

Kashmiris in Lockdown: A Comparative Discursive Analysis of Pakistani and Indian E-Newspaper Headlines

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- Linguistic Devices
- Curfew
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Abstract

Headlines carry both explicit and implicit messages and let their readers decode the message given therein. This research studies the e-newspapers' headlines related to post curfew imposition in Jammu and Kashmir in The News and Times of India of Pakistani and Indian E-Newspapers, respectively. The researcher has studied the headlines during the reportage of initial two months of curfew imposition that is from 5th August 2019 to 5th October 2019. The study focuses on speech acts predominantly used and language choices in the e-newspapers. The researcher has applied the Taylor model of Speech Act Theory by Searle (1969) and Agenda Setting Theory (1972) by Maxwell McCombs and Donald Shaw on the selected e-newspapers headlines. The findings have revealed that both e-newspapers have used mixed illocutionary speech acts but Assertive speech acts are the dominant one to narrate their views. Both the e-newspapers have varied stances in portrayal of Kashmir promoting their own ideologies using wide range of linguistic devices such as type of sentences, adjectives, verbs, modal verbs, active and passive voice etc. The linguistic devices have played a significant role in decoding the message given in the headlines and understanding the respective state agenda. The newspapers, on ethical grounds, must try to delineate the communicative events objectively in order to promote truth in the world.

1. Introduction

For more than seventy years, Kashmir has been a controversial issue between Pakistan and India. And role of media regarding Jammu and Kashmir strife cannot be disregarded. Media has consistently been a significant component in conflicts of each nature and power. It has developed as a predominant and cardinal factor in the formation of contentions and conflicts, managing and confounding them and finally deciding the fate of nations. And its significance in this regard is surpassing the limits. The leaders and pioneers of the world are progressively utilizing the media to pass on messages to various audiences and assemble support for their international strategy plans and agendas. Kashmir issue has started with the exit of the Britishers from the subcontinent since 1947. And it has remained as an area of international conflict between the two nuclear-armed nations of the South Asia. Media as per its duty in representing conflict zone has also played its significant role in highlighting Kashmir issue in terms of human rights, curfews, strikes, brutal killings and representing public sentiments. The curfew in Jammu and Kashmir is the biggest problem faced by Kashmiri people. It has been imposed off and on since the beginning of this conflict. During curfew mobile phones, landlines and internet services remain curbed throughout the region. Now, it has been prolonged for a period of more than one year.

There are many languages in the world that are being spoken and the very purpose of the language is to communicate. There have been different researches done to study the human language and the main domain in which the language is being studied is called Linguistics. As it is a main domain so, it covers sub-fields such as sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, phonetics and phonology etc. Each subfield studies the language differently and separately. The language is the only way to communicate with each other and every language is the representative of its own social, cultural, political and ideological backgrounds. The language not only communicates thoughts and ideas but also build cultural, political and social ties. Its function is to provide information, convey feelings and emotions and, to give orders and commands and, to do requests. There are many means of communication but one of the most important of them is newspapers/ e-newspapers. They serve best to their purpose that is they keep aware their readers and public of the happenings of the world around them. It is because newspapers are easily accessible, cheaper and reliable too. Newspapers build the bridge between the government and the public. Newspaper headlines use the language linguistically in order to influence the mind of the readers. But the whole message is not conveyed directly but indirectly as well. This means the language contains dual meaning that is one apparent and other as hidden; explicit and implicit respectively. To understand the surface and deep meanings, there is subfield of linguistics known as Pragmatics. The most important work in Pragmatics is The Speech Act Theory proposed by Austin and then by Searle (1969). These theories help to understand the language with its surface and deeper meanings with the help of categorization of different speech acts.

The researchers have done comparative study of Pakistani and Indian e-newspapers to investigate and understand how both media play their parts to create the understanding of the Kashmir issue especially after the curfew imposition in Jammu and Kashmir and how this issue has been portrayed in both nations' e- newspapers. And what linguistic devices they choose to depict the headlines in the newspapers.

1.1. Purpose of the Study

The current study spells out the role played by the respective media in covering the Kashmir curfew. It shows the portrayal of Kashmir issue regarding curfew in different media. It shows how media build its public opinions according to the country's foreign policy. It also let readers know how the media of both nations play the blame game making rival country responsible for the conflict. It is helpful for the news reporters for understanding the depiction of Jammu and Kashmir strife pragmatically and linguistically in both nations' e-newspapers.

1.2. Research Questions

- i. Which types of speech acts are predominant in Pakistani and Indian e-newspaper headlines covering the Kashmir curfew issue?
- ii. What are the linguistic differences in the e-newspaper headlines of the two nations?

2. Literature Review

Al-Hindawi and Ali (2018) investigated the types of speech acts in CNN and BBC news headlines representing Syrian conflict during the period of September, 2015 to May, 2016. The results revealed that in CNN news channel the use of commissive speech acts and in BBC news channel the use of expressive were dominant. Lodhi, et al. (2019) did the textual and rhetorical analysis of Urdu and English Newspapers. They found that different newspapers use different linguistic devices and discursive markers. The reason behind the use of such techniques was to create sympathy, environment, and amusement and to attract the readers' mind. They found that news headlines "increase or decrease news worthiness of any incident or event."

A research was carried out on speech act analysis of newspaper editorials on Kashmir issue by Mushtaq (2018) where she figured out the speech acts and their prototypes in five Pakistani newspapers editorials of The Dawn and The News. It was seen that the representatives were used more frequently but some use of commissives were also found (Mushtaq, 2018). Al-Saedi and Jabber (2020) conducted pragmatic study of the newspaper headlines in the media discourse. They analysed Searle's Taxonomy of Speech Acts and applied it to Iraqi newspaper headlines. The most prominent and common speech acts were expressives and declaratives. And the purpose behind this was to express feelings of achievement of victory and liberation among the readers. Same study was done by Abba, A. Olakunle and Musa (2015) studied newspaper headlines on Boko Haram attacks in the Daily Trust newspaper. They found that all types of speech acts were used but assertive speech acts as dominant one. They concluded that the headlines in the Daily Trust as perceived by the readers were not frightening, threatening and advising. Rustam (2013) carried out a research on the headlines of CNN news channel covering the reports of political unrest and crisis in Pakistan. He, using the speech act theory, analysed the headlines pragmatically and linguistically.

Olamide and Segun (2014) did research on the Editorial Comments of TELL magazine of Nigeria through the lens of the Searle's speech act theory. The four editions of the TELL

Magazines were selected to analyse pragmatically. The findings revealed that editorial comments were rich in meanings and they influenced a long way to the perception of the readers and encouraged the readers to always read the news. Saddiqa and Yousafzai (2019) did comparative study of Kashmir conflict coverage in Indian and Pakistani press. Through the content analysis they found out the differences in the prominence of peace and war frames in The Nation and Dawn from Pakistani press and English Daily and Times of India from the Indian press.

The present study will do the comparative analysis of Pakistani and Indian e newspapers headlines during the lockdown in Kashmir by using the Searle's speech act theory. It is similar to studies; Mushataq (2018), Al-Saedi and Jabber (2020), Olamide and Segun (2014) for using same theoretical framework. Also, it is similar to Saddiqa and Yousafzai (2019) in perspective of doing comparative analysis of Pakistani and Indian e-newspapers on the Kashmir issue.

3. Research Methodology

The study is a descriptive research following two types of methodologies that are qualitative and quantitative research. The quantitative method is used for representation of the types of speech acts found in the selected e-newspapers headlines in the form of table and for drawing comparison between them. The qualitative method is used for the interpretation and analysis of the table and for describing the linguistic choices used in the headlines of each e-newspaper. Descriptive research is a method that studies the characteristics of the population. It focuses on 'what' than 'why' of the research subject. (*Descriptive Research: Definition, Characteristics, Methods, Examples and Advantages*, n.d.). The study follows the Taylor Model of Agenda Setting Theory (1972) and Searle's Speech Act Theory (1969). The Agenda Setting Theory was developed by Maxwell McCombs and Donald Shaw in 1968 in American Presidential elections. It is a social science theory that makes to attempt predictions. The theory suggests that media has a great influence on the audience by inculcating what they should think instead of what they usually think. The Agenda-Setting Theory rests on two basic assumptions: Firstly, the media do not directly reflect stories in the newspaper rather shapes and filters it to make its audience see what they want them to see. Secondly, the public gives more importance to the issues to which media pays more attention.

There are three types of agenda setting:

- i. Public agenda setting: when the public determines the agenda for which stories are considered important.
- ii. Media agenda setting: when the media determines the agenda for which stories are considered important.
- iii. Policy agenda setting: when both the public and media agendas influence the decisions of public policy makers. (*The Agenda-Setting Theory in Mass Communication*, 2018).

But the current study mainly focuses on second type of agenda setting that is 'media agenda setting.' The Speech act theory is a subfield of pragmatics which studies that words not only give information but are also responsible for carrying out the actions. It was first

introduced by philosopher J.L. Austin and further developed by American philosopher J.R. Searle, the student of Austin. Searle pointed out the shortcomings in Austin's work and proposed a new Speech Act Theory. Searle (1969) focuses on examining the Illocutionary Acts and its types. Searle describes Speech Acts as the 'minimal unit of linguistic communication' (p.16). Searle and Vanderveken (1985) said that the illocutionary acts are the basic unit of human linguistic communication (p. 1). This includes apologies, statements, promises and commands. This theory is considered as a way to understand human communication better. According to Searle, illocutionary speech acts are categorized into five kinds with specific prototypes. These are:

- a. **Assertives** – Utterances that commit the speaker to express truth proposition. For Example: statements.
- b. **Commissives** – Utterances that commit the speaker to some future action. For Example: threats, offers.
- c. **Directives** – Utterances that tell the hearers to do something. For Example: questions, orders, requests.
- d. **Declaratives** – Utterances that bring about some change in the world. For Example: committing, ending, articulating war.
- e. **Expressives** – Utterances that express the attitudes about objects and facts of the world. For Example: expressing gratitude, apologizing, saluting.

4. Data Analysis

Firstly, the news headlines of the both nations' newspapers of each country are studied thoroughly during the reportage of two months that is from 5th August, 2019 to 5th October, 2019. Secondly, purposive sampling is done to collect the required data. Thirdly, the collected data is analysed using Agenda Setting Theory to see the importance given to issue of Kashmir curfew. Fourthly, the headlines are categorized and identified using Searle's Speech Act Theory 1969 using table and lastly comparative analysis is done to see the results that which of the speech act is predominantly used and what are the linguistic choices adopted in the selective e-newspapers headlines. The current study is delimited to initial two months of curfew imposition in Jammu and Kashmir that is from 5th August, 2019 to 5th October, 2019. Pakistan and India, since the time of violent partition of British India, have not been able to attain the normal mutual and diplomatic relations. They have been living with frequently distributed tensions and hostilities on the borders. Since the partition, the two countries have fought wars of 1948, 1965, 1977, 1991 but even then, they are not able to bring peace in the South Asian region. Besides the other reasons of the conflict, the main area of the confliction is the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. Kashmir conflict has started since the partition of British India. So, both countries have several bilateral and diplomatic talks. Despite the efforts to form peaceful and friendly relations between the two countries, the relations remain frigid. It gets worsened when in August 2019, Indian Parliament has approved the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill. It has revoked the special status and certain amount of autonomy of Kashmir. The Article 370 and 35-A allows the Kashmir to have its own separate flag, own constitution, and own fundamental rights and rights related to residency, property and citizenship. But the revoking of this Article terminates the all above stated rights and hence, all Indian laws are

applicable in the Kashmir and the Kashmiris will abide by the Indian Constitution. This has brought further tension between the both countries following the downgrading of diplomatic ties by Pakistan, closing the airspace and suspending bilateral trade with the neighbouring countries.

Therefore, to understand the severity of the Kashmir issue, it is important to highlight and talk over the issue at public level through different means of communication. And the most important means of the communication are electronic (TV, e-newspapers) and print media (newspapers, editorials). Media (Print and E- newspapers) plays vital role in creating and building stance of the respective state.

To analyse and understand the severity of the situation and how much post curfew situation of Kashmir and the revoking of the Kashmir status has been highlighted in the both countries' e-newspapers headlines, firstly, the predominant speech acts are figured out and secondly, linguistic choices adopted and used by respective countries are observed.

a. Classification of News Headlines into Searle’s Speech Acts

Table 1

Classification of News Headlines into Searle Speech Acts

E news papers	Illocutionary Acts										Total Number of Headlines
	Assertive		Directive		Expressive		Commissive		Declarative		
	No.	%	No.	%	No	%	No.	%	No.	%	
The News	201	69.55	28	9.69	36	12.46	15	5.19	9	3.11	289
Times of India	85	67.46	8	6.35	13	10.32	15	11.90	5	3.97	126

The Table 1 depicts the five types of illocutionary acts that are found in the selected data. The assertives are the majority illocutionary speech acts found in the data as compared to other speech acts that are commissives, directives, declaratives and expressives in both selective e-newspapers headlines. If we look at each headline, the most of headlines contain more than one illocutionary speech acts. The existence of three or four illocutionary acts in the reportage of two months of selective e-newspapers headlines prove what Searle, Willis and Vanderveken (1985) said, “Whenever a speaker utters a sentence in an appropriate context with certain intentions, he performs one or more illocutionary acts”. On the contrary, other illocutionary acts such as Expressives, Commissives, Declaratives and Directives are less prevalent as compared to Assertives. The assertive speech acts are found in majority in the data showing that the more importance has been given to the

assertive purpose of the headlines. In assertive type of sentences, the emphasis is laid on the authenticity of the written proposition. The direction of fit for assertives is always “Words to World” which means words are modified and normalized according to the state of affairs in the world. Words in the language are used to alter the ideas and beliefs of the readers and mould their thinking according to speaker’s agenda and intentions. Correspondingly, it can be concluded that the purpose of most of the news headlines is to affect the minds of readers and to change their beliefs about certain circumstances. The great use of assertives in the headlines, in *The News* and *Times of India* covering abrogation of the Article 370 and 35-A and post curfew situation of Jammu and Kashmir, suggest that the emphasis is to assert the truthfulness of the propositions about the issue according to their respective media and state agendas. As observed earlier, assertive speech acts are in majority in both newspapers. Pakistani e- newspaper, *The News*, has 69.55% assertives and Indian e-newspaper has 67.46% assertives. Both emphasise their side of truth to be believed by their respective readers and the audience.

When the use of other illocutionary acts are observed, it is seen that expressives, commissives, declaratives and directives are less in number as compared to assertives and very less emphasis is laid on them. The expressives express the psychological state of the speaker/writer and are linked with the speaker’s feelings of joy, sorrow, regret, desires and grief and they lack direction of fit that is there is no link between speaker’s words and world. The commissives are linked with the speaker’s commitment to a certain action in the future such as promises, pledges, requests, offers and threats. The direction of fit for commissives is ‘world to the words’. The directives emphasize the speaker’s aspiration to make the hearer to perform some kind of action and do some task. The direction of fit is ‘world to the words’. Whereas, the declarative statements highlight the affirmation of some action on the part of a person who utters the statement. They have double direction of fit that is ‘words to world’ and ‘world to words’ both.

The expressives that are mentioned in *The News* and *Times of India* are 12.46% and 10.32% respectively, being second most mention. The commissives mentioned are 5.19% and 11.90% respectively. The directives are 9.69% and 6.35% respectively and the declaratives are least mentioned that are 3.11% and 3.97% respectively. By considering the frequencies of above-mentioned illocutionary acts, it is observed that some headlines show feelings, emotions and grieves. Some of them also show commitments, promises, and demands of the speaker but they are not in abundance as the assertive speech acts. The expressive speech acts are used in the instances in *The News* where political leaders have shown solidarity with Kashmiris, rallies are being held across the country by the students and public to show solidarity with the Kashmiri people. It is also used where many Muslim countries have supported Pakistan’s stance on Jammu and Kashmir. In *Times of India*, this speech act is used to support and back their government’s stance and step of revoking of Article 370 and 35-A. The directives are used in *The News* to put forward some suggestions to abide by the UN human rights by India in Jammu and Kashmir. The commissives are used by *The News* to plan future strategies to help Kashmiri people at any cost and to address this issue in the UN council. In *Times of India*, the commissives are used to tell their future plans for the development in Jammu and Kashmir. The declaratives are used in *The News* for the downgrading of diplomatic ties between the two and for stopping the trade between the two. In *Times of India*, the declaratives are used for scrapping and nullifying of the article 370 and 35-A.

Examples

Assertives	The News (2019, August 5)	“Curfew-like restrictions imposed in IHK”
	Times of India (2019, August 6)	“Mission Kashmir remained secret even to top officials”
Expressives	The News (2019, August 10)	“Countrywide rallies express solidarity with Kashmiris”
	Times of India (2019, August 10)	“Indian-Americans support scrapping of J&K status”
Commissives	The News (2019, August 7)	“Kashmir issue: Shall go to any extent, says COAS”
	Times of India (2019, August 19)	“Only incoming calls may be allowed initially in Kashmir”
Directives	The News (2019, September 28)	“US wants India to ease restrictions in Kashmir”
	Times of India (2019, August 18)	“Yes, Kashmir is angry but don’t edit out rest of the story”
Declaratives	The News (2019, August 10)	“Cabinet endorses trade, Samjhauta Express suspension with India”
	Times of India (2019, August 15)	“Revoking Article 370 is a step towards realising Sardar Patel’s dream: PM Modi in Independence Day speech”

Now applying Agenda setting theory, as it is observed that use of assertive speech acts are in majority, which fits in the assumptions on which the theory is based upon that media filters and shapes that it wants its audience to see. In addition to this, the more importance media gives to an issue, the more it is considered important in the public. So, here applying second type of agenda setting that is ‘media agenda setting’. In this type of agenda setting, the media of the respective state determines the agenda for which stories are to be considered important. This is for the same reason it is seen that the total number of news headlines in The News is 289 and that in Times of India the total number of headlines is

only 126 in the reportage of the selective two months. It clearly shows that Pakistani media considers the issue of abrogation and revoking of article of Jammu and Kashmir an important one and hence, media covers it more in the newspaper and as a result it is considered important in the public too. Whereas, the number of news headlines in Times of India being less in number shows that the revoking of the article is not given much importance as compared to that by Pakistani media and consequently not among the Indian public too.

b. Identification of Linguistic Choices in the E-Newspapers' Headlines

The second research objective is to highlight and observe the linguistic choices adopted in the e-newspaper headlines of The News and Times of India. The linguistic differences are seen in the form of grammatical elements used in the headlines. They include use of pronouns, adjectives and adverbs, use of active or passive voice, use of present or past tense, the types of sentences used and the use of modal verbs.

4.2.1. Times of India

The news headlines, in the Indian e-newspaper, have high frequency of the present tense. There are very few instances found that are in past tense. Almost 71 out of the total number of news headlines selected are in present tense. Most of the headlines use present tense to report the news events occurring at the present time. The present tense is also used to show possible future actions. Only 13 out of the total number of the news headlines are in past tense. The use of past tense adds to the background of the story. The use of future tense is also seen in the headlines. Almost 26 of the total news headlines are future in tense. The future tense is used to predict the future actions by the agent.

Examples

- “J&K move a big blow to shrewd British-era diplomacy: Puri Seer”
(2019, August 6).
- “Kashmir remain shut for 12th consecutive day” (2019, August 16).
- “Not a single bullet fired in Kashmir in past 1 month: NSA Doval”
(2019, September 8).
- “House arrests signals that government will defy all democratic norms in J&K: Chindabaram” (2019, August 6).

Majority of the headlines written are in active voice. And very few are written using the passive voice. Only 7 out of total number of news headlines are written in passive voice, rest of the headlines are in active voice. The use of active voice plays an important role in deciding the role of illocutionary speech acts in the headlines. The use of active voice lays the emphasis on the agent. The use of passive voice lays the emphasis on the action by the agent.

Examples

- “BJP to raise awareness on Article 370” (2019, September 9).
- “Govt explore ways to usher in J&K vikaas” (2019, August 28).
- “Jammu and Kashmir: Curbs to be eased for Eid, ‘small’ prayer meets” (2019, August 9).

The type of sentence mostly used in the news headlines are assertives. Assertive sentences lay emphasis on the writer’s belief, leaving no room for doubt or interpretation. There are only two interrogative sentences used in the headlines and nine negative sentences. Only one imperative sentence is being used in the headlines.

Examples

- “J&K parties unite to ‘defend state’ ” (2019, August 6).
- “POK is only issue now, not Kashmir” (2019, August 21).
- “Will business now bloom in valley” (2019, August 6).
- “Denied rally permission, Kashmir struggle committee fumes” (2019, September 15).

The use of modal verbs is also seen in the headlines. Almost 17 out of total number of news headlines include the usage of modal verbs. The modal verbs such as can, will, may, should and must are being used. The use of modal verbs shows the possibility and probability of the future actions and commitments.

Examples

- “Govt should assuage concern over J&K: Rahul” (2019, August 11).
- “Pakistan won't start war or use nukes first against India, says Imran” (2019, September 3).
- “Article 370 protest can disrupt peace, no permission: Mohali DM” (2019, September 15).

It is observed that the headlines contain no use of pronouns. All the headlines use nouns. In addition to this, it is seen that most of the verbs used in the news headlines are action verbs. Action verbs are used to deliver information and leaving an impact on the reader’s mind.

For Example: allow, sent, give, lose, remain, change, scrapped, fulfils, calls, invite, shut, intervenes, gone, defend, divided, reactivated, repeated, defy, unite, refers, fail, fumes, start, launching, continue, explore, contradict, defend, ambushes etc.

There are few infinitive verbs also used in the headlines such as to figure, to fuel, to benefit, to politicise, to internationalise, to remain, to raise, to send. The use of phrasal verbs is also observed such as edit out, brought down, spar over, fight over, carried out.

The adjectives are also observed in the news headlines of Times of India. The adjectives modify and add further information to the nouns. The adjectives found in the headlines are, **for example**, top officials, special status, terror camps, red flag, current situation,

democratic norms, unifying nation, consecutive day, fragmented politics, national interest, SC bench, third party, normal life, terror strikes, strange way, POK people, major topic etc.

4.2.2. The News

The selected headlines during the reportage of two months have high frequency of sentences in present tense. Only 20 out of total number of headlines are in past tense. The usage of present tense shows that much of the emphasis is made on the present scenario and situation about the revoking of Kashmir status. The past tense is used to show the solidarity by condemning the steps taken by the Indian government against Kashmiris and by holding rallies countrywide. And very few future tenses are used in the headlines.

Examples

- “Indian troops martyr seven more youth in IHK” (2019, August 5).
- “Govt expand panel on Kashmir issue” (2019, August 10).
- “Parliament united on Kashmir issue” (2019, August 7).
- “Denial of Kashmiris denounced” (2019, August 8).
- “Kashmir issue: Shall go to any extent says COAS” (2019, August 7).

Majority of the headlines are observed with the use of active voice. Only 3 out of 289 headlines are in passive voice.

Examples

- “Kashmir case to be fought at all levels: PM” (2019, August 8).
- “Rallies staged against Indian atrocities in Kashmir” (2019, August 17).

Most of the headlines have used assertive type of sentence. The imperatives used in the headlines are four in number. Only two interrogative sentences are used and very few negative sentences have been observed.

Examples

- “Pakistan to engage 35 world leaders at UNGA on IHK situation” (2019, September 2).
- “IHK: What Pakistan can do and cannot do to counter India” (2019, August 16).
- “Crossing LoC to be like playing into Indian hands: PM” (2019, October 5).
- “IHK situation needs actions, not words: Maleeha” (2019, September 10).

The modal verbs are also seen in the news headlines but are very few in number. The modal verbs used are should, must, can and will.

Examples

- “India must stop HR violations in IOK: UNSG” (2019, September 20).
- “Modi can’t suppress Kashmiris through bullets: Mishaal Malik” (2019, August 31).

No pronouns are seen in the selected headlines of The News. All the headlines have used nouns. But a wide range of action verbs are used in the headlines such as imposed, concerned, removing, fought, warn, decides, martyred, impact, denounced, injured, changed, highlighted, challenged, mobilise, support, expels, defy, suspending, violates etc. Some state verbs such as worries, observes, fears, tortured are used too but they are few in number as compared to action verbs. The use of infinitive verbs are also observed but they are few in number such as to prevent, to get, to file, to lift, to stop, to take, to speak, to play, to result, to feel, to teach, to knock, to act, to scrap, to denounce, to hear, to wage. Very few phrasal verbs are also used in the headlines such as slows down, standoff, rules out, clamp down, takes out, way out, defeat over, locked down, support of, staged across.

There are many instances of the news headlines where the adjectives are used. They are used in a wide range.

For example: additional military, Kashmir affairs, downgrade ties, final stage, secular face, hegemonic policies, Kashmir situation, Pakistan stance, India's reality, Kashmir crisis, innocent Kashmiris, UNSC meeting, Indian action, widespread protests, J&K status, Black day, big blow, Kashmiri's woes, Kashmiri's struggle, Indian firing, Indian atrocities, Hurriyat leaders, Indian troops, Solidarity Day, etc.

So, by figuring out the linguistic choices in Times of India it is seen that they use the language according to their particular state agenda and promoting their particular ideology regarding Jammu and Kashmir. Whereas, the linguistic choices used in The News suggest that how Indian state have revoked the special status and their rights and how they are being brutal towards Kashmiris. The News also promotes their state agenda.

5. Conclusion

The focus of the study revolved around the use of speech acts as used by the newspapers in order to provide fundamentals for the interpretation of the language used by the newspapers that might easily convey their ideologies to the readers. The researchers have tried to find out which of speech acts are mainly used in the e-newspaper headlines. With reference to the selected e-newspapers as selected for the study, the fact was quite evident that the Agenda Setting Theory (1968) has also been used by the newspapers. The newspapers, in order to convey the national ideology are using specific patterns of discursive practices which are not asymmetrical or proportional rather indefinite ones. Hence, the selected headlines, covering post-curfew situation and revoking of Article 370 and 35-A, have used different types of speech acts to impact the minds of their readers. And the reason behind the use of linguistic choices by both of the e-newspapers is to impact their targeted audience and propagate their state agendas into public by the use of their particular choices of words.

The first research question of the study was to find out the predominant speech acts in the headlines of the e-newspapers. It was found that the headlines used different types of illocutionary speech acts to build, shape and attract the minds of their respective audience. The headlines were analysed using Searle's Taxonomy of Speech Act (1969). It was seen that the speech acts were used in an indefinite pattern. The assertive speech acts were frequently used in both newspapers. From the table the researchers deduced that The News contain 69.55% and Times of India contain 67.46% of the total utterances as Assertives

speech acts being the dominant one. The reason for the high frequency of assertives showed that the writer wanted to report the important events that had occurred after the revoking of the Article 370 and 35-A. It also signified that the writer used his assertive tone for making sure the authenticity of his statements/ headlines and for denial of accusations of the contrary side. The speech act that was used the second most in The News and Times of India was Expressives. They were 12.46% and 10.32% of the total utterances. It showed the feelings of anger, grieves and disapproval by Pakistani government on the steps of Indian government taken to revoke and abrogate the article of Jammu and Kashmir. And feelings of joy, happiness and sense of relief and satisfaction by Indian government to have Jammu and Kashmir and the whole India abiding by one Indian constitution making Jammu and Kashmir their part of the state. Moreover, worries of the Kashmiri people about their loss of land, fundamental rights and about families were also highlighted. The third most frequently occurring speech act in The News was directives that were 9.69% of the total utterances and in Times of India the third most frequently occurring speech act was commissives that was 11.90%. Then, in The News commissives were 5.19% and in Times of India directives were 6.35% of total utterances. The least of the total occurrences in both e-newspapers were declaratives that were 3.11 % and 3.99 % respectively.

The more usage of commissives in Times of India show that the government is working on the future plans and developments programs that are to be started in the Jammu and Kashmir exactly after the scrapping of the Article 370 and 35-A. The use of the commissives in The News shows the future strategies to help Kashmiri people at any cost and to address this issue in the UNGC and to leaders of Muslim countries to back their stance about Kashmir. Moreover, the media agenda setting of the Agenda Setting Theory (1968) has allowed the researcher to see that more the media paid attention to the issue, more it is considered important in the public too and that is evident from the total number of news headlines. The News has 289 and Times of India had 126 number of headlines during the reportage of two months. The second research question was to find out the linguistic choices with respect to the grammatical features in the e-newspaper headlines of The News and Times of India. In both e-newspapers headlines the researcher found the use of active voice, present tense, and assertive type of sentences in abundance. The wide range of adjectives and action verbs were found. Few static verbs, phrasal verbs, infinitives and modal verbs were also found in the headlines. In both e-newspaper headlines there was no use of pronouns. So, by figuring out the linguistic choices in Times of India it was seen that they use the language according to their particular ideology regarding Jammu and Kashmir. Whereas, the linguistic choices used in The News suggested that how Indian state had revoked the special status and their rights and how they were being brutal towards Kashmiris and promoting their state agenda.

To conclude, we may say that both newspapers have used indefinite pattern and mixed illocutionary speech acts to narrate their views. Both newspapers have varied stances and both emphasising their side of ideologies using wide range of linguistic devices. Hence, they have successfully imparted their propositions, stances and according to government policies and state agendas to their respective audience in their particular ways. The coverage in both e-newspapers, The News and Times of India, are driven by national narratives. It is seen that the stances of both e-newspapers are biased instead of being objective and neutral. The portrayal of Kashmir issue is vigorously state-led, both e-newspapers are successful in imparting their propositions according to their government's policies in their particular ways. The Indian media has played an unsatisfactory role in

highlighting the issue of abrogation of Article 37-A and 350 and the issue faced by the Kashmiris during curfew imposition. On the other side, the Pakistani media has highlighted the complex reality of the Kashmir issue- the reason behind the abrogation of the Articles, the difficulties being faced by the Kashmiris from past one year due to curfew imposition, the reason for the dispute between Pakistan and India and the desires of the Kashmiri people. It is recommended from ethical journalistic perspectives to portray the Kashmir issue with all grave concerns so that the issue can be resolved to gain regional stability.

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