Ethical Guidelines and News Reporting in Pakistani English Newspapers: Critical Stylistics and Corpus Linguistics Analysis

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Abstract

Media is a potent source of disseminating news in the present era. So, news regarding violence against Women (VAW) is not an exception. The objective of the present study is to examine how news of VAW is portrayed in the English newspapers of Pakistan. The patterns to portrayal of news regarding VAW are based on gendered landscapes through the predictable images of gender identities, which ultimately leads to inequality and biasness against women. The present study investigated the news regarding VAW published in the newspapers. VAW is also generally known as domestic violence. The researchers conducted a discourse analysis of five English newspapers and collected 510 news reports regarding VAW published during 2017 and 2018. In order to make the findings objective and replicable, the researchers used Critical Stylistics (Lesley Jeffries, 2010a) and Sketch Engine, a computer-based corpus software. Findings suggested that the ethical guidelines proposed by various journalist organization were flagrantly violated. These violations involve revealing the victims' identity i.e., age, location, and even slantingly holding the victims responsible for the violence. The researchers discovered that these unethical practices may result in inappropriate and stereotypical narratives about women. Therefore, it becomes necessary for the media to uphold the ethical considerations to assure the appropriate understanding of VAW and its severity.

Keywords: Violence Against Women, Domestic Violence, Ethical Consideration, Critical Stylistics.

Introduction

Media has emerged as largely a powerful institute. It is a source of entertainment and also of creating awareness. Today, media performs functions which were to be played by social institutions like school, church, and family (Silverblatt, 2004). McQuail thinks that media can influence the thoughts of masses strongly and leave a powerful impact on behavioral patterns. At the same time, it is noticed that media play a debatable role whilst dealing the marginalized classes particularly women (McQuail, 1979). According to (Krijnen, 2017), this concern was entrenched in the United States and across the globe during the second wave of feminism in 1960. Feminist critics like Volčič believe that the world is socially and historically constructed through power relations and

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put the individuals in various positions on the basis of their categories. These power relations result in gender biases and marginalization of women (Volčić, 2008).

Scholars like Holliday and his colleagues believe that the gender system is not natural, whereas it is socially constructed and naturalized (Holliday et al., 2015), and today, one of the main functions of media is to influence how we see men and women. It represents as if one group is powerful while the other is docile. Mass media inculcates the messages in our minds tacitly, leading to the stereotypical, sensational, and marginalized images of women. The portrayal of women is based on the premises that strengthens gender roles leading to VAW (Wood, 1994).

The patterns of news reporting are normally based on the gender landscape, which leads to inequalities and biasness (Easteal et al., 2015), and media reports of VAW create gender inequality, and the portrayal of VAW sufficiently supports patriarchal values rather than a social issue generated by male dominance (Mendes, 2012). This is why VAW is a social norm and a global issue (Walsh et al., 2015). For example, VAW in on the increase in Pakistan according to some certain reports. The sustainable Social Development Organization issued a report on the occasion of International Women's Day. According to this report, 10,201 cases of violence against women were registered under section 354 of the PPC. This was a 14.5% increase from the 8,787 cases reported in 2022 (the Dawn, 9 March 2024). The same report reads that 6623 women were raped, 626 women were kidnapped, 120 were killed in the name of honor, and 20 trafficked registered in 2023.

Research reports reveal that VAW has been a global issue since long. Women are not only victimized in the underdeveloped countries but also in the countries of the First World (Walsh et al., 2015). VAW may ensue in different ways, and it traditionally may lead to psychological, physical, and social implications (Ali & Gavino, 2008). It becomes essential to have an idea of what violence against women is. The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women provides the following definition:

> *The term violence against women means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.*

Research Question
- What kind of ethical violations are found in Pakistani English newspapers?

Review of Literature
Media and Violence against Women

Violence against women is a serious social business, and the media not only plays a critical role in constructing information about this phenomenon but also reconstructs and reshapes it. It also increases people's awareness regarding VAW, and the existing body of literature has also witnessed misrepresentation of these happenings in the crime news reports published in the newspapers (Sutherland et al., 2019). In this regard, Bullock cites an incident of media news framing and misrepresenting VAW in Utha newspapers. The news media harnesses numerous ways and techniques to construct social constructions of male dominance. One of these techniques that the media employs is to misrepresent and reconstruct violence against women in the news reports by affirming the essential supremacy of men and gender stereotypes. Media mostly acknowledges VAW as a social norm instead of treating it as a usurpation of women's rights (Bullock, 2007). These media representations of violence have further been divided into two categories by Owusu-

Addo and their colleagues. These categories are: thematic framing and episodic framing. Episodic framing is a dominant type of news media reporting that is concerned with individual and particular instances. According to this technique, violence is not constructed as a social issue; instead, the media starts a victim-blaming game. Thematic framing, on the contrary, constructs this phenomenon in a broader context. It takes into account the inherent social narratives, statistics, and incidents that become the causes of VAW. It does not blame the perpetrators of committing violence against women (Owusu-Addo et al., 2018).

Fairbairn and Dawson note that biased and stereotypical construction of VAW may misrepresent this social issue and color the people's perception regarding it. Media reports play down and sensationalize such occurrences. This constructs the stereotypical perception of these crimes that produces sexualized drama for the spectators. People and social actors normally perceive VAW as a private affair; hence, women are considered the private property of their men. It is thought that women provoke men, and thus any intervention is unethical (Fairbairn & Dawson, 2013).

Cullen et al., (2019) state that the media representations of such violence help people understand this social issue, leading social agencies to devise strategies to counter it. A common concept is that the media does not provide sufficient information about domestic violence. It structures and reshapes the happenings of violence against women. Hence, journalists, state (Morgan & Simons, 2018), become instruments to strengthen patriarchal norms and perpetuate male supremacy. The media persons reconstruct, reshape, and distort information regarding VAW (Morgan & Simons, 2018).

Reportage of Violence against Women and Ethical Guidelines

Many national and international media organizations have introduced and promulgated ethical considerations to produce reports on VAW; e.g., (Impe, 2019; the International Federation of Journalists [IFJ], 2016; United Nations, 2019; the World Health Organization, 2016). The researchers have selected seven standard guidelines provided by Impe, 2019; International Federation of Journalists (IFJ); the International Women's Forum; World Health Organization (WHO); UNESCO, and Aurat Foundation Pakistan. According to UNESCO, each of the relevant guidelines focuses on an overarching goal to direct the journalists to augment the construction of exploitation against women. These guidelines are:

1. Avoid citing the name of the survivors/ victims.
2. Do not share photos or videos of the survivors/victims.
3. Avoid adding hypothetical reasons with reference to an incident.
4. Do not name the happening as "domestic violence."
5. Do not place the responsibility solely on the killer.
6. Avoid sharing the statements that may confirm that domestic violence is just a physical crime.
7. Avoid making the offender visible in the report.

Every country has framed, developed, and applied the above-mentioned guiding principles for the journalists to follow to ensure the safety of the victims. These principles encourage responsible journalism, and they are accessible to every journalist (Parvez & Roshan, 2010; Sutherland et al., 2016).

Research Methodology

Research Design

Creswell (2009) believes a research design is a plan or a proposal to conduct research. A researcher may have different research designs at his disposal e.g., quantitative research design, qualitative

research design, or mixed method research design but it is the nature of the research problems and the nature of the data of the study that help a researcher choose a research design. Dornyei (2007) states mixed methods incorporates both qualitative and quantitative approaches in the same study at one stage of the research or the other. The present study uses content for analysis, this is why the qualitative research design is well-suited for it in that such analysis provides deep contextual insights Krippendorff (2018). On the contrary, Neuendorff (2017) states that quantitative research design is suitable for content analysis for objective, replicable, and unbiased analysis. It can handle a large data to investigate trends, patterns, and relationships (ibid). Dornyei (2009) advocates and states that the mixed methods increase the generalizability of the results. The present study used the mixed methods research design to find objective, transparent, and replicable results.

Data Collection
The researchers collected data from $n = 5$ English newspapers of Pakistan, namely the Dawn, the Express Tribune, the Nation, the News, and the Daily Times. These newspapers were selected due to their extensive national circulation and readership. These newspapers, being national ones, usually include the countrywide news; hence, the news may become representative. The data were collected from 1st January 2017 to 31st December 2018. The researchers gathered the cuttings of the relevant news reports from the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. These cuttings contained dates, months, and the numbers of years. Then, using the internet, the news reports were collected in soft form for analysis. The data of this particular time is used due to providing a comparative context. Some other researcher may compare this data with, recent data to identify shifts or changes in the pattern of the use of ethical guidelines in the newspapers because the world is growing more democratic where the rights of victims and offenders, and their families are taken care of. The data were carefully read and annotated to make categories of violence, e.g. psychological violence, emotional violence, sexual violence, etc. The total news reports were $n = 510$.

Analysis
The researcher used sketch engine, a computer-based corpus software, to analyze data. It was used to find out word lists in the corpus. It showed the occurrence of various words and their frequencies. Then the most frequently used words in the context relevant to ethical guidelines were investigated in order to draw concordances from the software. This software was used to make the finding rigorous, valid, and replicable. However, sketch engine was used only to examine the wordlist, check the keyword in context, and draw the concordances, which might help establish the usage of ethical guidelines.

Theoretical Frameworks
Corpus Linguistics (CL)
The corpus method is a computer aided linguistic analysis of corpora. This approach is used to describe various kinds of linguistic features. It is also used to test hypotheses in different linguistic frameworks. CL is considered a subdiscipline of Linguistics. Computer technology had to develop a system to handle a large amount of computerized text before this subdiscipline came into existence (McEnery and Hardie, 2013). Corpora are used for scientific research these days in various disciplines, and advancement in technology has directly influenced it (Mayare & Poudat, 2013).

Type/ Token Ratio
The data of the present study comprised 325260 tokens and 21320 types. The type-token ratio of corpus compares the running (tokens) number of words that a text comprises to the total number of different words (types). The number of different words dwindles in a very large corpus. The Sketch Engine was used to determine the type/ token ratio (TTR) by calculating the TTR in text.

Wordlist
The word list was constructed in order to find out which words were used by the reporters to observe or flout ethical considerations. The wordlist was manually examined to sort out words on the basis of their frequencies.

Concordances
Concordance is the use of the keyword in the context. The concordances were generated by the software automatically. However, to make them representative, the researchers chose them manually. A concordance plays a significant role in that it points out the contextual usage of a certain word. In this study, two frameworks were used to investigate the data. This is called triangulation. It is mainly used in the qualitative research and can also be used in quantitative research. Triangulation is conducive to reinforce and validate the results of the research by using several perspectives on the same phenomenon. This process helps increase the validity of the findings and reduce subjectivity and biases. Critical stylistics is used as a second framework in this study.

Critical Stylistics
Critical Stylistics (CS) is a new theory of stylistics framed by Jeffries (2010). She endeavored to combine Stylistics and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). Critical Stylistics helps infer meaning from language (Nørgaard et al., 2010). This tendency was motivated by Critical Linguistics and CDA (Jeffries, 2014a: 408). CS also helps study the subjective views of the authors and analyze them. CDA lacks an analytical tools kit and is used mainly to analyze small text. Moreover, its findings are subjective and biased (Blommaert, 2001; 2005). Stylistics, though has analytical apparatus, is chiefly used to analyze the literary texts (Widowson, 1995a, 1995b, 1996, 1998). This is why there was a need to constitute such a framework as will bridge the gap. Its tools comprise ten conceptual meta-functions so that the readers may have a notion of what type of information is addressed by each meta-function (Jefferies, 2010a). Critical Stylistics has ten meta-functions. The present study, however, draws on three meta-functions, which read as under:

Naming and Describing
Jeffries's (2010a) this category discusses the representation of noun phrases. These phrases contain a head noun, which is sometimes preceded by pre- or postmodifiers, and they envisage the referent. The following example will construe it:
Example 1: Where the woman was found dead with her son in her lap. Noor was lying dead near her mother.
Example 2: The police arrested a co-accused in the murder of 19-year-old student Tani Khaskheli in Sanghar.
Example 3: She approached them with a complaint, charging her husband of marital rape and sodomy.

Equating and Contrasting
Events are opposed by non-events; existence is opposed by non-states, and in this way the world is constructed. The following example explains it:
Example 4: 24-year-old Imran — convicted for the rape and murder of seven-year-old Zainab.
Example 5: In August that year, 10-year-old was brutally tortured by her employers Ahsan Butt and his wife Noor.

Prioritizing
It refers to emphasizing the process of identifying the most significant lexical features or patterns in a piece of text that contribute to its meaning, effect, or ideological perspective. To realize these effects the writers usually use nouns, pronouns, adjectives, imperative verbs, and modal auxiliaries. For example, the present corpus employed adjectives like naked, medical, sexual, teenage, married, disabled, mental, marital, honor-related, and honor, etc. Similarly, the pronouns e.g. she, he, and they have been used 2316, 1876, and 1260 times respectively in the data.
Example 6: The accused, identified as Manzoor, suffering from illness had murdered his daughter, Kiran, over a minor issue.
Example 7: He was charged with threatening Gulalai Ismail, instigating violence against her.

Data Analysis and Findings
The present study triangulated theoretical frameworks in order to produce more valid, objective, replicable, and rigorous findings. Both frameworks keep discussing the findings simultaneously. Blow are the tables which explain the number of news reports that violated the ethical guidelines.

Figure 1: Frequencies of news reports in various newspapers
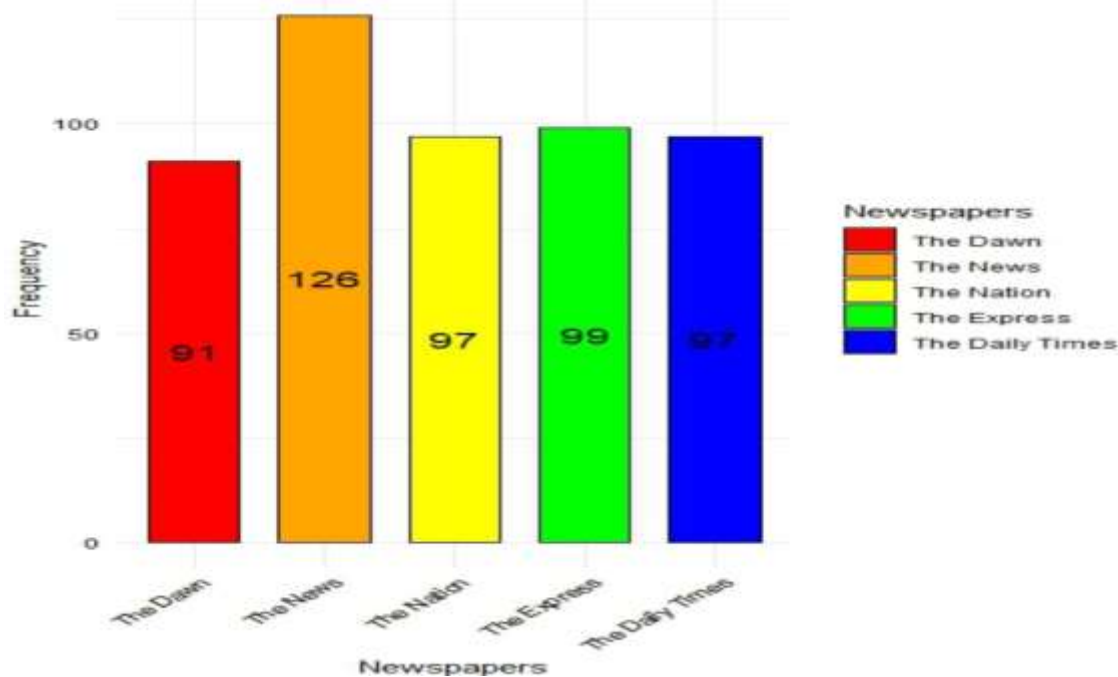
**Figure 2: Frequencies of ethical guidelines violations**
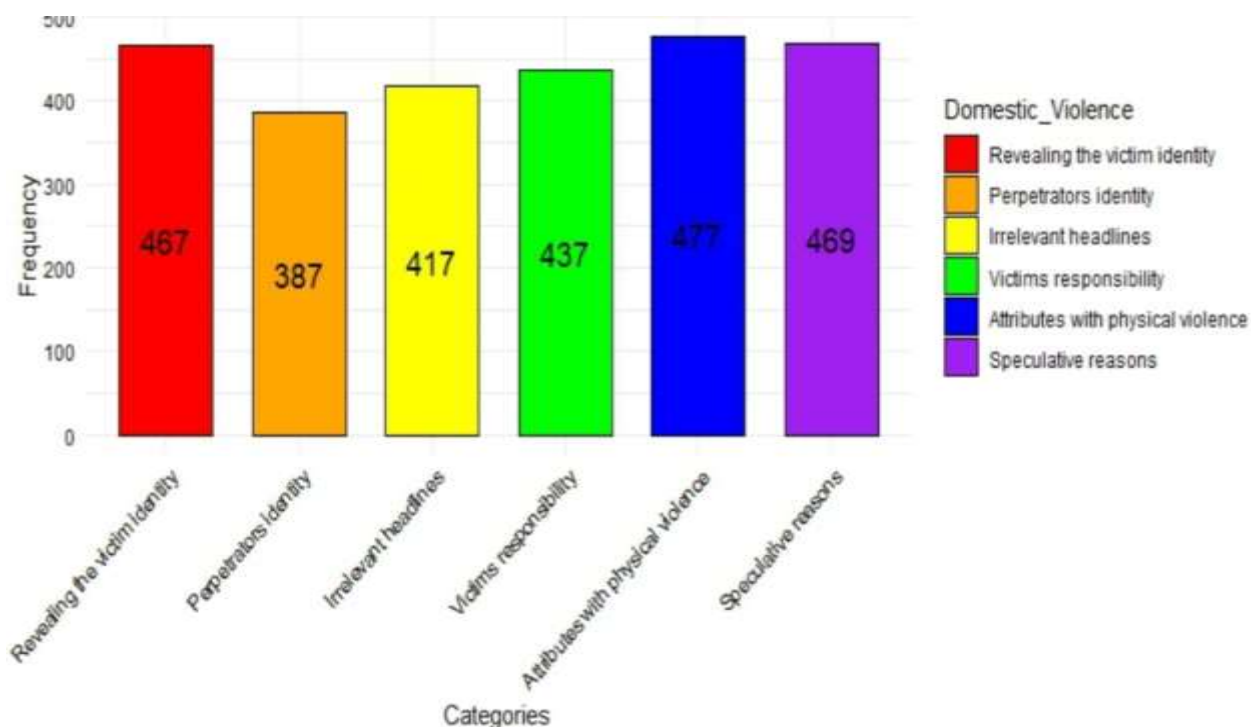
Findings of Corpus Linguistics and Critical Stylistics
Revealing the Victim's Identity
The news ethics demand that the identities of the victims and perpetrators should not be disclosed. If their identity is revealed, it may cause harm to the survivors and their family (IFJ, 2016). Reporting one's private life may be in the interests of public, but revealing the identity may endanger one's health and life. Likewise, the disclosure of the marital status, age, parenting status, and locality is unethical. It is observed that the identities, e.g., name, age, nature of the crime, parentage, and location have been revealed. Such revelations may hinder the survivors to live a normal life, and preserving the identities is crucial for the victims' safety. There was n = 467 or 91.56% news which disclosed the identity of victims.

The above screenshot reveals the age of the victims, the nature of violence, the parentage, and the location of the victims. This shows that the ethical considerations were violated.

Figure 3: Examples of ethical consideration violation
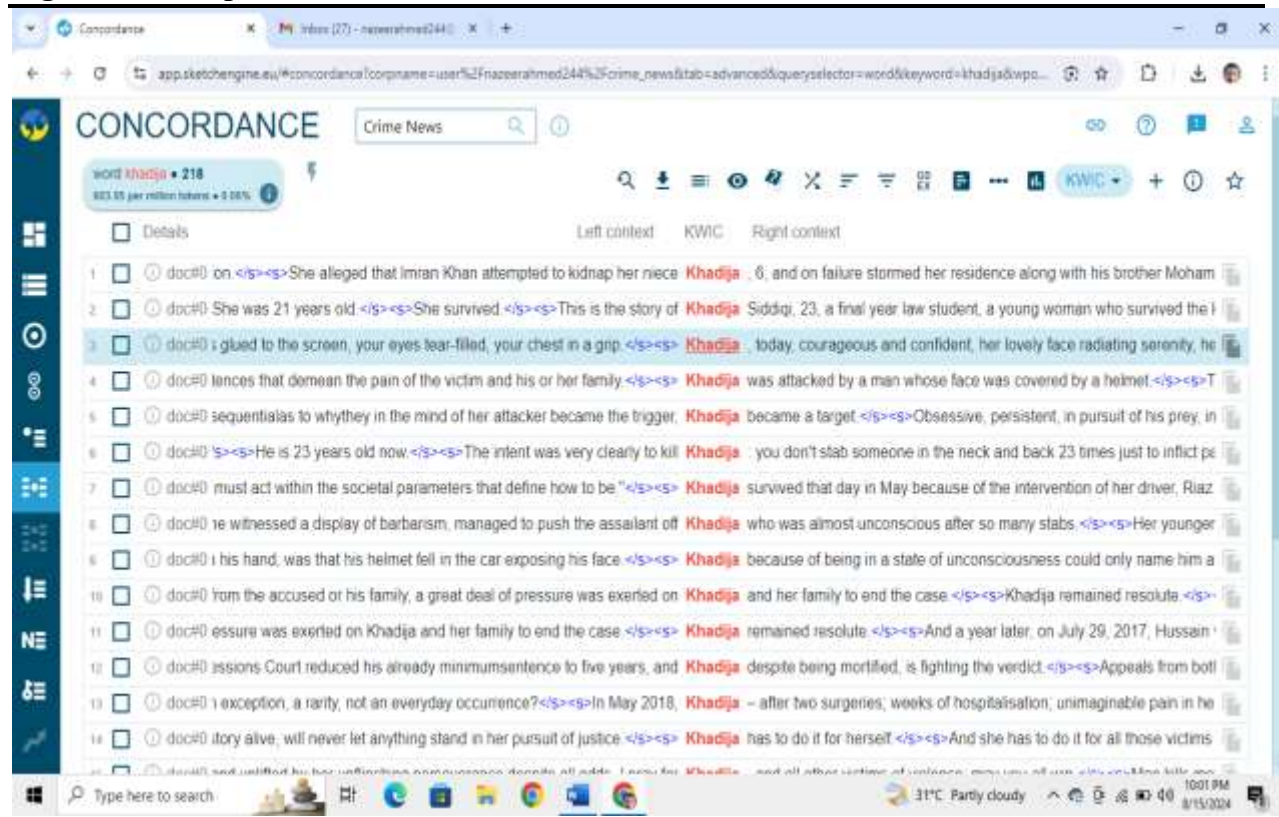
Example 8: The police arrested a co-accused in the murder of 19-year-old student Tani Khaskheli in Sanghar.

Example 9: This is the story of Khadija Siddiqi, 23, a final year law student, a young woman who survived the attack.

Example 10: She approached them with a complaint, charging her husband of marital rape and sodomy.

These examples corroborate the findings of Corpus Linguistics. The concordance produced by Sketch Engine shows the names and identities of the victims. Similarly, naming and describing reveal the name, location, age, and nature of violence.

Perpetrator's Identity

Numerous studies have revealed the construction of the perpetrators. In fact, the offenders are constructed through the lens of the victims. Media usually dehumanizes the perpetrators. In the following screenshot, we see the names and the locations of the killers of women. Even the adjective serial killer had also been used. The use of *serial killer* meant to show sympathy with the victims (Impe, 2019). The result revealed that n = 387, or 75.88%, show the abusers' identity in one or the other way. Whereas according to the United Nations (2019), the abusers' visibility in the news reports is required in that in a criminal offense the perpetrators should be explicitly identified. In the following screenshot the perpetrators' identity is rather visible through mentioning the mane, location, and even age.

Naming and Describing
CS helps find out the name, social relation, age, profession, and location of the perpetrators. It is a violation of ethical guidelines. The following example revealed the violation of it. See the following examples.
Example 11: Initial reports suggested the woman, Kiran, and her husband, Shiraz Butt, were not enjoying good relations due to some domestic issue.
Example 12: He suspected that Minhal's maternal uncle Raja Mohammad Qaiser could be involved in her murder.
The present examples reveal the names of the perpetrators, their relations with the victims, and the nature of violence. That is the violation of ethical guidelines set by (IFJ, 2016).

Equating and Contrasting
This is another meta-function of CS. It revealed not only the perpetrators but also the victim and equated it, too. Such equations add sympathy for the victim and make the perpetrator an abominable person.

Figure 4: Example of the incident
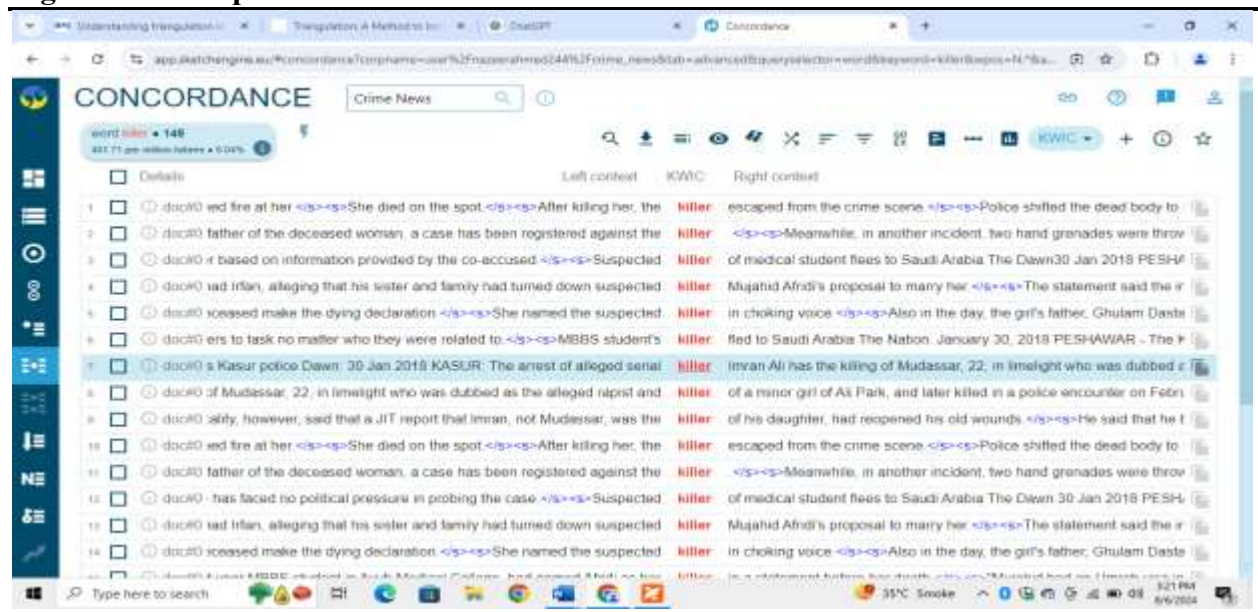
Example 13: 24-year-old Imran — convicted for the rape and murder of seven-year-old Zainab.

Graphical Representations
The ethical concerns demand that the reporters should avoid creating sensationalism by depicting the graphical description of the victims. To create a graphical picture, the reporters may adopt many ways, including printing photos besides giving location and the details of the victim's parents. It is observed in the data that the pictures of the victims are very rarely published, and it was a positive sign of the media reporting. The graphical representation paints the offender as an ideal offender and the victim as an ideal victim. The offender's graphic description creates the perception of hypermasculinity. In the above screenshot, we see that a female singer was murdered, and the reporter gave a detailed description of her and her family, which is violation of the ethical concerns.

Relevant Headlines
The media reports deepen and strengthen the audience and readers' perceptions. In this regard, it was discovered that many headlines sensationalized the violence by referring to men's violence against women. The researchers' found that *n = 417, or 81.76%*, have irrelevant headlines. These lines evoked sensationalism and concern by naming the victims and offenders and even professions like teacher; a seminary teacher rapes a teenage. The United Nations (2016) put emphasis on writing proper headlines to point out the incidents properly. For instance, the media should report an incident as a "volatile relationship" (United Nations, 2019). In the below screenshot, acid burning is mentioned with inappropriate headlines.

Prioritizing
Prioritizing is another metafunction of CS. To realize these effects, the writers usually use nouns, pronouns, adjectives, imperative verbs, and modal auxiliaries. For instance: i. Husband gunned down wife. ii. Woman forced to drink acid. Such headings sensationalized the incidents.

Figure 5: Women victimization
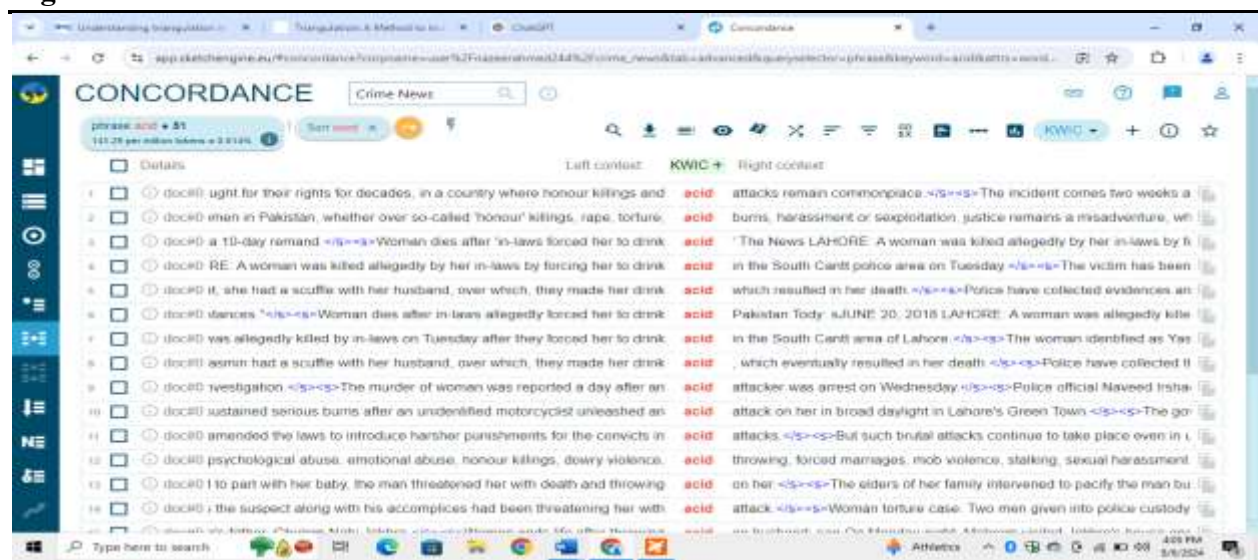
Victims' Responsibility
A news report should not be reported in a way that holds the victim responsible for violence wholly or partially. The victim's behavior should be deemed neither provoking nor exploiting (IFJ, 2016). The reporters should not use the language that renders the offender as innocent and the victim (woman) as the provocative one. There are 437, or 85.68%, news reports in which women were tacitly held responsible for instigating the offenders. For instance, there are numerous news reports that read that the woman rejected the proposal, did not serve hot meal or a meal at all, or could not give birth to a male baby or went out of the house without permission, and so on. This annoyed and angered the perpetrators, and they treated them with grave violence. So, these reports insinuated that the women were responsible for the ire they earned. Sutherland et al. (2016).

Naming and Describing
This conceptual function of CS helped emphasize that the victims are responsible for violence.

Example 14: The husband has been arrested for allegedly killing his wife after she failed 'to serve a hot meal' during sehri in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Shalkanabad area in Upper Kohistan.
Here we see the victim is held responsible for the violence. Besides it, the relation between the accused and the victim, and their location was also described.

Figure 6(a): Victimization of women
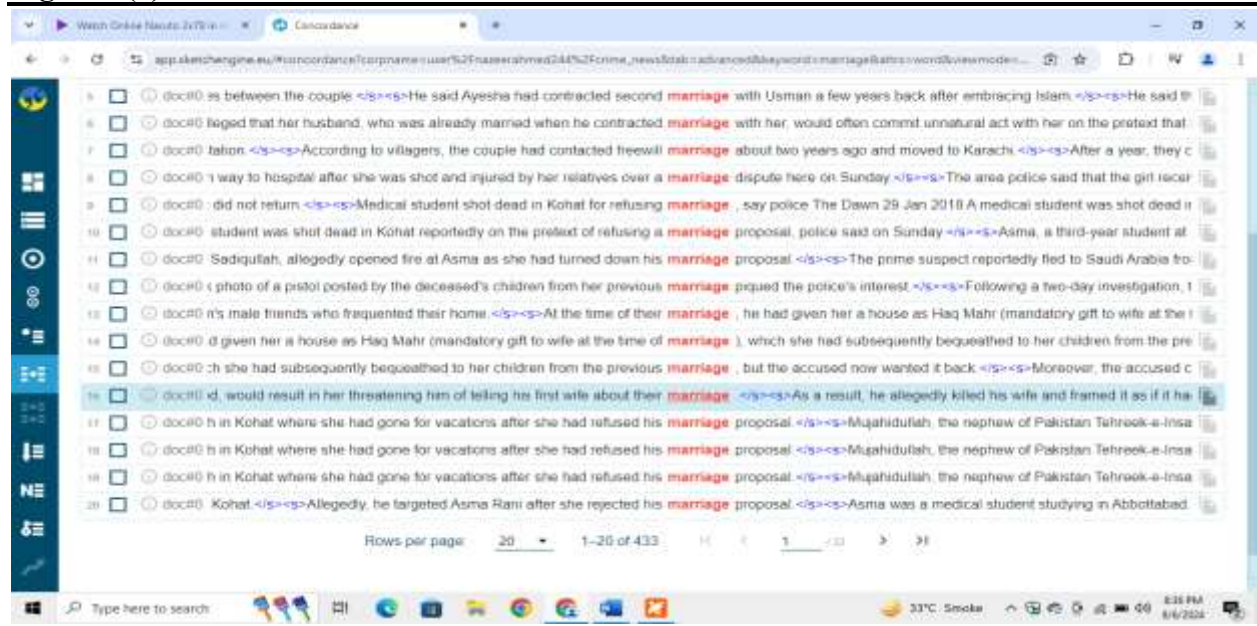
In the next screenshot, it is witnessed that certain women became the victims of violence because they served their husbands with cold meal or none at all.

**Figure 6(b): Victimization of women**
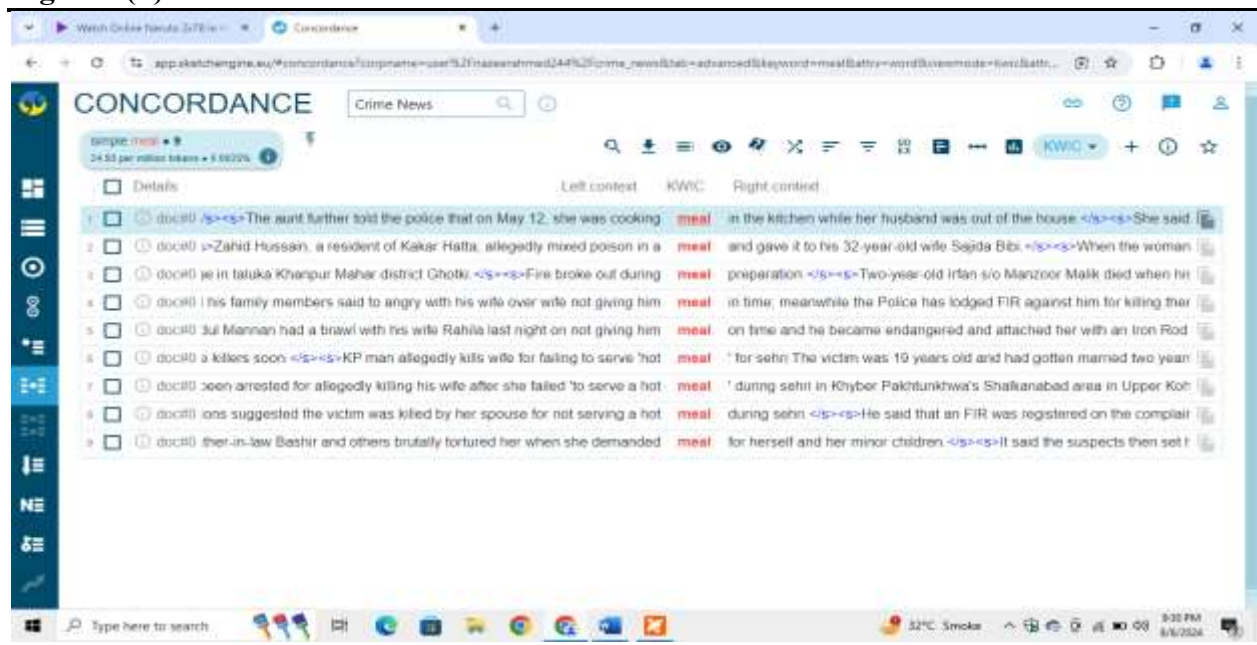
Attribution with "Physical" Violence

Women become victims of various types of violence. It ranges from physical violence to sexual, marital sexual, emotional, economic, and psychological violence. In order to break this vicious treatment meted out to women, it is necessary that violence reports highlight emotional, economic, or psychological violence to enlighten the masses (Sutherland et al., 2016).

The reporters usually refrain from portraying the types of violence. UN Women, (2012) also expect that true types of violence should be reported lest misconceptions be created in the minds of readers. There were *477, or 93.52%,* news stories that attribute violence to physical violence.

Figure 7: Examples of physical violence
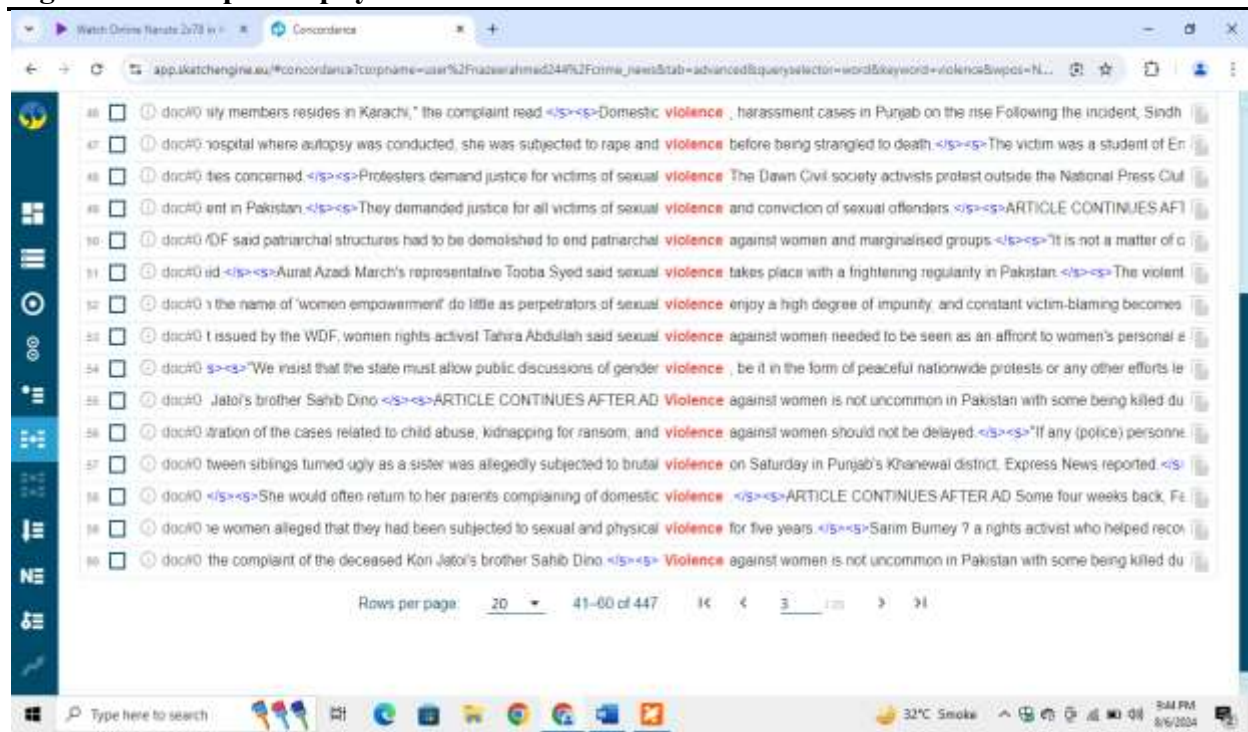
Speculative Reasons

Previous body of research has shown that media reports fortify and perpetuate stereotypes against women. Sutherland et al. (2016) point out that the journalists should not point out the reasons that caused violence. According to them, media fails to portray the true story. The researchers found that 469, or 91.96%, of the news stories contained the reasons for violence, which is violation of ethical guidelines. Extramarital relations, honor killing, financial problems, losing a job, and being in a state of intoxication and anger are not the causes of violence (Braber, 2014), it is men who are responsible for it. "Men cause it. That is the story we need to tell" (European Council, 2014). The following screenshot points out that men abuse women needlessly and later concoct lame excuses to justify their actions.

Figure 8: Men abuse women and give lame excuses
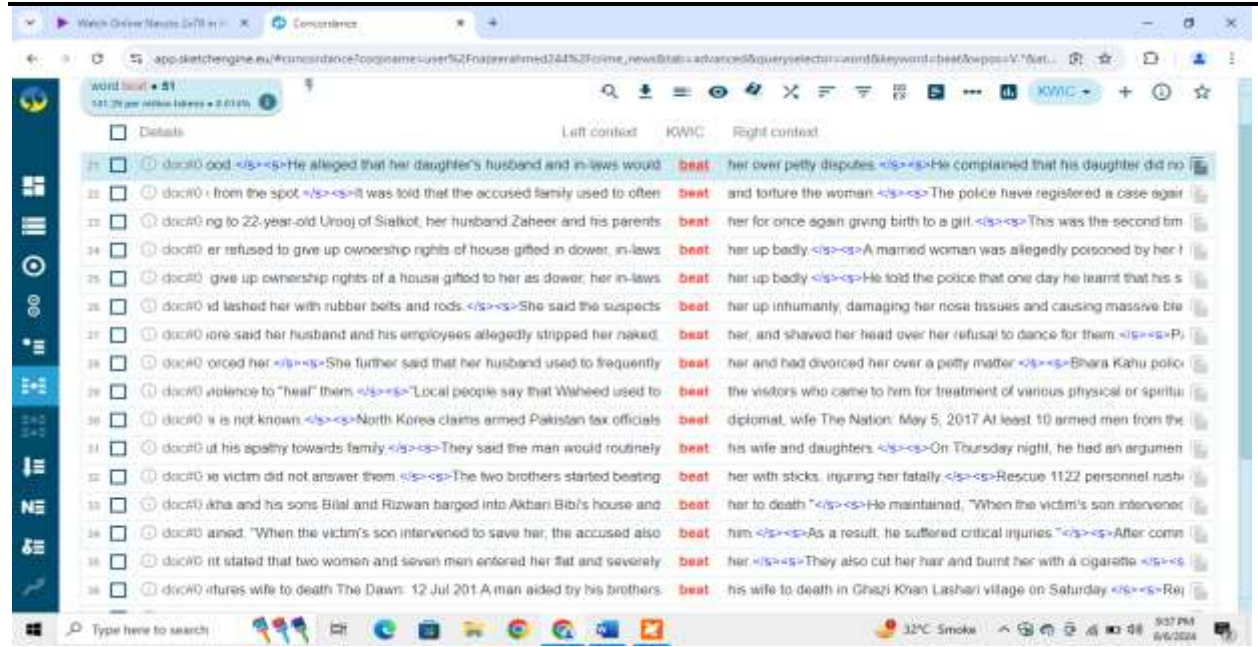
Discussion

Pakistan is ranked the sixth most dangerous country in the world due to VAW. 1100 women are killed every year in the name of honor in Pakistan. Besides it, there are scores of women who are killed in the name of honor but are declared the cases of suicide later. The number of women who are victimized by their husbands and in-laws are countless (Talpur, 2019). Though Pakistan is a democratic country where women enjoy several rights, they are subjected to violence of various kinds (Zia, 2019). Women from the world over regardless of their color, creed, socio-political status, ethnicity, education, and class, suffer from some kind of violence. Violence against women is not only common but also accepted due to cultural norms and certain stereotypes (Kaur & Garg, 2008).

VAW is a widespread endemic social problem in Pakistan. Apart from it, women cannot and do not file a complaint against the perpetrators because they are either husbands, former husbands or brothers, fathers or uncles. Police also consider honor killing cases as private matters and do not register cases against them (Ahmed et al., 2020; Tahir, 2018). Cultural values of the country become another barrier in the way of women's reporting the cases to the police. Violence is a complex behavioral issue and needs to be addressed. It is meant to be highlighted on the proper media platforms (Khan, 2009). Moreover, careless reporting styles, unethical representations, and sensationalized reporting can further aggravate the dominant phenomenon. For these purposes, ethical practices should be the central concern for the newsrooms for supporting the social welfare of women (Sutherland et al., 2016).

The results of the present study correspond to the findings of the study carried out in Britain by Lloyd and Shamon. They claimed that such ethical infringements were also committed by the Guardian and the Sun (Lloyd & Ramon, 2017).

It is important to observe that most of the narratives regarding VAW read as follows: man kills a woman for not responding to his advances, drunkard man kills his wife, uncle kills niece for rejecting marriage proposal, newlywed bride burnt for not bringing dowry, husband kills wife for

not giving birth to a male baby are published in Pakistani English newspapers. These media narratives regarding VAW entrench and strengthen stereotypical perceptions about gender roles and violence against women (Easteal et al., 2015). The news media characterizes the social stories in a style that people see according to the particular frames (Phung, 2011). The unethical depiction of VAW brings harmful consequences to mediatization as it establishes the world regulated by media "logic." These unethical ways of reporting stories deeply affect society and how the violence against women is perceived (Hjarvard, 2008).

The phrases like "family dispute" further strengthen the social concerns as it is viewed as a process of underpinning the overriding sociocultural sensitivities about gender (Ali et al., 2020). Furthermore, unveiling the victim's identity, i.e., name, age, location, and other details about their family members, brings boundless challenges, which specifies that exposing any related detail is highly unethical as disclosing the identity can endanger the victims and their family (Alat, 2006). Likewise, UNESCO also emphasizes not to disclose the identities of victims and other details like wounds and stabs (Impe, 2019). Photos published in the newspapers can be detrimental to the victims, family members, and their friends (Bucqueroux & Seymour, 2009). The World Health Organization (WHO) also advocates classifying the VAW with the relevant definition described by the United Nations Declaration of the Elimination of Violence Against Women (1993). UNESCO also underpins the need to provide the required details to apprise the public about the real incident. People pay more attention to the headings than to the details of the happenings (UN Women, 2012). It is noted that media ignores framing appropriate headlines (IFJ, 2016).

Conclusion

This study investigated the widely practiced patterns of ethical values practiced by journalists while reporting VAW in Pakistan. The study used two frameworks, namely Critical Stylistics and Corpus Linguistics to investigate the hypothesis. Its purpose was to come up with objective, replicable and rigorous findings. The findings of both frameworks suggested that VAW had been widely reported in English newspapers and the ethical guidelines were violated. This reflects that the newspapers accord great importance to this social problem. Therefore, this phenomenon is given good coverage. Fanslow (2005) cites that four measures should be taken to better the media reporting on VAW: i. not to label VAW as a domestic issue; ii. focus on grim consequences of violence; iii. not to report the background of the incidents; iv. efforts that could reduce the occurrence of VAW should be highlighted. Media, being a powerful institution, can play a dominant role in curbing VAW. It can also make the reporters realize the significance of upholding ethical guidelines, though the media has been facing many socio-political and economics problems during political tensions (Mezzera & Sial, 2010). Media can practice democratic values and help create an egalitarian society. However, media as an institution does not respect the privacy of the victims (Ittefaq et al., 2021). VAW is a growing issue and merits attention to be resolved (Ahmed, 2014), and the dynamics of VAW have become complex and need to construct a mechanism to normalize it (Fernández-Villanueva et al., 2009). There is a need to make an arrangement to delve deep to highlight the unreported incidents (Parvez & Roshan, 2010).

The present study helps discover the power dynamics and biases. It helps the readers know how language is used to shape and reshape public opinion and perpetuate stereotypes. It will help enhance the critical thinking and skills of the readers and enable them to effectively analyze the news content. It also points out the need to improve journalistic practices, providing insights for media outlets and journalists to augment ethical reporting and promote more informed citizenry.

The researchers used the data of 2017 and 2018. A further study can be conducted collecting the recent data of an extended period. A comparative study may also be carried out, collecting data from some developed country to check cross cultural representation of VAW.

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