

CPEC in Pakistani Print Media: Transitivity Analysis of English Newspapers' Articles

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Abstract

The purpose of the study is to scrutinize critically the ideological constructions and discursive features used in Pakistani print media representing economical phenomenon of CPEC. This research has elucidated the ideology through critical discourse analysis (CDA) of the leading English newspapers of a good repute: However, the similar news from the different newspapers as depicted in the various forms that are all ideologically disputed in this perspective including Daily Dawn and The News HE NEWS. These articles on CPEC, the most prevailing economic subject in Pakistan as published during the year 2016-17, have been purposefully selected for this study. Transitivity analysis as an analytical tool has been applied for the analysis of such the articles. By applying Halliday's transitivity system, hence; the study attempts to show how the use of linguistic signals can demonstrate the characteristics and techniques used in Pakistani print media for representing CPEC. Further, this study is comparative in nature, and compares the language used in both the English newspapers for representing CPEC. The findings indicate that CPEC has been presented as an economical subject of national worth in both the newspapers that implies a meaning of PRO-CPEC ideology. The current study is the significant in its originality as it is interdisciplinary study, and its findings are not in line with the exist in literature on media conflict.

Keywords: Critical Discourse Analysis; Transitivity; CPEC; English Newspapers

1. Introduction

However, a hot debate prevails in Pakistan regarding the freedom of media; it is out of question that ideology is constructed through such media. The Prime Minister - Imran Khan on his visit to America spoke with confidence as; "Pakistani media, in my opinion, is freer than the British media" (ANI, July.23, 2019). The statement implies a meaning of freedom of media in Pakistan irrespective to this; it is also thought that the state controls media. The PML-N spokesperson -Maryam Aurengzeb, asserted that the media is under bars of the current government and the news get censored and- are banned from publishing on account of personal capacity (BBC News, Jan.19, 2019). The differences of the thought related to media freedom clearly indicates that media plays a significant role in constructing an ideology.

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During a visit to the Quetta Press Club, Balochistan Finance Minister- Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi, described the media as the state's fourth pillar (e.g., Express Tribune, 2020). Media is not only meant to spread news rather it presents the news in a desired way that shapes the mind of the people. The idea was supported by Rafique (2013), "When engaging with one another through foreign policy, the media forms public sentiment about liking or disliking any state or states". Reviewing literature of mass media discloses that media gives shape to the public thought. The desired ideologies are spread in the name of providing news to the public. In relation to the meaning or idea conveyed through media- makes a connection between media and language. Media is interconnected with the critical discourse analysis, and there is found a plethora on the role of media and the emerging field of critical discourse analysis (CDA). The discursive features as reflected in the media discourse constructs an ideology. Fairclough (2006a), stated that media discourse has ideological constructions that vary in their constructions. Such the variation in ideology leads to investigate deeply the discourse of mass media.

The context behind this research is provided by the news representation of a mega project in Pakistan i.e., China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) by the different newspapers. CPEC has gained a significant worth economically in Pakistan, however; the different views exist in the society related to CPEC. The purpose of the current study is to trace out the discursive features used in news articles dealing with the subject CPEC in Pakistani English newspapers.

CPEC is considered as first-rate economical phenomenon in Pakistan as it is exposed to public (Hamid & Hameed, 2016). The terms like "Game changer", "Economic Boon", "Asian Tiger" have been employed while discussing CPEC (Dawn, 2016). The opponents of CPEC bring CPEC under surveillance and make it a centre of disruption due to its nitty-gritty and vitality. To begin with the domestic impediments, the greatest incipient threat is the truancy of law and order regulatory affairs. However, without security systemization and protocol, the intended benefits of the CPEC receive a blow as investors restrain from becoming a part of it. Thus, CPEC is under questions to which common masses are unaware of the reality. The current study aims at investigating the ideologies wrapped up in a discourse of media that are presented to public.

Hassan (1984), stated that the greatest obstacle for linguistics as a discipline is that the world of meanings is interpreted by social subjects as always being there; and the basic problem is to begin to demonstrate that meanings are objects, not provided by default, despite the fact that we grow up with them always around us (cited in Ammara, Anjum, and Javed, 2019). To translate what is being said, language is a social phenomenon. In the Ideational role of language, transitivity analysis is very useful for understanding the text's experiential meanings in a logical manner. Transitivity is thought to be a valuable framework for investigating how language constructs ideologies, themes, and definitions. It is a crucial system for interpreting human

experience. This study may be useful for language researchers, stylisticians, discourse analysts and media concerned ones who are analyzing and interpreting the written texts from various literary genres and the discourse. The study opens up new avenues for researchers to explore discourse and style in different genres of literature using corpus-based methodologies.

1.1 Critical Discourse Analysis: It's Scope in Pakistan

Critical discourse analysis is a tool and a methodology for analyzing language that is used in a specific context. This isn't just a text analysis; it's a study of language in relation to the social aspects and power structures that shape society. Fairclough (2001), viewed that CDA analyses text and interactions, but it does not begin with text and interactions, it all begins with social issues and problems. Social issues and social concerns have a huge impact on the discourse that is key to critical discourse analysis. There are three models of Critical Discourse Analysis out of which Fairclough model works the best to the current study on its socio-cultural aspect. The Fairclough Model is an important in many ways, including the fact that it allows the analyst to concentrate on the text's signifiers, precise linguistic collections, juxtapositioning, sequencing, and layout. Textual research is carried out using multifunctional theories of language, such as systematic-functional linguistics (Fairclough, 1992).

Critical discourse research has exploded in popularity in Pakistan in recent years. In the field of CDA, several studies have been performed (Alam et al., 2017; Gopang & Bughio, 2015; Mahmood et al., 2014; and Bilal et al., 2012). These studies indicate the emergence of CDA as a research repository in Pakistan.

Critical discourse analysis aims at exploring the ideology hidden in the discourse used in a specific context. The ideologies are spread through media using the different discursive features by the editors. The attempts on analyzing these features may unmask the power or the influence of the ruling body. The different depiction of the same news item can be observed through Critical Discourse Analysis of newspapers' articles. The study by Lodhi and his colleagues (2019), entitled Textual and Rhetoric Analysis of English and Urdu News Headlines is an attempt to scrutinize the print media news headlines by comparing how the different newspapers depict the similar events in the different ways. The study indicates a difference in discursive features used in the different media. Similarly, Hayat and Juliana published a report in 2016, on the Taliban's Attack on Malala Yousuf Zai through Comparative Analysis of Pakistani English Newspaper Editorials. The analysis looked at how Malala Yousaf Zai was portrayed in four Pakistani English newspapers after her attempt of assassination by the Taliban. Malala Yousuf Zai was framed as innocent and as well an American agent in some articles. The different portrayal of Malala Yousuf Zai- is a sign of the different ideology of the different editors that can be unmasked through critical discourse analysis.

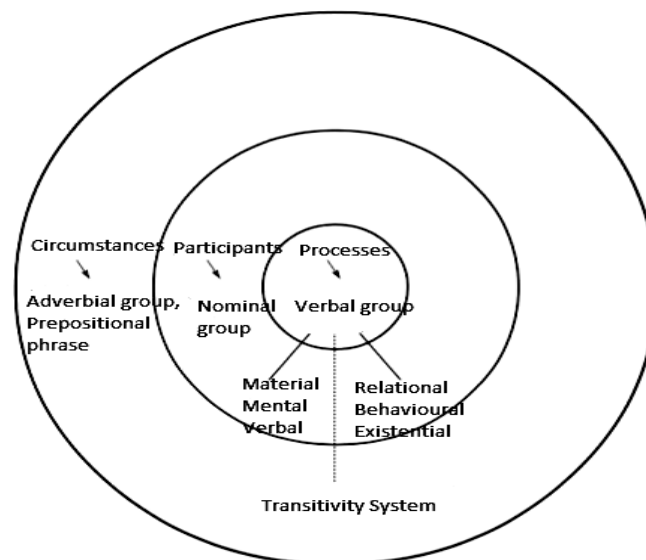
Critical discourse analysis can also reveal the worth of the same news. Alam et al. conducted a study in 2017, to look at how the Pakistani print media dealt with the conflict issue. The issue was a nationalist conflict in Baluchistan that revolved around a dispute between the government and the judiciary. The Baluchistan dispute has received no coverage in Pakistan's mass media as per the findings. It was also discovered that Jang, as opposed to Dawn, emphasized the weakness of political and religious leadership more. In comparison to Dawn, Jang was seen presenting the role of the judiciary in Baluchistan in a more positive light. This study is another attempt to prove that linguistics features may affect the meaning of the news - projected in media. The current study aims at analyzing the ideational meaning decoded in a language used in English newspapers' articles exploring an ideology constructed for CPEC in Pakistan.

1.2. Transitivity Analysis: Halliday SFL Tenets

One of Halliday's three SFG tenets is transitivity and described as the reflection of world processes through formal grammatical components. Perez (2007), linked Grammar to the reality in transitivity (p. 68). It considers a paradigmatic view of language, in which choices are the crucial. Simpson (1993), defines "Transitivity refers to how meaning is expressed in the clause". He added, "transitivity demonstrates how speakers encode their mental image of truth in language and account for their experience of the world around them since it concerns the transmission of ideas; it is a part of language's ideational function" (p. 88). Decoding and encoding facets of fact and world experience boils down to answering the following questions: who exists in the text? What is going on, and when, where, and how is it going on? The response to those questions lies in the assessment of transitivity in relation to concepts such as "method," "participant," and "circumstance". Burton (1982), puts this process of transitivity analysis as, "to explain the scenario of "who does what to whom" (p.200).

Halliday (1981), clarifies Transitivity as the clause analysis expressing ideational meanings. In this regard, it comes in the domain of Fairclough model. Transitivity is the system of analyzing an ideational meaning of the text. In transitivity analysis, the linguistics structures are observed in three ways: The process (verbs), the participants (nouns), and the circumstances (prepositional phrases). The choice of verbs depends on the social, cultural, political, and ideological factors prevailing in a society that is explored through an analysis of transitivity (Mayr, 2008). Text producer chooses verbs as per his own choice of the process' demonstration. The process can be of an active category or the passive category. The category of process type also plays a role in implying meaning to the text in relation to hegemony. Journalists in news discourse do more than just cover the news; they can also communicate their tacit meaning by using the various terms and processes (Liu & Jia, 2020).The method, participants, and circumstances are the three

components that make up transitivity. As the below given a diagrammatic figure represents the situation:



The verb is employed to interpret the process. The different roles of the participants have been depicted in the process types (Halliday, 1985). Table 1 depicted the various forms of processes, and their meanings as well the participants:

Types of Process	Categories of Meaning	Functions of Participant
Material	Act of Doing (go, come, give)	Actor, goal, recipient, client
Mental	Experiencing, Sensing (think, feel, seeing)	Sensor, phenomenon
Verbal	Act of Saying (said, tell, argue)	Sayer, verbiage, receiver, Addressee
Relational	Being, becoming (be, become, has, own)	Carrier, Attribute, Possessor, Possessed
Behavioural	Act of Behaving (laugh, smiling, staring)	Behaviour
Existential	Existing (there, exist, occur)	Existent

Table1: Types of Process

1.3 Research Questions

RQ1: Which process type is found a leading one in the articles of English newspapers on the economical subject CPEC that construes a meaning?

RQ2: How are an ideational meaning and CPEC ideology revealed through transitivity analysis of the articles in English newspapers?

2. Research Methodology

2.1. Research Design

The study follows the qualitative approach and descriptive in nature. However, the qualitative methodology focuses on debunking and constructing meaning by investigating and analyzing the meaning of phenomena and their social consequences that better suits to the current study.

Critical Discourse Analysis as a main theoretical framework of this study -has been chosen in order to examine news discourse critically. Under the domain of critical discourse analysis, Halliday SFL theory (1985), works at its optimum which sees the language as a meaning-making for which Ideational, interpersonal, and textual functions are three meta-functions. All languages are thought to have this ability to form and organize the meanings. The experiential and logical components of the ideational meta-function are separated, with transitivity allowing for further interpretation of the inner and outer world's experiences of human beings.

2.2 Data Collection

The articles have been purposefully selected from the leading English newspapers: Daily Dawn & THE NEWS published during June 2016-June 2017. The ten articles were selected purposefully on the basis of selecting node of the study that is CPEC as a mega project.

2.3 Data Analysis

The analysis of process types (transitivity) has been made to construe the meaning in the text. The participants have also been analyzed to find out the role of CPEC projected by the editors in English newspapers

2.4 Validity

The importance of maintaining validity in a study- cannot be overstated. Critical discourse research has been subjected to a number of critiques, the most prominent of which is subjectivity. According to Widdowson (1995), 'CDA approach has been criticized for being too interpretive and subjective with no space for objectivity,.'. Rich data used in the current study- invalidates the critique. The research is focused on a variety of data ranging from June 2016 to June 2017.

2.5 Limitations of the Study

The study is restricted to one meta- function namely, the ideational function of language. It can, however, be applied to other meta-functions as well. The analysis is limited to a single feature of ideational function known as transitivity. However, other aspects and characteristics of meta-functions may be studied. The articles have been chosen only from English newspapers.

CPEC ideology in Pakistani print media can be observed in Urdu newspapers too.

3. Results and Discussion

The articles have gone through the analysis of process types. The process types that are reflected in the use of verbs - help in unveiling the ideology depicted by Pakistani English newspapers for CPEC. The analysis is depicted in the following table as;

Analysis of Process Types in English Newspapers

Daily Dawn		The News	
Activity	Process Type	Activity	Process Type
CPEC is a new cooperation framework	Relational	CPEC is a project of friendship	Relational
is a game changer	Relational	CPEC is faster	Relational
it is also an important project of the Belt and Road initiative	Relational	CPEC projects were making steady progress	Material
Pakistan will be benefitted from it	Material	it would contribute to economic and social development of Pakistan	Material
CPEC was a major initiative	Relational	it would benefit people	Material
CPEC is a project of development and prosperity	Relational		
CPEC would benefit the entire region	Material	It has brought a new start to Pak-China relation	Material
CPEC was a great masterpiece of Pak-China friendship	Relational	These projects will not only change the face of Karachi, but of the entire province in terms of transport facilities and power generation	Material
CPEC will eliminate poverty & unemployment	Material	CPEC will benefit the whole region from its fruits.	Material
These projects would ensure the elimination of load shedding	Material	CPEC would usher in a new era of development and prosperity in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Material
CPEC would go on to transform the fate of the entire region	Material	CPEC has opened new vistas of foreign investment in Pakistan	Material
CPEC is the way of hope and future for our	Relational	that CPEC project was game changer and would	Relational/ Material

region		bring good fortune to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	
It broadens our technological capabilities	Material	The mega project would turn Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Afghanistan into economic centers for the Central Asian countries	Material
CPEC raises friendship to newer heights	Material	CPEC is the path of progress	Relational
the project envisioned bringing under-developed areas into the main stream of development	Material	the CPEC would also play a role in alleviating poverty as well as elimination of terrorism and fanaticism	Material
CPEC would help in establishing strong academic linkages between the universities of Pakistan and China	Material	the outcomes of this project will enhance regional cooperation	Material
project would not only generate thousands of jobs but also help in generating thousands of megawatts power	Material	CPEC is a great gift of Chinese leadership for Pakistan	Relational

Table 2: Analysis of Process Types in Pakistani English Newspapers Dealing with the subject CPEC

3.1 Transitivity Analysis

The selected articles have undergone through the transitivity analysis. Their interpretation is described as the below; for instance:

CPEC	is	a game changer	
Participant	Process	Participant	
Carrier	Relational: Attribute	Attribute	

Source: Daily Dawn

CPEC	is	an important project of the Belt and Road initiative	
Participant	Process	Participant	
Carrier	Relational: Attribute	Attribute	

Source: Daily Dawn

CPEC	is	an important project of Belt and Road initiative	
Participant	Process	Participant	

Carrier	Relational: Attribute	Attribute	
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Source: Daily Dawn

CPEC	is	A way of hope and future for our region	
Participant	Process	Participant	
Carrier	Relational: Attribute	Attribute	Beneficiary

Source: Daily Dawn

CPEC	is	a great masterpiece of Pak-China relationship	
Participant	Process	Participant	
Carrier	Relational: Attribute	Attribute	

Source: Daily Dawn

Here, Relational process is presented through the state verb 'is' and attributing aspect of the subject is reflected in the word choice of 'game changer', 'an important project', 'way of hope', 'a great masterpiece of Pak-China relationship' for the subject CPEC.

Similarly;

CPEC	is	a mega project	
Participant	Process	Phenomenon	
Carrier	Relational: Attribute	Attribute	

Source: The News

CPEC		is not only the	billion dollar investment
Participant		Process	Phenomenon
Carrier		Relational: Attribute	Attribute
but	it	is	the path of progress
	Participant	Process	Phenomenon
	Carrier	Relational: Attribute	Attribute

Source: The News

CPEC	is	a project of friendship	
Participant	Process	Phenomenon	
Carrier	Relational: Attribute	Attribute	

Source: The News

CPEC	is	faster	
Participant	Process	Phenomenon	
Carrier	Relational: Attribute	Attribute	

Source: The News

Here, the Relational process is presented through the state verb 'is' and attributing aspect of the subject is reflected in the word choice of 'the billion dollar investment', 'the path of progress', 'project of friendship', 'faster' for

the subject CPEC.

Relational process clauses are used to describe and classify the having and being process as observed in the above examples. This procedure creates a similarity relationship between two entities. It specifies the manner, time, and place of the entity. It symbolizes the ownership of one entity by another (Halliday, 2014). In the all above examples, the attributing aspects associated with the carrier 'CPEC' imply a positive meaning of CPEC.

The other leading process type is found Material process. Material process is used to highlight the actions usually the concrete ones. Actions representation includes 'actor' and 'goal'. Active categorization of the process type has been observed while talking about CPEC in the selected newspapers. CPEC as an active agent in almost all above example implies a meaning that Pakistani English newspapers deal CPEC project as an entity active enough to bring changes in Pakistan's future. For instance;

CPEC	Raises	friendship	to newer heights
Participant	Process		
Actor	Material	Goal	

Source: Daily Dawn

It (CPEC)	broadens	our technical capabilities	
Participant	Process		
Actor	Material	Goal	

Source: Daily Dawn

CPEC	Raises	friendship	to newer heights
Participant	Process		
Actor	Material	Goal	

Source: Daily Dawn

CPEC	will eliminate	poverty & unemployment	
Participant	Process		
Actor	Material	Goal	

Source: Daily Dawn

CPEC	would benefit	the entire region	
Participant	Process		
Actor	Material	Goal	

Source: Daily Dawn

In the above examples of extracts from Daily Dawn ; CPEC is found an actor and material process as shown through the verbs 'would not only

generate and would help', 'raises', 'will eliminate', 'would benefit for the goals 'thousands of jobs and thousands of megawatts', 'friendship', 'poverty and unemployment', and 'the entire region' respectively.

Similarly;

CPEC	would play	a role in alleviating poverty	
Participant	Process		
Actor	Material	Goal	

Source: The News

CPEC	has opened	new vistas of foreign investment	in Pakistan
Participant	Process		
Actor	Material	Goal	

Source: The News

CPEC	would contribute	To social and economic development	
Participant	Process		
Actor	Material	Goal	

Source: The News

CPEC	has taken	a new start to Pak-China relationship	
Participant	Process		
Actor	Material	Goal	

Source: The News

CPEC as an active agent is presented in the above examples with the material process shown in the verb 'would play', 'has opened', 'would contribute', and 'has taken a new start' for the goal 'role in alleviating poverty', 'new vistas of foreign investment', 'socio-economic development', and 'a new start to Pak-China relationship' respectively. The actor, according to Halliday (2014), execute the different roles and functions in association with the material process to reflect the physical world interactions, acts, and behaviours such as going, sitting, taking, giving, and so on. An 'actor' is someone who performs an action in a clause, whereas a 'goal' is something that is influenced by a verb in a clause. 'Actor' acts as a subject, while 'goal' acts as an object. Fairclough (2000), argued that while analyzing text, one important thing to analyze is to see where who acts. CPEC though is not an animate but, has been presented as an active agent in both the newspapers. The active category used for presenting CPEC presents CPEC being the beneficial for Pakistan.

Mental process refers to the act of 'sensing,' which is divided into three categories: perception, affection, and cognition. Mental process was found rarely used in newspapers' articles for presenting CPEC in Daily Dawn and it was not found at all in THE NEWS newspaper. The illustration can be seen as;

The year (2016)	also saw	the financial impact of the force	
Participant	Process		
Sensor	Mental	Phenomenon	

Source: Daily Dawn

The verb 'saw' is an example of Mental Perception. This verb is used here by the writer with an intention to present CPEC as an economic growth. The ideology of PRO-CPEC is being constructed over here through portraying the year 2016, financially progressing.

CPEC is presented in English Pakistani newspapers as a lucrative one that will give the profit to Pakistan in different forms. CPEC is found in the all above examples playing a role of the participants 'Carrier' with the positive attributes in Relational process, and an 'Actor' with healthy goals in Material process. The findings of the study indicate that the transitivity system can effectively analyze text. In the study of reality representation, transitivity is a special term. It allows us to look at and represent the same situation and event in a variety of ways. Via transitivity research, the reader will learn about the thoughts of personas and determine "who does what to whom," that helps us in understanding the text (Halliday, 2014). The process types and the role of participant in a text unveil the ideology hidden in the text.

To conclude, the major findings come out of the analysis are described below;

- The material process has been observed frequently used in both the English newspapers
- The Relational process ranked second in presenting CPEC in both the English newspapers
- CPEC has been presented in the active structures in both the English newspapers playing the role of Carrier and Actor.
- Mental Process is not observed in THE NEWS and rarely observed in Daily Dawn representing CPEC
- The overall Pro-CPEC ideology has been observed in both the English newspapers

4. Conclusion

Transitivity is a significant semantic concept in the analysis of depiction of reality. Further, it assists us to unmask the reality hidden in the drapery of language specifically in media.

The study concludes that English newspapers in Pakistan have been found projecting the news on CPEC with the similar ideology i.e., PRO-CPEC.

CPEC is an economical phenomenon of national concern so the subject has been reported with similar ideology and similar discursive features in both the leading newspapers of Pakistan. In both the English newspapers, CPEC has been presented as an active entity. Mey (2006), remarked Passivization as a matter of ideological concern in the media discourse. The active representation of a subject CPEC in both the English newspapers makes its worth evident in Pakistan. It is noteworthy point to add in the literature through the current study that English newspapers do construct the same ideology for the subject of CPEC as an economical phenomenon of national concern.

4.1 Future Implications

The future attempts may be made on Pakistani print media analysis selecting a political news item in the newspapers' articles. Thus, such a study may be distinct through implementing the different analytical tools.

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