



CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF ISLAMIC EXTREMISM IN PAKISTAN'S MEDIA

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Abstract:

The 21st century revolutionized the modes of communication in terms of covering news. The societal issue like “Islamic Extremism” which is triggering its grip in society because of its sensitizing presentation. The research revolves around explaining the role of media in countering and handling of the Islamic Extremism. The research also highlights the significance of Evidence in media coverage through Michael Foucault discourse analyses. Moreover, it exclaims that Pakistani media is unable to understand the science of Evidence therefore unnecessary exaggeration is increasing in covering the Islamic Extremism with passage of time. The paper identifies that ideology is been built across the media coverage which is hindering and deviating from the originality of the scene. It still has not gained full attention, but it is an important issue that has serious repercussions on the future generations and on the media industry. This Paper has established a problem of reporting of Islamic extremism in media that needs serious attention and concentration, as well as this paper expands a huge scope for new research for implementation of new strategies and revisiting the guidelines and principles of the way of media coverage is operating in Pakistan.

Key Words: Islamic Extremism, Media's Role, Conflict Reporting, Discourse Analyses, Evidence

Introduction:

21st Century is the era of inventions, progress and development for human life. This progress brought different sorts of new challenges within society. The concept of society in 21st century is quite different from the previous concept of society. The modern society has inventions,



technology and modern equipment as well as the conflicts and dilemma which influenced almost every sector of human life. The most important societal challenge of 21st century is the emergence of extremism. This word which was coined after the incident of 9/11 possess vast phenomenon of meaning. The world has the potential to adjust in every key aspect of society like politics, religion and culture. The term extremism is usually called to be pejorative means to express strong disapproval. In extremism the activities of individual or group are far removed from the level of ordinary standards. Those individuals or groups who cannot convey their will in a prevalent social mechanism use expression of fanatical behavior. People opt for violent means to express their opinions. So, the result of such expressions or attitudes we see chaos or anarchy in society. This scenario further accelerated the flame of issues like poverty, terrorism and social distress. Extremism can be divided into different categories such as ethnic extremism and national extremism, but the most die-hard kind of extremism is religious extremism which is a major cause behind the devastating security situation. Extremism could enhance the aggressive attitude in society. The menace of extremism is more threatening in developing countries because in these countries the governments are failing to provide necessities so one of the root causes of the emergence of extremism are the disparities of social needs. Pakistan is one of the developing countries of south Asia. The country has been facing the wave of extremism in the shape of Islamic extremism for more than 25 years. The basis of Islamic extremism can be trace in the American support to Israeli's occupation, Indian terrorism in Kashmir and the western anti-Islamic campaign under "Clash of Civilization". The main reason of the fall out of extremism in the Pakistani Society are the Russian invasion of 9/11. The misinterpretation of Islam by foreign funded Madrassa, social injustice, illiteracy and chronic poverty added fuel to the fire. The society of Pakistan faced today tremendous critical problems because of extremism which led to cultural, social, Political, economic and humanitarian crises. The internal and external and external factors are injustice, social inequality, illiteracy while on the other hand external factors like the participation of Pakistan in the proxy wars and the politics of international relations game. This whole story expands the menace of extremism in the country. Apart from such factors, there are also other factors which create hype about this issue. In Pakistan the electronic media emerge as the fourth pillar of state in recent few decades. The media can influence or impact public opinion in a significant manner. The country like Pakistan in which national integration is indeed a vital issue which need to be analyzed. The electronic Media is a valuable source of immense influence. It acquires central position in formulating the policies and emerges as the effective tool for the analysis of public opinion through which desired result can be achieved. In this era of technology people must rely on information and communication to keep moving in the right direction. The masses have firm trust in the media as a full authority to provide news, entertainment, and education. Media's role in a country like Pakistan is already with full of gossips. The one of major's allegation against the Pakistani media is the cautious coverage of the miscreants especially when they are from religious identity. This reluctance in coverage further accelerated the fire of Islamic extremism. The electronic media is also accused that the media is giving more time to apologists and the sympathizers of miscreants or militants and very less time to their critics. The whole situation raised the question that is it a media that is fanning the extremist propensities. In recent



years the electronic media in Pakistan played a vital role in strengthen the democracy in a country and to ensure the rule of law by supporting lawyer's movement through their round the clock coverage. In Pakistan still the society contain serious concern about the role of media. The Electronic media groups in Pakistan has developed themselves in influential big mafias; they have a monopoly on print media as well as on the electronic media. According to the critics, the electronic media is fully responsible for the current chaos in a country because in their daily coverage they create an environment of despair and hopelessness by presenting a very black picture of the country. So, the prestige of country at international platform is directly dependent on internal stability. In the light of above statement, the role of electronic media becomes very prominent because it has the potential to change any worse situation into controlled environment. The media still fail to do any great job regarding to contain religious extremism because the hardcore conservatives have considerable strength in the TV channels for their support. This study focuses on the role of electronic media and its influence of Islamic extremism. The paper is an effort to trace out the reasons of influence and to identify those challenges which are still a real hurdle in national cohesion and integration.

Research Problem:

The research is trying to highlight the strong nexus of influence between the media's coverage and wave of extremism, where it is also underlining the issue that Islamic extremism is caused by the Pakistani media under study. Extremism is a vast phenomenon which emerges in a society in different categories. It means holding of extremism political or religious views, fanaticism. The media use the advantage of technology in which way they want to use; this sort of coverage raises concerns among society. The current situation of country needs a high sense of responsibility in dealing with the menace of Islamic terrorism unfortunate still there are serious doubts about the role of Pakistani media that it is not following the principles requirement of the time. The high ratings race between the private channels further deteriorated the efforts. Hence it is really an important debate for discussion on an international and national level that is the actual ground reality of power of electronic media that shapes and transforms the events in its interest. The paper tries to explain the complexity of the problem through application of discourse analysis, where it also opens the area for further research in the field.

Objectives of Research:

The paper aims at understanding the role of media's influence on Islamic extremism in Pakistan by analyzing the mode of their coverage, production and presentation i.e. reporting and editing etc. The report further elaborates on the causes, bad impacts and critical consequences of the problem. In this frame of reference, research will endeavor to achieve the following objectives.

- 1) To explain the phenomenon that if the terrorists are publicity- hungry, the press is equally.
- 2) To elucidate the negative role of media effecting Pakistan's war against extremism and how it enhances the Islamic extremism in a country.
- 3) To find out the impacts of this influence on different sectors of human life.



Significance and scope of Research:

The importance of this study emerges from the evidence that electronic media can influence the large number of masses and put enormous impact on their opinions and perceptions. The media has a diverse role in society. The media can influence society either in positive or negative roles. The time when media is playing a positive role that positivity led the nation towards the progressive mindset which ultimately increases the cohesion, tolerance and integrity in society but the period when media is presenting the negative role that negativity led the environment towards the destruction, chaos and destabilization within society. The scope of study is an analysis of those basic factors which cause sense of hopelessness and depression in the shape of extremism. The scope of study also highlights the main impacts of these influential factors. Furthermore, the research study suggests guidelines for measures and future intercessions which can be fully utilized and implemented in future research works.

Research Challenges:

The research study faced varied specific challenges that are listed as the limitations of research paper below.

- Discourse Analysis helps to understand the practices of concepts/ things but not things or concepts the way they are in themselves.
- Research papers enhance the way of guidance for the future's researchers, whereas the research study incorporates only the reporters of conflict media coverage, which have the daily routine professional duties relevant to our study.
- The focus of research is to describe the discourse as compared to promulgate solutions.
- We cannot find the distinction between knowledge and opinion in discourse analyses.

Literature Review:

Pakistan's Society and its transformation in Islamization

Society is a major component of human life. Human life is a mixture of various aspects, and these aspects play vital role in shaping society. The influence of society on human life changes the way of life in this era of technology. The Pakistani society which is heterogeneous in nature has a diversified opinion. This diversity sometime led towards new conflicts, especially in the case of religion. In a country like Pakistan where state institutions still do not have enough capacity based on religion ideology, so anything associate with the religion automatically become a sentimental theme. Muhammad A. Qadeer prominent Pakistan based Canadian professor highlighted the main feature of Pakistani society and its transformation into modernization as well as Islamization in his book "Pakistan Society and Cultural Transformation in a Muslim Nation" (2006). This book explains the ways by which Islamization act as a process of social transformation in Pakistan. The growing influence of religion in Pakistani society raises real concern about the progress of society. The book also briefly explains how the individual determinants of society like media, traditions and institution enhance their strength to counter the emerging threats. Qadeer mention the facts that the process of Islamization has a firm basis in the root of its ideology. These bases further



progress rapidly because of the failure of state to contain them to limit. Their religious disagreements took the shape of violent behavior. This violent behavior of society related to religious affairs commonly known as Islamic extremism. This violent behavior provokes individuals to impose their opinion on others. The fistula of extremism has spread rapidly over the last decade.

Role of media in Transformation:

Media is one of the key components of society which can play vital role for the progress and development of society. These developments increase the status of harmony in society. The role and influence of media can never be neglected. The National Defense University Islamabad (31st December 2009) organized a seminar on the role of “Media in Promoting Culture of Mutual Tolerance and Rule of Law”. The seminar was the effort to understand the role and influence of media in Pakistani context. The profile, makeup and interest of electronic media emerge as a new powerhouse. The seminar provides much focused insight to understand the influential role of media in different sectors of human life. The main discussion was about the sense of responsibility which media should maintain in a democratic country where everyone has a right to express his opinions. The importance of electronic media is further elaborated by Indian author Rashmi Sharma in her book “Media Issues and Innovations (2007). She said that in this global village we need a communication medium that can fulfil the information gap rapidly. Electronic media has a communication medium which depends on the electronic means of production and is often illustrious from print media. The main purpose of media coverage breaking news is to create hype in society and this hype usually serves the interest of some individuals. One of the major claims against the role of media is his lack of objectivity. The media fail to analyze the importance of national interest which demands extreme care and restraints. The book *Media and Peace in South Asia* is edited by Imtiaz Alam (2006). This book illustrates the nexus of media and peace. The author put great emphasis on how media in 21st century is a vital tool for promoting harmony in society because it covers large numbers of audiences within short span of time. A critical evaluation of media is another masterpiece work of Razi Uddin Ahmed. This work provides deep insight into the role of electronic media in tackling the challenging issues of 21st century like extremism. The book highlights the main voice of objection against the media that usually it tries to react as the custodian of the facts and figures. Electronic media is billion-dollar industry, so the primary aim of media industry remains to earn money rather than to defend the ideology of national interest. The media houses in Pakistan have a competitive atmosphere in which every media house want to be “Exclusive and First”. For this purpose, they need burning issues like controversy, sensationalism, and extremism and use usually negative news to make headlines. The history and role of media in Pakistan always remain a question. In the past influential people used media as their tool of self-propaganda and unreliable events. The whole situation led to the loss of public confidence. The constitution of Pakistan guaranteed full freedom of expressions and speech to every citizen of country. This right of expression should have some moral standard and must be exercised with all care so that it may not provoke violence, extremism, hate, militancy, terrorism, and sectarianism, religious discrimination, racialism or ethnicity. Furthermore, the national interest



and sanctity of state institutions should be respected at any cost. The society of Pakistan in the post 9/11 scenario remain under the intense international scrutiny because of the new religious, social and political dynamics. Sectarian violence, which is a sub-kind of religious extremism, has ravaged the state for the last two decades. These Islamic religious groups hustle violently for power. Pakistani society is a heterogeneous in nature which is a mixture of different sects, tribes and color. This diversity in approach with violent support often sow the seeds of intolerance in society and these little seeds automatically after some time change themselves into the tree of extremism. The country is witnessing the fruits of these trees in the form of terrorism. This continuous challenge is the result of over emphasizing religious identities. This over accent produces the results of extremism and intolerance under the banner of religion and belief. Electronic media can play vital role in curbing the menace of sectarianism. The pages of history help us to easily track the record of the efforts performed by the media to support government policies to contain these violent discriminants which are the real threat to the internal security of the state. Electronic media is the fastest and rapid way of promoting harmony in society through its different sort of presentations.

Why the media covers extremism related stories:

Terrorism is the favorite cup of tea for media coverage. It contains material which is an attractive boon for media coverage because these waves of panic make viewer ratings and boast the organizational profits. The elements of terrorism-like blood, danger, shocking footage and sentimental actions create the scenes as the thriller arena. The book (Terrorism and Media 2008) describes briefly that the media is always in search of this sort of coverage because it makes viewer ratings along with financial benefits. The media usually try to highlight conflicts because conflicts psychologically earn attention more quickly. As we see in case of Pakistan where the religious extremism is at its peak but the way media tackle this is really a question. Each coverage of media houses is just for the sake of their interest. Violence is the central quality of today's media because the television culture is quite critical to semiotic (Lewis 2005). 21st century is the century of proliferation of media industry. The emergence of radio and TV channels along with mega-media organizations bring sense of competition and rapacious craving for sensational "infotainment". The main reason behind this is to keep audience captive, hike in ratings and enhance the economic gains (Nacos 2006). The extremism is undoubtedly a concern issue in modern societies because it badly damages the pace of progress of the nation. The media is the fourth pillar of state so being an important member of state machinery, why and how it reacts with that irresponsibility and profit oriented approach in the context of extremism especially when the matter associated with the religion which is sentimental mood of theme for people. According to (Biernatzki 2002) the problem emerges when the executives of media houses came from the corporate world rather than the ranks of journalists. The concern about the media is not that, why media covers terrorism, but the issue is how it covers extremism. The media coverage of extremism contains sensational writing, anecdotic stories and creating new syndrome (Vasterman, Yzeramns and Dirkzwager 2005). The media usually create hype and exaggerate the scene for traumatize the audience as we see in the case of Pakistan especially after 9/11 when media cover the shocking scenes (long 2002). Another aspect of this coverage is elaborated by scholar Altheide. He points out that the fear factor



in news is a popular culture now a days and a dominant motif behind the news. Furthermore, with this groundwork the coverage of extremism is easily linked with the narratives of victimization and violence that make fear quite like daily experiences. (Altheide 2009). The media has a firm system which portrays extremism according to their rules and regulations. If someone wants to understand the media's coverage of extremism, he should first briefly analyze the system of media with deep in sighting view that what sort of medium employs in media and on what basis they can be utilize. Media always remain hungry for burning issues concerning the public. The media work under the guiding rules of agenda setting and the framing. Media always highlight those issues/scenes which get public attention faster rather than the others one. It presents certain issues more prominent than the others. The same case exists with extremism. The media used the hype of extremism for their ratings and financial benefits (Terrorism and Media 2008). The incident of 9/11 changes the image of entire Muslim world. The Muslim's around the world were in stories either as oil supplier or as the capable terrorist after the attack of 9/11. This was the birth of the phenomenon related to the term "Islamic Extremism". This perception destroys the whole passion of Muslim world (Nacos and Torres, Reine 2002). In the same way the coverage of 9/11 attack made the scene more complicated. Media covered the incident in such a way that the death of thousands of civilians was the act of war against the USA, the cause of the attack was extremist and the immediate remedy for the attack was to launch a war against the perpetrators. This was the immature behavior of media that create hated hype in the public (Entman 2003). This book of Entman and work of Nacos and Torres point out that the opinions of public are directly affected by the media. The media's role is biased to certain groups to some extent, and it frames certain ethnic or religious groups as extremist and the events as act of terrorism. Terrorism coverage basically is a form of sensational drama. The extremist usually wants to create a drama of chaos in a society and the media when covering all the incident of terrorism in a sensational way, withal may directly or indirectly is promoting the interest of terrorist. The coverage clearly states that this inadequacy of facts can be easily pointed out by the audience. The extremists always try their level best to get more time and try to address large masses at the same time. The repetition of shocking scenes and stories makes their task easy to remain in news for as long as possible so by repeating these images put the question mark on the neutral role of media. Islam is the religion of peace but unfortunately after 9/11 it has image of that nursery throughout the world which produce terrorist and extremist. After 9/11 the wave of islamic extremism spread rapidly throughout the country. The islamic extremism potrays the muslim all over the world as the characters of intolerance, crime and terror. Islamic extremist is a person who has tendency to go to extreme especially in the affairs of religion. In 2013 the Gallop conducted the survey about the islamic extremism in which 71% Pakistanis believed that the islamic extremism in Pakistan has increased over the last two decades because in last two decades the country witnessed the traumatize situation of sectarian voilence, militancy and terrorism. The Pakistani media has powerfull speech of tone in a society but unfortunately the role of media is very disappointed. It create the enviroment of hopelessness by presenting the very black picture of the country so there is direct nexus between the media and the spread of extremism because the extremist wheather they belong from any kind of terror are publicity- hungry people, If the press will not support them in the shape of taking interviews, article



writing and images then there would be a chance to curb or contain thos menace.

Is the International media fanning extremism:

There is a quote that violence, begets violence. The time has proved this phenomenon that reporting of violence is triggering the attacks. It has been proved by research that the sensitizing coverage of media of violent events results in more such acts being committed. The paper will prompt further discussions about in what way the international media covers the event of barbarity. The issue raises serious concerns of the possibility that the coverage of terrorist attacks can be seen as a “Warning” of the attacks which in future will be perpetrated by the miscreants. “The New York times reported more than 60,000 extremist attacks between the span of 1970 and 2012. The study which was researched and analyzed by the Professor Michael Jetter who is serving at **the School of Economics and Finance at Universidad EAFIT in Medellin, Colombia** and a research fellow at the **Institute for the Study of Labor in Bonn, Germany**. Jetter point out the records of over last 15 years”. The world experienced a terrifying exponential increase in the number of terrorist attacks. In 2012, Global Terrorism database recorded 8,441 attacks, a number that is too high compared to the figure of 1,395 attacks in 1998. The causality rate due to these attacks also soared to the level of 3,387 to 15,396 in last over 15 years. During this period, it is usually observed by the people that terrorist groups sought to use media for the agendas. The beheading videos from ISIS which are released on the internet by the outlawed organization enhance global terror and made ISIS as the feared brand. But now the question emerges that how much coverage this organization should be given the oxygen of publicity “Terrorist organization receive extensive media attention. Michael tells’ whatever the organization it will be like Al-Qaida, Boko-Haram, Taliban and now ISIS, extremism is everywhere like on radio, internet, TV and newspapers. It is also in our knowledge that these miscreants need quick mode of communication to spread their messages. The purpose of this activity is to create fear and enhance their human capacity. “However, until now we did not know whether media attention actively encourages terrorist’s attacks. This paper drives an empirical methodology to provide an answer to that question. Michael made a comparison between the headline-grabbing extremist attacks and the bigger story natural disasters and traced out the link between the initial terrorist incident and the follow up attack over the next few weeks. Michael Jetter mentioned the reference of New York Times article that the terrorist attack in country in a country after the media coverage double the rate of causality in the same country from 11% to 15%. He stated that the different extremist activities put varied sort of media impacts. Michael Jetter presented his paper at the annual conference of **European Economic Association in Mannheim, Germany**, he found that usually the suicidal attacks seek more courage because it has increased popularity among terrorist groups. Significantly, he concluded that the media focused devoted to an extremist violent attack was prediction of both the likelihood of another strike in the affected country within seven days’ time and of a reduced internal until the next attack”. The results raise the question whether the limiting of the coverage of terrorist attacks would ensure the decline in attacks. He marked serious concern over the immaturity of electronic media and report that 42 people died every day from the extremist attacks compared with 7,123 children who die from the hunger-associated elements. “What this



article is suggesting is that we may need to rethink the sensationalist coverage of terrorism and stop providing terrorists a free media platform”. Michael explained, media coverage of other events that are causing more harm in the world should not be neglected at the expense of media marathons discussing the cruelties of terrorist.

International electronic media and 9/11:

There is no doubt in it that the 9/11 incident was the most sensitizing event of first decade of 21st century. The attacks on the Pentagon near Washington DC and the WTC in New York were the events that dominated public attention and shocking global media events and provided ream of discourse (Kellner, 2004). Terrorists who planned this attack was aware from the fact that targeted such a symbolic building in US, causing damage to international economy and killing thousands of people would automatically become a sensational news all over the world. The response of media against the act of this terrorist was also very pathetic. The media react with hatred and hysteria calling strict response against to mainly Arab and Muslim countries and shouting for revenge (Lewis, 2005). The media cover all the event in such a way that it changes the entire perception of people, discourse at public and government level and specifically ethnic and religious minorities who perceived that as a “threat”. So, the news constructed discourse of fear and main discourse of fear clearly become the terrorism after the 9/11 era, according to (Altheide, 2009). In different sense, “9/11 was used by the media and politicians to promote fear related agendas and ideologies. Citizens becomes accustomed to “safety rhetoric” by police officials, which often require them to permit police searches, condone ‘overaggressive’ police action, as well as join in a myriad of crime- prevention efforts, many of which involved more human as well as electronic surveillance of workplaces, neighborhoods, stores and even “bodies” (Altheide, 2009). The above scenario suggests that the designers’ of 9/11 attacks achieved their media-centered objectives as the international media has portrayed the event which create the perception that even the superpower of the world was vulnerable to these actions of extremists and that terrorists created great harm and they can target anyone at any time.

Research Methodology:

Research Design:

The main emphasis of research is on the qualitative analysis of the Islamic Extremism in Pakistani Media based on Foucault’s philosophy. The outlook on the problem has been considered in intensity with the support of discourse analysis. To reach at the root cause of the problem of Islamic Extremism in Pakistani Media, questionnaire-based interviews has been conducted from journalists who are associated with the field of conflict reporting. The problem revolves around the media coverage of terrorism therefore the paper would also consider opinion of journalists from the state-owned media channel which represents the official stance of government through questionnaire-based interview. Journalists for the interviews are selected according to their professional skill and experience in field of reporting.

Procedure:



The paper's work was carried out under the guidance of qualitative approach, where the focus would be on Foucault's philosophy. For the sake of the opinions from the journalist who are involved in the reporting of Islamic Extremism and conflicting issues, 5 questionnaire-based interviews are conducted from the journalists belongs to different media groups including the state owned. The subjects are selected from the channels Waqt, ARY, Jaag, Express, and PTV, according to their professional skills and efficiency in assessing the situation which relate with the reports of conflicts. They are representing the case study from Pakistan.

Population:

Journalists of well reputed media channels somehow associated with the conflict reporting, namely from media groups Waqt, ARY, Jaag, Express, and PTV has been selected for the questionnaire-based interviews. These journalists have different levels of experience, ranging from 4 to 10 years.

Critical Theory:

Institute of Social Research, which emerge in 1920s proposed critical theory because the societal issues were complex and the available tools for the researchers while doing qualitative and historic analysis were not sufficient to provide desired results. The approach of positivism and post positivism could not get the targeted results for the scientist of societal issues as they provide the analysis of the problem in historical perspective. This is the basis of critical theory, and it was introduced to overcome those challenges that were faced in social science research domain. (Howell, 2013) The research paradigm of critical theory in simple words is the critiques on German social thought and ideas. The critical theory is the effort made by the philosophers like Max Weber, Theodor Adorno, Max Horkheimer, Karl Marx, Herbert Marcuse and Erich Fromm are the contributors of this research paradigm. The critical theorist scrutinized that social science is different sort of domain, where the research is possible with the philosophy of positivism. (Howell, 2013) Critical theory is an idea which is continuously evolving and presents a dialectical paradigm, so what critical theory entails is hard to assess. The theorists of critical theory believe that the position of individuals in society is derived from the human assumption which basically comes from their individual historical experiences and the social atmosphere (Howell, 2013). The critical approach is used to get better understanding of the acts of society within the framework of social institutions and power. This paper is also based on the social issue i-e. Islamic Extremism, which is quite influenced by one of the key social institutions known as Electronic Media which possess enough strength to manipulate perspectives. The rules, regulations and social practices that impede people from controlling their lives are identified by critical theory. The focus of critical theory is to figure out the science of power rather than the principles of power (Howell, 2013). The purpose of using critical approach is to get firsthand knowledge of the controlling mechanism of electronic media and what is the level of its influential capability to influence people of Pakistan. Howell explains the nexus between the social system and historical context in which human life exists, he argued that these are inseparable from each other. In his view there are the human beings who constructed their social system which identify their status what they are today. He describes that system of control, social constraints and discourse cannot be understood without their study in the



parameters of historical perspectives (Howell, 2013). The opinion of Adorno and Horkheimer is that the main purpose of critical approach is to trace out the source of social domination with help of historical investigation.

Discourse Analysis:

Michael Foucault has given myriad definitions about the discourses but only few significant of them to our research are adopted. Foucault describes that “the general sphere of all statements” which means that the pronouncement should remain as intelligible and contextual in meaning. He stressed that topic researchers consider to be bound by synergy. The researcher when break the ideology, he supposed to maintain statements with single domain and paradigm (Mills, 2003). He also explains that sometimes as an individualizable “group of statements”, which that the pronouncement that have been emerge from these individualizable statement needs to make sense and certain meanings. The expression that is detailed with the support of statement must impart the meaning that it is trying to convey (Mills, 2003). Thirdly he repeatedly reiterated in his discourse definitions that the “statements are the standardized practice that accounts for several statements, where he explained about their unwritten rules or undocumented pronouncement that make speech possible. There are secondary rules which help us to make statements (Mills, 2003). If we sum up the whole topic of his definition of discourse. We can conclude that he emphasizes three essential facets that are as follows.

- 1) General sphere of all statements
- 2) Categorization of the different fields of study, where the meaning of certain statements fails to provide any sense. When they are trying to apply in a different field. For example, the statements of political science might not be applicable in discourse of medical sciences.
- 3) Number of statements – unwritten laws have emerged from the regulated practices.

Discourse is regulated by a set of rules– Circulation, Exclusion and Constraint:

Foucault also suggested that there are few statements which are in circulation and that will accept automatically, whereas some statements are excluded by intentionally from the discourse by the concerned authorities. However, sometimes people do not have knowledge about the principle of exclusion because they were unable to understand the reasons behind the exclusion, why these statements are excluded from the discourse. This has happened because these excluded statements often remain unnoticed in the conversation, but the exclusion can be easily observable in your speech (Mills, 2013). Foucault describes the efficiency of discourse analysis that with this approach we can identify unwritten and unspoken statements and make them explicit. Further he discusses about the “hurdle” in discourse that the speech has the limitations. Foucault explains the linguistic constraints because some languages do not have a debate of ethics and morality so because of this the varied between ethics and morality will not be prevalent for the subjects belonging to that language, so it becomes hard for person to explain his feeling if the language has discourse “constraint”. It means that to some extent the language has also been controlled (Mills, 2013). This problem of discourse constraint is present in various fields of studies like medical



sciences and technical studies are confined within the parameters of certain types of knowledge and does not explain the ideas about the social sciences. Foucault describes that certain paradigms are very hard to understand because for this understanding you should confine yourself in one dimension (Mills, 2013).

Power and Discourse (Ideology vs Discourse):

It is the general perception that power limits individual actions and it is proven with help of historical context. It ensures the banners of restriction in the freedom of a person to act according to individual belief. The concept of power can be better understood in the process of exclusion, circulation and constraint in discourse. Foucault says that power cannot wait for its consciousness it must be productively exercised in individuals at any cost. For example, prescriptions that are advised by the surgeons often are not questioned and patients usually accept them as the remedy for his diseases (Mills, 2013). Foucault explains that in modern era cameras are present everywhere and they are monitoring individuals, whether the individuals are conscious of it or not. The fear of camera automatically obliges people to behave within the limits of rule and law; this is really the way of controlling people is called as "Panoptical". Foucault stressed that people do not know the potential they have; so that's why they can be easily controlled by the authorities. Initially the whole power was in the hands of divine from where Foucault suggested that the concern authorities got an idea to control human beings and to till date they have been controlled through cameras, norms and regulatory principles (Mills, 2013). Foucault considers power as a verb not the noun; where he raised the question why and how does the power operate? This automatically shift the status of word "Power" from to noun to verb. If the power stands as noun it means what is power. Foucault tries to explain the nexus between discourse and power; it helps us to understand the efficacy of discourse in operational society. Foucault explained that it does not matter" what is discourse" rather than they questioned "How this discourse is applied in everyday life"? (Mills, 2013).

Discourse and Reality:

Discourse must not be consigned to language, but it is beyond that phenomenon. Discourse manifests itself in language in which he describes that discourse should not be reduced to language. He is against this devaluation approach, though it is indeed part of language. There is no direct link available for correspondence between reality and discourse. Reality always varies from the concept of discourse, but it is the discourse structure that perceived reality. In the same way reality is connected to discourse, but it will not be called as reality, though the discourse provides the structure from that we recognized reality (Mills, 2013). Reality is linked with language. The person understands himself with the help of patois available to him by the language. The person usually has limited sort of knowledge by which he tries to explain himself in every field that is the way that enforce conditioned on individuals through discourse, but they are not aware of these enforced conditions. We accept reality through the available criterion of knowledge and that knowledge has also been categorized. The discourse also controlled the regular abilities of individuals and that cannot be unfolded with the help of discourse analysis (Mills, 2013). The power system controlled



the perspective of individuals. This is the only available system for controlling because it is part of people's realities. In this phenomenon people are conditioned in the same way according to their political interest. In a quite easy way, we call this that discourse makes specific things visible and certain things invisible. Discourse by nature is a guidance for controlling society the way authorities entitle to controlled. Foucault emphasizes that it is the duty of people to get better understanding of discourse or make things clear or visible and for this purpose they should struggle. There are always many implicit realities that are hidden in the discourse; therefore, it becomes stressful to break the existing realities. This clearly means the revolt against the system which has usually threatening outcomes, as it needs to go far away from the existing discourse (Mills, 2013).

External exclusion in discourse:

- 1) There are specific outlaws in every society, in the same way there are certain realities which are not discussed openly. (Mills, 2013)
- 2) Foucault describes that rationality and irrationality is a ploy used in present-day world to disallow certain realities from society. For example, the statement or speech from the sane personality is considered as the authentic statement rather than the speech from irrational person considered as the "Mad-man Speech". It means that people have access to only those realities which are predefined by the authorities. The people who challenge this construction of reality are titled as irrational. Hence people do not question the concept of construction of reality because people are unaware of their awareness (Mills, 2013).
- 3) Michel Foucault query, "What is the concept of truth" and what is its source. He diagnosed that existing discourse has the definition of the source of truth. Rules of its authentication are already predefined by authorities of society. For the sake to endorse phenomenon regarding truth and false concept of authentication is enforced, where the source of confirmation is ingrained in discourse. Only that truth exists in society which is constructed from discourse. The discourse is never challenged and questioned despite this source of validation has already existing in discourse. What about that case if discourse itself is false? So, we can say that people must live in a conditional atmosphere, where the rule of endorsement is subject to falsification (Mills, 2013).

Findings and Analysis:

Media and Religious Extremism:

Islamic Extremism is the term refer to the violence in the name of religion. It emerges from the different ideological conflicts which happened in the parameters of religion, these differences took the shape of Islamic Extremism. Media is not fanning extremism. It is just filling the demand and supply gap. The point of view expressed by the reporter of private TV channel. He said media is a neutral body which reacts against the demand, it does not matter to it whether the issue is sensitive or non-sensitive. Religion is a societal phenomenon which has the following from majority of population, so anything followed by large number of people becomes an eye-con for media (Waqt, 2016). The media in fact is taking religious matters as a tool to get high ratings, attracting more viewership. It covers religious based information just to survive economically because it earns



rapid ratings than any other coverage. Special Ramadan, Muharram and talk shows related to religious conflicts hosted by religious media personalities because it provides a bunch of fruit in one effort. So, the media apprehend religious extremism as a source of his economic progress rather than the major societal menace (Jaag, 2016). Another point of view is that media covers the extremism because of the sense of security. He gave the example that in some cases, people who live in community are bound to ignore the misdeed of local religious clerics because of the fear of reaction. In the same way the media industry in some cases are bound to cover them because of their physical and materialistic safety. Such example of this act was the acceptance of fear from the Anchor, when he in his live public show assures the Taliban spokesman that he would receive proper coverage for his statements in future. The fulfillment of their demand not only saves his job but life also. So, this is the reason why media covers the extremism. This coverage made them progressive with the sense of security (Express, 2016). The reporter also expresses concern over the silence of government that ultimately encourage extremists to threaten media professionals to report their activities. Like the other fields of human life media too has professionals which need peaceful atmosphere to express their opinions with freedom, but government silence is increasing their fear (ARY, 2016). The state-owned channel understands extremism as the societal problem which has firm roots in different areas of society. The reporter from state-oriented channel complained about the private TV professionals. According to him these professionals are using the wave of extremism for their personal benefits. Some of these professionals have acquired the status of “Verdict- Issuing Cleric” in the name of “freedom of speech”. The state channel presents official figures of physical and materialistic damage resulting from any terror attack. It tries to control the panic which arises from extremism (PTV, 2016).

Immaturity of media:

The media coverage has the power to influence the opinion of people to a very large extent, whatever the media portrays it create perceptions. Media has direct link with societal issues. The extremism which is one of the major social constraints in Pakistan is also badly influenced by the Pakistani Media. Imbalance reporting and media’s illiteracy is contributing to ‘hostility’. The electronic media covers some specific issues concerning to Islamic extremism in such a way that create the perspective of Islam phobia in the mindset of Media. This situation enforces people to seek information from other non-informative sources. The Media present each news without any proper system of confirmation (PTV, 2016). The influence of this immaturity is directly affecting the minorities. The way it covers the issues does not show a mature understanding of the problem. The media report everything due to the influence of Islam phobia. This Islam-phobic tone is increasing the sense of insecurity or isolation in the minds of minorities. The reporter title this as “Faith and Security”. The reporter mentions the lack of professional training especially in those who are engaged in conflict reporting. This inability for professional excellence is creating further deterioration in society. The media is all-equipped in term of techniques and technology to counter with the menace of Islamic extremism (Jaag, 2106). The media usually tries to cover the scene in that way which will ultimately create judgments in the mind of viewers. Media does not have any literacy of coverage, whatever it covers, the purpose is always to maximize the ratings of its



viewership. It creates atmosphere of hostility when it covers deadly incidents in such a way that people must make decisive judgments. The recent example of such coverage is “Paris Attack and the twin attacks in Brussels” earlier this month. The media directly report these events as an act based on religion rather than the act of some miscreant individuals who try to propagate their ideology for the sake of personal interests. The extremists also want to preach and somehow need endorsement that their demand is for the wellbeing of religion. So, the immaturity of media in terms of coverage ultimately provides them with a platform (Waqt, 2106). The reporter from the prominent TV channel expresses that it is not easy for any organization to make things on the right path lonely. This needs a collective effort to get rid of this bigotry. He emphasized that we need to build awareness and enhance the figures of literacy in a proper way. He also stressed the importance of the strong regulation of press is needed to protect from this bigotry. Islam-phobia in media coverage can be controlled by spreading sense of awareness (Express, 2106).

Ethics in Conflict Reporting:

Religion is a major sentimental issue in any society. The sentimentalism related to religion reached its zenith when the country’s state ideology also has the basis in it. The media when reporting conflicting issues must follow the principles rule and standard ethics of conflict reporting. The wave of Islamic extremism raises real concerns over the ethical dilemma faced during the conflict – violent reporting. One of the main problems of Pakistani media is the farming of the issues. For example, the media report Islamic conflicts as the clash of ideologies within the doctrine of religion and in some cases, it portrays the story related about anti- state elements vs the state. It means different sorts of framing produce varied kinds of impact among the people (Express, 2016). Another reporter answered about the importance of the “Role” which media paly during the coverage. He said that journalists or reporters should report the fact as they are on actual ground because the people understand the originality of the facts from his interpretation of the scene. According to him the Pakistani media in overall view fail to generate such an environment in which reporters present the facts as they are or weigh the outcomes or consequences of these facts before doing so. The miscalculation of the facts further creates a gap of information between the viewer and the actual scene (Jaag, 2106). One of the other aspects of conflict reporting ethics is the presentation of truth. These conflicts usually possess bitter truths. The reporters sometimes while covering the conflict- violent reporting blabber the things without need (Waqt, 2016). The conflict reporting with ethic in context of Pakistani society is very hard to adopt, what should be present or not? Should I directly report the killings and destruction or not? But these sort of questioned usually not relevant in Pakistani context. The media cover all the incident with full potential and enjoy the extreme excess to population because of heterogeneous flavor society. The conflict reporting without censorship is creating serious consequences on the sentiments of people (PTV, 2016). The last major ethical principle of conflict reporting according to a media reporter is the source of information. Whether it is the oppressor or oppressed, is it a good way to report anything which is associated with the sentimental issue of society without any factual investigations. This is the reason, the media titled one man as the terrorist at one place and on the other site same attribute to be titled as freedom fighter. So, this double standard in handling the source of



information enhancing the flow of problem (ARY, 2016).

Countering and impact of media:

Media is the fourth pillar of nation. It can play vital role in overcoming these challenges. Religious extremism is the menace which the country is facing right now. The media can arrange inter-faith group discussion and highlight the good work of diverse faiths that will help in enhancing the harmony in society. The leaders from religious identity must be confident that the inter-faith discussions or programs will not threaten their beliefs or faith among their own adherents (PTV, 2106). If media really wants to cope up with the issue. It should improve its religious literacy. The reporter showed concerns that at low level professional in media industry who are actively participating in encountering this issue. They do not have any sort of religious knowledge. This illiteracy allows extremist groups to gain legitimacy where they deserve none (Express, 2106) Media industry is full of economics. It covers the events for sake of profits. This desire of interests led the way of media industry towards the manifestation of interests. They cover whatever brings materialistic benefits for them. This sense of individual greed automatically converts into intolerance within society. The sense of competition further led towards the different sorts of problems within a society (PTV, 2106). The coverage also creates mistrust in inter-faith because the continuous coverage of one faith along with violent information concerning the faith threatens the faith of other people. This coverage of sensitization enhances the uncertainty in society. Society, which is the mixture of different faiths, traditions and identities, this uncertainty in society shakes the confidence of people and sense of insecurity emerge as the result of intolerance. Pakistan is an Islamic country based on religious ideology. The religion of Islam faced tremendous pressure from the entire world after the attack of 9/11. The west considers religion Islam as the nursery of producing extremist mindset because these individual miscreants used the shadow of Islam for their personal gains, so whatever reported in Pakistani media regarding these culprits are considered as the representation of Islam. It presents the bad image of Pakistan in all over the world. (Express, Waqt, 2016). The media is one of the founding members of the narrative which highlights extremism as one of the major hurdles in the establishment of progressive society. The Pakistani media in last 2 to 3 years showed better maturity as compared to its past. It supports the ongoing operation with their full physical strength.

Discussions:

Foucault Analysis of Discourse:

The discourse that has been constructed over the period is explained by Foucault's discourse analysis. The dynamics of discourse in Foucault's analysis can be apprehended in historical context and describes the discourse. Foucault believed that people are unconscious of their consciousness, the apprehension of this discourse led people to become conscious of the discourse that is a solution. He emphasized that the bone of contention is the unconsciousness of people, once they become informed then there will be no need for discourse. It is quite simple in first observation, but the issue lies with what that ideology has been constructed over the long period of time. The utilization of discourse analysis supports us to become aware of the discourse that automatically



breaks the existing reality. The aim of Foucault is to move beyond the limits of discourse to apprehend real reality. The operation of discourse analysis on this research is the fundamental basis for figure out the discourse of Islamic Extremism in Pakistani media. In this way it helps to assess the influence and portrays of Islamic extremism in Pakistani media.

Foucault – Truth is Constructed:

Foucault said that power is productively practiced on individuals whether they are conscious about it or not. For reason, medicines which are prescribed by the physician often in the society are not questioned and suffering persons accept the prescription as a remedy for their diseases (Mills, 2103). In the same way the portray of Islamic extremism in Pakistani media is not still questioned; this is the reason that people are accepting everything and anything that comes with it. Foucault says that cameras are present everywhere and controlling the behavior of individuals without they are conscious of this control. This fear bound them to behave in a controlled way which is a “panoptical” that is the way of controlling people. Foucault explains that individuals are unaware of their awareness; therefore, it is easy for authorities to control them. Foucault further elaborate the phenomenon that in the starting “All power was in the hands of Divine” from where they got the idea of bounding and now, they are being controlled through modern equipment, traditions of society and culture. In Pakistan, electronic media set the paradigm for the definition of truth. The people in Pakistan verifying the material of media via internet. The interviews highlighted the people ‘s perspective on societal issues that they are heavily influenced by the coverage of electronic media. It means the media is controlling the thinking of people because they usually evaluate the issue in the context of majority.

What is Evidence:

Foucault explains that knowledge has been categorized, and we perceive reality only from the available source of knowledge. The individual can be unfolding their abilities with the help of discourse analysis (Mills, 2103). The solutions which the discourse offer are questioned by research because it is again constructed for attaining social interests. The power system which conditioned the people’s perspective is conceived as the only system and becomes the part of realities of people. People are conditioned with political interest in the same way. In simple words discourse makes specific things visible and specific things invisible (Mill, 2013). Foucault suggests to people that they need to struggle to make certain things visible. Discourse possesses realities so it becomes hard to break existing ideologies. This breaking is a means of revolting against the system, which has threatening outcomes. (Mills, 2013).

Conclusion:

Research concludes that the Islamic extremism in Pakistani media is a discourse that has been created to influence people’s perspective. Media is really a powerful social system which is used to control people’s minds. In this research we did not challenge the media as an institution instead according to discourse analysis, the paradigm of verifying the portray of Islamic extremism exists within the discourse. In this research we find that the way media is handling the situation is



distorting and miscalculating the facts. The research explained existing discourse in historical context with detail. The interviews regarding the discourse from the reporters identifies that the institution of media is not understanding the issue with its root cause. The research also identifies media's literacy concern related to the discourse that created the more complicated issue. The paper traces out the immaturity of the media organizations that ultimately becomes a fruit cake for miscreants. The research also highlighted the main concern about the ethical problem associated with the media in dealing with the issue. The discourse study also mentioned the failure of Pakistani media in the concept of "Evidence" in covering Islamic extremism, where they are engaging in producing that type of content which is obtained through the influence of these figures who are not aware from the course of reality.

Recommendations:

The research paper widens the sphere for further research as this paper aimed to highlight the discourse by Michael Foucault discourse analysis methodology. The research highlights the area of gap in terms of media professional's religious literacy and the need for social uplifting projects. The study also critically marks the silence of state institutions that the government should come forward and put ban on hate speech and enlarge it in case of deterioration to the ban on the use of religion for political gains. The study emphasized on the immediate need of inter-faith/sect interactions and unified bodies for "FATWAS". Further research can be done on explaining the paradigm for determining the surge of Islamic extremism through media in Pakistan. The research is not just for media in Pakistan, as this issue is a big threat for west especially after the emergence of ISIS. The purpose of the study is to bring discourse into the consciousness of people. Hence the research based on the Foucault discourse analysis helps the world to understand the emergence threat of Islamic extremism which is taking strong hold in media. The study also opens the gate for further research which is needed to fund for assessing the issue and solution evaluation.



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