

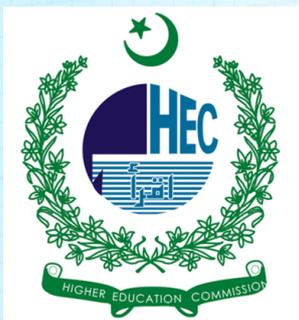
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**A Critical Investigation on Karachi Street Crime News Coverage in the English Newspaper: Application of Van Dijk's Model**



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**Abstract**

Newspapers play important part to provide information in modern age. The purpose of this article is to discover the hidden agenda of the editors and owners of the newspapers. Textual, cognitive and social elements manipulate, legitimate and reconstruct the text. Textual presentation cannot be separated from the interests of the society and owners of the newspapers. Reality is presented and represented strategically considering the interests of the elites. The purpose of the article is to discover the hidden agenda and ideology of the newspapers and explores it by using 3-dimensional model of CDA. For exploring the hidden agenda of the newspaper in presenting the Karachi street crimes, researcher used the 3 dimensional model of Van Dijk. Using 3 dimensional CDA model of Van Dijk, researcher explores the text on textual, cognitive and social basic. Textual analysis is based on the thematic, super-structural and micro analysis which is included semantic, syntax, stylistic and rhetoric. Presentation of the text is manipulated, legitimated and reconstructed on textual strategy. Besides textual analysis, cognitive presentation strategizes text reference to the ideology of the producer and the consumer of the text. Social context also plays a major role to legitimate the text in context to the social institutions of the society. Textual construction, cognitive structure and social context strategize the text of the newspapers. Presentation of the reality is not only important but its manipulation and legitimation in a social discourse is more important for a newspapers. Reality is constructed considering the social values, cultural norms, political interests, power struggle, legitimation and justifying power abuse in a social order. Through different strategies text is presented and represented through discourse to manipulate reality. In concluding remarks, researcher found in the news of Karachi street crimes that author of the news stories distorted the reality for the national and personal interest. Reality is distorted and manipulated through presenting textual, cognitive and social context of the text. Researcher explored the hidden agenda and ideology by providing the answer of the questions basis on textual, cognitive and social context. Researcher chose only Karachi street crimes news stories published in the English Newspaper, the Nation during the month of June, 2021. Researcher only utilizes the 3 dimensional Van Dijk to explore the Karachi street crimes coverage. Van Dijk model of CDA is application to the text of the newspaper. Through this model of CDA, hidden agenda and ideology can be explored on basis of textual, cognitive and social analysis of the text in newspapers presenting the Karachi street crimes. The study of this research work would provide the knowledge to explore the structure of the newspaper for exploration. CDA of the newspapers fundamentality provides the structural construction of the newspapers to explore the intention of the producer and discursive practice of the readers.

**Keywords:** Crime News, Van Dijk's Model, Newspaper, Reality, Social Context, Norms

**Introduction**

Crimes are ever increasing poison in a society. Basically, crimes can be defined as any unlawful activity that must be punishable by law. Crime is a human conduct with a

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malign intention to damage other people (Sheer al et. 2018). Crime is not easy to define, and no one can claim to define it in an appropriate way (Becker & Gary S., 1993). The nature of crime varies within different situations and places. Allen stated (1996) 'A crime is action/function of human which is dangerous to other people.

Due to increasing of population and poverty, the ratio of the crimes has been also increased. In modern age, most of the crime is taking place in the area of metropolitan cities where police and security agencies cannot respond rapidly. The concept of street crime is complex and intricate. Moreover, it is also difficult to root out street crime in every corner of the city. In modern era, CCTA and video camera are being operated but it is a complicated process to respond rapidly and identify criminals (Laghari & Asif, 2017). The nature of the crimes in Pakistani society is multiple shapes like abduction/kidnapping, dacoity, theft and especially thefting of mobile, motor cycle and cars/vehicle, robbery, attempted murder, homicide, cattle theft, harassment, sexual harassment are some crimes in top list. Moreover, Karachi is a major city of Pakistan, and the ratio of the street crimes is higher than any other part of the country.

Moreover, Karachi is one of the most populated business hubs of Pakistan. Karachi is suffering due to ever increasing crime ratio from previous few decades. Similarly, street crimes are a major issue in Karachi. Researcher finds out the presentation of the street crime on the newspaper, the Nation and analyzes it by following the CDA model of Van Dijk for exposing the agenda of the media house and its manifestation to expose monopoly of elite class, discrimination, ideological polarization, cognitive models and social context of the text.

## **Research Objectives**

To know the textual structure of the English Newspaper in presenting Karachi street crimes news coverage

To analyze cognitive structure of the English Newspaper in presenting Karachi street crimes news coverage

To evaluate social structure of the English Newspaper in presenting Karachi street crimes news coverage

## **Research Questions**

How does the English Newspaper present structure of Karachi street crimes news coverage?

How does the English Newspaper present socio-cognitive structure in Karachi street crime news coverage?

How does the English Newspaper present social context of the English Newspaper in Karachi street crimes news coverage?

## **Significance of Research**

This study is beneficial for the reader's perspective to comprehend text in perspective of knowing agenda of the newspaper. Moreover, this study will be helped for comprehending textual presentation of producer for propagating agenda in the street crimes news reporting. Further, author of the article exposes the cognitive and social structure of the newspaper through analyzing the text at the level of ideological polarization and social set up of a society.

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## **Delimitation**

Researcher chose only Karachi street crimes news stories published in the English Newspaper, the Nation during the month of June, 2021.

## **Literature Review**

Karachi is a major financial capital and commercial hub of Pakistan as well a city of the highest crime rate. Coverage of Karachi street crimes is a routine matter of newspapers. However, the English newspaper, the Nation is not behind in publishing street crimes of Karachi.

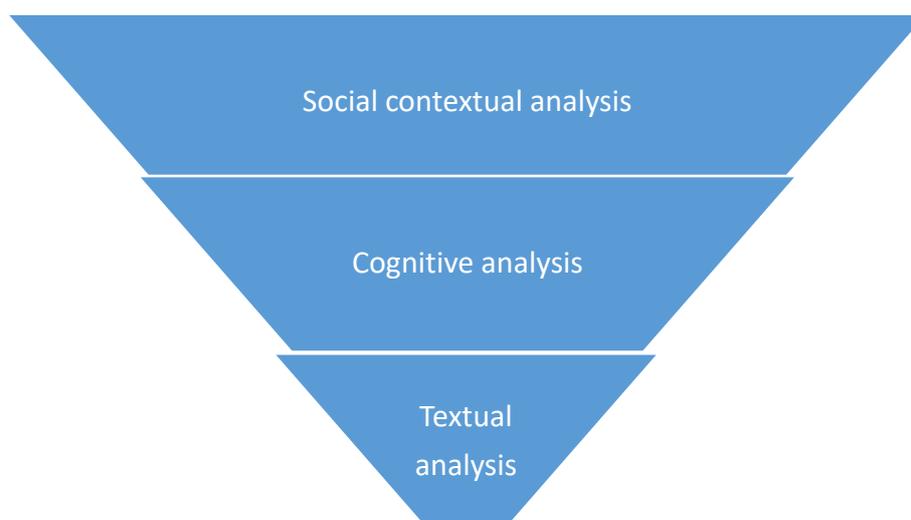
Reach stated (2002) news is an essential source of information about the recently happenings which are published in the newspapers for public interests. Valdivia (2003) and McCombs (2004) admitted the power of the news reporting and domination of its presentation in the newspapers. Van Dijk admitted (1983) news is not based on the fact but rather it is a tool in the hand of the establishment to reshape reality and construct it in a news way to propagate social and cultural identity. In modern age, news is an essential source of information but news is also a mediated power between power and subjection through legitimation of inequality, promotion of ideological polarization, propaganda against memories and justification for majority, publication of ideology, cultural and social domination, controlling of hegemonic group in a society (Fearch & Kasperl, 1984). It is fact, elite class does not like presentation of the minorities in main social function and this fact is presented through news reporting in national newspapers (Schiffrin, Tannen & Hamilton, 2001). Van Dijk (1995) rightly mentioned that elite class has control on discursive practice of the print media. Elite class has easy access in media houses (Van Dijk, 1993). Elite class not only has influence on the thinking of the people but also control their actions through media presentation (Schiffrin, Tannen & Hamilton, 2001).

## **Theoretical Framework**

Van Dijk CDA model is based on the analyzing text at 3 dimensional levels; textual, social cognitive and social textual. In textual level, text is analyzed through linguistic property only at macro and micro levels; further text is analyzed through macro level at 2 levels such as thematic, schematic and micro levels at 3 levels as observing its semantic, syntactical, stylistic and rhetorical levels. Moreover, cognitive process, mental and context model with ideological polarization manipulate the formal feature of the text and it also helps readers comprehending. It is essential to understand production and consumption of the text. Social context is also important to analyze textual background, social function and social understanding. According to Van Dijk CDA model, the relationships between discourse and society is not direct, it is based on social cognitive structure. Social cognitive structure is interface between society and discourse. Besides, cognitive structure of the text, social structure also determines the fate of the text.

## **Figure 1**

*3 Dimensional Van Dijk CDA model*



**Methodology**

This research is a qualitative one; it only focused on to investigate the street crime in specific area of Pakistan, published in the Nation during the month of June, 2021. This research is interrelated concepts and assumptions. Basically a qualitative study is based on the relations between cultural and interpretive study (Norman & Denzin). In a qualitative research, researchers utilized inductive approach to analyze the empirical reality. Utilizing inductive approach to know the hidden phenomenon, utilizing theoretical framework for understanding a social reality is the name of qualitative research (Hammad, 2004).

Van Dijk basically emphasizes on textual, contextual and social analysis. His CDA model worked on 3 dimensional CDA model. Basically van Dijk divided analysis of the text among macrostructure, superstructure and microstructure at textual level. It is important to mention cognitive and social perspectives are also important to evaluate text.

**Table 1:** *Macrostructure analysis of the Dimension Text*

Macrostructure	Analyzing observable text in global significance From thematic perspective and values
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**Table 2:** *Discursive Elements*

Discursive structure	Observable aspects in text	Elements
Macrostructure	Thematic: Topic/ themes is the main concern	Topic
Superstructure	Schematic: Observing the parts, strategies and sequences of news reporting	Scheme

**Table 4:** *Micro analysis of the text*

	Semantic	Explicitly providing the details on one side and reducing on other side in the news story to	background, intention, details, presupposition,
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Microstructure		give the meaning of will	assumption
	Syntax	How functional words to choose for coherence to draw meanings of will and designing shape of the sentence by using connector in the news story.	Constructing phrases, sentences, coherence, connector, functional, part of speech, pronounce
	Stylistic	Analyzing the style of the producer in the way of tone, behavior and lexical choice to make sentences logical for the readers to convince them.	Lexical choice
	Rhetoric	Using persuading diction to convince readers, emphasis on certain ideas	Metaphorical presentation, graphical imagery, number game, expectations

### Data Collection

Researcher chose 5 Karachi street crime news stories from the Nation newspaper during month of June, 2021 for data analysis;

Rangers arrest drug peddlers, street criminals

June 11, 2021

Rangers arrest five of most wanted drug racket

June 19, 2021

Street criminals arrested from Ibrahim Hyeri

June 24, 2021

DIGP vows all out-efforts to eliminate crime

June 27, 2021

Karachi police arrest 1,060 street criminals, drug dealers, robbers in a week

June 28, 2021

### Data Analysis

**Table 5:** *Discourse Analysis of Story No. 1 Rangers arrest drug peddlers, street criminals*

Structure	Analysis
<b>Text</b>	
Macrostructure	This Karachi street crime news story was published in the Nation about the criminal elements which are existed in the major city of Pakistan. The theme of the news story, arrestment of the criminal by national security force Ranger.
Superstructure	Introduction of the new story is based on typical notes as mentioning the important details of the news story. Structure of the news story is totally based on journalistic and linguistic tactics to fill the stomach of the news.
Microstructure	Reporter of the news story, particularly utilized the criminal diction like stolen properties, drugs, arrest, street crimes, accused etc., to make story criminalized in audience point of views. Moreover,

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	reporter deliberately utilized the number game to have influence on audience through presenting facts and figures.
Social cognition	Social cognition is an important element in constructing the meaning and evaluating mental process of the producers and consumers of the text. It is also benefited in comprehending point of view. This particular news story is published in the Karachi criminal perspective. Readers of the news story is mental process identify the criminal elements in context of the social and cognitive prospective.
Social context	Social context is important factor to identify the news story. in this particular case, the Karachi city is full of hegemonic polarization. There are different ideologies in perspective of cultural and religious hegemony, and in this way street crimes took place specially, target killing of religious scholar and activists. The reader is aware from these factors and they utilized social context structure to comprehend the text in newspapers.

**Table 6:** *Discourse Analysis of Story No. 2 Rangers arrest five of most wanted drug racket*

Structure	Analysis
<b>Text</b>	
Macrostructure	This news story published in the Nation, the subject matter of the news story is Karachi street crime.
Superstructure	The content of the news story presents conventional journalistic methods. The news story begins with authoritative tone to give information about the operation and arrestment of the five most wanted drug cartel and decoit gang. Conventionally, news story is based on presenting information with criminal diction and concluded with the note of legal proceedings and further investigation.
Microstructure	Producer of the news story utilized criminal and legal vocabulary to judge the news story in the context of Karachi street crime news reporting in the Nation. Typically, writer is familiarized the criminal writing style and in full swing utilized it in the story stylistic perspective.
Social cognition	Producer of the text is familiar with the social cognitive perspective of the readers. Karachi is hub of criminal activities. Political killings, killings of religious personals and ethnic killing on bases on racism is a routine matter. Further, Karachi is economical hub for Pakistan and ani-forces of Pakistan want to destabilize it. So, cognitive perspective is essential to comprehend the text and its role in the mind of the consumers. In this regards, the shared and personal knowledge of the individuals shape the reality and ideological polarization deforms the identity of the reader related the materials of the text.
Social context	Criminal activities are daily routine matter in streets of Karachi from many decades. Karachi is center of terroristic activities. Producer explored the knowledge of the social context in context of social

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	habits and cultural norms.
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**Table 7:** *Discourse Analysis of Story No. 3 Street criminals arrested from Ibrahim Hyeri*

Structure	Analysis
<b>Text</b>	
Macrostructure	Criminal intense temperature in the area of Ibrahim Hyderi, Karachi is subject matter of the news. The subject matter reminds the readers the national and international nexus. Its theme is simple to capture the mind of the reader due to common subjectivity.
Superstructure	This news story is structured in journalistic art of presentation. Story commences traditionally by describing nature and identity of the criminals. The stomach of the news story is stuffed by content of the criminal and legal material. The story also ended up with traditional methodology of providing information to readers about the legal action and process of legal investigation conducted by authoritative administration.
Microstructure	Producer of the news story utilized criminal diction and style for exposing the activities against public interests. Producer of the news story gave perspective in past indefinite tense to realize the readers about the facts. Rhetorical pattern was used to have influence on the mind of the reader and getting benefits from rhetorical patterns as mentioned by Street No. 1, flat No-F5/F6 and Street No. 1 are particular important in this news story.
Social cognition	Criminality is an important subject in social pattern in any society. Karachi had been struggling in administrated affairs. Producer of the news story for comprehending of the readers supposed many things in this regards. Producer of the news story is aware from the cognitive structure of the readers and idealize the share and personal memory of the readers in production of the news story.
Social context	This particular news story is published in the Nation in the context of Karachi street crime. Karachi had been victimized of criminals from a few decades, for comprehending the text of the news; producer and consumer are familiar the social structure and production of the news. Source is a key to comprehend the subject matter and context of the news. Social order of the Karachi is main issue for the country. Karachi is economical hub but at the same time national and international elements cause problems the structure of the society.

**Table 8:** *Discourse Analysis of Story No. 4 DIGP vows all out-efforts to eliminate crime*

Structure	Analysis
<b>Text</b>	
Macrostructure	Eliminating the crime is the main agenda of the news story by the authoritative Karachi and state administration.
Superstructure	Producer of the news story hands the news story in a technical and

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	<p>professional way. News story commence with the authoritative voice by mentioning the protection of the business community from the criminal in Karachi. The whole story is full of official statements by the authoritative officials of the state. As news story begins with traditional way by added statements of representative voice, also news story ended up with legal procedures and hopeful statements about the future and community of the Karachi. Reassuring the community and common public to take actions against the criminal is the basic strategy in the concluding remarks in the news story.</p>
Microstructure	<p>Vocabulary and style of the producer is typically professional for presenting institutionalized authoritative voice of the state. Producer of the news story utilized vocabulary to draw state presentation semantically. Syntactically writer produces the forceful sentences to present state's point of view. In this regards writer utilized forceful quotation and rhetorical phrase to have impression on the audience such as "hardworking and dedicated police officers" to identify the power and honour for the legal and official authority.</p>
Social cognition	<p>Social cognitive structure of the readers memorizes the institutional authority of the state. Particularly, in this news story, writer utilized abbreviation of DIGP for Deputy Inspector General to present the official voice. Social cognition is based on the mental and event models. Ideology and memory of participant also manipulate the reality in the news story. Ideological factors shape and reshape the identity and nature of the news story. Readers of the news story is used to the traditional presentation of the news in this story.</p>
Social context	<p>In news story published in the Nation in context of Karachi street crime. Karachi has been remained center of criminal activities from a few decades. Defense department is obviously considered responsible for rooting out these activities in Karachi. Media has influence to manipulate and control the social environment. Security institutions are responsible to make sure peace and progress in the country, in this regards the reporter of the news story propagates the agenda of the intuitions. Social elements cannot be ignored to discover the hidden agenda of the media and social presentation in a society.</p>

**Table 9:** *Discourse Analysis of Story No. 5 Karachi police arrest 1,060 street criminals, drug dealers, robbers in a week*

Structure	Analysis
<b>Text</b>	
Macrostructure	<p>Criminal elements in the street of Karachi are the common subject matter of this news story. Karachi is the biggest commercial hub of Pakistan, victimized criminals national and international level of criminals.</p>
Superstructure	<p>This news story is also typically journalistic and professional methods of presenting reality. Reporter begins this news story with the authoritative remarks by mentioning the arrestment of 1,060 criminal in different cases of drug dealers and robbers during one</p>

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	<p>week. The stomach of the news story is filled up with the information of investigating institutions and figurative language of investigators of security agency of state. A lot of reporting covers the space that is based on figurative language by journalistic style. Even this news story ended on the informative style to provide information with presenting of figurative language. Ending of the news story is also based on authoritative voice to emphasize intuitional hegemony in protection of national interests.</p>
Microstructure	<p>Choice of lexical items and stylistic point of view, this news story is based on purely reporting of journalistic and professional ability for justifying facts and figures specially in the context of institutional power. This news story presents the reality based on the number games as mentioning 1,060, 5kg, 741 grams, 575 grams, and 436 etc. It presents the journalistic presentation to justify claims of the institutions. Reporter of the news story is familiar with the authoritative voice of the personals of official ranks, that's why utilized active voice with force and power throughout the news story. Writer of the news story arranged the sentences to bring influence on the readers through rhetorical composition. Writer repeatedly utilized the numbers game to justify the authoritative language of the official perspective.</p>
Social cognition	<p>For comprehending of the text, it is essential to expose the cognitive structure of the producer and consumer of the text. It provides the foundation and build up structure of the consumers in perspective of ideology. Readers of the society are aware from the social essentials ideas related to text. In the same way, the producer of the text ideological protects the social institution of the country to deliver the sentence in defense of national security. Moreover, the producer writes down the story in considering the social, shared and personal knowledge of the readers and mental capacity as well. This particular news story is also based on the cognitive capacity and past experience of the readers in this regards.</p>
Social context	<p>This news story published in the Nation in context of the Karachi street crime. In the background of the story, several national and international factors are responsible constructing the plot of the story. Especially ever increasing street crimes disturb the economy and security of the country. Source of the news gives the cue of the news; so in this news story producer and consumer are aware from the political condition of the country. For comprehending of the text social factors are responsible of street crime and production of the news demands the background structure and social values of the society.</p>

## Discussion

This paper proved that the discourse analysis is a tool to expose hidden agenda of the text. Van Dijk Model of CDA analyzes the text at three different perspectives such as textual, socio-cognitive and social contextual background. The researcher exposes the content of the Karachi street crime news coverage by giving details about journalistic

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and linguistics methods. The researcher exposes the methodology of the producer by utilizing techniques of presenting text. The researcher exposes the strategies of the editor utilizing techniques of manipulation and legitimation of the news text by playing with text through giving the way content, introduction, lead, conclusion and comments of the news story. The researcher also exposes cognitive and social structure of the news stories. Cognitive aspects of the criminal elements and ideological hegemony of the society is relevant to expose the cognitive structure of the news story.

## **Conclusion**

Finding of this researcher paper is based on finding of the three basic questions. Considering about the question, how does the English Newspaper present structure of Karachi street crimes news coverage? Writer observed, reality is presented through coverage of thematic, superstructure and microstructure of the text. Further researcher is divided microstructural into four categories which are included semantics, syntactic stylistic and rhetoric. Presenting the reality, editors of the news stories organized textual manipulation, distortion, legitimation and reconstruction by constructing the stomach of news stories. Proving the answer of the second question, how does the English Newspaper present socio-cognitive structure in Karachi street crime news coverage? Researcher explores cognitive structure of the news stories. News stories are not merely information but it is production of reshaping realities through exploring the cognitive structure of the producer and consumer of the text. In the final stage of van Dijk model of CDA, researcher found out the answer of researcher question, how does the English Newspaper present social context of the English Newspaper in Karachi street crimes news coverage? Social context decided the fate of the news due to previous knowledge of the speaker about the news story. Production and consumption of the news story is not a single day activity instead it is construction of social discursive of social setting in a society. Researcher explored and proved through van Dijk model of CDA that social set-up and background decide the fate of the text as social acceptability. A text is production of cognitive and social practice in a society. Researcher explored the hidden social structures of the society.

## **Recommendations**

Writer of the research paper only considered the Van Dijk model of CDA, however it will be authentic method if researchers also consider Fairclough model of CDA with Van Dijk. In this research paper, writer exposes the structure of the Karachi street crime news reporting with referencing cognitive and social aspects of the news stories but new researchers can work on various perspectives and fields.

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