

**A PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF NEWS
EDITORIALS IN DAWN AND THE NEW
YORK TIMES COVERING THE AFGHAN
CONFLICT**

BY

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ABSTRACT

Title: A Pragmatic Analysis of News Editorials in Dawn and The New York Times Covering the Afghan Conflict

The study of pragmatics is what a speaker communicates and what a listener infers from a conversation immersed in different circumstances, including the situational setting, the mental states of the participants, the previous discourse, and others. The purpose of this research has been to find out how language is employed pragmatically to develop a perspective, particularly on the controversial issue of Afghanistan between Pakistan and America. For this, two top newspapers, i.e., Dawn and the New York Times from Pakistan and America respectively are chosen to conduct the research. News editorials from both newspapers are collected from August to December 2021. This study uses a mixed-method approach focusing on news editorials covering Afghan peace process. The qualitative data is analyzed through thematic analysis using Searle's model of speech acts, whereas quantitative data is analyzed through descriptive statistics where frequencies of speech acts are gauged. Austin and Searle's *Speech Act Theory* (1969) has been selected as the framework. This theory is employed to find out that what type of speech acts are paramount in the editorials and how different speech act help construct Afghan conflict in Dawn and the New York Times. The study also clarifies whether both the newspapers' perspectives on the Afghan issue are similar or different. This study is important because it makes a significant contribution to our understanding of how news editorials construct and convey a perspective through speech acts. The findings demonstrate that the use of speech acts in the news editorials does not follow a specific order. The results show that certain speech acts used in the editorials vary in their frequency. It was observed that both newspapers express different perspectives on the Afghan conflict when the hidden messages are examined using the speech act theory at that particular time when USA troops were initially withdrawn from Afghanistan. Pakistan has strong desire for the settlement of Afghanistan and tries to show positive image of Taliban's government. Whereas U.S shows that there is chaos and people are not satisfied with the Taliban government. Theory of speech acts can be used by researchers in future to investigate speech acts in variety of fields, including education, court, and editors in editorials with larger sample.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter.....	Page
THESIS AND APPROVAL FORM.....	ii
AUTHOR’S DECLARATION.....	iii
ABSTRACT.....	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	v
LIST OF TABLES.....	x
LIST OF FIGURES.....	xi
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	xii
I INTRODUCTION.....	1
1. 1 Introduction of the study.....	4
1.2 Statement of the Problem.....	5
1.3 Objectives of the Study.....	5
1.4 Research Questions.....	5
1.5 Significance of the Study.....	5
1.6 Delimitation of the Study	6
1.7 Rational for Selecting Sample.....	6
II LITERATURE REVIEW.....	7
2.1 Introduction.....	7
2.2 Pragmatics.....	8
2.3 Speech Acts.....	9
2.4 Speech Act Theory	11
2.5 Role of Media	12
2.6 Print Media	12

2.7 Newspaper.....	13
2.8 Editorials.....	13
2.9 Importance of Editorials.....	13
2.10 Previous Studies.....	14
III RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.....	19
3.1 Research Approach and Method.....	20
3.2 Research Design.....	20
3.3 Sample.....	20
3.4 Sampling Method.....	20
3.5 Data Collection.....	20
3.6 Data Analysis Procedure.....	20
3.7 Theoretical Framework.....	21
3.8 Analytical Framework.....	22
IV DATA ANALYSIS and FINDINGS.....	24
4.1 Overview.....	24
4.2 Identifying the Perspective of News Editorials	25
4.3 Categorization of News Editorials as Primary Speech Act.....	25
4.4 Subcategorization of Editorials to Primary Speech Acts' Prototypes..	29
4.5 Comprehensive Investigation of Illocutionary Acts of Assertive.....	30
4.5.1 Report	32
4.5.2 Claim.....	35
4.5.3 Criticize.....	36
4.5.4 Remind.....	38
4.5.5 Advice.....	39
4.5.6 Guess.....	40
4.5.7 Assert.....	42
4.5.8 Inform.....	43
4.5.9 State.....	44

4.5.10 Deny.....	47
4.5.11 Acknowledge.....	47
4.5.12 Certify.....	48
4.6 Analyzing Commissive Illocutionary Forces.....	49
4.6.1 Commit.....	50
4.6.2 Promise.....	51
4.6.3 Threat.....	53
4.7 Analyzing Directive Illocutionary Forces.....	55
4.7.1 Suggest.....	56
4.7.2 Request.....	59
4.7.3 Warn.....	60
4.7.4 Order.....	62
4.7.5 Forbid.....	63
4.7.6 Pray.....	64
4.7.7 Recommend.....	65
4.8 Analyzing Declaratives' Illocutionary force.....	66
4.8.1 Proclaim.....	67
4.8.2 Confirm.....	68
4.8.3 Authority.....	69
4.8.4 Declare.....	70
4.9 Analyzing of Expressive illocutionary force.....	71
4.9.1 Grief.....	72
4.9.2 Mourn.....	75
4.9.3 Appreciate.....	77
4.9.4 Desire.....	78
4.9.5 Believe.....	79
4.9.6 Intend.....	80
4.10 Comparison of Speech Acts in Dawn and The New York Times in Graphic.....	81
4.11 Findings.....	83
V CONCLUSION and RECOMMENDATIONS	85
5.1 Conclusion.....	85
5.2 Recommendations.....	87

REFERENCES.....	88
APPENDIX A.....	93
APPENDIX B.....	99
APPENDIX C.....	114

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Five different categories of illocutionary acts.....	27
Table 2: Asserter's categorization into prototypes.....	31
Table 3: Prototypes of Commissive acts.....	50
Table 4: Classification of directive into prototypes.....	56
Table 5: Classification of declarative into prototypes.....	67
Table 6: Classification of expressive into prototypes	72

LIST OF FIGURES AND GRAPHS

Figure 1: Graphical illustration of prototypes of assertive speech act.....	49
Figure 2: Graphical depiction of prototypes of Commissive speech act.....	55
Figure 3: Graphical illustration of prototypes of directive speech act.....	66
Figure 4: Graphical representation of prototypes of declarative speech act....	71
Figure 5: Graphical depiction of prototypes of expressive speech act.....	81
Figure 6: Comparison of use of speech acts in Dawn and the New York Time.	82

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the topic of research, problem statement, research objectives, and research questions. It also includes the significance of the study and delimitation.

1.1 Introduction

George Yule (1996) defines pragmatics as “the study of speaker meanings and investigates how individuals understand and perform communicative acts in specific contexts” (p.3). Mass media has significantly transformed our lives. It has a remarkable role in a democratic country; people from different strata of society get influenced by it. Print and electronic media bring in the facts and information about the controversial problems. Newspapers, journals, TV channels, and radio play an essential part in this respect via news bulletins. In these news bulletins, headlines are built and deployed to gain particular purposes. It is requisite to manage the intended effect by directing the reader’s interest and attention to certain problems. Now a day, media is playing fantastic role in developing and influencing public sentiments and developing a stronger society. News analysts or editors reveal their points of view and thoughts about the issues through the news. These news stories have viewpoints and structures which can linguistically be evaluated. A linguistic analysis of these pieces of information may expose a great deal about these views and beliefs. Language is not only a way of communication but it is also important for affecting our thoughts and influencing the way we think. In this regard, pragmatic help provide us with an actual source for showing the editorials’ role in revealing and conveying the intended meanings. In another way, we may say that pragmatic analysis is the best way in which we can evaluate or interpret the intended meaning and intentions of the speaker.

Pragmatic analysis is crucial in the editorials because pragmatics meanings are built on the speaker’s aims. The study of a speaker’s meaning is known as pragmatics and it deals with how the speaker’s meaning is perceived by the listeners. It focuses on what the speaker’s intentions and beliefs are. For instance, when someone requests, *can I get a plate of rice?* It sounds like speaker is hungry according to the listener’s perception. In pragmatics, we collect and interpret circumstantial meaning. It all

depends on how you interpret what individuals actually means in a certain situation. The context affects what is said. For instance, a person asks the second person, 'Hello, how are you?' And the second person says, 'Wow! It is raining outside'. Although this response is grammatically valid but inappropriate within certain situation and context. Pragmatics is the study in which listeners or readers have to interpret the obscure meaning. For example, someone asks you to close the door that means the speaker is feeling cold or it is too noisy outside, depending on the situation. Here the invisible meaning is not being spoken. In pragmatics, physical and social closeness determines how something should be conveyed. It cannot be communicated really with strangers. However, we adopt a more informal tone while communicating with our friends as the communication gap is a minimum in this situation. Even our word choice alters accordingly when we are talking with strangers or friends.

Afghanistan is referred to be the graveyard of kingdoms (Inayat, 2016). Since so many superpower states enter Afghanistan just to humiliate themselves and leave again. As in 19th century, the British arrived there, but they suffered a terrible defeat. The Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in the 20th century and left after nine years in great humiliation. Later in the twenty- first century, America entered in Afghanistan and has now withdraw in disgrace. It is not like that Afghanistan had not been defeated before; if we look back in history, we can find different examples of this. Alexander, the king of Macedon, had conquered it. It was done by Arabs of the Mughals, and Aurangzeb had all achieved it. Rulers Changeiz Khan of the Mongols, Shah Jahan of the Mughals, and Aurangzeb had all achieved it. As well as Raja Ranjeet Singh, the Sikh King, who also accomplished it. However, it is said that the Afghan fighters made it very challenging for any outside king to hold his or her control over Afghanistan (Dhruv, 2021).

As it is more pertinent to the current situation, we shall begin from the 1800s. At that time, there was a vast Russian kingdom located in the north and a British empire was located in the south. At that time, the British had taken over India. There was an Afghan- controlled buffer state in the middle. During this period, tensions between Russia and Britain were high. They feared that if another nation occupied Afghanistan, it would cause them trouble. At first, Afghanistan was not popular among the western nations. Alexander Burnes, a Scottish explorer, gained notoriety when he visited Afghanistan and safely returned to Europe. The British Raj first felt inspired and

capable of taking control of Afghanistan's region in 1838. They had great confidence in their success. Then came Emir Dost Muhammad, a member of the Barakzai tribe, who ruled Afghanistan. Emir Dost Muhammad was overthrown by the British, who then appointed their puppet shah Shujah Durrani as the new ruler. Emir Dost Muhammad was overthrown by the British, who then appointed their puppet Shah Shujah Durrani as the new ruler. There was no army in Afghanistan at that time. A head resided in each of the thousands of tiny, isolated settlements. In exchange for a financial reward, the village heads led a few of their town's young men to battle for the Emir. In exchange for a financial reward, the village heads led a few of their town's young men to fight for the Emir. Under the tenure of Emir Shah Shujah, this money has decreased. As a result, Chief Akbar Khan led the village tribal chiefs in uniting and launching a battle against the British. This conflict lasted for three years. The British were defeated in this war despite that they had advanced fire weapons (Dhruv, 2021, 6:38).

Dost Muhammad was returned to the throne after Shah Shujah's murder. This conflict is referred as the first Anglo Afghan War. In 1878, the Second Anglo-Afghan war broke out. British force again invaded Afghanistan, won the conflict, and took control of a region of the country. However, they had no plans to stay in Afghanistan. They backed Abdul Rahman, a newly elected leader. He afterwards earned the nickname 'iron emir'. The British allowed Afghanistan's internal government to continue. They only aimed to influence the buffer zone with the Russian empire in order to build favorable bonds. Afghanistan therefore continued to be stable. Afghanistan and British India's international border was established in 1893. This is referred as Durand line. Russian acknowledged that the British have a sphere of influence over Afghanistan in an agreement between the British and Russian empires from 1907, which was signed by both countries. Russia made a commitment to stay away from Afghanistan, which is under the British sphere of control. The communist revolution in Russia started around 1918, and Lenin took over. Afghanistan is later affected by this. The third Anglo-Afghan war started in 1919 after only a year. In Afghanistan, that conflict is known as the fight for independence. Because Afghanistan battled alongside the British to achieve ultimate independence. Afghanistan had previously been a "British protected territory," meaning that the British would govern its foreign policy. After this conflict, Afghanistan gained independence and the British accepted its independent status. Amanullah Khan, the king of Afghanistan, had defeated the British in battle. Some

argue that the British deliberately lost this battle for geopolitical reasons, so that the Durand line has become a defined border between Afghanistan and British India. The boundary between Pakistan and Afghanistan is still defined by the Durand Line (Dhruv, 2021, 6:38).

This study examines the language used in the editorials of the Afghan conflict. Searle's model of speech act theory is used for this study. Searle's theory of speech acts says that the essential part of linguistic communication is the presentation of a speech act that means when we make an utterance, we do an invisible function with it. We know that the use of speech act is the part of the actions of human communication. Finding the kind of speech acts used can help the listener or reader assume something obscure and invisible, not conveyed by the speaker overtly. The present study investigates the types of speech acts employed in 'The New York Times' and Dawn news editorials that portray the Afghan conflict from August to December 2021. Speech acts are the actions that are carried out via language and a significant part of reports in news are reports of speech acts rather than physical acts. Speakers perform speech acts for making utterances J. R. Searle defined language use as the performance of speech acts such as assertions, instructions, requests, questions, and promises. Speech acts are the actions that speakers take when they utter anything.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

When US withdrew its forces from Afghanistan, various Pakistani English newspapers like Dawn and The News not only covered and reported the developments through print media but also highlighted the immediate aftermath of withdrawal of American forces from the region. The same was discussed in the Western media too however using different choice of words. The way such argument is shaped in these newspapers depend on respective policies or agendas of the newspaper and help readers to look at a certain event through a distinct lens. The journalists and reporters' opinions are contextualized. More specifically, the linguistic characteristics of the news editorials reveal intended meanings which mirror the core idea. The language used in editorials of the mainstream media somewhat reflects the opinion of the government too. The New York Times editorials offer different meanings and projections, whereas Dawn editorials give different meanings and projections. This way, the actual meanings get obscured in these editorials. The contextual meanings are invisible which are not

understood correctly by everyone. So, the purpose of this study is to conduct a pragmatic analysis of the editorials published in Dawn and The New York Times and investigate the multiple layers of meaning (hidden or intended) generated through diverse meaningful utterances.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1. To find out different types of speech acts that are used persistently in the editorials of Dawn and the New York Times reporting on Afghan peace process.
2. To explore how far the stance of The New York Times and Dawn is different or similar with regard to the Afghan issue in their editorials
3. To illustrate how different speech acts help construct Afghan conflict in Dawn and The New York Times.

1.4 Research Questions

The research questions addressed in this study are as follow:

1. What types of speech acts are dominant in the editorials of Dawn and The New York Times reporting on Afghan peace process?
2. How far is the stance of The New York Times and Dawn similar or different with regard to the Afghan issue in their editorials?
3. How do different speech acts contribute to the construction of the Afghan conflict in Dawn and The New York Times?

1.5 Significance of the Study

The present study would be helpful for the teachers in teaching the students how different speech acts are used by the speakers or writers to form an opinion about a topic and present multiple perspectives regarding the same happening. The readers can understand the possible meanings by doing pragmatic analysis. In language classroom, the editorials can be used as a sample to study linguistic items which in turn might help in exploring the intentional meanings hidden under the basic grammatical and syntactic structures. The readers in general and students in particular will understand how the intended meanings differ from the surface level meaning.

A pragmatic study has been carried out to explore how and what type of linguistic functions are used in editorials covering Afghan issue. It would be helpful for the students to understand the intentional meanings of writers in news editorials. Because when we read the pragmatic meaning, we can get the hidden agenda, and understand the idea of how these two newspapers help construct and marginalize this issue. Eastern and Western media's perspective is different regarding the Afghan peace process. With the help of pragmatic analysis, we would be able to unravel the intended meanings of news editorials. It is anticipated that the results of the present research will be valuable for students and teachers alike.

This study will help the news editors to focus on their language use. It will serve as a guide to understand the impact of language choice, so they apprehend the need to keep their language concise and simple. To restate, they would become cognizant of the drastic implications of double-meaning statements.

1.6 Delimitation of the Study

To ensure validity, delimitations must be identified during the research study, its design and procedure (Inayat, 2016). This study is delimited to investigation of the speech acts in news editorials. The researcher has delimited this research to two newspapers only, Dawn and The New York Times. Data for the present study is also delimited to examination of ten editorials only, five from each newspaper. The data related to the Afghan Issue have been collected from August to December 2021.

1.7 Rational for Selecting Sample

Articles are regarded as the soul of daily newspapers, a reflection of the *paper policy* and the voice of the editor or owner. The newspaper's editor expresses his or her observations, present analysis and offer recommendations to the readers through articles. Every editorial is an in- depth fabrication of an author's ideas, convictions, and carefully chosen linguistic strategies. At the time when this research was conducted, the discussion around Afghan issue gained momentum. So, the researcher has focused only on the editorials that cover the Afghan conflict.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter explores relevant core aspects of pragmatics which can help situate the researcher's study in the specific context where it is being conducted. It goes on to explain how it emphasizes implied and inferred meanings. The basic motive of the language use will best be carried out while the intended meaning of words may be interpreted in accord with the speaker's intentions and contexts. It also describes what certainly speech acts are and the way they have been invented and recognized by renowned theorists such as Austin and Searle. This chapter also discusses the previous researches being done on speech acts.

2.1 Introduction

Language is the means by which people communicate with one another. It can be verbal or written communication. It includes words interwoven in a sentential structure that helps a person to express or convey his or her emotions, thoughts, interests and wishes to others (Amiya, 2020). It is an expression of thoughts and concepts in which speech sounds are combined into words, words are combined into sentences and this arrangement aids in transforming ideas into thoughts (Sweet, 2023). So in this way we convey our message to others. What Sweet conveys here is that language is a system in which we cooperate with each other in social groups with the help of arbitrary vocal symbols. Human body has a system such as lungs, heart, head, legs and hand, and they function in a systematic way. In the same way language performs in a systematic way. Every language has its unique system and with the help of that system our ideas or thoughts convey meaning. This language system is combination of some elements like sound, structure and vocabulary items (Amiya, 2020).

According to Amiya (2020), when we learn a new language we also have to learn sound, vocabulary and structure of that language. Language is symbolic as it is a set of symbols and arranged in such a specific order that we can convey any message to others in a meaningful way because construction of a language is combination of some sounds and symbols. Every symbol has its meaning that are different in each culture and place. For example, in Pakistan we pronounce 'c' as a /k/ sound whereas in Turkey they pronounce 'c' as /dʒ/ sound. So there is the reason why language is called

symbolic as it changes in accord with the use of each place and culture. Language is social, as it is a social quality of people and by the help of it people coordinate with each other in a society or in groups.

Language is learnt: it is a behavior and we have to learn it to fulfill our needs. Different people employ language in different ways depending on what they want to accomplish. Distinct strategies are concealed within the style use of language to attain the aim of language. The terminology that is employed to reap the purpose is known as functioning language or language in action. The utterances which are examined as an action and that they have a motive, and impact on the goal of speaker are termed as speech acts. Speech acts are the special means that are employed to carry the meaning in an exact or specific way. Speech acts are used commonly in different fields by many individuals, including politicians, doctors, teachers and motivational speaker etc. Researchers have been scrutinizing and directing their studies on speech acts, namely how and why they are employed (Mushtaq, 2018).

The present study focuses on exploring Afghan conflict in the editorials published in Dawn and the New York Times during the time period of five months i.e. August to December 2022. This study is different from the previous studies in a way that it investigates how Afghan peace process is presented in Western and Pakistani newspaper keeping in mind their geo-political differences.

2.2 Pragmatics

Language is a societal means and a mutual system that enables individuals understand and express their opinions to one another. It is a special gift of God for humans that make us different from other creatures. This complicated language system is a product of human intellect. So, communicative competence is about learner's abilities to use language to correspond well. It is all about what, how, when, where and whom they say it.

Pragmatics is the study of speaker's intentions and meaning. We generally differentiate between the speaker's meaning and the meaning of the sentence. The meaning of the sentence is the word's literal meaning or phrases (what a sentence means). The speaker's intended or desired messages to the audience is known as the speaker's meaning. (Michael, 2021). In other words, pragmatics covers the study of utterances and clarifies what the speaker actually means while he or she speaks

something. Under discussion thing is the utterances here not the sentences. The difference between sentence and utterance is that sentence is the largest grammatical element in language which has a complex structure consisting of phrases and clauses and the foremost purpose is to convey a complete concept like a feeling, an emotion, an assertion or a command. However, utterances are the part of language. An utterance is the language use in a specific context by the speaker to his or her listener (Risdianto, 2014).

To say something is to perform an action or a function. According to the linguistic philosophers J. L Austin and J.R Searle, all the sentences are not just statements instead they comprise wishes, commands, requests that are made by the people in different contexts. The acts that speakers perform when they make utterances are called speech acts. Austin first presented the speech acts theory to investigate the use of utterances in order to perform actions. Searle modified the theory later in 1969 and explained different types of speech acts and its prototypes in detail.

2.3 Speech Acts

According to the theory of Speech acts, the essential part of linguistic communication is the presentation of a speech act. It means when we make an utterance, we do an invisible function with it. We know that using speech acts is one of human communication's actions.

In pragmatics the idea of speech acts is considered the most essential idea. This term indicates the importance in which utterances are not just to express meaning, but also perform some actions. This can be seen from a number of simple insights:

- i. In a conversation, people often respond to the underlying intention or action implied by the previous speaker's words rather than just the literal meaning of what was said.
- ii. Most of the time utterances also get delivered by nonverbal communication (facial expressions, eye contact, gestures, tone of voice, nodding of head or waving hand, etc.)
- iii. Utterances interlace with non-verbal movements as well. It is possible even without the use of words. It can take place through signals.

- iv. Utterances have real and actual effects just like non-verbal expressions.

Researchers worked a lot in this field of speech acts in 1970s till 1980s. Later this subject got less attention even though it plays a crucial role to understand the use of language. There is a scope for understanding of: how many types of speech acts are there, how these are expressed in a language, if these types of speech acts are common or metalinguistic. And how they are documented or recognized in actual use of language (Levinson, 2016).

The theory of meaning and the more comprehensive correspondence theory of truth were first put to the test in the philosophy of language in the 1940s by the 'ordinary language' scholars like Gilbert Ryle and J.L. Austin in Oxford and later Ludwig Wittgenstein at Cambridge. Despite the reality that his impressive lectures on '*How to Do Things with Words*' have not been released until 1962. After his demise, Austin (1962) got credited for inventing the first speech acts theory. He believed that language has been incorrectly interpreted because people have only paid much attention to the assertions or propositions, and as a result, we have forgotten what language is really used for. Instead, he suggested that words can do more than just make statements and assertions. He also discussed the justifications for speech acts' approval or disapproval, or 'felicity conditions', highlighting that these justifications typically demand for suitable subjective states (later referred to as 'sincerity conditions' by Searle) as well as suitable circumstances (the 'essential conditions' of Searle).

Austin went on to notice that these success conditions are no longer similar to truth conditions; however, statements are consequently only a magnificence of speech acts with sincerity situations of belief and assumptions or preparatory conditions that must be satisfactory in a way that is comparable. He also extended to simplify all the dissimilar intellects in which actions might be completed through utterances: a locutionary act is an act of saying something. He also suggested that there is another type of act called as an illocutionary act. He claims that illocutionary act refers to the speaker's intentions what he or she wants to convey. Then Austin defined a third type of act as perlocutionary act. Perlocutionary act is the effect of utterance on listeners. Additionally, he progressed different observations whose significance was not acknowledged instantly (Levinson, 2016).

In the meantime, some of the other theorists observed the language use in psychological terms, leading amongst them are Grice and Strawson (1957- 67). They believed that speech acts must be examined like an individual type of intention. For example, intentions to boost faith or acceptance of speeches or stimulate them accomplish something. Grice (1957-75) renovated the idea of meaning at the same time. Though he certainly did not arrange this out in print, certainly he is of the opinion that felicity conditions simply move forward from the particular classes of intention or aim.

2.4 Speech Act Theory

Speech act theory is the most essential theory. It was first proposed by John Austin and later modified by John R. Searle in 1969. Another researcher Rustam (2009) broadened Austin's work as well. Anything we say that has a comment and potential for reply is a discourse demonstration. We are acting out a discourse demonstration whenever we are complaining, apologizing, accepting, declining or complementing. Congratulations, for example, can be a single word or the beginning of a long phrase with several words: *congratulations on winning the hockey match*. Austin argues that there is a distinction between saying something and actually doing it. He claimed that each statement we make contains more than just an announcement and also includes requests, warnings and claims; for instance, *please* for help, clarifications, and requests for further information. He puts forth the idea that there are constative and performative expressions in the light of this refinement. Austin's definition shows that constatives are statements that may be true or false, but performatives just have the ability to carry out an activity. They can neither be true nor false (Rustam, 2009).

Other three categories of speech acts include: acts of locution, illocution and perlocution. Any significant statement or action is a loquacious display. This idea is suggested by Austin in his famous book named as '*How to do things with words*' (1962). Later, Searle's concept of a 'propositional act', or a demonstration that transmits a proposition took the place of Austin's locutionary demonstration. The illocutionary presentation refers to the acting out of function while uttering an expression or object. Illocutionary acts have an impact on the attitudes, feelings, thoughts and behaviors of the audience or group of people. The foundation of the entire speech act theory is the illocutionary demonstration (Rustam, 2009). A perlocutionary explanation refers to the display of doing something as a result of stating something.

Additionally, illocutionary acts are divided into the five groups listed below:

1. **Verdictives:** It refers to the discoveries whose demonstrations depend on logic and evidence. Examples include *ascertain, discover, measure, gauge,* and so on.
2. **Exercitives:** It makes reference to protests that are either in favor of or against an activity. Such as *request, order, inquire,* and *depart.*
3. **Commissive:** Commissive are the actions that reveal a commitment of speaker to a statement or in action. Such as, *certification, assurance, and reeduction.*
4. **Expositives:** These examples show the claims, viewpoints, or arguments made regarding something. *Demand, denial, battle, state, recollect,* and *figure* are a few examples.
5. **Behabitives:** These demonstrations are made possible by the actions of others. For example: *commend, denounce,* or *salute.*

Using five different sorts of illocutionary demonstrations, Searle refuted Austin's scientific taxonomy of discourse actions.

1. **Assertive:** These are the utterances that refer to anything true or accurate about the state of the world.
2. **Intentions:** These statements should persuade the listener to act in a certain way as a result of a statement.
3. **Commissive:** These fall into the same category as Commissive according to Austin. They relate to the speaker's obligation to finish something later
4. **Declaratives:** These words make the situation known.
5. **Expressive:** As their name implies, these articulations convey the speaker's feelings and state of mind (Abba, 2015).

2.5 Role of Media

The media can influence how conflicts are resolved in a significant way. It has the ability to alter the overall situation and assert itself between the two at-arms nations. The media now is aware of its crucial role in developing communal harmony and legitimacy. Extensive exchanges have a few components, like the news media, that are devoted to the spreading of knowledge among the general public. The News organization has the motivation to make a draw of peacefulness and tranquility on the

public's mind. It can be taken into account while valuing the community, either specifically or by suggesting (Mushtaq, 2018).

2.6 Print Media

Print media are those forms of communication that are governed more by space than by time. It can be preserved for record-keeping and read at any time. The main print mediums for mass communication are newspapers, books and magazine (Fakhar, 2012).

2.7 Newspaper

According to Fakhar (2012), one of the most significant and effective print media for mass communication is the newspaper. It was initially published in Germany before spreading around the globe. It has become an essential medium for the modern world because of the various services it provides to the community, including information, education, entertainment, persuasion, cultural transmission, record-keeping, etc.

2.8 Editorials

This is a section in journals or newspapers in which the writers or publishers share their opinions on current affairs. It is assumed that the authors' views on the media company, which are expressed in what is supposed to be a concise article on current challenges, mirror the perspectives of the entire publishing company. The disclaimer is shared when someone from the outer community writes an article (Mushtaq, 2018).

Newspaper editorials are thought to just be spirit and heart of newspaper. No newspaper could function even without its opinion section. Here, the editor expresses not just his or her own viewpoint but also critiques and praise of present issues. As they are light in character, editorials ought to be interesting, fascinating, and debatable all at once.

When an editor writes an article, it is typically taken for granted that it represents the viewpoint of the news publisher because it is believed to be the window or reflection of newspapers' news principles (Kumar, 2021).

2.9 Importance of Editorials

Any significant or trivial subject can be debated in editorials. They make readers pause for contemplation and prompt these with inquiries. It is the lifeblood and soul of publications. Editorials can also be encouraging and motivating, which means that if someone reads an article and is motivated to comment or express opinions on it, it may inspire the reader to create an editorial section for himself in the future. It reveals a newspaper's principles and worth. As a result, it is crucial to remember how critical impartiality is in these pieces. The integrity of the entire publication will be questioned if the editor makes any mistake.

According to Mushtaq (2018), researchers concluded that while media has the power to draw the attention of viewers from all over the world, particularly from the poorer nations where the majority of conflicts take place, it may also be a useful tool for resolving conflicts. They claim it could increase tension across conflicts when war news is framed in that way. They argue that the media can have two sides of it. When it promotes messages of extremism or half-truth that govern open disposition, it can be a shocking weapon of violence. This is the reason that newspapers have been the subject of extensive inquiry. Because of the distinctive methods employed by newspapers to produce and transmit meaning, researchers have been increasingly interested in them. Many studies have been conducted on newspaper headlines covering many subjects, all in the field of pragmatics, which explores how meanings are controlled and subsequently portrayed. Understanding why specific linguistic decisions are made and how they help to develop and transmit the message, regardless of whether it is the overt or the hidden message, is the goal of any study conducted in this area and, in particular, employing the speech act theory. It is stated that meanings change depending on the contexts in which they are formed. Moreover, it is declared that each meaning has two aspects. There is a typical meaning and a special meaning. What appeals to one listener in particular might not be very special to other (Mushtaq, 2018).

Therefore, it may be claimed that each reader interprets them in accordance with his/her own social, cultural and linguistic framework (Krauss, 2005). Newspapers and their stories have also been studied in this specific pragmatics' domain, but none of these studies addressed the editorials related to Afghan conflict, which are the most significant part of newspapers. As language study is large and never-ending work, it is

crucial to fill the gaps left by earlier studies. This study might be seen as a starting point and a significant achievement for researchers in future.

2.10 Previous Studies

Newspaper editorials and media headlines have been examined using the technique of pragmatic analysis. The Afghan conflict has not been discussed from this perspective before. Earlier researches have concentrated more on the news stories covering wide range of socio political issues in diverse contexts.

Innocent (2007) wrote an article on news headlines as pragmatic strategy in Nigerian press discourse. By using the speech act theory to demonstrate how headlines attempt to influence the socio-political conditions faced by Nigerians, he illustrates that headlines genuinely perform acts. The main approach used by the journalists to highlight social issues is news headlines, which are considered to perform illocutionary functions in the context of social speech. The speech act theory is used to investigate the illocutionary roles of news headlines in Nigerian situations of crises. Eight news headlines that accurately represent Nigerian situation of distress was purposefully chosen for this study from a corpus of twenty-five news headlines from the three most frequently read news magazines in Nigeria. The findings show that pragmatic techniques are different ways of encoding meanings in news headlines that are not obvious in linguistic elements of headlines, but rather meanings that have an impact on social context. However, the ideological perspectives of each writer as well as the supreme professional and social ethics of the news magazines itself have an impact on news headlines. The sample size for this study was too small to examine the illocutionary function of news headlines in Nigerian magazine. The present study fills the gap by taking editorials as a sample because editorials provide opinions of editors, context, in depth analysis, references and critical perspective on most prevalent topics.

Mey (2006), conducted a study to analyze *the Editorial Comments of TELL Magazine in Nigeria*. The numerous speech acts that appear in editorial comments have linguistic and pragmatic repercussions on how the meaning of the magazine is interpreted. The pragmatic study was conducted on four recent, consecutive *TELL* magazine issues that encompassed January and February 2014. The research showed that, in addition to the cover page, the editorial remarks contain a wealth of meaning that may be effectively discovered through speech acts. The analysis further

demonstrates that editorial remarks have a significant impact on how readers perceive news items. The study comes to the conclusion that readers should read the remarks to avoid undermining the function of it in the construction of meaning. (Ijadimine & Aminu, 2014). The present study takes two newspaper of international and national stature into consideration (Dawn & The New York Times) to understand multiple layers of meaning disseminated through use of different words.

Atika (2014) wrote an article on a pragmatic analysis of speech acts of the main character in state of play. She collected the data in the form of dialogues and used descriptive qualitative method to examine the data. Findings of the study reveal that the main character, Cal McAffrey, employed declarative, interrogative and imperative speech acts. She employed representative, commissive, directive and expressive speech acts with multiple roles generally to give information, show truth and varied realities.

Other scholars have attempted to investigate the written classified ads taken from exclusive publications employing various illocutionary techniques in the speech acts theory. The research displays that the purpose of using speech acts was to gain the proceeding impact on the reader while selecting a few speech acts to obtain the implied motive (Simon & Dejica, 2015).

An investigation into newspaper headlines was made by Abba (2015) used speech act theory to examine the use of language in the stories written on the topic of Boko Haram Crisis. According to the idea, the author or the speaker employs specific verbs known as performatives or constatives to accomplish a speech act in every particular speech context, either spoken or written. The researcher's goal was to identify different speech acts, the most common speech acts in the news, and how those acts affected language usage.

Al-Hindawi & Ali (2018) wrote an article to explore the speech acts used in CNN and BBC headlines to portray the Syrian conflict. From each of these news sources, 56 headlines were chosen: 30 from BBC and 26 from CNN. According to this study, headlines can have obscure pragmatic possibilities that are encoded, so it is important to discover how these meanings are expressed. This research reveals that examining the speech acts used in news headlines can be an effective technique for understanding the intended meaning given by publishers. According to research, CNN and BBC news headlines frequently use assertive speech acts. The findings also suggest

that the BBC news channel's headlines prominently employ expressive speech acts, whereas CNN's headlines predominately use commissive speech acts. It employs that BBC channel expresses feelings in a response to acts whereas CNN commits about future actions.

Another scholar Mushtaq (2018) conducted a study on editorials discussing Kashmir conflict. The objective of the study was to find out the most common speech acts performed by writers and how they impact the viewpoint of readers on Kashmir Conflict. Searle's theory of speech act has been used for exploration of this matter. She chose two newspapers Dawn and The News to understand the use of speech acts by the writers and how they are received and interpreted by the readers. The findings revealed that the number of speech acts varied in frequency in these newspaper. The stance of both the newspapers is different regarding Kashmir issue. Kashmir is the long-standing conflict between Pakistan and India. Therefore, there is a need to take into consideration the viewpoint of Indian media. In some future study, the scholars may select data from both Indian and Pakistanis' newspaper, and conduct a comparative analysis to discern the perspective of both the countries involved in the matter.

Nouhoum (2020) wrote an article on "Speech Acts in U.S Treaties: A Pragmatic Perspective". The study was conducted to investigate how people utilize language, more precisely the kinds of objectives they have when they speak or write, in conversations about agreements around the world. The research fuses the subjects of pragmatics and law, concentrating on a particular style of language employed in legal texts. Several other thematic variables were included for in-depth research. One is mood which is derived from Halliday's systemic functional linguistics and asserts that there are primarily three moods in English: declarative, imperative, and interrogative. Speech act kind is the other. According to Searle's taxonomic classification, there are representative, Commissive, directive, and expressive speech acts. The findings show that no specific speech act type is used consistently. This frequent occurrence of commissive and constitutive clauses is interpreted as an illustration of the character of a treaty, which is more about commitment and precise definitions of the relative terms than it is about issuing orders. In this study there is a lack of comparison with treaties from other countries or international agreements. This limits the study's broader applicability and understanding of how speech acts are used in different legal contexts.

Hyder & Khalid (2020), conducted a research on newspaper headlines to see how speech acts are used in media discourse. The primary goal was to investigate the headlines from the Al Sabah newspaper in Iraq using Searle's Theory of Speech Acts. Fifty headlines covering the conflict between Iraq and ISIS were collected and categorized into groups. The findings revealed that the headline writers used different speech acts clearly to convey their message. The most commonly employed speech acts in the selected headlines were expressive and declarative speech acts. As a whole, these speech acts were utilized to effectively address readers' concerns in the headlines of the Al Sabah Newspaper. It focused solely on the Al Sabah newspaper in Iraq. This distinctiveness raises the need for a broader comparative analysis involving newspapers from diverse contexts to uncover potential variations in speech act usage when reporting on the conflict between Iraq and ISIS.

Researchers in the past have looked into its importance and meanings. As mentioned earlier, the scholars based in varied contexts have worked either on headlines or editorials published in their local, national or international newspapers; nevertheless, the researcher has adopted a comparatively new approach by analyzing newspapers of both national and international stature to find out the Pakistani and western perspective on Afghan conflict. Both the countries are stakeholders in this matter. Pakistan is bounded by Afghanistan to the northwest and north and the United States invested money and manpower in this conflict. The war continued for decades. Many American and NATO soldiers lost their lives in this war before it finally ended. Therefore, the researcher took a keen interest in analyzing the language used in editorials, the word choice of the editors, and the perlocutionary effect of it on the readers. Similarly, number of other studies have been conducted on the topics related to pragmatics in which the important implications of speech act theory has been illustrated. Apart from pragmatic analyses of different News Channels at different burning issues of the specific hour, Critical Discourse Analysis of different News channels and their headlines have also been foregrounded broadly which can be found in the existing literature, but there has no comparative analysis yet on the burning issue of the world security, i.e. Afghan conflicts and withdrawal of US Forces.

The US invasion and withdrawal from Afghanistan are the top concerns for regional and international authorities because they are directly related to the threat to world peace in general. Media, however, has played a key part to mold the

consciousness of the people and thus the number of different narratives emerged. It is essential to fill in the gaps left by past studies because studying language is a broad and never-ending activity. The findings of this study may serve as a springboard and a major accomplishment for researchers in the future.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter describes data collection and data analysis procedures that have been used in the study. This chapter covers research method, research design and the sample of the study along with the data analysis procedures. Sampling method, data collection procedure for data analysis, theoretical framework and analytical framework are also explained in this chapter.

3.1 Research Approach and Method

In this study, the researcher uses a mixed-method approach focusing on news editorials which are analyzed. The qualitative data is analyzed through thematic analysis using Searle's model of speech acts whereas, quantitative data is analyzed through descriptive statistics where frequencies of speech acts are determined. The researcher retrieves data from The New York Times and Dawn newspapers by collecting editorials on the Afghan conflict. Searle's theory of speech act is used for the analysis and interpretation of editorials. An exploratory research method has been used. The researcher explores that which type of speech acts are employed in Dawn and The New York Times news editorials and which kinds of speech acts are most repeatedly employed in the context of the Afghanistan issue. With the help of Searle's model of speech act the researcher has read and identified the obscure meaning of these editorials. The objects were news editorials from two newspapers, Dawn and The New York Times in the background of the Afghan clash from August to December 2021.

The researcher has done quantitative analysis followed by qualitative study of the data.

3.2 Research Design

Quantitative analysis is used to determine speech acts which are used transcendentally in the editorials, while qualitative analysis is used to analyze the pragmatic features of the editorials. In general, this study makes use of both qualitative and quantitative approaches. For this study, ten news editorials covering Afghan conflict were selected from Dawn and The New York Times ranging from August to December 2021. Depending on the particular circumstances, pragmatics controls how language is used

in different contexts. In these editorials, the investigator has focused on the use of speech acts in diverse contexts and the progress of different stances through speech acts.

3.2 Sample

Ten editorials from the top newspapers, i.e., Dawn and The New York Times respectively from August to December 2021, were chosen for the analysis of daily news editorials related to the Afghan conflict. The editors' choice of speech acts and the reasons for choosing certain speech acts more frequently than the others have been examined in relation to the editorials' content.

3.3 Sampling Method

The materials from the chosen editorials of Dawn and The New York Times has been gathered using the method of convenience sampling. To obtain more diversified data, the study attempted to compile a selection of ten articles from a various context.

3.4 Data Collection

For the present study, the researcher gathers data from online news sources which include Dawn website (www.dawn.com.pk) and The New York Times website (www.newyorktimes.com).

3.5 Procedure for Data Analysis

Numerical data is investigated through statistical analysis, in which tables and graphs are used to describe how many speech acts are there. It is presented in the form of tables and graphs that what type of speech acts are significantly used in the editorials of Dawn and the New York Times. Later, the percentage of Assertive, Commissive, Directive, Declarative, Expressive and their prototypes has been calculated in both newspaper editorials.

Qualitative data has been analyzed through the theoretical framework, i.e., *speech act theory*. The researcher carries out thematic analysis of the qualitative data and later examines that what types of speech acts are used and what are their prototypes. At the end, a detailed contextual analysis of these illocutionary forces has been carried out to have a better understanding of the subject matter.

3.6 Theoretical Framework

Speech Act Theory by Austin

Theory of speech act is an innovative change in the study of philosophy, language and mainly in the area of pragmatics. John Austin, a well-known philosopher presented it in his book named *How to do things with words* in 1962. Austin (1962) made a distinction between stating and acting things. Austin described that all the phrases are not just assertions instead they comprise orders, requests that are made by the people in different specific situations in different contexts. He gave the idea of two main speech acts as *constatives* and *Performatives* (Austin, 1962). Austin differentiated these two types of speech acts saying that the performatives are the utterances that cannot be either true or wrong while the constatives are the statements that can be true or untrue and carry out certain actions. According to Austin ‘a locutionary act is the just act of speaking’. A further act type, known as an illocutionary act, was another idea he put forth. According to John Austin illocutionary act refers to the speaker’s intentions, i.e., what he or she wants to convey. Then Austin defined a third type of act known as perlocutionary act. Perlocutionary act is the effect of utterance on listeners. These three forces (locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary) of speech acts will help us in this study to address the contextual meaning since these forces deal with pragmatics.

John Rogers Searle who is the Austin’s student, explained his ideas further.

According to J. R. Searle the motive of language is not only to present the state of affairs but more than this. The expressions that we use in our language do not carry only the literal meaning. Any statement that we use in language has multiple meanings that are not visible to us. And we perform through language as we perform physical acts like playing cricket, drinking water and driving a car. We all perform various acts by using language. For example, we give different orders like give me a glass of water. So this is considered as an order. There are some other examples like, to give warnings or give advice, and make requests. So it means that the different utterances which we produce in our language and through these we perform different acts physically. There are two types of meanings in an utterance like literal and propositional meaning as in this sentence, “Give me a glass of water”. It has a literal meaning that is visible or surface meaning and the other is pragmatic meaning that is hidden or deep meaning.

Pragmatic meanings are contextual and communicative and they help explain the intentions of the speaker.

John Searle (1969) suggests that speech act is the minimum communication unit. However, this unit comprises special kinds of macro-classes which consecutively are subdivided into micro classes.

The system of classifying speech acts was created by J. R. Searle. There are just five illocutionary factors in Searle's and they belong to macro classes that the speaker can achieve on the proposition in a statement namely: *assertive*, *directives*, *Commissive*, *expressive* and *declarations*.

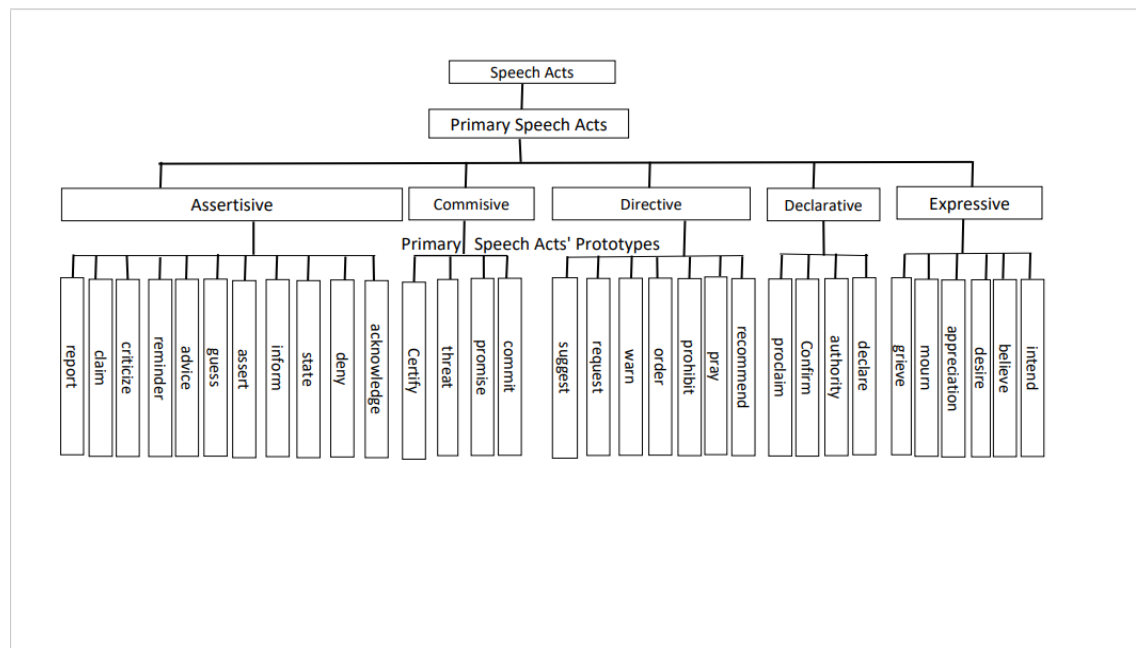
3.7 Analytical Framework

The speech acts in Dawn and the New York Times have been analyzed by using Searle's (1969) theory of speech act in which news editorials are categorized as primary speech acts (assertive, commissive, directives, declaratives and expressive) then subcategorized into primary speech acts' prototypes.

Searle's theory of speech acts is employed as a theoretical framework of this study.

According to Searle (1969), a speech act is the smallest possible unit of communication. This unit, however, is classified into various macro classes (primary speech acts), which are further divided into macro classes as prototypes (Al- Hindawi & Ali, 2018). Searle (1979) provides the following typology of these primary speech acts:

John Searle's Theory of 'Speech Acts'



Note. In Searle's theory of speech acts, speech acts are categorized at two levels, primary speech acts and its prototypes.

Searle's theory of speech acts describes all five types; assertive, commissive, directive, declarative and expressive.

An exploratory research method has been used in this study. This exploratory study uses mixed method approach. Ten editorials are selected from two newspapers, the New York Times and dawn. This study uses 'Searle's (1969) theory of speech acts' as a theoretical framework.

CHAPTER 4

DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

This chapter begins with the detailed analysis of the data and ends with the discussion of the findings. In this chapter, Searle's (1969) theory of speech act is used to analyze the speech acts. Tables, figures and graphs are used to present the data and their description, after which they are interpreted and analyzed

4.1 Overview

As reported by Nadadur (2007), Media in Pakistan is controlled by three major groups: one which owns its influential newspaper Dawn; another which operates the nation's biggest newspaper The News; and the third manages The Nation (Kiran, 2018). The Daily Times, Daily Pakistan, Business Recorder, The Herald, and The Frontier Post are some of the other well-known newspapers, all of which are published in different cities of the country. The two most important and widely read English daily among them are *The News* and *Dawn*. *The News* leads *Dawn* with 140,000 copies to 138,000, according to the Audit Bureau of Circulation statistics (2004). Both newspapers are multiple version magazines with significant readerships in the nation's major cities.

A day before the officially scheduled date for the completion of the troops' hasty withdrawal, the Taliban celebrated their victory as the wheels lifted off the aircraft carrying the last of the US forces out of Afghanistan on August 30, 2021, lighting up Kabul's dark sky with firing of guns. The longest war in American history would be remembered forever for its monumental failure, broken promises, and hasty withdrawal. It cost the most influential superpower in the world 240,000 Afghan lives, 2500 American lives, 2.3 trillion dollars, and tragic humiliation. In actuality, it is a tale of American arrogance and bloopers that spans four Democratic and Republican presidential administrations over a period of 20 years. Observers are terrified and dyspneic due to the situation's sudden change and the Taliban's astonishingly quick overtake of Afghanistan. America deceived its Western friends, Afghanistan, its citizens, and those who sacrificed their lives in service to their country in Afghanistan. The miseries and agonies of Afghan people persists unabated in the midst of all of this. The chaos and confusion at the Hamid Karzai International Airport, where people made

the desperate decision to jump out of planes rather than stay in Afghanistan, is the clear indication of uncertainty and distrust of people toward the Taliban. Every single common Afghan's life and future are under peril, not only the lives of the women. The Taliban are now Afghanistan's recognized political entity. They maintain their position. So, not everything is perfect for the Taliban as they rejoice in their great achievement. The ultimate test for the Taliban was not taking over the country; rather, it was their ability to perform in terms of legitimacy, acceptance, and acknowledgment. Bringing peace and normality to Afghanistan, which has only experienced of unrest and turmoil for the past forty years, is a challenging task. It may not have been simple to maintain stability for twenty years. The Taliban are confronted with a variety of intricate problems, such as ordinary problems of daily governance and long-term geopolitical position of Afghanistan. There is no choice to flop on any of them (Huma & Nausheen, 2021).

After the US removal, Pakistan's stance towards Afghan is pretty clear. It is intended to support a peace process that is "Afghan owned and Afghan led". Pakistan is perhaps acting on its words for the first time by setting boundaries in its relations with the US about Afghanistan. Pakistan's political and military authorities have affirmed their intentions to not allowing the country's territory as a battlefield in any conflict. Pakistan is still dedicated to supporting only efforts that aim to promote peace, cooperation, and negotiation. It seeks to uphold the will of Afghan people to be respected. On the other hand, Afghanistan has a severe lack of trust regarding Pakistan's contribution to their nation.

This chapter attempts to analyze and address the findings of both the qualitative and quantitative descriptive analysis. The major goal of the study is to examine and investigate how frequently different speech acts are used by the top newspapers, how they aid in conveying the message both covertly and overtly, and how this results in the construction of a stance on the matter at hand. It also seeks to determine the viewpoint that Pakistani newspapers have developed through their use of speech acts and the extent to which they have defended that opinion.

4.2 Identifying the prospective of news Editorials

Illocutionary acts are used to analyze newspaper editorials and how they construct a stance using different speech acts. The classification is completed in two steps:

Searle's proposed classification of news editorials into primary speech acts (1969) Subdividing the primary speech acts into prototypes.

4.3 Categorization of news Editorials as primary speech acts

A total of ten news editorials (5 from each newspaper) were divided into the following speech acts based on the illocutionary aspects of the variation indicated by Searle (1969).

Sr. No	Illocutionary Acts	Illocutionary Points	Examples
1	Assertive	The speaker is committed to the proposition's sincerity/truth	Entire regions, and not just countries, have paid a steep price for these US follies.
2	Commissive	The speaker is responsible for carrying the future act	Face the consequences - we will kill you.
3	Directives	The speaker wants the listener to perform an action	Put your bloody scarf on!
4	Declarative	The speaker performs an action that affirms his/her authority	"Kabul has become the city of fear", the officer said.
5	Expressive	The speaker expresses feelings in a response to an act	"Rest in peace dear Zaki, I cannot believe you are not with us anymore".

After analyzing the news editorials, they were classified into the following basic speech act categories in the Table mentioned above.

Table 4.1

Five different categories of illocutionary acts.

Selected Newspapers	Articles	No of utterances	Illocutionary acts									
			Assertive		Commissive		Directive		Declarative		Expressive	
			NO	%	NO	%	NO	%	NO	%	NO	%
DAWN	Article.1	7	6	116.66%	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Article.2	4	2	50%	1	25%	1	25%	....	....	....	....
	Article.3	7	5	140%	....	....	3	37.5%	...	...	...	...
	Article.4	4	2	50%	...	...	....	....	....	....	2	50%
	Article.5	6	3	50%	....	....	3	50%	....	....	....	....
	Total utterances	23	18	78.26%	1	4.34%	7	30.43%			2	8.69%
The New York Times	Article.1	7	1	14.28%	....	....	1	14.2%	2	28.57%	3	42.85%
	Article.2	13	2	15.38%	1	7.69%	2	15.38%	1	7.69%	7	53.84%
	Article.3	7	5	71.42%	1	14.28%	..	..	...	...	1	14.28%
	Article.4	14	1	7.14%	4	28.57%	5	35.71%	3	21.42%	1	7.14%
	Article.5	1	.	....	..	...	..	..	...	..	...	...
	Total utterances	42	9	21.42%	6	14.28%	8	19.04%	6	14.28%	12	28.57%

Note. The data in Table 4.1 identify that there are five different categories of illocutionary acts.

In comparison to *Commissive*, directive, declarative, and expressive acts, editorials with assertive illocutionary acts are in the majority in the Dawn newspaper, whereas in The New York Times, expressive speech acts are more frequent. When we look at each editorial individually, we see that the majority of them lack one or more illocutionary speech acts. According to Searle (1969) and Vanderveken (1985), there are only a fixed number of methods to identify a statement containing illocutionary forces. The occurrence of three or four illocutionary forces verifies this. The prominence of *assertive* speech acts in Dawn also supports the findings of earlier researches by Muskanafula (2009) and Ayeomoni & Akinkuolere (2012), which found that the most of writings, particularly headlines and editorials are constructed on the basis of *assertive* illocutionary forces (Rustam, 2009). Meanwhile the frequency of other illocutionary forces, like *expressive*, *commands*, *directive*, and *declarative*, is relatively less. The editorial purpose, where the editor or writer places stress on the veracity of the written arguments and the orientation of similarity of the assertive illocutionary forces are indeed words to worlds, where the words are updated and simplified to explain the situation of events around the world, has received the most consideration amongst the assertive speech acts included in the data. The reader's thoughts and beliefs have always been influenced by language. In a similar manner, it can be said that most news editorials serve the purpose of influencing readers' ideas about particular situations and propositions. As stated in the majority of editorials covering the Afghan conflict, the emphasis was on proving the veracity of the assertions made about the situation.

Expressive are associated with the speaker's happiness, *sorrow*, *regret*, *wishes*, and *grief*, whereas *Commissive* represent the commitment of speaker to taking a specific action in the future. Declaratives show a person's proclamation or announcement of an activity, whereas directives emphasize on the speaker's purpose to force the listener to perform or accomplish some form of action. The articles are infrequently based on the speaker's feelings, emotions, threat, refusal, demands or vows as can be seen from the lower usage of the aforementioned illocutionary acts. However, there have been instances in which the speaker has expressed powerful feelings of desire, disapproval, mourn, grief, as well as suggestions and recommendations. Directives are used when the speaker wants to make a request or offer a recommendation to the leaders of US and

Taliban in order to deal with this conflict as smoothly as possible. Expressive are used when the speaker expresses sorrow and dissatisfaction of the US government's role in resolving this situation. In some cases, the speaker also expresses criticism of Taliban government.

4.4 Sub categorization of Editorials into Primary Speech Acts' Prototypes

Table 2

Searle's (1969) Theory of Speech Act

Primary speech acts	Primary speech acts' prototypes
Assertive	report, claim, criticize, reminder ,advice, guess, assert, inform, state, deny, acknowledge, certify
Commissive	commit, promise, threat
Directive	suggest, request, warn, order, prohibit, pray, recommend
Declarative	proclaim, confirm, authority, declare
Expressive	grieve, mourn, appreciate, desire, believe, intend

Note. Classification of primary speech acts' prototypes

The editorials had distinct illocutionary forces because the propositional substance and context of those editorials with the identical illocutionary points varied. The presence of several illocutionary forces in editorials that address the same topic, the Afghan conflict, from various perspectives confirms Searle and Vanderveken's (1985) claim that a variety of illocutionary forces may occur and should be acknowledged without being specifically taken into account by grammar. Furthermore, the starting point of these illocutionary forces is frequently shared and unique. For instance, the assertive illocutionary acts point at the variety of illocutionary forces that are related by the same direction of fit, which is the assertion of a claim through a statement. The same is true for expressive, directives, declarations, and commands, where a variety of other illocutionary forces can be derived from a single illocutionary point. This variation in illocutionary forces supports Muskanafula's (2009) claim that the subcategories of primary speech acts are closely related to their various fundamental

speech act types, namely assertive, commissive, directives, declaratives, and expressive. No further subcategories would have needed to be formed if this variation had not occurred. It was necessary to further classify or divide main illocutionary forces into their prototypes as a result of the existence of this huge and distinct difference within the similar illocutionary point. Because the news editorials contain speech actions, they were treated as propositions. Any illocutionary act that contains propositional substance is a statement. Any illocutionary act that contains propositional substance is considered to be a statement.

The felicity conditions listed below by Searle (1969) were applied to the editorials in order to determine how prototypes could be realized:

- i. **Preparatory condition:** The circumstance that helped determine the type of setting or context that can be used to create an illocutionary act. A speech act must meet certain requirements in order to be successful.
- ii. **Condition for the proposition's content:** The criteria employed to determine if an incident occurred in the present, past or future.
- iii. **Essential condition:** It served as a tool for determining the editorial's main illocutionary action.
- iv. **Sincerity condition:** It is connected to the speaker's psychological condition at the time the assertion is stated, and a speech act is only authentic when both what is communicated by the speech act and the speaker's psychological state are the same (Green, 2007).

These felicity conditions are crucial because they can be employed to create new illocutionary forces from previous ones.

4.5 A Comprehensive Investigation of Illocutionary Acts of Assertive

Speech acts that are based on a proposition's truthfulness are considered assertive. Assertive speech acts are further divided into prototypes; however, each prototype varies from the others because of differences in illocutionary force.

Twelve 12 prototypes of assertive speech acts are there in Table 4.2 and statements from all the chosen articles having same illocutionary acts are placed under the same corresponding prototype.

Table 4.2*Assertive categorization into Prototypes*

S. No.	Assertive prototypes	Number of statements			
		Dawn	%	The New York Times	%
1.	Report	3	13.04%	2	4.76%
2.	Claim	1	4.34%	....
3.	Criticize	3	13.04%	....
4.	Reminder	1	4.34%	....
5.	Advice	3	13.04%	....
6.	Guess	2	8.69%	1	2.38%
7.	Assert	1	4.34%	....
8.	Inform	1	4.34%	1	2.38%
9.	State	3	13.04%	2	4.76%
10.	Deny	....		1	2.38%
11.	1 Acknowledge	....		1	2.38%
12.	2 Certify	....		1	2.38%
Total no of assertive prototypes		18	78.26%	9	21.42%

Note. Table above shows a significant change within the reoccurrence of assertives' prototypes.

Statements in the editorials serving the purpose to *state*, *report*, *criticize*, and *advice* are in abundance. Acts of *guess* has medium frequency. Whereas the act of *claim*, *reminder*, *assert* and *inform* have least frequency.

The felicity conditions previously discussed helped to classify assertive acts into their subcategories or prototypes, and at the same time, they greatly help in determining how a message was intended to be constructed and delivered using various speech acts while keeping audience and context in mind. A detailed analysis is done on each of the prototypes shown in table 4.2.

4.5.1. Report

In comparison to other prototypes of the same speech act, the illocutionary act ‘report’ that falls under the category of assertive speech act was used the most frequently. Reports are used when the facts given relates to a situation or an event that has occurred in the past and, in certain situations, is also somehow linked to the present (Rustam, 2009). As mentioned in Table 4.2, the percentage of this illocutionary act used in Dawn is 13.04%, while in The New York Times it is 4.76%. The statements that fall under the category of ‘report’ are similar in that they relate to past events that are connected to the Afghan conflict, such as:

FOREIGN MINISTER Shah Mahmood Qureshi’s flying visit to Kabul on Thursday... (Dawn, October 23rd, 2021) Appendix 1 (B)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 1).

In this remark taken from Dawn news editorial, the speaker is reporting to audience about the quick trip of Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi to Kabul on Thursday. It was the first official formal interaction between Pakistan and Afghanistan since Taliban return to power in Afghanistan on August.

Shortly after his return, Mr. Qureshi described his interactions with Mullah Muhammad Hassan Akhund, the acting Afghan prime minister, and other members of the cabinet as fruitful and optimistic. According to the foreign minister, the two sides talked about a range of global issues, including the need for an inclusive government, economy, regional connectivity, and the impending humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan. They also discussed women’s rights and human rights internationally. It is clear from the presence of DG ISI Lt Gen Fayeze Hameed in the delegation that the rising security threat posed by IS-K and other militant organizations, specifically the TTP, to Afghanistan and the region was also discussed in the meeting.

Pragmatic analysis of this remark shows Pakistan’s efforts to establish diplomatic relations with the new afghan government, raising both hopes for cooperation and concerns about regional stability.

Perlocutionary effect of this statement on audience is positive. The reader will probably see that the visit signifies a major shift in Pakistan-Afghanistan relationship

since the Taliban's takeover, sparking interests in its effect on regional dynamics and bilateral collaboration.

Another DAWN news editorial asserted the following:

There is a reason why the international community has been reluctant to come forward... (Dawn, October 9th, 2021) Appendix 1 (C)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 2)

This remark from DAWN is another example of an illocutionary act of report.

UN Secretary Martin Griffiths, the human resources coordinator, called the situation in Afghanistan "extremely terrible". Afghanistan is on the verge of a humanitarian disaster; there is a "real risk" of an economic catastrophe if the international community did not help the country's poverty stricken citizens. However, despite promises of more than \$1 billion in humanitarian relief from international donors, there is currently no sign that any aid will soon be arriving in Afghanistan. He added that there is a reason why the international community has been reluctant to come forward in aid of the Afghan people; and it is political. Despite loud cries for immediate humanitarian aid, the international world is debating whether the aid can be used as leverage to obtain concessions from Afghanistan's challenging leadership on important issues such as human rights, women's rights, and a democratic administration.

Contextual analysis of this remark from the Dawn demonstrates that the world community's hesitation to help Afghanistan after Taliban's takeover is due to concerns about Taliban's legitimacy, fundamental human rights abuses, and regional stability, counter terrorism cooperation, and need for accountability mechanisms.

This remark might make reader more aware, curious about specific issues, skeptical about the Taliban's actions and concerned for the Afghan people's well-being.

The Taliban say they have changed and high schools for girls in some provinces have been allowed to open. (Dawn, December 4th, 2021) Appendix 1 (D)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 3)

These lines taken from Dawn's selected editorials is employing the illocutionary force of the word 'report'.

The Taliban claim to have evolved and have given several provinces permission to open high schools for girls. But many supporters of women's rights and equal rights are still doubtful. Women's rights have been considered a crucial component of any future involvement with Afghanistan by the international community, which has blocked billions in central bank funding and development spending.

By March, according to the Taliban, all Afghan girls will be enrolled in classes again. A senior Taliban leader told the Associated Press that girls' high schools should reopen by the end of March, giving the first schedule for their restart since the group took back power in the middle of August. Since the Taliban took control, girls in the majority of Afghanistan have not been permitted to return to school above grade 7, and since months, the world community and women's rights organizations have been urging for this to change.

Pragmatic analysis of this reporting statement shows that it is hard to believe for many people that the girls' school will reopen, because Taliban have made numerous promises but have not kept them. The international world has expressed skepticism over Taliban declarations, saying that it will judge the organization based on its deeds (Al- Jazeera, 2022).

A White House official said U.S. military flights evacuated about 1,100 people... (The New York Times, Aug 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (C)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 4)

Illocutionary force of the word 'report' is used here taken from the New York Times.

In a flight to Kabul on Tuesday, Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie Jr., the top military commander in charge of Afghanistan, reported that commercial flights had restarted after being suspended to secure the field. More than 3,200 people have already been evacuated, according to a White the United States military evacuated almost 1,100 US inhabitants, permanent citizens and their families on 13 flights from Afghanistan on Tuesday, a White House official said.

One C-130 flight and twelve C-17 missions were among those. To date, approximately 2,000 special refugees from Afghanistan have been moved to the United States, and more than 3,200 people have been evacuated. These figures are expected to rise, according to the White House. Official from the House who also mentioned that

on Tuesday, almost 1,100 persons were evacuated. American pilots and soldiers had to make quick decisions during the turmoil at the airport on Sunday and Monday.

The lumbering jet was carrying equipment and supplies for the U.S. Marines and soldiers... (The New York Times, Aug. 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (C)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 5)

Yet again this statement is taken from the New York Times using illocutionary act of the word 'report'.

The small crew stared in horror as hundreds, possibly thousands of Afghans rushed forward shortly after the aircraft landed, slid to a stop, and lowered its back ramp. The staff was aware of what had occurred the previous evening. People were scrambling to board flights at the airport on Monday morning in larger numbers. Fearing for their safety, the crew members jumped back up into the aircraft before they had finished unloading, according to officials. They then raised the loading ramp. At that point, authorities claim that hordes of Afghans had climbed up the wings of the aircraft and, unbeknownst to the crew, into the wheel well where the landing gear would retract after take-off.

The crew of an American Military C-17 cargo plane that took off from Kabul's Hamid Karzai International Airport in August while people were clinging to its wings has been approved by the Air Force. This was during the hectic days of the withdrawal of Afghanistan. Ann Stefanek, an Air Force spokesperson, stated that following two independent assessments of the terrifying occurrence, which led to the discovery of human remains in the plane's wheel well, the aircrew was "in accordance with applicable rules of engagement". The world saw footage of the awful sight that was captured by the Afghan news media.

Our thoughts are with the families of the deceased as we recognize this to be a devastating tragedy, Ms. Stefanek added in the statement.

4.5.2. Claim

The prototype, *claim*, belongs to the directive class. It is used as an assertion in assertive speech to imply that the speaker is making a claim that they personally think to be accurate, even though others may not accept or appreciate that opinion (Cambridge Dictionary, 2022). The percentage in DAWN is 4.34 %, whereas in The

New York Times it is not found as demonstrated in Table 4.2. The example of claim from the selected articles is as follows:

Those American officials from successive administrations who contributed to this two-decade- long folly have a lot to answer for. (Dawn, August 18th, 2021) Appendix 1 (A)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 6)

This remark from Dawn is an example of illocutionary force of the word ‘claim’.

The writer is making claim here saying that American administration has made useless attempts to bring peace in Afghanistan.

The pragmatic analysis of this claiming remark demonstrates that in 20 years this war has cost trillions US dollars and many precious lives.

The war has drastically degraded Afghans’ standard of living. People are dealing with food instability, and young children are at danger for severe malnutrition. Currently, people in some areas are facing starvation. Additionally, the war has left behind invisible wounds; more than two thirds of Afghans experience mental health issues. For all this devastation, America should be held accountable before its own people and the Afghans.

The Biden administration has been under intense criticism since the Taliban troops made a successful entry into Kabul in August 2021. Republican members of Congress have seized on the chaos as a good opportunity to put doubt on Biden’s ability to make decisions in order to improve their electoral prospects in the 2022 midterm elections. Islamic organizations and governments, including the government of Iran, have celebrated the withdrawal of American forces as a symbol of the end of American dominance in the world (Karimi, 2021).

4.5.3. Criticize

To *criticize* is to strongly point out someone’s mistake or to declare that something is bad or undesirable. The author’s or speaker’s objective is to make a claim that expresses disagreement or disapproval.

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden has made a futile attempt to paint his Afghanistan policy... (Dawn, August 18th, 2021) Appendix 1 (A)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 7)

This quotation from an editorial in Dawn News employs the illocutionary act of the word ‘criticism’.

After receiving a barrage of criticism for the humiliating departure of US soldiers from Kabul following the Taliban control of the capital, Biden blamed Ashraf Ghani’s administration for the collapse of Afghanistan in a speech.

The phrase “Joe Biden has made a futile attempt” sparked the researcher to look into its pragmatic meaning. A Pragmatic interpretation of this statement shows that US president is claiming that America had not entered in the conflict 20 years ago with the intention of nation-building; Joe Biden has made a fruitless effort to portray his Afghanistan strategy as a success. This cannot be true completely.

The United States’ military mission in Afghanistan came to an end on August 31, 2021. A hasty evacuation of thousands of Americans, people from other countries, and Afghans was caused by senior Biden administration leadership’s failure to prepare for this disastrous day. A record of American failure of allies, as well as hundreds, perhaps thousands, of American citizens and tens of thousands of Afghan collaborators, were left helpless.

After all, they had faced a similar humiliation in Vietnam decades ago... (Dawn, August 18th, 2021) Appendix 1 (A)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 8)

This statement is once again taken from the editorial in Dawn using the illocutionary force of the word ‘criticism’.

The US has returned control of Afghanistan to the people it had pushed out two decades earlier after spending more than a trillion dollars on the country. Within a week of the Taliban’s swift attack, all of America’s efforts to support the Kabul administration, which was supported by a 300,000-strong army that was fully equipped and trained in the United States, were only for nothing. The Americans would have had flashbacks if they weren’t so horrified by how their Afghan plan fell apart like a house of cards. After all, they had experienced a humiliating experience similar to this in Vietnam centuries ago, and they have since been involved in a number of other military blunders.

A pragmatic interpretation of this statement demonstrates that there is no doubt that America spreads havoc wherever it goes, ruins all nations and massacres humanity. They always leave a mess where they fall. They never seem to learn from their previous wars.

Entire regions, and not just countries, have paid a steep price for these US follies. (Dawn, August 18th, 2021) Appendix 1 (A)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 9)

The illocutionary force of *criticism* is used in this remark from the editorial in Dawn.

It appears that all of these international operations have one thing in common: they all ended in catastrophic disasters and left behind a frightening level of uncertainty. America's misguided actions have caused great suffering in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Libya to name these few current examples. Terrorist groups like the Islamic State and Al Qaeda were established as a result of American actions fueled by ideology. These US blunders have cost whole regions, not just individual countries, dearly.

4.5.4. Reminder

The prototype 'reminder' is used when speaker wants to provide specific information about any matter to the audience. The percentage in DAWN is 4.34 % whereas in The New York Times it is not used as shown in Table 4.2. The example of 'reminder' from the selected editorials is as:

America's failure in Afghanistan is a reminder... (Dawn, August 18th, 2021) Appendix 1 (A)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 10)

This statement taken from Dawn which is employing the illocutionary force of the word 'remind'.

In this statement, the speaker reminds US government its recent humiliating failure in Afghanistan. If there was ever a need for another reminder, America's failure in Afghanistan serves as one: nation-building cannot be imposed from above as the US has repeatedly attempted to do, and development cannot be sown through the barrel of

a pistol. America's imprudent actions have caused great distress in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Libya.

The phrase 'progress cannot sprout through the barrel of a gun' triggered the researcher to investigate it pragmatically. The pragmatic analysis of this remark reveals that as the bombing and shooting war came to an end, a battle of the mind has begun. Now, the news and narratives are being used to prosecute the entire phenomenon. It is impossible to bring peace in any region under the threat of gunfire.

4.5.5. Advice

The idea behind giving advice to the listener is to convince him or her that the situation being described is in their best interests. 'Advice' was defined somewhat differently by Vanderveken (1990) and Wierzbicka (1987). They believe that it serves as a formal speech act. When institutions need to interact with individuals, they do it in writing. It is typically employed by professionals, such as lawyers, professionals, or agents to convey information that suggests the speaker is acting in the addressee's best interests.

The Taliban may feel flush with their victory... (Dawn, August 17, 2021)
Appendix 1 (E)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 11)

This remark from Dawn is an example of illocutionary force for the word 'advice'.

This statement is taken from the Dawn's selected editorials in which it is told that Taliban are feeling excited over their triumph, but they have to realize that they have to face many challenges. Even while they may be feeling jubilant at their win, the Taliban must understand that ruling Afghanistan will take more than just courage and political power as there are so many crises in Afghanistan. Currently, one of the biggest humanitarian emergencies in history is raging in Afghanistan. No cash is available in the Afghan economy to pay wages or purchase food. They are not getting any foreign help because the world community has not accepted Taliban government yet. Additionally, millions of Afghans will soon starve to death due to acute hunger.

It is a lesson hard to digest for a superpower held hostage by its own hubris, but digest it, (Dawn, August 18th, 2021) Appendix 1 (A)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 12)

This statement is again from Dawn which is employing an illocutionary act for the word ‘advice’.

Again this statement has been taken from Dawn’s selected editorials, in which the speaker gives advice to US government to not commit such misadventures again in any country. Because world cannot hold the burden of her misadventures of military interventions. A superpower captive to its own hubris must learn a lesson that is difficult to swallow, but it must do so for the benefit of the rest of the world, which cannot take the weight of any more such hasty and careless military actions.

The American voter too must ask hard questions from its leaders,... (Dawn, August 18th, 2021) Appendix 1 (A)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 13)

The illocutionary force of the word ‘advice’ is used in this remark from the editorial in Dawn.

Editor is again focusing on giving advice to US voters that American administration is responsible for the loss of dollars and precious lives of American soldiers. The American people must pose challenging questions to the country’s leadership and demand responses.

The pragmatic analysis indicates that the editor is seeking to promote a sense of civic responsibility among American people and encourage them to be proactive in shaping their country’s policies and holding their leaders accountable for their actions.

This statement may have empowered the readers to take action and demand answers. It may make them upset or angry about the loss of dollars and precious lives of their soldiers and make them thoughtful about their role as citizens.

4.5.6. Guess

When the writer wants to make a statement or a proposition that speculates about an event that might take place soon, they employ the word “guess”. It was applied in the editorials of both newspapers. In Dawn, it is used two times, whereas in The New York times, it is used only one time.

A delegation of the Taliban regime is now expected in Islamabad in the next few days to further boost bilateral ... (Dawn, October 23, 2021) Appendix 1 (B)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 14)

This remark from Dawn is an example of illocutionary force for the word 'guess'.

This remark is taken from the Dawn news editorial, in which the speaker is reporting to audience about the trip of Pakistani Foreign Minister to Kabul on Thursday. It was the first official formal interaction between two countries since Taliban return to power in Afghanistan in August. After his return, Mr. Qureshi described his interactions with Mullah Muhammad Hassan Akhund, the acting Afghan prime minister, and other members of the cabinet as optimistic. According to the foreign minister, the two sides discussed about a range of international issues. During the visit, Pakistan also announced a variety of initiatives to increase trade, ease border crossing, ease visa requirements to improve people-to-people interaction, and provide Rs5 billion in additional humanitarian aid to Afghanistan. In the upcoming days, a delegation from the Taliban administration is anticipated in Islamabad to strengthen bilateral ties and further discussions on issues of mutual interest.

An important delegation comprising non-Pakhtun Afghan leaders who once belonged to the Northern Alliance, held talks with Pakistani officials in Islamabad... (Dawn, August 17, 2021) Appendix 1 (E)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 15)

This quotation from Dawn's editorial is another example of illocutionary force for the word 'guess'.

Again this statement taken from the Dawn news editorials, in which the speaker is reporting about the meeting of a delegation of non-Pakhtun Afghan leaders and Pakistani officials in Islamabad. Without a shot being fired, Kabul was quickly captured by the Taliban, shocking the entire world. The Afghan Taliban currently rule the whole nation and will continue to do so regardless of the temporary administration that eventually emerges. It is unclear how many of the important members of the former government, including former president Ashraf Ghani, would be welcomed by the Taliban under the new arrangement given his migration from Afghanistan. In talks with Pakistani officials on Monday in Islamabad, a significant group of non-Pakhtun Afghan

politicians who once belonged to the Northern Alliance took part. It is anticipated that they would now approach the Taliban to discuss possibilities for joining the new government.

To cope with the expected flood of Afghan refugees, the Biden administration wants to enlist commercial airlines... (The New York Times, Aug. 21, 2021) Appendix 2 (B) (For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 16)

This statement taken from the New York Times is employing illocutionary force for the word 'guess'.

As it has been seen in the Kabul airport, people are desperate to leave Afghanistan as soon as possible. Observing chaos and desperation at airport, they guess the stream of desperate Afghan refugees. So, for the safe evacuation of these people, the US government plans to use commercial planes to transfer Afghan refugees landing in Gulf States from Kabul to states able to provide them resettlement in order to deal with the anticipated flow of refugees from that country.

As Washington attempts to speed up the pace of departures of Americans and at-risk Afghans from Kabul, it has engaged the assistance of six commercial airlines to help transport passengers after their evacuation from Afghanistan. When people arrived in flights from Afghanistan, the Pentagon reported on Sunday that it had requested 18 civilian aircraft from United Airlines, American Airlines, Delta Air, and other airlines to transport them provisional facilities. This was a repetition of a request made in 2003 during the Iraq War (Ali & Heavey, 2021).

4.5.7. Assert

The prototype 'assert' of the assertive speech act is employed when the writer wants to make a claim or make a suggestion that he considers to be accurate and should have proof to support it (Rustam, 2009). This illocutionary act is employed in DAWN with the frequency of 4.34% and The New York Times did not use it in any of their chosen editorials.

There are ominous signs that Afghanistan is heading for a humanitarian catastrophe. (DAWN, October 9, 2021) Appendix 1 (C)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 17)

The illocutionary force of the word ‘assert’ is used in this remark from the editorial in Dawn.

Afghanistan is on the verge of a humanitarian disaster, and there are troubling evidence of this. Food prices are skyrocketing for a population of about 18 million people, with 95 percent of homes without enough food, according to the World Food Programme as outraged protesters line up outside banks with empty pockets.

The pragmatic analysis of this statement demonstrates that Afghanistan was in one of the biggest and most challenging humanitarian crises in the world even before the evacuation of foreign troops and diplomatic staff and the Taliban’s takeover in August 2021. There are still significant humanitarian needs more than a year after the US removal. More than half of Afghans now require international aid as a result of decades of war, frequent disasters, economic instability, hunger, severe food shortages, and the COVID-19 pandemic. For more than a year, Afghanistan has suffered massive poverty. According to the World Food Programme, 90% of Afghans struggle with inadequate food consumption.

This statement may make the reader feel worried or concerned about the situation in Afghanistan, perhaps triggering to discussions and measures to address the crisis.

4.5.8. Inform

Inform is a word used to convey information, especially in a formal setting. When a writer wants to make claims or share knowledge that the reader does not already know, they utilize the word *inform* (Rustam, 2009). As seen in Table 4.2, both newspapers used it once. The editorials use the word *inform* as follows:

The world must realize that an estimated 14m Afghans living below the poverty line, (Dawn, October 9th, 2021) Appendix 1 (C)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 18)

This remark from Dawn is an example of illocutionary force of the word ‘inform’.

Communicative analysis of this statement shows that the speaker tries to get world’s attention towards human calamity in Afghan by informing them that the world must understand that an approximately 14 million Afghans are living in poverty,

stricken by hunger and severe drought, and do not have the choice of waiting for sophisticated political discussion to find an answer to their suffering. Pakistan urges for strengthening the Afghan economy, while highlighting the country's humanitarian challenges.

Pakistan has demanded measures to halt the rising humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan, stating that the nation's economy should be recovered as a top priority. Ambassador Munir Akram stated during the United Nations Security Council 'Arria-Fomula' meeting that solving the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan was Pakistan's primary concern and that Pakistan's "urgent responsibility" was for the safety and stability of its neighbor.

He said that Taliban fighters had been told not to enter Kabul until an orderly political transition could take place, (THE NEW YORK TIMES Aug 17, 2021) Appendix 1 (C) (For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 19)

This statement taken from the New York Times is using illocutionary force for the word 'inform'.

This statement shows that while Taliban fighters had been instructed to stay out of Kabul until a peaceful change of government can take place, the departure of Mr. Ghani and a significant portion of the security apparatus had left a gaping hole that the Taliban urgently needed to fill. On Tuesday, government troops Taliban warriors seen driving hijacked Military trucks and riding motorcycles throughout Kabul. Some people controlled traffic and sent a message of order; other people went to the residences of government leaders and seized things like cars and valuables.

4.5.9. State

'State' also falls under the category of assertive speech acts. When the writer wants to make an important assertion about the topic, they utilize the assertive prototype 'state'. It has been used in the editorials of both newspapers. Table 2 shows that the percentage of this illocutionary act 'state' is 13.04% in DAWN paper's editorials and 4.76% in the New York Times.

There are sobering lessons in this for those willing to learn. (Dawn, August 17th, 2021) Appendix 1 (E) (For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 20)

The illocutionary force of the word ‘state’ is employed in this remark from an editorial in Dawn.

The pragmatic analysis of this statement reveals that the writer is actually telling about the humiliating failure of US in Afghan. While talking about the Taliban’s challenges and the recent disaster of evacuating people, which has been seen in desperation leaving the country. After the heavy cost of dollars and many precious lives, they got nothing except humiliation in the whole world.

The horrifying pictures of Afghans swarming American jets as they took off from the Kabul airport, clinging on as they took off, and then plunging to their deaths still lives in indelible memory for long time. The officials who believed that investing \$83 billion in the Afghan military would create a force skilled of repelling the Taliban assault will never forget them. Those eager to study can draw grave conclusions from this.

UN Humanitarian Coordinator Martin Griffiths described the situation in Afghanistan as very dire. (Dawn, October 9th, 2021) Appendix 1 (C) (For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 21)

This remark from Dawn’s editorial is another example of the illocutionary force for the word ‘state’.

Communicative analysis of this statement demonstrates that Martin Griffiths, the UN Humanitarian coordinator is stating about the Afghan situation after US Withdrawal. As they are suffering from economic crises, they do not have enough food, water, health care and shelter. Millions of families living in poverty are experiencing increase in hunger.

The largest humanitarian catastrophe in the world is being experienced by Afghans, who are suffering from flowing and stacking problems. A collapsing economy and isolation from the rest of the world have also made the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan worse. The Afghan economy is in ruins as a result of restrictions and the suspension of major structural funds. In addition, starting July 2021, the price of items has increased by more than 50% due to the steep rise in inflation. As of December 2021, the UN Credentials Committee has postponed making a formal judgement about the Taliban’s representation of Afghanistan at the UN. Moreover, no other government has officially accepted the Taliban till now.

Time is of the essence. (Dawn, October 9th, 2021) Appendix 1 (C) (For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 22)

This statement taken from Dawn news editorials is using the illocutionary act for the word 'state'.

The writer emphasizes international community that they must fulfil their obligation for the peace and settlement of Afghans on time. A collapsing economy and isolation from the rest of the world have made the humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan worse. More than ever, the people of Afghanistan need our support because they are experiencing the biggest humanitarian catastrophe of the world. The pragmatic analysis of this statements shows that the writer also wants us to not let the Afghan people die with hunger and poverty, and we must come forward to aid them immediately, which is basically the perlocutionary force as well.

Anwari was one of hundreds of young people who wanted to leave the country...(THE NEW YORK TIMES Aug 19, 2021) Appendix 2 (A)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 23)

This statement taken from the New York Times' editorials is employing the illocutionary force for the word 'state'.

This statement is taken from the New York Time's selected editorials. Afghanistan's national youth soccer team player Zaki Anwari lost his life while attempting to drift away on American military aircraft transporting civilians out of Kabul. 19 years Anwari lost his life on August 16 while trying to hold onto a C-17 transport aircraft of the American Force, while it was leaving his country. His demise was announced by Afghanistan's General Directorate of Physical Education.

Safety officials are doing due diligence to better understand how events unfolded (THE NEW YORK TIMES Aug 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (C)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 24)

The illocutionary force of the word 'state' is employed in this remark from the New York Times' selected editorials.

This statement is also taken from the New York times' selected editorials, in which the writer is giving a statement about an incident of Afghans holding on to the outside of the American plane as it takes off from Kabul. Ann Stefanek, an Air Force

spokeswoman, said in the statement that safety officials were doing their proper investigation to know the sequence of events better.

Around the world, people are witnessing shocking images of the turmoil and desperation in Afghanistan. One of them was the video of passengers grabbing onto an American cargo plane as it departs from Kabul. As a large number of terrified Afghans rushed the airport, machine gun fire could be heard. They fought their way into commercial aircraft that were crammed with hundreds of passengers when they took off. As a pilot flew 800 people to Dubai in a jet built for 150, one air traffic controller was in wonder.

4.5.10. Deny

Deny is used as an assertive as well as a declarative verb. When used assertively, it refutes a claim by making a claim that is the exact opposite of the one being challenged. That which has been denied has already been acknowledged is the precondition. Denial is not just tied to significant events but is also related to accusations when any kind of statement is being rejected (Rustam, 2009).

But the people who tried the next day on a different C-17 were not so fortunate. (THE NEW YORK TIMES, Aug 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (D) (For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 25)

This remark from the New York Times' editorial is an example of illocutionary force for the word 'deny'.

In this statement, the writer talks about the sad story of C-17 from the Kabul airport. The first flight with 640 Afghan passengers made a successful landing, but some people tried the next day on a different C-17, and they were not as lucky. As American Air Force confesses that human body fragments were discovered in the wheel of the C-17 cargo plane that took off in chaos. The world has been exposed to horrifying video of the carnage that was captured by the Afghan news organizations.

According to a White House representative, more than 3,200 people have been evacuated by American military aircraft Tuesday. During the chaos on Sunday and Monday at the airport, American pilots and soldiers were compelled to make hasty decisions. After hundreds of Afghans who had been given permission by the State Department to be evacuated rushed onto loading ramps, a second C-17 transport jet

with 640 people crammed on board left Kabul late Sunday night, more than double the number expected, military officials said. According to officials, the pilots chose to take off after ascertaining that the large aircraft could manage the weight. The Afghans were on board, and the plane made a successful landing. However, the individuals who attempted the next day on a separate C-17 were not as fortunate.

4.5.11. Acknowledge

When a method of achievement is stated publicly then acknowledgment happens (Rustam, 2009). This prototype is not used in Dawn but used in The New York times with the frequency of 2.38%.

The Air Force acknowledged on Tuesday that human body parts were found... (THE NEW YORK TIMES Aug 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (D)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 26)

This remark from the New York Times' editorial is an example of illocutionary force of the word 'acknowledge'.

Again this statement is taken from the New York Times and from the same article, pointing towards the same matter as well. In the above mentioned statement, the American Air Force confesses that human body fragments were discovered in the wheel of the C-17 cargo plane that took off in turmoil. Video of the devastation that was recorded by Afghan news organization has been made public and is horrible. Air Force authorities have not confirmed the exact number of fatalities in the incident on Monday, but they have stated that they are looking into "the loss of civilian lives" as a number of Afghans, attempting to flee their country after the Taliban gained control of it, jumped onto the aircraft's wings and fell from the sky after it took off.

4.5.12. Certify

Its purpose in persuasion is to reassure the listener that the idea being conveyed to him is true (Rustam, 2009). To certify is to attest to the truth or sincerity of something.

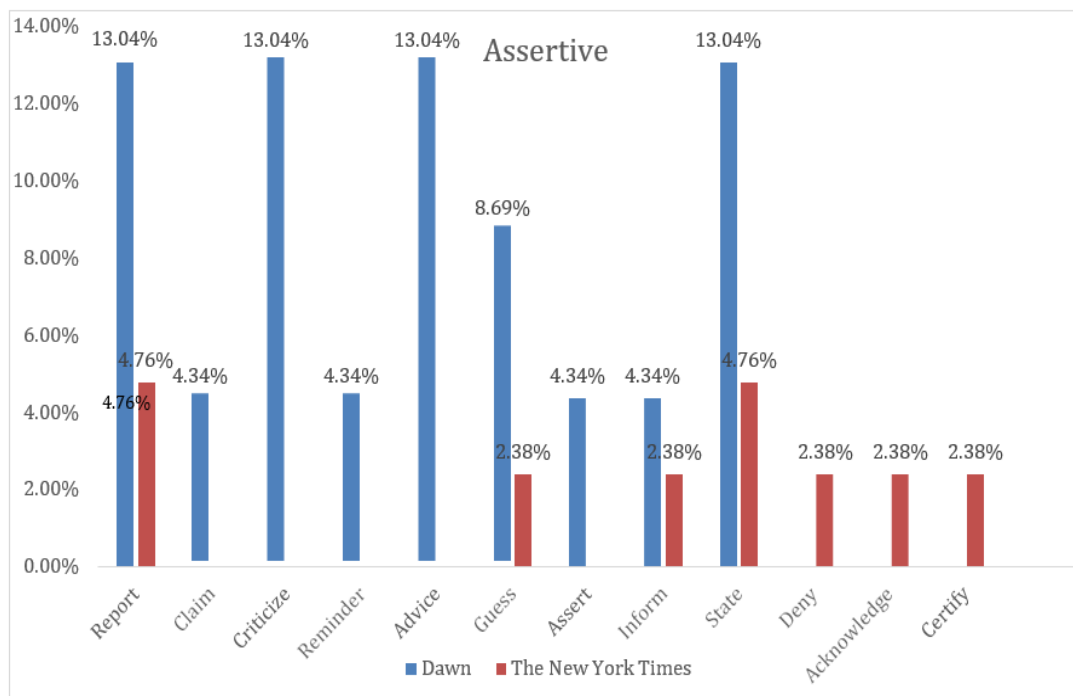
The Taliban will kill me and members of my family... (The New York Times, Aug. 21, 2021) Appendix 2 (B) (For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 27)

The illocutionary force of the word ‘certify’ is employed in this statement from the New York Times’ selected editorial.

This statement is taken from The New York Times, in which a woman journalist reported that she was staying inside her home on Saturday in the Eastern Afghan province of Kunar because she was terrified to go outside. When the provincial administration was in charge, he had written about Taliban brutalities. She asserted that the Taliban were in authority at the moment and were searching for her. The journalist claimed, that she and her family member will be killed by Taliban, just like they have assassinated my friends. The contextual analysis of this remark shows that Afghans are in desperate need of leaving their homeland that the Taliban have taken back. For fear of being murdered by their new masters, many locals who helped America remain in hiding.

Figure 4.1

Graphical illustration of prototypes of assertive speech acts



Note. Graphical illustration of prototypes of assertive speech acts in Dawn and New York Times Newspapers

As can be viewed in Graph 1, Dawn has used different prototype of assertive speech act more often and percentage of them in Dawn is 78.26% which is greater than

the percentage of The New York times that is 8.69%. It makes it clear that Dawn places emphasis on reporting the problems, events and statements exactly as they appear. The New York Times has used assertive speech acts less than Dawn.

4.6 Analyzing Commissive illocutionary Forces

Commissive speech acts, as defined by Searle (1979), are employed when the speaker or writer wants to commit to taking a specific action in the future. The type of force that each prototype of the Commissive speech act possesses distinguishes it from others.

The editorials that have been selected illustrate the use of just one form of prototype of a Commissive speech act:

Table 4.3

Prototype of Commissive Act

Sr. No.	Prototypes of Commissive Act	No of statements			
		Dawn	%	The New York Times	%
1.	Commit	1	4.34%	2	4.76%
2.	Promise	---		3	7.14%
3.	Threat	---		2	4.76%
	Total type of Prototypes	1	4.34%	7	16.66%

Note. Prototype of Commissive Act, i.e. commit, promise and threat

The chart demonstrates that the *commit* prototype of the Commissive speech act is employed 1 time in the chosen editorials of Dawn and 2 times in The New York Times. While *promise* is not used in Dawn newspaper but it is used 2 times in The New York Times. Same is the case with *threat* prototypes as it is used 3 times in The New York Times, whereas Dawn did not use it in its selected editorials. The following is a detailed study of the above-mentioned prototype.

4.6.1. Commit

The word ‘commit’ has been used to describe remarks that hold someone accountable for a future course of action. It is generally employed to describe an action that someone intends to execute in the future and will be able to do so. Dawn has used this illocutionary act only once, whereas The New York Times has used it 2 times as presented in Table 4.3.

Mr. Qureshi said he ‘felt reassured’ by the firm commitment from the Taliban leadership that... (Dawn, October 23, 2021) Appendix 1 (B)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 28)

This remark from Dawn news editorial is an example of illocutionary force of the word ‘commit’.

The communicative analysis of this statement demonstrates that Taliban administration has made a significant promise with the Pakistani Foreign Minister concerning TTP. Keeping in view Taliban leadership’s unequivocal declaration, it had been expected by the neighboring countries that TTP or any other group would not be permitted to use Afghanistan as a staging ground to target other countries. Mr. Qureshi claimed he “felt reassured”. Pakistan also announced a range of initiatives during the visit to establish trade, smooth border crossing, ease visa requirements to improve people-to-people interaction, and provide an additional Rs5 billion in humanitarian aid to Afghanistan. All these important matters are discussed in the first official meeting with Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

These statements from Dawn have positive impact on us. Being a Pakistani, we would always appreciate positive and diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan because it would benefit both the countries politically and economically. Strategically, it may earn us good spot internationally as well and promote peace in south Asian region. This may be the reason for positive coverage of Afghan peace process by Dawn.

American pilot and troops were forced to make on the spot decisions... (The New York Times, Aug 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (C)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 29)

The illocutionary force of the word ‘commit’ is employed in this statement from the New York Times’ selected editorial.

Here it is told that because of desperation and chaos at Kabul airport, American pilots and soldiers are compelled to make a quick decision for evacuation. On Tuesday, Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie Jr., the senior army commander in command of Afghanistan, took a flight to Kabul, where he reported that civilian planes had reopened after being suspended to clear the field. More than 3,200 people have now been evacuated, according to a White House official, who also noted that approximately 1,100 people were evacuated on Tuesday. During the chaos at the airport on Sunday and Monday, American soldiers and pilots were compelled to make quick decisions.

4.6.2. Promise

‘Promise’ prototype also falls under the category of Commissive speech acts. A promise or guarantee that someone will act in a certain way or that a specific event will take place. It guarantees that action will be taken. As mentioned in Table 4.3, the percentage of this illocutionary act is 7.1 4% in The New York Times whereas Dawn has not used it.

Mr. Mujahid, a high-ranking leader, said the Taliban had declared a blanket amnesty, (The New York Times, Aug 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (D)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 30)

This statement from the New York Times editorial is an example of illocutionary force of the word ‘promise’.

The pragmatic analysis of this statement reveals that Taliban are seen as changed ones announcing general pardon and making promise not to retaliate against their formal rivals. The Taliban, according to Mr. Mujahid, a senior leader, have issued a general amnesty and promised not to retaliate against former foes. The organization has also made a plea for public officials, particularly women, to start reporting for duty in some areas. Mr. Mujahid’s statements, given in a calm voice, provided a window into the Taliban’s effort to present themselves as prepared to integrate into the global community after days of doubt over Afghanistan’s quick collapse to a ruthless group around the world.

After reading this statement, readers may have mixed feelings. Some might feel relieved by the Taliban's promise of amnesty, while other may be dubious about the sincerity of these claims.

Taliban's vows of moderation unfolded in an extraordinary fashion on Tuesday evening, (The New York Times, Aug. 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (D)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 31)

The illocutionary force of the word 'promise' is used in this remark from the New York Times' editorial.

The Taliban's promises of moderation came to fruition in an exceptional way on Tuesday evening when Mr. Mujahid, presenting his face to the public for the first time, conducted a press conference in the same venue, where the government had held its press conferences just weeks ago. The militants have promised to adopt a more moderate posture once they win control of Afghanistan, but the international community has expressed doubt. The Taliban, according to Mr. Mujahid, also hoped for friendly relations with other nations and vowed that no group would be permitted to launch operations from Afghanistan against other countries. No one will be hurt, they promised the world community. We don't want any opponents, local or international.

Taliban officials have promised to protect the National Museum of Afghanistan in Kabul, (The New York Times, Aug 20, 2021) Appendix 2 (E)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 32)

This remark from the New York Times is another example of an illocutionary act of the word 'promise'. The museum, which is regarded as one of the biggest collections of ancient cultures in the world, fallen sharply during the war of independence in the 1990s, when the majority of its structures were looted and destroyed. We are still very concerned about the security of our employees and our collection", he continued. According to the director of the museum, Taliban authorities have vowed to protect the Afghanistan's national museum in Kabul and its priceless collection of cultural items. According to the director, Fahim Rahimi, they have appointed a group of guards outside of the museum to prevent theft.

4.6.3. Threat

‘Threat’ prototype is a Commissive speech act. An expression of the desire to harm another person, whether physically or emotionally, in retaliation for a deed or omission. Dawn has not used this speech act, whereas in The New York Times it is used with the percentage of 4.76% as it is illustrated in Table 4.3.

In areas of the country seized by the Taliban weeks ago, (The New York Times, Aug 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (D)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 33)

The illocutionary force of the word ‘threat’ is used in this statement from the New York Times’ editorial.

The communicative analysis of this statement reveals the rude behavior of local Taliban. Administrative officers in the country’s Taliban-seized regions have been threatened with penalties if they don’t return to work again in order to alleviate their fears.

According to reports from the UN, local Taliban commanders have shut down girls’ schools and restricted women from leaving their homes alone. On Tuesday, Taliban fighters were noticed driving the looted Military vehicles and riding motorcycles throughout Kabul. Some people controlled traffic and sent a message of order; other people went to the residences of government leaders and seized things like cars and valuables. However, there have been reports of local Taliban officials in some places encouraging women to resume their jobs and attempting to restore operation to both male and female educational institutions.

Readers may express sympathy and concern for the safety of the civil employees, interpret it as proof of harsh rule of law, and engage in conversations about the issues facing human rights under Taliban control.

He said the Taliban had telephoned, telling him (The New York Times, Aug 21, 2021) Appendix 2 (B)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 34)

This remark from the New York Times is another example of an illocutionary act of the word ‘threat’. This threatening statement is taken from the New York Times

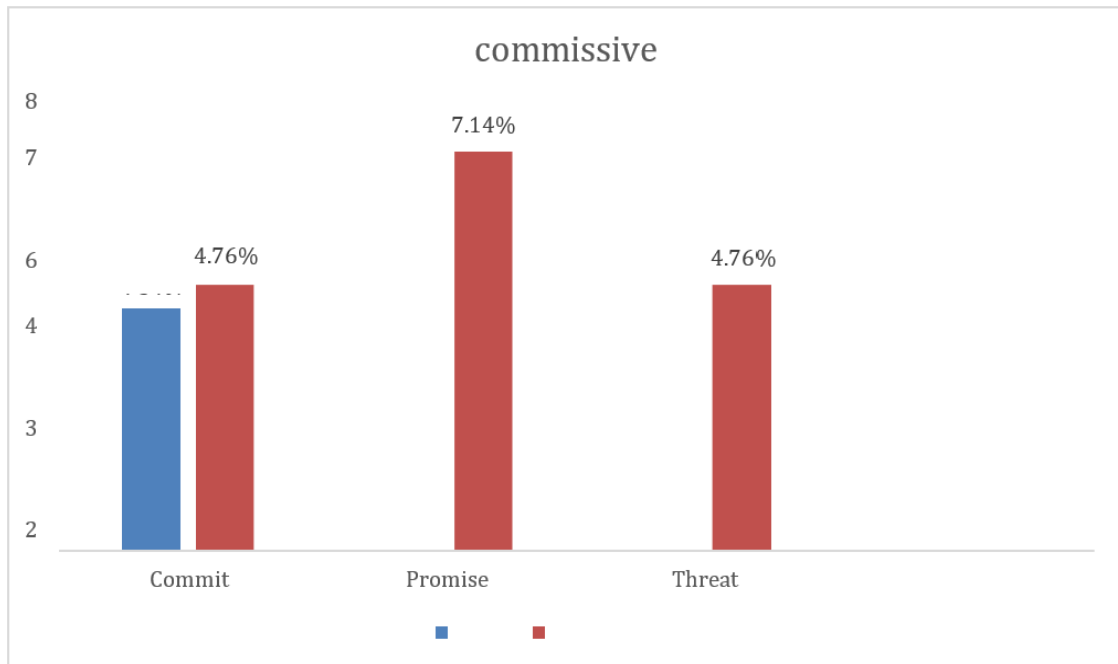
selected editorials. There are so many examples that have been seen in Kabul of threatening people from Taliban side. On Saturday, a 39-year-old man hiding beneath a house in Kabul with his wife and kids was a senior translator for the US government and European humanitarian organizations. The Taliban, he claimed, had called and threatened to kill him if he did not face the penalties. The translator said he had given up attempting to get on a flight after a terrifying and eventually hopeless attempt the day before to force his way through Taliban fighters and angry masses at the airport. While trying to find a method to save himself and his family, he has been communicating with American soldiers and police by phone calls and texts.

The phrase “face the consequences” triggered the researcher to investigate its pragmatic meaning. The pragmatic analysis of this threatening statement shows that the life of Afghan people who were working for the American government is in danger. Thus, they wanted to flee from Afghanistan to save their lives. The contextual analysis of this threatening statement also shows that Afghan people who had alliance with American government wanted to evacuate Afghanistan as early as possible.

Perlocutionary effects of this remark on reader are negative. Reader may feel frightened, concerned for the person’s safety, and enraged with the Taliban as a result of their threat to kill someone. Furthermore, it may improve their knowledge and awareness of the circumstance, encourage them to support the individual, and motivate them to call for action to stop extremism.

Figure 4.2

Graphical depiction of prototypes of Commissive speech act



Note. Graphical depiction of prototypes of Commissive speech act in Dawn and New York Times Newspapers

The above mentioned graph clearly shows that the Commissive speech act is used only 1 time under the prototype ‘commit’, whereas the New York Times has used it more frequently. It demonstrates that New York Times’ viewpoint about Afghan matter is more favorable to the situation in which audience sees more vows and commitments made by higher authorities.

4.7 Analyzing Directive Illocutionary Force

When a writer or speaker wants to convince a group of people to do something, they use direct speech acts. It is possible that this effort will be forceful or restrained. A request, for instance, is a modest attempt to persuade someone to do something, whereas an order is a strong prohibition. Directives are expected to lead to the hearer taking some sort of action in the future (Mushtaq, 2018). As stated in the table below, the directive prototypes that are employed in editorials include suggest, request, warn, order, prohibit, pray, and recommend.

Table 4.4*Classification of directive into prototypes*

Sr. no	Directive's Prototypes	No of statements			
		Dawn	%	New York Times	%
1.	Suggest	4	17.39%	...	...
2.	Request	1	4.34%	1	2.38%
3.	Warn	1	4.34%	2	4.76%
4.	Order	...	...	2	4.76%
5.	Prohibit	...	...	2	4.76%
6.	Pray	...	...	1	2.38%
7.	Recommend	1	4.34%	...	...
	Total no of prototypes	7	30.43%	8	19.04%

Note. Classification of directive into prototypes i.e. suggest, request, warn, order, prohibit, pray and recommend

Prototype 'suggest' has been used most frequently among the other prototypes of directive illocutionary speech act. The qualitative analysis of above mentioned prototypes is given below:

4.7.1. Suggest

A speaker or writer who *suggests* something makes a feeble attempt to convince someone to do something (Mushtaq, 2018). This prototype of directive is used 4 times in Dawn news' selected editorials, whereas The New York Times has not used this speech act as it is shown in.

In addition, the Taliban have to also prove that they have changed since... (Dawn, August 17, 2021) Appendix 1 (E)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 35)

The illocutionary force of the word 'suggest' is employed in this statement from Dawn's editorial.

The contextual analysis of this statement demonstrates that the writer suggests the Taliban's government to clarify their position to the world that they have changed

since the last time they ruled Afghanistan. Because the world community is not ready to accept them as they have committed atrocities in the past.

Once again, Afghanistan faces a dilemma. It is still too early to say whether such a plan will work. Nevertheless, it is very obvious that the Taliban, despite their military superiority, cannot hope to win world legitimacy and respect if they do not make an effort to communicate with their former opponents. The Taliban must also demonstrate that they have improved since their former government of Afghanistan. The world knows how their particular type of government prevented women rights and violated human rights in the past, but it is diminishing now.

This remark from the Dawn news can prompt varied responses from readers. Some may feel hopeful seeing an opportunity for positive transformation. Others may have a doubt on Taliban's capacity for change.

They have done well to engage key players like the United States, China, Russia, Pakistan and Iran, but... (Dawn, August 17, 2021) Appendix 1 (E)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 36)

This remark from the Dawn is an example of an illocutionary force of the word 'suggest'.

This statement is taken from the Dawn's selected editorials. Here, the speaker suggests Taliban's government to get international recognition to run their government successfully. It is impossible for them to survive without world recognition. They did well to involve important actors like the United States, China, Russia, Pakistan, and Iran; however, going forward, they will also need to behave in a way that is acceptable to both these nations and the rest of the world. In order to demonstrate their regard for women's rights, the Taliban should move quickly to put up a large-scale organization. Especially, how the Taliban respond to girls' education will be closely watched by the entire world. Pragmatic interpretation of this remark illustrates Taliban's positive relationship with these key countries. But it highlights that now they have to show positive image to the whole world, not just to these countries. Broader global acceptance is important for Taliban's credibility and effective governance moving forward.

Given the Afghan Taliban's intransigence to deliver on their Doha commitments... (Dawn, October 9, 2021) Appendix 1 (C)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 37)

This statement from Dawn is another example of an illocutionary force of the word ‘suggest’.

Again this statement is taken from Dawn. Observing the Taliban’s refusal and reluctance to their Doha agreements: the speaker is suggesting to the world community to find such a process or a way to help Afghan people directly rather than going through new authority of Taliban. We cannot waste our time in debating and arguing as the situation in Afghanistan is very dire according to the World Food Organization.

What, however, the new rulers of Afghanistan need to understand is that international recognition and the accompanying aid and economic assistance come with certain caveats, (Dawn, October 23rd, 2021) Appendix 1 (B)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 38)

The illocutionary force of the word ‘suggest’ is employed in this statement from Dawn news editorial. It has been suggested to Taliban’s newly formed government by Pakistani foreign minister; new Afghan authorities need to realize that international recognition and the financial support that are associated with some requirements, and that without these conditions, it will be difficult or impossible for them to maintain their second term as rulers.

The communicative analysis of this remark shows that the foreign minister’s visit highlights a crucial point: Islamabad has decided to formally interact with a “cooperative Kabul” in order to discuss internal matters, identify how to avoid a humanitarian disaster in the poor country, and express international concerns. Islamabad is not in a panic to recognize the emerging Taliban administration, a fact that was discussed with and acknowledged by his Afghan interviewees.

4.7.2. Request

A *request*, in the words of Vanderveken (1990), is a directive illocutionary force with the possibility of rejection. Because of its polite method of implementation, it is a modest directive (Rustam, 2009). Prototype request is used 1 time in each newspaper’s selected editorials.

Clearly, Pakistan’s calls for the international community to give ‘time’ to the Taliban or ... (Dawn, October 9th, 2021) Appendix 1 (C)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 39)

This statement taken from Dawn news editorial is employing the illocutionary force of the word ‘request’. This statement shows the writer is concerned about the Afghan people. Different statements from Dawn shows Pakistan has strong desire for the settlement of all the parties in Afghanistan. It is clear that Pakistan’s requests for the international community to give more time to the Taliban or encourage them to modify their stance on major matters of concern have received little attraction with the international community, including Afghanistan's close neighbors.

The Taliban appealed to Afghans not to leave the country, (The New York Times, Aug. 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (D)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 40)

This remark taken from the New York Times editorial is using the illocutionary act of the word ‘request’.

As Taliban returned to power in the month of August 2021, there was a mass exodus of Afghans to the Kabul airport. People are afraid of Taliban and they are desperate to leave their country. Afghans are requested not to leave their homeland by the Taliban, who claimed they had nothing to be afraid of. However, only two days after President Ashraf Ghani left the country and the Taliban occupied the capital, thousands of civilians rushed to the Kabul airport in an attempt to board flights out.

4.7.3. Warn

The purpose of this directive illocutionary act is to warn against a negative situation that has recently made the news (Rustam, 2009). A directive act of “warning” involves informing someone of a potential harm or problem that could arise in the future so that it can be prevented (Mushtaq, 2018).

UN Secretary General António Guterres at a high-level ministerial conference in Geneva last month warned of a ... (Dawn October 9, 2021) Appendix 1 (C)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 41)

The illocutionary force of the word ‘warn’ is used in this statement from Dawn’s editorial. In this statement, the world community is being warned of Afghan’s humanitarian crises. Afghanistan is on the verge of a humanitarian disaster according

to alarming evidence. Martin Griffiths the UN Humanitarian coordinator is stating about the Afghan situation after US Withdrawal. As they are suffering from economic crises, they do not have enough food, water, health-care and shelter. Millions of families living in poverty are experiencing an increase in hunger.

The communicative analysis of these lines taken from Dawn's editorial demonstrates that António Guterres, the UN secretary general, warned of a real prospect of an economic collapse at a high-level ministerial summit in Geneva last month if the global community did not help the country's poor citizens. The extremely catastrophic situation in Afghanistan exists according to UN Humanitarian Coordinator Martin Griffiths.

The Taliban's military chief, Muhammad Yaqoub, warned in an audio message... (The New York Times, Aug. 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (D)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 42)

Again illocutionary force of the word 'warn' is employed in this remark from Dawn. Taliban intelligence chief for Kabul released a statement warning thieves that his party was on the alert and arresting people. Muhammad Yaqoub, the head of the Taliban military, gave a warning in a voice clip posted on social media, saying that anyone found stealing would indeed be punished severely and that robbing from the state is a dishonor of the state. Son of the founder of the Taliban, Mohammed Omar, and Mr. Yaqoub declared, there is no right to take a car or a house from somebody or any other thing.

With the situation increasingly chaotic, the U.S. embassy warned American citizens to... (The New York Times, Aug. 21, 2021) Appendix 2 (B)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 43)

This remark taken from the New York Times editorial is using the illocutionary force of the word 'warn'. This statement is taken from the New York Times' selected editorials, in which it is told that the US people and their collaborators are in danger. Their entire world has changed, and now even a routine trip to the airport can fill them with fear. It can be startling and confusing to simply pass the front gate.

The word "warned" from this statement which is taken from the NEW YORK TIMES sparked the researcher to investigate its pragmatic meaning. The pragmatic analysis of this statement reveals that American citizens were warned to avoid the

airport due to major security concerns beyond the doors by the U.S. embassy as the situation became more chaotic. Afghans who worked for the American-backed former government in Afghanistan or the American troops are in hiding all over the nation, and the Taliban has frequently threatened to kill many of them. Human rights organizations claim that shooters have raided homes door-to-door in search of associates and frightened the relatives of those people.

4.7.4. Order

An order is an instruction. If a person in authority orders someone to do something, they give instructions that it should be done (Collins Dictionary, 2022). This prototype of directive speech act is used 2 times in The New York Times but not used in Dawn.

Her brother-in-law gave her a vicious kick and told her, (The New York Times, Aug. 21, 2021) Appendix 2 (B)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 44)

This statement, which was taken from an editorial in the New York Times, employs the illocutionary force of the word ‘order’.

An Afghan journalist who has been sheltering indoors since last Sunday claimed to have left her home in the Kabul area of Shar-e-Naw. She wore a full-body burqa in an effort to follow the sporadically imposed Taliban restrictions on women. She remarked, it was so heavy; it made me feel nauseous. And she said, there is nothing, not even music, out in the street. On the radio and television, you can only hear the Taliban speaking. According to her, her sister-in-law showed up with her hair exposed in front of male family members. Her brother-in-law gave her a hard punch and said, take back that damned shawl.

The contextual analysis of this statement taken from New York Times represents that under Taliban rule women would not be treated well by people if they were not in pardah or wearing full dress.

Perlocutionary effect of this statement on audience is negative. It can evoke strong emotional reactions in readers. They may believe that Taliban’s government is a great threat for women of Afghanistan.

There is no permission to take a car or a house from someone or anything else, (The New York Times, Aug 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (D)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 45)

This editorial from New York Times again uses the illocutionary force of the word ‘order’. This statement is taken from the New York Times’ selected editorials in which Mr. Yaqoub ordered local people not to commit a theft of public property. He said that if someone does not stay away from the theft, will be punished severely. Son of the founder of the Taliban, Mohammed Omar, and Mr. Yaqoub declared, there is no right to take a car or a house from somebody or any other thing.

4.7.5. Forbid

The aim of the prototype is to avoid some unwanted situation. According to Vanderveken (1990), forbidding or prohibiting is the propositional opposite of order. A hearer must stop from acting when something is forbidden to him. The proposals’ content is concerned with the present. Preparatory situation demonstrates that the current situation is undesirable for a number of reasons. Sincerity requirements demonstrate that the current situation is not in the reader’s best interests, whereas vital requirements seek to prevent the concerned from taking the current course of action. In contrast to propositional substance and preconditions, it can be claimed that sincerity and essential conditions contributed more to the illocutionary impact of forbid than either of those two factors (Rustam, 2009).

They were allowed in public only wearing burqas and in the company of male relatives, (The New York Times, Aug 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (C)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 46)

This statement from the New York Times is an illustration of an illocutionary force of the word ‘forbid’.

According to reports from the UN, local Taliban commanders have shut down girls’ schools and forbade women from leaving the house unaccompanied. Girls were kept out of the majority of schools and women were not allowed to work during the first Taliban administration. When they disobeyed the group’s restrictions, they faced the possibility of being punished or even sentenced to death. They were only permitted to go out in public while wearing burqas and with male relatives. One of the major challenges highlighted by the Taliban’s rivals in Afghanistan and by international human rights organizations is how women and girls would be treated under triumphant Taliban.

Women, he said, would be allowed to work and study... (The New York Times, Aug 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (C)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 47)

An illocutionary force of the word ‘forbid’ is demonstrated in this New York Times’ statement.

This statement is taken from the New York time’s selected editorials in which the Taliban leader forbade women to go outside without wearing Burqa. Women are given permission to work outside, but there are some boundaries for them, which they have not to cross. On Tuesday, Mr. Mujahid promised that there would be no discrimination or violence against women. His guarantees, though, were unclear. He stated that women would be permitted to work and attend school within the limitations of Islamic law. Moreover, he said that the old Taliban never tolerated an independent and free press, but he claimed that the new Taliban needs and wants one as long as it follows Islamic and cultural norms. Women will be permitted to work, according to a spokeswoman, but he provided few details regarding other guidelines and limitations.

The communicative analysis of this statement reveals Taliban assert that women's rights in Afghanistan will be respected within the limits of Islamic law. Along with that, they added: “Women will not be subject to discrimination, but only within the boundaries of the laws that already exist”. The women here are Muslim. They will be satisfied to live within the Shariah’s limitations.

4.7.6. Pray

When a person prays, he or she communicates with God to express gratitude or request assistance. If someone has a strong desire for something to happen, we could say that they are praying for it. Pray when you are upset but calmly expressing a question or when you are being slightly unpleasant. (Collins Dictionary, 2022). Prototype ‘pray’ is used 1 time in The New York Times, but it is not used in Dawn.

It wished Zaki a place in heaven and offered a prayer that God grant his family, (The New York Times, Aug 19, 2021) Appendix 2 (A)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 48)

This statement from the New York Times is an example of an illocutionary force of the word ‘pray’.

In this statement, the sports community of Afghanistan prayed to God for giving Zaki's family, friends, and squad comfort during their difficult time in life and wished him a highest rank in Jannah. This week, as civilians were being evacuated from Kabul by a U.S. military plane, a member of Afghanistan's national youth soccer team died while desperately clinging to the plane, the nation's official sports organization reported on Thursday. He believed the coming of the Taliban to be the end of his sporting career and ambitions. According to a sports official, he had no hope and wished a brighter future.

4.7.7. Recommend

The word *recommend* is used in the context of advice. The author wants to advise the reader to take a future action that will serve their best interests. This directive's prototype is not used in the New York Times, but it is used only once in Dawn's selected editorials as it is illustrated in the table.

It is in this respect that the Taliban should waste little time in establishing... (Dawn, August 17, 2021) Appendix 1 (E)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 49)

This editorial from Dawn News employs the illocutionary force of the word 'recommend'.

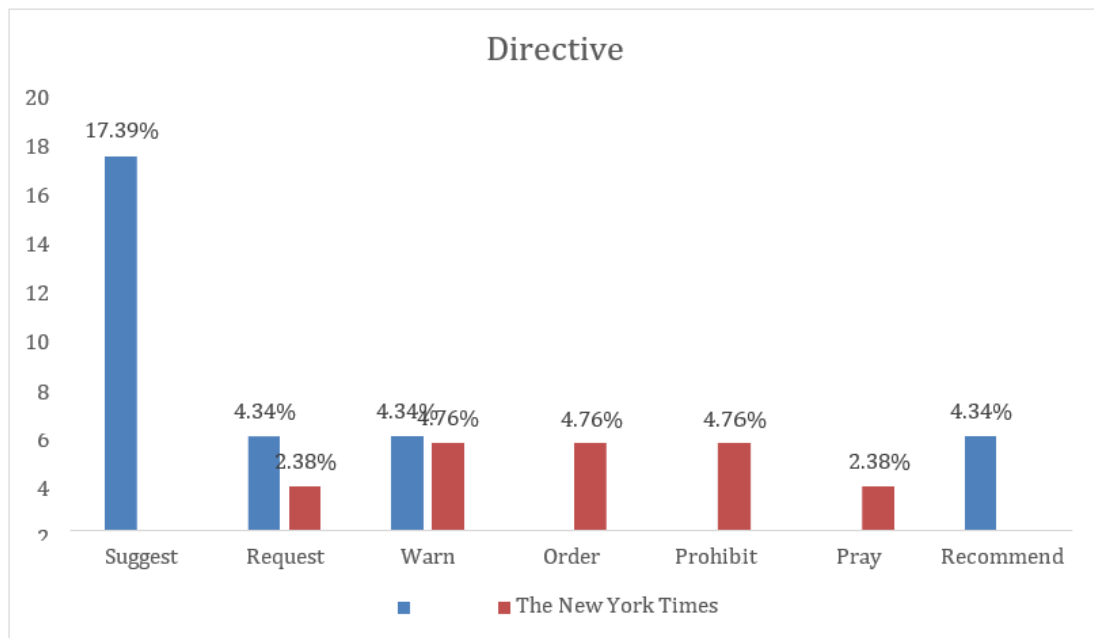
The Taliban's newly government is facing so many challenges at this time. The World is keenly looking at the Taliban's response to girls' education. This will be a topic of particular interest to the international community. So, in this regard the Taliban should not waste any time in putting together a large-scale setup and proving by their acts that they respect women's rights. They promised that women will be allowed to work place and educational institutes in the restrictions of Islamic law.

The contextual analysis of this statement demonstrates if the Taliban wants Afghans and the world to accept their government, the Taliban should act quickly to form an inclusive government and they have to focus on women rights. It demands the Taliban regime to actively protect women's rights. Providing the UN, Afghan, and global human rights groups have free access to watch and investigate the state of human rights throughout the nation, it would become obvious that the Taliban are committed to protecting women rights.

This statement in Dawn's editorial can positively inspire readers who support women rights, filling them with hope for positive change and better future in Afghanistan. It could make them optimistic about the future of women in Afghanistan under Taliban's rule. This feeling of hope and optimism may motivate them to support the idea of Taliban's accountability, urging them to take actions that promote and respect women's rights in Afghanistan.

Figure 4.3

Graphical illustration of Prototypes of Directive Speech Act



Note. Graphical illustration of Prototypes of Directive in Dawn and New York Times Newspapers

Table 4.4 and the graph 3 show that when comparing the directive speech act prototypes in the Dawn and the New York times, the New York Times has used them more frequently than the Dawn. It suggests that the New York Times' position is more directive towards Taliban's relation with Afghans as it includes warnings, orders and prohibitions.

4.8 Analyzing Declaratives' Illocutionary Force

Declarative speech acts are employed when the speaker wants to make a difference by making a statement or saying something. Examples of declarative speech act prototypes are: *proclaim, confirm, declare, authorize, resign, nominate, veto* and *revoke* among others. Only 4 types of prototypes are included in The New York Times and in Dawn the declarative speech act is not used.

Table 4.5

Classification of Declarative into Prototype:

Sr. No	Declarative's Prototypes	No of statements			
		Dawn	%	New York Times	%
1.	Proclaim	...	....	2	4.76%
2.	Confirm	...	...	2	4.76%
3.	Authority	...	...	1	2.38%
4.	Declare	...	...	1	2.38%
	Total no of prototypes	...	...	6	14.28%

Note. Classification of Declarative into Prototype i.e. *proclaim, confirm, authority* and *declare*

4.8.1. Proclaim

Proclaim is to make a public declaration, usually in a proud, rebellious, or forceful manner in writing or speech (Merriam Webster, 2023). The prototype 'proclaim' is not used in Dawn, but it is used 2 times in the New York Times as it is illustrated in Table 4.5.

We don't want Afghanistan to be a battlefield anymore... (The New York Times, Aug. 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (D)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 50)

This statement from the New York Times is an example of an illocutionary force of the word 'proclaim'.

The Taliban's leaders gave a summary of their future rule of Afghanistan on Tuesday for the first time since retaking control of the nation, promising domestic peace and pleading with the outside world to ignore their history of repression and violence. Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban's spokesman, proclaimed during a news conference in Kabul, the country's capital that war is over and that Afghanistan would no longer serve as a battle ground. They showed their positive image to the world. Taliban ensured that future of Afghan people is safe as they assured pardon of rivals and vowed to give rights to women.

This phrase "the war is over" triggered the researcher to investigate into its pragmatic meaning.

The pragmatic analysis of this remark shows that Taliban are trying to gain the trust of people by saying that they have no grudges against anyone and are aware of the difficult times and crises they have faced. They accept that many mistakes committed by them benefited the oppressor. They aim to ensure that Afghanistan is no longer a battleground or field of conflict. War-causing factors must be eliminated. According to Taliban, they wish to live in peace and have no ill will or enmity against anyone.

Kabul has become a city of fear, the officer said. (The New York Times, Aug 21, 2021) Appendix 2 (B) (For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 51)

This remark from the New York Times is another example of an illocutionary act of the word 'proclaim'. This statement is taken from the New York Times in which the officer is proclaiming that Kabul has turned into a city of horror. Many stories of Taliban's brutalities are reported by the Afghan news media. Many journalists and reporters including male and female who were working with American officers are threatened by the Taliban fighters. Many people told the media through telephone that they are hiding in their homes with their families.

The phrase "city of fear" actuated the researcher to investigate this remark pragmatically. The contextual analysis of this remark represents that Afghanistan's once-bustling streets have now become silent. Areas of the city are patrolled by fighters. The Taliban are the source of fear in Kabul. Tensions rise outside the airport in Kabul as large crowds of people rush to leave before the deadline for the US withdrawal on August 31. People rarely venture outside, and when they do, they are hurried. As quickly as possible, people return home. Although they lack an army to impose their

will, everyone is being controlled by fear. However, some locals worry about economic difficulties because many individuals lost their livelihoods and they are concerned about a poor economic condition.

Such remarks have a conspicuous effect on the audience belonging to the pertinent context. The government policies also have a vital role to play in this scenario. For instance, Perlocutionary effect of this remark from the New York Times might be that audience discredit and distrust the Taliban's government. They might believe that the Taliban's government is a great threat for the peace of Afghanistan.

4.8.2. Confirm

The prototype 'confirm' denotes that the speaker/writer intends to make an assertion firm or to approve something by assuming that the similar declaration or remark has previously been made. (Mushtaq, 2018)

The Pentagon confirmed that two people had died falling from the plane (The New York Times, Aug 19, 2021) Appendix 2 (A)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 52)

This statement, which was taken from the editorial of the New York Times, employs the illocutionary act of the word 'confirm'. This statement has been taken from the New York Times that is indicating about a sad incident of evacuating U.S military C-17 cargo plane in which human body parts are seen in the landing gear of the plane. The world has seen a horrifying video of the turmoil that was captured by the Afghan media. At least two bodies were seen falling to the ground from an aircraft on Monday in a video that was captured just after landing. Deaths of two people from falling from the jet were confirmed by the Pentagon, and once the plane touched down in Qatar, body fragments were seen in the wheel of aircraft.

In a telephone interview on Thursday from Kabul... (The New York Times, Aug. 19, 2021) Appendix 2 (A)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 53)

This statement is another example of illocutionary force of the word 'confirm' from the New York Times. Again this statement is taken from The New York Times and pointing towards the same terrifying incident of American C-17 Jet in which death of Zaki Anwari who was 17 years old Afghan soccer player is confirmed by Afghan

Sports Federation. The Federation expressed its grief and told that Zaki was hopeless for his sport career after Taliban took over the country. Like many other people he was desperate to leave his homeland for his better future but could not fulfil his dream.

4.8.3. Authority

The ability to manage or control someone or something is known as authority. It is the capability to take decisions and issue orders (The Britannica Dictionary, 2023). This prototype of declarative speech act is used once in The New York Times, whereas it is not used in Dawn.

On Tuesday, a Biden administration official confirmed that... (The New York Times,

Aug. 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (D)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 54)

This remark taken from the New York Times' editorial is using the illocutionary force of the word 'authority'.

Any assets the Afghan government had held in the United States' central bank would not be accessible to the Taliban, a Biden administration official affirmed on Tuesday. The Taliban's new image, which includes its claims of political diversity, women's rights, and minority rights, has not at all satisfied many Afghans. The communicative analysis of these lines taken from the New York Times editorial verifies that although Taliban have tried to convince the world by introducing their new rules by assuring pardon to former opponents and promising to give women rights yet the international community as well as many Afghans are not convinced.

4.8.4. Declare

Prototype 'Declare' is like a representational speech act and serves as an assertive, but when it is used as a declaration, it indicates that the statement with this prototype has the ability to cause an action simply by stating or asserting it. A statement including the word "declare" must illustrate that the speaker or writer is carrying out a declaration and intends to put it into practice (Mushtaq, 2018).

I am currently inside my country and am the legitimate caretaker president, (The New York Times, Aug 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (D)

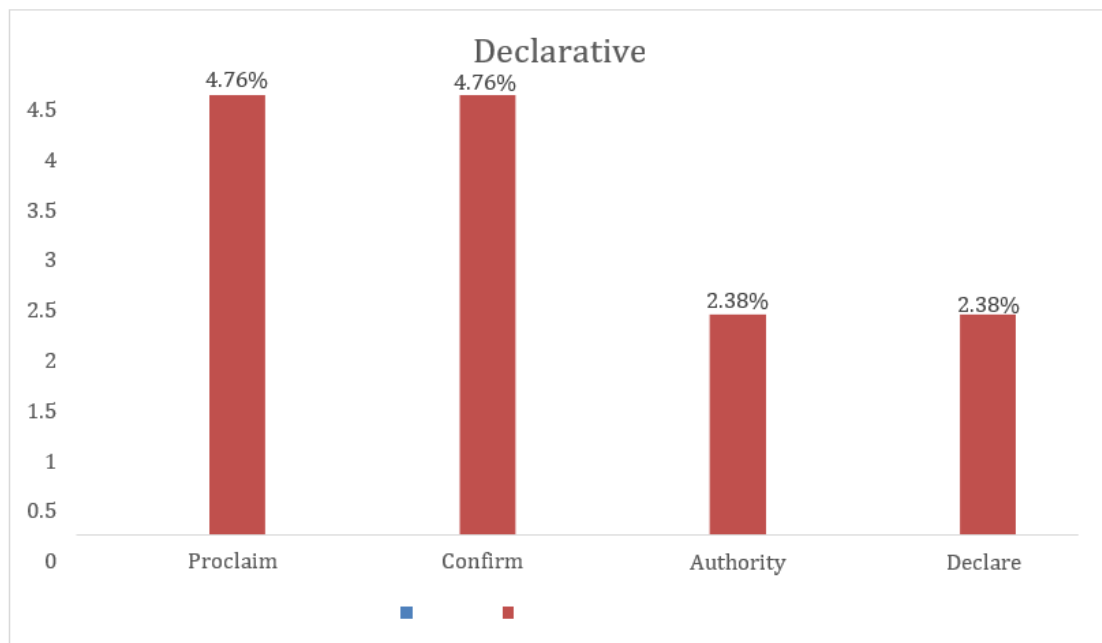
(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 55)

This statement taken from the New York Times editorial is employing the illocutionary act of the word ‘declare’.

The Vice President of the overthrown government Amrullah Saleh declared that he would lead the campaign in Panjshir, a province in the north that continued to be a problem in the Taliban's side under their previous rule. Mr. Saleh exploited a provision in constitution of Afghan regarding the absence of a president to advance himself, though it was uncertain what type of support he may be able to marshal. Mr. Saleh posted on Twitter that he is currently inside his country and he is the rightful acting leader. The Taliban made an effort on Tuesday to present a representation of being a stabilizing force while drawing on the dreaded reputation their intelligence and law enforcement services had developed prior to the group’s overthrow in 2001 by an American-led invasion.

Figure 4.4

Graphical representation of prototypes of Declarative Speech Act



Note. Graphical representation of prototypes of Declarative Speech Act i.e. *proclaim, confirm, authority and declare*

If we see the directive’s porotypes used in both the newspapers, we come to know that Dawn has not used directive speech act even once, whereas the New York Times has used it with the frequency of 14.28% as it is illustrated in Table 4.5 and Graph 4.

In the New York Times' selected editorials, statements are used which include *proclaim, confirm, authority, and declare*.

4.9 Analyzing Expressive Illocutionary Force

Writers or speakers use expressive speech acts to convey their psychological or mental attitude towards a situation by choosing the right words to use for every setting. The six 6 prototypes that were constructed from the expressive illocutionary acts employed in the editorials of the chosen newspapers are presented in the table below.

Table 4.6

Classification of Expressive into Prototypes

Sr. No.	Expressive prototypes	Number of statements			
		Dawn	%	The New York Times	%
1	Grieve	...	...	6	14.28%
2	Mourn	...	...	3	7.14%
3	Appreciation	2	8.69%	...	
4	Desire	...	...	1	2.38%
5	Believe	...	...	1	2.38%
6	Intend	...	...	1	2.38%
	Total no of prototypes	02	8.69%	12	28.57%

Note. Classification of Expressive into Prototypes i.e. *grieve, mourn, appreciation, desire, believe* and *intend*

The above mentioned table shows a significant difference within the reoccurrence of Expressive' prototypes. Statements in the editorials serving the purpose of *grieve* and *mourn* are in abundance. Act of *appreciation* has medium frequency. Whereas *believe* and *intend* have least frequency.

4.9.1. Grieve

Grieving is the act of expressing sadness, sorrow, or discomfort. It is the most frequently used prototypes of expressive speech act. Examples of grieve are given below:

In a scene that shocked the world, and in just one wrenching moment encapsulated the chaos of America's exit from Afghanistan, (The New York Times, Aug 19, 2021) Appendix 2 (A)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 56)

The illocutionary force of the word 'grieve' is used in this statement from the New York Times editorial. This statement is taken from the selected editorials of the New York Times in which the writer is stating about an incident of the death of young Afghan soccer player. He explains with deep sorrow: some of them rushed American-flying aircraft and attempted to hang onto their wings and tires in a picture that horrified the world and at once heartbreaking scene reflected the devastation of America's withdrawal from Afghanistan. As stated by the organization, the young boy was one of them. The organization shared a statement on Facebook declaring, Zaki Anwari was one of thousands of young individuals who attempted to flee the homeland and, in a mishap, fell off a U.S military airplane and lost his life. According to the statement, Afghanistan's soccer community was in great shock.

The word "shocked" actuated the researcher to look into its pragmatic meaning. Value based expression is used in this statement. Instead of using the word "surprise", the writer has used the word "shocked". The pragmatic analysis of this *grieving* statement illustrates that many tragic moments captured the panic of America's withdrawal from Afghanistan that horrified the world. People are ready to leave Afghanistan at the risk of their lives. They feel that their future is not safe in Afghanistan under Taliban's administration. Females and their families are urged to leave the country, particularly those who worry they would not be able to work or attend school.

The perlocutionary effects of the statement, as described, lean towards the negative. The depiction of people chasing aircraft and attempting to climb onto them during a chaotic situation in Afghanistan suggests a sense of desperation and distress, evoking a more negative emotional response from the audience. The intense

description aims to make readers feel a strong sense of empathy and concern for the people going through these distressing moments.

I felt pure terror”, the woman said in a telephone interview... (The New York Times, Aug. 21, 2021) Appendix 2 (A)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 57)

This editorial from New York Times employs the illocutionary force of the word ‘grieve’. As Taliban retook Afghanistan, there are many videos and pictures of chaos and desperation that are seen by the whole world. Many people are seen coping with grief and loss of their loved ones through media. In this statement taken from the New York Times, the writer is stating one of those horrible stories of evacuation from Kabul in which a child is smashed to death by a mob that erupted near the airport in Kabul. The woman described her feelings of intense grief in a conversation on phone from Kabul. “I failed to save her life, I could not save my baby”.

Perlocutionary effect of this statement on audience is negative. After reading it, the readers would have a negative impression of the Taliban’s government because the writer emphasizes the fear factor and violation of fundamental human rights. They make us believe that people are not safe under Taliban government. The New York Times covers the Afghan peace process in a negative way.

I’ve lost hope,” he said. “I’ve lost trust in the U.S. government, (The New York Times, Aug 21, 2021) Appendix 2 (B)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 58)

This remark taken from the New York Times editorial is using the illocutionary force of the word ‘grieve’. This statement is taken from the New York Times and again distress of sorrows of people are expressed. Many people are expecting U.S administration to make their safe evacuation as they promised. But many people lost their hopes as they are waiting for help while hiding themselves in their homes from the brutal Taliban. They are threatened by Taliban fighter that they will be punished for their deeds in previous government. There are many Afghan locals who worked with U.S officers or the reporters who wrote something against Taliban are now in danger. He said, “I have given up hope. I do not believe the U.S. government anymore, which continues repeating that we will evacuate our partners”.

I’m losing hope,” he said by telephone. (The New York Times, Aug 21, 2021) Appendix 2 (B)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 59)

This statement taken from the New York Times editorial is employing the illocutionary act of the word ‘grieve’.

Again the story of an American collaborator is presented here in which he stated over the phone, “I am giving up hope now. I guess I will have to deal with the consequences soon”. The interpreter claimed that he had surrendered attempting to get on a flight after a terrifying and eventually fruitless effort the day before to force his way through Taliban snipers and riotous masses at the airport. The interpreter’s identity was concealed, like others in this piece, out of concern for his safety. He has been communicating with American soldiers and policemen who are trying to find a method to save him and his family via phone calls and texts. Like many others he also lost his hope for safe evacuation.

The communicative analysis of this statement demonstrates that American government is not able to save the Afghans who were working for them. They are losing hope and ready to accept the responsibility of their actions.

‘I’m out of hope,’ he said. “Pray for me. (The New York Times, Aug 21, 2021) Appendix 2 (B) (For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 60)

The illocutionary force of the word ‘grieve’ is used in this statement from the New York Times editorial.

As it is reported from many regions that Taliban fighters are threatening the American collaborators that now they have to face the consequences. So people are hiding in houses with their families. Another journalist was also hiding out in the eastern province of Khost, alternating between his residence and the residence of a relative. According to him, Taliban fighters were cruising the area in cars supplied by the United States that had been taken from Afghan security troops. He was worried that they would locate him soon. He requested to pray for him as he has almost given up.

In the chaos at the airport, where U.S. troops shot and killed at least two people on Monday and... (The New York Times, Aug 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (D)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 61)

This statement, which was taken from an editorial in the New York Times, employs the illocutionary act of the word ‘grieve’. Here in this statement, the feelings

of grief are expressed on the deaths of locals while evacuating the Kabul airport. They were restless and wanted to leave the country as soon as possible. Just two days after, the President Ashraf Ghani left the country and the Taliban occupied the capital, thousands of civilians have flocked to the Kabul airport in hopes of catching flights out. There were reports of several further casualties on Tuesday in the turmoil at the airport, where American soldiers shot and killed at least two individuals on Monday while others perished while attempting to hold onto a U.S. military transport as it departed. To try their luck for a flight to anywhere, in surges, tens of thousands of passengers have flooded the airport.

4.9.2. Mourn

To mourn, according to Vanderveken (1990), is to exhibit profound sadness over a personal loss, such as the passing of a loved one. This prototype is used in the New York Times with the frequency of 7.14%.

Rest in peace dear Zaki, I cannot believe you are not with us anymore”, (The New York Times, Aug. 19, 2021) Appendix 2 (A)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 62)

This editorial from The New York Times employs the illocutionary force of the word ‘mourn’. This statement is taken from the selected editorials of the New York Times in which people are mourning the terrible death of young people. People are expressing their sadness on the loss of Zaki Anwari, a young soccer player. Sorrowful messages are posted in social media by Zaki’s friends and relatives. Mohammad Sharif Ahmadi wrote in another tweet, dearest Zaki, your sudden demise is unbelievable. It is hard for them to believe that he is no longer with them. Many Afghans were terrified by how quickly Afghanistan fell under Taliban control.

If the U.S. gives me the entire universe after... (The New York Times, Aug 21, 2021) Appendix 2 (B)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 63)

This statement is another example of illocutionary force of the word ‘mourn’ from the New York Times.

According to the former translator, Afghans who have been swarming airport gates frequently got panic whenever tear gas is used or gunshots are fired into the air to clear the crowds. Your child might be trampled, he warned. If the United States offers me the whole universe after I lose my child, it is useless. The Biden administration

plans to use commercial planes to transfer Afghan refugees arriving in Gulf States from Kabul to Nations ready to provide them shelter in order to deal with the expected flow of refugees.

The word “worthless” in this statement prompted the researcher to investigate its contextual meaning. The contextual analysis of this remark illustrates that US administration promised to protect the locals on whom the United States relied during the conflict, but they left them behind for the Taliban when they departed.

The images from the past couple of days at the airport have been heartbreaking”, (The New York Times, Aug 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (C)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 64)

The illocutionary force of the word ‘mourn’ is used in this statement from the New York Times.

The American Military C-17 cargo plane took off amid turmoil at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, on Tuesday, and the Air Force confirmed that body parts of human body had been discovered in the wheel well of the aircraft. Officials from the Air Force have not released the exact number of fatalities from the incident on Monday, but they have stated that they are inquiring for the death of civilians as a number of Afghans, trying to flee their country after the Taliban took control of it, jumped onto the wings of the aircraft and dropped from the air after it flew away. Since the Taliban seized control of Kabul on Sunday, Mr. Sullivan, the first cabinet-level senior government official to take questions from media, said, the visuals from the last few days at the airport have been horrible.

4.9.3. Appreciate

It conveys the author’s delight or gratitude toward a particular situation or deed. It is used 2 times in Dawn newspapers’ selected editorials but not used in the New York Times. Examples of the prototype ‘appreciate’ are as follow:

This is big, this is huge... if it is done as it is supposed to be; this is the first time they have come up with a decree like this”.. (Dawn, December 4th, 2021) Appendix 1 (D)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 65)

These lines taken from Dawn news editorial is employing the illocutionary force of ‘appreciate’.

The Taliban's order, which was made public by their spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid, stated that 'a woman is not an investment, but a respected and independent human creature; nobody is allowed to gift her to anybody in exchange for harmony or to cease hatred'. It laid out the laws controlling women's marriage and wealth, declaring that widows ought to have an equal share in their late husbands' assets and that women should not be compelled into marriage. According to the ordinance, religious affairs and media shall support these rights while courts should consider the regulations while making judgements. Two influential Afghan women welcomed the decree's issuance on Friday as a significant advancement. Mahbouba Seraj, executive director of the Afghan Women's Skills Development Centre, appreciated Taliban's announcement about women rights saying that this is significant and this is tremendous if everything is carried out as it ought to be; this is the first time they have come out with a declaration like this. According to her, Afghan lawmakers had a difficult time establishing such a definite policy regarding marriage and women rights even before the Taliban seized power on August 15 of that year.

These phrases like, "This is big, this is huge" triggered the researcher to investigate its pragmatic meaning. Here the monumental nature of recent decree concerning women marriage and rights is highlighted. Pragmatic analysis of this remark demonstrates that it is remarkable and transformative shift, symbolizing a departure from the past when women rights were severely restricted under Taliban rule.

The perlocutionary effect of this statement is that the audience is satisfied with the new Afghan government setup after the Taliban's announcement about protection of women's rights. They feel good for women as the Taliban are making sure that women's rights are not violated under their rule.

(It's) an amazing thing, if it does get implemented", Rahmani told the panel, (Dawn,

December 4th, 2021) Appendix 1 (D)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 66)

This statement is another example of illocutionary force of 'appreciation' from Dawn. In this statement, Roya Rahmani, the former ambassador for Afghanistan to the United States, is appreciating the Taliban's wise decision about women rights. She added if they practice it in reality it would be a great thing. Rahmani told the panel,

adding that it would be important to pay attention to details like who would watch out for family members' influence on girls' permission.

Pragmatic analysis of this remark from the Dawn shows that at this time, the Taliban are making a very wise decision. Many people express their feeling to appreciate Taliban's government on some of their good actions taken in their new government.

The perlocutionary effect of this statement which is taken from Dawn is that the audience is convinced of Taliban's policies about basic women's rights and they appreciate them for their altered behavior regarding women.

4.9.4. Desire

This prototype is used in the statement to represent the writer's or speaker's sentiments of wishing or wishing for something to occur (Mushtaq, 2018).

I'd rather die a dignified death here at home than... (The New York Times, Aug. 21, 2021) Appendix 2 (B)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 67)

This remark taken from the New York Times editorial is employing the illocutionary force of the word 'desire'.

The mother of the deceased girl in Kabul reported that the family was able to return the girl's body for burial. She sobbed as she remembered trying to calm her daughter's fear whenever gunfire will be heard in their area by telling her they were 'crackers'—firecrackers. She stated, "My baby was such a courageous child." She merely yelled 'Crackers!' when she heard the gunfire." She stated that it was doubtful that she would be visiting the airport anytime soon with her family. I would rather pass away here at home in peace than pass away in such a disgrace. In fact, she is remembering her child's death by the mob at airport and desires to die with respect at home.

This remark has a negative perlocutionary impact on the audience as it creates a pessimistic impression of the Taliban government. The writer highlights the fear factor and the violation of fundamental human rights leading readers to believe that people are not safe under their rule.

4.9.5. Believe

Believe is to feel certain that something is true or that somebody is telling you the truth. (Oxford Learner's Dictionaries, 2023).

He had no hope and wanted a better life... (The New York Times, Aug 19, 2021) Appendix 2 (A)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 68)

An illocutionary force of the word 'believe' is demonstrated in this New York Times statement. This statement is taken from the selected editorials of New York Times in which people believe that Zaki had lost his hope for his better future in Afghanistan under Taliban's rule, and in extreme distress, he has decided to leave his beloved homeland but unfortunately died an incident. The young player was one of those who believe that they are now returning to their dark days again under the Taliban's brutal government. Many people expressed their emotions on Zaki's demise on different networks of social media. Reactions of people were mixed with sadness, anger and hatred for Taliban.

The communicative analysis of this statement explains that Afghani nationals believe that since Taliban has retaken power, there is a greater risk to their lives. They are really frustrated, and are having trouble leaving the country, no matter where they are going. They had given up all hope.

After reading this remark the reader may feel pity for the person without hope, seeking better life. It may also spark shock and rage among Afghans on social media.

4.9.6. Intend

To be directed is to be intentional. It has the quality of being toward, about, or in relation to some state. Intentionality is a form of representation according to Searle. A claim, state of mind, or experience that refers to a situation serves as a representation of that situation (Allen, 2008).

If the Taliban kill me, OK, I can accept that," (The New York Times, Aug 21, 2021) Appendix 2 (B)

(For complete statement see appendix 3, quote 69)

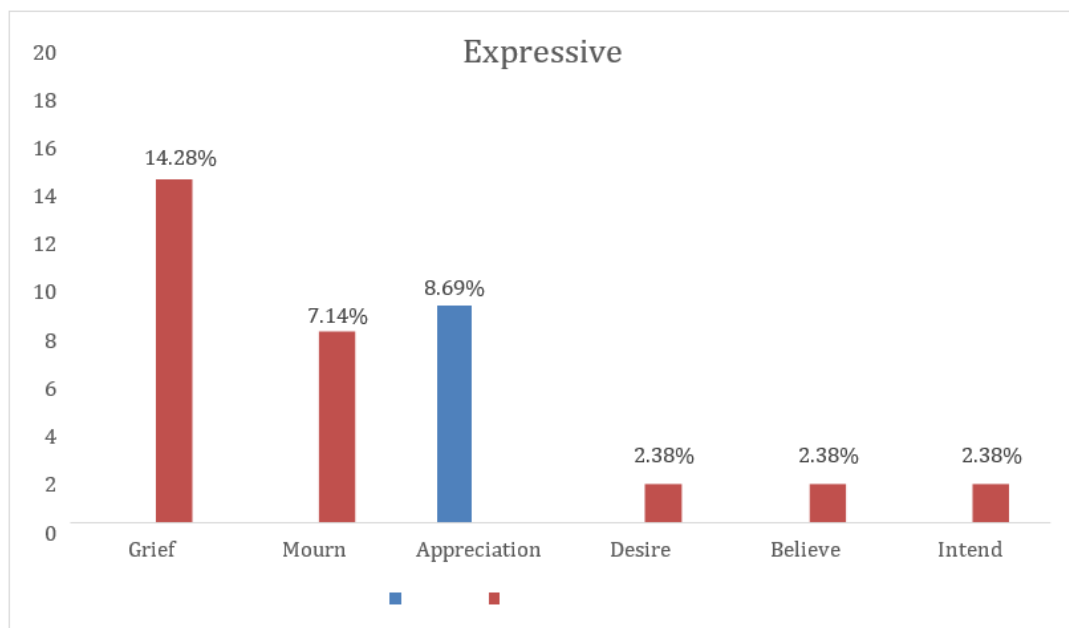
This statement taken from the New York Times editorial is employing the illocutionary act of the word 'intend'.

The pragmatic analysis of this remarks represents that the Afghanis lost their hopes and their dreams. They are not expecting anything good from the Taliban. They are worried about their kids' safety.

The former interpreter, who was hiding inside a house in Kabul at the age of 39, saw his hope dwindling. He claimed that although the American soldiers he had previously served made steadfast efforts to help, they had come to the conclusion that they were powerless to do so. He said, 'I am willing to accept death at the hands of the Taliban and all I beg is for them to spare my kids'. He is intending to make a request to Taliban for his kids pardon and safety.

Figure 4.5

Graphical depiction of prototypes of Expressive speech act



Note. Graphical depiction of prototypes of Expressive speech act in Dawn and New York Times Newspapers.

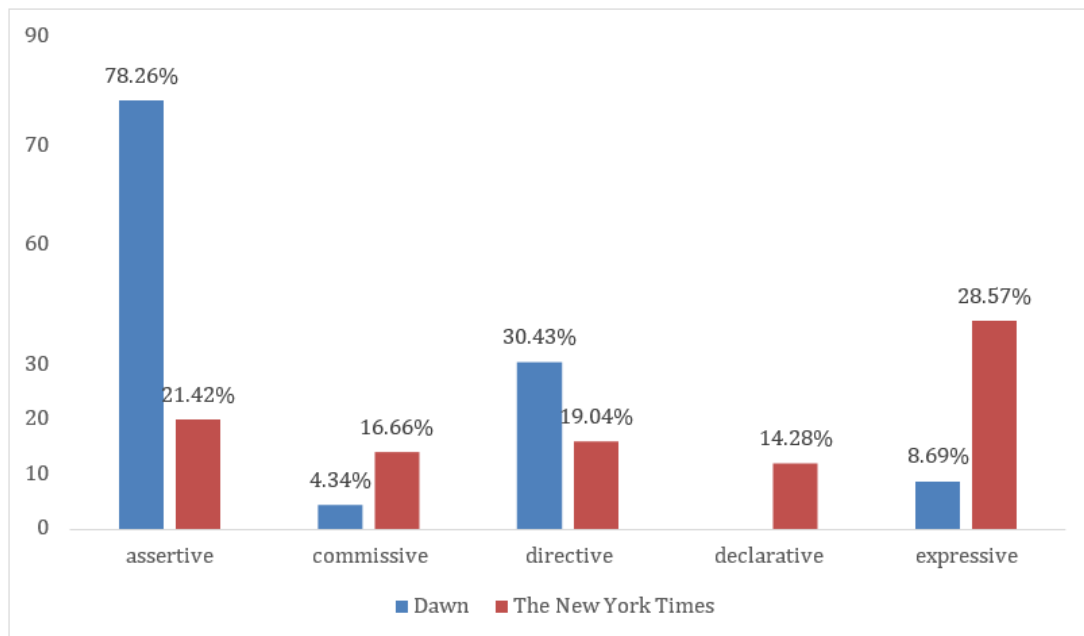
Expressive speech acts are more frequently used in the New York Times with the comparison of other speech acts. If we see prototypes of expressive speech acts used in The New York Times as in comparison to Dawn, we see the frequency of expressive speech act is higher in The New York Times which is % 28.57 than of Dawn that is 8.69% as presented in Graph 5.

4.10 Comparison of Speech Acts in Dawn and the New York Times in Graphic

Analysis and detailed discussion of the use of speech acts in the chosen articles of the New York Times and Dawn has been done in earlier section of this chapter. There are differences in the frequency with which each speech act appears in the editorials of the two newspapers as revealed by the research and in Table 4.4. The following graph compares Dawn and the New York Times newspapers.

Figure 4.6

Graphical comparison of use of speech acts in Dawn and The New York Times



Note. Graphical comparison of use of speech acts in Dawn and The New York Times on Afghan conflict.

The comparison between two newspapers, i.e., the New York Times and the Dawn has been shown in the illustrated graph. It is depicted there how often each speech act is used in editorials. As can be observed, the Dawn selected editorials use more assertive speech acts than the editorials of the New York Times, as there exist 78.26% of total utterances of Dawn and The New York Times with the 21.42%. In a similar vein, the New York Times has employed Commissive speech acts more frequently than Dawn as demonstrated in Graph 2, where 16.66% of the New York Times' total utterances are based on directives. It demonstrates that writers of editorials published

in the New York Times have employed a more Commissive tone because these statements mostly included commit, promise and threat.

As opposed to that, Dawn has employed this speech act to cover 16.66% of the overall utterances and to announce the promises and commitments made by Taliban's government to do their best to solve the problem. It can be said from the graphical representation that the New York Times' used Directive speech acts are more than Dawn as given in Table 4.4 and Graph.

In contrast, Dawn has never used a declarative speech act, while 2.38% of the New York Times' total utterances are declarative. The graphical representation clearly indicates that both newspapers have employed expressive speech acts, i.e., 28.57% of the New York Times' total utterances and 8.69% of Dawn's total utterances are composed of this speech act. The newspapers use this speech act to convey a number of sentiments in their chosen articles, such as *grieve*, *mourn*, *appreciation*, *desire*, *believe* and *intend*.

4.11 Findings of the Study

Illocutionary force means the intended meaning of the proposition of a sentence. According to speech act theory, an illocutionary act is when a sentence is used to convey an attitude with a specific function or force known as an illocutionary force. Illocutionary acts differ from locutionary acts in a way that they convey a sense of urgency and make an appeal to the speaker's meaning and direction.

Perlocutionary force is the effect of the speech on listeners. It is the resultant impact on the listener that the speaker aims to have as a result of his or her speech.

Writers' words have a strong impact on readers and can influence them according to their wish. They can choose words accordingly to the desired impacts on the readers.

The researcher has chosen five editorials from each of the newspapers, i.e., DAWN and The New York Times in order to figure out which speech acts are most frequently employed in news editorials. Searle's speech act theory is used to examine the statements of those selected editorials. In light of various speech acts and their prototypes, each statement is analyzed separately. Moreover, the illocutionary and perlocutionary acts have also been analyzed to see how language is used pragmatically by the authors.

Each statement that contained the specific speech act and its prototypes was descriptively analyzed and its depiction was given in the table. Table analysis and descriptive analysis reveal that all of the editorials from the two newspapers that were chosen had indefinite speech act patterns. No specific amount of any given speech act has been used by them. It is clear that every editorial's primary goal is to enlighten and update the reader about the changes taking place in Afghanistan after the US withdrawal. Different strategies have been used by the writers in news editorials to affect the readers' mind. One of the strategies that has been employed by them is the explicit or implicit manipulation of certain speech acts. The primary objective of applying theory of speech act to normal conversation was to influence readers' thoughts about a specific matter by employing expressions that would stick in their minds. Similar to this, the editorials that have been chosen to address a certain topic have employed specific speech acts to sway readers' opinions. Similar to this, the editorials chosen to address a certain problem have employed specific speech acts to affect readers' opinions.

Once, the opinions of the readers are affected, they are ready to take action. In this regard, they make firm opinions about the issue, i.e., Afghan conflict, and decide whether they should support Pakistan's policy or American policy concerning Afghanistan.

Moreover, the findings show that assertive speech acts are used more frequently in Dawn newspaper to inform and report important trials or events that are taking place in the time of U.S withdrawal from Afghanistan. Directives are the second most frequently used speech acts, and the purpose is to advocate Taliban to get world's respect and recognition to run their government successfully and requesting the international community to give more time to Taliban for clearing their stance about major matters. Expressive speech acts are third most used acts in The New York Times as the New York Times has used expressive speech acts more than Dawn. The purpose of using these speech acts is to express mourning and grief on Taliban's terror to the Afghan people under Taliban rule. Commissive speech acts are on fourth number and the purpose of using these speech acts is to show that life of Afghan people who were working for U.S government are in danger now. Declaratives are least used speech acts that are used by The New York Times only; Dawn has not used declarative speech act. The purpose of using these speech acts in the New York Times is to declare Taliban's failure as they have made many promises before. They have tried to convince the world

by introducing their new rule, assuring pardon to former opponents and to give rights to women, but the international community as well as Afghans are not convinced.

Findings of this study also reveal that language used by editors in editorials usually convey multiple meanings that make it difficult for people to interpret the message. To mitigate this confusion, editors need to understand the significance of language choice and importance of using clear, brief and easy to understand language. It is essential for news editors to avoid employing language having multiple meanings in their editorials.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION and RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter covers the research's conclusion and suggestions after answering the research questions. The research study's conclusion has been presented first. A few recommendations for aspiring researchers have been offered by the researcher at the end of this chapter.

5.1 Conclusion

The research focused on how various speech acts and their types in the articles of the specified newspapers are used. The studies' research questions were to investigate that which speech acts are most frequently employed in editorials. In response, it was observed that basically all editorials employ particular speech acts to engage readers while also attempting to enlighten and change their thoughts and views about particular matter with the help of the theory of speech act. With the help of this theory, the editorials were studied, and it was discovered that the use of speech acts in the news editorials does not follow a specific order. Some editorials have used assertive speech acts repeatedly, whereas other has employed expressive act more often. This affects the editorial writing's overall tone and productivity, which further reflects how readers interact and connect with editorials.

Moreover, assertive speech acts are used most frequently in Dawn as shown in the Graph 4.1 that is 78.26% of the total utterances of Dawn. The fact that Dawn newspaper frequently uses the assertive speech act in its articles may be due to the author's goal to essentially report on significant events that take place in Afghanistan after U.S withdrawal. Directive speech acts are the second-most often employed speech acts in Dawn and the New York Times newspaper stories, accounting for 30.43% of all utterances in Dawn and 19.04% of all utterances in the New York Times. The Expressive is the third most employed speech act as shown in Graph 4.5; New York Times has employed expressive speech act significantly more frequently than the Dawn, with 28.57% of all of New York Times' utterances falling under this category. It shows the feelings of *grief*, *mourn*, *appreciation*, *belief* and *intention* on the part of Taliban administration in Afghanistan. Commissive s speech acts are in 4th number whereas declaratives are the least used speech acts in the selected news editorials.

The purpose of second research question was to find out how far is the stance of the New York Times and Dawn different or similar with regard to the Afghan issue in their editorials. The analysis demonstrates that Dawn editorials have employed more Assertive and Directive speech acts. In contrast, the editorials from the New York Times have employed the expressive speech act the most; assertive are the second most frequently used speech act, and directive speech acts are the third. We can conclude that Dawn's perspective is assertive in style as it is reporting the facts advising and suggesting Taliban for the peaceful settlement and US administration to help Afghanis. The perspective of Dawn is also directive in nature as it suggests Taliban's government to get world's recognition to run their government successfully in the future and requesting the world community to give some time to Taliban for settlement and help them as they are suffering from crisis. The perspective of the New York Time is expressive in style as the selected editorials represents the author's feeling of *grief* and *mourn* on Taliban's terror and threats to the people in Afghanistan and desire to get free from this chaos of Afghan people under Taliban's rule.

The final question was to investigate how certain speech acts help construct Afghan conflict in Dawn and The New York Times. The analysis of editorials revealed that The New York Times shows that people are against Taliban and are not satisfied with the government of Taliban as they are threatening the people who were the collaborators of American administration and preventing the girls and women from schools and their work. The New York Times is creating terrible situation for the people of Afghanistan as it tries to spread fear among people that their future is not safe during the government of Taliban. Contrarily, Dawn shows positive image of Taliban. It shows that the future of Afghan people is safe as Taliban assured pardon of rivals and vowed to give rights to women. Dawn shows Pakistan has strong desire for the settlement of all the parties in Afghanistan, and Pakistani government is requesting again and again to world community to aid Afghanistan as they are facing severe economic crises. Dawn also shows that Taliban tries to diminish fear among the people.

To sum up, we can conclude that both newspapers have been narrating their point of views using the variety of approaches as seen in the New York Times' editorials as well as Dawn. Dawn is focusing more on reporting and informing about the current situation in Afghanistan, and also suggesting Taliban to make betterment in their government by giving due respect to women and their rights and taking care of basic human rights. In other ways, The New York Times focuses on expressing the

feeling of sorrow and anger about the chaos and desperation spread in Afghanistan under Taliban's administration.

Numerous studies have been done on speech acts exploited in headlines, news reports, literature and many books. To construct a perspective or to convince and change the audience's thoughts, they all employed various speech acts. According to the results of the study, Pakistan has strong desire for the settlement of Afghanistan and ask for financial aid to the international community so that Afghanistan should prosper. Pakistan shows that Taliban are trying to change their behavior about human rights and women rights. US shows that there is chaos and desperation; people are losing their hopes and desperate to leave their country. They also represent that people are not satisfied with Taliban government.

5.2 Recommendations

An important area of linguistics called pragmatics focuses on the reason behind language use. The decisions that are made when employing a language, the reasons behind those decisions, and the implications of those decisions are all covered. In short, pragmatics is the study of the rationale behind how individuals use language.

Speech act theory is the field of study that examines various illocutionary uses of language. The pragmatics has become ingrained in different sectors through time.

The theory of speech act can be used by researchers in the future to examine speech acts in a variety of fields, including education, court, and by editors in editorials with larger sample and much more.

- By using speech act theory to systematically evaluate communicating techniques in news texts, future scholars in news discourse can uncover hidden intentions that will enhance the comprehension of communication in the media. This methodology, combined with cross-media comparisons, long-term analysis, and ethical considerations, guarantees an exhaustive investigation of the constantly changing nature of news discourse.
- The researchers can gather and analyze the data from judges' decisions about attitudinal (value-based) decisions by using JR Searle's speech act theory. By evaluating the different kinds of speech acts that are employed, like assertion, direction, Commissive, expressive, and declaration, researchers can apply JR Searle's theory of speech act to analyze judges' judgments on value-based issues.

This analysis will uncover the judges' core views and values, identify patterns or biases, and explain the elements impacting their rulings.

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APPENDIX A (1)

PRICE OF US FOLLIES

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden has made a futile attempt to paint his Afghanistan policy as a success by arguing that America had not gone into the war 20 years ago for nation-building. In a speech that came after a deluge of criticism on the humiliating withdrawal of US personnel from Kabul in the wake of the Taliban takeover of the capital, Biden laid the blame for the fall of Afghanistan on the regime of Ashraf Ghani. This may not be entirely true. Two decades and more than a trillion dollars later, the US has handed over Afghanistan to the same people it had ousted to take control. All the American investment in propping up the Kabul regime, backed by a 300,000-strong fully equipped and US-trained army, came to naught within a week of the Taliban's lightning offensive. Had the Americans not been so aghast at the way their Afghan project collapsed like a house of cards, they would have experienced a feeling of *déjà vu*. After all, they had faced a similar humiliation in Vietnam decades ago, and in various other military misadventures they have stumbled into ever since. One thing common between all these global interventions, it seems, is the spectacular failures in which they have ended, and the dangerous instability they have spawned in their wake. Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Libya, just to name a recent few, have bled in all respects as a result of America's misplaced interventions. The birth of terror organizations like the Islamic State and Al Qaeda are by-products of America's ideologically fueled policies. Entire regions, and not just countries, have paid a steep price for these US follies. America's failure in Afghanistan is a reminder — if yet another one was needed — that nation building cannot be imposed from above, like the US has repeatedly attempted to do, and progress cannot sprout through the barrel of a gun. Try as the Americans might, it is difficult to gloss over the harsh reality that they — and not their puppet regime in Kabul — are primarily responsible for losing the war in Afghanistan. It is a lesson hard to digest for a superpower held hostage by its own hubris, but digest it, it must, if not for its own sake then for the sake of the world that cannot bear the burden of more such reckless military interventions. It is in fact an opportune time for Washington to indulge in some soul searching and figure out which part of its policy DNA is propelling it into such Herculean misadventures. The American voter too must ask hard questions from its leaders, and demand answers that might not be easily forthcoming. Those American officials from successive administrations who contributed to this two-decade-long folly

have a lot to answer for. The United States of America, for once, should hold itself to account.

Published in Dawn, August 18th, 2021

APPENDIX A (2)

KABUL VISIT

FOREIGN MINISTER Shah Mahmood Qureshi's flying visit to Kabul on Thursday is the first official high-level engagement between Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban since the latter's ascension to power in August. Soon after his return, Mr. Qureshi described his meetings with the acting Afghan prime minister, Mullah Muhammad Hassan Akhund, and his cabinet colleagues as result-oriented and positive. The two sides, according to the foreign minister, discussed international concerns, including human rights and women's rights, the need for an inclusive government, trade and regional connectivity and the looming humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. Pakistan on its part has stressed why it is important for the hardline rulers to address international concerns to avoid economic collapse. The fact that DG ISI Lt Gen Faiz Hameed was part of the delegation makes it obvious that the emerging security threat to Afghanistan and the region from IS-K and other militant groups, particularly the outlawed TTP, also came up for discussion. Mr. Qureshi said he "felt reassured" by the firm commitment from the Taliban leadership that the TTP or any other group would not be allowed to use Afghanistan as a launching pad to harm any country. The visit also saw Pakistan announcing a number of measures to boost trade, facilitate border crossing, visa facilitation to enhance people-to-people contact and Rs5bn in humanitarian assistance which will be in addition to the aid already being given to Afghanistan. A delegation of the Taliban regime is now expected in Islamabad in the next few days to further boost bilateral relations and continue discussions on matters of concern to the two countries.

The visit by the foreign minister reflects one important point: that while Islamabad is in no hurry to recognize the nascent Taliban regime — a point discussed with and understood by his Afghan interlocutors — it has made a policy decision to officially engage with 'a friendly Kabul' to discuss bilateral issues, find ways to avert a humanitarian crisis in the impoverished country and convey international concerns. That the Afghan Taliban no longer require Islamabad to lobby for their global recognition, given their own direct access to international power corridors, is now as

clear as day. What, however, the new rulers of Afghanistan need to understand is that international recognition and the accompanying aid and economic assistance come with certain caveats, without which it will be hard and impossible for them to sustain their second stint in power.

Published in Dawn, October 23rd, 2021

APPENDIX A (3)

AID FOR AFGHANISTAN

THERE are ominous signs that Afghanistan is heading for a humanitarian catastrophe. As angry crowds queue up outside banks with empty coffers, food inflation is going through the roof for a population of nearly 18m, with 95pc of households not having enough to eat, according to the World Food Programme. UN Secretary General António Guterres at a high-level ministerial conference in Geneva last month warned of a “serious possibility” of an economic collapse if the international community did not come to the rescue of an impoverished Afghan population. UN Humanitarian Coordinator Martin Griffiths described the situation in Afghanistan as “very dire”. Unfortunately, however, despite pledges by international donors of more than \$1bn in humanitarian assistance, there is no indication of any aid coming to Afghanistan any time soon. There is a reason why the international community has been reluctant to come forward in aid of the Afghan people; and it is political. Despite clarion calls for urgent humanitarian assistance, the international community is taking its time to debate whether the aid can be leveraged to extract concessions from the hardline rulers of Afghanistan on the key issues of human rights, women rights and an inclusive government. Given the Afghan Taliban’s intransigence to deliver on their Doha commitments, the second most important question before the donors is to find a mechanism to deliver aid directly to the Afghan people, instead of routing it through the new rulers. This brings us to the larger issue: whether or not to engage with the Taliban. Clearly, Pakistan’s calls for the international community to give ‘time’ to the Taliban or ‘incentivize’ them to soften their stand on critical issues of concern, have found little traction with the international community, including Afghanistan’s immediate neighbors. This in itself has created a dilemma for Pakistan — convincing a skeptical international community and persuading an ideologically stubborn Taliban to find common ground. But there are some encouraging signs lately that the global

community is waking up to the impending crisis in Afghanistan and one after the other, foreign ministers and international aid agencies have begun to interact with the Taliban. The world must realize that an estimated 14m Afghans living below the poverty line, beset by hunger and severe drought, do not have the luxury of waiting for intricate political discussion to find a solution to their plight. Time is of the essence. The humanitarian crisis cannot be allowed to turn into chaos.

Published in Dawn, October 9th, 2021

APPENDIX A (4)

Women Shouldn't Be Forced into Marriage, Says Taliban Decree

ISLAMABAD Afghanistan's Taliban regime on Friday released a decree on women's rights which said women should not be considered "property" and must consent to marriage, but failed to mention female access to education or work outside the home. The Taliban have been under pressure from the international community, who have mostly frozen funds for Afghanistan, to commit to upholding women's rights since the Islamist group took over the country on Aug 15. "A woman is not a property, but a noble and free human being; no one can give her to anyone in exchange for peace... or to end animosity," the Taliban decree, released by spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid, said. It set out the rules governing marriage and property for women, stating women should not be forced into marriage and widows should have share in their late husbands' property. Courts should take into account the rules when making decisions, and religious affairs and information ministries should promote these rights, the decree said. However, it made no mention of women being able to work or access facilities outside the home or education, which have been major concerns of the international community. During its previous rule from 1996 to 2001, the Taliban banned women from leaving the house without a male relative and full face and head covering and barred girls from receiving education. The Taliban say they have changed and high schools for girls in some provinces have been allowed to open. But many women and rights advocates remain skeptical. The international community, which has frozen billions in central bank funds and development spending, has made women's rights a key element of any future engagement with Afghanistan. The country, which is also suffering from a banking liquidity crisis as the cash flow dries up due to sanctions, is facing the risk of economic collapse since the Taliban took over. Two leading Afghan

women described issuance of the decree on Friday as a major step forward. “This is big, this is huge... if it is done as it is supposed to be; this is the first time they have come up with a decree like this,” said Mahbouba Seraj, the executive director of the Afghan Women’s Skills Development Centre, while speaking from Kabul to a Reuters Next conference. She said that even before the Taliban took over the country on Aug 15, Afghan politicians had struggled to form such a clear policy on women’s rights around marriage. “Now what we have to do as the women of this country is we should make sure this actually takes place and gets implemented,” said Seraj, whose shelter is a refuge for vulnerable women. Roya Rahmani, the former ambassador for Afghanistan to the United States, echoed her optimism and added that it may partly be an attempt to smooth over international fears over the group’s track record on women’s rights as the Taliban regime seeks to get funding released. “(It’s) an amazing thing, if it does get implemented,” Rahmani told the panel, adding details such as who would ensure that girls’ consent was not influenced by family members would be key. “It’s a very smart move on the part of Taliban at this point because one of the (pieces of) news that is attracting the West’s attention is the fact that little girls are being sold as property to others in order to feed the rest of the family,” she said. Seraj said the Taliban now needed to go further, calling for the group’s spokesman to release more rules clarifying women’s rights to access public spaces. “What I am really waiting to hear next from the same group, from the same person is for him to send the decree regarding the education and right of work for the women of Afghanistan, that would be absolutely phenomenal,” she said.

Published in Dwn, December 4th, 20

APPENDIX A (5)

TALIBAN'S CHALLENGE

THE swiftness with which Kabul fell to the Taliban without a shot being fired has taken the world by surprise. The Afghan Taliban now control the entire country and will dominate whatever interim government ultimately takes shape. With former president Ashraf Ghani fleeing Afghanistan, it is not clear how many of the key people who constituted his government would be acceptable to the Taliban in the new set-up. An important delegation comprising non-Pashtun Afghan leaders who once belonged to the Northern Alliance, held talks with Pakistani officials in Islamabad on Monday and it is expected that they would engage the Taliban to explore avenues for joining the new government. This holds great significance because it would be in the interest of the Taliban, and of the entire Afghan leadership, to agree to a broad-based, fully representative government that can bring all ethnicities and factions together to forge a consensus on how to govern together. Read: Afghanistan is at the crossroads, yet again it is too early to tell whether such an arrangement can take shape. However, what is fairly clear is that the Taliban, militarily victorious as they are, cannot expect to gain international credibility and recognition if they do not reach out to their former rivals. In addition, the Taliban have to also prove that they have changed since the last time they ruled Afghanistan. The global appetite for their brand of governance, marked by severe curtailment of women's rights and rampant violations of human rights, is running thin. They now control a war-ravaged country that desperately needs international assistance to subsist. The Taliban may feel flush with their victory, but they must realize that governing Afghanistan will require more than military muscle and grit. They have done well to engage key players like the United States, China, Russia, Pakistan and Iran, but from here onwards they will also have to display a behavior that is acceptable not just to these countries but to the international community as a whole. It is in this respect that the Taliban should waste little time in establishing a broad-based set-up and show by their actions that they respect the rights of women. The world will be keenly looking especially at how the Taliban react towards girls' education. So far the level of violence has been low. The Taliban will need to maintain this peace and calm even as they consolidate their position. The grim images of Afghans crowding departing American aircraft at the Kabul airport, hanging on to the planes as they took off and falling to their deaths will remain etched in the world's memory for a very long time. They will continue to haunt the memory of those policymakers who

believed spending \$83bn on the Afghan military would produce a force capable of withstanding the Taliban onslaught. There are sobering lessons in this for those willing to learn. *Published in Dawn, August 17th, 2021*

APPENDIX B (1)**THE NEW YORK TIMES****A 17-Year-Old Afghan Soccer Player Died Falling from A U.S. Evacuation Plane.**

Frantic to Flee the Taliban, Zaki Anwari Joined a Desperate Crush at The Kabul Airport. “He Had No Hope and Wanted a Better Life,” A Sports Official Said. *By Farnaz Fassihi Aug. 19, 2021*

A member of Afghanistan’s national youth soccer team was among the people who were killed as they tried desperately to cling to a U.S. military plane evacuating people from Kabul this week, the country’s official sports federation said on Thursday. His name was Zaki Anwari, and he was 17. On Monday, a crowd of Afghans surged onto the tarmac of the international airport in the frantic scramble to escape a country newly overrun by the Taliban. In a scene that shocked the world, and in just one wrenching moment encapsulated the chaos of America’s exit from Afghanistan, some of them chased aircraft carrying Americans and tried to climb onto their sides, wings and wheels. The young soccer player was among them, the federation said. “Anwari was one of hundreds of young people who wanted to leave the country and, in an incident, fell off an American military plane and died,” the group said in a statement on Facebook. The sports community of Afghanistan was in grief, the statement said. It wished Zaki a place in heaven and offered a prayer that God grant his family, friends and teammates peace and patience as they mourn. The federation posted photos of Zaki wearing his team’s red jersey — he was No. 10 — and standing on a soccer field. Another photo showed him in a suit and tie. Beside them were photos of an airborne U.S. military plane with what appeared to be a falling body and a single red rose. Video taken on Monday showed at least two bodies dropping to the ground from an airplane shortly after it took off. The Pentagon confirmed that two people had died falling from the plane, and body parts were also discovered in the landing gear of the aircraft after it landed in Qatar. In a telephone interview on Thursday from Kabul, Aref Peyman, the head of media relations for the sports federation and for Afghanistan’s Olympic Committee, confirmed Zaki’s death. Mr. Peyman said Zaki had come from a low-income family in Kabul and had worked hard to achieve his dream of being on the national soccer team while also attending school. “He was kind and patient, but like so many of our young people he saw the arrival of the Taliban as the end of his dreams and sports opportunities,” Mr. Peyman said. “He had no hope and wanted a better life.”

Many Afghans took to social media to voice shock and anger. “Shame on the Taliban,” wrote Marzieh Zal on the federation’s Facebook page. “Rest in peace dear Zaki, I cannot believe you are not with us anymore,” wrote Mohammad Sharif Ahmadi in another post. The rapid collapse of Afghanistan to Taliban control set off panic among many Afghans, including athletes, who feared that a return of extremist religious rule would bring about the end of their careers and other opportunities. One Olympic athlete, the sprinter Kamia Yousufi, 25, who carried Afghanistan’s flag at the opening ceremony in Tokyo, has since fled to Iran, media reports said. Mr. Peyman confirmed those reports. President Biden has come under sharp criticism for how the U.S. military has withdrawn from Afghanistan after a 20-year occupation. Mr. Biden has defended his handling of the exit. In an ABC News interview, he was also asked about the people who died clinging onto the plane and dismissed the question. “That was four days ago, five days ago,” he said.

APPENDIX B (2)

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Desperation as Afghans Seek to Flee a Country Retaken by the Taliban

A toddler was trampled to death as a crowd surged near the Kabul airport, and many residents who aided America remain in hiding, fearing they will be killed by their new rulers.

By David Zucchino Published Aug. 21, 2021 Updated Sept. 1, 2021

On Saturday morning, a former interpreter for an American company in Kabul plunged into a mass of humanity outside a gate at the Kabul airport with her family in tow. Even as she was jostled and elbowed by people in the throng, she pushed ahead, desperate to secure a flight out of the country for everyone accompanying her — her husband, 2-year-old daughter, disabled parents, three sisters and a cousin. Then the crowd surged. The entire family was slammed to the ground. People trampled them where they lay, the woman recalled just hours later. She remembered someone smashing her cellphone and someone else kicking her in the head. She couldn’t breathe, so she tried to tear off her abaya, a robe-like dress. As she struggled to her feet, she said, she searched for her toddler. The girl was dead, trampled to death by the mob. “I felt pure terror,” the woman said in a telephone interview from Kabul. “I couldn’t save her.” In the six days since the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan, Afghans have

negotiated a terrifying new reality after enduring 20 years of war and suicide bombings. Their world has been upended, and something as prosaic as a trip to the airport now inspires terror. Just stepping outside the front door can be jarring and disorienting. With the situation increasingly chaotic, the U.S. embassy warned American citizens to stay away from the airport, citing “potential security threats outside the gates.” Across the country, Afghans who served the American military effort in Afghanistan, or the American-backed former government, are in hiding, many of them threatened with death by the Taliban. Gunmen have gone door-to-door, searching for “collaborators” and threatening their family members, according to human rights groups. A 39-year-old former interpreter for the U.S. military and Western aid groups was hiding Saturday inside a home in Kabul with his wife and two children. He said the Taliban had telephoned, telling him, “Face the consequences — we will kill you.” The interpreter, whose identity was shielded like others in this article for safety concerns, said he had given up trying to secure a flight after a harrowing and ultimately futile attempt to force his way past Taliban gunmen and unruly mobs at the airport the day before. He has been spending his time calling and texting American soldiers and officers in the United States who are struggling to find ways to rescue him and his family. “I’m losing hope,” he said by telephone. “I think maybe I will have to accept the consequences.” Another former interpreter for the U.S. military was also in hiding in Kabul Saturday. He, too, said he had abandoned any hope of getting a flight for him, his wife and young son after two terrifying forays to the airport. “I’ve lost hope,” he said. “I’ve lost trust in the U.S. government, which keeps saying, ‘We will evacuate our allies.’” “Evacuation is impossible,” he added. Afghans who have been crowding airport gates tend to panic every time tear gas is released or shots are fired into the air to disperse the crowds, the former interpreter said. “Your child could get trampled,” he said. “If the U.S. gives me the entire universe after I lose a child, it is worthless.” To cope with the expected flood of Afghan refugees, the Biden administration wants to enlist commercial airlines to ferry those arriving in Gulf States from Kabul to transport them to countries willing to offer them resettlement. In the Shar-e-Naw neighborhood of Kabul, a female Afghan journalist said she finally ventured outside after hiding indoors since last Sunday. Trying to obey randomly enforced Taliban strictures on women, she wore a full-body abaya. “It was so heavy it made me feel sick,” she said. And in the street, she said, “There is no music, nothing. All you hear is the Taliban talking on TVs and radios.” She said her sister-in-law appeared in front of male family members with her hair

uncovered. Her brother-in-law gave her a vicious kick and told her, "Put your bloody scarf on!" Also in hiding was a former Interior Ministry police officer who had seen Taliban fighters ransack the ministry, combing through paperwork that contained detailed information about employees. He worried that they would come looking for him. "Kabul has become a city of fear," the officer said. In Kunar Province in eastern Afghanistan, a journalist said he was hiding inside his home Saturday, afraid to show his face. He had reported on Taliban atrocities when the government controlled the province. Now the Taliban were in charge and on the prowl for journalists, he said. "The Taliban will kill me and members of my family, just like they've killed my colleagues," the journalist said. In the eastern province of Khost, another journalist was also in hiding, moving between his home and the home of a family member. Taliban fighters were roaring through the province in American-supplied vehicles captured from Afghan security forces, he said. He feared they would find him soon. "I'm out of hope," he said. "Pray for me." In Kabul, the woman whose daughter was killed said the family was able to bring the girl's body back for burial. She wept as she recalled how she would try to ease her daughter's fears whenever gunshots rang out in their neighborhood: She had told her they were "crackers" — firecrackers. "My baby was such a brave child," she said. "When she heard the gunshots, she would just yell out, 'Crackers!'" She said she and her family were unlikely to return to the airport anytime soon. "I'd rather die a dignified death here at home than die in such an undignified way." Inside the Kabul house where the 39-year-old former interpreter was hiding, hope was fading. He said he was gratified by persistent attempts at assistance by the American soldiers he once served, but had concluded they could do nothing. "If the Taliban kill me, OK, I can accept that," he said. "I only ask them to spare my children."

APPENDIX B (3)

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Body Parts Found in Landing Gear of Flight from Kabul, Officials Say

Harrowing video of the chaos, recorded by the Afghan news media, has circulated around the world. The Air Force said the episode was under investigation.

By Helene Cooper and Eric Schmitt Published Aug. 17, 2021 Updated Aug. 19, 2021

WASHINGTON — The Air Force acknowledged on Tuesday that human body parts were found in the wheel well of an American Military C-17 cargo plane that took flight amid chaos at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Afghanistan’s capital, Kabul. Air Force officials have not said how many people died in the episode on Monday, but said the service was investigating “the loss of civilian lives” as a crowd of Afghans, desperate to escape the country after their government collapsed to the Taliban, climbed onto the plane’s wings and fell from the sky after it took off. Harrowing video of the episode, recorded by the Afghan news media, has circulated around the world, instantly making the horrific scene — of American military might flying away as Afghans hung on against all hope — a symbol of President Biden’s retreat from Afghanistan. “We are all contending with a human cost to these developments,” Jake Sullivan, the national security adviser, said at a briefing on Tuesday. “The images from the past couple of days at the airport have been heartbreaking,” said Mr. Sullivan, the first cabinet-level administration official to take questions from reporters since the Taliban took control of Kabul on Sunday. Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie Jr., the top military officer in charge of Afghanistan, flew to Kabul on Tuesday, where, he said, commercial flights had resumed after they were paused to secure the field. A White House official said U.S. military flights evacuated about 1,100 people on Tuesday, bringing the total so far to more than 3,200. American pilots and troops were forced to make on-the-spot decisions during the panic at the airport on Sunday and Monday. Another C-17 transport plane left Kabul late Sunday night with 640 people crowded on board, more than double the planned number, military officials said, after hundreds of Afghans who had been cleared by the State Department to be evacuated surged onto loading ramps. The pilots, determining that the immense aircraft could handle the load, decided to take off, officials said. That plane

landed safely at its destination with the Afghans aboard. But the people who tried the next day on a different C-17 were not so fortunate. Early Monday morning, the gray Air Force plane — call sign REACH885 — descended onto the runway. The lumbering jet was carrying equipment and supplies for the U.S. Marines and soldiers on the ground securing the airport and helping with the evacuation of thousands of Americans and Afghans. Minutes after the plane touched down, rolled to a stop and lowered its rear ramp, hundreds, perhaps thousands of Afghans, rushed forward as the small crew watched in alarm. The crew was aware of what had happened the night before. On Monday morning, the number of people at the airport clamoring to get onto flights had swelled. The crew members feared for their safety, jumped back up into the plane and pulled up the loading ramp before they had finished unloading, officials said. By then, throngs of Afghans had climbed aboard the wings of the plane and, unbeknown to the crew, officials said, into the wheel well into which the landing gear would fold after takeoff. The crew contacted air traffic control, operated by U.S. military personnel, and the plane was cleared for takeoff, after spending only minutes on the ground. Mindful of the people hanging onto the plane, the pilots taxied slowly at first. Military Humvees rushed alongside trying to chase people away and off the plane. Two Apache helicopter gunships flew low, seeking to scare some people away from the plane or push them off with their powerful rotor wash. REACH885 accelerated and was airborne. Minutes later, however, the pilot and co-pilot realized they had a serious problem: The landing gear would not fully retract. They sent one of the crew members down to peer through a small porthole that allows them to view potential problems in the wheel well while aloft. It was then the crew saw the remains of an undetermined number of Afghans who had stowed away in the wheel well — apparently crushed by the landing gear. Scenes captured in videos of the flight showed other people plunging to their death. After the four-hour flight, the plane landed at its destination, Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, which has become the hub for receiving passengers, including Americans and Afghans, eventually bound for the United States. Alerted of the tragedy on board, mental health counselors and chaplains met the anguished crew members as they disembarked. “Safety officials are doing due diligence to better understand how events unfolded,” Ann Stefanek, an Air Force spokeswoman, said in the statement.

APPENDIX B (4)**THE NEW YORK TIMES****Taliban Promise Peace, but Doubt and Fear Persist**

In their first statement since taking control, the Taliban hinted at a rule unlike their brutal regime a generation ago, trying to placate skeptics.

By Mujib Mashal and Richard Pérez-Peña Published Aug. 17, 2021 Updated Aug. 30, 2021 KABUL, Afghanistan — For the first time since retaking power in Afghanistan, the Taliban’s leaders on Tuesday sketched out what their control of the country could look like, promising peace at home and urging the world to look past their history of violence and repression. “We don’t want Afghanistan to be a battlefield anymore — from today onward, war is over,” said Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban’s longtime chief spokesman, in a news conference in Kabul, the capital. Mr. Mujahid, a high-ranking leader, said the Taliban had declared a blanket amnesty, vowing no reprisals against former enemies. And the group has in some places appealed to civil servants — including women — to continue to go to work. After days of uncertainty around the world over Afghanistan’s swift fall to a group notorious for its brutality, Mr. Mujahid’s words, delivered in a restrained tone, were a glimpse into a Taliban desire to portray themselves as ready to join the international mainstream. But much of the world is wary of their reassurances. After taking over Afghanistan in 1996, the Taliban imposed their harsh interpretation of Islam with punishments like floggings, amputations and mass executions. On Tuesday, a Biden administration official confirmed that any central bank assets the Afghan government had kept in the United States would not be available to the Taliban. Many Afghans, too, remain utterly unconvinced by the new face presented by the Taliban, and its promises of political pluralism and women’s and minority rights. On Tuesday, fearful Afghans hunkered down in their homes or attempted to flee, joining the frenzied rush to Kabul’s airport, which continued to be a scene of mass desperation and chaos two days after the Taliban entered the city. The group said its fighters were acting to restore order, but in some corners, they were also inflicting fear. More broadly, the United Nations secretary-general warned of having received “chilling reports of severe restrictions on human rights” across Afghanistan since the Taliban began its takeover. The Taliban’s vows of moderation unfolded in an extraordinary fashion on Tuesday evening, when Mr. Mujahid, showing his face in public for the first time, held a news conference in the same room where the government had held its press briefings just days earlier. Around

him were dozens of Afghan journalists, including women, a professional class born in the 20 years of Western development in the country, and a particular target of violence by the Taliban and other militants. Despite rampant fear about the Taliban's intentions, the reporters directly challenged Mr. Mujahid's promises. "Do you think the people of Afghanistan will forgive you?" one reporter asked, noting the long campaign of Taliban bombings and attacks that claimed tens of thousands of civilian lives. Another noted that Mr. Mujahid sat in the same spot occupied until last week by a government spokesman who was assassinated by the Taliban. Mr. Mujahid, responding patiently, allowed that civilian deaths had been "unfortunate," but said such were the fortunes of war. "Our families also suffered," he added. The return to Afghanistan of Taliban leaders who had been gone for years, including Abdul Gani Baradar — chief of the group's political office, who arrived on Tuesday in the southern city of Kandahar — and Mr. Mujahid, illustrated the head-spinning changes taking place. Mr. Mujahid spoke to reporters in a government media center the United States had spent millions of dollars creating, where the only change in appearance this week was the white Taliban flag replacing the red and green Afghan one. The Taliban appealed to Afghans not to leave the country, saying they had nothing to fear. But thousands of people have thronged the Kabul airport, hoping to get flights out, just two days after President Ashraf Ghani fled the country and the Taliban entered the city. In the chaos at the airport, where U.S. troops shot and killed at least two people on Monday and others fell to their deaths trying to cling to a U.S. military transport as it took off, there were reports of several more deaths on Tuesday. Tens of thousands of people have flooded the airport in waves, trying their luck for a flight to anywhere. While American troops controlled a large part of the airport, the Taliban took control of the approaches to it, and at times beat people with rifle butts and clubs to force back the crowds trying to get in. It was not always clear whether they were attempting to prevent people from reaching the airport, or simply prevent another lethal crush. The U.S. Embassy released a statement to Americans who want to leave that they should get to the airport, but added that the American government "cannot guarantee your security" on the way there — a vivid illustration of the confusion on the ground. President Biden faced mounting criticism in Washington, including from fellow Democrats, over the stunning lack of preparation for the lightning advance of the Taliban and the collapse of government resistance, leading to confused and halting efforts to get Americans and their Afghan allies out of the country. Republicans said Mr. Biden was in too much of a hurry to

withdraw U.S. forces, although he had postponed the date set by President Trump, who struck a deal with the Taliban. “We didn’t need to be in this position; we didn’t need to be seeing these scenes at Kabul airport with our Afghan friends climbing a C17,” said Representative Jason Crow, a Democrat of Colorado and a former Army Ranger who served in Afghanistan. The Taliban appear to be in a stronger position now than when they were in power from 1996 to 2001. They struggled then to stamp out dogged opposition factions that held pockets of the country. This month, after outlasting a superpower, the Taliban walked to control on a road paved with mass surrenders. The question now is how magnanimous they will be in victory, and how eager for international recognition and aid — in other words, how different from the Taliban of a generation ago. Taliban leaders including Amir Khan Muttaqi, a former information minister, are in talks with one-time adversaries, like the former U.S.-backed president, Hamid Karzai, about the shape of a new government, the Taliban said. Mr. Mujahid offered no hint of what would emerge, saying “give us time.” But the involvement of Mr. Karzai and Abdullah Abdullah, a former chief executive of the government, who are well known to world leaders, could give some legitimacy to any deal. Mr. Mujahid said the Taliban want friendly relations with the world, including the United States. “If the Taliban had wanted a one-sided government, they would have already declared an Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan yesterday in the presidential palace,” said Maulvi Qalamuddin, a former Taliban minister who reconciled long ago with what is now the former U.S.-backed Afghan government. “They would have announced their cabinet. But no, in fact, they were waiting for this.” The mayor of Kabul, Muhammed Daoud Sultanzy, said in a video message that the Taliban had left him in office — at least for now — and the health minister, Wahid Majroh, also remained in place. But there has been at least one effort to open a resistance to the Taliban. Amrullah Saleh, the vice president of the toppled government, said he would take up the effort in Panjshir, a northern province that remained a thorn at the Taliban’s side the last time they were in power. It was unclear what kind of support Mr. Saleh might muster, but he used a clause in the Afghan Constitution about the absence of a sitting president to elevate himself. “I am currently inside my country and am the legitimate caretaker president,” Mr. Saleh declared on Twitter. The Taliban attempted on Tuesday to project an image of being a force for stability, while tapping into the feared reputation their law enforcement and intelligence services acquired before the group was driven from power in 2001 by a U.S.-led invasion. The Taliban intelligence chief for Kabul made a statement telling

looters that his group was watching and making arrests. The Taliban's military chief, Muhammad Yaqoub, warned in an audio message released on social media that anyone caught looting "will be dealt with," and that theft of government property is a betrayal of the country. "There is no permission to take a car or a house from someone or anything else," said Mr. Yaqoub, son of the Taliban founder, Mohammed Omar. But already there have been reports of abuses, raising questions about whether the leadership's promises are hollow, or, as Mr. Mujahid suggested, are difficult to enforce during a turbulent transition. He said that Taliban fighters had been told not to enter Kabul until an orderly political transition could take place, but that the flight of Mr. Ghani and much of the security structure created a dangerous vacuum that the Taliban needed to fill quickly. Armed men, apparently Taliban fighters, spread across Kabul on Tuesday on motorbikes and in Humvees seized from the security forces. Some directed traffic and projected a message of control; others visited the homes of government officials, confiscating possessions and vehicles. In areas of the country seized by the Taliban weeks ago, fearful civil servants have been threatened with punishment for not returning to work. The United Nations has reported instances of local Taliban commanders closing girls' schools and prohibiting women from leaving home alone. But in other places there have been reports of local Taliban officials encouraging women to return to work, and trying to get schools for both sexes operating again. "We are cautiously optimistic on moving forward," said Mustapha Ben Messaoud, chief of operations in Kabul for UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund. During the first Taliban regime, girls were barred from most schooling and women were prohibited from working. They were allowed in public only wearing burqas and in the company of male relatives, and risked flogging and even execution for violating the groups rules. The treatment of women and girls under a resurgent Taliban has been one of the most acute concerns raised by their opponents in Afghanistan and by international rights groups. "There will be no violence against women, no prejudice against woman," Mr. Mujahid said Tuesday. But his assurances were vague. Women, he said, would be allowed to work and study "within the bounds of Islamic law." Similarly, he said the new Taliban needs and wants a free and independent press, which the old Taliban never tolerated — as long as it upholds Islamic and national values.

APPENDIX B (5)

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Taliban Vows to Protect Afghan Cultural Heritage, but Fears Persist The director of the national museum in Kabul said Taliban guards have been posted there, but cultural preservationists still recall the destruction of prior years.

By Graham Bowley, Tom Mashberg and Anna P. Kambhampaty Published Aug. 20, 2021 Updated Aug. 21, 2021

Taliban officials have promised to protect the National Museum of Afghanistan in Kabul, and its valuable collection of cultural artifacts, the museum's director said in an interview on Thursday. The Taliban posted a small group of armed guards outside the museum to prevent looting, according to the director, Mohammad Fahim Rahimi, who said that he had met with Taliban officials on Wednesday. "Had there been fighting, it could have been a disaster and could have destroyed a lot of things here and many monuments throughout the country," Mr. Rahimi said. "We are a bit fortunate for now that the change of power has not cost such death and destruction."

"We still have great concern for the safety of our staff and our collection," he added. Caution seemed appropriate as scenes of chaos continued to emerge from Kabul, where thousands of people are continuing to crowd outside the airport in desperate bids to leave the country. Cultural preservation experts continue to worry that the Taliban militants will target Afghanistan's ancient heritage as they did the last time they controlled the country, ransacking the museum and notoriously blasting with artillery and dynamite the giant Buddhas of Bamiyan, enormous statues that had been carved into a mountainside 1,500 years ago.

The museum, considered one of the world's greatest repositories of ancient cultures, suffered greatly in the 1990s as civil war led to the looting and destruction of most of its buildings. After the Taliban were ousted in 2001, officials at the museum reported that the Taliban had confiscated or destroyed many thousands of objects in its collection — largely Buddhist statues and other relics that were deemed un-Islamic or idolatrous. "There is very real reason for concern for Afghan heritage because of this invocation of the prohibition of idolatry," said Gil Stein, professor of archaeology at the University of Chicago. "Their public declarations are much more moderate, but I don't know if anyone in the West knows how much of that window dressing is." "I would want them to know that the world is watching," he added, "and that this really

matters.” And certainly the concerns for cultural objects extend well beyond Kabul to regional museums and sensitive archaeological sites around the country, like Mes Aynak, in Logar Province, where the remains of an ancient Buddhist city have yielded many archaeological treasures. Even in cases where artifacts are not immediately threatened by the Taliban’s fundamentalist rejection of pre-Islamic or other art, experts worry about what will happen to cultural objects and sites that could suffer from neglect because delicate preservation projects are halted or because looting becomes more prevalent.

The Taliban have worked to present a public image that would assuage such fears, issuing a statement in February that vowed to protect the nation’s cultural heritage and ordering its members to prevent looting.

“As Afghanistan is a country replete with ancient artifacts and antiquity, and that such relics form a part of our country’s history, identity and rich culture, therefore all have an obligation to robustly protect, monitor and preserve these artifacts,” it said. “All Mujahideen must prevent excavation of antiquities and preserve all historic sites like old fortresses, minarets, towers and other similar sites,” it continued, “to safeguard them from damage, destruction and decay.” In an interview last week from Doha with The Daily Mirror, a Sri Lankan news agency, a Taliban spokesman, Suhail Shaheen, said, “Buddhist sites in Afghanistan are not at risk; I refute any claim in this regard.” Some experts hope the Taliban really have changed, and that they have a more sophisticated understanding that outrage over any large-scale cultural destruction would harm their relations internationally. Cheryl Benard, president of the Alliance for the Restoration of Cultural Heritage, said the Taliban are a nationalist as well as a religious group and should recognize the importance of the country’s treasures to the Afghan people. “Everybody is in a wait and see mode,” she said. “The biggest danger is that some renegade individual goes on a binge of destruction, but they seem astonishingly disciplined so far.” Other experts, though worried, find some relief in the fact that much has improved in terms of documentation of Afghan cultural heritage in the past few years. Organizations have spent years “creating museum collection catalogues, archaeological sites maps, 3-D models of heritage building, but also documenting intangible heritage, recording the movements of potters, the equipment of masons,” Bastien Varoutsikos, a cultural heritage expert, said by email. “All this data constitutes

a record of the current state of Afghan heritage at Day 0,” he said. “Although it is far from being complete,” he added, it is better than it was two decades ago.

The Taliban also seem to have been affected by the storm of outrage that accompanied their destruction of the Buddhas and are likely not interested in drawing that sort of global scorn again, Mr. Varoutsikos said. “The Taliban have a very clear understanding of that and, in their communication, are attempting to reassure both Afghans and the international community,” he said. But many remain skeptical, pointing to similar assurances the Taliban gave last time, and then ignored. “The Taliban right now are trying to project an image of ‘we’re not going to touch anything else,’ but knowing that the group is an ideological movement, I think that will be very difficult for them to do that,” said an official at the American Institute of Afghanistan Studies, who has left Afghanistan but requested anonymity because of concerns for the safety of his family still there.

Bijan Rouhani, an academic at the University of Oxford who specializes in the protection of heritage sites in conflict zones, said, “I know that the Taliban are not one group — they are many different groups and factions — so even if the central power and leaders are saying things that they have changed, we don’t know what the situation is with local groups and warlords who are under the same flag.” During their conversations with Mr. Rahimi outside the National Museum earlier this week, the Taliban said they would not enter the institution where fighters once caused so much harm. During two decades of international occupation of Kabul, millions of dollars were spent refurbishing the museum, and Interpol and the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization helped recover a few thousand items that had made their way illegally into foreign museums or onto the international antiquities market. Today the museum is considered a design gem as well as an important institution. Objects have been repaired, and the museum contains hand tools and other objects dating to the Stone Age, along with valuable wood carvings, statues and other artifacts from the Bronze, Buddhist, Hindu and Islamic periods. Mr. Rahimi said the museum had drawn up a contingency plan for removing the 50,000 or so treasures in its collections to safe locations but had not put the plan into effect because of the Taliban’s rapid takeover.

In Bamiyan, the niches of the giant Buddhas stand empty today as a reminder of the Taliban’s past contempt for outside cultures. Just this March, upon the 20th anniversary of the destruction of the Buddhas, UNESCO helped sponsor a day

commemorating the structures, featuring a life-size, full-color 3-D projection of the statues into the rocky cliffside alcoves.

Restoration work had been underway to stabilize the niches and UNESCO, which has labeled the valley where the Buddhas once stood a world heritage site — one of two in the country — was set to open a heritage center telling the area's history, including what the Taliban did to it. Ernesto Ottone, assistant director general for the cultural sector at UNESCO, said, "Everyday there are excursions from the Taliban to the site, but right now we don't have any information about destruction occurring." Bamiyan is the unofficial capital of the Hazaras, an ethnic minority persecuted by the Taliban in the past. Since taking power this time around, in a step that is being watched by experts concerned about cultural destruction, the militants recently blew up a statue in Bamiyan of the Shiite militia leader Abdul Ali Mazari, who was killed by the Taliban in 1995. For now, expert's hope that is an aberration, not an early indication that the group will start smashing cultural treasures again. "We must remain hopeful that the February statement declaring a commitment to protect cultural heritage will be honored," Bénédicte de Montlaur, president of the World Monuments Fund, said in a statement. "The entire world will be watching to see how it is followed through."

APPENDIX C

Quote (1)

FOREIGN MINISTER Shah Mahmood Qureshi's flying visit to Kabul on Thursday is the first official high-level engagement between Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban since the latter's ascension to power in August. (Dawn, October 23rd, 2021) Appendix 1 (B)

Quote (2)

There is a reason why the international community has been reluctant to come forward in aid of the Afghan people; and it is political. (Dawn, October 9th, 2021) Appendix 1 (C)

Quote (3)

The Taliban say they have changed and high schools for girls in some provinces have been allowed to open. But many women and rights advocates remain skeptical. (Dawn, December 4th, 2021) Appendix 1 (D)

Quote (4)

A White House official said U.S. military flights evacuated about 1,100 people on Tuesday, bringing the total so far to more than 3,200. (The New York Times, Aug 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (C)

Quote (5)

The lumbering jet was carrying equipment and supplies for the U.S. Marines and soldiers on the ground securing the airport and helping with the evacuation of thousands of Americans and Afghans. (The New York Times, Aug. 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (C)

Quote (6)

Those American officials from successive administrations who contributed to this two-decade- long folly have a lot to answer for. (Dawn, August 18th, 2021) Appendix 1 (A)

Quote (7)

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden has made a futile attempt to paint his Afghanistan policy as a success by arguing that America had not gone into the war 20 years ago for nation-building. (Dawn, August 18th, 2021) Appendix 1 (A)

Quote (8)

After all, they had faced a similar humiliation in Vietnam decades ago, and in various other military misadventures they have stumbled into ever since. (Dawn, August 18th, 2021) Appendix 1 (A)

Quote (9)

Entire regions, and not just countries, have paid a steep price for these US follies. (Dawn, August 18th, 2021) Appendix 1 (A)

Quote (10)

America's failure in Afghanistan is a reminder — if yet another one was needed — that nation- building cannot be imposed from above, like the US has repeatedly attempted to do, and progress cannot sprout through the barrel of a gun. (Dawn, August 18th, 2021) Appendix 1 (A)

Quote (11)

The Taliban may feel flush with their victory, but they must realize that governing Afghanistan will require more than military muscle and grit. (Dawn, August 17, 2021) Appendix 1 (E)

Quote (12)

It is a lesson hard to digest for a superpower held hostage by its own hubris, but digest it, it must, if not for its own sake then for the sake of the world that cannot bear the burden of more such reckless military interventions. (Dawn, August 18th, 2021) Appendix 1 (A)

Quote (13)

The American voter too must ask hard questions from its leaders, and demand answers that might not be easily forthcoming. (Dawn, August 18th, 2021) Appendix 1 (A)

(Quote (14)

A delegation of the Taliban regime is now expected in Islamabad in the next few days to further boost bilateral relations and continue discussions on matters of concern to the two countries. (Dawn, October 23, 2021) Appendix 1 (B)

(Quote (15)

An important delegation comprising non-Pakhtun Afghan leaders who once belonged to the Northern Alliance, held talks with Pakistani officials in Islamabad on Monday and it is expected that they would engage the Taliban to explore avenues for joining the new government. (Dawn, August 17, 2021) Appendix 1 (E)

(Quote (16)

To cope with the expected flood of Afghan refugees, the Biden administration wants to enlist commercial airlines to ferry those arriving in Gulf States from Kabul to transport them to countries willing to offer them resettlement. (The New York Times, Aug. 21, 2021) Appendix 2 (B)

(Quote (17)

There are ominous signs that Afghanistan is heading for a humanitarian catastrophe. (DAWN, October 9, 2021) Appendix 1 (C)

(Quote (18))

The world must realize that an estimated 14m Afghans living below the poverty line, beset by hunger and severe drought, do not have the luxury of waiting for intricate political discussion to find a solution to their plight. (Dawn, October 9th, 2021) Appendix 1 (C)

(Quote (19))

He said that Taliban fighters had been told not to enter Kabul until an orderly political transition could take place, but that the flight of Mr. Ghani and much of the security structure created a dangerous vacuum that the Taliban needed to fill quickly. (THE NEW YORK TIMES Aug 17, 2021) Appendix 1 (C)

(Quote (20))

There are sobering lessons in this for those willing to learn. (Dawn, August 17th, 2021) Appendix 1 (E)

(Quote (21))

UN Humanitarian Coordinator Martin Griffiths described the situation in Afghanistan as very dire. (Dawn, October 9th, 2021) Appendix 1 (C)

(Quote (22))

Time is of the essence. (Dawn, October 9th, 2021) Appendix 1 (C)

(Quote (23))

Anwari was one of hundreds of young people who wanted to leave the country and, in an incident, fell off an American military plane and died, the group said in a statement on Facebook. (THE NEW YORK TIMES Aug 19, 2021) Appendix 2 (A)

(Quote (24))

Safety officials are doing due diligence to better understand how events unfolded, Ann Stefanik, an Air Force spokesman, said in the statement. (THE NEW YORK TIMES Aug 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (C)

(Quote (25))

But the people who tried the next day on a different C-17 were not so fortunate. (THE NEW YORK TIMES, Aug 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (D)

(Quote (26))

The Air Force acknowledged on Tuesday that human body parts were found in the wheel well of an American Military C-17 cargo plane that took flight amid chaos at

Hamid Karzai International Airport in Afghanistan's capital, Kabul. (THE NEW YORK TIMES Aug 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (D)

(Quote (27))

The Taliban will kill me and members of my family, just like they've killed my colleagues, the journalist said. (The New York Times, Aug. 21, 2021) Appendix 2 (B)

(Quote (28))

Mr. Qureshi said he 'felt reassured' by the firm commitment from the Taliban leadership that the TTP or any other group would not be allowed to use Afghanistan as a launching pad to harm any country. (Dawn, October 23, 2021) Appendix 1 (B)

(Quote (29))

American pilot and troops were forced to make on the spot decisions during the panic at the airport on Sunday and Monday. (The New York Times, Aug 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (C)

(Quote (30))

(Quote (30))

Mr. Mujahid, a high-ranking leader, said the Taliban had declared a blanket amnesty, vowing no reprisals against former enemies. (The New York Times, Aug 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (D)

(Quote (31))

Taliban's vows of moderation unfolded in an extraordinary fashion on Tuesday evening, when Mr. Mujahid, showing his face in public for the first time, held a news conference in the same room where the government had held its press briefings just days earlier.

(The New York Times, Aug. 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (D)

(Quote (32))

Taliban officials have promised to protect the National Museum of Afghanistan in Kabul, and its valuable collection of cultural artifacts, the museum's director said in an interview on Thursday. (The New York Times, Aug 20, 2021) Appendix 2 (E)

(Quote (33))

In areas of the country seized by the Taliban weeks ago, fearful civil servants have been threatened with punishment for not returning to work. (The New York Times, Aug 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (D)

(Quote (34))

He said the Taliban had telephoned, telling him, "Face the consequences — we will kill you. (The New York Times, Aug 21, 2021) Appendix 2 (B)

(Quote (35))

In addition, the Taliban have to also prove that they have changed since the last time they ruled Afghanistan. (Dawn, August 17, 2021) Appendix 1 (E)

(Quote (36))

They have done well to engage key players like the United States, China, Russia, Pakistan and Iran, but from here onwards they will also have to display a behavior that is acceptable not just to these countries but to the international community as a whole. (Dawn, August 17, 2021) Appendix 1 (E)

(Quote (37))

Given the Afghan Taliban's intransigence to deliver on their Doha commitments, the second most important question before the donors is to find a mechanism to deliver aid directly to the Afghan people, instead of routing it through the new rulers. (Dawn, October 9, 2021) Appendix 1 (C)

(Quote (38))

What, however, the new rulers of Afghanistan need to understand is that international recognition and the accompanying aid and economic assistance come with certain caveats, without which it will be hard and impossible for them to sustain their second stint in power. (Dawn, October 23rd, 2021) Appendix 1 (B)

(Quote (39))

Clearly, Pakistan's calls for the international community to give 'time' to the Taliban or 'incentivize' them to soften their stand on critical issues of concern, have found little traction with the international community, including Afghanistan's immediate neighbors. (Dawn, October 9th, 2021) Appendix 1 (C)

(Quote (40))

The Taliban appealed to Afghans not to leave the country, saying they had nothing to fear. (The New York Times, Aug. 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (D)

(Quote (41))

UN Secretary General António Guterres at a high-level ministerial conference in Geneva last month warned of a 'serious possibility' of an economic collapse if the international community did not come to the rescue of an impoverished Afghan population. (Dawn October 9, 2021) Appendix 1 (C)

(Quote (42))

The Taliban's military chief, Muhammad Yaqoub, warned in an audio message released on social media that anyone caught looting 'will be dealt with', and that theft of

government property is a betrayal of the country. (The New York Times, Aug. 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (D)

(Quote (43))

With the situation increasingly chaotic, the U.S. embassy warned American citizens to stay away from the airport, citing potential security threats outside the gates. (The New York Times, Aug. 21, 2021) Appendix 2 (B)

(Quote (44))

Her brother-in-law gave her a vicious kick and told her, ‘Put your bloody scarf on! (The New York Times, Aug. 21, 2021) Appendix 2 (B)

(Quote (45))

There is no permission to take a car or a house from someone or anything else, said Mr. Yaqoub, son of the Taliban founder, Mohammed Omar. (The New York Times, Aug 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (D)

(Quote (46))

They were allowed in public only wearing burqas and in the company of male relatives, and risked flogging and even execution for violating the groups rules. (The New York Times, Aug 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (C)

(Quote (47))

Women, he said, would be allowed to work and study “within the bounds of Islamic law. (The New York Times, Aug 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (C)

(Quote (48))

It wished Zaki a place in heaven and offered a prayer that God grant his family, friends and teammate’s peace and patience as they mourn. (The New York Times, Aug 19, 2021) Appendix 2 (A)

(Quote (49))

It is in this respect that the Taliban should waste little time in establishing a broad-based set- up and show by their actions that they respect the rights of women. (Dawn, August 17, 2021) Appendix 1 (E)

(Quote (50))

We don’t want Afghanistan to be a battlefield anymore — from today onward, war is over,” said Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban’s longtime chief spokesman, in a news conference in Kabul, the capital. (The New York Times, Aug. 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (D)

(Quote (51))

Kabul has become a city of fear, the officer said. (The New York Times, Aug 21, 2021)

. Appendix 2 (B)

(Quote (52))

The Pentagon confirmed that two people had died falling from the plane, and body parts were also discovered in the landing gear of the aircraft after it landed in Qatar. (The New York Times, Aug 19, 2021) Appendix 2 (A)

(Quote (53))

In a telephone interview on Thursday from Kabul, Aref Peyman, the head of media relations for the sports federation and for Afghanistan's Olympic Committee, confirmed Zaki's death. (The New York Times, Aug. 19, 2021) Appendix 2 (A)

(Quote (54))

On Tuesday, a Biden administration official confirmed that any central bank assets the Afghan government had kept in the United States would not be available to the Taliban. (The New York Times, Aug. 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (D)

(Quote (55))

I am currently inside my country and am the legitimate caretaker president," Mr. Saleh declared on Twitter. (The New York Times, Aug 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (D)

(Quote (56))

In a scene that shocked the world, and in just one wrenching moment encapsulated the chaos of America's exit from Afghanistan, some of them chased aircraft carrying Americans and tried to climb onto their sides, wings and wheels. (The New York Times, Aug 19, 2021) Appendix 2 (A)

(Quote (57))

I felt pure terror", the woman said in a telephone interview from Kabul. "I couldn't save her. (The New York Times, Aug. 21, 2021) Appendix 2 (A)

(Quote (58))

I've lost hope," he said. "I've lost trust in the U.S. government, which keeps saying, 'We will evacuate our allies. (The New York Times, Aug 21, 2021) Appendix 2 (B)

(Quote (59))

I'm losing hope," he said by telephone. "I think maybe I will have to accept the consequences. (The New York Times, Aug 21, 2021) Appendix 2 (B)

(Quote (60))

In the chaos at the airport, where U.S. troops shot and killed at least two people on Monday and others fell to their deaths trying to cling to a U.S. military transport as it

took off, there were reports of several more deaths on Tuesday. (The New York Times, Aug 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (D)

(Quote (61))

Rest in peace dear Zaki, I cannot believe you are not with us anymore”, wrote Mohammad Sharif Ahmadi in another post. (The New York Times, Aug. 19, 2021) Appendix 2 (A)

(Quote (62))

If the U.S. gives me the entire universe after I lose a child, it is worthless. (The New York Times, Aug 21, 2021) Appendix 2 (B)

(Quote (63))

The images from the past couple of days at the airport have been heartbreaking”, said Mr. Sullivan, the first cabinet-level administration official to take questions from reporters since the Taliban took control of Kabul on Sunday. (The New York Times, Aug 17, 2021) Appendix 2 (C)

(Quote (64))

This is big, this is huge... if it is done as it is supposed to be; this is the first time they have come up with a decree like this”, said Mahbouba Seraj, the executive director of the Afghan Women’s Skills Development Centre, while speaking from Kabul to a Reuters Next conference. (Dawn, December 4th, 2021) Appendix 1 (D)

(Quote (65))

(It’s) an amazing thing, if it does get implemented”, Rahmani told the panel, adding details such as who would ensure that girls’ consent was not influenced by family members would be key. (Dawn, December 4th, 2021) Appendix 1 (D)

(Quote (66))

I’d rather die a dignified death here at home than die in such an undignified way. (The New York Times, Aug. 21, 2021) Appendix 2 (B)

(Quote (67))

He had no hope and wanted a better life. Many Afghans took to social media to voice shock and anger. (The New York Times, Aug 19, 2021) Appendix 2 (A)

(Quote (68))

If the Taliban kill me, OK, I can accept that,” he said. “I only ask them to spare my children. (The New York Times, Aug 21, 2021) Appendix 2 (B)