
A Critical Discourse Analysis of Islamophobia in Indian Print Media

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ABSTRACT

The present study critically analyses the headlines of Indian English newspapers and it investigates how the Indian media is involved in portraying Hindutva doctrine and shows Islam and Muslims negative. In this research work, the two Indian English newspapers The Telegraph and Voice of Words have been selected. Official websites of these newspapers have been visited for data collection. The present study is qualitative in nature. The researcher has used Van Dijk socio-cognitive model to analyze news headlines of Indian English newspapers. The present study is delimited to two Indian English newspapers headlines, The Telegraph and Voice of Words. The study is delimited to three months i.e. January 2022 to March 2022 has been allocated for both the newspapers and the data has been extracted, from which elements of Hindutva and Islamophobia have been found. After critically analyzing all this data, the researcher has found that these newspapers are strongly promoting the policy of Hindutva.

Keywords: Discourse, headlines, Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), ideology

INTRODUCTION

The present study is significant as it aims to investigate the hidden ideologies employed by the Indian English newspapers. English newspapers have a lot of sway over the government and the public in India. There are many publications in regional or native languages, but they do not get much attention or influence on the issues. Newspapers in various languages and states come out daily or weekly, but they are overlooked because they are not in the language of the dominant class. English is the language that is widely spoken and powerful, as it is the language of the elite. Print media may shape one group's perception of another and portray it as negative by reiterating and bolstering dominant or hegemonic notions that serve the interests of society's powerful or privileged groups. The current study demonstrates how Indian media is leveraging its influence to shape ideologies about Muslims and portray them negatively. Without offering any proof, Indian media consistently persists on portraying Muslims and Islam as fanatics and terrorists. The researcher has looked at two Indian English newspapers headlines to explore the Hindutva ideology they are conveying, how they are fomenting hatred towards Islam and Muslims, and what strategies they are doing to depict a Muslim community negatively. Print media may affect the public's impression of Muslims and Islam in a variety of various ways, including by employing unreliable sources, deceptive headlines, slanted framing, or erroneous facts. These inaccurate media portrayals may have detrimental effects on Muslim communities, including an uptick in Islamophobia, hate crimes, social isolation, and legislative discrimination.

Critical discourse analysis (CDA) is a rising multidisciplinary research movement that incorporates a number of distinct theoretical and methodological methods. Each has a different agenda. Despite this variability, CDA academics generally regard language as a type of social practice, and they are interested in methodically analyzing hidden power connections and ideologies encoded in discourse. They are also interested in the social and material repercussions of speech. Rather than predetermined theoretical or methodological viewpoints, CDA research sometimes begins with a study subject or problem. Interactions that take place through a broadcast platform, whether spoken or written, in which the discourse is targeted at a non-present reader, listener, or viewer are referred to as media discourse. However, the discourse is aimed at

these recipients, they cannot always respond instantly to the producer(s) of the discourse, however this is changing as new media technology becomes available. Linguistic study of the news media is sometimes suspicious, and linguists may regard themselves as police the subtle use of language to falsify reality. Because everyone who buys a newspaper may peek at the headlines, headlines reach a far larger audience than those who read the actual items. When the newspaper vendor displays their papers at the booth, many individuals, including passersby, have the opportunity to see the headlines. These headlines are afterwards debated in their home, business, or any other sector. This is especially true of the front-page headlines, which are chosen with considerable care and consideration in order to express particular ideologies and elicit certain emotions in readers. The current study primarily aims at the investigation of critical discourse analysis in news headlines of Indian English newspapers during the period January 2022 to December 2022.

Islamophobia is a mixture of hatred, fear, and prejudice toward Islam, Muslims, and anything affiliated with the religion, such as Mosques, Islamic Centers, the Holy Qur'an, Hijab, and so on. It also includes hostility, stigmatization, racism, and discrimination in everyday life, the media, the workplace, the political realm, and so on. It is rooted in the mentality and manifests itself in violent actions such as burning mosques, vandalizing property, abusing women wearing a hijab, or insulting the Prophet or sacred symbols of Islam. The present study has revealed how India media is doing negative propaganda against Muslims and Islam and supports Hindu supremacy. Hindutva (literally “Hindu-ness”) is a modern political ideology. This ideology is a supporter of Hindu supremacy and lay focus to transform India. It declares India constitutionally a secular state and into an ethno-religious nation known as the Hindu Rashtra (Hindu nation). Hindutva is the official platform of the BJP, an extreme right political party in India. Hindutva, or Hindu fascism, is a majoritarian political ideology and far-right ethnonationalism movement that uses religion as a justification for atrocities against Dalits, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Ravidassias, and Buddhists. Hindutva envisions India to have always been a Hindu nation and perceives Islam and Muslims as essentially alien forces which threaten India through invasion and war. As a result, an exclusionary national narrative centered only on Hindu rights has emerged, marginalizing a variety of religious and ethnic identities.

Research objectives

The objectives of the study are:

- To investigate the discursive choices employed in selected Indian English newspapers headlines about Islamophobia
- To analyze and interpret the narrative of Indian English newspapers headlines about Islam and Hindutva ideology.

Research questions

- What discursive choices are employed in Indian English newspapers headlines about Islamophobia?
- What narratives Indian English newspapers are practicing with reference to Islam and Hindutva ideology?

Significance of the study

The present study is significant as it aims to investigate the hidden ideologies employed by the Indian English newspapers The Telegraph and Voice of Words. Moreover, the present study is noteworthy that how media houses are biased and display their ideologies and spread propaganda according to their craving. India is a secular state which implies meaning that it does not supports any particular religion but majority of people in India follows Hinduism and spirit of Hindu nationalism is also found in Indians and there is hatred found for Islam and Muslims in them. The aim of this research is to find out the hidden

ideologies of Indian newspapers through language. The present study is an attempt to analyze how Indian media is promoting Hinduism and Islamophobia. This study is conducted to analyze the image of Muslims and doctrine of Hindutva presented by Indian media as Islam has been generally perceived to be an invaders' religion in India. Because of the Hindutva ideology there is so much hatred and resentment among the people not only living in India but also throughout the world and specifically this is causing problems for Muslims. Therefore, two major Indian English newspapers are selected The Telegraph and Voice of Words for the present study.

Delimitations of the study

Two leading Indian English newspapers are selected for this research based on the fact that these two newspapers are renowned and widely circulated in India. So, the present study is delimited to two Indian English newspapers The Telegraph and Voice of Words. The study is delimited to three months i.e. January to March 2022. The data collected for this study was newspapers headlines of these two newspapers.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Alghamdi (2015) conducted research on the representation of Islam in Western media in the context of Norwegian's terrorist attacks by using the critical discourse analysis method. The research article interrogated that how language is manipulated against Islam and Muslims and gives expressions of blind prejudice in the coverage of terrorist attacks. The data was collected from the reports, videos, and news articles of those content in which Islam and Islam-related phrases were presented in conjunction with the coverage of the terrorist attacks in the Western media. Wodak's (2001) approach and Van Dijk's (1998) framework was integrated to provide a comprehensive analysis of discourse. The research suggested that by the use of manipulative use of language and choice of words, Muslims have been irrationally portrayed in the Western media as social deviants, uncivilized and posing security threats to Western

societies. The findings showed that the tone of allegation from article to article varies from overt accusation. The present study revealed that implicature and modal expressions used in the Western media made Muslims accountable for the terrorist attacks. Due to this propaganda, many Islamic countries have encountered pressure and made new reforms in their educational systems. The results showed that varying degrees of uncertainty in authors' statements were noted in the different linguistic forms used in the discourse.

Bleich (2015) based their research on media portrayal of Muslims in British newspaper headlines. The data was collected from four major British newspapers to research whether the way British media presents Muslims is harmful or not. Data was collected from newspaper headlines between January 2001 to December 2012 and contained 685 headlines. The research paper evaluates the portrayal of Muslims in British newspapers, focusing especially on how Muslims are depicted in a systematically negative way. The findings of the research highlighted that Muslims are constantly portrayed negatively as compared to other minority groups in British newspapers. The researcher extracted the headlines that contain code words through LexisNexis and then analyzed that Muslims were mostly portrayed negatively and misrepresented in the terrorist activity. However, data analyzed in the research paper did not support the hypothesis and it was recommended that analysis must be applied to a broader variety related to ethnicity, social and racial group. This methodology can also be extended and applied to additional newspapers in different periods.

Mahmoud Samaie and Bahareh Malmir (2017) conducted research on US media portrayal of Islam and Muslims by using corpus-assisted critical discourse analysis. The study aims to investigate how previous studies represent Islam and Muslims as those researches portrayed Muslims as aggressive people who are a threat to peace and society and also these researches greatly distort young people's perception of Islam and Muslims. The data was collected from three top-rank print media sources Cable News Network (CNN), Newsweek and The New York Times (NYT). The duration of the selected data was between 2001 and 2015. The researcher builds a corpus of US news media stories on Islam and Muslims. The news stories were selected without any social, political or cultural considerations to avoid any biases and to get a clearer

picture of Muslims and Islam and selected news stories had keywords Muslim, Muslims, Islam or Islamic in their titles. The researcher compiled a corpus of 670,473 words of the three US news media stories. Data was analyzed both quantitatively and qualitatively with the help of corpus-based critical discourse analysis. Corpus software Wordsmith Tools 6.0 was initially used for categorizing and concordance analysis for the topics that revolved around the representation of Islam and Muslims in the selected three news stories. Then, using critical discourse analysis the findings were qualitatively analyzed to investigate how discursive strategies for in-groups and out-groups are constructed and how social actors are labelled as positive or negative in US news media stories. The corpus was classified into fifteen sub-corpora based on the publication time of the news stories to examine news stories about Islam and Muslims. The findings of the research indicate that the image of Muslims in US media is relatively less associated with negative connotations in comparison with the image of Islam. As a result of the 670,473-word corpus of the US, news media stories represent that some collocates of the word Islam like War, ISIS, and Anti and some collocates of the word Muslim like Islamic, Attacks, violence are associated with negative concepts.

Sajid, Anwar & Ashraf (2019) conducted a study on critical discourse analysis of Pakistani-English newspapers to find the theme of power, ideology and print media. Two newspapers 'Dawn' and 'Nation' were selected. The headlines of these two newspapers during the year 2014 were selected to investigate the topic of politics. Two headlines from each newspaper about politics were randomly selected and analyzed to find the discursive techniques. The researchers have applied the Van Dijk (2006) analytical framework of critical discourse analysis. The linguistic data was analyzed by applying critical discourse analysis. The research paper based on randomly selected four headlines that carry political themes explores how different newspapers represent the same political event differently. One of the significant findings of the research is that print media uses different discursive techniques to represent the same event differently to spread desired ideology. The research also revealed that these two different newspapers employ different discursive moves to propagate desired ideologies to their target readership.

Safi, F., Özad, B. E., & Iqbal, L. (2020) investigated a case study of the Pulwama Incident in Kashmir about the ideological representations in the editorials of Indian newspapers. The researcher has used the socio-cognitive approach to investigate the hidden ideologies in politics, history, society, and the relationship between power and conflict. The findings are based on two levels micro analysis and macro analysis. The microanalysis critically examined the language of selected editorials to find out the hidden meanings and ideological representation of ‘them’ and ‘us’. The macro analysis uses to investigate social practices and discursive practices for the analysis of the text. The research comes out with the sum that in all selected editorials, Pakistan is presented as negative and connected with words such as terrorist, hypocrite, and weak as these phrases presented Pakistan as negative. As the ‘other’ represented very negative. India has presented its image as positive through these editorials. The headings of the editorials have also negative connotations against Pakistan. This study is also important and helpful in critically studying the cross-culture communication between the two opponents and the role of media is also important.

Sumra (2020) investigated the unfavorable portrayal of Islam in the Indian English press, which might be classified as Islamophobia. Three Indian English newspapers, The Times of India, The Hindu, and The Indian Express, were purposefully chosen for this purpose due to their widespread distribution in India. The three-month period chosen for discourse analysis ran from November 1, 2016 through January 31, 2017. Discourse analysis was used in this study to analyze the most common themes of stereotyping and biases, anxiety, and racism. The stories were also evaluated in terms of their positive, negative, and neutral tone. According to the findings, notable cases were discovered in The Times of India and The Hindu, where the daily is continually attempting to express its point of view.

Baharuddin, A.F. & Baharuddin, A. Z. (2022) in their study analyzed a critical discourse analysis of Islamophobia, Indian Media, and the Covid-19 pandemic. During the Covid-19 pandemic, it was very difficult for every country to protect the lives of people therefore the governments of all countries implied some rules and regulations. The governments specially applied social/physical distancing and lockdowns to protect their people from the virus. In India, the Indian government

also applied lockdown and social distancing to stop the outbreak. Well in many cases policemen also tortured citizens who physically interacted. Media has always played a crucial role in communicating within the country and also internationally but unfortunately Indian media justified the torture of policemen specifically for the minority classes. Indian media has blamed the Muslims as they are spreading Coronavirus. Muslims have been frequently criticized as a group of people who are the reason for the spread of corona due to religious activities.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The theoretical framework selected for this study was Van Dijk's socio-cognitive model (2006). The theorist that the researcher chose for work made some changes to his theory in 2006, so researcher has done analysis by following both, the previous one and the amended one. Headlines from two Indian English newspapers The Telegraph and Voice of Words had carried Islamophobia and Hindutva ideology and were selected for this research during the period January 2022 to December 2022. The time frame had been chosen randomly. The work done, was qualitative in nature. The headlines had been critically analyzed through Van Dijk (2006) socio-cognitive model and analysis had been done at three levels text, social cognition and social context.

Socio-cognitive Approach (SCA) of Van Dijk

Teun A. Van Dijk proposed an approach called the socio-cognitive approach which was a way of doing critical discourse analysis which centered attention on the social structures and structures of discourse. Van Dijk had also stated mental models that were created by people based on their experiences. Through these models, people could control their everyday perceptions and interactions. They were also helpful in the production and comprehension of discourse in a particular way. Those perceptions, interactions, production and comprehension of things were emotional and subjective and these were stored in the episodic memory of the human brain. In comparison with Fairclough's critical approach to discourse, Van Dijk's socio-cognitive approach bore the discourse as a form of social practice. Van Dijk focused instead on social

cognition and described it as the interposed part between text and society. Social cognitions referred to the shared representation of society that included the representation of societal arrangements, relations and groups. Social cognitions also referred to mental processes like learning, motivation, thinking and interpreting a text.

ANALYSIS

A qualitative analysis of the two selected Indian English newspaper (The Telegraph, Voice of Words) of the year 2022. Through the analysis, headlines of these newspapers, an attempt is made to find out how the above-mentioned newspapers are portraying the ideology of Hindutva and Islamophobia.

THE TELEGRAPH

Hijab bar on Udupi students. (2nd January 2022)

The first headline evaluates the social behavior of Udupi students who are fighting for their right to wear hijab in their college. The students of college are protesting outside the college that college has ban them for wearing hijab in educational institutes. This indicates that there is a clash between the Hindu college and Muslim students. The ban on hijab may have different perception to different readers, every reader can use different social cognition to understand this headline, maybe they see it as act of cowardness to ban hijab and consider protest of girls against college as an act of courage. This headline may also initiate or reinforce different aspects of social cognition such as social stereotypes, social schemas, social influence or prejudices about wearing hijab in educational institutes.

This headline implies meaning that there are some students in Udupi, a city in the state of Karnataka in India as the students are protesting against the banning of hijab in schools and colleges. This headline also shows the conflict between the authorities and college students. This headline also shows the hidden power relations between students and authorities and also it has connotations of how people in different areas of life are facing discrimination and oppression because of their religion or cultural identity.

Bar on hijab keeps 8 girls out of classroom. (19th January 2022)

The social context of second headline explains the conflict between the Muslim students and their religious rights and the rules of schools about uniform in Karnataka, India. The headline indicates the recent incident in a government college in Udupi district where eight Muslim girls were banned to enter classroom or to attend classes, the students of that institute protest against the ban and said hijab is their identity, fundamental and religious right. This headline also shows the hidden power relations between students and authorities and also it has connotations of how people in different areas of life are facing discrimination and oppression because of their religion or cultural identity.

PM silence on genocide call queried. (19th January 2022)

The third headline shows that lecturer is a member of minority group or an outsider in the Hindu university and that she is challenging or resisting the dominant norms of or values of the institution or that particular society. This headline also shows discourse-power relationship between different social groups. This headline also shows the hidden power relations between students and authorities and also it has connotations of how people in different areas of life are facing discrimination and oppression because of their religion or cultural identity.

Lecturer quits over hijab. (19th February 2022)

The fourth headline shows different aspects of social cognition such as social stereotypes, social schemas, social influence or prejudices about Muslims and Hindus. This headline also shows the hidden power relations between India and Pakistan and also it has connotations of how Muslims in India are facing discrimination and oppression because of their religion or cultural identity.

HC clears air on hijab interim ruling. (24th February 2022)

The fifth headline talks about a legal case in high court in Karnataka, India. the sentence shows the debate and conflict between religious freedom and secularism in India. The headline also gives information about the judiciary of India which often quoted as independent. The role of media can also be seen in the coverage of issue hijab that may shape public opinion and perception over the hijab issue.

UP deputy CM blames people for stray cattle (28th February 2022)

The sentence “UP deputy CM blames people for stray cattle” involves several aspects of social cognition such as it has aspect of attribution that is the deputy chief minister of Uttar Pradesh (UP) blames those who abandon their livestock as they get old or become unproductive for the issue of stray cattle and it has also a feature of stereotyping such as it's possible that the UP deputy chief minister stereotypes farmers and communities that raise cattle as careless, cruel, or self-centered. This headline may also initiate or reinforce different aspects of social cognition such as social stereotypes, social schemas, social influence or prejudices about Muslims.

Rana booked over ‘Hindu terrorists’ (5th March 2022)

The headline reflects and shapes a certain perspective about Rana Ayyub, a well-known Indian journalist and author who has written extensively on political, human rights, and social justice issues. The phrase could highlight the prejudices and goals of some media outlets or journalists, as well as the difficulties and dangers they encounter when reporting the truth.

Sedition for UP cop murder in cow clash (18th March 2022)

According to some reports, a mob of around 400 people who were protesting the discovery of cow corpses in a nearby forest shot and killed police officer Subodh Kumar Singh after he was struck with a rock. The crowd also burned down cars and stormed a police station¹. According to the police, the event resulted from a "big conspiracy," and they have detained several individuals, including Yogesh Raj, a member of the right-wing Bajrang Dal who had complained about cow slaughter. The role of media can also be seen in the coverage of issue hijab that may shape public opinion and perception over this issue and the police inspector's death has provoked anger and criticism from a number of sources, and it has prompted inquiries about the state of law and order in Uttar Pradesh.

UG all-India test covers minority institutes (22nd March 2022)

The social cognition of the statement "UG all-India test covers minority institutes" comprises an in-depth and dynamic interaction of cognitive factors that affect how we think about ourselves and others in regard to the test. One possible factor is minority institutes' success on the UG all-India test might be attributed to their skills, efforts, motives, or environmental elements or on studying for or attempting the UG all-India test, one may be impacted by the standards, expectations, and comments of the test authorities or peers. This headline may also initiate or reinforce different aspects of social cognition such as social stereotypes, social schemas, social influence or prejudices about minorities educational institutes.

Partition left Muslims poorer (28th march 2022)

The phrase "Partition left Muslims poorer" expresses one viewpoint on the historical and economic effects of the partition of British India into two separate states, India and Pakistan, in 1947. This sentence's social cognition refers to the cognitive processes that underpin how the speaker or listener sees, interprets, and assesses this statement in light of their own social identity, views, and values. This headline may also initiate or reinforce different aspects of social cognition such as social stereotypes, social schemas, social influence or prejudices about Muslims in India.

METRO EVENING AND VOICE OF WORDS

MLA Raja Singh against non-Hindus business in Srisailam. (5TH January 2022)

The social context of this sentence explains background information that helps to understand the meaning and significance of this sentence in relation to the social situation and answer the questions like who, what, when, where, why, and how of the sentence. The sentence describes an event that happened on September 15th 2023 and is about MLA Raja Singh visited Srisailam and made a speech in which he opposed non-Hindus' business in Srisailam. He said that non-Hindus that are Muslims, have no right to do business in Srisailam as it is a holy place for Hindus and

that he would not allow them to continue their trade there. He also accused non-Hindus of hurting Hindu sentiments by selling items such as meat, alcohol, cigarettes, etc. near the temple premises. The role of media can also be seen in the coverage of issue that may shape public opinion and perception over the minority issues.

After Lord Ram, Krishna enters UP's poll scene amid Mathura mosque row. (8th January 2022)

The sentence “After Lord Ram, Krishna enters UP’s poll scene amid Mathura mosque row” refers to the political and theological ramifications of the continuing legal battle over ownership of the land on which the Shahi Idgah Mosque in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh is built. The mosque claims to be erected on the location of Krishna Janambhoomi, the birthplace of Lord Krishna, a famous Hindu deity. The line implies that the subject of recovering the land for the construction of a temple dedicated to Lord Krishna has become a key agenda item for some political parties and organizations in the approaching Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections in 2023. The role of media can also be seen in the coverage of issue that may shape public opinion and perception over the minority issues.

No camel slaughter here: TS government to HC. (15th January 2022)

The headline of a news item titled "No camel slaughter here: TS government to HC" describes how the Telangana administration complied with the High Court's directive to stop the illicit slaughtering of camels during the Bakrid celebration. The Telangana government is acting against the violation of animal rights and laws. The sentence also implies that camel slaughter is not allowed or practiced in Telangana state unlike other places where it might be common or legal to slaughter animals. This headline may also initiate or reinforce different aspects of social cognition such as social stereotypes, social schemas, social influence or prejudices about slaughtering of animal.

Congress' Shakeel Ahmad slams Owaisi for delivering inciting speeches. (15th January 2022)

The sentence reflects the ongoing rivalry and hostility between the two parties. One leader from the Congress party and one from the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) party are at odds with one another politically in the sentence. The speaker is implying that the listener shares or accept his or her opinion on the matter by using the phrase. The Congress party is one of the oldest and largest political parties in India and this party has a secular and nationalist ideology. The AIMIM party is a regional party that mainly represents the interests of Muslims in some states of India and this party has a religious and separatist ideology. These two parties have often clashed over various issues such as citizenship laws, minority rights, communal violence, etc.

Asaduddin Owaisi says no to Z-category security. (7th February 2022)

The sentence “Asaduddin Owaisi says no to Z-category security” also involves some aspects of social context such as the listener may identify as a Hindu, Punjabi, Pakistani, or PTI fan, whereas the speaker may identify as a Muslim, a Hyderabad, an Indian, or an AIMIM follower. The speaker's and the listener's perceptions and assessments of Owaisi and his choice may be influenced by these social identities. In terms of popularity or leadership abilities, the speaker and listener may contrast Owaisi with Imran Khan or Narendra Modi. In terms of stability or progress, they can contrast India with Pakistan or China. The role of media can also be seen in the coverage of issue hijab that may shape public opinion and perception over the hijab issue. This headline also shows how Muslims in India are facing discrimination and oppression because of their religion or cultural identity.

‘Political parties taking advantage of ‘hijab’ issue for 2023 assembly poll. (9th February 2022)

The headline reflects and shapes a certain worldview and perspective on the issue of hijab about education. The headline shows the mental process of understanding of social and political implication of the hijab issue in the upcoming assembly election of Karnataka. The social schemas are the mental representations social patterns and norms, these schemas help to show people's ideologies, agendas, and support towards political parties and shows how these schemas influence people's thought on hijab issue. It has also influence on people's behavior towards hijab issue it can be positive or negative and how people perceive it as parties taking advantage of the issue or opposing it. Social cognition also effects the decision of people how thinks about the hijab issue whether to wear or not wear hijab in the educational institutes and whether to support or oppose political parties in hijab issue. This headline may also initiate or reinforce different aspects of social cognition such as social stereotypes, social schemas, social influence or prejudices about wearing hijab in educational institutes.

Hijab row: K'taka schools, colleges shut for 3 days (10th February 2022)

This headline contains cognitive processes that people use to understand any social situation and then respond to it. The headline reflects and shapes a certain worldview and perspective on the issue of hijab about education. Different people have different understanding and mental representations about hijab, what hijab is, and why it is important in different setting, cultures or countries and why women wear it. People also have emotional attachment with hijab such as anger, fear, sympathy these emotions motivate people or avoid them to take actions or it may trigger their cognitive processes. This headline may also initiate or reinforce different aspects of social cognition such as social stereotypes, social schemas, social influence or prejudices about wearing hijab in educational institutes. The social context of this sentence is about the controversy of hijab in Karnataka, a state in India, the problem is about the right of Muslims girls to wear hijab in educational institutions, 'hijab' can be defined as it has its own significance and meaning, hijab is a noun derived from the Arabic word 'hijab' which means veil or curtain and hijab is a specific term that refers to a type of headscarf worn by some Muslim women as a sign of modesty and religious observance, but it can also have broader meanings and associations.

Hijab row: I prefer uniforms but will accept court order (23rd February 2022)

The headline reflects and shapes a certain worldview and perspective on the issue of hijab about education. The social schema is already present in the mind of the speaker while talking about uniforms and hijabs that shows the mental representation of social norms. The speaker may have a positive or negative perception about hijab and uniform and the speaker may prefer uniform to give equality to all students of the school. This headline may also initiate or reinforce different aspects of social cognition such as social stereotypes, social schemas, social influence or prejudices about wearing hijab in educational institutes.

‘Hijab does not form part of essential religious practice’ (17th march 2022)

The headline reflects and shapes a certain worldview and perspective on the issue of hijab about education. The sentence ‘Hijab does not form part of essential religious practice’ is a statement made by high court of Karnataka. People may perceive this as a violation of their religious freedom and personal choice. According to Muslims court is imposing its own concept about Islam on them and not allowing them to practice their religion. This headline may also initiate or reinforce different aspects of social cognition such as social stereotypes, social schemas, social influence or prejudices about wearing hijab in educational institutes.

‘Court Says this on Petition filed on Hijab row! ’ (18th march 2022)

This headline implies the meaning that it is a legal issue that has been finalized by the highest judicial authority of the country. The headline uses the word ‘petition’ which means it is about a demand or request that is made by a group of people or an organization to the court and the use of word ‘hijab’ reflects religious and cultural aspect involves in it. The role of media can also be seen in the coverage of issue hijab that may shape public opinion and perception over the hijab issue. This headline also shows the hidden power relations between India and Pakistan and also it has connotations of how Muslims in India are facing discrimination and oppression because of their religion or cultural identity.

CONCLUSION

The main objective of this present research was to conduct a critical discourse analysis of selected two Indian English newspaper headlines that represent Islamophobia and Hindutva doctrine. The present research adopted a theoretical framework of Van Dijk that combined the concepts of ideology and hegemony. The present research has analysed sixty-eight newspaper headlines from both leading Indian English newspapers: The Telegraph, Voice of Words. The researcher has applied Van Dijk socio-cognitive approach that consisted of qualitative techniques. The conclusion of the present research revealed that Indian English newspapers are continuously spreading hatred against Muslims and promoting Hindutva policy. The present study has identified several socio-cognitive strategies that the newspapers use to construct negative representations of Muslims and positive representations of Hindutva.

The present study shows that Indian English newspapers use lexical devices and associate Muslims with violence, terrorism, extremism, and threat, while associate Hindutva with nationalism, patriotism, development, and security. They use syntactic structures that emphasize the agency and responsibility of Muslims for their actions, while downplaying or omitting the agency and responsibility of Hindutva actors for their actions. They use rhetorical devices that appeal to emotions, such as fear, anger, or pride, to influence the readers' attitudes and opinions. Different metaphors are used that conceptualize Muslims as enemies, invaders, or outsiders, while conceptualizing Hindutva as defenders

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