Exploring Ideological Construction through COVID-19 Related Headlines in Selected Pakistani Newspapers

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ARTICLE DETAILS	ABSTRACT
History: *Accepted 30 Agust 2021* *Available Online September 2021* **Keywords:** *Ideological Construction, Critical Discourse Analysis, Power Abuse, Hegemony, Manipulation* **JEL Classification:** *E60,* ***DOI:** 10.47067/ramss.v4i3.177*	*The present study explores ideological construction related to corona pandemic with the application of critical discourse analysis and socio-cognitive approach to depict the domination of political authorities through COVID-19 related headlines in selected Pakistani newspapers. This study investigates news discourse critically to observe how this particular type of discourse unveils implicit beliefs, achieve the power and practice hegemony in the society. The researchers have followed the qualitative approach and the news headlines of two English-language Pakistani newspapers; 'Dawn' and 'The News' have collected through purposive sampling technique. Critical Discourse Analysis (1998) and Triangular Socio-Cognitive approach of Van Dijk(2009) are applied to this study. The findings revealed that ideological construction through COVID-19 related headlines (de)emphasize our/their performance over corona crisis. Use of active constructions and instances with absence of nominalization imply that speakers of news headlines try to represent themselves the sovereign and supreme to manipulate the readers' ideology and actions over corona pandemic as the biological issue of corona has been made politicized by the selected world leaders. Moreover, Ideology regarding COVID-19 is propagated by authorities to practice societal oppression and power abuse to manipulate the beliefs of the innocent masses. Upcoming researchers can use the data through COVID-19 related headlines in different time frame or can conduct the research as an extension of the present study. Furthermore, comparative study of newspapers and electronic media discourse through COVID-19 related headlines, speeches and interviews can be under taken for the application of the present framework in future.*

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1. Introduction

The contemporary world is the world of information that has diverse means of communication. Media discourse plays a crucial role to distribute information across the globe in the modern world which composes and decomposes the portrayal of people, incidents, and ideas. Bell and Garrett (1998) assert that use of media affects readers' mind and influence their attitudes about certain events and situations. Newspapers are usually published with political tendencies. Print media use ideological representations to manipulate reality as print media discourse is the best and the most effective way to render information and conceive ideology. According to Geis (1987) "news media is powerful as it reports what it considers as the most important event at that time and also select the voice about the certain issues,"(p.10). Reality is reported objectively but mostly exploited by hidden ideologies and power relations by elite groups and the print media itself. During pandemic situation, the use of print media discourse is a valuable technique to notify people about the critical conditions precipitated by the corona virus epidemic. Moreover, information shared by print media discourse is a powerful tool to decrease stress, fear, and unpredictability on one hand and increase anxiety, trepidation, and chaos on the other hand.

The news analysis focuses on the linguistic features of text as well as the influence of power and hidden ideologies of speakers or writers. The news headline identifies the power of language and ideology. Ideology looks at the beliefs, attitudes and values which shape perceptions of group and individuals. (Taiwo,2007). Politicians exercise abuse of power by producing and consuming news discourse through print media. The practice of power through implied means leads to hegemony. Powerful groups and institutions play the role of planners for decision-making and implementation of power in society. These groups are called 'power elites' (Domhoff,1978; Mills,1956).The beliefs of common people are manipulated and power relations are practiced through media discourse (Fowler 1991; Van Dijk, 1993; Fairclough, 1995). Van Dijk (2006) infers that 'manipulation' is practiced through societal abnormality of power abuse; a subjective abnormality that controls participants' minds, and discursive abnormality that affect discourse whether speech, writing, sight, verbal, and non-verbal (p.361).

According to critical discourse analysis language is used by language users as a social practice. Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) proposed the connection between language and ideology as language is exploited in print media discourse to manipulate the ideology of common people. CDA helps to increase the critical awareness of readers. According to Van Dijk(1990) discourse reproduces power and superiority in society. Van Dijk (2004) asserts "Critical discourse analysis with a multidisciplinary approach helps to identify the abuse of social power, supremacy, and inequity in society that are practiced, repeated, and countered by social and political discourse and contexts". Critical discourse study deals with discourse in political and social surroundings whereas Socio-Cognitive discourse study involves a cognitive connection between discourse and society. Van Dijk (2002) recognized political text as ideological and presented an ideological analysis of three genres, 'cognitive, social, and discourse' (p.30). Moreover, Van Dijk(1988) presented the notion of 'Us vs. them' where one group depicts themselves as positive and others as negative (p,22).

The previous researches focused on political, economic calamity, electronic news reports, crime news, and so on. The present study is significant as no research has been carried out in Pakistan to critically analyze the print media discourse through COVID-19 related news headlines to exploit the ideology of common people. The media has been inundated with strange words and phrases to report news about COVID-19. The novel corona virus inaugurated with the very word 'corona virus.

World Health Organization proclaimed corona virus a pandemic on March 11th, 2020. On January 2020, Health authorities from World Health Organization stated that the corona virus could not spread from one person to another but later the announcement was proved false. The present study examines that news about corona virus was manipulated by authorities since corona outbreak. Insufficient researches have been conducted to analyze how news discourse about the epidemic is used as a source of information and policies to affect the conduct of common men through linguistic strategies. Hence, based on COVID-19 related news headlines in selected Pakistani newspapers, the researchers attempt to examine how print media discourse and the official language of political leaders exploit the corona reality and influence public behavior and proceeding of the outbreak. The current study postulates the print media discourse through selected Pakistani newspapers and unveils the hidden ideologies and power relations practiced and imposed by political leaders and media itself during the exploration of ideological construction related to the corona virus pandemic.

The present study aims to explore ideological construction through COVID-19 related headlines in selected Pakistani newspapers. This study aims to investigate why language is exploited by news practitioners and political authorities during pandemic situation? It also reveals why a particular ideology of common people regarding COVID-19 is constructed through discursive features of language? Moreover, the current study explores how are the notions of 'self and others' discursively constructed by the selected world leaders?

The research questions of this study are:
Q:1. Why ideology regarding COVID-19 is manipulated by the selected world leaders?
Q:2. How are 'self' and 'Others' discursively constructed through COVID-19 related headlines in selected Pakistani newspapers by political authorities?

2. Literature Review

Generally, the soul of news is presented by a headline with few words. Bell (1991) assumes that news discourse provides information as well as unmasks the particular ideologies embedded in their opinions and attitudes. Van Dijk (1997: 13) opines that discourse analysis of news discourse should take into account the discourse of participants with its socio-cultural context". It can be said as a result that news discourse is not formulated to depict reality rather delineating the ideologies.

Duanprakhon (2012) adopted theory of Critical Discourse Analysis of Faircloug(1995) and the Socio cognitive approach of Van Dijk (2009) as main frameworks to analyze discursive and socio-cultural processes. Analysis of discursive practice elaborated the description of youth crime in news headlines and their perception through the cognitive process of people in the society. The results depicted that language used by authors of newspapers display their negative ideologies as well as portray the negative identities of young criminals**.** The socio-cultural practice delineated the crime features of Thai society that how the language used by newspapers is illustrated in textual analysis. Moreover, the study declared that violence through guns is comparatively at a low rate in contrast to the discourse created by the newspapers. Qadeer, Shehzad & Chishti (2017) have applied Van Dijk's socio-cognitive (1988) model of discourse analysis to analyze print media reports published by The News, Dawn, and The Express Tribune. They explored a variety of discursive practices to project and/or curtail the image of Pakistani politicians through their discourse. The results have highlighted the vital role of media discourse to shape the perception of public and spotlighted the included newspapers which construct their preferred agendas through political events and practiced power by controlling the minds of readers.

Ali (2017) has employed the theoretical framework proposed by Van Dijk (2006) to declare that newspapers are a source of ideologies and their distribution in society. He explained about the elite press in Pakistan which reports geographical dispute to present 'other' discursively through critical discourse analysis. The results have elaborated that sentiments of patriotism and ethnocentrism are reproduced by news discourse where India is depicted as 'other' while Pakistan is portrayed as a conflict-free and principled country. Moreover, The US and UN are presented in a negative role. He also opined that patriotism, ideology, and national identity are found through the CDA of discourse. His study explored that media discourse, as a powerful interpretive construct or deconstruct the ideologies, national identities, and world view about politics and the society. He declared that Socio-cognitive features of social groups are developed through media discourse as Pakistani media, an ideological institution developed national identities and the division of 'us' versus 'them' polarization through print media while reporting issues across the borders. He concluded that negative lexicons such as 'brutal', aggressor', inhumanly actors are used for India whereas Pakistan is represented with positive lexicons. Moreover, synthesis of result explored the recent Kashmir issues in which India is depicted as an 'enemy other', UN as an unsuccessful global institution and the US as an untrustworthy state.

Xie (2018) has elaborated the methods of critical discourse analysis of news discourse. He has declared that critical awareness of news discourse and the ability to analyze media discourse are beneficial for the researchers. Critical discourse analysis is the best way to understand the deep meaning of news discourse and sharpen the ability of audience to critically analyze the news discourse. Anitasari (2018) has brought into light a multidisciplinary approach of critical discourse analysis that assists to comprehend unrevealed ideological issues in media language which empowers individual and social groups. The research as an early roadmap has explored the discourse used by mass media which scrutinizes abuse of power and hegemonic social practices. She has come to this point that critical discourse analysis inquires the fallacy ways of dominants that hold the society and explain the strategies to support oppressed and marginalized in the society and help them to change their lives. The results asserted that through critical discourse analysis, society becomes more aware and critical and helps to control power relations and ideology of media. She has concluded that suppressed and marginalized people of the society can be empowered by highlighting social issues.

In another study of Sajid, Anwar & Ashraf (2019) analytical framework of critical discourse analysis (CDA) has applied on news headlines about the theme of politics presented in 'Dawn' and 'Nation' newspapers during 2014. Through the research corpus, they have decoded the headlines discourse of Pakistani-English newspapers to identify the linguistic spin employing desired political ideologies by the powerful groups. For this reason, Van Dijk's (2006) research model "Politics, Ideology and Discourse" has used. The researchers have explored the discursive techniques used by print media discourse to represent the same political issues differently and to disseminate desired ideology. They have concluded that print media discourses (de)construct the image of certain people related to in/out groups.

Safi, Ozad, & Iqbal (2020) have explored the ideological representations in the Indian papers; (The Hindu & The Times of India). They have reported that nationalistic and loaded words are used to highlight 'Us' and 'them' in editorials of both the newspapers. It is examined in the literature review that the role of a newspaper after the Pulwama incident is studied to analyze the editorials of two Indian English newspapers by using the framework of Van Dijk's (1989) for Critical

Discourse Analysis. The study declared that the origin of the newspaper represents its country strong and powerful with other mighty friends whereas opponent countries as terrorist and hypocrite with their facilitators. They have drawn the overall comparison of Indian editorials with such words that represents Pakistan as a supporter of terrorists, incapacitated, cunning, and have no superpower country as a friend whereas India as a peace monger and worldly which is divergent and have many powerful friends globally. They reported that a highly loaded vocabulary is used to express India's point of view on the Kashmir issue in general and the Pulwama incident in particular. A common trend is explored in Indian editorials which opine Pakistan as a rival, sly and terrorist country and portray India as a peaceful, friendly, worldly state with several strong friends. The result has depicted that Indian media commends its government, its military subjectively and shows undue aggression against Pakistan. They concluded that Indian media has a great responsibility to identify the enemy neutrally and should enforce its government to answer about its performance. Moreover, the study illustrated that Indian press has ignored all other factors which are accountable for turmoil in Kashmir and laid responsibility on Pakistan for the Pulwama incident.

The efforts made through CDA by various scholars was to unveil discrimination practiced by overloaded groups of dominants, to make common men aware of the exercise of injustice, and to change the uneven societal conditions. The present study is different from all previous works as this study aims to explore how selected world leaders, politicians, and news practitioners manipulate the cognition of innocent people of the world through news discourse and how domination and power are scrutinized through social resource; print media discourse during pandemic situation. Furthermore, the current study aims to examine and uncover the interconnection between discourse structures and ideological construction through COVID-19 related headlines in selected Pakistani newspapers.

3. Theoretical Framework

The theoretical frameworks used for the present study are Critical Discourse Analysis (1998) and Triangular Socio-Cognitive approach of Van Dijk(2009).An overview of the theory which is used for the analysis is presented below.

Van Dijk (1998) asserts that textual analysis of discourse and analysis of social practice are connected through Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). "Critical Discourse Analysis pivots on social issues and how the production or reproduction of discourse practices power abuse and domination". Critical discourse analysis integrates various approaches to highlight the power relations by elite groups on the weak group. Triangulation of interconnection between discourse, cognitive, and society are forwarded by Van Dijk, 2009) and recognized as the socio-cognitive approach. It accentuates the cognitive process which is associated with the discourse that practices social inequality, power, and ideologies in the society (Van Dijk, 2009). Van Dijk offered Socio-cognitive approach for analysis of intended meanings of communication. Furthermore, he opines that analysis of discourse as social structure aims to analyze the hidden relation of domination behind text which expresses how language can bring change in society. According to him, the powerful group manipulates the cognition of weak groups by influencing their ideologies, and inevitably, dominating their actions as well.
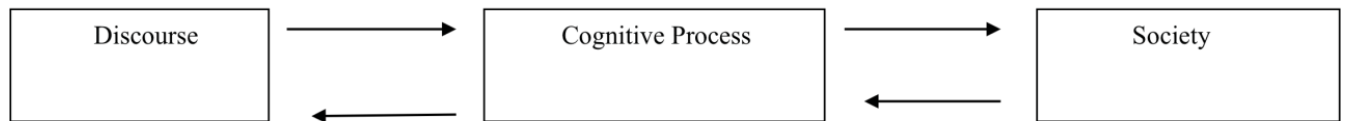
Figure No:3.5 Discourse and Society Relationship

Source: Van Dijk, 2009: 64

4. Methodology

The data for the present study is in the form of news headlines taken from printed Pakistani English-language newspapers *'Dawn' and 'The News'* through purposive sampling technique. The collected data is analyzed qualitatively by employing the selected frameworks of Van Dijk's socio-cognitive approach (2009) along with critical discourse analysis (1998) as an analytical tool to comprehend the underlying ideologies, power relations behind the discursive construction of discourse and to analyze how are 'self and others' discursively constructed through selected Pakistani newspapers by selected world leaders during COVID-19 situation.

4.1   Data Analysis

Ideologies are emerged to control the ideas and beliefs of a social group which represents the particular aims, identities, traditions, status, and resources (Van Dijk, 1995)**.** The proposed framework is employed to answer the research questions regarding ideological construction, practice of power relations, discursively presentation of us vs. them through COVID-19 related news headlines. The headlines given below are powerful ideological statements extracted from both the newspapers; *'The News'* and *'Dawn'*. The analysis of headlines unveils the practice of hegemony and power relations through COVID-19 related headlines.

4.1.1   "Might be US army who brought virus to Wuhan: China". (The News: March 14th, 2020).

The news headline is presented in the active construction. The statement is informative and occurrence of nominalization is absent in the above mentioned example which implies the speaker's sovereignty and supremacy to manipulate the reader's ideology. Print media discourse is used to propagate the ideology of China about virus outbreak which is obvious in the given headline. As Van Dijk's socio-cognitive approach focuses on text and context. Van Dijk takes into consideration the impact of discourse and its controlling power on society. Context is recognized as a mental structure that is significant for the construction and understanding of discourse (Van Dijk, 2009:356). China reflects its ideology through use of language in the news headline related to COVID-19 pandemic. The above mentioned news is reported as a reaction of China to US claims related to corona outbreak. China and US officials are on war of words over threatening corona virus. Chinese officials present theories but US calls corona *'the Wuhan virus'*. China depicts its power as one of the world super powers through media discourse and claims that 'corona virus might be brought to Wuhan by US army'. The biological issue of corona has been made politicized by the world super powers. It is more than a political issue than a biological issue. Corona reality is manipulated by political parties since corona outbreak. Van Dijk (2006) asserts that manipulation is created at societal level through the practice of power, and organized potential dominance**.**

4.1.2 "US protests Chinese official remarks blaming its military for crisis". (Dawn: March 14ᵗʰ, 2020). Social Practice:

The news headline is presented in the active construction. The statement is informative and has reported in indirect speech. The absence of notion of nominalization is obvious in the headline which depicts the authority and power. The US objects Chinese remarks of accusing its military for corona outbreak in Wuhan. China records its claim on media in context of US blame on China over corona outbreak. Both the countries are developed countries of the world and playing blame game over corona since corona outbreak. Power of media discourse is used by US officials to protest against China and disseminating its view point in the world as print media is the powerful source of information. A researcher should focus on the cognitive, political, historical, social, and traditional aspects of discourse to understand the language as a tool of developing ideologies (Van Dijk 2008: 237). World leaders manipulate the discourse through media which frame the perception of world according to his/her choice. Any example of text without context cannot be understood. The above mentioned news headline is reported in context of China's blame on the US over corona crisis. US protest presents positive self representation (US) and negative other representation (China).

4.1.3 "Pompeo presses China to allow lab inspection". (Dawn: April 23ʳᵈ, 2020). Social Practice:

The headline is presented in reported mode by the author. The headline is imperative and has shared in active construction with the absence of notion of nominalization which indicates the hegemony of the speaker. Mike Pompeo, the US secretary stresses China to open the Wuhan lab for inspection and other laboratories of China as well. Pompeo practices power of media discourse to forward his view point before the world. US accuses China since corona outbreak as US believe corona release from virology institute of Wuhan lab in China. The news headline depicts the powerful ideological statement which portrays the true image of world super powers. The practice of power through implied means leads to hegemony which is elucidated in the above mentioned news headline. Van Dijk (2008) asserts laws, rules, and general consensus are applied to achieve hegemony. Corona is called as corona war but it is recognized more than a political war. Power of media discourse, abuse of power, and manipulation of language is clear in the present example. The news report present positive self representation (US) and negative other representation (China).

4.1.4 "Trump threatens to cut China ties as virus toll tops". (Dawn: May 16ᵗʰ, 2020). Social Practice:

The present headline has active construction. "The statements can be presented both in 'active' and 'passive' forms" (Fairclough,1989 p.124). The news headline is informative which is presented in reported speech with the absence of notion of nominalization in the above given headline. Practice of power is depicted by the headline. Threatening tone of statement portray the true image of US president Donald Trump who accuses China for concealing corona virus reality for six days from the world. US and China both are the developed countries of the world and both claim that they have veto power in the world. US president Trump threatens to cut its connection with China because corona positive cases are rising in the US. The headline implies that US considers China responsible for corona virus breakout in Wuhan and spread in the whole world. The correlation between manipulation and cognition is asserted by Van Dijk (2006). He believes that discursive practices influence receivers by providing information, instructions, and by convincing them. The powerful group manipulates the cognition of weak groups by influencing their ideologies, and inevitably, dominating their actions as well. The present example shows the practice of power between two veto powers. Power abuse is practiced through media discourse. Trump uses media

discourse to make the social mind of an each individual about accusation of China regarding COVID-19 outbreak.

4.1.5 "Trump says does not wish to talk to Xi 'right now'". (The News: May 15th, 2020).

After sudden outbreak of corona virus from Wuhan laboratory of China, Trump accuses China for irresponsible behavior and reactions over corona virus. In the background of corona crisis, Trump does not wish to talk to Chinese Prime Minister Xi Jinping. The decision of US ex- president depicts his authoritative nature to deal with national and international affairs. The statement is declarative which is presented in active construction with the absence of notion of nominalization. The news headline uses the indirect speech. The news reporter quotes Trump's words to report the news. Use of *'wish'* shows the informal attitude of Trump towards corona crisis. The news implies that Trump accuses China for corona pandemic. Xi Jinping is Prime Minister of China at the time of corona outbreak so Trump as a president of United States of America decides not to talk with Xi Jinping 'right now'. Use of phrase *'right now'* also depicts the childish behavior of US ex-President.

4.1.6 "China says US undermining global economy, virus fight". (The News: May 17th, 2020). Social Practice:

In direct reporting mode is used by the news reporter. The news headline is presented in the active construction. The statement is declarative with the absence of phenomenon of nominalization that infers the speaker's hegemony and supremacy. China accuses US for eroding world economy by cutting the funds of World Health Organization, and building trade barriers. Corona pandemic is the cause of economy recession in the world on one hand, US blames China and WHO for concealing the facts of corona outbreak on the other hand. The author uses power of language to state US strategies during corona crisis and China's claim that US is weakening the global economy due to fight over virus. China and the US both are the developed countries of the world. Power abuse is exercised by both the countries to manipulate the reality and propagate their ideologies to shape the world's perception. According to Van Dijk, (2009) the socio-cognitive approach accentuates the cognitive process which is associated with the discourse that practices social inequality, power, and ideologies in the society. The above mentioned news headline elucidates that how social inequality and power relation are practiced through discourse.

4.1.7 "Govt has no strategy to combat corona virus: QWP Leader". (The News: May 29th, 2020). Social Practice:

In direct reporting mode is used by the news reporter. The statement is declarative with the absence of notion of nominalization which implies the speaker's sovereignty and supremacy to manipulate the reader's ideology in the above mentioned example. Provincial head of Qaumi Watan Party accuses government as they believe that government has not taken effective measures to contain the spread of deadly COVID-19. Government strategies are not sufficient against corona war. Corona is not recognized as a biological war and has become a political war. Corona crisis are used to manipulate the ideologies, and beliefs of people. The news headline is one of the best examples of ideological statement of newspaper 'The News'. QWP is one of the opposition parties of Pakistan who questions government performance over corona war. QWP's ideology portrays the negative image of government. Van Dijk takes into consideration the impact of discourse and its controlling power on society. QWP reflects its ideology through media discourse to present positive self representation and negative other representation. Moreover, the practice of power through implied means of QWP leader leads to hegemony which is elucidated in the above mentioned news headline. As Van Dijk (2008) asserts laws, rules, and general consensus are applied to achieve hegemony.

4.1.8 **"PPP asks center to stop playing 'pandemic politics". (Dawn: April 25th, 2020). Social Practice:**

In direct reporting speech is used to share the news. The statement is informative and has active construction. The absence of notion of nominalization is obvious in the headline to depict hegemony and authoritative tone of opposition party. Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is one of the opposition parties of Pakistan. The party leader accuses government for playing *'pandemic politics'* as it is observed that government has no effective plan to contain the spread of corona pandemic. *"Bilawal asks PM to quit if he can't cope with challenges".* The news report has the powerful ideological statement which depicts the ideology of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) about government performance at the time of pandemic. Corona pandemic causes severe health issues but it has been politicized since corona outbreak. Use of '*pandemic politics'* portrays how political leaders and their parties are criticizing each other over COVID-19 across the globe and manipulating the corona reality. Discourse is generated and implemented in people's minds but it cannot be connected with the social structures without a device that creates a link between them which is called a mediating cognitive device (Van Dijk, 2009). The headline suggests Prime Minister Imran Khan to quit his designation if he is unable to control the corona pandemic and implement negative representation of government in people's mind. The news report present positive self representation (PPP) and negative other representation (Government).

5. Results & Discussion:

Qualitative analysis of selected data elucidates the detailed answers to the problem statements. The present study examines and uncovers the interconnection between discourse structures and ideological construction through COVID-19 related headlines in selected Pakistani newspapers to unveil the hidden meanings. Ideologies are projected through COVID-19 related news headlines in both the English-language Pakistani newspapers which aim to attract the readers' attention. The researchers present the analysis of discourse construction along with embedment of ideology by news practitioners and political authorities in both the selected Pakistani newspapers. The biological issue of corona has been made politicized by the selected world leaders. It is more than a political issue than a biological issue. Corona reality is manipulated by selected world leaders since corona outbreak**.** Word choice and style of language are greatly affected by the speakers of news headlines.

Practice of power is depicted by ideological construction through COVID-19 related news headlines in selected Pakistani newspapers. Threatening tone of national and international politicians is analyzed through critical discourse analysis. Trump accuses China for concealing corona virus reality for six days from the world. US ex- president Trump threatens to cut its connection with China because corona positive cases are rising in the US. Trump's claim implies that US considers China responsible for corona virus outbreak in Wuhan and spread in the whole world. Manipulation is usually practiced by dominant class to impose power on dominated class but in case of corona virus, both (Us and China) are veto powers. Power abuse is practiced by both the super powers (US and China) through print media discourse. Trump uses media discourse to make the social mind of an each individual about accusation of China regarding COVID-19 outbreak. Live experiences affect the socio-cognitive process (Van Dijk,2008). It depicts that news discourse builds the social representation of the news readers through newspapers. Both the veto powers (US & China) are trying to maneuver the reality of corona outbreak and its swift spread across the globe. Notion of 'Us vs. Them' is presented through ideological representation related to COVID-19 headlines. Both the countries blame each other by presenting strengths of self and weaknesses of

others. The news reports present positive self-representation (US/ China) and negative other representation (China/ US). "Critical discourse analysis helps to identify the abuse of social power, supremacy, and inequity in society that are practiced, repeated, and countered by social and political discourse and text" (Van Dijk, 2001,p. 352). Ideology of 'Us vs. them' depicts their 'bad acts' and our 'good acts' (Van Dijk, 1998 p.25).

Corona is called as corona war but it is recognized more than a political war. Power of print media discourse, abuse of power, and manipulation of language is clear through headlines presented in both the selected Pakistani newspapers. China and the US officials are on war of words over threatening corona virus. Chinese officials present theories but US calls it *'the Wuhan virus'*. China depicts its power as one of the world super powers through selected Pakistani newspapers and claims that "*corona virus might be brought to Wuhan by US army*". As Van Dijk socio-cognitive approach focuses on text and context. Van Dijk takes into consideration the impact of discourse and its controlling power on society. China reflects its ideology through the use of language in the news headlines related to COVID-19 through selected Pakistani newspapers. US accuse China since corona outbreak as US believes that corona virus has released from virology institute of Wuhan lab in China. China refuses the claim of US government but Trump does not change his ideology over outbreak of corona pandemic.

The study examines that every individual who have the authority manipulates the reader's actions through his/her mind indirectly. They can cause stronger impact on reader's mind and through his/her actions on society. The findings explain how news about COVID-19 is produced by health and political authorities through cognitive process to practice societal oppression. The present study reveals the patterns of access to the print media discourse and shows that how the news about COVID-19 are quoted and described by news reporters in selected Pakistani newspapers. Moreover, it also depicts the opinions and comments of the selected world leaders and political authorities and the ways through which they have manipulated the reality of corona out break by influencing the beliefs of common people during COVID-19 situation.

6. Conclusion

The present study as a roadmap explores the discourse through COVID-19 related headlines used by selected Pakistani newspapers which scrutinizes abuse of power and hegemonic social practices. As the critical discourse analysis is the best way to understand the deep meaning of news discourse and sharpen the ability to the analysis of print media discourse. This study identifies that Critical Discourse Analysis and Socio-Cognitive Approach inquire the fallacy ways of dominants that hold the society and explain the strategies to support oppressed and marginalized people in the society and help them to change their lives. Through Critical Discourse Analysis and Socio-Cognitive Approach, society becomes more aware and critical and helps to control power relations and ideology of elite class and political authorities presented in selected Pakistani newspapers.

In short, the study identifies the aims of ideological construction through COVID-19 related headlines which are to provide information about corona pandemic, to share suggestions and commands by political authorities, to transmit personal ideologies about corona outbreak and its containment, to (de)emphasize our/their performance during corona crisis, to demonstrate speaker's or writer's unity with the readers or listeners, to exercise unequal power relations, to practice hegemony, to influence the beliefs of common masses who have little access to discourse , and to manipulate the minds of people through selected Pakistani newspapers. Moreover, the use of active

constructions in news headlines makes the meaning clear to the readers and more instances with absence of nominalization imply that speakers of news headlines try to represent themselves the sovereignty and supremacy to manipulate the readers' ideology and actions over corona pandemic as the biological issue of corona has been made politicized by the selected world leaders.

To sum up, the analysis of ideological construction through COVID-19 related headlines of two selected English-language Pakistani newspapers infer that selected world leaders, political authorities and news practitioners propagate their ideologies over corona virus and influence the reader's mind. This study suggests that readers must understand the news discourse which exerts an influence on ideology of readers through mental process. Suppressed and marginalized people of the society can be aware through the present study that ideological construction through COVID-19 related headlines are generated to manipulate the ideologies of common people. Moreover, this study will also help the society to understand the implicit viewpoints of selected world leaders about corona virus pandemic. The news readers need to read news headlines critically to understand the implied meanings of the authoritative class and avoid the societal oppression through news reports.

7. Future Recommendations

It is hoped that the research will provide a useful source of reference for future researchers. The present study has analyzed the selected data from March, 2020 to May, 2020 due to time constraint. Upcoming researchers can use the data through COVID-19 related headlines in different time frame or can conduct the research as an extension of the present study. Comparative study of English-language Pakistani newspapers through COVID-19 related headlines, news columns, interviews, and speeches can be under taken for the application of the present framework in the future. Moreover, upcoming researchers can analyze the electronic media COVID-19 related discourse through the application of Van Dijk's Critical discourse analysis along with Socio-Cognitive Approach.

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