language. Transitivity is the linguistic representation of extra linguistic experiences. These experiences may be concerned with the phenomena of the external world or with one's feelings, thoughts and perceptions. The various experiences are represented in language through Processes, Participants and Circumstances attached with them.

The term Process is used in the broader sense and includes the following three potential components in a clause:

- (1) Process itself. This is expressed by the verb phrase in a clause.
- (2) The Participants involved in the Process. These roles are typically realized by noun phrases in the clause.
- (3) The Circumstances associated with the Process. These are normally expressed by adverbial and prepositional phrases.

Halliday (1994) classifies Processes on the basis of whether they represent actions, speech, states of mind or simply states of being. The following are the major Processes realized in the Transitivity system and the Participant roles associated with them.

1. Material Processes:

These are simply Processes of doing. Material Processes have two inherent Participant roles associated with them. The first of these is Actor, an obligatory element. It represents the 'doer' of the Process expressed by the clause. The second is an optional element called Goal. It represents the person or entity affected by the Process.

2. Mental Processes:

Mental Processes are Processes of 'sensing'. These Processes are 'internalized' and are quite different in quality from the 'externalized' Processes of doing and speaking. Mental Processes may be more delicately defined as 'perception' Processes ('seeing', 'hearing'), 'reaction' Processes ('liking', 'hating') and Process of 'cognition' ('thinking', 'understanding'). There are two inherent Participant roles associated with Mental Processes, which are of Sensor and Phenomenon. Sensor refers to the conscious being that perceives, reacts or thinks. Phenomenon refers to that which is perceived, reacted to or thought about.

3. Verbal Processes:

Verbal Processes are processes of 'saying'. The Participant roles associated with Verbal Processes are that of Sayer, Receiver, and Target. Sayer is the individual who is speaking. Receiver is the addressee of the speech. Target is the Participant, which is the object of the talk. To this may be added the role of Verbiage, which means 'that which is said'.

4. Relational Processes:

Relational Processes are Processes of 'being'. They signal that a relationship exists between two Participants but without suggesting that one Participant affects the other in any way. Relational Processes may be categorized as (a) Intensive, (b) Possessive and (c) Circumstantial.

The main characteristic of Relational Processes is that they relate the Participant to its identity or description. Thus, Relational Processes may be two types: Relational Attributive and Relational Identifying. Relational Attributive Processes relate a Participant to its general characteristics or description. Relational Identifying Processes relate a Participant to its identity, role or meaning.

5. Behavioural Processes:

Behavioural Processes construe physiological or psychological behavior like breathing, coughing, smiling, dreaming and staring. They have no clearly defined characteristic of their own. They are partly like the Material Processes and partly like the Mental Processes. The main Participant, the Behavior, is generally a conscious being.

6. Existential Processes:

The function of Existential Process is to construe being as simple existence. There is only one Participant known as Existent. Existential Processes are typically preceded by 'there' and occur at the beginning of a text or where the text is moving into a new phase.

Interpersonal Function:

The Interpersonal function of language deals with constructing interaction. Language is organized as an interactive event where the writer and the reader engage themselves in social and discursal relations. It expresses the writer's comments, attitudes, evaluation and the relationships that he sets up between himself and the reader. It also expresses the communication roles adopted by the writer. It may be of informing, questioning, persuading and the like.

Interpersonal function is realized at the lexico-grammatical level mainly through three systems of Mood, Modality and Appraisal.

Textual Function:

Textual Function enables the writers / speakers to construct texts and enables the readers / listeners to distinguish a text from a random set of sentences. This function is internal to the language and is instrumental to the other two functions namely Ideational and Interpersonal. At lexico-grammatical level, this meta-function is realized through the Thematic and Information Structures and through various Cohesive devices.

Analysis and Discussion:

Titles and Sub-titles:

The editorials published in the mentioned newspapers have tried to represent this aspect of reality from their own angles. The title of an editorial, like other texts, is at the beginning and hence gets a Thematic position. It immediately attracts the attention of the readers and prepares them for what is there in the text. ‘The Tribune’ has given the following title to the editorial:

Amir Khan speaks up.

From Systemic Functional Linguistics perspective, it can be analyzed as:

Amir Khan	speaks up
Sayer	Verbal Process

The title immediately brings to the mind of the readers that the text is going to be about Amir Khan, a famous film personality. As Amir Khan is presented as Sayer and a Verbal Process ‘speaks up’ is used, it means that the editorial is going to be about something that Amir Khan has said. But the Verbiage part is missing and is left to the imagination of the readers.

The title is followed by a following sub-title:

Voices of dissent need to be heard.

Voices of dissent	need to be heard.
Goal	Verbal Group Complex – Material Process

The sub-title begins with ‘voices of dissent’ as Goal and hence brings it into focus. The Verbal Group Complex contains a Material Process ‘to be heard’ in passive voice. But the Actor part is strategically missing. Who should hear the voices of dissent is left to the imagination of the readers. The reference may Narindra Modi, the Prime Minister of India, the ministers in the NDA government, the members of BJP or the members of RSS or any combination of these.

‘The Indian Express’ has given the following heading:

What Aamir Said

What	Aamir	Said
Verbiage	Sayer	Verbal Process

Like ‘The Tribune’, ‘The Indian Express’ has also put Aamir Khan in the heading. The Verbal Process ‘said’ is used. The Verbiage element ‘what’ is put at the beginning of the title and hence gets fore-grounded. The title indicates that the editorial is going to be what Aamir Khan has said.

It has given two sub-titles:

The government has heard him.
Now it needs to talk to his concerns.

The government	has heard	him.
Actor	Material Process	Goal

Now	it	needs to talk	to his concerns.
Circumstance of Location: Time	Sayer	Verbal Process	Target

The first clause of the sub-title contains a Material Process ‘has heard’ and ‘the government’ is presented as Actor. The Goal ‘him’ stands for Aamir Khan. In this way, the sub-title paints a positive picture of the government and shows it in action to respond to the issues raised by Aamir Khan.

The second sub-title starts with a Circumstance of Location-Time ‘now’ and refers to the present moment. Again here the government is presented as Sayer and the Target is ‘his concerns’ i.e. Aamir Khan’s concerns. The Verbal Group Complex is ‘needs to talk’. Here the Process important from Transitivity angle is ‘talk’ and is a Verbal Process. In the first clause of the sub-title, the government is presented as recipient of the message. But in this clause, it becomes a sender of the message.

The Tribune:

The first clause of the editorial is:

“The moment the poster boy of ‘Incredible India’ campaign, Amir Khan, made a remark on ‘growing intolerance’, the sarkari brigade began questioning his credibility.”

This clause contains a Material Process ‘began’. The participant put at Actor position ‘the sarkari brigade’ is quite significant. The epithet ‘sarkari’ before the nominal ‘brigade’ shows that the protests against Amir Khan are backed by government. Even the nominal ‘brigade’ has negative connotations. A major part of the clause is in the form of Circumstance of Location-Time referring to the time when the people backed by the government have started raising their voice against Amir Khan.

The second clause of the editorial contains a Verbal Process ‘spoke’ and the Sayer is ‘the star’. The reference is to Amir Khan and his celebrity status in the film world. Not only this the nominal star is further elaborated as an apostrophe ‘celebrated for social issues with sensitivity in his films and through highly popular TV show *Satyamev Jayate*’. The Verbiage part ‘of his wife, Kiran’s concerns over the safety of their child’ refers to the insecurity she feels. There are two instances of the use of Circumstances ‘on Monday’ and ‘in an atmosphere of growing intolerance’. ‘On Monday’ is a Circumstance of Time and refers to the time when Amir Khan uttered these words i.e. at the eighth edition of the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards ceremony. Another Circumstance ‘in an atmosphere of growing intolerance’ is again an Circumstance of Time but refers to the overall atmosphere generated in India at that time.

The next is a clause-complex containing two clauses. In the first clause the Process ‘was taken’ is a Material Process used in the passive voice. ‘His silence through the ‘award wapsi’ campaign by writers and his film fraternity’ is used as Goal. ‘as an exception’ is Circumstance of Role. But significantly the Actor is missing. Who is taking his silence as such is not made clear in the editorial. The second clause of the clause-complex is an extension of the first one and forms a paratactic relationship of addition. It contains a Mental Process ‘is known’ in passive voice. ‘The actor’ i.e. Amir Khan is presented as Phenomenon. But here again the Sensor element is missing. Whose perception is this is not made clear. The Circumstance part is quite significant. It is ‘to be vociferous to the extent of lending active support to social issues like Narmada Bachao Andolan and Anna Hazare’s movement against corruption’. It brings into focus the credentials of Amir Khan as a person who often stands for what he thinks right for the society. It enhances the credibility of his remarks regarding intolerance.

The next one is again a clause-complex containing three clauses in total. The first one contains a Mental Process ‘should have been taken’ in passive voice. The Phenomenon part ‘Amir Khan’s comments’ is put at the beginning. Again the Sensor part is left to the imagination of the readers. The Circumstance ‘in the context they were made’ refers to the overall atmosphere in which Amir Khan uttered the words regarding his wife’s feeling of insecurity. It contains a full clause ‘they were made’. Here the Process is Verbal one and ‘they’ is used as Verbiage. It refers to the utterances made by Amir Khan. The Sayer element is missing but one can draw from the context that it is Amir Khan. Then there is another clause which is used as a

Circumstance of Comparison. It again contains a Verbal Process 'has made' and the Sayer is Amir Khan. The Verbiage is 'many other self-critical observations'. 'through *Satyamev Jayte* on many ills afflicting Indian society' is used a Circumstance of Location. This clause is used to compare his present day utterance with the previous utterances he has made. The purpose is to show that it is in the nature of Amir Khan to speak about the issues concerning the society. As the people have tolerated his earlier statements they should have also accepted his remarks regarding intolerance. The implication is they have not.

The next clause-complex contains three clauses. Of these, two clauses are of Material Process and one is of Relational kind. The first Material Process 'have been coloured' is used in the passive voice with 'these' as Goal at the initial position. It refers to the utterances of insecurity made of Amir Khan. The Actor participant is left to the imagination of the readers. The Circumstance of Manner 'with communal connotations' refers to the way people have interpreted Amir Khan's words. Indirectly, the reference is to his Muslim religion. Another Circumstance 'in the social media war' refers to the virtual reality created by the social media and the impact it generates. Another Process used is 'have' and is a Relational one. The Carrier is 'those' and refers to one of the sections of society engaged in debate over the social media. The Attribute part 'reasons to worry about threats to freedom' shows the characteristics of this group. This group seems to be in favour of Amir Khan and the people like him who have raised their voice against the atmosphere of intolerance. Another Process in the clause-complex 'are just looking' is a Material one and is used in the context of another group. This group is presented as an Actor with 'an opportunity to jump on the bandwagon of establishing Hindu supremacy as Goal. Linguistically speaking, the group who is in favour of the freedom of the Individual is just described with certain attributes but the group that wants the establishment of Hindu supremacy is shown to be in action.

The next clause-complex contains two clauses, one of Mental Process and the other of Material Process. The Mental Process 'undermines' refers to the perception created by the few. The Senser part refers to the tendency of reducing Amir Khan and Shah Rukh Khan to just one community i.e. the Muslims. The Phenomenon part is a full clause and shows what actually the case is. The Material Process 'have shown' is used with 'they' i.e. Amir Khan and Shah Rukh Khan as Actor. The Goal element 'the tremendous concern' is put at the beginning of the clause and hence gets fore-grounded. In this way, the editor of The Tribune has tried to juxtapose the perception created by the few and the actual reality.

The next clause-complex contains two clauses, one Relational and one Verbal. The clause containing a Relational Process 'is' carries 'the boorishly aggressive reaction from the Hindutva brigade' as Career. The use of epithets like 'boorishly', 'aggressive', 'Hindutva', and nominal 'brigade' shows the attitude of the editor those who reacted against the utterances made by Amir

Khan. The Verbal Process ‘have raised’ refers to the utterances made by Amir Khan and others against intolerance.

The next clause also contains a Verbal Process ‘has raised’. But here the Sayer is BJP cultural warriors. For the first time the editor has directly referred to a political party. Incidentally, this political party is in power at the centre and is perceived to be behind the acts of intolerance. The party is presented to be a cultural warrior. The Verbiage part ‘a question over his deshbhagti’ refers to the patriotism of Amir Khan and the others like him.

The same idea continues in the next clause where these cultural warriors are presented as ‘these new cultural vigilantes’. The epithet ‘new’ refers to their recent origin and the expression ‘cultural vigilantes’ refers to the role they have assigned themselves. Here the editor has put them in the position of Actor with the Material Process ‘have unwittingly shown’. Again the adverbial ‘unwittingly’ is an editorial comment on their actions.

This is followed by a clause of Mental Process ‘need’ with ‘No Amir Khan’ as Senser. The Phenomenon part is ‘a certificate of good conduct from the new intolerant Indian. Again the expressions ‘new’ and ‘intolerant’ shows the attitude of the editor towards these people.

The last clause sums up the views of the editor. It contains a Relational Process ‘is’ and the Carrier is ‘the new itch to shut up any contrary voice or person’. The Attribute is ‘most unacceptable’. The editor finds this kind of intolerance totally unacceptable in Indian society.

In this way, the editor of The Tribune has tried to express his as well as his paper’s views regarding the discourse on intolerance generated by Amir Khan’s words. It is quite obvious that the paper is against any voice that crushes pluralism. The editor has made use of those linguistic structures that suits his purpose. The people who have spoken against Amir Khan and his utterances are presented in negative terms. Their attempt to raise a question on Amir Khan’s patriotism is presented as unreasonable one. The editor has made use of Material, Mental, Verbal and Relational Processes to put forward his point of view. Interestingly, the Circumstances used are quite significant. Most of the time, the vital information is presented through them. Similarly, the epithets are used to present this so called new cultural brigade in negative terms. On the contrary, Amir Khan is painted either in neutral or positive colours.

The Indian Express:

Another popular paper of the region is The Indian Express. Its editor has also tired to express his views regarding the utterances made by Amir Khan concerning his wife’s sense of insecurity. An analysis from SFL perspective reveals the way he has linguistically constructed his perspective.

The first clause-complex of the editorial contains two clauses and both are of Mental Processes. In the first clause the Mental Process is 'admitted' and in the second clause it is 'saw'. In both cases, the Sayer is Amir Khan. This clause-complex deals with the way Amir Khan perceives the current reality. The phenomenon part in both the clauses refers to the atmosphere of insecurity and intolerance.

In the next clause-complex, the utterances of Amir Khan's wife are reported through the exact words spoken by Amir Khan. Here two Verbal Processes are used. In one case the Sayer is Amir Khan and in the other it is Amir Khan's wife. The only Material Process 'move' is used as a part of the utterance of Amir Khan's wife. It refers to her compulsive desire to migrate from her native country to some other country.

This is followed by the reaction of Smriti Irani, an HRD minister in the government of India. As she is a part of the government as well as BJP, her views express the perspective the current political and administrative set up. That is why the editorial has made use of Verbal Processes to express her viewpoints. There is only one Relational Process used as a part of the Verbiage. Here an effort is made to assign attributes to the concept of India as perceived by Smriti Irani. She perceives India as a tolerant country. Linguistically, it is brought to the fore by putting India at a Career position and 'a tolerant country' as Attribute. The use of Material Process 'countered' with Smriti Irani as Actor shows a sense of combativeness towards Amir Khan's utterances.

The next clause contains just three words but significant ones. The editor writes, "Irani is right". Here the Relational Process 'is' assigns Attribute 'right' with Irani. This is something unusual for an editor to do so. He seems to be passing a judgement regarding the words uttered by a government representative.

The judgemental tone continues in the next clause-complex where two more Relational Processes of Attribute are used. The first one refers to the presence of four union ministers along with Arun Jaitley in the function and the other refers to the fact that Arun Jaitley was the chief guest. The use of Comment Adjunct 'in fact' at the beginning of the clause-complex shows the attitude of the editor towards what follows.

The next clause-complex contains two clauses. One is of Material Process and the other is of Verbal Process. The Material Process 'held' is used in connection with Amir Khan who is presented as Actor. The use of Verbal Process 'says' is significant. The Sayer though not explicitly mentioned can be derived from the context. It is the editor himself who is expressing his views regarding the incident. The Verbiage part that contains words like 'possibilities... of speaking truth to power' makes clear where his heart lies.

In the next clause-complex, he makes a suggestion to the leadership. This expressed by the Material Process ‘reaches out’. The Actor ‘leadership’ is an ambiguous one. It may refer to Narindera Modi, the Prime Minister of India, or to some other minister in his cabinet, or some other leader of the BJP. In another clause, the leadership is presented as Goal and ‘heard out’ is the Material Process. The Actor is Amir Khan who is presented as a superstar. Here the editor seems to be giving a clean chit to the leadership i.e. it has completed at least one part of its duties. But the Process used is ‘heard out’ and not ‘listened to’. It means that the leadership has heard Amir Khan’s words but has not paid much attention to them.

The advisory tone continues in the next clause-complex where the editor urges the government to respond to Amir Khan’s concerns. The Material Process ‘are not warranted’ is in the Passive voice with ‘his concerns’ as Goal. Again an effort is made to say that Amir Khan’s concerns are not based on reality.

The next clause-complex starts with a Relational Process ‘would be’ which is followed by the Attribute ‘very disappointing’. The subordinate clause is a conditional clause starting with ‘if’. It contains a number of Material Processes in Passive voice viz. ‘is labeled’, ‘dismissed’ and ‘trivialized’. The Circumstances of Role like ‘as a conspiracy against the government’, ‘as unpatriotic’ and ‘as the indulgence of the privileged’ are also very significant. No doubt the ideas presented here are negated as disappointing at the beginning. Even then the fact that these are mentioned carry ideological significance. All the Processes used carry negative connotations. The same negativity can be seen in the Circumstances used in connection with the role assigned to Amir Khan. He is presented as a conspirator, unpatriotic and indulgent one.

In the next clause-complex again a Relational Process ‘would be’ is used at the beginning and the Attribute is ‘letdown’. The subordinate clause again starts with ‘if’ and refers to the views of opponents of Amir Khan and Shah Rukh Khan. They are presented as ‘abuse, slander and bullying of trolls’. Here the editorial is trying to be objective. The clause ‘who take up cudgels for the government and the ruling party’ is very significant’. The Actor ‘who’ refers to the people who have abused Amir Khan for his utterances. But at the same time, the clause shows that they are different from the government and the ruling party. In this way, an effort is made to bail out the government and the party.

The clause “Certainly, neither Amir Khan nor Shah Rukh Khan is the most authentic spokesperson for the aam aadmi” also speaks a lot about the ideology of the paper. The Relational Process ‘is’ is used to connect Carrier ‘neither Amir Khan nor Shah Rukh Khan’ with the Attribute ‘most authentic spokesperson for the party’. These attributes are negated by the use of the expression ‘neither... nor’ with Amir Khan and Shah Rukh Khan. An effort is made to separate these two superstars from the general public.

In the next clause, Material Processes ‘cushions’ and ‘distances’ are used along with ‘their celebrity’ as Actor and ‘they’ i.e. Amir Khan and Shah Rukh Khan as Goal. Then there is the use of Circumstance of distance ‘from things that trouble the ordinary people the most’. All these are used to separate the ordinary people from these two actors.

The next clause-complex begins with the Material Process ‘could be said’. The Sayer is absent but it could be construed as the editor himself. ‘An element of overstatement’ is used as Attribute to describe the utterances of Amir Khan.

In the next clause-complex, Amir Khan and Shah Rukh Khan are presented as Carrier and ‘a voice’ as Attribute. The Relation Process ‘have’ is of possessive kind. The Attribute ‘voice’ is further elaborated by the use of Material Processes ‘resonates’ and ‘represents’.

The use of Verbal Process ‘speaks’ in connection with this two film stars is used in the next clause. Here again an effort is made to find a connection between them and the community they represent. The editor states that they are bonded by imagination.

In the next clause-complex, an effort is made to summarize the various acts of intolerance that have taken place in India in the last few months. The reference is to the rationalists being targeted and killed, the lynching of a man on the grounds of a beef-eating rumour, the statements of the ministers and MPs of the ruling party. These are represented through Material and Verbal Processes.

A special mention is made of Anupam Kher who led a protest against the protestors. He is another famous personality from the film world but incidentally his wife Kiran Kher is also an MP of the ruling party. The Material Process ‘led’ is used to express his action. The Prime Minister Narindera Modi is also presented as an Actor when he opened the door for Anupam Kher.

The last clause-complex is in the form of an advice to Narindera Modi, the Prime Minister of India, to listen to the grievances of the people like Amir Khan. This is represented through the Material Process ‘should make’. The people with grievances are represented through a Verbal Process ‘have expressed’

Findings and Observations:

1. The editorial in The Tribune contains 325 words while the editorial of The Indian Express contains 484 words. Clause wise editorial of The Tribune contains 11 clause-complexes and 19 clauses while the editorial of the Indian Express contains 18 clause-complexes and 53 clauses. The analysis reveals that The Indian Express has assigned more space to Amir Khan’s issue than The Tribune. The clause wise distribution reveals

that in The Tribune the information is presented in more condensed form than the Indian Express.

2. An analysis of the headings and sub-headings of the editorials reveals the ideological stance of the newspapers. In The Tribune the heading ‘Amir Khan speaks up’. The Verbal Process ‘speak up’ connotes the end of Amir Khan’s silence on the issue of intolerance and his act of speaking negatively and publically about this issue. On the other hand, the heading in The Indian Express ‘what Amir said’ contains a Verbal Process ‘said’ and simply refers to a Verbal act on the part of Amir Khan. It further makes this act an act of the past while in The Tribune it refers to its present relevance. The Sayer in both the cases is Amir Khan. But while The Tribune shows full respect and mentions him by the full name ‘Amir Khan’, the Indian Express shows its casual attitude by just referring to him by the first name ‘Aamir’.

The Tribune contains a sub-headline ‘Voices of dissent need to be heard’. It contains a Material Process ‘hear’ in Passive Voice with ‘voices of dissent’ as Goal at the beginning of the clause. Significantly the Actor part is left to the imagination of the readers. It may be Narindera Modi, the Prime Minister of India, some other Minister in his cabinet, the members of BJP or RSS. The Indian Express contains two sub-headlines. The first one ‘The government has heard him’ contains a Material Process ‘hear’ with ‘the government’ as Actor and ‘him’ i.e. Amir Khan as Goal. It shows the government in action and tries to create its positive image. The second sub-headline is ‘Now it needs to talk to his concerns’. The Circumstantial ‘now’ at the beginning foregrounds it and brings into focus the present time. The Verbal Group Complex ‘needs to talk’ advises the government about its future and desirable mode of action. But at the same time, there is an implicit hint that till now the government has not done anything to redress Amir Khan’s concerns.

3. Process wise the editorial in The Tribune contains 05 Material Processes, 06 Verbal Processes, 05 Mental Processes and 03 Relational Processes. Of these, 03 Mental Processes, 01 Verbal Process and 01 Material Process are in the Passive Voice. In The Indian Express the editor has used 26 Material Processes, 12 Verbal Processes, 04 Mental Processes and 11 Relational Processes. Of these, 05 Material Processes are in the Passive Voice. The dominance of Material Processes in the editorial of The Indian Express shows that the text mainly deals with the world of happenings and doings.
4. The Verbal Processes play a significant role in revealing the ideology of the newspapers under study. Out of the 06 Verbal Processes used in The Tribune, in 05 the Sayer is Amir Khan and in 01 it is BJP cultural warriors. This editorial gives enough space to the views of Amir Khan about intolerance. The only clause where the ‘BJP cultural warriors’ are presented as Sayer, they raise a question about Amir Khan’s patriotism. On the other hand, The Indian Express has used 11 Verbal Processes. Out of these in 03 clauses, Amir Khan is presented as Sayer, in 01 his wife Kiran and in 01 both Amir Khan and Shah

Rukh Khan. All these voices express their concern about the atmosphere of intolerance created in India. The perspective of the government and the BJP is put forward through Smirti Irani, Narindera Modi and MPs of the ruling party. They are put at Sayer position in one clause each. Significantly, in 03 of the clauses the editor himself is the Sayer and in all these clauses he seems to speak on behalf of the government and is critical of Amir Khan.

5. The use of epithets in the editorials also speaks a lot about the stance of the paper concerned about the parties involved in debate on intolerance. In The Tribune the expressions like ‘the poster boy’, ‘popular icon’ etc. are used for Amir Khan to refer to his status as a film star. There is also a reference to ‘Incredible India’ a show run by Amir Khan. On the other hand, we also find expressions like ‘the sarkari brigade’, ‘Hindutva Brigade’, ‘the BJP cultural warriors’, ‘these new cultural vigilantes’, ‘the new intolerant Indian’, ‘the new itch’ etc. to refer to the people who have reacted against the views expressed by Amir Khan. All these expressions present these people in negative colours. Then there are expressions like ‘the social media war’, ‘the bandwagon of establishing Hindutva supremacy’, ‘the boorishly aggressive reaction from the Hindutva brigade’ etc. All these try to tilt the public perspective towards a particular direction. But in The Indian Express these kinds of epithets are not found. Here the ideology of the editor comes to the fore by the use of Processes like ‘labeled’, ‘dismissed’, ‘trivialized’, ‘cushions’, ‘distances’ etc. These Processes are used to paint Amir Khan in negative colours. He is also seen through the prism of words like ‘conspiracy’, ‘unpatriotic’, ‘indulgence’ etc.
6. Inter-textuality is also used as device to put the whole controversy in the larger context. In The Tribune there is a reference to two TV shows run by Amir Khan i.e. ‘Incredible India’ and ‘Satyamev Jayate’. As both these shows are concerned with social and national issues, they put Amir Khan as a person who is sensitive towards the problems faced by Indians. Then there is reference to ‘award vapsi compaign by writers’, ‘Narmada Bachao Andolan’ and ‘Anna Hazare’s movement against corruption’. Here the first one refers to the protests by the writers against the atmosphere of growing intolerance in India. The other two refer to Amir Khan’s contribution and support for these two national concerns. In The Indian Express also there is a reference to ‘the rumour of the storage and consumption of beef’, ‘the lynching of a man’ and ‘the statements of the ministers and ruling party MPs blaming it on the victims and invoking Pakistan’.

Conclusion:

An analysis of newspaper editorials published in The Tribune and The Indian Express from Systemic Functional Linguistics perspective reveals the different ideological perspectives of the newspaper editors and through them of the newspapers concerned. The Tribune appears to be a liberal newspaper that pleads for all inclusive society. It seems to favor the concerns expressed by Amir Khan and feels that these should be addressed. At the same time, it is critical of the people who have created and supported the atmosphere of intolerance in India. It includes

the present government, the BJP, the RSS and their supporters. The Indian Express on the other hand appears to be soft towards the government and harsh on Amir Khan, Shah Rukh Khan and the like. It seems to support the thesis that there is no atmosphere of intolerance in India and Amir Khan's utterances have been heeded to by the government. Not only this, it puts Amir Khan's views in the category of overstatement and states that he along with Shah Rukh Khan are not the spokespersons of the general public. The paper also gives substantial space to the views of Smriti Irani, an HRD minister in the government. In this way, the analysis presents The Tribune as a newspaper which is critical of the government's role regarding the said incident. On the other hand, it presents The Indian Express as a paper which is pro-BJP and pro-government and gives a clean chit to both of them.

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