



The Language of Crisis: A Multimodal Discourse Analysis of COVID-19 Reporting in Pakistani and American Newspapers

Rahat Bashir¹, Musarat Yasmin²

¹ Ph.D. Scholar, Department of English, University of Gujrat, Gujrat, Pakistan. Email: rahat.bashir1@gmail.com

² Associate Professor, Department of English, University of Gujrat, Gujrat, Pakistan. Email: musarat.yasmin@uog.edu.pk

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ABSTRACT

The year 2020 has been an unusual year due to the pandemic and related issues, during which newspapers have been the most impactful medium for communication. The purpose of this research is to investigate how covid-19 has been visually represented and verbally communicated to readers in Pakistan and America through newspapers. The objectives of the study are to investigate the social identities given to the participants in the pictures and secondly, how the pandemic has been experienced in the verbal news reports to create a reality. Linguistic data has been analyzed by using the Transitivity kit, developed by Halliday in Systemic Functional Linguistics (2014), while the visuals are analyzed through the Visual Grammar Theory, presented by Kress and Kress and Van Leeuwen (1996). Visuals projects Pakistanis as rebellious, lawbreakers, and Chinese as victorious and strugglers, while Americans have portrayed the Chinese as inferior and in utter chaos to handle the pandemic. Similarly, in both countries material processes are the most frequent leading to the verbal and the least used mental processes, but both have used them to develop different ideologies, in Pakistani's case, authorities have been shown highly sensitive towards socioeconomic issues of hunger and despite their best efforts they have been advised to be patient and take it as a trial of God. On the other hand, Americans have been shown striving for developing the vaccine, and at the same considering the virus as a petty issue, yet ready to combat it on all fronts.

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Corresponding Author's Email: rahat.bashir1@gmail.com

1. Introduction

The planet Earth has been experiencing pandemics, and natural crises periodically and they are impacting human life in multiple ways (Nor & Zulcafli, 2020). SARS, Ebola, HINI influenza, and many others, including hurricanes are much more common, and newspaper coverage is considered more authentic than social media news. They play a seminal role in shaping ideologies about any news event. The current study undertakes the discourse of Covid-19 published in newspapers which have recently changed the very normal routine of the human species and has affected them in all aspects of their lives. It studies how newspapers are used as one of the basic sources of information to develop the psychology and behavior of people, through their language and visuals. This article will explore how Pakistan and America have represented Covid-19 in their newspapers, visually and textually on the front pages of newspapers in news reports. The research will highlight what kind of linguistic and pictorial strategies are used by the two different countries, to add a comprehensive understanding of both cultures and their general public perception and behavior. This paper will explore the transitivity processes and the visuals of coronavirus reporting to reveal the ideologies of two different nations. The following research questions are addressed in this study;

- How is Covid-19 visually reported in both countries; Pakistan and USA?
- Which transitivity processes are employed by the journalist to communicate the hidden intentions?

2. Literature Review

Covid-19 has proved itself to be one of the strongest factors in shaping the political ideologies, that sparked the nation to generate different narratives to create solidarity, maintain hegemony, or to accept the depending state on others as vulnerable and weak, strengthening the preconceived notions of imperialism, colonialism, identity and nationalism (Bieber, 2022; Kerr, Panagopoulos, & Van Der Linden, 2021). In doing this role of the newspaper is undeniable as newspapers are considered as reliable sources of information to disseminate information of the events (Rasool, Jan, & Noreen, 2021). Coronavirus discourse has been studied in multiple ways, to discover the hidden ideologies of fear and anxiety and other hidden motives by health workers, politicians, and scientists (Saladino, Algeri, & Auriemma, 2020). As it has been told in the introduction that transitivity analysis will be used for the analysis of textual data, it is pertinent to review the prominent literature review to pave the way for the need for this study.

There have been much literature available on the discourse analysis of news headlines, tweets of leaders, and speeches made by politicians leaders and, scholars about coronavirus (Abbas, 2022b; Kerbleski, 2019; Zu et al., 2020). They studied how speeches and tweets are used politically to gain their means and to keep supremacy intact, even at the cost of other loves. There is dearth of transitivity analysis of media discourses, especially newspapers discourse. Yu, (2020) analyzed the speech of Queen Elizabeth while applying the transitivity processes and concluded that queen was indebted to the public, for being observant of the rules and regulations to cope up with the health disaster. Similarly, Putri et al., (2021) examined the news headlines of Jakarta Post and News Asia and found that material processes are used by the authorities to tackle the covid-19 situation, while verbal process are used how did they address the departments and took actions to control and execute their plans. Health ministry site of Saudi Arabia was studied by Alhumsi & Alshagrawi, (2022), and they found that they have used materialistic processes mostly on their websites and that too were in declarative sentences, which made it evident that they were sure what they want to do in terms policies and precautionary measures.

Natural disasters and pandemics are recurring in their nature and they are used politically to segregate human groups. Poor are made responsible for the spread and origin of virus and any calamity as a curse of God. It has been researched by (Joffe & Haarhoff, 2002; Washer, 2004). Impact of visual on human psyche is far deep than text (Jacob, 2020). Therefore, in this research, researcher has tried to investigate the ideology and photographs also that reported coronavirus. There have been studies on coronavirus visuals, in the context of cartoons, graphics and representations of elderly around the globe to build various ideologies as per the context (Buhagiar & Sammut, 2020a). Youngsters has been represented as rascals, breaking the rules of controlling virus. Thus, develops an ideology of terror; symbol of fear and breaking the harmony of society (Martikainen & Sakki, 2021a).

Numbers of studies have been carried out on the corona visuals to illustrate how by portraying the positive side of government and public, people have been controlled and guided, while showing the negative side of the people, especially poor countries and poor strata has been reckless and oblivion to accept the existence of virus (Martikainen & Sakki, 2021c; Rachel Jacob, 2020; Yeh, 2020). Thus creating problems for others to be safe from it. It has been researched that the official picture of coronavirus has been intentionally glamorized to make its victim (Sonnevend, 2020). Similarly Cara Giaimo, (2020) contested that all doctors re not saviors and the real heroes as they are doing their duties like any other professional. They are not doing for a social cause as volunteers. Many research has been studied how the visual and textual discourse has impacted the different nationalities and identities. It has been observed that negative stereotyping got more intensity and people suffered discrimination, racism and marginalization due to virus, as it has been associated with poor and people pf other community in the media (Jetten Jolanda et al., 2020; Van Assche et al., 2020; Wen et al., 2020).

Through a thorough literature review its been deduced that none of the research has been carried out on the newspapers discourse of coronavirus in combination with visuals and text. Moreover, none of the research has been conducted while comparing the representation of coronavirus in two different countries; one developed and the other one under developed. Therefore, this research will fill the gap theoretically and contextually to add information to the existing body of the knowledge.

3. Theoretical Framework

For the analysis of textual data (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014) theory of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) has been used, which is different from the traditional grammar. According to Halliday, language is based on three meta functions, which are ideational, interpersonal and textual. Meanings are constituted through the combination of grammar and vocabulary. So the clause stands for meaning, and meanings are based on internal and external experience. This research seeks to interpret the data through ideational, which is based on transitivity processes. There are six transitivity processes, which includes, mental, material, verbal, behavioral, relational and existential. Mental processes deal with internal experience of mind, which is related to emotions, cognitions, understanding and affection. Material processes are the process that express the action through concrete actions, which are observable and physical. Behavioral processes are like breathing, laughing, crying. They are typically confused with material if not examined minutely as they are embedded in the material processes. Verbal processes are used to express how the idea has been communicating. For example, the sayer as a participant, warns, objects or apologizes before saying the information. Relational processes express the process of being in relation of identifying something are showing the attribution of something. The verb "be" is commonly used to identify it. Finally, existential processes are identified through the presence of "there".

The second framework which is used is the model of Kress and Van Leeuwen (1996) through Visual Grammar (VG). It is based on Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics, but it is designed for the examination of visual data. According to Kress and van Leeuwen, Visual Grammar is made up of a variety of components, including frame, angle, size, colour, and composition. To produce meaning and deliver particular messages, these components are joined in particular ways. VG examines the image at three levels;

3.1. Level of Representation

It is the representation of the participants at narrative and conceptual level. It explains from where the vector is generated and either the picture transactional, non-transactional, and in other cases bidirectional or unidirectional.

3.2. Interactional Level

This levels defines, the participants gaze, which can directly be looking into the eyes of the viewer or otherwise. Secondly, it explains the distance between the participant and the viewer also. Thirdly it talks about the angle, from where the shot is taken.

3.3. Compositional Level

The compositional level of an image focuses on how the visual components are arranged and organized. It examines how the spatial relationships, framing, perspective, and other compositional elements affect the image's overall effect and meaning. This level takes into account how compositional decisions affect the viewer's perception, interpretation, and emotional reaction.

4. Methodology

This is a mixed-method study, where visuals are studied qualitatively, by applying Kress and Leeuwen theory of Visual Grammar, whereas the textual data is analyzed quantitatively by using UAM software first and later on to dissect the ideology of the process choices, through purposefully sampling, few of the clauses are analyzed qualitatively. Only Material, verbal and mental processes are analyzed to develop a deep understanding of the experience of ideology construction process. The researcher has collected the data of two weeks; 1April to 14 April 2020, of two American (New York Times and New York Post) and two Pakistani English newspapers' news reports (The Nation and The Dawn). For all the news reports (both visual and linguistic) newspapers' front pages are considered. A total of 8 visuals were scrutinized from Pakistani newspapers, whereas a total of 6 visuals were found on the front pages of newspapers in America. Visuals were made shortlisted through purposive sampling technique and three images from each of country is selected as a visual representation. Total number of news published in American newspapers in the designated two weeks is 10 and 13 in Pakistani papers. These news (visual and Textual) are only pandemic related to their specific countries. Rest of the news were not made part of the article. Rest of the news were not made part of the article. Frist pages are considered for the analysis as they are less subjective and more realistic (Zhang, 2021).

5. Results and Discussion

5.1. Visual Data Representation

This part will discuss how visuals report Pakistan and America during covid-19. First three pictures are from Pakistani newspapers.

Figure 1: Representing China



CHINA:
Health workers make victory sign at a hospital in North China's Tianjin region as coronavirus cases spike across continents with hundreds of deaths on a single day in Italy and Spain.-Xinhua

The psychological joy of Chinese doctors over the corona virus epidemic, which is killing thousands of people worldwide, is seen in Picture 1. These doctors appear to be celebrating their success in containing the pandemic. Yet when analysed from a semiotic perspective, these seemingly comforting and pleasant images have a number of additional important meanings. On a representational level, this photograph tells the story of three actors donning white hospital gowns as a preventative measure to stave off a deadly virus. Although all three actors are producing a vector line, their intended outcome is not visible in the image. They are standing near to one another and giving a victory sign, which demonstrates their intimate closeness and support for the message they are delivering. Although there is no transaction taking place in the picture, it is clear that what they are "doing" is intended for the viewers (who are the picture's intended audience) outside.

The three performers can be seen even below the level of their waste because the photo was taken at a safe distance with a medium shot. It suggests that the image is neither intimate, impersonal, or indicative of a close kinship. But the image clearly shows that the actors are trying to connect with the audience through eye contact. Every participant demands to be hooked with the audience by looking right into their eyes. It has two meanings. They are simultaneously applauding their success in stopping the spread of the corona virus and experiencing the equal level of fear. The vector is created in the image for the spectator, as an invisible reactor. Similar to this, the photographer may have been closer for the snap, but due to the fear of the corona, he or she was at a safe distance. This is one method of influencing the ideologies of viewers who are swayed by the images, which portray China as returning to regular life.

In many cultures, the coffin is symbolised by the colour white. The entire area is white, giving off a ghostly appearance as three dead bodies dressed in white are alive and giving the impression that they have won. Through their medical outfits, a symbolic dialogue is taking place. It's remarkable how, despite the success and victory expressed in every move they make, they remain unconsciously afraid inside. It is demonstrated by the usage of white, the absence of any additional actors, the long distance shot, and the viewer's confinement to a single small chamber with no visible signs of sunlight or ventilation. From a compositional perspective, the doctors are in the centre and the rest is on the periphery. It implies that everything is connected as a result of the work of medical professionals. Additionally, the white or whitish blue colour of the picture's bottom half gives the impression of dead, emptiness, and silence. We can see the symbols of victory and the colour blue on the top part.

Figure 2: Representing Pakistani Society



The picture is taken from an online news resource showing a very busy market of Karachi, Orangi town. Although, the central and provincial government had imposed strict SOPs, the crowd seems not following the rules and regulations. There are certain reasons behind such law violations which we will discuss and elaborate the picture. In the narrative framework, as we can see, there are scores of subjects/people talking to each other and looking at things they are interested in or at each other. Their goals are also unclear as we can see there is a big crowd except those close to the camera. It is not clear which one is the main subject in the frame as the camera is focused on the entire crowd. We can see vectors unidirectionally, bidirectionally (transactional and non-transactional) busy in their communications with other subjects. The viewer is neither offered nor demanded by any of the subjects of the picture. From the conceptual perspective, common and weak people are represented in the picture having no interest in the outside world. The kind of ignorance they have shown to the camera/viewer is a symbol of their priorities. Common masses do not care what is happening around, as their focus is always on fulfilling the necessities of daily life. If we look closely at the picture, there is a contrast between what is represented and what is the truth. Common masses, when they get united, they can go against the laws of the state. People are violating all the rules represented by the government against Covid-19. There is no social distancing and mask usage. It clearly shows that there is no respect for the law in such crowds. The picture is taken from a medium high angle, which shows that the viewer and the participants have no intimate relation and the viewer is enjoying a slightly better position. Participants/subjects are busy in their life. There is no eye contact with the viewer. It represents that the crowd belongs to the middle class. Poor or middle class people are, at the same time, very much ignorant of their rights and basic human rights. They also give a sense of ignorance and negligence to the law. When they are more oppressed, they just stop following the law even if it is implemented for their safety.

Figure 3: Representing Pakistani Public



They are shown away from the viewer as well. The central focused is on the veiled females, who are shown dressed in black, which symbolizes sinister and mystical presence of the pandemic, having no permanent solution.

This picture is taken when the government imposed a lockdown for people to stay inside their homes and avoid unnecessary moving to prevent the spread of the deadly coronavirus. The policeman has given punishment to motorcyclist boys because they are roaming around without any reason during a lockdown. There are three actors in the picture one is a policeman doing his duty and two boys who are punished. All these actors in the picture are generating vectors and goals. This picture is bidirectional because both vector and goal are doing action policeman giving punishment and boys are a receiver and they are also showing the reaction of that action. The picture is transactional because both vector and goal is present and doing action and reaction. This picture is also conveying the message to the viewers outside the picture that other people should avoid unnecessary moving. This picture portrait policeman as having power and the other two are minors as powerless though violators.

This picture is not taken from so close but from a long shot (social distance) all these actors are shown from head to toe and at an oblique angle. In this picture, actors are not creating eye contact and they are not establishing any relationship with viewers and not with actors in the pictures. This picture also depicts another message about awareness and message to other people that they should avoid outdoors during lockdown otherwise they have to face the consequences. In the picture, actors are not making any eye contact that's why they are not demanding anything from viewers but they are offering to contemplate.

According to the compositional point of view, all three actors the policeman and two boys are the centers of the picture. The picture is taken in daylight at the side of the road. The road seems empty with no cars, bikes, or people. This shows that people are following all the rules implemented by the to prevent the spreading of the virus. All actors are equally prominent in the picture. There is tress in the background their leaves seem very dry and brown which shows the atmosphere is very dull and depressed because all this situation is due to corona everything and everyone is dull and depressed because everyone is scared from this deadly virus.

The next three images explain the Americans as a nation through visuals.

Figure 4: Representing American Public



This image represents the general public's disregard for public health amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. It captures a wedding ceremony taking place somewhere in America, where the couple is exchanging vows in front of a priest and surrounded by their relatives, who are capturing the joyful moments on camera. From a narrative perspective, the image depicts an action taking place—the couple receiving a sermon from the priest and making commitments. The priest acts as the "vector" initiating the action, while the couple serves as the "goal" of the action. The

interaction between the participants indicates a transactional action. On the surface, the image portrays a wedding ceremony, but it also reveals the public's behavior despite the health risks posed by COVID-19. The emphasis on religion, with the church as the backdrop, suggests that people prioritize religious values over health concerns. The participants are shown from the front, aligning the viewers' perspective with that of the people present at the ceremony. The flags behind the couple represent their respective states, highlighting their origins and cultural traditions. The picture is captured with a clear view of the main actors, vector, and goal, while the other participants are indirectly represented. The image, featuring a full-length shot of the couple and the prominent presence of the father, implies their significance. The blurred shadows of others suggest their relative unimportance. The couple is given maximum prominence, indicating their central role. In contrast, other individuals appear less significant. Even the father is partially shown in the background. The round stage symbolizes the equal importance of the bride and groom. In the center, a flower bouquet signifies the beauty and charm of the event. The sides of the image are filled with people capturing photographs or videos, reflecting the digital era and people's preoccupation with documentation.

Figure 5: Representing China



Chinese medical workers in protective suits help transfer the first group of patients into the newly-completed Huoshenshan temporary field hospital in Wuhan in central China's Hubei province.

This picture is analyzed from 2 perspectives; narrative and conceptual. From narrative point of view, there are 35 actors. Vector, actors and goal are there in the picture. Image focuses on the ambulance and the vectors i.e. medical officials. 3 triads of actors are managing the stretcher. Two actors are there at the gate. 3 of the officials are static and others are mobile. They also have difference in dress code. 3 participants are taking the stretcher towards the room. They are active participants. The two officials on the receiving end are passive participants. There are All of the actors are in protective suits. Each person is wearing a mask. From conceptual point of view. It is an environment of a medical setting. All the actors belong to medical field and have a certain social distinction which is again evident through their suits. They seem to have a common goal of admitting the patients on wheel chair or stretcher. The Officials who are having wheel chairs are all posing towards the patient who's apparently been taken care by 5 People. There is availability of both wheelchair and stretcher depending upon the condition of patient that comes out of ambulance. Overall this seems to be a transactional picture because there's clearly a goal which is to serve patients.

American media has shown this picture of temporary hospitals in Wuhan from the frontal angle of desired height which makes us look down upon the whole situation. It distorts the social superiority of medical officials that they usually tend to have over the people. The height and placing of camera angle also leaves the situation open to criticism. It also represents the element of social distancing due to corona virus. Camera angle is giving a disorganized outlook overall. It evokes pity and the urge to feel dissociated from the scene. Audience is expected to be invisible onlooker because actors are looking in opposite direction both from vertical and horizontal angle.

It makes the audience feel powerful and the actors as powerless. The participants appear helpless while the spectator feels in control.

The layout of image shows that the officials have a dress code of white colour with light blue upper outfit. This signifies the purity and stainlessness. This refers to the notion that these actors are meant help in curing the disease. Left side of the picture shows that the patient is being treated in an unusual way as there are 5 officials around the wheelchair. The fit actor on the left side is supposedly thinking. The officials in yellow outfit are at distinction due to the colour difference. They seem to be monitoring the process.

Figure 6: Representing India



Nowhere to Hide

Coronavirus infection is overwhelming Mumbai, India, especially in a teeming slum where social distancing is impossible. Page A14.

The above picture is taken from the time period of Covid outbreak in 2019, when social distancing became a need for survival, which was difficult to be practiced by the people living in slum areas. From narrative point of view, the picture emphasizes on the actors representing the time of pandemic, some of them are wearing masks, and the woman captured closer to the camera is covering her face with her shawl leads to two interpretations; covering face because of covid or maybe because of the smell in the area to represent slum area. The actors in the picture are avoiding are supposed to maintain distance(vector) in order to prevent covid-19(goal).

The conceptual representation shows the social status of the actors in the image through their attires and the place they are captured in. There is total seven characters in the picture and they are wearing very informal clothes which shows that they are general public who belongs to the lower class and are powerless against the situation. which is also very evident because of the poorly renovated and unclean area of both; inside and the outside of the house. The walls are not renovated and are very colorful which can be interpreted as an informal setting and the poverty. Also, the crockery and the bed being in the same room shows that they do not have a separate kitchen and living room and the character in the foreground standing outside represents how they are forced to be out of their comfort; their homes because of the corona virus.

The image is captured as a long shot which represents impersonal relationship, except the one actor who is quite in the foreground who is captured in a medium shot; from the head till the waist. But none of the participants are making eye-contact or having communication. Also, they are not gazing at the viewer as well, which shows that they are not demanding anything from the observer. If we closely analyze the distance between the actors, it depicts that however it is not possible for the actors to maintain social distancing properly, but still, they are trying to practice it within their provided area.

5.2. Textual Analysis of Pakistani and American Newspapers

The following section will explain the textual analysis of both newspapers.

Table 1: Grammatical Ranks and clause-types in Pakistani and American Newspapers

GRAMMATICAL-RANK	N	%	GRAMMATICAL-RANK	N	%
- participant	496	29.2	- participant	664	29.7
- process	448	26.4	- process	552	24.7
- circumstance	300	17.7	- circumstance	386	17.3
- configuration	379	22.3	- configuration	476	21.3
- configuration-complex	0	0.0	- configuration-complex	0	0.0
TOTAL:	1623	95.5%	TOTAL:	2078	92.9%
CLAUSE-TYPE	N	%	CLAUSE-TYPE	N	%
- material	241	14.2	- material	244	10.9
- mental	24	1.4	- mental	44	2.0
- verbal	79	4.6	- verbal	102	4.6
- relational	23	1.4	- relational	73	3.3
- modal	0	0.0	- modal	0	0.0
- existential	7	0.4	- existential	6	0.3
TOTAL:	374	22.0%	TOTAL:	469	21.0%
Uncoded:	5	-	Uncoded:	7	-

The total number of word count of coronavirus news reports in American newspapers is 4613, while it is 3102 Pakistani case. Table 1 explains the number grammatical ranking of the clauses, through participants, process, circumstances and configuration, whereas the clause types are explained through material, mental, relational and existential, along with number of their occurrences and percentages.

Table 2: Material Process Types in Pakistani and American Newspapers

Clause No.	Actor	Process	Goal	Circumstances
Pakistani Newspapers				
	Government	will provide	necessary personal protective equipments (PPEs) for paramedical staff safety.	
	They	had to fight	with the coronavirus	further
	We	should have done	things much earlier	
	We	are fighting on		two fronts
	The transport of all goods in the country	shall also continue to take place		without interruption.
	the government	had collected	the data of people	living below the poverty
American Newspapers				
	Mr. Trump	has blamed	his political enemies	for exaggerating the threat of the virus.
	Our country	is prepared		for any circumstances.
	The united states	was also banning	all travels from Iran.	
	Our professionals	are doing	really	an incredible job.
	we	are doing		And again/ very well by the Trump administration's efforts.
	Democrats	remained	unimpressed	

In Pakistani context material processes are used to manifest government tangible and concrete actions in terms of providing personal protective equipment (1) to the medical staff, and continuous struggle to fight with the virus (2).

The use of "had to" stresses that government is taking the responsibility, in spite of consistent challenges in handling the health crises. The use of "should have done" (3) suggests that government has realized some loopholes that could have helped in dealing the pandemic in better way. The process "fighting" shows Pakistani state to tackle health crises along with socio-economic issues of poverty and hunger. The material process in clause 5 suggests that government take its pivotal responsibility to provide goods to the people, inspite of the disastrous conditions. Moreover, government takes the steps to collect data of expected infected areas to control and safe people (6). The verbs indicated in the table 2 highlights the actions and initiatives taken by the government to address the challenges, where public health has been of prime importance.

In the context of COVID-19, these clauses (7-12) represent a variety of material processes relating to actions, initiatives, and responses of other departments in America. They highlight numerous government initiatives, applaud the work of medical staff (10), and also touch on political debates and criticism and objections to the pandemic response taken by the government of Trump (12). This is to intimate that Trump did not accept the adversity of the virus, rather blame the opponents for creating a hype of it (7), and he further emphasizes that his country is prepared for facing any kind of circumstances. These material processes include blaming political enemies, implementing travel bans, preparing for different circumstances, and recognizing the efforts of healthcare professionals.

Table 3: Mental Processes Types in Pakistani and American Newspapers

Clause No.	Senser	Process	Phenomenon	Circumstances
Pakistani Mental Clauses				
	We	will be thinking	how to facilitate them and give incentives apart from their safety."	
	We	believe	that restrictions need to be extended	
	This.	nation has learnt		patience and bravery since Pakistan came into being
	People	never forget	those who serve them	in their hard times.
	High-risk localities with thick population.	needs		to be tested
American Newspapers				
	We	hope	it's not going to be a major circumstance	
	I.	think	its very safe, yeah	
	We	need	to prepare for further challenges.	
	We	recognize and regret	that the timing of this decision has significantly inconvenienced many members of our community	sincerely
	we	need to know	where people can get it, how people can get it	

The mental processes thinking, believe, learnt and forget reveal the mental reflection of the situation during pandemic, in terms of strategies, response and impact on nation. For example, (1) reveals government's contemplation to facilitate more to the paramedical staff because of their high risk and again in (4), it is emotionally stated that people don't forget such sacrifices and it makes them immortal. The clause 3 implies that such hardships are not new, rather this nation has been immune to these kind of struggles. It is used an emotional trigger to keep the morale high of the nation.

The mental clauses in the given lines for America during COVID-19 reflect various mental processes such as "hoping," "thinking," "needing," "recognizing," and "regretting." These clauses demonstrate cognitive activities, opinions, awareness, and emotions related to the ongoing

pandemic and the measures taken to address its challenges. For example, (6) injects a feeling of optimism that no major circumstances have been expected to occur. It shows favorable outcome. Similarly, (7) affirms that the country is safe, and the use of "yeah" laid stress on the authority's belief. Government has been shown active in locating the sensitive area to understand from where the virus can propagate (10). Trump government though verbally denies the existence of virus, but internally takes the measures to curb the virus as it has been indicated in clause 8, by the use of mental process "need to prepare".

Table 4: Examples of Verbal Processes

Clause no.	Sayer	Process	Verbiage	Circumstances
Pakistani Newspapers				
	He	said	that the nation stood by their health professionals	as they had to fight further with the coronavirus.
	The Prime Minister	warned	that strict action would be taken against hoarders and profiteers.	
	He	assured	that the Corona Relief Tigers Force would be established purely on merit and transparency without any political influence.	further
	he	asserted.	Pakistani nation will emerge as a great and stronger nation from this test,"	
	Allah Almighty	has said	that He continues to test our faith.	Repeatedly/ in the Holy Quran
American Newspapers				
	Mr. Trump	called	more cases "likely" but added that "there's no reason to panic at all."	
	he	said	We're talking about a vaccine; maybe a cure, it's possible," that over all, it was still "not very many in the United States."	
	Mr. Trump	noted		
	Dr. Stephen Hahn, the commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration,	told	"We are trying to meet that demand with increased capacity,"	
	He	Said	"Our expectation in talking to the company that is scaling this up is that we should have the capacity by the end of the week	

The verbal process reflects warnings, assurances, and communication as beliefs of various stakeholders during the pandemic in Pakistan. For example, in clause (1) the Prime Minister praises their health workers and stresses that their life will continue to be like that; full of struggle. It is a kind of declaring the state of doctors. Further, Prime Minister has been portrayed sensitive towards fair dealing of goods, and the verbal process "warn" has been used for profiteers, which indicates as an act of issuing a caution or advise to stop hoarding (2). The process "assured" reveal the public apprehensions but the Prime minister's guarantee for public fears (3). The verbal process "asserted" (4) indicates his faith that Pakistan as nation will never be shattered, rather it will become stronger as these difficulties are just tests and trails bestowed by Allah (5).

The use of verbal processes like "said," "noted," and "told" indicates a strong emphasis on communication in America. Leaders, officials, and experts are actively conveying updates, statistics, and relevant information to the public, media, or reporters. This reflects an effort to keep the public informed and aware of the situation. As in clause 6, Trump shares the future

problem, but at the same time pacify them. In clause 7, Trump informs about vaccine, which is the real solution of the pandemic. They give more importance to the planning and making efforts to increase capacity, meet demands, and develop strategies to combat the pandemic effectively (9&10).

6. Conclusion

The comparative visual and verbal analysis has revealed that both nations have portrayed covid-19 in their pre-constructed frames superior and inferior, while strengthening the preconceived notions of America as naïve to accept the reality, just to maintain its hegemony of power and Pakistan being poor and under-developed country careless towards the cautions of virus, as they are more concerned of poverty and hunger. These ideologies have been discussed by many scholars in other contexts of Africa and immigrants in America (Buhagiar & Sammut, 2020b; Martikainen & Sakki, 2021b). Poor countries are reflected in such a way that they become the victim of spread, while the West has been pure and disinfected though facing the same issue and behaving in almost similar way (Ruobing et al., 2020; Yu, 2020). Pakistan has been shown glorifying the success of china, and using emotional and religious techniques to keep the people strong and resilient. It is difficult to come out of the shackles of colonialism as in the case of Pakistan (Bieber, 2022; Kerr et al., 2021).

In the political speeches and in twitter transitivity processes has been used in abundant to show the concrete and tangible moves and initiatives by the governing body (Abbas, 2022; Kerbleski, 2019). In the Pakistani context, the experiential analysis emphasizes a collective and empathetic response to the pandemic. There is a focus on supporting and incentivizing individuals, whereas in America processes are more politically and individually oriented. There is a focus on political blame and views. For future research this study may pave the way to investigate the cross-cultural media reporting in visuals and verbal reports. Moreover, a broad quantitative analysis can be done, including all the pages of the papers and by comparing it with other nations, with different perceptions.

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