



Abstract

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Abstract

Current study investigates the pragmatic devices used in CNN headlines on US Pakistan relations. The study argues that in addition to the news coverage, headlines also have pragmatically encoded meanings. The research is quite significant as the representation of US Pak relations in media has rarely been studied. Moreover, the selected period ranging from January 2010 to May 2011 covers a series of important on diplomatic ties with the United States of America. All these events were subject to constant media debate, especially on CNN, a news channel available to two billion people worldwide. Quantitative as well as qualitative descriptive methods were applied to analyze and discuss the news headlines. The results indicate that Osama Bin Laden, militancy in Pakistan and US Pak diplomatic ties were commonly found topics in the headlines. The results also indicate that the representatives are the most frequently found illocutionary acts in the data as compared with the expressives, directives and commissives. The study finds that the headlines have variety of other illocutionary functions closely related to these acts.

Key Words: Pragmatic analysis, Speech acts, CNN Headlines, US Pak relations,

Illocutionary acts

Introduction

Years 2010 and 2011 will be remembered as a critical period in the history of Pakistan. Pakistan faced many problems at domestic as well as diplomatic level during these years. US Pak relations went through rise and fall during these years. Controversial killing of Osama Bin Laden by US marines, Hussain Haqqani's resignation as Pakistan's ambassador to the United States and the blockade of the logistic support to the NATO forces in Afghanistan had been top news stories.

On the one hand the country was facing the terrorist threats from inside and outside the country as well as political turmoil, while on the other flood disaster of 2010 destroyed the property, cash crops, human lives and posed economic threats to the country. The country was facing estranged diplomatic ties with India on one hand and Afghanistan on the other. Media war broke out against the country when Osama Bin laden was killed on May 2011. The country faced tough questions from United States and the news about this event went viral across the global media.

CNN gave due importance and coverage to all the events taking place in Pakistan. CNN website was loaded with the news about Pakistan along with video reporting. Giving reference to the CNN website popularity and video reporting Grueskin, et al. (2012, p.89-90) explained that as video has become an essential element of digital experience, the news usually have videos associated with them on the internet. In this context CNN is at the top. CNN delivers 60 to 100 million video streams a month. The number of CNN website visitors increases between 9a.m. to 2.p.m on the regular news days.

In this situation many questions arise about the role of the media in portraying Pakistan before the world. As according to Grueskin, et al. (2012, p.17) the quality, accuracy and authority of the content supplied by the paid professionals is variable and susceptible to manipulation.

Pragmatic analysis of the headlines was selected as the most appropriate means of studying the role of CNN headlines. Emphasizing the importance of speech acts Lorio (2004, p.174) termed speech act analysis as a ground breaker towards English language pragmatic history. Inferences can be made by studying an utterance in the context in which it is used by the considering of different factors. Chilwa (2007, p.70) also highlighted the importance of pragmatic analysis and said that it plays a key role in the headlines because the pragmatic meanings are based on the illocutionary intentions of the headlines writer.

Current study has following objectives:

1. To find out the pragmatic functions of the headlines on US Pak relations
2. To analyze the indirect messages embedded in the headlines

Keeping in view these objectives, the study has following research questions:

1. What are the pragmatic functions of the news headlines on US Pak relations?
2. What are the indirect messages embedded in the headlines on US Pak relations?

Literature review

Searle's taxonomy of speech acts

Searle (1969, pp. 16-19) presented following taxonomy of illocutionary acts:

- i. Representatives or Assertives:** These acts commit the speaker to something being the case or to the truth of an expressed proposition. The direction of fit of representatives is words to the world and the expressed psychological state is a belief. For example: boast, complain, conclude and deduce.
- ii. Directives:** These acts are attempts by the speaker to get the hearer do something. The direction of fit is world to the words and the sincerity condition is want or desire. For example: ask, order, command, request and plead.

iii. Commissives: These acts commit the speaker to some future course of action.

Direction of fit is world to the words and the sincerity condition is intention.

For example commitment and promise.

iv. Expressives: They express a psychological state about a state of affairs

expressed in the propositional content. Direction of fit is not required. For

example: apologize, condole, deplore and welcome.

v. Declarations: These acts bring about alternation in the status or condition of

the referred object by virtue of the fact that the declaration has successfully

been performed. Successful performance guarantees that the propositional

content corresponds to the world. For example: declare, appoint and fire.

Identification of illocutionary force in a speech act

Searle (1969, pp.65-68) established a different framework for the identification of speech acts and put much emphasis on the role of felicity conditions in the speech acts. Following are the four most important conditions given by Searle that play an important role in the identification of a speech act:

i. Propositional content conditions: These conditions are concerned with the proposition contained within a sentence that is being studied.

ii. Preparatory conditions: These conditions play an important role in the functioning of a speech act as they refer to the intentions and knowledge of the speaker as well as the hearer. These conditions explain what a speaker implies during the performance of a speech act. If a successful illocutionary act is to be made, it must be ensured that the preparatory conditions of the concerned act are satisfied.

iii. Sincerity conditions: Sincerity conditions focus upon the psychological state of the person making an utterance. These conditions address the beliefs, intentions, and desires of a speaker during the performance of an act.

iv. Essential conditions: Essential conditions determine or decide the type of a speech act especially illocutionary act. It can be said that these conditions are the constitutive rules that determine the type of an illocutionary act. An example of promise can be given here where the intention of the speaker is to make the utterance an act of promise by intending to carry out a future action and he also intends the hearer to know that action.

Context and speech acts

According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985, p.17) the context in which an illocutionary act is performed is called the context an utterance. The idea of context is quite important as the same sentence if uttered in different contexts performs different illocutionary acts. The sentence 'I will come back in five minutes' can function as a prediction or a promise if uttered in different contexts.

Searle and Vanderveken (1985, p.28) further added that the features related to the context usually constitute the 'world of an utterance'. The term world is used to talk about possible worlds or the way things might have existed in addition to the actual world that describes how the things are or how is the state of things at a particular moment of time.

Saeed (1997, pp. 204-205) also emphasized the role of interactivity and context dependence in the performance of the speech acts. He elaborated that communicative function takes place because of the coordination between the speaker and the hearer. Sometimes there is more interaction among the speakers and hearers depending on the requirements of the situation.

Methodology

Quantitative as well as qualitative methods were applied to analyze the speech acts. Data for this study was selected from CNN website. A total of 200 headlines were randomly selected from the website during January 2010 and May 2011. The data were collected by crawling or jumping from one hyperlink to another. Unnecessary parts such as the catalogs and links were deleted.

The processed headlines were distributed into the categories according to the news topics. As the focus of the current study is US Pak relations, so only the headlines on this topic were selected for analysis.

Searle (1969) speech act theory was applied to analyze the headlines. Primary classification of the speech acts was made by applying the first two criteria illocutionary point and the direction of fit. After the primary classification of the speech acts, secondary classification was also made according to the analyses given by Vanderveken, Munawaroh and Underwood. as the basic criteria for the classification of the primary categories do not address the presence of multiple illocutionary forces.

In order to sort out the intended meaning of the speech acts another classification was applied. The speech acts coming under the heading of primary speech acts such as representatives, expressive, commissives and directives were once again put to the analysis according to the felicity conditions.

Data analysis and discussion

The discourse under study is going to be classified according to the five categories of speech acts given by Searle (1969). The frequencies of occurrence of these speech acts have been shown below in table (1).

Table (1): Primary Illocutionary acts

Representatives		Expressives		Directives		Commissives		Total no. of headlines
No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
29	55.76	12	23.07	07	13.46	04	07.69	52

The frequency of the representative acts in the headlines is maximum as the purpose of the representative acts is to focus a belief or a truth of a proposition. The number of the expressives is low as compared with the representatives. The directives also have a lower number and the lowest number is of the commissive illocutionary acts. No declarative speech act was found.

Analysis of the secondary illocutionary acts

The secondary speech acts were found by analyzing the Propositional content conditions, Preparatory conditions, Sincerity conditions and Essential conditions. The headlines sharing the same felicity conditions have been kept together and have been assigned different names according to the illocutionary functions they perform in the discourse. The detailed quantitative as well as the qualitative analysis is given below:

Analysis of the representative illocutionary forces

Report

The term ‘report’ has been used to name all the headlines associated with informing the readers about various events. The analysis is given below:

Table 03: Speech Acts of reporting

Headlines (Propositions)	Propositional Content Condition	Preparatory Condition	Sincerity Condition	Essential Condition
Topic: US Pak relations				
H1. 28 oil tankers carrying fuel for NATO forces attacked	Current	The writer is aware of the latest info	The writer wants the reader know the latest happenings	The information concerns a latest event
H2. NATO convoys attacked in Pakistan	Current	--do--	--do--	--do--
H3. Convoy burns in Pakistan	Current	--do--	--do--	--do--
H4. Pakistan convoy attacks	None	--do--	--do--	--do--
H5. CIA contractor released after Pakistan killings	Past	--do--	--do--	--do--

According to Vanderveken (1990, p.173) ‘to report’ is an assertive speech act. The propositional content condition to report is that the content either concerns past in relation to the time of utterance or is about the present. As the headlines above report the events to keep the readers updated most of the content related to the current state of affairs.

Accuse

The term ‘accuse’ has been used for the headlines that hold somebody responsible for some bad state of affairs. The details are given below:

Table 04: Speech acts of accusation

Headlines (Propositions)	Propositional Content Condition	Preparatory Condition	Sincerity Condition	Essential Condition
Topic: US Pak relations				
H6. Pakistani court denies diplomatic immunity for CIA contractor	Current	Writer has evidence who is responsible for the bad state of affairs	The writer thinks that the current state of affairs is not fair for the people who are being victimized	The writer wants to bring fore the people who are responsible for the current state of affairs and the authority must change it
H7. Pakistani judge delays hearing for jailed U.S. diplomat	Current	--do--	The writer does not want the delay	Pakistani judge is responsible for delay
H8. American citizen reportedly detained in Pakistan	Current	--do--	The writer has a desire that the detained person must be freed	Pakistan is involved in the detention
H9. Pakistani judge blocks move to release U.S. consular employee	Current	--do--	The writer wants the change of the bad state of affairs	The Judge is misusing his authority
H10. Pakistan continues to hold U.S. diplomat	Current	--do--	--do--	Pakistan is involved in the continuity of the current situation
H11. Pakistan bans NATO supply convoys after troop deaths	Current	--do--	--do--	Pakistan is reacting to the situation negatively
H12. US officials say Pakistan agency backs terror fight, despite rogues	Current	--do--	--do--	Pakistan’s agency’s role is dissatisfactory

The analysis verifies Vanderveken (1990, p.170) definition. He said that to accuse is to criticize publicly. Propositional content condition entails that someone is responsible for something bad. Negative criticism may be laid upon products or states of affairs. Its preparatory condition is that a situation should be criticized when it is bad. Although the

propositional content conditions vary in the above mentioned headlines, still, they maintain an impression of accusation.

Predict

This prototype has been named as ‘predict’ as all the headlines are concerned with the possibility of the happening of the future events. The detailed analysis is given below:

Table 05: Speech Acts of Prediction

Headlines (Propositions)	Propositional Content Condition	Preparatory Condition	Sincerity Condition	Essential Condition
Topic: US Pak relations				
H13. With Pakistani visit to the U.S., a chance to ease tensions	Possibility of future event	The writer has enough knowledge to predict what is likely to happen	The writer thinks that giving awareness about the possibility of future happening is in the interest of the reader	Something good is likely to happen
H14. Pentagon optimistic about Af Pak strategy	Possibility of future event	Writer has got the speculation from a reliable source	The information is beneficial for the reader	--do--

Vanderveken (1990, p. 173) defined ‘to predict’ as an assertive. Its propositional content represents a situation in future. Its preparatory condition is that the speaker is expected to have good reasons for believing what is predicted. Here, the listener does not need to look for any interpretation. Comparing with Vanderveken (1990) the propositional content collectively, indicates the possibilities of future happenings.

State

This prototype has been selected for the headlines based on the statements issued by various sources. The detailed analysis is given below.

Table 06: Speech acts of statements

Headlines (Propositions)	Propositional Content Condition	Preparatory Condition	Sincerity Condition	Essential Condition
Topic: US Pak relations				
H15. U.S.: Only one supply route shut down by Pakistan	Current	Writer has got the important information from a reliable source	The writer wants reader to know other’s opinion	The given information is objective and is not subjective
H16. Pakistani official says intel cooperation with U.S. is halted	Current	--do--	--do--	--do--
H17. Official: ‘Frank discussion’ between US, Pakistan intelligence chiefs	None	--do--	There is some positive information, the reader needs to be given	--do--

The table indicates that all the content conditions are associated with making readers sure that the information has been taken from some source other than the headline writer himself. It justifies Vanderveken (1990, p.171) preparatory conditions that an assertion is a matter of some importance.

Table 07: Conclude

This prototype has been selected for the headlines that are an effort to come out to a certain point after some discussion or analysis. The felicity conditions analysis is given below:

Speech acts of Concluding

Headlines (Propositions)	Propositional Content Condition	Preparatory Condition	Sincerity Condition	Essential Condition
Topic: US Pak relations				
H18. Tuesday Roundup: More friction in U.S.-Pakistan relations	None	Writer has evidence to prove his point	The reader needs to be updated with the latest info	The roundup has come to a conclusion
H19. Why US-Pakistani relations are strained	Current	The writer has arguments to defend his point	The reader must be made aware of the causes	The writer wants to conclude something on the basis of arguments

Underwood (2008: 54) defined conclude as an assertive speech act where a proposition is asserted with a preparatory condition that a conclusion has been derived through a line of reasoning. As the preparatory conditions are based on evidence, knowledge and arguments, they help to find out the essential conditions that confirm Underwood's definition.

Denounce

Prototype 'denounce' focuses on the headlines highlighting inappropriate actions taken on the behalf of people or sources. The detailed analysis is given below:

Table 08: Speech acts of Denouncing

Headlines (Propositions)	Propositional Content Condition	Preparatory Condition	Sincerity Condition	Essential Condition
Topic: US Pak relations				
H20. Key senator lashes out at Pakistan government	Current	There is a person having higher moral authority over Pakistan	A change in the state of affairs is desired	Pakistani government has done something wrong

The above mentioned conditions agree with Vanderveken (1990, pp.167-169) propositional content condition for ‘denounce’ which is to accuse a third party. Taking Vanderveken’s comment into account the act of denounce seems a little different than the act of accuse as all the propositions mentioned here indicate the actions that do not have any logical basis, or the actions are morally defective.

Criticize

The headlines classified under this heading aim to hold someone responsible for a bad state of affairs. The detailed analysis is given below:

Table 09: Speech acts of Criticism

Headlines (Propositions)	Propositional Content Condition	Preparatory Condition	Sincerity Condition	Essential Condition
Topic: US Pak relations				
H21. Cross-border campaign report questioned by NATO, Pakistani diplomat	Past	There are reasons for questioning the report	Existing state of affairs needs to be changed	There are objections associated with the report that need to be removed
H22. Analysis: NATO points finger at Pakistan	Current	Reasons exist for the criticism	--do--	Pakistan has done something improper
H23. 'Better coordination' could have averted Pakistani deaths, panel says	Past	Panel has reasons to criticize	--do--	Pakistan might have coordinated with NATO properly
H24. White House report critical of Pakistan's activity against militants	None	White house report has arguments to justify	--do--	Pakistan performance is dissatisfactory
H25. Obama: Pakistan slow in fighting terror	Current	Obama is not happy with what Pakistan is doing	--do--	Pakistan is not taking proper action

Vanderveken (1990, pp. 178-179) defined ‘to criticize’ as an assertive where a person highlights another person’s faults. Vanderveken’s propositional content condition is that the state of affairs being represented is bad whereas the sincerity condition demands that the speaker disapproves the bad state of affairs. Analysis of all the felicity conditions matches Vanderveken’s criteria of criticism.

Justify

This prototype is concerned with the headlines trying to justify the event associated with the propositional content. The details are given below:

Table 10: Speech acts of Justification

Headlines (Propositions)	Propositional Content Condition	Preparatory Condition	Sincerity Condition	Essential Condition
Topic: US Pak relations				
H26. Mullen says Af Pak review shows U.S. on 'right track'	Current	--do--	--do--	There is logic behind the fact that the strategy is right
H27. Police: American in Pakistan kills 2 after robbery attempt	Current	--do--	--do--	There was a reason for killing
H28. Records: 'Blood money' paid to kin of Pakistanis killed by U.S. man	Past	--do--	--do--	The ransom has been paid, trial is over

According to Munawaroh (2007) in this kind of illocutionary act, reasons are given for a certain thing or proposition. Form and function match in these utterances and interpretation is not required. Propositional content of the above mentioned headlines indicates that most of the propositional content is the same as discussed by Munawaroh and thus the headlines are justifications.

Argue

This illocutionary act is just an attempt on the part of the writer to give arguments about a situation. The detailed analysis is given below:

Table 11: Speech acts of Arguments

Headlines (Propositions)	Propositional Content Condition	Preparatory Condition	Sincerity Condition	Essential Condition
Topic: US Pak relations				
H29. Can U.S. trust Pakistan?	Current	Writer has arguments in favor of or against a situation	Writer tries to answer questions in reader's mind	There exists a situation that is open to scrutiny

According to Vanderveken (1990, p. 184) argumentation is intended to convince listeners or readers about something by giving reasons. It is also designed to convince the readers whether an opinion is acceptable or not. Most of the propositional content is based on reasons that do not decide anything and can be termed as argumentative.

Detailed analysis of the expressive Illocutionary forces

Expressives are an attempt to express psychological state of the speaker or writer.

They were divided into following prototypes:

Praise

The headlines coming under this prototype are associated with appreciation for good state of affairs. The detailed analysis is given below.

Table 12: Speech acts of ‘Praise’

Headlines (Propositions)	Propositional Content Condition	Preparatory Condition	Sincerity Condition	Essential Condition
Topic:US Pak relations				
H30. Aid flights evacuate Pakistan flood survivors	Current	None	Writer approves the given state of affairs	An expression of gratitude
H31. Medical 'A-Team' aids flood victims	Current	--do--	--do--	--do--
H32. U.S. Treasury targets Pakistani militants	Current	--do--	--do--	US services need to be appreciated
H33. Sources: U.S. finalizing aid package to help Pakistan fight extremists	Current	--do--	--do--	--do--
H34. Obama approves funds to Pakistan as flood crisis escalates	Current	--do--	--do--	--do--
H35. Aiding Pakistan's flood victims	Current	--do--	--do--	An expression of gratitude
H36. U.S. helping Pakistan flood victims	Current	--do--	--do--	--do--

To praise is to make an assertion about someone or something while expressing approval of him or her. The propositional content condition is that the state of affairs being represented by the proposition is good. Sincerity condition requires that the speaker approves of that state of affairs, Vanderveken (1990, pp. 178-179). All of the above headlines coincide with Vanderveken's conditions.

Laud

The headlines included here are a little different than praise as the way appreciation for certain acts has been expressed is stronger than in praise.

Table 13: Speech acts of Lauding

Headlines (Propositions)	Propositional Content Condition	Preparatory Condition	Sincerity Condition	Essential Condition
Topic: US Pak relations				
H37. How U.S. Marines help flood victims	Current	None	Higher level of praise	Acknowledgement of services
H38. U.S. wins by helping Pakistan stabilize	Current	--do--	US needs to be praised	Achievement needs to be highlighted

Vanderveken (1990, p. 179) argued that laud is different from praise as its degree of strength is higher than praise. Propositional content condition for laud is to praise the hearer. It can be deduced with the help of the above mentioned data that there exists a difference in the psychological states of the person who makes the proposition as the sense of appreciation is greater as compared with the acts of praise.

Regret

Headlines included here indicate a condition of sorrow. Detailed analysis is given below.

Table 14: Speech acts of Regret

Headlines (Propositions)	Propositional Content Condition	Preparatory Condition	Sincerity Condition	Essential Condition
Topic: US Pak relations				
H39. Mullen issues regrets over deadly strike in Pakistan	Current	State of affairs is bad	Feeling of sadness for current state of affairs	A bad state of affairs needs to be regretted

Above data verifies Vanderveken (1990) sincerity condition for regret which is to express remorse, sorrow or contrition. Preparatory condition is that the situation is bad. The acts of regret different as compared with the acts of praise and laud as the preparatory conditions marks the bad state of affairs and the sincerity conditions expresses regrets over the bad state of affairs.

Protest

The headlines associated with this prototype reaction to the existing state of affairs. The details are the following:

Table 14: Speech acts of Protest

Headlines (Propositions)	Propositional Content Condition	Preparatory Condition	Sincerity Condition	Essential Condition
Topic: US Pak relations				
H40. Pakistan condemns suspected drone strike that killed six	Current	None	Reaction to the current state of affairs	Something is not in the interest of the concerned person, the situation needs to be condemned
H41. Pakistani leaders condemn suspected U.S. drone strike	Current	--do--	--do--	--do--

The headlines above are protests as Vanderveken (1990, p.179) says that the mode of achievement for ‘to protest’ is to express a complaint with a high degree of strength and in a more formal manner. It has the presupposition that the hearer has the authority to change the state of affairs about which some one protests. The sincerity conditions are a reaction to the existing state of affairs and the essential conditions demand a change in the state of affairs that has been disapprove.

Detailed analysis of the directive Illocutionary forces

According to Searle (1979) directives are the attempts to get the hearer do something. These attempts may be modest or fierce. Further classification is given below:

Warn

This directive illocutionary act is about a bad state of affairs in the headlines that needs to be avoided. The details are given below.

Table 15: Speech acts of Warning

	Propositional Content Condition	Preparatory Condition	Sincerity Condition	Essential Condition
Topic: US Pak relations				
H42. Embassy cautions Americans in Pakistan	A future event is going to happen	Writer wants Americans to avoid what is not in their interest	Americans need to be cautious	Americans are prone to threats

Above mentioned analysis confirms Vanderveken (1990, p.174) statement that warning occurs when there is something bad for an addressee and there is still some possibility to avoid the misfortune. It has the directive purpose of suggesting someone to do something in order to avoid the threat.

Demand

This directive prototype is associated with certain demands on the behalf of the authorities. Details are given below:

Table 16: Speech acts of Demanding

Headlines (Propositions)	Propositional Content Condition	Preparatory Condition	Sincerity Condition	Essential Condition
Topic: US Pak relations				
H43. Kerry: Pakistan to return tail of chopper used in Bin Laden raid	Future	Speaker is in need of the action to be carried out	US wants Pakistan to return chopper	Target is requested to carry out the action
H44. Obama urges Pakistan to free jailed U.S. Embassy employee	Future	--do--	Obama wants the employee to be set free	--do--
H45. U.S. presses for release of diplomat accused in Pakistan shooting	Future	Demanded action on the part of speaker must be carried out	US wants the release of the diplomat	The action is very necessary the reader must carry it out

To demand something is to tell the hearer to do it while expressing a strong will. In this case the speaker presupposes that there is a specific reason to perform the required action, Vanderveken (1990, p.193). The propositional content of the headlines all the above mentioned headlines is concerned with the events that have the possibility to be carried out in future.

Forbid

The prototype is concerned with stopping some bad state of affairs from happening.

The details are as under:

Table 17: Speech acts of Forbidding

Headlines (Propositions)	Propositional Content Condition	Preparatory Condition	Sincerity Condition	Essential Condition
Topic: US Pak relations				
H46. Don't burn Qurans, U.S. embassy in Pakistan urges church	Present	Speaker has reasons that the current action is not good	This action is not in the interest of the reader	The people carrying out an action must stop themselves

Vanderveken (1990, p.195) termed prohibiting or forbidding as the propositional negation of ordering. To forbid a hearer to do something is to order him or her to abstain from an action. It can be said from the above data that the sincerity and essential conditions helped to mark the illocutionary force of forbid more than the propositional content and the preparatory conditions.

Request

The headlines included here are a request fir an action to be carried out.

Table 19: Speech acts of Requesting

Headlines (Propositions)	Propositional Content Condition	Preparatory Condition	Sincerity Condition	Essential Condition
Topic: US Pak relations				
H47. Source: U.S. needs permission to interview Bin Laden wives	Present	The target has authority to allow certain act	The speaker desires the act to be carried out	The action cannot be carried out till the target allows it

According to Vanderveken (1990, p. 189) a request is a directive illocutionary act having an option of refusal. It is a modest directive as its mode of achievement is polite. The above mentioned proposition is also a request which can be accepted or refused.

Suggest

The prototype is concerned with suggestions on the part of the writer.

Table 20: Speech acts of Suggesting

Headlines (Propositions)	Propositional Content Condition	Preparatory Condition	Sincerity Condition	Essential Condition
Topic: US Pak relations				
H48. Bergen: Time to move on from war on terror	Current	Speaker has reasons that the war is not in the interest of war bearers	Speaker does not wish war to continue	The continuing action can no longer benefit the target

Above mentioned propositional content concerns current state of affairs and goes in line with Vanderveken (1990, p. 195) statement that in a directive sense, to suggest is to make a weak attempt to get someone to do something. While marking the illocutionary force of suggestion, important role has been played by the preparatory, sincerity and the essential conditions.

Detailed analysis of the commissive illocutionary forces

According to Searle (1979) commissives are the speech acts whose illocutionary point is to commit the speaker to some future course of action. Commissive illocutionary acts were divided into following prototypes:

Commitment to future actions

The headlines included here show commitment to the actions to be carried out in future.

Table 08: Speech acts of ‘Commitment to future actions’

Headlines (Propositions)	Propositional Content Condition	Preparatory Condition	Sincerity Condition	Essential Condition
Topic: US Pak relations				
H49. Minister: Pakistan won't move on Taliban stronghold until ready	Future	Pakistan has an authority to carry out an action	Pakistan is not willing	The requested action can't be Carried out till the required conditions are met with
H50. Pakistan threatens action over NATO incursions	Future	Pakistan has power to react	Pakistan is ready to react	Pakistan is committed to react
H51. Obama: U.S. would go after other high-profile targets in Pakistan	Future	US has reasons to target high profile targets	US is strongly committed to the task	The speaker is a committed to carry out an action
H52. Obama won't release Bin Laden photos, White House says	Future	Obama has authority not to release Bin Laden photos	Obama is committed	Speaker is committed not to do certain thing

The above mentioned headlines approve Vanderevken (1990, p. 182) analysis that the propositional content condition for these acts is that the proposition represents a future course of action for the speaker. The preparatory condition is that the speaker is capable of carrying out a certain course of action. The sincerity condition is that the speaker intends to carry out that action.

Conclusion

Large number of headlines related with Osama Bin Laden, militancy and US Pak relations come under the heading of representatives. It implies that the asserted beliefs regarding these topics are greater than the other topics. Expressive, directive and commissive acts also have greater number of headlines on US Pak relations. Current finding shows that during the period of January 2010 and May 2011 more importance was given to the issue of Osama Bin Laden and US Pak relations. The analysis of the felicity conditions indicated the presence of multiple illocutionary forces within the speech acts which leads to the conclusion that the headlines mean more than what is said. It implies that the media discourse has complicated series of pragmatic functions that are never independent of the context in which an utterance is made.

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