

Coverage of Pakistan –America Relations in News Papers (A Study of Editorials of The Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Dawn and The Nation During 01 March 2018 to 31

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Abstract

The present research Coverage of Pakistan-America Relations in News Papers on Pakistan and America (A Study of Editorials from 01 March 2018 to 31 March 2018) revolves around the study of relations between Pakistan and America. For present study, two newspapers from America, "The Washington Post, Wall Street Journal", and two newspapers from Pakistan, "Dawn and The Nation", from 01 March 2018 to 31 March 2018 selected. The primary objective of the study is to analyze the role of print media in reflecting and directing the foreign policy of America and Pakistan. Content analysis used to identify the meanings of the content. Editorials about America-Pakistan relations of the selected newspapers are studied. The findings of the research indicated that Pakistani newspapers gave more space to Pakistan-America relations as compare to American newspapers and the American press tried to influence its government to take a stricter stance towards Pakistan on issues of Afghanistan and terrorism.

Keywords: Pakistan; America; Editorials; Newspapers

Introduction

Media is playing a very significant role in every field of life. its role not only nationally but also at the global level has become very vital particularly in a globalized world (Shahin, 2023; Ali & Shahid, 2012). The importance of media has been so increased that relations between countries also came under the influence of media (Pintak, Bowe, & Nazir, 2018). People are well aware of national and international happening as compared to the past because of the media. Pakistan –America relations have remained the focal point of foreign policy in Pakistan since its inception (Yousafzai, 2021). Due to the geo-strategic importance of Pakistan, it also has significance for the American government (Nawaz, 2020). In a post-9/11 era, more complications have been added to Pakistan –America relations when America started a war on terror (Iftikhar, 2019) to crush terrorist organizations and groups all over the world, especially in Afghanistan (Riaz, 2017; Hassain 2021).

Bitterness added to the relationship between both countries when the Trump administration demanded from Pakistan to take more solid action against the Afghan Taliban case of failure Pakistan should be ready for serious consequences (Banka & Quinn, 2018). America alleged that Pakistan showed adopted a soft policy towards Afghan Taliban (Mohyidin, 2023; Azad, 2020) and warned that if Pakistan will not dismantle the sanctuaries of terrorists from its territory then America will take action unilaterally (Afzal, 2018). America President Donald Trump declared that the renewal and dominant position of the Taliban in Afghanistan is the result of having safe havens in Pakistani territory. (jafferlot, 2016). Consequently, an American ally and Afghan forces are facing problems to combat the Taliban. The current research is focused on Pakistan –America relations in foreign policy perspectives converge by newspapers of both countries. Editorial is an essay on existing problem in which an attempt is done to form the reader's opinion in consonance with the view of the author (Waldrop, 1948). Editorial reflects the opinion of editor or newspaper that established the reputation of newspaper (Daughterty & Warden, 1979, Wiese, 1988, Mughees, 1993).

Editorial recognized as most significant part of the newspaper that reflects the policy of the newspaper (Shabir, Hussain, & Iqbal, 2014; Jan, 2013). So, for present research, editorials of two newspapers of America "The Washington Post, Wall Street Journal and two Pakistani newspapers Dawn and The Nation selected to evaluate how these four leading newspapers portrayed the issues of Pakistan-America relations. According to Van Dijk, (1998) editorial plays role in opinion formation of the readers about any important issue (Mahmood, Ahmad & Khurshid, 2013; Dijk, 1988). So, for present study to estimate the newspaper stance about Pakistan –America relations gave priority to read the editorials of the news papers those were selected for the study. This research is based on the following objectives:

- I. To explore the reflection of Pakistan-America relations in newspapers.

II. To compare the coverage of Pakistan- America relations in newspapers of both countries.

Review of the Literature

Studies regarding relations of countries and media always remain the point of discussion and research. Many researchers researched foreign policy and media because people get information about national and international issues and foreign relations of their countries. The role of media has been enhanced particularly in a globalized world (Khan, & Safder, 2010). Khalid (2001) has an opinion regarding the US media that it has a very influential role in building public opinion and providing direction to frame state policy, particularly foreign policy. According to him, the media molds public opinion in the light of American national interests. Another study by Khan & Zaheen, (2014) strongly condemned the US media policy towards Pakistan. They writes instead of the fact that Pakistan is an ally of the USA in the war on terror and she sacrificed many lives of civilians and security forces American media does not highlight these facts and alleges Pakistan for weak actions against terrorist groups in her country. American media has significant influence in government affairs. It not only plays vital role in public opinion making but also influence the policy making of the American government regarding foreign relations or foreign policy making.

Mughees (1997) also highlights the American approach and ideology on that bases American foreign policy is based. According to his research, US media has adopted the anti-Pakistan stance that is promoted by criticizing Pakistan's Policy towards terrorist groups and organizations (Krishnaith, Signorielli & McLeod, 1993). News papers of America gives less coverage to Pakistan and America relations as compare to news papers of Pakistan. News papers of America reflected discontented regarding Pakistan foreign policy, while depicting Pakistan and America relations as well as newspapers of Pakistan also displayed dissatisfied while interpreting Pakistan and America relations (Jabeen, 2018; Zahid & Ali, 2012). Content analysis method is used to analyze the relations between Pakistan and America. This research focused on the war on terrorism, India and Afghanistan, and the Abbottabad operation. Period for study selected from 2001 to 2011. The research conclude that the press of both countries reflected negative reporting and analysis regarding Pakistan-America relations. This research concluded that the press of America criticized the foreign policy of its country as compared to the Pakistani press (Ali & Shahid, 2012).

Methods

Content analysis method of research is adopted for this study. This method uses in social science research. It is documentary method (Creswell, 2016) that goals are qualitative as well as quantitative analysis of the texts, images, movies, visual, verbal and written communication (Sarantakos, S. 2012; Neuman, 2011; McNabb, 2004)). News papers of Pakistan and America are considered as universe. Editorials of Pakistani news papers Dawn, Nations and American newspapers, Wall Street Journal and The ashington Post are associated to categories A, B, C and D in perspective of relations of Pakistan and America during first March 2018 to 31 March 2018 is selected as the sample for this study. Present study, focuses on four leading Newspapers of America and Pakistan. Leading newspaper can be evaluated through its aims, Impartiality circulation and influence (Altshcull, 1984). For present research selected American newspapers "The Washington Post, Wall Street Journal and Pakistani News Papers chooses Dawn and The Nation because these newspapers meet the above mentioned criteria. From 1st March 2018 to 31 March 2018 editorials of the The Nation, Dawn, Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post are selected for this research.

For this research words, sentence, paragraph or whole editorial is considered as unit of analysis which are related with following categories of the analysis those play primary role in content analysis because It makes the collection of data easy.

A Stance of Pakistan towards America.

B. America's perception towards Pakistan.

C. Pakistan- America relations and war on terrorism

D. Afghanistan as a factor in relations of Pakistan and America

For the measurement of contents directions of favorable, unfavorable and neutral are applied. If editorial reflects positive approach regarding Pakistan and America relations it considered "Favorable". Editorial is taken "Unfavorable" if reflects negative approach regarding Pakistan and America relations. Editorial is taken as neutral if it adopted balanced approach and arguments regarding relations Pakistan and America. Based on the objectives, following Hypotheses are postulated:

H01: Pakistani newspapers are more focused on Pakistan-American relations as compared to American newspapers.

H02: Terrorism focused on Pakistani and American newspapers.

H03: Newspapers in Pakistan have given pessimistic views of Relations between Pakistan and America.

Results

Table 1: Percentage of Total Editorials of Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, Daily Dawn and Nation 1st March 2018 to 31st March 2018.

Newspaper	Daily Dawn	Nation	Washington Post	The wall street Journal
Percentage	22.58	51.61	12.90	16.12
Number of Editorials	7	16	4	5

Table 1 shows the number of editorials of the Daily Dawn ,Nation , wall street journal and Washington Post about relations of Pakistan and America are 32 in number from 1st March 2018 - 31st March 2018, in which 4 editorials are of Washington Post that is 12.5% while 5 are of wall street journal that is 15.62% of total 7 are of Dawn which are 21.87% of the total.

Table 2: Editorials of Washington Post from 1st March 2018 to 31st March 2018

Week	A	B	C	D
1	0	1	0	0
2	0	1	1	0
3	0	0	1	1
4	0	2	2	1
Total	0	4	4	2

Table 2 shows how much editorials of Washington Post relates A,B, C and D category. Regarding category A “Pakistan stance towards United States” Washington Post did not comment in its editorial. Concerning category B “America’s perception towards Pakistan” and C “War on terrorism and Pakistan –America relations” 4 editorials published. While regarding category D “Afghanistan as a factor in Pak-US relations” 2 editorials published.

Table 3: Categories and Directions of Editorials of Washington Post from 1st March 2018 to 31st March 2018

Category	A			B			C			D		
Percentage	0%			12.95%			12.95%			6.25%		
Direction	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Neutral
No. of Editorials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage	0	0	0	0	50%	2%	0	75%	0	0	50%	0

Table 3 reflects that regarding category “A”, 0% editorial published. 12.95% regarding “B”, “C” and 6.25% concerning ”D”. These categories sub divided into positive, negative and neutral directions. In “A” in all directions editorials are zero percent. In “B” “fifty percent editorials are in negative zero percent editorials are positive and two percent are editorials are positive, In “C” category seventy five percent are negative zero percent is positive and one percent is neutral directions. In “D” category fifty percent are negative, zero percent is positive and zero percent is in neutral direction.

Table 4 categories published in wall street Journal

Week	A	B	C	D
1 ^s	0	1	1	0
2 nd	0	1	2	1
3 rd	0	0	0	0
4 th	0	2	2	1
Total	0	4	5	2

Table 4 displays 0 editorials about category A published in wall street Journal for example stance of Pakistan to United States. Regarding B category 4 editorial published for example about perception of America towards Pakistan. In Category C for example War on terror and Pakistan –America relations. 5

editorials published. While regarding D category describes Afghanistan as a factor in Pakistan -America relations 2 editorials published. Above mentioned categories more divided into positive, negative and neutral directions.

Table 5: Categories and Directions of Wall street Journal's editorials of from 1st March 2018 to 31st March 2018

Category	A			B			C			D		
Percent age	0%			80%			100%			40%		
Direction	Positi ve	Neg ative	Neut ral	Positi ve	Neg ative	Neut ral	Positi ve	Neg ative	Neut ral	Positi ve	Neg ative	Neut ral
No. of Editorials	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4	1	0	3	1
Percent age	0%	0%	0%	0	80%	0	0	80%	20%	0	42.85%	14.28%

About “A” category 0% editorial published in all directions.. In “B” 0% editorials are positive, 0% neutral and 80% in negative directions published. Regarding “C” category 80% negative, 2% neutral and 0% in positive direction published. and in “D” category there is 42.85% in negative, 0% in positive, and 14.28% were in neutral direction.

Table 6: Editorials of Daily Dawn from 1st March 2018 to 31st March 2018

Week	A	B	C	D
1 st	1	1	1	0
2 nd	0	1	1	1
3 rd	1	1	2	1
4 th	0	1	3	0
Total	2	4	7	2

Table 6 displays about A category for example Pakistan stance towards United States 2 editorials polished in Dawn. About category B for example perception of America about Pakistan 4 editorials comments concerning category C “War on terrorism and Pakistan –America relations”. 7 editorials are published. While regarding category D 2 editorials are published that discusses Pakistan -America relations in perspective of Afghanistan.

Table 7: Categories and Directions of Dawn 's editorials of from 1st March 2018 to 31st March 2018

Category	A			B			C			D		
Percent age	28.57%			57.14%			100%			28.57%		
Direction	Positi ve	Neg ative	Neut ral	Positi ve	Negati ve	Neut ral	Positi ve	Neg ative	Neut ral	Positi ve	Neg ative	Neut ral
No. of Editorials	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	5	1	0	2	1
Percent age	0%	28%	0%	0	42.85%	2%	0	71.42%	20%	0	28.57%	7%

Table 7 shows 28.57% regarding category “A” editorials published, 57.14 in “B”, 100% about “C” and 28.5% in category “D”. These categories sub divided into neutral, positive and negative directions. In category “A” 0% editorial falls positive direction, 0% editorial in neutral direction and 28% are in direction of negative. In “B category” 0% positive, 42.85% negative and 1% neutral. In “C” category 0% neutral, 71.42% negative and 0% is positive directions. In category “D” 28.5% is in negative 0% in positive and 7% in neutral direction.

Table 8: Editorials of Nations from 1st March 2018 to 31st March 2018

Week	A	B	C	D
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1 st	2	4	5	3
2 nd	1	5	4	2
3 rd	1	5	6	2
4 th	2	2	1	0

Total 6 16 16 7

According to Table 8 in Nation about category A for example stance of Pakistan towards America in 6 editorials this discussed. Concerning to B category perception of America towards Pakistan in 16 editorials discussed. Category C” war on terrorism and Pakistan-America” relations comments in 16 editorials.. While regarding D category that discusses Afghanistan in perspective of relations between Pakistan and America 7 editorials are published.

Table 9: Categories and Directions of The Nation’s editorials of from 1st March 2018 to 31st March 2018

Category	A			B			C			D		
Percentage	37.5%			100%			100%			43.75%		
Direction	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Neutral
No. of Editorials	4	5	1	1	10	2	0	14	2	0	5	1
Percentage	25%	31.25%	6.25%	6.25%	6.25%	12.5%	0%	87.5%	12.5%	0%	31.25%	6.25%

These categories are sub divided into three directions neutral, negative and Positive. Regarding category “A” 25% editorials are in positive directions,30.25% in negative and 6.25 are neutral. In “B” 6.25 % editorials are positive,62.5 in negative and 12.5%neutral directions. In category “C” 0% is positive,87.5% negative and12.5 % neutral directions and in category “D” there is 0% in positive,31.25r% are negative direction and 6.25% are in neutral direction.

Table 10: Analysis of the categories and Directions of Washington Post , Wall Street and Dawn and Nation from 1st March 2018 to 31st March 2018.

Category	A			B			C			D		
Directions	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Neutral
Editorials in Washington Post and Wall street Journal	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	7	2	0	5	1
Editorials in Dawn and Nation	4	7	1	1	13	2	0	19	2	0	7	2
Editorials in a direction	4			1			0			0		
Editorials in a Category	12			16			28			11		

The table shows that category “C” “Pakistan and America relations in perspective of War on terrorism” repeatedly discussed. “B” i.e. America’s perception towards Pakistan is given coverage after

issue “C” then A. Pakistan stance about United States is discussed and at the end regarding “D” Pakistan and America relations discussed in perspective of Afghanistan. The study also shows that that news papers of Pakistan has presented a more worry about the issues identified than the American News Papers. The whole research shows that the American news papers have also showing dissatisfaction about the issues discussed.

Discussion

The current study discovered the coverage of Pakistan and American relations in American and Pakistani newspapers. According to the findings, American newspapers The Washington Post and Wall Street Journal and newspapers Pakistan Dawn and The Nation discussed Pakistan and America relations in their editorials. But American newspapers gave less coverage of Pakistan and American relations as compared to Pakistani newspapers. American newspapers published a total of 9 editorials whereas newspapers in Pakistan published a total of 23 editorials. In this way H01: Pakistani newspapers are more focused on Pakistan-American relations as compared to American newspapers is proved. The issue of terrorism was converged by newspapers of both countries. The newspapers of Pakistan published 7 while American newspapers discussed the war on terrorism in Pakistan and the American perspective in 4 editorials. So, H02: Terrorism is given coverage by newspapers in Pakistan and America is also proved. Newspapers of Pakistan gave 62.5% whereas American newspapers did 50% negative reporting of Pakistan and America relations in this way H03 that newspapers in Pakistan gave pessimistic views of Pakistan-America relations is proved.

Regardless of valuable input, the research carries limitations. Though, the limitations support enhancing the effectiveness of the research (Marshall and Rossman, 2011). The major limitation of the research is its limited scope because in this study only editorials of newspapers of America and Pakistan are selected as well as its selected period 01 March 2018 to 31 March 2018 also narrowed down the scope of the study. The second limitation is its small sample which consists of four newspapers two American and two Pakistani. The finding of this study is only limited to Pakistan and America relations in the context of mentioned categories in the study. So, the findings of this research cannot be applied in another context. This limitation restricts the generalizability of the study.

Conclusion

This study covers the Pakistan-America relations during 1st March 2018 to 31st March 2018. Since Trump became the president of America, American policy towards Pakistan has become more aggressive. In this research four newspapers two American and two Pakistani since 1st March 2018 to 31st March 2018 were selected. The conclusion of this research which is based on analysis of the content of the mentioned newspapers editorials is that newspapers of both countries coverage the terrorism at top of the list and showed the unsatisfactory comments on the performance or policy regarding this issue of their countries. For example Washington Post and wall street Journal highly criticized their government policy and wrote that their government is not taking strong steps those forced Pakistan to take effective action against terrorists groups. Because according to them these groups have save heavens in Pakistan. As compare to American newspapers Pakistani newspapers gave more coverage to Pakistan-America relations.

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