

# Transitivity Analysis of Newspapers' News-Headlines Depicting Crime Committed Against Women in Pakistan

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## Abstract

The article in hand studies word choices used in the headlines of Pakistani English newspapers' news depicting crime against women. To spotlight the masked ideology implied in them the researcher has selected three newspapers—The Nation, Dawn & The News. He applies Halliday's transitivity as research tool. The analysis focuses on investigating how men and women are represented in the headlines, and what different roles are assigned to them by the newspapers. It also highlights the ideology underpinned in the discursive lexical choices and rhetorical devices used in them. It shows how covertly the newspapers arouse the emotions of their readers to attract their attention and influence their opinion making process.

**Keywords:** ideology, transitivity, discursive lexical choices, rhetorical devices, opinion making process

## 1. Introduction

Language is a unique human attribute. A man can make his voice to be heard, or accept/challenge other's voice when he knows how to use lexis, forms and grammatical structures of a language in a meaningful way. However, his use of language points out how he looks at life around him. Use of one particular set of lexis, forms and grammatical structure represents one world view. As various types of lexis, forms and grammatical structures can be used to express an experience there can be various world views of an event. While reporting an event, different newspapers employ different lexis, forms and grammatical structures, so they depict variant world views of the same happening. Language is 'meaning potential' (Osisanwo, 2011, pp. 23–24).

The newspapers are one of many sources of information in the modern world of today. They can influence masses and bring changes in political, social, cultural, religious and ethical life of a society. However, a news printed is not a reality; it is a reality constructed and recapitulated. There is an ideological underpinning working behind it. The newspapers employ discursive means of power to do it. They do so as media including newspapers has become an industry. Their news acts like a commodity. In the capitalist world of today the newspapers sell their commodities to win profit. They employ language to run their business, and language is blurred with the desires and aims of those who use it (Bloor & Bloor, 1995). Kress (1985) says that language is given certain linguistic terms, like lexis, phrases and sentences, by the one who uses it; so, language never appears by itself, the form it appears in is always given to it, and all this is done in a persuasive way. The newspapers use language very skillfully. They employ it to do their business by controlling masses so that the later may buy their product and help them earn profit. Newspapers groups do market research and are well aware of the profile of their readership (Reah, 2002). The language of the news influences and shapes their readers' perception too.

Reading newspaper, after television, is one of the most regular daily routine for many people. It works for them as a window on the world. A news is perceived as an influential space depicting accurate and trustworthy story (Cottle, 2000; Fowler, 1991; Hartley, 1982; Herman & Chomsky, 2002; Richardson, 2007; Poole, 2002). Fowler (1991) and Reah (1998) have, however, discussed perplexity of news production. The news is relatively a difficult word to be defined. Over the years, the scholars have put forward many definitions of it, yet none is believed to be satisfactory. Reah (2002) says that a news gives information about an event that may affect the lives of a group sufficiently large enough, or that may be of interest to people sufficiently large in number.

Generally, the news reported in a newspaper is either a soft news or a hard news. A soft news is understood by the readers easily. It is a negative news; language used in it is always striking and eye-catching. People have a trend to pay more attention to a negative news, and not to a positive news (Lovell, 1980, p. 17). Contrary to it, a hard news is either a political, social, economic or environmental news, etc. It is difficult to be understood as it demands some background knowledge. A headline is placed above the news story and is always in a bigger font size. It gives a glimpse of the whole news. The main part of the entire news story is written as the headline (Pasha, 2011). A headline always catches the readers' attention. The readers read the headline first, and then the news story. Goldstein (2011) says that a headline plays the role of a forerunner to a news text. Conboy (2010) says that a headline serves three functions: (i) it gives to the reader a brief summary of the news text; (ii) it attracts the reader; and (iii) it has an initial indicator of the news content. Reah (2002, p. 13) says that a headline is "a unique type of text that consists of a range of functions that specifically dictate its shape, content, and structure, and it operates within a range of restrictions that limit the freedom of the writer". Ifantidou (2009) says that the important aims and purposes of headline are to catch attention, present the main points of the news, tell importance of the news and express the publisher's identity.

## 2. Literature Review

Since the last few decades the news headlines have emerged as an area of interest for researchers from a number of various disciplines like sociolinguistics, experimental psychology, pragmatics and journalism. Some have studied their structural patterns (e.g., Bell, 1991; Dor, 2003; Quirk et al., 1985; Saxena, 2006), while others have conducted experimental studies on them (e.g., Ifantidou, 2009; Kwon, 2002; Noh, 2010). Studies conducted by Yergaliyev et al. (2016) and Lee (2012) are note-worthy. The former studied Kazakh newspapers focusing on headlines as a marker of a language picture of the world. The later studied the similarities and differences between headlines of English political news in America and those in Korea. Its focus was on linguistic variations between the news headlines of newspapers of the two countries. The article in hand aims at doing transitivity analysis of the headlines of three daily newspapers published in Pakistan. In a country like Pakistan, the readers of newspapers are generally unaware of exploitation the latter do with the help of their language. This article is an attempt to analyze newspapers' headlines language so that it can be seen how newspapers depict different world views of happenings. The novelty of this article is that it is studying a new area of research. Transitivity analysis of the language used in the newspapers' headlines depicting crime against women will benefit the readers of newspapers.

## 3. Theoretical Framework

### 3.1 Transitivity Analysis

According to Bloor and Bloor (1995, p. 87) language embodies meanings in it; it is an "expression of meaning". When a speaker/writer wants to transfer his meaning, he employs some linguistic items of a language or languages, and avoids some other. He uses "certain patterns of language" to represent the world around him (Thompson, 2004, p. 13). In the modern world of today, transitivity is believed to be one of the most influential ways of evaluating effectively the ideological underpinnings present in a text; transitivity evaluates language to find out the happenings, participants and the circumstances present in a clause (Beard, 2000, p. 30). It is regarded as the foundation of representation (Fowler, 1991, p. 71). It analyzes clauses to evaluate events and situations as being of certain types.

Halliday was the first who employed transitivity to analyze William Golding's *The Inheritors*. He conceptualized Systemic Functional Linguistics (hereafter SFL) as an approach (Harman, 2008). It studies relationship existed between language and its functions in social settings. It believes that grammar is a meaning-making resource, and insists on the interrelation of form and meaning. Halliday (1971) approached language 'from outside', and 'not from within'. He (1985) believed that language, a mental tool, is built out of an intricate system of co-dependent choices. He also believed that a language always possesses the given society's culture and history. SFL bridges the gap between social and linguistic form (Kazemian et al., 2013, p.148). The Hallidiyan's model of transitivity has been used by linguists on a large scale. Its application ranges from media language analysis to that of children's language. Paul Simpson (1993) and Roger Fowler (1991) are a few names who applied it on media language. Yaghoobi (2009) also did transitivity analysis of the news from *Newsweek* and *The Kayhan International*. He studied the processes and participants involved, and proved that representation of two—Hizbullah and Israeli forces—was ideologically opposite in the both.

SFG looks at language as a social semiotic. It studies language functionally. It means that SFG believes that what is said depends on what one needs to accomplish. Halliday (1985) believes that there are three functions of language—the ideational, the textual and the interpersonal. The first of these functions is related to the use of

language to express content and to communicate information. It is concerned with the representation of reality: the inner and outer worlds of reality. In other words, it relates to language about something. It is divided into two subtypes embodying different modes of construing experiences: (a) the experiential metafunction & the logical metafunction. The textual function is linked with the use of language to signify discourse. It is about a clause to act as a message (or an information unit) that contributes to the creation of the discourse as a whole; it is concerned with presentation of ideational and interpersonal meanings as text. In other words, it refers to interpretation of language in its function as message (which is text forming function of language). Moreover, at the clause level, the textual function is concerned with how inter-clausal elements are organized to form unified whole texts that make meanings. In this, the textual function indicates the way the text is organized or structured. The textual function of language (clause) in its function as a message is realized by the theme of language (clause). The Theme System of clause is represented by the thematic structure of the clause, which comprises two major elements: (i) Theme, and (ii) Rheme.

Table 1. Process, what they construe and their participants

Process Type	What they construe?	Participants
Material (Happening of an event & Doing of an action)	drive, push, melt, cook, kick, play, jump, etc.	Actor, Goal, Range, Beneficiary
Behavioural (Physiological & Psychological)	Behaving—like breathing, dreaming, snoring, smiling, hiccupping, looking, listening, watching and pondering	Behaver & the Behaviour
Mental (Perception, Affection & Cognition)	Feeling—like feel, see, etc. Thinking—like know, hear, see, etc.	Sensor, Phenomenon
Verbal (Saying or Signaling)	Saying—like asking, commanding, offering, stating, showing, indicating, etc.	Sayer, Receiver, Verbiage
Being - Relational (Attributive & Ideational)	Construing attribute Construing identity	Carrier, Attribute, Token, Value
Being – Existential	Existing	Existence

The interpersonal function is the use of language to establish and maintain social relations. This function involves modalities so that it is related to modus system. The system is signified by two main elements, namely: mood and residue. Halliday (1985) believes that meanings established by these three types of metafunctions are not accidental but are necessarily in place because we need them to perform functions in social life. The ideational function is divided into two; transitivity and ergativity. Halliday (1981) summarizes transitivity as the cornerstone of the semantic organization of experience'; it subsumes 'all participant functions' and 'all experiential functions relevant to the syntax of the clause'. Transitivity is usually considered to be a property of an entire clause (Hopper & Thompson, 1980). It is, broadly, the notion that an activity is transferred from an agent to a patient. In Halliday's (1973) terms, transitivity is a part of the ideational function of the clause. The ideational function represents processes or experiences: actions, events, processes of consciousness and relations.

Halliday (1994) points out three components of transitivity—process, participants & circumstances; transitivity system (Martin et al., 1997) analyzes the flux of experience and construes it in terms of configuration of process, participants involved and attendant circumstances. The process refers to what kind of state/event is being described in a clause; the participants means the entities involved in the process of the clause, e.g., actor, goal, sayer, receiver, senser, etc.; the circumstances are linked with the process of the clause, specifying to what extent, when, where, why, how of the process. In transitivity clause represents events and processes. Transitivity analyses makes clear how and by whom action is performed, and on who. Halliday (1994) points out six different types of processes involved in transitivity (see the Table 1).

Unlike participants, the circumstances represent circumstantial information like extent in time or space, temporal or spatial location, cause, reason, manner and accompaniment, etc. about the action of the clause. The participants are directly involved and circumstances indirectly in the process of the clause. They are not inherent to the process of the clause. It means that there may be one major system (process type) and one minor system (circumstantial type). Prepositional phrases or adverbial groups express them. They occur with all process types at the end, middle or beginning of the clauses. Circumstantial types can best be identified by considering what probe is used to elicit them. Martin et al. (1997, p. 104) describe nine different types of circumstances (see Table 2).

**4. Research Method**

*4.1 Research Design*

The descriptive method has been applied in this study. It is a type of research which describes characteristics and features of population or phenomenon under study. It aims at studying the purpose of different clauses used in the headings of the newspapers, and the roles of the processes, participants & circumstances involved.

The researcher has chosen headings (hereafter H) of seven events (named from The News Event A to The News Event G) about crime committed against women (see Table 3). They were reported in the three Pakistani English newspapers—Dawn, The Nation & The News—published during 2005 to 2016. It means that he has collected twenty-one headings of the news in total. The researcher has separated the headings and analyzed them individually. He has divided a heading into clauses if there is more than one clause, and labeled them as Clause 1, Clause 2, etc. He has collected data from the newspapers present in The Central Library of Bahuddin Zakriya University, Multan, Pakistan. The researcher has chosen these newspapers because they are quite popular and well-read in Pakistan.

Table 2. Circumstantial types, their sub-categories and probes

Circumstance Type	Sub-categories	Probe	Realization
Extent	(i) Spatial distance	(i) how far?	(i) a unit of measurement (of distance)
	(ii) Time duration	(ii) how long, at what intervals?	(ii) a unit of measurement (of time)
Location	(i) Spatial Location	(i) where, at what point?	(i) in, down by, from
	(ii) Temporal Location	(ii) when?	(ii) in, after, before
Manner	(i) means	(i) how, with what, by what means?	(i) with, by
	(ii) quality	(ii) how? how...-ly?	(ii) -ly adverb
	(iii) comparison	(iii) what ... like?	(iii) what like or unlike
Cause	(i) reason or intention (behind an action)	(i) why?	(i) because of, thanks to, for lack of
	(ii) purpose (of the action taking place)	(ii) what far/ what purpose?	(ii) for the better, in the hope of, for the purpose of, for the sake of
	(iii) behalf/entity on whose behalf action is undertaken	(iii) who? who for? or on whose behalf?	(iii) on behalf of
Accompaniment	(i) comitative	(i) who with/what with?	(i) with/without
	(ii) additive	(ii) who else/what else?	(ii) instead of, besides, as well as
Matter	No sub-category	what about?	about, concerning, with reference to, as far
Role	(i) guise	(i) what as?	(i) as
	(ii) product	(ii) what into?	(ii) into
Contingency	(i) condition	(i) under what condition?	(i) in the event of, without
	(ii) concession	(ii) despite what?	(ii) in spite of
	(iii) default	(iii) lacking what?	(iii) in the absence of
Angle	No sub-category	says who?	According to

**5. Data Analysis**

*5.1 Transitivity Analysis of Newspaper Headings of the News About Crimes Committed Against Women*

5.1.1 The News Event A

**H-A1. Poverty drives mechanic to kill wife, 3 daughters**

Poverty	drives	mechanic	to kill	wife, 3 daughters
Agent	Pr: Material	Actor	Pr: Material	Goal

H-A1 is taken from the newspaper Dawn. It shows the effects of material process first by the Agent and then by the Actor of the clause. We find here *Poverty* an agent and the driving force behind the crime. The actor is portrayed as a *poverty drive(n) mechanic*. The agent hints at the financial condition of the actor, and process portrays him helpless as he is driven by *poverty*, he does not have a control over his action. Moreover, representing actor as *mechanic* also points out that the newspaper wants to foreground his financial condition, and not his act of murdering his wife and three daughters. The word *mechanic*, in fact, has a semantic

equivalence to the financial condition of the actor; it does not portray him as a murderer. It is the process *kill* which hints at him as a crime doer. However, the murdered are back grounded and portrayed as the goal of the clause.

Table 3. The news events & their headings

The News Event	The Newspaper	Date of publishing	Headings	Statements of the headings
The News Event A	Dawn	May 1, 2005	H-A1	Poverty drives mechanic to kill wife, 3 daughters
	The Nation	May 1, 2005	H-A2	Man strangles wife, three daughters
	The News	May 1, 2005	H-A3	Father kills 3 daughters, wife
The News Event B	Dawn	Dec 25, 2005	H-B1	Four girls slain by father in Burewala
	The Nation	Dec 25, 2005	H-B2	Man arrested for slaying four daughters
	The News	Dec 25, 2005	H-B3	Man slays four daughters in honour killings
The News Event C	Dawn	July 7, 2005	H-C1	Alleged rapist arrested
	The Nation	July 7, 2005	H-C2	Seven held over alleged revenge rape
	The News	July 7, 2005	H-C3	Jhang police arrests five alleged rapists
The News Event D	Dawn	June 21, 2005	H-D1	Man held for burning wife, daughter
	The Nation	June 21, 2005	H-D2	Man slays wife and daughter for 'honour'
	The News	June 21, 2005	H-D3	Five murdered in Bahawalpur incidents
The News Event E	Dawn	Sep 3, 2005	H-E1	Claims possessing evidentiary cassette Sonia demands case against 'tormentors'
	The Nation	Sep 3, 2005	H-E2	Sonia recounts harrowing tale of humiliation, torture
	The News	Sep 3, 2005	H-E3	Sonia case inquiry shifted to Lahore
The News Event F	Dawn	Jan 07, 2016	H-F1	Teen age girl drugged, gang-raped in Lahore
	The Nation	Dec 27, 2015	H-F2	6 nailed for gang rape at hotel
	The News	Dec 27, 2015	H-F3	Teen age girl gang-raped in Lahore Police arrest eight accused; CM takes notice of the incident
The News Event G	Dawn	May 05, 2016	H-G1	16-year-old girl set on fire as 'punishment' by Abbotabad Jirga
	The Nation	May 06, 2016	H-G2	Jirga kills girl for 'helping friend elope'
	The News	May 05, 2016	H-G3	16-year girl burnt alive in Abbotabad for helping classmate elope

#### H-A2. Man strangles wife, three daughters

Man	strangles	wife, three daughters
Actor	Pr: Material	Goal

H-A2 is taken from the newspaper The Nation. It also depicts the effects of the material process by the actor of the clause. Here, the newspaper employs the lexeme *Man* for the actor which does not have the same semantic equivalence as the lexeme *killer* or *murderer* has. Thus, the news does not focus on the action of the doer. It rather hides his identity of being a killer or murderer by the word *Man*. However, the process *strangles* focuses more on the doing of the action. The newspaper could have used *kills* or *murders* instead of *strangles*. But *strangles* gives a visual description of how the action, in fact, was carried out. So, the newspaper focuses more on how the action was carried out by the killer, and less on the killer himself. The murdered are, however, relegated to the position of goal.

#### H-A3. Father kills 3 daughters, wife

Father	kills	3 daughters, wife
Actor	Pr: Material	Goal

H-A3 is taken from the newspaper The News. It also depicts the effects of the material process by the actor of the clause. Like H-A1 and H-A2, it also hides the identity of the actor by the noun *Father* which does not have the same semantic equivalence as the killer or murderer has. So, the representation of actor as *Father* also does not focus on the action of the clause. It rather focuses on the emotional aspect of relation between the killer and the killed. However, the process *kills* hints at the action of the clause. Like H-A1 and H-A2, the murdered are portrayed as goal of the clause.

## 5.1.1.1 Comparative Analysis of the Headings of the News Event A

Table 4. Summary of semantic elements in the headings of The News Event A

	Heading of the News	Elements of sensationalism
H-A1	Poverty drives mechanic to kill wife, 3 daughters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>mechanic</i> is represented not as a master of himself; it is <i>poverty</i> which controls him.</li> <li>• Process <i>drives</i> shows that the mechanic cannot decide himself.</li> </ul>
H-A2	Man strangles wife, three daughters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The process <i>strangles</i> focuses on the doing of the action.</li> </ul>
H-A3	Father kills 3 daughters, wife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actor <i>Father</i> hints at the emotional aspect of relation between the killer and the killed.</li> </ul>

All the three headings of the news included in the News Event A are active voice in their structure. So, they foreground the actor, and background the goal. The semantic elements used in them for actor hides his identity. H-A1 focuses on his financial condition. H-A2 calls him a man. So, it depicts him in the place of actor on the basis of his being a masculine than his being a killer of his family. H-A3 uses the word *Father* for him at the place of actor. So, it exploits the readers' emotional aspects. However, word choices in all the three headings set the foundation for the dramatic representation of the event to be presented in the news texts. They render not information only but a fear coated-cum-dramatic information to the readers. Had the newspapers used alternative word choices, these headings might have a different impact on the readers. For instance, instead of writing *Poverty drives mechanic...* (in H-A1), *Man strangles...* (in H-A2) and *Father kills...* (in H-A3) if the newspapers had written *A man kills his wife, three daughters*, the headings might have been less dramatic and sensational (see Table 4).

## 5.1.2 The News Event B

**H-B1.** Four girls slain by father in Burewala

Four girls	slain	by father	in Burewala
Goal	Pr: Material	Actor	Cir: Location

H-B1 is taken from the newspaper Dawn. It shows the effects of material process by the actor of the clause. It is a passive voice clause, in which goal is foregrounded and the actor is back grounded. The newspapers employ passive voice in their headings very often because it saves space. However, brevity is not the only reason behind its use; it is also employed because of the official or bureaucratic nature of the events referred to (Fowler, 1991, p. 79). Passive voice also leaves a very different effect, as the actor appears less prominent and the thing or person affected appears more focused. However, lexical items are more useful in headings than grammatical words or structures; lexical items in headings give them a visual function, whereas grammatical words or structures give them form. In this heading, the process gives a visual picture of the crime committed; not only does it tell that four girls have been killed, but it also tells the method how they have been killed. The actor, though back-grounded, tells the readers the killer's relation with the murdered. It, thus, exploits readers' emotions. We can also find in this heading the circumstance of location which hints at the spatial location of the action of the clause.

**H-B2.** Man arrested for slaying four daughters

Man	arrested	for slaying four daughters
Goal	Pr: Material	Cir: Cause

H-B2 is taken from the newspaper The Nation. It also shows the effects of the material process by the actor of the clause. However, actor is omitted here. The newspapers omit the actor of the clause deliberately: a newspaper may omit it because "the paper is able to imply illegal conduct without actually making an accusation that could leave them vulnerable to legal action" (Reah, 1998, p. 88); one other reason for omitting the actor "may be due to the fact that the actor actually is unknown or can be known from the context (Nordlund, 2003, p. 100). Moreover, the clause of this heading is passive voice, and the material process can have their actor omitted in passive voice clauses. The newspapers employ passive voice structure in their headings for many reasons (see H-B1). However, the process of the clause hints at the actor of the clause; it implies that the actor is the police or security forces. The reason linked with the action of the clause is relegated to its circumstance of cause. This

circumstance has another clause in itself (*slaying four daughters*) with material process *slaying* and goal *four daughters*. The former gives a visual glimpse of the action; it tells how the murderer carried out act of murdering his own daughters touches upon the emotional instinct of the readers, because the lexeme *daughters* points out that the murderer is not anybody else, but the father himself. The use of lexeme *daughter* has “particularly strong connotations that carry an emotional loading” beyond its literal meaning (Reah, 1998).

**H-B3.** Man slays four daughters in honour killings

Man	slays	four daughters	in honour killings
Actor	Pr: Material	Goal	Cir: Cause

H-B3 is taken from the newspaper The News. It also shows the effects of material process by the actor of the clause. It is the only active voice heading in H-B. Like H-A2, the newspaper employs here too the word *Man* for the actor which does not have the same semantic equivalence as the word *killer* or *murderer* has. Thus, in its use for actor, it does not focus on the action of the doer. It rather hides his identity (of being a killer) in the lexeme *Man*. However, the process *slays* focuses more on the doing of the action, and not on the action itself. The newspapers could have used *kills* or *murders* instead of *slays*. But by using *slays* it has given a picture of how the action, in fact, was done. So, in its use as process, the newspaper focuses more on how the action was carried out by the killer or on the perceptible sight of the action, and less on the action itself. The murdered are, however, relegated to the transitivity element of goal. The reason behind the action of the clause is highlighted in the circumstance of cause.

5.1.2.1 Comparative Analysis of the Headings of The News Event B

The first two headings of the News Event B are passive voice in their structure, and the third is active voice. So, the formers foreground their goals, and the later its actor. The semantic elements used in H-B1 & H-B3 for actor hide the identity of killer. H-B1 calls him *father*. So, it exploits the readers’ emotional aspects. H-B3 calls him *Man*. So, it focuses on his masculinity. However, H-B2 omits the actor. All the three headings set the foundation for the dramatic representation of the event to be presented in the news texts. Like the News Event A, lexical items used here are a source of rendering information as well as a fear-coated dramatic representation to the readers (see Table 5).

Table 5. Summary of semantic elements in the headings of The News Event B

The News	Headings of the News	Elements of sensationalism
H-B1	Four girls slain by father in Burewala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is passive voice in structure. It foregrounds the goal, and not the actor.</li> <li>• Its process causes sensationalism.</li> <li>• Its actor sensationalizes too.</li> <li>• The circumstance of location adds to sensationalized element.</li> </ul>
H-B2	Man arrested for slaying four daughters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The element <i>slaying</i> in the circumstance of cause generates sensationalism.</li> </ul>
H-B3	Man slays four daughters in honour killings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Its process sensationalizes the heading.</li> <li>• <i>honour killings</i> in the circumstance of cause sensationalizes too.</li> </ul>

5.1.3 The News Event C

**H-C1.** Alleged rapist arrested

Alleged rapist	arrested
Goal	Pr: Material

H-C1 is taken from the newspaper Dawn. It shows the effects of material process by the actor of the clause. It is a passive voice clause, in which goal is foregrounded and the actor is back grounded. One of the effects of passive voice is that the actor appears less prominent and the thing or person affected appears more focused (see H-B1 for more discussion on the use and role of passive voice in news headings). Moreover, lexical item used here for goal has two elements—modifier and headword. The lexeme *arrested* used as process gives a clear picture of the action of the clause.

**H-C2. Seven held over alleged revenge rape**

Seven	held	over alleged revenge rape
Goal	Pr: Material	Cir: Cause

H-C2 is taken from the newspaper The Nation. It also shows the effects of material process by the actor, who is omitted here. The newspapers omit the actor of the clause deliberately (see H-B2). The clause of this heading is also passive voice. The newspapers employ passive voice structure in their headings for many reasons (see H-B1). However, the process of the clause *held* hints at the actor of the clause; it implies that the actor is the police or security forces. The reason linked with the action of the clause is relegated to its circumstance of cause. The goal points out the number of the crime doers described as arrested in this clause.

**H-C3. Jhang police arrests five alleged rapists**

Jhang police	arrests	five alleged rapists
Actor	Pr: Material	Goal

H-C3 is taken from the newspaper The News. It also shows the effects of material process by the Actor of the clause. It is a very simple clause without any exaggeration and sensationalism. It is the only active voice clause in H-C; so, here, it is the actor who is foregrounded. The lexeme used for material process hints at the job done by the actor; it carries meaning associated with police. The goal points out the people arrested. However, the lexical item *rapists* highlight the visual picture of the crime doers. It tells us about the crime committed by them.

5.1.3.1 Comparative Analysis of the Headings of The News Event C

The first two headings (H-C1 & H-C2) of the News Event C are passive voice in their structure, and the one (H-C3) is active voice. So, the formers foreground the goals, and the later its actor. The semantic elements used in H-C1 & H-C2 background the actor, and those of H-C3 foreground it. Moreover, the word choices in all the headings of the news in The News Event C (except those used in H-C3) are embodiments of sensationalized representation and exaggeration, though at varying degrees. No doubt, the word choices used here give the readers information about the incident, yet they also set the stage for dramatic and sensationalized representation in the texts which have to follow them (see Table 6).

Table 6. Summary of semantic elements in the headings of The News Event C

The News	Headings of the news	Elements of sensationalism
H-C1	Alleged rapist arrested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Its passive voice structure foregrounds the criminals.</li> <li>• Its passive voice structure reduces the impact of its process.</li> </ul>
H-C2	Seven held over alleged revenge rape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is the most sensationalized heading among the three.</li> <li>• Its passive voice structure foregrounds the criminals.</li> <li>• Adjective “alleged revenge” in the circumstance of cause hints at the back ground of the incident and makes the readers more curious to read the whole news.</li> <li>• Its process <i>held</i> does not give the same impression as is given by <i>arrested</i> or <i>arrests</i> in H-C1 and H-C3 respectively</li> </ul>
H-C3	Jhang police arrests five alleged rapists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is the least sensationalized among the three.</li> <li>• Its active voice structure foregrounds its actor.</li> <li>• The impact of its process is felt more readily because of its active voice structure.</li> </ul>

5.1.4 The News Event D

**H-D1. Man held for burning wife, daughter**

Man	held	for burning wife, daughter
Goal	Pr: Material	Cir: Cause

H-D1 is taken from the newspaper Dawn. It shows the effects of material process by the actor of the clause. It is a passive voice clause, in which goal is foregrounded and the actor is back-grounded. The actor of the clause is omitted here. In this heading the reason associated with the action of the clause is relegated to its circumstance of

cause. However, the lexical item *burning* gives a visual description of the crime reported here. The lexical item *held* used for the process of the clause also gives a visual description of the action taken by the actor of the clause.

**H-D2. Man slays wife and daughter for ‘honour’**

Man	slays	wife and daughter	for ‘honour’
Actor	Pr: Material	Goal	Cir: Cause

H-D2 is taken from the newspaper The Nation. It also shows the effects of material process by the actor of the clause. It is active voice in its structure. So here actor of the clause is foregrounded and the goal is back-grounded. The material process of the clause gives a visual description of the action of the clause. Not only does it tell that the man kills his wife and daughter, but it also tells how he kills. The process of this clause carries a strong visual description linked with the act of killing. The reason associated with the process of the clause is relegated to its circumstance of cause.

**H-D3. Five murdered in Bahawalpur incidents**

Five	murdered	in Bahawalpur incidents
Goal	Pr: Material	Cir: Location

H-D3 is taken from the newspaper The News. It also shows the effects of the material process by the actor of the clause. It is a passive voice clause; the newspapers use passive voice clause for a number of reasons (see H-B1). Moreover, the actor of the clause is omitted here; the newspapers’ omission of the actors in their headings is a deliberate act (see H-B2). The circumstance of location hints at the spatial location of the action of the clause.

Table 7. Summary of semantic elements in the headings of The News Event D

The News	Headings of the News	Elements of sensationalism
H-D1	Man held for burning wife, daughter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It uses passive voice structure and foregrounds the police.</li> <li>• The use of <i>Man</i> instead of murderer further lessens its impact.</li> <li>• Its process does not leave the reader as full of sensationalized fear as that of H-D2.</li> <li>• The impact of its process is also lessened because of the passive voice structure of the clause.</li> <li>• The reason for holding the <i>Man</i> is relegated to the circumstance of cause.</li> </ul>
H-D2	Man slays wife and daughter for ‘honour’	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It uses active voice structure and foregrounds the participant actor of the clause.</li> <li>• Its material process intensifies the emotion of fear and gives more sensationalized feeling.</li> <li>• Its circumstance of cause tells reason behind the action of double murder.</li> <li>• <i>honour</i> in commas highlights honour as one of the main causes behind women killing in Pakistan.</li> </ul>
H-D3	Five murdered in Bahawalpur incidents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It employs passive voice structure.</li> <li>• Its process does not have the same impact as those of the other two news.</li> </ul>

5.1.4.1 Comparative Analysis of the Headings of The News Event D

The word choices in the headings of the three news of The News Event D are embodiments of sensationalized description, though at varying degrees. H-D2 is the most sensationalized. It uses active voice structure and foregrounds the participant, *Man* (the murderer) as actor of the clause. Its material process further intensifies the sensationalized element and gives intensified meaning than that given by the processes of other two headings. The circumstance of cause tells us the reason behind the action of double murder. *honour* in commas highlights honour as one of the main causes behind women killing in Pakistan. H-D1 can be placed second. Unlike H-D2, it uses the passive voice structure. So, it foregrounds the police who have held the man (the murderer). The use of *Man* for the murderer further lessens the impact of the heading. Moreover, the impact of its process *held* is not same as that of the process *slays* in H-D2. Its impact is also lessened because of the passive voice structure of the clause. If the clause were active voice in its structure, the impact of its process might have been a little stronger. H-D3 can be placed last among the three. Though it foregrounds the murderers, yet it includes two more events too. Moreover, like H-D1, it also employs passive voice structure. Its process does not have the same impact as that of H-D2 (see Table 7).

5.1.5 The News Event E

**H-E1.** Claims possessing evidentiary cassette

Sonia demands case against ‘tormentors’

Clause 1	Claims	possessing	evidentiary cassette
	Pr: Material	Range	Goal
Clause 2	Sonia	demands	case against ‘tormentors’
	Actor	Pr: Material	Goal Cir: Cause

H-E1 is taken from the newspaper Dawn. It has two clauses. Both show the effects of material process by their actor. Both are active voice, in which actor is foregrounded and the goals are back-grounded. However, in clause 1, the actor is omitted. The newspapers omit actors deliberately for a number of reasons (see H-B2). The lexical items give visual function in both the clauses. The clause 1 assists clause 2. In the former, the process highlights the possession of goal *evidentiary cassette*. In clause 2, process hints at the goal. Moreover, the reason associated with the process of the clause is relegated to the circumstance of cause.

**H-E2.** Sonia recounts harrowing tale of humiliation, torture

Sonia	recounts	harrowing tale of humiliation, torture
Sayer	Pr: Verbal	Verbiage

H-E2 is taken from the newspaper The Nation. It carries a verbal process; in fact, in the data under study it is the only clause which carries a verbal process. In this clause the process refers to the remembering act of sayer. She remembers how she was humiliated and tortured. The use of adjective *harrowing* with noun *tale* intensifies the effect of the later. Moreover, the use of *torture* after *humiliation* also intensifies the impact of whole statement.

**H-E3.** Sonia case inquiry shifted to Lahore

Sonia case inquiry	shifted to	Lahore
Goal	Pr: Material	Cir: Location

H-E3 is taken from the newspaper The News. It shows the effects of material process by the actor of the clause. It is a passive voice clause, in which goal is foregrounded. Moreover, actor in this clause is omitted. The newspapers omit actor deliberately and for a number of factors (see H-B2). Here, process hints at the goal. We can also find out in this clause the circumstance of location which points out the spatial location associated with the process of the clause.

5.1.5.1 Comparative Analysis of the Headings of The News Event E

Table 8. Summary of semantic elements in the headings of The News Event E

The News	Headings of the news	Elements of sensationalism
H-E1	<u>Claims possessing evidentiary cassette</u> Sonia demands case against ‘tormentors’	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It uses active voice structure and foregrounds the victim.</li> <li>• Omission of victim’s name in clause 1 and appearance in clause 2 attracts the readers.</li> <li>• Adjective <i>evidentiary</i> in goal <i>evidentiary cassette</i> in clause 1 magnifies the meaning of the process.</li> <li>• Beneficiary in single commas in clause 2 intensifies its meaning.</li> </ul>
H-E2	Sonia recounts harrowing tale of humiliation, torture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Like H-E1, it uses active voice structure and foregrounds the victim, Sonia.</li> <li>• The adjective <i>harrowing</i> in goal magnifies the image of <i>harrowing tale of humiliation, torture</i>.</li> </ul>
H-E3	Sonia case inquiry shifted to Lahore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Its process hints at an account of humiliation and torture in the news text.</li> <li>• It is passive voice in its structure and foregrounds the actor of clause (which is omitted here).</li> <li>• Its process highlights the importance of the actor of the clause.</li> <li>• It is <i>Sonia case inquiry</i>, and not <i>Sonia</i> herself, which is highlighted here.</li> </ul>

The word choices used in the three headings of The News Event E give the readers information about the event, and also depict sensationalized fear though at varying degree (see Table 8). H-E2 uses active voice structure and foregrounds the victim of the crime. Moreover, the use of adjective *harrowing* in the participant verbiage magnifies the image of humiliation and torture. It gets the readers ready for dramatic and sensationalized representation in the text which has to follow. It gives the readers an impression that there will be a story of humiliation and torture in the text of the news. The process *recounts* tell that there will be a detailed account of the event in the text. As a result, the readers get curious to read the text of the news. Like it, H-E1 also uses active voice structure, and foregrounds the victim. However, her name is omitted in clause 1 and appears in clause 2. This omission and appearance attract the readers. The use of adjective *evidentiary* at the place of participant goal in clause 1 magnifies the image and meaning of the process. Moreover, in clause 2 the appearance of participant circumstance of cause *tormentors* in single commas also magnifies it. Unlike the other two, H-E3 is passive voice in its structure. It does not foreground the victim as the others do. Its process highlights the importance of police.

#### 5.1.6 The News Event F

##### H-F1. Teen age girl drugged, gang-raped in Lahore

Teen age girl	drugged, gang-raped	in Lahore
Goal	Pr: Material	Cir: Location

H-F1 is taken from the newspaper Dawn. It shows the effects of material process by the actor of the clause. It is a passive voice clause, in which goal is foregrounded and the actor is back-grounded. In this heading the spatial location associated with the action of the clause is relegated to circumstance of location. However, the lexical items used for process are *drugged, gang-raped*. They give a visual description of the crime reported here. They also magnify the crime committed; the use of *gang-raped* instead of *raped* also intensifies the visual description of the crime.

##### H-F2. 6 nailed for gang rape at hotel

6	nailed	for gang rape	at hotel
Goal	Pr: Material	Cir: Cause	Cir: Location

H-F2 is taken from the newspaper The Nation. It shows the effects of material process by the actor of the clause. Like H-F1, it is also a passive voice clause, in which goal is foregrounded and the actor is back-grounded. The actor of the clause is omitted here. The lexical item used for process is highly descriptive. It hints at the job done by the police or law-enforcing agencies; the lexical item *arrest* is usually used for police, but *nailed* used here gives a different visual description of the job done by the police. Moreover, in this heading, the circumstance of cause and location have been employed: the former hints at the reason linked with the process of the clause, and the later points out spatial location associated with the action of the clause.

##### H-F3. Teen age girl gang-raped in Lahore

Police arrest eight accused; CM takes notice of the incident

Clause 1	Teen age girl	gang-raped	in Lahore	
	Goal	Pr: Material	Cir: Location	
Clause 2	Police	arrest	eight accused	
	Actor	Pr: Material	Goal	
Clause 3	CM	takes	notice	of the incident
	Actor	Pr: Material	Goal	Cir: Matter

H-F3 is taken from the newspaper The News. It has three clauses, and all carry material process. However, clause 1 is passive voice in its structure, and the other two are active voice. In the clause 1 goal is foregrounded,

and the actor is back-grounded. Moreover, the actor is omitted here. The lexical item used for process gives a descriptive picture of the crime reported here. The circumstance of location hints at the spatial location associated with the process of the clause. In clause 2, the lexical item used for process points out the action carried out by the actor, and goal hints at the persons the action is done upon. In clause 3, the material process highlights the action carried out by the actor of the clause, and goal tells us about the entity the action of the clause is directed to. In this clause we also have circumstance of matter.

5.1.6.1 Comparative Analysis of the Headings of The News Event F

Table 9. Summary of semantic elements in the headings of The News Event F

The News	Headings of the News	Elements of sensationalism
H-F1	Teen age girl drugged, gang-raped in Lahore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It uses passive voice structure and foregrounds the goal, the victim.</li> <li>• Its first process gives the reader a sensationalized impression.</li> <li>• Its second process <i>gang-raped</i> further intensifies the sensationalized impression.</li> <li>• The impact of its processes is heightened because of the passive voice structure of the clause.</li> <li>• The spatial location of the action of the clause is relegated to its circumstance of location.</li> </ul>
H-F2	6 nailed for gang rape at hotel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It uses passive voice structure and foregrounds the participant goal of the clause.</li> <li>• Its material process intensifies the emotion of fear and gives sensationalized feeling. Had the news used <i>arrested</i> instead of it, the heading might have been less sensational.</li> <li>• The spatial location of the action is present in the circumstantial type of location.</li> </ul>
H-F3	Teen age girl gang-raped in Lahore Police arrest eight accused; CM takes notice of the incident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Its first clause is passive voice in its structure and foregrounds its goal. Its other two clauses are active voice and foreground their actors.</li> <li>• The process of first clause sensationalizes the whole heading.</li> <li>• The processes of the other two clauses <i>arrest &amp; takes</i> lessen the intensity of sensationalized fear.</li> </ul>

The word choices in the headings of the three news of The News Event F are full of sensationalized fear though at varying degrees. H-F1 is the most sensationalized (see Table 9). It uses passive voice structure and foregrounds its participant goal which consists of a modifier *Teen age &* a headword *girl*. Its modifier sensationalizes the whole clause. Moreover, two material processes *drugged & gang-raped* have been employed here. They intensify the emotion of fear and give more sensationalized impression than those given by the processes of other two headings. The circumstance of location tells us the spatial location of the action of the clause.

5.1.7 The News Event G

**H-G1.** 16-year-old girl set on fire as ‘punishment’ by Abbotabad Jirga

16-year-old girl	set	on fire	as ‘punishment’	by Abbotabad Jirga
Goal	Pr: Material	Cir: Manner	Cir: Cause	Actor

H-G1 is taken from the newspaper Dawn. It shows the effects of material process by the actor of the clause. It is a passive voice clause, in which goal is foregrounded and the actor is back-grounded. In this heading the reason of the action of the clause is relegated to its circumstance of cause. The use of single comas for *punishment* intensifies its impact on the readers. Moreover, the lexical item used for its process and circumstance of manner give a visual description of the crime reported in this clause.

**H-G2.** Jirga kills girl for ‘helping friend elope’

Jirga	kills	girl	for ‘helping friend elope’
Actor	Pr: Material	Goal	Cir: Cause

H-G2 is taken from the newspaper The Nation. It also shows the effects of material process by the actor of the clause. It is an active voice clause, in which actor is foregrounded and the goal is back-grounded. In this heading the reason of the action of the clause is relegated to its circumstance of cause. The use of single comas for *helping friend elope* makes its impact to be felt all the more readily; it catches readers’ attention immediately. Moreover, the lexical item used for process gives a description of the crime reported here.

**H-G3. 16-year girl burnt alive in Abbotabad for helping classmate elope**

16-year girl	burnt	alive	in Abbotabad	for helping classmate elope
Goal	Pr: Material	Cir: Manner	Cir: Location	Cir: Cause

H-G3 is taken from the newspaper The News. It shows the effects of material process by the actor of the clause. It is a passive voice clause, in which goal is foregrounded and the actor is back-grounded. In this heading we can find three different circumstantial types: the reason behind the action of the clause is relegated to its circumstance of cause; the spatial location of the crime committed is relegated to the circumstance of location; and manner of the crime is relegated to the circumstance of manner. Moreover, the lexical item used for process gives a visual description of the crime reported in this clause.

5.1.7.1 Comparative Analysis of the Headings of The News Event G

The word choices in the headings of three news of The News Event G are full of sensationalized fear. However, H-G1 & H-G3 are more sensationalized (see Table 10). H-G1 uses passive voice structure and foregrounds its participant goal which consists of a modifier *16-year-old* & a headword *girl*. Its modifier sensationalizes the clause. The material process *set* has been employed here. The circumstance of manner *on fire* sensationalizes the action of the clause. The circumstance of cause highlights the reason behind the process of the clause. Moreover, the actor *Abbotabad Jirga* is relegated to the end of the clause. H-G2 is the least sensationalized. It uses active voice structure and foregrounds its participant actor. Its material process, however, intensifies the emotion of fear and gives a sensationalized meaning to the clause. Its circumstance of cause tells us the reason behind the action of the clause.

Table 10. Summary of semantic elements in the headings of The News Event G

The News	Headings of the News	Elements of sensationalism
H-G1	16-year-old girl set on fire as ‘punishment’ by Abbotabad Jirga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It uses passive voice structure and foregrounds the goal.</li> <li>• Its process gives the reader a sensationalized impression.</li> <li>• The impact of its processes is heightened because of the passive voice structure of the clause.</li> <li>• The manner of the action of the clause is relegated to the circumstance of manner <i>on fire</i>.</li> <li>• The circumstance of cause points out the reason behind the doing of the clause.</li> </ul>
H-G2	Jirga kills girl for ‘helping friend elope’	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It uses active voice structure and foregrounds the participant actor.</li> <li>• Its material process intensifies the emotion of fear, but not as much as is done by the processes of other two clauses.</li> <li>• The circumstance of cause <i>for ‘helping friend elope’</i> points out the reason of the action of the clause.</li> </ul>
H-G3	16-year girl burnt alive in Abbottabad for helping classmate elope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It uses passive voice structure and foregrounds its goal.</li> <li>• Its process <i>burnt</i> sets the stage for sensationalized representation.</li> <li>• Its circumstance of manner <i>alive</i> heightens the intensity of sensationalized fear.</li> <li>• Its circumstance of location points out the spatial location of the action of the clause.</li> <li>• Its circumstance of cause <i>for helping classmate elope</i> indicates the reason behind the happening of the clause</li> </ul>

**6. Concluding Remarks**

In this paper the researcher has analyzed transitivity processes, participants and circumstances in the newspaper headings of the news about crime committed against women in Pakistani society. The significance of this study is that it locates various types of processes, participants and circumstantial types linked with the reporting of crimes committed against women in Pakistan. The analysis shows that in the seven events under study twenty-five clauses have been used by the three newspapers. Twenty-four of them carry material process, and one carries verbal process. Dawn carries nine material processes, The News carries nine material processes and The Nation carries six material and one verbal process. All the three newspapers employ both active & passive voice structures in their headings: Dawn employs three active voice and six passive voice structures in its clauses; The Nation employs four active voice and three passive voice structures in its clauses; and The News employs five active voice and four passive voice structures in its clauses. The newspapers have often used words for crime doer(s) other than those denoting their crimes. For instance, Dawn calls him/them *mechanic* in H-A1, *father* in H-B1 and *Man* in H-D1; The Nation calls him/them *Man* in H-A2, H-B2 & H-D1, *Seven* in H-C2, *6* in H-F2 and *Jirga* in H-G2; The News calls him/them *Father* in H-A3 and *Man* in H-B3. Only Dawn in H-C1 and

The News in H-C3 call them *Alleged rapists* and *five alleged rapists* respectively. It shows that the newspapers hide the identity of the crime doer(s) behind his/their financial condition, gender, paternal relation and numbers. The newspapers use gender oriented, blood-relation-oriented words, their age and real names for the woman/women who are reported to be affected by the crimes in these headings. For instance, Dawn calls her/them *wife, 3 daughters* in H-A1, *Four girls* in H-B1, *wife, daughter* in H-D1, *Sonia* in H-E1 *Teen age girl* in H-F1 and *16-year-old girl* in H-G1; The Nation calls her/them *wife, three daughters* in H-A2, *four daughters* in H-B2, *wife and daughter* in H-D2, *Sonia* in H-F2 and *girl* in H-G2; and The News calls her/them *3 daughters, wife* in H-A3, *four daughters* in H-B3, *Sonia case inquiry* in H-E3, & *16 year girl* in H-G3. These newspapers headings have employed four different circumstantial types—cause, location, matter & manner—in their clauses. They have employed circumstances eighteen times in total. Cause is the most occurred of all. It appears ten times. Location stands second. It appears six times. Each of matter and manner appears once only. It means that these news headings talk more about the reason associated with the actions of their clauses. The transitivity analysis highlights that the negative image is always linked with the man/men in these headings; whenever man/men appear in these headings, he/they are portrayed as violent, killers, rapists or the one arrested by the police. The predominance of material process linked with man/men belongs to the semantic field of murder, rape, killing and burning alive. The analysis, thus, shows that all the material processes related to violence are linked with man/men. Contrary to it, the women have been represented as the victim(s); they have been portrayed as vulnerable, killed, raped or burnt alive. The news under study have employed transitivity element of process twenty-five times. They are linked with man/men thirteen times, with police seven times, with the victim thrice and with miscellaneous twice. Moreover, these processes present an exaggerated and sensationalized description of the events.

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