

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Indian Print Media: The Case Study of Elite English Press

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Abstract

This study aimed to explore the treatment of Indian elite press towards the matter of China Pakistan Economic Corridor. The study deals with the quantitative and qualitative approaches in order to measure and examine the stance of the Indian Print media towards the said issue. For the purpose of analysis four English newspapers, The Times of India, The Hindu, Hindustan Times and Tribune India were selected during the June, 2016-December, 2017 as during this period CPEC was the hot debate in the regional media especially in India. All the news stories were coded against 5 categories with regard to Pak-China, Pak-India and China-India relations in the context of CPEC. The findings revealed that Indian Print media gave very negative coverage to the issue of CPEC in their news stories. The issue was framed as a bigger threat in the region, a militant support towards Kashmir conflict between both countries. Furthermore, it was also divulged that the proportion of negative coverage was greater than its positive coverage. Pakistan and China relations were framed as a deal to counter India for being closeness of CPEC route to Kashmir valley. Last but not the least, this project was considered a violation of Indian sovereignty with regard to its territory. The strategic interests were framed against the India which could lead to impact the peace in the Southeast Asia if the project is successfully executed.

Keywords: China Pakistan Economic Corridor; Southeast Asia; Indian Print Media; Paki India Relations; China-India Relations

Introduction

The strong relationship between China and Pakistan are becoming the focus of attention worldwide. At different points in time, China has proposed various projects for the economic assistance that were also welcomed by Pakistan. CPEC as known as China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is another agenda of connectivity. It aims at assisting China and Pakistan. It may also have constructive impact on countries Iran, Afghanistan, India as well as the Central Asian Republic and region. The enrichment of terrestrial connections partaking enhanced road, rail in addition to air transport system with numerous and free connections of growth. Not only this, but in fact the interactions among the people, with the help of indulgent that would be boosted through the varied levels of ethos and awareness, the line of work as well as businesses, energy manufacturing and motion are supposed to lead towards result a thriving allied, combined region of communal purpose, and growth. The presented

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model is a beneficial situation for all. Thus CPEC is something that will lead towards the regionalization in regards to economy in globe. Although this is the presentation of this project but it is also judged and evaluated critically (Hussain , 2017).

CPEC is turned out to be a mega project. Needless to state that this mega development project China-Pakistan Economic Corridor that has been signed between Pakistan and China stood out to be having a significant shifting regarding the economic and Political grounds. The project aimed at ensuring that China might achieve its foreign policy goals and get enlarged to the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea likewise. Furthermore, it has guaranteed the respective economic growth of Pakistan. It is to be noted that although there are further South Asian states with which China is tracking mutual trusts, however Pakistan stands out to be dominant for China in much esteems for the realization of its geo-strategic objectives in the expanse. Also, for Pakistan too, China is one of its major contributors of economy (Ikram & Rashid, 2017).

As stated earlier, the benefits of the project are not always appreciated. In fact there are several references, where the project is considered to be a threat. CPEC is a leading scheme in cooperation between these countries, that resolute to instrument anticipated assistances. The Sino-Pak element has been seldom recognized in academic circles as an heirloom of connection that has been founded on joint reliance and integrity. It was initiated by Pakistan with the acknowledgment of China and has been playing a contributory role in the underground diplomacy by Pakistan (Ahmad & Mi, 2017).

Pakistan since last few years is facing a downfall of economy as well as the political instability. There are some sectors that are lacking enough resources and one such sector is energy. The existing energy crisis of Pakistan contrariwise, require evocative procedures for it which might take the republic from external assistance albeit the upsurge of its native energy-generation capability. CPEC is thus considered to be a developmental step that consists of reserves in projects containing building of coal-based plant for creating power at one side and to pure and clean the energy groundwork on the other side. Moreover, there are other plants that are aimed to be progressed regarding wind power as well as hydropower and solar energy. This approach may empower Pakistan to enhance the respective generation ability in terms of power and electricity. This may also assemble the country to be independent by reducing the current energy shortfall devastation (Butt & Butt, 2015).

China is considered to be a great ally of Pakistan and it sure is too but the proposition of any economic assistance is not without a regard for its own wellbeing. Thus, for

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Indian Print Media: The Case Study of Elite English Press

both of the countries, the project is supposed to ensure a hopeful future regarding the progress and sustainability. CPEC is proving to be a hope to the crippling economic and socioeconomic position of Pakistan. It has been developed to be a prodigious provision for the energy famished country. As stated earlier that Baluchistan has not any superiority of economic expansion, now due to this project, Gawadar can stretch life to Baluchistan. It has been considered to assist as a doorway regarding the widespread passage, from Central Asia to other countries, of oil and gas extent. The other countries are those which have mandate to meet their manufacturing needs. Needless to say that Pakistan might become robust as soon as the growth would take place in Baluchistan. This may occur because of the advantage from the much anticipated gas pipeline of Iran-Pak at one side and updating the rail networks on the other side. These networks are supposed to develop trade ways amid the Arabian Sea as well as China along with Central Asia. However there exists to be doubting Thomas of some experts concerning the project according to which Gawadar port might turn out to be naval base of China. This base might be permitting Beijing to a patterned naval operation flanked by India and America (Hussain , 2017).

The project CPEC is often looked out as a threat to the other regional countries specifically by India and is interpreted either as a propaganda to down the economy of regional countries or empowering Pakistan. However CPEC is not in contradiction no matter that the determination of project is very contradictory. The goal is the creation of contented atmosphere politically and economically regarding the alliance amongst local and worldwide associates. It should be noted that India, being a noteworthy stakeholder along with the chaotic circumstances of Pakistan has elevated uncertainties regarding the project although the framework of planning for CPEC and respective surpluses are there for Pakistan and China. China and Pakistan have carried out extensive exchanges and cooperation in political, military, diplomatic and cultural fields as well as science and technology since the two countries formally established diplomatic relations in 1951 and have made remarkable achievements, however, the bilateral economic and trade cooperation between the two countries was still in a relatively low level. In 2012, Sino-Pakistan bilateral economic and trade cooperation was impacted by multiple factors both in Pakistan and the world. At present, Pakistan has become the China's second biggest trading partner in South Asia, and China has become the second largest trade partner, second source of imports and second largest export market of Pakistan (Akif, & Huma, 2016).

Presented by the government of China, CPEC stands out to be a planned as well as profitable and dogmatic outlay and it aims at augmenting the position of Pakistan in local along with the international governments. The worldwide governmental situation today by means of local standing has yet again emphasized upon locus of South Asia. Since a remarkable amount of time, China has developed itself to be in international news broadcasts. China has gained a lot of attention by media due to its significantly growing financial and political standings. Although the subject that has still got the least attention is expanding connections in addition to the resourcefulness that is being disseminating crossways of South Asia. A contemporary advantage of stimulating the project of Silk Road with a custom of ‘One Road One Belt’ aimed at assisting various countries together with Pakistan. A foremost hurdle in constituency in place of party-political and financial hindering remains the affairs regarding Pak – Ind. At one side both of the countries are joined via the various aspects of governmental as well as terrestrial and economic acquaintances but at the same time on the other side there can be seen the frequent military clashes besides the regional disagreements.

The mass media of all the forms are doing their parts efficiently to deliver the updates to the citizens as well as framing their minds according to the standards of critics and journalists. The occurrence of broadcasting by different means stood out to be amongst the significant landscapes of present-day world wherein the self-governing civilizations, common determination of folks are resulted through a well-versed communal outlook. The demeanor concerning self-governing politics is contingent massively on mass media. Mass media is able to surround the pictures regarding the world beyond our access in the way that it wants and this reliance scheduled on the mass media develops to be increased (Kumar, 2006).

Considering about the frameworks and scenarios presented by the mass media for conveying on the issue of CPEC, in the current study, we aim at gauging about the nature of reporting i.e., either progressive or damaging, in Elite English newspapers of India. Furthermore, we aim at evaluating the degree of biasness by the Indian media in the direction of government strategies of Pakistan apropos to the progresses proposed in the project of CPEC. A point that we want to emphasize here is that how the Indian media presenting CPEC. The emphasis on CPEC has been made with dissimilar viewpoints imitating the respective government’s policies and attitudes. More specifically, we want to inspect the dissertation of Indian media that is determining the public concluded news reports.

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Indian Print Media: The Case Study of Elite English Press

Literature Review

Ikram & Rashid (2017) elaborated in their study that height of Pakistan China friendship partakes a new-fangled rule of two-sided financial collaboration through the joint ratification of development called as CPEC i.e., China-Pakistan Economic Corridor linking Xinjiang to Gawadar Port. It is of substance of \$46 billion that has the probability of being accomplished by 2030. By means of expansion of CPEC the supplier country i.e., China will turn to depart on or after the predicament of sea roots. These roots exist to be organized through financial as well as local adversaries towards re-invent OBOR over Pakistan. Having such projects has a good probability that these may affect the neighboring countries either positively or negatively. Talking about CPEC, Pakistan has disapproval by India. In the Indian mass media, there are several reports on the subject of CPEC where the reports state the negative statements made by the government and the criticizers according to which this project would harm the national interests of the country. If the criticism could be handled well and China along with Pakistan proceeds with the project, then this project might turn to be a game changer. This game changing situation however would not only is limited to the two countries but in fact the regional corporation can be enhanced of the other countries in region. The mass media of India reports about the restrictions as well as obstacles that seemed to be there in the project. Furthermore, various strategic endorsements are also presented that should be considered by the two countries. Thus the subject of CPEC is addressed under distinct aspects.

Akif & Huma (2016) detailed that Pakistan China political associations as well as commencement of the Silk Road scheme proposed by China remains a resourcefulness of negotiation and new groundwork in addition to the permitted line of work. This has also been an emphasis by the mass media worldwide. This corridor of China and Pakistan remains the focal point of mutual collaboration of these countries. The international media tries to gauge the point of view of bodies in Pakistan through the journalistic as well as news exposure herein Pakistan. The different types of news under the subject of CPEC has been qualitatively studied and evaluated by the international media whether it was positive or negative. For assessing a comprehensive evaluation of the treatment of media on the subject, an expanded research is required. The research can lead towards the various viewpoint on standing of CPEC and the overall portrayal of the project globally can be assessed.

Khan et al. (2016) inspects about creation of CPEC concern in the media of India through news discourse analysis as well as providing an insight regarding communal

outlook designed through Indian media. The media utilizes leading broadcasting mounts by means of handing over a planned categorizing prognosis of CPEC China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. The project is anticipated to stretch tranquil as well as inexpensive entrance to the country (China) to regional countries in addition to Middle East via attaching Gawadar by way of Western China. In return, China offers a pledge en route for provision to crippling economy Pakistan. CPEC remains judgmentally contested in ruling circle of India and media notwithstanding remarkable financial as well as tactical assistances devoted in the direction of constituency. Thus it can be said that even the benefits are considered as propaganda.

Back in the year 2012, Sino-Pakistan consensual financial in addition line of work stood obstructed through manifold aspects mutually in Pakistan along with rest of the world. In May 2013, thru official visit of Li Keqiang towards Pakistan he many times, highlighted that Pakistan remains continuously a dependable determined acquaintance of China. The association exists even beyond according (Hussain, 2017) as elaborated that both countries ought to execute numerous monetary as well as cooperation for the line of work with nonstop excavating of welcoming associations. Pakistan has turn out to be the 2nd prevalent dealing companion of China in the South Asia. In the similar way, China has become the major contributor in the Economy of Pakistan in the form of imports and exports. This might also be the reason that CPEC is considered to be as an empowering favor by China towards Pakistan and at the same time a threat to India.

Daly (2014) argued that it would be better if rather only have dependence on Pakistan-China may enlarge its sphere with local countries. China should also strengthen the position of India whereas the other countries referred here are Afghanistan along with other Central Asian States. Furthermore, the collaboration with India must be understood as policy circles in China's attention moreover, safeguarding the natural resources for its economic schema. The Indian media takes it in a way that Chinese energy importations would curtail by means of this road. According to the media, China will eventually expand its planned footmark in the Indian Ocean where it was at no time an influence to struggle with. The steps have been taken by India as India has been involved in combining its existence in western Indian Ocean by this time in order to counteract the forthcoming Chinese entry. However, it has decelerated the growth due to deficiency of possessions.

Ikram et al. (2017) stated that the project of CPEC has made worldwide, a many news banners According to the news reports that it does not matter the way international state of affairs settles, China does not fail to guarantee Pakistan regarding the united

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Indian Print Media: The Case Study of Elite English Press

provision and alliance. Pakistan on the other side shares the same promise. Pakistan as well as China have been facing various aspects regarding their local and international trials, nevertheless both countries are still mindful of their concentrations and requirements in fast shifting security and geo-strategic environment. It is now becoming necessary to spread the direction beyond as well as exploring the economic vision as CPEC can bring socio-economic wealth to the people of Pakistan and China along with standing by to elementary values of communal considerate and shared concern on customary positions. Hence Pakistan is recognized as groundwork of foreign strategy.

Brewster (2015) has alluded that strong bonds of Pakistan with China could mean the advantage to get to the top where further county energy projects have developed to be delayed due to various safety problems as well as political disagreements. There are several issues that are going on such as the hold on of Pakistan-Iran pipeline, the delay of trade of energy from India due to the essential matters of tenacity and the World Bank-backed Central Asia South Asia Electricity Transmission and Trade Project that has to fight regarding the safety issues connecting to a passageway over Afghanistan.

Jabeen (2015) has detailed about the project of CPEC by elaborating that CPEC is an approach that has made a solid locus of the country China in the international political affairs. The establishment of highway i.e., Karakorum Highway has protected the association of China with Pakistan even more. Initially the project of Korakoram highway was presumed as a high-class direction of line of work that was lined by China and Pakistan. For the exploitation strategically, the implications have been understood further in the later happenings of CPEC. At one side, this project benefits in the linking of Gwadar port to Western China, on the other hand the profitable activities would also be sparked due to initialization of markets in the developed and under developed cities of China. Thus the project contained within it a massive organization of pipelines as well as infrastructure.

Yousaf (2012) has enlightened the geographical appearance of Gwadar that is located at south-west of the province, Baluchistan. It has its partaking boundary along with Afghanistan whereas the Western border is with Iran that is at distance of nearly 100 kilometers. The individuality gets exposed as soon as Gwadar becomes fairly 400 kilometers distant from Strait of Hormuz. It is supplemented with oil that accounts the world's share of 20%. The primarily significant interchange port in Pakistan however thought to be inaugurated wholly just before the end of year 2015. Furthermore, the link of China will be recognized from Indus Highway as soon as the infrastructure and

more specifically the roads are constructed. China; in acceptance for rights to function Gwadar for 40 years, has prearranged to capitalize 1.62 billion US dollars in Gwadar. Other projects that are included comprise an intercontinental airport, urban markets as well as superhighways. These will be able to crack Gwadar as a residence of scientific and infrastructural progress. It is known that the youth occupied in Baluchistan have been underprivileged regarding the financial openings and this is one along with other motives that are notwithstanding remarkable standard. Mineral possessions has been a continued victim of pro-independence program thus, demoralized by non-nationals. The steadiness and development will restrain the part of interlopers in Baluchistan. The interlopers are causing untidiness in the region. In the province as well as in intimidating dominion of Pakistan, these actions are captivating paybacks of underdevelopments. Hence, CPEC has a gleam of expectation to control these rudiments.

The literature has been reviewed in as much detail and preciseness as possible to support the significance of CPEC as well as our study. The presented reviews of the literature has justified about the significance of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. The project consumes involvement and reputation in worldwide media owing to the local influence along with contribution of neighboring countries. These are such as Afghanistan, India as well as Iran. These neighbors share the line of work and financial side in addition to geo-strategic standpoints. CPEC is supposed to tip in the direction of fiscal expansion besides the governmental steadiness of the whole Pakistan and especially the province, Baluchistan. This is also due to the fact that it has linkage over Gawadar port. For evaluating the significance, there are theories found to be at hand.

For the purpose of this research study the researcher has found Agenda Setting Theory and Theory of Framing extremely helpful as a theoretical framework of the study.

Significance of Print Media

For the awareness of a common citizen and otherwise, a mode is usually required to convey the updates regarding the current affairs and the like. The press is considered to be an innovative and the oldest mode of mass media as well as the medium for communicating the issues towards the citizen and the other readers. The newspapers in Pakistan as well as India are supposed to be the highly famous and most trustworthy mode and member of mass media. Furthermore, the news in the newspaper are valued to be more precise and trustworthy as compare to that of electronic media. The print media in different forms presents the actual scenarios

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Indian Print Media: The Case Study of Elite English Press

going on. In today's world, the life without the media is appears to be difficult. It is due to the media that we are able to gauge an impact of other countries.

Hypotheses

H1: The coverage given to CPEC would be greater in The Hindu and Hindustan Times as compared to The Times of India and The Tribune India.

H2: The proportion of negative coverage in all Indian Newspapers would be significantly greater to the positive coverage towards Pak-China relations.

H3: It is more likely that the treatment towards CPEC matter with regard to Pak-India perspective would be more negative rather its positive coverage in Indian print media.

Rationale of Selection Elite English Press

Not all the newspapers that are being published on daily basis are reviewed. In fact, only the mentioned newspapers are selected for the subject under our study for a reason that these newspapers are the most circulated newspapers and thus have the maximum influence on the minds of readers as compared to the other dailies. Furthermore, these are the newspapers that also hold great significance both nationally as well as internationally. These do not only contain straight forward news regarding the issues but also provide the news under the light of healthy criticism so that the readers may get several aspects of certain happening. These are;

- The Hindu
- The Times of India
- Hindustan Times
- The Tribune India

Objectives

The research questions would examine and cover the answers of following research questions:

- To explore the coverage given to the issues of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor by the Indian Newspapers
- To measure the treatment by the Indian Print media towards China-Pakistan Economic Corridor matter.
- To identify the similarities and differences among the selected newspapers on the subject under discussion

Methodology

To address the research questions, content analysis technique has been used in this study. Both the quantitative and qualitative techniques of the research have been used for the study. This work has focused on the analysis of Indian print media news discourses in order to explore how CPEC is constructed in the news reports, entailing coverage pattern. To sightsee about how CPEC has erected in news gossips along with involving reportage configuration, the current study has engrossed on qualitative as well as quantitative investigation concerning Indian print media. The newspapers that are included for study are those that were published from 1st June 2016 to 1st December 2017. The reason behind choosing the specified time period is that the project CPEC was hot debate on current period and the media of both countries had made exhaustive reporting on the subject. The Newspapers can be easily access to the corresponding websites of stated newspapers and these are altogether can be accessed in these news reports are accessible on corresponding official websites. The researchers determined the direction and overall tone by giving positive (+), negative (-) and neutral (0) signs. For this purpose a coding sheet was prepared to accommodate all possible coverage of various categories. There are five categories employed in qualitative content analysis (1) ‘a word’ (2) “a theme” (3) a major character (4) “a sentence of paragraph” or (5) “an item” (Holsti 1969). The researchers considered the whole news story item as a unit of analysis for this study. Item is used to refer the entire document. It is a unit broad enough to encounter problems with meeting the mutual exclusiveness criterion. Before this the researchers sorted out the issues (A, B, C, D) that were focused on the selected news stories with relevance to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor from the selected newspapers.

A = Security Perspective with Reference to India-China Relations

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Indian Print Media: The Case Study of Elite English Press

B = Geo-Strategic Viewpoint with Reference to South East Asia

C = Pak–India Relations

D = Initiation of Dialogue with Pakistan

Data Analysis and Interpretation of Results

Table 1

Comparative Topical coverage of the Selected Newspapers on the issues

<i>Newspapers</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>D</i>
The Hindu	102	23 22.54%	31 30.39%	37 36.27%	11 10.78%
Times of India	89	19 21.34%	16 17.97%	41 46.06%	13 14.60%
Hindustan Times	121	32 26.44%	28 23.14%	24 19.83%	37 30.57%
The Tribune India	97	36 37.11%	21 21.64%	11 11.34%	29 29.89%
Total	409	110 26.89%	96 23.47%	113 27.62%	90 22.00%

N = Number of News Items

A = Security Perspective with Reference to India-China Relations

B = Geo-Strategic Viewpoint with Reference to South East Asia

C = Pak–India Relations

D = Initiation of Dialogue with Pakistan

The table mentioned above provides important information in term of figures regarding the various aspects related to CPEC in the four famous newspapers. The total number of news items obtained is 409. In this total, 110 items are regarding the security perspective with reference to India-China relations, 96 are regarding the geo strategic viewpoints with reference to South East Asia, 113 are in regard to Pak-India

relations and the remaining 90 are about the Initiation of dialogue with Pakistan. In the same manner, the details regarding the each newspaper can be studied from the table about the mentioned aspects. Furthermore, security perspective with reference to India-China relations is mentioned with the maximum percentage in The Tribune India. Similarly, geo-strategic viewpoint with reference to South East Asia aspect has received in the maximum amount of attention in 'The Hindu'.

Statistical Analysis:

Difference = p (1) - p (2)

Estimate for difference: -0.106671

95% CI for difference: (-0.230843, 0.0175005)

Test for difference = 0 (vs \neq 0): Z = -1.68 P-Value = 0.002

Fisher's exact test: P-Value = 0.006

It was hypothesized that the Hindu and Hindustan Times would give more coverage towards CPEC issue with regard to Pakistan, China and India relations in the Southeast Asia. The data shown in the above table clearly communicated the vivid picture that both newspaper significantly covered categorical issues pertaining to Pakistan and China Corridor were covered more frequently as compared to Times of India and Tribune India.

The Fisher's exact P-value was less than 0.05 which indicates that there was a significant difference in terms of coverage given to Pak-China Economic Corridor by the selected newspaper of Indian Print media.

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Indian Print Media: The Case Study of Elite English Press

Table 2

Comparative Topical direction with reference to the Issue (A)

Newspaper	N	Positive	Negative	Neutral
		6	10	7
The Hindu	23	26.08%	43.47%	30.43%
		6	5	8
Times of India	19	31.57%	26.31%	42.10%
		13	13	6
Hindustan Times	32	40.62%	40.62%	18.75%
		9	18	9
The Tribune India	36	25%	50%	25%
		34	46	30
Total	110	30.91%	41.82%	27.27%

A = Security Perspective with Reference to India-China Relations

The table mentioned above provides the further detailed information in term of figures regarding the security perspective with reference to India-China relations in the four famous newspapers. The total number of news items obtained is 110 as obtained previously too. Additionally, the nature of reporting is attained i.e., either positive or negative regarding the security perspective with reference to India-China relations. For example, the issue is reported positively with the maximum numbers of time in the newspaper ‘Hindustan Times’, negatively with a maximum numbers of time in ‘The Tribune India’ and without any negative or positive regard in ‘The Tribune India’. The details apropos the each newspaper can be studied from the table about the mentioned aspect.

Statistical Analysis:

Difference = p (1) - p (2)

Estimate for difference: 0.109091

95% CI for difference: (-0.0172206, 0.235402)

Test for difference = 0 (vs ≠ 0): Z = 1.69 P-Value = 0.091

Fisher’s exact test: P-Value = 0.061

The statistical analysis of the hypothesis reveals that there was significant difference of slanting towards CPEC among the selected newspapers. It was found that among the total coverage of the issue, the positive coverage was based only 31% while the degree of negative coverage was up to 41%. But the statistical analysis revealed it as

insignificant as the calculated P-value was greater than 0.05 but the difference was more than one point.

Table 3

Comparative Topical direction with reference to the Issue (B)

Newspaper	N	Positive	Negative	Neutral
The Hindu	31	12 38.71%	12 38.71%	7 22.58%
Times of India	16	4 25%	7 43.75%	5 31.25%
Hindustan Times	28	8 28.57%	12 42.86%	8 28.57%
The Tribune India	21	6 28.57%	11 52.38%	4 19.05%
Total	96	30 31.25%	42 43.75%	24 25%

B = Geo-Strategic Viewpoint with Reference to South East Asia

The table mentioned above delivers the supplementary exhaustive information in term of figures about the geo-strategic viewpoint with reference to South East Asia in the four famous newspapers. The total number of news items obtained is 96. The nature of reporting is attained as well i.e., either positive or negative regarding the security perspective with reference to India-China relations. For example, the issue is reported positively with the maximum numbers of times in the newspaper ‘The Hindu’ and negatively with an equal and maximum number of times in two newspapers ‘The Hindu’ and ‘Hindustan Times’. Furthermore it is reported without any negative or positive regard in with a maximum number of times in ‘Hindustan Times’. The details apropos the each newspaper can be studied from the table about the mentioned aspect.

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Indian Print Media: The Case Study of Elite English Press

Table 4

Comparative Topical direction with reference to the Issue (C)

Newspaper	N	Positive	Negative	Neutral
The Hindu	37	10 27.03%	22 59.46%	5 13.51%
Times of India	41	7 17.08%	19 46.34%	15 36.58%
Hindustan Times	24	12 50%	8 33.33%	4 16.67%
The Tribune India	11	4 36.36%	4 36.36%	3 27.27%
Total	113	33 29.20%	53 46.90%	27 23.89%

C = Pak-India Relations

The table mentioned above delivers the complementary statistics in term of figures about the Pak-India relations in the four famous newspapers. The total number of news items obtained is 113. The nature of reporting is attained as well i.e., either positive or negative regarding the Pak-India relations. For instance, the issue is reported positively with the maximum numbers of time in the newspaper 'Hindustan Times' and negatively with a maximum number of times in newspapers 'The Hindu'. Furthermore it is reported without any negative or positive regard in with a maximum number of times in 'Times of India'. The details regarding the each newspaper can be studied from the table about the mentioned aspect.

Statistical Analysis:

Difference = rate (1) – rate (2)

Estimate for difference: -1.29217

95% CI for difference: (-2.03590, -0.548432)

Test for difference = 0 (vs ≠ 0): Z = -3.41 P-Value = 0.001

Exact Test: P-Value = 0.000

The statistical analysis of the above table that presented the stance of the coverage towards Pak-India relations in perspective of CPEC issue between Pakistan and China. It can be safely said that there was a significant difference of treatment towards CPEC issue with regard to its positive and negative coverage by the selected Indian newspapers.

It was found that the proportion of positive coverage was only 29% while the 47% of the coverage was based on negative portrayal as the test indicated that P-value was less than 0.05 which means significant difference between positive and negative treatment towards the issue of CPEC.

Table 5

Comparative Topical direction with reference to the Issue (D)

Newspaper	N	Positive	Negative	Neutral
		0	7	4
The Hindu	11	0%	63.64%	36.36%
		3	8	2
Times of India	13	23.08%	61.54%	15.38%
		17	14	6
Hindustan Times	37	45.94%	37.84%	16.22%
		9	9	11
The Tribune India	29	31.03%	31.03%	37.93%
		29	38	23
Total	90	32.22%	42.22%	25.55%

D = Initiation of Dialogue with Pakistan

The current table delivers the complementary statistics in term of figures about the initiation of dialogue with Pakistan in the four famous newspapers. The total number of news items obtained is 90. The nature of reporting is accomplished as well i.e., either positive or negative regarding the initiation of dialogue with Pakistan. For instance, the issue is reported positively with the maximum numbers of time in the newspaper 'Hindustan Times' and negatively also with a maximum number of times in newspapers 'Hindustan Times'. Furthermore it is reported without any negative or positive regard in with a maximum number of times in 'the Tribune India'. The details regarding the each newspaper can be studied from the table about the mentioned aspect.

Discussion

In today's world the information technology growth has enabled us to be well informed. Apart from growth and development of the television the importance of print media cannot be denied. Still the largest segment of the society reads newspapers even because of internet the e copy of the newspapers is available online.

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Indian Print Media: The Case Study of Elite English Press

This research study aimed to explore the treatment of Elite English newspapers of India towards the China Pakistan Economic Corridor with reference to Pakistan, India and China relations. This research study was based on quantitative and qualitative analysis of the news coverage towards this issue categorically. Four categories; A = Security Perspective with Reference to India-China Relations, B = Geo-Strategic Viewpoint with Reference to South East Asia, C = Pak-India Relations, D = Initiation of Dialogue with Pakistan were analyzed in the contexts of CPEC issue. It is evident that being neighbor and have been colonized with the British before the partition much have been common among the both nations. Even both countries have been remained in war twice. As a rational enmity between the two countries and with the developments of CPEC agreement between China and Pakistan, it was necessary to measure and investigate the role of Indian print media towards CPEC issue.

Conclusion

It was found that all the selected newspaper except, the Times of India and the Tribune India, there was a significant coverage given to this issue. The Hindustan Times and the Hindu gave more coverage to the said issue. The most important the proportion of positive coverage towards CPEC and Pak-China Relations, the elite English press of India gave negative coverage as compared to the its positive coverage.

Similarly, the issue of Pak-India relations, situation in the Southeast region in perspective of Pakistan and China relations were treated in a very negative manners. During the time period of eth study from June, 2016 to December, 2017 when it was a hot debate. The Indian press framed it more negatively by representing the both countries negatively. It was because, India never want to see the economic development in Pakistan due to strong tug of war and confrontations with reference to Kashmir issue as well. As Pakistan have been found very supportive towards this issue by revealing the oppressions of the Indian Army toward brutal killing of innocent Kashmiris. The frames of the newspapers towards CPEC were expressed as un-peaceful with the negative propositions for not stopping cross border terrorism. Secondly, the CPEC route passing through Kashmir was also unbearable for the India as it may affect the Indian sovereignty. The most important Pakistan was framed as terrorist state by taking step to hit Indian through its Jihadi warriors by supporting them in the context of CPEC route. Last, but not the least, Indian print media declared it a proxy war at several platforms to influence the ties between Pakistan and China with regard to CPEC.

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Dr. Muqarrab Akbar and Dr. Malik Adnan

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