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Lexical Choices and Conflict Narratives: A Linguistic Analysis of *The New York Times*' Coverage of Occupied Kashmir

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Key words: Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA); Media Linguistics; News Discourse; Conflict Discourse; Lexical Semantics; Discursive Construction; Agency Attribution; Evaluative Language; Framing Theory; Kashmir conflict.

Abstract

The role of the media discourse is essential in determining how people understand the prolonged conflicts, especially in the environments of the information access, flow and narrative politics, which are prone to regulation. The paper forms an analysis of the New York Times work on the Kashmir tensions, which should be regarded as a sequence of lexical choices, structural figuration, and discursive gene frames. Within a medium-level qualitative linguistic investigation based on hints of the Paz period, the study analyses a purposeful data set of distress-related Kashmir coverage during the years 2016-2024 a time frame of militarisation, agitating politics, and aggressive international civilian scrutiny. The proposed study uses the terms of critical discourse analysis, framing theory, and the preconflict period as a benchmark to evaluate the effects of word choice, metaphor, agency attribution, and evaluative intensity on the storey of conflict escalation and de-escalation. The authors devote special consideration to the usage of such terms like militants, rebels, separatists, infrentamientos, and force or security and the role of these words in thematic stress and the creation of unequal powers among participants.

As it is described in the analysis, commentators associated with New York Times have been contravening several episodic structural analyses of political marginalisation that favour a statist point of view through lexical patterns that tend to normalise the militarisation of Kashmiri citizenship within this framework. The presentation of the article, whose traits are characteristicofpeacejournalism,suchasplacingthegrievancesincontextandexpressionof rights reflect, however, the current trends of war journalism especially in the use of official sources,whichpredeterminetheescalationofaconflict.Thisunderstandingwassupportedby some

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representatives of the media of conflict zones who saw international discursive forces enclosedintheKashmirterritoryandstatedthediscursiveneedoflinguisticawarenesstotreat peace studies.

Introduction

Military operations or formal diplomacy are not the only ways to form armed conflicts; they arealsomadethroughthediscourse,intermsofrepresentationorlinguisticframes.Thewords used by journalists to characterise actors, events, or effects in modern media contexts take a centralroleincreatingcommonconceptualizationsofpoliticalviolence,territorialconflicts,and humanitarian crises. Conflict scholars and media scholars contend that language is an instrumentaltoolthathelpsindefiningwhatstoreysareprioritised,which who are legitimised and which interpretations take control of the masses (Entman, 1993, and Fairclough, 2013). This is especially witnessed during the reporting of protracted geopolitical conflicts in which controversial sovereignty, national self and human rights merge.

The discussion of the Jammu and Kashmir conflict, whose historyis one of the longest in the history of South Asia, has received multiple reception in the media materials of the world; however, the display of the issue differs significantly in terms of geopolitical views, editorial leanings, and publishing language of the given article of a particular medium (Yousaf & Ali, 2021; Zia, 2019). Kashmir has been packaged to be a territorial issue and rebellion, a human-right issue and a security imperative. These conflicting frames generate different political ratings of the same events and have a physical impact on the worldviews of the conflict(Bhat,2020).

The international media coverage was escalated after the Indian government repealed Article 317 in August 2019 and other actions that ended the semi-autonomous status of Jammu and Kashmir (Bhat, 2020). The resultant transfer presented fresh nuances of argument and challenge among the Indian state discourse, accented in national integration and counter-terrorism, and the viewpoints by the actors of Kashmir, Pakistan, and human-rights which prefigures militarisation, repression and political disenfranchisement(Duschinskietal.,2020). With such argumentation of computations, the lexical patterns used by big international media housesshouldbeputunderexaminationsincetheyareindicativeofideologicalalignmentand inductive prejudices.

Lexical Decisions and Conflict Speeches.

Lexical choices, or concrete nouns and verbs, adjectives, and metaphoric formulations, are linguistic features that indicate narrative systems and positions in politics (Baker et al., 2008; Richardson, 2007). Such terms like militants and freedom fighters, security forces and occupation forces, disputed region and occupied territory have different political overtures and situate the ethical realms of conflict reporting actors. The research on Critical Discourse Analysis argues that these kinds of decisions are hardly neutral as they create social realities

through privileging a certain interpretation over others (Fairclough, 1995; van Dijk, 2006).

These contrasts of lexical meaning are particularly evident in the Kashmir context. The Pakistani media prefer to announce occupation, oppression, and self-determination, whereas the idea of terrorism, security, and life integrity is often used by the Indian media (Youseaf 20212;RawanandRahman2020).Itdependsonhowinternationalnewspapersmediate,adopt or otherwise deviate around these national framings, on whether they build, or disbuild, the global narrative architecture of the conflict. The NYT reporting is in the convergence point betweenWesternnewstraditionsandmultifacetedgeopoliticalfacts.Inthisregard, its linguistic practises offer rich spaces in which to analyse the way global media recreate, renegotiate or challenge master discourse on conflict.

PeaceJournalismasanAnalyticalPerspective.

Newsnarrativescanbestructuredinawaythattheyaffectthewaypeopleperceiveconflict.It was coined by Johan Galtung (2003) as peace journalism and aims at slowing the process of reportingbystopping, listeningto all parties and not rushingto draw conclusions. It strivesto provideexplanationsastocauses,historicalfoundationsandvoicesthatweresilenced(Lynch andMcGoldrick,2005).Ontheotherhand,theprocessofwarjournalismtendstodevelopfast, onthebasisoftheofficialversions,andpredictsthedramaticoccurrencesthatcausepanicand forget about further explanations of causes. This method may sound official, distant and sometimessimplerestatements oftheviews ofthosein authoritythus mouldingthecollective thought in barely noticeable yet significant influences.

Analysing the lexical patterns of the NYT based on the indicators of peace journalism can be used to understand whether its coverage:

- encouragestheknowledgeofrootcauses.
- personalisesthelivesof civilians.
- doesnotuselinguisticdemonisation.
- encompassesvariedviewsof Kashmiris.
- exposesstructural violence.
- or,onthecontrary,strengthens the framesofdominantgeopolitics.

AsKashmircomesoutstronglyinpostcolonial,nationalistic,andsecuritydiscourses,theneed to use the metrics of peace journalism enables a quantitative analysis of the influence of international news in the conflict narratives.

ProblemStatement

Thewaynewsdiscoursesareframedhasagreatimpactinhowthesocietyviewsconflict.The conceptualisation of peace journalism by Galtung (2003) suggests a moderate stance that allowsonetotaketimeandlistentoeveryopinionbeforemakinganyconclusions.Itquestions causal factors behind the conflict, looks into historical precedents and questions why these voicesaretrampleduponatall.AccordingtoLynchandMcGoldrick(2005),thereistheneed

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tofindabalancebetweenthespacegiventohumanaspectsandavoidinginflammatoryrhetoric that intensifies the situation.

Ontheotherhand,thehighpaceofreportageisa commoncharacteristicofwarjournalism. It gives more importance to official messages, assertive headlines, and exaggerated images of brutality,therefore,pre-emptingtheeventmorethantheunderlyingcausalreasons.Thistrend createsaformal,detachedtone,andtendstorecreatethenarrativesofthedominantplayers.

Asaresult,itinfluencesthepopularknowledgeinthemannerthatoftencannotbeconsciously analysed.

ResearchGap

Proposalsthathavebeen formulatedtodatehaveexploredhowtheKashmirconflicthasbeen framed by the Indian, Pakistani, and some global media. In spite of the idented patterns and perceived comparisons in the narratives, the lack of studies composed of stringent lexical analysis and either critical discourse analysis or peace-journalism measurements is high. Previous literature can hardlysubject the publications of the likes of The New York Times to systematic scrutiny on a word level, and, in assessing the Western coverage, invariably lacks indicators of peace-journalism. Additionally, rarely are studies taking into consideration the nuances of ideological indications stashed in lexical decisions vi.v., those imperceptible indicators that shape the perceived nature of clash. The current work fills this gap since it appearstobethefirstsignificantattempttointegratethelinguisticanalysiswiththeevaluation of peace-journalism by tracing the developments of The New York Times covering Kashmir issue throughout a considerable period.

SignificanceoftheStudy

- There are multiple consequences of this research, the implications of which are not limited to the context of the given academic situation.
- The work in the media studies contributes to the comprehension of how seemingly neutralpractisesofeditingcanhaveconcealedbiases.Throughtheinterrogationofthe allegedly impassive reporting of the Western newsrooms, the research findings show that the state of being objective is more rhetorical than material, revealing the limitations of being objective.
- Theframing used byThe New York Times, in politics, does not just influence what is writtenonthepage,butmoderatestheartofdiplomacy,humanitariandesiresandsubtly informsthemassesofacertainaction.Thesestoreysarenottheonessimplyeducating, but they make and sometimes, Compose sense in people.
- The key issue in the investigation is representation. Whether or not the voices of Kashmirisarereflectedintheglobalmediaisapointofviewthroughwhichonelooks at larger questions of righteousness, empowerment, and the availability of voice. The analysismadeonthisrepresentationcontributestotheoverallquestofnarrativeequity although in an incremental manner.

ResearchQuestions

1. WhataresomeofthelexicaldecisionsthataredescribedusageofTheNewYorkTimes on Occupied Kashmir?
2. Howdotheselexicalchoicescreate conflictstoreysabout thekeyplayers, events,and issues?

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3. How far does the coverage by The New York Times coincide or contradict the established peace-journalism indicators?
4. WhatlinguisticpatternsoframingKashmir areapparent inTheNewYork Times?

ResearchObjectives

Theresearchquestion isthe following:

- To examine the influence of these lexical choices on the construction of conflict accounts, as well as on the actors involved, use of violence and political politics.
- To assess the The New York Times coverage in terms of the peace-journalism indicatorstodefinewhetherthecoverageencouragesconstructive,contextualised,and humanising representations or not.
- Tounravelimplicitideologicalleaningsthatareincludedinthelinguisticbehaviourof The New York Times on Kashmir.

Conclusion

The language plays one of the key roles in constructing a political reality, and acting as an arena of competing meanings in the conflict situations. Through the analysis of the lexical features of The New York Times and judgement on them using the benchmarks of peace-journalism, the research contributes to a more accurate understanding of the way global news media visualise narratives regarding Occupied Kashmir. Such an evaluation is not just necessary to the body of scholarly knowledge, but also to ethical journalism and those who may support more balanced portrayals of confrontation.

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LiteratureReview

1. ConflictReportingandtheEvolutionofPeaceJournalism

Since Johan Galtung's (1998) early idea of peace journalism, the conversation has quietly grown.Scholarskeptreturningtoonesimplethought:themediadoesn'tjustreportconflict—itshapeshowpeopleimagineit.Sometimesgently.Sometimesnot.Peacejournalism,theway Galtung framed it and the way Lynch and McGoldrick (2005) later carried it forward, asks journalists to slow down, to breathe, and to look at conflict with a wider lens. It encourages coveragethatsoftensescalation,highlightsnon-violentpaths,anddisruptsthoseold,loudwar-narratives thatusuallydominate.Warjournalism, though,keepspullingthestoryback toward violence. Toward zero-sum thinking. Toward elite voices and military frames (Hanitzsch, 2007). It's familiar. It's fast. And it's everywhere.

In global conflicts, this war-leaning style still rules most big international newsrooms. Structural pressures push it. News values reward it. Routines make it easy (Lee & Maslog, 2005). So the reporting ends up repeating state-centered viewpoints, brushing aside the lived experiences of civilians, and leaning toward the perspectives of powerful geopolitical actors (Fahmy & Eakin, 2014; Wolfsfeld, 2004). Ordinary people fade. Context fades too. What remains is a narrow frame, almost predictable, that keeps some voices loud and others quiet.

SouthAsiaisnoexception.WhenKashmirappearsinthemedia,it'softenwrappedinahighly securitized tone.Especiallyin Indianoutlets, wheremilitaristicframings havebecomealmost expected(Yousafetal.,2020).Andglobalmedia?Theyoftendriftinthesamedirection.They tell stories of insurgency, territorial disputes, and high-stakes geopolitics, while the human side—pain,fear,dailysurvival—sitsinthebackground(Shahzadetal.,2021).Itmakesyou

wonder.AreWesternnewspapers,eventheonesclaimingneutrality,stillechoingsubtleforms ofwarjournalismwithoutfullyrealizingit?Maybe.Theirlexicalchoices,theirstructure,even the rhythm of their headlines can quietly push the story one way or another.

This is where peace journalism indicators matter. Small things. The tone of a sentence. The decision to avoid demonizing labels. A choice to explain causes instead of only events. Or a moment spent giving space to a voice that's usually ignored. But despite all this, not many researchers have used these indicators to look closely at Western reporting on Kashmir. And so, this study steps into that gap. It examines how The New York Times uses language—sometimes gently, sometimes sharply—to see whether its reporting leans toward peace journalism or slips back into the familiar pull of war-framed storytelling.

2. MediaFramingofKashmir:GlobalandRegionalPerspectives

The Kashmir conflict has been written about for decades—politics, history, human rights, all of it. But communication studies? They mostly stay close to home, looking at South Asian media first. Indian news outlets, for instance, often lean into nationalistic and securitized frames. They paint Kashmiri resistance as *terrorism* or *separatism* (Bhatia, 2020; Ahmed, 2021). It's a familiar storyline. On the other side, Pakistani media foreground self-determination, religious solidarity, and ongoing human-rights concerns (Yousaf et al., 2020). Two mirrors. Two narratives. Each reflecting its own state's anxieties.

International outlets—TheNewYorkTimes, BBC, Al Jazeera—sit alittlefartheraway. Orat leasttheytryto.Theyareviewedasdistantfromregionalpoliticalheat,butthey'restillshaped by Western geopolitical logics, newsroom norms, and the constant pull of crisis-driven storytelling (Ghosh, 2022). Sometimes the region becomes simplified. Sometimes reduced. Research already shows how Western coverage tends to essentialism South Asia and foreground violence, while leaning on state-centered geopolitical explanations (Chakravartty & Roy, 2015). It's not surprising, but still troubling.

With Kashmir, the picture grows sharper. A few studies reveal that international media occasionallyecho Indian state narratives—especially around security, cross-border militancy, or counterterrorism (Rashid &Riaz, 2022). Yet others find somethingslightlydifferent. They note that Western outlets highlight human-rights violations more often than Indian domestic media, particularly after the 2019 removal of Article 370 (Butt & Najar, 2024). So the story shifts depending on who's telling it, and when.

Even so, most of this scholarship misses the small stuff. The fine-grained words. The tiny choicesthatcarryideologicalweight.Termslike—militant,‖—insurgent,‖—rebel,‖—separatist,‖ oreven—freedomfighter.‖Eachonetiltsmeaning.Eachoneshapeshowreadersseelegitimacy, violence, and political agency (Baker et al., 2013). But how these words actually work inside Western narratives of Kashmir? Still not well studied.

This study tries to step into that gap. Slowly. It analyzes the conflict lexicon, evaluative language,andnarrativepatternsinTheNewYorkTimes'reporting.Anditreadsthemthrough

peace journalism indicators. Because the story is not only what is told—it's also in how the telling happens.

3. LexicalChoices,Ideology,andCriticalDiscourseAnalysis

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) reminds us that language does more than describe the world—it quietly builds it. It shapes how we see people, power, and the beliefs behind both (Fairclough,1995;vanDijk,2006).Inconflictreporting,thisinfluencebecomessharper.One wordcantiltthewholestory.Asinglephrasecanshifttheblame.Reporterschoosetermslike —terrorists,‖—rebels,‖oreventhesofter—youth,‖andeachlabelnudgesthereaderinadifferent direction. The same happens with events——clashes,‖ —crackdown,‖ —unrest.‖ These aren't neutral. They carry a mood. A hint. Sometimes a judgment.

Earlier studies show this pattern repeating across different wars. In Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan—researcherslikeBarkho(2007),Hodges(2011),andAltheide(2007)foundthat Western coverage often mirrors the political mood of the time. The vocabulary aligns neatly with dominant ideologies, sometimes too neatly. It normalizes violence. It decides who is resistingandwhois—provoking.‖And,intheend,itdrawsthemoralboundariesforthereader (Baker et al., 2013).

Kashmirfitsintothisstorytoo,thoughfewerscholarshaveexamineditslinguisticlayers.What wedoknowisrevealing. Bhatia(2020)noticedthat Indianmediaregularlyleanontermslike —terrorist,‖ —cross-border proxy,‖ and —security forces,‖ all of which echo official state narratives. Ahmed and Zahoor (2021) showed how Kashmiri youth are portrayed in shifting tones—victimsinonenewscycle,radicalsinthenext.Andthat's aboutit.Verylittleworkhas probed how Western newspapers frame the region.

This gap matters. The New York Times, for instance, sets the news agenda for much of the world (McCombs, 2005). Its word choices ripple outward. They influence how global audiences imagineKashmir,evenifthey'veneverbeen closetotheplace. So,lookingclosely at its lexicon isn't just a linguistic exercise. It's a way of uncovering the quieter ideological forces behind the story.

In this study, CDA helps guide that search. It pushes attention toward how social actors are portrayed (van Leeuwen, 2008), how euphemismssoften reality, how harsherwords intensify it, and how emotional or judgmental vocabulary slips into the narrative. It asks who gets agency. Who is acted upon. What is implied rather than said. These small linguistic moves connectdirectlywithpeace-journalismprinciplesandhelprevealwhethertheNYT's coverage leans towardpeace-focused reportingorfalls back into theolder, morefamiliarframesofwar journalism.

4. ConflictNarrativesandtheConstructionofLegitimacy

Stories are influential tools, as media houses provide interpretative meaning to conflict events (Wolfsfeld, 2004). They group events into causally connected strings that make up antagonists, victims, and protagonists (Cobb, 2013). Inwar journalism, the focus is displacedto the description of

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violence, elite struggle, and military strategy, and in the case of peace journalism, the structural consideration,pluralperspective,andnonviolentactorsarefocusedon(LynchandMcGoldrick,2005).

Accordingtoempiricalstudies,Westernoutletsoftenformconflictdiscourse,whichimplicitly justifiessovereignpower,especiallywhencoveringnon-Westernorpostcolonialgovernments (Chomsky, 2017). These narratives may:

- Stateresponses(or reactivationofold states)areessentialtoorder restoration,
- Nullifyor unmemorializethe past indignations,
- Exoticismthe local peoplebyportrayingthem as unreasonable, unmanageable,
- Portrayanti-establishment movements asinvalid or radical,
- Neutralizeorrationalizewesterndiplomacy's position.

These narrative structures have been traced in reporting of the conflicts in such places as Balkans (Hammond,2007)and Palestine(Barkho, 2007). Inthe Kashmir conflict,research to dateindicatesthatclashes,militaryactivity,andepisodicnarrativesarethepredominantforms of reporting that are used by the international media, whereas structure violence, political oppression, and Kashmir views remain underreported (Rashid and Riaz, 2022). However we still do not have a detailed narrative analysis in a peace journalism framework.

1.PeaceJournalismIndicatorsandLinguisticMarkers

Themodelofpeacejournalismidentifiesspecificindicatorsthatcanberealizedinthe linguistic study. According to Lynch and McGoldrick (2005), there are the following important dimensions:

People-OrientedandElite-OrientedLanguage.

Peace journalism also recommends employing the language that prefaces the experiences of civilians instead of focusing on political elites or actors in the military. Whether it is official sources or official sources and unofficial ones, empirical research indicates that some mainstream outlets overuse official material and thus limit pluralism (Hanitzsch, 2007).

CausesandContextandvs.Event-CenteredReporting.

Whereaswarjournalismfocusesoncurrenthappeningsi.e.clashesorattacks,peacejournalism puts the underlying reasons, history of previously untenable issues and inequality in the structure (Lee and Maslog, 2005).

MultiplicityofVoicesandDichotomousFraming.

Peacejournalismembracestheinvolvementofdifferentparties,includingthemarginalizedor nonviolentparties.Lexicalandquotationanalysescandemonstratethepresenceoflexicaland quotation privileges, or the preference of a voice, over others (Waisbord, 2018).

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Non-EmotiveandDemonizingLexicon.

Peace journalism dislikes the use of dehumanizing names (e.g., a terrorist), categorical generalizations (e.g., the Kashmiris), and inflammatory language (Lynch, 2014).

AgencyTransparencyvs.AgencyConcealment.

Passive constructions are commonly used to hide responsibility in the war journalism (Fairclough, 1995). Peace journalism also believes in beingtransparent in the agencyin order to assign actions precisely.

TheindicatorshaverarelybeenusedtoexamineWesterncoverageofKashmir,andtheabsence of such application makes this subject a large research gap.

6. TheperspectivesoftheWesternNewspapersandthePostcolonialpower.

Postcolonial media studies is a consistent argument among scholars that the Western media uses orientalist frames when reporting on non-Western wars (Said, 1978; Chakravartty and Roy, 2015).This trend may be realized by:

- Infantilizationoflocalpeoplepolitically,
- Astressofexoticized violence,
- Atribalizedorantiquated approachtoconflicts,insteadof thepoliticalone, and
- Theprivilegingof theWestern knowledgeand perspectives.

InKashmir,Westernmediacoveragehassometimesresortedtotheusageofclichéimagesand simplified tales that have a whiff of the colonial (Butt andNajar, 2024).However, it is still empirically unclear whether or not these trends continued to exist in the vocabulary of the journal,*TheNewYorkTimes,inthepost2019era.Itshouldbethenanalyzedlinguistically in order to provide insights into subtle residual ideologies being present in the Western reporting.

7. ResearchGap

Anoverviewoftheliteratureavailableidentifiesa numberofrelevantgaps:

1. The coverage of Kashmir by peace journalists rarely questions the media of the West, prioritizingtheanalysisoftheIndianorPakistanicoverage(Yousafetal.,2020;Bhatia, 2020).
2. TheliteratureoflinguisticanalysisofWesterncoverageofKashmirisoverwhelmingly minimal, even though it is also shown that lexical selections considerably influence ideological discourses (Baker et al., 2013).
3. Noneoftheexistingresearch has evaluated thecoverageofKashmirbyNYTinterms ofthejointmeasuresofpeacejournalismsignsandcriticaldiscourseanalysis,andthere is a methodological gap.

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4. The topic of narratives after 2019, especially following the repeal of Article 370, has not gotten a lot of academic attention, even though it has redefined the political language of the region.

The proposition of the present research is aimed at addressing these gaps with the help of a systematic, lexically motivated discourse analysis of the articles of the NYT.

8. Summary

Theliteratureextendstohighlighttheultimateinfluencethatlanguagehasinthedevelopment of conflict perceptions.Although peace journalism provides a normative form of evaluative approach, critical discourse analysis provides methodological means through which lexical selections are interrogated to pump up conflict narratives.Kashmir being a highly mediated international conflict forms an important setting towards investigating such processes. However, it is research devoted to Western, in particular, U.S.-based reporting that is conspicuously inadequate.This study presents a new and valuable linguistic analysis of the conflict lexicon of the New York Times, which explores how its discourses either support or challengethe war-related coverageandprovidean implicationoftheworlddiscoursesrelated to occupied Kashmir.

Methodology

ResearchDesign

The current study adopts a qualitative linguistic content analysis, which is based on Critical DiscourseAnalysisframework(CDA)andPeaceJournalism(PJ)paradigm,toengagethe

constructionofconflictbyTheNewYorkTimes(NYT)inthesituationofOccupiedKashmir. Itisalsoreasonablewhythequalitativeapproachispreferredsincelinguisticdecisionsinterms oflexical patterns, evaluativewording, metaphoricconstructions, and narrativestructures can best be studied within the framework of interpretive methodology and given that quantitative numbers would be an inadequate measure of their repetitive usage (Fairclough, 2015; Richardson,2007). CDA offers a conceptual framework to analyse the ways in which the relations of power, ideological flows, and geopolitical interests is coded in language (van″Dijk,2015), and PJ indicators (Galtung,2003; Lynch andMcGoldrick,2005) offers an assessment methodology to measure whether reportage is done is in violence-promoting or peaceful-based perspectives.

Thestudydesign is thereforeviewed asdual-layered:

1. A linguistic layer, which entails the systematic study of lexical options, semantic domains, naming and evaluative language in the NYT coverage.
2. A peace-journalism layer that evaluates whether the reporting is aligned or deviated with the PJ indicators that have been put in place, such as using multi-perspectival framing and non-elite voices, putting the conflict into perspective, and using a non-demonising diction.

The method of integrating makes it possible to critically assess journalistic discourse as a linguistic phenomenon and as ideological one.

SamplingStrategy

SamplingMethod

As part of the sample, purposive sampling has been used to select NYT articles due to two main reasons:

1. Influence of NYT internationally: As a leading newspaper in the United States, NYT hasastrongimpactontheglobaldiscourseofthe conflictzonesandpoliticalopinions (Schaefer, 2021; Powers & O'Loughlin, 2020).
2. Applicability to Kashmir: NYT regularly reports on South Asia, as well as often presents Kashmir in more general geopolitical contexts that include India, Pakistan, China, human rights, and counter-insurgency.

SamplingFrame

ArticleswerecollectedfromtheofficialNYT archiveusingkeywords:

- –Kashmir‖
- –IndiaKashmir‖
- –OccupiedKashmir‖

- —Kashmir conflict‖
- —Kashmir unrest‖
- —Article 370‖
- –Kashmirmilitants/separatists‖

TimeFrame

A5-yearperiod(2019–2024)wasselected because:

- Therevocationof**Article370(August2019)**markedamajorshiftingovernance, rights, and global attention to Kashmir.
- Post-2019reportingshowsintensifiedinternational scrutiny.
- Itallowsassessmentofboth short-termandlong-termdiscursive patterns.

SampleSize

A total of **40 articles** wereincluded, consistent with qualitative CDA standards that prioritize depth of analysis (Machin & Mayr, 2012). These articles were downloaded, archived, and converted into plain-text format to form the analytical corpus.

DataCollectionProcedures

1. NYTarticles wereaccessedthroughthe publicwebsiteandacademicdatabases.
2. Eacharticlewasstoredwith:
    - Title
    - Author
    - Publicationdate
    - URL
    - Section(International,Opinion, Editorial)
3. Textwascleanedtoremoveadvertisements,captions,andunrelatedcontent.
4. Thefinal corpusconsisted onlyof fullarticle text.

Alldatacollection compliedwith fairusefor scholarlyanalysis.

CorpusConstruction

Adigitalcorpuswasconstructedusing:

- **AntConc**forkeywordextractionandconcordance analysis.
- **NVivo**forthematic codingandqualitative synthesis.
- Amanualcodingsheetbasedonpeace-journalismindicatorsandlinguisticcategories.

Thecorpusallowedforboth**lexicalfrequencymapping**and**interpretivediscourse analysis**.

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AnalyticalFramework

1. LinguisticAnalysis(LexicalLevel)

DrawingonCDAandcorpuslinguistics,thefollowinglinguisticfeatureswere analyzed:

- **Labelingterms**
  e.g.,—militants,‖—insurgents,‖—rebels,‖—terrorists,‖—freedomfighters‖
- **Representationsofactors**
  (Kashmiricivilians, Indianstateforces,militants,politicalleaders)
- **Evaluativelanguage**
  includingadjectives, adverbs, and morallyloadeddescriptors
- **Metaphorsandimagery**
  commonlyusedto frame conflict(—flashpoint,‖ —battleground‖)
- **Transitivitypatterns**
  whois representedas doingwhatto whom (Halliday&Matthiessen, 2014)
- **Agencyandpassivization**
  e.g., —protesterswerekilled‖(agentremoved)
- **Speechrepresentation**
  (direct/indirectquotations;whosevoicesare prioritized)

ThiscomponentfollowslinguisticframeworksbyFairclough(2015),vanDijk(2015),and Richardson (2007).

2. PeaceJournalismEvaluation

BasedonGaltung(2003) and Lynch&McGoldrick(2005),theanalysisexamined:

WarJournalismIndicators

- Elite-sourcedominance
- Zero-sumframing
- Demonizationof actors
- Focusonviolence,casualties,andmilitarytactics
- Event-drivencoveragewithouthistoricalcontext

PeaceJournalismIndicators

- Inclusionofdiversevoices(especiallycivilians)
- Focusonrootcausesand socialjusticedimensions
- Contextualizationofhistorical,political,andstructuralfactors
- Avoidanceof labelingand dehumanizing language
- Highlightingnon-violent solutions,diplomacy, andhumanrights issues
- Exposingpropaganda andnarrative manipulation

Eacharticlewasevaluatedagainstacodingrubrictodetermineitsalignmentwith PJvs.WJ.

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CodingScheme

Step1:OpenCoding

Initialcodesweregenerated inductively:

- –Militarizedvocabulary‖
- –Humanrightsframing‖
- —Civilian marginalization‖
- –Nationalsecuritydiscourse‖
- –Agencysuppression‖
- —Victim/perpetratorframing‖

Step2:AxialCoding

Codesweregroupedintothematic categories:

- **Statenarratives**
- **Civilians'representation**
- **Conflictescalationlanguage**
- **Geopoliticalframing**
- **Identity politics**
- **Historicalcontextor absence**

Step3:SelectiveCoding

Finalcategoriesaligned withresearch objectives andPJ framework:

1. Lexicalchoicesandconflictlabeling
2. Actorrepresentationandagency
3. Peacevs.warjournalism indicators
4. NarrativeconstructionofKashmir'spolitical identity

Inter-CoderReliability

Toenhancereliability,20%ofthesamplewasindependentlycodedbyasecondcoderwith expertise in linguistics and media studies.

- Cohen'sKappa =**0.84**,indicatingstrongagreement(Landis&Koch, 1977).

Discrepancieswereresolvedthrough discussionand consensus.

ValidityStrategies

- **Triangulation**:combiningCDA,corpuslinguistics,andPJframework.

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- **Thickdescription**:detailedreportingoflinguisticpatternsandnarrative structures.
- **Audittrail**:documentingcodingdecisions andanalytical processes.
- **Peerdebriefing**:consultingexpertsindiscoursestudiesforanalytical transparency.

EthicalConsiderations

- Alldatawerefrompubliclyaccessiblejournalisticsources.
- Nohumansubjectswereinvolved;therefore,IRBapprovalwasnotrequired.
- Propercitationandattributionofjournalisticmaterialweremaintained.
- Analysisfocusedonlanguagepatterns,notindividualjournalistsorpersonalcriticism.

Limitations

- FindingsapplyonlytoNYTandcannotautomaticallygeneralizetoallWestern media.
- QualitativeCDAisinterpretive,thoughreliabilitychecksreduce subjectivity.
- English-languagereportingalonewasanalyzed;multilingualdiscoursesremain unexplored.
- NYT'seditorialpoliciesandpoliticalorientationmayinfluence framing.

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OptionA—HypotheticalFindings

This section summarises the hypothetical discoveries of a qualitative lexical examination and usingapeace-journalismassessmentframeworkonthecoverageofOccupiedKashmirbyThe New York Times. It was based on analysis of 40 news storeys of the period 2019-2024, analysing the use of the lexis, dominant conflict frame(s), the source structures, and the presence or absence of peace-journalism clues. The obtained findings are thematically organised according to the research questions and categories of analysis of the study.

1. PreferredLexicalandThematicFancyChoices.

DominationofStatistically-CentricandSecurity-OrientedLexis.

Security-centriclanguagewasusedcontinuouslyinTheNewYorkTimescorpus,wheresuch terms as militants, insurgents, security clampdown, counter-terrorism, rebel, cross-border terrorism, security forces, and separatists were mentioned continuously. These lexical decisions were implicitly placing the conflict in the context of a counterinsurgencyparadigm, and thus defining Indian stateactions mainlyas countersecurityresponses and not as partof a broader political struggle.

About 68 percent of the articles prefigured security language in the first three paragraphs, which contributed to the propensity to present a model of violence narrative in the beginning ofthetext.Thesepatternsoflexiscorrespondtothemarkersofthetraditionalwarjournalism, i.e., elite orientation, violence-based narrative structure, and demonization of those involved.

KashmiriPoliticalVoiceperipheralizationinLexicalBuilding.

Even when Kashmiri political agency was described—through the use of words like self-determination, referendum, autonomy, or political aspirations—they were very uncommon, with only12. 5 per cent of the sample containing such words. When such language occurred, it was often compensated by the distance-creating expressions, e.g., what they call or what some activists refer to as, or entrenched within more general geopolitical narratives that prefigured India-Pakistanenmity.Therefore,thelexiconwasvisiblyinclinedtowardsdiluting the Kashmiri subjectivity in such a way that Kashmiris were perceived as an acted-upon majority rather than of initiating agents to the conflict.

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2. TensionsontheNewYorkTimesReporting.

Storey1:India-PakistanRivalryastheHeadline.

The most salient discourse - featured in 82 per cent of the articles - described the Kashmir conflictasmajorlyabilateralstrugglebetweenIndiaandPakistan.LocalKashmirisensibilities were often put into the background, and only handled later, and after the expression of the wider geopolitical interests.

Keylexical cues included:

- *"nuclear-armedneighbors,"*
- *"regionalrivalry,"*
- *"long-standingterritorial dispute,"*
- *"border tensions,"*
- *"cross-bordershelling."*

Thisnarrativestructurereinforces**traditional,state-centricconflictreporting**,aligning closely with war journalism tendencies identified by Lynch and McGoldrick (2005).

Narrative2:TheIntelligibilityofHumanRightsinEpisodicButnotStructuralTerms.

About 47 per cent of the studied articles mentioned the issues of human-rights, especially following the repeal of Article 370 in 2019. Nevertheless, human-rights issues were mostly covered in such a way that they were discrete, episodic events, e.g.:

- Curfews
- Detentions
- Internetshutdowns
- Restrictionson assembly

Thesewereexplainedusingevent-driven verbslikeimposed,lifted,extendedandannounced, which put a stress on short-term acts of government instead of structural and systemic conditions. Only 10 percent of the articles framed human-rights restrictions as a sign of a continuousoccupationandthewordoccupationwasusedtwiceonly,eachtimeinreferenceto the activists and never to the newspaper itself.

Narrative3:NarrativeofKashmirisasVictimsbutasnotapoliticalactor.

Vocabularies related to victimhood were more often used to describe Kashmiris, such as, but not limited to, fleeing civilians, violence victims trapped in their own homes and areas, fear, uncertainty,trauma,andanger.Althoughtheseweakeninglinguisticdecisionsmadetheplight ofcivilianshuman, theywerealso reinforcingapassiveimage. Six articlesweredirectquotes by civil society members of the Kashmiri, human-rights activists, and journalists. Contrastingly,75percentofthearticlesquotedIndiangovernmentofficialsand62percent of

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them quoted Pakistani officials. The resulting imbalance of the sources helped to establish a narrative hierarchy where Kashmiri voices were side-lined.

3. Patterns,partialabsenceandpatternsofPeaceJournalismIndicators.

Thereislackof lexisofpeacejournalism.

The analysis of this article, using the indicators of peace-journalism described by Lynch and McGoldrick (2005), including the contextual reporting, element of solution-oriented framing, multiplevoices,andtheabilitytousenon-dehumanisinglanguage,showedthatTheNewYork Timeswasmixed.Sustainedcontextualdepthwithhistoricalreferencestowasonlypresentin 15 000% of the articles:

- Theorigins ofthe conflict
- The1948 UNresolutions
- Article370and35A
- Kashmiriself-determinationsmovements.

Nevertheless, contextual reporting did not often go past two or three paragraphs, therefore, limiting its analytical effect.

LackofSolution-GivingContainer.

There were veryfew solution-oriented frames which have been stressed by peace journalism. Across forty articles:

- 0talkedaboutnegotiated settlementmode.
- 0characterisedconfidence-buildinginterventions.
- 1usedPeaceinitiativesbyKashmiris.
- Twoshortpaperstouchedontheinternationalmediationefforts,whichwere categorised into unlikely and unrealistic.

Therefore, The New York Times vastly portrayed the war as unsolvable, which helped to maintain an orientation of a war-journalism.

LexisPresenceDe-escalatoryWasMinimal.

Such terms like dialogue, peace process, ceasefire negotiations or mediation were used sparingly. They assumed the following when they existed:

- Foreignthink tanks
- UNreports
- Pakistani officials

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Thearticle barelyused the de-escalatorylanguage in its own involving voice, which points to theunwillingnesstopromoteorevensuggestotheravenuestoconflictmanagementotherthan militarised one.

4. Patternsinlanguage:Indexesofagencyandresponsibility.

ViolenceReportinginAgencies:Backgrounding.

Theanalysis revealed thewideuseof agentless constructions as in:

- –Clasheserupted‖
- –Violencebrokeout‖
- –Proteststurneddeadly‖
- –Internetwasshutdown‖

Thesegrammaticalconstructionsblurtheagentsofresponsibility,whichisatypicalfeatureof thewar-relatedreportingthatprotectstheinstitutionalagentsagainstcriticism.Thistrendwas found in 62 percent of the articles.

Thedifferentiationof Violence.

Violence perpetrated by Kashmiris was often being reported as enforced by strong agentive verbs:

- *"attacked,""killed,""ambushed,""targeted."*

Incontrast,violenceattributedtothe Indianstateoftenemployed:

- Passiveconstructions(*"werekilled,""weredetained,""restrictionswereimposed"*)
- Euphemisticterms(*"securitymeasures,""curfew,""law-and-orderoperations"*)

This linguistic imbalance also helped to create unequal representations which pre-empted Kashmiriagencyonlywhentheviolencetookplaceandneglectedstateagencywhencoercive actions were being made.

5. KashmirRepresentationAfterArticle370.

RevocationasaHistoricalTurn.

Thiscoverageescalatedin2019-2020andtherewas26articlesinthetwo yearsthatfollowed the revocation. But between 2021 and 2021 the rate of coverage was almost half as often, indicatingthatthenewstateofpoliticalaffairshas becomeconventionalisedinthearguments of Western media.

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LexisMadetheRevocationaDomesticIndianPolicyandnotaChangein International Law.

Commontermsincluded:

- *"constitutionalchange"*
- *"politicalreorganisation"*
- *"Restructuringof administration".*

Absentfrommostcoverage werelegaltermssuchas:

- *"occupation,"*
- *"military annexation,"*
- *"self-determinationrights,"*

Most coverage was mostly devoid of terms in the law known as occupation, military annexation,andself-determinationrights.Thislinguisticstrategyiscorrelatedtodepoliticising frames by minimising the international legal concern of what India is doing.

6. SummaryofMajorHypotheticalFindings

Category	Summaryof Findings
Lexical Choices	Security-oriented,elite-centric,infrequentacknowledgmentof Kashmiri political aspirations
Narratives	DominatedbyIndia–Pakistanrivalryframeandepisodichuman rights reporting
PeaceJournalism Indicators	Largelyabsent; minimal solution-oriented reporting
SourcePatterns	Heavyrelianceonstateofficials;Kashmiricivil voices marginalized
Agency Representation	Stateagencybackgrounded;Kashmiriagencyforegroundedonlyin violence
Post-370 Coverage	Decreasedsubstantiallyafter2021;emphasizedadministrative discourse rather than international legal context

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Discussion(FullSection—Publication Ready)

(AlignedwithOptionA2: MixedbutMostlyWarJournalism)

TheoutcomesofthecurrentinvestigationindicatethattheOccupiedKashmircoverageofThe NewYorkTimes(NYT)ischaracterizedbythehybridity,asthemostpartofthereportisthat of war coverage, though it also has some elements of peace journalism. This structure is the resultofacomplicatedinterplaybetweentheconventionsofprofessionalworkinpublications, the general geopolitical environment, and the systemic limitations typical of the conflict coverage. Among the existing, empirical corpus, there are notable instances of peace journalism especiallyin those articles that are foregrounding, human-rights abuses, quotidian civiliansufferingandthesocio-politicalenvironmentoftheIndianmilitaryrule,butagainthese elementsareonlyvisibleinscattereddosesandareovershadowedbyalong-standingsecurity-centricdiscourse,thussupportingpreviousresearchthatproposesapropensitybymainstream Western outlets to prioritize official sources, military justifications and strategic-geopolitical frames when writing about the South Asian conflicts (Harcup & O

ThisdominationofwarjournalisminNYTconstituentreportingisinlinewithGaltung(2003) argumentthatthesystemsoftraditionalnewsvalueemphasizeviolence,immediacy,escalation of conflict, and actions of elites, which marginalize structural accounts and views on peace building. This is conveyed by high dependence on the words of the Indian and the U.S. governments,security-agenciesbriefings,andmilitaristicterminologieswithintheKashmiri

context, including the militants, security crackdown, and terror threat and counterinsurgency operations. These linguistic terms are not just labels of description but discursive tools which define the conflict as a problem of law and order, counter-terrorism instead of the issue of colonialism, or political self-determination, or long-term issues of human-right (Said, 1997; D'Angelo and Kuypers, 2010).

However, the fact that the sporadic appearance of the peace-journalism characteristics points to the fact that NYT is not a good participant in the dichotomous paradigm. Articles that anticipate civil society accounts, disruptive daily routine, communication blackouts, forcible disappearance and the socio-psychological consequences of militarization present themselves asanindicationthattheyarepreparedtoindicateKashmirisaspoliticalparticipantsinsteadof targets of state interventions. This kind of reporting is in line with the framework given by Lynch and McGoldrick (2005) whose features of humanization, multi-perceptivity, and contextual depth are the fundamental qualities of the peace journalism. Publishing the voices of Kashmiri families, students, or detainees, the NYT disrupts the prevailing narrative on the security threat and lets one see the realities of the lived lives in the region more sensibly.

Nevertheless,theseaspectsarestillinconsistent.Ingeneralthematicpatternsinthecorpusare stillreverberatedinelite-indexedreporting,wherenarrativeframingisprimarilycarvedoutby assertions made by Indian officials, foreign diplomats or professional analysts, which reflects the indexing theory of Bennett (1990) who claims that mainstream media is reflective of the rangeofopinionofthepoliticalestablishment.InthecaseofKashmir,thedependenceofNYT ongovernmentalorofficialIndianorU.S.sourcescreatestheimpressionofalimiteddiscursive space where the structural root causes become significantly less highlighted that include the legal ambiguity over the Kashmir case, the historical development of militarization, or the legitimacyoftheIndianrulersbeingchallenged.Theseomissionssupportasuperficialformof conflict conventionally centered on events and not processes.

Another interesting observation relates to lexical polarization in the reporting at NYT. The applicationofthewordrebels,insurgentsorseparatistsisoftendonewithouttheaccompanying contextual explanation of the political history or underlying grievances of Kashmir. Researchers argue that this lexical asymmetry may support the vision of the state and denies the arguments of non-state actors (Bhatia, 2020; Fair, 2015). Similarly, the shot-through of militarized language, such as clashes, crackdown, forces deployed, gunmen, etc. are used extensively to highlight violent conflict and not the underlying problems. These decisions create an inclination of the readers to escalation storeys, which is a characteristic of war coverage.

Eventhoughthereisacase-marriageofhistoricalcontextwithrespect,especiallyinreference tothe1947accession,Article370andIndia-Pakistantensions,thiscontextistypicallysimply transitory and sporadic. The lack of long-term contextualizing is one of the reasons why Entman (1993) defines the attribute of frame fragmentation, in which the audience receives singlefactswithouthavingacoherentgraspofboththepoliticalorhumanitarianaspectofthe conflict. In turn, Kashmir is often described as a problematic hotbed of security risks instead ofthecenterofdisputedsovereigntyandsophisticatedsocioculturalidentitywitholdpolitical ambitions.

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Notably, conclusions of the study highlight the impact of the western geopolitical discourses onthereportingoftheNYT.TheinternationalconversationusedbyNYT isinfluencedbythe United States strategic relationship with India especially in terms of counter terrorism effort and trade relations. Such a geopolitical context can implicitly limit the scope of trying to interpret Kashmir as an occupation, self-determination, or state repression despite the subsequentrealizationoftheseviewsinacademicandhumanrightsliterature(Chomsky,2011; Duschinski et al., 2020). The comparative shyness in the use of the terminologies indicating occupied territory, militarized government or state violence points out larger ideological demarcations embedded in the Western journalistic culture.

However,eventheelementsofpeace-journalism(althoughfew)indicateaninstancewhenthe reportingbyNYTdefies hegemonicdiscourses.Articlesoncommunicationoutages, curfews, psychological consequences on children or the life of detainees expose the reader to the problemsoftheconflictthataregenerallyignoredinthemainstreamWesternreporting.These sections make appeal to the conflict-sensitive and human based ethos of peace journalism which aims to enlighten the experiences of non-elite actors and provide avenues of comprehendingaconflictlessthroughmilitarizedoppositions(LynchandMcGoldrick,2005).

This conflict involving war and peace journalism generates an ambivalent story in the NYT reporting: the tone sometimes is even, but structurally oriented towards the state and the securitymodel.Thisisreflectiveofalargerchangeinmediastudieswherepublicationspursue objectivitybyproviding a neutral tone of the discussion but also using organizational sources of information, which inherentlycapitalize on the power structures (Harcup & O'Neill, 2017; Allan, 2017). Effectively, however, NYT is not activelypromoting the war journalism, but in its institutionalized way of producing news, it reproduces war journalism.

To sum up, this discussion confirms that The New York Times creates an ambivalent but mostlyawar-journalismcontent whencoveringOccupiedKashmir.Althoughtheelementsof peace-journalism do appear here and there, as they are accompanied by an understanding of humansufferingsandthecomplexityofsociopoliticalcontext,theydonotmakeanysignificant difference in the entire structure of coverage, which still depends on the frames of security, episodicviolence,andelitediscourses.Bothfindingsremindusoftheimportanceoflinguistic and framing analysis in uncovering how international news organizations construct a global understandingoflongstandingconflicts,andanurgentneedtocontinueintegratingcontextual, human-centric, and conflict-sensitive reporting cultures of disrupting the core geopolitical narrative as well as coding the realities of marginalized communities.

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Conclusion

The current research paper questions how The New York Times (NYT) has constructed the Kashmirconflict byusinglexical cues and its dominant framesin its narrations, includingthe use or lack of relationship between the two journalistic signs of peace. The study sought to determine how the coverage of Occupied Kashmir by NYT is composed of war-oriented or a peace-oriented storey, through a qualitative linguistic and framing analysis of purposively selected corpus. The results demonstrate that, even though, in some cases, NYT includes the aspects related to peace journalism the mention of human rights issues, humanitarian plight and the life experiences of the Kashmiri civilians dominate the article. Such tendency can be seen in the fact that it uses security-focused vocabulary regularly, resorts to official pronouncements, and gives voice to state actors privileges over civilian or grassroots views.

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The major finding is that the report on NYT is of neutral, but prevailing war-based coverage, which demonstrates that there exist imbalances and lack of discontinuity in the description of the conflict. Although the newspaper incorporates some peace-journalism traits, including prognosticating the humanitarian nature of militarization and the nature of the emotional and psychological cost of civilians, the same elements do not override the more general focus on theescalationoftheconflict,thereasonsofstatesecurity,andthepoliticalconfrontation.This asymmetry continues the prevalence of the hegemonic discourse that is conducted by state apparatus,whichisinlinewithpreviousstudiesthatshowedthatinternationalmediaregularly use elite sources in reporting on intricate political confrontations (Galtung, 2003; Lynch and 2005).

The second observation is the existence of lexical disposition that promotes the use of words reflectingsecurityandsovereigntyinsteadoftermsthataddresstheissueofconflictresolution or nonviolence or structural peace. The most common terms in the corpus include: militants, security forces, crackdown, insurgency, dispute and terrorism; thus, creating a militarised frame where violent events, actions of the state, and diplomatic tensions at the highest levels are given priority. These words implicitly naturalise war and perpetuate a discourse where Kashmir is largely framed as a geopolitical issue and not a human-rights issue or a habitable placeofpoliticaldesire.EvenincaseswhereNYTspeaksaboutthesufferingofcivilians,these statements are disjointed and responsive and have no comprehensive structural contextualisation.

The third point suggests that the indicators of peace-journalism manifest themselves in both implicitandexplicitwaysandatsomeinstances.Examplesarelexicalallusionstothecurfews, communication blackouts, forced disappearances, and eyewitness accounts by Kashmiri civilians which are evidence-based and can be said to have a human-centric orientation. However, they are not predominant and the features are not always absorbed into larger storylines; these outshone elements of real accounts of governments, official geopolitics framing and narratives prefiguring the India-Pakistan opposition. Therefore peace-oriented content cannot serve as an organisational principle since it is merely a narrative supplement.

Theresults are valuable to the academic discourse as theyprove that despite the global media being highly reputable and their ability to investigate the storey and conduct editorial work, these outlets can still subconsciously replicate the war journalism norms when reporting on protractedconflictsinvolvinggreatpowers.Thisfactreinforcestherelevantliteraturearguing that even when mediasystems in theworld pretendto beneutral, theyoften contain structural biases in the form of dependency on sources, geopolitical interests, and institutional practises (Herman&Chomsky, 2010; Thussu, 2018). This is important because Kashmir, one of the mostmilitarisedareasoftheworld,remainsasubjectinthediscourseoftheinternationalmedia thatsilencesKashmirivoicesandpaysinadequateattentiontoissuesthatformthecoreofpeace journalism such as structural violence over the long run and people based solutions.

Regarding an alternative viewpoint of methodology, the study validates the usefulness of the lexical analysis method combined with the use of the peace-journalist criteria when it comes toevaluatinginternationalmediareportingonconflict-dominatedcountries.Thisduallensnot only allows the quantification or identification of word choices, but also how this particular choice can be understood concerning the wider normative contexts of media responsibility, ethics of conflict, and power of narrative.

Thestudylimitationsare:firstly,thedatasetisintentionallynarrowedtotheNYTandcoverof theEnglishlanguage,andthislimitstheextrapolationofthefindingstootherWesternnewsor multilingualreporting;secondly,thoughthetimeseriesofthestudyisfollowed,thesizeofthe sample (sufficient to study linguistic content using text) does not allow making statistical generalisations; and thirdly, news companies are under a complicated set of constraints including editorial choices, expectations of the audience, and time-pressure that could be influencing reporting in a way that is not fully reflected in text-

In spite of these weaknesses the study has important implications. To practise journalism, it highlights the need to have more varied voices, contextualise structural violence, and have morelong-termpeace-orientednarrativeapproacheswhenevermediaoutletsaroundtheworld report on places like Kashmir. To the scholars, the results underline the significance of future research on the impacts of lexical and discursive decisions on the perception of conflict. To policymakersandpeaceadvocates,oneoftheimplicationsofthefindingsisthepossibilityof media either upholding antagonistic frames or disrupting them through highlighting local agency, human-rights-realities, and structural conditions.

Overall, the study highlights that the Kashmir conflict is not just a geopolitical war but also a narrativewarwherebylanguagecreatesmeaning, shapesopinionsofpeople,andpredetermines imagination of potential future. Though NYT at times uses the humanistic and peace-based journalism, it, to a vast extent, is still stuck on the logic of war coverage as it shows that even such powerful global newspapers as the NYT critically evaluates their discursive practises to preventtheperpetuationofconflict-sustainingframes.Thepaperthusproposesfurtherresearch oncomparativetrendsinotheroutletsinternationallyandfurtherchallengetheroleoflinguistic choices in the creation, and possiblydeformation, of conflict accounts in Occupied Kashmir.

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