

## A Critical Discourse Analysis of Press Releases of the Prime Minister of Pakistan

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### Abstract

*The current research aims to critically analyse the official discourse of Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Nawaz Sharif during his third tenure. It is an effort to unravel the implicit political propositions present in the prime minister's discourse and the way they relate to governance of present regime and manipulation of power as well as Pakistan's relations with the United States of America and Peoples Republic of China. The current research follows Norman Fairclough's model of Critical Discourse Analysis as methodology. The study concentrates on the role that grammar, vocabulary and structure of a text play in the ideological use of language. The current case study reveals that instrumental ideology of language is at work in Nawaz Sharif's official discourse and that his press releases are of undemocratic character. As he is a powerful personality, the structure of his discourse is affected by his social position. Nawaz Sharif is not satisfied with the standard of good governance of his executive and bureaucracy. The study also shows that Pakistan feels its sovereignty at stake in its relations with the United States of America and China is playing a key role in maintaining balance of power in South Asia.*

**Key Words:** Critical Discourse Analysis, Press Releases, Governance, Foreign Affairs

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### Introduction

The current research is a case study which aimed to critically analyse selected official press releases of Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, issued during his third tenure (from 30th September, to 12th November, 2015). This study focuses on the ways official discourse of the Prime Minister is shaped by ideologies and the goals

these ideologies have to achieve. The researcher, in the course of this study, concentrates on the role that grammar, vocabulary and structure of a text play in the ideological use of language. Critical Discourse Analysis is widely applied to political discourse worldwide. It has not been applied to the official discourse of Pakistani Prime Minister so far. The present study is an endeavour for filling this gap. Critical Discourse Analysis analyses language

at different levels and from different dimensions. One key aspect of this analysis is to study ideological propositions that are implicitly embedded in language, and this is the purpose of the current research. Fairclough (1996) considers "language as a form of social practice" and calls this social practice discourse. Epstein (2008) says that "Discourse confers meanings to social and physical realities". Discourse is also responsible for giving a concrete shape to abstract social realities as well as beliefs of different cultures and societies. Being a social practice, language is closely connected with other social practices and it plays a very important role in society as 'the discursive event is shaped by situations, institutions and social structures, but it also shapes them' (Fairclough and Wodak, 2006). The hierarchies of these institutions and social structures are arranged on the basis of distribution of power in society and discourse of individuals is affected by their social positions. Power has its manifestation in language but language is not powerful by itself. It becomes powerful only when it is used by powerful and skilful individuals.

Discourse is full of implicit ideological propositions which are responsible for positioning of individuals as social subjects. The dominant ones of these implicit ideological propositions get naturalized and thereby assume the status of common sense (Fairclough, 1995). This process of naturalization "makes them opaque" (Fairclough, 1995), and to discern them without

conscious thinking is next to impossible. Grammar is a tool for embedding these implicit ideological propositions in language; and passivisation and nominalization are among some very common grammatical tactics that are used for this purpose. Ideological propositions are used to sustain one's dominant position in society as distribution of power in society is always unequal.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan is the chief executive of the country and is responsible to the nation both for internal and external affairs. Therefore, his statements on foreign and home affairs are of prime importance. A critical discourse analysis of his press releases on different issues of national and international importance can be revealing and of interest for the entire nation.

### **Research Objectives**

1. To find out implicit ideological propositions pervading official press releases of the Prime Minister of Pakistan
2. To find out how implicit ideological propositions pervading press releases of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif reflect the standard of good governance of his regime
3. To find out how implicit propositions pervading press releases of the Prime Minister of Pakistan reflect issues of Pakistan's foreign policy

## **Research Questions**

1. What implicit ideological propositions pervade the Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif's official press releases?
2. How do implicit ideological propositions in Muhammad Nawaz Sharif's official press releases reflect the standard of good governance of his regime?
3. How do implicit propositions pervading the prime minister's official press releases reflect issues of Pakistan's foreign policy?

## **Delimitation**

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif regularly gives interviews to journalists, talks to media and organizes press conferences, but the current study focuses only on press releases of the Prime Minister. Scores of press releases are issued every month from the office of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, on home and foreign affairs of Pakistan. But it is impossible to cover all of these press releases in the current academic case study. The researcher has, therefore, selected only two press releases for analysis. These press releases were issued within the time period between 30th September, 2015 and 12th November, 2015. Four of these press releases relate to internal affairs and two press releases to foreign affairs of Pakistan.

## **Literature Review**

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), like other fields of study, developed slowly and gradually. It emerged from critical language studies. Chilton and Wodak (2005) claim that Critical Discourse Analysis evolved from the Critical Linguistics of the 1970s. In this connection, Fairclough (1995) avers "CDA has now passed through the first flush of youth, and is embarked upon maturation process". Today, CDA has established itself as an independent field of study and it has become "an established paradigm" (Wodak & Meyer, 2009).

"CDA may be defined as fundamentally concerned with analysing opaque as well as transparent structural relationships of dominance, discrimination, power and control as manifested in language" (Wodak, 2001). CDA tries to explore (i) the ways in which power relations shape, produce and reproduce discourse and implicit ideologies in discourse; and (ii) the ways discourse helps in manipulating power in society. It aims at expounding how discursive practices and cultural practices dialectally affect each other. CDA not only gives a description of discursive practices but moves beyond it to illustrate how discourse is produced, reproduced and shaped by its relationships with ideology and power (Billing, 2003). Van Dijk (2015) says "Critical discourse analysis (CDA) is a type of discourse analytical research that primarily studies the way social power abuse, dominance, and inequality are

enacted, reproduced, and resisted by text and talk in the social and political context". In simple words, discourse is framed by the social institutions and structures in which it occurs. This process is dialectal, that is, discourse is not only shaped by social structures and institutions, but it also affects social structures and institutions (Weiss & Wodak, 2003).

The term 'discourse' may be used in two different senses: (a) as an uncountable noun meaning language used in a social context; and (b) as a countable noun denoting some specific sphere of social activity, e.g. law, politics, religion, etc. (Locke, 2004). Defining 'intertextuality' in a narrow sense, Norman Fairclough (2003) says "intertextuality is the presence of actual elements of other texts within a text - quotations". This type of intertextuality is common in news reporting. But, speaking in a broader sense, there are also other ways to incorporate other texts in a text, for example, by summarizing the quoted matter or putting it into indirect narration and this incorporation may or may not be attributed to the original text (Fairclough, 2003).

Van Dijk (2009) defines 'news' as "a text or discourse on radio, on TV or in the newspaper, in which new information is given about recent events" (p. 4). So we can say that news is a special type of discourse that gives us new information about current affairs on print as well as electronic media. In the modern age of technology, we are exposed to news

through television, radio, internet and newspapers round the clock. In this connection, Coulthard (2003) says "News therefore, has a social, a political and an educational role". News reflects on different aspects of our lives in a particular way.

The major goal of a news story is provision of information and this information is provided on the basis of the top-down strategy of importance. According to this strategy the most important information i.e. the headline comes first. It is followed by the lead as the next important element. Lead is a syntactically complete version of the headline. And then comes the body copy which gives more details about the news story (Ungerer, 2004).

The study of Marzol (2006) also reveals the two functions of the headline: "first, to create the necessary expectation to keep on reading; and, second, to frame our perception of what follows" (p. 119). The first of these functions is persuasive while the second function is ideological in nature.

To make the headline a success, Dor (2003) claims that journalists must have a proper "understanding of the readers - their state-of-knowledge, their beliefs and expectations and their cognitive styles - no less than it requires an understanding of the story". Thus, while framing a headline, a journalist must keep in mind the educational, ideological and cultural background of the target population. Only then he/she would be in a position to catch the

interest of the readers. Van Dijk (2005) speaks in this connection that the success of a headline "not only depends on what we know that the recipients already know, but also on what we know they may want to know".

Writers of press releases, therefore, keep the audience of newspapers or electronic media in mind while preparing their press releases. This is why Bait (2004) says that journalists play the role of mediators between their audience and the press releases issuing agencies. Their language is usually not altered and it is therefore believed that press release is a tool that communicates with the target population in a more direct way. McLaren and Gurau (2005) in their study of corporate press releases claim that they are addressed to a multifarious audience, such as their shareholders, local and foreign investors, analysts and competitors. All these various addressees are kept in mind while preparing press releases. Press releases are then dispatched to journalists with the hope that they will be given coverage in the respective print or electronic media.

Commenting on the purpose behind issuing press releases, Bait (2004) avers "In order to get media coverage, government agencies act as a sort of news outlet and take on a pro-active role, taking the initiative rather than leaving journalists with the advantage of probing with inquiries and interviews". This type of publicity is being given due importance for it is understood that this measure of getting

publicity can be quite fruitful.

The nature of news is subjective (Coulthard, 2003) because journalists do thorough subjective selections out of a huge cache of news, and thus, the news no more remains an objective representation of reality. Keeping this fact in mind, Lassen (2004) argues "Institutions issuing press releases are often under pressure to improve their public image and, therefore, want to ensure that journalists do not simply discard their texts'.

Press releases are not only issued by institutions but personalities as well, such as politicians, actors, sportsmen, etc. Chilton & Schaffner (2002) assert in this connection "that political activity does not exist without the use of language". They mean that politicians achieve almost all of their aims through discourse. They promote their ideologies, propagate in favour of their policies, and manipulate power through the use of language in written and spoken form. And press releases play a key role in this regard.

The study of Maat (2007) reveals that intertextuality is a major phenomenon in this type of genre merger. The journalists extract news material from the press releases that best serve their interest. These extracts are then fully appropriated and used in their stories by the journalists. It can, therefore, be claimed that the writers of press releases take special care and steps to meet the requirements of both the journalists and the target population.

Sleurs, Jacobs and Waes (2003) assert in this regard, "Typically, press releases contain direct quotes attributed to one of the organization's own representatives ... they make press releases ... more attractive for journalists to reproduce in their own news reporting. Direct quotes make the work of journalists easy as they do not have to change the language of the press releases and take a direct quote as it is.

Summing up, CDA aims to provide a critique of relationships of unequal distribution of power in society, enactment of ideology, dominance, discrimination (on the basis of gender, language, ethnicity, etc.), control and hegemony as prevailing in discourse. It studies the way these elements are (re)produced in discourse and the way they affect discourse. CDA has frequently been applied to the study of media discourse such as newspaper articles, editorials, talk shows, and press releases, but it has yet to be applied to official discourse of the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

### **Research Methodology**

The current case study follows mixed research paradigm. The approach is basically qualitative but quantitative approach has also been used on certain occasions. The study analyses two selected press releases of Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif issued from his office between 30th September, 2015 and 12th November, 2015. In this mixed

research study the press releases are analysed to find out what implicit ideological propositions pervade these press releases and how these propositions relate to the overall governance and performance of the government on the front of internal affairs as well as foreign affairs. In the study in question, Fairclough's (1996) model of Critical Discourse Analysis has been used for analysing the text of the selected press releases of the Prime Minister.

### **Norman Fairclough's Model of Critical Discourse Analysis**

Norman Fairclough's three dimensional model of Critical Discourse Analysis is one of the most frequently used approaches to CDA. It was presented by Norman Fairclough in the late 1980s (Fairclough, 1989), and it has later been revised in several publications since then (Fairclough 1992, 1995, 2003; Chouliaraki and Fairclough 2001). The premise of this approach is that language is a kind of social events and there is a dialectal relationship between language and society (other social events). This dialectal relationship operates through the interplay of social events, social practices and social structures. Fairclough's model not only focuses on the way meanings are coded in language but also explains the way meanings are decoded from it. It shows how discourse causes change in social subjects, social relations and social context and vice versa.

The process of interpretation of



a text consists of two layers: (i) interpretation of the text; and (ii) interpretation of the context.

Summing up, at the stage of explanation we tend to know mainly about three issues. First, we focus on the type of power relations that determine a particular discourse; second, we try to investigate about elements of ideological character; and third, we try to find out the effects that a particular discourse (or text) has on the three tier hierarchy of situational, institutional and societal levels.

The analysis has been done under the framework of Fairclough's model of CDA. This study performs textual analysis as well which not only studies the overall structure of a press release but also focuses on other linguistic issues such as nominalization, passivisation, and so on.

### **Data Collection**

This case study uses mainly secondary data for critical discourse analysis of the press releases of Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in his third tenure issued during the time period between 30th September, 2015 and 12th November, 2015. Data for the current research have been extracted from the official website of the Prime Minister's Office <http://www.pmo.gov.pk>.

The texts selected for CDA are usually short in length. Meyer (2002) says "Although there are no explicit statements about this issue, one might

assume that many CDA studies (perhaps with the exception of Teun van Dijk and Ruth Wodak) mostly deal with only small corpora which are usually regarded as being typical of certain discourses".

### **Analysis**

#### **Press Release No. 1**

We know that the Prime Minister of Pakistan is the chief executive of the country and he can interfere in the affairs of any department or ministry. Press Release No. 1 is a representative of the group of press releases that reflect the same authority/powers of the Prime Minister. This press release states that the Prime Minister takes notice of the private schools in Islamabad capital territory who are not complying with the government's orders about reducing/reimbursing raise in tuition fees.

The choice of voice in discourse is usually ideological and it, therefore, receives great importance in critical discourse analysis. In this press release, the Prime Minister is the agent of three sentences. All the three sentences use active syntax. We know that the 'agent' is the most important element in a sentence using active voice structure. So, we can say that the PM has been treated as the most important element in this press release. The second sentence of the press release informs that PEIRA has set up a Grievances Cell. But this sentence starts with a subordinate clause 'On the directions of the Prime

Minister'. In a sense, this subordinate clause has been given the initial slot to give it a little more importance. The Prime Minister is the most powerful personality in the political system of Pakistan and we see that his powerful position has clearly shaped the structure of the current press release. So, the structure of press release no. 1 is ideological in nature in the sense that it promotes the superior status of the Prime Minister and gives him top most priority.

Not only the choice of voice is ideological, but lexical choices in a text are also of ideological character. The most prominent phrases/clauses that are ideological in this press release are: 'The Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has taken strict notice', 'On the directions of the Prime Minister', and 'Prime Minister has directed'. Here the lexical choices of 'taken strict notice', 'directions', and 'directives' are ideological. These lexical choices portray the Prime Minister as a powerful personality. More neutral substitutes for these lexical choices (directions and directed), among others, may be 'say, ask, urge, and advise.' But these substitutes play no or little role in (re)production of unequal relations of power. The lexical choices made in the current press release render the Prime Minister a powerful status. Therefore, lexical choices made in this press release are deliberate and ideological in character.

Similarly, another important point of ideological importance is the

role of personality in Pakistani bureaucracy. For the information of the general public, Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Authority issues, in press release no. 1, a landline number, a facsimile number, a personal mobile number and an official email address of the authority. There is nothing wrong with the landline number and the facsimile number. But we know that in Pakistan, mobile numbers can only be issued to persons and not institutions. Therefore, the publicity of a personal mobile number on behalf of a government institution shows that personalities are more important than institutions in our country. The Prime Minister himself has taken notice of a trivial administrative matter. It shows that officials of PEIRA are not very active in fulfilling their responsibilities. Why, then, the authority gives publicity to a personal mobile number. The answer is that personalities are more important than national institutions. And publicity of this personal number reflects the same ideology. The story does not end here. The official email address of the authority i.e. [javed\\_peira@hotmail.com](mailto:javed_peira@hotmail.com) also reflects this ideological tendency. The email address starts with the first name of Mr. Javed Iqbal who is the Secretary of Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Authority. It also proves that personalities occupy more prominent position than institutions in the bureaucratic setup of Pakistan.

According to the third level of Fairclough's model of critical discourse analysis i.e. explanation, we relate a



text to its social context. The current press release is a segment of a micro structure. Relating it to its macro structure, we see that PEIRA has badly failed to establish its writ on private educational institutions. It is unable to provide relief to students and their families against the undue raise in fees. Therefore, the Prime Minister is compelled to issue his statement on such a trivial issue. We infer from this that on macro level (i.e. the social context) that nation is faced with bad governance and the Prime Minister's press release also sustains the status quo. He has given no remedy for improving the standard of governance which means that no change is going to occur on the societal level and the Prime Minister's official discourse reproduces the same power relations and therefore sustains it.

### **Press Releases No. 2**

The Prime Minister is the head of the Cabinet and therefore presides over its meetings. Press release no.2 is also about a meeting of Cabinet Committee on Energy. The meeting is presided over by Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and attended by four Federal Ministers, a Special Assistant to the Prime Minister and high ranking bureaucrats. During the meeting, the Prime Minister is briefed on different issues. The press release informs that the Prime Minister also gives directives about various issues.

The headline of press release no. 2 reads as 'PM for early completion

of energy projects'. It is heavily ideology laden. The common people of Pakistan are badly suffering from the menace of load-shedding. And a headline that gives hope about rooting out the menace of load-shedding readily catches their attention. This type of discourse tactics are a useful tool for molding public opinion. When public opinion changes, it changes Member Resources of the general public which results change in their discourse. In this way, a politician can get sympathy of the voters and increase his vote bank.

The lead of press release no. 2 contains two instances of lexical choices that are ideological in character. The one is the verb phrase 'chaired' while the other is the noun phrase 'a high level meeting'. Both of these lexical choices are the result of relations of power. 'Chair' is a symbol of power. Therefore, in the first instance, the noun 'chair' has been used as a verb (to chair). Other, relatively neutral, choices like 'to preside' are there, but the lexical choice 'to chair' has been used which is more in harmony with the powerful position of the Prime Minister. On the one hand, the Prime Minister is the most powerful personality in our political system. Any meeting that he presides gets a lot of importance. And on the other hand, the federal Cabinet is the most powerful executive body in the federation. But referring to the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Energy, the press release calls it 'a high level meeting' besides mentioning its full name. So, adding the modifier 'a high level' to the meeting of

the already powerful body is an instance of over wording which is always of interest for a critical discourse analyst. This use of over wording in referring to the meeting gives it more prominence. This is the result of the ideology of power and the powerful position of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet which is headed by the Prime Minister. Thus, the text of the Prime Minister's official discourse is determined by relations of power.

Like press release no. 1, the structure (syntax) of press release no. 2 has been determined by the social structures (relations of powers). There are nine sentences in press release no.2. The syntax (including the choice of voice) in all these sentences is ideological. We see the Prime Minister saying something on five occasions in the text of this press release. On all these five occasions, the choice of voice used is active. It implies that on all these occasions, the social actor (the Prime Minister) is more important than what we find in the predicate.

On the contrary, we see that the Prime Minister is told something on three different occasions. Out of these three occasions, passivisation is used on two occasion to lessen the importance of the actor as compared to the receiver i.e. the Prime Minister. Active construction of voice has been used on only one occasion. But the social actor in this active construction is not a personality but Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Resources which is a government institution. The analysis of these data gives us very

strange result. Whenever the social actor i.e. the Prime Minister says something, it is linguistically represented in active voice. This practice is ideologically laden i.e. the Prime Minister is given more importance than the information given in the predicate of the respective sentence. It implies that whatever the Prime Minister says is never more important than his personality and status. In contrast to it, in press release no.2, when someone else talks to the Prime Minister, it is reported, on two third occasion, in passive construction. Even these passive constructions start with 'The Prime Minister'. On only one such occasion active construction is used but the subject position has not been filled with a person but a government institution i.e. Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Resources. Here the author has avoided mentioning the designation or name of the person briefing the Prime Minister. Passive constructions are usually used when the information in the predicate is more important than the social actor (agent). But in the press releases of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif the passive constructions that start with the Prime Minister (social actor) imply that the social actor is more important than what is said in the predicate. It is consistent with the analysis already done. We see that whenever the Prime Minister is referred to in a sentence, nobody else is referred to in the same sentence. It implies that the author of the press releases of the Prime Minister thinks that mentioning somebody else in the same sentence with the Prime Minister may undermine the

importance of the Prime Minister and it may lower the status of the Prime Minister. Thus, for the author of the press releases of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, it is the Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif who occupies the most important status and nobody and nothing can ever come close to him in importance.

In the structure of a text the mapping of information from top to bottom on the basis of decreasing importance is very important. Whatever is more important is placed at the top while less important elements are placed towards the bottom of a text (Van Dijk, 1985). The second paragraph of press release no.2 informs about the issues on which the Prime Minister was briefed in the course of the meeting. The next three paragraphs relate the responses of the Prime Minister. The third paragraph is the first one that records the directives of the PM about different aspects of governance. It shows the ideological tendency of the Prime Minister. It makes clear that the PM gives topmost priority to the issues of governance. He discusses three points of governance i.e. (a) 'enhanced inter-ministerial coordination', (b) 'transparency' and (c) 'adherence to relevant laws and rules'. Keeping in view the intertextual context of a text we can say that every text is a response in some way to previous texts/discourses (Fairclough, 2003). Here, the Prime Minister's discourse is a response to briefing that he receives during the meeting. The PM is informed about 'speedy work on the energy related projects' but the PM's

discourse stresses on early completion of these projects. It implies that the Prime Minister has a crucial proposition in mind that Pakistani bureaucracy is lethargic. And the Prime Minister's discourse further shows that he is not ready to accept their claim. He is also not satisfied with the standard of coordination among/between different ministries. His discourse is, therefore, replete with directives not only for early completion of the projects but also for maintaining enhanced inter-ministerial coordination. The story does not end here. The Prime Minister's discourse also directs for giving topmost priority to transparency and rule of law. It implies that the Prime Minister believes that the government authorities neither give any priority to transparency nor do they follow the concerned laws and rules in dispensation of their official duties. Similarly, the Prime Minister's discourse in the press release further states 'quality and standard must not be compromised at any cost.' Here, once again the Prime Minister suspects the honesty of the concerned government authorities and directs them not to compromise on quality and standard in completion of energy related projects. Thus, discourse of the Prime Minister in press release no.2 paints a grim picture of the standard of good governance in the executive of the country. The Prime Minister's discourse in this press release implies that he believes that government officials are lethargic in their attitudes towards their duties. He is, therefore, not satisfied with the standard of good governance of the institutions. He is

compelled to direct for early completion of energy projects. Similarly, the Prime Minister is not happy with lack of coordination among / between ministries; lack of transparency; and looking down upon laws and rules. Summing up, we can say that the Prime Minister feels concern about the standard of governance of national institutions and he is desirous to make it better. He, therefore, continuously issues directives about all these problems.

The current case study analyses two press releases, four on internal affairs and two on foreign affairs of Pakistan. From their analysis, we infer a number of implicit ideological propositions that pervade official discourse of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. The implicit political propositions in press releases on internal affairs guide us about Pakistani political culture and the standard of governance of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in his third tenure while the implicit propositions in press releases on external affairs reveal issues of Pakistan's foreign policy with the concerned states.

### **Implied Ideological Propositions**

- Instrumental ideology of language is at work in the Prime Minister's official discourse.
- The spirit of the press releases of the Prime Minister is undemocratic.
- The Prime Minister's official discourse is shaped by his social status.
- Reference to no other person is

made in the same sentence where the Prime Minister is referred to as it may undermine the Prime Minister's importance and give publicity to someone who can become a potential rival from inside his party.

- If a briefing is given to the Prime Minister, the person who gives the briefing is not mentioned or instead of mentioning him/her, his/her institution is mentioned in the press release.
- Passive voice syntax structure is used to mitigate the importance of persons other than the Prime Minister or exclude the agent from mentioning.

### **Governance**

Following are the most important implications regarding the standard of governance that we infer from the Prime Minister's official press releases.

- The Prime Minister's directives to PEIRA imply that he knows that the standard of governance of government institutions is low.
- Government institutions cannot establish their writ. It is evident from the performance of PEIRA in the issue of the fee hike by private schools.
- The Prime Minister's directives to the concerned authorities (other than PEIRA) for sealing the schools which do not comply with orders of PEIRA show that there is lack of coordination between/among government institutions.
- Asking the concerned authorities to help PEIRA in sealing the schools

means that PEIRA has not been given enough powers and/or manpower to implement its orders.

- A proper system of division of powers/labour is lacking.
- A proper system of check and balance is missing.
- Government officials are lethargic.
- There prevails lack of coordination between/among government departments.
- There is lack of transparency in government institutions.
- Bureaucracy does not pay respect to rules and laws.
- Corruption is widespread in government departments.
- The following main issues of Pakistan's surface from press releases
- Pakistan's sovereignty is at stake in dealing with the United States.
- Pakistan does not receive due respect from the United States of America.
- America is not satisfied with Pakistan's performance in the war on terror.
- The United States is suspicious of Pakistan.
- Pakistan is desirous of further international assistance.
- Pakistan performance in the war on terror is better than American performance in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Pakistan is fighting other's war.
- There is tension between Pakistan and the United States on the issue of nukes.
- America has concern over security of Pakistan's nukes.

The current research analyses only two press releases. Researchers can find a very large number of press releases on the official website of the prime minister's office which can be critically analysed. The researcher also recommends the prime minister's interviews and press talks for critical discourse analysis.

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