

MEDIA, POWER AND IDEOLOGY: A COMPARATIVE DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF REGIME CHANGE OPERATION COVERAGE IN PAKISTANI AND INTERNATIONAL PRINT MEDIA

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Abstract

This research sought to establish how media framing influences the issue of regime change particularly the dismissal of the Pakistan's Prime Minister Mr. Imran Khan. A qualitative research method was adopted. Pakistan's newspaper Dawn News, The News and international New York Times, and BBC news were used to capture both the Pakistani and Western attitudes. The focus of the analysis is based on the framing theory developed by Entman (1993) and Van Dijk's (2009) sociocognitive model. This study sought to find out how coverage of regime change coincides with ideological, geopolitical, and cultural considerations. The two strategies used in the analysis involved macrostructure and microstructure of headlines where choices of words, syntactic patterns, semantic connections and rhetorical devices were determining variables with ideological tendencies and framing mechanism. This study revealed that the Pakistani media often report the ouster as a nationalist 'freedom struggle' against the foreign interferences; thus, the writers used the relevant provocative tone and language to mobilize the public emotions while emphasizing the issue of sovereignty. On the other hand, the international media enlighten the audiences on the procedures of democracy, governance, and institutional responsibility and therefore presented the ouster as a democratic process other than an external influence. Both perspectives oversimplified the political processes and conditioned by the cultural and ideological rates of both audiences. The local media of Pakistan supports these populist trend sets the stage and portrays Khan as the people's champion against external forces while the International media emphasizes the democratic procedures and process reflects the west Political orientation. The media coverage on political transitions, this research adds a four-dimensional framework to media discourse and political communication analysis. This research offers understanding of the international media and communication, arguing that media discourse guides but also participates in shaping power relations and ideological positions in global politics. This research pertains to policy making and journalism, diplomacy and international relations.

keywords: *media framing, regime change, Pakistan, Prime Minister , Imran Khan public perception, ideological influence, national sovereignty, populism, framing theory, sociocognitive model, media literacy, international media, discourse analysis*

INTRODUCTION

Media has been playing an influential role with regards to the ideas which a society holds and the pattern through which political processes occur. The involvement of media in regime change operations calls for instance show how such narratives fit into a system to portray a certain ideologies and political system (Herman & Chomsky, 1988). As Herman and Chomsky (1988) have suggested in their Propaganda Model, ownership, advertising and governmental censorship are among the most powerful filters that control media as well as journalists' reporting in politically sensitive issues. In

regard to operations that occur in the context of a regime change, for example, the media tends to disseminate these events in ways that advance the agenda of some powerful actors both domestically and internationally (Entman, 2004).

The media of Pakistan is still restricted by government regulation and military intrusion, although the country still enjoys a liberal press. However, there have been some times when Nigeria's media was relatively free to report independently; overall the country's media has always experienced pressures that prevents especially negative commentary on political or military issues (Yusuf, 2013). The above dynamic is further mediated by ideological differences within media that could produce differing discourse about regime change based on outlet politics (Rahman, 2012). As a result, the stories told about regime change operations in Pakistan are made to accord and/ or counter with the state's view, depending on the level of freedom granted to the press, at any one given time (Rehman and Siddiqi, 2020).

In the global arena the media involvement in regime change usually follows the power agenda. It is common practice that western mainstream media house especially report and build a narrative of regime change operations in order to help support and advance the foreign policy interests of their governments (Altheide, 2013). This tendency can be regarded as media diplomacy where the media stories perform specific diplomatic agendas and serve as a means of turning international public opinion to certain advantage (Gilboa, 2005). Observations point out that in western media, regime changes in developing nations are often depicted to the western ideological importance of democracies in the region (Herman & Chomsky, 1988; Thussu, 2006). This is not to mention, selective framing not only colours international perceptions but also affected societies in the transformed post-regime alteration media discursive formations which translate these images to domestic consumption contexts (Thussu, 2006). Media is bandied as a powerful element in framing perception and building social realities in rocking political things such as regime change (van Dijk, 1995; Fairclough, 1995). By framing and agenda setting, media can substantially control the ways the audiences interpret the nature of political events and allocate them to certain ideologies that correlate with dominant power relations (Entman, 1993). When it concerns regime change, media language becomes especially effective, as it tends to either glorify or denounce the actors and their actions depending on what the media or the governments they might be affiliated with prefer (Herman & Chomsky, 1988). This research examines coverage of the recent regime change operations in Pakistan given by both domestic and international print journalism perspectives, in light of their different power and political affiliations.

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The regime change operation that took place in Pakistan in April 2022, and saw the removal of Prime Minister Imran Khan through a vote of no confidence garnered a great deal of public response especially from Khan's supporters. Imran Khan, a sportsman turned politician, who was popular as an anticorruption crusader and a nationalist politician who against the western influence have been supporting him to a large extent to become the Prime Minister of Pakistan. After his dismissal, Khan accused his premiership dismissal of being a 'foreign conspiracy,' especially by the United States, in response to his wanton policies on an independent foreign policy, exemplified by increased relations with Russia (BBC News, 2022). These allegations that were made against Sharif's found a responsive audience in a large part of Pakistan and its youth, who saw the Khan as an enemy of foreign interferences and a pioneer of Pakistani sovereignty (Ahmed, 2022).

Khan's followers retaliated with mass protests all across Pakistan; the protest shows that Khan is popular amongst the masses and people do not wish foreign interferences in their local politics (Zaidi, 2022). Mass protest came out in different Nigerian cities and other major Nigerian cities, the protesters chant 'No to imported government' and demanded election that would usher in a rightful leader (The New York Times, 2022). The level of public response emphasized that while, unlike other leaders, Khan is not tailored for mass media but for mass emotions, he was the only mass leader who could rally millions under the flag of anti-corruption struggle together with the anti-foreign interventionist rhetoric (Fair, 2022). Khan's popularity is identified by analysts as a populism type of

leadership in South Asia, in which leaders against traditional and foreign powers are supported by a large population... According to scholars, it can be observed that the current phenomena of populism worldwide, where superiors use nationalist and anti-globalist discourse to gain the people's trust, depicting the opponents as distinctly corrupt mandarins in collusion with international counterparts (Zaidi, 2022). The BR regime change operation in Pakistan cannot be understood within the lens of domestic politics, international relations, and the impact of the populist regime alteration maps (Ahmed, 2022).

This paper explores media as a construct of these narratives through the application of discourse analysis. In this sense, Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), provides tools for a reflection on how language contains, reproduces or challenges relations of power and ideologies (Fairclough, 2010). According to van Dijk, CDA is important in unveiling hidden discrimination and ideologies in all media texts as they are hidden in such a way that only a few individuals can understand them with ease as they shape the perception of different people. CDA will enable the authors of this research to expose the differences between Pakistani and international print media in the reporting of regime change operations and how it expounds two different discursive formations that support or contest hegemonic realizations.

Lacking a firm ground for press freedom, the Pakistani media operates under somewhat heightened government control and at the same time, journalists often practice censorship measures in these politically sensitive issues (Yusuf, 2013). Research has suggested that Pakistani media tends to have operational issues of neutrality especially when covering subjects close to the military or political sovereignty (Rahman 2012). On the other hand, international media organizations take their own bias along with them while broadcasting; they still have geopolitical interest that may support or counter international political standpoint of their country (Altheide, 2013). That way they get there is doubly beneficial because it enables two perspectives on how the local actors in concert with the international players with opposite political inclinations set the frame on the necessity of regime change.

The implication of this study is that it is comparative in nature. It is for these reasons possible to analyze how each of the media - Pakistani and international - reproduces or subverts dominant discourses. Thus, this comparative discourse analysis intends to investigate the hegemonic relations inscribed in media narratives about regime change and advance global knowledge of the function media occupy in the construction of political meaning and public sentiments. Additionally, this study underscores the need for more media literacy in raising a society that is able to engage in meaningful dialogues about political issues from different angles.

Influence of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) being a new line in methodology has helped scholars examine these latent power relations in media discourse (Fairclough 2010). CDA is a way of studying how language, ideology and power relations work in texts and how media can either reproduce or oppose hegemony (Van Dijk, 2001). In the context of the changes in the political regime, CDA makes it easy to discover how media texts build definite images of political actors and events in order to gain the support of the people and legitimize or delegitimize specific actions (van Dijk 2006). Using CDA this study aims at identifying how Pakistan and global media constructed and represented the regime change operation along with the power relations and ideological positions in narrative.

The way this study is conducted as a comparative study is beneficial because it gives us more than what the comparison between what Pakistani and international media tells us, it also offers insights on the role of power and ideologies in shaping perceptions on regime change. Such a comparative analysis can enlighten debates regarding the differences in the discourses used in local enterprises and global media outlets by studying the political and ideological influences that constitute news reporting in politically sensitive areas such as Pakistan.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The importance of this research is to reveal how the process of construction of the media messages on regime change in the Pakistani context itself reflects media power and ideology, by comparing the domestic and foreign newspapers. Applying CDA to examine how media texts represent

different versions of regime change operations, this study establishes the function of media as an ideological means that can either reinforce or contest political processes. This is true especially in political sociocultural sensitive countries such as Pakistan; the media plays a vital role in dictating what the people should think or act on. Thus, the Pakistani and foreign media analysis carried out in the present study reveals the differences in framing strategies based on local and global politics. Knowledge of these differences will improve media literacy helping readers decipher biases and critically assess media outlets. In addition, this research fosters the expansion of the subject area of media and ideology in order to gain comprehension on how media is involved in constructing specific stories involving political incidents, all in advance of helping to elucidate the larger communication-media power dynamic reality within the context of globalization.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The issue with which this study is concerned, then, is that different perceptions of regime change operations in Pakistan are painted by the local and foreign press and it reveals the power relations and the media agendas of Pakistani and Western world that continue to shape the understanding the audience has of these dynamics. Media plays the important role of educating citizens, though its ideological position of political phenomena is consistent with certain interests - be it national legislation or global geopolitical ones. While Pakistani media operates under a lot of complications since journalism in Pakistan, and especially in the current political environment, falls under a lot of pressures from the government and regulatory bodies, any coverage of regime change must be done bearing these influences in mind. On the other hand, these incidents are reported by international media especially the western third-person, cultural frames or filters may incline towards the foreign policy interests of their respective countries which might duplicate framed narratives, possibly confusing to the actual scenario in Pakistan. This inequity of coverage creates different the audience with divergent perspectives depending of the source of information and influences the opinion about the nature of the events in the process of the regime change. Therefore, there is a requirement for these differences to be analyzed to evaluate how power and ideology play a role in media portrayal of political events and its effect on the Pakistan public.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- 1) What linguistic strategies are used in Pakistani and international media to construct narratives around regime change in Pakistan, and how do these strategies reinforce or challenge dominant power relations?
- 2) How do Pakistani and international print media differ in their framing of regime change operations in Pakistan, and what ideological stances are reflected in these portrayals?
- 3) How do contextual factors political, cultural perspectives, geopolitical interests influence the portrayal of regime change in Pakistani and international print media, and how do these portrayals affect audience perception and understanding of legitimacy and governance?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Scholars from other countries have therefore situated Khan's popularity within global populism observing that his approach corresponds to leaders of this type who tend to mobilize their politics against the 'elites' and foreign entities. As Moffitt (2016) posited, populist leaders tend to seize on a societal threat and pose as the protector of a pure and superior "people" against a treacherous parasitical elite; Khan must have exploited this particularly when portraying his removal as an act masterminded domestically by a treacherous elite and internationally by foreign forces. Mudde and Kaltwasser (2017) also expand upon this by pointing out that populism is best when placed within this contention of nationalist leaders who present themselves as the bulwark against this or that nation's sovereignty, something that Khan did by playing up the risk of foreign "interference."

Latin America: Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro and Turkey's Tayyip Erdoğan who rally loyal vote banks on anti-establishment, nationalist tones (Tugal, 2022; Anselmi, 2018). Critics have a dim opinion of Khan saying that he embodies what researchers have called populism, which has become increasingly

popular around the globe, particularly in post-colonial societies where people are highly sensitive to external interferences and interferences (Tugal, 2022). It is for these reasons that the regime change operation in Pakistan reveals how domestic politics and international relations, and the impact of populism, define political territories (Ahmed, 2022).

Theoretical Framework

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA): Language, Power, and Ideology

CDA offers a strong approach towards the analysis of language use in media discourse to construct, reproduce, facilitate or subvert power relations and ideological belief systems. Thus, according to Fairclough (2010), CDA is primarily about studying texts for significant links to sociopolitical realities with the view to assess how the discourses represent or reestablish sociopolitical power relations. CDA holds the assumption of language being intrinsically political in that language creates representations of reality that maintain or contest dominant formations of the society. For van Dijk (2001) CDA not only looks at the content or message of the text, but at Bias in the text, and how power relations in society are reflected in the media to promote specific ideologies. In this way, the process of looking at regime change in Pakistan through the lens of media portrayals can offer as to identify the specific ideological orientation proper to an event, it is possible to uncover what may be acting either for domestic political motive or for International geopolitical reasons.

Van Dijk's Sociocognitive Model: Key Components

Van Dijk's model is quite exceptional in that cognition has been incorporated to CDA in that mental schemas (one's mental constructs regarding events and situations) are fundamentally involved in how individuals and groups of people process and reproduce discourses. When applied to media analysis, social cognition (or social psychology) concerns processes through which audiences make sense of media content given knowledge that they possess concerning world. As van Dijk explained mental models are formed by ideology and power relations and are thus based on the discourse produced by media regarding the social reality. This component assists your study to address how the media concerns of regime facilitates or disapproves ideological beliefs in the media audience.

Macrostructures and Microstructures

Van Dijk notices two structural levels of macrostructure and of microstructure. Macro structures are general phenomena: theme, topic, and frames in media texts, while micro styles imply specific choices of the language means, for instance wording, grammar, and speech act. For instance, if you are studying and exploring how different media outlets have framed the subject of regime transition in Pakistan, you consider certain macros to study the relation of discursive elements to the political events identified (for example, 'menace to democracy' or 'agent of change'), and certain micros to study the dependent variable, which is the language practices that sustain these relations.

Ideology and Power Relations

Pivoted on this notion of van Dijk's model is the notion that media texts as a discourse mirror social power relations. The broad literature suggests that ideologies originate in discourse, and exist as ways to support or subvert power relations (Van Dijk, 1998). Media in its institutional perspective serves to inculcate hegemonic values and makes people accept a particular political action as correct and desirable. If this aspect of van Dijk's model is applied, your study can examine how such images that include local and foreign media construct ideological meanings regarding the change of regime which in turns shape perceptions of legitimacy, stability and governance.

Context Models

Another important element of van Dijk's framework, which we also draw on in the present book, is context because it defines the process of discourse production and reception. Models of context are considered the ones that reflect the situational, historical as well as cultural conditions in which discourse is formed. According to Van Dijk (2009) contexts of the writers, ideologies of the related media and expectations of the readers exert their influence on Media Discourse. In your comparative study, you will be able to use context models to identify how political, cultural and geopolitical contexts of Pakistani and international media shape coverage of the regime change.

Framing Theory in Media Discourse

Framing Theory best fits this study because it allows fleshing out how language in media can convey a specific perspective of politically sensitive events such as regime change by either emphasizing or silencing certain aspects. Entman (2004) argue that media frames set parameters of meaning, defining what audiences should think about and how they should regard events. In this research, with adopting framing theory, it elaborates how Pakistani and cross border media framed the removal of Imran Khan from power—whether it is framed in terms of a crisis, a chance for change or a business as usual affairs.

According to Goffman (1974) frames are schemata that define how audiences construe reality; making media have the capacity to give heavier meaning to some aspects of an event, and lessen the importance of other aspects of the same event. It is from such selective focus that the media organizations reveal their political affiliations as well as their ideological orientations. In this study the Pakistani media tend to describe it as a “freedom struggle” or struggle against foreign dominance suggesting that regime change is patriotic. On the other hand, international media focus on purity, legalism, the responsibility of the governing bodies and institutions, and therefore place the event within the context of democracy and avoid appeals to passion.

Adversely, framing theory acts as a filter through which the study assesses the shared beliefs, political inclinations and biases of various media sources. On this basis, the present work examines the language choices and elements of each headline in order to illustrate the biased and hidden representations that recur in coverage and contribute to their revelation as much as the identification of predetermined focal points, demonstrating how media sellers and communicators perform the construction of discursive context in line with cultural, political, and ideological goals and interests. This approach makes clear how framing theory plays an important role in assessing the effects that media can have on such perceptions and consequently help to form the overall perception of Politically-relevant events.

Media and Power

Media act as a tool that helps to determine the political agenda and act as a channel in setting political narratives, therefore, it tends to mirror or enhance the dominant hierarchy within society. Four mechanisms to distort the information process have been identified in the Propaganda Model developed by Herman and Chomsky (1988): Media Ownership, Funding, and Sourcing and Ideological control. This framework implies that news media irrespective of democracy setting serve the interest of elites by relaying only information that disseminates the acceptable ideologies. Likewise, Entman (1993) asserted that framing means media does not just present information, but rather organize interpretable information in a specific form to direct the way the audience will interpret it. Framing is the process whereby an event can be presented in various perspectives to suit the achievement of certain aims and goals held by the specific media organization and its supporters.

The fundamental propositions in the study of media power concern the ways in which media helps to construct the reality and perpetuate the enduring power relations, as well as how media narrates political events as part of a specific paradigm. Curran (2012) opines that the medium is used as an instrument that fosters or undermine political systems while endorsing the existing political paradigm. To this, Graber (2007) adds more detail in how media works as an agent in politics and can influence perception and policymaking through breaking information power. Entman (2010) defines framing as how media control problem definition and how they highlight or obscure some features of a particular issue. This framing ability helps media define the perimeters with regards to which the public perceives occurrences thus affecting interpretation besides strengthening the existing ideological thrusts.

Critical elite theory is firstly discussed by Davis in 2003 claiming that specific elite groups manage media in order to promote their agendas disguising the real purpose of reproducing the dominant order. In the same vain, Mansell (2004) also analyses the political economy of media where financial and political power influences the content thus leading to the construction of media message that favours power élites. Cohen, Tsfaty & Sheafer (2008) thus argue, recognizing media

power, politicians manipulate news towards gaining popularity, thus, the relationship is mutual between politician and media house. In addition, according to KhosraviNik and Unger (2016) it is also important to situate social media within critical discourse studies, standing for the novel form of media power relations in the new media where old domination and oppression meet novel forms of subversion and contestation.

Consistent with this study, these accounts of media power and framing clarify how Pakistani and global media develop discourses around regime change considering ideological, geopolitical and cultural considerations. Through the lens of framing theory and critical discourse analysis, this study aims at understanding how media facilitation of selectivity unearths particular political alignments: National sovereignty discourse in Pakistani media and democratic accountability in international media. Thus, extending prior review, this paper further explored how framing decisions in both domestic and foreign media may be used to exercise rhetorical persuasion to shape people's impression of political occurrences.

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Ideology in Media

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) as a tool helps us to understand how language and discourse sustaining and legitimizing relations of power in society (Fairclough, 2010). In this method, CDA stresses that media discourse is not an innocent practice as it supports or counter the current status power regime (Van Dijk, 2001). Fairclough's (1995) framework argues that media texts, by selecting specific words and reporting events in a particular manner, can shape readership's preferred way of understanding events: a definite ideological impression. CDA provides the opportunity for researchers to understand these hidden meanings in the media stories and therefore it provides a tool for analyzing the media's part in the regime change by uncovering how some stories are legitimized or marginalized depending on the political actors.

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) has been used often to analyze how media represent, reproduce and transform social relations and power. According to Ramanathan and Hoon (2015) CDA enables identification of power relations in media texts and points at how language constructs certain notions as natural. Following this, Abdulmajid (2019) builds on this idea in his analysis of Middle Eastern media to show how, alongside other methods, CDA can reveal hidden ideologies about geopolitics that exist in these regions. Carvalho (2008) calls for the elaboration of the critical discourse-historical approach, because media, in its turn, sets up the agenda and specifies topics that could and should be discussed in society. Knowledge of this type accords with Olagunju and Ajadi's (2014:85) analysis that focuses on media's function in constructing insecurity and political contentiousness and in demonstrating how language promotes hegemonic understanding. Furthermore, Cukier et al. (2009) employ CDA in the analysis of the discursive constructions of technology, to exemplify that choice and evaluation of particular genre consistently convey and reproduce social values and power.

Consistent with these studies, this research employs a CDA approach to analyze how Pakistani and International media particulate and reproduce regime change discourses particularly after the removal of Imran Khan's Prime Ministership. Extending the methodologies suggested by these authors, this study employ CDA to reveal the ideological agenda and the framing strategies that underpin the media narratives and question how selected lexical choices might be affiliated with large political agendas and public opinion. This work not only finds the value of CDA in revealing the concealed politics but also offers a contrastive view on how media influence the reception of politics.

Regime Change and Media Framing: A Global Perspective

Most of the time when regime change operations occur in any country, what the media plays is to act as a conveyor belt of ideas or thoughts depending on the policies of the home country (Thussu, 2006). For instance, Altheide, D.L. (2013) shows that the coverage of regime change in the Third World by the Western media is justified as helping to promote democracies compatible with the Western values. In a similar vein, media diplomacy, discussed by Gilboa (2005), entails how the media can be utilized by international actors so as to influence, by verbal or written communication,

the political process and/or the public opinion of the target countries as well as the international community at large. This influence is well illustrated especially in periods of regime changes because international media may either construct or deconstruct specific political actions leading to extra national opinion that may be influenced by western value systems and policies.

A rather popular topic in the field of media impact on the community agenda is the theory of framing, especially in relation to conflicts and political change (Vladislavljević, 2015). Saleem (2007) explains that U.S. media construction of a nation affects the image of the foreign country in question as well as presenting ideological positions that guide public opinion. In the same manner, Pan, Shao, & Xu (2022) explain the government-wide media framing regarding policy attitudes, thus proving the purposeful applications of framing by dominant structures. Scientific researches such as Hale (2013) and Litwak (2007) investigate the international process of regime change and demonstrate that media framing is highly consistent with the position of the leading powers in politically sensitive issues.

While studying regime change, researchers have shown how media frames affect both national and global outlooks, especially in Turkey where political transformation was based on the themes of Islam, populism, and nationalism (Yavuz & Öztürk, 2020). This view is in accord with the “hybrid wars” concept explored by Korybko (2015) to include tender warfare where media manipulation targets regime shifts. Balnaves, Donald, and Shoesmith (2017) expressed that there are differences in media approaches in every part of the globe, and media could be congruent with local socio-political conditions, as well as; the international ideological frameworks. These insights inform this study’s perspective by envisioning the Pakistani and international media coverage of regime change after Imran Khan’s overthrow.

Similarly to the reviewed literature, framing theory is used in this research to discuss the ways through which events of political importance can be amplified or reframed by the media, drawing attention to how Pakistani media choose nationalist frames against to the themes of democratic governance, which can be observed in the international media. As this dissertation discusses, media plays a largely critical role in presenting authoritative discourses that normalize or delegitimize political transitions, offering valuable understanding of the media’s function in defining patterns of regime change within culturally defined contexts.

Pakistani Media and the Challenges of Political Reporting

The media in Pakistan will still remain open but restricted by political control and regulatory policies and standards thus cannot balance how it portrays sensitive issues like regime change. In Pakistan, there is a rich connection between governmental influence, military participation, and journalism professionalism (Yusuf, 2013). Despite these difficulties, journalism in Pakistan remains threatened by both Government or self-censorship owing to threats of backlash especial in issues that entrap political stability and the military (Rahman, 2012). They concluded that these constrains result in a media environment in which political reporting, especially on regime change, may reflect state’s views and, therefore, limit the public’s access to diverse, critical sources of information (Rehman & Siddiqi, 2020).

The media situation in Pakistan has its problems, some threats stemming from the political situation, censorship, and funding. Such matters affect the manner in which different media disseminate information concerning sensitive political events including regime shift (Eijaz et al., 2014, p.10). Ricchiardi (2012) emphasize that independent media in Pakistan often fails to be free from political influence and interference, and freedom of journalists is often limited by threats and harassment’s. Jamil (2021) also question the capability of data journalism in enhancing the accountability mentioning the challenges faced by Pakistani journalist for covering the politically sensitive topics. Zahra, Afsar, and Zaheer (2022) also report that similar financial insecurity of the media also challenges the sustainability of the electronic media in Pakistan which also makes their role in political discourse complex.

Moreover, there are regulatory policies in Pakistani media and these policies are mostly built up for the sake of states and these do not allow media to operate freely as Çakır and Batool (2019)

mentioned. Safdar, Ibrahim, Khan, & Seyal (2019) observe that especially in the context of print media industry these restrictions pose a problem, in addition to the shift to online media. Besides, it also shows that the Pakistani government's attitude toward the news media is far from democratic, and despite that, they maintain independent relations with news media sources, and the Western journalistic values, such as independence and objectivity, are often shadowed (Akhtar and Pratt, 2020).

This study accords with these results by evaluating how Pakistani media constructs the regime change consistent with the official state discourse that appears opposing to the democratic and governance oriented frames possibly facilitated in the extra-national media. The problems which the media face in Pakistan particularly the issues of media independence and sustainability give background to analysis of the nationalist rhetoric to the regime change. This study therefore contributes to understanding media structuring, and its impact on the Pakistan public through selective framing to amplify state and regulatory constraints limiting polity's critical thinking and discussion regarding transitions in Pakistan.

Comparative Discourse in Pakistani and International Media

Researches that have involved comparisons in different media systems have confirmed that the same political event is reported in different ways by media in different countries based on these two factors (Hallin & Mancini, 2004). For instance, in Pakistani context reporting when reporting any change in the government or changing of government in Pakistan focus will be given to sovereignty and stability in Pakistan but in case of international media specially the western countries reporting stressed will be given towards governance and democracy (Ahmed, 2019). Perceiving the issue from these different angles produces opposite accounts that may generate misunderstanding among the audiences about the motivation and consequences of regime shift. Such comparative discourse analysis is important to examine how media organizations around the world enact and disseminate discursive framings that can appeal and synchronize with their audiences' expectations, used as ideological weapons (Chouliaraki, 2005).

The media framing analysis of regime change in Pakistan is based on previous research in critical discourse analysis of political media texts. Kazmi, Hussain, and Ahmad (2023) also used the critical approach as proposed by Fairclough and analyze Imran Khan's speeches after the regime shift that discursive strategies encourages anti-foreign and anti-elite sentiments which is also characteristic of populist discourse. This nationalist narrative is reflected in the media through which Khan has aligned the military coup with the protection of state sovereignty; Bashir, Farukh, and Khursheed (2022) analysed Khan's speeches and interviews subsequent to the military coup and found that reelected it as a threat to Pakistan's independence. These findings are further supported by this study of the manner in which Pakistani media employ nationalistic frames resonant of Khan's sentiments regarding sovereignty and foreign interference.

Additionally, Hameed, et al. (2023) described and compared freedom of media in a different political culture of Pakistan by identifying the level of freedom in media and how it depended on the government's attitude toward media control and restrictions. This is consistent with Naeem, Noureen & Munir (2023) where the authors observed that the recent discourse regarding Khan's arrests mainly represented media orientations, which were somewhat limited by ideological polarizations. In tune with these scholars, it is a worthy discovery of the present study that Pakistani media lacking any autonomy and aligned with the state validated nationalist constructions of the regime change while denying critical views and contributing to a uni-dimensional construction of the Pakistani public sphere.

Furthermore, Ghauri, Alam and Khan, (2023) examined the reactions of the public on the social media in the context of regime transition and noted that there is highly charged partisan public debate with input from key political leadership. This research builds on their insights by further noting that Pakistani media maintain and promote these polarizations through falling in line with these powerful narratives while international media go for more neutral and governance oriented frames. This study underlines how the frames and ideological bias interact and exist in politically

sensitive media context and makes a claim that media is not just an ideological subject is an ideological actor that constructs perceptions.

Hence, the indications of ideological work performed by media in regard to constructing the notions of regime change makes it crucial to raise media literate populace able to detect the tricks of propagandist agenda (McNair, 2009). Critical media literacy enables the audiences to analyze the various frames within which news is delivered especially on issues that are political sensitive such as regime change. A number of writers have suggested that learning how to read media critically may help to inoculate people against the effects of skewed news, which would enable people to form more rational opinions about political events (Potter, 2012). This work can be seen as making a contribution to the field of media literacy, as it lays out how comparative textual representations of regime change embody various ideological presuppositions and compels readers to consider critically the sources from which they are learning about such issues.

While there has been a considerable amount of work on media framing, political communication, and the role of media and populism specifically in relation to national sovereignty (Kazmi et al., 2023; Hameed et al., 2023; Bashir et al., 2022), there is still a dearth of comparative studies that compare how both domestic and foreign media report on regime change in postcolonial nations such as Pakistan. Majority of the earlier research work tend to address role of Media specifically within the home context, either by examining political speeches as a medium (Kazmi et al., 2023), or discussing responses from social media to political occurrences (Ghauri et al., 2023). However, these studies do not always explain how international media interprets the same events and how such interpretations can shape legitimacy, democracy and foreign interference in the domestic politics. The few of them that do include international lens, work to analyze western media's representation of regime change as part of geopolitical narratives (Saleem, 2007; Pan et al., 2022); however, none of them provide a focused comparative look at western and Pakistani media during a single regime change operation. This work seeks to fill this gap by making a systematic comparative analysis of Pakistani and Western media accounts of the 2022 change in Pakistan. It is helpful in comprehending how media power and ideology regards stories in specific cultural, political and ideological environments, and provides information to the international politics of influential media environments in politically delicate areas.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This research utilizes a qualitative research method for the analysis of the media and adopts the Critical Discourse Analysis framework in analyzing regime change operation in Pakistan. Quantitative research is particularly suitable for investigations of language, ideology, meaning making and more, because flexibility enables interpretation of social phenomena in their contexts (Creswell, 2014). CDA which van Dijk (2001) espouses to offers the best assessment of how discourse fosters the existing social power relations. This approach allows the study to analyze the decisions related to language and text made by Pakistani and international media sources, which unveil the ideologies and power relations involved in the discursive field.

Data Collection

Sample Selection

This study collected headlines from Pakistani and international print media as its sampling frame of analysis. Therefore, purposeful sampling is used to identify and include headlines that are particularly overt about the more recent regime change operations in Pakistan since these procedures are crucial for the process of choosing texts that are most relevant to research questions (Patton, 2015). While selecting the Pakistan based media, Dawn and The News International are chosen because they are considered popular mass media in Pakistan. For international media, newspapers like New York Times and BBC news are taken to get more of a perspective that may incline towards the western power politics.

Data Collection Procedure

A defined time spanning major incidents on Pakistani regime change is selected for headlines extraction so as to incorporate a diverse array of media reactions into the sample. These texts are collected from the original Web sites of these papers, and it exclude literary reviews, traditional news reports, and blogs for certain CDA concerns, since they often contain valuable linguistic and ideological links for CDA analysis.

Data Analysis Methods

Analyzing the data, this research applies the theoretical frameworks by Entman (2004) framing theory and van Dijk (2009) Sociocognitive model which deals with discourse structures, socio-cognition and socio-contexts dealing with power relations and ideological positions of media texts. This model is particularly well suited to the analysis of media discourse since it takes both the linguistic characteristics of the texts into account alongside wider themes identified Company). The analysis follows three stages: studies in macrostructures, analysis of microstructures, and interpretation of context models. According to media framing theory, media frames set limits within which audiences define news.

Analysis and Discussion

This study evaluates the nature of language and framing of media headlines concerning the political events in Pakistan over the dismissal of Prime Minister Imran Khan in 2022. By distinguishing macrostructures and microstructures, the work demonstrates how threats to democracy, citizens’ dissatisfaction, economic uncertainty, and institutional manipulation are highlighted to control the target audience. That is why, the linguistically key choices - ‘ousted’, ‘freedom struggle’, ‘foreign conspiracy’, - recode the situation in the terms of nationalist resistance and democratic volatility while ‘repair ties’, ‘uphill battle’ - signal difficulties for the new government under Shehbaz Sharif. Ideology and relations of power framework allows to conclude that the media reflects and participates in constructing political discourses, points at the themes of mobilization, judiciary, and military non-interference in economic and security contexts. Such language adds an ideological multi-layered picture of political transformation in Pakistan, and the experiment focuses on the dissenting subjugation of the nation and the matter of continuing the fight for democracy.

TABLE 1 DAWN NEWS HEADLINES ANALYSIS

Headline	Date	CDA: Relations and Ideology	Power and Ideology	Framing Theory	Van Dijk's Sociocognitive Model
Shehbaz Sharif elected as Pakistan's new prime minister	April 11, 2022	Uses neutral language, reinforcing legitimacy and continuity of leadership.	neutral language, reinforcing and of leadership.	Frame provides a neutral view, legitimizing the new government.	Ideology and Power Relations: Legitimizes the new government, reinforcing democratic process.
PTI announces mass resignations from National Assembly	April 11, 2022	Shows dissent and opposition to the new leadership, reflecting power struggles within the government.		Emphasizes opposition, framing it as a mass movement against new leadership.	Macrostructures: Large-scale political resignation as a symbolic protest; Microstructures: Words like "mass" emphasize the scale and seriousness of the protest.

Headline	Date	CDA: Relations	Power and Ideology	Framing Theory	Van Dijk's Sociocognitive Model
Imran Khan blames 'foreign conspiracy' for his ouster	April 11, 2022		Highlights suspicion of foreign interference, indicating an ideological stance against external influence.	Frame presents ouster as result of a conspiracy, creating a narrative of foreign involvement.	Social Cognition: Reinforces anti-foreign sentiment; Microstructures: "Conspiracy" implies threat and undermines legitimacy of new government.
PTI to launch 'freedom movement' against 'imported government'	April 12, 2022		Positions opposition as defenders of national sovereignty, contrasting with foreign influence.	Frame sets up a nationalist view against foreign involvement.	Ideology and Power Relations: Presents PTI as protectors of national interests, building a "freedom" vs. "foreign" dichotomy.
Imran Khan calls for early elections after no-confidence vote	April 13, 2022		Implies mistrust in current government, advocating for a return to direct public support.	Frame encourages public control over leadership decisions.	Context Models: Highlights a call for democratic processes as a reaction to perceived foreign involvement.
Supreme Court restores National Assembly, orders no-confidence vote	April 14, 2022		Demonstrates judiciary's authority over political decisions, balancing power between branches of government.	Judicial intervention presented as a stabilizing force.	Macrostructures: Judiciary framed as guardian of democratic process; Context Models: Political context reinforces judiciary's role in political checks and balances.
Imran Khan urges supporters to protest against 'foreign conspiracy'	April 15, 2022		Reinforces anti-foreign ideology and calls for public support against perceived interference.	Frame creates a narrative of resistance and nationalism.	Social Cognition: Reinforces public skepticism toward external influence; Ideology and Power Relations: Portrays Khan as leading a nationalist movement.

Headline	Date	CDA: Relations	Power and Ideology	Framing Theory	Van Dijk's Sociocognitive Model
PTI leaders claim 'foreign conspiracy' behind regime change	April 16, 2022		Emphasizes external influence as a primary cause for regime change, undermining new leadership's legitimacy.	Frame builds a sense of opposition to foreign influence.	Social Cognition: Appeals to anti-foreign biases; Microstructures: "Conspiracy" language adds an element of threat to the narrative.
PTI to hold nationwide protests against 'imported government'	April 18, 2022		Positions PTI as a nationalist party resisting foreign-influenced government, reinforcing ideological divides.	Frame highlights grassroots opposition, framing protests as a widespread movement.	Macrostructures: Presents protests as significant resistance; Microstructures: "Nationwide" implies broad support for resistance.
Imran Khan calls for 'freedom struggle' against new government	April 19, 2022		Portrays Khan as a nationalist leader opposing foreign influence, strengthening ideological opposition.	Frame portrays regime change as a struggle for national sovereignty.	Context Models: Nationalism in the Pakistani context fuels support for a "freedom struggle"; Microstructures: Words like "freedom struggle" evoke historical resistance movements, adding emotional weight.
President Alvi requests CJP to form judicial commission to probe 'regime change conspiracy'	April 28, 2022		Judiciary positioned as a potential check on political actions, legitimizing need for an investigation.	Frame suggests need for transparency and judicial accountability.	Macrostructures: Emphasizes checks and balances in government; Ideology and Power Relations: Reflects the need for judicial oversight in politically sensitive matters.
'Regime change experiment' created fault lines: PTI	February 17, 2022		Positions PTI as critical of regime change, framing it as a destabilizing	Frame presents regime change as divisive, emphasizing	Social Cognition: Appeals to concerns over political stability; Microstructures:

Headline	Date	CDA: Relations	Power and Ideology	Framing Theory	Van Dijk's Sociocognitive Model
		factor	in the country's politics.	national consequences.	"Experiment" implies external or unusual intervention, adding a tone of illegitimacy.
Regime change breeds lawlessness in country: PTI	April 2, 2022	Highlights cause-and-effect relationship between change and increased lawlessness, presenting PTI as defenders of order.	a relationship between regime change and increased lawlessness, presenting PTI as defenders of order.	Frame positions PTI as critics of regime change, linking it to societal instability.	Ideology and Power Relations: Aligns PTI with law and order while suggesting that regime change destabilizes society.
52pc rise in terror attacks since regime change, claims Fawad	December 2, 2022	Links change with increased incidents, creating a perception of deteriorating security under new government.	regime with increased terror incidents, creating a perception of deteriorating security under new government.	Frame suggests new government's lack of control over security issues.	Macrostructures: Emphasizes security issues; Context Models: Aligns with the ideological narrative that the regime change has negatively impacted Pakistan's security environment.
Everyone knows 'neutrals' were not actually neutral during 'regime change': Shireen Mazari	May 13, 2022	Criticizes perceived neutrality of certain institutions, suggesting their bias and impact on political shifts.	Criticizes a perceived neutrality of certain institutions, suggesting their bias and impact on political shifts.	Frame positions institutions as covertly influential in regime change.	Macrostructures: Questions institutional neutrality; Social Cognition: Reinforces a belief in covert influences within Pakistani politics.

Headline	Date	CDA: Relations	Power and Ideology	Framing Theory	Van	Dijk's Sociocognitive Model
Pakistan downgraded to 'authoritarian regime' on Democracy Index	May 15, 2022	Positions change	regime as negatively impacting democratic metrics, suggesting a shift away from democratic norms.	Frame presents Pakistan's governance as moving toward authoritarianism.		Macrostructures: Reflects international perception of Pakistan's political stability; Ideology and Power Relations: Questions democratic legitimacy of recent political changes.

Shocking headlines include “Imran Khan blames ‘foreign conspiracy’ for his ouster” and “PTI to launch ‘freedom movement’ against ‘imported government.’” These terms associate the outside threat and portray that outside forces erode state’s sovereignty - this taps into people’s emotions on nationalism. This narrative puts PTI and Imran Khan in a position of a shield against western imperialism and hence pits the Pakistani people as ‘us’ against the ‘them’. Terms such as ‘mass resignations’ and ‘freedom struggle’ bring detail of some group struggle and liberation movements’ and portray Khan’s followers as national heroes. In the same way the words like “lawlessness”, “fault lines”, “authoritarian” are employed to present the regime change negative and as highly disruptive process. This strategy implies that the new government is illegitimate and out of control; worse, this plays right into other narratives that purport the same things.

Dawn News and The News International, both Pakistani newspapers, fare no different with journalists and headlines being ambiguous in their representation. Such headlines as “PTI announces mass resignations from National Assembly” manufactured the idea of domestic opposition to the regime. This framing relies on nationalism to paint the new government as credibility in so far as receiving foreign influence is concerned. PTI has replaced the term ‘struggle’ for ‘freedom’ that represents PTI’s political ideology against foreign intervention and depicts a righteous cause. Many Pakistanis and especially the pro-PTI media outlets portray regime change as an interference with sovereignty-instating that external forces seek to subvert Pakistan’s autonomy. World media, on the other hand, presents the events as change of political authority, and minimizing ideological struggles. This divide is a shift in ideologies, where the Pakistani media lacks credibility and perpetuates the notion that the new government is illegitimate, whether being installed by external forces or being voted for as per democratic processes due in a Pakistani political context, the international media says something quite different.

When reading some of the headlines in Pakistani newspaper, the words like ‘foreign conspiracy’ and ‘imported government’ triggers one’s memory of the colonial master and slave regime thus making the populations more receptive. It determines the way some elements of the Pakistani public accept or reject the new government as legitimate, sustaining a general mistrust of the intervention of external actors in the resolution of internal affairs. Pakistani audience might well view these portrayals from the angle of cultural perception with regard to problems like regime change as antithesis of the nation’s identity. In Pakistani media, the foreign hand dimension of regime change subscribes well to and reinforces nationalist ideology, and it is thus probable that the audience perceive the new government with suspicion. On the other hand, the international representations foster understanding of Pakistan as state that can manage democratization, thus depicting it as a state in a capacity and strength to be democratic, toppling the set expectations of stable democracy, norms of a global audience. The outcome is therefore the fragmentation of the

audience in its perception of the change of power: the Pakistani reader might feel unsafe with the new government, while the reader of the international one regards the change as a regular transition in a democracy.

The ideological divisions are echoed in Pakistani media where linguistic and rhetorical strategies apply and stimulate the nationalist agenda attributing regime change as the foreign conspiracy. Worldwide media, in contrast, use a more procedural approach to label the post-conflict situation as continuation of democracy, while playing down the ideological division. These portrayals are influenced by contextual factors of political culture and geopolitical interests that allow each audience to construct its own meanings of legitimacy and governance. As such, Pakistani audiences may not be as simple as seeing the new government as a change, while global audience may have a crystal clear picture of what they term as democracy at work within the same media setting..

Table 2 The News International Headlines Analysis

Headline	Date	CDA: Relations	Power and Ideology	Framing Theory	Van Dijk's Sociocognitive Model
"Imran Khan accuses Biden administration involvement in 'regime change conspiracy'"	May 2, 2022	Highlights an ideological conflict by attributing interference to the US, framing it as a challenge to Pakistan's sovereignty.	an external conflict by the US, framing it as a challenge to Pakistan's sovereignty.	Emphasizes a sense of foreign involvement, creating a frame of event as an external threat to Pakistan's autonomy.	Social Cognition: Activates anti-foreign sentiment; Macrostructures: Frames the event as an external conspiracy, reinforcing suspicion toward foreign powers.
"Khan says Gen Bajwa has accepted involvement in 'regime change'"	February 10, 2022	Implies involvement, positioning it as a key power player in narrative of political interference.	military involvement, positioning it as a key power player in narrative of political interference.	Frame adds weight to the perceived influence of military, creating a narrative of institutional involvement.	Macrostructures: Highlights internal power dynamics; Ideology and Power Relations: Suggests that shifts may be influenced by powerful internal actors.
"Absolutely no truth in regime-change allegations: US envoy"	October 1, 2022	Presents the US as denying any role in Pakistan's political shifts, attempting to maintain diplomatic neutrality.	defending its stance, denying any role in Pakistan's political shifts, attempting to maintain diplomatic neutrality.	Frame presents US as the narrative of rejecting the issue as misinformation or conspiracy theories.	Social Cognition: Challenges the narrative of foreign interference; Microstructures: "No truth" or serves as a direct rebuttal, distancing the US from Pakistan's internal politics.
"No 'substantial evidence' of US hand in Pakistan regime change: Chomsky"	May 1, 2022	Uses Chomsky's credibility to question foreign involvement, providing an ideological counter-narrative against foreign interference claims.	Chomsky's credibility to question foreign involvement, providing an ideological counter-narrative against foreign interference claims.	Frame undermines conspiracy theories by highlighting the lack of evidence.	Context Models: Positions the discussion within academic credibility; Ideology and Power Relations: Challenges widely circulated narratives about foreign interference.
"'Regime change experiment' created fault lines: PTI"	April 20, 2022	Suggests that regime change has led to divisions, framing it as a failed "experiment" with	regime change has led to divisions, framing it as a failed "experiment" with	Frame portrays regime change as risky, casting it as a destabilizing factor.	Social Cognition: Frames regime change as an untested experiment, prompting wariness; Microstructures: "Experiment"

		negative consequences on the national fabric.		implies risk and unpredictability.
"Regime change breeds lawlessness in country: PTI"	April 25, 2022	Positions PTI as critical of regime change, associating it with increased instability and crime, thus questioning the new government's legitimacy.	Frame regime change with lawlessness, as creating an association with instability.	Ideology and Power Relations: links Reinforces PTI's stance against new leadership, positioning them as protectors of order; Microstructures: "Breeds change directly contributes to instability."
"People paying heavy price for 'regime change' plot: Imran"	May 5, 2022	Portrays regime change as a burden on citizens, suggesting that the plot is causing widespread harm.	Frame regime change negatively affecting general public.	Macrostructures: Emphasizes change as negative consequences of regime change; Social Cognition: Links the cost of regime change directly to citizen hardship.
"Parties involved in 'regime change' to have no role in govt formation: PTI"	May 10, 2022	PTI positions itself as resistant to those allegedly involved in regime change, reinforcing a stance against "outside" influence in government.	Frame perceived collaborators legitimate governance in governance.	Ideology and Power Relations: Reinforces anti-regime change from stance by delegitimizing other political actors; Microstructures: "No role" implies exclusion based on perceived affiliations.
"Foreign interference"	April 15, 2022	Brief and direct, reinforces ideological concerns over foreign influence in domestic politics.	Frame implies significant, underlying threat without specific details.	Macrostructures: Simple headline evokes strong emotional response; Context Models: Taps into historical sensitivities toward foreign involvement in Pakistan's politics.
"Imran Khan becomes first PM to be ousted via no-trust vote"	April 10, 2022	Positions no-confidence vote as a democratic process resulting in the ouster, reinforcing power dynamics within democratic framework.	Frame highlights use of democratic tools, portraying the event as procedural.	Macrostructures: Legitimizes change within democratic norms; Ideology and Power Relations: Frames Pakistan as adhering to democratic processes even in political shifts.
"Imran Khan blames 'foreign conspiracy' for his ouster"	April 11, 2022	Emphasizes the alleged role of foreign actors, positioning Khan as a nationalist figure resisting foreign involvement.	Frame creates a narrative of external interference as the cause for Khan's ouster.	Social Cognition: Reinforces of skepticism toward foreign influence; Microstructures: "Conspiracy" implies covert and threatening foreign action.
"PTI to launch 'freedom movement' against 'imported government'"	April 12, 2022	Presents PTI as champions of nationalism, opposed to a government perceived as foreign-backed.	Frame emphasizes PTI as defenders of national interests against "imported" influence.	Ideology and Power Relations: Portrays PTI as a resistance movement for sovereignty; Microstructures: "Freedom movement" evokes nationalistic and anti-colonial sentiments.

<p>"Imran Khan calls for early April elections after 13, no-confidence 2022 vote"</p>	<p>Advocates for a fresh mandate, positioning Khan as pro-democratic, giving power back to the people.</p>	<p>Frame emphasizes democratic principles, focusing on Khan's call for elections.</p>	<p>Context Models: Reflects pro-democratic stance; Social Cognition: Reframes regime change as needing public validation, thus questioning legitimacy of new leadership.</p>
<p>"PTI announces mass April resignations from National 2022 Assembly"</p>	<p>Presents PTI as standing against the current government through resignations, showing the strong dissent.</p>	<p>Frame creates a sense of collective mass protest within the political system.</p>	<p>Macrostructures: Framing the mass resignation as a strong rejection of the new government; Ideology and Power Relations: Reinforces PTI's stance as opposition, intensifying their image as challengers to the new leadership.</p>
<p>"Imran Khan addresses nation, alleges 'foreign interference'" April 24, 2022</p>	<p>Reinforces Khan's narrative of foreign involvement, positioning him as an advocate of sovereignty in public discourse.</p>	<p>Frame positions Khan as rallying public support against foreign personal influence.</p>	<p>Social Cognition: Strengthens anti-foreign sentiment among the public; Microstructures: "Addresses nation" implies direct, personal engagement, reinforcing Khan's connection with citizens.</p>
<p>"PTI supporters April clash with 27, police during 2022 protests"</p>	<p>Presents PTI supporters as actively resisting the government, depicting political unrest.</p>	<p>Frame depicts PTI as leading to conflict, suggesting tension in the public sphere.</p>	<p>Macrostructures: Portrays political climate as volatile; Microstructures: "Clash" conveys intensity and resistance, enhancing perception of struggle between supporters and authorities.</p>

The focus in Pakistan's headlines is more on the foreign intervention and conspiracy in regime change operation and least emphasis on sovereignty. On some occasions, the specific language of the student messages echoes nationalist discourses: the constitutional changes are painted as the 'freedom movement' and the foreign conspiracy threatening the democratization of Pakistan. This framing positions PTI with hopeless nationalist favoring them as the saviors of Pakistan. The judicial parts pointed out in "Judicialization of regime change" strengthen up the conception of regime change as more than dubious and requiring closer examination and scrutiny - not serious, illegitimate. The most of the News International headline is noticeably rife with such terms; foreign conspiracy, regime change, freedom movement fortify ideological opposition to the foreign interference. For example, the headlines like, "Imran Khan accuses a foreign conspiracy of overthrowing his government" and "PTI called for freedom struggle against an 'imported government'" demonize regime change as an alien intervention rather than a coup. Deciding on the language used here sets an ideological position and positions the new government as being backed by America and PTI as nationalists.

Most headlines contain words that evoke heightened emotion in the audience; PTI announces mass resignations, freedom movement and so on. PTI calls these actions as freedom movement which relates to the historical struggle and locates PTI in the political realm as movements defending history of Pakistan and thus sovereignty of the country. Headlines like 'People paying heavy price for 'regime change' plot' are selected with words that will emotionally appeal to the audience and present change of government as something damaging to the people therefore ethically wrong then proceed to question the newest government's right to rule thereby framing change as something forced and unwanted. Through the repeated connection of régime change and foreign interference, the headlines cast doubt on the new leadership legitimizing lens. By this narrative strategy PTI as well as

Imran Khan is depicted as protecting national interest against interference by foreign countries thus asserting their political narrative of nationalism. On the other hand, although the title of the headline stated, “US Envoy’s comment representation of ‘regime change’ as ‘cipher’ willfully misleading: The News International also provides the counter narratives which also do not completely overshadow the foreign conspiracy theories’ displacement with international perspectives.

The headlines which were published in the News International reveal a historical aversion towards anything referred to as ‘Foreign ‘especially in politics. Phrases like ‘foreign interference’ and ‘imported government’ are familiar to a cultural instinct of wariness towards foreign intervention in the governance structure of Pakistan which has been a political indoctrination for over three decades. When in this context strengthens PTI’s claim that it opposes foreign influence, which in turn will be the sentiment from an audience that supports nationalism. “Judicialization of regime change” by the judiciary automatically draws from the populace’s perception of the judiciary as a restraining force that is non-partisan but central to the country’s stability.

Geopolitical affiliations can also contribute to this matter; where Pakistani media seen any foreign interference for the regime change, it has to do with Pakistan’s diplomatic and economic ties with that particular country. While The News International amplifies suspicions of the U.S. involvement in regime change, it also provides international perspectives, as seen in “No ‘substantial evidence’ of US hand in Pakistan regime change: Chomsky.” This attempt to apply some measure of symmetry to these accounts captures the essential duality of Pakistan’s hard-pounded diplomacy of foreign powers on its own soil, where distrust of the international presence is evident but total enmity cannot be voiced outright. As Pakistani media, including The News International portray regime change as part of a conspiracy supported by foreign actors, viewers are trained to doubt the narrative being offered by the new government. Journalistic that cover movement freedom or mass resignation from the governance system construct PTI regarding the patriotic force against the illegitimate governance, which strikes a bell of receiver who believes in self-determination and national integrity. On the other hand, headlines which may give an international perception that include headline like U.S denies involvement may play a role in reducing the extremity of the conflict but all in all, the media’s portrayal ensures no room for trust is afforded.

To sum up, ideological, nationalist language and framing of The News International is presented in which the change of the regime is considered to be dangerous for Pakistan. In this construction, it diverges from the portrayals in the international media as it largely stresses on the questions of transparency, Judicialization and anti-foreign interference. The political and cultural background of Pakistan media augmented PTI’s discourse of defending against interference, as it set the public’s outlook toward the new government, some headlines provide more information that countered previous claims of foreign interference. This relationship altogether indicates a highly politicized media environment that supports the party’s political ideology and influences the audience perceptions in terms of legitimacy and governance.

Table 3 The New York Times Headlines Analysis

Headline	Date	CDA: Power Relations and Framing Ideology	Theory	Van Dijk’s Sociocognitive Model
"Pakistan’s Prime Minister Imran Khan Ousted in Confidence Vote"	April 9, 2022	Reflects power dynamics by presenting a significant democratic mechanism (no-confidence vote) as the means of change in leadership.	Frame highlights the democratic process of no-confidence suggesting political legitimacy in ouster.	Macrostructures: power transitions in democracy; Reinforces the idea of democracy as a means of accountability.
"Imran Khan’s Ouster	April 10, 2022	Provides straightforward overview, suggesting	a Frame presents the event as information, framing	Context Models: Assumes interest in power understanding

Pakistan: What to Know"		need for public clarity on it as significant for the dynamics; complex political shifts. public to understand. "What to Know" implies the gravity of the situation.		Microstructures:
"Shehbaz Sharif Becomes Prime Minister of Pakistan"	April 11, 2022	Uses neutral language, reinforcing the legitimacy and continuity of democratic leadership.	Frame neutralizes the transition, of emphasizing democratic norms.	Ideology and Power Relations: Legitimate political succession; Macrostructures: Frames change as democratic succession rather than crisis.
"Pakistan's Political Crisis: A Timeline of Imran Khan's Downfall"	April 12, 2022	Summarizes political events leading to Khan's ouster, reflecting the ideological framing of downfall as cumulative.	Frame presents Khan's removal as part of an ongoing crisis.	Social Cognition: Reinforces perception of political instability; Macrostructures: Uses "downfall" to imply an inevitable trajectory.
"Imran Khan's Fall Reflects Pakistan's Unpredictable Politics"	April 13, 2022	Positions Khan's ouster within the narrative of unpredictable political dynamics in Pakistan, questioning stability.	Frame highlights Khan's removal as an inherent aspect of Pakistan's political landscape.	Context Models: Appeals to public familiarity with political shifts; Ideology and Power Relations: Suggests unpredictability as a political norm.
"Pakistan's New Leader Inherits a Country in Turmoil"	April 14, 2022	Emphasizes the challenges facing the new PM, framing political transitions as disruptive.	Frame presents leadership change as oriented with framing a burden.	Macrostructures: Crisis-oriented framing; Social Cognition: Reinforces expectation of continued instability.
"Imran Khan's Supporters Protest His Ouster Across Pakistan"	April 15, 2022	Highlights public opposition to regime change, suggesting mass dissent and ideological divides.	Frame emphasizes widespread protests, creating a narrative of unrest.	Macrostructures: Frames protest as significant and widespread; Social Cognition: Reinforces public image of Khan as a populist figure with strong public support.
"Pakistan's Military Denies Role in Imran Khan's Ouster"	April 16, 2022	Implies possible involvement, even as it's being denied, positioning military influence as a latent power.	Frame suggests military influence as a relevant factor, even in denial.	Macrostructures: Military as a potential stakeholder; Ideology and Power Relations: Highlights military's influence in Pakistani politics.
"Imran Khan's Ouster: A Blow to Pakistan's Democracy?"	April 17, 2022	Questions whether the ouster aligns with democratic principles, implying skepticism about democratic integrity.	Frame presents Khan's removal as potentially harmful to democracy, invoking debate.	Social Cognition: Challenges legitimacy of ouster in the democratic context; Macrostructures: Adds a critical lens to democracy in Pakistan.
"Pakistan's Political Turmoil: What's Next After Imran Khan?"	April 18, 2022	Suggests uncertainty in political direction, questioning the stability of the new leadership.	Frame emphasizes unpredictability, suggesting future challenges.	Context Models: Reflects uncertainty in Pakistan's political landscape; Social Cognition: Positions political future as uncertain.

<p>"Imran Khan's Ouster: A Turning Point for Pakistan's Politics"</p>	<p>Highlights the Frame positions potential long-term Khan's ouster as a impact of Khan's historical shift in removal, framing it political as a pivotal event. direction.</p>	<p>Macrostructures: Presents ouster as a critical event with lasting impact; Ideology and Power Relations: Frames it as a moment of transformation in political dynamics.</p>
<p>"Pakistan's New Government Faces Immediate Challenges"</p>	<p>Focuses on the burdens faced by the incoming government, framing leadership change as a challenging period.</p>	<p>Context Models: Immediate Frame emphasizes framing of struggle; Social Cognition: Prepares the government as under pressure from the start.</p>
<p>"Imran Khan's Ouster: Implications for Pakistan's Foreign Policy"</p>	<p>Highlights potential changes in foreign policy, reflecting concerns over international relations.</p>	<p>Macrostructures: Foreign policy framed as subject to change; Social Cognition: Positions Pakistan's international relations as potentially unstable post-ouster.</p>
<p>"Pakistan's Political Crisis: The Role of the Military"</p>	<p>Emphasizes the military's influence in political matters, positioning it as a silent yet powerful entity.</p>	<p>Ideology and Power Relations: Frames military as a core actor in political dynamics; Context Models: Reflects historical significance of military in governance.</p>
<p>"Imran Khan's Ouster: A Test for Pakistan's Democracy"</p>	<p>Presents the event as a challenge to democratic values, questioning the stability of democratic processes.</p>	<p>Frame suggests that democracy in Pakistan is being tested through Khan's ouster. Social Cognition: Highlights ideological conflicts over democracy; Macrostructures: Democracy as fragile in face of political shifts.</p>
<p>"Pakistan's New Prime Minister Faces Economic Challenges"</p>	<p>Positions new leadership within a context of economic hardship, as the new PM's economically stressful. agenda.</p>	<p>Context Models: Economic stability as part of governance responsibility; Social Cognition: Highlights economic management as critical for legitimacy of new leadership.</p>
<p>"Imran Khan's Ouster: What It Means for Pakistan's Future"</p>	<p>Highlights implications for Pakistan's future, framing Khan's ouster as an event with long-term consequences.</p>	<p>Frame suggests importance of understanding future impacts of current political events. Macrostructures: Positions the ouster as a significant determinant of political trajectory; Social Cognition: Invites public to think critically about long-term effects.</p>
<p>"Pakistan's Political Crisis: The Role of the Judiciary"</p>	<p>Emphasizes the judiciary's influence, suggesting it as a balancing factor in political crises.</p>	<p>Frame presents judiciary as a stabilizing force amid political upheaval. Ideology and Power Relations: Frames judiciary as essential to democratic processes; Macrostructures: Highlights judiciary's oversight role in governance.</p>

<p>"Imran Khan's Ouster: A Victory for Democracy in Pakistan?" April 27, 2022</p>	<p>Questions if Khan's ouster represents democratic progress, framing it as potentially beneficial.</p>	<p>Frame presents Khan's removal as possibly democratic success.</p>	<p>Social Cognition: Positions public to view the event as a democratic achievement; Ideology and Power Relations: Encourages a perspective that the process aligns with democratic principles.</p>
<p>"Pakistan's New Government Faces Security Challenges" April 28, 2022</p>	<p>Highlights security concerns, governance contingent maintaining amid change.</p>	<p>Frame portrays security as a top priority and challenge for the new government.</p>	<p>Context Models: Links political stability with national security; Social Cognition: Reinforces as a critical measure of government efficacy.</p>
<p>"Imran Khan's Ouster: A Setback for Populism in Pakistan" April 29, 2022</p>	<p>Suggests Khan's removal weakens populist influence, framing it as a shift away from populist ideology.</p>	<p>Frame portrays ouster as diminishing populism in Pakistan's political landscape.</p>	<p>Ideology and Power Relations: Redefines political culture by reducing populist influence; Macrostructures: Positions populism as less dominant post-ouster.</p>
<p>"Pakistan's Political Crisis: The Role of the Opposition" April 30, 2022</p>	<p>Highlights the opposition's influence in the crisis, framing them as a central force in political dynamics.</p>	<p>Frame reinforces opposition's role as a key player in governmental change.</p>	<p>Context Models: Reflects historical importance of opposition in checks and balances; Macrostructures: Presents opposition as a major actor in political stability.</p>

The New York Times headlines are also free from slang and bias choosing such headlines as “no-confidence vote,” “inherits a country in turmoil”, “a test for Pakistan’s democracy.” These terms refer to processes rather than people and focus on procedures as well as democratization as opposed to an overthrow of the regime. These sorts of headlines such as “Pakistan’s New Leader Inherits a Country in Turmoil” place Shehbaz Sharif new government in a position of legitimacy while not disguising the problems that already exist. At least in the headlines, reason speaks because the headlines distance themselves from the change and its consequences for the stability of Pakistan by emphasizing the processes that preceded and followed the event. Similar to these were headings such as ‘What comes after Imran Khan?’ or ‘Lessons to Populism in Pakistan.’ These headlines indicate a more extensive historical and systemic approach toward the analyzed event positioning it as a turning point in trends and tendencies in the political system of Pakistan rather than as a result of one’s guilty and the triumph of the other’s ideology. This measured tone helps to explain why The New York Times took the role of the external analyst and did not take sides within Pakistan’s internal political conflict.

The headlines inscribe power relations within democracy; vote of no-confidence in Imran Khan as a part of Pakistan’s political trajectory not as foreign conspiracy. The New York Times provides many specifics focusing on other sort of power relations in Pakistan’s politics, which involve institutional actors as military and judiciary. That focuses on “The Role of the Judiciary”, “The Role of the Opposition” as part of the landmarks demonstrates that power checks and balances are part of the narrative rather than overshadowed by external influence within the actual governmental framework of Pakistan. Manipulating and disguising regime change as process-oriented the New York Times concentrates on stability, democracy, and future tasks. Headlines such as “Imran Khan’s Ouster: In very radical terms, Separation of Power by Economist “A Turning Point for Pakistan’s Politics” and “A Victory for Democracy in Pakistan?” do provide the ouster within progressive political

ceremonial of democracy but whether this is democratic or not is yet a question about authoritarianism? It infers skepticism but it does not directly challenge the 'legitimacy of the new government à la Pakistani media\&d which tends to portray regime change as foreign conspiracy and interference.

The series in the New York Times consistently paints Pakistan as politically fragile democracy through emphasizing how the system's inherent stochastic vagueness affects the transition of power. This is view from outside the as Pakistan as a country with wide political struggle between democracy and autocracy in the country. The use of institutions like, judiciary and military seems to give stress on the structure of power in Pakistan what may not be understand fully by an international reader who may not understand or be overly sensitive to the fact that Pakistan has been subjected to foreign interferences in its history. On the other hand, Pakistani media's obsession with the foreign hand resonates well with patriotism issues back home, thus boasting of more of an intricate cultural and political relevance at the time of airing or publishing. On the geopolitical level, The New York Times does not interfere by enveloping the U.S., or any other country for that matter in The New Pakistan's regime change. In using such phase as 'the turning point', 'the test of democracy' it puts the event a condition within the framework of governance and institutional stability in democracy which while it seems to suggest an endorsement of the struggle for regime change in line with democratic practice, does not bring in a foreign dimension as the cause. This is different from the geopolitical lens of the Pakistan media which is characterized by paranoia towards outside forces especially the U.S since Pakistan has been an emotionally charged diplomatic nation. The specific headlines we analyzed in the New York Times construct the regime change as a turn for the better in Pakistan's political development emphasizing democratic values, and institutional processes. Headlines as "A Victory for Democracy in Pakistan?" or phrasing like "What It Means for Pakistan's Future" make global readers ask oneself about the impact of Khan's removal for Pakistan's political system. This works as a call to the reader to look at the big picture, looking beyond political spectacle to look at governance and policy. The Pakistani audiences, immersed in conspiracy stories, will regard regime change as a threat to the country's sovereignty and therefore have a way of questioning a newly-formed government.

In sum the New York Times offers a depoliticized, formalistic account of regime change in Pakistan with focus on democracy, institutions and govern mentality. This approach is significantly different to the one used by Pakistani media which concentrates on the external threat and patriotic struggle, which stems from different cultural and political and geopolitical conditions. In essence, the presentation of the New York Times makes international readers think about regime change in terms of institutions thus providing readers with a wider outlook on political situation in Pakistan rather than appealing to prejudice thoughts of readers that might get stirred up when reading a Pakistani newspaper.

Table 4 *BBC News Headlines Analysis*

Headline	Date	CDA: Relations	Power and Ideology	Framing Theory	Van Dijk's	Sociocognitive Model
"Imran Khan ousted as Pakistan's prime minister after no-confidence vote"	April 10, 2022	Reflects dynamics democratic suggesting institutional in Khan's removal.	power through legitimizes means, authority procedure.	Frame legitimizes Khan's removal through democratic procedure.	Macrostructures: confidence democratic Cognition: institutional leadership.	Positions no-legal and Social checks on
"Pakistan's political deepens as Khan calls for early elections"	April 11, 2022	Shows highlighting response appeal for legitimacy.	ongoing crisis, Khan's and democracy resolution.	Frame emphasizes instability, his crisis democratic resolution.	Context linking to political Cognition: Reinforces urgency	Models: Positions division; Social

				and instability in current leadership.
"Shehbaz Sharif elected as Pakistan's new prime minister"	April 12, 2022	Uses neutral language, framing leadership transition within the context of democratic continuity.	Frame stabilizes the political shift, emphasizing continuity.	Ideology and Power Relations: Frames leadership transition as a democratic succession; Macrostructures: Highlights normalcy in leadership change, minimizing crisis.
"Imran Khan's supporters protest his ouster across Pakistan"	April 13, 2022	Highlights widespread public opposition to regime change, positioning supporters as active political participants.	Frame emphasizes mass mobilization, Khan's indicating significant dissent.	Macrostructures: Protest as a major public reaction; Social Cognition: Reinforces image of Khan's influence and public support base.
"Pakistan's military denies involvement in Imran Khan's removal"	April 14, 2022	Suggests suspicion of military involvement, even while denying, indicating underlying power dynamics.	Frame implies military relevance, suggesting potential influence.	Ideology and Power Relations: Positions military as a key power entity; Social Cognition: Reinforces belief in the military's influence in politics.
"Imran Khan alleges foreign conspiracy behind his ouster"	April 15, 2022	Portrays Khan as challenging external influence, positioning him as a nationalist figure against foreign involvement.	Frame creates narrative of external threat as cause for Khan's ouster.	Social Cognition: Invokes skepticism of foreign interference; Microstructures: "Conspiracy" implies secretive and threatening external interference.
"Pakistan's new government faces immediate economic challenges"	April 16, 2022	Emphasizes economic struggles as a direct challenge to new leadership, framing the new government as under pressure.	Frame suggests economic burden as immediate crisis, highlighting leadership pressures.	Context Models: Links political leadership with economic expectations; Social Cognition: Frames economic challenges as a measure of governmental capability.
"Imran Khan calls for 'freedom struggle' against new government"	April 17, 2022	Highlights Khan's framing of opposition as a struggle for sovereignty, aligning his movement with nationalist ideals.	Frame portrays resistance as a patriotic act, positioning Khan as a symbol of national autonomy.	Ideology and Power Relations: Frames Khan's opposition as morally grounded; Macrostructures: Links opposition to nationalism, casting government as foreign-aligned.
"Pakistan's Supreme Court to hear Imran Khan's plea against no-confidence vote"	April 18, 2022	Emphasizes judiciary's role as arbiter, framing it as a check on political actions and decisions.	Frame portrays judiciary as a stabilizing force and final authority on legal disputes.	Ideology and Power Relations: Reinforces judiciary as a neutral and stabilizing institution; Macrostructures: Highlights judiciary's legitimacy in political matters.

<p>"Imran Khan announces mass April rallies to 19, demand early 2022 elections"</p>	<p>Emphasizes mass mobilization in support of democratic revalidation, Khan as advocating for public decision-making.</p>	<p>Frame emphasizes public agency protests as push for democratic elections, legitimacy; framing casting rallies as a demand for democracy.</p>	<p>Social Cognition: Frames public agency protests as push for democratic elections, legitimacy; Microstructures: "Mass rallies" conveys scale and backing of Khan's demands.</p>
<p>"Pakistan's political turmoil April raises concerns over economic stability 2022"</p>	<p>Positions political instability as a threat to economic stability, emphasizing government governance challenges.</p>	<p>Frame links political stability with economic risk, suggesting stability; government instability impacts economy.</p>	<p>Context Models: Economic viewed as contingent on political stability; Social Cognition: Invokes concerns over economic future amid political crisis.</p>
<p>"Imran Khan's party resigns en masse from National Assembly 2022"</p>	<p>Reflects a significant political stance, portraying mass resignation as protest against regime change.</p>	<p>Frame creates image of widespread dissent within the political structure.</p>	<p>Macrostructures: Frames resignation as organized resistance; Ideology and Power Relations: Reinforces PTI's alignment with Khan's anti-government stance.</p>
<p>"Pakistan's new prime minister vows to tackle economic crisis" April 22, 2022</p>	<p>Emphasizes new PM's commitment to governance, framing economic stability as a priority for legitimacy.</p>	<p>Frame presents leadership as focused on crisis resolution, stabilizing public opinion.</p>	<p>Social Cognition: Links economic management with government's credibility; Macrostructures: New PM's agenda highlights economic recovery.</p>
<p>"Imran Khan's supporters clash with police during protests" April 23, 2022</p>	<p>Highlights physical confrontations, portraying dissent as escalating social conflict.</p>	<p>Frame emphasizes volatility and political opposition suggesting intense movement.</p>	<p>Ideology and Power Relations: Positions protests as contentious; Macrostructures: "Clash" evokes resistance against state power.</p>
<p>"Pakistan's military reaffirms neutrality amid political crisis" April 24, 2022</p>	<p>Highlights military's stated stance, attempting to assert its position as a non-partisan entity.</p>	<p>Frame reinforces image of military as neutral, distancing from political influence.</p>	<p>Ideology and Power Relations: Frames military as neutral entity amidst political turmoil; Social Cognition: Reinforces public perception of military's intended neutrality.</p>
<p>"Imran Khan challenges new government's legitimacy in court" April 25, 2022</p>	<p>Emphasizes legal channels as part of opposition strategy, questioning government's legitimacy.</p>	<p>Frame legitimizes Khan's opposition as lawful, emphasizing judiciary's role in validation.</p>	<p>Ideology and Power Relations: Frames judiciary as a check on executive power; Macrostructures: Legal challenge seen as institutionalized opposition.</p>
<p>"Pakistan's new government seeks to repair ties with the West" April 26, 2022</p>	<p>Emphasizes diplomacy as a priority for the new government, reflecting ideological alignment with the West.</p>	<p>Frame portrays government as globally aligned, enhancing international legitimacy.</p>	<p>Context Models: Highlights foreign relations as key for governance; Ideology and Power Relations: Emphasizes alignment with Western</p>

				nations as a measure of diplomatic success.
"Imran Khan's party plans nationwide April protests against 27, 'imported government'"	2022	Highlights ideological resistance to perceived foreign influence, framing protests as a stand for sovereignty.	Frame positions opposition as defending national integrity against foreign influence.	Social Cognition: Frames opposition as nationalist; Microstructures: "Imported government" implies foreign intervention in leadership.
"Pakistan's political crisis: What's next after Imran Khan's ouster?"	April 28, 2022	Raises questions about political direction, ouster, future as uncertain.	Frame political uncertainty in post-landscape, questioning leadership's sustainability.	Context Models: Reflects uncertainty over Pakistan's future; Social Cognition: Positions new leadership as untested.
"Imran Khan's ouster: A blow to Pakistan's democracy?"	April 29, 2022	Questions whether ouster undermines democratic integrity, implying debate over values.	Frame skepticism over democratic processes, suggesting negative impact on democracy.	Social Cognition: Invokes questions about legitimacy; Macrostructures: Frames ouster as a potential harm to democracy.
"Pakistan's new government faces uphill battle to revive economy"	April 30, 2022	Emphasizes recovery as daunting framing leadership as immediate pressure.	Frame economic task, challenge, new government's success on turnaround.	Context Models: Economic health as primary governance issue; Social Cognition: Highlights public expectation for economic recovery under new leadership.
"Imran Khan's supporters vow to continue protests until early elections"	May 1, 2022	Positions public protest as persistent and framing Khan's supporters as committed to democratic accountability.	Frame ongoing, emphasizes resolve, to suggesting sustained dissent.	Macrostructures: Protests framed as continuing demand for democracy; Social Cognition: Reinforces image of enduring support for Khan's cause.
"Pakistan's military warns against attempts to destabilize country"	May 2, 2022	Suggests military's involvement in maintaining order, indicating potential influence over political outcomes.	Frame military protector of national stability against opposition.	Ideology and Power Relations: Military as stabilizer; Macrostructures: Implies military oversight in preserving national integrity.
"Imran Khan accuses new government of political witch hunt"	May 3, 2022	Positions Khan as a victim of targeting, opposition ideologically persecuted.	Frame unfair tactics as sympathy.	Social Cognition: Reinforces political victimization of opposition; Microstructures: "Witch-hunt" implies persecution, positioning Khan as oppressed.
"Pakistan's new prime minister seeks to unite divided nation"	May 4, 2022	Emphasizes leadership's goal of reconciliation, framing new PM as a peacemaker,	Frame leadership as a peacemaker,	Ideology and Power Relations: Positions PM as a healer of divisions; Macrostructures:

	unifying figure amidst appealing division.			to Highlights unity as central to leadership legitimacy.
"Imran Khan's party files petition in May Supreme Court 5, against no- 2022 confidence vote"	Highlights judicial recourse as part of opposition's challenge, suggesting legitimacy in seeking justice.	Frame legitimizes opposition by aligning with legal systems.		Context Models: Courts as forum for political contest; Macrostructures: Judicial involvement reinforces institutional power over political matters.
"Pakistan's political crisis: The role of the judiciary"	Highlights judiciary's influence in governance, as a balancing act amidst crisis.	Frame positions judiciary as stabilizer, suggesting reliance on legal resolution.		Ideology and Power Relations: Judiciary as check on executive power; Context Models: Reflects judiciary's relevance in Pakistan's political crises.
"Imran Khan's ouster: Implications for Pakistan's foreign policy"	Emphasizes potential foreign policy shifts post-ouster, indicating ideological shifts in international relations.	Frame suggests geopolitical realignment, hinting at change in alliances.		Macrostructures: Foreign policy as dynamic under new leadership; Social Cognition: Frames international relations as contingent on leadership stability.
"Pakistan's new government faces security challenges amid political turmoil"	Highlights security as a critical issue, framing it as essential to national stability amid political shifts.	Frame presents security concerns as an immediate challenge for government legitimacy.		Social Cognition: Links political stability with security; Macrostructures: Frames governance as contingent on maintaining national security.
"Imran Khan's supporters plan 'long march' to Islamabad demanding early elections"	Emphasizes sustained and organized protest, positioning Khan's supporters as demanding democratic accountability.	Frame depicts long march as Khan's symbolic determined pursuit of elections.		Macrostructures: Large-scale protest as public outcry; Social Cognition: Reinforces commitment to democratic processes among Khan's supporters.

In their headlines, BBC News also teaches readers to be result-oriented rather than pinpointing who was at fault or not, and when and how something happened. Consequently, we see terms such as 'ousted', "no-confidence vote", and 'faces uphill battle' which in addition to the procedural angle contrasts the conspiracy-ridden political backdrop for Khan's removal as legal and democratic processes. This framing depicts political events as being part of the system in the meaning of democracy, therefore lacks any institutions' lack of authority for people's complains or foreign plots. BBC News does the same thing for Pakistan by adopting a factual angle to present the internal situation in a country without inflating it. Words such as political; crisis, for; early; elections, split, divided; nation and trying signify tension amongst the headlines; Pakistan's political crisis deepens; as Imran Khan calls for; early elections and Pakistan's new; prime minister seeks; to unite divided nation. Hence, the change of guard does not seem to have engendered concrete public response and economy hassles as BBC News operationalizes Imran Khan's ouster not as a dramatic event, but a methodical alteration. This reaffirms a view of democratic standards, it sanctions the new leadership gently while gesturing to existing public protest.

The headlines keep returning to the institutionalism pointing to judiciary and the military as the authorities within the backdrop of the Pakistan's government. For instance "Pakistan's Supreme

Court to hear Imran Khan’s plea” and “Pakistan’s military reaffirms neutrality” make the Supreme Court and the military plain and powerful actors of Pakistan government. This is done not as an overt undermining of democratic process and institutions - but as an unobtrusive reinforcement of judiciary authority and at the same time, a controlled dismissal of foreign influence. While some media in Pakistan might portray the change of regime as a conspiracy and outside interference to a certain extent this course is indeed the case, BBC News emphasizes the institutional and procedural aspects of Khan’s removal. Headlines such as “Imran Khan’s ouster: A media coverage such as “Was it a blow to Pakistan’s democracy?” and “Pakistan’s political turmoil causes concerns of instability in economy” do not cast the event in the mold of an external agency’s act rather see its institutional and socioeconomic ramifications. This approach places high value of democratic process, economic problems, and security concerns as more comprehensive view that is meant to enlighten and not just to shock.

BBC News’s view of democratic stability majoring in the institutional political systems and stability over nationalist feelings. In a country whereby political history has been characterized by the intervention of foreign forces, the essence of sovereignty portrayed by Pakistan media has cultural and political consideration pertinent to the local audience only. However, BBC’s headlines, such as “Imran Khan’s ouster: A test for Pakistan’s democracy” and “Pakistan’s military warns against attempts to destabilize country,” are free from nationalistic sentiments; rather they couch the events in a story of democracy that any foreign audience interested in the conduct of elections in Pakistan would be interested in because they fit the Western conception of democracy. News keeps a healthy detachment, regime change is presented in Pakistan context as internal political process rather than external influence. Therefore, BBC ensures that suspicions of foreign interference are reduced by merely categorizing the issues around governance challenge, security and institutional stability. This is quite lest to do than Pakistani media’s depiction of the incident, which has brought out foreign interference. BBC’s framing conforms to the nonbiased expectation its audience has of the source of the news—focuses on national security and economic stead than conspiracy that its local prejudice with suspected in Pakistan could embrace.

Through border apologizing for Khan’s dismissal, BBC News can successfully employ democratization to convince its global viewers that the Pakistan regime change is an internal occurrence and not orchestrated by other foreign actors. Such headlines as ‘PM Shehbaz Sharif’s new term emerges with emergent economic concerns: Pakistan leaders flee to London as ‘new premier walks away from politics’ and ‘Pakistan’s Supreme Court to review Khan’s appeal against a no-confidence vote’ make the readers decipher all these occurrences in terms of government and procedural transparency. This is rather different from Pakistani viewers’ familiarization with full-scale stories about foreign meddling, which, flattening it, can breed suspicion towards the new government. BBC has refrained from framing politics into conspiratorial terms while only highlighting the new government’s priorities and difficulties.

The BBC News provides bear and institutional partisan view regarding the upheaval in Pakistan in terms of legal structure, institutionalization, and socio-economics. This kind of framing is different with the one used with reference to Pakistani media which looks more nationalist and oriented on sovereignty as compared to BBC’s concept of observation and The principle of democracy. This approach also generates context in which international audience perceives regime change as procession event and locates challenges that Pakistani Institutions face as fundamental to the stability of the current polity and economy.

Table 5
Comparative Analysis of News Headlines of Pakistani and International Print Media

News Outlet	CDA: Power Relations and Ideology	and Framing Theory	Van Dijk’s Sociocognitive Model
Dawn News	Highlights shifts in dynamics within norms, showcasing	Frames events as part of democratic procedural transitions, focusing on the ouster	Reinforces perceptions of institutional stability, transitions as

News Outlet	CDA: Power Relations and Ideology	Framing Theory	Van Dijk's Sociocognitive Model
	of a leader through institutional processes like the no-confidence vote.	continuity governance.	in legitimate Pakistan's democratic framework.
	Emphasizes continuity by presenting new leadership legitimizing it within political processes.	democratic Uses neutral framing to convey stability in Pakistan's leadership transition.	Frames change as orderly, reinforcing trust in democratic institutions and diminishing perceptions of crisis.
	Positions PTI as a strong opposition through resignations, dissent within limits.	Frames PTI's actions as a unified protest, emphasizing opposition as a mass movement against new leadership.	Highlights unity and significance within the signaling a protest through mass resignation.
The News International	Highlights ideological conflicts by emphasizing alleged foreign interference, suggesting Pakistan's sovereignty is at risk.	Frames Khan's ouster as a result of foreign influence, presenting a narrative of external threats to Pakistan's autonomy.	Activates anti-foreign sentiment, encouraging public suspicion of foreign powers and aligning with nationalist ideology.
	Uses US denial of involvement to counter conspiracy claims, presenting the situation as misinformation or rumors without concrete evidence.	Frames accusations as conspiracy theories, distancing the U.S. from involvement in Pakistan's political transition.	Encourages a counter-narrative to claims of foreign interference, highlighting the importance of factual integrity.
	Portrays PTI as defending national interests against foreign-aligned government, reinforcing their nationalist stance.	Frames PTI's resistance as a patriotic "freedom movement," positioning the party as defenders of sovereignty.	Aligns PTI with nationalist values, reinforcing the idea of "freedom" versus "foreign" influence.
The New York Times	Presents Khan's ouster through a procedural lens, highlighting democratic institutions like the no-confidence vote in a balanced way.	Frames the removal of leadership as a lawful and democratic action, suggesting legitimacy.	Reinforces democratic norms, positioning the political shift as procedural rather than destabilizing.
	Questions impact on democracy, presenting Khan's ouster as potentially undermining democratic integrity and sparking debate over democratic health in Pakistan.	Frames the event as a critical turning point for democracy, inviting public skepticism and reflection on democratic values.	Challenges legitimacy of Khan's ouster in the democratic context, encouraging public discourse on Pakistan's democratic future.
	Emphasizes public dissent through widespread protests, positioning Khan's supporters as committed and active opposition participants.	Frames protests as a populist movement with widespread public backing, creating a	Reinforces the perception of Khan's populist appeal and strong grassroots support, reflecting his influence over the public.

News Outlet	CDA: Power Relations and Ideology	Framing Theory	Van Dijk’s Sociocognitive Model
		narrative of significant political dissent.	
BBC News	Raises questions on military involvement by highlighting its denial, indicating suspicion of covert influence in Pakistan’s political scene.	Frames the military as a power player in Pakistan’s governance, implying a latent role even amid denial.	Reinforces public perception of military as a powerful influence in transitions, regardless of its stated neutrality.
	Highlights intensity of opposition through violent clashes, presenting dissent as contentious and divisive.	Frames protests as violent, public significant and against the government and social conflict.	Highlights social tensions, portraying the protests as an important aspect of political unrest in the country.
	Emphasizes Khan’s appeal to nationalism and autonomy, positioning his movement as a “freedom struggle” with resistance to foreign influence.	Frames Khan’s movement as a for sovereignty, historical aligned promoting nationalist themes in opposition to new leadership.	Reinforces nationalist sentiment, drawing on resistance narratives and appealing to the public’s sense of autonomy.

It seems that Dawn News often employs moderate legalistic and pro-establishment discourse, generic political activities such as no-confidence motion and well-managed succession of leadership. Thus, the language helps to cultivate the notion of institutionalization - and, thereby, to naturalize a new government, diminishing potential crises at the same time. Low stakes phrases like ‘procedural transitions’ and ‘legitimizing new leadership’ keeps the story line on the narrative of democracy and Democracy in Pakistan - emphasizing Pakistan as a ‘conservative democracy’. The News International is constructed the Pakistan in nationalist way; neutralist phrases such “Freedom Movement” “Foreign Interference” have been used by the newspaper. This builds up a nationalism, where PTI is portrayed as the protector of Pakistan’s independence and the new formed government as pro-foreign entity which will work for the foreign masters, which always is appealing to large audiences with nationalist mindset.

Although the New York Times brings procedural element to the ouster of Khan while also raising concerns about its effects on democratic principles, the paper questions Shifts in political power, as these may compromise Pakistan’s democracy. This is because by framing a no-confidence vote, it is not only a procedural parliamentary business, but very significant, the headline nudges the reader to think about how healthy the democracy in Pakistan is. This framing is in line along the idea of an International Broadcasting that VII seeks to uphold democracy and goodwill. Still, there is a combination of procedural and investigative language which implies social power relations – ‘military denies involvement,’ ‘violent clashes.’ BBC also remains loyal to the painting of Pakistan military as a hidden determinant of political processes and labeling the actions of the political opposition as ‘volatile’, and so it emphasizes the nature of Pakistan’s polity where institutions and popular protest shape the political authority.

Dawn News seeks to consolidate and preserve the political order of Pakistan by endorsing the formal rules of politicking as opposed to intervention. The self-constructed framing also reduces the perception of a threat and makes change of the regime seem like a viable democratic process. For instance, while using the words ‘legitimizing the new leadership’ Dawn has not taken sides, its language appeals to a readership that requires confirmation of order within the Pakistan’s internal politics. While sensing itself with a nationalist agenda, the News International concerned the removal

of Mr. Khan under influence from abroad, painted the PTI of being of a nationalist political party against this perceived 'foreign hand'. Hearing such headlines as 'freedom movement against imported government' one can clearly see an ideology at work with Pakistan's sovereignty under threat. This difference suggests that domestic media prefer stories that address seniors' wariness of the outside interference, thus supporting PTI as an anti-establishment party.

Like all other democratic countries, the New York Times employs a procedural approach toward Khan's removal. Although, it also imply the negative effects on Pakistan's democracy as the words like 'blow to democracy' will give a signal. This framing focuses on methodological rigor while at the same time exercising care in its language which should make the reader engage with the work on questions of democratic governance. Formatting between procedural and analytical language, BBC News considers the idea of secret management by Pakistan's military and the nationalism that Khan mobilizes. By using the terms such as "freedom struggle" and "social conflict" BBC explains the ideological controversy as well as organizational problems that the new government faced. When it comes to the role of the military and the public protests BBC provides the international viewers with the viewership of the shift of power as the multifaceted process of political actors coming to power in Pakistan.

Pakistani news especially Dawn News lay emphasis on institutional stability and democratic values. In weakening the discourse of the crisis, Dawn positions itself with a readership that embraces political stability, and portrays changes of the governments in Pakistan as the result of the regular democratic processes. This has been done keeping in view, cultural norms of Pakistan which gives preference to continuity and stability of government. The News International also fulfills a culturally engrained Pakistani fear of the extraneous influence in the country's political sphere. Due to painting a picture of foreign imagination of regime change, it captivates the nationalistic sector of the audience, which assets by those that view foreign interference as catastrophic to their sovereignty. This approach is due to Pakistan's history of shying away from foreign interference, thus supports the narrative PTI has built surrounding opposition to foreign-aligned rule.

The New York Times is a world daily newspaper that gives a worldview on happenings and interprets the regime shift with focus on responsibility among elites. There lies the interest of the external forces in the democratic stability in Pakistan where by removing Khan in such a manner is termed as a turning point by many. Such a construction makes people read events in Pakistan in a broader democracy frame, thus giving continuity to worries regarding the state of democracy in Pakistan. BBC News brings emphases on the institutions and ideologies, military factor, nationalists' resistance, etc. which an International audience would be concerned with issues like internal stability and governance crisis in Pakistan. While analyzing Khan's, main political opponent, as the 'freedom struggle' fighter and having discussions on the Military's role BBC offsets its focus on particular domestic political problems in Pakistan with discussions on institutions of power and the public rebellion. On this rationale, it fits the geopolitical realism since it focuses on the stability of Pakistan's political system.

These newspapers and Dawn News and The News International make presentation of narratives that align with domestic agendas. Dawn has set its sights on stability for informing its readers regarding the new government in Pakistan in a positive light meanwhile The News' think tank fills its readers with skepticism regarding the new government and celebrates PTI or savors of Pakistan interest.

Internationally The New York Times and BBC News provide a more relativized view of Khan's ouster as a legal-political process and /or a staged political change. Focusing on the material connected with the democratic character, the influence of the military, and public demonstrations, these sources let the readers represent Pakistan's political environment as a multifaceted one, which can influence their attitude towards the political environment of Pakistan as the stability of institutions.

Following the same patterns of interest and orientation, Pakistani as well as both traditional and social media described and employ different forms of language and rationale. Both in the rightist and leftist political positions, the Pakistani newspapers Dawn and The News appeal to nationalism

and sovereign citizenship to appeal to their Pakistan iconography readers while the foreign papers, New York Times and BBC theorize and represent Pakistan in terms of the Democratic management, Political Institutions and Social stability implications. Taken together, these depictions enter into the process of building the object 'Pakistan' in the imaginary of the west and thereby mediates together with other sources readers' Conceptions of legitimacy, government and sovereignty. Organized through Imran Khan's removal and its consequences on Pakistan, the paper arranges each outlet's distinctive coverage helps the public make sense of specifics, like legitimate democracy, outside interferences, and patriotism, within Pakistan's evolving politics.

This research has demonstrated that the narrative of BBC News has both macro and micro structures that contribute to ideological positioning according to van Dijk's Macrostructure and Microstructure analysis. Here at macro level, themes such as 'democratic vulnerability' and 'institutional neutrality' help the audience paint Pakistan's journey in rather unsteady colours. With respect to the microanalysis, two examples of such terms include 'turning point' and 'democratic blow' that are used to entrench the instability frame to garner more attention in its' definition of the events as high-stake and consequential. BBC News also democratizes public protest as the people's right and the institutions such as judiciary system and the military as the one that maintain order in the political climate for ideological positioning. Here at macro level, themes namely 'democratic vulnerability' and 'institutional neutrality' lead the audience to understand Pakistan's passage as a rather shaky process. In terms of microanalysis, two such examples are the terms 'turning point' and 'democratic blow,' which help to embed the instability frame to bring more attention in its definition of the events as high-stake and consequential. Furthermore, reliance on the political power domination is also seen with van Dijk's work: BBC News also reconstructs public protest as a democratic right and the institutions, including the judiciary system and the military, as maintaining stability in the political turmoil.

By applying Framing Theory and evaluating headings of BBC News via van Dijk's Sociocognitive Model, this work demonstrates that the news headlines under analysis offers a complex narrative whose manifestation cannot be described as purely neutral: the texts conveying meanings related to threats to democratic stability and challenges within governance. Words and usage show that Pakistan's transition is conceptualized as a significant threat to democracy, articulated the audience construction of responsibility, economic shift and institutionalization. Maintaining the procedural and discursive norms of the UN advocating for democracy and civic participation while situating the function of the institution in those terms BBC News maps and names the political realities of Pakistan in a vernacular of global and Pakistani political culture; in doing so it responds with a prognosis of cautious optimism based on political responsibility and democratic resilience.

Concluding this study aligns the findings with the current body of knowledge on populism, prejudiced media, and regime change narratives in domestic as well as national and post-colonial settings to provide a seminal epistemological perspective on the role of Pakistani and global media in the building of regime change operations. Experts from other countries have located Khan's appeal in the context of populist globalization; in which leaders create a wide base of support out of crises and anti-foreign or anti-elite rhetoric (Moffitt, 2016; Mudde & Kaltwasser 2017). Therefore, this paper continues the tradition and argue that Pakistani media, including The News International, uses nationalistic and populist discourse with the PTI as the chief safeguard of the national sovereignty from an unfriendly world power. As the opponent of outsiders Bolsonaro of Brazil and Erdogan of Turkey painted (Tugal, 2022; Anselmi, 2018), similarly Khan painted himself as a fighter for the masses against these superfluous concerning, as populism in post-colonial states cautions Ahmed (2022) against foreign interferences.

The methodology used in the current study, that includes the application of CDA and the discovery of frames, maps well with Herman and Chomsky's (1988) Propaganda Model as well as Entman's (1993) framing theory to further propound the assertion that media systems and political affiliations shape audience understanding. The nature of framing in Pakistani media is as per Chomskyian cultural hegemony irrespectively of the fact that better stories from the western nations are available, the latter which runs the discursive process of framing predetermine the views of the

people of Pakistan regarding extra territorial external interferences as unlawful infringement over the sovereign rights of the Pakistan. In contrast, the NYT and BBC news unearths proper process of a regime change, thus, somewhat propagating western democracy and order, according to Gilboa's "media diplomacy," which puts Pakistan in the list of democracies in the world.

Using Van Dijk's Sociocognitive Model, this research explained how such audiences make sense of the above mentioned narratives within their conceived sociocognitive pattern of mental models and social scenarios. The state-specific results of the presented model indicate that prejudice and hostility experienced by Pakistanis in foreign countries are reflected in Pakistani media, which adapts to the audience's cautiousness of foreign influence based on historical events. This corresponds exactly to CDA inherent interest in the way that discourse sustains power relations (Fairclough, 2010), while Pakistani media activates sovereignty and links PTI to nationalism, international media offers stability and potential institutional transformation to an audience interested in bureaucratic safe ordering. One finds it relevant to note that Pakistani journalists operate under certain condition, which at times obliterate ability to critique the government or military hence the transfer of power (Yusuf, 2013, p. 23; Rahman, 2012, p.166).

Such work is also similar with other comparative discourses analysis studies suggesting that news media from different geopolitical zones, portray the same political events differently (Hallin & Mancini's; Chouliaraki). This shift in accounts by both Pakistani and International media is consistent with the findings of Ahmed (2019) who also studied Pakistani media and concluded that unlike Western media, issues of sovereignty and stability constitute core narratives of the Pakistani media, while issues of governance and democratic legitimacy matter most in the West. Hence, this research provides a contribution toward the improvement of media literacy concerning the manner in which citizens engage with the media product, with particular focus on the ideological predispositions of the media in regards to politically sensitive issues like regime change.

Findings of the Study

This study therefore presents the intricate patterns of Media marginalization and nationalization of the Pakistan regime change through linguistic and Rhetorical framing styles that are indicative of the Media identities, culture and geopolitical alliances of the Media outlets. Discussing the ways that the various newspapers, Dawn News, The News International, The New York Time, and BBC news framed the event, the following patterns were identified: The legitimation/illation is a construction of writing and language both in Pakistani and international media where the writing is involved in framing narratives. Such newspapers as Dawn News and The News International use nationalist and legalized approach to the framing of events. For instance, The News International tends to use such terms as "foreign conspiracy," "freedom movement" to paint PTI in nationalist colors so that the masses would identify it with their perceived foreign threats - a sore point. Thus, the sovereignty of Pakistan is underlined and PTI as representatives of national independence. The international media outlets like New York Times and BBC rather use such sophisticated and neutral global modes as 'the vote of no confidence' and 'the transfer of power through democratic procedure'. This way they promote the knowledge of the Institute procedures for change of regime and present it as a conventional democratic process to support the action of the Institute. This is far from the ideological approach that can be observed in Pakistani sources, where headlines suggest that the change poses a threat to Pakistan's state independence.

On its part, headlines culled from Pakistani sources especially those from The News International demonstrate an Orientalist approach of cantering on the support given to PTI by common populace against imperialism. Such euphonic phrases as "freedom movement" and "imported government" put strong nationalistic messages and represent the party as a bulwark against the 'foreign instigation' of governance. This choice of words speaks close to the heart of an audience that is extremely wary over sovereignty matters thus firmly engraining PTI in the image of the party that supports Pakistan sovereignty. It must be noted, however, that Dawn News does not share quite the same degree of partisanship as other news sources, as can be seen in the following screenshot: Instead, it focuses on procedural transitions that at once reorient viewers to the anchors' presence and reaffirm institutional legitimacy. Responses of Pakistani media especially The News

International, share same perception as those in news coverage section because it also narrates regime change as external force's plotting and using nationalism frame associated with it as threat against Pakistan. Such headline analyzes PTI's reaction in a manner that compares it or equates it to a 'freedom struggle' - thus making it easier for a patriotic audience to relate to and support PTI in their opposition. On the other hand, Dawn News has more neutral wording which makes the shift less look like a crisis and makes a democratic transition look like a normal and routine process. From this it can be ascertained that Dawn News is keen on maintaining and extending political stability and order in Pakistan. The decision to remove a chief is highlighted procedurally, particularly by the New York Times and BBC News - two global newspapers that disseminate information to the world. For instance, The New York Times presents the event as a 'turning point for democracy' and charges the readers with invigorating exercising the procedural part of the Pakistan's democracy. This procedural framing is different from the ideological threads present in Pakistani outlets in its orientation toward the international context and away from the nationalistic ideals as well as embraces the transparency and stabilities so eagerly. Further, the international media's construction encourages the global public to receive Pakistani political changes as referent examples of the progressive democratization instead of the domestic. Exceptional occurrences of political instability.

The Pakistani media headlines show great concern with nationalist sentiments that are often anchored to bigger and more historical fears of imperialism. The News International, for instance, puts the change of regime caused by Corrupt Democracy in perspective by referring to what it calls a "foreign conspiracy", a theme that historically would go well with Pakistanis who have had to endure external interference. The above analysis is in line with Van Dijk's context models which indicate that audience perception is anchored on social and political beliefs. Such headings strengthen PTI position as champions of Pakistan sovereignty and conformity with the readers' patriotic sentiments. Mainstream global media like The New York Times and BBC News pragmatically narrates Pakistan's regime change in view of a more global intolerance for democratic volatility. When talking about the overthrow of Khan the emphasized legal and lawful aspects of the action the outsider imaging of event as corresponding to the overall democratic example hence positioning Pakistan as a part of the global democratic processes. This also targets potential readers with an international outlook doing it in a way that will make them see Pakistan's politics in the prism of global democracy. In addition, the analysis of BBC focuses on Pakistan military power that shows the concern of western society regarding authority of the military institution in the political process of Pakistan that offers the military as a powerful but a dubious player in the political drama.

The power aspects, strongly reflected through the selection of framing strategies by both Pakistani and international media equally have a huge impact on the audience in terms of perceived legitimacy and governance of Pakistan. The negative reporting in Pakistani media makes the PTI as advocates of sovereignty, a manipulation that would have an extended effect of making people stay wary of any new government. On the other hand, the procedural reporting regales global audiences and the international media in particular with the kind of democracy Pakistan possesses, thereby facilitating a perception of the country as a functional democracy. This is a view supported by what Van Dijk categorizes as the Sociocognitive Model, which indicates that politics is understood culturally and politically with reference to narratives that circulate within the Pakistan society and the international community, in the legitimation of its political position.

Thus, to summarize, this research supports the applicability of CDA, the framing theory, and sociocognitive models for the analysis of media representations of regime change. While international audience focuses on procedural democracy Pakistani media's framing of elections is nationalist and for an audience inside Pakistan marks the difference between the two lenses based on power relations, ideology, and geopolitical reality. This comparative style therefore lays emphasis on how the media influences social validity and polity in the changing political context of Pakistan.

In conclusion, this cross- categorization study demonstrates different approaches that constitute the Pakistani and the other Internees media frameworks regarding the regime change in Pakistan media contextualized in ideological cultural and political factors. An analysis of linguistic and rhetorical patterns indicate that both national and international media concerned with

sovereignty as well as democracy, but in different ways; while Pakistani media predominantly employs nationalist discourse, international media tends to address procedural rationality. Framing theory explain that Pakistani media has frame change conscious as anti-foreign regime change movement while on the other hand international media has frame it into de- compartmentalized procedurized- democratic change movement. Audience response is heavily influenced by contextual factors In the Pakistani context there is a greater receptiveness to a narrative of national autonomy In the international context audiences' require the reassurance that there is democratic order. These seem to explain how media narratives are developed by institutional discourses and other cultural norms, and geopolitical values influencing both national and global perception of 'legitimacy' and 'governance' in Pakistan.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, this study found out that media narratives on political transitions like the removal of the Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan shaped in varying extend by epistemic ideologies, power dynamics, and geo-political realities. Analyzing textual data following CDA, framing theory, and Van Dijk's sociocognitive model, this study shed light on the discrepancy in how Pakistani and international media framed the regime change in Pakistan. Negative framing is generally observed in the examined Pakistani sources, The News International in particular, suggesting that there is the foreign conspiracy in Khan's removal, while painting his protesters as freedom fighters. This nationalist perspective fits into the emerging global populism trend where rulers such as Khan act as angry decision-makers who are fighting foreign interference. Such portrayal speaks with the heart of the people aware of historical and post-colonial colonial apprehensions about the outsiders' interference, thus sustaining nationalist sentiments in the Pakistani society. Western papers like the New York Times and BBC news on the other hand highlight process oriented d emphasizing on official action, such papers portray Khan's removal as a political organizational change. Anyway, by setting the popular action within the framework of actual democracy and genuine elections, these outlets bolster the Western approach to politics and stability and portray the regime change as an exercise of democracy rather than a coup d'état. The latter represents closer adherence to the open support of Western geopolitical agenda which lays major emphasis on democracy building and political stability.

From the context of Van Dijk's Sociocognitive Model, the paper unfolds precision on how the perception of the audience by the news is a product of mental models that the audience brought from history, culture and social settings. SA Media framing resonate with the audience accused of harboring collective paranoia over foreign interference, while the global media aligns its frames of operation with the democratic & "imperialist" notion of regime change. The comparative discourse brings into view the ideological potential of the media acting as opinion-shaping apparatus in support of particular modes of power. Pakistani media stands with populism and nationalism, more frequently in reaction to the internal powers and historical contexts. International media on the other hand favors narratives that are consistent political values of the west, asserting to governance systems that fall in the democratic category.

Thus, this work proves that media discourse cannot be regarded as a mere reflection of the real world but as a tool for carrying certain ideological messages which are reflect the power relations. The exact representation wherein Pakistani and international media portray the events completely shift and thus, demands a media literacy where the audience can differentiate between major and simple bias and further think beyond media lenses and geopolitics. This research serves to build on the existing literature by identifying and analyzing the discursive construction of the subject in regional media outlets, revealing ideological tensions underpinning regime change discourse in Pakistan and a centrality of media in constructing legitimacy, governance, and sovereignty discourses.

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