

Representation of Kashmiri Militants as Precipitant Victims: A Systemic Functional Study of Victimization in Scattered souls by Shahnaz Basheer

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Abstract

The Kashmir conflict, a longstanding and globally recognized issue, remains highly susceptible to disturbances stemming from seemingly minor events. This study offers a linguistic analysis of Kashmiri literature, specifically focusing on Shahnaz Basheer's "Scattered Souls." The primary objective is to shed light on the portrayal of Kashmiri militants as precipitant victims and Kashmiri Muslims as victims in general within the text. Drawing from systemic functional linguistic theory as proposed by M.A.K. Halliday and the precipitant victimization theory by Marvin F. Wolfgang (1957), this study meticulously evaluated eight short stories from "Scattered Souls." Extracts pertaining to precipitant victimization were systematically identified, segmented into clauses, and subjected to analysis based on Halliday's transitivity model and Wolfgang's four Prerequisites. This research pursued a mix methodology encompassing qualitative and quantitative analyses. Qualitatively, the text underwent an in-depth examination and discussion. Concurrently, quantitative analysis was employed to identify the prevailing and dominant linguistic processes at play within the text. The key findings of this study revealed the material-transformative process as the most frequently employed linguistic process, appearing 129 times. This process was instrumental in elucidating the precipitant victimization of Kashmiri militants, portraying them as the instigators of the Kashmir conflict through actions that triggered responses. The "Actor" emerged as the dominant participant in these provocative actions, with an occurrence of 76 instances. Moreover, the frequent utilization of the circumstance of location served to underscore the temporal and spatial context of these actions, thereby accentuating the suffering of Kashmiri Muslims in the narrative. In sum, this study endeavors to comprehend the depiction of Kashmiri militants and Kashmiri Muslims in "Scattered Souls" through linguistic analysis. It underscores the material-transformative process as the principal means to accentuate the precipitant victimization of militants and emphasizes the role of the "Actor" in driving provocative actions.

Introduction

Victimization is characterized as an occurrence in which individuals, communities, or institutions endure substantial detriment or injury. Those impacted by individuals or circumstances undergo a breach of their rights or a significant deterioration in their overall welfare. The victim may experience physical, psychological, emotional, financial, and social suffering and losses.

Understanding the role of a victim in a crime has received scholastic acceptability in recent years, giving rise to victimization theories. These victimization theories include victim precipitation theory, lifestyle theory, deviant place theory, and routine activities theory. Victim precipitation theory is one of a major victimization theory. Marvin. E. Wolfgang (1957, pp.1–11) introduced the phrase “victim precipitation” in the late 1950s to describe the direct participation of a victim in the incidence of a crime. Precipitant victimization refers to a concept where a person's actions or behavior unintentionally contribute to their own victimization or increase their vulnerability to victimization. It suggests that certain behaviors or choices can attract or invite victimization. As a consequence, victims are considered to have instigated or commenced the crime. According to this theory, the victims are somehow responsible for the crime as they have triggered it (Wolfgang & Singer, 1978). According to the precipitation theory, the victim's contribution to a crime is vital, specifically when it comes to inciting the abuser. The Kashmir dispute is one of the most accurate examples of victimization, it is one of the world’s oldest unresolved international conflicts, between India and Pakistan that has tainted the political atmosphere in the Indian Subcontinent (Ray, 2010). Muslims living in Kashmir region have been tortured and forced to live painful and miserable life. Various writers, poets, and academics have published creative, fictional, and nonfictional accounts of the pain and sufferings of the Kashmiri people specifically the Kashmiri Muslims. Selected from the Kashmiri literature, *Scattered Souls* (2016) is a collection of short stories by Shahnaz Bashir written in the English language that may depict the horrific reality of the Kashmir conflict from a Muslim perspective. Shahnaz Bashir has represented the Kashmiri Militants as the precipitant victims. Precipitant victimization in the Kashmir conflict refers to the various factors or events that have led to individuals becoming victims. This could include acts of violence, displacement, human rights abuses, and political unrest. The story may offer insights into the experiences of those who have suffered due to such victimization. The studies conducted on the issue of Kashmir investigated the trauma and psychological impact of war on the Kashmiri people. Samia Hanif and Inayat Ullah (2018) employs Jeffery C. Alexander's (2004) *Cultural Trauma and Collective Identity* and Kai. T. Erikson's (1995) *Collective Trauma* as a theoretical framework to study the selected Kashmiri Anglophone literary piece *The Collaborator* (2011) by Mirza Waheed. Mudasir Ahmad Bufanda (2018) discussed the issues that many Kashmiri migrants faced in the years following the insurgency. The essay aims to understand the suffering and anguish depicted in Siddhartha Gigoo's *Garden of Solitude* (pp.14-17). The selected text, explores the repercussions of Kashmir’s long-running conflict and militarization on its inhabitants. The writer, Basheer has chosen the English language as a tool to represent his thoughts about the pain and agonies of the Kashmiri Muslims. And for that, he made different linguistic choices to show the importance of his thoughts. The argument of the proposed study is that Basheer has used the English language for the representation of Kashmiri militants as precipitant victims. So, the proposed study explored the pain and suffering of the Kashmiri Muslims represented in the opted text through the use of the transitivity system. Transitivity analysis can help us understand how power dynamics, agency, and responsibility are expressed in the discourse surrounding the Kashmir conflict. By analyzing the language used in texts related to the conflict, we can examine the relationship between different actors, such as the government, militants, civilians, and international stakeholders. Transitivity analysis can reveal how these actors are represented and the implications of their actions in perpetuating or addressing victimization in the context of the conflict. This study also analyses the representation of Kashmiri militants as precipitant victims from a Kashmiri perspective. This study aimed to linguistically analyze the texts and identify the dominant processes used by the author to represent the exploitation and sufferings of Kashmiri Muslims. This study is an attempt to explore the perspective of a Kashmiri Muslim through experiential analysis, using the Systemic Functional Linguistic approach as a methodological tool.

The current research is based on the representation clauses aiming to explore the kinds of processes employed in *Scattered Souls* (2016) to portray the pain and miseries of Kashmiri Muslims. It likewise aims at exploring the representation of Kashmiri Militants as the precipitant victims of war in Kashmir. This study will use transitivity tools to investigate processes representing Kashmiri militants as precipitant victims. This study investigates through four prerequisites provided by Morgan Wolfgang (1957) the processes related to Kashmiri Militants, representing them as the cause of Kashmir war.

Research Objectives

1. To map out the discursive choices of transitivity in the collected short stories, to reveal, how the Kashmiri Militants are misrepresented as the core reason behind the Kashmir war in the text.
2. To explore the victimization and pain of the Kashmiri Militants misrepresented as precipitant victims through the transitivity processes as an inclusive representation in the text *Scattered Souls*.

Research Questions

1. What type of discursive choices of transitivity is employed by the author to represent the Kashmiri Militants as the reason for the Kashmir War in the text *Scattered Souls*?
2. How the author did employ the transitivity processes to encode the pain and victimization of Kashmiri Militants as precipitant victims through inclusive representation in the selected text?

Review OF the Related Research

Researchers have endeavored to illustrate, employing transitivity analysis, that the structure of language not only generates particular meaning but also discloses the ideology, which always stays clear for readers in functional analysis, particularly in the transitivity conception of analysis. Language, according to systemic functional theory, is a source of communication gained by humans in order to communicate meaning in the intended content. The preceding discussion aimed to demonstrate the use of the Transitivity framework in the evaluation of any form of text. Many studies used transitivity as a method to explore the writers' intended meaning. In this regard, Mehmood, A., Amber, R., Ameer, S., & Faiz, R. (2014) employed Halliday's transitivity model of text analysis to realign the depiction of love in Oscar Wilde's short story *The Nightingale and the Rose* in a more concentrated manner. The transitivity analysis revealed how Wilde balances the ideal of love, which appears to lean towards the protagonist, the nightingale, at the first impression, with the excitation of compassion. The result obtained using the linguistic tool of transitivity is premised on the concept that language form is not coincidental, but rather serves a communication function. Qasim, H., Talaat, M., & Khushi, Q. (2018) in their research study "An Analysis of Transitivity Options in Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*" explored how experiential meaning are construed through specific linguistic choices. The text selected for the study was written in the wake of 9/11 and the researcher used transitivity model of SFL as theoretical framework for analysis. The study indicated that transitivity choices play a vital role in propagation of the implicit meaning. This study is related to the current research in two aspects one is the theoretical framework and second is the selected text as *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* is also a war text written in the wake of 9/11. Furthermore, Ahmad, S. (2019) in his research 'Transitivity Analysis of the short story *The Happy Prince* written by Oscar Wilde, explores to see how the writer employed linguistic features to construct various characters in the novel. The material for this purpose came from the renowned short story *The Happy Prince* authored by the Irish writer

Oscar Wilde. The researcher adopted Halliday's systemic functional linguistic theory to analyze the text's transitivity. Another research conducted by Mushtaq, M., Saleem, T., Afzal, S., & Saleem, A. (2020) entitled 'A corpus-based ideational meta-functional analysis of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's speech at the United Nations general assembly' evaluates Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's speech at the United Nations General Assembly. It investigates the transitivity process in political discussion. The Ideational meta-function of Halliday's systemic functional linguistics (SFL) was utilized as a theoretical framework for this research. This research aimed to demonstrate how linguistic analysis of political expression might aid in representing leaders' ideologies. The above-mentioned research studies give a glimpse of how and in what different ways can we utilize the transitivity framework. It gives an in-depth review of the model and helped in the analysis and theoretical framework as guideline, as the current study also utilized the transitivity model introduced by M.A.K Halliday.

Literary Representations of Kashmir and Trauma

Literature emerging from Kashmir has frequently been read as a site of resistance, memory, and trauma. Kaul (2012) notes that contemporary Kashmiri writing resists nationalist grand narratives and instead focuses on intimate, everyday suffering. Such texts humanize figures often demonized in political discourse, including militants, by situating them within familial loss, grief, and silenced histories (Kaul, 2012). Hanif and Ullah (2018) extend this discussion by examining war trauma and collective memory in Kashmiri cultural productions. They argue that literature functions as a medium through which suppressed voices articulate pain and reclaim subjectivity. Militants in such narratives are frequently represented as traumatized individuals shaped by systemic violence rather than as autonomous agents of terror (Hanif & Ullah, 2018). Mudasir and Bufanda (2018), in their analysis of *The Garden of Solitude*, demonstrate how Kashmiri fiction consistently foregrounds pain, loss, and psychological fragmentation. Although their study focuses on a different text, their conclusions support a broader literary trend in which Kashmiri characters—including those associated with resistance—are portrayed through lenses of suffering and emotional rupture (Mudasir & Bufanda, 2018).

Reviews of Scattered Souls

The book *Scattered Souls* consists of thirteen interconnected short stories that read like a novel. The stories are very emotional and well-written, and add a significant dimension to a tradition that has now been transitioning from one medium to the other (Acharekar, 2016). Individuals featured in these stories represent various segments of our culture: a rape survivor who is partly widowed and suffering from Trauma; A housewife who has lost her sanity after her spouse falls victim in cross-firing; an official who gets off his high horse after his wife is accidentally killed in an anti-insurgency execution; an oblivious orchard owner assassinated by rumours; an instructor immobilized by an errant bullet; a physician who, after a lifetime of treating the damaged, traumatized patients, finally decides to stop dealing with them. An ex- rebel attempting to go on with life whilst residing beneath the shadow of dread and mistrust (Sharma, 2016). Recent Kashmiri writing has made tremendous progress in English thanks to its realistic documentation of daily life under oppression. This book is yet another attempt in that direction, but it also pioneers new territory in terms of the stories it seeks to highlight. (Pandit, 2017). There are no intellectual counter-arguments in the text, nor is there a plan for future action. It solely pleased itself with presenting an accurate picture of the quantity and the effort turmoil demands without supporting either party. As a result, it does not involve a hero or a villain. It is about individuals who are forced to make strange decisions and are torn apart by agonizing dilemmas like whether or not to seek restitution from an occupying state (The Graveyard), whether to parent an infant born of rape

who serves as a constant reminder of the trauma of absence (Psychosis), or whether the best course of action for handling an unfathomable loss is to act completely defiantly (The Woman Who Became her Own Husband). Even though the characters are fallen human beings, they persist in not giving up. Almost all of the characters have a connection to one another in some way and unexpectedly change over the story. As if you were reading a story with connected characters, this provides the idea that you are taking in a larger panorama of suffering and loss. The stories are transparent, well-organized, and simply delivered. (Sharma, 2016). Shahnaz has once more allowed truth and fantasy to collide, using his imaginative skills to make the two merges into a natural and cohesive whole (Shekhar, 2017). The work uses beautiful detail to leave the reader with a lasting image of terrified grief. Because they are stories about ordinary individuals living on the margins rather than heroic or evil characters, they imply an analogy that is too complicated to fit easily into any of the established groups. To read Shahnaz Bashir's collection of interlinked stories, *Scattered Souls*, is to experience catharsis (Shekhar, 2017). Bashir's novel *Half Mother* and short story collection *Scattered Souls* emotionally accounts an excruciating justification of human relegation and marginalization against the suppressive apparatus of power, authority, and militarization (Das, 2018). The tales have the moldy aroma of a place that is trembling, bleeding, and outshone, pierced by contradictions. The persistent disgust they cause is an inevitable outcome of the occupation's reality, and it must compel even the most fastidious reader to express outrage at the beautiful tragedy being played out in the dispersed souls of Kashmir. (Pundit, 2017). To fully understand the complexity of precipitant victimization, one might look at the potential application of transitivity analysis to the Kashmir war. The "Kashmir conflict" refers to the ongoing territorial struggle between India and Pakistan over the Kashmir region. As previously mentioned, precipitant victimization refers to activities or behavior that maliciously elevate one's vulnerability to victimization. In light of the preceding discussion of SFL and Kashmir fiction, the present study is based on representation clauses and aims to investigate the types of processes used in Kashmiri literature to convey the suffering and misery of Kashmiri Muslims. It also intends to investigate the portrayal of Kashmiri Militants as the precipitant victims of the conflict in Kashmir. Several comparative studies of Kashmiri literature address the Kashmir dispute from a psychological perspective. The purpose of this research is to evaluate the selected text using the SFL framework. SFL is becoming more widely acknowledged as a valuable descriptive and interpretive paradigm for understanding language as a strategic meaning making resource. The study will use experiential metafunctional analysis to determine the key processes employed by the writer to convey his perspective on the sufferings of Kashmiri Muslims as victims of Indian Forces, as well as his own perspective on Kashmiri Militants as "precipitant victims," as represented by clauses. The Transitivity technique is used as a methodological tool in this study to investigate the perspective of a Kashmiri Muslim through experiential analysis. Transitivity analysis, a linguistic tool developed by Halliday and Matthiessen, is used to analyze and understand the patterns of relations and processes in language. It focuses on how different elements in a sentence, such as subjects, objects, and verbs, interact with each other to convey meaning. Applying transitivity analysis to the opted text regarding the Kashmir conflict, one could examine the language used by the writer to represent the Kashmiri Muslims and Militants. By analyzing the transitivity patterns, it may be possible to identify instances where certain actions or behaviors are framed in a way that unintentionally contributes to victimization or perpetuates a cycle of violence and conflict. The collection of short stories, in selected text, explains the consequences of Kashmir's long-running strife and militarization of its population. The text also depicts the emotional and psychological impact of the conflict on individuals in Kashmir. The story may highlight the experiences of people whose lives have been disrupted, families torn apart, and communities displaced. Shahnaz Basheer, the author, has chosen the English language to convey

his emotions on the suffering and misery of Kashmiri Muslims. And to demonstrate the significance of his ideas, he utilized different linguistic choices. The presented study's argument is that Shahnaz Basheer employed the English language to depict Kashmiri militants as precipitant victims. In a nutshell, the proposed study would adopt the transitivity framework, originated and refined by Halliday, to investigate the agony and sufferings of the Kashmiri Muslims portrayed in the stories. This research will also explore, how Kashmiri militants are characterized as precipitant victims from a Kashmiri perspective. This study is, thus an attempt to explore the perspective of a Kashmiri Muslim through experiential analysis, using the Systemic Functional Linguistic approach as a methodological tool. Using different transitivity processes, this study aims to explore, how the Kashmiri Muslims are victimized throughout the text, and how the Kashmiri militants are portrayed as the precipitant victims. It is also hoped that this study may benefit future researchers in analyzing the literature on the Kashmir conflict from multiple perspectives. Precipitant victimization refers to the act of causing harm or injury to an individual or group. It encompasses various forms of victimization, such as bullying, harassment, discrimination, or violence. Language and communication can significantly influence the dynamics and outcomes of such victimization.

Research Gap and Relevance

While existing scholarship extensively addresses Kashmir's political conflict, trauma narratives, and linguistic analysis separately, limited attention has been paid to the **systematic linguistic representation of Kashmiri militants as precipitant victims**. By integrating victimization theory with Halliday's transitivity framework, the present study addresses this gap. It builds on existing literature to demonstrate how *Scattered Souls* linguistically constructs militants as emotionally wounded, socially marginalized, and structurally victimized subjects rather than one-dimensional perpetrators.

Methodology

After a brief introduction and theoretical background of the transitivity and its processes from Halliday's systemic functional grammar, the researcher has also used the framework of transitivity analysis presented by Halliday to investigate the selected text which describes the Kashmiri Militants as precipitant victims through the use of different processes and participant created by the writer in the literary text as interconnected short stories. A qualitative approach is utilized to analyze and discuss the selected text, while a quantitative analysis is employed to identify frequently used and dominant processes. The transitivity model proposed by M.A.K Halliday and the precipitant victimization theory by Marvin F. Wolfgang (1957) form the theoretical framework for this study.

Research Methodology

Research Design

The design of this study follows a mixed methodological approach that utilized both qualitative and quantitative methods. To preserve neutrality, the qualitative method provides an in-depth examination, also qualitative research will be applied to achieve the research objective and to obtain answers to the research questions. Whereas the quantitative method provides facts in a table. Using the transitivity system, the researcher calculated the frequency of each process type to make the study more vivid and bring forth the representation of Kashmiri Militants as precipitant victims and Kashmiri Muslims as victims. The quantitative research approach will also provide a guideline to examine how six transitivity processes are distributed throughout the content of the selected text. It will assist to calculate the frequency of various processes within the text. This

study aims to examine the depiction of the pain and sufferings of Kashmiri Muslims and the portrayal of Kashmiri Militants as the cause of the Kashmir war by analyzing eight short stories as data samples from the collected short stories by Shahnaz Basheer through victim precipitation theory. The transitivity framework will be applied in text analysis, fulfill the research goal and objectives, and obtain answers to the research question. This study adopts a qualitative, descriptive, and interpretive research design, grounded in Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) to examine how Kashmiri militants are represented as *precipitant victims* in *Scattered Souls* by Shahnaz Basheer. Qualitative textual analysis is particularly suitable for literary discourse as it allows in-depth exploration of meaning, ideology, and representation embedded in language (Creswell, 2014). The research is interdisciplinary in nature, combining linguistics, literary studies, and victimization theory to investigate how linguistic choices contribute to the construction of victimhood. Rather than quantifying linguistic features, the study focuses on interpretive depth and contextual meaning, aligning with Halliday's view of language as a resource for making meaning within social contexts (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004).

Research Sample

The text of *Scattered Souls* (2016) is taken as the data of this study. A total of eight short stories are analyzed utilizing the transitivity model introduced by Halliday. The selected stories are given below:

1. The Transistor
2. The Gravestone
3. The Ex- Militant,
4. Psychosis
5. Theft
6. Photo with Barack Obama
7. The House
8. The Woman who became her Own Husband

The data of the eight selected short stories is specified to the victimization of Kashmiri Muslims so only 10-20 sentences out of 130-140, related to victimization of Kashmiri Muslims have been selected from each story, and each sentence is divided into clause for analysis, as a data sample that has been extracted from the text to demarcate the victimization of Kashmiri Muslims and Kashmiri Militants as precipitant victims.

Method of Data Analysis

The analysis follows a **Systemic Functional transitivity framework**, proceeding through the following steps:

Step 1: Identification of Clauses

Relevant clauses involving militant characters are identified and segmented for analysis.

Step 2: Transitivity Categorization

Each clause is analyzed to determine:

- The **process type** (e.g., material, mental, relational)
- The **participant roles** assigned to militants
- The **circumstantial elements** surrounding actions or experiences

This step reveals whether militants are predominantly represented as **actors, goals, sensers, or carriers** of states and actions (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004).

Analysis

The transitivity theory by Halliday (2014) provides a framework for analyzing how authors portray the real world in their texts using grammar. On the other hand, precipitant victimization theory by Marvin Wolfgang (1957) is a real-world phenomenon that examines the direct involvement of a victim in a crime. When studying precipitant victimization, we look at the role played by the victim, and transitivity can be used to identify the various participant roles associated with victims. These two theories have many similarities and offer valuable perspectives for the current study. The main objective of the study is to use transitivity tools to investigate how the author of the selected text, *Scattered Souls* (2016), represents precipitant victims. Transitivity systems and precipitant victimization are two distinct concepts that can be examined in the context of social dynamics. Transitivity systems refer to the way social relationships are structured, particularly in terms of power and hierarchy. They involve the distribution of resources, authority, and influence within a group or society. On the other hand, precipitant victimization relates to situations where individuals become targets or victims of harm, such as bullying, discrimination, or abuse. It involves the experience of being subjected to negative actions or treatment due to various factors, including one's characteristics, beliefs, or social standing. In essence, the connection between precipitant victimization and systemic functional linguistics lies in the examination of language as a tool that both reflects and influences social interactions, power dynamics, and the experiences of individuals involved in victimization. The answer to the question is obtained via the use of transitivity tools, which include the dominating process type in the text, the most important participants, the circumstance and kind of human reality that is depicted with the help of processes, and how the author uses language to express his views. Precipitant victimization prerequisites are provided by Wolfgang (1957, pp.1-11). The study is going to explore how the author of the selected work, *Scattered Souls* (2016), portrays precipitant victim according to four prerequisites given by Wolfgang (1957, pp.1-11): There must have been adequate provocation. The killing must have been in the heat of passion. The killing must have followed the provocation before there had been a reasonable opportunity for the passion to cool. A causal connection must exist between provocation, the heat of passion, and the homicidal act. Such example are: adultery, seduction of the offender's juvenile daughter, rape of the offender's wife or close relative, etc. While transitivity can be used to identify those roles using various participant roles connected to victims, precipitant victimization is investigated through the role played by the victim. Both theories are similar in many ways and, are appropriate for the current study from various perspectives.

Precipitant victimization of Kashmiri Militants in the selected short stories

Precipitant victimization is investigated through processes, showing provocative actions of the protagonists of the stories that appeared only in four of the selected texts. To sum up Shahnaz Basheer has utilized almost all the six processes to express the precipitant victimization of the Militants that lead to their sufferings and miseries. The frequent use of material process imply that the writer illustrates in his stories physical actions done to or done by the participant to provide intelligible, clear representation of Kashmiri Militants as precipitant victims. All the above mentioned participants are the active provocative precipitants, as all of them one way or the other provoked the troops that led to the suffering, torture and victimization all along.

1. Focus on Provocative Actions: The study investigates precipitant victimization through processes showing provocative actions of the protagonists. These actions are attributed to the militants. By highlighting these actions, the author implies that the actions of Kashmiri militants have played a role in provoking conflict in the region.

2. Victim-Militant Duality: The text appears to depict a duality where Kashmiri militants are both victims and provocateurs. They are portrayed as victims of circumstances and their own actions, which could be seen as causing or contributing to the ongoing conflict. This duality can create a complex narrative that underscores the multifaceted nature of the conflict.

3. Material-Transformative Processes: The dominant use of material-transformative processes to depict the agonies and cruelties done to the people of Kashmir, including militants, suggests that the author is emphasizing the physical and tangible consequences of the conflict. This could include violence, displacement, and suffering caused by militant actions.

In "Scattered Souls," the author may not explicitly state that Kashmiri militants are the sole cause of the Kashmir war, but the focus on their actions and their portrayal as precipitant victims suggests a nuanced perspective on their role in the conflict. The text seems to suggest that their actions, driven by various factors, have contributed to the ongoing turmoil in the region, making them a significant element in the complex web of the Kashmir conflict.

Findings

In "Scattered Souls," Shahnaz Basheer skillfully depicts Kashmiri militants as the cause of the Kashmir war by employing the concept of precipitant victimization, utilizing various processes to convey their role in provoking conflict and their subsequent victimization. The dominant use of material processes throughout the text underscores the impact of characters' decisions on their own victimization. Material processes emphasize actions taken by or against the characters, emphasizing the direct consequences of their choices. For instance, characters like Muhammad Yosuf Dar, Ghulam Mohiuddeen, Sultan Muhammad, and Biul are portrayed as active provocative precipitants. Their involvement in militant activities or support for militants is shown to exacerbate the conflict, leading to their own suffering, torment, and victimization at the hands of soldiers. Basheer's narratives distinctly portray the precipitant victimization of militants by presenting them as militants or accomplices. This portrayal emphasizes their contribution to fueling the Kashmir conflict, effectively positioning them as the catalysts of the war. By illustrating characters' engagement in militant activities or their affiliations with militants, Basheer reinforces their active role in escalating the conflict's intensity. Through these transitivity processes, Basheer successfully presents Kashmiri militants as precipitant victims, ultimately depicting them as the cause of the Kashmir war. This portrayal underlines the intricate and multifaceted dynamics underlying the conflict and offers insight into the individual contributions to perpetuating violence and victimization. In conclusion, the aim of analyzing the portrayal of Kashmiri militants as the cause of the Kashmir war through precipitant victimization in "Scattered Souls" has been effectively accomplished. Basheer's adept illustration of characters' actions and choices conveys the idea that the provocative actions of militants significantly contribute to the ongoing conflict in Kashmir. Through the lens of precipitant victimization, the text not only delves into the complexities of the conflict but also underscores the importance of individual roles in shaping its trajectory. The precipitant victimization through dominant process in "Scattered Souls" are discussed collectively above. After the analysis, it is discussed in detail, the dominant process used by the writer to represent the real life of Kashmiri Militants is Material-transformative that depicts the happening of something to the main characters. These stories have depicted the precipitant victimization by representing the protagonists of the stories as Militants or the supporter of the militants. Now this section will discuss the type of process and participant roles given to Kashmiri Muslims, to represent them as victims. Dussich, (2006) defined victims as the individuals tormented by people or incidences come across a violation of their rights or a major uproar in their comfort (pp.116-129). According to Viano (1986) victimization may result primarily from adverse social, political, and economic conditions (p.395). Scattered Souls represents victimization of Kashmiri Muslims

through processes, participant in that process and the circumstance that process occurred in all of the selected eight short stories *Psychosis*, *The House*, *The Woman who became her Own Husband*, *Theft* and *A Photo with Barack Obama*. In *T4-Psychosis* the examples of the barbaric actions of the Indian troops are represented and it is shown how the Kashmiri Muslims are victimized. The old man lost his son and Sakeena being raped by the troops are clear examples of victimization. The processes such as “threw her down”, “held her”, “stripped her”, and “stuffed” are some of the examples representing victimization in *Psychosis*. The processes such as “wish you died”, “were thrown out”, “vanished”, “was raped”, “was dismantled”, highlights the pain and suffering of a 15 years old salesgirl Insha, who is facing a baseless accusation of theft just because her father was ex-militant and now abducted by the troops. This story depicts her agony through the mental process of desideration as she wishes to die or vanish. The story *A photo with Barack Obama* shows how Shahnaz Basheer beautifully utilized the processes such as “became indifferent”, “called him haramzada”, “kicked him”, “shivering” to represent the Kashmiri Muslims and even the children being victimized. This story translates the feeling of a 15 years old boy, who went through police torture through the use of mental and material-event process. This story represents the victimization of Kashmiri children.

Conclusion

The *In Scattered Souls*, the author portrays Kashmiri militants as the cause of the Kashmir war through the concept of precipitant victimization. By using various processes, such as material-transformative processes, the author effectively highlights the role of militants in escalating the conflict. The dominant process found in all the selected stories is the material-transformative process. This process showcases the actions and happenings that illustrate the extension and enhancement of an action. Through this process, the author depicts the agonies and cruelties inflicted upon the people of Kashmir, whether they are members of an ex-militant's family or ordinary Kashmiri Muslims. By employing this dominant process, the author emphasizes the sufferings endured by the Kashmiri people. Precipitant victimization is examined through processes that depict the provocative actions of the protagonists in the stories. These actions only appear in four of the selected texts. Examples of material-transformative processes used include "marching," "being blindfolded," "kicked and abused," "found," "fainted," "woke up," "being bundled," "driven around," and "being tortured." These actions are done in the heat of passion and illustrate the involvement of militants in their own victimization. So to sum up, the text embodies the human veracity of suffering, victimization, and the consequences of choices and actions. It highlights the physical and emotional pain endured by the people of Kashmir, particularly Kashmiri Muslims, as well as the role of militants in escalating the conflict. It underscores the complexity of human experiences in the midst of a conflict. The language used by the speaker is descriptive and analytical. It effectively communicates the idea that Kashmiri militants are portrayed as contributing to the Kashmir conflict through precipitant victimization. The speaker employs the concept of "material-transformative processes" to illustrate the physical and emotional suffering experienced by the people of Kashmir. The language aims to emphasize the responsibility of militants for the miseries endured by Kashmiri Muslims and underscores the complexity of the situation in Kashmir. The tone appears critical and seeks to shed light on the dynamics of the conflict and individual choices within it. Thus, the author portrays Kashmiri militants as the cause of the Kashmir war through precipitant victimization. By highlighting the provocative actions of the militants through material-transformative processes, the author suggests that their choices and actions contribute to the ongoing conflict. This portrayal underscores the complexity of the situation in Kashmir and emphasizes the role played by individuals in perpetuating violence and victimization. Ultimately, the author's portrayal in *Scattered Souls*

accentuates the responsibility of Kashmiri militants for the miseries endured by Kashmiri Muslims. Through the depiction of these militants as precipitant victims, the author asserts their participation in actions that fuel the conflict, thus contributing to the cause of the Kashmir war.

Recommendation

There are a few recommendations addressed to the next researchers or others who are interested in this study.

- Through precipitant victimization and systemic functional linguistics, we can explore how language use and communication patterns play a role in understanding and addressing instances of victimization.
- SFL provides a framework to explore how language resources, such as modality, theme-rheme structures, or appraisal systems, are utilized to construct narratives and shape perceptions of victimization experiences. Understanding these linguistic strategies can help identify patterns, develop interventions, and empower individuals to resist or cope with victimization.
- By examining the transitivity choices made in the discourse surrounding the Kashmir conflict, researchers can gain insights into how language and framing impact the dynamics of victimization and conflict escalation. This research might help us comprehend better the complex interaction of language, influence, and victimization in the Kashmir context. For example, transitivity analysis could reveal how certain political discourses or media narratives portray specific groups or individuals as aggressors or victims, thereby influencing perceptions and potentially exacerbating the conflict. The analysis may uncover linguistic patterns that reinforce stereotypes, contribute to polarization, or create a sense of victimhood that could lead to further violence or oppression.

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