

## **An Appraisal-Transitivity Analysis of Editorials on the Results of General Elections -2018 in Pakistan**

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### ***Abstract***

*Ideology is a semiotic system and social interaction helps in realizing it through language. It is widely acknowledged that editorials are an effective tool in the construal of ideology. They contain the interpretations of key events aiming to develop an understanding of the world in readers. This study aimed to explicate the ideologies construed in the local English newspaper editorials on the results of general elections-2018 in Pakistan. The sample editorials for the analysis of ideology in this study were taken from The Express Tribune, The Nation, Dawn, and Pakistan Today. Drawing on Systemic-Functional Linguistics (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014), particularly on appraisal and transitivity system, it examined how the linguistic choices were made in the editorials to construe, project and normalize a particular ideology. The results revealed that The Express Tribune explicitly construed an ideology that advocates the fairness of the election and gives due credit to the voter who opted for change by rejecting the political feudalism, while The Nation spoke the rhetoric of 'irregularities and rigging' in the elections. The editorial of Dawn was more evaluative and suggestive and had more potential to affect the opinions of the readers. Pakistan today made certain grammatical choices to implicitly negate the rhetoric of rigging in general elections-2018 in Pakistan. The study concluded that certain ideologies are construed in and through editorial by the use of certain grammatical choice to formulate the opinions of readers about the issues and events being portrayed in the editorials. The study provides insightful implications for critical discourse analysis based on Systemic Functional Linguistics.*

**Keywords:** semiotic system, editorials, ideology, construal, transitivity, appraisal, rigging, evaluative, suggestive.

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## Introduction

Language plays a crucial role in society as social practice because through language the power-relations in the society are produced and challenged. The language of newspaper editorials is persuasive and performs the function of persuasive communication of ideologies (Van Dijk, 1996). The newspaper editorials are aimed to convey the interpretations of important events occurring around in the context. Journalists make linguistic choices to transfer intended meanings to their readers. The choices made in the editorials are ideologically loaded. Therefore, the critical discourse analysis of the editorials representing the ideologies or interests of the newspapers on certain events is crucial. The critical discourse analysis of editorials can reveal the ideologies and affiliations of the newspapers.

Ideology, in the field of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), has been viewed from different perspectives. The point of agreement among the scholars who explain the ideology in the field of SFL is that it is the system of semiotics and is realized through the process of social interaction in the language (Hassan, 1986; Kress, 1985; Martin, 1986). Ideologies are produced and circulated systematically in the domains of politics, media and education. The linguistic choices made by the writers carry specific meanings.

Fairclough (1989) explains that media discourse plays a crucial role in the reproduction of ideologies. The created discourse has the potential to construe and normalize the intended ideologies. Chomsky (1989) is of the view that the elites in media organizations are like the other elites in society such as the government, opposition parties etc. as they share the common interests with those elites. Therefore, they may have the same ideologies or may work for them for their interests. Hence, media, in view of Chomsky (1989), works for the ideological gains and the interests of the people holding powerful positions in the society. Van Dijk (1998) argues that in recent times the powerful try to sustain the power through persuasion instead of force and economic control. This also shows that media discourses can be exploited by the powerful.

Widdowson (2007) describes Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) as an approach that is used to uncover the use and abuse of language to construe socio-political power and ideologies and spread social beliefs. CDA is concerned with a systematic exploration of opaque relationships of determination and causality between texts, events and discursive practices. Its function is to uncover the relationship between society, language, ideology and power (Van Dijk, 2008). The discipline of CDA aims to explore the hidden and clear socio-political norms and values (American & Fateme, 2015). CDA can be carried out through different models. Systemic Functional approach to CDA is one of the tools used for critical discourse studies. As an addition to the previous studies on CDA and SFL, this study is designed to explicate the ideologies construed in the local English newspaper editorials on the results of general elections-2018 in

Pakistan. This study is a pioneering one as the combination of appraisal-transitivity as a framework for critical discourse analysis has not been used in the context of Pakistan.

The present study aimed to carry out an appraisal-transitivity analysis of the ideology construed and projected in the local English newspaper editorials on the results of general elections- 2018 in Pakistan. It was alleged by some of the political parties of Pakistan that the electoral process was not carried out fairly. This study examined how newspaper editorials commented on this situation. The analysis of the appraisal system and the transitivity system was carried out to explore the linguistic choices made in the editorials to construe, project and normalize the particular ideologies.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study were as follows:

1. To explore the experiential (transitivity resources) and interpersonal meanings (appraisal resources) in the editorials of The Express Tribune, The Nation, Dawn, and Pakistan Today.
2. To explore the construal of ideology in the newspaper editorials on the results of general elections-2018 in Pakistan

### **Research Questions**

The study answered the following questions:

Research Question 1: Which of the most significant linguistic choices have been made in the editorials of the elite press of Pakistan to construe the experiential and interpersonal meanings?

Research Question 2: What kind of ideologies are being construed and projected in newspaper editorials on the results of general elections-2018 in Pakistan?

### **Significance of the Study**

The significant of the study lies in the fact that it can be helpful for the students and teachers of linguistics who are interested in the application of transitivity and appraisal systems in critical discourse analysis. The study is also helpful in understanding the transitivity and appraisal analysis of the texts in general. Furthermore, it can provide insights to the researchers interested in the application of transitivity and appraisal systems in critical discourse studies as the combination of the said theories as a framework for analysis has not been widely applied by the researchers.

### **Literature Review**

#### **Transitivity**

The functional view of the language states that language is used to accomplish any kind of act. Halliday (1985) highlighted three metafunctions of the language i) ideational, ii) interpersonal and iii) textual. The ideational metafunction (clause as representation) deals with the content of the language or with the expression of experience. The interpersonal metafunction (clause as exchange) deals with the

exploration of the type of relationship between the people who are involved in any communicative event. The textual metafunction (clause as message) deals with the thematic organization of the message. The ideational/experiential metafunction is related to transitivity analysis. “The social motivating factors behind transitivity are regarded as working out what social, cultural, ideological, political or theoretical factors involved to discover how a process is signified in a specific type of discourse or a notable text” (Qasim et al, 2018, p.57). Transitivity analysis deals with the analysis of events, termed as processes, participants of the event/process and the circumstances in which the events occurred. Transitivity analysis aims to explore who does what to whom under what circumstance. There are six types of processes, and each type of process has different terms for participants.

### **1. *Material Process***

The types of processes which denote the process of doing or physical and tangible actions are called material processes. In material processes ‘x (any subject or entity)’ does something to any other entity which is affected by the action. There are two essential participants in material clauses which are ‘actor’ who performs the action and the ‘goal’ which is affected by the action. The entity, in material process, which is not directly influenced or affected by the process, is termed as ‘range’.

### **2. *Mental Process***

Mental processes indicate how the experience of reality is being sensed. They involve the action of thinking, having an emotional feeling or give any kind of insight into the consciousness of the participants. The subject, who is involved in any such process, is known as ‘senser’. Whatever is being sensed in a mental process is called ‘phenomenon’.

### **3. *Relational Process***

Relational processes are the type of processes which explain the relationship between having and being. The relational processes indicating the attribute of any entity are known as relational attributive processes. The entity whose attribute is being termed as ‘carrier’, and its quality being described is known as attribute. The relational processes denoting the identification of any entity are known as relational identifying processes. The entity being identified is known as ‘identified’ or ‘token’. The quality or characteristic with which an entity is being described is termed as ‘identifier’ or ‘value’. The relational processes used to show possessions or ownerships are called relational possessive processes. The owner is known as ‘possessor’, and the entity which is under the ownership is known as ‘possessed’.

### **4. *Behavioral Process***

Behavioral processes are processes which are the combination of the material /physical and mental processes. It means behavioral processes indicate the change of

physical state under the impact of mental state. For example, the processes of laughing, weeping and smiling. The person whose behavior is being indicated is termed as ‘behavior’. The way somebody is behaving is termed as ‘behavior’.

**5. Verbal Process**

The art of saying is denoted by the verbal process. The person who says something is termed as ‘sayer’. Whatever is said by ‘sayer’ is known as ‘verbiage’, and the person to whom the sayer addresses, is known as ‘receiver’.

**6. Existential Process**

The processes indicating the existence or occurrence of something are known as existential processes. The existential process is between the material and relational processes and is denoted by the verb ‘be’ or its synonymous expressions. There is only one participant in existential processes which is ‘existent’. Existential ‘there’ may exist in such processes.

**Table 1: Six types of processes in the transitivity system**

<b>Process type</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Material Process	Actor, Goal, Range
Mental Process	Senser, Phenomenon
Relational Process	
1. Identifying	Token, Value
2. Attributive	Carrier, Attribute
3. Possessive	Possessor, Possessed
Behavioral Process	Behaver, Behavior
Verbal Process	Sayer, Verbiage
Existential Process	Existent

**Appraisal Theory**

Appraisal resources help in evaluating the language, and the evaluative meanings provided by appraisal analysis help in understanding the function of ‘interpersonal metafunction’ (White, 2015). The appraisal framework was developed by Martin and White and their colleagues in 1900s and 2000s. This framework assesses the positive and negative attitudinal meanings; helps in understanding the intensity and directness of the discourse; and evaluates the engagement level of the speaker or the writer with the discourse and the potential respondents (Iedema, Feez & White, 1993; Martin & White, 2005). Martin (1997) proposed that the appraisal resources work with the other two systems of ‘interpersonal metafunction’ to put the evaluative positioning of the discourse obtained from appraisal analysis. The two systems of the interpersonal metafunction along with appraisal resources are the mood (declarative, command,

interrogative etc.) and the expressions used to show the involvement; such as slang, jargon, address terms and informal diction.

### ***Attitude***

The positive or negative attitudinal assessment, in the appraisal system, refers to the assessment of the three aspects of attitude which include ‘appreciation’, ‘judgment’ and ‘affect’. Being more specific, these three are the subtypes of attitudinal aspects of the appraisal system. The positive or negative evaluation of human behaviour with reference to specific contexts and culture, ethical/moral values and other customized norms are labelled as appreciation. Sometimes, specific potential expressions of positive and negative evaluation are used in discourse. If the discourse contains potential expressions of positive and negative assessment, it is known as inscribed positive/negative appreciation. It is termed as ‘invoked’ appreciation if the discourse does not contain direct expressions of positive and negative assessment. The positive or the negative assessment of the socially assigned value of the objects, states of affairs or any person is known as ‘Judgment’. The concepts inscribed and invoked assessments apply to all subtypes of attitudinal assessments. The positive or the negative assessment of emotional reactions is labelled as ‘affect’.

### ***Graduation***

The speaker/writer’s investment in the discourse being created is critical to be evaluated for interpretation of interpersonal meanings of the discourse. Graduation, the aspect of the appraisal system, provides a framework for the analysis of personal investment of the speaker or writer in the proposition being made. The notion of ‘force’ refers to expressions by which the investment in the proposition is shown by strengthening or mitigating the statement. The notion of ‘focus’ indicates how semantic boundaries have been blurred or sharpened by the speaker or the writer. The intensification or mitigation when showed with any intensified judgment is called fused force. The intensification or mitigation with intensified appreciation is known as an isolated force. For intensified judgment, the expressions like ‘in a superhero movie’ are used. The expressions like ‘very new idea’ are used in case of intensified appreciation. The focus means sharpening or blurring the boundaries of semantic categories. The expressions like ‘literally’ are used to indicate sharpened focus.

### ***Engagement***

The speakers or writers show their dialogistic engagement with the proposition being advanced. Appraisal’s aspect of engagement enables the interpreter to assess different stances adopted by the speakers or writers. There are many ways through which speakers or writers present their stances to mark the propositions as agreed-upon, problematic, or as less contentious. The aspect of engagement shows how authorial voice can be positioned with respect to the alternative point of views (Martin & White, 2005; White, 2000, 2003). They argue that the modals (may, might etc.) are not the

only expressions which carry the authorial degree of certainty or probability. The key point, in their view, is that all the propositions which do not show any kind of the problematic or alternative point of view are the stance ones. Some invented formulations are shown below to indicate how speakers/writers can present their stance.

1. The media has been propagating their agenda.
2. Obviously, the government has been hiding the facts.
3. Of course, the prime minister has been lying.
4. It's probable the prime minister was right
5. The government claims that opposition was lying.
6. It is believed that the Police has been involved in corruption.
7. In my view, the media has been propagating their agenda.

### **Relevant Studies in the Field**

The study intends to explicate the ideologies present in editorials written about the results of General Elections-2018 in Pakistan. CDA of the editorials was carried out from the perspective of SFL to examine the ideological construal in the editorials about the general elections-2018 in Pakistan.

Language is a profoundly laden vehicle. It needs to be keenly analyzed to assess the underlying realities. Language users have several choices of words or expressions, and out of available choices, they prefer some over others. Their selection of linguistic expressions expresses their conscious or unconscious ideologies. Words used in spoken or written discourse are never neutral but are heavily loaded with power and ideologies that express the comforts of the speakers or writers (Taiwo, 2007). CDA aims to systematically analyze the discourse to assess the conscious or unconscious ideologies which triggered speakers or writer to produce specific discourse (Van Dijk, 2006).

. The study drew its insights from many of discourse studies which were carried out from the perspective of SFL. Noticeable importance is given to Halliday's SFG (2014) as a framework for analysis in CDA (Tenorio, 2011). Caffarel and Rechniewski (2009) analyzed French editorials by using Transitivity and Appraisal as a framework for the analysis. They explored and compared the underlying ideologies of two French newspapers about the incident of kidnapping of two French journalists. This study provided a clear road map for this research. Hong (2008) studied ideologies behind the discourse produced by the fast-food company, McDonald's in reaction to the criticism against its business practices. He also relied upon Transitivity and Appraisal analysis of the discourse to explore the ideologies.

The researchers also used Transitivity and Appraisal separately as independent tools to carry out CDA of texts. Kondowe (2014) analyzed the inaugural address of Malawian President Bingu Wa Mukhtarika. He aimed at exploring the ideologies that

were embodied in the speech and the ideologies that it aimed to construe. Mayo and Taboada (2017) explored ideologies in the political speeches addressed to women during election campaigns. They applied Appraisal analysis as the method for the analysis of speeches.

In the context of Pakistan, the framework devised through the combination of Transitivity and Appraisal analysis has not been used in critical discourse studies. The present study has used this framework to carry out CDA of editorials written about the results of General Elections- 2018 in Pakistan.

## **Methodology**

### ***Overall Methodological Approach***

This study is qualitative as well as quantitative in nature. The text of the editorials had been divided into clauses and numbers were given to the clauses. The number of different transitivity processes was assessed and their functions in ideological representations were explained. The functions of different transitivity processes and appraisal resources in ideological representations of the newspapers in their accounts of results of general elections- 2018 were explained qualitatively through discussions.

### ***Sampling and Data Collection***

Four sample editorials, one from each newspaper, were taken from The Express Tribune, The Nation, Dawn, and Pakistan Today by using the technique of purposive sampling. The contextual variables of the editorial were the same (results of general election-2018 in Pakistan, the general public as the audience). The editorials taken as sample were published, from 25 July 2018 to 18 August 2018, during the time from the declaration of the results of election till the day Prime Minister took an oath. The editorials which aimed to address the results of general election-2018 in Pakistan were selected for analysis to check whether the newspapers were analyzing the results of elections as fair or rigged. This means that the field of the editorial is the result of the general election. The tenor audience of the editorials in all the four cases was the general public. The mode of the editorials was written. Therefore, these can be compared to check the construal of ideologies about the same event.

### ***Procedure of Data Analysis***

The linguistic patterns of the editorials were analyzed to highlight which linguistic features (transitivity components and appraisal resources) carry ideological meanings across the experiential and interpersonal metafunctions. The authors analyzed the texts of the editorials from the perspective of transitivity patterns and appraisal resources. It was explained how particular ideological positions are highlighted with linguistic patterns and their interaction from the grammatical ideational system of transitivity in combination with the interpersonal variable of modality and semantic interpersonal system of appraisal.

In the first step, the experiential resources were explored and interpreted through transitivity analysis. The transitivity components, processes and participants, were found in the text of editorials that were divided into clauses. The editorial texts were characterized by relational processes as these are intended to describe as the things or events are and as these should be. The other feature of this genre is that most of the processes are modulated. The extent of obligation or inclination is termed as modulation, while modalization is known as the degree of usuality and probability. The analysis of agency reveals the role assigned to the participants. The degree of occurrence of modal verbs determines that the editorial intended to persuade the reader to act in a specific way or just to accept the position of the newspaper on the results of elections. As all these elements are crucial in the construal of ideology, the study assessed these elements in the text of editorials

In the second step, an Appraisal analysis of the editorials was carried out. Appraisal resources are highly significant in the analysis of ideological construal and projection in the text (Martin & White, 2005). The analysis of aspects of Attitude, Engagement and Graduation (appraisal resources) in the editorials was carried out. The analysis of the text from the perspective of 'attitude' included the identification of instances of affect, judgment and appreciation. The aspect of engagement explained the newspapers' engagement with the proposals being made regarding the results of general elections-2018 in Pakistan. Furthermore, the aspect of graduation was taken into account. This explained the stance of the writer to the ideas and information being projected in editorials. This helped in assessing how more or less closely the newspaper was aligned with the source. The analysis of the graduation showed how much the newspaper supported the idea of being circulated or delineated itself.

### **Data Analysis and Findings**

The construal of ideology about the general elections-2018 in Pakistan in editorials of The Express Tribune, The Nation, Dawn, and Pakistan Today has been explored in this section by analyzing the significant experiential and appraisal choices made in the editorials of the four mentioned newspapers.

#### ***Exploring Ideological Construal in the Editorial of the Express Tribune***

The analysis reveals that the editorial of The Express Tribune contains 34 clauses. The details of the process types used in the editorial are given below in table 2.

**Table 2:** *Types of Processes in the Express Tribune*

Process types	Modalized	Modulated	Neutral	Total/Clauses
Material		2	16	18/34
Relational				
• Identifying			4	4/34
• Attributive			5	
• Possessive			1	1/34
Verbal	1		1	2/34
Behavioral			1	1/34
Mental			2	2/34
Existential			1	1/34

The material processes have been used more than other types of processes in the editorial of The Express Tribune. The actors in case of material processes are ‘members of the national assembly’, ‘Great political dynasties of the last 20 years’, ‘Pakistan Peoples Party’s MNAs’, ‘Bilawal Bhutto’ ‘Imran Khan and Shahbaz Sharif’, ‘rigging’, ‘They (Public)’ and ‘We’. Then, the use of the relational process is comparatively more than other types of processes. The carrier, identified and possessor in the case of relational processes are the day of elections, Bilawal Bhutto, Imran Khan, PTI, the ordinary voter. The important point to note here is that what type of meanings or effects these material and relational processes created. The significance of these choices can be assessed by viewing these choices through the lenses of appraisal theory. Similarly, the behavioural, mental, existential and verbal processes have significant attitudinal inscriptions of appreciation, judgment and effect. When analyzed through the mirror of appraisal analysis, the experiential sources seem to construe a particular ideology. As shown in Table 2, the editorial contains one modalized verbal process and two modulated material process.

The first line of editorials is significant for the evaluation of the attitude or the point of view of the newspaper towards any state of the affair being presented in the editorial. The first line in case of the editorial of The Express Tribune builds a positive attitude or ideology about the results of the general elections-2018 in Pakistan. The editorial starts with the line “*It was almost completely a silent process*” (token of graduation: Isolated force as the process of scaling is indicated with the use of intensifiers instead of fused expression). Then, it can be seen that the clauses which have participants from the opposition parties have negative attitudinal inscriptions. *The MNAs of Pakistan People’s Party ‘sat in glum silences’* contains token negative attitudinal inscriptions of ‘affect’. Similarly, *Bilawal Bhutto ‘looked sad-faced’* also

contains the same negative effect. These show that the members of the Pakistan People's Party were in gloomy condition. The clauses about Shahbaz Sharif '*his opponent just 96*' show negative invoked attitudinal assessment. The noun phrase '*elective feudalism*' also contains negative attitudinal inscriptions and is taunting in tone about the PPP and PML-N. Though no negative expression is used explicitly, there is a negative impression. Such kind of attitudinal assessment is called 'invoked' attitudinal assessment. Furthermore, the phrase '*great political dynasties of the last 20 years*', also contains invoked negative attitudinal appreciation. On the other hand, most of the clauses which are about the PTI and Imran Khan are relational and are carrying the positive attitudinal inscriptions. The positive attitudinal tokens include '*looked decidedly modest about it*', '*history has been made*'. The results have been presented as fair as the due credit has been given to the voters through positive attitudinal inscription, as in the line '*it was the ordinary voter that turned the leaf on elective feudalism*'

The overall theme of the editorial suggests that it is a comment upon the voting process for the post of Prime Minister. Furthermore, the gloomy condition of the opposition parties has been highlighted in the editorial along with the appreciation of PTI's victory and voter's attitude towards the change. In addition to these points, the allegations of rigging have not been highlighted.

### ***Exploring Ideological Construal in the editorial of The Nation***

The analysis shows that there are 24 clauses in the editorial of The Nation. The details of the types of process used in the editorial have been given below in table 2.

**Table 3:** *Types of the process in The Nation*

Process type	Modalization	Modulation	Neutral	Total/clauses
Relational			7	7/24
• Identifying		5		5/24
• Attributive		1		1/24
• Possessive		1		1/24
Material		2	4	6/24
Verbal	1		5	6/24
Mental			2	2/24
Behavioral		2		
Existential			1	1/24

Table 2 shows that there is one modalized and four modulated processes in the editorial of The Nation. The use of modality and modulation in the editorial is significant as the

use of such linguistic techniques enables the newspaper to propagate its stance and persuade people to agree upon the view articulated in the editorial. This shows that on the contrary to the editorial of The Express Tribune, the editorial of The Nation is more persuasive. The relational processes have been used more in number than the other process. The difference between the two newspapers is that the relational processes used in The Nation involve different participants, and the processes used in the editorial of Express Tribune have different participants. Therefore, the choices construe different ideologies. There are many processes which have results of general elections or the rigging as its participants or as its circumstances in The Nation. For example, in clause 2, the process of elections has been identified as suspicious. Similarly, the material and verbal processes in clause 5 and 6 are about actions and claims of rigging by the opposition parties. Furthermore, the process in clause 7, calls into question the whole procedure of the election. There are some relational processes which identify Imran Khan's attitude as positive ones. The modalized and modulated processes are the suggestions that have been given in the newspaper's editorial for Imran Khan and the new government.

The experiential choices, when viewed from the appraisal theory, reveal that editorial of The Nation calls into question the results of the general election-2018 in Pakistan. The negative tokens of appreciation in the very first line of the editorial construe negative ideology about the results. The negative attitudinal tokens which call into question the results are '*frenzied polling day* (token of appreciation)', '*tumult* (token of negative judgment)' and '*however the polling process itself has been called into serious question*'. In the last-mentioned token, there is an inscription of negative judgment and the direct engagement of the newspaper as the stance has directness. Furthermore, the appraisal tokens '*The counting and transmission of the results have been marred with discrepancies and criticisms, voiced by a wide gamut of contesting political parties*', '*outright reject the poll results*', '*delay in receiving official results, slow-polling tactics, non-issuance of form 45*', and '*the glitches in the Result Transmission System*'.

The overall theme of the editorial suggests that it evaluates the polling day as a frenzied one and calls into question the credibility and fairness of the results of the election. It highlights the voices raised by the opposition leaders. Furthermore, it also appreciates Imran Khan on offering his cooperation for a fair investigation of rigging allegations. In addition to these points, it contains suggestions for the new government and the opposition.

### ***Exploring Ideological Construal in the Editorial of Dawn***

The language used in the editorial of the Dawn is more evaluative and suggestive. The overall theme of the editorial suggests that newspaper comments that Pakistan's new prime minister will have to face difficulties in coping with strong opposition.

Also, the newspaper has suggestions for Imran Khan and appreciations for the ordinary voters who stood by him.

The transitivity analysis of the text of the editorial of Dawn titled as ‘PM’S First Speech’ reveals that the text contains 26 total processes. Out of 26 processes, there are 14 material processes. The material processes reveal the actions that the newspaper thinks will be necessary to be done by the newly elected prime minister in the future. Most of the material processes are modulated and modalized.

The rest of the processes are not more in numbers. The relational, behavioral, mental and existential processes are 6, 3, 2 and 1 in number. The significant point to note here is that the editorial contains 8 modulated processes and 4 modalized processes. Out of eight modulated processes, there are six material processes, one behavioral and one relational identifying process. There are three material processes and one relational identifying process. The details of the types of processes in the editorial of Dawn titled ‘PM’s First Speech’ have been given below in table 4.

**Table 4:** Details of the types of processes in Dawn

Process type	Modalization	Modulation	Neutral	Total/clauses
Relational				6/26
• Identifying		1	1	2/26
• Attributive			3	3/26
• Possessive	1			1/26
Material	3	6	5	14/26
Verbal				
Mental			2	2/26
Behavioral		1	2	3/26
Existential			1	1/26

Before explaining the transitivity and appraisal choices made in the editorial and their meanings, it is significant to explain the importance of modulation and modalized processes present in the text of the editorial. The editorials are aimed to formulate the opinion of the public as all as to drive certain people to act in certain ways. Through the use of modulated processes, the newspaper gives suggestions to the newly elected prime minister to act in certain ways. For example, the expression ‘*will need to quickly pivot away*’ expresses that Imran Khan will necessarily need to change him. In the case of the modalized expressions, the newspaper has evaluated the probabilities in a certain phenomenon. The use of the modal adjective ‘*surely*’ in clause seven, ‘*may not matter*’ in clause 19, ‘*clearly still firmly*’ in clause 24 and ‘*may quickly find*’ in clause 22 are the examples of modalized expressions used in the text of the editorial. The modulated expressions are significant as these tell what the newspaper thinks is necessary for the new prime minister to do. The modalized expressions are significant as these express what the newspaper feels is likely to happen in future.

The newspaper starts with a clause which involves modulated material process 'will have to contend'. The actor of the process is Imran Khan, the range and the circumstance of the process shows that Imran Khan will have to face such circumstances because of the reason that people have high expectations from him. The transitivity choices made in the clause have been given below:

Clause 1: *The 22<sup>nd</sup> prime minister of Pakistan* (actor) *will have to contend* (modulated material process) *with a set of circumstances that few leaders before him had to face... sky-high expectations...* (Goal)

The appraisal analysis of the clause shows that there is invoked positive attitudinal judgement as the statement expresses that Imran is not like all other people who came to the prime ministerial position in Pakistan. This has been presented by commenting that not all the leaders who came to power in Pakistan had the burden of high expectations of the public. The enthusiastic supporters of Imran Khan voted him for the change he promised. The country is facing many internal and external problems that have gone to the worst position. Because of this worst condition, it will be a difficult challenge for Imran Khan to fulfil the promise he made to the public. The newly elected government may also face loud and strong opposition. The first clause does not signal that the newspaper stands with the stance of rigging in general elections-2018 in Pakistan.

The transitivity analysis of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> clauses reveals that the newspaper uses material and relational processes to comment that Imran Khan's success in his agendas will strengthen Pakistan. The transitivity patterns of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> clauses have been given below:

Clause 2: *If Prime Minister Khan* (actor) *succeeds* (material process) *in his economic and governance agendas* (goal)

Clause 3: *all of Pakistan* (carrier) *will be* (modulated relational process) *stronger (attribute) for it* (circumstance)

The appraisal analysis of the clauses shows that the news newspaper says with surety that the success of Imran Khan in his agendas of economics and governance can guarantee a stronger Pakistan. The newspaper does not use any positive inscribed expressions of appreciation for the economic and governance agendas of Imran Khan, but it explicitly appreciates Imran Khan's agendas as the newspaper expresses that his agendas have the potential to make the country stronger. To lessen the degree of engagement with the proposition being made, the newspaper uses conditional construction.

The behavioural process in clause 8 shows that the newspaper does not stand with the opinions that consider the results of general elections-2018 in Pakistan as rigged. The clause shows that the newspaper states that the core supporters of PTI (behave) have stood by Imran Khan in the politically divided country. The transitivity

choices made in the text of the editorial of Dawn titled as 'PM's First Speech' have been given below:

Clause 8: *In a fiercely divided polity and an era of hyper-partisan politics* (circumstance), *the core PTI supporter* (behave) *has stood* (behavioural process) *by Mr Khan* (receiver) *because of his promise that he will be a different kind of leader* (circumstance)

The appraisal analysis of the clause reveals that the newspaper evaluates the political structures in Pakistan negatively by ascribing the negative attitudinal tokens of appreciation to it. The negative attitudinal tokens of appreciation used for the political structures in Pakistan include '*fiercely divided polity*' and '*era of hyper-partisan politics*'. The newspaper explicitly appreciates the behaviour of core PTI supporters by giving the reason that in a country which fiercely divided they stand by Imran Khan.

The newspaper through the use of the relational possessive process in clause 17 states that the parties claiming rigging (possessor) have the responsibility (possessed). The transitivity choices made in the clause have been given below:

Clause 17: *The parties claiming rigging* (possessor) *also have* (relational possessive process) *a responsibility* (possessed).

The appraisal analysis of the clause reveals that there is no inscribed attitudinal token in the clause, but it can be seen that parties speaking the rhetoric of rigging have been evaluated negatively. The newspaper tries to construe the senseless image of parties claiming to rig as they are not showing any responsibility and vision.

If we see the results obtained from the appraisal-transitivity analysis of the text of the editorial titled as 'PM's First Speech', it can be observed that the newspaper does not stand by the rhetoric of the 'rigged elections'. The newspaper appreciates the supporters of PTI who stood by in the politically divided country for so long. The newspaper also appreciates explicitly Imran Khan whose honesty, determination and agendas helped him achieve success. Besides, the editorial of Dawn titled as 'PM's First Speech' contains suggestions for Imran Khan and the parties who levelled allegations of rigging. The newspaper construes positive image of the results of the general election-2018 in Pakistan as it explicitly expresses that Mr Khan achieved the success because of the trust of core PTI supporters and the ordinary voters, and states that the results of the general election-2018 were fair.

### ***Exploring Ideological Construal in the Editorial of Pakistan Today***

The newspaper writes that the activities related to the campaign of pathfinder general elections-2018 in Pakistan have almost ended, but the political parties who failed to achieve success have started the usual outcries of rigging and cheating in the electoral process. It has been stated that the five political parties have blamed the Election Commission of Pakistan, returning officers and booth staff for the unfair practices in the polling process. The newspaper builds a positive stance on the issue as

it comments that the defeated parties usually behave in this manner. The newspaper also says that unfair practice in the electoral process was impossible in the presence of thousands of monitors and observers and international invigilators. Furthermore, the newspaper explicitly supports the view that the delay in the transfer of the results was because of the technical issues related to RTS as accepted by ECP. The editorial evaluates the actions of ECP and NADRA which needlessly called into question the transparency and credibility of the results of the general elections-2018 in Pakistan, and asks for the investigation.

The grammatical choices made in the text of the editorial reveal that the newspaper tries to construe the fair image of the results of the general election-2018 in the minds of the readers. The transitivity analysis of the editorial of Pakistan Today titled as 'RTS the Chief Culprit in 2018 Polls Controversy' reveals that the numbers of relational processes were high as compared to the other processes in the editorial. The relational, verbal, material, behavioural and existential processes present in the editorial are respectively 5, 3, 3, 2 and 2 in numbers. The relational attributive process in clause 3 is modalized, while clause 10 contains the modulated behavioural process. The details of the types of the processes found in the editorial of Pakistan Today titled as 'RTS Appearing as the Chief Culprit in 2018 Polls Controversy' have been given in Table 5.

The relational processes used in the text of the editorial are significant. Through the use of relational attributive and relational identifying processes, the newspaper construes the ideology that the claims of rigging are usual as the defeated parties always raise the false cries of rigging in the election. It has been construed through the use of the relational process that rigging was not possible because of the impressive monitoring system. The relational processes are also indicating that Pakistan Today considers the failure of RTS as the sole cause for the delay in the transmission of the results.

**Table 5:** *Types of processes in the editorial of Pakistan Today*

Process type	Modalization	Modulation	Neutral	Total/clauses
Relational				5/15
• Identifying			3	3/15
• Attributive		1	1	2/15
• Possessive				
Material			3	3/15
Verbal			3	3/15
Mental				
Behavioural		1	1	2/15
Existential			2	2/15

The second clause of the text of the editorial contains the existential process. The usual claims of rigging have been presented as existent. The transitivity patterns of the clause have been given below:

Clause 2: *the usual strident post-poll clamour regarding alleged rigging, cheating and sundry unfair practices* (existent) *is* (existential process) *now at its zenith*.

The appraisal analysis of the clause shows that there is invoked negative assessment of the behaviour of the defeated parties. The newspaper judges the behaviour of the political parties who failed to attain success in the election. The newspaper does not use any inscribed expression of negative evaluation, but explicitly it evaluates that these claims of rigging, biased practices and cheating in the electoral process are usual as it has been happening before. Indirectly, the newspaper construes the image of results of the general election-2018 in Pakistan as fair and rejects the claims of rigging in the election. The relational process in clause 4 identifies the foul play and unfair practices in election-2018 as impossible acts. The circumstance in the process shows why the rigging has been identified as an impossible act. The transitivity patterns of clause 4 have been given below:

Clause 4: *as resorting to foul play on a massive scale* (identified) *is* (relational identifying processes) *well-nigh* (circumstance) *impossible* (identifier) *under the hawk-like gaze of 53,000 monitors and observers, including trained, highly professional international 'invigilators', 60-100 from the EU and 400 from other countries* (circumstance).

The newspaper contains an inscribed positive assessment of the results of the general election-2018 in Pakistan. It means that the use of the positive attitudinal resource of appreciation has been applied by Pakistan Today for the results of general elections-2018. The results of the election have been assessed positively by negating the possibility of rigging because of the impressive systems of monitoring, observation and invigilation which have taken help from the international observers and invigilators.

In clause 6, the newspaper tells that major fault in the electoral process was the faulty Result Transmission System (RTS). The relation process has been used to construe the negative image of the RTS. The transitivity choices made in the clause have been given below:

Clause 6: *but the principal delinquent in 2018* (identifier) *turned out to be* (relational identifying process) *the new-fangled Results Transmission System* (identified)

The appraisal analysis of the text reveals that the newspaper has evaluated the RTS negatively as the newspaper identifies it as the principal fault in the general election-2018. The newspaper shows its involvement with the proposition being made. Furthermore, the newspaper represents the Election Commission of Pakistan and NADRA as the actors who damaged the National Exchequer by using RTS which turned out to be faulty. The newspaper says that ECP and NADRA should be investigated and held accountable for their negligence. Clause 9 represents the

delinquent actions of ECP and NADRA, while clause 10 indicates what the newspaper thinks should be done to the ECP and NADRA for their negligence. The transitivity patterns in both of the clauses have been given below:

Clause 9: *The 2018 elections* (actors) *reportedly cost* (material process) *the national exchequer, already in a vegetative state* (recipient), *the astronomical sum of twenty-one billion rupees* (goal)

Clause 10: *And the ECP and NADRA, which developed the RTS* (target), *should be held* (modulated behavioural process) *accountable* (behaviour)

The appraisal analysis of these clauses reveals that the newspaper evaluates the general election, the ECP and NADRA. The newspapers assess the general election, according to the valuation, the subcategory of attitudinal appreciation. The general election-2018 caused damage for the National Exchequer because a huge amount of rupees was consumed only on the faulty RTS which needlessly called into question the transparency and credibility of the election. The ECP and NADRA have also been assessed negatively. The negative attitudinal expressions of judgement have been used for ECP and NADRA. The attitudinal expressions of judgement belong to the propriety, a subcategory of attitudinal judgement.

Furthermore, the defeated political parties and the claims of rigging in election raised by them have been evaluated negatively. The use of negative attitudinal expressions '*loser's wounded vanity*' and '*ingrained Knee-Jerk reaction*' is the examples of the negative attitudinal evaluation of the parties who did not perform well in the general election-2018 in Pakistan.

On concluding note, it can be said that Pakistan Today rejects the claims of rigging in the election. The newspaper construes the positive image of the results of the general elections. The newspaper uses specific grammatical choices to construe this positive image of the results of the general elections 2018 in Pakistan. It has been clear from the appraisal-transitivity analysis of the editorial of Pakistan Today that newspaper identifies the rigging, cheating and biased practices in the electoral process as impossible acts. It has also been construed in the editorial that delay in the results was caused by the faults in RTS, and not because of unfair practices. The newspaper suggests that ECP and NADRA should be investigated for their negligence which needlessly made the results of the election suspicious, and for the damage, they caused to National Exchequer.

## **Conclusion**

The study sought to demonstrate that ideologies and world views are produced and reproduced in every social interaction that involves a linguistic act in any given context of the situation. This has been illustrated by studying the editorials of four newspapers, The Express Tribune and The Nation, Dawn and Pakistan Today, written about the results of the general elections-2018 in Pakistan. The appraisal-transitivity analysis of

the newspaper editorials reveals that all the newspapers have differently viewed the results of the elections and have construed different ideologies about them. The Express Tribune views general elections as fair and results clear by giving the due credit to the voter who opted for the change and rejected the political feudalism. On the other hand, The Nation speaks the rhetoric of the 'rigging' and calls into question the credibility of the results of the general elections-2018 in Pakistan. The results showed that the editorial of Dawn was more evaluative and had more potential to affect the opinions of the readers. The newspaper explicitly declares the results of the election as clear and fair. The results revealed that the editorial of Dawn was more neutral than other editorials. The Pakistan Today construed and circulated the opinion that the claims of rigging were usual as defeated parties always raise such voices.

It can be concluded that the newspapers have certain ideological alignments, and these ideological attributions of the newspapers are construed in and through the editorials. The study as such concludes that the four newspapers used different grammatical choices to represent particular ideologies pertaining to the results of general elections-2018 in Pakistan. The study also concludes that the transitivity choices and evaluative language used in the editorials construe a certain version of reality for the respective readers. The findings of the study are in conformity with the results of previous critical discourse studies that highlight that newspapers editorials represent the interests and ideologies of the newspapers.

The research is highly significant as it has provided a linguistic model-Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) - specifically transitivity and appraisal analysis, as the framework for ideological analysis based on linguistic elements. The present study initiates a less utilized mode of critical discourse studies. A combination of appraisal and transitivity analysis for CDA would be the aptest analytical framework to explore ideological underpinnings especially in this part of the world. Thus, the study can be helpful for the researchers interested in using SFL as a framework for critical discourse studies.

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