Genre Analysis and Letters to Editor: A Critical Social Analysis (CSA) of Print Media Discourses

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Abstract

Media discourses reflect the ideological growth of a nation. They provide an insight into the socio-political scenario of a particular context during a specific time span. A newspaper comprises different genres and letters to editors are an important one among others and it mirrors existing social reality. The present study critically analyses the genre of letters to the editor to lay bare how these letters reflect prevailing socio-political conditions in a society. The current study's data was collected from two Pakistani English newspapers, Dawn and The Nation and it ranges from October 1, 2022, to October 30, 2022. An integrated research approach was used to analyse the data. This revised amended model was developed by utilizing Fairclough's two previous CDA models (2003) and (2013). The study finds that The Nation is more inclined to publish letters related to the representation of religious issues than its counterpart. In terms of highlighting the issues related to gender representation frequency of occurrence of letters is the same in both newspapers. However, the frequency of occurrence of social and political issues in Dawn is significantly higher than in The Nation. It contends that newspapers are polarized in terms of their ideological stance and invest ideology accordingly.

Keywords: *Genre, Newspapers, Representation, Ideology, Critical Social Analysis.*

Introduction

Newspapers as a genre of communication stand supreme amid different other means of communication. They mirror social reality about a particular society during a particular time-span. They impart critical thinking and social consciousness. Reading newspapers makes an individual knowledgeable and capable of thinking and extracting meaning on their own. Ideas are communicated about different aspects of society such as politics, business, games, architecture, economics, and religion through various sub-genres of newspapers. It widens the outlook of an individual and improves incredibly his/her perception and world-view about the world around him/her. Print media discourses often distort social reality by reflecting a desired version of it.

A newspaper carries subgenres in it including letters to the editor section. This section provides a platform for the readers of the newspaper to comment on the editorials and columns published in the particular newspaper. A letter to the editor is a message an individual writes to a newspaper or other publication to share his/her views on a current issue S/he feels is important in his/her community, state, or country. It represents the newspaper's attempt to realize the basic point of the liberal democratic

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vision. The letters published in this section unfold the difference between what is and what should be. They provide a critique about the socio-political scenario of a particular context related to power and politics. These letters serve two purposes: peer review after publishing and exchanging experiences with other readers. Both are equally vital in maintaining the high standards of journals. These letters serve as a bridge between the government and the general public. However, it must be observed that whatever ideology propagated through these letters should be objective.

Genre Analysis

The term genre has been used differently by different linguists. Troike defines the concept of genre as pertaining to the various types of communicative events and provides examples such as jokes, stories, lectures, greetings, and songs to illustrate the different genres (Troike (1982). Gregory (1976) argues that genre varies in terms of mode of expression. Genre analysis focuses on how the text is structured rhetorically. Genre, in Miller's view, is rather cultural (Miller, 1994). Genres serve specific functions and are embedded in a network of other cultural norms. It contains a wide range of information relevant to understanding particular cultures and their historical contexts. The term genre can also be defined as "a stylistic category, especially of literature and the other art works".

"Language used for specific communicative events and analysis of that language is -genre analysis— analysis of songs, painting, Television programs, Newspapers' articles. Language used in specific communicative event(s)." One of the most popular definitions of genre is that language used in a professional setting is genre and analysis of the language is genre analysis.

Steps Involved in Genre Analysis

Bhatia's model (1993) for genre analysis is process-oriented and comprises seven stages, including:
Putting the genre text into its situational setting,
Analyzing the Current Literature
Enhancing the Contextual Analysis
Selecting a Data Base
Analyzing Different Tiers of Institutional Language Use

Expertise in analyzing genres of literature. First of all the given genre text is placed in the relevant area, then existing literature about it is critically surveyed to find out the research gap and finally suitable research methodology is applied to analyze the given genre text. Moreover, previous experience with similar text and operational definitions should be discussed critically. Bhatia (2008) contends that at the same time, the occupational features of the given text and the community related to it should be discussed comprehensively.

Research Objectives

The present study aims to achieve the following research objectives:
- To analyse the representation of social, religious, and political issues through the letter to the editors appearing in DAWN and The Nation.
- To what extent do both newspapers vary in representing political, religious, and social issues.
- To count the frequency of occurrence of mentioned themes in the selected newspapers.

Research Questions

The following questions have provided the framework for the present study:

- How have social, religious, and political issues been represented discursively through the letters to the editors appearing in Dawn and The Nation?
- How does Dawn vary from The Nation in representing political, religious, and social issues?

- How frequently do the mentioned themes occur in the selected newspapers?

Literature Review

Hartford and Mahboob (2001) looked into the discourse structure of a complaint letter to the editor found in English in the Philippines and Singapore. By applying Kachru's (1996) framework, The researchers endeavoured to determine similarities and differences between the two variants of English. Through a systematic sampling technique, data was collected from the Philippine Daily Inquirer and The Straits Times published in July – September 2002. Employing a mixed method approach the study identified similarities and differences in linguistic features of the two corpora and it concluded that these letters highlighted the social issues of their respective contexts.

Flowerdew and Dudley-Evans (2002) conducted research on letters to editors to examine the schematic structure and linguistic politeness strategies used in the data. For this study, 53 letters by co-editor Tony Dudley were taken from the English for Specific Purposes Journal. The researchers used Swales and Bhatia's (1997) Genre Analysis Approach to analyze the selected data. The study revealed that letters to the editor's section mirror the social reality of a particular context. Besides, it paves the way for the solution of existing problems in society.

Memet (2007) discovered through his study that the use of pronouns in letters to editors is never neutral. It highlights the degree of certainty and individuality on the part of the writers of these letters. It connotes how serious the issues are which are highlighted through these letters. Genre centered approach was used to analyse the data. However, the major focus was on the comparison of the letters selected from UK and American newspapers. Different issues existing in the two contexts were deftly highlighted.

Bonyadi (2010) comparatively analyzed editorials from newspapers such as "The New York Times" and "Tehran Times". Similarly, the present study examined and compared the schematic structures of editorials sourced from Persian and English daily newspapers that were selected for analysis. The researcher utilized the intercultural rhetoric analysis theory to examine the data collected from the selected newspapers. Furthermore, the research investigated the significant influence exerted by these daily editorials on the formation of public opinion. The study's findings indicate that cultural limitations exercise an important impact on the genre of letters to the editors, as well as on the content of these letters, which tend to reflect social themes.

Lakic (2010) conducted research on genre analysis. For this data was collected from the various journals of Economics. The introductory section of the articles was focused on analysis. Besides using Swales' (1999) three steps to analyze data, the researcher also employed an additional category. In this regard, the existing research model was modified in accordance with the nature of the existing data. The findings of the research highlighted that the research jargon used in Economics research articles is different from language and linguistic research articles.

Opinion is a key aspect of democratic standards defined through ideas as well as the marketplace of ideas which indicates that the general public requires access to better views of the topic in an educated and sensible decision about their future. Keeping this in mind, McCluskey and Hmielowski (2012) carried out research on opinion expression during a social conflict in Jena and Louisiana on the punishment of six African-American students of high school. Data for this study came from online reader comments and letters to the editor from newspapers in Louisiana and Mississippi. The study concluded that this particular genre is time and context-specific.

Raza and Akbar (2012) conducted research to analyze how Zardari is being portrayed within the media talks. The study also discussed the hidden interests of haves that have a direct or indirect influence on the media of

have-nots, especially after the incident of 9/11. To investigate these issues, researchers selected the editorial section of two Pakistani English dailies such as "The News" and "Dawn" from November 2009 to January 2010. By using framing and priming theories, an analysis of the editorials was carried out. After reading 180 editorials, researchers concluded the research with the findings that The News newspaper constructed a negative image of Zardari while Dawn newspaper represented the same issue differently.

Rashidi and Ghaffarpour (2012) carried out research on genre analysis by comparing abstracts taken from TEFL and Astrophysics. The study examined generic distinguishing features in abstracts from two different domains. Abstracts of 80 research articles from two different areas were used for this purpose. The research included syntactic, pragmatic, and rhetorical move analysis. The researchers used Swales' genre analysis technique to evaluate abstracts rhetorically. The frequency of occurrence of pronoun application, voice and conjunctions, and tense aspect analyzed the abstracts' syntactic and pragmatic features in order to get a detailed analysis of the abstracts.

Tongsibsong (2012) conducted a genre analysis of newspaper editorials. The study investigated the structural organization of editorials by using the common move structure device. For this, the data was collected from two dailies one was "The Washington Post" and the other was "The New York Post", published on January 2013 – March 2013. Thirty editorials were selected from each type. The study reported that the combination of actions, the number of optional moves, the sequencing of common movements, the style of writing, and the communication of movements were similar in terms of newspapers. However, some differences also exist. Additionally, the study discovered that the underlined purpose of this genre is to persuade readers through the use of persuasive language.

The ESP (English for Specific Purposes) School was the focus of research on genre analysis by Sadeghi and Samuel (2013). They employed Bhatti's (1993 and 2004) and Swales (1990) models proposed for the genre analysis. The study's sample size was 200 letters of appeal from graduate students at a public university in Malaysia whose first language was not English. The letters written by different scholars from various linguistic backgrounds were selected for this study. The criteria for choosing the corpus was the communicative purpose of the letters. The main objective of the research was to identify the structural and rhetorical devices of the genre under investigation.

Rooke and Anos (2014) also carried out a thematic analysis of newspapers in order to examine whether Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) are represented in the press. The data in this study comes from a sample of twelve nationally recognized newspapers in the United Kingdom and Scotland, as well as from the three most widely accessed online news sources. The data collection period for this study spans from 2007 to 2012. The research criticized diffused innovation theory to analyze the data. Findings of the study concluded that the contribution of the newspaper regarding ENDS provides readers with substantial details regarding what they are, how they operate, and their particular benefits.

Bhatti, Mustafa and Azhar (2019) carried out a research on genre analysis. The data was collected from the published theses of language and management Sciences departments. The study investigated the macro as well as micro structures of the abstracts taken from the theses. The data for this study was taken from the International Journal of Linguistics and English Literature (IJALEL). A total of 40 abstracts were randomly picked from the corpus, 20 from linguistics and 20 from literature. The study found deviations at the micro and macro levels in the articles. CARS model by Swales (2014) for the corpus was analyzed using macrostructure analysis and Ant mover program. In this case, Swales and Feak's (2009) microstructure analysis model was applied. At the micro level, length, grammar, citations, use of pronouns, meta-discourse allusions, and acronyms were all factors to examine. Through this study, the researcher's findings indicated that there was no statistically significant difference noticed among abstracts at the macro level. However, variations were identified at the micro level.

Umrani et. al (2015) carried out an investigation into genre analysis. The study looked at how linguists and discourse analysts viewed genre analysis in diverse circumstances. Furthermore, the study emphasized the idea of move structure in various genres. More specifically letters to the editors. In this regard, the data was collected from the Pakistani English dailies, "DAWN", "Daily Times" and "The Nation". By applying CARS model of Swales' (2014) and Bhatia's (2008) studies, the data was analysed. It concluded that letters contain six moves such as headings, references, responses, narration, facts, and figures and opinions. However, this pattern is different in different contexts and cannot be generalized.

Newspaper as a Genre

Newspapers are an important medium for the creation and dissemination of social meanings. They aim to influence readers' ideological positions in addition to providing facts. Language is used as an insidious weapon to shape the mindset of the target audience and to disseminate the desired ideology to the readers. From a linguistic point of view, one of the most significant features of newspapers' potential influence is the way people and incidents are reported. Features of the newspaper genre include relevance, periodicity, and accessibility. They cover a wide range of fields such as prevailing conditions in a specific society and around the world regarding business, politics, sports, and arts, and most often include materials like opinions, weather forecasts, reviews about local services, interviews, reports, articles, editorials, letters to editors, etc. Newspaper articles, develop people's opinions accordingly. Language analysis can provide insight into how the meanings of people, locations, and events can be influenced by mediation.

Letters to Editor as a Genre

Letters written to the editor of a newspaper are an important genre where readers of that particular newspaper comment on prior publications. These letters provide a critique of social issues prevailing in a particular society. They are post-publication peer reviews and a means of sharing experiences with fellow readers. They play an important role in maintaining the journal's high standards. Most often, they are therapeutic in nature and can help to relieve anxiety. The accountability of authors and editors is ensured through a letter to the editor. They rant and rave at different points. This section has limited space for letters and they generally aim to publish a diversity of opinions on a number of topics, letters are often brief, usually ranging from 100 to 200 words.

Methodology

The current study utilizes Fairclough's two established research models as a framework for analysis. One was presented in 2003 with analytical categories such as Presupposition, Metaphor, Identity, Representation, Dialogicality, Exclusion, Inclusion and Prominence, Foregrounding, Backgrounding, Universalization, Implication, Comparison, etc. Another model of Fairclough was presented in 2013 and it was named as Critical Social Analysis (CSA) because it takes into consideration normative and social critique of language. So, the rationale behind drawing upon the two research models of the same theorist is that some of the analytical categories which have emerged from the existing data are related to economic issues and social critique as well. So, this has justified the rationale for devising an integrated research methodology by combining the two existing models of Fairclough which were presented in the mentioned years.

Analytical Categories

Metaphor

A metaphor is related to a psychological situation rather than the linguistic one. People use these to explain how they view, think and experience the world around them. According to Fairclough (2003), a metaphor is used to represent one part of the world in relation to the other part. Hence, using one

metaphor over another allows us to construct our reality in some other and more interesting way.

Identity

The concept of identity is really hard to explain. Fairclough in his model of 2003 distinguishes the two kinds of identity: one is social and the other one is personal identity. He also distinguishes between these two identities and claims that these two have a contradictory relationship with each other. Social groups can comprehend and explain the world around them in a variety of ways and this becomes their identity. In this way, identity is a concept that describes who you are and how others perceive you.

Representation

Representation entails explaining someone in a particular way in order to form an opinion in the minds of people about other individuals. for people to form an opinion about them. Words are symbols that represent various ideas, concepts, details, emotions, and so on. According to Harley (2019), representations are based on present and culturally understandable symbols and images. As a result, representations can be considered a concrete type of language - signifiers.

Dialogicality

The inclusion of voices in texts is a clear example of logicality. According to Fairclough (2003), the dialogicality of the texts broadens the difference by incorporating other voices into the text.

Foregrounding and Backgrounding

Exclusion denotes that something is not included in something significant, inclusion says that something is a substantial part of something, and prominence implies that something is easily recognizable or significant in relation to a text's ideological perspective.

Universalization

Giving something universal status in order to approve it is known as universalization. Fairclough (2003) views this issue as a hegemonic issue in preserving and contesting specific social groups' social dominance in order to gain hegemony.

Implication

Because it may be incompatible with the goal of positive self-representation, information is kept hidden. Collective behaviour ideologies, which embody political and personal strategies, might define these implicit levels of knowledge.

Comparison

One group is usually compared to another in media discussions, using different lexical items to show the similarities and differences between different people, things, ideas and concepts. Newspaper studies show that people express their views about a group in order to represent that group as superior or inferior to others.

Fairclough's (2013) Model of Critical Social Analysis

Fairclough (2013) argues that Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) contributes to the field of Critical Social Analysis (CSA) by emphasizing the examination of discourse and its interconnectedness with many social dimensions such as power dynamics, ideologies, organizational structures, and individual identity. Critical Social Analysis deals with two major topics: Normative and Explanatory critique, which have been discussed as under:

Normative Critique

Normative criticism refers to a standard of evaluation. It states that in order to analyse language

comprehensively, one needs to have linguistic competence and knowledge of norms associated with language.
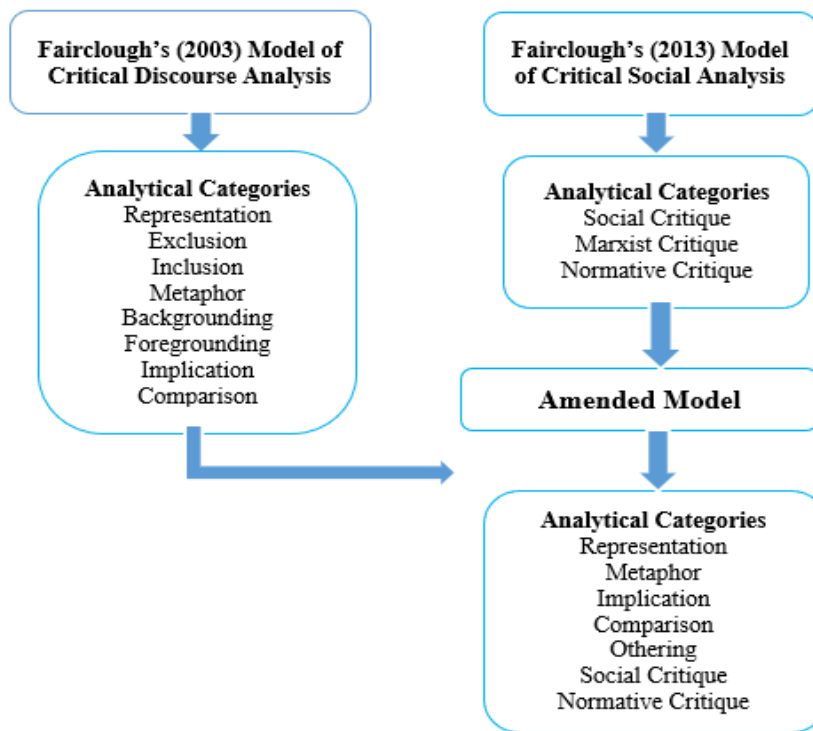
Explanatory Critique

Explanatory critique claims that the forms of false knowledge should be eliminated. According to the theory, knowing that a belief is false is a reasonable justification for a negative evaluation of it and action aimed at its elimination. This provides sufficient justification for ethical naturalism.

Amended Model

The study employed an integrated research technique to analyze the data utilized in the investigation process. This has been accomplished by utilizing Fairclough's two established models presented in 2003 and 2013, respectively. The following picture illustrates how the amended research model has been devised by integrating the two models.

Figure 1

Data Analysis and Discussion

The data has been categorized into four categories such as social, political, religious, and gender-related issues. The analysis of the data has been done qualitatively and quantitatively by applying a mixed research approach. The present research is a mixed method in nature because ways of words have been supplemented with number game. In the section that follows letters related to religious issues have been analysed.

Representation of Religious Issues

Fairclough (2013) argues that media language is one of the best sites for ideological investment. No use

of language is neutral. Similarly, there are numerous examples of the representation of religious issues. One such example is related to the existing conflict between Sunni and Shia sects. A letter that appeared in 'The Nation' on 10-10-2022 has been analysed here:

"Due to the Misunderstandings …. History Conflict…"
(The Nation: 10-10-22)

The example mentioned above illustrates that the long-existing conflict between the mentioned religious sects is merely concocted. The religious scholars from both sides never attempted to resolve these issues through table talks. The text of the letter under analysis implies that perhaps differences are kept unresolved deliberately to exploit the ignorant followers to reap vested interests. The very use of the lexical item "misunderstanding" connotes that these conflicts can be resolved through the table talks provided the scholars from the two sides are inclined to do so. Another example in this regard is as under;

"…There Are Issues… Generated by… Uneducated, Half-Minded… Lower Mentality People…"
(The Nation: 10-10-22)

Fairclough (2013) argues that media discourses mirror the social reality of a particular context. Similarly, the linguistic chunk under analysis illustrates that one of the causes of religious unrest in the country is ignorance of the general masses. They are exploited in the name of religion and can be misled easily. Such people have been represented negatively. The implied message being imparted is that awareness is the only solution to problems. Here lies the ideological stance of the newspaper (Nation) that the very controlling group (the power behind this particular newspaper) wants these issues must be resolved in order to maintain peace between these two Muslim sects.

Fairclough (2013) argues that lexicalization is one of the significant features in identifying whether someone or something has been represented positively or negatively. So here, the very use of the words like *"misunderstanding, uneducated, half-minded and lower mentality people"* clearly illustrates that this particular newspaper seems inclined to resolve the existing issues between the sects by propagating a message of harmony. Another example in this regard from the same newspaper is as under;

"Shia Muslim Have Always … Tried to Agree on A Single Point…They Are Called Kafir"
"… Movement Against Shia… in Karachi… Sunni Muslim Sects … Showing Abusive Signs…"

The very use of the expression "Shia Muslim" implies that there are various sects among Muslims and one of them is Shia Muslim. Therefore, it is obvious from the examples that the Shias are victimized. Moreover, here, Karachi has been used as a metaphor for place. It is one of the biggest cities in Pakistan. If they (Shia) are represented or treated badly, so it can be generalized that they are treated likewise everywhere in Pakistan. This highlights the ideological stance of the newspaper.

The overall impression which emerges from the analysis of the religious issue from the selected data is that in the Nation newspaper only one letter was published in a total of 30 days with an average of 0.03 whereas, in the Dawn newspaper, no such letter about the religious issue was published for the mentioned period. This implies that the Nation newspaper is more inclined to highlight religious issues as compared to its counterpart.

Representation Gender-Related Issues

Fairclough argues that media discourses are used to represent the ideology of the dominant group as a legalized one. In this way with the help of media discourses positive representation of the dominant group is plaid-up at the cost of negative or mis-representation of the dominant group. He further argues that the ideology of the powerful has always been a ruling ideology. Women are represented as a marginalized section of society and their efforts for emancipation are represented as revolt against men. Similarly, the examples picked from the data about the representation of gender-related issues manifest

the same ideology. The following examples have been quoted in this regard.

"When Women Hold Protest Rallies…. Ask For Their Rights… Men Feel Offended and Demand…."
(Dawn: 04- 10- 22)

The example mentioned above illustrates the patriarchal set-up of Pakistani society. In such societies, women are expected to be obedient and submissive. The same issue has been discussed in the above-mentioned text. When women hold protests for their rights, it is taken as a revolt and represented negatively. The power within and behind discourses represents them negatively.

According to Fairclough (2013), Representation includes a specific description of somebody to form an opinion. Similarly, words are symbols that represent different ideas, concepts, facts, emotions, and so on. The following example carries the same idea.

"Considering Women Subordinate to Men…. With A Make Guardian… Blaming For Rape… Justification of Few Diseased Minds."
(Nation: 11- 10- 22)

In the mentioned text, the very use of the phrase "diseased minds" refers to those who want to keep women in subjugation. The very use of the expression "subordinate to men" refers to the strict division of roles in patriarchal societies. In such a society women are deprived of the domains of power held by men. Any attempt by women to challenge patriarchal norms is taken as a serious offence. This troubles the diseased minds. Such minds do their best to belittle the status of women at linguistic and social levels. The adjectives carrying negative social meanings are associated with women. Fairclough (2003), maintains that metaphor depicts one aspect of the universe in relation to another. This technique of metaphorization shows the relationship between the user of the metaphor and the one for whom it is used.

"… Brutally Murdered by Some Monster."
"… Cherubic Angel Zainab…"
(Dawn: 14- 10- 22)

At this point, the very use of the word "monster" as a metaphor represents the rapist negatively totally deprived of human qualities. Similarly, the use of 'angel' as a metaphor for the innocent victim represents her positively. The very letter under analysis depicts a society where women are the victims of males' barbarism.

Fairclough (2003) distinguishes between two types of identity: social and personal. He also makes a distinction between social identity and personality, claiming that the two have a dialectic relationship. Social groups can comprehend and describe their universe in various ways. Their personality is formed by this distinction. As a result, identity is something that defines who you are and how others perceive you. With the use of certain words, the writer depicts his thinking about someone or something. The following example has been taken in this regard,

"A Rapist … Mentally Sick Person…. Must not Live to Harm More People…"
(Dawn: 18- 10- 22)

It illustrates that men who are mentally sick and commit heinous crimes must be hanged because they deserve no mercy. It implies that this newspaper is doing its best to promote the ideology that gender violence must be stopped and that criminals must not be spared. The overall impression which emerges after the analysis of data is that the number of letters that appeared in the selected newspapers is the same i.e. (05) each or 0.16%. Hence, it is concluded that the ideological stance of both newspapers about the social issue under discussion is the same.

Representation of Political Issues

According to Fairclough (2013), there is no apolitical use of language. There is a lot of political rhetoric in the print media. Examples mentioned below serve the purpose in this regard:

"The Town Is Given A Huge … Utilized Poorly And Minimally… But no One Is Willing to Listen…"
(Dawn: 04-10-22)

Language is a social semiotic and represents the socio-political and economic state of a society it belongs to. Similarly, the linguistic chunk being analysed illustrates that corruption has prevailed in every department of Pakistani society. On paper, a huge amount of budget is allocated for the development of towns and cities, but it is not utilized properly. This makes the condition of towns and cities pathetic. The politicians enjoy all the luxuries of life at the cost of the poor masses. If somebody raises a voice, it is not heard. The use of lexical items in the form of town' and the city is metaphorical in nature and stands for all the towns and cities of Pakistan.

"When police arrive… sent to courts… it lags on for years… Qabza group threatened … killed old occupants… took over the property completely."
(The Nation: 09-10-22)

Here the two families are once again representing all the oppressed families of Pakistan and it is also a satire on the justice system of Pakistan where unduly the cases are prolonged for years and during this delay, the culprit got scot-free. The important thing that has been mentioned here is the use of the expression "Qabza Group" which is a localized phrase, often used to occupy illegal lands and other properties. This represents the political scenario of society i.e. Pakistani society. In this way, one of the grave issues of Pakistani society has been highlighted through this particular letter to the editor.

The analysis of the letters related to political issues reveals that DAWN most often represents the government and its policies positively. Whereas, The Nation is more inclined to criticize government policies. The frequency of occurrence the letters related to political issues in Dawn is higher than its counterpart. The total number of letters published in Dawn is 105, whereas, this number is 25 in The Nation.

Representation of Social Issues

Fairclough (2013) maintains that language is a social semiotic. It represents the existing conditions of any society. It exhibits the socio-economic tendencies of a society it belongs to. Similarly, through the letters to the editor section of 'The Nation' it has been observed that Education is one of the most important issues highlighted through the letters published in this newspaper. It is repeatedly highlighted that the education system is highly polarized. It is class-specific. The implied message that has been propagated is that this polarization should be abolished to impart uniform education to all.

"Education has become a business… government school teachers teach in private… are busy prioritizing and decorating them."
(The Nation: 05-10-22)

The irony lies in the fact educational institutes are more concerned about grabbing money than imparting knowledge to the students. This is one of the most serious issues of the day and needs reforms.

Letters to the editor section is an important platform to discuss various national issues and to draw the attention of government officials to these issues. The selected newspapers have attempted to highlight the existing issues through letters to the editor to resolve them. In this regard, it is right to say that newspapers mirror social reality and important means to educate the masses through persuasive discourses.

The analysis of the letters to the editor related to the social issues reveals that Dawn newspaper published 106 letters pertaining to this theme in total, with an average of 3.53 letters per day. Whereas, the

frequency of occurrence of letters related to the same issue in The Nation newspaper is 39 letters in 30 days, with a daily average of 1.3 letters. It shows that Dawn is more inclined to highlight social issues through letters to the editor than its counterpart.

Frequency of Occurrence of the Themes

The pattern of frequency of the emerging themes in the collected data from the selected newspapers is presented in the table below.

Table 1

Theme	Days	Newspaper	Frequency
Social	30	Dawn	106
	30	The Nation	39
Political	30	Dawn	105
	30	The Nation	25
Gender	30	Dawn	5
	30	The Nation	5
Religious	30	Dawn	0
	30	The Nation	39

Conclusion

The purpose of this study was to examine the representation of important issues through the analysis of letters to the editors from two prominent Pakistani English newspapers, namely Dawn and The Nation. The data collection period extends from October 1, 2022, through October 30, 2022. The present research objectives include thematic categorization of social issues related to religion, politics, gender representation, and representation of other social issues. Qualitative findings of the study have been supplemented quantitatively as well. The in-depth analysis of the language used in the letters reveals that print media discourses carry power within and behind them. Whatever appears in any genre of the newspaper is never neutral. It is in accordance with the ideology of controlling ideological groups. The themes that have been observed through the analysis include gender, religion, politics, and social issues. The frequency of occurrence of gender-related issues is the same (05 letters in each newspaper).

A vital difference has been noted in the representation of religious issues in Dawn (0%) and The Nation (39%). It highlights the ideological mindset of the powerful group behind discourses. Dawn newspaper excels its counterpart in representing political issues (105 vs 25). It is noticed in the representation of social issues through the letters to the editor. The study contends that letters to editors mirror social reality and can play a significant part in highlighting and resolving social issues. Besides, it supports Fairclough's (2003) stance that media discourses are one of the best sites to invest ideology.

Future Work/Delimitation

The study analyzed data from Dawn and The Nation, Pakistani English newspapers, using an integrated research approach and Fairclough's CDA models from October 1, 2022, to October 30, 2022. It is suggested that in future the research canvas may be broadened. The data relating to the same paradigm could be collected from renowned international newspapers and magazines. The time span could be extended to make the findings of the study more generalizable.

Authors Contribution

Muhammad Riaz Khan collected and analyzed data at linguistic levels. Muhammad Mazedul Haq

Talukdar, Shehla Abbasi and Asma Iqbal wrote down the introduction and literature review sections along with providing technical assistance. Dr Syed Imranul Haque, and Rashida Shamim Luiza Taskin Turza contributed to counting the frequency of occurrence of the mentioned themes in the selected newspapers and reference sections.

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