

**SCANDALOUS DISCOURSE ABOUT
WOMEN: A COGNITIVE SEMANTIC
STUDY OF NEWS REPORTS IN DAWN AND
THE NEWS**

BY

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Study of News Reports in Dawn and The News**

By

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Candidate of **Master of Philosophy** at the National University of Modern Languages do hereby declare that the thesis **Scandalous Discourse about Women: A Cognitive Semantic Study of News Reports in Dawn and The News** submitted by me in partial fulfillment of MPhil degree, is my original work, and has not been submitted or published earlier. I also solemnly declare that it shall not, in future, be submitted by me for obtaining any other degree from this or any other university or institution.

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ABSTRACT

Title: Scandalous Discourse about Women: A Cognitive Semantic Study of News Reports in Dawn and The News

The reports about crime against women often tend to project the incident in number of ways which affect the readers' perception of that incident and the people involved in them. The aim of this study is to analyze the criminal discourse against women in the reporting of honor killing, rape, domestic violence and harassment. It focuses on the representation of both genders (especially female) and stereotypes associated to both. This study uncovers and takes up a critical area of the field of cognitive linguistics in news reporting. The research employs two theories. The first is Relevance theory, that highlights inferences and interpretations as significant ends of communication. The second is Framing theory which works on the principles of cognitive shortcut, availability of the simplified news and possibility of distraction from the main agenda. The study is qualitative in nature, descriptive and analyzes the reports in the light of the just mentioned theories. The news reports are obtained from The News and Dawn. The study employs content analysis on fifteen news reports from each newspaper, and its time frame is from August 2022 to April 2023. The findings reveal that the news headlines are generally too concise and intriguing that they create ambiguity in understanding the news. Whereas, the news reports remain neutral and present details in the most euphemistic and temperate way that the severity, ferocity and violence involved in the crime is rationalized. Moreover, they follow cultural norms and writing conventions of Pakistani print media while reporting the news. It is realized that honor killing, rape, domestic violence and gender-based victimization are the still prevailing issues faced by women in Pakistan. It is also concluded on the basis of the findings of the study that the reason for all the crimes is deeply rooted in gender-based victimization. They create orthodox/stereotypical images of both genders. Women are presented vulnerable, coward, defenceless, submissive, and dependent on men. On the other hand, men are strong, brave, powerful, oppressive and custodian of the family's respect that their crimes are justified. The factors like specific linguistic choices, presenting stereotypes, and establishment of frames by the newspapers affect the cognition of readers.

Key words: Scandalous Discourse, Cognitive Semantics, Relevance, Framing, Gender Representation, News Reports

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DEDICATION

To my late father for his love, tireless, endless support and encouragement, and to my
deceased friend Zeeshan Zahoor

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

In any society, media plays a crucial role in representing, teaching, and entertaining its general public. This role can be expanded to include closing the gender gap at all societal levels. For media to fairly reflect our society and to provide coverage that is comprehensive and diverse, it is essential that the news reflect the world as experienced by both men and women. Numerous studies have examined how women are portrayed in media, and the findings indicate that women are underrepresented as news subjects as well as sources of information and opinion (GMMP, 2020; Tuchman, 1978). The present study delves into gender discrimination in the use of language, more specifically, the use of scandalous discourse about women. The data is collected from reports on crimes committed against women.

It is important to understand the meaning of the word gender with reference to common usage. Authors and researchers often use the words sex and gender interchangeably, however, the implications are different. They vary from context to context. It is noted that the meaning of the word sex is biologically constructed; hence, it is male sex and female sex. Whereas, the gender is socially constructed and implies masculinity and femininity in the social domains (Lorber, 1994; West & Zimmerman, 1987).

The word gender signifies appropriate behaviors (dos and don'ts) for both man and women. Generally, gender is defined as a metric which evaluates the acceptable and unacceptable behaviors in a particular society. Seed (2009), highlighted gender as social characteristics and cultural characteristics, generally ascribed to either gender. The expectations of society are different for men and women. These expectations are generally dictated by cultural norms, customs, traditions and even laws. Hence, gender roles are fluid and relative across cultures and societies.

The relationship between language and gender is significant for the present study. Gender is surrounded by language used within a society. "Language defines men and women differently" (Wood, 2005). Gender stereotypes in language reflect

the role and function of a society. At the same time, these stereotypes determine the role of both men and women in a society. For instance, men are defined by their activities, accomplishments, or positions, whereas, women are defined by their attractiveness, and relationships in a society. Language is motivated by gender in such societies both overtly and covertly. According to Romaine (1994), the cultural stereotypes exhibit “spinster” with negative connotations as opposed to ‘bachelor’. Romaine further gives example of the use of titles to describe relationships and status of women in English language as established by English speaking society. That is, the titles Miss and Mrs. for women signify the marital status of women. Whereas, Mr. is used for both unmarried and married men. It is concluded that it is essential to know the marital status of a woman whereas, the marital of man is to be ignored. Hence, a stereotype allocated through language used for women and men.

Such language is professed in media as well. The language of media is considered influential in many ways. Media is essential for the dissemination of information. While doing so, it is able to affect people’s views, beliefs and attitudes. It is taken as a mirror to the society which reflects truth. However, in recent times, there is a (mis)representation because of the use of language. Media operates like a prism that bends and distorts the true image of the world. The representation of women on media and their place in society have been a prominent subject for research. Gender is constructed and reinforced in various media related genres/forms. Women are politically underrepresented and often sent into periphery despite their contribution in various walks of life. It has been observed that their accomplishments receive less attention as compared to their appearances. Also, for example, women athletes, suffer from such underrepresentation and are targeted for their femininity and apparent weakness, they are not valued on their abilities.

Traces of women stereotypes in media go dates back to the 1890’s when newspapers created a section specifically for "women’s issues" to appeal female readers. That section for “women issues covered engagements and weddings, food recipes, beauty and tips for being a good homemaker” (Elias,2018). It is a reference from history, and current era also witnesses that such topics are still associated with women. Their cooking, beauty and efficiency in home chores are still points of discussion and efficiency markers for women. Presently, these topics are often included not only in print media but also in electronic media.

Newspapers have reported crimes as well, during 19th, 20th and 21st centuries authors focused their writings on the genre of crime in the American and English literatures. This shows crime as a phenomenon exists across cultures and over time. It is a recurrent theme too that can be understood as a legal and psychological concern. There are few activities which are considered legal in one country and illegal in other country. For instance, alcohol consumption is legal in the UK, whereas, it is strictly prohibited in Muslim countries like Pakistan. (Dambazau, 2007; Usman, Yakubu, & Tenibiaje, 2010; Bello, 2012). So, it is correct to say that the same incident can be reported differently in different region of the world. Subsequently, it leaves different impact to the audience/ reader.

Crime is, as mentioned earlier, covered in news reports (of both print and electronic media). In order to rationalize why crime features in news reports, Wykes (2001) stated that "Crime news mobilizes the extremes of value judgments: it is about good and bad, innocent and guilty, heroes and villains, victims and abusers". Hence, it leads reader to show specific attitude about characters and incident. For example, sympathy and kindness to the victim, and hate for the culprit. Crime news shapes the attitude of the society which has a broader impact to react against the criminal act.

It has been observed that crime news fascinates the readers, as stated in Jimoh et al (2007), "crime and violence make news reports juicy". Crime catches the public attention more and it sells well (Jimoh et al, 2007). Media operators may choose to feature crime and violence more prominently in order to make a higher profit. This is because of human nature, because we, human beings, unconditionally show sympathy and care to the victim and hatred towards offender. Similarly, they use the techniques through language to present news in the way which catches more attention and impacts emotional and psychological perspective of the reader.

Print Media and mass media in general, presents a mediated version of reality to the audience instead of stating facts explicitly, supported by Bourdieu (1998), who argued that mass media, instead of replicating reality, creates a distorted view of reality before the public. It is done through linguistic choices and setting the frames which make cognitive shortcuts and bound people to think in a specific dimension. Moreover, it hinders the reader in trust building and creating attitude towards the event. Resultantly, if reality is not replicated, the effective/desired outcome against

event happening cannot be produced, so the actual work of the media and news related to crimes cannot be gained.

In addition to its fundamental functions of entertaining, educating, and informing, viewpoints, and ideological structures that support a society's worldview, media produces and replicates attitudes about people and cultures, most significantly, the attitudes towards women and their roles in different domains of society. People are constantly exposed to television, newspapers, and other media that feature images and stories on what it means to be a man or woman. Indeed, through everyday visuals in print and electronic media, mass media significantly contributes to the transmission of gender inequalities and differences.

Ruud et al. in their UNESCO report 2009 wrote about media, "It is essential that the news reflect the world as viewed through the eyes of women in order for media to truly reflect our society and to generate coverage that is complete and diverse as men". At one level, the choice and the manner in which world is presented in news replicate certain stereotypes about women's status and roles in society. At another level, it has an impact on how they are portrayed in media. Particularly, news media is believed to be crucial in influencing public opinion. It is through the concept of relevance which is the process of making inferences from the context. It emphasizes that understanding an utterance is not simply a matter of linguistic decoding. It involves identifying (a) what the speaker intended to say, (b) what the speaker intended to imply, (c) the speaker's intended attitude to what was said and implied, and (d) the intended context (Wilson 1994). Moreover, the way the news is presented, including how people and events are perceived, can affect how people react in terms of politics, policy, and social justice.

Today, it is acknowledged that one of the biggest risks faced by women with respect to their health and their social acceptance is violence against women. Women face violence globally. Violence generally is an action that is likely to cause physical and emotional harm to a victim. Although there is a growing emphasis on media's potential to help reduce violence against women, prior studies indicate that news reports usually convey the problem in an inaccurate manner. According to several studies, few news outlets acknowledge underlying societal and gender-based elements in the news coverage (for instance, by mentioning them). However, a corpus of

research demonstrates that media portrayal of violence against women frequently employs event-based reporting or "episodic" framing.

A frame is significant in the sense as it influences how individuals see and respond to issues, as well as whether they notice, comprehend, and remember them. It has been noted that the most typical analytic units are the message (news, campaign rhetoric, and arguments); textual components (words, phrases, and paragraphs); the context (words, sentences, and paragraphs), an individual's memory of information and opinion on a topic; and the societal behavior and attitudes. All play key role in the framing process.

The news media may instruct the public about what issues they should think and how to think about those issues. The media framing is crucial because it provides a different perspective from studies that focus exclusively on media bias or objectivity. The print media, like every other form of media in the world, draws its framing inspiration from the social context in which it operates. Reporters, writers, and editors who work in media are products of society. They intentionally reflect what the audience think in their framing act because they are aware of how their audience thinks, and how a framed news is likely to be accepted by the audience without any skepticism.

There were reports of discrimination against women in many countries in South Asia. The birth of a girl child is rarely celebrated. Pakistani Commission on the Status of Women (1997) mentioned the hostile atmosphere towards women in Pakistan. Their issues and concerns are generally ignored by the state. In a patriarchal society, men suppress women in all spheres of life and define their gender roles. Different social issues related to women are portrayed in the print media. For instance, the act of violence committed against women are portrayed as honor killing. Apparently honor killing is justified in our societies. However, it is an act of crime where a male member of the family murders a female who brought dishonor by making few choices of her own. Honor crime encompass a wide range of violent manifestations such as honor killings, confinement or imprisonment and interference with choice in a marriage. For this, the publicly articulated justification is attributed to a social order claimed to require the preservation of a concept of honor vested in male control over women. Therefore, media ends up reflecting such inequalities that exist in society. The society absorbs these inequalities in its structures. Likewise, readers,

who are the part of the society and who read this framed news, develop hostile attitudes against these so-called crimes.

One of the most significant advancements in linguistics is the study of language concerning the mind and how language is organized by ideas, thoughts, and embodiments. Conceptualization and embodiment are connected to language comprehension as well as the meanings of linguistic constructions. This method of language research is given by Cognitive Linguistics, which is a recently developed discipline that studies how language, mind, and embodied experiences interact (Evans, 2011)

Cognitive semantics is part of cognitive linguistics. It focuses explicitly on meaning as a cognitive phenomenon. It views language meaning as a manifestation of conceptual structure and places human cognition on linguistic description. According to Kertesz (2004), cognitive semantics is a branch of cognitive linguistics that examines the meaning of linguistic expressions being a component of cognition by attempting to address the question of the nature of knowledge and thought through empirical methods.

Cognitive semantics is typically used as a tool for lexical studies such as those put forth by Leonard Talmy, and George Lakoff given in a book entitled, ‘‘Cognitive Semantics’’ (2000). As part of cognitive linguistics, it divides semantics (meaning) into meaning construction and knowledge representation. Cognitive semantic analysis of news reports typically involves analyzing the language used in news reports to identify patterns and themes. It can include examining the use of figurative language, the framing of issues, and the use of specific words and phrases. News reports can manipulate readers in a number of ways, framing, being one of them, which involves presenting information in a way that emphasizes certain aspects of the story while downplaying others. Another way is the use of loaded words or phrases to elicit emotional responses from the readers. The four main tenets of cognitive semantics are,

- i) Semantic structure is a conceptual structure
- ii) Conceptual structure is embodied
- iii) Meaning representation is encyclopedic
- iv) Meaning-construction is conceptualization

Therefore, there is a scope to analyze news reports through a cognitive semantics lens to see semantic and syntactic features present in news reports which are little known to many readers. It also helps to examine media outlooks on women's criminal discourse, such as honor killing, rape, elopement, sexual harassment, domestic violence, etc. The rationale for using cognitive semantic analysis is that it involves analyzing how language is used to construct meaning and how that meaning is interpreted by the readers. It is pertinent to gain insight into how news reports shape our understanding of the world, identify biases and patterns(frames) in the ways news is presented. This type of analysis is important in the era of "fake news" and media manipulation as it is going to help the readers to critically evaluate the news reports and better understand the ways in which news organizations shape public opinion. This study analyzes news reports related to crimes against women using framing and relevance theory in selected Pakistani English Newspapers. It aims to unravel the lexical choices, hidden ideologies, and multiple interpretations (possible frames which are there). It also tries to reveal the alternative ways of news reporting and other aspects (culture, religion, cognition for instance) which manipulate the news and its impact on the audience as well as how readers use these aspects to comprehend the news. Eventually, this study aims to bridge the gap between reality and public opinion about such news in selected newspapers.

The selected newspapers for this study are "The News" and "Dawn", data has been collected from these resources through news reports. The rationale for the selection of these two newspapers is their wide and large circulation and massive readership. Furthermore, these newspapers are considered influential and persuasive in Pakistani society and data is extensively available on women's criminal discourse in these two selected newspapers (Kheeshadeh M, 2012: cited in Lubna, 2015). The present study is qualitative in nature as it involves content analysis which is a research tool used to determine the presence of certain words, themes, or concepts within some given qualitative data (i.e. text). Using content analysis, researchers can quantify and analyze the presence, meanings, and relationships of such certain words, themes, or concepts. As an example, researchers can evaluate language used within a news article to search for bias or partiality. Researchers can then make inferences about the messages within the texts, the writer(s), the audience, and even the culture and time of surrounding the text. In this way, an interpretation of the news reports can be made,

and likewise, the slant of media discourse on women's social issues can also be analyzed.

1.1 Problem Statement

News reports about women-related crimes in media tend to project a social conception of male-perpetrated violence in several ways that cause a plethora of stereotypes and stigmatization. There is a symbiotic relationship between media language and socio-cultural constructs. These stereotypes, stigmas and symbiotic relationships impact the human cognition and/or meaning construction. Hence, it is important to analyze the news reports through a cognitive semantics lens in order to see how Pakistani Newspapers Dawn and The News frame and construct stereotypical representations of women in our society.

1.2 Research Objectives

The objectives of the study are,

- To identify the linguistic choices in news about crimes against women
- To examine the role of framing in creating women-related news
- To analyze frames aimed at building gender image in the reports

1.3 Research Questions

In the light of above-mentioned objectives, the study aims to answer,

1. What are the linguistic choices employed in crime news about women in Pakistani Newspapers Dawn and The News?
2. How are framing techniques used in reporting crimes against women in Dawn and The News?
3. How do framing project various genders in the selected Pakistani newspapers?

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study is significant as it encompasses the analysis of the news related to criminal discourse against women like honor killing, rape, domestic violence and harassment, and also reports on women's elopement and court marriages. Women's social issues like honor killing, elopement, sexual harassment, and rape are still

prevalent and dominant in many societies and crime rates related to these issues are increasing day by day in many countries.

This study is also significant as it employs a new theoretical lens i.e. cognitive semantics. It suggests a new perspective to view news reports as how media constructs meaning based on conceptualization and categorization, put a sorted frame for audience. It also seeks to uncover the hidden ideologies and use of linguistic choices which leads to multiple interpretations and framing behind news reporting of women-related social issues in Pakistani selected English Newspapers. It also helps to identify patterns and biases in the ways in which women are portrayed in media and sheds light on the broader cultural attitudes and beliefs that shape our understanding of gender and sexuality. Moreover, the framing theory helps us to have deep insight into the language used by newspapers.

The study is helpful to see whether newspaper projection of social issues and its perception to reader is impacting the behavior towards crimes or not. This study uncovers a critical area in the field of cognitive linguistics, especially when it comes to media discourse, print media here, which influences the masses the most and has the potential to make, built, and shape different narratives about social issues related to women in Pakistan.

1.5 Delimitation of the Study

The present study is delimited to newspaper reports about women who are victimized in various criminal activities perpetuated in Pakistani patriarchal society. The selected news reports are taken from two Pakistani English newspapers i.e. Dawn and The News. The study employs Relevance and Framing theory.

1.6 Organization of the Study

This thesis is organized into five chapters and following is an outline of those chapters:

The first chapter is Introduction. It establishes a background to the key areas dealt in the study. It also gives Problem Statement, Research Objectives, Research Questions, Significance and Delimitation of the Study.

The second chapter is Literature Review. This chapter is divided into four sections that argue upon works already done on the key areas including Media and

News, the Role of Media, Language, Gender and Feminism and Media and Criminal Discourse. This chapter ends with Research Gap in the existing research which then leads to present study.

The third chapter is Research methodology. It consists of Research Paradigm, Research Design, Reliability and Validity of the study, Data Collection and sampling technique and a discussion on the related Theoretical Framework. Moreover, it ends with a discussion on the steps followed during the analysis of the news reports.

The forth chapter provides an analysis of the selected news reports from Dawn and The News published from August 2022 to April 2023. The chapter follows the research objectives and includes the analysis of linguistic choices, frames and gender portrayal in the selected news reports. The analysis of all the reports are concluded with the discussion on implications of societal perceptions of women and gender related stereotypes constructed in the language used in those reports.

The fifth is conclusion. It consists of Summary, Research Findings, Conclusion, Discussion, Implications, limitations, and Recommendations for future researches.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter reviews the literature relevant to the present study. Since this study is based on the discursive representation of scandalous discourse about women, it is pertinent to mention media studies to establish the connection between news discourse and the media's role in it. For this purpose, the role of media in socialization and defining reality, media and framing, language and gender, and feminism; and the influence of media on the views of gender is highlighted. It presents a review of the literature related to the influence of media on gender portrayal, media and crime, gender construction in media, and the role of language in constructing stigmatized views about certain genders by mentioning relevant studies. The last part of the chapter reviews different studies related to social issues' depiction in print media discourse in the context of Pakistan. It helps to see how they project social issues related to women and manipulate the readers.

Media plays a significant part in the process of meaning-making. It has been referred to as window into the world for delivering the most important and productive news stories to raise awareness in a patriarchal society. It is also seen as a reliable source of important information that can be relied upon. Moreover, its concepts are accepted as representations of reality. The present study aims to discuss the discursive representation of scandalous discourse about women in Pakistani English newspapers i.e. Dawn and The News. When it comes to news discourse, social interactions, the impact of social notions like cultural values and religious notions, and the process of production concerning the targeted audience (readers) play a key role. The portrayal of scandalous discourse about women in Pakistani media is not as transparent and objective as it is often believed to be throughout the nation.

Media not only disseminates information regarding a certain issue but also create a social reality in the minds of the readers. Media puts the news in certain contexts and frames according to their objectives (hidden) to propagate certain views regarding specific gender. It is important to highlight the role of media in the practice of certain defined values and the creation of discourse. The present study focuses on the linguistic choices and framing techniques aimed at building certain views about gender (Men/women) and its impact on the minds of the readers of criminal discourse.

Print media is a powerful medium with its interests, agendas, and objectives which it wants to achieve. For this purpose, newspapers use language strategically to cover social issues regarding women, and to shape the worldview of society towards a specific group. It is pertinent to examine the cognitive semantic aspect of news discourse regarding the portrayal of social issues about women, since it has the power to affect the narrative regarding a certain social issue, alter public opinion regarding an issue, and build certain views about gender.

There is also a notable potential to explore the closely linked relationship between language, cognition, and society (socialization) which are involved in the meaning-making in news discourse. It is provided by the cognitive semantic aspect involved in the creation of news regarding scandalous discourse about women. The present study sheds light on this aspect, the role of discursive strategies in creating news, use of certain linguistic choices and framing techniques in news as well as their intended impact and preconceived outcomes. Additionally, it looks at how social, cultural and religious notions have the power to manipulate the readers through context, frames, and sorted and defined view about social issues related to women in print media. It also helps to highlight the propagation of specific ideologies, perspectives, and views regarding criminal discourse related to women in the selected English newspapers.

2.1 Media and News

Media studies focus on how language is used to shape public opinion and move it in a particular direction. Language is a very potent tool, especially when employed consciously. It can be used in various ways to manipulate the message due to its flexible nature. The print media, like all other forms of media, uses linguistic medium and it serves as one of the most important platforms for the exchange of opinions and ideas. Similarly, the production of newspapers is regarded as an “industry, business like any other business, which should be profitable” (Fowler, 1996). Therefore, it is imperative to be aware of the print media outcome that is based on, “the need to make a profit, to maintain connections with other businesses, financial institutions, and government agencies” (Ibid). These are the few factors along with others like framing, relevance, culture, and social context which affect the news and the projection of gender in media discourse. It draws our attention to the fact that print media is undoubtedly get impacted by the owners or by the advertisers

in terms of an event description. As a result, media's freedom of speech is compromised. However, the majority of the newspaper's readers are generally unaware of such characteristics of media. Additionally, media is responsible for gathering news on certain topics and publishing it as per their respective ideologies and frame of minds. Therefore, it is essential to elaborate the notion of news.

One of the key features of media in contemporary time is to provide information. The media informs people all over the world, because it collects information from various news events, transforms that information into news stories, and alters them (stories) to be informative to keep the audience (listeners and readers) up-to-date. Without these coordinated efforts of media, individuals may not have the opportunity to know what is happening around them. Rapeepat So-in (2002), claims that news is such a slippery concept that there has never been and likely never will be a good definition for this elusive and challenging notion. On the other hand, Rhea (2002) defined news as details about current events that are relevant to a sufficient audience, or that might have an effect on the lives of a large group of people. Since everything that might be happening anywhere around the globe, can be considered an event, the aforementioned definition of the term, news cannot be validated as everything can be news.

On the other hand, there are few real life incidents/situations that have been truly documented in media. We are aware that news must come from a reliable source, to be published and distributed to the readers. Media is a major source for the dissemination of information. Media is a generic term, which includes both electronic media and print media. The former includes radio, television, and the internet while the latter includes newspapers. The present study focuses on print media, especially English newspapers, and does not focus on electronic media. As this study aims to decipher the role of media through the use of language regarding scandalous discourse about women, it is important to highlight media's role in creating and defining gender.

2.2 The Role of Media

2.2.1 Media and Socialization

While elaborating gender and media relationship, media is known as a powerful agent of socialization and social change. According to Gallagher,

“Media offers models, gives statuses, indicates suitable behaviors, and promotes stereotypes, making them formidable agents of socialization and social change. This lies with the past and current analysis of women and media relationship” (Gallagher, 1983). Media through its socialization role “teaches” us how to interpret ourselves, the people around us, and the world. Media has an impact on how we can “make sense” of the reality we live in. For instance, they teach us about, “femininity” and “masculinity”, what it means to be a normal man or woman, gender interactions, and social roles allocated to men and women, providing us a framework for understanding gender differences (O’Shaughnessy & Stadler, 2002).

An experimental research conducted by Gallagher has shown that “sex-stereotyped” information encourages youngsters to define women in their traditional roles, whereas the content that defies sex-stereotyping promotes less conventional descriptions. Boys and girls pay close attention to children of their own sex indulging in sexual activities; the more television boys and girls watch, the more traditional their attitudes and aspirations become. The outcome of such studies suggests that boys and girls by extension men and women do prepare to model themselves along lines suggested by media imagery (Gallagher, 1981). These “standardized characterizations” representations of men and women in media arise from deeply ingrained beliefs in wider society, stemming from psychological and behavioral differences between men and women. It may seem impossible to expect media, which caters to a large audience, to stray from these established conventions regarding gender roles and relationships, even if the veracity of such ideas is debatable (Ibid)

Some theories of sexual inequality have conjectured that, in addition to cultural and environmental variables, the structure and internal needs of media organizations may play a particularly conservative role in socialization, reaffirming conventional views and values. According to Gallagher, one of these factors includes the tendency to deal with “known” and accepted images and content. She also comments that mass media products are, in general, required to make “an immediate and vivid impact” and to be “quickly and easily absorbed” by their audience. A “considerable reliance is therefore placed on the use of simplified, recognizable and standardized characterizations in media output” (Ibid.).

She additionally specifies the sexual arrangement of the media workforce which she says is predominately male — much so in the dynamic positions —

likewise plays a huge job in building up conventional qualities and convictions. Therefore, it has appeared to be conceivable to certain media critics to presume that the media present "a social reality which — if not certifiably bogus — feeds on the conservative forces in the society, disregarding new patterns until they have become laid out and subsequently satisfying a building up job — as opposed to a changing one — in the culture" (Ibid.).

2.2.2 Media and Construction of Reality

Media plays a crucial pivotal role in both distribution and perception of information about the world. It provides us with (re)presentations that help us to comprehend the world we live in. One of the key terms in media studies is, "representation". According to O'Shaughnessy and Stadler (2002:50), it has three meanings: "to look like or resemble, to stand in for something or someone, to represent a second time or re-represent". Media does all these in defining social reality. There is no such thing as unmediated access to reality as Dyer says, "We know reality through representations" (Ibid).

They further argue that there is no accurate, unbiased portrayal of the world and this is because all representations whether they come from people or media, come with certain viewpoints. When applying this to news, they contended that news does not simply happen rather gathered, chosen, put together, and framed in specific ways that depend on the context in which media operates (Ibid). In the book, *Media Power: A Sociological Introduction*, McCullagh (2002) writes,

"The pictures and information media presents to us influence and build our perception of social reality. If these images and information are partial and selective, our images and information will be biased. Thus, media holds the power to define our sense of social reality, the world we live in, by controlling the information presented to us"

Despite, so many issues and events happening all around the world, that reach at news desks every day, media-constrained carrying capacity prevents all news items from being published and presented to us. This implies that there will always be some aspect of selection. Media chooses issues to present and re-present to us from a certain angle called frame by media experts. Through the selection and framing process, media is restricting our understanding of reality. They inform us about

certain events but not about others; give us some perspective on certain issues while neglecting others. According to McCullagh, through this pattern of selection and framing, media can control and shape our understanding of the world we live in.

2.2.3 Selection and Framing

Media scholars and feminist communication theorists both have focused their attention on the selection and framing issue which shows the power of media. If we mention the agenda-setting theory of McCombs and Shaw, some voices and problems are made more salient than others by media. We give more attention to issues highlighted by media rather than those, not presented by media (Griffin, 2003). McCombs took it further and elaborated that media not only do the selection and presentation of certain voices and issues but also influence the way we think about them. This process is called framing.

He goes on further saying that media does not only provide information regarding certain issues and events but also provides, perspectives about them as well. Media places these events and issues in certain contexts and encourages the audience to understand them in specific ways. They offer “interpretative frameworks” for these events and issues to be understood. These frameworks widely called, “frames” are the “persistent patterns of cognition, interpretation, and presentation, of selection, emphasis, and exclusion used by media to organize discourse, whether verbal or visual” (McCullagh, 2002).

This further adds to “unquestioned consensus” in society about the very nature of the world by organizing discourse- “a social process of constructing meaning” through systematic patterns of the inclusion and exclusion of themes and images i.e., selection and framing process. From this, we can establish the power of media to build an ideology - a set of social values, ideas, beliefs, feelings, representations, and institutions that contribute to our collective sense of the world we live in (Ibid:191). Through these ways, media does ideological work by supporting dominant ideology, masking and displacing social issues and problems. In doing so, media can hide or avoid social issues or render them invisible at times.

Entman (1993), a proponent of mass media theory, defines framing as "to choose a few elements of a seen reality and emphasize them using such a language to support a specific problem definition, causative analysis, moral assessment, and/or

therapy suggestion (p.52). Van Gorp (2010) notes that the journalism enterprise involves a dynamic process of meaning-building and a continuous process of producing social reality, where the journalist's responsibility is to "provide additional levels of interpretation of issues and incidents presented as a news article" (p.84).

Framing has a long history that goes beyond its use in mass communication studies and refers to the process through which the focus or design of a message impacts the receiver's interpretation. For instance, Bateson (1972) used the metaphor of a picture frame to express how frames organize information and offer a perspective in the discipline of sociology, in which message recipients learn about the message's topic. Textual and visual devices organize and influence audience members' perceptions by adding and excluding specific aspects, and they transform "recognizable" information into "unrecognizable" information, events, or vague discourse into a recognizable event. This is implied in numerous sociological studies from which the notion of media framing emerged.

D'Angelo & Kuypers (2010) highlight the crucial dialectical interaction that occurs between news sources that frame topics to make information engaging and pleasant for journalists and the journalists who accept such frames, often use their own frames with others to create the final hybrid framing of the events. This representation of the news or event affects the readers in any ways, for example emotionally and psychologically. In order to determine the effects of any given framing on a particular society, Baran & Davis (2006) contend that understanding the socio-cultural as well as the political context in which any given framing takes place is essential (p.285). Additionally, it is contended that frames are a byproduct of "a network of culture" rather than just emerging as independent entities. Van Gorp (2010) also points out that because they draw on concepts that are already well-known to journalists and media viewers, culturally embedded frames are frequently the most appealing to social reality, which facilitates message interpretation and internalization.

In an investigation on how news frames affect readers' perceptions and their capacity to remember the details provided to them in an article, by Valkenburg et al noted, "The news media can have the capacity not just to teach the public what topics to think about but also how to think about them" (1999, p.567). To put simply, the degree of priority that media accords to the topics determines how important such

issues are to them. Reese (2010) lists certain verbal constructions including metaphors, visual emblems, and catchphrases that express frames as additional framing mechanisms.

2.3 Language, Gender, and Feminism

A social context is reflected in a discourse. Discourse about offenders, victims, and crimes only includes connections that are rooted in the actual events, it does not convey reality or offer us a visual image of truth/change the word. Language plays a key instrument in the mediation of news portrayal of crime. Language not only creates but also reflects patriarchal ideology. To ensure the practice of an alternative to patriarchal ideology, a strong resistance is needed (Mucchi-Faina, 2005). According to studies by Parks and Robertson, (2004) and Swim, Mallet, and Stagnor (2004), gender-neutral substitutes were traced in females than males. After analysis, it was observed that the word, “Chairperson” has taken the place of “Chairman”. According to Yasmin (2007), media outlets continue to use the word “chairman” while reporting a male person and use a gender-neutral word, “chairperson” for a female. This tradition is seen by feminists as an indication to give high status to men in society and women are not expected to have higher status as males. Burton D. (1982) studied the potential use of language to convey a person being powerless. Sexist language serves as a tool to uphold and amplify the power dynamics in a culture. Different studies investigated linguistic representation in terms of naming convention and found that there was a lack of equality in terms of address, titles, and vocabulary. Generic terms, “he” and “man” were used more often leaving out women, and semantic belittlement was also observed for women more than men (Spender, 1980; Miller and Swift, 1976, Penelope, 1990; Pauwels, 2001, Schulz, 1990; Yasmin, 2007).

The opponents of women’s rights used arguments based on tradition and culture to justify the subjection of women, in addition to sexism in language (Becker, 2007). Women’s decency and their respectability are understood as parameters to assess gender discrimination (Fernando & Cohen, 2014). Such discrimination is obvious in respectability discourse. It puts women in fixed roles as mothers, daughters, and sisters. McKay & Freimund (2015) did a case study of Namibian Women and examined the discourse of respectability and its influence on the choice of opportunities for women. The results showed that the idea of a “real woman” was to be a wife or mother who established the “right” way of living. The study also

concluded that this idea of real woman excluded women who remain single and choose as an independent way of living. Such women were rather called “unrespectable”.

Women are seen by feminists as an oppressed group of people who experience unfair treatment. Men gain from patriarchal norms whereas women face institutional as well as inter-personal discrimination. According to feminist linguist Robin Lakoff, language may be used to create, reflect, and maintain gender inequality (1975). It is argued that the observation of reality is likely to be sexist. If sexist beliefs and language are present in a culture, and language comprises, forms, creates, or through any other way promotes sexist perspective in a society then it favors illogical and offensive discrimination between both genders (Vetterling-Braggin, 1981). A sexist language contains words, phrases, clauses, and expressions that belittle, denigrate, or exclude one gender while differentiating gender and their role. (Parks & Robertson, 1998).

Spender in her book, *Man Made Language* in 1980 points out that this phenomenon's emergence was not merely a coincidence. She argued that the language created by humans is prejudiced against women's status and that this bias stems from men's status. She believed that this difference in any language is not natural rather it is created by men to keep women submissive to them. According to her, it is all done to sustain the hegemony of the males in a society and she blamed society and throughout course of time which flourish such differences.

According to Wodak (1997), the word male is considered standard while female is deviant. Lexical asymmetry is exhibited through the use of lady-doctor for females to make them as marked form, a deviation from the standard norm, through the use of prefixes. According to S. Mills (1995), the phrases like poetess, comedienne, and authoress convey a feeling of non-seriousness about women when they are compared to words for men. These words are created from nouns which are used for men according to their profession. These all insinuate that lexical choices affect the way we represent and view the world.

2.3.1 Media and Gender

In contemporary times, media has moved beyond its usual role of spreading information; it also provides entertainment at global, national, and local levels. Media

is widely recognized for providing information and creating social realities (Hardt, 2004; Morgan, 2009). In our daily lives, media plays a crucial role in shaping and reshaping our opinions to an extent that we create our identities concerning what we see or read in media. These affect our ideas of who we are and what we could be. As a social category, gender is one of the oldest and most prominent ways by which people may learn to identify themselves. Media occupies a central space among many other sources which influence gender representation. It is due to media's pervasiveness, people's long-term exposure to it, and its influence on people's attitudes, beliefs, and expectations. In the past ten years, there has been an increase in public interest in gender issues, mainly because of social and political groups that advocate for gender equality in a variety of contexts, including how gender is depicted in media.

Gender issues are popular in media. Feminine gender in media is sexualized and prejudiced. Media frequently serves to reinforce gender stereotypes and reflects a division between men and women. Therefore, it makes gender inequality natural rather than artificial. Media "constructs gendered differences and reproduces gender inequalities" (Fleras, 2011, p. 82). Additionally, it may be claimed that media is patriarchal since it promotes male interests and ideas while portraying women as the second sex with special emphasis on their beauty and connections to and within dominating systems.

As stated earlier, media can be seen as the most powerful and pervasive influence on how we view men and women. Throughout our daily lives, media insinuates messages into our consciousness at every turn. All forms of media communicate images of sexes, which perpetuates unrealistic, and stereotypical identities, and leaves the audience with limited perceptions. Owing to modern times, scholars have started focusing on the role of women in society and how they are being portrayed in media. Researchers have analyzed the power of media to construct, represent, and perpetuate gender constructions in various genres. Primarily, three themes describe how media represents gender. First, women are underrepresented, which falsely implies that men are culturally standard and women are unimportant or invisible. Second, men and women are portrayed in stereotypical ways that reflect and sustain social views of gender. Third, men and women relationship depictions emphasize traditional roles and normalize violence against women (Wood, 1994).

i. Representation of Women

A primary way in which media distorts reality is by under-representing women. According to Pederson (2002), media is one of the most influential forms of socialization in today's society in generating gender values. The pictures shown in print and broadcast media contribute significantly to the transmission of gender inequalities. Gender roles are especially apparent in the world of sports. Researchers like Messner (1988) and Rowe & Brown (1994) have expounded that gender discrimination is still considered the standard norm in the sports industry. The media frequently propagates patriarchal ideals that have been traditionally linked to sports. The lack of coverage or acknowledgment of women sports and athletes leads the sports consumer to believe that women's sports and athletes are not important and are not worthy of being covered. In fact, according to Wennar (1998), men represent the norm and women represent the "other". The implication of the word other, as per feminist, is women; other does not acknowledge the status of women as athletes. Example not taken yet

Trolan in his study, *The Impact of the Media on Gender Inequality within Sport*, 2013 examined the relationship between gender and the sports media, especially related to the coverage of female athletes. This research used content analysis that elaborated the stereotyped images of sportswomen in the language of sport commentary. Sport is not merely some objective institution rather it has the potential to influence the norms, values, and beliefs of the larger social practices. The findings of the research showed that across women's sports, there was not only a difference in the amount of coverage given to female athletes as compared to men but also in terms of quality of coverage. The main themes that occurred were under representation, trivializing, sexualizing, and hetero-sexualizing women's bodies within the sports context. Similarly, another study on how gender stereotypes are conveyed in media and how they are reinforced in the Nordic countries found that women are underrepresented in the news in all of the Nordic countries. (Manila S, 2016).

Vandenberghe (2019) in an article, "Representation of Women in the News: Balancing between Career and Family Life" aimed to investigate the extent to which the representation of women changed over time in two Belgian Newspapers *De Standaard* and *Het Laatste Nieuws*. The content analysis in the study shows that

women representation in various walks of life and issues of women remained in the background of the news between 2005 and 2015. In addition, the qualitative analysis of two cases of women stepping into leadership positions in 2012 (Catherine De Bolle as head of the federal police) and in 2014 (Dominique Lerory as CEO of a Belgian telecom company) was also done. It showed that the press emphasized their femininity, beauty, how they became a role model for other women, and how they maintain their family role. All these parameters are reserved for only women in a stereotypical patriarchal society. Such a society cannot glorify a woman as a leader rather it harps the same tune of limiting women behind barriers and typical roles (Vandenberghe, 2019).

“Portrayal of Women and Men in Spanish Press” is another study which examined the portrayal of women and men in Spain’s most-read national newspapers. The study was based on qualitative content analysis of the non-advertising content of 28 issues of two most-read national newspapers in Spain, *El Pais*, and *El Mundo*. The results of the study showed significant inequality in the representation of women and men in selected newspapers. Women were under-represented, both as participants and as protagonists of the published text and images, while the depiction of men and women was marked by gender stereotypes that attribute power and authority to men. Women were rarely represented as athletes and were represented as victims, more frequently than men were (Aznar & Others, 2017).

I. Shahet al. (2019) published an article on the content analysis of crime reporting in print media in Pakistan. They collected one-year crime reports from *Dawn* (English newspaper) and *Daily Jang* (Urdu Newspaper). Their descriptive analysis concluded that English newspapers were particularly focused on urban crimes, whereas Urdu newspapers highlighted a variety of crimes from urban as well as rural areas. Moreover, articles about violence against women were published in both newspapers.

Studies have revealed biases in the way in which women are portrayed in media. For instance, Ross and Carter (2011) found that just 9% of newspapers, 5% of radio programs, and 0% of TV shows included women celebrities.

Ullah and others (2020) studied gender representation in Pakistani print media through a critical lens. The main objective of the study was to examine the

representation of men and women in Pakistani print media. Gender role stereotyping and sexism in print media are not a low-profile gender issues as printed communication and content still hold an important place in a contemporary digital world. Newspaper being a viable source of credible content/messages, the study examined gender stereotyping and sexism in print media in Pakistan and attempted to highlight whether print media reproduces or challenges stereotypes and sexism. The study did content and discourse analysis on four widely read national newspapers, keeping in view the complexity of sexism in print media. The findings of the study were placed in the socio-cultural context of Pakistani society and feminist theories. The findings of the study unveiled that print media in Pakistan reinforces gender stereotypes and provides little challenge to gender-stereotyped images of men and women. The stereotypical images of women such as least interest in politics, becoming super mom, more concerned with physical attractiveness may develop a stereotyped image of women, or to become more feminine along the standards set by men.

Ifeoma et al. (2018), in their study, “Portrayal of Women in Nigerian News Magazine” also examined the portrayal of women in news and consequently formed questions to test the invisibility and under-representativeness of women in Nigerian news magazines. The selected news magazines were Tell and The News. The study analyzed the content analysis of the sampled magazines from January to June 2014 and used content analysis. The findings of the study revealed that women were underrepresented in the news as subjects and reporters. The study was also linked to media framing theory which posits that media selects some aspects of the perceived reality and makes them more salient in the text of the magazine news. It helps in promoting a definition of particular problem, causal interpretation, further evaluation, and treatment recommendation of the item described. The underrepresentation of women can be attributed to media framing theory whereby the issues concerning women were framed in a way to subjugate women instead of giving them a voice of their own.

2.3.2 Stereotypical Portrayal of Men and Women

In general, media continues to present both men and women in stereotypical ways to limit our perceptions about them. Typically, men are portrayed as active,

adventurous, powerful, and sexually aggressive while women as sex objects, who are usually young, thin, beautiful, passive, dependent, and often incompetent and dumb.

Stereotypes exist in every society and language plays a key role in their creation. Wood (2005) defines stereotype as, “a generalization about a whole class of phenomenon based on some understanding of some members of the class”. To stereotype someone is to interpret one’s behavior and personality, in terms of a set of common-sense attributions associated with the whole group. For example, Italians are excitable, and black people are good at sports. "Like caricatures, they [stereotypes] focus obsessively on certain characteristics, real or imagined, and exaggerate them," Stereotypes are directed at sub-groups of society (ethnic minorities, women), and they are employed by men to maintain their hegemony (Talbot,2003). In many patriarchal societies, Pakistan being one too, women have been mostly stereotyped as weak. At one end they are submissive, and at another objects of beauty.

Amjad & Rasul (2017), in their article, “Female Gender Portrayal through News Blogs: Analyzing the Ideological Representation of Pakistani Working Women” selected the genre of news blogs for the representation of Pakistani working women. The study used critical discourse analysis as a theoretical framework to examine, how through the choice of linguistic items, female bloggers formulate an identity of Pakistani working women. In addition, how identity correlates within the Pakistani context was also examined. The study selected three blogs each from Express Tribune and Dawn. The findings concluded that media portray the identity of women foremost as housewives, who are expected to serve their husbands, rear children, and look after their in-laws. Textual, discursive, and societal analysis of blogs revealed that a woman is never considered equal to a man, in both her capabilities and career opportunities. Men undoubtedly have more social power in a patriarchal setup. The male gender in Pakistani society is generally regarded as an epitome of supremacy and authority and women as their dependents.

Alia and Batool (2015), in their article, discussed and debated the stereotypical portrayal of women through text and images in media. The selected data came from the English newspaper, “The News”. The data revealed that text and images produced through media are biased, patriarchal and reinforce male hegemony. Moreover, men control women’s bodies and their minds. The images of the women produced reflected stereotypical representation as victims of violence of both domestic and

public types, sex objects, passive, weak, and engaged in domestic roles. The study argued that such images reinforce stereotypical roles and hence promote gender inequality instead of emancipation (Alia & Batool, 2015).

Ma Insenga (2014) analyzed media discourse of the British press on female politicians in the UK deconstruct the language used to depict them as political candidates. The study aimed to identify recurrent patterns to and stereotypical frameworks in order to represent women. According to the study media discourse does not support the targets set by Europe, Europe 2020. The main aim of the study was to argue that the media discourse plays against the targets set by Europe2020 strategies to achieve gender equality, perpetuating gendered media construction of women. The study chooses newspapers, with a mind to balance tabloids and broadsheets from both liberal and conservative sides. The study used a mixed methodology of content analysis and some framing mechanisms to test the argument. Research findings unveiled that the British press depicts female politicians with many stereotypical frameworks i.e., physical appearance, emotional status, and their family role as mothers. It was observed that UK newspaper media actively, attached women to communal gender stereotypes, ensuring the public to keep in mind that a female political leader is a woman first, sometimes a politician (Ma Insenga, 2014).

Similarly, another study studied the print media representation of women in Nigerian newspapers through content analysis. The selected newspapers for the study were Vanguard, The Punch and The Guardian. The results of the study showed that entertainment and domestic news about women appeared more in newspapers than in other categories like the economy, politics, education, etc. Additionally, it was found that the tone of newspapers regarding the portrayal of women seemed negative. They were represented in a manner that projects them as weak and dependent on men (Jonah, 2020).

The Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP) 2015 aims to get insight into gender representational issues and speak for the equality of men and women projection in media discourse. The Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP, 2015) with collaboration of more than a hundred nations, conducted a survey that found a number of already ongoing and new gaps in gender image and representation (2015). The monitoring, which was carried out over 20 years, showed a very modest advancement in the inclusion of women's views in the public conversation occurring

in the news media. The news not only presents a worldview that is dominated by men, but it also exhibits gender biasness and excessive stereotyping which support marginalization, discrimination, and violence against women.

2.4 Media and Criminal Discourse

In recent times, criminal discourse has been a point of debate among researchers. The argument is that media does not present reality, rather distorts it to fit into cultural norms and patriarchal set-up. Media manipulates language to reveal certain ideologies in criminal discourse about women. In order to distort reality, media may exaggerate or portray crimes with biasness while reporting them. (Pizarro et al., 2007)

Risdaneva, (2018) in a study titled, “A Critical Discourse Analysis of Women’s Portrayal in News Reporting of Sexual Violence” explored the portrayal of women in the reporting of crimes of sexual violence against women. The study chose two newspapers from different cultures and compared the reporting between them. The first newspaper was the Jakarta Post and the second was The Guardian. The Jakarta Post is an English newspaper published in Indonesia, whereas The Guardian is a broadsheet from The Great Britain. The study used naming analysis of social actors as an analytical tool, which is part of critical discourse analysis. The analysis was aimed at probing the representation of women through the choice of lexical items in the news. The findings unveiled that the choices of the naming categories by both newspapers are different. The Jakarta Post mostly represented both the victims and perpetrators in terms of their legal status in criminal cases. It suggested that broadsheet tends to view them as participants of legal procedure, not as people. On the contrary, The Guardian classified victims in terms of their age and gender and referred to perpetrators by their surnames, instead of plaintiffs in the criminal cases. The Guardian’s tendency to present both perpetrators and victims as people indicates that the broadsheet attempts to focus on reporting individuals as participants of the criminal proceedings, but not on news reporting of committed crimes (Risdaneva, 2018).

While analyzing the styles of crime reports in English and Arabic, Mahmoud, R. A. (2011) observed that regardless of the language, there is always a set pattern adopted in such news reports. The pattern includes process, participants, and

circumstances. Wherever verbs appear, there is a process which includes the event of the crime and the actions involved in it. Whoever the criminals are in this case, committing the crimes or eyewitnesses, as well as police and investigators, are considered the participants. The circumstances of the crime include where the crime is being committed, when the crime is committed, and some crucial leading factors to the crime. Moreover, he outlined the five elements that comprise the basic pattern of crime reports which are headline, central statement, basic description, details, and conclusion.

Gender disparities have led to various forms of injustice faced by women. Unequal access to opportunities, rights, and responsibilities are the common forms. A study by Susilo, (2018) investigated the representation of women as rape victims in an Indonesian online media source from Sara Mill's feminist critical discourse analysis. The data was taken from *Tribunnews.com*. The results showed that there is a tendency for gender inequality when women are depicted as weak, powerless, gentle, and subordinate to men in the discourse of online media sources.

Language is a potent tool used creatively in newspapers to build power structures based on gender. Additionally, they portray men and women with stereotypical representation through the use of specific linguistic choices. Men and women are depicted as separate and unequal by linguistic choices; the former is powerful, and autonomous while the latter is helpless and dependent. Sidra & Rasul (2008) explored language in her article about crime reporting with a special focus on the relationship between language and gender. The study chooses two English newspapers (*Dawn* and *The News*) and two Urdu newspapers (*Jang* and *Khabrain*). In the study, they examined the use of gender-specific adjectives which creates the reality of women as weak, submissive, and dependent while male as powerful, authoritative, and dominant. The findings unveiled that newspapers use demeaning, and gender-specific descriptions in the crime reports like *mazloom aurat*, abandoned woman and agonized mother, to portray women as weak, powerless, and dependent.

On the other hand, men are portrayed as powerful, and authoritative through the use of adjectives like the cruel husband, and authoritative stray/gang. Moreover, the study found that English newspapers use comparatively less gender-specific adjectives as compared to Urdu newspapers do (*ibid*). This type of coverage builds

stereotypical images of women in the minds of the readers. The present study aims to delineate this aspect in news reports regarding scandalous discourse about women.

2.4.1 Criminal Discourse in Pakistani Media

Abbas (2019) did a transitivity analysis of news headlines depicting crimes committed against women in Pakistan. The article studied word choices used in the headlines of Pakistani English newspapers while depicting the crimes. The researcher selected three newspapers namely, *The Nation*, *Dawn*, and *The News*. He applied Halliday's transitivity analysis as a research tool. The analysis focused on investigating how men and women are represented in the news headlines, and what different roles are assigned to them by the newspapers. It also highlighted the ideology underpinned in the discursive lexical choices and rhetorical devices used in them. It was descriptive in nature. The study found that all three newspapers employ both active and passive structures in their clauses. The newspapers often use different words for criminals, but do not use words that clearly signify their crime and identity. It shows that newspapers hide the identity of criminal(s), while using gender oriented words, kinship markers, age attributes. The real names of the criminals and the effectees are not mentioned in the headlines. The transitivity analysis revealed that negative image is always linked with men in news headlines and they are portrayed as violent, killers, rapists, or the ones arrested by the police. On the contrary, women have been represented as victims, portrayed as vulnerable, killed, raped, or burnt alive. Such use of language for women gains sympathy for them.

Tehreem and Raza (2017) in their article, "How do Pakistani Print Media Covers Crime Stories on Women; Comparative Study of Two Newspapers" explored the image of women in the context of criminal discourse in the two dailies, *daily Jhang* and *Nawa-I-Waqt*. The study was comparative in nature. The findings of the study showed that *daily Jhang* was less prone to describe women as helpless, powerless creatures while *Nawa-I-Waqt* often painted a picture of women as victimized by men. In addition, a male-dominated society aspect was also shown. It also highlighted that *Nawa-I-Waqt* frequently published crime news related to women as compared to *daily Jhang*.

Kiran (2019) in her article titled, "Coverage of Honor Killing: A Content Analysis of English Language of Newspapers of Pakistan" considered Pakistan as one

of the most dangerous and unsafe countries for women in the world. This is due to the rapid increase in the rate of crimes against women in the form of honor killing and honor-related violence. The mentioned study attempted to determine how English newspapers of Pakistan give coverage to honor killing crime to increase awareness among the public. It included content analysis of news on honor killing. The news data were collected from 1st July to 30th November 2017. The study population comprised 306 editions of Dawn and Express Tribune, two largely circulated English newspapers. The results of the study showed that newspaper coverage remains limited about crimes like honor killing and violence against women, despite an increase in the ratio of such crimes.

Yasmin (2021) in a study titled, “Asymmetrical gendered crime reporting and its influence on readers: A case study of Pakistani English Newspapers” intended to explore the representation of women in crime reporting and its effect on the readers. In recent times, media has played a crucial role in information dissemination, reflection, or mass attitude in the growing economies. The data was collected from four English newspapers over a period of one month. The crime reports were analyzed using content and discourse analysis to identify the gender portrayal. In addition, the reader’s opinion was sought through semi-structured interviews with the help of six experts from diverse fields. Recorded and transcribed data were analyzed thematically. Research findings showed that women were under-represented in crime reports. Women are found more visible in crime reporting than their presence in other stories but are placed in the middle pages as compared to men. Results also showed that women received an asymmetrical portrayal as they were reported in crime news in terms of their relationship with men, with a focus on their marital status and age. The news about women victims were sensationalized more than those about men. Women victims were blamed for the crime. Asymmetrical representation was found in naming conventions, the use of gender markers about profession, and marital status, sensationalizing details, accusing women, the impact of women’s age and their relationship with men in socioeconomic setup. The absence of names was considered a strategy to avoid disclosure of the victim to save her from further trauma. The representation of a woman reflects the influence of socioeconomic factors and culture.

Media is a potent tool for reflecting and mirroring public attitudes toward a culture. Moreover, it builds and rebuilds our ideological inclinations. Pakistani media

acts as a mirror, reflecting how culture shapes perceptions and ideas. A study titled “Discursive Representation of Women in Crime News Stories of Pakistani English Print Media” chose two widely read English Newspapers. The linguistic choices that represent women were analyzed using a pragmatic approach along with Sarah Mill’s Feminist Stylistics. The data of the stories was run through corpus software matrix so as to examine the frequency of lexical choices used to represent women. The findings of the study revealed that the identity of the female victims were mostly asymmetrically constructed and they were chiefly described in terms of their age, social, and marital status. Their identity is always constructed with reference to their relationship with men around them. They lack their individual identity. They are mostly shown in their social roles as mothers or wives (Ahmed et al., 2022).

Similarly, another study analyzed the language of crime news reports in Pakistan through forensic linguistic analysis. Forensic linguistics is an area of linguistics which focuses primarily on language used in legal and judicial systems. One of the main goals of forensic linguistics is to provide a methodical, systematic, and careful analysis of the language. The study aimed to decode the motive behind the use of language in crime news reports. The selected newspaper was Dawn. It analyzed ten crime news reports qualitatively through relevance theory. The study found that media controls the minds of the audience through the use of language. The use of language in crime news reports has a negative impact on the masses. Moreover, the study also highlighted the ideology behind the language of the news reports through the projection of the dominance of a patriarchal society, and the refutation of religious and moral values (Nawaz, 2021).

2.5 Research Gap/Conclusion

The above-mentioned studies include women’s underrepresentation in print media while using different frameworks and theories. Also, the representation of gender-based violence in media has been widely studied due to its impact on public perception, cultural norms and social values. Discourse analysis, sexism in language, agenda setting theory, feminist stylistics, Halliday’s transitivity, forensic linguistics, relevance theory and framing theory are some of the common ways of understanding such representation of women on media. These researches aim at finding gender representation, social representation/ socialization, gender and its role, the relationship between language and gender, stereotypes, and portrayal of men and women in news.

However, research on crime news related to women like rape, sexual harassment, domestic violence, and honor killing through the cognitive semantic lens yet has a scope. There is a lack of research that employs a merger of Framing and Relevance Theories. Hence, the researcher is going to analyze the scandalous discourse about women with the help of these cognitive semantic lenses.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents the research methodology adopted for the present study. It gives an argument to delineate and justify the selected frame works, methods, data and the research design of the present study. It also outlines the procedures employed, in the light of research objectives, during the research.

3.1 Research Paradigm

3.1.1 Qualitative Approach

The present research is purely qualitative in nature. Such a research is concerned with the quality aspect of a research (Gounder, 2012). It takes non-numerical data and examines/identifies the aspects/phenomenon under study. The qualitative research deals with collection, analysis and interpretation of the data in order to describe the content of the text.

A procedure known as induction is used in qualitative research to collect data relevant to the study's topic. Then, the researcher builds generalizations and conceptions based on the collected information.

. “Qualitative approach to research is concerned with subjective assessment of attitudes, opinions and behaviors” (Kothari 2004). Similarly, this research work is related to the linguistic choices that reflect stereotypical attitudes as observed in the news reports. This approach of research describes/ interprets the thinking/intention of the writer on which the core of content analysis is based.

Descriptive Research:

The present research is descriptive in nature. Dulock states that descriptive study is one of the means to discover “new meaning, describing what exists” and to categorize information (1993). The study describes the linguistic choices, and discovers frames and stereotypes found in the selected news reports. Furthermore, it provides an insight into the news with the help of framing categories and gender portrayal analysis.

3.2 Research Design

The formal and organized pattern of the present study is supported by the research questions that guide in choice of research method. The study is designed according to the sequence of the research question/objectives.

3.2.1 Research Method

A research method is a procedure which a researcher follows to analyze the data. The present study employs content analysis as a method. Content analysis can identify and analyze the presence, meanings, and relationships of certain words, themes, or concepts. As an example, researchers can evaluate language used within a news article to search for biasness or partiality. Researchers can then make inferences about the messages within the texts, the writer(s), the audience, and even the culture and time surrounding the text. In this way, an interpretation of the news reports can be made, and likewise, the slant of media discourse on women's social issues can also be analyzed.

This method is chosen due to its various features that are beneficial to the current study. The systematic nature of content analysis is among its greatest advantages. The content to be analyzed is chosen in accordance with clear, regularly followed guidelines. This carries across from sample choice to evaluation of the results guidelines (Wimmer & Dominick 2003).

Furthermore, it is a method based on observation in which the researcher focuses on the communication patterns which people produce (Kerlinger, 1964).

Content analysis can be used in a qualitative study as well which is one more advantage for this study. As a qualitative method, the purpose is to analyze the hidden meaning underlying the messages. Also, content analysis is mainly inductive which is based on the examination of topics and themes, as well as, inferences drawn from them in the data. In conclusion, the qualitative technique typically results in descriptions or typologies as well as statements from people expressing their perspectives on society. In this way, the viewpoints of the text's author can be improved both by the researcher and those reading the study's findings (Berg, 2001).

Content analysis is particularly suitable for this study as it allows to interpret meaning from the context of textual data, especially within a social and cultural

outlook. As Elo and Kyngäs (2008) explain, qualitative content analysis is not limited to counting words or categories rather it allows the researcher to interpret the latent content or underlying meaning in the text. This is crucial when analyzing media discourse on women's social issues, where subtle implications, tone, and framing are often more telling than explicit statements.

Moreover, content analysis provides the integration of both manifest content (what is explicitly stated) and latent content (the underlying meaning). This dual level of interpretation enhances the depth and richness of the analysis by making it possible to explore how language shapes societal views and contributes to the construction of gender roles.

In media and communication research, content analysis is widely used due to its characteristics like flexibility and adaptability. It allows for the systematic study of large volumes of data while remaining unobtrusive (Krippendorff, 2013). Since media content is publicly available, the researcher can focus on patterns and shifts in discourse over time or across sources.

3.3 Reliability and Validity

One of the distinguishing characteristics of content analysis is reliability; for content analysis to be objective, it must be dependable (Wimmer & Dominick, 2006). If a study can be repeated by another researcher and yields the same results, it might be considered dependable (Wimmer & Dominick 2006). It's critical to establish the coding categories precisely in order to achieve dependability.

Another crucial element of content analysis is validity, which refers to whether a measurement tool genuinely achieves its intended purpose (Wimmer & Dominick, 2006). Another reason why the coding categories need to be distinct and mutually exclusive is because if they overlap, the findings won't be very reliable. The study also aimed to gauge how women are portrayed in terms of their roles and functions. The news reports were analyzed using pre-existing notions as categories while ensuring that the research measured what it was designed to measure.

Hence, content analysis is acknowledged as an objective, methodical, and generic procedure.

3.4 Data Collection

The selected newspapers for this study are The News and Dawn, and the data comprises news reports published in these papers. The News Reports about women related crimes are collected from these two newspapers from August 2022 to April 2023. It is because this time period provides us insight of the latest crimes against women and it has less/rare chance that any other researcher has conducted research on reports of this time period. All the reports have been accessed from the official websites of the newspapers.

3.5 Sampling Procedure

Pakistani English newspapers are the population of the study. News reports related to scandalous discourse about women like sexual harassment, honor killing, rape, domestic violence, etc. from The News and Dawn are included as sample for the analysis of this research. The study analyzes thirty news reports; fifteen news reports on the subject are selected from each newspaper.

3.5.1 Rationale for the Selection of Newspapers

The rationale for the selection of these two newspapers is their wide and large circulation and massive readership across the country. They cover news reports at national level and cover a wide range of social issues including crimes against women. Furthermore, these newspapers are considered influential and persuasive in Pakistani society on the basis of their extensive readership and also data is extensively available on criminal discourse related to women in these two selected newspapers.

3.5.2 Sampling Technique

A purposive sampling technique was used to collect data from these two newspapers. It is also called judgmental or selective sampling. In this technique researcher intentionally selects data based on specific characteristics which are relevant to present research as well. The reason is that an extensive amount of scandalous discourse about women is available in these two English newspapers. Also, these two newspapers are quite popular and massively read by people in Pakistan. So, it helps to find the data pertinent to the present study. Thus, it leads to the analysis of the content significant to the research.

As mentioned earlier, I utilized a purposive/selective technique to collect data by using key words like rape, sexual harassment, domestic violence, honor killing, in the google search box with the name of the newspaper and in the search box on websites of the newspapers. The news data has been collected within the timeline August, 2022 to April, 2023. Then news with repeated contents has been eliminated only to focus on presenting a variety.

3.6 Theoretical Framework

3.6.1 Relevance Theory

The present study employs two different theories. One of them is relevance theory. “Relevance Theory” is used as the theoretical framework for this research. The nature of communication is presented in this theory. This theory is all about communication which entails encoding and decoding, the hearer decodes by interpreting what the speaker intends to say. So, relevance is the process of obtaining inferences from context. The relevance theory is a cognitive theory of pragmatics developed by Dan Sperber and Deirdre Wilson in the 1980s in a book entitled, *The Handbook of Pragmatics*.

The foundation of relevance theory is the idea that reference and context are just as essential as message encoding, transmission, and decoding in human communication. Relevance theory makes the assumption that human communication is deliberate and establishes an expectation that aids a listener or addressee in determining the communicator's intended message. Relevance theory highlights the importance of context in understanding and communication by posing questions like: How is the appropriate context selected? How is it that an audience or addressees limit themselves to the intended assumptions out of the various assumptions accessible at the time of utterance? It's critical to comprehend what relevance means in order to make sense of these questions.

According to Sperber and Wilson (1994, p. 145), relevance is a comparative property: the more favorable cognitive consequences and processing effort required, the more relevant the utterance. Relevance is a quality shared by internal representations and ideas, which may both be employed as inputs for cognitive processing, as well as external stimuli (such as utterances). The pursuit of relevance, which is frequently focused on earning the maximum reward from the inputs they

perceive, is what distinguishes human mental behavior. When this tendency to maximize relevance is joined with a further distinctively human cognitive ability, the ability to meta-represent one's own and other people's information, ideas, and intentions, which enables us to control other people's thinking by anticipating what knowledge will be useful to them and what interpretative techniques will be used in their processing.

According to this theory, the audience, listener, or reader perceives, infers, and interprets the communication taking place based on his or her understanding. The pragmatic and semantic techniques of text analysis are combined in this theory. This theory's core claims are: "Any external stimulus or internal representation which offers input to cognitive processes may be pertinent to a person at some point, according to Wilson and Sperber (2004:608)

- The meaning of a single sentence in the same context may present multiple interpretations.
- Accessibility levels are assigned to potential interpretations.
- When choosing one extremely authentic interpretation among several possible ones, listeners rely on a solid criterion.
- Set criteria, let the hearer choose the best appropriate interpretation so that as soon as his/her interpretation matches the speaker's intended meaning, the hearer stops interpreting further.

The above-mentioned tenants facilitate the analysis of the selected news related to women's criminal discourse and highlight how readers are bound to think with a specific/limited perspective. The reason to use relevance theory is to see how context affects the meaning and how despite multiple accessible meanings assigned to an utterance, the audience reaches the limited, pre-defined meaning set by media in news reports.

3.6.2 Framing Theory

The other theory is the "Framing theory" given by Gregory Bateson. According to Bateson (1972) psychological frames are "spatial and transient bounding of set of interactive messages," that serve as a sort of metacommunication(Hallahan,

2008). The act of placing news items and story information within a recognizable setting is referred to as framing.

The foundation of the theory of frame analysis is the idea that “people employ expectations to make sense of everyday life” (Baran & Davis, 2006). Reese (2010) defined frames as "organizing principles that are socially shared and persistent over time, work symbolically to meaningfully structure the social world". Entman (1993) defined framing as a mass media theory that "selects some features of a perceived reality and makes them more salient in a communication text, in such a manner as to support a specific issue definition, causative analysis, moral assessment, and/or recommended solution".

Framing is explored through the process of message construction with its implications., with a focus on journalists, how they produce news texts, and the implications for audience comprehension (Entman, 1993; Gitlin, 1980). In the context of mass communication, framing often refers to the method used to give an account of a political topic or event meaning. It is the outcome of the complicated interactions between political power, individual journalists, news organizations, societal values, and ideologies, as well as professional conventions and practices.

Framing has a lengthy history that goes beyond its use in mass communication studies and refers to the process through which the focus or design of a message impacts the receiver's interpretation (Goffmann 1974, Shah et al.2009). In the discipline of sociology, for instance, Bateson (1972) used the metaphor of a picture frame to express how frames organize information and offer a viewpoint, which message recipients use to comprehend the communication's content (ibid). the idea of media framing emerged as implicit in many sociological studies, textual and visual techniques organize audience members' perceptions by adding and eliminating particular components, as well as transform "unrecognizable happenings or amorphous talk into a discernible event" (Shah et al., 2009; Tuchman, 1978)

According to framing theory, people’s decisions regarding how to absorb information are influenced by how something is presented to the audience (referred to as “the frame”). Abstractions called frames are used to shape or arrange the meaning of messages. Media and news present information to the audience through frames that are context-bound.

According to framing theory, the media introduces news items with a specific and limited contextualization, thereby creating the frame. Frames can be created to improve comprehension or they can be utilized as mental shortcuts to connect tales to a larger context.

In order to determine the effects of any given framing on a specific society, Baran & Davis (2006) contend that it is essential to comprehend the social-cultural as well as political environment in which any given framing occurs. Additionally, Reese (2010) contends that "frames don't just arise as free-standing entities" but rather are a result of "a web of culture" (p. 18). As a result, he exhorts academics who study framing to pay attention to how the frames develop in their respective cultural settings (p. 18). Van Gorp (2010) also points out that since they draw on concepts that are already well-known to journalists and media viewers, culturally embedded frames are frequently the most appealing which facilitates message interpretation and internalization (p. 87).

Valkenburg et al. (1999) noted that "the news media can have capacity not only to inform the public but also to influence readers' thoughts and their capacity to recall the information presented to them in a story, by telling them not only what topics to consider, but also how to consider them" (p. 567). This influence of the media is further explained by Anaeto et al. (2008: p.89; Okere, S. 2013), who writes, "Although we have a right to think what to think, strangely, we tend to think that most of what the media emphasizes is significant". To put simply, according to this idea, the degree of significance that the media accords to the issues that the general public learns about via the media determines how much importance the general public accords to such concerns/issues.

The basic tenets of the theory are:

- To establish a cognitive shortcut
- Oversimplified news
- Distracts the public from important issues
- Limits the ability of the audience to think outside the box
- Activation of magic bullet effect of cognitively shaped audience

This study analyzes crime news related to women using the framing theory to analyze the extent to which they are framed in news stories. This study also determines the lexical choices used by Pakistani print media, especially English newspapers. Although this study does not focus on whether the content differs depending on gender, it will be interesting to note how framing helps with crime news related to women in the Pakistani context, specifically in terms of English newspapers. The type of coverage women receive is crucial in framing as it implies certain specified meanings. The strong meaning may also be conveyed in what is not covered by the media by emphasizing the significance of both "presence and absence" in framing (Huffmann et al. 2012)

Rationale for employing two theories

The integration of two theories i.e. Relevance theory and Framing theory develops an insight into construction of stereotypes and social implication of those stereotypes. Relevance theory provides a framework for understanding how audience interprets/understand and make sense of the news frames, and the frames provide deep sight into how media outlets construct and present news about crimes against women.

3.7 Data Analysis

The data is collected from news reports is guided by a cognitive semantic lens through the use of relevance and framing theory. Before the identification and analysis of the linguistic choices, a context of the selected news is elaborated. It includes the information given in the headline and the report of the news.

3.7.1 Step 1

Step one involves linguistic analysis. In this analysis, the lexical choices of news reports are examined including the embedded tone within the news reports. These linguistic choices serve a crucial role in shaping the audience/reader's perception of crime and its relevance. It uncovers how these lexical choices function as a vehicle for conveying meaning and influences the reader's interpretation of the issue at hand.

3.7.2 Step 2

The second step focuses on framing analysis. This involves a reference to the precise frames used to construct the story and its influence on the reader's perception of the crime. It helps to see how media shapes and reshapes the context of the news reports. It delves into how different frames portray an incident, thereby, affecting its interpretation by the audience. This step helps to understand how media can manipulate the narrative to guide/shape the reader's understanding of the story.

3.7.3 Step 3

In the last step, the focus lies on gender portrayal within the media narrative. It more specifically scrutinizes the portrayal of women in news reports and searches for stereotypes, biases and assumptions about gender roles and behavior. After examining the language and framing used in the news report, it unveils how media contributes to scandalous discourse about women. This involves examining how the language and framing either reinforce or challenge existing gender norms and expectations. Additionally, this step involves the description of the scandalous discourse about women and the way it is constructed and perpetuated through the portrayal of gender in the news reports. Ultimately, this step reveals how media dictates that "How" and "What" to think about the pertinent issue.

3.8 Conclusion

This chapter discusses the theoretical framework undertaken for the present study. It describes the research design, method, population and sample, data collection, and analysis procedure for the study. The study analyzes news reports related to scandalous discourse about women using mentioned theoretical lens and frameworks. The next chapter reflects the central effort that is to highlight the biased and stereotypical representation of women in scandalous discourse in Pakistani English newspapers.

CHAPTER 4

DATA ANALYSIS

This chapter examines the news reports gathered from two prominent English newspapers of Pakistan. The two newspapers are Dawn and The News. The analysis employs relevance and framing theories to examine how these newspapers present news reports related to scandalous discourse about women. The initial part of the analysis covers news reports from The News and the latter part of the analysis explores news reports from Dawn.

The context of all news reports selected from these dailies is given as an introduction and background of the respective news. The chapter is further designed as per the objectives of the study. the primary objectives of the study are,

- To identify the linguistic choices in news about crimes against women
- To examine the role of framing in creating women-related news
- To analyze frames aimed at building gender image in the reports

In the light of these research objectives and also the research questions, three step/stage research is structured. Step one involves the identifications of linguistic choices made in those news. Those linguistics choices create an atmosphere of fear and severity associated with that crime.

Step two comprises the framing analysis. It employs Gregory Bateson concept of framing. It examines and describes the primary frames used to structure the narrative and shape the reader's perception and interpretation of the event/crime associated with women.

The last step takes into account the portrayal of both genders. It looks for stereotypes, biases and assumptions about gender roles and behavior. It analyzes the language and framing of the report which contribute to the scandalous discourse about women. An in-depth study of how framing reinforces or challenges existing gender norms and expectations. It also considers that the scandalous discourse about women is constructed and perpetuated as a result of the portrayal of gender in news media.

4.1 Analysis of the Reports from The News

The News is one of the widely read English dailies in Pakistan. Following is an analysis of fifteen news reports taken from The News. These news reports appeared from August 2022 to April 2023, that is the data was collected over a period of eight months.

4.1.1 Report 01

“Mob allegedly harasses foreign tourists in the federal capital on Independence Day” News, T. (2022, August 15) <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/982562-mob-harasses-foreign-tourists-in-federal-capital-on-independence-day>

Context: This incident occurred in Shakarparian, Islamabad on 14 Aug, 2022 and was reported in The News on 15 Aug, 2022. There were three foreigners including two women and a man who were harassed by a mob during the celebration of Independence Day of Pakistan.

Step 1: Linguistic choices

The news report begins with the headline “Mob allegedly harasses foreign tourists in the federal capital on Independence Day”. The word, “Mob” immediately sets a tone of chaos and aggression. It means a group of people that is unruly and acts aggressively towards a victim. The use of the word, “allegedly” indicates that the reported incident is not confirmed, and it is based on claims or allegations. The details reveal that there is no complaint registered in any police station in Islamabad. However, there is a video circulating on social media in which tourists were harassed by dozens of boys at the Pakistan Monument. Furthermore, the mention of “foreign tourists” highlights the vulnerability of individuals from outside the country. It evokes concerns about their safety and well-being while visiting the federal capital. It specifies the incident occurred on Independence Day; it suggests that this may have occurred during a time of heightened emotions or celebrations.

Step 2: Framing Analysis

The frames used in this news report are:

1. Victimization Frame:

The report frames the incident as a case of an alleged harassment of foreign tourists that portrays them as victims of aggression by a mob. This frame emphasizes the vulnerability of the tourists and the severity of the alleged harassment. It also elicits concerns about their well-being and safety.

2. Aggression Frame:

The ‘mob’ invokes a frame of aggression and chaos. This frame highlights the aggressive behavior of the individuals involved and underscores the seriousness of the reported incident. It shows the collective attitude of the people of city or state to foreigners also.

3. Uncertainty Frame:

‘Allegedly’ introduces frame of uncertainty. It indicates that the reported incident is based on claims or allegations rather than confirmed facts. There is no complaint received by Islamabad police. This frame acknowledges the possibility of inaccuracies or differing interpretations of the events reported and suggests a need for further exploration and verification.

Step 3: Gender Portrayals

In this news report, there is no explicit mention of gender regarding the victims or the alleged harassers. It is challenging to analyze portrayals of gender in this report. Two of the victims were female and it is not revealed what type of harassment was that in actual. Both the genders suffer, nevertheless. The victims are called “foreign tourists” which also does not indicate the gender of the victim. Similarly, the word ‘mob’ does not provide insight into the gender composition of the group. It may be claimed whether the victim belongs to whichever gender, he or she may be victimized by perpetrators who are boisterous and overly excited mob.

The news headline does not reveal the gender of the culprits, victims and nationality of tourists. The ‘mob’ does not specify gender but details include that they all are boys. It shows the stereotyped nature of boys who are known for initiating and leading devilry. The nationality is an important element to be known as independence

day is an occasion when people show patriotism in one way or the other. So, if they belong to India or the UK, there is a possibility that they could become the victim of people's animosity because of the colonial past and Indian aggression against Pakistan. However, such identity details are missing and create ambiguity factors which affect the meaning construction and creating context while reading the news. Additionally, both the genders are victimized.

4.1.2 Report 02

“Two women killed over Karo Kari” News, T. (2022, August 19)
<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/983532-two-women-killed-over-karo-kari>

Context: The incident took place in Sukkur and was reported by The News on August 19, 2022. The details included two women who were killed over ‘Karo Kari’ in different incidents in districts Kashmore and Nawabshah. A man identified as Talu Jakhrani shot dead his wife Tajul over the issue of ‘Karo Kari’ in Kashmore. The police have arrested the accused and started investigation. In another incident of similar nature, a man Wassayo Sher strangled his 19-year-old wife Zahra after alleging her ‘Kari’ in Marri Jalbani area near Skrand of district Nawabshah and escaped from the scene. The police shifted the body to a local hospital for medical and legal formalities. It is conducting raids to arrest the criminal.

Step 1: Linguistic Choices

This news report uses specific linguistic choices (colloquial) to convey the exact nature, severity and gender-oriented view of the incident. The term ‘Karo Kari’ immediately signifies honor killings, a practice rooted in cultural norms that perpetuates gender-based violence. It means killing after adultery. The phrase ‘two women killed’ captures the severity of tragedy and emphasizes the gender of the victims and the magnitude of violence perpetrated against them. Additionally, the use of the preposition ‘over’ suggests that the killings were motivated by the concept of honor. The words ‘shot dead’ and ‘strangled’ shows the merciless nature of the criminals. The use of straightforward language and factual reporting indicates a tone of objectivity.

Step 2: Framing Analysis

In this news report, the frames used to structure the narrative and shape reader understanding are:

1. Honor Killing Frame:

The central frame of the news report revolves around honor killings, as indicated by the term “Karo Kari”. This frame positions the incident within the context of honor-based violence where women are targeted and killed to uphold perceived notions of family or community’s honor. The report frames the killings as “over Karo Kari” to emphasize the cultural and societal norms that perpetuate such violence.

2. Gender-Based Violence Frame:

Another prominent frame in the news report is gender-based violence. The report specifically mentions “two women killed” to underscore the gendered nature of violence and highlights the vulnerability of women to such crimes in Pakistani society. This frame draws attention to broader societal issues of gender inequality and discrimination. It frames the incident as emblematic of the system-based violence and oppression faced by women in patriarchal societies.

Step 3: Gender Portrayal

The portrayal of gender dynamics is evident in this news report as:

1. Victim Gender:

The report emphasizes the gender of the victims by specifying “two women killed”. This portrayal shows the vulnerability of women within patriarchal societies particularly in contexts where honor killings are prevalent. It focuses violence rooted in the society and the discrimination faced by women.

2. Perpetrator Gender:

Although the news report does not explicitly mention the gender of the perpetrators, the framing of the incident as an example of honor killing suggests a male perpetrator. Honor Killings are typically perpetrated by male family members or community members in an attempt to control women’s behaviors and uphold patriarchal norms. This framing reinforces traditional gender roles and power dynamics, where men are seen as the enforcers of family honor.

3. Intersection of Gender and Violence:

The framing of the incident within the context of honor killings underlines the intersection of gender and violence. Honor killings are rooted in deeply entrenched patriarchal norms and beliefs about gender roles, where women are expected to adhere to strict codes of conduct dictated by male family members. This frame prompts readers to consider broader societal issues of violence and discrimination against women.

The headline is concise and does not clarify the relationship between the culprits and the victims. The area where crimes are committed are also not mentioned in headline, as it may defame the place. It is the detail which reveals that two husbands killed their wives over allegation of karo kari in Sukkur. It could be the only allegation on their wives to save themselves. Killing in the name of honor is somehow appreciated unfortunately in some areas of the country and this act could be justified, and also domestic violence and male dominance are prevalent in the culture.

4.1.3 Report 03

“Three men gang-rape woman” News, T. (2022, August 24)

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/984972-three-men-gang-rape-woman>

Context: This incident happened in Islamabad and published in The News on 24 Aug, 2022. The incident happened when a woman was called by a person whose name was Saad Abdullah. She visited him because she had to get the house on rent. On her arrival, he and his two friends raped her multiple times for more than twelve hours.

Step 1: Linguistic Choices

The news report is titled with a headline, “Three men gang-rape woman”. This headline immediately sets a serious tone and indicates the severity of the crime. The use of the term, “gang-rape” is particularly impactful and conveys the brutal nature of the assault and leaves little room for interpretation. The sentence is in active voice which shows the focus is on the crime doer. The report presents factual information by specifying the number of perpetrators that are three men and the act committed is rape. It maintains an objective tone. The detail includes that this incident occurred on Kashmir road and victim belongs to G-12, Islamabad.

Step 2: Framing Analysis

The frames used in this news report are

1. Crime and Victimization Frame:

The report frames the incident primarily as a crime of a gang rape perpetrated by three men. This frame emphasizes the severity and brutality of the assault which needs to be taken seriously. It portrays the victim as a victim of a violent crime. The focus is on the criminal act itself, and its impact on the victim. It highlights feelings of shock, outrage for culprits and sympathy for victim among readers.

2. Perpetrator Frame:

Another frame is the portrayal of perpetrators as dangerous criminals. The report emphasizes the number of perpetrators involved in the gang rape. It paints them as individuals who have committed a heinous and reprehensible act. This frame reinforces the severity of the crime and positions the perpetrators as deserving of punishment and condemnation.

These frames collectively shape the narrative of the report and emphasize the criminality and victimizing aspects of the incident while portraying the perpetrators as dangerous and culpable individuals.

Step 3: Gender Portrayal

In this news report, the above-mentioned frames portray the image of both genders in the following manner:

1. Crime and Victimization Frame:

The report mentions that the victim is a woman who has been subjected to gang rape by three men. The frame highlights the vulnerability of women to sexual violence and reinforces societal perceptions of women as target of such crimes. The portrayal of the victim's gender underscores the power dynamics at play, where women are often seen as affected by sexual violence.

2. Perpetrator Frame:

The report explicitly mentions the gender of the perpetrators; it aligns with broader societal patterns where men are predominantly portrayed as perpetrators of sexual violence against women. The frame reinforces gender stereotypes and

contributes to the perception of men as perpetrators of violence and women as victims.

The news headline is a short statement without the use of any specific modifier for neither victim nor culprit. It lacks information about the crime like the place where the crime is committed. It might be due to the writing convention for a headline. At the same time, it may be for not disclosing the site. However, it is only in the detail of the news where we learn that the incident took place in the Capital city. Further, the detail lacks information as it does not reveal the name and profession of all culprits. The name and age of the victim is not written either. As observed in report one, this report also shows that the news protects the image of woman. It is important in Pakistani culture to honor the reputation of a woman subjected to such disgraceful incidents.

4.1.4 Report 04

“Shamed and tortured” News, T. (2022, August 28)

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/tns/detail/985692-shamed-and-tortured>

Context: The incident happened in Faisalabad and was published by The News. A female medical student was humiliated for refusing a marriage proposal for her friend’s father. According to local police, Sheikh Danish with the help of his guards abducted the girl, beat her, and forced her to lick the shoes of his daughter who is the victim’s friend. Police arrested the suspect and his guards. The guards abducted the victim from her home in Faisalabad. They cut her hair for refusing the marriage proposal sent by Danish through his daughter. The victim told the media that she was abducted, tortured badly, humiliated, and even filmed for rejecting the proposal to marry her friend’s father.

Step 1: Linguistics Choices

The news headline is a short phrase ‘ashamed and torture’ which does not indicate gender, person or number of people. This news report suggests a story involving severe maltreatment and humiliation inflicted upon an individual. The use of the word, “shamed” implies that the victim experienced public humiliation or disgrace in addition to physical harm. The term, “tortured” indicates that the victim was subjected to intentional and severe physical or psychological suffering. The details include words like ‘abduction, cut hair, lick the shoe and filmed identify a

series of inhumane acts which cause anger among public. The news headline is brief and lacks specific details about the identities of the victims, the perpetrators or the circumstances causing the incident.

Step 2: Framing Analysis

The news report frames the incident as:

1. Victim-Centered Frame:

The report focuses on the experiences and impact of a victim who was subjected to shame and torture. It highlights the vulnerability and the traumatic effects of the abuse.

2. Crime and Perpetrator Frame:

The report frames the incident within the context of a criminal act committed by perpetrators who inflicted shame and torture on a medical student for rejecting a marriage proposal. This frame emphasizes the severity of the abuse and raises questions about the motives and responsibilities of the perpetrators.

3. Social and Cultural Context Frame:

The acts of shaming and torture contribute to the exploration of broader societal attitudes and cultural norms. This frame contextualizes the incident within larger social issues and highlights the need for societal change and accountability in which peace and justice may prevail.

Step 3: Gender Portrayal

The gender dynamics involved in the news report:

1. Gender of Victims:

The gender of victim and culprit are not revealed in the headline which leaves the reader confused. However, the report detail reveals the gender of the victim and highlights the specific vulnerabilities and risks faced by the woman. It particularly highlights women and marginalizes groups in the context of shaming and torture.

2. Gender-Based Violence:

The gendered nature of the abuse and its intersection with broader issues of violence prompts reflections on societal norms and power structures. It shows the

harmful picture of the patriarchal society where male can go to any extent to satisfy his soul.

The news headline is short and simple, and does not identify the city, the victims and the culprits. This crime includes a series of severe criminal activities and abuses like kidnapping and licking shoe, but these acts are not highlighted. The details revealed that the accused is rich and influential so there might be this reason to keep this news undermined. The crime is done in anger because of refusing marriage proposal which is not highlighted, even though this is a major reason so it should be highlighted to give people a context of the incident.

The name of the victim and the culprit's daughter is kept hidden. The victim is called a woman yet she is a medical student and can be in her late teens. This could be done to keep public's rage in control. It seems the news is not structured in the way as it should have been. The headlines must have mentioned few essential elements that could create a neutral frame and ender dynamics for the reader.

4.1.5 Report 05

“Woman gunned down in honor killing” News, T. (2022, September 07)
<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/989026-woman-gunned-down-in-honour-killing>

Context: The incident took place in Islamabad on 6th September, 2022 and was reported by The News on September 07, 2022. The incident appears as an honor killing case, where a twenty two-years-old woman was gunned down by her brother and husband in the area of Bara Kahu. Ghulam Farid, resident of Athal lodged a complaint in the Bara Kahu police station and told that her daughter, Farah, has left her husband namely Iftikhar. He claimed in the FIR that “my son Nauman and Farah’s husband Atif came to his house and murdered her in his absence. The police arrested both the alleged killers who have confessed their offense claiming they killed her for honor.

Step 1: Linguistic Choices

This news report uses language that conveys the seriousness and tragedy of the incident, describing it as an “honor-killing case”. The use of phrase like “woman gunned down in honor killing” immediately conveys the severity and cultural context

of the crime. The term, “honor killing” suggests a form of violence rooted in patriarchal norms and family honor dynamics. The term itself carries implicit societal implications about gender roles and family expectations. Phrase like, “gunned down” evokes a sense of sudden and violent death and emphasize the brutality of the act.

Step 2: Framing Analysis

The frames used in this news report are,

1. Honor Killing Frame:

The news report predominantly uses the frame of “honor killing” to contextualize the incident. This frame suggests that murder was motivated by notions of family honor and perceived moral transgressions. By doing this, the narrative highlights the cultural and societal factors that influence the crime, such as patriarchal norms and control over women’s behavior within families. The criminals are incited by the belief in honor that is why both her husband and her brother committed the heinous crime with the same intention. Such a mutual attempt in the name of honor proves and exemplifies the justified acts of honor killing as acceptable in a society dominated by man.

2. Victim-Centered Frame:

The report focuses on the victim, Farah. It reveals the personal and tragic story of Farah who is killed at the end. The details about leaving her husband's house and subsequently being killed by not only her husband but also her brother. It establishes the victim centered frame which evokes sympathy among the readers for the victim and underlines the individual impact of honor-based violence on women.

Step 3: Gender Portrayal

The report mentions the gender as,

1. Victim Gender:

The victim is a young woman whose life was cut short due to familial perceptions of honor. Her story reflects broader issues of gender inequality and the risks faced by women in patriarchal societies where even a brother along with the husband kills her.

2. Perpetrator Gender:

The perpetrators of the crime, Farah's brother and husband, exemplify the roles of male family members in enforcing patriarchal norms and controlling women's behavior. It once again highlights the deep-rooted concept of honor in the society.

3. Societal Attitudes:

The news report contributes to scandalous discourse about women by exposing societal attitudes that justify violence against women in the name of honor. It delineates the need for societal change to address gender-based violence.

The news headline highlights the miserable condition of a woman, but at the same time it does not reveal the brutality of brother and a husband. Brutality is pointed in the details of the report. The crime is committed in Islamabad which is the capital of the country. This information is not highlighted in the headline. Had it been in the headline, the local community would have paid more attention to the news. The term 'honor' is used, but what was the actual error committed by her is not explained. It seems culprits are trying to save themselves in the name of honor. At the same time, the criminals are her husband and her real brother, and both seem equally responsible. Their cooperation in killing leaves reader in shock.

4.1.6 Report 06

“Beggar girl gang-raped by six persons” News, T. (2022, September 30)
<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/995752-beggar-girl-gang-raped-by-six-persons>

Context: The incident happened in Lahore and was published by The News. It reports that a fourteen-years-old beggar girl was kidnapped, but she managed to escape from the abduction of the kidnappers. The police could not recover the victim's brother having the age of six years who was also kidnapped along with her sister. Six persons abducted the girl namely 'E' and her brother, Imran, at gunpoint, took them to Haveli Lakha and gang-raped the girl at gunpoint for six days.

Step 1: Linguistic Choices

This news report uses language that is direct and impactful. It aims to convey the seriousness of the crime and evokes strong emotions among the readers. Phrase

like “gang-raped” highlights the violent nature of the crime and emphasizes the trauma experienced by the victim. The words like ‘kidnapped, gun point, life in danger’ create feeling of fear and chaos. Another word ‘beggar’ shows the socio-economic situation of the victim in the society. The tone of the report reflects an urgent need for action and justice.

Step 2: Framing Analysis

The news report frames the incident within the specific context of the under prevailed to shape readers understanding and perceptions:

1. Sexual Violence Frame:

The incident is framed within the context of sexual violence. It highlights the gang rape of a vulnerable young girl. This frame draws attention to broader issues of gender-based violence and vulnerability where most of the sexual assaults are made by male members of the community.

2. Victim-Centered Frame:

The report focuses on the experiences and actions of the beggar girl. The report portrays her as a survivor who managed to escape and seek help. This frame humanizes the victim and emphasizes her urgency in the face of trauma.

Step 3: Gender Portrayal

The news report highlights gender dynamics and societal attitudes toward sexual violence.

1. Victim Gender:

The victim, a teenager beggar girl, is portrayed as vulnerable and targeted for abduction and sexual violence. This portrayal reflects issues of gender-based violence and underscores the risks faced by women. By emphasizing the victim’s gender and socio-economic status (as a beggar girl), the report underscores broader issues of systemic inequality.

2. Perpetrator Gender:

The specific/short details about the perpetrators are provided in the details of the news report. The involvement of multiple individuals in perpetrating sexual violence raises questions about power dynamics and harmful masculinity, and the role

of men in committing acts of violence against girls and women. It outlines the need to address such gender stereotypes which normalizes men to show power, and promote gender equality.

The headline is concise, and the focus is on the girl. The name of the girl is kept hidden due to cultural impacts and writing conventions of such news. The incident occurred in a metropolitan city of Lahore is revealed in detail. The names of the culprits are given by her father. This is a purpose-based kidnapping and police is unable to trace them out. The focus is not found on her brother as he is also kidnapped and still is in their custody and his life is on stake.

The performance of police is undermined as they are still unable to rescue her brother. This seems an organized gang who do such activities professionally as this act is not done only for sexual desire, rather kidnapping boy of six years old leads many questions in the reader's mind. The element of kidnapping is not emphasized as if it is not a serious crime.

4.1.7 Report 07

“Man held for torturing woman, child” News, T. (2022, October 05)
<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/997235-man-held-for-torturing-woman-child>

Context: This incident took place in Lahore and was published by The News on 05 Oct, 2022. In the report a nomadic woman and her child were badly tortured by a rich man in the premises of Garden Town police. The accused was identified as Tauseef who tortured a nomadic woman for picking up broken bricks. The accused tortured her and tore her clothes also. Police registered a case against the accused and arrested him.

Step 1: Linguistic Choices

The news report uses concise language to convey a troubling incident that includes ‘torture and tore clothes’ of a woman and a child. The word ‘held’ clears that the culprit is arrested. The word ‘nomadic woman’ provides context to understand the socio-economic condition of the victim. The headline captures the essence of the story and highlights the arrest of a man for committing a serious crime of torture against a woman and a child.

Step 2: Framing Analysis

The news report frames the incident within specific contexts:

1. Crime and Violence Frame:

The report frames the incident as a criminal act of torture. Thus, emphasizes the severity and violence of the crime committed against a woman and a child.

2. Law Enforcement Frame:

The mention of the perpetrator being held by the police highlights the role of law enforcement agency in responding to the crime and seeking justice.

3. Victim-Centered Frame:

While the headline focuses on the perpetrator, the report also emphasizes the experience and impact of the woman and child who were subjected to torture. It highlights their vulnerability and the need for protection.

Step 3: Gender Portrayal

The news report may raise considerations about gender dynamics and violence:

1. Victim Gender:

The report likely addresses the gendered aspects of the crime, with a focus on the woman and a child as victims of torture. This portrayal underscores issues of gender-based violence and vulnerabilities faced by women and children.

2. Perpetrator Gender:

The mention of a male perpetrator highlights discussions about toxic masculinity, gender-based violence, and societal attitudes towards violence against women and children.

3. Societal Context:

The news report prompts reflections on societal norms and attitudes that contribute to gender-based violence. It emphasizes the need to promote protection for vulnerable individuals.

The report begins with 'man' who is the perpetrator and ends with highlighting the woman and a child. The detail reveals that they got beaten for

carrying bricks. The perpetrator may claim that he has done this because they were stealing his asset. Moreover, the woman's poverty is focused even though her child is also beaten but no detail is given about it.

The name of the woman is not given in the news report but the name of the offender is given that is Touseef. The region Lahore is mentioned in details by which people can understand the morals, social values and security in the region. The phrase 'man held' at the beginning gives importance to the police performance. However, it is the offence that must have been given primary position in the news.

4.1.8 Report 08

“Woman found murdered in her house” News, T. (2022, October 24)

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1002914-woman-found-murdered-in-her-house>

Context: A 25-year-old newly married woman was found murdered in her house in Sundar region of Lahore. The victim is called 'M' in the report. Her husband, whose name is Azeem, called the police to report the murder and claimed that his wife was brutally murdered. Police arrived at the scene to find the woman's slit throat and her body was lying in a pool of blood on her bed. During the police inquiry, Azeem's response raised suspicion. The police doubted him for the murder due to some domestic problem. The police arrested him and shifted the victim's body to the morgue.

Step 1: Linguistic Choices

This news headline provides the minimal information and indicates uxoricide. The focus is on 'woman' and 'murder'. The problem is indicated as domestic issue but the report does not reveal the exact reason. The detail includes that a newly married woman is brutally murdered and her husband is suspected for this act. The woman is named 'M' in the news that is her true name is not revealed. However, her age is mentioned clearly which is twenty-five years. The name of her husband is also clearly mentioned which is Azeem. The phrases 'brutally murdered, pool of blood and throat slit' create feelings of chaos and fear. Moreover, 'in her house' leads reader to the act of parricide.

Step 2: Framing Analysis

The framing of the news report shapes the narrative around the following frames:

1. Murder Frame:

The report frames the incident as a murder case and highlights the seriousness of the crime and a need for investigation.

2. Location Frame:

The mention of “her house” emphasizes the significance of the location where she is killed. It is the helplessness of a woman within domestic domain. The frame evokes severity of domestic violence in this report.

3. Spousal Involvement Frame:

Azeem, the victim’s husband, is framed as a suspect due to his suspicious behavior. This suggests potential domestic issues or motives behind the murder. The element of parricide is also present.

Step 3: Gender Portrayal

This news report’s portrayal of gender dynamics is inferred here under:

1. Victim’s Gender:

The victim, a young woman, is central to the report and highlights the concerns about violence against women and their domestic safety. She is presented suppressed and a victim of domestic violence.

2. Suspected Perpetrator’s Gender:

The focus on the victim’s husband raises questions about gender-based violence within marital relationships and societal norms in which a male member of the family, mostly father and husband may go to any extent to assert their masculinity.

The news headline is precise and does not reveal much about the incident. It presents the incident as a blind murder that leaves no clue for the identification of the murderer. The woman is not named rather the report used a letter ‘M’ for her identification. It is due to socio-cultural norms and news reporting conventions. There

is no adjective or adverb found in the headline to create restlessness among the reader. However, the detail of the news exposes the act of brutality.

The report becomes climactic when the police doubt and accuse the husband. They do not suspect a murder to have taken place during robbery. Rather, they concluded that the murder is a result of assaultive act of domestic violence. Although, the report does not inform about a definite evidence, the police have arrested him for further investigation.

4.1. 9 Report 09

“Man gets 15- year jail for assaulting minor girl” News, T. (2022, October 25)
<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1003337-man-gets-15-year-jail-for-assaulting-minor-girl>

Context: In Haripur, a man named Sohail Ahmad, aged 35, was sentenced fifteen years jail for sexually assaulting his nine-year-old first cousin in August last year. The victim’s father reported the assault after she disclosed it to her family. Sohail was convicted under 377B of the Child Protection and Welfare act. Advocate Gulnaz Rasheed represented the victim during the trial. In addition to the jail term, Sohail was fined Rs. one million.

Step 1: Linguistic Choices

This news report summarizes the outcome of the case. It reports that a man has been sentenced to fifteen years in jail for assaulting a minor girl. The language is direct and informative and highlights the severity of the crime and its legal consequences. The phrase, “man gets” highlights the consequences of his actions and emphasizes accountability and justice.

The headline seems incomplete in nature as the word ‘assault’ doesn’t specify the nature of assault. Similarly, ‘minor girl’ confuses the reader about the age of the victim. However, the detail shares the actual assault, the age of the victim, and relationship between the victim and the culprit. Also, it clearly states that the criminal receives the due punishment under the relevant act of law.

Step 2: Framing Analysis

The frames used in the news report are,

1. Crime and Victim Frame:

The report frames the incident as a criminal act of assault perpetrated against a minor girl. It underscores the severity and impact of the crime on the victim. This frame highlights the trauma experienced by the minor girl. Moreover, it reveals how criminals may take advantage of their supposed trust worthiness within a family circle.

2. Justice and Accountability Frame:

The mention of the man's sentencing frames the incident within the context of legal procedure and accountability. This highlights the role of the legal system in addressing crimes of assault and ensuring protection for victims. Justice is delivered.

Step 3: Gender Portrayal

The gender dynamics and portrayal within this news report:

1. Victim Gender and Vulnerability:

The report emphasizes the vulnerability of a minor girl who was sexually assaulted by her older male cousin. This portrayal emphasizes the increased risks faced by young girls in such cases of violence, especially within family settings.

2. Perpetrator Gender and Power Dynamics:

By specifying the perpetrator's gender (Man), the report shows a patriarchal system where a man has all the privilege and power to exercise any action may it be criminal. It prompts discussions on harmful masculinity, strength and even abuse of familial relationships.

The news headline is short and without any adjectives or adverbs, it leaves many questions in reader's mind. This is a sexual assault which should be mentioned in the headline to create a better context. Similarly, the criminal is her first cousin and to mention it in the headline may affect audience's response and evoke their strong sentiments. There is a probability that a lack of such specifications is meant to protect familial relationship with Pakistani culture.

The name of the girl is not reported due to cultural norms, because such incidents may impact the girl's future. Moreover, tone of the news is appreciative of the fair trial.

4.1.10 Report 10

“Woman, three daughters slaughtered in Malir laid to rest” News, T. (2022, December 01)

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1015487-woman-three-daughters-slaughtered-in-malir-laid-to-rest>

Context: The incident took place in Karachi and was reported by The News on December 01, 2022. It reports that a woman and her three daughters were slaughtered in their home in Malir’s Shamsi Society on Tuesday. Fawad, the husband, attempted suicide and remained admitted at hospital after killing his wife and three daughters. Regarding this incident, police concluded on Fawad’s initial statements that the man had been depressed due to financial issues.

Step 1: Linguistic Choices

In this news report, the use of the word “slaughtered” carries connotations of brutality and violence which creates sensationalism among the readers and evokes strong emotional reactions. The phrase “laid to rest” is used to describe the victims’ funerals and indicates a sense of finality and mourning. The detail includes the word ‘slit’ and the phrase ‘broke the bones of neck’ which show perpetrators mercilessness and rage. The tone of the report appears to be somber and serious. However, the details of the event evoke tragedy and brutality.

Step 2: Framing Analysis

The frames used in this news report are,

1. Victim-Centered Frame:

This frame portrays the victims, the woman and her three daughters, as individuals with separate identities. This frame tries to evoke sympathy and emphasizes the human impact of the crime.

2. Gender-Based Violence Frame:

This news report incorporates the frame of gender-based violence as reported that the victims are females. It raises awareness about the broader issue of gender inequality and the need to address violence against women in society.

Step 3: Gender Portrayal

The gender portrayals in this news report are,

1. Victim- Gender:

This news report emphasizes the gender of the victims, who are all female (a woman and her three daughters). This portrays the vulnerability of women and girls during the act of violence. Violence as part of societal norms often place women at higher risk of harm within domestic or community settings. The gendered aspect of the victim's identities underscores broader issues related to violence against women and girls. It also includes the impact of patriarchal structures and societal expectations.

2. Perpetrator Gender:

The news headline does not directly reveal the gender of the perpetrator. The report informs the perpetrator is male. He is financially weak but is able to show his strength and power in the domestic domain before women. He kills a woman and three young girls. It creates an image of the patriarchal society where the man with least social influence can cause unwarranted violence inside the four walls of his house. It highlights the power imbalance in a patriarchal society which leads to unwanted consequences only because the male gender is too much dominated.

The headline shocks the reader that a woman and her three daughters were slaughtered, but it doesn't reveal who has done this. It is her husband and the reason is not much explicitly stated, but on an assumption, it is said that it is due to financial crises. The age and name of the wife and daughters are kept hidden as per writing convention of such news. The name of the city is mentioned in the headline which may attract local readers. The culprit was under stress due to financial losses. However, a person cannot take the life of anyone at any cost. There might be many other solutions, but the superiority in relationship leads him to do this.

4.1.11 Report 11

“Woman killed by father for ‘honor’ in Karachi” News, T. (2023, January 23)
<https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/1033517-woman-killed-by-father-for-honour-in-karachi>

Context: This incident occurred in Karachi and published in The News on January 23, 2023. The detail of the incident reveals that a woman is shot dead by her

father in court premises. He also injures the Head Constable and a man whom the victim wanted to marry. Ameer Zaman Mehsud, the father, is a 65 years old man did not want his daughter to choose a man for herself because it was against his family values.

Step 1: Linguistic Choices

The use of the words ‘killed’ and ‘gunned down’ conveys the severity of the incident in which a father killed his daughter. The phrases ‘by father’ and ‘for honor’ immediately suggest that the motive behind the killing is related to the violation of family values. The mention of the location “Karachi” provides a context and specifies where the incident took place. The news headline is written in passive voice which shows the reporter tries to focus on action. Additionally, the use of single quotation marks around the word ‘honor’ leads to further interpretation that this has been taken from another source, for example from the FIR or the statement of the criminal. Furthermore, the phrase “for honor” with in inverted commas implies the emphasis given to the term. It highlights the senselessness and injustice of the killing motivated by perceived violations of honor. Overall, the tone of the news report conveys a sense of sadness and condemnation towards the tragic loss of life and the societal issues surrounding honor-based violence.

Step 2: Framing Analysis

This news report uses these frames:

1. Honor-Based Violence Frame:

The report frames the incident as a case of honor-based violence. It highlights the motive behind the woman’s killing by her father. This frame emphasizes the severity and condemnation of the act made in the name of honor. It positions honor-based violence as a societal problem and underscores the need for condemnation and intervention to address it effectively.

2. Condemnation and Societal Critique Frame:

Another frame is that of condemnation and societal critique. It focuses on the senselessness and injustice of the killing motivated by perceived violations of family values set by the cultural norms. This frame highlights societal disapproval of honor-

based violence, emphasizes the need for intervention to challenge it, and addresses the cultural or familial beliefs that support such heinous actions.

Step 3: Gender Portrayal

In this news report, the victim is identified as a woman who has been killed by her father in an apparent case of honor-based violence. The framing of the incident highlights the gender dynamics at play. It depicts women as a victim of patriarchal norms and expectations regarding honor and family reputation. The word ‘woman’ emphasizes her gender and underscores the vulnerability of women against violence within familial and societal contexts. Additionally, the framing of the incident as an act committed by the woman’s father suggests a power dynamic rooted in gender and familial relationships. The portrayal of the father as the perpetrator reinforces traditional gender roles and power structures, where male family members hold control and authority over female family members.

The news headline started with a word ‘woman’ instead of daughter which may create misinterpretation to readers. The details of the news include that victim’s age is between eighteen to twenty years old. The victim hardly crossed her teenage and should have been referred as girl, young woman, or a daughter. The name of the victim remains hidden in the news reports, just like in other reports, which shows the influence of culture in which news is reported. Moreover, the head Constable who was injured because of his bullets was not appreciated for his service in the report.

Furthermore, the incident took place in court premises and victim is under police custody but still crime is committed which is a security failure. The news reported doesn’t create this frame. rather the news becomes just another news where a crime has been committed. The news does not initiate any thought provoking frame for the readers to criticize the social dilemmas and evils of the Pakistani society. Family values and honor are imposed in the name of religion in our society that become the root cause of such incidents.

4.1.12 Report 12

“Armed men rape girl in Islamabad’s F-9 park” News, T. (2023, February 04)
<https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/1037501-armed-men-rape-girl-in-islamabads-f-9-park>

Context: The incident took place in F-9 park of Islamabad and its report was published in The News on 04 Feb, 2023. The news reports that a girl went on a walk with her colleague whose name was Amjad. Two armed men abducted them and took them towards the thicket side of the park. They separated them on gun point and both the men raped the girl despite her constant appeal for mercy. The girl even offered money to those men. She faced both physical and sexual abuse. In the end, both the culprits escaped.

Step 1: Linguistic Choices

The report gives factual information about the incident to the readers. The use of the words ‘girl and rape’ in the headline suggests a serious crime committed against a woman. The phrases ‘armed men and gun totting aggressors’ further emphasize the threatening and dangerous nature of the crime. The use of weapons to commit the crime creates fear. The name of the site is clearly mentioned, ‘Islamabad’s f-9 park’. The news headline is in active voice which means it focuses in doer of the action. The report addresses the girl as victim and informs the age of the girl which is ‘24 years old’. The report underscores the threat which young women may face in one of the most visited sites in a metropolitan city.

Step 02: Framing Analysis

This news creates frames for both the victim and the perpetrators.

1. Crime and Victimization:

The girl is framed as victim against whom the crime was committed. Further, the use of the word ‘rape’ portrays the victim as innocent and target of violence. The word victim evokes sympathy at one end and objectivity on the other. The ‘victim’ has been used four times that takes the reader away from evoked sympathy towards indifference for the one who has borne cruelty. Thus, victim becomes a superficial term for an entity.

2. Perpetrator frame:

The other frame is the frame of perpetrators. The phrases ‘armed men and gun-totting aggressors’ are creating this frame. The criminals are highly culpable and dangerous individuals. These phrases emphasize the severity of their actions. The act of ‘rape’ was committed by these aggressors which further foregrounds the criminality and brutality of the perpetrators’ behavior. ‘Rape’ creates outrage and is far from neutralizing or normalizing itself as an action. Rather, it sometimes leads to sensationalize a very heinous crime and sin. Similarly, the use of active voice structure in headline leads reader to the inhumane and criminal nature of culprits.

Step 3: Gender Portrayal

In this news report, the above-mentioned frames portray the image of both genders in the following manner:

Crime and Victimization:

The portrayal of the victim as a girl and perpetrators as armed men reinforces traditional gender roles where women and girls are seen as vulnerable and in need of protection. It presents woman as a passive, helpless entity of a society which is dominated by man.

Perpetrator frame:

The culprits, who are men, are depicted as violent and active perpetrators. It aligns with traditional gender norms. The language used in the report such as ‘armed men and ‘gun totting aggressor’ creates stereotypes about men that they are violent. It also highlights power dynamics related to gender. The use of force and coercion to commit the crime emphasize the perpetrators’ control and dominance over the victim. It once again reinforces the traditional notion of male power and female vulnerability.

The headline is concise and contains factual information. It reveals the gender of victim and criminals. It discloses the venue which is Islamabad’s F-9 park. However, the details miss basic information of the victim. The name and profession of a girl is not disclosed due to socio-cultural norms and values. The precise time of the walk and the crime committed is not mentioned in the report. Although, it is said by culprits to victims that they should not come for walk at night. It is important to

know that they returned everything to the victims and gave them Rs. 1000 so that they should not talk about it anyone else.

4.1.13 Report 13

“Two women murdered by their husbands” News, T. (2023, February 07)
<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1038161-two-women-murdered-by-their-husbands>

Context: This incident took place in Lahore and was published in “The News” on Feb 07, 2023. The first incident happened in Iqbal Town, Lahore where the criminal namely Tahir Munir had differences with his wife named Naheed Tahir. It leads to altercation and ends up in the stabbing of the wife. Munir was arrested.

The other incident also took place in Lahore’s vicinity in Bhogiwal, Shalimar. In this incident, the husband and the wife have an altercation, which causes the death of wife (Hina), aged 22. The husband strangled her with the help of a scarf and fled away from the scene. The police have started investigation and made efforts to arrest the criminal.

Step 1: Linguistic Choices

The news report begins with concise and factual information in passive voice. It states the key details of the incident without euphemism. ‘Murdered’, ‘stabbed knife’ and ‘strangled’ set a tone of severity and the gravity of the crime committed. They emphasize tragedy and horror. The word ‘women’ is used instead of wives which undermines the element of brutality. Additionally, the mention of victims being killed by their husbands underscores the betrayal of trust and the intimate nature of the violence. The phrase, “by their husbands” specifies the perpetrators of the crimes and highlights the extreme nature of domestic violence. The language used is straightforward and objective as it focuses on conveying the essential facts of the case.

Step 2: Framing Analysis

The news report uses two frames:

1. Domestic Violence Frame:

The report frames the incidents as cases of domestic violence because it highlights the fact that victims were murdered by their husbands. This frame

emphasizes the irrational familial nature of violence and draws attention to the prevalence and seriousness of domestic abuse against women.

2. Gender-Based Violence Frame:

There is another frame which can be taken as gender-based violence which highlights the gender dynamics at play in the incidents. The report underscores the broader societal issue of violence against women, particularly within the context of intimate partner relationships by specifying that the victims were women murdered by their husbands. Males are constructed cruel, violent, powerful and female are weak, submissive and innocent.

Step 3: Gender Portrayal

This news report identifies the victims as women who were murdered by their husbands. The framing of the incidents highlights the gender dynamics involved in domestic violence. It presents women as victims of intimate partner violence.

1. Victim Gender:

The report identifies the victims as women and emphasizes on their gender. It also highlights the helplessness of women against violence within intimate partner relationships. This portrayal highlights the disproportionate impact of domestic violence on women and the need for necessary actions to support female victims.

2. Perpetrator Gender:

It specifies the perpetrators as husbands and emphasizes the power of a male gender. It reinforces traditional gender roles and power structures where male partners can go to any extent to show their control and authority as husband.

The news headline is concise without any modifying adjectives or adverbs. The headline creates feeling of outrage for husbands and sympathy for wives. The details reveal that both incidents start with disputes/altercations and end with killing. The report does not include the reason of dispute; this would have brought up the other social evils rooted in male chauvinism.

The detail includes the name of victims which are often found missing due to cultural aspects. Yet missing the name of their relation as husband and wife is not to disclose the horrific act of husband.

4.1.14 Report 14

“Missing minor girl found dead with torture marks” News, T. (2023, Mar 02)
<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1045529-missing-minor-girl-found-dead-with-torture-marks>

Context: The incident happened in Data Nagar, Karachi and was reported by The News on 02 March, 2023. A six-year-old girl was kidnapped while playing outside the house and after three days she was found dead near the drain of the Pakistan Steel Mills. The marks of torture were found on her body, but nothing could be said about sexual assault, because her body was much decomposed. However, her body was sent to hospital for complete medical examination and two suspects are arrested for investigation. More suspects are being traced with the help of CCTV cameras.

Step 1: Linguistic Choices

This news report provides concise and factual information about the discovery of the girl’s body without elaborating the circumstances about her disappearance or death. The word ‘missing’ instead of kidnapping in headline indicates that kidnapping was not suspected. The phrase, “found dead with torture marks” conveys severity by which she has gone through before death. The word ‘decomposed’ shows that the minor girl was killed early after getting kidnapped. The language used is straightforward and objective. The tone of this news report is solemn and grave. It evokes feelings of shock, sadness and anger.

Step 2: Framing Analysis

1. Victimization Frame:

The report frames the incident as a case of severe victimization. It emphasizes the girl’s miserable condition and the unjust violence committed against her. This frame highlights the tragic nature of the incident and positions the girl as the victim of a senseless and brutal crime. It is all because she was only six-year-old and torture marks were found. The dead body found near the drainage.

2. Tragedy and Severity Frame:

The second frame is the frame of tragedy and severity. It emphasizes the seriousness of the situation and the gravity of the girl’s death. The report describes her

as “missing” and later found “dead with torture marks”. This way, it shows the severity of the violence inflicted upon her and depicts the incident as a grave tragedy as she is a minor.

Step 3: Gender Portrayal

1. Victim Gender:

The report identifies the victim as a minor girl and emphasizes her gender and the powerlessness of girls against violence and abuse. This portrayal demands crucial steps to protect girls from harm, and ensure their safety and well-being.

2. Violence and Victimization:

The framing of the incident as a case of violence against a minor girl highlights the victimization of the girls, even minor girls are not safe from it. The report remains neutral because it does not specify the gender of the culprits.

The headline contains ‘minor girl’ which may mislead the readers about the age of victim. The detail reveals that her age is six years. The readers of the news may get different impact if it is mentioned in headline instead of minor girl which is used for a range of ages. It might be to control the public outrage and protest. The detail informs that the minor girl’s name was Farah, which was not clearly stated in headline. This again reinforces the cultural mode of not disclosing any female name.

4.1.15 Report 15

“Man arrested for torturing wife to death” News, T. (2023, April 12)
<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1059707-man-arrested-for-torturing-wife-to-death>

Context: The incident took place in Hyderabad and was reported by The News on April 12, 2023. The detail includes, a man who allegedly tortured and strangulated his wife to death. He was arrested on Wednesday after he falsely claimed that she had committed suicide. Responding to reports of a suicide, police visited the house of Mukarram Deen and found the body of his thirty-year old wife Bushra. The man claimed that his wife ended her own life. However, on the SSP Amjad Shaikh’s suspect, police started an investigation under the supervision of the DSP. The police collected evidence and noticed that the woman’s body showed signs of violence. Later, the postmortem report confirmed that she had been beaten and strangulated.

The suspect told investigators that he killed his wife when he faced differences from her partner over some matters.

Step 1: Linguistics Choices

This news report immediately captures the reader's attention with its concise but impactful description of the incident. The choice of words and focus of the report suggest a scandalous discourse that particularly affects women. The word 'torturing' implies a prolonged and deliberate infliction of pain. It highlights the brutality of the crime and her husband. Moreover, the phrase 'wife to death' focused the gendered nature of violence. It emphasizes that the victim was targeted because of her marital status and gender. It highlights the vulnerability of women against violence within the home and the issues that cause such tragedies. The report presents factual information about the man's arrest and maintains a balanced and objective tone. The language used is clear and straightforward. It focuses on conveying the essential details of the case, the nature of the alleged crime and the identity of the perpetrator and victim.

Step 2: Framing Analysis

The frames used in this news report are,

1. Domestic Violence Frame:

This frame highlights the incident as a case of domestic violence. It emphasizes the victimization of a wife within the context of her marriage life. It creates the frame for homicide which needs much attention to get eliminated.

2. Gender-Based Violence Frame:

The framing of the incident is involving a husband who tortures his wife to death, bring out the gendered nature of the violence. It draws attention to broader issues of inequality where wife seems weak and helpless. On the other side, husband is powerful and oppressor who can torture mercilessly which even cause death.

Step 3: Gender Portrayal

In this news report, the portrayal of gender dynamics is evident through the framing of the incident:

1. Victim Gender:

The report emphasizes the gender of the victim. It depicts her as a wife. This portrayal highlights the misfare of women within intimate relationships and underscores the prevalence of domestic violence against women.

2. Perpetrator Gender:

The report specifies the perpetrator as a husband and reinforces traditional gender roles of power and aggressor. This depiction echoes societal expectations regarding male dominance and control within marital relationships. Moreover, there is no adjective added for culprit which leads the headline to be objective.

3. Intersection of Gender and Violence:

The framing of the incident involves a husband torturing his wife to death put stress on the intersection of gender and violence. It draws attention to broader societal issues surrounding gender-based violence and discrimination.

The headline starts with ‘man arrested’ instead of husband arrested. It might be to save the concept of familial life. It is concisely written and readers have to read detail to obtain complete information. The city where crime is committed not mentioned in the headline which may cause more attention of the reader. May be, it saves the city to get defamed country wide. The name of the victim ‘Bushra’ is given which is often missing in such type of criminal news. The report highlights the male cruelty and impatience in a marital relationship.

4.2 Analysis of News Reports from Dawn

4.2.1 Report 16

“2 held for rape of mentally challenged girl in Lahore” Dawn. (2022, August 07)

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1703641>

Context: In Lahore, police reported the arrest of two suspects accused of raping a mentally challenged girl in the Sherakot Area. According to the complaint filed by a resident of Talat Park, Babu Sabu area, his 14-year-old daughter who has hearing and speech impairments was taken by her brother-in-law to a nearby house. The suspects and the owner of the house allegedly raped the girl and threatened her

family against reporting the incident. The Sherakot Police registered a rape case and initiated an investigation.

Step 1: Linguistic Choices

The news report effectively communicates the key elements of the news. The word “held” indicates that arrests have been made and suggests progress/an achievement in law enforcement efforts. The mention of a “mentally challenged girl” highlights the infirmity of the victim and underscores the seriousness of the crime and the need of protection of individuals with disabilities. The location “Lahore” provides a specific geographical context of the incident and enhances the interest of the local readership. The tone of the news report appears to be serious and seems factual while focusing on the key details of the incident. The use of language such as “rape” and “mentally challenged girl” conveys the gravity and sensitivity of the crime. Moreover, the suspects are named as ‘S and T’ while the name of the victim is not disclosed.

Step 2: Framing Analysis

The news report is framed within the context of sexual violence and vulnerability:

1. Victim-Centered Frame:

The focus of the report is on the vulnerable victim, who is a mentally challenged girl. The report emphasizes her plight and highlights the seriousness of the crimes committed against her. This narrative underscores the importance of safeguarding individuals with disabilities from exploitation and violence.

2. Criminal Accountability:

The report emphasizes the arrest of the two suspects which frames the incident within the context of criminal behavior and legal consequences. This narrative highlights the pursuance of justice and the accountability of the perpetrators.

Step 3: Gender Portrayal

The gender portrayal in this news report plays a significant role in shaping perceptions of vulnerability and accountability. The portrayal of the victim as a “mentally challenged girl” underscores societal perception of women and girls as targets of sexual violence, particularly those who are more vulnerable due to disabilities. This depiction highlights the broader issues of gender-based

discrimination and the need for increased protection for such marginalized individuals. Additionally, while the perpetrator's gender is not explicitly mentioned, the framing of "2 held" suggests that they are likely male. This aligns with a stereotype that positions men as aggressors in case of sexual violence. Such stereotype reinforces notions of male dominance and power over vulnerable individuals. The intersection of gender and vulnerability prompts critical reflection on the unique challenges faced by women and girls who are mentally challenged.

The report shows the demonic side of the male gender who does not have any compassion for a disabled child even. It seems that sexual lust has overpowered the humanity. The headline starts with '2 held for' which shows the legal consequences of the act and the actual crime is mentioned latter. Moreover, the Chief minister and IGP Punjab are directly involved in the case and the criminals' arrest seems the outcome of the pursuing of the higher authorities. The city is Lahore which may draw attention of local readers. The one alleged sinister is victim's brother-in-law which is not mentioned in the headline. This causes more rage and unrest among public. The girl is only fourteen years old and the name and age of the criminals are also not disclosed. Rather, they are named as 'S and T'. Such cases convince us not to trust even our closest and dearest persons. The humanity is at risk and seems there would be no difference in sentiments between human beings and wild animals.

4.2.2 Report 17

"Minor girl's rapist held. Dawn" (2022, August 08)

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1703811>

Context: In Lahore Shadbagh area, police arrested a suspect accused of raping a four-year-old girl. According to the complaint, the girl was playing outside when a neighbor allegedly took her to a nearby building and assaulted her. After the assault, the suspect fled from the scene. Police conducted a medical examination which confirmed the sexual assault. This led to the registration of a rape case and the subsequent arrest of the suspect by a police team.

Step 1: Linguistic Choices

The headline effectively summarizes the key details of the news report. It highlights the arrest of an individual accused of raping a minor girl. This emphasizes the severity of the alleged crime and the extreme vulnerability of the victim. The word

“rapist” conveys the nature of the accusation, while the use of “minor girl” underscores that the victim is a child. This concise headline informs readers about the central event of the story and its implications. The tone of the report is factual and serious. It communicates the arrest of the perpetrator in a straightforward manner. It focuses on the action taken by law enforcement. The word “held” suggests that the suspect has been detained by the authorities. It indicates a significant development in the investigation.

Step 2: Framing Analysis

The frames used to structure the narrative are:

1. Victim-Centered Frame:

The report centers around the victim who is a minor girl, it also highlights the crime committed against her. This frame underlines the vulnerability of the victim and the gravity of the offense. The detail clearly mentioned her age which is four years and it shows the ruthlessness and the severity of the crime endured by the victim.

2. Law Enforcement Frame:

The framing emphasizes the legal aspect of the story as it focuses on the arrest of the suspect “held”. The detained was involved in a serious crime like rape. This frame highlights the role of the police in apprehending criminals and delivering justice.

3. Community Safety Frame:

By reporting the arrest, the narrative reinforces a sense of community safety and suggests that the threat posed by the suspect has been mitigated through the action of the police.

Step 3: Gender Portrayal

The report highlights the vulnerability of the minor girl (female gender), emphasizes her minor age and the seriousness of the crime committed against her. This portrayal underscores broader societal concerns about protecting vulnerable individuals, and particularly young girls from harm. The report focuses on the arrest of the male suspect and highlights the gendered nature of the crime. This also reinforces larger societal narratives about male perpetration of sexual violence against females, especially the minor ones. This focuses on the need to address harmful so-

called masculinity and violence against the victim like women and children. It reveals the man's lust that does not even spare girls who fall between the ages two and four years old.

The news headline is concise and without any embellishment. It states the action taken by the law enforcement agency and the outcome of the criminal act. The age of the minor girl is not disclosed in the headline. If it had been revealed there it could have stimulated rage and anger among public instantly. The name of the victim and details about her family are not disclosed which is often found missing in such news. It is because it has great impact in the society where they live and in the future life. The police have arrested the suspect, but his identity is also not revealed which his name, age and profession. The society is inundated with men who are not only lustful but also pose their masculinity with such heinous and terrible crimes. They create a threatening environment for women living in the society. Their uncontrollable lust turns them into ferocious beasts. Such men should be punished severely.

4.2.3 Report 18

“3 women shot dead for honour in Peshawar” Dawn. (2022, August 19)

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1705627>

Context: In Peshawar's Daduzai area, three women, including two sisters named Bushra and Amna, along with their sister-in-law Ameena, were allegedly killed in an honour-related incident on 19Aug,2022. The suspects including the complainant's son Amjid, his brother Farhad and other three persons fled after firing the women. Mr. Yaseen, the complainant and father of the sisters, accused his son and others of the murders. He claimed that his son suspected his sisters' character.

Step 1: Linguistic Choices

The news report conveys a serious and A tragic event as it highlights the use of violence in the name of honor. The choice of words like “shot dead” emphasizes the fatal outcome of the incident and indicates the cruelty of the crime. The mention of “honour” suggests a motive rooted in cultural or familial perceptions of honor. It also adds a contextual layer to the violence. The location “Peshawar” provides geographical context and informs the readers where the incident occurred. The name of the few victims and few culprits are stated in the report. Moreover, the word’

suspect' shows uncertainty of actual reason that instigated the criminal. However, report maintains an objective and straightforward tone.

Step 2: Framing Analysis

The news report frames the incident within the context of honor-based violence and societal norms:

1. Victim-Centered Frame:

The framing focuses on the women as victims of a violent crime perpetrated in the name of honor. This frame highlights the tragedy of their deaths and invites empathy for the victims and their family. It shows the lawlessness and more specifically the miserable treatment with women in Pakistani society.

2. Criminality and Motive Frame:

The use of the phrase, "shot dead for honor" frames the perpetrators as acting with a specific motive related to the cultural or familial honor. This frame underscores the criminality of the act and suggests broader societal issues surrounding honor-based violence. The word 'honor' seems to justify this culpable act.

3. Cultural and Societal Context:

The mentioning of "Peshawar" situates the incident within a specific geographic context that is also known for its cultural firmness. It implies broader societal norms and attitudes that may influence behaviors related to honor and violence.

Step 3: Gender Portrayal

The news report illuminates a tragic incident where three women become victim to honor-based violence in Peshawar. The portrayal of the victims underscores the societal pressures and gender dynamics that perpetuate violence against women in the name of honor. By framing the perpetrators as acting within cultural norms that prioritize honor over individual rights, the report highlights the challenges faced by women in patriarchal societies. The depiction of women as victims of honor-based related crimes challenges traditional stereotypes and prompts critical reflection on the intersection of gender, power and cultural expectations. The male members of the society are depicted as oppressors whereas, women are weak and pitiable.

The headline is short without any euphemism. The mentioning of the name of the city may attract local readers. The details reveal that the FIR is reported by Mr. Yaseen whose two daughters are killed. Name of two victims and two alleged suspects are mentioned. Although, the name of the female victims in such cases are rarely mentioned due to socio-cultural notions writing convention of the Pakistani press. The case is about parricide and reveals the orthodox thinking of the public and their so-called honor perceptions. The word honour covers different aspects of women's personality outlined by Pakistani conservative society. For example, whether women observe *parda* the way it is prescribed by the society/religion, or they maintain respectable distance from stranger men etc. The report does not clarify such conditions of honour that resulted in the crime. The report is also ambiguous because there is no precise reference to the identity of the main victim.

4.2.4 Report 19

“Two suspects nabbed in Layyah gang-rape case” Dawn. (2022, August 22)

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1704506>

Context: In Layyah, Muzafargarh, district police claimed to have arrested two suspects out of a group of twelve allegedly involved in the gang rape of a girl and video recording of the assault. The victim's father reported that on August 5 twelve men abducted his daughter at gun point. Out of the twelve suspects eight were identified with their names and the remaining four could not be identified with their names. They subjected her to gang rape, tortured and recorded the horrifying incident. Following the complaint, Layyah police registered a case and consequently detained two of the named suspects. The police started investigating the case further in order to catch the remaining culprits.

Step 1: Linguistic Choices

The report is given in active voice and adopts factual tone. It focuses on conveying essential information about the arrest and the investigation. The word “nabbed” is informal slang that means to catch or apprehend someone, typically by law enforcement agency. It suggests a swift and effective action taken by the authorities to capture the suspects. In the context of the news report, “nabbed” conveys the successful arrest of the suspects of the Layyah gang-rape case. It highlights the proactive response of the police to such serious criminal activity. The

term “gang-rape” describes a specific type of assault where a victim was raped by multiple perpetrators. The hyphen serves to link the words “gang” and “rape” to form a single concept to express the sensitivity of criminal acts. Also, this term leads to sense of lawlessness, insecurity, fear and collective behaviour of the people. Moreover, the words ‘torture’ and ‘videotaping’ show their merciless nature and cause unrest among people. The tone remains serious and objective, and it reflects the gravity of the crime. The news report combines informative language with a straightforward tone to convey developments in a sensitive criminal case.

Step 2: Framing Analysis

The frames used to structure the narrative are:

1. Criminality Frame:

The report emphasizes the criminal nature of the incident by highlighting the gang-rape and videotaping of the victim. The use of words like “suspects” and “gang-rape” frames the story within the context of a serious crime. The word ‘nabbed’ indicates a focus on the legal implications of the crime as well as the law enforcing actions taken against the crime.

2. Victimization Frame:

The narrative portrays the victim as a vulnerable individual subjected to violence and abuse. The mention of a victim being taken at gunpoint and subjected to gang rape and torture underlines the severity of the victimization. This frame evokes empathy and concern for security of the victim.

3. Law Enforcement Frame:

The report emphasizes the action of the police as it uses the term “nabbed”. In other words, it implies that legal action was taken against the suspects. This frame suggests that criminals are accountable for such a heinous act of rape.

Step 3: Gender Portrayal

The news report focuses on a harrowing incident involving the gang-rape of a girl in Layyah district. The headline does not specify the victim’s gender but emphasizes its vulnerability. It has been clearly and frequently subjected to violence by multiple perpetrators. This also reinforces stereotypes where women are subjected to violence by men and depicts women as passive victims of violence and abuse. The

report also does not specify the gender of the perpetrators. The term “suspects” is gender-neutral. However, the crime of gang rape typically involves male perpetrators. This reflects societal stereotypes about male aggression and violence against women. This underpins gender violence and power dynamics within patriarchal norms.

The headline is short and misses important information. It shares the proactiveness of the police with only two out of twelve suspects’ arrest. This cannot be termed as high achievement by the police. The name of the victim is not disclosed due to writing convention of Pakistani press. It may also have negative impacts in future of the victim. But the names of the culprits are also kept hidden which must be revealed for public awareness purpose. Moreover, eight people are known to them so, they must have some relations with the victim which is not shared. This is a heinous act and is utterly unsympathetic. Apparently, the sympathy reserved for the culprits because they are called suspects whose names and identity are not disclosed in the report. Gang rape is not only inhumane but also is reflective of a collective violent mindset of men living in our society.

4.2.5 Report 20

“Fake faith healer rapes woman” Dawn. (2022, September 18)

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1710587>

Context: The incident took place in Toba Tek Singh and was reported in Dawn. A fake faith healer in Gojra allegedly raped a woman being in the role of spiritual guide. The victim’s brother reported that his sister was taken to the suspect’s outhouse by their mother. The suspect then led the victim to an upper room and raped her. Despite cries for help, the suspect escaped before being caught. The victim was examined at Gojra Tehsil headquarters Hospital, where the rape was confirmed. The district police have arrested the suspect in response to the incident.

Step 1: Linguistic Choices

This news report uses concise and direct language to convey the incident and emphasizes the severity of the crime. The straightforward approach captures attention and highlights the primary focus of the news report. The use of active voice in the headline ‘Fake faith healer rapes woman’ emphasizes the doer (rape) and identifies the perpetrator ‘fake faith healer’ clearly. This linguistic choice immediately establishes the subject (perpetrator) and the object (victim) of the sentence. ‘Rape’

and ‘cries’ in the news report are strong and evocative words and convey the violent and non-consensual nature of the assault. Such a choice of language adds an impact and communicates the gravity of the crime. Unlike traditional news reports that often use “allegedly” to indicate the legal status of the accusation, this news headline and report present the act as a definitive statement. The report suggests confidence in the reported details. The use of “fake faith healer” clearly identifies the suspect’s fraudulent status and highlights the breach of trust involved in the crime.

Step 2: Framing Analysis

The frames supporting the mentioned news report are:

1. Crime and Perpetrator Frame:

The framing of the news report focuses on the criminal act of rape committed by a fake faith healer. The report emphasizes the perpetrator (fake faith healer) and the seriousness of the crime (rape). It also highlights the breach of trust and abuse of authority by someone who is a claimed spiritual figure. This frame positions the perpetrator as the main actor responsible for the violence/crime and emphasizes accountability for the act.

2. Victim-Centered Frame:

The use of the word ‘woman’ in the report directs the readers’ attention towards the victim, and the word ‘rape’ highlights the assault and avows the victim’s experience. This victim-centered frame underscores the severity of sexual viciousness and emphasizes the need for support and justice for the bearer/victim. By placing the victim at the forefront of the narrative, this frame encourages empathy and recognition of the harm caused.

3. Trust and Betrayal Frame:

The framing implicitly addresses the themes of trust and betrayal within the context of spiritual healing. By identifying the perpetrator as a “fake faith healer”, the report exposes the betrayal of trust experienced by individuals seeking spiritual guidance. This frame highlights broader issues of deception and exploitation, while emphasizes the vulnerability of those seeking help and the manipulation by perpetrators.

Step 3: Gender Portrayal

The language and framing choices in the news report contribute to specific gender portrayal that highlight broader societal issues related to gender-based violence. The use of “woman” in the headline centers the narrative around the victim, emphasizes her gender, and considers the vulnerability of women to acts of sexual assault. This victim-centered approach amplifies the seriousness of the offense and underscores the impact of such offenses on individual. Additionally, while the gender of the perpetrator is not explicitly mentioned beyond the reference to a “fake faith healer”, the narrative implies issues related to trust, power, and exploitation. The framing of the crime, within the context of spiritual healing, illuminates dynamics of authority and deception, reflects larger patterns of gender-based violence where perpetrators misuse positions and trust to commit vicious acts of harm against women.

The news headline is short and simple without any modifiers which shows the reporter’s narrative is factual. Moreover, the information about the victim’s identity is not disclosed as it may incur impacts in her future life in Pakistani culture and also due to the writing convention of news reports with such sensitive subjects. At the same time, the information about the culprit is given. The headline name it ‘fake faith healer’ which doesn’t specify the gender of the criminal. In the news, the act of the criminal is reported ‘allegedly’ although the crime is proven by medical reports.

The element of trust and loyalty is shattered as these spiritual leaders/healers are being considered the symbol of trust and truth. They allow the victim/girl to go to a separate room in the upper storey of the building. It shows that people unanimously decide and allow such practices to be taking place in isolation and secrecy without realizing that strangers can cause any harm to the patient.

4.2.6 Report 21

“Woman ‘sexually assaulted’ in Rawalpindi” Dawn. (2022, September 22)

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1711322>

Context: In Rawalpindi, a woman reported that she is sexually assaulted. She also reported that the man extorted a sum of Rs. 475,000. The victim resides in Jhanda Chichi and filed an FIR in Civil Lines police station. She alleges that a man visited her home and extorted money through blackmailing. He forcibly took her ATM card to withdraw money. She claimed that the suspect also sexually assaulted her and took

her photographs which were later shared on social media by his accomplice. The FIR identifies two suspects in this case.

Step 1: Linguistic Choices

The news report employs quotation marks around ‘sexually assaulted’ which indicates a cautious approach by the news source to present the allegation as reported in the FIR. The use of “Rawalpindi” specifies the location and provides geographical and contextual information. The term “woman” underscores the victim’s gender and draws attention to gender-specific violence and raises awareness about the prevalence of sexual crimes against women. Moreover, the use of words ‘assault’ and ‘blackmailing’ evokes a sense of fear and insecurity among readers. The news called the criminals as ‘suspects’ which shows gender neutrality and uncertainty of the allegations. Moreover, ‘starting visiting’ shows that both victim and the perpetrator know each other that is why the victim allows him to visit her. Additionally, he takes Rs. 475,000 from her, which means it is not done only for the rape but also for money. Moreover, the report of victim’s rape’s test report has not been received yet. The allegations present the culprits as habitual criminal.

Step 2: Framing Analysis

The frames used in the report include:

1. Crime and Criminal Justice Frame:

The report highlights the criminal act of sexual assault against a woman. It positions the incident within the context of crime, law enforcement and justice. This frame underscores the importance of addressing and combating sexual violence through legal measures.

2. Victimization Frame:

The report portrays the woman as a victim of sexual assault, and emphasizes her experience and the impact of the crime. This frame aims to evoke empathy and highlights the seriousness of the offense against the woman.

Step 3: Gender Portrayal

The news report portrays the woman as a victim of sexual assault that emphasizes her vulnerability and the trauma she has experienced. This reinforces stereotypes about women being targets of violence and highlights the power dynamics

related to genders. The use of phrase like ‘sexually assaulted’ in the headline and the report underscores the severity of the crime. It also evokes sympathy. This aligns with stereotypes about women being passive victims, easily manipulated and in need of protection. It reinforces the power imbalance where men/perpetrators harm women and exert their dominance and authority over the females. The culprits are named as ‘suspects’ which is a gender-neutral word and saves the image of male gender.

The headline is short and contains factual information. It represents the vulnerable condition of women in Pakistani society. Women are depicted weak and oppressed, and on the other hand the criminal’s male gender remains un mentioned. Such acts are taken as usual incidents in a patriarchal society. The details of the victim are not disclosed due to writing convention of Pakistani press. Strangely, the details of the culprits are also kept hidden. Although, the victim knows him. The statement of the woman is also dubious as the criminal has been visiting her so she can contact police earlier. Moreover, there is no male member involved in the case from victim’s side. It creates suspects that the victim and the culprit have secret relationship and the culprit has taken the advantage of the possible chance. Moreover, he has taken the ATM and withdrew an amount of Rs. 475,000 and then sexually assaulted her which means it takes a course of time and woman has opportunity to save herself. Additionally, the uploading of pictures seems a revenge of culprit from victim. The accomplice is involved. He uploaded the pictures but the report does not mention him much. This creates ambiguity about the precise cause and context of the case.

4.2.7 Report 22

“Woman allegedly tortured, raped” Dawn. (2022, September 26)

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1711978>

Context: In Rawalpindi’s Airport Police Area, a woman accused a man for torturing and sexually assaulting her. She was lured to a house by a friend, where she was locked in a room, threatened and subjected to assault. The news reports that two of the man’s Friends and a security guard were his accomplices. Despite attempting to escape, she was overpowered by the security guards sitting outside the house who locked her again in the room. Her mobile phone was snatched during the incident. Police are investigating the incident.

Step 1: Linguistic Choices

The news report sets a serious and factual tone, and clearly indicates the nature of the reported incident/allegations of torture and rape against a woman. The use of the word “allegedly” in the headline suggests that the reported details are based on the woman’s claims and are subjected to investigation and verification. The headline is concise and direct as it focuses on the key elements of the story -the victimization of a woman through torture and rape. The term “allegedly” confirms the ongoing investigation and the need for verification of the reported allegations. It also helps to maintain journalist’s integrity and neutrality. The comma in the headline serves to separate and list two distinct allegations made against the woman. This helps to highlight each allegation as a serious offense as well as to maintain clarity and readability by delineating two distinct alleged acts- torture and rape. Moreover, the word ‘overpowered’ shows the weakness of the female gender and power or control of the male gender against female gender. The report presents the information in a straightforward manner and effectively captures the severity of the reported crimes.

Step 2: Framing Analysis

The frames that shape the narrative and influence the reader’s understanding are:

1. Victim-Centered Frame:

The news report adopts a victim-centered frame by focusing on the experiences and allegations of the woman who is being reported as tortured and raped. The framing centers on her perspective while highlighting the severity of the violence of assault which she claims to have experienced.

2. Criminality and Severity Frame:

The framing of the report emphasizes the criminality and severity of the reported incident. By listing the specific offenses of torture and rape with a comma in between evokes the vicious and serious nature of the alleged crimes and their impact on the victim.

3. Investigation and Allegation Frame:

The inclusion of the word “allegedly” in the headline acknowledges that the reported details are based on the woman’s claims and are subjected to investigation. It

highlights the ongoing nature of the investigation and the need of verification of the allegations.

Step 3: Gender Portrayal

The news report portrays the woman as a victim of alleged torture and rape. It also highlights her vulnerability and the traumatic experiences which she has gone through and so claims. By focusing on the woman's experiences and allegations, the report sheds light on the challenges faced by women who are subjected to such acts of brutality. The depiction of the perpetrators indirectly addresses the dynamics of gender-based violence by male individuals who allegedly committed acts of torture and rape against women. Additionally, the report's acknowledgment of ongoing investigation into the allegations reflects the broader societal struggle to address and combat gender-based violence effectively.

The news report is concise and without any modifiers. The details of the report miss important information such as name, age, and profession of the victim and culprits. Moreover, details reveal there were further two of his friends and a security guard involved in the crime, so there is a suspect of a gang rape. The news reports that they were friend (the culprit and the victim) and she intentionally went to meet him and he took the benefit and breach her trust. Additionally, the report does not reveal that how she is rescued and the culprits are arrested or not.

4.2.8 Report 23

“2 held after sister’s murder for ‘honor’ in Karachi” Dawn. (2022, September 28) <https://www.dawn.com/news/1712273>

Context: The decomposed body of Sumaira Iftikhar, a 30-year-old woman, was found in her home in Landhi's area of Future Colony. The police reported that Sumaira was allegedly killed by her brothers in the name of 'honor'. Her body showed signs of being bludgeoned and tortured which indicates a brutal and deliberate act of violence. The body had been left undiscovered for approximately twenty-five days before its recovery. Following the discovery, police arrested Sumaira's two brothers on suspicion of murder and recovered the weapon which police believed to have been used in the crime.

Step 1: Linguistic Choices

The use of the term “sister’s murder” immediately establishes a personal and tragic context. It emphasizes the familial relationship between the victim and the perpetrators. The mention of ‘honor’ in quotation marks suggests that words are taken from other source i.e. FIR. The headline states “2 held” indicates that two individuals have been arrested in connection with the murder. This numerical detail conveys a significant development in the investigation and underscores the progress made by the law enforcement agencies. The mention of “Karachi” provides geographical context which specifies where the incident occurred and adds relevance for local readers. The name of the victim and culprits are stated in the details. These details help to situate the crime within a specific community. The words ‘murder’, ‘bludgeoned’, and ‘torture’ create feelings of fear and anxiety among the readers. The ‘so-called honor’ is an ironic and satiric remark on the orthodox pattern of thinking in the society. The tone of the news report is serious and condemns the crime, and particularly highlights the motive of “honor”.

Step 2: Framing Analysis

The report incorporates the following frames:

1. Honor-Based Violence Frame:

The report employs a frame centered on honor-based violence and highlights the alleged reason behind the murder. This frame emphasizes societal norms and cultural values associated with “honor”. It suggests that crime was committed to protect or restore family’s honor.

2. Legal and Criminal Justice Frame:

The arrest of the two suspects underscores a legal and criminal justice frame. This frame indicates progress in the investigation and potential pursuit of justice for the victim. This frame shifts attention to law enforcement efforts and judicial process which highlight the role of authorities in addressing the crime.

3. Family and Personal Tragedy Frame:

The victim is mentioned as sister which adds a personal and familial frame to the narrative. It is a case of parricide which helps to portray the crime within the context of family dynamics and relationships. This frame underlines the emotional

impact of the murder on her family as well as evokes empathy and concern among the readers.

Step 3: Gender Portrayal

The news report portrays the victim, Sumaira Iftikhar, as a young woman whose life was tragically cut short by her brothers, and the action is allegedly driven by notions of honor. This narrative reinforces traditional gender roles and power dynamics where women are often seen as bearers of family honor and subject to control by male family members. The suspects identified as victim's brothers conform to stereotypes associated with perpetrators of honor-based violence. They are portrayed as individuals driven by rigid patriarchal values in which the protection of family honor justifies extreme measures. The narrative reinforces traditional gender roles in which women are expected to adhere societal expectations of modesty and obedience to preserve family reputation. This narrative perpetuates stereotypes that limit women's autonomy and perpetuate a notion of male authority and control. The framing of the murder within the context of honor underscores prevailing societal attitudes that prioritize family reputation over individual's autonomy, particularly for women. The report subtly challenges these norms by highlighting the criminal nature of the act and the subsequent arrest of the suspects.

The headline starts with the consequences of the criminal act which is murder. The report is comprehensive and reader can create the whole context of the incident. The name of the victim is disclosed which is often found missing in such crime news. The culprits are also named and they have confessed their crime. The love and care of parents are also felt by the actions taken by her father who reach to police station to find out her daughter. However, the act is allegedly called an honor-based crime. The actual reason and type of so-called disgrace which she brought to her family is not disclosed. It seems much more is yet to be revealed through investigation. Moreover, again women's pathetic situation in Pakistani society is shown, and the brutality and worst patriarchal norms associated to men are revealed through the news report.

4.2.9 Report 24

“Six dacoits rape two women” Dawn. (2022, October 02)
<https://www.dawn.com/news/1712968>

Context: In Burewala’s Sahoka police limits, six dacoits armed with weapons invaded a house. They tied up the husbands with ropes and proceeded to rape the wives of two brothers in front of their minor children and other family members. The perpetrators then stole Rs. 50, 000 in cash, gold ornaments and other valuables before escaping the scene. Sahoka police responded to the incident, registered a case against six dacoits and initiated an investigation. The IG of Punjab police has stated that the culprits deserve no sympathy and ordered for quick and strict action.

Step 1: Linguistic Choices

The headline succinctly summarizes the major details of the reported incident. It emphasizes the severity and heinous nature of the crime. The use of direct and explicit language in the headline effectively communicates the key elements of the story to the readers. The report highlights the number of perpetrators (six dacoits) and the number of victims raped (two women). The headline employs strong and impactful words like “rape” and “dacoits” which evoke a sense of shock and alarm. The term “dacoits” specifically conveys the criminal intent and violence associated with the perpetrators who want robbery of things related to money. Overall, the headline serves as a powerful introduction to the news report, immediately captures the attention, and sets the tone for a story that addresses a deeply disturbing incident of violence against women. The choice of tone or expression used in the headline is active voice, and adopts a factual narrative. Moreover, the use of words ‘armed and weapons’ creates feeling of fear and chaos. Similarly, ‘infront of children and inmates’ show the vulnerability of victims and the inhumane and merciless nature of the culprits.

Step 2: Framing Analysis

The framing of the news report shapes the narrative by focusing on the criminality and severity of the reported incident.

1. Victim-Centered Frame: The framing centers on the victims and emphasizes their experience of violence and trauma. By highlighting the act of rape perpetrated against

the two women, the report brings attention to their plight and the impact of the crime on them and their families.

2. Criminality and Perpetrator Frame: The report frames the perpetrators as “six dacoits”, emphasizes their criminal intent and collective accountability of the heinous act of rape. This frame depicts the perpetrators as dangerous criminals with severe satanic mindsets.

3. Gender-Based Violence Frame: The framing of “rape” within the context of news reporting highlights broader societal issues related to gender-based violence. This frame suggests power dynamics, vulnerability of women and the need to address such issues that contribute to such crimes.

Step 3: Gender Portrayal

In this news report, the portrayal of gender reinforces traditional stereotypes and societal norms surrounding violence against women. By depicting the women as victims of a violent crime perpetrated by male dacoits, the report reinforces stereotypes of women as vulnerable and in need of protection. This portrayal aligns with the societal perception that women as passive victims of male aggression, also highlights their perceived helplessness in the face of violence. Additionally, framing the perpetrators as male dacoits perpetuates stereotypes about male aggression and criminal behavior and reinforces gendered views of power and control.

The news headline gives a strange impression as dacoits are least expected to have sexual assault. They are more associated with the robbery of things in order to acquire money. This incident seems to be a gang rape, but the term is not used in the news report explicitly. It is because there are two women and six criminals. However, after raping women in front of their family members the criminals also robbed gold and cash from them.

The news report reveals this incident happened in Vehari but no further information is given about the victims such as their names, tribe's name and their professions. It seems it is the outcome of tribal/family dispute. The IG of Punjab police has given a formal order to take strict action against the criminals.

4.2.10 Report 25

“Man held for ‘killing’ wife in Taxila” Dawn. (2022, October 17)
<https://www.dawn.com/news/1715404>

Context: A man and his mother were arrested in the village Jallo, Taxila for allegedly killing his wife during a domestic dispute. Mohammad Adeel and his mother reportedly strangled the woman to death and then falsely claimed it a natural death. The victim’s father, Mohamamd Din informed the police about the incident. to the body being taken into custody. The husband confessed for committing a murder and both he and his mother have been detained with a murder case registered against them.

Step 1: Linguistic Choices

The headline uses quotation marks around the word “killing” to suggest that the word is taken by some source i.e. report registered in the police station. The word “held” in the headline indicates that the man has been arrested or detained by authorities for the alleged crime. This word conveys a sense of official action and implies that the man is currently under police custody. The investigation is still pending. Similarly, mentioning of man makes the man as main culprit although his mother was equally involved in the murder. The city ‘Taxila’ is mentioned which creates geographical context for readers. The words like ‘strangled’ leads to fear and merciless nature of the culprits. The tone of the news report is neutral and factual. It conveys the essential information about the arrest of criminals, the reason of crime and some of their bio data.

Step 2: Framing Analysis

The news report uses two frames to shape the narrative and influence readers:

1. Crime and Suspect Frame:

The framing of the news report centers on the alleged crime of murder. The headline positions the man as the primary suspect (man held) and focuses attention on his role in the incident. This framing sets up a narrative around murder and the individual accused of committing it.

2. Domestic Dispute Context:

The report hints a domestic dispute as the reason behind the alleged killing. Moreover, it suggests that personal conflicts or tension within the family may have contributed to the tragic outcome.

Step 3: Gender Portrayal

The news report portrays the distinct gender roles and dynamics within the context of alleged domestic violence. The narrative positions the wife as the victim of violence with the husband identified as the perpetrator. This reflects traditional societal norms where women are often depicted as vulnerable enough to be harmed when they are in such intimate relationships. In the light of ‘domestic dispute’, one may consider women other than the victim to be playing a positive role by preventing a man from committing violence. Other women may support and protect the victim from enduring violence. However, family disputes often prompt animosity to an extent that all family members become quarrelsome and revengeful. The report shows that such disputes and violence can be fatal and harm someone without substantial reason.

The headline is concise and shares factual information. The details reveals that due to domestic issue a man along with his mother strangled his wife. Moreover, the man confessed that it is done by him and his mother, but still the role of her mother is not underscored in the headline. It is to note that the name of all male participants from the both sides are disclosed but the names of the women are not revealed. This is one of the most frequent practices used in such type of news in Pakistani media. The nature of dispute and age of the victim and culprit are kept hidden also. The role of the police is appreciated as the headline shows progress/achievement of the police. Although the woman had already been killed the complaint was made later on upon which the police took action.

4.2.11 Report: 26

“Girl ‘sexually assaulted’ killed in Attock” Dawn. (2022, December 01)
<https://www.dawn.com/news/1724082>

Details: A minor girl was allegedly raped, strangled to death, and thrown into a mini dam in Ahamdal village within the Pindigheb police station limits. A woman went to fetch water with her two-year-old daughter. The latter mysteriously

disappeared. It was later revealed that the minor was victimized. The Sub-divisional police officer confirmed the incident and revealed that the family is originally from Kurram Agency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and it is settled in this area and are working as agricultural laborers. Preliminary autopsy results confirmed that the girl was sexually assaulted before being brutally murdered.

Step 1: Linguistic Choices

The headline uses specific linguistic choices to convey the severity and nature of the reported incident. The use of quotation marks around ‘sexually assaulted’ suggests that the details of the assault are based on preliminary information taken from FIR. This notation emphasizes the sensitive and serious nature of the crime. Furthermore, the headline’s concise wording effectively summarizes the tragic events and highlights that the victim was sexually assaulted before her death. Describing the victim as a “girl” emphasizes her vulnerability and young age. Moreover, it evokes empathy from readers and emphasizes the gravity of the situation. However, the girl is only ‘two’ years old and mentioning it in the headline may have different impact on the readers. The mention of “Attock” provides an important geographical context and makes the news relevant to the local readers. Additionally, words ‘brutally murdered’ enhance the feeling of fear and insecurity. Also, sharing that they are working as agricultural laborers reveals their socio-economic situation. ‘Eight suspects in the custody’ tells the activeness and legal efforts taken by the police in order to enforce law and order.

Step 2: Framing Analysis

The news report uses specific frames to shape the narrative and influence reader’s understanding:

1. Victim-Centered Frame:

The report centers on the victim by highlighting the crimes committed against her (sexually assaulted) and emphasizes her vulnerability as a minor girl. This frame urges empathy and highlights the impact of the crime on the victim.

2. Crime and Tragedy Frame:

The framing emphasizes the tragic nature of the incident as it focuses on the sequence of events leading to the girl's death after suffering sexual assault. This frame elicits emotional response from readers and underscores the severity of the crime.

3. Geographical Context Frame:

By mentioning "Attock" in the headline, the report provides geographical context and links the crime to a specific location. This frame emphasizes relevance for the local population of Attock.

Step 3: Gender Portrayal

The news report uses framing techniques as mentioned above to evoke empathy and highlight societal issues surrounding gender-based violence. By referring to the victim as a "girl", the report emphasizes her youth and vulnerability. It also prompts readers to recognize the seriousness of violence against young females. The use of quotation marks around 'sexually assaulted' that the assault is a pivotal aspect of the incident. The report does not specify the gender of the perpetrator(s), the focus on the victim's gender shows its helplessness and miserable condition. The report reveals power dynamics and societal attitudes towards violence against women and girls. Moreover, men(culprits) are presented as satanic souls and do not have any humanity that even a two-year old innocent soul is not safe from their lust. Collectively, women are seen as miserable and male as tyrannic.

The headline is short, objective and contains factual information. The headline uses a word 'girl' instead of mentioning her age or calling it as minor girl which may have a completely different impact on the readers. The names of the girl and her mother are not disclosed. It might be due to socio-cultural impact and the impact of this incident on their future life. The area where the crime is committed is mentioned in the headline which reveals the security conditions and lawlessness in the region. The entire report gives the impression of worst morality of the people that they even do not spare the innocent souls and make them the victim of their lust. However, police seem active as they have arrested eight suspects.

4.2.12 Report: 27

“4 arrested for burning woman during ‘faith healing’ in Faisalabad” Dawn. (2022, December 21) <https://www.dawn.com/news/1727414>

Context: In Toba Tek Singh, four individuals were arrested by Faisalabad’s police for severely burning a mentally challenged girl during a supposed ‘spiritual treatment’. The incident gained attention after media reports went viral. Wasim Shahbaz, the complainant, sought help from Wasim Ilyas who suggested his mother-in-law, Shamim Bibi could cure his sister, Sonia. Instead of treatment, Sonia was detained, tortured and burned. There were burn marks on her chest, face and eyes. The suspects including the faith healer have been arrested.

Step 1: Linguistic Choices

The headline conveys critical details of a disturbing incident. The numerical emphasis on “4 arrested” immediately highlights the involvement of multiple perpetrators and indicates the magnitude of the crime. The action verb “burning” directly communicates the violent act inflicted on the woman during what was purportedly a “faith healing session”. It also helps to emphasize the brutality and severity of the assault. The use of quotation marks around ‘faith healing’ suggests the point of view stated by the complainant which leads to the abusive outcomes. The mention of “Faisalabad” provides a specific location and underscores the relevance of the crime. The words ‘serious’, ‘detained’, ‘tortured’, and ‘burned’ create the feeling of fear, insecurity ruthlessness? The tone of the report is somber and critical. Additionally, names of the victim and criminals are stated clearly. The names of the female victims are often not mentioned in news of Pakistani media.

Step 2: Framing Analysis

The news report employs framing techniques that shape the narrative and influence reader’s understanding of the incident:

1. Victim-Centered Frame:

The focus of the report is on the victim who is a mentally challenged woman and subjected to horrific abuse during what was purported for a spiritual healing session. This frame highlights the vulnerability and suffering of the victim and elicits empathy and concern of the readers.

2. Criminalization Frame:

The use of language such as “burning” and “4 arrested” frames the incident as a criminal act. It emphasizes the severity of the offense committed by the perpetrators. This frame portrays the perpetrators as criminals responsible for a dreadful act of violence.

3. Social Issue Frame:

By highlighting the misuse of “faith healing” and the subsequent harm inflicted, the report addresses broader societal issues related to exploitation, abuse of vulnerable individuals, and the dangers of unregulated spiritual practices. This frame invites reflection on the need of an oversight and accountability for such contexts.

Step 3: Gender Portrayal

The victim of the heinous crime is identified as a woman, and she is specifically described as a mentally challenged individual. This portrayal underscores broader societal issues of exploitation and vulnerability faced by women, particularly those with disabilities, who may be targeted for abuse. The perpetrators, although not specifically identified by gender in the headline, reflect common societal patterns where women are often victims of violence perpetrated by men. The absence of explicit gender details may emphasize the focus on the victim’s experience rather than the perpetrator’s identities. This aligns with gender stereotypes related to power dynamics and misuse of authority, as individuals in position of trust exploit their influence for harmful purposes. The reference to “faith healing” and the subsequent violence raises questions about cultural norms and practices. It highlights how traditional beliefs and rituals can be manipulated to justify violence against women.

The headline states the factual information, and the details explain the incident. The citing of the city may attract local readership. In this news, the victim is a woman who faced severe torture and the major culprit is also a woman. The alarming situation is that people are still trapped by such fake spiritual healers in 21st century. The news reveals the common thinking of the people because a group of people was involved in the whole incident, and victim is not forced to reach them out. They come voluntarily for the sake of treatment. People trust these healers blindly and depend upon their treatment. These faith healers are considered to be pious and noble. These perceptions show people’s ignorance and innocence. The news detail does not

reveal the relation between Wasim Shahbaz and Wasim Ilyas, and how they met each other. The news shows the common societal pattern of the community.

4.2.13 Report 28

“Man awarded death for rape, murder of deaf woman” Dawn. (2023, March 01)

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1739677>

Context: The incident took place in Hyderabad and was reported in Dawn. In March, 2023 Abdul Rehman Sheikh was sentenced to death twice by the Anti-Terrorism Court-II the name of the judge is Saleem Raza. Abdul Rehman was convicted of the rape and murder of Shireen Brohi, a deaf woman from Sawan Kashkeli village in Jamshoro District. The court also charged a fine of Rs. 250,000 for the two offenses.

Step 1: Linguistic Choices

This news report delivers a concise and impactful summary of the court verdict. It also emphasizes the severity of the crimes committed by the perpetrator. The headline highlights the outcomes of legal proceedings, and focuses on the capital punishment (death sentence) awarded for the charges of ‘rape’ and ‘murder’ of a ‘deaf woman’ named Shireen. The news report provides factual information and maintains a professional tone. The comma in the headline serves to separate and emphasize two distinct crimes for which the man has been sentenced to death. This punctuation choice helps to clearly delineate the serious nature of each offense that are rape and murder, and so highlights them as separate acts but are shown equally grave. It also contributes to the overall clarity and readability of the news report, ensures that both crimes are identified clearly and understood by the reader at first glance. The word, “awarded” suggests that the man has been given a specific punishment by a judicial authority, in this case, a death sentence. It conveys that the court or legal system has made a deliberate decision to impose a severe penalty based on the crimes committed by the perpetrator. Similarly, the victim being deaf catches more sympathy from readers. At the same time, the feeling of rage and hatred arises for the criminal. The use of “rape and “murder” adds to the effect of seriousness and the atrocious nature of the acts of violence inflicted upon the victim by the perpetrator.

Step 2: Framing Analysis

The frames involved in the news report are:

- 1. Criminality and Severity of Offenses:** The news report frames the crimes of rape and murder as central elements of the story and emphasizes their gravity and severity. By highlighting that the man has been “awarded death” for these specific offenses, the framing underscores the seriousness of the crimes and their impact on the victim, Shireen Brohi.
- 2. Victim-Centered Narrative:** The news report adopts a victim-centered narrative by focusing on the impact of the crimes on Shireen Brohi, a deaf woman whose life was tragically taken. This victim-centered approach encourages empathy and recognition of the harm caused by gender-based violence. It also urges societal reflection on the need for justice and protection for vulnerable individuals.
- 3. Court Verdict and Sentencing:** The news report highlights the outcome of legal proceedings as it states that the accused was “awarded death” for rape and murder of a deaf woman. This framing emphasizes the legal consequences faced by the perpetrator based on his criminal acts and underlines the heinous nature of the crimes committed that too against a deaf woman.

Step 3: Gender Portrayal

The news report adopts a victim-centered narrative that underscores the impact of gender-based violence on woman. It particularly focuses on a deaf woman who was tragically subjected to rape and murder. By naming the victim as deaf woman and detailing the offenses as rape and murder, the report highlights the vulnerability and victimization experienced by women in cases of gender-based violence. The portrayal of the perpetrator, Abdul Rehman Sheikh, as responsible for committing rape and murder reinforces broader societal narratives about gender-based violence. Sheikh’s actions are depicted as heinous and criminal which disclose the role of male perpetrators in violence against women. This portrayal contributes to broader discussions about gender roles and power dynamics, and highlights the imperative for accountability and prevention of violence against women in society.

The news headline clearly states the court’s decision in which the criminal is sentenced to death for raping and killing a deaf woman. There is no reporter’s opinion. The information about the victim and culprit is not clearly mentioned. The

circumstances which lead to this incident are not disclosed. The relationship between them and how the criminal approached the weak victim is not revealed. the socio-economic position of the culprit is not revealed nor does the report indicate his criminal ability and malpractices whether he is habitual criminal or not. Even, the detail lacks basic information of the incident. The information about woman that she is deaf is the only information revealed about her that evokes sympathy for her and anger for the immorality and the satanic manipulation of the perpetrator. It causes rage among public which may stimulate law enforcement by judicial system. However, the act is inhumane, and the criminal receives due punishment rightly.

4.2.14 Report: 29

“Woman shot dead by addict husband in Surjani” Dawn. (2023, March 01)

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1739691>

Context: A woman was shot dead by her drug-addicted husband in Surjani Town. The victim, Shahida Khan who was 42 years old was killed during a family dispute at her residence. The perpetrator Jabal Khan fled from scene after the incident. The suspect is known to be addicted to “ice” remains at large. The victim’s body was transferred to a hospital for medical and legal procedures.

Step 1: Linguistic Choices

The news report depicts a tragic incident of the violent death of a woman at the hands of her drug addicted husband. The use of “woman” as the subject immediately draws attention to the victim’s gender and highlights the focus on the victimization of the female gender. The phrase “shot dead” conveys a sense of ruthlessness and brutality of the incident. It indicates that the woman lost her life due to gunfire. The inclusion of “addict husband” suggests the cause of the violent crime. It hints motives/reasons of the crime. “Surjani” serves as a geographical identifier and specifies the location where the incident occurred. The mentioning of ‘ice’ creates a better context and severity of the situation and the attitude of the husband. The tone of the report is factual and objective. It presents the details of a violent incident in a straightforward manner. The names of the victim and culprit are mentioned, but their profession and socio-economic status are not disclosed.

Step 2: Framing Analysis

In the news report several frames are evident:

1. Violence and Tragedy Frame: The report highlights the violent act of a woman being shot dead by her husband. It emphasizes the tragic nature of the incident which takes the life of a woman. This frame focuses on the immediate impact of the violence and the loss of life.

2. Addiction Frame: The references to the husband as ‘drug addicted’ and the mention of “ice” in details introduce a frame related to substance abuse. This frame leads to speculation/misjudgment about the dynamics and tensions within the relationship between the woman and her husband.

3. Domestic Violence: It also creates a frame of domestic violence. The reason of a murder is stated a family dispute. In patriarchal society man is considered superior in most of the cases, power is one of them. The husband shows his power and take the life of his wife. It is a clear uxoricide case.

Step 3: Gender Portrayal

The news report presents a narrative that encapsulates stereotypes surrounding substance abuse, domestic violence and gender roles. The portrayal of the husband as a “drug addict” implies a stereotype associated with substance abuse and suggests a link between violent behavior and the addiction. This depiction reinforces common societal beliefs about individuals struggling with drug dependency, and also they are considered a risk for others. Furthermore, the report describes the incident stemming from “family dispute” aligns with stereotypes surrounding domestic violence where conflicts within families are often depicted as escalating into extreme acts of violence. Moreover, the focus on a woman being shot allegedly by her husband reinforces traditional gender role, and portrays women as victims of male aggression within domestic settings. This highlights men’s control in relationships and emphasizes vulnerability of women within familial contexts.

The headline clearly shows it is a case of uxoricide. The reason of murder mentioned in the report is a family dispute, but the nature of dispute is not stated. The husband was addicted to ‘ice’ but it is not clear whether was under the influence of ice which the crime was committed. Similarly, if he was ice addicted family members should have already taken precautions against the likely consequences. The name and

age of the victim are reported which are often skipped in such crime news. The name of the husband is revealed but the age and profession are not disclosed. The place of the crime scene is mentioned in the headline. It creates the context as well as increases readership among the local public. Once again, the male superiority prevails. A husband kills his wife over a family dispute which shows males are often found perpetrators of the crime and they take extreme steps to prove their power and superiority. Women are weak, helpless, and insecure in such patriarchal society that even a relation of nikah cannot refrain men from killing their spouses. It raises questions on the family lives in the Pakistani culture.

4.2.15 Report 30

“A man killed his wife for honour in Chakesar tehsil” Dawn. (2023, April 22)

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1748969>

Context: In Shangla’s Chakesar tehsil, a man named Faridullah confessed of killing his wife because she dishonored him. Faridullah is forty years old and resides in the Gunagar area. According to the FIR filed at the police station, Faridullah admitted of shooting his wife, whom he had married eight years ago in Karachi. They had recently returned to Karachi from their village, where he accused his wife to be in an illicit relationship. He felt dishonored and decided to take her to their village and kill her. On their way to the village, the wife became conscious of his ill-intentions. She asked the rickshaw driver to stop the vehicle and then tried to escape. She fell into a river after being shot in the chest by her husband.

Step 1: Linguistic Choices

This news report maintains an objective tone as it presents factual details of the incident without expressing personal opinions or emotions. It focuses on reporting the sequence of events surrounding the crime. The use of the phrase, “killing wife for honour” in the news report conveys gravity and cultural context of the crime. It suggests a motive driven by societal norms and perceptions of honor. The report mentions the perpetrator simply as “man” to highlight the central figure involved in the crime. The use of phrase, “for honour” describes the motives of the perpetrator and provides justification for the crime based on cultural or societal beliefs. The mention of “man surrenders to police” contextualizes the subsequent actions

following the crime. Similarly, the word ‘illicit’ gives the message of something illegal, immoral and something which evokes contempt.

Step 2: Framing Analysis

The frames used in the news report are:

1. Honor Killing Frame:

The headline “killing wife for honor” frames the incident within the context of honor-based violence. It suggests that the motive behind the crime is rooted in cultural and societal perceptions of honor. He surrenders himself which proves he considers himself guilty. However, he is bound by the thought that if his wife betrays him and has extra marital affair, it is against his honor and societal position.

2. Perpetrator-Centric Frame:

The focus on the perpetrator “man surrendered” in the headline and throughout the report brings the narrative around the individual responsible for the crime. This frame highlights the agency and actions of the perpetrator and emphasizes the accountability for the act.

3. Legal and Justice Frame:

The man's surrender to the police after committing the crime frames the subsequent actions as a form of accountability in legal system. This frame suggests the confession of the man that does not exempt him from the legal consequences of his crime.

4. Cultural Context Frame:

By describing the motive “for honor”, the report frames the incident within a specific cultural context, and raises awareness about the societal norms and beliefs that may have influenced the perpetrator’s actions. This frame incorporates the notion of violence within a culture and traditions rooted in a society.

Step 3: Gender Portrayal

The language and the framing choices used in the news report reinforce traditional gender roles and power dynamics. It shapes perceptions of the victim and perpetrator in a certain way. The report informs the victim as a “wife” and the perpetrator as “man”. This reinforces traditional gender norms where women are

portrayed as vulnerable and dependent within marital relationships, while men are depicted as assertive and dominant. This portrayal aligns with societal expectations of male authority and female subservience. Furthermore, terms like “killing wife for honor” and “man surrenders” perpetuate stereotypes of men as violent and women as passive victims. It emphasizes the traditional power dynamics related to gender. The act of “killing for honor” underscores the themes of control and dominance and highlights the perpetrator’s assertion of power over the victim. It proves honor-based violence may be perceived as justifiable acts according to cultural norms.

The first phrase of news headlines ‘man surrenders’ is placed at initial stage. It shows he knows the consequences, but the phrase ‘killing wife’ is placed latter. There is an obvious influence of socio-cultural norms found in the act. The tone of the news report seems neutral. However, the criminal considers himself guilty of a heinous crime. Thus, he surrenders. Moreover, he killed his wife because of her extra marital affair that brought disgrace to him, his family and his tribe. He was aware of the legal outcomes too. Hence, the uxoricide is justifies in this context.

The name and age of the woman is not disclosed. It is again due to cultural practice as most of the times in news the details about woman’s identity are not disclosed.

The culprit claims that he has killed his wife for the justified act of honor. Yet, the report lacks any valid, evidence based and authentic information about the other participants involved in the case. There is an ambiguity related to the truth behind the murder of the wife. It leaves suspicion about woman’s fault to have ever occurred at all. His accusations and confessions are apparently fabricated so as to justify his heinous crime.

4.3 Conclusion

This chapter examined news reports collected from two English newspapers, Dawn and The News. It focused on the application of relevance and framing theory. The content analysis of the linguistic choices used in the news reports aimed to address inquiries pertaining to framing techniques and gender portrayal as depicted in the coverage of these newspapers. The following chapter delves into detailed discussion and draws conclusion through the lens of cognitive semantics. This approach seeks to illuminate how media sources strategically present news reports,

shapes audience perspectives and potentially constraints the broader considerations with the use of manipulative and framing strategies.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

This chapter presents a conclusion and a synthesis of the entire study. The study posed three research questions and objectives in order to carry out A Cognitive Semantic Study of News Reports in Dawn and The News. The study was facilitated by theories proposed by Diedre Wilson and Gregory Bateson. It aims at exploring the linguistic choices, frames and its roles in creating gender image/stereotype. The following is an argument based upon the findings from the previous chapter/research.

This study serves a crucial role in exploring the crime news reports related to women in the light of cognitive semantics theories. It employs Relevance theory by Diedre Wilson with the amalgamation of Framing Theory by Gregory Bateson. It focuses on the use of linguistic choices that has a power to shape and reshape the incident and point of views of the reader. The choice of words and sentence structures have an impact on presenting a major news as a minor one, and a minor incident as a major one. Secondly, it reveals the framing employed in news reports. Framing serves as a cognitive shortcut and bounds readers to think in a specific dimension. It is to perpetuate their agenda for their personal benefit and mold the thinking ability of the public. Thirdly, it analyses the role of framing in building gender image which further serves in creating gender stereotypes. These stereotypes get disseminated in a society and they have long lasting impact on the cognition of the community. Subsequently, they become the part of the culture in the name of norms and values.

It is a qualitative research and it uses the content analysis as a method. It takes its sample from two Pakistani English newspapers namely The News and Dawn. There is a total of thirty news reports, out of which fifteen are selected from the former newspaper and fifteen from the later each source. Their time frame is from August 2022 to April 2023, and all are purposively chosen from the crime news in which female/women are victimized.

As per the findings, the detailed analysis of reports reveals that the language used in news reports has much more functions than just communicating or spreading the information. It is observed that headlines are written in concise and straightforward manner, as the usually are. The modifiers and embellishment for

victims and culprit are rarely found. Also, sometimes the headlines create ambiguity for readers. However, the details of the news provide a complete information of the incident/crime. It is observed that most of the crimes against women are related to rape, honor killing and domestic violence. In all these cases, the identity of a few women is revealed and in most of the cases identity of the victim/female is kept hidden. It is the same with their addresses. It is due to the writing convention of the Pakistani print media and also the revealing of names impacts the latter lives of the victims and their families in Pakistani culture. It is found that their names are often missed or they are called with random alphabetic characters like 'E' like in report 06. However, it seems that in few cases the identity of the culprit is kept hidden intentionally due to their high influential status in the society. It is noticed that most of the news reports keep their tone neutral and do not show sympathy to the victim nor criticize the culprit. Moreover, it seems newspapers avoid using language which creates rage and unrest among public, for example in report 26, a two-year minor girl is called 'girl' who has become the victim of rape. Sometimes, the location or area where the crime is committed is not mentioned in the headline to save the image of the place.

The framing technique is used by newspapers to provide cognitive short cut, over-simplify the news, and to deviate public's attention from one event to another or from one perspective to another. It bounds the thinking of the readers. The major frames revealed through the analysis are related to domestic violence, honor-based killing, gender-based victimization, and law enforcement. However, it is observed that all the frames are directed towards one core frame that is victimization frame.

In five cases, it is found that the issue begins with a minor matter which causes altercation, and it results in the killing of the wife. It is male ego and a sense of superiority in patriarchal society which leads a man to this extent. Also, it reveals the vulnerability and helplessness of the female gender at domestic level.

In six news reports, it is stated that women are killed in the name of honor. In Pakistani society it is better to know that male member of a family is considered the custodian of the respect/honor of the family and any step taken by him to protect the respect and honor of the family is considered justifiable. In these news reports, the murders are committed by brothers, fathers and husbands. It shows that all male

relations think alike on the matter of honor. Such a collective thinking pattern is the norm and value practiced by culture.

All the crime news leads to the conclusion of gender-based victimization. It is found that there are twelve cases which are related to rape. In this heinous act, females of any age are victimized as it can be seen in report 26. In this case, a two-year old girl is raped. Moreover, as mentioned above, there are six cases in which women are killed in the name of honor. Additionally, there are five cases in which women are killed in domestic violence. All these cases are undoubtedly categorized in gender-based victimization.

The efforts of law enforcement agencies are also framed in the news reports. There are nine news headlines which directly indicate their performance to enforce law in the society and maintain peace. In three reports, the higher authorities like IGP and Chief Minister are found taking personal in the cases so that justice is provided to the victims. They command their subordinates to take quick and strict action against culprits, according to the reports.

At the third stage, the gender portrayal delineates the stereotypes that are embedded in the reports. Those stereotypes reflect the existing stereotypes about both genders in such circumstances and also facilitate in creating more and new stereotypes. Men are presented as strong, authoritarian and powerful whereas women are weak, submissive and helpless. In most of the news, we find that women become victim due to weak and defenseless situation. Both minors and women who are mentally and physically impaired become the victims of such crime. Furthermore, the killing for honor is propagated in the news reports which results in creating fear among women and they become more submissive against the male members of the family. Similarly, murderers make use of honor as a rationale and motive for killing women. For them, honor killing is a justified act, even if the women commit no act of violation of family values and cultural norms. The culprits are sometimes contended and proud after they kill women of their family for such a sham motive. Moreover, killing over family disputes and due to culprit's drug addiction are other stereotypes which means such actions are common in our society. In such cases, the sinner/guilty is the addiction not the person who killed or tortured the women (see report 29).

It is concluded that the language used in news reports is neutral. The newspapers avoid giving their own point of view on the crime or incident and remain objective. In news related to crime against women, the newspapers focus on second hand knowledge obtained from FIR or other sources like the statement of the culprit or victim. Moreover, they do not give any statement/opinion on lawlessness. Furthermore, it is found that newspapers tend to follow cultural norms and moral values while reporting the news.

The above conclusion supports all three research objectives and questions. It aligns with the first objective/research question by revealing that news reports use neutral and restrained language, reflecting deliberate linguistic choices aimed at maintaining an objective tone. The second objective/research question is addressed through the reliance on second-hand sources such as FIRs and statements from victims and culprits, which illustrates how framing is used to shape the structure and focus of the reports. Lastly, the conclusion correspondence with the third objective while demonstrating that newspapers adhere to cultural norms and social/moral values in their coverage, shaping gender perceptions and reinforcing traditional gender roles in the portrayal of women in crime stories.

The major crimes against women are domestic violence, rape, honor killing and gender-based victimization. It is worth mentioning that most of the rape victimized minor girls are killed. However, the young or older women are not killed after rape in any of the report. Additionally, people involved in raping the minor girls are mostly their close relatives.

Domestic violence has emerged as one of the most impactful crimes against women. The male family members release their frustration by abusing/torturing their female family member. It leads to the death of the spouse and in some cases daughters. Whereas, honor killing has been a major crime against women in Pakistan. The patriarchal brutal norms exercised against women are justified. Although the nature of violation of honor values is not revealed. Men kill their women in the guise of honor and do not care to give any reason or evidence to justify their blame and accusation.

Newspapers highlight these issues by framing them. People become interested in the incident rather than knowing the reason behind the crime. Criticizing the

lawlessness or providing a way out of it is not found in any of the reports. Also, the frames are set to highlight the vulnerability of victim more than brutality of the culprit.

They create orthodox image of the both genders. Women are presented weak, coward, helpless, under-confident, submissive, oppressed and dependent on men. On the other hand, men are brave, powerful, confident and They have authority over the female members of their family and females have to follow the cultural norms to save their and their family's dignity. The elements like specific linguistic choices, presenting stereotypes, and establishment of frames by the newspapers affect the cognition of readers.

This study explores the representation of crimes committed against women in Pakistani print newspapers i.e. The News and Dawn using the lens of cognitive semantics by applying relevance theory, and framing theory. By analyzing thirty crime news reports starts from August 2022 to April 2023, the study focuses on how the print media/newspaper constructs narratives around gender-based violence and influences public perception in a specific community. The discussion here interprets the findings from the perspective of the theoretical frameworks which reflects their cognitive semantic, cultural, and societal implications.

The findings of this study suggest that language in crime reporting plays a crucial role in shaping reader's opinion/understanding. As expected, the headlines in both The News and Dawn are concise and straightforward, and shows the approach of journalism for brevity and clarity. However, the simplicity of the headlines often masks/disguises the severity of the crimes they describe. For example, the use of neutral language or the omission of emotional cues regarding the victim or the perpetrator serves to depersonalize the matter. This approach makes it easier for readers to go through it without engaging much emotionally. This aligns with Relevance Theory, which focuses on how meaning is conveyed and to minimize the cognitive effort of the audience, focusing on the most salient aspects of an issue.

Moreover, the use of words and avoidance of victim's names (specially women's) or the use of initials of their name further reflects societal values and journalistic convention around privacy and protection, especially in the context of crime against women. From a cognitive semantic perspective, these linguistic choices

shape how readers conceptualize the victim's role in the crime. The lack of personal detail and the neutrality of language make it difficult for the readers to build a deep connection with the victim. Hence, it detaches the crime from the social and emotional complexities and victim loses sympathy.

The framing of news reports on crimes against women shows a clear pattern of victimization as the dominant frame. Framing Theory reveals that the way any issue is presented can influence how it is perceived and understood by the reader. In the case of gender-based violence, the more focus on the victim's suffering, rather than on the reason or systemic issues behind the violence, bounds the reader's understanding of the broader social context which they live in. This frame reduces the severity/intensity of these incidents to an isolated event rather than a product of ingrained cultural and societal setup.

For instance, the reports on honor killings and domestic violence predominantly frame women as victims of a patriarchal system in which male's authority and control are prioritized over women's will. It is more clear in cases where violence is justified by cultural notions of honor. As identified in the study, such portrayals tend to normalize violence against women, presenting it as an inevitable part of familial or societal dynamics to keep their honor. The cognitive effect of such framing is profound as it is repeatedly presenting violence as an outcome of 'honor' or male ego. The media indirectly reinforces these ideas as part of the cultural norm, making it harder for readers to critically question or challenge these violent practices.

Additionally, the reports highlight the vulnerability of women in domestic settings, and there is little to no exploration of the legal or institutional failure to protect women. By considering then the individual incidents rather than systemic issues, these reports limit the cognitive processing of readers and prevent them from raising questions or from leading possible solutions.

The study's findings also reveal the deep-rooted gender stereotypes that prevail over the news reports in newspapers. Cognitive semantics suggests that metaphors and conceptual schemas play an important role in shaping how we understand/perceive the world. In this case, the metaphors used to describe women as 'weak,' 'vulnerable' 'submissive,' or 'victims' further perpetuate the cultural

stereotypes that frame women as passive and powerless. It is in clear contrast to the portrayal of men, who are often depicted as powerful, authoritative, and in control. These cognitive frames guide readers to perceive the roles of men and women by reinforcing traditional gender norms and the unequal power dynamics between male and female.

The frames related to honor killings and the portrayal of male perpetrators as justified in their actions based on cultural values further reinforces these stereotypes. In many reports, the male family members are depicted as protectors and responsible of family honor, and their actions are framed as understandable within the context of social values. Such representations suggest that male violence against women is not only acceptable but also natural, reinforcing gender-based violence as an intrinsic part of societal structure and its functioning.

In addition to, the study identified that crimes such as rape and domestic violence were often framed as recurring problems and they serve to normalize these forms of violence within society. Cognitive semantics explains how these frames, through repeated exposure to these patterns, can lead to the internalization of these norms and values by the public. It seems this repeated approach make gender-based violence a common, almost unavoidable occurrence and bounds authorities to think for a possible solution.

Implications: This study has several implications related to societal attitude towards gender based violence. i) The findings indicate a need for stronger media accountability in the portrayal of gender-based violence. The neutral and depersonalized language used in news reports and specially in headlines minimize the emotional impact on readers and it prevents them from engaging with deeper societal and cultural issues that contribute to violence against women. ii) The study highlights that the cognitive processing of readers is limited by the neutral, detached language used in crime reports. Most of the news reports keep their tone neutral and do not show sympathy to the victim nor criticize the culprit. By presenting crime as an isolated act discourages emotional connections between the readers and the victim. iii) The study shows a society plagued by normality of gender biasness. News reports may avoid such an imbalance by deconstructing stereotypes so that media and society may play a responsible role. iv) The news reports that frame honor killings as a justified act against women clearly imply that there are weaknesses in our legal

system. It can be manipulated by patriarchy. Such a cultural practice that exploits law may be prevented.

This study, while offering meaningful insights into the media representation of gender-based violence, has several limitations stated here under:

This analysis is confined to two English-language newspapers i.e. The News and Dawn which cater primarily to educated audiences. This sample may not fully reflect the diversity of representations of crimes against women across Pakistan. Urdu-language newspapers, regional publications, and vernacular press often differ in tone, framing, and language pattern. Moreover, the study focuses on news reports and overlook opinion pieces, editorials, and feature stories that may offer richer or contrasting narratives.

The selected timeframe is limited to the period of nine months that is from August 2022 to April 2023. However, news reports continue to present even most heinous crimes against women as reasons for her gender weakness.

While the application of cognitive semantics, relevance theory, and framing theory offers a triangulated lens for analysis these frameworks focus on textual and cognitive dimensions. Other critical perspectives, such as feminist media theory and intersectionality, may yield an extended interpretation of the news reports.

This study only includes reports with textual content. However, it does not include reports supplemented with visuals related to crime scenes and criminals. The study of such multi-modal reports may augment framing analysis of scandalous discourse.

5.1 Suggestions and Recommendation for Future Researchers

- The researcher suggests cognitive semantic analysis of content other than crime news such as suicide notes, court decisions and political statements.
- It is also suggested that research on representation of crimes against women in other countries especially in the Middle East and the West.

- The current study is delimited to August 2022 to April 2023. It is recommended to research on next time span and also obtain comparative analysis of the findings.
- It is recommended to research on the crime news stories of well-known news channels like BBC, Aljazeera and CNN.
- Moreover, government should conduct research on different time frames to know/collect updated crime ratio/status in the society and lay down some laws/guidelines for reporting crime news. The vulnerability of the victims should be mitigated, and government should take strict actions against the criminals so that people can feel secure.

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