

**REPRESENTATION OF MOB VIOLENCE IN  
PAKISTANI AND SRILANKAN NEWSPAPERS:  
A TRANSITIVITY ANALYSIS**

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**Representation of Mob Violence in Pakistani and Sri Lankan  
Newspapers: A Transitivity Analysis**

By

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## ABSTRACT

### **Title: Representation of Mob Violence in Pakistani and Sri Lankan Newspapers: A Transitivity Analysis**

Transitivity analysis is a linguistic framework that focuses on analyzing the ways in which participants, actions, and circumstances are represented in discourse to get the hidden meaning out of the text. It is a central concept in Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), a theory developed by Halliday that the meticulous examination of transitivity patterns within textual or discursive contexts has yielded scholarly insights into the intricate processes of meaning construction, elucidating the nuanced utilization of language to articulate precise messages or convey distinct ideological tenets. However, little focus was given to Priyantha Kumara's murder using Transitivity Analysis. Therefore, this study investigates the transitivity patterns employed in Pakistani and Sri Lankan English newspaper editorials to represent mob violence with reference to lynching of Priyantha Kumara (A Sri Lankan citizen). Eight newspapers were selected; among them, four were the newspapers of Pakistan titled The DAWN, International the News, Daily Times and The Dayspring, and the rest of the four were Sri-Lankan newspapers with the title: Colombo Telegraph, Daily Newspaper, Daily Mirror Online and The Island Online. Drawing on Halliday's model of transitivity patterns, the study employs mixed method approach to identify similarities and differences in the editorials and explore how these patterns construct underlying realities regarding mob violence with reference to lynching of Priyantha Kumara. A total of ninety-six (96) clauses were analyzed, forty-eight (48) from each country's newspaper, with mental and relational processes emerging as the most prominent. These patterns conveyed condemnation, disgust, and the demand for justice while highlighting themes of religious extremism, false allegations of blasphemy, crimes against humanity, discrimination, and misunderstandings while demanding justice for the extra-judicial killing of Kumara. The research contributes to understanding the linguistic strategies used in constructing public narratives and provides valuable insights into the representation of significant events in newspaper editorials.

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## **DEDICATION**

This work is truly dedicated to my loving parents, and my cooperative Husband. Thank you all for your support you will always be in my heart.

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

In the wake of Priyantha Kumara's tragic murder, public discourse and media coverage have played a pivotal role in shaping societal perceptions and responses. Understanding the discursive strategies employed by newspapers in reporting and analyzing this unsettling event is crucial to gaining insights into the underlying power dynamics and ideological perspectives at play. This research delves into a comprehensive Transitivity Analysis of newspaper editorials related to mob violence with reference to lynching of Priyantha Kumara, aiming to unveil linguistic choices, representations, and narratives employed by different newspapers in constructing meaning and influencing public opinion. By exploring the intricate web of transitivity patterns within these editorials, this study seeks to shed light on the discursive strategies employed by media outlets and their implications for social understanding, justice, and accountability in cases of violent crimes.

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Humans are the only species with language. When one understands how to use a language's lexis, forms, and grammatical structures in a meaningful way, one may make one's voice heard or challenge others' voices. However, the linguistic choices reveal how people perceive the world around them. One's worldview is represented using a certain collection of lexes, forms, and grammatical structures. As different lexes, forms and grammatical structures may be employed to convey an experience, there can be many perspectives on an event. Therefore, distinct newspapers use distinct lexes, forms, and grammatical structures while covering an event, resulting in varying perspectives on the same event being presented (Osisanwo, 2011). Therefore, studying a language in its functional context is known as Systemic Functional Linguistics (Henceforth SFL). It focuses on the semantic and functional significance of words (lexis), phrases, clauses, sentences, and texts in immediate and broader socio-cultural settings. Language has the power to convey meaning. Crowd, mob, riot, mob violence, group violence, and crowd behaviour all need to be defined and distinguished before we can get into an examination

of mob violence. A mob is defined as a gathering of individuals operating under intense emotional circumstances that often result in violent or unlawful behaviour; a crowd is defined as a group of people who have a common interest and are emotionally volatile. The degree to which members of the crowd share an emotional state and the presence or absence of certain (harmful) emotional expressions define a mob as opposed to a crowd. When a large group of people violently attack one another or their property, whether via looting or damage of property, this is called a riot. A riot is defined as an uncontrolled outburst of fury or passion that lacks a predetermined objective (Rosenthal, 2003). On the other hand, riots may and often do serve common goals among the participants. Mob violence, is mostly an expression of frustration or a demand for quick satisfaction, whereas social movements are concerted attempts to alter societal circumstances, which might be the underlying causes of mob violence. Crowd behaviour and mob violence, however, may also serve as vehicles for social movements, we argue. In this context, "group violence" is systematic attacks on marginalised communities by the state or other powerful social groupings. Acts of systematic torture, mass murder, and genocide are all examples of group violence (Grundy & Weinstein, 1974).

According to Halliday (1994), human language has evolved into three distinct meanings: ideational, interpersonal, and textual. Transitivity System belongs to the ideational meta-function of language, and it is specifically known as one of the crucial methods of clause-level analysis. A transitivity system refers to a system for describing the whole clause rather than just the verb and its object. In SFL, Transitivity and its core elements help in the meaning-making process. As one of the most compelling theories to apply to newspaper editorials, transitivity analysis has been examined in the following section to emphasize its usefulness for research work. Editorials are a representation of a newspaper's political ideology. Although a single editor mainly produces these editorials; however, they are an interesting point of discussion between audiences for ideas and concerns. Readers utilize these editorials to form their own opinions on current events across the globe (Biber, 2012).

Editorials affect the opinion of the common educated public on communication and politics. Transitivity focuses on how transitivity elements are used in the text. The mental changes that are accessible in a text may be referred to as Transitivity,

representing the encoding of experiencing meanings via the systematic fusion of processes, participants, situations, experiences, and notation. In contrast to other news pieces, the editorial presents information as a debate, which may or may not appeal to the reader's point of view on the subject matter. Editorials are effective forms of speech with distinctive language characteristics in the media. A systematic linguistic and functional variation exists in every variety or sub-variety of a language or register.

Distinctive linguistic traits show this systemic linguistics and its available variation. In most cases, the language characteristics of editorial communicate opinion, direct readers' attention, and represent the ideology of a news company, among other things. Media is one of the most powerful institutions in today's society, and the power of language is derived from its usage for a specific goal. Writing or speaking is a means through which the author or speaker may convey their thoughts and feelings about the world around them (Clark & Toolan, 1992). Specifically, the newspaper's rich communication background is relevant here. As a matter of fact, in Pakistan, reading the newspaper is more than simply an early-morning routine; it also has an impact on the psyche of citizens. Print media has also modified its patterns and gained more freedom of expression due to the widespread availability of electronic media. Newspapers tend to polarize public opinion on contentious issues; readers, on the other hand, believe that newspaper debate is driven only by the pursuit of truth. Generally, most people believe that newspaper reporting is objective and balanced. In-depth studies have shown that this is only sometimes the case. Before it appears in print, all newspaper articles undergo several revisions and editing stages. Authors may deliberately or inadvertently manipulate language to align with their conceptualizations. Newspaper discourse analysis has received much attention because of its impact and relevance. However, cross-cultural studies comparing various nations' newspaper reporting have received only a limited amount of attention. Blasphemy insults or demonstrates contempt for a god, religious or holy individuals, sacred objects, or whatever is deemed sacred or inviolable (Nafees, 2013). Not all blasphemy cases are published in the media. The accurate figure is likely far higher. The Pakistani data has noted uncertainty about the exact location of several issues. Priyantha Kumara's murder has adversely affected Pakistan's reputation across the world. His brutal murder has been widely condemned in the media. Pakistan has a lot of

religious effects. Issues like blasphemy got international coverage. These issues have been highlighted at international forums.

Priyantha Kumara Diyawadana was a Sri Lankan citizen residing and working in Pakistan for eleven years as a manager in a sports equipment factory. He was a forty-nine years old devoted Buddhist. A crowd lynched him in Sialkot, Punjab, Pakistan, on the 3rd of December 2021 on blasphemy charges. Kumara's assassination was attributed to followers of the extremist religious mob. He was charged with blasphemy for damaging a religious poster. Kumara was subsequently shown to have removed the poster owing to delayed building renovations and was falsely accused of blasphemy by manufacturing employees. Several videos emerged on social media showing hundreds of men assembled around the place, screaming slogans while killing Kumara. His death gained international coverage.

The present study intended to use transitivity analysis to explore how Pakistani and Sri Lankan English newspapers presented that issue through various processes in their editorials. The researcher took selective newspapers of the chosen countries where the incident has been extensively covered as a limited sample size of eight editorials specifically for transitivity analysis within the systemic functional linguistic toolkit lies in the strategic pursuit of depth over breadth. By focusing on a condensed yet representative subset, the study aims to achieve a nuanced understanding of transitivity patterns, recognizing them as pivotal components within the broader context of language usage. This selection facilitates a detailed and comprehensive exploration, offering insights into the intricacies of transitivity dynamics, thereby contributing substantively to the overarching research objectives. Moreover, this study was significant in exploring their underlying intentions, thoughts, and ideologies presented in the editorials to portray the murder of Kumara.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Manipulation and exaggeration are part of media coverage. Newspapers are part of our daily routines. While previous studies have attempted to assess media coverage of many topics, the problem of representation of Priyantha Kumara's murder in Pakistan and the Sri Lankan newspapers remained untouched. It is advisable to include editorials

because they reflect the writers' social, political, and economic points of view. Therefore, the present study intended to use transitivity analysis to explore how Pakistani and Sri Lankan English newspapers presented this issue through various processes in their editorials. The researcher took the help of editorials for the transitivity analysis while exploring underlying intentions, thoughts, and ideologies in covering the lynching of Kumara.

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

This study intends to achieve the following laid objectives:

- i. To explore the types of transitivity patterns in the Pakistani and Sri Lankan newspaper editorials.
- ii. To find out the underlying realities these patterns unveil with respect to the mob violence regarding the murder of Priyantha Kumara in the selected newspapers.

### **1.4 Research Questions**

- i. What type of transitivity processes have been employed to represent Priyantha Kumara's lynching with reference to mob violence in Sri Lankan and Pakistani newspaper editorials?
- ii. How do the transitivity patterns in selected newspapers contribute to the delineation of underlying realities regarding the mob violence representing Priyantha Kumara's murder?

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

The study aimed to investigate the role of transitivity patterns in the meaning-making process. Therefore, it intended to use transitivity analysis and explore how Pakistani and Sri Lankan English newspapers presented this issue through various processes in their editorials. This study is significant in exploring their underlying intentions, thoughts, and ideologies presented in the editorials to portray the murder of Kumara. Looking at transitivity patterns and transitivity analysis is the contribution to linguistics. Furthermore, how ideologies are being maintained and propagated in the newspaper and examining it from a transitivity perspective will give a new dimension to research in linguistics. Here the researcher will explore the ideologies from a new perspective and

tell the audience that this is something they must consider while reading those editorials; they may learn that transitivity helps people understand how language functions in context. This research will be a gateway for future researchers and give future researchers some recommendations.

## **1.6 Delimitation of the Study**

The scope of the current investigation has been confined to one specific meta-function, i.e., ideational. Moreover, it has also been delimited to eight (8) editorials in terms of its sample size and the geographical area of Sri Lankan and Pakistani English newspapers. Four editorials have been taken from Sri Lankan English newspapers and four from Pakistani English newspapers. The use of a focused sample of eight newspapers (four from each country) allowed for a manageable analysis within time and word limitations. Moreover, a limited sample size of eight editorials specifically for transitivity analysis within the systemic functional linguistic toolkit lies in the strategic pursuit of depth over breadth. By focusing on a condensed yet representative subset, the study aims to achieve a nuanced understanding of transitivity patterns, recognizing them as pivotal components within the broader context of language usage. This deliberate selection facilitates a detailed and comprehensive exploration, offering insights into the intricacies of transitivity dynamics, thereby contributing substantively to the overarching research objectives. This approach ensured that a comprehensive understanding of the incident's representation could be gained from various perspectives. By keeping the objectives and research questions in mind, selective clauses from these editorials have been taken for the analysis that specifically represented the mob violence with reference to lynching of Priyantha Kumara. Only content related to violence has been included; the rest of the information from these editorials has been omitted.

In Halliday's systemic functional linguistics, the experiential metafunction deals with how language represents our experience of the world. Transitivity, within this framework, is a key component. Apart from it, the exclusive focus on the 'transitivity' element within the Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) toolkit, rather than incorporating concepts like ergativity within the experiential meta-function, is methodological choice as this approach aims for precision and in-depth analysis, allowing



for a thorough exploration of transitivity patterns in the selected editorials. By honing in on this specific linguistic element, the study seeks to achieve methodological clarity and nuanced insights into the construction of meaning within the chosen context.

## **1.7 Thesis Organization**

This study has been broken down into five chapters.

**Chapter 1:** This is the introductory chapter. It explained the study's rationale and gave some context for the rest of the sections. It includes the problem statement, research questions, the study's objectives, significance and delimitations.

**Chapter 2:** The researcher examines the existing literature on the topic. The researcher tried to catalogue prior studies on the subject and identified the gap for her study.

**Chapter 3:** This chapter provides the methodology for the study.

**Chapter 4:** This chapter analyses and interprets all the selected editorials from Pakistani and Sri Lankan English newspapers. It has been divided into two sections. The first section includes editorials from Pakistani English newspapers, including 'The Dawn', 'International The News', 'Daily Times' and 'The Dayspring', while the second section deals with Sri Lankan English newspapers. The selected newspapers are from 'Colombo Telegraph', 'Daily Newspaper', 'Daily Mirror Online' and 'The Island Online'.

**Chapter 5:** This chapter summarizes the study's findings and provides recommendations for future researchers.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

This section deals with the crucial concepts, rationalizes the methodologies used in this research, and presents up-to-date and pertinent literature on the subject matter.

#### **2.1 Newspapers and Print Media Discourse**

Reality may be shaped and reshaped by media. Newspapers have the ability to influence public opinion by employing words in a certain way. Indeed, news language is a social fabrication of reality (Luckman & Berger, 1976). On the one hand, it produces a public discourse through the selection of new material and the language used to deliver that content, and on the other hand, it arises from the culture in which that language exists. Therefore, newspapers have been published over an extended amount of time. They are one of the most accessible and inexpensive ways to stay informed about the world and what is happening in it. Researchers have discovered that newspapers tend to lean politically. The journalists who work for such publications are expected, at the very least implicitly, to reflect the paper's philosophy in their reporting.

For instance, Alhumsi, M, H &Alsaedi, N, S (2023) Investigated gender variations in political Media Discourse" using Transitivity Analysis. With the help of transitivity processes, the researchers concluded that the news writers used different sentence constructions and processes to highlight gender variation in political discourse analysis. However, this study simply addressed process types without taking into account the conditions or the responsibilities of the individuals; these components are two fundamental columns of the transitivity hypothesis.

Apart from it, Ekhteyar, T &Umrani, T (2021) studied CPEC in Pakistani Print Media: Transitivity Analysis of English Newspapers' Articles. Using transitivity analysis tools, they concluded that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) had been presented as an economic topic of national importance in both periodicals, implying a connotation of PRO-CPEC ideology. The current study is notable for its novelty since it

is an interdisciplinary study, and its conclusions differ from those found in the literature on media conflict, where the conflict of interest is reported.

Similarly, Zhang (2014) examined the connection between the United States and Iraq. Using Fairclough's technique, he analyzed "The New York Times" in order to discover hidden power and hegemonic links via discourse. The CDA is used to investigate interactions in a range of contexts. According to the findings, the US print media portrayed the president as pleasant and well-intentioned, but the Iraqi president was portrayed as a threat to world stability and a violent despot.

Apart from societal concerns, print media discourses regarding religious fanaticism have long been a hot topic in the field of discourse studies. Discovering how other people's religious and political convictions impact their worldviews is fascinating. Following 9/11, Iqbal and Danish (2014) studied why Muslims in the United States are labelled terrorists. They investigated the difficulties faced by Muslim communities overseas due to preconceptions and how they were depicted in the influential magazine The Times.

Surprisingly, there is no commonly agreed set of criteria which newspapers must follow. It has been observed that two newspapers reporting on the same issue independently may report it substantially differently. For instance, a parallel inquiry was conducted into Iran's nuclear power programme, which has been a source of contention between the US and Iran. The study was done with the well-established negative media perceptions of Iran in mind. Iran is not cooperating with the US and is attempting to conceal information, as evidenced by linguistic characteristics highlighted in the reports. As a result, the US has demonstrated its supremacy by a demanding posture, while Iran has taken a hard stand against the notion that it has any authority over its own affairs. Consequently, the United States has shown its superiority in a demanding posture, while Iran has taken a firm stance against the idea that it has any control over its own affairs (Ahmadian&Farahani, 2014).

Newspaper editors and reporters put their own biases into the editorials and the way the news is presented in the headlines. Researchers analyzed the tenors of several publications and contrasted how Muslims, Christians, and Jews were portrayed in each.

Researchers looked at how Muslims were depicted in New York Times headlines from 1985 to 2013. It was a historical analysis that showed how media coverage and tone had changed throughout time. Both positive and unfavourable portrayals of Muslims were seen (Bleich et al., 2015). It shows that different newspapers report the same news differently.

However, it has been observed from the above discussion that print media discourse analysis using CDA is an interesting topic to study, and the transitivity processes are the best tools to identify and explore the hidden meanings in a media text.

## **2.2 Editorials**

Newspaper editorials play a significant role in news discourse as a subgenre of the newspaper genre (Bell, 1991). As the introduction to the pertinent main text in editorials, headlines have been assigned a variety of responsibilities. Van Dijk (1988) discussed the news schema and referred to headlines and leads as categories making up "the summary" of the news report leading to the whole story. Newspaper readers tend to spend much time perusing the editorial pages. This is the part of the paper where the editors and writers weigh in on current events. The views expressed in those editorials are not just those of the authors but the whole organization. This is why editorials are seldom attributed to a specific person. Since editorials are often read as condemning or praising political or religious phenomena, they play a vital role in the political and print media debate. Since much of a newspaper reports facts, the editorials are where the most potential for commentary may be found. On the other hand, the editorials provide slanted arguments that compel the reader to parse the editorial's grammar and morphology to draw conclusions.

Editor Ricardo (2010) acknowledges that accusations of bias against editors do occur. He enters a guilty plea and explains that his bias is based on fair and factual news reporting. The topic at hand, the writer's facts and assumptions, and the "arguments and evidence" used to support the writer's viewpoint are frequently included in editorials. According to Russell, editorials are discussions or arguments based on the writer's point of view. Just as people are thought to respond to their environment, so too do news organizations respond to the peculiarities and flaws they discover in the way the state's

administration operates. Editorials provide the newspapers' viewpoints, and their language symbolizes a certain topic ahead of time (Anyandike, 2013). However, there are many different approaches to textual analysis that can be used to establish the relevance of newspaper editorials, but this study focused on transitivity analysis for it is the most intriguing theory for clause-level analysis that can be effectively applied to newspaper editorials by considering it a crucial Critical Discourse Analysis Tool (henceforth, CDA).

### **2.3 Critical Discourse Analysis**

A group of academics, including Theo van Leeuwen, Gunther Kress, Teun van Dijk, and Norman Fairclough, developed the cross-disciplinary field of critical discourse analysis (hereinafter CDA) in the early 1990s (Wodak & Meyer, 2001). CDA theories and techniques were developed at that time to set this paradigm apart from existing Discourse Analysis theories and methodologies. The phrase has had many different names over time. It is through critical discourse analysis (CDA) that the critical tradition of social analysis is introduced to the field of language studies, and it is through CDA that critical social analysis gains a more nuanced and nuanced focus on discourse and the connections between discourse and other social elements (such as power, ideology, institutions, and identities). The term "critical social analysis" refers to criticism that may be either normative or explanatory. Rather than merely describing the world as it is, normative critique evaluates it in light of a set of values widely agreed upon as necessary for a just or decent society (such as a set of material, political, and cultural benchmarks for human flourishing). Criticism that attempts to explain rather than merely describe existing realities (such as by suggesting that inequalities in wealth, income, and access to various social goods are a result of mechanisms and forces associated with 'capitalism') is called explanatory critique.

CDA draws from the fields of Classical Rhetoric, Text Linguistics, Sociolinguistics, Applied Linguistics, and Pragmatics, and some of its premises can be traced back to Jürgen Habermas and the Frankfurt School's critical theory before World War II (Van Dijk, 1993). The neo-Marxist and postmodernist viewpoints of social theorists such as Foucault (1972) and social linguists such as Pecheux (1975), who

explain the nature of ideology in terms of discourse as its primary means of transmission, enactment, and reproduction, influenced CDA's focus (Wodak & Meyer, 2002).

However, it serves as a way to depict patterns of experience. Halliday (1978) states that CDA goes beyond Critical Linguistics (CL) by saying that it helps people create a mental image of reality and make sense of what is happening to them and around them (Rogers, 2004). Halliday's functional grammar integrated 'patterns of experience' and 'patterns of ideas' into traditional grammatical analysis. Different grammatical constructs, such as the usage of the passive vs the active voice, convey distinct ideological connotations. These CL theorists and practitioners, like Halliday, consider the triad of roles that language plays equally important. The ideational function allows us to interact with the external world of ideas, ideologies, and theories. The interpersonal function conveys the speaker's emotional investment and social ties to the conversation at hand. Textual function refers to the meaning of a document, whereas textual structure refers to how a text is put together. The text-forming function encompasses both verbal and nonverbal activities, and this interaction with the environment gives language its richness. Halliday's concept of language as a "social act" is highly respected by many CDA practitioners (Fairclough, 1989, 1992, 1993; Chouliaraki & Fairclough, 1999; Fowler, 1979).

## **2.4 Critical Discourse Analysis and Systemic Functional Grammar**

The SFL theory is widely accepted nowadays. Halliday (1994) and his supporters first proposed and refined it. The SFL is also utilized as a CDA tool. There are three ways in which SFL and CDA, two discourse analysis methods, are comparable despite their different theoretical foundations and historical development. Both have an identical view on the importance of language in shaping culture. The two go hand in hand; language and society cannot be separated. In SFL and CDA, context is crucial. In SFL and CDA, meanings matter (Young & Harrison, 2004).

Halliday (1961) extended Firth and Hjelmslev's work with their "scale and category theory" of language, which was later known as System and Function Theory (SFL). According to Halliday, the linguists who had the most significant influence on his thought were Firth (1957) and Hjelmslev (1961). The relationship between context and

syntax is called the two's interdependence in SFL. This notion is a product of the Firthian school. Comparing Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) with Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) highlights parallels and distinctions between these two linguistic research methodologies.

However, the Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) approach focuses on how language reflects and perpetuates social inequities and power imbalances. CDA's overarching goal is to unearth the underlying ideologies and meanings in the speech that fuel social dominance and oppression systems.

SFL, on the other hand, is a framework for the study of language that emphasizes real-world texts, both written and spoken. Social function linguistics (SFL) examines how language is constructed to describe social interactions and communicate attitudes and opinions through communication.

Although CDA and SFL both concentrate on how language is used in various social contexts, their goals differ. While CDA is more focused on identifying and correcting power relations and social inequities, SFL is more concerned with describing and understanding the systematic patterns of language usage. Both approaches, nevertheless, might be helpful in examining the various ways that language serves society.

As a result, language is viewed as a social practice and is the cause of social problems. Contextualization is crucial for this form of creativity. Additionally, the final product must be worthwhile. SFL is a tool that CDA use. SFL is a useful method for doing CDA. Fairclough has promoted SFL as a CDA strategy that works. Due to the fact that SFL places language in its historical and social contexts, it has many uses and is essential to discourse analysis (Fairclough, 2018).

Similarly, critical Discourse Analysts like Halliday (1978) and Critical Linguists believe speakers' lexical and grammatical choices are ideologically motivated and guided by predetermined principles. Our words reveal where we are in the world, who we are, what we know, and what we value (Fiske, 1994). Halliday (1978) argues that languages serve three meta-functions at once: ideational (representing the world), interpersonal (reflecting speech-own attitudes and assessments and establishing the connection

between speakers and listeners), and textual. The third one connects the speech to its co-text and context, making it easier to interpret for the listener. The most crucial issue is the correct use of transitivity when describing systems or processes.

## **2.5 Systemic Functional Linguistics**

According to Halliday (1994), language serves a function. It is not a standalone phenomenon, and we do not only employ words for their own sake. They do not simply go into the ether after being spoken; they are continually putting in function. When investigating texts, the cultural and social contexts are given special attention in systemic functional linguistics. It describes how we interpret the world and the statements made in it. The study of language is seen as inherently intertwined with culture and society by SFL. Meaning is shown as a decision in systemic theory. It asserts that all language systems are interdependent, that whatever we choose in one system becomes a method in another, and that we may continue doing so wherever we may be. Based on this very idea, there are three meta-functions of language termed Textual, Interpersonal and Ideational meta-functions of language. According to Halliday (2004), the term "metafunctions" was selected to imply that function is a crucial component of the theory as a whole (Ezzina, 2015).

The textual function of language depends on how meaning is organized inside a text. The selection of words and how they work in a sentence are crucial considerations. It also emphasizes how logically structured and cohesive the writing is. Clauses are perceived as messages, and the reader is aware of the relationships between the words in a text. The theme and the rheme are the two components of this sentence.

Similarly, in accordance with Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) methodology, mood, modality, and deixis are categorized as interpersonal function subsystems. Language's interpersonal meanings are the outcome of the interaction between these systems, where the grammatical system that conveys the speaker's emotional state and connection is called mood. It is achieved by the construction of clauses, especially through the use of tense, mood, and voice.

The ideational or experiential function of language allows a speaker or writer to express his or her worldview or beliefs through the words and phrases used and the



organization of the content. However, this study is only related to the Ideational function of language. Therefore, it has been discussed and rationalized extensively in the subsequent portion.

### **2.5.1 Ideational Function**

Halliday (2004) asserts that the ideational function of language is to offer a philosophy of human experience. This feature enables a speaker or writer to convey their viewpoint or beliefs through the language they use and the way their information is structured. The use of language to reflect reality or the lived experiences of people is known as the ideational function of language. This process, as its name implies, entails the actualization of ideas as they are expressed verbally or in writing. Similarly, according to Cunanan (2011), this language function organizes and evaluates the dialogue to get meaning from it. The experimental and logical phases make up the ideational process.

Surprisingly, the ideational perspective illuminates aspects of our daily lives, surroundings, and occurrences. It also clarifies possible results, participants, or experimentation circumstances. For instance, Dr Nancy (2016) examined news stories from 2013 on terrorism in Kenya using the transitivity system. She broke the data into phrases and pieces, evaluated it, and concluded that ideational meanings are conveyed through transitivity processes.

It is concluded from the study that a person with a strong sense of ideational function sees words and phrases as symbols of their own thoughts and ideas. The subjective nature of these decisions and the unique life experiences of each individual contribute to the diversity in these selections. The ideational function of language is actually the basis for the transitivity system in systemic functional linguistics.

### **2.5.2 Transitivity**

Having relevance to the ideational function, the transitivity system investigates the grammatical options the speaker makes in relation to his experiences, focusing on their semiotic meaning. It is a process-oriented framework for encoding and decoding lexico-grammatical representations of any knowledge or information pertaining to the

human experience (Halliday, Matthiessen, & Matthiessen, 2004). Only verbs and objects were considered in the traditional definition of transitivity. Halliday first maintained that the distinction between transitive and intransitive verbs and objects should be limited to that level of analysis but later argued that it should be extended to clauses as well. Halliday proposes a framework of transitivity that divides processes into three broad classes: material, mental, and relational. He also distinguishes three categories that occur in close proximity to the core processes: behavioral, verbal, and existential. Each process category has its own representational model or schema.

In the same way, Thompson (1996, p. 78) argues that transitivity is a way of defining the entire sentence as opposed to simply the verb and its object. It explains how the verb transfers meaning from subject to predicate (Hancock, 2005, p. 91). Therefore, only verbs and objects were considered in the traditional definition of transitivity. For instance, the distinction between transitive and intransitive verbs and objects is commonplace, yet Halliday suggested that this distinction needs to be extended to the clause-level analysis as well. Halliday (1994) states that "the processes, participants involved in the processes, and the conditions associated with the process (circumstances)" make up the three components of any given environment. The most crucial aspect of the circumstance is the fact that a verbal group may identify a process. A nominal group specifies the participant, whereas adverbial and prepositional phrases concretize the circumstances.

Halliday & Matthiessen proposed six process types which have been discussed below in six points:

- Material processes are defined as actions or occurrences that occur in the outer environment of humans (Saragih, 2010, p. 7). This process pertains to human bodily experience. According to Halliday (1994, p. 110), material processes are 'doing' processes.

They reflect the idea that one entity 'does' something that may be done 'to' another entity. Clauses containing a material process must include a doing (process), a doer (participant I), and an entity to whom the process is extended or directed (participant II).

- Saragih (2010) defines mental processes as verbs that indicate perception, cognition, affection, and desire. It allows language users to convey their opinions, thoughts, and tastes, which aid in identifying their notions of reality. This process type is characterized by employing verbs like think, know, feel, smell, hear, see, want, like, hate, please, repel, appreciate, enjoy, and fear.
- Through identification, attribution, and ownership, the relational process constructs existence and relation among entities (Saragih, 2010, p. 8). Both outside and inside the being, the process takes place. The verb "be" or certain verbs from the same class, known as copular verbs, include seem, become, appear, etc. Relational activities are occasionally realized by verbs like have, own and possess.
- Physiological and psychological behaviours such as breathing, sleeping, snoring, grinning, hiccupping, staring, observing, listening, and contemplating are examples of behavioral processes (Gerot and Wignel, 1994, p. 60). Since they lack any distinctly identifiable traits of their own and instead resemble both the material and the mental in some ways, they are the least distinct of the six process kinds. This kind can also be described as the liminal space between physical and mental activities. The only participant who is normally "behaving" in behavioral processes is the human, who is typically a conscious person.
- Speaking is undoubtedly an activity, and it would not be unreasonable to consider it a material process to some extent. On the other hand, it contains certain mental process characteristics, particularly if we assume that the verbalization of ideas is a type of inner speech. There is a case that can be made for introducing a new kind of process: verbal processes - verbs of 'saying'. According to Saragih (2010, p. 8), linguistic processes demonstrate information-related behaviours. Saying, commanding, asking, and offering are all part of the process.
- Existential process is processes of existence. It represents something which exists or happens. Hancock (2005, p. 240) states that existential processes are clauses that present an entity as existing without predicting anything additional about it. Moreover, Saragih (2010, p. 9) states that existential process shares features of

relational process in the sense that the common verb is BE (is, am, are, was, were, has, have been, etc.) and other verbs such as go, come, toil, exist, remain, arise, occur, happen, take place.

Based on the above discussion, it is concluded that these transitivity patterns help the researchers to identify the process types in any clause and make the interpretation easy for the researchers to find the implicit meaning of the text. Apart from the aforementioned rationale of aforementioned relevant concepts to this study, below are some of the relevant studies which also helped the researcher to rationalize her topic as well as to find the gap for the study.

## **2.6 Related studies**

One of the recent works on media discourse is of Abunahel, M.A's (2023) Transitivity Analysis of The Hindu and the Washington Post Reports, where he tried to explore the hidden ideology in portraying the Israeli onslaught on Gaza in August 2022. The study's findings suggested that the verbal and material processes were the most prevalent in both news mediums and that both newspapers tried to portray the same issue to present the demand of Palestinians for their land and the warlike situation in Gaza. There were three sides to the verbal exchange: the Palestinians, Israel, and the neutral. The results also show that both media use similar tactics to portray the Israeli and neutral verbal process, whereas the chosen media employ various tactics to portray the Palestinian verbal process to give representation to their voice. However, this study lacks a representation of the Israeli stance using similar processes. It is. Therefore, it is concluded that representing the concerns of one side does not lead to reliable conclusions.

Similarly, Khaemba, N.E (2022) studied transitivity choices and ideological representation in murder stories in the Kenyan Media. The study qualitatively examines the effectiveness of the Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) as a theoretical tool in the analysis of ideology in four different newspapers in Kenya, namely the Daily Nation, the Standard, the Star, and the Nairobiian, in relation to the representation of murder stories, on the basis of the purposefully sampled news stories on murders from the years 2018 to 2019. According to the study's hypothesis, ideological forces have changed the media's primary function by changing how news is produced, organized, and presented, and from

a sociolinguistic perspective, the effects of these forces may be seen at a transitivity level of linguistic analysis. The results show that news reporters employ transitivity decisions to spread and maintain particular ideas, but they should have taken into consideration how the general public perceives these types of incidents and their implications. Rather they collected the murder stories and reported the events as they happened.

Badawi, A.M & Najjar, A.I (2021), on the other hand, investigated the style of reporting in the political news headlines about the Christchurch Mosque Massacre in New Zealand in 2019 from two Western news agencies, namely BBC and CNN online websites. The findings demonstrated that verbal processes predominate over other types of processes, which facilitates verbalizing thoughts. Additionally, it was shown that the manner in which spoken experiences are modelled in news reporting helps to make it easier to attribute the supplied information to reliable sources, i.e., authorities and witnesses. Other forms of processes, such as material and mental processes, are nonetheless employed aesthetically in order to represent quantum shifts in both the physical and conscious worlds. While the behavioral processes assist the news reporters in making sense of the psychologically driven physical acts or emotions of people to the incident. However, this study fails to discuss the relevance of verbal and behavioral processes to provide future implications.

It is therefore, the researcher used the same theory in order to find out the transitivity patterns and their hidden meanings in Pakistani and Sri Lankan -selected English Newspapers representing the murder of Kumara. Apart from the study of reporting on massacres on media discourse, below are some of the studies on media discourse which have also been reviewed due to their theoretical relevance to the researcher's topic.

For instance, Hassan (2021) to examined the editorials published by Egyptian and Chinese outlets in light of the recent COVID-19 pandemic and drew conclusions about the editorials' usage of transitivity. This research aims to examine the language patterns employed by the media in both nations and determine the sorts of procedures and participants utilized in the editorials. Using a corpus-based methodology, the author compares and contrasts how the media in these two nations report on the epidemic and its

effects on society. According to the research, transitivity is handled differently in Egyptian and Chinese editorials. Editorials from Egypt tended to be less transitive and included more passive voice formulations.

In contrast, active voice structures and other forms of transitivity were more common in Chinese editorials. The research also discovered that contextual variables, such as the political and socioeconomic situations in each nation, impacted the transitivity patterns in the editorials. For instance, Chinese editorials put an emphasis on the significance of scientific research and innovation in halting the epidemic, whereas Egyptian editorials tended to concentrate more on government activities and policies. This research sheds light on the linguistic and discursive characteristics of Covid-19 editorials from two distinct cultural and linguistic perspectives.

Similarly, Qasim, Sibtain, & Nawaz (2020) conducted a study, and the purpose of their research was also to examine how Egyptian social media users felt about Covid-19 when it first emerged. This research used a mixed-methods approach, including content analysis of social media platforms and user surveys and interviews. According to the research's conclusions, Egyptians' impressions of Covid-19 were heavily influenced by the platform of social media. The research revealed that people's reactions to the epidemic on social media varied widely, from dread and worry to anger and dissatisfaction. However, The research found that social media users spread awareness and public health recommendations about Covid-19 via sharing information, news, and advice. Researchers also discovered that confidence in Covid-19-related material varied across various social media platforms. Some social media users put their faith in authoritative government sources, while others are more sceptical and prefer to get their news from personal connections. The research as a whole sheds light on the dynamic and intricate role played by social media in moulding Egyptians' views and opinions on Covid-19. This research shows that it is crucial to consider the varied experiences of social media users when crafting public health communication plans.

The purpose of Ekhteyar & Umrani (2021) examines the portrayal of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the Daily Dawn, and The News between 2016 and 2017. Halliday's transitivity system was employed for the transitivity analysis in this

research to illustrate the linguistic cues and tactics that newspapers adopt while depicting CPEC. The research found that both media favoured a pro-CPEC worldview by portraying CPEC as a topic of national economic importance. The investigation also discovered ideological disparities between the two media based on the vocabulary they chose to describe CPEC. The research indicates that its multidisciplinary approach yields novel results that differ from the canon of prior work on media conflict. The study sheds light on how CPEC and its economic importance are portrayed in Pakistan's print media. The research also emphasized the significance of critical discourse analysis and transitivity analysis for investigating ideologies and their portrayals in the media. The research is limited to a single year and does not examine CPEC's portrayal over a more extended period. This prevents us from learning how CPEC has been portrayed in the media over time and how it has evolved in reaction to shifting economic, political, and social conditions.

Furthermore, Khan, A & Eid, S.M (2021) studied newspaper discourse having hidden ideologies. According to them, Ideologies and interior experiences permeate the language of the news in general and newspaper stories in particular. The ideas ingrained in news items have a significant influence on their readership and subsequently lead them in a specific direction. The speakers and writers choose their points of view or articles in a way that semantically and syntactically conveys their goals and opinions. Their use of language makes inferences about their own political views. The article tried to uncover the philosophies and covert interests that have divided China and the USA over drone capture in the South China Sea. It was discovered from the analysis that news stories are not objective and that each side attempts to impose its own agenda and protect its interests because both sides' reports have distinct objectives; transparency and impartiality are actually lacking in them. There are numerous differences between China and the US, and this episode stokes the flames of already heated disagreements like the trade war and others. By analyzing the texts using the transitivity method and placing news stories in context, readers may explore the hidden ideologies and realities in any media discourse. It suggests that transitivity is the best tool to identify the realities in newspaper discourse.

Based on the reviews of the above studies of Transitivity Analysis on media discourse, such as Abunahel, M.A's (2023), Khaemba, N.E (2022), Hassan (2021) and Qasim, Sibtain, & Nawaz (2020), the researcher came to the conclusion that transitivity theory is the best tool to uncover the hidden ideologies behind any discourse. Moreover, little effort has been put into identifying the realities behind Kumara's murder using this theory in selected Pakistani and Sri Lankan Newspapers. So, it helped the researcher to identify the realities behind his murder.



## CHAPTER 3

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This section served as a crucial framework for conducting this research. It outlines the systematic approach employed to gather, analyze, and interpret data. It ensures the credibility and reliability of the study, paving the way for meaningful findings and insightful conclusions.

#### 3.1 Theoretical Framework

Halliday's *An Introduction to Functional Grammar*, introduced in 1994, serves as the foundation for this study. He developed a theory of Fundamental Functions of Language or Systemic Functional Grammar. In this grammatical system, the emphasis is on the social functions of both spoken and written language. Its primary focus is to study language beyond its sentence level. It necessitates a descriptive approach to language, concentrating on the words that work together to produce meaning rather than a prescriptive one, as is typical in traditional grammar. As per Halliday, every language constitutes three meta-functions. These meta-functions of language provide a comprehensive framework for analyzing and understanding the functions of language in communication. These meta-functions include experiential, interpersonal, and textual. The experiential meta-function focuses on the representation of experience and the construal of reality through language. It allows researchers to explore how language conveys meanings about the world, including the description of events, states, and entities (Halliday, 1994).

Ideational meta function plays a crucial role in identifying underlying realities behind newspaper data as newspapers are valuable sources of information and frequently try to offer factual descriptions of events and concerns. Ideational meta-function helps to investigate how language is used to describe these occurrences and generate meanings. This meta-function provides for examining processes, participants, and circumstances in the text, allowing for a greater comprehension of the content while focusing on the implicit meaning of a text.

Through its focus on processes, the experiential meta-function plays a crucial role in uncovering implicit meanings in newspaper texts. Implicit meanings refer to those that are hinted at or suggested indirectly rather than explicitly stated (Eggins, 1997). One can reveal the underlying intentions, values, and ideologies embedded within the language by examining the text's processes, such as material, mental, relational, verbal, behavioral, and existential processes. This analysis enables a more nuanced interpretation of the text beyond its surface-level content, providing insights into the author's perspective, biases, and the broader social context in which the text is situated (Thompson, 2004).

Using transitivity processes to analyze information from Pakistani and Sri Lankan newspapers proved to be a valuable tool for uncovering the underlying realities of Kumara's murder. Transitivity processes helped establish relationships and connections between different elements in the text, enabling one to infer and make sense of the information presented. Additionally, transitivity processes allowed the researcher to establish cause-and-effect relationships, helping us determine the actions that led to Kumara's murder and understand the motivations behind them. Analyzing the language and descriptions used in the newspapers, the researcher gained insights into the socio-political context surrounding the crime, identifying potential conflicts or tensions that may have influenced the murder. The researcher also found implicit or hidden information in the text using transitivity analysis, indicating any reporting gaps or biases that could have been intentional. Understanding the underlying truths and discovering the truth behind Kumara's murder depend much on this rigorous study. Transitivity processes are a valuable investigative tool because they offer a methodical way to identify connections, causes, context, and hidden information in news articles.

The explanation of processes and their functions along with the relevant examples from the selected editorials have been given below:

### **Material Process**

The physical or tangible parts of communication are involved in material processes. These processes investigate the ways in which actions and events shape meaning (Thompson, 2004). Researchers discovered that implicit meanings embed word

choices by concentrating on the material component. As a result, it aided the researcher in identifying emotions or intents that were not directly represented in the text.

**Example:** “...this time the sickeningly familiar ritual of savage violence **was enacted** (material process) in Sialkot” (The Dawn Newspaper).

### **Mental Process**

Mental processes refer to the cognitive and psychological aspects of communication. These processes delve into the participants' thoughts, perceptions, and attitudes. By investigating mental processes, researchers gained insights into implicit meanings by uncovering the underlying beliefs, values, or ideologies that influence communication. This understanding also allowed the researchers to find hidden biases, stereotypes, or cultural norms that shape the implicit meanings within a discourse.

**Example:** “the extremism among us **turned on** (mental process) an individual who was a guest in the country”. (The Dawn Newspaper).

### **Relational Process**

Relational processes investigate the interpersonal dynamics and interactions that occur during communication. These processes look at how people interact with one another, develop alliances, and construct hierarchies. With its help, one can discover hidden meanings contained in power dynamics, social connections, or group identities that impact communication through examining relational interactions. Moreover, this process assists in uncovering hidden beliefs, societal expectations, or normative behaviour (Halliday, 1994).

**Example:** “it takes now **is** (relational process) an allegation of blasphemy and an individual or two to incite a mob to commit murder”. (International the News).

### **Behavioral Process**

Behavioral processes look at the acts and behaviours that occur during communication. These procedures are concerned with observable behaviours that reveal implicit meanings. With the help of it, researchers interpret nonverbal clues, patterns of

interaction, or changes in behaviour that convey implicit intentions, emotions, or social dynamics by analyzing behavioral processes. This investigation aids in the identification of silent agreements, hidden conflicts, or implicit standards that govern communication.

**Example:** “the accused must be **heard** (behavioral process), Islam commands”. (Colombo Telegraph).

### **Verbal Process**

Verbal processes are concerned with the language choices and structures employed in communication. It helps to uncover implicit meanings using language strategies such as metaphor, irony, and euphemism by investigating the verbal component. These language techniques frequently communicate subtly different meanings than the explicit substance of a communication. Analyzing the language processes helps reveal hidden implications, motives, or symbolic representations (Thompson, 2004).

**Example:** “Prime Minister Khan **has pledged** (verbal process) justice..”. (Daily Mirror Online).

### **Existential Process**

In interpersonal interaction, existential processes investigate the condition of being and existence. These procedures investigate how people perceive themselves in relation to the world and others. Like the processes mentioned above, it also helps uncover implicit meanings by analyzing the underlying assumptions, identities, or social roles individuals accept while researching existential processes. Understanding these existential dimensions aids the researcher in uncovering hidden power dynamics, societal hierarchies, or underlying intentions inside a speech (Halliday, 1994).

**Example:** “.....and let there **be** (existential process) no mistake”. (The Dayspring).

### **Participants**

Halliday (2004) argues that "participants are inherent in the process: every experiential type of clause has at least one participant, and certain types have up to three participants." (p. 175). The nominal group in any clause represents the participant. They

have been named differently in all the six transitivity types proposed by Halliday. The function of the participant in a clause determines the distinction. It is therefore, the researcher took into consideration the specific participants for each and the process type used in the selected clauses of the editorials in order to better explain the motives behind using specific kinds of processes.

**Example:** “**the mob** (participant) then dragged his mangled body out on the road”. (The Dawn Newspaper).

### **Circumstance**

Unlike participants, circumstance encodes the context in which the processes occur. They may, for example, pinpoint the processes in time or space, give explanations for their occurrence, or shed light on the root causes of the processes. Halliday (1994, p. 151). These are also important for the effective conveyance of any message. The elements of circumstance include existent (distance, duration), cause (reason, purpose, behalf), accompaniment (Commutative, additive), matter, location (Place, time), manner (means, quality, and comparison), and role (Thompson, 1996).

**Example:** “...not surprisingly, however, the official denunciation only touch upon **the here and now, the tip of iceberg**”.(The Dawn Newspaper).

The above discussion of process, participant, and circumstance depicts that Halliday's definition of transitivity differs from the traditional definition of transitivity. Traditionally, transitivity is associated with processes or verbs that include a direct object. The verbs that have a direct thing are known as transitive verbs. Verbs without a direct object are said to be intransitive. Halliday's notion of transitivity is an improvement of the traditional idea of transitivity. According to him, actor, process, and circumstance are essential rather than direct and indirect objects. Therefore, according to Halliday (1981), transitivity is "the grammar of the clause as a structural unit for expressing a specific set of ideational meanings." Transitivity is concerned with both form and meaning. The rationale for selecting transitivity was that it effectively evaluates the clauses. It aids the researchers in encoding our perceptions of the world.

In Halliday's systemic functional linguistics, the experiential metafunction deals with how language represents our experience of the world. Transitivity, within this framework, is a key component. The blurring of boundaries among different transitivity processes can be understood through shifts in the experiential metafunction. Verbs that traditionally represent one transitivity pattern may evolve to accommodate various processes based on the context. For example, a verb might transition from primarily expressing a material process (doing or making) to encompassing relational or mental processes, depending on how it's used in different contexts. This blurring reflects the flexibility of language to adapt and convey a range of experiences, contributing to the dynamic nature of transitivity within Halliday's framework.

Moreover, this theory often connects language to its social context. It means that it focuses on the purpose and usage of language concerning its context or social situation. According to this idea, language serves both functional and social purposes. It is generally accepted that everyone has one's own distinct way of expressing themselves, which means that everyone expresses differently or unusually, but one also emphasizes certain features when using language to talk about the world (inner/outer). As a result, the semantic and syntactic decisions one makes to communicate, serve, or show their stance are founded on the idea that one arranges their editorials according to how one sees a situation or the meanings one desire to convey.

Based on the above-stated reasons for transitivity, the current study tried to explore how Pakistani English newspapers and Sri Lankan English newspapers represented Kumar's murder through various processes in their editorials. Moreover, it tried to draw out the underlying realities (intentions, thoughts and ideologies) behind the incident by taking the help of transitivity patterns.

### **3.2 Research Design**

The study used a mixed-method approach, with qualitative research assisting in the analysis of diverse real-world situations in their temporal and local forms and quantitative research allowing for the confirmation and authentication of facts (Flick, 2018). According to Angouri (2018), combining a study's quantitative and qualitative

aspects yields more comprehensive insights into the phenomenon being investigated, as the former allows for more in-depth analysis (linguistic analysis in this case) while the latter contributes to more broad-brush conclusions. To carry out this research, the researcher has employed both qualitative and quantitative approaches. For instance, this study is quantitative in the sense that it dealt with the numbering of clauses and transitivity patterns and qualitative in the sense that it dealt with the interpretation of the transitivity patterns used in the selected editorials in order to identify the underlying realities behind Priyantha Kumara's murder. It is. Therefore, made this study a mixed-method approach. Moreover, the transitivity system of SFG has been used for the clause-level analysis of the selected editorials.

### **3.3 Research Sample**

A purposive sampling technique has been employed in this study. It is therefore, the present study has been delimited in terms of the sample size of 8 editorials and the geographical area of Sri Lankan and Pakistani English newspapers. This study employed 8 editorials from two countries. Four editorials have been taken from Sri Lankan English newspapers and four from Pakistani English newspapers. By keeping the objectives and research questions in mind, selective clauses from these editorials have been taken for analysis that specifically represented the murder. The rest of the information has been omitted from these editorials. Therefore, the present study intended to use transitivity analysis to explore how Pakistani and Sri Lankan English newspapers presented this issue through various processes in their editorials.

The selection of editorials for linguistic analysis is underpinned by their unique characteristics distinct from news reports, features, and articles. Editorials serve as a distinctive genre, characterized by an overt expression of the author's perspective, often containing subjective evaluations, interpretations, and calls to action. Unlike news reports that aim for objectivity, editorials embrace subjectivity, reflecting the author's stance on socio-political issues. This genre not only encapsulates information but also articulates opinions, fostering a rich ground for exploring the intricacies of language use.

Editorials are particularly fertile ground for transitivity analysis due to their inherent communicative goals. The deliberate use of transitivity within editorials serves

to construct and convey nuanced meaning, enabling an examination of how specific linguistic choices contribute to persuasive or argumentative elements. Transitivity analysis unveils the strategic deployment of processes and participants, shedding light on the rhetorical strategies employed within editorials. Investigating transitivity in this context provides a lens through which to understand the deliberate construction of meaning, making editorials a valuable subject for linguistic inquiry.

### **3.4 Data Collection and Data Analysis tools**

The data was retrieved from the official websites of the selected newspapers, which leaves no doubts about their authenticity. Eight editorials have been selected. Selected editorials cover the murder of Priyantha Kumara and the representation of his murder in multi-faceted way. It is therefore, the use of a focused sample of eight newspapers (four from each country) allowed for a manageable analysis within time and word limitations. This approach ensured that a comprehensive understanding of the incident's representation could be gained from various perspectives. Commonalities that led to choosing these particular newspapers might include their reputation, wide readership, and perceived influence within their respective countries. Additionally, these newspapers might have been known for their coverage of sensitive or controversial topics, which would make their analysis relevant in the context of Priyantha Kumara's lynching. By focusing on how different types of linguistic processes were employed to construct the underlying realities of the incident, the researcher aimed to shed light on the nuances of media representation and the role of language in shaping public perceptions. The selected Sri Lankan editorials were taken from "Daily Mirror Online," "The Island Online," "Colombo Telegraph," and "Daily Newspaper." while Pakistani English newspapers editorials were taken from "Daily Times," "The Dayspring," "The International News," and "Dawn." Moreover, all the selected editorials were published in December 2021 right after the Murder of Priyantha Kumara in Sialkot.

The current study used transitivity system as a tool to look at the selected text.



### **3.5 Data Analysis Procedure**

This study employed eight (8) editorials from two countries. Data analysis was divided into two sections. The first section includes editorials from Pakistani English newspapers, including 'The Dawn', 'International the News', 'Daily Times' and 'The Dayspring', while the second section deals with Sri-Lankan English newspapers. The selected newspapers are from 'Colombo Telegraph', 'Daily Newspaper', 'Daily Mirror Online' and 'The Island Online'. Moreover, all the selected editorials were published in December 2021, right after the Murder of Priyantha Kumara in Sialkot. First of all, the researcher manually extracted the clauses related to her objectives and questions of the study and put them in different columns based on the process type. Secondly, she labelled them using transitivity processes. Finally, the collected data was analyzed based on the transitivity patterns (material, mental, verbal, behavioral, relational and existential) employed by each editorial in the clauses related to Kumara's murder and stated the description and interpretation at the end of each editorial in order to answer the objectives raised in the study.

Moreover, a detailed interpretation and chart presentation has been given at the end. However, this section presented the chosen theoretical framework, research design, data collection methods, and analysis techniques. It ensured the reliability and validity of results, aligning with research objectives to provide a systematic approach for generating accurate findings.

## CHAPTER 4

### DATA ANALYSIS

This section deals with the analysis of all the selected editorials from Pakistani and Sri Lankan English newspapers. It has been divided into two sections. The first section includes editorials from Pakistani English newspapers, including ‘The Dawn’, ‘International The News’, ‘Daily Times’ and ‘The Dayspring’ while the second section deals with Sri Lankan English newspapers. The selected newspapers are from ‘Colombo Telegraph’, ‘Daily Newspaper’, ‘Daily Mirror Online’ and ‘The Island Online’. Moreover, all the selected editorials were published in December 2021, right after the Murder of Priyantha Kumara in Sialkot. First of all, the researcher has extracted the clauses related to her objectives and questions of the study and put them in different columns based on the process type. Secondly, she labelled them using transitivity processes. Finally, she has analyzed each and every clause using the transitivity theory. Moreover, there is a detailed interpretation representing the underlying realities behind the murder and a chart presentation at the end of this chapter. The researcher has made pie charts with the help of Microsoft word based on the percentage of processes used in each selected newspaper editorial and opted for them to visually represent data due to their ability to display proportions effectively as they give holistic view of the overall distribution of data. Converting data into percentages instead of angles simplifies comparison and comprehension for viewers. Percentages offer a clear insight into relative sizes, aiding in quick interpretation of the data's significance. This choice enhances accessibility for a wider audience, as angles can be more challenging to interpret accurately. Ultimately, the decision to use percentages in pie charts ensures a user-friendly representation that facilitates meaningful insights and promotes better understanding of the data distribution. This study proved to be significant in exploring their underlying intentions, thoughts, and ideologies presented in the editorials to portray the murder of Priyantha Kumara.

## 4.1: Pakistani Newspapers

This section includes the clauses taken from the selected editorials from Pakistani newspapers. The researcher has chosen those clauses which are related to the representation of Priyantha Kumara's murder.

### 4.1.1: The Dawn Newspaper

The clauses have been identified based on their relation with the researcher's objectives and questions. To put it more simply, all the selected clauses are related to the representation of Kumara's murder and put them in columns to identify the participants, processes and circumstances below. The rest of the clauses have been excluded from the editorials.

Clause 1: "once again, we are reminded how far this nation has descended into the abyss.

Once again	We	are reminded	how far this nation has descended to the abyss
Cir. Matter	Phenomenon	Pr. mental	embedded

The process in the above-mentioned clause is a mental process where "we" is the phenomenon and "reminded" is the process. According to Halliday & Matthiessen (2004, p. 197), mental processes deal with the process of feeling, thinking, wanting, and perceiving. Here in this clause, the writer feels that we as a nation drop ourselves into a pit from where it will be quite difficult for us to come out again. Actually, he is referring to the practice of extra-judicial killings in the country. The circumstance "once again" refers to the fact that these types of extra-judicial killings also happened in the past before the killing of Kumara, a Sri Lankan national. Implicitly, he condemns these types of killings and warns the nation not to take the law for granted. The subsequent clause further explains it.

Clause 2: "this time the sickeningly familiar ritual of savage violence was enacted in Sialkot."

this time	the sickeningly familiar ritual of savage violence	was enacted	in Sialkot
Cir. Time	Goal	Pr. Material	Cir. Location

Again, the writer refers to the murder of Kumara in Sialkot by taking the help of material process “enacted”. According to Halliday (1967), material process is used to show the actions which have been done practically. He used the adjunct “sickeningly” to show his disgust on the matter that it should not have done before it was proved from the court that he had committed blasphemy. Moreover, the phrase “savage violence” gives the meaning that it was not according to the law.

Clause 3: “the mob then dragged his mangled body out on the road”.

the mob	Then	Dragged	his mangled body	out on the road
Actor	Cir, time	Pr. Material	Goal	Cir. Location

Here in this clause, the writer again used a material process “dragged” to represent the extra-judicial killing of Kumara a Sri-Lankan national worked as a manager in a factory in Sialkot. The process “dragged” combines with the goal “his mangled body” gives the meaning that the corpse was humiliated and mutilated by the people without going deep into the matter.

Clause 4: “where individuals on the scene-as if to underscore their utter lack of humanity took selfies with the burning corpse.”

Where	Individuals on the scene-as if to underscore their utter lack of humanity	Took	selfies	With the burning corpse
Cir, location	Actor	Pr, material	Goal	Cir, matter

Using the material process “took”, the writer once again tried to convey the meaning that what the mob did to the corpse was an inhuman act. They burnt the corpse and went against humanitarian laws. He actually wants to convey that he must have been given a chance to present his stance before the court. The court would decide whether he was guilty of blasphemy or not. Furthermore, he also used the expression “individuals on the scene” to represent that some people were involved in it but not the whole country.

This point has thoroughly explained it in the next clause.

Clause 5: “What followed the grisly murder was predictable: condemnation by the political leadership, with vowing to punish the perpetrators to the fullest extent of law”.

What followed the grisly murder	Was	Predictable	Condemnation by the political leadership, with vowing to punish the perpetrators to the fullest extent of law
Carrier	Pr, relational	Attribute	Cir. Manner

According to Thompson, G. (2004), the relational process is the process which tells about the relation of two entities or what is the effect of one entity on the other. It is, therefore, the writer who has used a relational process to tell the readers that the murder

was widely condemned by the people and government of Pakistan and declared it an inhumane activity. The expression “grisly murder” further says that the incident was quite frightful for the people. In the same way, the words like “condemnation”, “punish”, and “law” give the meaning that the government disliked that act and issued orders to punish the violators of the law. It also implies that the nation has condemned that extra-judicial act.

Clause 6: “for the same reason perhaps, religious bodies have also shown alacrity where they usually maintain a deafening silence...”.

For the same reason perhaps	religious bodies	Have	Also	shown	alacrity	Where they usually maintain a deafening silence
Cir. reason	Behavior	Process	Adjunct	Pr. behavioral	Behaviour	

As mentioned previously that the act of murder was an extra-judicial act. The writer used a behavioral process to show that all the groups (religious and political) have condemned that act and demanded a fair trial. Gerot and Wignell (1994) defined the behavioral process as the process of psychological behaviour. So, it has been used here to show the mentality of the people, whether they are favouring those who did it or condemn it. Here, the behaviour “alacrity” refers that almost all the people showed their willingness to the government to punish those who took the law into their hands.

Clause 7: “and issued statements to condemn the lynching”.

and	Issued	statements	to condemn the lynching
	Pr. Verbal	Verbiage	Adjunct

Here in this clause, the writer has taken the help of verbal process to show that even the religious groups asked the government to take necessary action on that incident. According to Halliday (1994, p. 140), "verbal process is the process of saying". So, the verbal process "issued" combined with the adjunct "to condemn the lynching" suggests that the religious groups also showed their disagreement on the unlawful incident.

Clause 8: "it is indeed a day of shame for Pakistan".

It	Is	Indeed	a day of shame for Pakistan
	Pr. Existential	Adjunct	Existent

According to Halliday (2004), the existential process refers to something that 'exists' or 'happens' in a real or imaginative world. It is, therefore, the existential process "is" with its existent "a day of shame for Pakistan" has been used to forecast the image of Pakistan in the world. In the opinion of the writer, it was the day of shame for Pakistan because there was an extra-judicial killing of a foreign national happened on its land. Again, this clause also explicitly gives the meaning that all the segments of society disliked that act.

Clause 9: "... this time the extremism among us turned on an individual who was a guest in the country"

this time	the extremism among us	turned on	an individual	who was a guest in the country
Cir. Time	Sensor	Pr. Mental	phenomenon	Embedded

While in this clause, the writer has used the mental process to show sympathy for the murderer. As according to Halliday (2004), the Mental processes are related to human perception (see, hear, feel), cognition (know, understand, believe), affection (like, love),

and desire (hope, want, wish). So the mental process “turned on” indicates the perception of the people who killed Kumara. They had the perception that he had committed blasphemy. It further suggests that a foreign national must be given respect until he commits something wrong, but the violators must be given a chance to put forward their case to the court. Moreover, the circumstance of time “this time” refers to the fact that these types of killings happened in the past as well.

Clause 10: “not surprisingly, however, the official denunciation only touch upon the here and now, the tip of iceberg”.

nor surprisingly	However	the official denunciation	only	touch upon	the here and now, the tip of iceberg
Adjunct		phenomenon		Pr. mental	Cir. Reason

Here in this clause, the writer again made use of the mental process “touch upon” to show his perception about the effect of the official condemnation of the murder on the people. He believed that the official denunciation would escalate the tension between Pakistan and the country from where Kumara belonged to. This clause implicitly states that the government of Pakistan always avoids unlawful activities on its land and believes in fair trials.

Clause 11: “all it takes now is an allegation of blasphemy and an individual or two to incite a mob to commit murder”.

All it takes now	Is	an allegation of blasphemy	and (an individual or two) to incite a mob to commit murder
	Pr. Relational	Attribute	Carrier (embedded)



According to Halliday (1967), the relational process is the process which talks about the intrinsic relation of two entities. Here in this segment, the writer has used the identifier “an allegation of blasphemy” and the identifier “individual or two” to state that the court should decide whether someone has committed blasphemy or not. Any layperson must be stopped to decide it.

Clause 12: “we must reverse course before the flames of intolerance devour us as a nation”.

We	must reverse	Course	before the flames of intolerance devour us as a nation
Senser	Pr. Mental	phenomenon	Cr. Time

Here in this clause, the mental process “reverse” suggests that as a nation, we must devise ways to lessen the practice of putting allegations of blasphemy on people and killing them by certain groups of people. Rather, the accuser must be given a chance to defend in the courts. While the circumstance of time suggests that if we do not take control of these issues, the environment of intolerance will affect us.

#### **4.1.1.1: Discussion**

The researcher has taken twelve (12) clauses from the article. All the clauses are related to the representation of Kumara's murder. The writer has used four mental, three material, two relational, one behavioral, one verbal and one existential process to represent the murder. The prominent process is the mental process. According to Halliday (1994), people use mental process to present what is going on inside their heads. For instance, Rehman 2020 studied Nova Anggraini's thesis and under its analysis of transitivity. In a total of 708 clauses, he found 52% to be related to material process, 9% to mental process, 25% to relational process, 8% to verbal process, 4% to behavioral process, and 2% to existential process. She analyzed Donald Trump's beliefs on patriotism, equality, citizen participation, and the nation's significance as shown in his speeches.

Moreover, Alhumsi, M, H &Alsaedi, N, S (2023), Zhang (2014), and Ahmadian&Farahani, 2014) studied different media discourses using transitivity and tried to explore the implicit meanings which these discourses used to present CPEC and US-Iran relations. Relational processes were dominant in these studies representing the motives to maintain good relations among the countries. In the same way, the writer in this editorial used these processes to tell about peoples' perceptions of the murder. The processes like "reminded", turned on", and "reverse" suggest that these types of acts should be discouraged. Moreover, an expression like "savage violence", "mangled body", and "condemnation" indicates that this act was disliked by the government and issued the order to punish the perpetrators. It also suggests that it was widely condemned by the people.

#### 4.1.2: International The News

Clause 13: “Priyantha Kumara was my Country’s proud foreign worker”.

Priyantha Kumara	Was	my country’s proud foreign worker
	Pr. Existential	Existent

Here in this editorial, the writer used the existential process to show sympathy to Kumara. The existent “my country’s proud foreign worker” suggests that he was a committed worker and did his work vigilantly. This clause implicitly states that the writer condemns the murder of Kumara.

Clause 14: “they expect their foreign hosts to be compassionate to them”

They	Expect	their foreign hosts	to be compassionate to them
Sensor	Pr. Mental	Phenomenon	Infinitives

As mentioned earlier, that mental process is used to present the psychological state of an individual. Here, the writer used a mental process "expect" to show what type of things a foreigner wants from the host's country? The foreigners usually expect that they should be respected in the host country and given their rights, particularly the right to a fair trial. So, this clause gives the meaning that Kumara was a foreign national and he should have been given a chance to defend himself in court.

Clause 15: “this horrific and unpardonable act of a section of Pakistan has surely discredited the country...”

This horrific and unpardonable act of a section of Pakistan	Has	surely	discredited	the country
Sensor		Adjunct	Pr. Mental	Phenomenon

Similarly, the writer again made use of mental process to talk about the image of Pakistan in the world. The process “discredited” refers that the very accident has put questions on the mind of the world community. It presents an image to the world community that there is religious intolerance in Pakistan, but it has been clarified with the help of a sensor, “this horrific and unpardonable act of a section of Pakistan”, that it was not the act of the whole nation but a section of people. So, the majority of the public and the government condemned it.

Clause 16: “the Sri Lankan was not the first victim of a radicalized mindset...”.

The Sri Lankan	Was	not the first victim	of a radicalized mindset
	Pr. Existential	Existent	Circumstance

Here, “the Sri Lankan” refers to Kumara. The existential process “was” and its existent “not a first victim” implies that the murder of Kumara is not the only case, but these types of accidents also happened in the past. The expression “radicalized mindset” suggests that these types of acts have been done by some sections of people. It has been thoroughly explained in the subsequent clause.

Clause 17: “many Pakistani sons and daughters too have fallen victim to extremism and intolerance”.

Many Pakistani sons and daughters	too	Have	Fallen	victim	to extremism and intolerance
Actor			Pr. Material	Goal	Cir. Reason

The writer, in this clause, made use of material process “fallen” to explain the aforementioned clause further. The process “fallen” combines with goal “victim” refers that there happened such type of cases with the nationals of the country apart from Kumara’s murder. Moreover, the circumstance “to extremism and intolerance” suggests that it is the act of those who take the extreme of anything and usually do not tolerate others. It indirectly entails that people should not decide such cases rather they should refer these cases to the court.

Clause 18: “a culture of otherness has unfortunately mushroomed in our midst”.

A culture of otherness	Has	unfortunately	mushroomed	in our midst
Phenomenon		Cir. matter	Pr. Mental	Cir. Place

Again in this clause, the writer used the mental process “mushroomed” to refer to the practice of considering some people out of the circle of some society. According to

him, our society has a culture of otherness, and it directly gives birth to likes and dislikes. Moreover, it suggests that we should avoid dividing people on the bases of race, religion and locality. It actually promotes hatred in society. The subsequent clause provides its antidote.

Clause 19: “and none other than the religious elite, community peers, political leaders, teachers and parents are responsible for this mindset”.

And none other than the religious elite, community peers, political leaders, teachers and parents	Are	Responsible	for this mindset
Carrier	Pr. Relational	Attribute	Cir. Reason

Here in this clause, the circumstance “for this mindset” refers to the previously mentioned concept of otherness. By taking the help of the carrier “and none other than the religious elite, community peers, political leaders, teachers and parents” and the attribute “responsible”, the writer tried to make it clear that the aforementioned people can help their people to make them understand the fundamental rights of everyone living in society. They can also help them to understand that they should refer their issues to the court rather than taking the law into their hands.

Clause 20: “Kumara’s brutal end and its ramification need to be seriously pondered to, at least come up with a policy to exterminate the bigoted mindset”.

Kumara’s brutal end and its ramification	need to be	seriously	Pondered to	at least come up with a policy to exterminate the bigoted mindset
Phenomenon		adjunct	Pr. Mental	

Similarly, the mental process “pondered” suggest that all the influential people in society must consider the issue of killing by taking the blame for blasphemy. It should be decided in the courts whether someone has done it or not. He took the help of the phenomenon “Kumara’s brutal end and its ramification” to make the meaning that all the country's people must be vigilant to curb these types of incidents and must condemn if something against the law happens.

Clause 21: “Sialkot’s lynching too is an act of terrorism”.

Sialkot’s lynching	Too	is	an act of terrorism
Identified		Pr. Relational	Value

Here, the identified “Sialkot’s lynching” refers to the murder of Kumara, which happened in a factory in Sialkot. There a mob killed him by the allegation of blasphemy. The value “an act of terrorism” suggest that the writer considers it a kind of terrorism in the sense that it puts so many questions on the mind of all the other foreign workers in the country and spreads fear among them.

Clause 22: “but this time the people were not faceless”.

But this time	the people	were not	Faceless
Cir. Time	Token	Pr. Relational	Value

The writer again used the relational process to refer to the fact that now the people have come up with a different idea about such types of killings. To put it more simply, now the people openly condemn such types of incidents and ask the government to take necessary steps to curb them. It implicitly states that the country's people did not favour those who did this act.

Clause 23: “did anyone from the mob ever think that millions of Pakistanis work overseas”.

Did	anyone from the mob	ever	Think	that millions of Pakistanis work overseas
	Sensor	Adjunct	Pr. Mental	Embedded

The mental process “think” combined with the embedded clause “that millions of Pakistanis work overseas” gives the meaning that many of Pakistani nationals work in different foreign countries, and the incidents like Kumara’s murder pose a threat to them. If we respect the foreign national in our country and give them the right to a fair trial, other nations will also respect our nation. So, it explicitly states that we as a nation should respect the foreign nationals in our country.

Clause 24: “what if Pakistanis are marginalized shunned and discriminated against?”

What	if Pakistanis	are	marginalized	shunned	discriminated	against
	phenomenon		Pr. Mental	Pr. Mental	Pr. mental	Cir. matter

Again in this clause, the writer made use of three mental processes, “marginalized”, “shunned”, and “discriminated”, to put emphasis on the fact that we should avoid discriminating others in our country and give them due respect. Definitely, it would not sound better if the same happens with any Pakistani in a foreign country. It also implies that every foreigner should also be given a chance to defend himself/herself in the court if he/she is a suspect of any crime.

#### **4.1.2.1: Discussion**

The above-analyzed editorial has been taken from the well-known English newspaper "International The News". From it, the researcher has extracted twelve clauses

which are directly related to the murder of Kumara. There the writer has made use of six mental, three relational, two existential and one material processes to represent Kumara's murder. The excessive use of mental process shows that the country's people disfavored the act of killing a foreign national without giving him a chance to defend himself in court. For instance, the processes like "marginalize", "shunned", and "pondered" collectively give the meaning that this very act has put questions on the minds of the people, particularly the foreign nationals, whether they are safe or not. Moreover, according to Thompson, G. (2004), a relational process indicates a relationship between two entities. For instance, Yuqiong, Z. (2018) used Transitivity to analyze David Cameron's speech. The goal of the research was to discover the distribution of processes as well as the underlying meaning of David Camroon's speech. Apart from it, Basha, K.j. (2018) studied about two distinct publications in Indonesia presenting opposite points of view using Transitivity. His primary concern was to determine how those web publications spread information. He discovered that relational and mental processes help people maintain relations with others. So, the use of the existential process in this editorial suggests that the consequences might be bad for the people of the country who work in foreign countries. In the same way, the material process is the process of doing and acting, while the existential process refers to the existence of some entity or the process of being (Halliday, 1994, p. 44). It is; therefore, these processes have been used to ask the government to take actions according to the existing laws of the country about these types of incidents. Similarly, Zhang (2017) analyzed Donald Trump's first television debate with Hillary Clinton. The researcher explored the distribution and the functions of the six transitivity process types used by the two candidates. The results of this study showed that material processes, relational processes and mental processes dominated both candidates' speeches. The use of these processes was meant to influence the attitudes of their audience. Similarly, Zhao and Zhang (2017) explored the distribution and functions of the six process types in Trump's inaugural address 2017. The researchers found that material processes (68.6%) highly dominated speech. President Trump used material processes "to paint a bleak picture of America and to describe new actions the government will take.



### 4.1.3: Daily Times

Clause 25: “all efforts to project the soft image of Pakistan foundered on one gruesome incident”.

All efforts to project the soft image of Pakistan	foundered on	one gruesome incident
Goal	Pr. Material	Actor

In this clause, the actor “one gruesome incident” refers to the murder of Kumara. With the help of the process “foundered on”, the writer tried to make the people understand that these types of incidents adversely affect the image of Pakistan in other countries. At the same time, the goal “all the efforts ..” also show that the government and the people try to present a good image of Pakistan, but incidents like Kumara’s murder become a hurdle to it.

Clause 26: “on the allegation of blasphemy, the zealots set his corpse ablaze to quench the religious thirst”.

On the allegation of blasphemy	the zealots	set	his corpse	ablaze to quench the religious thirst
Cir. Reason	Actors	Pr. Material	Goal	Infinitive

Again, in this clause, the writer has made use of the material process “set” along with an infinitive “to quench the religious thirst” to show that the very incident happened due to the arousal of religious sentiments in the youth. He called the accusers “the zealots”. It indirectly refers that the writer was not in favour of what had happened to Kumara, and it was due to the segmentation of societies based on otherness.

Clause 27: “the immediate reason was the religious sticker....”.

The immediate reason	Was	the religious stickers
Token	Pr. Relational	Value

According to Thompson (2004), sometimes, we use relational process to show the abstract relationship between two things. So, the writer made use of the relational process to tell about the cause of Kumara's murder. According to the mob, he had shown disrespect to religious stickers which had been pasted on the machines in the factory. Actually, he had issued orders to remove them before the visit of a foreign delegation to the factory. The writer further explains it in the next clause.

Clause 28: "the underlying cause was his being a disciplinarian...".

The underlying cause	Was	his being a disciplinarian
Token	Pr. Relational	Identified

Here, the writer has used the token "the underlying cause" and the identified "his being a disciplinarian" to make the meaning that he might not know what was written on the sticker. According to him, he might have ordered the workers to remove the stickers to show him a disciplined employee before the visitors. The subsequent clause further elaborated on this point.

Clause 29: "...who wished to intensify the performance of the factory by enhancing the efficiency of the workforce".

Who	Wished	to intensify the performance of the factory by enhancing the efficiency of the workforce
Sensor	Pr. Mental	Infinitive

This clause, by using the mental process “wished,” explains the reason behind the order to remove stickers from the machines in the factory. According to Halliday (1994), the mental process is the process of “feeling, thinking and seeing”. It is; therefore, the writer made use of it to present the motive of Kumara behind the order to remove the sticker. In his opinion, Kumara might have thought that he could make the factory cleansing before the foreigner visit or get appreciation from the visitors for being an efficient employee of them.

Clause 30: “the gory incident reminds one of the lynching of two brothers....”.

The gory incident	Reminds	One	of the lynching of two brothers
Phenomenon	Pr. Mental	Sensor	Cir.

Here, the phenomenon “the gory incident” refers to the murder of Kumara in Sialkot, while the sensor “one” refers to the people of Pakistan. Therefore, with the help of these expressions, the writer wanted to make it clear that the people of Pakistan condemned it by announcing it as a brutal act. Moreover, the circumstance “of the lynching of two brothers” helps the readers understand that such incidents happened in Sialkot before it. For instance, two brothers named Mughees Butt and Muneeb Butt were killed on the allegation of theft on 15 August 2010.

Clause 31: “resultantly, people tend to take the law into their hands...”.

Resultantly	People	tend	to take	the law into their hands
Adjunct	Sensor	Pr. Mental		Phenomenon

The writer again took the help of mental process “tend” to tell about the mindset of the people who are involved in extra-judicial killings and the duties of the law enforcing authorities. For instance, the adjunct “resultantly” indicates that if the authorities do not take strict action against it, the violators boldly take the law into their hands for the second time. So, the writer requested the authorities to become vigilant in order to curb these incidents before they happen.

Clause 32: “..and kill or burn a person on mere allegations”.

And	kill or burn	a person	on mere allegations
	Pr. Material	Goal	Cir. Reason

As it has been discussed in the previous clause that extra-judicial killings might happen due to the lack of strict policies towards the law enforcing authorities. By using the material process “kill or burn”, the writer tried to show that showing laziness towards these law-enforcing authorities may result in murders by the hands of people taking the law into their hands. Here, this clause implicitly states that the murder of Kumara was the result of the ‘delay in the arrival of the police and it gives sufficient time to administer their kind of justice’.

Clause 33: “second in their orientation, Pakistanis are generally not law oriented”.

Second	in their orientation	Pakistanis	are	generally	not law oriented
Adjunct	Adjunct	Existent	Pr. Existential		Adjunct

This clause took the help of the existential process to tell about the second reason behind the abovementioned kind of incidents. The adjunct "not law oriented" suggests that the people of Pakistan are not very well informed about the legal procedures and do not trust the system, so they usually take the law into their hands. According to the writer, Kumara's murder was due to the lack of trust in the system. It also indicates that people should be informed about the legal procedure and ask them to avoid extra-judicial murders. Rather, they should be taught to bring their suits to the court for legal procedures.

Clause 34: “.... They are not exposed to the significance of following law”.

They	are not	exposed	to the significance of following law
Sensor		Pr. Mental	Cir.

It has been explained in the above clause that the majority of Pakistanis are not aware of the law and judicial system. Once again, the writer makes use of the mental

process “exposed” to tell about the same fact that people do not know the importance of following the law for them. This clause refers to Kumara’s murder. It happened due to the reason that those who were involved in the incident were not aware about the importance of following the law or did not have trust in the judicial system.

Clause 35: “in the past people burnt thieves alive after capturing them”.

In the past	People	burnt	thieves	after capturing them
Cir. Time	Actor	Pr. Material	Goal	Cir. Time

This clause has been used to defend the previously mentioned idea that people did not trust the judiciary. For instance, by using a material process "burnt", the writer tried to show that incidents like Kumara's murder happened in the past as it has been noticed that people burnt thieves after capturing them. So, this clause again tells about the fact that the reason behind Kumara's extra-judicial killing was people's lack of trust in the judiciary.

Clause 36: “poverty also makes one relapse into crime”.

Poverty	also	makes	one	relapse into crime
Phenomenon	Adjunct	Pr. Mental	Sensor	Cir.

This clause has been used to tell the third reason behind incidents like extra-judicial killings. For instance, the writer used the material process “makes”, the phenomenon “poverty”, and the circumstance “relapse into crime” to tell the readers that poor people are easily beguiled to commit crimes because they are poverty-stricken and become ready to do anything legal or illegal. So, this clause implicitly states that the motive behind Kumara’s murder might be the result of it.

### 4.1.3.1: Discussion

The above-analyzed editorial has been taken from the newspaper 'Daily Times' as DrTehmina published it on December 7, 2021. The researcher has extracted 12 clauses from the editorial related to the representation of Kumara's murder. The processes are five mental, four material, two relational and one existential. The mental processes like "exposed", "wished", and "tend" suggest the meaning that incidents like Kumara's extra-judicial murder may deteriorate the image of the country, and it is against the will of the people. Moreover, by using material processes "kill", "burnt", and "set", he tried to show what had happened with Kumara after the allegation was imposed on him.

In the same way, existential and relational processes tell about the consequences that people have to bear after it. The writer shows sympathy to him and condemns the incidents by making the people understand that the case should have been sent to the court for the decision instead of taking the law into their hands. However, Teo (2000) used transitivity theory in critical discourse analysis to shed light on the ideological construction of racism embedded within the discourse of two newspapers relating to a Vietnamese gang in Australia. The excessive use of relational processes revealed evidence of racism against Vietnamese migrants in Australia. Furthermore, by applying transitivity analysis to examine 50 newspaper reports published by UK Times, Chen (2005) discussed how writers could affect readers and push them in a particular direction. The researcher, in his analysis, focused on the verbal, mental and relational processes due to the reason that they helped him to identify what the people said, perceived and practiced.

### 4.1.4: The Dayspring

Clause 37: “so, Priyantha Kumara’s body was laid to rest”.

So	Priyantha Kumara’s body	Was	Laid	to rest
Adjunct	Goal		Pr. Material	Infinitive

According to Halliday (1967), the material process is the process which is used to show physical actions and happenings. In this clause, the writer has used the material process “laid” to talk about the murder of Kumara. He has deliberately used a passive structure where the actor is hidden. It is meant to show that those who committed the act of murder are unknown to the public. The adjunct “so” indicates a pause in the discourse and refers to the fact that the writer is unhappy with what was happened to Kumara. The following clause presents a reason for it.

Clause 38: “.... but the claim is the same”.

But	the claim	is	the same
	Value	Pr. Relational	Identifier

Here in this clause, the value “the claim” refers to the allegation that the people put on Kumara, and it became the cause of his death. The blame was that he had committed blasphemy. Moreover, the identifier “the same” suggests that these types of accidents also happened in the past. The writer indirectly condemns the act by calling it a ‘claim’ rather than valid evidence.

Clause 39: “like many, Priyantha had also moved to Pakistan to earn bread for his family”.

Like many	Priyantha	Also	moved	to Pakistan (to earn bread for his family)
Adjunct	Actor		Pr. Material	

This clause has also been used to show sympathy to Kumara. The material process “moved” refers to the steps which had been taken by Kumara to go to a foreign country to earn money for his family. He was living in a foreign country and considered it a safe haven for him. According to the writer, the country did not prove to be a safe



haven for him, and he lost his life. Apart from it, it gives the meaning that after the murder of Kumara, his family lost the person who could manage their livelihood for it.

Clause 40: “This bestiality has been condemned at a governmental and non-governmental level...”.

This bestiality	has been	condemned	at a governmental and non- governmental level
Phenomenon		Pr. Mental	Cir.

This clause has been used to tell about the perception of the people of Pakistan regarding the aforementioned incident. The mental process "condemned" combined with its circumstance "at a governmental and non-governmental level" indicates that the authorities and the general public have shown their disagreement with it. For instance, the writer has mentioned the then PM Imran Khan, COAS, religious scholars and clerics to show that this very incident was condemned at the state level.

Clause 41: “the Prime minister deemed it ‘horrific vigilante attack...’”.

The prime minister	deemed	it	horrific vigilante attack
Sensor	Pr. Mental	Phenomenon	Phenomenon

This clause also used the mental process "deemed" to tell about the people's response regarding the accident. Actually, the prime minister of any democratic country is the representative of the people, so the condemnation from a prime minister represents the condemnation from all the country's people. The phenomenon "horrific vigilante attack" suggests the meaning that the representatives of the people condemned that attack and showed sympathy for Kumara.

Clause 42: “..also termed it ‘a day of shame for Pakistan’”.

Also	termed	It	a day of shame for Pakistan
Adjunct	Pr. Verbal	Verbiage	Verbiage

Here in this clause, the writer has made use of the verbal process. According to Saragih (2010), the verbal process is related to “the process of showing information. Specifically, the process includes that of saying, commanding, asking and offering”. So, this clause has been used to show the response of the then-prime minister of Pakistan regarding the murder of Kumara. It implicitly states that the prime minister did not appreciate what had been done by the people. According to him, it would badly impact the image of Pakistan in front of other countries.

Clause 43: “It is very sensitive issue”.

It	is	very sensitive issue
Identifier	Pr. relational	Identified

This clause used the relational process to tell about the sensitiveness of the issue of blasphemy. The identified “very sensitive issue” actually refers to the issue of putting a charge of blasphemy by laymen. It is; therefore, this clause suggests that people should not decide whether someone has committed blasphemy or not. Rather it should be referred to the courts for the decision. The subsequent clause further elaborated on it.

Clause 44: “The people are easily manipulated and enraged in the name of religion”.

The people	are	easily	manipulated	and	enraged	in the name of religion
Sensor		Adjunct	Pr. mental	Adjunct	Pr. mental	circumstance

In order to elaborate on the previous clause, the writer made use of mental processes “manipulated” and “enraged” in this clause. It basically means that Kumara’s

murder was the result of manipulation and misguidance. According to him, the people who are involved in the murder of Kumara might have been misguided by the people in the name of religion. It also suggests that the authorities should preach to the public about the religion so that types of incidents may not happen in future.

Clause 45: “the need of the hour is that religious scholars take charge of Islamic teachings”.

The need of the hour	is	religious scholars take charge of Islamic teachings
Token	Pr. relational	Value

Again, in this clause, the emphasis is on the true interpretation of religion. The value “religious scholars take charge of Islamic teachings” means that religious scholars should play their role in society in order to make the general public understand the religion in a better way. If they do not play their role, the layman will be misguided by others and easily beguiled to commit such types of crimes.

Clause 46: “the law of blasphemy needs to be translated in its true essence”.

The law of blasphemy	Needs	to be translated	in its true essence
Identified	Pr. relational	Infinitive	Cir.

This clause has been used to explain what was presented in clause 43 above. Here, the relational process “needs” put emphasizes on the fact that the issue of blasphemy is very sensitive, and it needs explanation and interpretation of it by the experts. If they do not do so, people will not understand its nature. Moreover, the infinitive ‘to be translated’ suggests that people should be given an explanation of the laws of blasphemy and asked them to take legal steps when it happens.

Clause 47: “the people especially the youth need to be guided in the right direction”.

The people especially the youth	Need	to be guided	in the right direction
Identified	Pr. relational	Infinitive	Cir.

Again, this clause used the infinitive “to be guided” to explain that people should be educated in terms of blasphemy laws. Here, the identified “the people especially the youth”, tell us that the people who were involved in the murder case were primarily young people, and they were not fully informed about the issue of blasphemy, so they took the law into their hands without referring the case to the courts.

Clause 48: “the religious clerics can play a pivotal role in interpreting and reinterpreting the crux and teachings of Islam in the true sense”.

The religious clerics	can	play	a pivotal role	in interpreting and reinterpreting the crux and teachings of Islam in the true sense
Token		Pr. relational	Value	Cir.

This clause has made use of the relational process to tell the readers that the religious scholars help people understand the religion in a better way. The process “play” suggests that only the religious scholars are able to curb these issues by translating the religion to the common people. Moreover, it gives an implicit meaning that the murder of Kumara was the result of some misunderstandings that he had committed blasphemy. In order to curb these types of incidents, religious scholars need to play their role.

#### 4.1.4.1: Discussion

This editorial was taken from the Pakistani English newspaper 'The Dayspring', published on December 7, 2021, by Rabia Aslam. From this editorial, the researcher has extracted twelve clauses that directly or indirectly deal with the representation of Kumara's murder. The processes include six relational, three mental, two material and one verbal.

The excessive use of the relational process suggests that the murder is related to some of the factors that need to be focused on to curb this issue. For instance, the writer has used the expressions like "true sense", "Islamic teachings", and "religious scholars" to show that the religious scholars can interpret the religion in the best way and they can make people understand what to do and what not to do in situations like Kumara's murder. Moreover, mental processes (manipulated, enraged and condemned) have been used to show the motives behind the murder of Kumara and peoples' perceptions about it. In the same way, processes like material and verbal have been used to show what had happened to Kumara and its condemnation by the people of Pakistan. Like the previous editorials, it suggested legal proceedings for it. However, there is a difference in both the editorials in the sense that the editorial published in 'Dayspring' mostly dealt with the causes of Kumara's murder using existential processes.

In contrast, the editorial published in 'Daily Times' dealt with the effects of murder using relational processes. However, both the editorials discussed future prospects and results related to the lynching of Kumara. A similar study was conducted by Khaemba, N.E (2022), where he studied murder stories presented in Kenyan media by applying Transitivity Analysis. He found out that Kenyan media employed verbal processes to urge the government to start investigating murder cases in order to make the country a peaceful place to live.

The percentage of processes used in Pakistani English newspapers has been given in figure 1

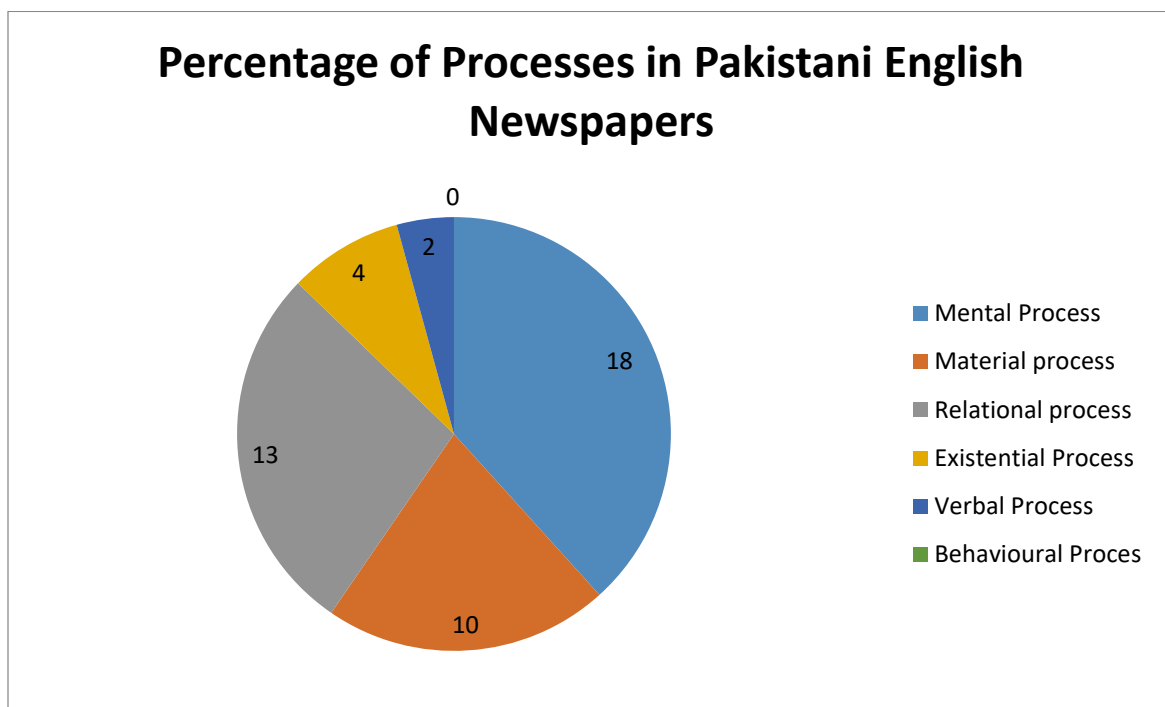


Figure 1

## 4.2: Sri-Lankan English Newspapers

This section includes the analysis of selected editorials taken from Sri-Lankan English newspapers. They have been labeled and interpreted below.

### 4.2.1: Colombo Telegraph

Clause 1: “what happened in Pakistan few days ago was inexcusable and a terrible tragedy”.

What happened in Pakistan few days ago	Was	inexcusable and a terrible tragedy
Identified	Pr. Relation	Cir.

In this clause, the writer made use of the relational process to talk about the murder of Kumara in Pakistan. Actually, the identified “What happened in Pakistan a few days ago” refers to his murder. It combines with the circumstance “inexcusable and a terrible tragedy” gives the meaning that the people of Sri Lanka condemned the incident and showed sympathy for Kumara. The word “inexcusable” also suggested that they demanded justice for it. This idea has been explained in the following clause as well.

Clause 2: “The nation was shocked and devastated by the distressing news of Piryantha Kumara”.

The nation	Was	shocked	and	devastated	by the distressing news of Piryantha Kumara”.
Sensor		Pr. mental	Adjunct	Pr. mental	Phenomenon

It has been mentioned earlier that mental process is the process of sensing, feeling or thinking (Halliday, 1994, p. 44). So, the writer has used two mental processes, “shocked” and “devastated”, to bring to notice that the people of Sri-Lanka received the news of Kumara’s murder appalling and shattering for them. They were severely dejected by it. It also gives the meaning that this incident was against the expectation of the people.

Clause 3: “Sri-Lankan factory manager working in Sialkot, Punjab, Pakistan being set upon, lynched, killed in barbaric and inhumane manner...”.

Sri-Lankan factory manager working in Sialkot, Punjab, Pakistan	being	set upon	lynched	killed	in barbaric and inhumane manner
Goal		Pr. material	Pr. material	Pr. material	Circumstance

Here in this clause, the writer made use of material processes “set upon”, “lynched”, and “killed” to show what had happened to Kumara in Sialkot. These processes show that he was lynched and set on fire, and it was against the respect of humanity. Again, this clause also gives the implicit meaning that they condemned the incident and called it an insane act by the people. With the help of these expressions, the writer tried to show Kumara as an innocent person and that his murder was an illegal act.

Clause 4: “this awful news about this lynching episode broke the heart of not just Sri-Lankans...”.

This awful news about this lynching episode	broke	heart of not just Sri-Lankans...”.
Phenomenon	Pr. mental	Sensor



Here in this clause, the mental process “broke” has also been used to tell about the same fact that the murder of Kumara was an unwanted tiding for the people of Sri Lanka, and they were shocked to hear it. Moreover, the sensor “hearts of not just Sri-Lanka” refers to that it was not only shocking news for Sri Lanka but also for the people living all around the world. As it is said in the following Clause:

Clause 5: “...it was also widely condemned by Pakistan’s military and political leadership, prominent religious and social figures, the civil society as well as a whole world”.

It	was	also	widely	condemned	by Pakistan’s military and political leadership, prominent religious and social figures, the civil society as well as a whole world
Phenomenon		Adjunct		Pr. mental	Sensor

As mentioned earlier, the murder of Kumara was shocking news for the whole world community, and it condemned the incident. Particularly, the people of Pakistan, including military, political, religious and social figures, have condemned the incident thoroughly and assured Sri Lanka of giving justice to them. It implicitly states that after accepting the condemnation from Pakistani authorities, the people of Sri Lanka tried to

show that it was the act of a group of people and that the whole country was not involved in it. This idea has further explained in the following clause.

Clause 6: “In general Sri-Lankans are held in high regard in Pakistan”.

In general	Sri-Lankans	are	held	in high regard	in Pakistan
Cir.	Token		Pr. relational	Value	Cir. Location

This clause has been introduced to show that the murder was the act of a small group of people, and it was the result of misconception. The whole nation is not responsible for it. So, the relational process “held” combines with the value “in high regard” shows that People of Pakistanis usually show respect towards the Sri Lankans in their country. The circumstance “in general” also refers to the fact that the incident might have happened due to some misunderstandings and was not due to racial discrimination, location or race.

Clause 7: “Similar mobs have attacked innocent Pakistanis before”.

Similar mobs	Have	attacked	innocent Pakistanis	before
Actor		Pr. material	Goal	Cir. Time

It has been mentioned in the previous clause that Kumara’s murder was not the result of any discrimination but a misunderstanding. The material process “attacked” combines with the goal “innocent Pakistanis” further explains the fact that similar incidents happened with Pakistanis in the past, what happened with Kumara, so it should not be taken as murder based on discrimination.

Clause 8: “initial prima facie investigation revealed that the incident was a case of enraged religious extremists committing this crime on grounds of blasphemy”.

Initial prima facie investigation	revealed	that the incident was a case of enraged religious extremists committing this crime on grounds of blasphemy
Phenomenon	Pr. mental	Embedded

This clause has been introduced to tell about the cause of murder. The mental process “revealed” combines with the embedded clause refers that the murder might be the result of religious extremism as the group of people alleged Kumara of blasphemy as killed him. It again gives the meaning that the murder was the result of misunderstanding and it was not an act which was deliberately done by the country.

Clause 9: “...but there are other conspiracy theories too floating around, including office issues and the involvement of third country”.

But	There	are	other conspiracy theories	too floating around, including office issues and the involvement of third country
Adjunct		Pr. existential	Existent	Exp.

According to Halliday (2004), the existential process only represents “that something exists or happens”. It is, therefore, the existential process that has been used to talk about the conspiracy theories that came after the murder of Kumara. The initial investigation came to the conclusion that the case might be of religious extremism, issues with the officials or the involvement of any third party. This clause has been used to show that the cause of murder is unclear and it needs further investigation, so the people should not blame anyone until it is final.

Clause 10: “back in Sri-Lanka, his grieving wife has pleaded for justice for her slain husband from both Pakistan and Sri-Lanka”.

back in Sri-Lanka	his grieving wife	pleaded	for justice for her slain husband	from both Pakistan and Sri-Lanka”
Cir.	Sayer	Pr. verbal	Verbiage	Cir.

Halliday (1994) states that “verbal process is the process of ‘saying’”. Saying actually means any symbolic exchange or an appeal. Therefore, the verbal process “pleaded” has been used to present Kumara’s wife’s request before both Pakistan and Sar-Lanka’s governments. The verbiage “for justice for her slain husband” suggests the meaning that his wife is confident about the justice system of both countries. It also suggests that the murder is an extra-judicial case and that Kumara should be given justice by punishing the people involved in it.

Clause 11: “Mob lynching is a crime against humanity and generally the fundamental principles of the law of the land”.

Mob lynching	Is	a crime	against humanity and generally the fundamental principles of the law of the land
Token	Pr. relational	Value	Cir.

Here in this clause, the writer has used the relational process to condemn the murder of Kumara. According to him, lynching in the hands of some groups of people by taking the law into their hands is a severe crime. The circumstance "against humanity and generally the fundamental principles of the law of the land" suggests that this act is against the fundamental rights of man and a shame for the people, particularly the

country's government. So, it implicitly states that the perpetrators must be brought under the law and given punishment according to the state's law.

Clause 12: “it is a flagrant violation of the constitutional rights guaranteed in many countries”.

It	Is	a flagrant violation	of the constitutional rights guaranteed in many countries
Token	Pr. relational	Value	Cir.

This clause again made use of the relational process to tell the same fact which has been discussed above. Here, the token “it” refers to the murder case of Kumara. It combines with the value “a flagrant violation” suggests that mob lynching is a serious crime and a violation of fundamental human rights. So, it indirectly states that the lynching of Kumara is a serious case, and it needs to be investigated.

#### **4.2.1.1: Discussion**

This editorial has been taken from the Sri Lankan newspaper “Colombo Telegraph”, written by Harees, M on December 6, 2021. The researcher has extracted twelve clauses. The processes include four relational, three mental, three material, one existential and one verbal. Through these processes, the writer has tried to convey the meaning that the murder of Kumara was a violation of fundamental human rights. He also tried to show him as an innocent person and demanded justice for him from both countries. For instance, he urged, by using a verbal process, “pleaded” that the case should be fairly investigated.

Moreover, the excessive use of relational process shows that the writer tried to relate it to many conspiracy theories which were generated after the murder case. However, Teo (2000) used transitivity theory in critical discourse analysis to shed light on the ideological construction of racism embedded within the discourse of two

newspapers relating to a Vietnamese gang in Australia. The excessive use of relational processes revealed evidence of racism against Vietnamese migrants in Australia. Furthermore, by applying transitivity analysis to examine 50 newspaper reports published by UK Times, Chen (2005) discussed how writers could affect readers and push them in a particular direction. The researcher, in his analysis, focused on the verbal, mental and relational processes due to the reason that they helped him to identify what the people said, perceived and practiced.

#### 4.2.2: Daily Newspaper

Clause 13: “The other controversial incident that caused shock and distress in the country this week was the brutal and inhuman killing of Priyantha”.

The other controversial incident	that caused shock and distress in the country this week	Was	the brutal and inhuman killing of Priyantha
Token	Embedded clause	Pr. relational	Value

Here in this clause, the writer used the material process to talk about the lynching of Kumara. The token “the other controversial incident” and the value “the brutal and inhuman killing of Priyantha” give the meaning that the very incident of Kumara’s murder was an act of brutality and inhumanity. Moreover, the embedded clause affirmatively states that the people of the country from where Kumara belonged were in a state of shock after listening to the bad news of his death, and they called it an incident which might generate a gap between the friendly relations of both countries.

Clause 14: “he was lynched by a mob of factory workers last Friday...”.

He	was	Lynched	by a mob	of factory workers last Friday
Goal		Pr. material	Actor	Cir.

The writer has used the material process “lynched” in this clause to talk about those who are responsible for Kumara’s murder. The actor “by a mob” suggests that it was no other than the factory workers who killed Kumara. It implies that the very incident was the act of a small group of people for any grudge, and it is not fair to blame the whole country for it. This idea has been explained further in the following clause.

Clause 15: “...after he allegedly reprimanded some workers”.

After	he	Allegedly	reprimanded	some workers
Adjunct	Sayer	Adjunct	Pr. verbal	Verbiage

It has been explained above that the incident might result from a personal grudge. So, this clause used a verbal process, “reprimand”, to talk about the expected cause of Kumara’s death. For instance, the adjunct “allegedly” combines with the process “reprimanded” means that he might have rebuked the factory workers. So, it demonstrates that the murder is not the result of any discrimination but a personal grudge. Furthermore, the verbiage “some workers” again shows that it was the act of a minimal number of people and the whole country was not involved in it.

Clause 16: “the exact nature of the events leading up to the killing is under investigation”.

the exact nature of the events leading up to the killing	Is	under investigation
Value	Pr. relational	Cir.

Here in this clause, the writer has employed the relational process to show that Pakistan is much concerned about finding the root cause of the incident and showed responsibility. The circumstance “under investigation” shows that the law enforcing authorities of Pakistan made the people ensure that they would find the motive behind the murder and punish the culprits.

Clause 17: “....Diyawadana’s ghastly killing was not justified”.

Diyanwadana's ghastly killing	Was	not justified
Phenomenon		Pr. mental

This clause has been used to explain the previously mentioned assumptions in the selected editorial. Here the mental process “not justified,” and the phenomenon “Diyanwadana's ghastly killing” means that the murder is unjustified because it was an extra-judicial killing. If he had done something wrong, he must have been given a chance to defend himself in court, and the court would have decided the punishment for him.

Clause 18: “the incident came as a complete surprise to both the countries...”.

The incident	came	as a complete surprise to both the countries
Value	Pr. relational	Cir.

Here in this clause, the writer again used a relational process to talk about the sensitivity of the issue of the murder of Kumara in Pakistan. The value “the incident” actually refers to the murder of Kumara, so the circumstance “as a complete surprise to both the countries”, gives meaning that both Pakistan and Sri Lanka did not expect that time of the incident to happen. Therefore, this clause indirectly states that the incident was not pre-planned and resulted from a misunderstanding, but it might destroy the relationship between the countries if it is not resolved sensibly.

Clause 19: “... because Sri-Lanka and Pakistan have historically enjoyed very strong and cordial relations with each other”.



because	Sri-Lanka and Pakistan	have	historically	enjoyed	very strong and cordial relations with each other
Adjunct	Sensor		Adjunct	Pr. mental	phenomenon

It has been said in the above clause that the murder case of Kumara should be resolved sensibly in order to avoid any misunderstanding between both countries. Here, the mental process “enjoyed” and the adjunct “historically” gives the same idea that both Pakistan and Sri Lanka have been enjoying a friendly relationship since they recognized each other, so this issue must be resolved by punishing the violators for maintaining this friendly relationship.

Clause 20: “I am overseeing the investigations...”.

I	am	overseeing	the investigations
Sensor		Pr. mental	Phenomenon

Here in this clause, the writer has quoted the prime minister of Pakistan, Mr Imran Khan. The sensor “I” actually refers to him. It is, therefore, the mental process “overseeing” and the phenomenon “the investigation” suggest the meaning that the PM of the country took responsibility to give justice to the family of Kumara. It also implicitly states that the government of Pakistan is determined to find out the real cause of murder.

Clause 21: “.....and let there be no mistake”.

And	let	There	Be	no mistake
Adjunct			Pr. existential	Existent

This clause has also been quoted from PM Khan’s speech. It actually shows the determination of the government of Pakistan to find the real culprits and motives behind the murder of a foreigner, as it does not want to bring any blame for the country from the international community. Mr Khan wants to clarify that Pakistan respects its guests and believes in giving them due rights. After the incident, he declared it an incident which might bring “shame for Pakistan”.

Clause 22: “all those responsible will be punished with full severity of law”.

all those responsible	will	Be	punished	with full severity of law
Actor			Pr. material	Cir.

They are again the words of Imran Khan. By using a material process, “punished” to show that the government of Pakistan will punish the people who are involved in the murder after identifying them. Moreover, he made use of the passive form instead of active because of the reason that the real actors (murderers) are unknown to him. It also suggests that Pakistan is a country where the law works without any bias, so the people of Sri Lanka must trust the judicial system of Pakistan.

Clause 23: “this is a murder”.

This	Is	a murder
Token	Pr. relational	Value

By using a relational process, the writer presents the perception of the people of both Pakistan and Sri Lanka regarding the murder. Actually, the value “a murder” means that the very incident was an extra-judicial act and was illegal because Kumara was not given a chance to defend against the allegation put on him. It has been explained further in the following clause.

Clause 24: “The Sri-Lankan government is sure that it has nothing to do with Pakistan and Sri-Lanka”.

The Sri-Lankan government	is	Sure	that it has nothing to do with Pakistan and Sri-Lanka
Token	Pr. relational	Value	Embedded

This clause has been used to elaborate on the previously mentioned point in detail that the lynching of Kumara was an extra-judicial murder, and the government was not involved in it. It also suggests that the Sri Lankan government trusted Pakistan to bring justice to its nationals. In the same way, the embedded clause “that it has nothing to do with Pakistan and Sri Lanka” refers that the brotherly relation between Pakistan and Sri Lanka will not be affected by this incident; rather, they will work together to find the real culprits behind the case.

#### **4.2.2.1: Discussion**

This editorial has been taken from the Sri Lankan newspaper "Daily Newspaper", and it was published on December 10, 2021. The writer has used a total of five process types out of the six process types suggested by Halliday (1994). Among the processes, there are five relational, three mental, two material, one verbal and one existential process in it. He used the relational processes frequently in order to talk about the real cause of murder and the determination of the Pakistani government to bring justice to Kumara's family. Moreover, he used the mental processes "surprise" and "shock" to put forward the concerns of Sri Lanka about the murder of its national.

In the same way, the material processes (lynched, punished) have been used to show that the lynching of Kumara was a murder case. Furthermore, he also made use of the existential process to represent the friendly relation between Pakistan and Sri Lanka and the verbal process to raise the voice for justice. All in all, Kumara has been presented as an innocent person, and his murder has been declared as an extra-judicial act in this article. Similarly, Kwon, 2002 and Noh, 2010 studied newspaper headlines using

Transitivity Theory. The former studied Kazakh newspapers, focusing on headlines as a marker of a language picture of the world. The latter studied the similarities and differences between headlines of English political news in America and those in Korea. They identified that the dominant processes were mental and relational processes representing the people's concerns about world politics.

#### 4.2.3: `Daily Mirror Online

Clause 25: “Last Friday’s lynching of a factory manager Priyantha Kumara in Pakistan by an extremist mob will not be the last of such acts”.

Last Friday’s lynching of a factory manager Priyantha Kumara in Pakistan by an extremist mob	Will	not	be	the last of such acts
Identifier			Pr. relational	Identified

Here in this clause, the writer started talking about Kumara’s murder using a relational process. The purpose of using a relational process, “be”, and its value “, the last of such acts”, is to warn the world community that if they fail to stop such types of incidents, they will multiply day by day. Moreover, it also suggests that the writer has shown hopelessness that the extra-judicial have been happening in the world, and the world community is unable to stop them. So, he showed his sympathy for Kumara that his murder might also be the result of that failure.

Clause 26: “No amount of ‘We Are Sorry Sri-Lanka’ placards, flowers and candles at makeshift memorials and political statements denouncing the crime can bring back his life that was cruelly brought to an end...”.

No amount of ‘We Are Sorry Sri-Lanka’ placards, flowers and candles at makeshift memorials and political statements denouncing the crime	Can	bring back	his life	that was cruelly brought to an end
Actor		Pr. material	Goal	Embedded

In this clause, the material process “bring back” has been used to show that the loss of one of his nationals in Pakistan is so significant that it cannot be indemnified. So with the help of it, he requested Pakistan to take some practical steps to give him justice for the loss instead of giving hollow statements. He indirectly states that it was a cruel act and that Pakistani authorities must work to find and punish the culprits.

Clause 27: “However much Pakistanis who are humiliated by extremism dissociate themselves from the horrible act...”.

However	much Pakistanis	who are humiliated by extremism	dissociate	themselves	from the horrible act
Adjunct	Sensor		Pr. mental		Cir.

Here, the mental process “dissociate” has been used to talk about the condemnation of the murder of Kumara towards Pakistanis. The sensor “many Pakistanis” refers to that majority of the public of Pakistan is unhappy with what the mob had done with Kumara, while the circumstance “from the horrible act” indicates that the incident was unexpected and unlawful. However, the clause, in general, refers that Pakistanis did not show agreement with the people who blamed Kumara for blasphemy.

Clause 28: “however, the remorseful Pakistani prime minister who decried the incident as Pakistan’s day of shame”.

However	the remorseful Pakistani prime minister	who	decried	the incident	as Pakistan’s day of shame
Adjunct	Sayer		Pr. verbal	Verbiage	Cir.

This clause has been used to present the stance of the government of Pakistan regarding the murder incident where the verbal process “decried” and the verbiage “the incident” give the meaning that the sayer (the then Prime minister of Pakistan) declared it a day of shame for Pakistan. It implicitly states that the people of Sri Lanka show their trust in the government of Pakistan for the fair investigation of the incident by quoting the head of the government.

Clause 29: “the country will continue to be plagued by violent extremism unless and until the extremism is rooted out....”.

The country	will	continue	to be plagued	by violent extremism unless and until the extremism is rooted out
Token		pr. relational		Value

Through this clause, the writer wanted to suggest some social reforms for Pakistan in order to check incidents like Kumara’s murder. For instance, the value “by violent extremism unless and until the extremism is rooted out” suggests that Pakistan needs to eradicate extremism from the country to make it a safe country for minorities. Moreover, with the help of this expression, the writer claimed that the murder of Kumara was due to extremism. The following clause also discusses this idea.

Clause 30: “the Priyantha Kumara lynching by a mob is linked to an extremist outfit....”.

The Priyantha Kumara lynching by a mob	Is	linked	to an extremist outfit
Phenomenon		Pr. mental	Cir.

This clause made use of the mental process “linked” to talk about the cause of Kumara’s murder. According to the writer, it is thought to be the act of an extremist group. Actually, it tells that it is the act of some group of people, so the Sri Lankan should not blame the whole country for the murder.

Clause 31: “Research shows a higher prevalence of extremism in countries that have blasphemy laws....”.

Research	Shows	a higher prevalence of extremism	in countries	that have blasphemy laws
Identifier	Pr. relational	Identified	Cir.	

In this clause, the identifier “research” combines with the identified “a higher prevalence of extremism” gives the meaning that the countries that have blasphemy laws must educate people about them and guide them to understand them thoroughly so that there will be no any misunderstanding among people. Moreover, it represents that Kumara’s murder might be the result of a false allegation of blasphemy. This idea has been presented in the next clause as well.

Clause 32: “Blasphemy laws are often misused to persecute the minorities.....”.

Blasphemy laws	Are	often	misused	to persecute	the minorities
Phenomenon			Pr. mental	Infinitive	Phenomenon

Here in this clause, the word “misused” has been taken as a mental process because of the reason that the writer has used it to tell the readers that the public misunderstands the blasphemy laws. Actually, the writer has tried to make a point that the murder was the result of some misunderstanding or misrepresentation. Moreover, the clause also means that Kumara’s case must have been referred to the court for a fair trial. The people should not have taken the law into their hands.

Clause 33: “Pakistan police arrested more than 130 people”.

Pakistan police	arrested	more than 130 people
Actor	Pr. material	Goal



This clause made use of the material process "arrested" to show that the Pakistani authorities vowed to investigate the murder case of Kumara fairly, and they also considered it an extra-judicial murder. It is; therefore, they want to punish the violators of the country's law. It also shows that the government of Pakistan showed solidarity towards Sri Lanka and assured it to punish those who were involved in the incident.

Clause 34: "Seven years ago this month, extremists carried out a gruesome school massacre in Peshawar".

Seven years ago this month	extremists	carried out	a gruesome school massacre	in Peshawar
Cir. Time	Actor	Pr. material	Goal	Cir. Place

This clause has been used to justify the previously mentioned stance that the murder of Kumara might be a case of extremism. For instance, the process "carried out" combines with the circumstance of place "in Peshawar" refers to the heartfelt incident which happened in Army Public School Peshawar on 16th of December 2014, where innocent people were attacked and killed in a terrorist attack. So, the writer, by quoting that incident, tried to relate Kumara's murder to it.

Clause 35: "vigilante justice has no place in Islam".

Vigilante justice	Has	no place	in Islam
Token	Pr. relational	value	Cir. Place

Here in this clause, the token "vigilante justice" refers to taking the law into one's hands without referring the case to the courts. So, the writer has used the value "no place" to show that Islam does not allow its followers to take the law into their hands. Rather, it advises them to refer their cases to those with this authority to decide the punishment for any offence. It is, therefore, the clause indirectly referring that Kumara's case must be referred to the courts for a fair trial.

Clause 36: “the accused must be heard, Islam commands”.

The accused	Must	be	heard	Islam commands
Behaver			Pr. behavioral	

According to Halliday (2004), the behavioral process talks about one’s psychological and physiological behaviour. Here in this clause, the writer made use of a behavioral process “heard” to show that Kumara might have shown some irresponsible behaviour while talking to his workers. However, the workers should have presented him in the court instead of taking the law into their hands.

#### **4.2.3.1: `Discussion**

This editorial has been taken from the Sri Lankan newspaper “Daily Mirror Online”, published on December 10, 2021. The researcher has chosen a total of twelve clauses which are related to Kumara’s murder. There are twelve processes. Among them: are four relational, three material, three mental, one verbal and one behavioral process. The excessive use of relational processes shows that the writer is determined to find out the real cause behind the murder. For instance, he has used the expressions like: “prevalence of extremism”, “lynching”, and “extremists outfits” to tell the readers that there might be the role of extremism behind the murder of Kumara.

Similarly, he has used material processes “arrested” and “punish” to show that the government of Pakistan is determined to find the culprits and punish them. All in all, the research came to the conclusion that through this editorial, the writer tried to show Kumara as an innocent person and showed sympathy for him. He also demanded justice by punishing the murderers. Similar studies were conducted by Khan, A & Eid, S.M (2021), Ekhteyar & Umrani (2021) and Hassan (2021). In their research, they applied transitivity Theory on newspaper editorials to find out the ideologies related to CPEC, Covid 19 and the USA with the help of processes analysis. The dominant process in the editorials related to CPEC was relational, indicating that the researchers showed concerns related to Pak-China relations, while the dominant process in editorials related to Covid

19 mental process representing that people should be convinced to take proper measures to combat the pandemic.

#### 4.2.4: `The Island Online

Clause 37: “The killing of a Sri-Lankan, in Pakistan, by a frenzied mob who accused him of committing an act of blasphemy serves as a grim reminder of the over-present danger of pent up emotion exploding in society”.

The killing of a Sri-Lankan, in Pakistan, by a frenzied mob	who accused him of committing an act of blasphemy	serves	as a grim reminder of the over-present danger of pent up emotion exploding in society
Phenomenon	Embedded clauses	Pr. mental	Result

This editorial starts with a mental process “serves” to draw the readers’ attention towards the murder of a foreigner in Pakistan. The phenomenon “frenzied mob” refers that there was the motivation behind the murder of Kumara in Pakistan that it made the mob go frenzy. He wants to convey with the help of an embedded clause “who accused him of committing an act of blasphemy” and its result “as a grim reminder of the over-present danger of pent up emotion exploding in society” that if the general public of any country is allowed to take the law into their hands, there will be chaos in the society. So, these cases should be referred to courts for a fair trial.

Clause 38: “over the eons, religion has served to humanize the more primitive nature, lurking within human beings”.

Over eons	the Religion	Has	served	to humanize	the more primitive nature, lurking within human beings
Cir.	Sensor		Pr. mental	Infinitive	Phenomenon

Here in this clause, the mental process “served” and the sensor “religion” show that religion, particularly the Islamic religion is determined to humanize people by putting out the ignorance. It always worked to make a civilized society and asked its followers to give the rights of minorities. It is; therefore, the writer wanted to make a point that it would be wrong to say that the mob murdered him because Kumara was a follower of a different religion than Islam. Instead, the mob misunderstood him.

Clause 39: “it is not only in Pakistan that such inhuman acts occurred...”.

It	Is	Not	only	in Pakistan	that such acts occurred
Token	Pr. relational			Cir	Value

This clause has been used to explain that incidents like Kumara’s murder happen in almost all countries due to misunderstandings and misconceptions. The value “that such acts occurred” refers to the extra-judicial murder of Kumara. So, it suggests that countries should be vigilant to curb these types of incidents.

Clause 40: “...especially, when there is a failure of national leadership to instill a high ethos of morality in the people..”.

Especially	when	There	Is	a failure	of national leadership	to instill	a high ethos of morality in the people
Adjunct	Cir. time		Pr. existential	Existent	Cir.	Infinitive	Existent

This clause has been used to explain the previous clause that incidents like the murder of Kumara occur in different countries from time to time. The infinitive “to instill” and the existent “a high ethos of morality in the people” refer that these types of extra-judicial incidents usually occur in those countries where the leadership fails to teach the moral values to its people. So, by using this clause, the writer has tried to link Kumara’s murder to the failure of leadership to guide its public in the right direction.

Clause 41: “a compromised political environment in which there is impunity leads people to take the law into their own hands”.

a compromised political environment in which there is impunity	Leads	people	to take	the law into their own hands
Behaver	Pr. behavioral		Infinitive	Cir.

This clause also talked about the failure of the leadership to control the extra-judicial murders in countries. For instance, the behavioral process “leads” combined with the circumstance “the law into their hands” means that a compromised political

environment always leads people to do justice themselves instead of referring any case to the courts. So, the writer condemns such acts and asks the political leadership to make a positive environment where everyone can easily get his/her fundamental rights.

Clause 42: “President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and other members of the Sri-Lankan government have expressed their strong condemnation of the heinous crime against its citizen...”.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and other members of the sar- Lankan government	Have	expressed	their strong condemnation	of the heinous crime against its citizen
Sensor		Pr. mental	Phenomenon	Cir.

The writer again used the mental process “expressed” to show that the government of Sri Lanka condemned the murder of Kumara by showing sympathy for him. Moreover, the circumstance “of the heinous crime against its citizen” refers that the government considered him innocent and called his murder an extra-judicial incident. This indirectly states that the Sri Lanka government is much concerned with saving the life and dignity of its citizens working in foreign countries. This idea has been explained in the subsequent clause as well.

Clause 43: “...and demanded justice”.

And	demanded	Justice
Adjunct	Pr. verbal	Verbiage

It has been described in the previous clause that the government of Sri Lanka cares for its citizens living in different countries. So, here in this clause, by using a verbal

process “demanded,” the writer tried to make the point that the government of Sri Lanka asked for justice for Kumara. They requested Pakistan to investigate the case fairly so that anyone found guilty might be punished. However, it again shows the Sri Lankan government’s love and respect for its citizens.

Clause 44: “Prime Minister Khan has pledged justice..”.

Prime Minister Khan	Has	pledged	Justice
Sayer		Pr. verbal	Verbiage

Interestingly, the writer again used the verbal process “pledged” to represent the stance of Pakistan regarding the murder of Kumara. Here, the words “pledged” and “justice” combine to form a meaning that Pakistan has accepted Sri Lanka’s request to investigate the murder case and assured them of justice. It also implies that Pakistan is also aware of the rights of the foreigners who are working in the country.

Clause 45: “...and referred to day of shame for Pakistan”.

And	Referred	to the day of shame for Pakistan
Adjunct	Pr. verbal	Verbiage

This clause has been used to show that, like Sri Lanka, Pakistan also condemned the attack and showed its condolences to Sri Lanka. The verbal process “referred” and the verbiage “to the day of shame for Pakistan” show that incidents like Kumara’s murder might bring shame to Pakistan. In order to avoid it, the citizens must refer these types of cases to the courts, and the government must keep an eye on the violators to check them, taking the law into their hands. It indirectly shows that Pakistan has shown sympathy to the people of Sri Lanka because their citizen was killed in Pakistani land.

Clause 46: “More than a hundred participants in the crime have been arrested”.

More than a hundred participants	in the crime	have been	arrested
Actor	Cir.		Pr. material

This clause also talked about the actions Pakistan had taken to find out the culprits of the incident. The material process “arrested” suggests that Pakistan is taking suitable measures to investigate the murder case fairly. It also shows that Pakistan is with Sri Lanka in the hour of need and is determined to give justice to Kumara by punishing his murderers.

Clause 47: “there have also been images of Pakistani civil society groups saying sorry for what has happened”.

There have also been images of Pakistani civil society groups	Saying	sorry	for what has happened
Identified	Pr. relational		Cir.

Unlike the previous clause, this clause has been used to represent the condemnation of the murder of Kumara by the general public of Pakistan. Here, the circumstance “for what has happened” refers to the murder of Kumara, so the relational process “saying” suggests that the public of Pakistan considered it a sorry situation for Pakistan. It is; therefore, it implicitly states that both the government and the general public of Pakistan condemned the incident.

Clause 48: “likewise, Sri-Lankan civil society will also recall the support that Pakistan gave to Sri-Lanka.....”.



Likewise	Sri-Lankan civil society	will	recall	the support	that Pakistan gave to Sri- Lanka
Adjunct	Sensor		Pr. mental	Phenomenon	

Here, the writer used a mental process, “recall” to show that Sri Lanka always admires Pakistan for the help that Pakistan provided during the difficult times. For instance, according to the article published in the EurAsian Times on February 11th, 2020, Pakistan helped Sri Lanka end thirty years of civil war. So, the people of Sri Lanka also remember the support Pakistan has provided to them in finding and punishing the culprits of Kumara’s murder.

#### **4.2.4.1: Discussion**

This editorial has been taken from the Sri Lankan newspaper “The Island Online”, published in December 2021, soon after the murder of Kumara in Pakistan. The researcher has extracted twelve clauses related to the representation of Kumara’s murder from this editorial. The process types are four mental, three verbal, two relational, one existential, one behavioral and one material. The prominent process in the editorial is the mental process. Its excessive use suggests that the people of Sri Lanka are much concerned with the murder of their citizens and demand justice by condemning it. For instance, the processes like “expressed” and “demanded” show that they are in grief and want the case to be investigated fairly. On the other hand, verbal processes (referred or pledged) have been used to show that the government of Pakistan took the matter seriously and started working to find out the real culprits. In the same way, Badawi, A.M & Najjar, A.I (2021), on the other hand, investigated the reporting style in the political news headlines about the Christchurch Mosque Massacre in New Zealand 2019 from two Western news agencies, namely BBC and CNN online websites. The findings demonstrated that verbal processes predominate over other types of processes, which facilitates verbalizing thoughts.

Percentage of processes used in Sri-Lankan English Newspapers has been given in figure 2

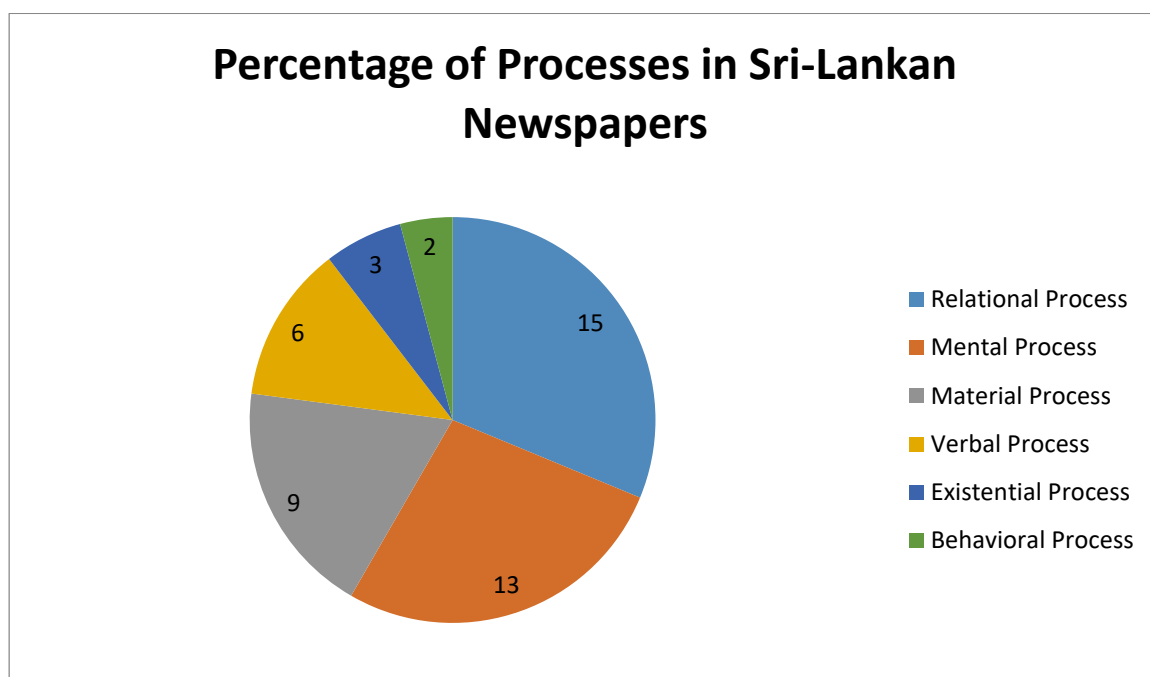


Figure 2

### 4.3: Comparison and Discussion

The researcher has analyzed ninety-six (96) clauses with the help of transitivity processes proposed by Halliday (1994) for clause-level analysis of any text. Among them, forty-eight (48) clauses were from the selected English Newspapers of Pakistan, and the rest of the forty-eight (48) were from Sri Lankan English newspapers. The distribution of the processes in the newspapers of both countries is thirty-one (31) material processes, twenty-eight (28) relational processes, nineteen (19) mental processes, eight (8) verbal processes, seven (7) existential processes and three (3) behavioral processes. All these processes are related to the representation of Kumara's murder. The detailed discussion, as well as the results of the analysis, has been given in the next chapter.

Chart presentation of the Processes used in the selected newspapers has been given below in figure 3

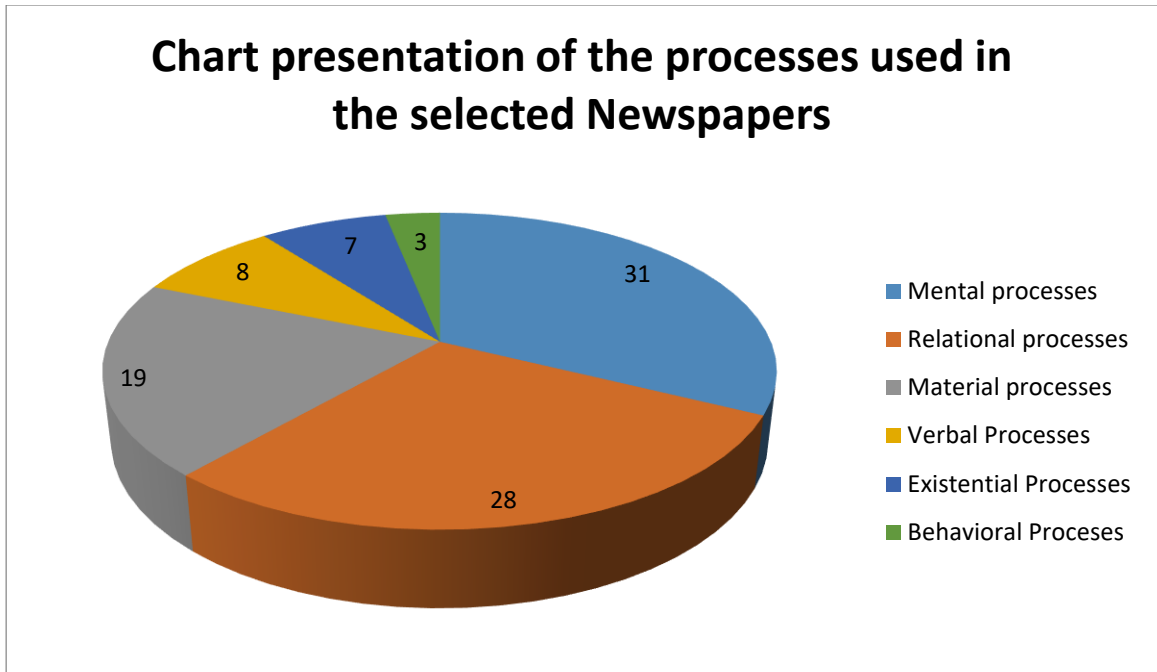


Figure 3

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This chapter summarizes the findings of the analyses. The researcher analyzed the selected English newspapers of Pakistan and Sri Lanka published in the month of December 2021, soon after the lynching of Priyantha Kumara (a factory manager from Sri Lanka) in Sialkot, Pakistan, on December 3, 2021. The selected newspapers were eight in number. Among them, four were the newspapers of Pakistan titled: The DAWN, International the News, Daily Times and The Dayspring and the rest of the four were Sri-Lankan newspapers with the title: Colombo Telegraph, Daily Newspaper, Daily Mirror Online and The Island Online. Moreover, the researcher chose one editorial from each newspaper due to time and word limitations. Interestingly, all of them are related to the representation of Kumara's murder, where the focus of the researcher was to find out the process types representing Kumara's murder and the role of these processes in constructing underlying realities with respect to his murder. Furthermore, it has also been examined how these specific types of processes help the readers to find meaning in a text.

The main objectives of the research were as follows:

- To explore the types of transitivity patterns in the Pakistani and Sri Lankan newspaper editorials.
- To find out the underlying realities these patterns unveil with respect to the mob violence regarding the murder of Priyantha Kumara in the selected newspapers.

The following sections contain the detailed discussion of the research findings with reference to the above mentioned objectives.

#### **5.1: Transitivity Patterns in Pakistani Newspapers**

It has been mentioned earlier that the researcher has chosen four English newspapers of Pakistan. From them, she chose four editorials from each newspaper, and they were related to the murder of Kumara. It has been found that there are a total of forty-eight (48) clauses representing Kumara's murder in these editorials. Among them,

eighteen are (18) mental, thirteen (13) relational, ten (10) material, four (4) existential, two (2) verbal and one (1) behavioral process in these editorials depicting condemnation, rejection, and disapprobation of the incident of murder.

Interestingly, the prominent process is a mental process. According to Halliday (1994, p. 117), mental processes are “processes of sensing, feeling, thinking, and seeing.” Therefore, it has been used to show how the people of Pakistan and Sri Lanka perceived the incident. Processes like ‘alleged’ ‘pondered’, ‘mushroomed’, ‘think’ and ‘condemned’ refer that Pakistan took the matter seriously and felt sorry for the allegations the mob has put on its citizen. Apart from it, clauses like “this bestiality has been condemned at governmental and non-governmental level...” also refer that Pakistan disfavored the people who are involved in the murder.

In addition to it, excessive use of relational processes has also been observed in these editorials. According to Halliday (1994, p. 119), relational processes are used to classify whether a verb is being used to identify something (identifying) or to assign a quality to something (attributive). So, it has been used in these editorials to identify the root cause of the murder of Kumara and its consequences. Furthermore, it has also been used to show that both Pakistan and Sri Lanka showed sympathy for Kumara. For instance, identifiers and identified used in relational processes like ‘savage violence’, ‘utter lack of humanity’, ‘a day of shame for Pakistan’ ‘, proud foreign worker’ and ‘horrific vigilante attack’ are used to show sympathy for Kumara and his people. Moreover, they also represent that the incident was an act of extra-judicial murder, and the underlying reality might be that he was being discriminated as a foreigner.

In the same way, material processes have been used to show what happened with Kumara after putting an allegation of blasphemy against him. For instance, processes like ‘dragged’ ‘took’ ‘set’ and ‘lynched’ combine their goals ‘the body’, ‘selfies’, ‘on fire’, the Sri Lankan factory manager’ stated that Kumara was brutally killed and showed disrespect to the corpse by insulting and setting it on fire. Moreover, verbal, behavioral, and existential processes have been used to talk about the stance the governments have taken and the claims they have made to give justice to Kumara, respectively. For example, the clauses “PM termed as ‘a day of shame for Pakistan’ and ‘the government

vowing to punish the perpetrators' maintain that Pakistan has taken serious steps to avoid bringing shame to its people.

All in all, through these processes, the Pakistan print media has tried to make the people understand that the lynching of Kumara was an extra-judicial murder and the reason behind the murder was religious sentiments and misunderstandings. Moreover, the relational processes like "the underlying cause was his being a disciplinarian..." indicates that he was strict in discipline and his employee were not happy with him, so they might have falsely alleged him of committing blasphemy due to their personal grudge so it needs to be investigated.

## **5.2: Transitivity Patterns in Sri-Lankan Newspapers**

The Sri Lankan newspapers were also four in number. In order to make the balance, the researcher chose one editorial from each newspaper. However, the total processes used in these editorials to represent Kumara's murder are forty-eight (48) in number. They are fifteen (15) relational, thirteen (13) mental, nine (9) material, six (6) verbal, three (3) existential and two (2) behavioral. The most prominent process type in these editorials is the relational process. It has been mentioned that relational processes are used to identify something or events that make something pleasant or unpleasant. Apart from it, they are also used to assign a quality to something (Halliday, 1994, p. 119). So, the relational processes have been used here to identify the root cause of the murder and also to appreciate the effort the government is making to settle the issue. For instance, some words or expressions like 'a case of enraged religious extremism', 'lynching episode', 'crime against humanity' and 'ghastly killing' combine with the relational processes suggest that the lynching of Kumara was an extra-judicial killing and the mob has not taken into consideration the fundamental rights of man. Moreover, it reveals that the mob has put allegations of blasphemy on him and killed him without giving him a chance to defend himself in the court. The identifier 'lynching' instead of 'punishment' indicates that it was an extra-judicial case.

In the same way, mental processes have also been used to represent Kumara's case as an extra-judicial killing and the perception of Pakistan and Sri Lanka on this issue. Processes like 'shocked', 'surprise' and 'pleaded' give meaning that the Sri Lankans

considered it a violation of their right to live and requested the Pakistani government to investigate the issue fairly in order to punish the culprits. However, in order to present Pakistan's stance, they quoted PM Imran Khan in clauses like 'I am overseeing the investigation'. This actually suggests that Pakistan is fully committed to finding the reason behind the murder. Apart from it, processes like 'expressed', 'demanded' combine with the phenomenon 'heinous crime' and 'justice' refer that Sri Lankans considered it a case based on injustice and discrimination and demanded justice from Pakistan.

On the contrary, material processes have been used to show what happened with Kumara. For instance, the words and expressions like 'lynched', 'dragged', and 'burnt' have been used to show that the corpse was humiliated by the mob. It has been used to show him as an innocent person or the person whose basic rights were snatched from him. Furthermore, verbal processes have been used to put forward each country's stance. For example, the clauses 'PM Khan has pledged justice', 'who decried the justice' also suggest that it was the incident which was based on injustice and Pakistan will help Sri Lankans investigate the incident fairly. Moreover, behavioral processes and existential processes have also been used to show that murder was an extra-judicial act. So, it has been found that the editorials from Sri-Lankan newspapers tried to show that there might be religious extremism behind the murder or the bias of being a foreigner.

### **5.3: Comparison of Pakistani and Sri-Lankan Editorials**

It has been mentioned in the analysis section that the researcher has extracted and analyzed a total of ninety-six (96) clauses from the selected editorials of the newspapers. Among them, forty-eight (48) clauses were from Pakistani newspaper editorials, and the rest (48) were from Sri Lankan newspapers. They all were based on the objectives raised by the researcher in the introduction of this study. Surprisingly, the newspapers of both countries tried to represent it as a case of religious extremism and violation of fundamental human rights. Moreover, they called it an injustice and condemned it by representing Kumara as an innocent and helpless person, but the way they used to convey them is quite different from each other. For instance, the Pakistani newspaper editorials made excessive use of mental processes to show sympathy for the Sri Lankans. In contrast, the editorials from Sri-Lankan newspapers made excessive use of relational

processes to request Pakistan to identify the reasons behind the murder. Furthermore, by using clauses like “seven years ago, extremists carried out a gruesome school massacre in Peshawar”, they also tried to relate the incident with past incidents that occurred in Pakistan in order to prove that the murder might be the result of religious extremism.

In a nutshell, one can say that both countries condemned the incident by calling it an extra-judicial incident. They showed sympathy for Kumara through mental, relational and verbal processes and demanded justice for him. Moreover, Sri Lanka has appreciated Pakistan’s effort to investigate the case fairly by using relational processes, and in return, Pakistan also appreciated the trust that Sri Lanka made on it.

#### **5.4: Limitations of the Study:**

In general, every academic study has certain deficiencies that the researcher finds while carrying out the investigation. There are certain limitations to the present investigation. The points that follow go into great detail about them.

1. Newspapers: The researcher has chosen eight newspapers, four from each country and selected one editorial from each newspaper. Moreover, due to time constraints and word limitations, she extracted only ninety-six clauses from them for the transitivity analysis. This might affect the results.
2. Temporal limitations: The chosen editorials were those which have been published from December 2, 2021, to December 10, 2021, soon after the murder of Kumara. So, the results may not reflect the whole scenario made after it.
3. Geographical limitations: The study focused on the selected newspapers of only two countries. It means that the study may not present the stance of other states and countries on the incident.
4. Methodological limitations: The use of transitivity analysis as the only analytical technique may have limits since it only considers clause-level analysis and ignores other elements like media ownership, editorial guidelines, and political allegiances of media companies.



By addressing these limitations, the study may demonstrate its openness and assist in our ability to interpret media discourse on the lynching of Kumara completely. In order to get over these shortcomings and go deeply into the issue, a thorough analysis may be carried out.

### **5.5: Recommendations**

In this study, the researcher has applied Halliday's (1994) transitivity analysis to look at the transitivity patterns employed to represent mob violence with reference to lynching of Priyantha Kumara and the underlying realities they present in editorials of English-language media from Pakistan and Sri Lanka by using them. It is recommended that future investigations into the incident may look at it in a range of media texts, such as tweets, blogs, television programmes, Facebook posts, discussions, videos, and publications, in order to make the conclusions more relevant and confirmed.

In addition, the results and findings of this study may be verified and tested by doing a similar analysis using the same datum. However, Halliday (2004) postulated three meta-functions of language: ideational, interpersonal, and textual. The researcher conducted this study by utilizing the ideational function of language. The same incident (the murder of Kumara) can be investigated by applying interpersonal or textual meta-functions.

Halliday (2004) also introduced the concept of ergativity. It functions as Transitivity's polar opposite. It simply uses one participant as a medium, unlike Transitivity. Ergativity can be used for the same subject. Time considerations prevented the researcher from including it.

The main objective of this study was to analyze the transitivity patterns used in the English-language newspapers of the two nations to report on Kumara's murder and the underlying realities they tried to expose. So, it would be sufficiently fascinating to examine the diachronic representation of the occurrence in Pakistani or international print media. The researcher suggests that other academics employ transitivity analysis to investigate many linguistic perspectives that the murder of Kumara are portraying in print media, as well as how a specific media group propagates its social and political convictions.

The researcher concludes by advising and encouraging those who are new in the field of linguistics to work on Systemic Functional Grammar because of the reason that it talks about both form and meaning instead of separating them.

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