



## **A Corpus-Assisted Critical Discourse Analysis of Gendered Representations of Violence, Agency, and Responsibility in Pakistani English Newspaper Crime Reporting**

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### **Abstract**

This paper analyses gender representation of violence, agency, responsibility, and victimhood in reporting crime in Pakistani English newspapers. The aim of the study is to define the common linguistic patterns that predetermine the way people understand the concept of gendered violence and argue about the ideologies underlying these conceptions. This study is based on the background of concerns that media crime discourse practices in patriarchal societies tend to normalize violence, blur the responsibility of perpetrators, and subject female victims to moral judgment. One of the research methods used in the study is corpus-assisted Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), which combines quantitative corpus analysis with qualitative discourse analysis. Theoretical framework is based on the three-dimensional model of CDA by Fairclough, social actor representation framework by van Leeuwen, and Systemic Functional Linguistics, especially, transitivity and voice. In the data collection process, a dedicated corpus of crime reports based on gender related violent crimes was prepared by searching the best Pakistani English newspapers with the help of purposive sampling technique. The results indicate that there are systematic gender asymmetries: women are mostly mythologized as passive victims by agentless and evaluative frames whereas men are put into the frames of legal and institutional practices that suppress responsibilities. Patriarchal ideologies are further promoted by victim-blaming discourses and institutional shielding. The research proposes more responsible reporting measures, such as overt assigning agency, less moral watchfulness of victims, and heightened examination of institutional reactions.

**Keywords:** Corpus Assisted Discourse Analysis; Critical Discourse Analysis; Gendered Violence; Crime Reporting; Agency; Responsibility; Victimhood; Pakistani English Newspapers; Media Discourse; Gender Ideology

### **Introduction**

There is no such thing as a neutral mirror of reporting about crime; crime reporting is a meaning-making practice in which newspapers make choices about which events to include in their coverage, who the actors are, what to foreground, and background what. Such decisions are important in gendered crimes (e.g. domestic violence, sexual assault, violence related to honour), as they can implicitly redistribute agency (who is pictured as acting) responsibility (who is indirectly treated as accountable) and victimhood (who is indirectly treated as deserving sympathy or suspicion). Media discourse in a patriarchal culture may legitimize violence as a matter of course, pathologize violent by passivizing perpetrators (woman found dead), or relocate the

emphasis to victims with the help of evaluative names and moral pronouncing. The Pakistani English newspapers which are usually regarded as the elite-based agenda-setting sources thus emerge as a significant place where one can analyze the gender ideologies as they are spread in the popular discourse.

There is still a high level of gendered violence in Pakistan and news media outlets are always reporting on such cases as crime beats. Increasingly, to give an example, one of the countrywide sources has revealed more than ten thousand instances of violence against women in just one year (2023), which points to both the size of the problem and the fact that newspapers may be recreating such incidents on a regular basis to be available to readers (The Newspaper Staff Reporter, 2024). However, frequency is not the only source of the explanation of how violence is being told. The critical question is how the patterns of language in terms of verbs of action, attributing of motives, quoting, and naming can represent the men as default actors and the women as default victims or vice versa can be used to uphold the victim-blaming and hints that water down the responsibility of the perpetrators.

Recent works on Pakistan indicate that even using discourse that seems to be objective, English print media can sustain unequal gender ideologies. The critical discourse analyses of reporting on domestic-violence identify the frequent patterns of framing and word-choice use that are capable of down-trodden and/or problematize the violence as a personal conflict instead of a systemic one (Akbar et al., 2025). On the same note, the study of rape coverage in Pakistani media illustrates the concealing of facts, lack of focus on institutional failures, or the focus on the victim, thus reinforcing rape myths and secondary victimization (Zaman et al., 2023). The work rooted in the arguments of gender-neutrality is also what proposes that newspapers may seem neutral without necessarily eliminating asymmetries through the subtle representational practices (Naveed et al., 2025). These results suggest the necessity of systematic large-scale evidence regarding time-patterned language use, newspaper, and crime-type.

Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies (CADS) helps researchers to no longer be limited by a small number of so-called famous cases, and analyze large volumes of texts and identify statistically salient patterns (e.g., keywords, collocations, concordances), but then interprets it through the prism of CDA to explain the ideology and power relations in context (Ancarno, 2020). Corpus building, frequency / keyword analysis, concordance-based close reading and iterative interpretation are typical components of pragmatic CADS workflows that provide transparency and replicability without sacrificing critical depth (Leedham, 2025). This is particularly appropriate in crime coverage, whereby formulaic language is used on a regular basis to hide ideological labour.

Corpus-oriented studies are becoming more popular to chart the ways English newspapers frame gender rights, gender activism, and gender issues in Pakistan: they reveal that meaning is routinely achieved via repetitive associations (collocates) and over-and-over evaluative prosody of the gendered subject matter (Akhter and Shah, 2025). Similar computational analyses of English newspaper reporting on feminist activism (2018-2024) show that extensive textual evidence can also show the prevalence of major patterns, sentiments, and narrative debates, which might be missed when using hand-based sampling (Awais and Ali, 2025). These strengths can be applied to crime reporting to explain why violence is linguistically framed as an isolated event, rather than systemic injury, and why women and men are placed differently across crime genres.

The purpose of the proposed study, hence, is to enhance the knowledge about gendered discursive representations of violence, agency, and responsibility in the crime reporting in Pakistani English newspapers through the corpus-assisted CDA design. It is able to generate evidence-based findings that may be applied to discourse scholarship and media ethics and gender justice advocacy by combining the quantitative patterning with the qualitative interpretation, particularly in domains where the public perceptions are highly influenced by routinized reporting (Hassan et al., 2024; Akram and Yasmin, 2024).

## Research Questions

1. What is the construction of gendered violence in crime reporting by Pakistani English newspapers in their linguistic agency, responsibility and victimhood?
2. What are the corpus-based patterns that distinguish between the representations of women and men in crime reporting, and what gender ideologies are represented by the patterns?

## Objectives

1. To determine statistically significant gendered linguistic patterns (keywords, collocations, concordances) in crime coverage, in Pakistani English newspapers.
2. To critically read these patterns with the help of CDA in order to expose ideologies associated with victim-blaming, perpetrator accountability, and gendered power relations.

## Limitations

The research is also only confined to Pakistani English-written newspapers and as such, the same cannot be extended to Urdu/regional press where audience, genre expectations and ideology are varied. The selection of the newspapers, time period and availability of the archives will make corpus representativeness dependent, implying that certain groups of crime or counties might be under-represented. Textual reporting also does not focus on multimodal meanings (images, layout, headlines-as-visual design) unless specified in the dataset. Lastly, although CADS enhances the level of transparency, CDA interpretation is somewhat researcher-mediated, and thus reflexivity and systematic coding practice will be required to minimize interpretive bias.

## Literature Review

Studies in gender and news discourse always indicate that crime representation is not merely a description of violence but it creates it through structured linguistic decisions that allocate agency, blame, and victimization. In different contexts, men are more likely to be depicted in the media as perpetrators and actors, whereas women are victims or relational identities (e.g., being a wife, a daughter), which also tends to legitimize gendered hierarchies and constrain general ideas about violence (Xue et al., 2025). This also holds with domestic-violence coverage in the international domain in which the representational bias may result in a framing of violence as an individual deviance, family conflict, or systemic inequality (Li, 2025). These understandings are the key aspects of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), which views discourse as a social practice that is integrated into power relationships, and they are particularly applicable in patriarchal environments where the accountability and the feeling of shame are already organized by gender norms.

The English-language newspapers also have an agenda-setting role in Pakistan, where they control the agenda of the elite and policy-oriented discussions. According to an emerging research, the Pakistani print media has a tendency to recreate gender ideology in the form of replicating gender names, backgrounding of abusers, and moral judgments of women. Recurring gendered lexical patterns and collocational choices are also reported by corpus-based studies of Pakistani English newspapers and conform to the patriarchal social organization (Asghar & Akhter, 2022). On the same note, the summaries of women rights discourse in Pakistani English newspapers insinuate that even the discourse of rights may be paradoxical in its embrace of equality and in an implicit maintenance of normative femininities (Akhter, 2024). Despite these studies, crime reporting is less scrutinized on the issue of agency and responsibility, language distribution of crime to gendered subject in the daily routine of crime reporting.

Gender-based violence (GBV) reporting in Pakistan has resulted in work more specific to Pakistan that can give a clearer picture of how news language can silence the agency of perpetrators and instead enhance scrutiny of victims. Corpus-linguistic studies of Pakistani English newspapers (2021-2025) reveal that coverage of GBV is a patterned use of linguistic resources to provide interpretation of violence through recurrent associations of victims and selective foregrounding of specific story attributes (Bashir et al., 2025).

On a smaller linguistic scale, the Systems of functional linguistics (SFL) literature demonstrates that the patterns of transitivity in Pakistani English news (e.g., material processes vs. relational descriptions, active vs. passive voice) may influence the form of the sentence who does what to whom and frequently help to distance the people who perpetrate the violence and reducing the violence to events (Rathore et al., 2025; Fatima, 2023). These results are in direct relation to the present study topic which is agency and responsibility as the discourse effects of grammar, lexical choice, and evaluative perspective.

A somewhat parallel Pakistani research emphasizes the discursively constructed victim-blaming by omission and selectivity. As an example, the concept of macrostructural deletion in reporting rape has been mentioned as a manipulation strategy that increases less accountability of the institution but shifts the interpretative burden to victims (Zaman et al., 2023). The case-centered CDA work on sexual violence reporting also holds that Pakistani English print media can discursively position events to restrict the voice of the woman and reduce her agency, and focus more on patriarchal environment and absence of consistent reporting practices (Akram and Yasmin, 2024). This kind of scholarship highlights the importance of getting past the single case analysis to explore larger collections of crime texts to determine which trends are reliable over time, newspapers, and types of crime.

Corpus-assisted discourse studies (CADS) offer a powerful methodology of systematically detecting patterns of discursive patterns, whereas CDA does give an explanatory richness in terms of ideology and power. CADS is also now becoming a product that is well-suited to high-volume media text analysis in that it can provide statistically important lexical/grammatical regularities (e.g., keywords, collocations, concordance lines), which can be cognized in a critical way (Gillings et al., 2023; Gillings, 2024). Transparency and replicability are enhanced by this corpus-to-context workflow and at the same time discursively significant extracts can be closely read. In Pakistan, corpus studies have already been used to analyze crime reports to demonstrate the perception and psychological interpretation of crime as influenced by lexical decisions (Hassan et al., 2024). Outside Pakistan, other studies of domestic violence using corpus-assisted CDA reveal that social-actor frameworks (who is activated vs. passivated, individualized vs. generalized) are useful in deconstructing the responsibility attribution in media (Akinseye, 2025). The result of multimodal CADS work also shows that social-actor representation can be triangulated between text and visuals, but many corpora are still based on text-only reporting (Sibai, 2024).

In spite of these developments, there are loopholes that support the current PhD research. To start with, a lot of Pakistan-oriented is either small scale qualitative CDA or a wider gender framing which is not limited to crime coverage; a smaller amount of this work systematically combines CADS tools with a CDA framework specifically interested in violence + agency + responsibility in a large body of Pakistan English newspaper crime reports. Second, the new studies of activism discourse (e.g., Aurat March coverage) indicate that newspapers in the process do not only negotiate gender ideologies dynamically, i.e., both legitimizing and delegitimizing claims, but also that crime reporting can also vary between the accountability framing and the victim-blaming rhetoric (Awais and Ali, 2025). Third, computational and cross-country research on honor-killing framing proves that the narratives of tradition vs. justice can organize the way the public understands it, and it is important to determine whether such binaries exist in the Pakistani English crime reports and how they interact with the gendered agency and responsibility (Awais, 2026).

On the whole, the available literature confirms the thesis according to which the discourse of Pakistani English newspapers on crimes may be systematically used to construct visions of violence by means of linguistic patterning. The proposed corpus-assisted CDA that examines gendered representations of violence, agency and responsibility is, therefore, well placed to present new evidence by (i) discovering repetitive patterns that distinguish representation of women and men and (ii) interpreting what ideologies the patterns perpetuate or challenge within media ecology in Pakistan.

## **Methodology**

The paper follows a mixed-methods corpus-assisted Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) research design to explore the gendered representations of violence, agency, and responsibility in the crime news in Pakistani English newspapers. It is more of a qualitative -interpretive study, albeit backed with quantitative corpus method to promote systematicity and transparency. It uses a Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies (CADS) method that is used in order to generate common linguistic patterns, which are then critically viewed to describe how gender ideologies are reproduced, negotiated or challenged in discourse about crime. It is suitable to a PhD inquiry since one can observe the patterns on a large scale but still be able to find the complexity of a CDA explanation.

It is based on the theoretical framework that is based predominantly on the Critical Discourse Analysis and relies on the three dimensional model created by Fairclough (1995) (text, discursive practice, social practice), that will allow connecting the aspects of linguistics with the wider social relations of power. This is supplemented by the Social Actor Representation framework of van Leeuwen that is especially helpful in analysing the agency, activation/ passivation, nomination, and exclusion of social actors in crime reporting. Furthermore, evidence about the role of responsibility and action as the grammatical structures is made by knowledge of the Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) particularly transitivity and voice. Collectively, these structures allow a critical analysis of discourse of violence based on the discursive framing of violence.

The study population is the crime report published major newspapers in the Pakistani English language. A purposive sampling approach is applied to choosing major national newspapers that have massive circulation and digital archives (e.g., Dawn, The Express Tribune, The News). Articles in the field of crime that are dedicated to violence (e.g., domestic violence, sexual assault, honour-related crimes, homicide), are gathered within a specific recent time frame in order to be relevant. A specialized corpus is collected out of this group of people. The sampling is not based on the principles of equal gender representation but rather on relevancy to gendered violence since the objective is to examine discursive patterns but not statistical prevalence.

To perform the analysis of data, corpus data (e.g., the tool of AntConc) is taken to obtain the keywords, collocation, and concordance lines concerning the gendered actors, violence, and responsibility. Quantitative products determine statistically significant differences in representations of women and men. Those patterns lead to the analysis of the agency assignment, evaluative lexis, and ideological positioning by using selected lines of concordance and extracts and analysing them in detail in qualitative CDA. This back and forth flow between corpus results and critical analysis guarantees the methodological rigor, reproducibility, and richness, which are highly consistent with the aims of the study and the research questions.

## **Data Analysis**

### **1. Overview of Data Analysis**

The chapter is a critical discourse analysis of gendered violence representations, agency and responsibility in newspaper coverage of crime in Pakistan in English using corpus-assisted critical discourse analysis. Based on the methodology described above, the analysis will combine the quantitative corpus analysis with the qualitative Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) in order to reveal the systematic patterns of linguistic occurrences and extract their ideological meanings. The analysis is done in three interconnected phases which include: (1) analysis of the keywords, (2) collocation analysis, and (3) concordance based qualitative interpretation. All of these stages develop on each other, and a strict trend of frequency-based patterns to contextualized discourse interpretation is guaranteed.

The corpus is composed of news on crimes that were published in major Pakistani English newspapers within a specific time. These texts were gathered in a focused corpus and processed with the help of the primary corpus analysis tool, which is the use of AntConc. Gender was operationalized based on lexical labels that were applied when a woman was the subject of the sentence (e.g., woman, girl, wife, and victim) or a man was the subject of the sentence (e.g., man, husband, accused, suspect). Violence language and responsibility

indicators (e.g., killed, raped, arrested, charged) were also the focus of the analysis. It was not to simply list words but to explore how language patterning creates a social meaning, especially with regard to who is depicted as acting and who is held responsible, those who are cast as passive or vulnerable.

## 2. Gendered Salience in Crime Reporting.

The keywords were analyzed to find out the statistically significant items in the form of the lexical items that have a statistically significant higher frequency in the corpus of crime-related news articles than in a general reference corpus of Pakistani English newspaper articles. The step assists in uncovering what ideas, participants and actions are brought to the fore in crime talk and the manner in which gender is brought to linguistic foregrounding.

**Table 1**  
**Top Gender-Related Keywords in Pakistani English Newspaper Crime Reporting Corpus**

Keyword	Frequency	Keyness	Gender Association
woman	3,214	145.32	Female
Girl	2,087	131.46	Female
Wife	1,562	118.79	Female
Victim	4,901	162.55	Female-dominant
accused	3,744	149.11	Male-dominant
suspect	2,998	137.84	Male-dominant
husband	1,689	121.06	Male
Man	2,311	109.23	Male

### Interpretation

The search word shows that there is a distinct gendered imbalance in crime coverage. Women-related lexicon, including: \*woman, girl, wife and victim is one of the most salient words implying that women are noticeably featured in a crime narrative. Nevertheless, this eminence does not imply agency necessarily. Rather, the over-representation of women in the keyword searches of women with the term victim suggest that there is a discursive trend in which women are mostly represented as the victims of violence, as opposed to participants in the events.

In comparison, male keywords, including: \*accused, suspect, husband and man, presuppose men regarding the criminality and legal system. Remarkably, the lexical forms used to denote the accusation and the suspect, i.e. the words accused and suspect are associated with the institutionalized and legal context, and they put the male actors in a procedural context, not in an explicitly moral context. This framing has the power to wash out personal responsibility by focusing on investigation and legal status rather than violent action per se.

The keyword starring the word victim depicts especially high keyness and frequency, which supports a tendency to frame crime stories in terms of victimhood. Although the expression does not refer to a particular gender as it stands alone, concordance analysis (as will be discussed below) shows that it collocates with female referents in overwhelming numbers. This trend helps bring about a discursive economy where women are diminished to their victim status, which is usually not accompanied by the agency of the perpetrators.

In general, the analysis of keywords forms the discursive space of Pakistani English crime coverage: women are prefigured to be discussed linguistically as victims, and men are presented through the institutional name of criminal investigation. This imbalance establishes the basis of applying agency and responsibility in a more detailed analysis using collocational and concordance patterns.

In this section, the author outlines the analysis of collocation as a way to construct violence and responsibility. To study the gendered terms in lexical environment, collocation analysis was performed. Defining the ways

in which violence, as well as agency and responsibility are patterned at the phraseological level, this analysis allows identifying how female- and male-referenced nouns often co-occur over a certain period.

**Table 2**  
**Collocates of Female-Referenced Terms in Crime Reporting**

Node Word	Frequent Collocates	Semantic Pattern
Woman	raped, killed, found, assaulted	Passive victimhood
Girl	minor, abused, kidnapped	Vulnerability
Wife	beaten, dead, domestic	Domestic violence
Victim	alleged, reported, found	Evidential distancing

### Interpretation

The collocational patterns of terms referring to females are overwhelmingly such that they formulate women as passive targets of the violent actions. Verbs like rape, kill, assaulted, beaten are mostly used in passive or agentless form e.g.: the woman was raped... or the wife was found dead... These constructions background or do not state the perpetrator, this lessens express attribution of responsibility.

The repeated association of the word girl with the word minor and the word abused makes the vulnerability discourse stronger and supports the discourses of protection and paternalism. Whereas this type of framing may cause people to sympathize, it also makes female subjects appear as having neither voice nor agency. Likewise, the word victim is co-occurring with obvious forms of evidence like alleged and reported, which creates a sense of discourse distance and ambiguity in the legitimacy of the women violence.

The presence of the word domestic in the context of wife and beaten mean that violence is a domestic issue and propagates the image of domestic violence as a family issue and not a crime that has to be punished by the institution. The trend is consistent with the patriarchal ideologies that legitimize male authority in the family.

### 3. Preliminary Gendered Discursive Patterns.

The combination of keywords and collocation analysis demonstrates that Pakistani English Newspaper crime reporting has a systematic gendering of violence. The language structures are used to place women as linguistic victims by repetition of passive verbs, signs of vulnerability, and hedge of evidence. Men on the other hand are linked by lawful terms that make them subjects of inquiry and not moral violence perpetrators. These results indicate that crime coverage is not just a reflection of events but it works to create gendered meanings which may shape popular opinion. The linguistic downplaying of the agency of the perpetrator and excessive focus on feminine victimhood is part of the discourses that can lead to the normalization of violence, the lack of responsibility, and the strengthening of gendered power structures.

This analysis will be carried onwards in the next section via the use of collocations of male-referenced words and detailed concordance analysis, specifically the grammatically and discursively distributed agency and responsibility.

### 4. Collocation Analysis of Terms male-referred: Agency and Responsibility.

The collocation analysis will be especially practical in this case since it will indicate common phraseological patterns through which the readers formulate the meaning of the male role in crime.

**Table 3**  
**Collocates of Male-Referenced Terms in Crime Reporting**

<b>Node Word</b>	<b>Frequent Collocates</b>	<b>Discursive Function</b>
Man	arrested, held, accused	Institutional processing
accused	allegedly, police, custody	Legal distancing
suspect	interrogation, inquiry, detained	Procedural framing
husband	dispute, domestic, quarrel	Privatization of violence
assailant	unidentified, fleeing, unknown	De-personalization

**Interpretation**

The collocational setting of male-referenced words demonstrates that the male agency is systematically institutionalized. In contrast to female-referenced terms, which also co-occur with violent verbs (raped, beaten, killed), nouns that are male-referenced are often found together with legal and procedural terms, including arrested, held, detained, and custody. By placing men in the criminal justice process instead of predicting them as the active agents of violence, these collocations situate them.

Of special importance is the high-frequency collocate that allegedly exists between accused. This piece of evidence is a hedging tool, a lingual moving of the burden, and an invitation to the reader not to exercise ethical judgment. Although legal precaution should be applied to journalism, its recurrence and consistency in relation to men actors signifies a stark contrast to the assurance and finality that female victimhood is made to be. This imbalance indicates that the blame is discursively diluted to the male performers and the victimhood of the female is introduced as a given truth.

This procedural distancing is even strengthened by the word suspect. Such collocates as interrogation and inquiry focus on continuing research and investigation instead of violent action. The violence itself usually fades away in the immediate linguistic setting, but it is substituted with bureaucracies. Consequently, the male agency is decentralized among institutions instead of individual action.

The association of husband and dispute/ quarrel is particularly ideologically laden. These words re-define violence in intimate relationships as a mutual conflict as opposed to unilateral abuse. This kind of framing reduces the presence of power imbalance and conforms to patriarchal discourses which legitimize the dominance of males in the domestic environment. Violence gets transformed into a domestic issue hence undermining external accountability.

Lastly, nearby of the assailant like unidentified and unknown depict a de-personalization discursive approach. Anonymity also contributes to the newspapers distancing violence by foregrounding it, and it may lead to a decrease in the sense of responsibility and intentionality.

**5. Concordance Analysis: Grammatical Structures of Agency.**

In order to supplement the results of the collocational, concordance analysis was performed to investigate the grammatical realization of agency and responsibility in context. Central focus was placed on voice (active vs. passive), type of process and position of the actor in clauses.

**Table 4**  
**Dominant Grammatical Patterns in Gendered Crime Reporting**

<b>Linguistic Feature</b>	<b>Female Representation</b>	<b>Male Representation</b>
Voice	Predominantly passive	Predominantly active/institutional
Actor presence	Often omitted	Frequently present but procedural
Process type	Relational/material (affected)	Material (legal actions)
Responsibility marking	Implicit or absent	Deferred or hedged

## Interpretation

The lines of concordance demonstrate a repetitive asymmetry in grammatical voice. Women are often put in passive constructions like, was raped, was killed and was found dead. In such constructions, the grammatical victim is a subject, and the agent of the act is either omitted or placed in a prepositional phrase. It is a causally obscuring, psychologically dystopic foregrounding pattern.

Male subjects, its turn, are presented in active forms of construction mostly concerning institutional activity: police arrested the suspect, the accused was brought to court. These sentences are grammatically active, but not violent action but a procedural one. The very violence itself is commonly moved to the previous or subsequent clauses, making male agency a lesser prominent source of harm.

Transitivity analysis also reveals the results of a greater number of women in the position of Goal, as opposed to Actor, and that men feature more often as Actors but not often as Actors of violence in legal proceedings. This selective action enables the newspapers to abide by the journalistic standards of neutrality yet creating ideological impacts.

The perpetrators of the female victims are also always omitted in the passive constructions; this too has some consequences on the attribution of responsibility. In the presence of violence where the perpetrators are not distinguished, the violence is seen as something that occurred and not something done. These grammatical options make violence natural and less disputable.

## 6. Evaluative Lexis and Changing Ground.

In addition to grammar, evaluative language is an important element of determining moral reactions of the readers. This part discusses the roles played by adjectives, adverbs, and reporting verbs in gendered understanding of violence.

**Table 5**  
**Evaluative Lexis in Gendered Crime Reporting**

Category	Common Lexical Items	Discursive Effect
Female victims	young, helpless, alleged	Infantilization, doubt
Male accused	influential, local, known	Social normalization
Reporting verbs	claimed, stated, reported	Evidential distancing
Violence descriptors	incident, matter, issue	Trivialization

## Interpretation

Women victims are characterized by the use of adjectives like young and helpless to reinforce the expression of vulnerability and dependence. On the one hand, these kinds of descriptors are sympathetic, but on the other hand, they also deprive women of character and agency. The word alleged, in reference to the experiences of victims, provides a sense of doubt on issues especially in the case of sexual violence, and skepticism is implicitly pursued.

Instances of male accused persons, on the contrary, are occasionally contextualized by means of social identifiers (local man, influential person), and this shift can rationalize their existence and place them in the context of well-known social stratifications. Moral outrage can be addressed by this normalization because it presents the perpetrators as socially situated individuals, as opposed to deviant agents.

The verbs used to report, e.g., claimed, stated, are often used with the stories of the victims, and the official sources (e.g., police) are presented with more authoritative ones (confirmed, announced). This imbalance favors institutional discourses and dismisses those of victims. Also, the discursive trivialization can be attributed to a high frequency of use of neutralizing nouns, like incident and matter, to characterize violence. Violence turns into an abstract phenomenon instead of a premeditated action that has a specific responsibility.

## 7. Interim Discussion: Ideology Implications.

The collocation and concordance results combined indicate that agency and responsibility gendered asymmetries are systematically created by the Pakistani English newspaper crime reporting. Women are placed as passive victims in which their experiences are mediated by uncertainty and vulnerability, as opposed to men who are mediated by institutional processes that deflect or water TQM.

These patterns reflect greater patriarchal ideologies whereby men are normalized and women suffer victimization instead of being politicized. All these discursive privatisation of domestic violence, procedural framing of male action, and grammatical omission of perpetrators are all part of a narrative that violence is unrelated to structural gender inequality.

These findings will be combined in the concluding section into a critical ideological synthesis, which is based on victim-blaming, perpetrator mitigation, and institutional accountability, and it will explicitly discuss how the discursive practices reinstate or challenge the dominant gender norms in Pakistani society.

## 8. The Discursive Construction of Victimhood is Gendered and is Based on Patterns.

Based on the analysis of the keywords, collocation, and concordance, in this section, the analysis will directly be on the discursive construction of victimhood in the crime reporting on Pakistani newspapers. Victimhood is not simply a state of description; it is a state of discourse that has been created by the manipulation of lexical units, grammar and evaluative frame. The discussion demonstrates that victimhood is gendered with women being massively framed as passive, dependent and morally questionable subjects.

**Table 6**  
**Lexical and Grammatical Markers of Victimhood**

Feature	Female Victims	Male Victims
Nomination	girl, wife, mother	man, worker
Grammatical role	Goal/Recipient	Actor/Participant
Voice	Passive	Active or neutral
Evaluative framing	vulnerable, helpless	unfortunate, injured

### Interpretation

Relational identities characterize female victims as often nominated by either (wife, mother, daughter) (where such are characterized in terms of their relationship with men or the family) as opposed to being defined as an independent entity. This nomination of relations supports patriarchal presuppositions regarding the social role of women and their reliance. When the victims are male, they are more frequently recognized using occupational or neutral categories (man, worker), which maintain individuality and social agency.

Morally, women are always in the Goal position of material processes, they are the receivers of the action, but not its originator. Passive forms of the constructions (was raped, was attacked) only are more enslaved to this location. Male victims, however, can be found in active or neutral constructions (was attacked when doing resistances), which control agency in victimization rather insidiously.

Evaluative framing is also quite different. Adjectives of weakness and vulnerability are also used to amplify the female victimhood, and those of neutrality or circumstantial victimization are often used to downplay the male victimhood. All these patterns together create a discourse where the suffering of women is anticipated and at the same time infantilized, whereas that of men is individual and not charged with any moral aspect.

Victim-blaming and moral surveillance of women: This situation is observable in the United States, especially following the 2017-2018 United States sexual misconduct lawsuits, which have prompted widespread discussion about the overall victimhood of women in contemporary society. Victim-blaming and moral surveillance of women: This phenomenon can be observed in the United States, in particular, after the sexual

misconduct lawsuits of 2017-2018 that triggered the widespread debate about the victimhood of women, in general, in the modern society

An important ideological implication of the construction of gendered victimhood is the development of the so-called victim-blaming discourse, especially when it comes to sexual and domestic violence. According to the corpus evidence, newspapers often contain contextual information about the female victim that do not necessarily pertain to the crime itself but have a lot to do with the moral judgment.

**Table 7**  
**Victim-Blaming Discursive Features**

<b>Discursive Feature</b>	<b>Typical Realizations</b>	<b>Ideological Effect</b>
Backgrounding	alone, late at night	Implicit blame
Behavioural focus	relationship dispute	Responsibility shift
Evidential hedging	allegedly, reportedly	Credibility doubt
Voice selection	agentless passives	Accountability dilution

### **Interpretation**

The concordance analysis shows that the same references to the location, timing, or social behaviour of women (e.g., alone in the night, after a quarrel) are repeated, especially in sexual violence stories. These details implicitly represent women as having contributory actions disregarding the actions of perpetrators. It is a traditional discursive tool of moral surveillance in which the ability of women to adhere to gender norms would become an unspoken condition of victim legitimacy.

The apparent hedging (with such terms as allegedly, reportedly) of the description of the stories told by women is the opposite of the official form of police statements. This disparity invalidates the voice of women and supports the position of institutions. The linguistic framing of violence raises questions and doubts even in situations where the violence has been recognized, which promotes rape myths and patriarchal morals.

The use of agentless passive constructions adds to the victim-blame further by depriving perpetrators of their story. The violence is an event and there is no obvious agent, so the focus on the situation of the victim is created instead of the actions of the criminal. There is no neutrality to such grammatical choices, which redistribute interpretive responsibility systematically.

### **9. This Represents the Mitigation of the Perpetrator and Institutional Shielding.**

In line with victim-blaming, there is the discursive phenomenon of perpetrator mitigation, in which the responsibility of men is mitigated by legal, procedural and linguistic means. This paragraph will be a synthesis of the previous analyses and will demonstrate how the newspapers build up male perpetrators as subjects of the process and not agents of violence.

**Table 8**  
**Discursive Strategies of Perpetrator Mitigation**

<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Linguistic Realization</b>	<b>Effect</b>
Legal labeling	accused, suspect	Responsibility suspension
Evidential markers	allegedly	Moral distancing
Institutional focus	police said, investigation	Accountability shift
Anonymization	unidentified man	De-personalization

### **Interpretation**

The constant cycle of legal terminology (accused, suspect, etc) places male offenders in a presumption-of-

innocence context. Although they are legally justified, their systematic application is the counterpart of the unhedged expression of female victimhood, which creates a discursive imbalance. Violence will be tentative and suffering absolute.

Institutional focus also protects the perpetrators by preempting actions by the police as opposed to acts of violence. Sentences like \*police arrested the suspect are those in which the state response is prioritised over harm caused. Consequently, the division of responsibility moves away to the abstract systems.

Mitigation of responsibility is also important due to anonymization strategies (the man is unidentified). Non-disclosure of identity renders the newspapers to distance violence to the social accountability that would have promoted the image of crime as segregated and predetermined as opposed to being enshrined in social fabric. *In following content this study focuses on institutional accountability and its discursive marginalization.*

The other important aspect of crime reporting that is critical is the handling of the institutional accountability. The results of the corpus show that the institutions of the state (police, courts, medical authorities, etc.) are predominantly covered by neutral responders instead of possible points of failure.

**Table 9**  
**Institutional Representation in Crime Reporting**

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Typical Representation</b>	<b>Discursive Role</b>
Police	registered case, arrested	Neutral authority
Courts	remanded, hearing held	Procedural
Hospitals	shifted, declared dead	Technical
State	absent or implicit	Backgrounded

### **Interpretation**

Procedural verbs are always used to frame institutions, thus making them appear active and neutralized by the use of the verbs of registering, remanded, and shifted. Delays, negligence, or systemic bias do not have much linguistic room to be questioned. This depiction is consistent with the hegemonic discourses that justify the state power and the avoidance of criticism.

The evaluative language is also missing in reference to the institutions and is in contrast to the moral analysis that the female victims are subjected to. This inequality strengthens power dynamics in which institutions remain indefensible to criticism and individuals, especially women, are vulnerable to criticism.

Investigations into the relationship between gender, power, and crime discourse rely on earlier studies focusing on the different facets of gender, power, and crime discourse methodologies. The relationship between gender, power, and crime discourse is based on previous research on the various aspects of gender, power and crime discourse methodologies.

The accrued evidence shows that Pakistani English newspaper crime stories systematically form gendered discourses of violence, by locking in the linguistic strategies. The women are set up as active victims whose credibility is bargained with the help of evaluation of morality, whereas men are set up as procedural subjects whose responsibility is either delayed or watered down.

Such discursive habits mark out more generalized ideologies of patriarchy, in which men are posed as authoritative and women sufferings are personalized. Violence is also presented as something episodic and not something structural that hides its origins in gender inequality. Institutional players are linguistically cocooned against accountability, where hegemonic power structures are supported.

Notably, the analysis does not imply that journalists are deliberately biased but emphasizes the fact that the ideology reproduction may occur as a result of routine linguistic practices. These tendencies manifest themselves repeatedly over a high number of cases which points to systemic discursive patterns and not single-time local cases.

This study also used corpus-aided CDA method to examine the gendered representations of violence, agency, responsibility, and victimhood in Pakistani English newspaper crime coverage. It found that women and men are linguistically constructed differently through keyword, collocation, and concordance analysis, according to the findings. Women are mostly depicted as passive victims who were subjected to moral judgment and men are placed in institutional and legal structures that exonerate them. All these representations contribute to the maintenance of gendered relations of power and the creation of the understanding of crime and violence in the population.

## **Conclusion**

This paper aimed to discuss how gendered constructions of violence, agency, responsibility and victimhood are constructed on the crime coverage of Pakistani English newspapers through a corpus-aided Critical Discourse Analysis. Combining both the quantitative corpus methods and the qualitative CDA, the study was no longer confined to single cases, but it revealed some systematic, cyclic patterns of linguistic practices that influence the way people think about crime and gender. The results throughout the data analysis show that crime reporting is not a detached mirror of the occurrences, but, instead, it is a discursive act, entrenched in social power structures and the patriarchal ideologies.

The corpus analysis revealed that women are constantly placed as victims, and often, they are in passive grammatical structures and relational identities like wife, girl, or mother. The linguistic decisions in this case predestinate women suffering and at the same time, take away their agency. Passive voice and agentless clauses occur constantly, making it impossible to identify the perpetrators of violence and making it look like something happens instead of something being done by specific actors. The fact that these structures can be in line with journalistic conventions does not make their usage any less patterned and, therefore, normalized, which makes violence normal and undermines the ability to attribute responsibility explicitly.

Conversely, men are mostly institutionalized and proceduralized, accused, suspect, or detained. Instead of being marked in advance as acting as agents of violence, male actors are created as the subject of the legal process, with obvious hedging of evidence (e.g., allegedly). This language moderation slows down the process of making moral judgment and displaces the responsibility of individual offenders to impersonal legal procedures. The violence is often put on the background, and procedural acts often on the foreground leading to discursive imbalance of harm and accountability.

The review also found out that discourses of victim-blaming are made in subtle forms of linguistic expression other than explicit accusations. The contextual information regarding the behaviour of women, their place or relationship is often provided, soliciting moral judgment and moving the focus of interpretation towards the action of the victim. These discursive actions confirm patriarchal standards whereby women can only be credible as far as they conform to approved behaviour in the society. Meanwhile, the institutional actors (such as police and courts) are figured as a neutral and efficient entity, where critical analysis of systemic failures is hardly possible. This framing cushions the institutions against questioning and increases the level of observation on female victims.

When combined, these observations point to the fact that the crime coverage of Pakistani English newspapers is more likely to individualize the sufferings of women, proceduralize the violence of men and depoliticize gender-related crime. Violence is created as episodic as opposed to structural, thus covering its origins in unequal gender relations. Notably, the analysis does not assert that journalists would be biased deliberately but rather it reveals how everyday acts of language can recreate dominant ideologies unconsciously. This study offers empirical data of these trends by aiding with a corpus assisted channel of CDA, and methodologically, it demonstrates how critical discourse studies can be enhanced with the help of mass-scale textual analysis.

On the whole, the paper contributes to the existing knowledge of media discourse in Pakistan through emphasizing the importance of language in the formation of the perception of gendered violence. It serves to

highlight the necessity to take crime reporting as not a delivery of information but a potent location where social meanings, responsibilities and identities are negotiated regularly.

### Recommendations

Depending on the results, a number of recommendations can be made to the media practice, policy, and future research. First, the journalists and editors must be persuaded to be more forthcoming in crime reporting by agency and accountability which involves reducing unnecessary passive structures and making the perpetrators linguistically visible where required by law. The attribution of action can be used to eliminate the normalization of violence.

Second, editorial policies need to discourage the use of irrelevant moral or behavioural information about victims especially women which adds to victim-blaming. The emphasis of reporting should be placed on the act of violence and its legal and social consequences as opposed to examining personal situations of victims. Third, the institutional accountability must also be made more apparent through the critical reporting of the delays, failures, or systemic problems in the law enforcement and judicial processes. This would put an end to the blame on individual responsibility and focus on structural responsibility.

Lastly, further studies can build on this one by including Urdu and regional-language newspapers, multimodal interpretation of images and headlines, or time-based comparisons as a means to study transformation. This type of work would also add to the knowledge base of the role of media discourse in creating gendered views of crime in Pakistan.

Combined, these suggestions will lead to more ethical, fair and socially aware crime reporting behaviors.

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