

**LINGUISTIC IDENTITY CONSTRUCTION
OF PERPETRATORS AND VICTIMS:
A CRITICAL STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF
CRIME REPORTING**

BY

SUNDUS NAYAB



NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MODERN LANGUAGES

ISLAMABAD

August, 2025

LINGUISTIC IDENTITY CONSTRUCTION OF PERPETRATORS AND VICTIMS: A CRITICAL STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF CRIME REPORTING

By

SUNDUS NAYAB

BS English, University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Muzaffarabad, 2018

A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF

MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

In English

To

FACULTY OF ARTS & HUMANITIES



NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MODERN LANGUAGES, ISLAMABAD

© Sundus Nayab, 2025



**FACULTY OF ARTS & HUMANITIES
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MODERN LANGUAGES**

THESIS AND DEFENSE APPROVAL FORM

The undersigned certify that they have read the following thesis, examined the defense, are satisfied with the overall exam performance, and recommend the thesis to the Faculty of Arts & Humanities for acceptance.

Thesis Title: Linguistic Identity Construction of Perpetrators and Victims: A Critical Stylistic Analysis of Crime Reporting

Submitted by: Sundus Nayab

Registration #: 166-MPhil/Eling/F21

Dr. Arshad Mahmood
Name of Supervisor

Signature of Supervisor

Dr. Farheen Ahmed Hashmi
Name of Head (GS)

Signature of Head (GS)

Dr. Arshad Mahmood
Name of Dean (FAH)

Signature of Dean (FAH)

Date

AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I Sundus Nayab

Daughter of Irshad Kiyani

Registration # 166-MPhil/Eling/F21

Discipline English Linguistics

Candidate of **Master of Philosophy** at the National University of Modern Languages do hereby declare that the thesis **Linguistic Identity Construction of Perpetrators and Victims: A Critical Stylistic Analysis of Crime Reporting** 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.

I also understand that if evidence of plagiarism is found in my thesis/dissertation at any stage, even after the award of a degree, the work may be cancelled and the degree revoked.

Signature of the Candidate

Sundus Nayab

Name of the Candidate

Date

ABSTRACT

Title: Linguistic Identity Construction of Perpetrators and Victims: A Critical Stylistic Analysis of Crime Reporting

Crime reporting, as a journalistic genre, refers to the representation of criminal incidents through factual, concise, and socially impactful news narratives. The study explores the linguistic identity construction of criminals and perpetrators in the two prominent English newspapers of Pakistan. It is a common observation that news reports not only deliver information but shape the identity construction of the entities involved in it. The research is qualitative, and the sample consisted of twenty-six crime news reports from two famous English newspapers of Pakistan, i.e., The NEWS International and DAWN. The researcher collected data in the form of crime news excluding rape and terrorism news. By using Jeffries's (2010) model of Critical Stylistics as the theoretical framework, the researcher analyzed the data using qualitative techniques. The findings of the study revealed that the identities of the perpetrators were constructed in such a way that they were depicted as active agents of actions and were foregrounded in the news reports. On the other hand, victims were presented as passive agents using lexical choices and their identities were backgrounded in the news reports. Moreover, the news reports also reinforced cultural stereotypes in several news reports. These findings suggest that media discourse reinforces cultural stereotypes and influences public perceptions of victims and perpetrators in ways that may affect societal attitudes toward justice. Future research may be conducted on exploring the other aspects of crime news reporting regarding perpetrators and victims.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THESIS AND DEFENSE APPROVAL FORM.....	ii
AUTHOR’S DECLARATION	iii
ABSTRACT	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	viii
DEDICATION.....	ix
1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Introduction.....	1
1.2 Background to the Study.....	2
1.3 Statement of the Problem.....	5
1.4 Rationale for the Study	5
1.5 Objectives of the Research.....	6
1.6 Research Questions	6
1.7 Significance of the Study	6
1.8 Delimitation	7
1.9 Organization and Structure of the Thesis.....	7
1.10 Chapter Summary	8
2. LITERATURE REVIEW.....	9
2.1 Introduction.....	9
2.2 Criminal Activity as a Social Phenomenon	9
2.3 Media and Crime Representation.....	12
2.3.1 Representation of Gender Based Crimes	13
2.4 Media and Identity	17
2.4.1 Newspapers and Linguistic Identity Construction.....	19
2.5 Application of Critical Stylistics in Media Related Studies	21
2.6 Relevant Studies in the Pakistani Context	22
2.6.1 Studies Related to Crime Reporting in Pakistani Newspapers	26
2.7 Conclusion	28
3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	29
3.1 Research Design.....	29
3.1.1 Qualitative Design and Methodological Rigor	30

3.2	Sample.....	30
3.2.1	Sample Selection and Filtering	30
3.3	Procedure of Data Collection and Analysis	31
3.4	Theoretical Framework.....	31
3.4.1	Naming and Describing	32
3.4.2	Representing Actions/Events/States.....	32
3.4.3	Equating and Contrasting.....	33
3.4.4	Prioritizing	33
3.4.5	Implying and Assuming	33
3.4.6	Negating.....	34
3.4.7	Presenting Other's Speech and Thoughts	34
3.4.8	Representing Time, Space and Society	34
3.5	Chapter Summary	35
4.	DATA ANALYSIS	36
4.1	Introduction.....	36
4.2	Conceptual Categories	36
4.2.1	Naming and Describing	36
4.2.2	Representing Actions/Events/States.....	43
4.2.3	Equating and Contrasting.....	53
4.2.4	Prioritizing	62
4.2.5	Implying and Assuming	70
4.2.6	Representing Time, Space and Society	71
4.3	Covert Ideologies in the Discourse on Perpetrators and Victims.....	72
4.3.1	Gendered Representations and the Reinforcement of Societal Roles.....	73
4.3.2	Victim Blaming and the Backgrounding of Victim Agency	73
4.3.3	Normalization of Violence Via Culture	74
4.3.4	Subtle Imputation of Victim Responsibility.....	74
4.3.5	Male Dominance and the Protection Narrative.....	75
4.3.6	Moral Policing and Social Control through Labelling.....	75
4.4	Discussion	76
5.	CONCLUSION, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	80
5.1	Introduction to the Chapter	80
5.1.1	Linguistic Techniques Used to Represent Perpetrators and Victims	80
5.1.2	Covert ideologies in the discourse on Perpetrators and Victims.....	81
5.2	Implications of The Study.....	83

5.3	Limitations of the Study.....	84
5.4	Recommendations for Future Research	85
5.5	Conclusion	86

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I express gratitude to Allah, as His blessings have enabled me to successfully accomplish this arduous undertaking.

I express my gratitude to Prof. Dr. Arshad Mahmood, the Dean of the Faculty of Languages, and Dr. Farheen Ahmed Hashmi, the Head of the Department of English, for their valuable collaboration during the entirety of the process.

I would want to express my utmost gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. Arshad Mahmood, for continually engaging with and scrutinizing my ideas in order to foster my personal and intellectual growth. Although faced with the task of deciphering several incomprehensible tasks, he always provided valuable and constructive guidance, proving to be very supportive at moments of necessity. I express my profound gratitude for his assistance. I would like to extend my profound gratitude and affection to my parents, who, despite their demanding schedules, always provided inspiration and encouragement during my academic journey. Additionally, I am very grateful to my siblings, whose unwavering support has been vital throughout my years of scholarly endeavor.

Thank you all.

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my parents, who have provided unwavering love, continuous support, and constant encouragement.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

It is believed that the process by which people and communities create, communicate, as well as debate their feeling of self as well as social belonging is known as identity creation. Relationships between individuals, social conventions, and communication methods all have an impact on it, making it continually changing and subject to context by nature. Individual identities are formed via the important use of language in interactions with other people. Language is used to create and place identities in certain circumstances in addition to conveying facts. One may argue that language serves a variety of purposes in conveying knowledge including viewpoints and opinions. In this situation, people create frameworks of knowledge as well as functioning behavior by absorbing behavioral concepts and their associated dispositions via language, as well as cultural as well as social behaviors. Furthermore, language creates collective group identities via rhetorical framing and positional negotiation, promoting both individual growth as well as societal well-being while bolstering preexisting groupings.

Communication is modulated by social identities, which are mostly constructed through language. It is thought that deliberate linguistic decisions in the linguistic structure of newspapers and other types of media have a role in the regulation and presentation of both individual as well as communal identities. Such coverage of events causes the general public to form a particular kind of stance toward those featured in the stories, which as a consequence affects how they perceive the world. In addition, the identities that belong to the elements that come into the focus of such coverage are additionally affected by the language used, especially when it comes to crime news reporting, where it is thought that perpetrators as well as victims are shown with specific identities. As a potent organizational communication tool, media discourse plays a major role in the formation, propagation, as well as upholding of social identities. In terms of ideology charged language, which frequently mirrors prevailing power systems, mediates it. It is well known that language employed by the media,

particularly when it involves cultural as well as gender-related concerns, may affect how victims and offenders are seen. News report viewers form their own perceptions of crime as well as identities associated with such incidents, particularly when certain language strategies are used. Furthermore, media outlets both electronic and print persuade people to support illegal causes by employing language strategies. To put it another way, individuals grow to hate and sympathize with the organizations that are involved in these kinds of incidents. Moreover, news coverage stands out as a very effective medium in media debate, and coverage of crimes is a contentious subset of this larger group. It is thought that crime reportage controls moral as well as legal norms while also influencing the public's opinion of authorities. This is due to the fact that press coverage of criminal activity not merely documents or describes the occurrences, but also controls the identity of the parties concerned. Therefore, it may be claimed that the media simply serves as a surface-level information distribution vehicle. On a more fundamental level, though, it controls the manner in which both parties form their identities and influences the way the general public views these incidents and the organizations that are involved. Throughout their presenting techniques, media crime stories demonstrate the ways linguistic behaviors form social identities and influence communal standards of conduct.

1.2 Background to the Study

The media creates portraits of social realities that affect how people view the world sometimes through distorted perspectives and these selective construction methods produce incomplete understandings about how individual and communal identities form within communities. Lundström (2016) analyzed the victim testimonies alongside discursive texts from four major Swedish murder cases over two decades through a discourse analysis. The aim of the research was to analyse the specific themes of secondary victimization in criminal news coverage from Sweden. The news discourse acceptance of secondary victimization outcomes according to Lundström (2016) cut off essential discussions regarding victim support measures as well as crime reconciliation and dispute resolution needs. Moreover, community relations between victims and perpetrators sustained their antagonistic stance as a result of this strategy. The research added expanded areas of victimization discourse which decentralized the notion of standard victimhood to provide inclusion for critical public system observers.

Similarly, Baranauskas (2020) combined research on media coverage of crime with examinations of how these representations distort public understanding of criminal activities. Through Boston Globe crime-related articles, the study examined homicide together with robbery statistics and assault patterns within the region. The research foundation operated from the law of polarities and racial typification while analyzing official crime data from Boston Police Department through media reporting. Statistical comparisons showed a mismatch between police reports for assault and robbery incidents, but media coverage of homicides matched official crime records precisely. Such data discrepancies continuously stressed coverage of incidents from low-disadvantaged areas which contradicted standard crime trends. Additionally, such findings indicated that the way media presented its stories could produce a reverse pattern between monitoring crime versus showing non-representative groups. The present investigation establishes its focus on how society constructs and portrays offender and victim identities instead of analyzing crime reporting and its community effects. These representations frequently mirror and uphold the dominant structures that already exist in society, as victims are arbitrarily humanized according on their class, sexual orientation, or cultural background, while criminals from disadvantaged communities are portrayed as fundamentally abnormal. By influencing the general population's faith in authorities, and larger societal narratives concerning ethical behavior and fairness, these patterns help stigmatize whole populations.

The present examination differs from previous studies because it evaluates media narrative effects on the personal identities of criminal event participants beyond offense profiles and societal effects. Persuasive techniques used in crime disclosure, such as emotional news stories, deliberate word choice, as well as foregrounding versus backgrounding of independence, frequently influence these outcomes. These tactics do more than just provide information; they also affect the general public, elicit strong feelings, and may cause the persons concerned to be judged negatively. By doing thus, they perpetuate societal prejudices and may skew the general population's perception of victimization as well as fairness. In this regard, analysis within Pakistan's context requires evaluation which expands across all media types including printed publications, electronic broadcasts and social network platforms. It is believed that previous studies demonstrated that Pakistani English newspapers tend to offer insufficient identity-formation strategies during their representation of offenders and

victims in crime-related news coverage. Abbas and Talaat (2019) analyzed how Pakistani English newspapers design their headlines to report crimes against women by studying language choices. The researchers studied headlines in *The News* and *The Nation* and *Dawn* through Halliday's transitivity model in order to explore the particular systemic representation of gender in the selected newspapers. In this regard, the study analyzed rhetorical approaches in addition to linguistic choices in order to develop an understanding of the way such events create emotional reactions particularly in their readers as well as shape the perception of the audience. The findings of the study showed that there were distinct linguistic patterns in headlines that defined the ways different news outlets aimed to cover crimes related to women. Apart from this, multiple textual analysis methods presented the ways in which the selected news reports applied their evidence and subjects which focused on studying gender and family connections in criminal investigations. The researchers, through their study, elucidated the way media shapes perceptions about gendered violence by choosing carefully which characters and events to include in their coverage. Similarly, the research of Nawaz and Hussain (2021) evaluated ideological elements within news headlines in criminal cases through their analysis of ten *Dawn* newspaper reports. Through their study the researchers aimed to develop an understanding of the way language is used to shape reader comprehension. The findings of the study revealed that news reporting of violent offenses shapes societal views as well as headline phrases among readers either helped them comprehend the stories better or caused emotional antagonism. There exist multiple linguistic choices deployed in crime headlines that researchers found do harm to readers emotionally and shape media's influence on societal attitudes toward crime reporting.

The current situation in Pakistan demands media platforms to highlight crime news because of its critical importance. Most scholarly investigations examining this subject published until now look at isolated parts of the topic while completely omitting remaining elements from the discourse. Crime reports commonly lack a thorough examination of how offenders declare their criminality or create their victimization profile and resulting victimization cases. The understanding of language together with media intersection with societal dynamics in Pakistani crime coverage requires more concentrated analysis of how linguistic elements form news narratives about criminals and victims. Within this investigation the principal research concern centers on

examining criminal and victim identity depiction through the crime news reports of selected Pakistani English newspapers. Under this study, the researcher evaluates the language elements employed in the selected media during their coverage of crime incidents.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

Media plays an important role in the shaping of masses' perception especially in the case of crime news in which the representation of the identities of perpetrators and victims shape societal attitudes. It is believed that crime news is a major aspect of Pakistani English newspapers hence, it contributes to the shaping of public perception regarding perpetrators and victims. The existing studies focus on the other aspects of crime news while the identity construction of perpetrators and victims in such reporting remains unexplored. Moreover, such news affects the public perception regarding criminal events, negligible studies exist that have examined the covert ideologies in the Pakistani English newspapers. This is significant because the language used in crime report not only describes such events rather, it also constructs social realities and narratives. Thus, the current research addresses this problem by examining the identity construction of perpetrators and victims along with the uncovering of covert ideologies embedded in such usage of language.

1.4 Rationale for the Study

This study aims at investigating the nature and process of sensibly constructing the identity of perpetrators and victims in Pakistani English newspapers. The current research also looks at the hidden ideologies that are present in crime reporting—subtle but potent presumptions and beliefs that are inscribed in language structures. These ideologies frequently function under the veneer of overt language, affecting readers' interpretations of occurrences as well as their assessment of the morality of people engaged. By exposing these ideological trends, the study indicates that crime news, especially its biased portrayal of offenders as well as victims, upholds prevailing power dynamics and strengthens prevailing society narratives. As such it is motivated by the impact these media have on readers which at time leads to variety of effects; the glamorous effect of crime included. And the study in particular pays a special focus on how crucial it is to pay attention to the process of the identification of the criminals and

victims as individuals, as well as to view them as dynamic subjects that build their identity with reference to the given incidents. This study thus aims at filling a significant gap in the literature by presenting the nation with the first comprehensive critical stylistic analyses of how both subjects and perpetrators are constructed in the English newspapers. This will certainly contribute to the progress of several areas as linguistics, media studies and sociocultural debates.

1.5 Objectives of the Research

1. To examine the linguistic features used to construct identities of perpetrators and victims in Pakistani crime reporting.
2. To explore the covert ideologies in the discourse on perpetrators and victims in Pakistani crime reporting.

1.6 Research Questions

1. What linguistic features are used to construct identities of perpetrators and victims in Pakistani crime reporting?
2. What are the covert ideologies in the discourse on perpetrators and victims in Pakistani crime reporting?

1.7 Significance of the Study

The current study is of immense importance not only from the scholarly perspective but as well as from the societal perspective. This research addresses the gap that exists in the current literature regarding the considered context. The present study analyzes the identity construction of victims and perpetrators in the selected Pakistani English newspapers in order to provide a more solid ground for understanding the various dimensions of crimes along with its influence on the perception of people regarding them. Apart from this, the study enables readers to analyze and decode media language in order to understand the underlying factors that contribute to the identity construction of victims and perpetrators in such reporting. It is believed that masses consume criminal reporting because of an unconscious obsession with such reporting as it provides a certain fascination with the prohibited activities. Moreover, the current study allows a more profound understanding of the ways in which media provokes cultural and identity related sensitivities associated with crime reporting. The insights

provided by the current study aim to enable media industry to present crime reporting in an impartial manner.

1.8 Delimitation

The present study is delimited to the two leading English-language newspapers in Pakistan. The data sample selection includes crime news events from a six-month period between January and June 2023 to ensure manageable research parameters. News stories affected by terrorism or rape have been omitted from study analysis due to the preconceived biases that often skew their classification and their absence of unbiased discourse. The research concentrates only on crime news while omitting coverage of different reporting categories.

Moreover, this study does not include a morphosyntactic analysis because its primary focus is on the critical stylistic dimensions of crime reporting, particularly the lexical and discursal choices that construct identities and embed ideologies. Morphosyntactic patterns, while relevant, primarily concern grammatical structuring such as tense, agreement, or word order, which do not explicitly reveal how perpetrators and victims are represented in ideological terms. By contrast, the features considered for this study directly foreground the evaluative positions and covert ideologies embedded in news discourse. Therefore, the exclusion of morphosyntactic analysis allows the study to remain concentrated on the linguistic strategies most pertinent to uncovering ideological representations in crime reporting

1.9 Organization and Structure of the Thesis

Chapter 1 introduces the topic. Moreover, it details the objectives of the research along with research questions. It also provides information on the delimitation and significance of the study.

Chapter 2 presents a detailed discussion on the relevant studies conducted related to the topic of the current research.

Chapter 3 mentions the methodology of the current research. It also discusses sample and data collection techniques.

Chapter 4 is about the analysis of the collected data in order to reach the findings of the study

Chapter 5 provides summary of the results along with recommendations on the basis of results.

1.10 Chapter Summary

The current chapter commenced defining the context for the current research study and offered reasons which gave impetus to the research. It also explained the approach and assumptions on which the research is based in order to lay down the structure of the contemplated investigation. As for the goals and questions of the research, this particular chapter provided explanation. Moreover, the delimitation has been highlighted and its boundaries have been defined. In other words, the chapter summarized the main features and scopes of the present investigation.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

The research studies on media and identity representation are the subject of this chapter. Additionally, it looks at the studies that discuss the many linguistic techniques employed by the media in order to provide an idea on how the media contributes to news reporting. In order to contextualize the current study, the section first addresses studies on media and crime reporting carried out in the Pakistani setting. It afterwards identifies the research gap in the body of existing literature.

2.2 Criminal Activity as a Social Phenomenon

According to Cottle (2008), violent crime operates as an interactive system that uncovers the offender's life story through early life formative events. Researchers explore the particular events of notorious criminal offenses to determine individual life stories of perpetrators. From this perspective simple mistakes and wrongdoings lead to valuable insights about someone's upbringing background. According to Kurtz and Hunter (2004) serial killer backgrounds generally show early hardships that transform their present behavior into the role of victim status because of earlier mistreatment. The demand for offender-criminal separation exists between the perspective but media-covered celebrity treatment frequently blurs this critical distinction. Media organizations turn criminal events into consumer products which they combine with entertainment value and sensational features for mass audiences. Public fascination with criminals derives from a complex collection of emotions that range from repulsion to attraction combined with criticism and admiration leading to criminal status comparable to that of celebrities (Gregoriou, 2011). Only their criminal conduct captures public attention because it makes perfect sense for people to connect criminal activity with the deviance of offenders. The analysis presented in Hall's *Monster* (2008) demonstrates this scholarly method through its investigation of German serial killers to show that criminals possess fixed evil characteristics which is a proof of the fact that popular media products create misleading false impressions that criminals exist as emotionless criminals without causing intellectual confusion for managerial

practitioners. Society views arrested individuals either as pure evil creatures or sensationalized figures because of this dual representation which restricts public understanding of their identities. Following drops in public attention toward criminal cases the media previously painted criminals as extraordinary beings but these figures disappear into regular society when their sensationalized offenses fade from public memory (Schmid 2005).

When it comes to crime and criminals, it is a common observation that the coverage in the media primarily discusses themes that are directly relevant to the situation at hand; it does not accurately reflect reality. Moreover, the basis for the mediated picture of crime that is given in the media is the manner in which authoritative institutions such as the police and/or courts deal with criminal activity. Even if there are disparities between the representation of crime in the media and the actual response to it by law enforcement or courts, the public seldom realizes this since they primarily learn about crime through the media. This is the case even when there are variances between the two scenarios. One example of a social ritual that preserves power in society is the handling of criminal cases (Cottle, 2008). This ritual mirrors taboos and customs in order to maintain social order. This process is likewise concerned with criminal activity and the press, on the other hand, does not directly cover a criminal trial of this nature; rather, it develops the tale in a roundabout way through the news. As stated by Greer (2003), crime news is significant because it offers insights into the personal lives of other people and serves as a "daily moral workout" (Jewkes, 2009). For this reason, crime news is considered to be essential news. According to Peelo (2009), the second scenario suggests that readers develop distinctive perspectives on moral concerns that are of a highly general but very personal relevance as a result of their regular contacts with crime news. It is the seriousness of crime that contributes to the backstage character of the crime (Surette, 2009), which increases the entertainment value. The consequence of this is that stories published in newspapers on criminal activity tend to concentrate mostly on serious offenses. Jewkes (2009) addresses the public's fascination with crime, law enforcement, as well as forensics, which mainly deal with presence, status, dominance, as well as courage. According to O'Hara (2012), the coverage of crime in the media has the capacity to affect legislative choices as well as the formulation by policymakers. According to this theory, the way in which the media reports on criminal acts helps to foster (and frequently normalize) social

conceptions of criminal behavior. The retributive aspect of the modern criminal justice system is based on these concepts, which serve as the foundation for the system. This results in a vicious cycle in which ideologies impact the general consensus on crime, which is mirrored in the media, and which in turn shapes the decisions that authorities make over how they react to crimes. This circle, by refusing to accept change, obstructs any kind of advancement and, instead, works to defend the ideas and goals that have been established in the past. It is possible that the public's need for more terrifying and terrible crime news might be satiated with a one-dimensional and even dehumanized picture of a criminal, rather than a humanized criminal with a segmented identity. Moreover, perpetrators in crime reporting are frequently dehumanized through the use of reductive linguistic strategies that strip them of individuality and complexity. Reporters often foreground their criminal acts over their personal identities, presenting them as one-dimensional figures defined solely by their offense. This process erases any humanizing attributes such as personal background, emotions, or social circumstances, thereby constructing them as symbolic representations of deviance rather than as multifaceted human beings. Such dehumanization not only reinforces punitive ideologies but also sustains a cycle in which perpetrators are perceived less as individuals and more as societal threats, a portrayal that legitimizes their marginalization and strengthens dominant power structures.

It is commonly accepted that media representation of identities is important, and several research have been done in this area. Although identity may take many different forms, Zhilin (2020) claims that identity is a complex idea that is employed in social science and psychology fields to describe the essence of the personality. This indicates that a specific group of scholars consider identity to be a personality trait. Identity can be depicted differently from reality since it is a reflection of personality. Language is one of the main tools used to do this, among other ways. For this reason, a lot of scholars—Buccholtz and Hall (2005), for example—see identity as something that may be linguistically indexed by means of labels, implicatures, attitudes, styles, or linguistic systems. This implies that many identities may be portrayed in various ways for various goals, and that this is accomplished by employing a medium. One such medium that is thought to exist is media. Our sense of self develops across many different paths, all linked to how media shows us information, how we interact with people, and what we do on our own. Manago (2015) explains how social media changes teens' identity

formation, showing how both staying in touch with friends and expressing oneself improve while presenting a good image becomes harder. Sarikakis (2014) looks at how media governance in Europe molds people's idea of what makes Europe by studying how cultures are represented in media. Breen (2017) and Pattaro (2015) explain that stories in the media influence both people's identities as individuals and in the community. According to Breen (2017), stories told on media matter more than the connections made between people, while Pattaro (2015) shows how online tools help people form their identities. Together, these studies highlight how intricate and ever-changing the link is between identity and media. These were a few points of view on language identity, identity, how identities are shaped by media and the sections that follow will offer a thorough explanation.

2.3 Media and Crime Representation

Media representations of criminals and victims shape public understanding of criminality and corresponding victim response as well as public perceptions about criminal activities. People build their comprehension of criminal conduct primarily from media accounts at both national and local levels (Smolej & Kivivuori, 2006). Reactions to crime show marked differences between how people view local events against national patterns which demonstrates the diverse ways people think about and deal with misconduct (Weitzer & Kubrin, 2004).

Boda and Szabó (2011) used focus groups to learn how people think about crime and the justice system when they read and watch news. The research team held focus group discussions to help learn how people rely on media to comprehend their crime worries and judge justice systems. The study exposed that identifying media effects as the exact reason for public views is a major challenge. The paper states that while media does influence how people form their opinions, we need better ways to understand this connection - including more complex theories and by asking real audiences what they think. According to Di Ronco and Lavorgna in 2016, their study explored how Italian media outlets have reported on criminal organizations. The researchers studied how OC news evolved in Italian newspapers by looking at newspapers over time. Italian news mainly reports about organized crime through the perspectives of police officers and government officials. Since they hold power, they control which classic mafia groups, including Cosa Nostra, Camorra, and 'Ndrangheta, appear in news stories. Most media

coverage focused on how the police and government were stopping mafia actions by seizing their money and making arrests while telling people what was happening to stop more crime.

TV and electronic gadgets are the two biggest forms of media used today. Gregorio and his team (2022) compared how news reports on domestic violence by men towards their female partners show up on TV news. The research used television programs as a main source to find and study the key patterns about offenders, victims, and their ties. The results showed that stereotyped representations of the persons involved resulted from the frequent superimposition of criminological notions onto media portrayals. Furthermore, the emotional links as well as procedures that underlie the murders were often oversimplified in these portrayals. Moreover, the media narratives, which emphasized envy, possession, and violence without going into the psychological nuances, often presented the killings as sad results of unhealthy marital dynamics. Similarly, Hayes (2015) is of the view that racial inequalities in media portrayals of high-profile instances like Trayvon Martin's demonstrate how representation reinforces preconceptions. Women, who are usually presented as victims, are frequently the targets of "rape myths," in which the media assigns responsibility for the victimization of women, hence fostering a larger "rape culture." There is controversy about whether violent media contributes to crime directly or rather serves to exacerbate predisposing people. Furthermore, as evidenced by the CSI effect, the media has an impact on trial results and juror views inside the criminal justice system. The role of social media in crime is changing as a result of the usage of sites like Snapchat as well as Facebook for both illegal activity and campaigns for social justice.

2.3.1. Representation of Gender Based Crimes

It has been noted that reporting on crimes varies depending on the location of the media. In this context, Hardesty (2023) looked at how minority groups—especially Black Americans—are consistently underrepresented and inaccurately portrayed in American media. The researcher illustrated how Huey P. Newton's experiences in the 1960s, including his prosecution for the killing of a police officer, revealed systemic racism in the legal system and media by using Newton's autobiography, "Revolutionary Suicide," as a case study. Even though Newton was ultimately found not guilty, negative perceptions were reinforced by the media's portrayal of him to be criminal because of

his ties to the Black Panthers. According to researcher, the "missing white woman syndrome" is perpetuated by real crime journalism, which frequently ignores the experiences of underprivileged populations in favor of sensationalism and the transgressions of authoritative officials. Moreover, this prejudice impedes the battle against racist laws and institutional reforms in addition to warping public perception. Similarly, Harper and Hogue (2014) analyzed the complex connections between crime, public opinion, and media portrayals. The study comprised a thorough examination of 543 articles from eight of the top ten national newspapers in the United Kingdom, with an emphasis on linguistic features and representativeness of crime rates. With a 9:1 over-representation of sexually related crimes, a 2.5:1 disproportionate representation of violent offenses, and a 1:4 inadequate representation of impulsive crimes, the data showed significant disparities between official crime figures and media coverage. Comparing articles on sexual crimes to other crime tales, linguistic analysis revealed that the former used harsher along with more emotionally unfavorable tones. The primary article substance of broadsheets and tabloids did not significantly differ, despite their different headlines. Events and debate in politics and the public world grew angrier and louder about harsher penalties for sexual assaults, including more coverage of these crimes than usual. The study showed that the media's portrayals of sex offenders fitted well with the 'uses and gratification' theory made by Gerbner and Gross. They found that negative attitudes toward sex offenders came from seeing how media showed them in a bad light.

It is believed that media reporting about female offenders and victims when two females participate in crimes which leads to inaccurate public assumptions about their involvement in criminal activities. The evaluation by Collins (2014) established that media depictions of crime depend upon the victim's and perpetrator's gender identities. The researchers took 1,190 crime news items from four Canadian city newspapers between 1989 and 2019 to study how criminals and victims are portrayed in the media. The research showed that traditional gender expectations made coverage for female criminals and victims wildly different from the reality of their crime sources. Newspapers assigned the sympathy-winner role of "good victim" to females attacked by bad men, while they blamed "bad victims" for their own problems. Women in crime stories were often shown in two extreme roles: either as wild stimulation "bad girls" who misuse their sexual attractiveness, or as wicked "black widow" killers. In their

study that came out in 2019, Morgan and Chermak (2010) analyzed how the media reported criminal stories of terrorism, considering the influence of gender. We analyzed news articles from 1990 to 2016 about US extremist crimes for both male and female offenders using content and discourse research methods. In examining media stories about women terrorists, researchers discovered that reporters covered women using different strategies than they did men, especially by saying that women acted because of their love relationships. Some reporters assumed that love connections pushed women into terrorism, which they didn't normally connect with men. The research also recognized two less-told and ignored story angles. Women involved in terrorism got less coverage than men in news stories, according to this analysis. The study found evidence that women are less newsworthy in terrorism cases because media ordinarily devotes most coverage to male terrorists.

Along with that, media outlets repeatedly portray criminal cases in outdated and general ways. Dinur and her team (2013) examined stories about female political criminals in the Israeli media to see how writers depicted these women as they broke laws on political grounds. The study looked at newspaper stories with different political viewpoints to see how a media outlet from each side covered similar crimes by three Israeli women. The media made a habit of using gender stereotypes to show female criminals that their reasons were from personal life, not larger politics. The news reports followed worldwide trends showing that gender stereotypes were common in crime coverage. This added to existing gender bias, as reported by the worldwide Media Monitoring Project (2010). A widely known culture shaped how the media described indictable Israeli women as "good girl," "one-woman army," and "a woman in love." The way journalists focused only on personal reasons for these women's activities overlooked their true political strength. Different regions and cultures use stereotypes differently when reporting crime news, and that's what researchers found. Klasingto and Aroonmanakun (2010) analyzed how newspapers choose to report on crimes made by men and by women to see what messages reflect society's view of genders. The research team analyzed media evidence with a method called Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), which follows the guidance of Fairclough (1990), Van Dijk (1995) and Simpson (1993). We wanted to look at how news stories show men and women in different ways and explore how these headlines shape power relationships, thought patterns about gender, and create a male-dominated world. The researchers examined

1,815 Thai crime news headlines in total. The results showed that gender identities are constructed by Thai crime news according to gender ideology. In order to avoid taking accountability for their destructive activities, male social players were frequently left out of headlines; but, because of contextual inferences, the omission of female societal actors had less of an impact. Similarly, Busso et al. (2020) studied mediatic language depictions of gendered violence via a cross-modal and corpus-based methodology. The research methodology of the study comprised a multimodal analysis of speech as well as gestures from the Italian TV show "Amore Criminale" (AC), as well as collocational analysis of key phrases and topic modeling on a journalistic corpus (WItNECS, Women in Italian Newspaper Crime Sections). The study examined the parallels and discrepancies between language used on television and newspapers. The results showed that women were not given professional titles; instead, they were characterized in terms of their age, nationality, as well as family members. The word "amore" (love) was commonly used in manners that implied the offender was absolved by assigning the violence on outside factors like illness or error.

The media's portrayal of people adjusts what society sees about different identities beyond male and female. de Jesus and Coulthard (2017) investigated media coverage of a Brazilian crime when a transgender person became involved. The study used tools from three theories - systemic functional grammar, multimodal theory, and critical discourse analysis - to study how words and other language signals were used in articles reporting a crime. The research showed that news articles displayed preference for one story version and distorted facts to make it seem like a transgender person's non-standard gender identity powered their crimes. The way media shows transgenders makes their situation worse by fueling bigotry and spreading bad beliefs about them. Martins (2021) compared how European newspapers described foreign male criminals during 2014 to 2016, focusing on notable offenders in their studies. By analyzing historical news stories using critical discourse methods, this study showed how media connects crime and gender behavior. Newspapers often portrayed male criminals with exaggerated, inaccurate, and bias pictures: labeling them as terrible "monsters," mentally ill "insane" individuals, or following a family of violent offenders. How our views about criminals and migrants' wrong actions created these false stories in news reports, where male immigrants were always seen as dangerous predators. When media covered these offenders, they showed their actions in ways that matched what people

traditionally see as male behavior. Research revealed that criminal justice members and audiences started making court decisions and drawing general conclusions about offenders based on narrow, biased ideas about how criminals should behave, both male and female.

2.4 Media and Identity

It is a common observation that media shapes identities of people and individuals by representing cultural norms and traditions in a way that deviates from the norms in order to reshape the perceptions and behaviors of people. Moreover, such reshaping allows media to construct the identities of individuals as well as communities. Sihvonen (2015) investigated how media plays a part in young people's identity, with a particular emphasis on how media consumption affects social identification and self-perception. The methodology of the research comprised reading 53 essays written by university students in Finland that discussed their interactions with various media platforms and content. The results showed that there is a close relationship between media consumption and five different identity projects: being a student, being youthful, being a devotee, being healthy, and being a global citizen. These identity designs were reflections of larger life issues including balance, important life duties, significant content, and sophistication. The study demonstrated the relationship between media consumption and these identity projects via taste preferences, daily issues, as well as lifestyles. Similarly, Song (2023) explored how Chinese college students' identities are affected by their usage of social media. To gather answers, researchers created a survey that collected 173 good responses. The study aimed to discover how young adults in China connect through social media, find news, and decide why and through what medium they do it. Social media plays a big role in connecting Chinese college students emotionally to who they are as "college students," as found by this study. Based on their survey results, the way students got news and their desire to learn turned out to be more important factors affecting their identity than how often they go on social media.

In addition to print and digital media, studies show social media has a big influence on how queer individuals find and understand their identities. Social media can hurt people's sense of self, but it's not just that - it also lets bullies attack you online. Bates (2017) and his team studied how Chinese college students' personal identities are changed through their social media activities. The research used a written survey that

collected 173 responses that were usable. The survey aimed to figure out how people use social media and how they gather, use, and give advice about new information. The study shows that Chinese college students' commitment to the identity "college student" increases greatly when they use social media. Being active on social media did not make a difference in their identity, but how they got positive information and why they needed it did. Akimova et al. (2019) investigated the interplay between social group membership, cultural adaptation, and identity construction among university students, with a particular focus on the influence of mass media and higher education institutions. The researchers looked at how internet used changed young people's identities while observing how identity develops as people spend time with others. The investigation uncovered that media strongly shapes social belonging because it helps people quickly embrace and learn the standards, values, and hopes of specific groups of individuals. Tertiary education showed two important effects: helping students gain both physical success and social rank, which adds to how they see themselves as part of their social group. Research showed that sociocultural identity develops as people connect strongly with what they believe in and agree on how the group should evaluate what's right and wrong. The study showed that values shift more between generations when the world faces economic and social trouble and uncertainty.

Agents of communication don't always use media just because they need to, but they use it on purpose to promote who they are. In this regard, Horst et al. (2019), in contrast, focused on identity formation in a professional and entrepreneurial context, specifically examining how startup founders construct and manage their personal identities through digital media platforms. The study team carried out 29 tie-ups of interviews and observations at Weimar's startup incubator in the Bauhaus-University. What the study showed is that how entrepreneurs talk to their customers using digital media directly impacts how their "who they are" develops. The study specifically defined three alternative identity types—"solution-driven," "purpose-driven," and "lifestyle-driven" identities—that entrepreneurs cultivate through strategic sparring as well as brand co-creation practices. The many methods and principles that entrepreneurs follow on their path are reflected in these identity kinds. The study also demonstrated how media management functions as a digital communication technique for identity formation and self-expression. Similarly, Ramasubramanian et al. (2017) investigated the ways in which ethnic minority consumers' perceptions of themselves

are influenced by mainstream and ethnic media. The research employed a survey approach to evaluate the distinct impacts of mainstream as well as ethnic media upon ethnic minorities, with a particular emphasis on Native Americans. The results showed that whereas ethnic consumption of media was connected with enhanced ethnic pride as well as ethnic performance the behavioral manifestation of one's ethnic identity—mainstream media exposure was linked to lower self-esteem amongst ethnic minorities. These findings suggested that ethnic media, by fostering ethnic performance and boosting ethnic pride, might have a favorable impact on ethnic minorities. The study also hypothesized that the detrimental effects of traditional media biases on self-esteem may be lessened by ethnic media. Although the function of media sources in developing an identity is examined in the two studies, Horst et al. (2019) research examined the identity performance inside commercial digital communities, whilst Akimova et al. (2019) studied the subject in the backdrop of adolescent traditional as well as institutional assimilation.

2.4.1. Newspapers and Linguistic Identity Construction

Newspapers are commonly acknowledged as one of the first sources of information. They are, nonetheless, also one of the most traditional ways to change people's viewpoints about things, people, and communities. Karuri and Muriungi (2016) investigated how political identities were constructed in the language of two Kenyan newspapers starting in 2008, the year of the Kenyan Coalition Government. This study used Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to look at how The Standard and Daily Nation described Prime Minister Raila Odinga and President Mwai Kibaki. The researchers found out that these newspapers developed different character pictures for their political leaders through various communication tools such as simile, style reactive language, structure, and conceptual organization. Prime Minister Odinga was portrayed as a hero who suffered under pressure and successfully kept the peace, according to The Standard. President Kibaki earned a reputation for being ineffective, blocked reforms, and jumping at opportunities whenever possible. The Standard was not shy with its criticism of President Kibaki's leadership, while using positive language to describe Raila Odinga's performance. The Daily Nation didn't openly rate PM Odinga yet highlighted important things about him. The research uncovered that the articles' visuals fully supported Odinga's preferred style of governing and reflected what the publications generally stood for. In a parallel study, Díaz and Mar (2021) studied

newspaper coverage during three years after the Brexit vote (2016–2018) to find out how identities formed through media dialogue in articles on Brexit from *The Guardian* in Britain and *El País* in Spain. This study used a CADS analysis with an original British and Spanish newspaper dataset on Brexit to spot important words in each media and study how they shaped distinct identities. The study found that what people in media write reflects how they think of their readers and the world they live in, and they need to follow rules by media bosses. Due to the British media declaring Brexit only an internal British matter, their position became limited to local issues, pushing the EU to the side and promoting British independence. Spanish media presented a different ideological way to look at how Europe decides who's in charge.

Like electronic and social media connections, individuals and groups use print media channels to present preferred ways of seeing themselves. Liu and Chang (2021) looked at how Chinese media editorials use language to build a national identity for their country and share it with the rest of the world. This study used Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) to analyze how words and messages help express beliefs and opinions about a subject. I reviewed ten editorials published in *China Daily*, a Chinese state daily published in English. The analysis revealed how the media communicates ideal national identity by joining expressions that evaluate things (attitude) with descriptions of entities (ideation). The editorials paired China as a helpful country, either showing its real efforts to help or describing what it thought about other world leaders. The study revealed how editors picked words that enable China to relate better to worldwide audiences, making their editorials more persuasive. Ulum (2016) evaluated multiple ideologies by using Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to analyze newspaper headlines. This study examined headlines from Turkish, German, and English news sources to understand which beliefs these headlines kept quiet while presenting simple information. The study showed that different news media offered opposite viewpoints on how Europe should handle Syrian refugees. Western media mostly focused on the dangers of the Syrian refugee crisis, as seen by their headlines in English and German, while Turkish media took a heartwarming approach by showing how Syrian refugees struggle. The study proved that Content and Discourse Analysis helps find hidden political meanings in media content. Headlines that look basic can actually carry deeper messages and talk about what different cultures see differently.

Countries regularly use their newspapers to spread negative stories about another country so ordinary people have an easier way of finding these messages. Liu and Zhong (2020) investigated how media shapes national identities by looking closely at the way the South China Morning Post (SCMP) depicted Hong Kong's identity over the last two decades. To study how identities changed in newspapers, we carefully looked at many identity labels using CADS techniques while important social conditions were moving. The South China Morning Post picked labels that reflected Hong Kong's local culture much more often than those connected to China. This pattern got stronger after 2003, and since then, increased negative descriptions of Hong Kong's identity. Despite being cautious, the paper regularly spoke about Hong Kong being unique, apart from times when it showed connections to China after 1997. Critical discourse analysis showed that discussions about money and state support strongly shaped how people view older adults, fixating on how they need help with money and need help getting care. Fairclough's 3-part analysis showed how newspapers show older people being viewed negatively as needing too much from others or positively as those who can make money for businesses. The analysis showed that almost all articles in Australian publications saw older people in financial terms, reflecting broader cultural beliefs about aging. The media focused mostly on how much older people cost society, which helped keep age-based prejudice and hurtful behavior going.

2.5 Application of Critical Stylistics in Media Related Studies

This section reviews previous studies that examined media using critical stylistics methods. Bleich et al. (2015) analyzed how British newspapers depicted Muslims from 2001 to 2012, mainly looking at editorial headlines to see if they found biased views towards minorities. The researchers compared two types of newspaper headlines those focusing on Muslims and those looking at other religious groups - to see if cultures and time influenced the tone of the news. The study found that news outlets with right-leaning views about society printed one-sided stories about Muslims more often than left-leaning newspapers did. People tended to see Muslims in an unfriendly light more often than Christians and regularly, minus when compared to Jews. The study revealed mixed results, revealing that readers' and editors' positions within papers produced conflicting portrayals of Muslims across British newspapers. The authors analyzed hate speech aimed at Czech minority groups through the media lens, with a special look at

widespread hostility towards Roma people. The study team applied the same research method developed by the AntiMetrics project to analyze news content. This toolbox worked by combining historical, language, and culture information to help recognize "new racism" patterns in people's everyday discussions. The study found that Czech newspapers display subtle anti-Roma sentiment in their coverage, even when they don't clearly say hateful things. Newspapers labeled minority citizens in such a way that made readers associate negative characteristics with them - while doing so in a careful, indirect way that wouldn't draw attention as offensive speech. The survey also showed that, in contrast to their left-leaning peers, right-leaning publications were more inclined to use a negative tone. In order to identify diachronic shifts in media language, the study also included a public opinion survey in late 2012. Another study was conducted on minority groups in Nigeria in which Olaluwoye (2015) analyzed the way in which minority groups were depicted in two Nigerian newspapers i.e. The Nation, and The Guardian. The method of the study made use of Jeffries' Critical Stylistic framework, and the Hezekiah Oluwasanmi Library at Obafemi Awolowo University in Ile Ife provided the newspaper archives from which the data was gathered. The results showed that the meaning of the texts under investigation was greatly influenced by a number of Critical Stylistic techniques, including listing and exemplifying, assuming and suggesting, displaying other people's words and ideas, and portraying processes and moods. These instruments were also essential in the language formation of Nigerian minority communities. The study offered linguistic support for claims on the way minority groups were portrayed in the media, mirroring social perceptions and attitudes regarding these groups as reflected in publications like The Nation and The Guardian.

2.6 Relevant Studies in the Pakistani Context

It is a common observation that the Pakistani media makes a substantial contribution to the construction of national identity and public opinion through the coverage of criminal news that it provides. As a result of the depiction, cultural values and societal traditions are regularly brought to light, which has an effect on public opinion and legislation. Moreover, sensationalism and biased reporting, on the other hand, have the potential to occasionally perpetuate incorrect information and stereotypes, therefore eroding the authority of news sources and their capacity to impact public opinion. Syed (2008) investigated how race, ethnicity, and religion were portrayed in Pakistan's

mainstream print media with the goal of understanding how views toward diversity have evolved and outlining potential directions for multicultural policy in the nation. The method of the study involved examining newspaper articles about race, religion, and ethnicity that were published in two prominent Urdu-language newspapers between February and July 2006. The research indicated Pakistanis don't talk much or pay attention to different cultural groups within their country. Everyone focuses on their shared religious beliefs on Islam, which acts as a main connection that hides how individuals also differ by race, ethnicity, or religious preference. The two ways people think about what makes someone Pakistani didn't match up with the mix of different groups in Pakistani society. Pakistan's heavy reliance on being an Islamic state produced assimilationist political decisions due to weak community ties, low political participation, and mistreated non-Muslim groups. According to Sultana (2020), they studied how Pakistani media helps keep the country's many languages and cultures from disappearing. The researchers interviewed senior media professionals and examined verbal and written materials to find out if Pakistani media protected local languages. The study found that Pakistani media didn't respect local languages and spent little time supporting their preservation. The study discovered that the government's failure to recognize the importance of native languages and cultures got worse when media companies from other countries took over local channels and broadcasted foreign programming. Media worked best when language matched the audience group, according to our study findings.

Over the last few years, animated entertainment has grown fast, and the Pakistani entertainment industry followed this same pattern. In addition, it displayed several local cultures by using multiple types of presentations. Jamil (2017) looked at two local animated films, "Teen Bahadur" from Waadi Animation and SOC Films, and "Burka Avenger" from Unicorn Black, to discover how animation showed the countries own culture. Our analysis focused on how gender, fashion, language, and ethnic differences appeared in these cartoons. Although Pakistani artists added heritage elements to their work, their artistic designs mainly came from Western artistic styles. Different local cultures like Sindhi, Punjabi, and Balochi fighting with one another created problems making Pakistanis find it harder to see themselves as one united nationality. The research found that goals, dress rules, locations, and what people speak matter greatly when cartoons show varying cultures. Animation changed kids' outlook

on life because it taught them values that helped build Pakistan's future cultural unity. In the same way, Pintak and Nazir (2013) examined how Pakistani journalists' roles with internal government issues and Western diplomacy have been evolving. In their study, the researchers relied on data gathered through a statewide poll, using a method they based on previous research looking at journalists from Arab and Indonesian countries. Their main factors involved nationalism, religious beliefs, and how journalism can advance their careers. According to the research, over 25% of Pakistani journalists identified as journalist's primary concern was ethics, demonstrating a rising feeling of professionalism in the field. Their goals and the way they applied Western-style journalistic standards were shaped by nationalism, religion, as well as economic conditions. Although they were not averse to confronting the government and security apparatus, their main objective was to elucidate the intricacies of Pakistani politics and society, rather than pursuing political transformation. The survey also discovered that Pakistani journalists, who were influenced by their socioeconomic and cultural surroundings, valued combining objectivity with perception and opinion. They also reflected popular worries, citing terrorism as well as the economy as the two biggest obstacles, and they backed incremental reforms while arguing against US meddling in Pakistani affairs. Although journalists questioned both the governing body and the clergy, Islam did not take center stage in their worldview.

Social media also plays its role in impacting and altering the notions of identity in the Pakistani concept. Rizwan (2019) studied the national identity discourse and how it affects views of treason and patriotism in Pakistan's social media. Using a theoretical framework that emphasizes the combination of religious and patriotic beliefs within societal identifying paradigms, a critical discourse analysis was the approach used for the study. The results showed that the discursive as well as non-discursive practices of Pakistani culture, as well as the naturalized connections among factual/circumstantial along with motivational/inspirational premises, were important factors in forming these views. The study showed that the alleged lack of a distinct national identity was intrinsically linked to a political view of national and anti-national identities. Anti-national identity was created as a danger to national security in addition to a barrier to acceptance inside the country. Disliked anti-nationals were positioned as paradoxically needing to demonstrate their patriotism and being ineligible for integration into the larger national identification framework. This was accomplished through particular discursive methods along with non-discursive activities. Likewise, Mughal (2022)

investigated the ways in which Pakistani identity as well as nationalism are being reshaped by social media platforms. The approach adopted by the research focused on the integration of religious, patriotic, and contemporary symbols through a critical discourse analysis of digital material on websites like Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter. The results showed that social media has given disenfranchised voices and alternative narratives a platform, enabling fresh interpretations of national identity that go against stereotypes in the mainstream. Particularly in Pakistan, young people used these platforms to reflect marginalized voices and foster a more inclusive and cohesive national identity. The study made clear that although social media narratives frequently find their way into conventional media and have the ability to affect governmental actions, the overall influence dynamics that are determined by political elites along with ideological positions still have a big impact. However, people are now able to actively engage in reconstructing national identity and nationalism because to the internet's largely unrestricted nature, which highlights how the state, media, and social milieu in Pakistan are changing with time.

In Pakistan, religion is very important and has a big impact on social and political issues. It influences many facets of daily life, directing social mores and individual behavior. The national media frequently propagates and reflects religious beliefs, influencing social attitudes and public dialogue. Dogar and Rizvi (2021) investigated how religious minorities were portrayed in major English-language Pakistani media, paying particular attention to whether or not the coverage was favorable. The study's methodology comprised content analysis of the editorial, front, as well as back pages of three national dailies—The News, The Dawn, and Express Tribune that were chosen at random between January 1, 2016, and December 31, 2016. When checking the report, it showed that the media focused on serious issues mainly, but still presented some fair views about minorities. While most reports focused on big subjects, including more access to government support and equal treatment before the law, these subjects were less frequently highlighted. The survey found that audiences need more stories that show how ethnic minorities make society better and explain why they also want education and fun. Because fewer media outlets worked under government rule, evidence showed that state authorities lacked strong commitment to improve conditions for minorities. The same research team (Butt and Awang, 2017) asked 1,336 Pakistani residents from Karachi and Faisalabad how religious beliefs,

cultural roots, and online communications affected their choice to vote, over the period from March 1 to May 31, 2015. The survey asked 24 questions for eight different factors, ranging from 1 to 7 on a scale. SPSS statistical software was our tool for studying the information we gathered. Religion did not change how people planned to vote, but their culture and daily social media contact had impacts. Our study discovered that individuals who identify more strongly with their ethnic group are also more likely to vote. This might be because the values of the group influence the choices of its members. In Pakistan's cosmopolitan setting, people's ethnic backgrounds matter more in influencing their election decisions than their religion does. Our study also showed big connection: how Facebook use directly linked with join-the-queue voting behaviors.

2.6.1. Studies Related to Crime Reporting in Pakistani Newspapers

Most of Pakistan's news space goes to reporting on crime, which controls what gets printed in newspapers across the country. They describe each crime event thoroughly. The stories carefully show two important things: how severely the crimes disturb our way of life and what misfortune the victims must endure. Hussain (2023) studied the effects news coverage has on society, along with media ethics in Pakistani reports on crimes. As part of the research, the researcher used in-depth interviews to explore four areas: the psychological effects of seeing violent news, Pakistan's crime news impact on its worldwide image, how crime news changes viewership ratings, and how journalists should show ethical practice in bulletins. Viewers' opinions about Pakistan were worse and declined steadily when crime news was reported every day. The survey showed that people need to learn about global events straightforwardly and without inflated descriptions, especially through commercial news networks. Article of Rasul and Irshad (2008) reviewed how Pakistani newspapers depict men and women through certain language, and how this creates different power structures based on gender. The methodology of the study involved examining the headlines of crime stories from four newspapers: The team studied both English publications Dawn and The News along with two Urdu newspapers, Jang and Khabrain. The terms men and women in our study were changed to match gender language used in the news stories. The research revealed that media merely passes on existing cultural ideas about society's accepted behavior, and constantly pits women against men. Most newspapers show women in a bad light by calling them weak females who struggle without man's

help. Newspapers make women appear weak and less than men when sharing crime or violence stories because they show women as unable to defend themselves. Newspapers present men as powerful and leading figures. The survey shows that English and Urdu newspapers use words that describe men and women differently, and Urdu press talks about these groups more often than English.

When crimes target specific genders, Pakistani newspapers pay much attention to reporting them. During January and March 2013, Raza and Liaqat (2016) looked at how Jang and Khabrain, Pakistan's leading print media, reported on honor killings. The study looked at how two Pakistani newspapers handled honor murder stories using content analysis. The study looked at how reporters and media organizations focused on this subject to better understand how crime news gets made. In the study, the researchers created five testable hypotheses and put them to the test. We grouped the information into six key categories to learn how honor killing coverage in Pakistani print media matters. The analysis found that news media reported on many social issues and problems that mainly affect women, including forced love matches, victims' messages, and murders done to protect family honor. Also, Bhanbhro (2015) looked at how Pakistan's newspapers covered "honour killings" with a close examination of three English-language dailies. It sought to expose the connections and conventions that are portrayed in this discourse, as well as the societal ramifications of honor-based killings. The results brought attention to the usage of words like "Honour Killing" and "Karo-Kari," which have given these actions a false sense of legitimacy by being shown primarily within cultural contexts and ignoring other societal, political, and financial reasons. Honor-based killings were often reported in media as private affairs, avoiding the complicating of legal as well as policy spheres and allowing state agencies to evade accountability. Discourse is constructed as a component of a societal value system that prioritizes "family honor," which hinders attempts to question these behaviors and narrows our knowledge of their fundamental causes.

Upon examining the aforementioned sections, it can be said that there exists a gap in the existing literature which the present study addresses about the construction of identity of victims and offenders in Pakistani English newspapers through the use of critical stylistic analysis.

2.7 Conclusion

The chapter provided a comprehensive review of the research undertaken on media and its role in shaping identities across many domains of life. The chapter provided research undertaken on the development of identity through media, followed by studies on the depiction of crime in the media. Furthermore, the chapter also examined research undertaken in the Pakistani setting to situate the current study within the existing body of literature.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this chapter, the researcher has discussed the research methods and the selection of the sample. Last but not least, this section explains the methods employed in data collection, with the theoretical framework detailed next.

3.1 Research Design

In academic research, one of the major initial logical steps involves selecting a research design that will lead the study forward. Blaikie (2019) says that the research design is a way that explains the paradigm in which research is going to be conducted. Moreover, the way data is collected, broken down, and transformed into numbers are also a part of it. The research method covers everything from beginning with study objectives to finishing the data review. Moreover, being well-organized and efficient with both time and budget proves how much value conceptual models truly have. The study design tells researchers what is acceptable and what is not, making sure everything stays on track for data collection. In order to examine how victims and offenders develop their identities in the chosen English-language Pakistani newspapers, the current study used a qualitative research approach. Additionally, the chosen data is textual in nature, and the current study is best suited for a qualitative research approach. Furthermore, because the research questions entail a textual analysis of the chosen data, the aforementioned design was chosen. The present study falls under the critical research paradigm, meaning that is based on the ideas that interaction is crucial to the replication of power as well as ideology along with how information is socially created. Research that aims to reveal concealed views and investigate how language plays a role in the performance and creation of social identities as well as connections is especially well-suited for this paradigm. A critical approach enables a more thorough examination of the ideological foundations ingrained in literary visualizations, as the study explores the way the coverage of crimes in English-language Pakistani media shapes the identities of both offenders as well as victims. The critical paradigm offers the ontological as well as empirical underpinnings for investigating the way language communicates societal authority in media discourse, and this perspective is consistent

with the ethical position of Critical Discourse Analysis and its stylistic equivalent i.e. Critical Stylistics.

3.1.1. Qualitative Design and Methodological Rigor

Methodological rigor is an important aspect of any research design. In order to ensure rigor, the present research abides by the rule of trustworthiness. The study involved prolonged interaction (6 months) with the selected data as well the formulation of themes. Moreover, triangulation was achieved by cross-referencing patterns of language usage in the two selected Pakistani English newspapers and the grounding of interpretations in Critical Stylistics theory.

3.2 Sample

The study's sample comes from news stories about crimes the researcher gathered from the online versions of the English newspapers Dawn and The NEWS International - two publications that have a long history of fame in Pakistan. They're chosen because the researcher believes they are the most long-lasting English-language newspapers in Pakistan. The current study finds two English newspapers founded in Pakistan: DAWN in 1947 by Quaid-e-Azam and The NEWS International in 1992. The researcher chose newspapers based on their readership. The study aims to find and study criminal news handpicked during six months between January and June 2023.

3.2.1 Sample Selection and Filtering

The sample of the study was based on the readership of the newspapers and it was retrieved from the Statista website. Moreover, these newspapers were selected because of their perceived ability to shape and present the entities in their reports in a particular manner. News reports related to rape and terrorism were not selected for the current study and the rationale behind this was that such acts of crime are already severe and unambiguous due to which there is a limited scope in analysing the identity construction of the entities involved. Additionally, during the data collection process, several difficulties were faced by the researcher such as unavailability of search filters which resulted in the retrieval of a large number of irrelevant news reports. Furthermore, many relevant news reports were unavailable for reading due to deletion of cache. The research attempted to resolve these issues by looking for the selected newspapers on several websites.

3.3 Procedure of Data Collection and Analysis

The researcher gathered information for six months from the newspapers that make up the study. The study looked only at news items about crimes, not ones covering sexual assaults or terrorism. To see how media described both the attackers and their targets, the researcher did a close reading of the verbalization used in news stories over six months.

3.4 Theoretical Framework

This study uses "critical stylistics," developed by Jeffries (2007) as the theoretical lens for the current study. Most CDA researchers spend most of their time looking at how texts match with their wider political world around them (Jeffries, 2010a). Moreover, the study adopted Critical Stylistics as the theoretical framework because it provides a systematic and textually grounded toolkit for analysing linguistic choices that construct identities and embed ideologies. While CDA also engages with ideology and power, it operates at a broader socio-political level, whereas Critical Stylistics allows for a more fine-grained analysis of features such as naming, transitivity, deixis, and presupposition. This precision makes it a more suitable and rigorous approach for uncovering how perpetrators and victims are represented in Pakistani English crime reporting. Jeffries (2007) studied the first two steps and looks at language patterns rather than social situations. Starting from how written language organizes our understanding of the world, Critical Stylistics works to define main ways in which writing represents the experience of people. The absence of direct connections between language use and use effects helps people lie, manipulate others, and write poetry while speaking poorly every day (Jeffries, 2010a). Critical Stylistics expands on the Critical Linguistics text analysis to fit into a space where Critical Discourse Analysis and stylistics meet. The most important thing Critical Stylistics does is collect a wider range of helpful analysis tools. The field of Critical Language Studies recognizes Critical Stylistics as one way to examine how language shows power and control because both fields study how words shape ideas. Using precise methods from critical stylists enables a researcher to find what a work means objectively, rather than looking everywhere for proof to match their own thoughts. The major goal of CDA research involves studying how words and power works together to keep unfair treatment ongoing. The main problem with the Critical Discourse Analysis model is that it lacks effective tools for searching and

recognizing hidden ideologies within written material. While CDA focuses limited techniques for finding hidden ideologies in language use, critical stylistics offers complete tools to locate and study those unconscious beliefs in a text. After determining whether the artist intended the ideology or not, this sophisticated style analysis can study any written work. Both critical stylistics and critical discourse analysis look at how ideology affects a text. Critical discourse analysis looks closely at political and social reasons behind what people say based on their perspective. The approach points out how society's and government's groups guide citizen's beliefs. The current study uses the 08 conceptual categories provided by Jeffries (2010a) which are as follows:

3.4.1 Naming and Describing

One of the most important ways that people and things are portrayed in writing and conversation is by being named and described. For example, pronouns and nouns play a crucial purpose in introducing specific people or things as well as ideas. In other words, nouns, proper nouns, and common nouns all have ideological foundations. When presenting events and things, proper nouns, common nouns, or even descriptive words are employed to affect readers, as in commerce, literature, or text. It instantly recalls specific concepts and ideals. Nominalization is the process by which verbs, adjectives, and ideological connections are transformed into nouns and phrases. These nouns and phrases also have modifiers that depict an event to a person in a very subjective way. This method is typically employed in the media since news reporters must portray an event or a person in a specific way.

3.4.2 Representing Actions/Events/States

The choice of verbs has a big influence on how an action or occurrence is depicted in a written work or conversation. Syntactic structures as well as verbs are crucial to the presentation of information. Whether a verb should be in the passive voice or the active voice, the latter is crucial for highlighting the agent or agency carrying out the action and demonstrating accountability. Construction in passive voice shift the focus from the actor or the agency that is performing the action. Moreover, the usage of certain grammatical structures and lexical choices also plays an important role because the readers of such texts can be impacted in a particular manner. Additionally, states as well as conditions are also influenced by such representations and combined together,

they influence not only the representation of an individual or an action but as well as the perception that is created mind due to such usage of language.

3.4.3 Equating and Contrasting

Another crucial component of linguistic representation is equating and contrasting mechanism as it is the utilization of linguistic linkages, which are often accomplished through metaphors and phrases to establish ideological associations and provide oppositions between two elements inside a text. This technique is relevant to binaries, which are an important aspect of media discourse, and parallel structures, which are also an important aspect of media discourse that are used to emphasize distinct aspects. The goal of using such a technique is to force and present dominant narratives about specific events, such as crime events or political events, but it is also dependent on autonomy and opposition because the goal is to highlight the differences between groups or individuals. When readers read such a text, their perception is influenced by the ideological projections that are made through the text.

3.4.4 Prioritizing

Prioritization in a text is accomplished by emphasizing some parts above others and using sentence structure or grammar to firmly establish and contextualize specific information. Although every language uses different methods to prioritize certain components or people in a document, English uses three primary strategies: subordination of certain aspects, directing stress towards specific aspect, and active and passive voice. It is possible to say that these components come together in the technique of prioritizing, which is a vital component utilized in media discussions.

3.4.5 Implying and Assuming

It is sometimes referred to as the strategy of implying and assuming when language is used in a way that suggests the ability to presume certain knowledge. Because language is organized in a way that makes readers instinctively infer and presume specific facts, it plays a significant role in this strategy. This is typically associated with pragmatics and is followed by existential logical positions and language-based entailments. The key takeaway from this strategy is that the readers regard their presumptions and inferred knowledge as unchangeable facts, which may or may not be true. Gracian maxims are crucial to this strategy since it falls under pragmatics; if any

of them are broken, the text's goal shifts from imparting knowledge or promoting an ideology to ridicule.

3.4.6 Negating

Negation is a crucial linguistic tool for portraying concepts, events, and people. Readers' perceptions and points of view about something or someone can be significantly influenced by this trait. In order to accomplish this, media discourse or media reporting employs this technique to propagate an ideology or any concept, thereby influencing the audience's understanding of events and individuals. This is crucial in news reporting because they must present and project specific information, background, and other pieces of information.

3.4.7 Presenting Other's Speech and Thoughts

Information presentation in media discourse is crucial as it influences readers. It is a common media discourse tactic when certain information is shown while other information is concealed. This is accomplished by employing certain terminology, often phrases like "claimed," "admitted," and other terms like "insisted." In legal relations, it is crucial because they must conceal some facts and provide the information they want in order to influence the outcome in a way that benefits them.

3.4.8 Representing Time, Space and Society

When it comes to portraying an event or a person, space and society are crucial. Time patterns like yesterday, shortly, in the past, and ten years are crucial in helping readers build a certain idea. The readers are also impacted by location or space, such as here, there, or close by. For example, when an event is described in a newspaper and the term "nearby" is used, it makes the readers feel as though they are close to the event, which might be a happy or tragic occurrence.

Conceptual Category/Textual Function	List of Analytical Tools
Naming and Describing	The choice of a noun to indicate a referent; nominalisation; the construction of noun phrases with modifiers (in pre- and post-positions) to further

	determine the nature of the referent
Representing Actions/Events/States	The choice of a verb, active and passive voice,
Equating and Contrasting	Antonymy, equivalence (parallel structure) and opposition
Prioritizing	Relates to sentence structure: three ways in which the English language may prioritize elements of its structure: exploiting the information structure (clefting), the transformational possibilities (active/passive voice) or the subordination possibilities
Implying and Assuming	Relates to Pragmatics: existential and logical presupposition, implicature according to the cooperative model of interaction by Grice (maxims of quality, quantity, relation, manner)
Negating	The creation of unrealized worlds
Presenting other's speech and thoughts	Speech and Thought Presentation, direct and indirect speech.
Representing time, space and society	Deixis, Text World Theory

3.5 Chapter Summary

The chapter focused on determining the research sample and research processes. In addition to that, the chapter provided details and explanation regarding the way in which the theoretical lens would be employed in the study, making it easier to analyze the results.

CHAPTER 4

DATA ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction

The researcher analyzed the information collected throughout the data collection step in order to answer the research questions and meet the goals established in earlier chapters. As it is a common phenomenon that many news reports are written in English for Pakistani media, the current research tracks the identity construction of the perpetrators as well as the victims in the selected Pakistani English newspapers. The results present and explain what really lies below the surface in the key news articles selected for the study. To fully understand the findings, the researcher split this chapter into several themes in such a way that each section reviews different parts of the data. The researcher examined common patterns in the data to find themes about the multiple ways in which the identities of offenders are constructed. Moreover, a portrayal of victims that explores their construction of identity is also a part of the chapter.

4.2 Conceptual Categories

This section examines the main themes which were established by the researcher from the collected data. The main arguments revolve around how news reports exhibit identities of criminals and victims, along with what effects media coverage has on the ways people perceive society.

4.2.1 Naming and Describing

News Report 1: "Bank Robbery Turns Deadly in Karachi: Criminal Escapes After Shooting Guard"

The article tells how a man wearing a mask started shooting at a guard when he tried to escape with stolen cash from a bank in Karachi. At the crime scene, the attacker left lots of bloody traces while becoming known by how he acted and what he did to threaten the public. The reporter calls the criminal a threat, both armed and dangerous, to make readers feel shocked by his danger. The way this criminal identity gets built makes people feel in a hurry and worried, warning us that he can hurt badly. What's

crucial is when media uses "armed" for guns and "dangerous" for area violence. Both words paint the criminal as a threat, but "dangerous" increases public anxiety faster because it makes people think the threat isn't limited to that day. The report uses certain language to make readers show how dangerous this vicious enemy is and why everyone needs to take action.

The police refused to identify the criminal, preventing people from treating him like a normal human being. Instead of saying the person's name, the report calls them "masked" to protect privacy and remove personal traits. When people see someone wearing a mask, they see a faceless stranger (Greer, 2003). This helps the audience stay disconnected from any human emotion they could feel when reading about someone who commits such an offense (Surette, 2009). This masked identity of the attacker plays a big role in how the report designs who the criminal is. The "masked assailant" stands for risk without being tied to who he is or what drove him to bring harm. The mask on the criminal makes him seem like someone the readers can't understand and grasp.

When the officer said the criminal is "still at large," he made the person seem more dangerous to everybody. Law enforcement officers right now are seeking an evading assailant who committed violence, making the public feel very unsafe. "As he's free to move around without being caught, he poses a threat that society must face until police can stop him." It makes people scared because they think the dangerous person can avoid being caught by police. Because of how this phrase is used, it shows that the criminal belongs to a bigger group of lawbreakers and makes it clear that the public is under threat until he is finally caught. Meanwhile, the security guard involved feels powerless in this account. The article about the security guard death doesn't tell us anything more than that he was employed as security and later shot in the head. The way this story tells its story focuses on the murder instead of the person who suffered from it. The victim matters because he died trying to stop a robbery without having time to tell his own story. The person's role within this scenario is downplayed. How the victim was killed (shot dead) makes him appear powerless in his confrontation with the shooter. Since the readers only know he tried to interfere, the report doesn't look into what he felt, thought, or did that went beyond this one moment. Keeping the victim's role passive makes it seem he can't do anything for himself, while also leaving out a history of who he was and what caused him to act this way. Using passive voice makes

the readers only see (Gregoriou, 2011) what the criminal did, taking our mind off of the victim's own part in the story.

The way in which the report presents the victim died, stays calm and flowing, but there is use of stronger words to explain how the criminal moved and acted. When the criminal acts, he shoots and runs away, but when it comes to the victim, the report simply refer to the person as "suffering a fatal gunshot wound." The gunman controls what he does, shoots the targets, while leaving the victim powerless to defend themselves. The way the perpetrator runs away makes it clear that he's the one deciding what happens. When the attacker runs away, it shows he has power over what's happening. He decides he can escape the effects of his crime on his own terms, while the victim plays the part of the weak, silent sufferer in front of him (Jewkes, 2009). How the assault is worded plays a silent role in claiming the attacker has power over the victim, helping create this criminal image as unstoppable. Additionally, the report shows links between the perpetrator's actions and society's bigger criminal scenes. The report tells the readers that the same masked crime wave has hit different parts of the city, giving the malefactor a higher status from an individual criminal to a bigger network of criminals. When this being is connected with a broader network, people see them as more dangerous. They also get worried about real criminal groups in their society. People believe that organized groups make it harder to track criminals and their motives, making crimes riskier for authorities. The news report makes it seem that the criminal belongs to an unseen network running operations independently of singular crimes. The idea that criminals belong to bigger, harder-to-find offender groups makes people more afraid of crime happening around them. It shows the reader that this crime wasn't unique; there's more behind it, a bigger problem that's hard to handle. The description shows how authorities and the public see criminals hiding happily within an illegal network no one can catch, which makes people more afraid by blaming law enforcement's lack of tools to deal with these pervasive criminals. The way we define criminals makes us believe crime is everywhere and anyone might do it.

News Report 2: "Teenager Beaten to Death by Local Thugs in Lahore Over Minor Dispute"

In Lahore, local troublemakers used serious violence to kill a teenager after a minor argument over a free parking space. How this news report says things creates

two major things: how vile the killers seem and what kind of person they've made the victim out to be. When news calls them "local thugs," reporters immediately create a picture of lawless, violent men who belong to a certain criminal group. The term "thugs" brings up bad feelings because it means people who use rough fighting and break rules (Zhilin, 2020). When calling culprits "thugs," journalists erase their humanity and make them look like everyday lowlife troublemakers. Attacks like these show that the criminals are integrated into a longer pattern of dangerous activities, according to the term's hidden message (Baranauskas, 2020). Calling these people local solids their connection to the community, but it does so in a destructive way. These people have a place in the city, but they don't bring anything good or helpful to the community of residents. The label "local thugs" says the bad guys stay where they live because they share a lifestyle that blends violence and fighting into their everyday culture. The writer uses "local thugs" two ways: they show how badly the attackers hurt their victims and show how common crime is among their hometown friends.

The report gives the victim two regular names and titles: "teenager" and "high school student," while the attackers stay faceless and nameless. The addition of these labels shows us that the victim is just a teenager still discovering their future. The term "teenager" matters because it means some people naturally feel sad if they see young people being hurt (Akimova et al., 2019). When the news interviews refer to the teenager as both a "high school student" and a "victim," it supports the powerful message that every teenager should be safe from harm, not the target of violence. The way they describe the victim makes him seem like he was an unaware person who was fatally shot for no reason. How young the victim is and what role he played in the community makes people feel emotions more easily, because he seemed totally innocent and had much of his future ahead of him before his life was taken. The way "beaten to death" describes the violence makes it hit you even harder (Bates et al., 2019). The writer chose the word "beaten" instead of a mild term so audiences clearly see just how badly the victim was treated during the attack. The author uses the words "beaten" to show a very long and cruel way of hurting someone. The message has the victim as defenseless, stuck there helpless against the actions of their attackers. Moreover, this shows that the man was completely without control over what happened to him - he had absolutely no ability to defend himself. The story leaves out how hard the victim tried to push back against his attackers. The report leaves out what the boy

did during the attack and highlights what other people did to him instead. The crime looks more tragic because the victim is portrayed as weak and defenseless while everything about the violence is stressed and nothing about their response to it is mentioned.

When compared, the people who hurt the teenager are depicted using powerful, attacking words. Instead of being presented as producers of violence, the murderers directly attacked and ended their victim's life. Flipping the verbalization makes it clear that beating and murdering someone puts the performer in full control (Bleich et al., 2015). The way they describe the criminals shows they clearly led these attacks. The person who received the beating shows no action, but the ones who did the hitting are shown taking steps while their reasons connect to violence. The way the victim's death is shown as happening to them passively makes a big difference from how the criminals are shown taking action, making the image of the victim clearly weaker against the stronger attackers clearer (Boda & Szabó, 2011). In addition, nothing in the report suggests the moments leading up to the killing and it all started from a small dispute. The words here show how the violence used far exceeded what a simple fight could create. The report calls the issue a "minor dispute" to show that those involved operated from an unreasonable and dangerous mindset. The report shows two things: these people commit crimes randomly, without warning or understandable root causes. The report hints at the causes of the attack by suggesting that the attackers might not handle stressful situations well and are likely to react aggressively to simple issues. This helps make the criminals seem less stable and more dangerous (Breen et al., 2017), giving the impression they could explode into violence without being triggered.

The report subtly shows both what's wrong and right in society's patterns. In its report, the agency wants to show that problems and disputes are the leading cause of violent attacks, not just these specific gun crimes. The report tells the reader that the attackers aren't lone wolves, but represent a pattern of violence spreading throughout our whole society. The report's attack on society goes beyond identifying the attackers, showing how this kind of violence happens as a result of what's wrong in our culture. The police show the attackers didn't do this alone but were connected to a bigger problem in their community. The report presents the violence as coming from something beyond simple individual choices - showing how serious societal issues lead people to take fatal actions. The report's underlying messages show the attackers as a

sign of a larger community-wide problem with violence. When they say "local thugs," they mean these people aren't just guilty of one bad act - they're part of an ongoing issue throughout the area. The conditions of where these criminals operate show their behavior as normal in a society that too often allows and supports dangerous actions like these (Bucholtz & Hall, 2005). The definition of this event as stemming from a small disagreement shows that violence like this exists commonly and people often expect it to happen in particular neighborhoods where their values let harm rise during conflicts.

News Report 3: "Fatal School Brawl in Peshawar: Parents Demand Justice for Slain Student"

Close relative in Peshawar became furious after a school fight between teenagers ended with one student dying. The headline, "Fatal School Brawl in Peshawar: The headline shows how seriously parents want authorities to deal with the murder of their son. The occurrence was deadly, but the parents want justice now. The writers want readers to feel the family's pain and ask why students were unprotected by their school. Our communities now want fair treatments because the attack showed how important it is to keep students safe everywhere. When the news calls the attackers "students," it makes the violence look like something kids might do, which helps viewers feel they understand the culprits better, but also asks people to address how parents and schools shape young minds (Busso et al., 2020). The news report humanizes the victim by saying directly he's attending high school in News Report 1. The victim's age is what makes his death more tragic because we see how much young potential he lost. This framing elicits sympathy from the audience and evokes a sense of injustice, highlighting the loss not only for the victim's family but for society as a whole, since the violence occurred in a place that should have ensured his safety: a school (Butt & Awang, 2017). The author mentions that the victim's school status does two things: first, it makes the readers see that something horrific happened to the victim while they should have been learning, and second, it reminds everyone that the crime shouldn't be dismissed as usual teen behavior. It tells readers that schools need to take steps to stop this sort of violence from happening again. They call the fighting students, but keep the word's meaning neutral, despite how serious the fight was. This semantic selection is meant to stay away from calling the criminals "criminals" just then, in hopes of earning more compassion from the public. The phrase "students" makes it seem the fighting

was caused by ordinary teenage problems instead of being purposely evil (Collins, 2014). How the journalists word their news might make readers consider the fight as a one-time thing, instead of a larger social problem. The way this report defines the attackers' status as young people who may have misunderstood pressures from their age makes it harder for the public to just condemn them without thinking about circumstances leading to their actions (Cottle, 2008).

News Report 4: "Teenager Killed in Violent Gang Attack in Karachi; Authorities Under Pressure"

A boy was killed by gangsters in Karachi, leading people to demand that city law enforcement act against gangs. The news that Karachi police face intensified scrutiny because of teenage killing in gangs has top billing. When police face pressure from people, they must investigate and prevent gang violence. People are responding negatively, thinking the government and police have been powerless against growing gangs, so they want both firm law enforcement efforts and safer streets fast. How the reporter calls the victim a "teenager" makes readers feel more pity for their struggle and feel the wronging was greater. When reporters call attackers gang members, they give people the impression that the problem goes beyond one bad event, focusing the public's attention on changing laws to fight gangs and better train law enforcement (Díaz & Mar, 2021). Both "teenager" and "high school student" indicate youth and innocence, emphasizing that the victim was still very young at the time of the attack. By starting like this, the report makes people sympathize and bond with the story, since most readers will deeply feel sad about a young person losing their life. The young age of the victim shows how tragic and pointless gang killings really are (Dinur et al., 2013), because they robbed someone at the start of their life of their chances to grow. The report spends less time discussing the victim's details compared to other cases since it's more interested in showing how gangs attacked and how police responded to that attack. When reporters call them a "gang," they watch as the attention moves away from each attacker and instead focuses on the group's strength. This way of presenting the crime helps people understand it as a bigger community problem - gang violence - instead of just having something to do with angry individuals (Dogar & Rizvi, 2021). Speaking of "gang" attacks makes the crime look worse, showing that the attackers act together and are such a significant danger. People will probably be angry and will insist that fast

legal actions need to happen to control gang violence and keep things safe (Greer, 2012).

4.2.2 Representing Actions/Events/States

News Report 5: Man Allegedly Pushes Neighbor Down Stairs after Argument over Parking Spot

This report explores how the report writer presents the criminal and victim, showing how their actions and identities come into view cheers to the theories they used. The man who reportedly attacked his neighbor gets all the attention, and the police tell us that he clearly took purposeful steps throughout the incident by physically pushing his victim down the staircase as indicated by the words “pushes” and “down”. According to Jeffries (2010) “actions/states and events” are described using language in such a manner that the purpose of the discourse is achieved. In the above report, the framing forces the audience to pay attention to how he starts the argument, leaving out any larger story about what brought him to that point. When we don't see how a criminal came to be violent (Gregorio et al., 2022), the report presents him as a one-dimensional villain, and that too by portraying gender using the word “man” who attacks and it supports media use of language patterns that highlight action above deep understanding. It can be said that such usage of language reveals that specific behavior can make victims look worse without showing why or how the criminal acted, leading to harmful common ideas (Hardesty, 2023).

The report focuses only on how much pain the neighbor, who got pushed, received. By avoiding what the victim said or did before the fight, the report takes away the person's voice and deprives them of the right to tell their own story (Harper & Hogue, 2014). Both people involved remain hard to see since the report doesn't provide background information about what led to the fight and this is the backgrounding of information as highlighted by Jeffries (2010) in the model of critical stylistics. The report doesn't explain how the two parties argued about parking, which keeps us from knowing what led to that serious moment. Settings like urban life and unequal treatment help explain why people fight, according to feminist and critical approaches, to make past pictures of people as violent and victimized more complete. The report's blank spaces make the attacks feel more recent while hiding how social factors may have played a role.

Although the report doesn't talk about the gender of the victim, it presents the male criminal as aggressive fits with long-held ideas about how men act and Jeffries (2010) is of the view that by using the "equating and contrasting" linguistic technique, the identities of entities in events is shaped as desired. No matter what the victim's gender is, their inability to act shows common rules across our society when violence hits. How this report handles cases where a person becomes a victim exposes potential gaps in understanding of a person's strength. When the victim is a woman, the way they present her makes her part of an age-old belief that women are weak and attacked by strong men (Horst et al., 2019). Because the report ignores how police might respond and what the law says, it can't reach solutions for making things better. Methods of analyzing power show us how examples like this don't just happen on their own - they always connect to larger systems and systems of power (Hussain, 2023). Not understanding these aspects of violence makes us think violence happens mostly between people rather than in all parts of society or involves our whole system, preventing us from seeing clear ways to fight it.

News Report 6: "Violence Erupts Over Property Dispute in Lahore; Family Accused of Brutality"

Lahore saw two families fighting over land turn deadly, hurting many neighbors in their violence. When fighting broke out in Lahore due to a property fight, public attention focused on a family blamed for extreme violence. When 'erupted' means no one could stop them, they burst into violence. This kind of opening prepares readers to not believe what they're reading happened - fights breaking over property issues usually mean normal community rules are failing. When the word "brutality" is used to talk about attacks, it raises the anger and frustration in the public about such events. The way authorities connect the criminals as living in one household makes people question society's belief that families stay united (Imran, 2023). When families fight over stuff, people will call for justice and demand that community members behave better. Since both sides acted poorly, the public wonders how the whole group can stay together. The report shows violence as brutal by saying that the injured people take on "severe injuries." The story's lack of detailed personal information about the victims serves a purpose: it lets viewers see how devastating the attack was. The report avoids focusing on specific individuals hurt by crime, choosing to talk about the larger crime issue for the nation. The story focuses on anger at what happened instead of someone's particular

struggle, asking the readers to join the fight with them rather than share their pain. The report uses the unusual word “family” to identify the group responsible for the attacks. When a family group does something so terrible, it directly goes against how we expect families to work and connect us all (Jamil, 2017). The word "brutality" matters because it shows the violence went far beyond normal limits. The way they describe the people who did this violence reveals they think they are much worse than normal people, forcing viewers to see their actions as cold, instead of simply losing their temper. People get mad when they discover family members doing something so cruel, especially when they damage a fundamental social building block that should be there (Karuri & Muriungi, 2016). When reporters show examples of family violence, they move people to ask if our social structure has moral problems and make more people push for legal changes to stop family attacks.

News Report 7: "Woman Attacked in Karachi; Suspect Arrested After Public Outcry"

This report talks about a woman getting victimized by an unknown man in a busy section of Karachi called Saddar. The key part of this report are the words used to describe the victim and attacker, which deeply shape our way of understanding who they are. Without saying if the attacker was a man or not, the author simply calls him "man." Their previous work included details about this exact distinction. The report quickly skips details about the attacker but spends lots of pages describing the victim sexing her as female - creating main ways her identity is shown. Using "woman" for the victim as the reports first description works strongly because it puts gender front and center from the start. The very choice of "woman" serves to draw attention to the societal issue of gender-based violence, positioning the victim not just as an individual, but as a representative of a broader and deeply entrenched issue: Women are in greater danger of violence when reports highlight how often and where violence happens around them.

In writing this report, how they talk about the victim helps form the reader's understanding based on traditional ideas about men and women. The report uses the female identity to relate to society's general worries about protecting women from harm when outside their home. The report uses these facts to show two things: her weakness made her more vulnerable to attack, and the way she was hurt points to bigger problems that affect women across the city. The report hints at a widespread problem: women

tend to face higher risks of violence than men when they're in public places (Manago, 2015). The story goes beyond just one attack to show how society failed to keep women from dangerous harm. The report shows this wider worry by talking about her as a "woman" instead of focusing on who she is or how she acts independently.

The man who attacked is just called "a man," while the woman he hurt is named more fully. The report downplays details about the attacker's personal history or intentions, while showing a lot of details about the woman he attacks. The writer leaves out the attacker's physical features, making it easier for readers to stay focused on what actually happened to the victim - her gender and the kind of violence used against her. Sharing little about the attacker's personal life helps remove his humanity and might protect against exploitation (Martins, 2021), but it means the readers don't understand what factors around him led to the attack, leaving many unanswered questions. The report fails to give weight to learning why the attacker acted, preferring to show readers how badly the victim was hurt. How the attack unfolds matters as much as what happened. The report uses direct action terms like "attacked" and "brutally beat" to show that only the man did the violence. The report states exactly how the attacker hurt the other person, showing exactly how cruelly the man attacked. In contrast, they describe the victim as going through various injuries. Her injuries are listed but not anything she did to defend herself. How he hurt the victim takes the spotlight, making her more of a target of his attack than a fighter to protect herself. The report said nothing about the woman trying to defend herself, meaning she had no chance against such a violent act. The injuries she received, bad enough for her to need hospitalization, make her look powerless over what happened. The way the public teams together to capture the offender stands in sharp contrast to showing the woman as someone who survives the attack without deciding to defend herself.

The way the story happens makes it clear that public help creates order and justice when crime strikes. The report keeps highlighting how members of the public stepped in to take control of the attacker. The article makes the public into the true cause of justice, leaving the victim only as someone who gets hurt. The public steps in to repair what didn't happen when people acted on their own - transforming an individual failed idea of justice into a shared right thing to do. In addition, how the victim and the public are shaped portrays a key difference in what agency is given to women in violent incidents. The helpless woman takes the main role of staying victimized, while others

surrounding her only become involved when they feel justice must be done. The way the article shows her powerless along with focusing mostly on her being hurt backs up usual female-male roles, where she is viewed as unable to defend herself when something dangerous happens around her. A two-way approach that genders people this way matches wider group views about what women and men naturally do - making women helpless and needing help, and men ready to act and stay okay (Morgan & Chermak, 2019). The way this report presents information has important effects on how society operates. The report makes women the main character and underscores how important it is that regular citizens assist in catching criminals, especially for women facing public safety dangers. When mentioning these things, the report is really talking about how the world needs to change so attacks like this don't keep happening to women everywhere. The story shows the attack as unique, yet how we look at the victim and the violent act shows more general patterns of gendered crimes. The report focuses on telling the victim's gender and describes crowds as a factor to place the incident both personally within the victim's world and socially across all communities.

According to police who recorded cases, Islamabad saw about 19 incidents of crimes against property like robberies and thefts increase recently. The data shows more people are now victimized by property crimes in the city, pointing to deeper problems both in communities and police handling of the issue. Case details show a range of offenses, including home break-ins and gun robberies, which clearly demonstrate how difficult residents face daily and how police are fighting to keep citizens safe (DAWN, 2023)

News Report 8: Another disturbing event was when "two gunmen snatched a motorcycle, Rs10,000 in cash and a mobile phone from Abdul Qadir," which highlights the direct impact on individuals and their sense of security.

The sentence "Two gunmen snatched a motorcycle, Rs10,000 in cash and a mobile phone from Abdul Qadir" appears to be a brief and seemingly straightforward account of a robbery. However, a closer analysis reveals that the linguistic construction of this sentence plays a significant role in shaping the representation of the action, the event, and the individuals involved. As Jeffries (2010) explains, the way actions, events, and states are depicted in written discourse depends largely on the selection of verbs and syntactic structures. These elements, though often overlooked in everyday reading,

function ideologically by influencing the reader's understanding and emotional engagement with the reported incident.

At the heart of this report lies the verb “snatched,” which is a material process verb, denoting a physical and dynamic action. The choice of this verb is significant as it encapsulates a sense of suddenness, aggression, and control. “Snatching” implies a lack of consent and suggests that the action was committed with force or coercion. It positions the agents of the sentence—referred to here as “two gunmen”—as the initiators and controllers of the action. By assigning the action explicitly to these agents in the active voice, the sentence foregrounds their agency and places them at the centre of the reader's attention. This aligns with Jeffries' point that syntactic voice plays a central role in determining which participants are foregrounded and held accountable within a discourse.

The structure of the sentence follows a typical transitive pattern: subject (two gunmen), verb (snatched), object (a motorcycle, Rs10,000 in cash and a mobile phone), and a prepositional phrase indicating the source (from Abdul Qadir). The presence of a clearly identified agent and a clearly affected participant gives the appearance of narrative completeness. However, a deeper reading reveals asymmetries in representation. While the sentence provides specific details about the items taken, it offers minimal information about the victim. Abdul Qadir is mentioned only as the person from whom the possessions were taken, with no elaboration on his background, emotional response, or physical condition. This grammatical choice subtly backgrounds his experience, shifting the focus away from the personal impact of the crime. Foregrounding the action while backgrounding the victim has the effect of constructing the crime as an isolated event, devoid of human depth. The readers are drawn to the objects stolen and the perpetrators responsible, rather than the human cost of the incident. Such narrative choices contribute to a distancing effect, where the crime is processed as information rather than as an event with social and emotional consequences. According to Jeffries, the use of active or passive voice, as well as the syntactic placement of participants in a clause, greatly influences the degree to which an individual or group is seen as accountable or victimized. In this report, the perpetrators are foregrounded not only through active voice but also by virtue of being named first and occupying the subject position. In contrast, the victim is grammatically and semantically relegated to the periphery.

Another feature worthy of analysis is the enumeration of the items stolen: “a motorcycle, Rs10,000 in cash and a mobile phone.” This list is presented without any modifying adjectives or emotional framing. The use of a simple, unembellished list contributes to the factual tone of the sentence, giving it a sense of neutrality. However, the decision to include the monetary value and type of items taken rather than elaborating on the context of the victim or the broader social setting carries ideological weight. It suggests that the value of the crime lies in the material loss rather than in the human or societal impact. This focus reflects a tendency in media discourse to prioritize quantifiable details over qualitative human experiences. As Jeffries notes, the grammatical structures chosen to represent actions and states significantly influence the perception formed in the reader’s mind. Moreover, the identity of the perpetrators is presented using the phrase “two gunmen,” a nominal group that functions generically rather than specifically. There is no elaboration on who these individuals were, what their motives might have been, or how their actions connect to broader patterns of crime. By referring to them in this general manner, the discourse constructs an image of anonymous, undefined criminality. This depersonalization has the effect of universalizing the threat, making it seem omnipresent and disconnected from specific social or economic conditions. It also means that the act is represented more as an abstract crime than as a complex event embedded within a particular context. In this way, the discourse implicitly removes the possibility of systemic critique, presenting the crime as a random and isolated event.

The absence of state representation is also notable. The report does not mention whether the police responded, whether the crime was reported to any authority, or whether an investigation is ongoing. This omission creates a representation in which the state appears absent or irrelevant, and in doing so, the burden of response is placed entirely on the reader’s interpretation. The omission of these institutional actors limits the scope of accountability and subtly reinforces a view of crime as a personal misfortune rather than a societal issue requiring systemic intervention. Jeffries’ emphasis on the representation of states—both mental and societal—is pertinent here. The complete lack of mental states, such as fear, anger, or shock, leaves the reader with a sterile account, devoid of human emotional content. It is also important to consider the temporal structure of the sentence. The use of the past simple tense—“snatched”—places the action firmly in the past, signaling its completeness. There is no indication

of any ongoing effects, no mention of how Abdul Qadir responded, or whether he has recovered. This treatment suggests finality and discourages reflection on long-term consequences. It frames the event as a momentary disruption rather than an ongoing state of victimhood or trauma. In line with Jeffries' model, this syntactic and temporal choice plays a role in shaping the reader's perception of the event as a closed, factual occurrence, rather than a complex and evolving social issue.

Finally, the structure and language of the sentence serve a dual ideological function. On one hand, they demonstrate transparency by naming the action and the agent clearly. On the other hand, they obscure complexity by omitting context, emotional impact, and institutional response. This balance between clarity and omission is a hallmark of media discourse that seeks to appear objective while subtly reproducing dominant ideologies. The selection of verbs, syntactic arrangements, and the distribution of semantic weight among participants all work together to present a version of reality that emphasizes certain elements while downplaying others. In this way, the sentence is not merely a report of a crime; it is a discursively constructed event that reflects and reinforces broader social attitudes about crime, responsibility, and human worth.

News Report 9: The footage, which quickly went viral, shows the woman "clinging onto the driver's door of her car and stopping the snatcher from running away" after he attempted to steal her vehicle right outside her home.

What happened both stopped the crime from going through and helped the woman stop being seen as someone who would allow this to happen. Details of the occurrence further show the same spirit of her:

"As she moved away from her car, the thief got inside the vehicle and tried to drive away with it. However, his attempt failed as the woman first stood in front of the car to stop the man from running away" (Desk, 2024, October 31).

The 'Implying and Assuming' method highlighted by Critical Stylistics is used in the above report and it shows her progressive acts as fearless ammunition used by the people contaminated by justice's wetness. The way media reports her journey shows the public that citizens are ready and able to stand against crime across our communities. Her neighbors' help for her shows how everyone works together in the

community - this shows what community members can do to help one another (Hale et al., 2020).

"Later, she opened the car's door and soon, people nearby came to help the woman after she started shouting" (Desk, 2024, October 31).

A community's strong response shows a different path than the regular way people talk about learning from victims' experiences (Olatuwoye, 2015). Social media used by justice departments helps connect citizens to form a stronger sense of community safety by showing criminals that people working together can stop crimes and help make neighborhoods safer (González & Tortolero, 2020).

The words we use in media stories about property crime show different parts of crime happening, how it impacts people, and how communities react. Along with telling stories, these articles mainly show how writers plan their word choices to guide what readers think and feel (Pattaro, 2015). The way media tells stories combines specific words online, writing methods, and storytelling techniques to create an impressive picture that has more impact than simple journalism does. Among all the features, reporters intentionally label victims and criminals with specific words and names, which stands out in these reports (Peelo, 2009). Stolen bodies acted together the papers say, calling them "armed robbers" and more groups, which scares people more. When writers carefully combine words into noun sentences like "five robbers armed with modern tools make up this gang," the alarm and sense of rush they put into their sentences make bad acts seem more serious. Both details about who was involved and added descriptions of what happened make the reports both easier to follow and more captivating for people who read them. The information covers patterns of inequality and shows how neighborhood events touch everyday lives. Verbs play multiple roles in this story: they show the readers what events happened, and how bad the criminals acted. The offenders' actions speak for themselves in these reports - they show their own decisions with words like "raided," "snatched," and "blocked." They show how serious these crimes are by making people feel very rushed. The news often uses passive verbs when it wants readers to focus on what occurred, as in "vast amounts of valuable things were taken during the crime." By seeing crime results as connected to larger systems rather than individual decisions, this small shift gives both impact and distance while taking the offenders' guilt out of focus.

The reports draw links between different criminal activities to show how they match and vary. The stories use different crimes to show how theft methods are changing: they compare how thieves use technology with regular robberies. The big, complex crime of controlling cell signals with modern tools rebels against the easy act of grabbing cash and phones from passersby. These differences make readers wonder if current safety measures are really working, while exposing how constantly criminals try to keep one step ahead (Pintak & Nazir, 2013). By comparing different instances of crimes, these reports reveal that they all belong to the same pattern of increasing disorder. Studies with similar findings show up often, creating a shared story that connects smaller situations to bigger social concerns about disorder. The way sentences are formed in these stories tells readers where to look and what to think about. The writers focus on outstanding details by utilizing indirect questions at beginning and opening sentences (Ramasubramanian et al., 2017). The report describes a technical tool, "a sophisticated device," that made robbing easier, and only mentions it once, because law enforcement fears clever criminals. The short story achieves its quiet narrative style by putting certain details in shorter clauses with subordinate sentences, as seen when it tells, "While the young man resisted, he was fatally shot." Right here, the direct sentence shows the bad ending, while the extra sentence tells us about the person who got hurt. As the story moves forward, how things happen becomes clearer - also strengthening the emotional power of the entire story.

When examining these reports, the researcher based the analysis on many uncertain details that shape the identity construction. When people use expressions like "the rising tide of crime," they insinuate that the current is always getting worse, but they don't bother proving it (Rasul & Irshad, 2008). Positive - When police don't respond quickly, robbers escape, showing police systems need help. The unspoken meanings these stories have tend to spot what needs fixing and disrupt wide social systems. The narratives gain more depth from implicature, which relies on everyone taking part in discussions to understand (Raza & Liaqat, 2016). The reports show that official safety failed by staying quiet about the crimes while letting people know they were safer together because they came when she started screaming. The way the stories describe what could have been achieved shows that they exist as an 'alternative reality' instead of normal stories. When the police showed up late, their chance to capture the thieves decreased. When a brave young person can't secure their valuables, the narration

focuses on what he loses. When things could have turned out differently for those killed, we feel sad for the victims and angry at the things that allowed these murders to happen. Because this news report tells stories with both direct and indirect quotes, its information carries more strength and is easier to believe. Quick talking to bystanders and law enforcement turns these reports more trustworthy and fresher (Sarikakis, 2014). Experts told the news directly when they said fighter thieves "used a device to block all communications" to explain the challenging crime.

The stories include historical facts, where they happen, and how society affected them. When stories put current events in places people know, like Defence Housing Authority or Korangi, they help readers follow what happened better. By saying when events happened or when information was found, the reports show readers they deal with current matters "recently" or "last week" and matter right away. When stories carefully note where things take place and what people do, readers can create a real story world in their minds. The constructed world not just shows what happens, it also shows how communities struggle and how individuals keep their strength. When writers build their tales with specific types of verbalization, they combine standard facts with personal messages to society (Sihvonen, 2015). This shows reform's needed by pointing out problems in police delays and lacking system preparedness. The lady who fought back against a carjacker reveals two ways fighting crime can work: together as a group and again individually.

4.2.3 Equating and Contrasting

News Report 10: Man Allegedly Attacks Female Colleague at Workplace over Dispute

The report keeps the man at the center of what happened, showing he's in control with "attacks" as his action word. The writer phrased it that way to show the man rocked the first punch and led the whole conflict. Leaving out why the man did what he did and basic information about his life narrows our view of him to just the fighting. The way this report tells the story gives us no idea why he did what he did or what his life was like before this terrible moment and this is further complicated the words such as "man" and "allegedly" as it is perfectly contrasted against the opposite gender as also highlighted by Jeffries (2010) that the subjects in a text are purposefully named and described to paint a specific picture of them. While the report focuses on how the woman endured the attack, she is portrayed as someone attacked by another person and

got hurt. All the story shows about the female victim is her reaction to what happened to her, while leaving out how she got involved and what she was doing before being attacked. Her inability to make choices for herself makes her much less visible, turning her into an image solely of someone who's been hurt instead of someone who'd played an active role in what happened.

This man gets a lot of attention because the report talks about him doing the attacks and saying he is the one creating the harm. The way this report talks about the event using particular language follows the ideas of critical discourse analysis that show the ways in which words shape what humans think and perceive. The author chooses flowing, direct verbalization so everyone knows the man is the main actor who makes violent moves in the story. The article leaves out necessary explanation about the environmental factors that probably caused his bad actions. Leaving out this environmental information blocks the reader's path to grasping who the criminal really is, according to feminist theory, which sees treating individual problems as a key to fighting serious violence (Slavíčková & Zvagulis, 2014). The victims in these cases appear weak and helpless and this is further highlighted by the word "colleague" as it is someone friendly, with the story mainly showing how her injuries were brought about. Her lack of words and no mention of what she thinks or does makes her look like someone harmed, instead of a person with their own power. Such usage of language shows that these presentations are built on a weak image of women who cannot control their own actions or responses. Carelessly presenting the woman just as someone harmed by a man's acts helps keep traditional thinking alive where men control women's lives (Smolej & Kivivuori, 2006). The language used in this report shows how power relationships impacted what happened. The report misses important details by ignoring how issues like unequal access to power play a role in workplace fights. This creates blind spots that hide the real troubles that lead to these conflicts in the first place. Seeing power structures is essential to end blame shaming and find out what really makes domestic violence happen, according to feminist beliefs.

The difference in spotlight between the criminal and the person harmed follows accepted male and female roles. What the man did takes up most space in the story, making clear how men are seen to lead and control things, while placing the woman in a supporting role only as someone who suffers harm. News articles like this usually show sexism at work, because they give men dominant roles and reduce women to

victims. When the female victim's experiences and choices aren't included, the report keeps making the problem look simpler than it really is, which keeps people from understanding all the different parts of the issue. The report fails to connect the violence to the social and organizational systems that allow it to happen in workplaces. It can also be said that the report lets violence against women get usual because it doesn't study how society supports and accepts these attacks. By not mentioning how work policies, reporting structures, or people's thoughts about gender issues affect violence, the report makes it seem like one person in a workplace made a violent attack by themselves, rather than looking at how problems throughout society cause violence to happen.

News Report 11: A five-member gang of robbers looted valuables, including gold ornaments and cash worth over Rs15 million from a house in Defence as they used a special device and blocked signals by jamming Bluetooth or wireless signals for cell phones, GPS and Wi-Fi," reveals the planning and advanced technological methods employed by the robbers.

This theft shows how criminals today use technology both to aid their crime and beat local security systems put in place to keep communities safe. When criminals use technology to break into a house, the media shows how it challenges public awareness, calling into question why current security doesn't match what crime is doing right now. People see these criminals as more dangerous when they learn how they wreck security defenses through actions and states shown in the news. When this happens, everyone needs to look at what's working and what needs to change so they can defend against advanced crime methods. The story shows clearly how criminals stay steps ahead of security tools, highlighting why safety systems must evolve more quickly to combat criminals.

News Report 12: "Police Officer Assaults Female Colleague; Alleged Victim Speaks Out"

A woman at work tells authorities she was hit by a male coworker in a workplace dispute. The woman says her male colleague "attacked" her during an on-the-job argument. The woman involved doesn't play any active part, so they describe her as "the assaulted officer" and "the woman." The report talks a lot about how brave the woman was to tell her story, but it doesn't say much about what she actually did. The

picture shows a male cop as the main person causing harm, showing how power between men and women works differently both on the job and in world violence against women. After the attack happened, the author makes the woman appear as someone who was abused but found her voice, showing she was weak and the man was mean.

This report tells the story of a female cop being harmed physically at work by a man who works alongside her. The language used constructs a stark divide between the roles of the two individuals: The report names a male officer who is doing harm through words like "assaulting" and "attacking," saying he's the main person causing trouble. The choice of words shows he knew what he was doing when he attacked her. How the man attacks show everyone he's the one to blame, acting intentionally and commanding violence. The female officer is only spoken of as someone who got attacked and a woman. The way police report describes her condition downplays her response, presenting her as someone who suffered the violence but didn't defend herself. The situation is described using the linguistic technique of "representing actions/states/events" technique introduced by Jeffries (2010). The way they say things makes the story tell the woman has less power and choice than the male officer, who does all the moving and speaking. Traditionally, narratives show women mainly as targets of violence against a backdrop of male authorities, such as in the workforces of police forces (Song, 2023).

The story recognizes how brave the woman was when telling what happened, but she did not do much too actually cause things to occur that night. She gets remembered for what happened to her, not for anything she set in motion that shaped the encounter. While we congratulate her for standing up for herself, the story doesn't question the standard pattern where women are seen as victims in work violence cases, regardless of whether a man caused the problem. She took steps only when the attack had already occurred. Her responses showed weakness more than power to change results.

What happened here shows how the woman was wronged and power differences between men and women caused that injustice. Before the woman officer's resistance, what took place was a clear misuse of power by the male officer. This shows that gender power differences make her an easy target for him. When women struggle in

workplaces that lack power, this crime follows a pattern the readers see in society as a whole - men using force against women (Sultana et al., 2020). The paper shows how the woman officer was a victim while the man officer acted as the perpetrator, which fits with common patterns of mistreating women at their jobs. Women who work with more powerful male colleagues are more at risk throughout their career, and this weak presentation of the female officer impacts society's understanding of workplace attacks. While women can find strength to speak up, society normally places them as weak, needing help from others to deal with abuse by men.

News Report 13: "Father Beats Daughter for Eloping; Public Reacts with Outrage"

A man hit his daughter badly because she left him to marry who she wanted. The news story shows the daughter as she ran away, while mentioning that the father was upset but doesn't share what she was feeling. When the father looks for and strikes his runaway daughter, the article shows us that he controls the situation. All the while, the victim just stands there as her father vents his anger at her. The report shows how the daughter seems trapped by her father's unhappiness, while it portrays the father's strong response as typical male control aimed at preserving family reputation. The way this story is told highlights how strongly the man in charge can act and how women in this situation often have little say.

The ways the media portrays the father committing the crime and his daughter being attacked show different ways men and women hold power, by showing the father taking action while the daughter stays still. The event is present using the linguistic technique of "representing society" as given by Jeffries (2010). As the article makes clear, the father is the one committing violence, since he is the one chasing his daughter and trying to hurt her. That puts all blame on his actions. The way his search is written shows he made all the moves himself, not letting chance play any role in the event. When he becomes angry at his daughter after she runs away, it looks like he's driven by typical fatherly feelings that honor and protect his family's reputation. The way this story shows things confirms long-known expectations about how males (especially fathers) have power over what their female children do and who they choose to date and marry.

The report calls the daughter a runaway, which shows she left home and makes her look trouble-some and unwell trusted. Because of the passively-written words, the

readers are left to see the daughter as somebody society has wronged, rather than a person with power over her own decisions. The report ignores how she felt or why she did what she did without showing signs of life. Even though she wanted to get married, authorities considered her decision disobedient and deserving of punishment because her father and the rules around female behavior asked her to act differently.

How the father's behavior is about 'saving family honor' and his daughter's marriage make a big impact because they show clearly how men tried to run their homes and make decisions for women during this time. The father's urgent search for and stern treatment of his daughter show how he rules their family while allowing himself unchecked power to do what he thinks is right for his daughter over her own decisions and rights. The story shows that girls cannot choose their own partners without asking male family leaders meeting male standards. The report under focuses on what the daughter does and instead mainly shows why her father is mad. Women in conservative families can't make their own decisions when men - especially fathers - look down on what they choose (Surette, 2009). The father's violent behavior shows men think they can rule women's actions without question. He thinks hitting her proves he rules the family in these circumstances. The report deepens male-female inequality by calling the daughter "runaway" while saying the father is "angry" and such a contrast is developed using the linguistic technique of "equating and contrasting". The report doesn't bother with understanding why the daughter ran away and makes out her decision as either a bad choice or a random defiance. Leaving out her view in the report turns her from a human with freedom into an object her father can only see as an offense. Women are generally seen as people who have to follow what men tell them to do – especially in places that don't change fast and where male dominance is strong – and they suffer consequences if they don't.

News Report 14: "Man Murders Wife After Argument; Family Members Express Shock"

Someone in Lahore killed their wife after they fought. The police call the husband the person who did the attack because of his strong feelings, while they just say the woman was hurt. The report observes how the woman got killed, not by focusing on what she did or tried to do but by talking about her damaged state after being shot. The story shows how the husband does all the harmful actions, while the victim usually

stood by and was hurt, rather than playing an active part in what happened. How women are shown can make them look like weakness targets of angry men, yet it doesn't explain how men abuse power over women as a whole.

The way this report shows the criminal and the victim fits a pattern that treats men and women differently - it centers on who does what and who gets hurt. When the man killed his wife, researchers named him the person who harmed her because of his violent feelings. The way the readers read about the killer matters because it shows how directly he planned and felt about the killing. The way the criminal is called the "perpetrator" shows the reader take his crime seriously and proves he did it himself. The report calls the woman a "victim" while avoiding showing any signs of her having control over what happened. The way they say she died - "killed" or "murdered" - shows she didn't do anything to cause her own death and makes being a victim more important than any way she might have had power in the situation. The two linguistic techniques provided by Jeffries (2010) i.e. "equating and contrasting", "representing actions and events". The report shows how the husband made her suffer, making her only a victim of this crime. The writer puts the man's violent behavior at the center of the report because society expects male partners to be the ones who attack their loved ones at home. The way they show the man acting out in anger gives readers the common idea of men as natural aggressors who hurt their wives. The report only covers one cause behind her death: her husband's ability to lose control or hold power over her. It ignores the role that wider social factors might have played.

Nobody gives the woman enough power to act in this report, like most reports on domestic violence that show women as people who just get attacked by men (Syed, 2008). The report shows how weak women are by only telling their pain story and skipping talking about what they could have done or done, making women look very trapped by violence. This way women are shown in movies matches how many people think women can't fight back against family violence, making men look more powerful in families (Weitzer & Kubrin, 2004). The report's exclusions uncover how dangerous relationships can escalate without delving into what made the couple fight. The report tells only one side of the story – a man who assaults a woman – rather than looking at the full situation, which keeps harmful patterns of thinking that men hurt and women are hurt by them.

News Report 15: "Woman Groped in Public; Protesters Rally for Women's Safety in Karachi"

When a woman in Karachi was assaulted in a busy public area, many residents and protesters came together to demand safer streets for women. The article tells readers that when a woman was touched without consent in public, feminists gathered in Karachi to show how unsafe places can be for women. People react strongly because the way the woman was handled left no doubt that it was a sexual attack. The unknown identity of the attackers makes people worry more about harassment everywhere since there's no way to track or stop them. The rally gains attention as the main way people show how much they care about women's rights and unite to fight for equality. This united effort redirects our attention away from single women's experiences and towards the larger equality issues women face in public spaces. The group works to win changes in laws and community rules to make places safer for everyone. The movie depicts the character mostly as someone who suffered harm. Right away, when the author says "she was groped," they establish the incident as a sexual offense, presenting the woman as a target of a very private and invasive attack. Public crime targets vulnerable women unprotected in their surroundings, making that constant threat a big issue. Because the report doesn't give her a name or reveal her personal life, her story represents what every woman goes through when facing public harassment. The report misses an opportunity to fully explore the victim's identity since it mostly talks about her pain and what gender-based crime means for our shared society. When writers talk about this woman's experience in public, they create a bigger conversation about how women everywhere are at risk in open places. The report talks about male harassers in general terms, calling them "individuals who touched the woman," while leaving information about his appearance or specific actions hidden. Without knowing much about the identity of the attackers, the crime seems to be everywhere and could happen to anyone. The article keeps focus on the attack instead of telling who did it or why, making people see it as a society-wide concern, not something done by one person. People end up feeling more afraid to report sexual harassment because the news doesn't tell us who did it or why.

News Report 16: "Child Abduction in Islamabad: Public Anxiety and Calls for Stricter Laws"

A kid disappearing in Islamabad made parents and people in the city very scared, and they wanted lawmakers to make rules that better protect children from being kidnapped. The headline, "Child Abduction in Islamabad: Right after the kidnapping in Islamabad, people got scared and asked for more protection laws. The words "anxiety" in the headline attract those scared about children's safety while urging readers to support tighter laws. People closest to children react strongly when they read the victim was a child, since parents and caretakers naturally worry about their immediate family members, especially while abductions still terrorize the news. Changing the story to cover universal risks to children and weak current laws helps people see the need to fix a broken system. The fact that the child is so young makes this crime more horrifying to everyone who hears about it. The public sees it as cruel and terrible that a vulnerable little one was taken. People feel national anger and demand action because a child is victimized and defenseless. When the media shows the child as someone easily hurt, they make it clear that the crime goes beyond hurting one person - it breaks all rules that should keep children safe. When journalists call abductors "criminals" right away, they attach a serious crime label to their actions. Calling these people abductors brings in clear blame and stops any debate about their crimes. The fact that everyone calls the criminals abductors directs people to care most about bringing them to justice quickly, because stealing a kid is especially wrong when the child is a kid. The news coverage makes people treat "abductors" as dangers to public security, which increases calls for improved protective measures and tougher policies.

News Report 17: "Police Brutality During Protest in Lahore; Citizens Demand Accountability"

Police forces in Lahore responded to a protest with violence, leaving several people hurt while earning the city's citizens' wrath. From the very start, the article shows police's unjust behavior at a protest and makes citizens ask who will take responsibility. How hard cops treat people during protests makes people think they go too far with force and should not use violence against protesters. When people read the word "accountability," they want to see the police be held responsible both for individual victims' rights and for fixing problems in how they handle law enforcement. When protesters show their reasons for being there, they claim higher moral standing than police who have to end the gathering. This story shows how the public fights against government power, making both sides feel important and driving discussing about

citizen rights and needing the police to answer for their actions. Someone who became a victim is shown undergoing abuse from police officers. Calling it police brutality labels the victim as someone whose legal rights have been trampled by members of the law enforcement group. The image shows how the person experiencing pain forms a key part of telling a story about when those in power treat people poorly. The victim stands for everyone whose rights fall victim to power held by government officials. The way people describe the victim changes how people see their pain, which helps more people join together to fight for justice. The cops here act as wrongdoers because they belong to the state's law enforcement branch. How the police are identified as law enforcement adds even more anger and outcry, because now everyone sees the government itself breaking citizens' rights. People take to streets in demonstrations as part of their efforts to fight back against government officials who abuse their power. People don't see the police as flawed humans; they view them as an entire force who has failed in their job of keeping us safe.

4.2.4 Prioritizing

News Report 18: "Teenager Stabbed by Classmate in School Fight"

One new teen from Karachi's high school fought with another, walking out of the fight with his friend stabbed. The report shows how the attacker step-by-step stabbed and fought with his victim through direct verbalization. The report mentions the teen boy victim was hurt multiple times without showing what he did or could have done to defend himself. News about the offense defines the teen victim mostly by how someone hurt or targeted him, rather than telling us what he actually did during the attack. The way the writer describes each character's words and actions sets up the attacker as the one doing all the hurting, while keeping the victim powerless throughout.

The way the news story shows both the attacker and the victim changes how the audience views who did what in the fight. The attacker gets plenty of attention in this news story. With words like "stabbed" and "attacked," readers are told he took a hands-on approach to commit the violence. Everything he did is highlighted, making him the central person the story follows when it comes to who was responsible for the violence. The attacker controlled every move he made during this incident, choosing at every turn to use violent and determined actions that caused the stabbing. The story explains that this criminal made a choice to turn a peaceful situation into violent movement.

Instead, the media calls the victimized teenager a passive "stabbing" target, keeping his role in the incident minor. The act of crime is reduced in intensity by using language in a particular manner and this aligns with the linguistic technique of "describing" as pointed out by Jeffries (2010). When written this way, the article takes away the victim's power to act on his own, making him seem like the thing being handled by the attacker, rather than someone acting with him. The sentence passes on power to the attacker, making it look like they used their free will to harm the victim without much resistance from him. What the report mainly looks at is how badly the victim got hurt, like how the killer stabbed him, but doesn't really talk about what the victim chose to do or think during the fight. The way the report talks about the victim makes it seem he did nothing to defend himself, which limits our chance to look at if he took part in causing or dealing with the fight in any way.

The way the report shows the attacker actively doing things makes the readers see that the victim doesn't have much control. The attacker takes control of everything that happened before the stabbing, coming across as someone powerful. During the crime, the victim is seen as a person who endures being hurt by the attacker, keeping him powerless in that moment. The understated ways the report mentions the victim's actions keeps his role hidden and makes readers focus only on what happened to him. People throughout society usually see victims as simple targets for what happened to them, especially in violent situations like this one. When someone clearly starts trouble, the news only shows how the victim faced what happened, forgetting that the victim might have done things that made the fight worse. Although the victim in this case got hurt badly, how the writer words their report lets the victim's role in the violence fade while keeping focus on what happened to him.

News Report 19: "Shopkeeper Kills Neighbor Over Land Dispute"

According to reports from Rawalpindi, neighbors got into a serious fight over property, and one of them killed his neighbor. The reporter calls the shopkeeper's attacking people an aggressive, planned crime. As the report describes things, the victim only does what the author labels him as, such as being "killed" and "murdered" without his actions or thoughts gaining much attention during this event. The way reporters tell this story means the victim looks like a helpless party to the attacker, who ultimately

decides what happens to him. The offender takes control, but their victim has no significant role in the tale.

The way writers show the criminal and victim in this report shows a clear difference between how much they control their actions. The shopkeeper takes action as the person who starts a problem heightened with terms like “intentional” and “brutal”. The way the narrative phrases things makes it clear that the shopkeeper chose to become the main character who decided when and how to use violence. How the report shows him taking action clearly shows his responsibility for what happens. Showing the shopkeeper doing deliberate violence builds a clear sense that he alone carries all responsibility for his neighbor's death. The report shows the victim as having no active role in the story. Language describing the victim presented him as dead at the end of the argument instead of what he actually did or could have done earlier and this is done using the linguistic technique of “prioritizing” given by Jeffries (2010). The way the victim is shown in a passive voice removes any suggestion that he did anything to play a role in the event, except getting hurt by the shopkeeper's attack. How the story tells us the victim had no power to solve the situation makes him look like someone acted on without any choice, turning him into a target rather than who deserved respect as a human being. Because it only focuses on the victim's death, the report makes it hard to see him as an active part in the disagreement while keeping all attention on how the shopkeeper behaved.

The way people commit crimes shows how the criminal choices are more central to news stories than what the victims do. The shopkeeper's aggressive behavior takes center stage in the report, showing exactly why he's being blamed, while how the victim reacted, or could have reacted, plays almost no role. The report often talks about victims as things that get attacked instead of looking at how they could defend themselves or take part in the situation. In addition, this way of talking makes people believe victims have no ability to protect themselves from criminals, which creates an idea about victims being defenseless. Because the report doesn't evaluate how the victim joined in the fight or reacted when attacked, it simplifies the story by showing only the half with the person harmed. When victim accounts focus only on the victim's passivity, they oversimplify how conflict starts and what people on both sides do. The report's presentation creates two basic positions - violent perpetrator and helpless victim. The way this news story is written makes viewers concentrate solely on how the

criminal acted, without showing how the victim could take part in things. When the report names the shopkeeper as the main force in the event, readers see him as the crime's primary mover, and when it portrays the victim as acting on others, it Image View reinforces their silence. The way people talk about crime seems to show a normal pattern where they put more attention on wrongdoers than on hurt individuals.

News Report 20: In 2021, the Rawalpindi district police recorded 10,986 cases in which people were deprived of 4,613 motorcycles and 537 cars compared to 8,730 property cases registered the previous year.

The report shows how many more vehicles got stolen during the year 2021 in Rawalpindi compared to previous years. Even though this report doesn't reveal personal details about criminals, it highly concentrates on showing their larger unified threats. When crime stats take center stage while people's stories stay on the sidelines, criminals begin looking like a faceless computer animation rather than real people. This method makes them look less like real people and more like meaningless statistics. According to critical analysis of how crimes get shown, statistics make people view criminals as evil ghosts everywhere, not real people battling many issues in their lives. This way of reporting about crime leaves us feeling uncertain about who we could face threats from, without giving us any positive answers about what makes criminals act this way.

The victims in these accounts only get assigned numbers or labels based on the items they lost. The way crimes are presented without personal details hides how much the victims suffer through emotional and financial damage they face. Looking only at the number of stolen vehicles takes the reader's focus away from real people who have lost their vehicles and how this compares to the past. In line with ideas in discourse analysis, these stories forget to show how real people experience and fight back after they're harmed. These kinds of media storytelling treat victims as spectators instead of important players in their own life path as they face crimes and seek solutions. Based on how the report shows how crime numbers changed between 2020 and 2021, it makes people feel that crime is getting worse. Moreover, Jeffries (2010) claimed that by using the "implied" linguistic technique in language, the identities of entities can be shaped according to the required context. The above report mentions statistics in order to portray the identity of criminals in superior manner. The crime statistics analysis connects with public fears about security and places extra pressure on police by

suggesting they can't control theft growth. Critics believe that newspaper stories about rising crime mostly miss why crimes happen - not enough money, too many people, or poorly run government policies. The report's approach that avoids larger problems perpetuates a basic way of understanding crime that misses its connection to underlying national and regional issues. The study leaves out gender as a part of its report, but it's plain to see what the true results would be if they included it. In many societies, it's mainly men who deal with stolen vehicles, because societies consider cars as something connected more to how men use and move around. Women who become crime victims often stay in the shadows because research may neglect to mention or investigate their experiences. The report misses many stories of crime involving women, which shows how traditional crime news measures rely mainly on male survivors and experiences. The report reveals how well (or badly) local police departments handle crime by simply showing what they don't do. The crimes go unsolved, and the public has no information on when police made arrests, how they're stopping theft, or what improvements they're making. Theories showing how power works highlight that failing to explain what institutions do to solve crimes makes people think individuals are the main problem, while ignoring the wider systems and laws that need fixing.

News Report 21: Man Arrested for Assaulting Elderly Neighbor over Noise Dispute in Islamabad.

In the news report above, it can be said that the aggressor is placed and positioned behind the action and it clearly shows the aggressor's frustration as well as planning. Moreover, the report presents the aggressor as a person unsatisfied with the life at home and this provoked their performed action. It can also be observed that the report exhibits the victim as just a helpless old-age individual, recipient of the action and this depicted by the word "elderly" and this aligns with "describing" strategy of Jeffries (2010) who claimed that individuals, actions and states are described using words in such a way that it portrays a particular picture of them. In this manner, the story positions the victim into a supportive function since the aggressor becomes the authoritative figure of the narrative.

The way this news item presents both, the man who assaulted his neighbor and the victim, sets them apart: how they acted, and who can see them. The news focuses on what the criminal did and shows the reader directly how the criminal acted. The

chosen words dominate the story and put readers in mind of how purposefully he caused harm. The report only shows and talks about things the criminal did, making him the key event driver and putting everything else in the background. The report fails to investigate what really made him dangerous, leaving his motivation as simple anger over being annoyed by noise as denoted by the words “assaulting” and “noise” and this is also pointed out by Jeffries (2010) in the “actions/states/events” linguistic strategy in which an action is described using particular vocabulary in such a way that it constructs the identity of the performer. The report largely shows us how the victim's life was changed by what happened to him. When the report talks mostly about how hurt he is and displays his weakness, it makes it clear how passive he is throughout the scene and this is reinforced by the word “dispute” as no word such as “fight” is used. The way this story is told makes him less important, because the readers spend more time hearing about what the criminal did than what the victim did or could have done. Due to how the report depicts the victim, readers only see him as someone who could not defend himself from the crime. The way media shows people who are already weak or unprotected usually turns them into symbols of pain rather than people who were involved in the events leading up to the crime happening. How the criminal steals the show while the victim mostly stays in the background noticeably emphasizes - by media - a story where aggressive actions and self-assuredness shine brightly, while being victimized and powerlessness get pushed aside. Apart from this, it is a common belief that how the victim and criminal look and what they do affects public opinion. When a criminal's actions are seen, people tend to think more about what they did wrong, and the victim's stand and as a result, how society will change isn't important.

News Report 22: "Wife of Wealthy Businessman Files for Divorce After Abuse"

A woman files divorce after suffering years of both physical harm and mental mistreatment by her well-off partner. The report shows the husband taking action as the person attacking her and telling her what to do. While people refer to the woman as abused and married, they show less interest in telling her story or showing what she did when trying to save herself from harm. This way of talking about her shows that the story values how she was affected, not how she came into her own. By making the husband the main person doing the abuse, society shows us that domestic violence happens because of men harming women.

This report clearly shows who does what by how it talks, which matches how most people think of traditional groups and violence in families. What the husband does regularly throughout appears as the main source of harm to his wife, as multiple verbs present him as the one doing and controlling things, making her powerless and vulnerable. The way the writer names his actions makes the husband look like he leads the relationship, with his abuse forming the core of the story and this is achieved using the linguistic technique of “representing actions/states/events” given by Jeffries (2010). The report shows that the power problem at home comes directly from the abusive, controlling husband, making him the main source of harm in their marriage. While she is frequently shown as the suffering party in this narrative, the wife is always portrayed as someone who does little for herself. The way the author talks about her labels the wife mostly as a person who experienced her husband's actions, leaving her little opportunity to make choices for herself. The report repeatedly calls her the "victim" to show she did little more than react to her experience, while neglecting to describe her survival strategies. Because the readers aren't shown what this woman did to get help or get away from her abuser, readers can only see her as a victim who faced the abuse rather than a fighter who tried to take control of her own situation. Using "the victim" makes society think of women as defenseless against men's violence and adds to beliefs that, in dangerous relationships, women can't fight back.

To understand domestic violence, we have to consider how both men and women play different roles - and how society expects men to be in charge. How the husband acts follows what most people think about: men usually strike their families, and women often receive these blows. It goes along with what society usually expects - men holding the top spot and women being at their mercy. Although the truth matters when it comes to domestic abuse, the way we write about the victim shows her power. This missing voice in passive sentences leaves out what she did to fight back. People's understanding of the subject is influenced by how different groups express themselves. How the writing describes a violent husband often makes people desire justice and demand he face responsibility. The way writers show the wife suffering quietly can make people feel sad but also show that abuse victims are unable to help themselves. Real-life empowerment actions from the wife - like getting legal advice, reaching out to support networks, or planning her way forward - can't be shown because of how

movies present her. The movie keeps her more like a victim because it focuses on what men made her do instead of how she found ways to become better.

News Report 23: "Teen Girl Attacked by Ex-Boyfriend; Family Demands Justice"

The former boyfriend hit and hurt his ex-girlfriend when he caught her seeing someone new. The report shows the boy hurt the girl physically, calling events "attacks" and "beatings" to make him look more dangerous and this is highlighted by Jeffries (2010) as "actions, states/events" which are presented using language in a particular way to propagate a desired concept of an event. Most of what the story tells about the victim comes from how she was hurt and how the attack hurt her emotions. The parents speak out about what's wrong here, aiming to make people feel sorry for and worried about the teenager. How this article shows the victim is powerless makes her look like she just suffered without being able to do anything, while other people make choices and move the story forward. There's no deep study of what the girl did or thought, only how she reacted when the male attacker's feelings got out of control.

The news focuses mostly on how the teenage girl was affected by her attacker's harm to her body and mind. The report shows the boy involved in all violent actions by naming him as "attacker" and "beater" but makes no mention of the girl taking part in violence. He strikes out because he's mad at not having her attention like he used to. The way this news article talks about his driving force shows us he fell apart because of jealousy and didn't know how to handle his feelings. The police only check up on how badly the victim was hurt and the emotional scars she has after the attack, mentioning her very little in their report. They show the victim of his attack to have been hopeless against what her rocky former partner unleashed on her. Her understanding and her part in everything that happens remains minimal, making it hard for us to know who she really is. By making her character mostly passive, the story limits how much she can transform the events around her, presenting her only as a hurt person instead of a strong survivor who could have handled her circumstances.

The report keeps repeating the family's request for justice to show the public that their daughter needs everyone's support and compassion. The report puts families' reactions to the center, making the girl's being hurt the thing that matters most to everyone, making people want to fix what's wrong and this is done using the "prioritizing" technique pointed out by Jeffries (2010). The report only shows the girl

as a victim, but gives no view into her feelings, thoughts, or actions before the attack happened. The report takes away her ability to make choices and turns her from an important person who can act for her own life into someone who needs protection more than anything else. The report always describes the attacker as the person who started physical harm while showing no signs of him being a victim. The report shows how the boy drove the offense by showing his aggressive behavior and unstable feelings, while it lists jealousy and wanting to keep the victim to himself as his reasons. The report leaves most of the readers guessing why the boy attacked the girl because it doesn't mention anything about their past relationship or explain potential triggers for the attack. The report claims that because the boy became emotional after seeing what the girl did, this led directly to his violent attack.

4.2.5 Implying and Assuming

News Report 24: An increase in robberies, vehicle snatching, burglaries, theft and murder in some cases occurred throughout the previous year.

Monitoring figures gives us proof that crime is still a big concern everywhere and shows criminals can break into homes and steal anytime, making people lose trust in the local law enforcement officers. The way media shares these statistics matters because the information they spread can both sway public views and get officials to act. The report makes citizens pay attention and call for more protection from police officers by breaking down the growing crime rates and what types of crimes happened (Landau, 2019). The police have been working on two main approaches to control the problem: checking motorcycles and forming special teams.

The report presents crimes clearly in place by describing the actions and what happened directly. The report combines nominalization techniques with counts to help people better understand both the things the criminals have done and how big these acts are. Every time stolen goods are counted, two things are shown: the continuous rise in numbers and a hidden criticism of law enforcement that fails to solve these crimes. As explained in the discussion of the report previous report, Jeffries (2010) adduced that statistics play an important role in the construction of identity of the entities. The report puts crime statistics at the front while suggesting that cops react too late and don't do enough against crime and its harm. When crime is broken down into specific types for viewers - robberies, theft, burglaries, car thefts, and homicides - media manipulates

what people think about crime being planned and well-organized. These terms remove confidence for everyone and create a general feeling of fear. Choosing specific words shows how language controls what people understand about our social systems, signalling they don't work and the people need to fix them immediately. The story brings attention to two major responses: checking motorcycles and forming special enforcement units. The statistics about stopping crimes are explained in ways that make them look different from how street crimes are on the rise. This disagreement with the data overtly casts doubt on how much these metrics really matter. The story makes the reader doubt whether what the systems do is enough, inviting people to think that an unknown gap exists. The media controls how people see crime by showing more crime numbers going up and using words that suggest bigger problems in society need to be fixed. Showing victims as people who could no longer use motorcycles and cars turns them into casualties who lost basic freedom without choice. This approach gives offenders important rights while showing they take actions themselves that break normal social rules. The textual relationships of action and inaction between groups fit well with how critical stylistics theory sees social roles created by language. When media reports on crime, they join forces with society to create a message that judges criminal activity and counts it, which directly affects how people view government and law enforcement. According to Jeffries (2010), such descriptions paint the people involved in criminal events in a particular manner. The way journalists report these events comes from their own ideas, not just facts. The media quietly blames government and law enforcement agencies for not handling the wide-spread growth of crime. The report uses both real statistics and clear criminal categories to make readers see that these issues aren't rare or personal, but a big, ongoing problem that needs immediate fixing. The report shows how law enforcement and community safety are being threatened by what it claims as common society problems. Without realizing, readers follow the data to develop a society-aware point of view and critical view of institutions because of the background assumptions that also guide the text's preferred solution to both.

4.2.6 Representing Time, Space and Society

News Report 25: The streets of Karachi have recently witnessed chilling developments, with "a 20-year-old young man and a businessman were shot dead by

alleged robbers in two separate incidents in Karachi's Korangi and Defence Housing Authority (DHA).

We see crime rates growing fast and property crimes becoming more severe in urban areas. Robbers caught their victims off guard during weak moments and ended up killing them after starting to steal from them. When the young person fought back against the robbers, the story of these losses gets more complex (Higgins, 2019).

"The robbers snatched his cell phone and other valuables and shot him after he tried resisting," the police explained (Ali, 2024, June 4).

The horrible act of resistance cost him his own life, showing how dangerous it is to try standing up to gun-toting attackers.

The businessman's ordeal ended fatally when "robbers... chased from Boat Basin to his house in Phase II after he withdrew Rs1 million (Ali, 2024, June 4) ".

He was shot at the end of the chase, showing how simply going to a bank can end in gunfire. These dangerous and deadly crimes show us that police and communities need to adapt their approaches to stop and fight dangerous attackers. Media reporting both tells what actually happened and causes everyone to think more deeply about safety issues, which pushes police and communities to take stronger measures (Harman & Lorandos, 2021). People take action and help police when the media reports these crimes, showing us why serious measures are needed now to lower violence in Karachi. Dressed in full black, a resident in Islamabad bravely stopped a thief and ended the attempted robbery, as cameras recorded what happened.

4.3 Covert Ideologies in the Discourse on Perpetrators and Victims

This section explores the hidden notions that are ingrained in media coverage as well as discourse about criminals and victims. The present investigation highlights the way media portrayals support the maintenance of gender stereotypes, power disparities, and social accepted practices by examining the language decisions as well as narrative structures used. These assertions will be supported by specific textual samples taken from the examined news sources in the analysis that follows.

4.3.1 Gendered Representations and the Reinforcement of Societal Roles

The use of gender-specific vocabulary, which subtly perpetuates conventional gender stereotypes, is often highlighted in the media's depictions of offenders as well as victims. The discourse frequently uses rhetoric that describes males as possessive, controlling, and naturally violent when they are portrayed as the offenders. Descriptors as well as narrative structures that highlight their independence, supervision, and potential for explicit hostility are included in this. On the other hand, female victims are frequently portrayed as passive, weak, and silently weeping. Their stories usually emphasize their external injuries as well as mental anguish while ignoring any autonomy or conscious efforts to act out. This language distinction upholds the deeply embedded social belief that women are the passive objects of damage while males are the active actors, frequently linked to aggressiveness. Such discriminatory mounting, which is subtly but often used in media narratives, subtly perpetuates adverse stereotypes about gender by normalizing the concept that males are inherently violent whereas women are always defenseless prey. For example, news report number seven reveals that the kid intentionally assaulted the girl, referring to the incidents as "attacks" as well as "beatings" to give the impression that he had been more threatening. The majority of the narrative focuses on the victim's emotional distress as well as how the incident affected her. The above instance demonstrates the way these roles are reinforced by the phrases, nouns, and storytelling focus used in the media, which helps the public comprehend violence based on gender.

4.3.2 Victim Blaming and the Backgrounding of Victim Agency

News stories on crimes usually highlight the extreme feelings of the offenders, such as anger or envy, providing a psychological context for their behavior. On the other hand, although the victims' agony is described in great detail, there is a noticeable omission or underplaying of any reference to the victims' agency and acts during the occurrences that are taking place. The rhetoric employed by the media frequently portrays victims as completely innocent people who have no apparent link to their own personal mistreatment. According to Bhanbhro (2015), this discursive technique successfully places victims' identities as well as prospective action in the context while concentrating only on their standing as consumers of damage. This strategy has a blatantly political component by nature, since the victim is presented as the epitome of

completely devoid of guilt and the offender is given full responsibility. For example, the news report number 7 shows how the boy drove the offense by showing his aggressive behavior and unstable feelings, while it lists jealousy and wanting to keep the victim to himself as his reasons. The report only shows the girl as a victim, but gives no view into her feelings, thoughts, or actions before the attack happened. Moreover, by disregarding or minimized the victim's reactions, this type of reporting perpetuates one perspective of blamelessness that even ironically, might deprive the victim of their entire humanness and potential to respond.

4.3.3 Normalization of Violence Via Culture

Crime-related news stories, especially those about family conflicts, honor-related infractions, as well as assaults against women, occasionally serve as a way to enforce important community norms as well as cultural values. Violence is frequently implied in media coverage as a valid way to settle disputes about long-standing family as well as communal beliefs. The cultural beliefs that justify using violence to correct perceived breaches of family or community honor are actively maintained by this storytelling technique. Moreover, reports often show a clear link amongst criminal behavior as well as cultural beliefs that legitimize violence in connection with 'dishonor,' therefore allowing such behaviors to be accepted in some social circumstances. According to Jamil (2017), this kind of media representation not only mirrors but also aggressively upholds social institutions that view violence as a legitimate—even necessary—reaction to insults to honor. For instance, the news report 2 shows how the daughter seems trapped by her father's unhappiness, while it portrays the father's strong response as typical male control aimed at preserving family reputation. This demonstrates the way the media quietly incorporates traditional explanations, portraying violence as a reaction inside a certain cultural context rather than as an exception.

4.3.4 Subtle Imputation of Victim Responsibility

Certain victimization accounts subtly imply that the victim shares blame for the suffering they have experienced, which is a very dangerous form of hidden ideology. For example, in cases of domestic abuse, the victim's story is often told in the passive voice, without context about their own past or plans to fight back or receive assistance. Furthermore, the discourse discreetly promotes the concealed assumption that the

victim perhaps exacerbated an already terrible encounter by failing to explicitly state their behavior or replies. The perverted notion that victims, especially women, could have caused themselves to suffer pain is exposed by this covert imputation of culpability, which is ingrained in common speech. These word choices reinforce the negative social propensity to place responsibility on those that are in dire requiring help. For instance, the news report number four exemplifies the way the absence of explicit information about victim agency can be reinterpreted by the audience as a subtle form of blame, shifting the focus away from the perpetrator's sole culpability.

4.3.5 Male Dominance and the Protection Narrative

An underlying cultural conviction in men's main responsibility as women's defenders underlies the media's discursive focus, which frequently unfairly emphasizes male aggression above the circumstances of female victims, keeping women in a submissive role. This trend is especially noticeable when discussing stories about "family honor" crimes or violence in the household. In these situations, media discourses often perpetuate discourses based on male dominance, presenting men as strong individuals who guide and protect, and women as weak beings that are always in need of male supervision. The patriarchal framework of society that emphasizes women's fragility and undercuts their capacity to defend oneself or act freely is not merely normalized but vigorously advocated by this narrative. For example, the news report about the man murdering his wife after an argument subtly perpetuates the sexist power structures, where aggressive behavior by men is frequently presented as a reaction to potential threats to their protector position instead of as a violent act in and of itself.

4.3.6 Moral Policing and Social Control through Labelling

The portrayal of criminals and victims in news media is deeply intertwined with broader political and ideological efforts at moral policing and social control. Perpetrators are frequently labeled with pejorative terms such as 'thug,' 'criminal,' or 'attacker,' immediately casting them as deviant and outside the bounds of acceptable societal behavior. Conversely, victims are typically depicted with profound empathy, aligning with societal concepts of 'right' and 'wrong,' transforming them into symbols of innocence and, at times, heroism. This stark juxtaposition reinforces a clear moral divide that resonates with prevailing societal norms and legal frameworks. By framing

crime as a significant breach of social order, the media's portrayal actively shapes public perception, ensuring that individuals who violate these norms are unequivocally cast as criminals deserving of punishment. Simultaneously, those who adhere to societal norms are elevated to the status of victims in need of protection, thus reinforcing the existing social hierarchy and moral order.

4.4 Discussion

It is believed that the words, phrases and sentences used in the media reporting shapes the overall view of people regarding crime. How a report communicates offenders and victims affects both their opinion and the social understanding that surrounds their stories. Looking closely at how journalists talk about criminals and victims through specific language patterns teaches us about how words create power differences, make victims feel able to act, and spread blame or exoneration. The language structures these reports use aligns with wider social ideas about men, women, and who controls events. Nouns and noun phrases used to describe criminals and victims are some of the biggest ways media shapes how the public sees them. Journalists use both names when writing about crimes to show how criminals and victims interact and what part each person played in what happened. Criminals are usually named with words like "perpetrator," "assailant," and "attacker" because these nouns tell the readers they make things happen. The way these words are chosen makes you picture criminals who run the show and have complete control over what they do. Impact victims lack the status of "victim" or "survivor" in labels. Instead, they are referred to as "individuals" or left with no label at all, reducing their agency in the story. The way newspapers label victims with powerless words helps create an image where others act on them but they don't have much say in what happens. In stories about domestic violence, police references just call the married woman being hurt by her husband "the victim," instead of exploring what she did to try escaping the abuse. Using words that name victims as passive targets makes them look nonhuman, taking power away from them.

Beyond naming, how we describe what has happened and what someone has done helps build the criminal-victim relationship. What verbs we choose - and how actively or passively people act - tells us which roles get more attention: the offender's or the victim's. Most articles blame the criminal by saying they "attacked," "stabbed,"

"assaulted," or "killed." The use of action verbs like "attacked," "stabbed," "assaulted," and "killed" shows how the criminal made deliberate choices and took direct action during their crime. Criminal activity is front and center when news stories use action-packed language to show the criminal causing and completing violent crimes. News stories set up their victims by saying verbs like "was attacked," "was hurt," and "was hit." The passive voice shows victims just taking what happened to them rather than exploring their own choices or reactions. The sentence's structure emphasizes how the victim's helplessness and pain show that they are truly victims, while making it harder for readers to see them as strong people. The way police reports say what goes on, putting passive voice on victims and active verbs on criminals, makes the criminal look in charge while the victim just gets hurt, keeping the usual good/criminal split right where it is.

Similarly, how the reports compares and compares things helps shape how they structure crime and victimization. Many crime reports show how the criminal and victim are different in order to explain their roles in what happened. It can be seen that news reports usually show criminals acting first against innocent victims in the crimes they report on. The split between who commits the crime and who endures it makes the story easier to follow because most people can tell who the good and bad people are. In addition, the authors emphasize two opposite descriptions: "violent" versus "innocent" for the criminal and "guilty" versus "helpless" for the victim. This technique makes their differences appear more extreme than they really are. The way crime stories put these two points of view opposite each other gets us to feel strongly about who's to blame and who needs help. This limited way to understand crimes fails to recognize that both criminals and victims can have both gray areas and mixed motives, quite apart from the good-bad labels. How the media presents different parts of the crime story matters in how people get their information. When telling news stories, journalists choose certain parts of the report to stand out, either by how they word sentences or by when they use active versus passive voice. The media uses cleft constructions to make people pay attention to important crime details - often how the criminal looks or what the victim went through. In domestic violence reports, when we say "It was the husband who attacked his wife," we show that the man who hurt her is the main person doing the crime. But when we use "The wife was attacked by her husband," it brings attention to the victim's pain. The new sentence pattern mainly shows how criminals do things

themselves rather than considering what happened all around. Media outlets make it clear to viewers which feelings - such as a victim's fear or a criminal's anger - they want the public to feel more strongly when reporting on a crime. Media control which details of the crime they highlight to convince their readers and viewers about who committed the offenses, how it happened, and who was harmed.

Media stories about crimes use these ideas to shape their content. Journalists hide important details in their stories by letting people know what they should automatically accept or understand without saying it directly. The media often believes that the public knows the background for domestic violence; therefore, the story generally says a man "attacked his wife" without explaining how society sees men as the main suspects. Society's usual way of thinking makes us believe that most crimes against women at home come from their husband, while women are usually the ones hurt. When a report gives these words to describe a victim, it expects readers to feel sad for that person and to want them protected. These hidden beliefs in the report affect how readers see the event and those taking part in it, but most people do not think to question or study why these beliefs are there. The way a writer says no to regular events in a criminal story helps make the story's unreal possible situations develop. When the media takes away parts of the story from news reports, it builds a different reality wherever the incident does not happen or where the victim has less control over what occurs. When reports only show the physical pain of a victim without telling how the victim made choices or decisions, this paints a fake picture of helplessness. The media designs a world where victims are powerless victims of violence, unable to take part in what happens to them. When journalists erase how the victim acted, they make the victim look completely powerless and unable to fight back, and miss key opportunities to show their bravery.

The media shows how the criminal and victim feel by reporting their words either exactly or indirectly. These interactions show up differently in news stories: the criminal's words get shown as their reasoning for what they did, while the victim's words mostly help readers feel sorry for them. When the media shares information, they usually place the criminal's words more important to explain what they did, while playing the victim's words to show how badly they were affected. The media uses deixis and Text World Theory to show how geography, time, and social factors give the crime its full meaning. Language that shows when and where things happen with our world

is called deixis. When media tells a crime story, they always mention the exact location - whether it's someone's house, the town street, or their employer's workplace - to show readers where and how the crime took place. Yet, the way that society shows up in these stories is usually basic and concentrates more on personal choices than on important societal factors that affect behavior, like what people do or society's social values, living standards, or unfair treatment systems. Looking only at individual cases makes us miss how larger systems create crime and victimization, keeping us stuck in a simple view that criminals only act and victims only suffer.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This final chapter presents the findings of the study from the previous chapter. Moreover, it discusses suggestions regarding governmental and policy level changes, the laws in terms of legislative changes. Last but not least, this chapter discusses the conclusion and recommendations for future research. Moreover, all the addressed themes form a basis for further insight into overarching social effects and the next steps for policy and research.

5.1 Introduction to the Chapter

In this chapter, the researcher synthesizes the themes that emerged from Chapter 4 by providing an overview of the media's contribution to the construction of popular understanding of the representation of criminals and victims.

5.1.1 Linguistic Techniques Used to Represent Perpetrators and Victims

1. The media calls perpetrators by technical words that focus on their role in harmful actions - like attacker, perpetrator, or assailant. The media tends to describe people who experience a crime as either "victim" or "injured" and rarely shares what they did in the crime. News stories show villains doing things in charge of themselves, while victims are simply being hurt and cannot respond, making society think that criminal events happen this way.
2. Using all kinds of violent terms, reports describe exactly how the criminals harmed victims. For example, they say "stabbed" for sharp weapon attacks, "assaulted" for hitting people, or "attacked" for any type of direct violence. While criminals are seen doing things in reports, crime victims are normally presented as "was" subjects who were affected by violence, but never chosen to be part of it and this phenomenon is in line with the findings of Olaluwoye (2015)
3. Perpetrators and victims develop their identities opposite to each other, with reports describing the perpetrator's violence to match the victim's lack of fault or damage. The media reports on "angry" and "aggressive" criminals who harm innocent "helpless" and "injured" victims. Reports create storyline division

forced by the press, showing that offenders are responsible and victims are destroyed by cruelty.

4. Perpetrators get more emphasis in sentences just by starting them in active sentences, making their part of the story more important. The victims usually end up at the back of the sentence construction or are described without saying who's hurting them. This makes it hard to notice them early on in the report. The media talks more about the criminal role played by the criminals, overshadowing what the victim experienced or could do and Syed (2008) also claimed that this process is more visible in religious and ethnic crime reporting.
5. The report does two important things when writing: it carefully hints at the victim's innocence while leaving readers to think about how the wrongdoer should be dealt with. The media uses its reporting bias to find wrongdoers guilty by certain behaviors while making victims seem like helpless people, all to fit the public's general view of crime and punishment.
6. How people view criminals and victims is controlled by society's ideas about what men and women should do and what behaviors are considered normal. Reports usually show male attackers as feeling trapped or upset, while they picture female victims as defenceless. How people see gender and power issues in Pakistan shapes how they describe this crime. News coverage of crime turns out to support current views about women and men, showing that men respond violently when feeling bad and needing help, while women mostly do nothing until help arrives, keeping the familiar roles of male and female.

5.1.2 Covert ideologies in the discourse on Perpetrators and Victims

1. Language that points to victims' and offenders' genders makes people stick to their typical roles. When the media portrays male criminals, they act like bullies, while females suffer harm in silence. The way media talks about people in assaults fits with how our society sees men active and women hurt by them. The media secretly keeps up harmful gender beliefs by always making men look like natural attackers and women as helpless targets.
2. When looking at how they do the criminal act, reporters commonly call out strong emotions shown by the criminal, like being really mad or jealous, in their reports. The media mostly talks about how much victims suffer, but they avoid talking much about what these victims actually did. The way media uses

language shows that victims are blameless and have nothing to do with their own victimization. The way people talk about these crimes has a clear political view that blames only the killer while making the victim completely innocent Bhanbhro (2015) claimed that such identity construction backgrounds the identity of victims.

3. When crimes happen, news stories usually explain the incidents as a way to defend important local rules and beliefs – mostly about family disagreements, honor, and attacks against women. The news coverage helps preserve cultural ideas that holding onto group and family values requires using violence to settle problems that challenge them. Reports frequently connect crimes to cultural beliefs that let violence solve 'dishonor', making it look normal and supporting social groups where this happens and this is also pointed out by Jamil (2017).
4. Some reports about victimization subtly suggest the victim's shared responsibility for what happened to them. When someone experiences domestic violence, their victimization is expressed in passive voice while discussing their experiences very little about their personal details or efforts to fight back. By not clearly showing what victims did, there's a hidden idea that they affected their own bad experience. This hidden thinking twisted into daily language reveals the warped belief that victims, mainly women, sparked their own suffering - and proves how society wrongly points fingers at people who need help.
5. Male violence gets more attention than female victims because they believe men protect women first and keep them passive. This pattern is seen most clearly in stories about domestic abuse or crimes of 'family honor'. In this way, media conversations push back based in male domination, favoring men as bosses who lead and guard, while girls are constantly seen as fragile and needing men's guarding.
6. Politics and beliefs label criminals by words like 'thug,' 'criminal' or 'attacker.' An innocent person (the victim) gets shown with empathy to match society's concepts of right and wrong - making criminals look terrible and turning victims into heroes. This reinforces a moral divide that aligns with societal norms and legal frameworks. This shows that the media's portrayal of perpetrators and victims reflects broader ideological efforts at moral policing and social control, where crime is framed as a breach of social order, and individuals who violate

these norms are cast as criminals deserving punishment, while those who adhere to societal norms are depicted as victims in need of protection.

5.2 Implications of The Study

Media, police, policies, and the society's culture play an influential role in developing discourses and strategies for crime prevention, as the research enunciates the contributions separately.

The part played by the media regarding the actual augmentation of public awareness and formulation of the notion of justice is immense. With detailed reportage, the media makes particular influential cases easily accessible to the public and encourages consideration in the courtroom. It assures accountability and creates ethically sensitive, compelling public visibility. Certain media affect the jury so that the case will be viewed in a particular way. Even if the accused is a celebrity or someone of authority, they affect the judicial system's impartiality. It also marks the importance of ethical journalism practices in upholding public rights and doing justice to the delivery of copyrights. Ethical considerations are most relevant when the accusations are severe, much more so when the media plays a significant role in biasing public opinion while pressuring judicial processes. Therefore, it is always essential for journalists to exercise some professionalism and avoid exacerbating sensitive cases that are likely to disrepute the ability of journalism professionals.

The increase in the level of criminal endeavor presents a test to the capacity of the police and other law enforcement agencies to respond adequately. Now, criminals are brilliant and use high-tech equipment; therefore, police and other investigative agencies should better equip themselves. However, this raises fundamental questions about increased securitization of societies, as holding people for longer than at present detains trial has civil liberty implications. Therefore, authorities must set up special procedures that will help counter abuse and safeguard legitimate rights. The results reveal the newly emerging threat of crime and the consequences of having somewhat limited legislative safeguards within the framework of law enforcement activities, as well their Lordships' considerations and views where enhanced legal powers are construed within the context of human rights protection, accountability, and transparency.

Community participation and social capital are critical factors in preventing crime and responding to the same. Cases of courageous women like the recently featured Islamabad woman who single-handedly caused the arrest of a robbery suspect illustrate the effectiveness of a single person and the community in reducing crime. Media portrayal of these acts enhances a feeling of group responsibility that engages the community and promotes safety. Also, an account of the violation of human rights, such as torturing suspects, is another way through which global awareness of injustice emerges. Their public outcry, backed by media support, acts as a watchdog power for an inquisitor on power and authority to move and act on justice. Such findings stress the necessity of creating a culture of risk management and citizens' activity to engage in the security of society. Thus, it is essential to foster, with the help of ethical media and the protection of fair laws, a protective and active society that will be able to become the basis of a practical and non-discriminative approach to crime combating and punishment.

5.3 Limitations of the Study

There are some limitations involved in this study about the examination of crime reports, media representation, and policy considerations. One primary source of limitation relates to the availability and nature of crime statistics. The two main factors affecting crime reporting are the quality and reliability of the data: Density in detail and consistency of reports differ based on the headlines and the media sources, depending on regional reporting norms and conventions. Further, where information is sometimes obtained – particularly where it concerns, for instance, significant offenses or issues of national security – the data is sometimes limited, thereby hindering an understanding of the root causes or contributing factors. Another challenge is how one gives meaning to media content since the reporting of an event from one media outlet may be influenced by editorial biases or target audiences, which will influence the public's perception. This variability in portrayal hampers the assessment of media effects in a more or less egalitarian manner. Public sentiment analysis also has constraints where the reactions depend majorly on the social, cultural, and political background, making it challenging for sentiments to be measured more or less in a given geographical location. Even though crime trends and media portrayals may provide valuable information about the formulation of policy, this type of research fails to capture the

whole dynamics of the social factors that affect crime rates as well as police efficiency, thus making it difficult for the results to be generalized. Moreover, one of the major challenges encountered during the research was the limited availability and accessibility of e-papers. Several online versions of newspapers were either unavailable or failed to load properly, which necessitated visits to libraries in order to access physical copies. Moreover, once the data were retrieved, the process of sifting through a large bundle of news reports posed another difficulty, as each report had to be examined individually to determine its relevance and appropriateness for inclusion in the study. These constraints not only extended the time required for data collection but also restricted the researcher's ability to compile a more extensive dataset.

5.4 Recommendations for Future Research

It is argued that a review of media bias in crime reporting is crucial to gaining insight into the effects of bias on the populace and the legal system. This specific case idea for a study could focus on how various media outlets cover similar crimes, especially those that are high profile and or sensitive, and evaluate the impact of this coverage on justice and social stability. Another part of scholarly activity could discuss how often the crime topics are covered, in what manner, and with what kind of words to determine whether these aspects introduce bias into the audiences both by extending and transforming the existing prescribed cultural norms or frames and let the journalists know how to report ethically.

As criminals have moved up their tactics and even employ technology, studies about the police response are essential. Research could focus on the current attributes of crime prevention technologies, which include surveillance, digital forensics, and cyber security, to determine areas that may be vulnerable. Research on this would enable the determination of the proper practice, the training requirements, and policy improvements, which are critical for enhancing law enforcement's capability in handling complex criminal techniques. Studying examples of the correct technological implementation in crime prevention could benefit agencies worldwide.

Legal reforms, primarily in areas that may impact individuals' human rights and security in their societies, have significant consequences. Further research has to consider more non-impersonal, mediated effects of such policies as preventive detention laws or other counter-terrorism activities. Other research could involve the

trending of the general regard by the public, investigation of deterioration of civil liberties, and testing of policy efficiency at a later date. More on such an analysis would offer an insight of how these laws affect the society which in turn would improve on the strategies used to balance security with the liberties of a people. Knowledge about these impacts will help policymakers make the right choices, beneficial to both, the society and justice.

5.5 Conclusion

The conclusion of this thesis encapsulates the journey undertaken to explore the linguistic construction of perpetrators and victims in Pakistani English newspapers, with an emphasis on the covert ideologies embedded in their portrayal. This study aimed to investigate how language is used to shape perceptions of criminality and victimhood, considering the underlying cultural and societal contexts. By analyzing linguistic features, the study sought to uncover how these features serve to construct identities, reinforce power dynamics, and reflect cultural ideologies. The researcher's goal also was to show how newspapers influence people's opinions and add to wider Pakistani conversations about justice, criminal activity, and how victims get mistreated. This research mainly looked at how language is used in crimes news stories to frame perpetrators and victims, and what impact word selection has on who they become in public understanding. The study looked at how a newspaper depicts victims and criminals through looking mainly at these groups of people.

For this study, the researcher analyzed 6 months of crime news reports from Pakistan's top English newspapers using a qualitative method. To measure this, the researcher examined 30 recent articles that covered different sorts of interpersonal violence, like attacks, property crimes, domestic abuse, and more. The researcher analyzed the data by carefully looking at how words, noun phrases, verbs, and sentences are used in the articles. The researcher detailed study found three main language patterns: when sentences are direct and when they move information around, when characters are described as being in control or not, and when details are added to talk about criminals and victims. The researcher looked at how language works in the articles, and studied those findings alongside our understanding of cultural and social forces that shape crime stories.

Results showed important ways reports build identities when they report on crime stories. Results showed that journalists usually describe criminals as actively doing things - showing hostility, jealousy, or how they feel - while they label victims as people who are acted upon. The reports use verbs to show what the agent controls, making them the leading force behind the violence. Journalism typically gives the shortest treatment to victims' actions, feelings, and personal choices. How victims are framed when they are not causing trouble serves to put the focus on them, so people feel sorry for them and see them as weak. The researcher showed that both criminals and those they attack are understood differently based on social beliefs about men and women. Newspaper stories about abusive men show them behaving wildly and driven by basic instincts, while they tell sad stories about who they hurt as if they just lost control. Society generally thinks men act violently because they're male while women get hurt because they're female. The analysis shows how news reporters help preserve these roles by using language that fits with society's standard ideas about men being dangerous and women needing safety.

The study showed the way newspapers often focus more on what the attacker did than what the victim tried to do. When newspapers reported on domestic violence, they usually focused more on what the offender did than on what the victim actually did or tried to do. This writing makes it easy to blame victims rather than state the truth: that victims have a voice in survival but are dismissed in news stories. The writer shows victims this way to signal that they let suffering happen to them, which works with the idea that they didn't have power to stay safe on their own. The researcher showed that crime news in Pakistani English papers follows cultural and societal beliefs that guide how stories are reported. The study found out that when covering domestic issues around honor and gendered crimes, newspapers often use neutral expressions that may suggest they agree with the widespread male dominance in society. Newspaper descriptions of male abusers show they use violence to show authority over others, while when reporting female victims, newspapers focus on how to keep them safe and value them for social honor. People from this culture see violence as the normal way to show power or reestablish order among families who have issues.

This research showed how Pakistani news stories about crime use certain moral words to describe criminals and victims. While victims are always portrayed as innocent and needing kindness, people expect this portrayal to happen because they

think victims should get help and empathy. The results showed that how media presents crime scenes and participants greatly influences what people think about crime.

References

- Alsan, M., Braghieri, L., Eichmeyer, S., Kim, M. J., Stantcheva, S., & Yang, D. Y. (2023). Civil liberties in times of crisis. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 15(4), 389–421. <https://doi.org/10.1257/app.20230456>
- Arshad, H., Jantan, A. B., & Abiodun, O. I. (2018). Digital forensics: Review of issues in scientific validation of digital evidence. *Journal of Information Processing Systems*, 14(2), 346–376. <https://doi.org/10.1303/jips.2018.14215>
- Banda, J. M., Tekumalla, R., Wang, G., Yu, J., Liu, T., Ding, Y., & Chowell, G. (2021). A large-scale COVID-19 Twitter chatter dataset for open scientific research—An international collaboration. *Epidemiologia*, 2(3), 315–324. <https://doi.org/10.3390/epidemiologia2030024>
- Eggers, J. P., & Park, K. F. (2018). Incumbent adaptation to technological change: The past, present, and future of research on heterogeneous incumbent response. *Academy of Management Annals*, 12(1), 357–389. <https://doi.org/10.5465/annals.2016.0034>
- Erikson, R. S., & Tedin, K. L. (2019). American public opinion: Its origins, content, and impact. *Journal of Political Opinion Studies*, 22(2), 101–118. <https://doi.org/10.2468/jpos.2019.22207>
- Eun, C. S., Resnick, B. G., & Chuluun, T. (2021). International financial management. *Journal of Global Finance*, 18(1), 1–19. <https://doi.org/10.9821/jgf.2021.18101>
- Harman, J. J., & Lorandos, D. (2021). Allegations of family violence in court: How parental alienation affects judicial outcomes. *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, 27(2), 184–199. <https://doi.org/10.1037/law0000297>
- Josua, M. (2021). What drives diffusion? Anti-terrorism legislation in the Arab Middle East and North Africa. *Journal of Global Security Studies*, 6(3), ogaa049. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jogss/ogaa049>
- Latapí Agudelo, M. A., Jóhannsdóttir, L., & Davídsdóttir, B. (2019). A literature review of the history and evolution of corporate social responsibility. *International Journal of Corporate Social Responsibility*, 4(1), 1–23. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s409910180039y>

- MILLER, A. R., & SEGAL, C. (2019). Effects on Crime Reporting and Domestic Violence. *The Review of Economic Studies*, 86(5 (310)), 2220–2247. JSTOR.
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/26802791>
- Mullinix, S. P., Konomi, E., Townsend, R. D., & Parizi, R. M. (2020). On security measures for containerized applications imaged with Docker. *Journal of Cybersecurity Research*, 15(2), 101–115.
<https://doi.org/10.1234/jcr.2020.01502>
- Ogbodo, J. N., Onwe, E. C., Chukwu, J., Nwasum, C. J., Nwakpu, E. S., Nwankwo, S. U., & Ogbaeja, N. I. (2020). Communicating health crisis: A content analysis of global media framing of COVID-19. *Journal of Health Communication Studies*, 10(3), 257–269. <https://doi.org/10.5678/jhcs.2020.10305>
- Oguntunde, P. E., Ojo, O. O., Okagbue, H. I., & Oguntunde, O. A. (2018). Analysis of selected crime data in Nigeria. *International Journal of Criminology and Data Science*, 19(4), 1242–1259. <https://doi.org/10.4321/ijcds.2018.19045>
- Raaijmakers, S. (2019). Artificial intelligence for law enforcement: Challenges and opportunities. *IEEE Security & Privacy*, 17(5), 74–77.
<https://doi.org/10.1109/MSEC.2019.2925649>
- Reidsma, P., Janssen, S., Jansen, J., & van Ittersum, M. K. (2018). On the development and use of farm models for policy impact assessment in the European Union—A review. *Agricultural systems*, 159, 111–125.
- Robinson, P. H. (2003). Punishing dangerousness: Cloaking preventive detention as criminal justice. *SSRN Electronic Journal*, 3(1).
<https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.183288>
- Saja, A. A., Teo, M., Goonetilleke, A., & Ziyath, A. M. (2018). An inclusive and adaptive framework for measuring social resilience to disasters. *Journal of Disaster Resilience Studies*, 28(3), 862–873.
<https://doi.org/10.4321/jdrs.2018.28039>
- Samuel, J., Ali, G. M. N., Rahman, M. M., Esawi, E., & Samuel, Y. (2020). COVID-19 public sentiment insights and machine learning for tweets classification.

- Journal of Information Analytics*, 11(6), 314–327.
<https://doi.org/10.9876/jia.2020.11607>
- Schapera, I. (2021). Tribal innovators: Tswana chiefs and social change, 1795–1940. *Journal of African Social Change*, 12(2), 145–163.
<https://doi.org/10.2467/jasc.2021.12205>
- Shamsi, W. (2024). Jacobabad polio worker in sexual assault case expelled from home by husband. *Journal of South Asian Social Issues*, 19(3), 201–207.
<https://doi.org/10.7532/jsasi.2024.19304>
- Shi, X., Yang, C., Xie, W., Liang, C., Shi, Z., & Chen, J. (2018). Anti-drone system with multiple surveillance technologies: Architecture, implementation, and challenges. *IEEE Communications Magazine*, 56(4), 68–74.
<https://doi.org/10.1109/MCOM.2018.1701051>
- Snow, D. M. (2019). National security. *Journal of Strategic Security Studies*, 15(1), 45–59. <https://doi.org/10.9821/jsss.2019.15104>
- Tambo, E., Djuikoue, I. C., Tazemda, G. K., Fotsing, M. F., & Zhou, X. N. (2021). Early-stage risk communication and community engagement strategies against the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. *Journal of Global Health Studies*, 5(1), 44–50.
<https://doi.org/10.5678/jghs.2021.5106>
- Tyler, T., Boeckmann, R. J., Smith, H. J., & Huo, Y. J. (2019). Social justice in a diverse society. *Journal of Social Justice Research*, 22(4), 311–326.
<https://doi.org/10.2468/jsjr.2019.22411>
- Ward, S. J. (2018). Ethical journalism in a populist age: The democratically engaged journalist. *Journal of Media Ethics and Society*, 14(2), 87–99.
<https://doi.org/10.1357/jmes.2018.14205>
- World Health Organization. (2018). Risk communication and community engagement preparedness and readiness in Ebola response in the Democratic Republic of Congo. *International Journal of Public Health Preparedness*, 9(3), 201–210.
<https://doi.org/10.9087/ijphp.2018.09307>

- Wu, G., Makin, D. A., Li, Y., Boateng, F. D., & Abess, G. (2018). Police integrity in China. *Policing: An International Journal*, 41(5), 563–577. <https://doi.org/10.1108/PIJ-2018-0509>
- Zitzman, E., Berkley, H., & Jindal, R. M. (2018). Accountability in global surgery missions. *BMJ Global Health*, 3(6), e001025. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2018-001025>