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### Abstract

The researcher investigates the conflict in photographs of two Afghani newspapers daily Kabul Times and daily *Weesa* related to Afghanistan war in this research. The time period assigned for the study was six months — from July 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018. This quantitative content analysis of the photographs, on one hand, depicted the current war in the country; it helped to determine whether the photographs conform to the perspective of peace and war journalism approaches, on the other. Such an approach seemed significant for know how the visual depictions of Afghanistan war were conducted and what appropriate conceptual and methodological tools existed in this regard. The finding showed that Kabul Times contributed more peace frames than war in pictures while covering war in the country. *Weesa* newspaper has given the more space to war frame instead of peace in its pictures. Overall, the results of the study suggest that peace framed pictures were comparatively more than the war framed pictures, in terms of contents in particular. So, the study seems to be very optimistic about the outcome of the ongoing peace negotiations between Taliban and USA and this study recommends that the future research in the area must focus on the media visual frame of intra-negotiations between the government and Taliban.

**Keywords:** Afghanistan, Photojournalism, War Journalism, Peace Journalism, Visual Framing, Taliban

## Introduction

The researcher investigated the conflict related photographs of two Afghan elite newspapers through this research and he used the peace journalism approach as developed by Johan Galtung to investigate the war and peace related photographs in both *Kabul Times* and *Weesa* dailies. The dissertation discussed how the conflict related photographs depicted in the selected newspapers. Lanch (2015) mentioned their research, the media is considered is an important association to extend the better understanding between people and also have the prospective to increase conflicts (Lanch, 2015), in this study the researcher will determine the escalatory and de-escalatory potential of conflict related photographs of Taliban war in selected newspapers.

The pictures of war, which are published in dailies *Kabul Times* (English) and *Weesa* (Pashto) are selected as sample of the study. These newspapers are selected for the analysis war related news in this study because of the newspaper credibility, readability and the vast distribution. The visual communication studies have not been carried out in Afghanistan, so this study will explore the new dimensions of war and peace journalism studies, because, there has never been even a short period of time in Afghanistan with complete peace for the last four decades; it is not exaggeration that the adults and youths of Afghans has known nothing but war. International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) consultation vividly narrates the story of war impacts on the teenagers and that the participant's express sadness over the role young teenagers have played as fighters in the war. They are upset about the devastation of Afghan society and believe that the current political situation has done injustice to their youth for not providing them the important education and entertainment. In addition, the effected people concern about the culture of violence that surrounds their children (Greenberg Research Inc, 1999). The researcher would like to shed light on the status of print media in the country before discussing these issues in detail.

### The Circumstances of Print Media in Afghanistan

It is a popular notion among the media workers in Afghanistan that the aims of the press in a society, is to provide information, education and entertainment for the people. In other words, media is providing information to the public with their own objectives, which guarantees the public's right to know and make decisions (Mair, 2010).

The press is playing the role of watchdog as a fourth pillar of state and a powerful criticizer of the government. Afghan media has continuously been covering peace and conflict related news so far. Nonetheless, electronic media is considerably popular among the current viewers; we cannot ignore the impact of photographs in print media. The government policies are also supported by Afghan media in war and peace related events, but some opinions about the war go into the spiral of silence because they are not shown in media, or get less coverage. The pictures of war also have great impact on the viewers because picture context has the quality to attract the audience and mold their opinions. As Griffin relates that many war photographs attract attention at first, not because of their innovative ideas or angles, but because of their capability to provoke exciting responses and attracting public memory (Griffin, 2010).

Free and well developed media is considered as a biggest achievement of previous president Hamid Karzai in Afghanistan. Since the Afghan traditional consultation (*Loya Jirga*) which was held in June, 2002 and Hamid Karzai was appointed as President of the Afghan Transitional Administration, media developed day by day with the help of international funders. During this period and after elections in 2004, media progressed so fast. In addition to governmental media and press, hundreds of private newspapers, radios and TV channels have been starting their publication and broadcasting. This great development of press and electronic media in such a short period of time is going to be recorded in the history of the country forever.

Nevertheless, international community and western donors pledged millions of dollars to assist the current development of media in the country. However, the Afghan electronic media has broadcasting for more than half century, traditional press and newspaper has over hundred years long history and passed many problems in this pathway. With the arrival of first printing press (Lithography printing) from India (in 1873) to Afghanistan, publications started across the country. By the request of Sayd Jammalludin Afghan, the first newspaper, named *Serajul Al Akhbar* (Lamp of Newspapers), was established in the country. In fact, Sayd Jammalludin Afghan requested Amir Shir Ali Khan to establish a publication and by the acceptance of his request. Amir Shir Ali Khan (King of Afghanistan, 1863-1879) became the first supporter of Afghan printing press (Sabghatullah, 2018).

Hundred years later, during the kingdom of Mohammad Zahir Shah (1933-1973) the famous and popular English newspaper Kabul Times, which has been selected for this study, established under the direct instruction of Sardar Mohammad Dawood Khan in 1962 (Arifi, 2018). Fortunately, Kabul Times newspaper started at the beginning of hopeful decade which was called “the decade of democracy” since 1963 up to 1973. This reliable and credible English publication, which has been reading by thousands of elite readers, introduces the real life of Afghans and the real face of Afghanistan to the world till date.

Daily *Weesa* is another credible and reliable newspaper which has been selected for this study. This bilingual daily established in 2006 with the direct supervision of Zubair Shaffiqi as its editor in chief. However, it is very difficult to know every aspect of a newspaper; everyone can identify the ideology of the newspaper after the comparison of another newspaper of the country. Andar (2018) found that the Kabul Times and *Weesa* both are the following the same liberal model and these two newspapers are more liberal in the country after the comparison of other newspapers of the country (Andar, 2018).

Daily Kabul Times, according to media experts, is considered as more liberal in Afghanistan and this newspaper also plays a vital role as an important member of the elite press. And a number of studies have been conducted to see that how this paper portray internal conflicts and events (Maywandwal, 2018).

The daily *Weesa* is also a credible newspaper among the country’s most popular newspapers. This newspaper has been categorized as a leftist oriented paper in the media system of Afghanistan. Most of its readers have not supported the governmental policies, while less number of readers has supported the governmental policies (Maywandwal, 2018).

In the light of these two selected newspapers, this research will analyze, considering the war and peace journalism, how the photographs of two newspapers — *Weesa* and Kabul Times, have been framed while covering the ongoing war in Afghanistan started after the collapse of Taliban regime in 2001.

### **Radiance of Peace in the Darkness of War**

The land of Afghanistan is always considered highly strategic worth for control on traffic (commercial) between the regions of Far East and the Western Europe. Due to strategic importance, this land has seen a series of wars as the powerful countries are interested to control this land to save their economical trade routes. After 9/11, 2001, the USA led coalition intervened in Afghanistan as the Taliban refused to hand over Osama Bin Laden, a main suspect for the September 11 attacks in United States of America (USA). The USA and NATO states overthrew the Taliban government with the help of the Northern Alliance founded by Ahmad Shah Masoud (Maywandwal, 2018).

In November 2001, after the collapse of Taliban government, the United Nations Organization (UNO) invited the main Afghan parties except Taliban to a moot in Bonn, Germany where they signed the Bonn Agreement. As a result Hamid Karzai was declared as head of interim government and this decision was also endorsed by *Loya Jirga*. The International peacekeeping force was created for security in Kabul city.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) took control of International Security Forces (ISAF) in Afghanistan. The number of ISAF troops increased from 5000 to 65000. ISAF troops were engaged against Taliban and Al Qaida fighters in different parts of Afghanistan. In 2004 Hamid Karzai became the first elected head of Afghanistan. The voters participated in the voting process with enthusiasm as there were no elections since 1969. Unfortunately, in 2006, violence increased across Afghanistan.

The Taliban military commander, Mullah Dadullah, was killed by ISAF and during this time the UN investigations found that the USA air strikes had killed a number of innocent Afghan citizens. After the passage of 10 years, a number of countries and international organizations met again in Bonn (Germany) for making serious decisions about the future of Afghanistan. In this meeting Hamid Karzai, Afghan president asked for financial support. While the US government also announced to conclude its battle mission in Afghanistan in the near future. Several other incidents of violence and killing of innocent citizens in Afghanistan shocked the Muslim world and international society. Burning of copies of Holy Qurans and killing of at least 16 Afghan villagers by US soldiers were condemned by the public. Hamid Karzai also demanded withdrawal of ISAF forces from villages and their presence should be limited to military basis. This demand accelerated transition process from NATO to Afghan control. Local Afghan forces took control of security responsibilities as NATO handed over control of the most of the districts in Afghanistan. The US-led ISAF focus shifted to military training and special operations against terrorism. The Taliban and USA officials also announced to resume talks in Doha, Qatar. During this time, Barack Obama, the US president also announced a schedule for the US forces withdrawal from Afghanistan by 2016 end.

### **Problem Statement**

This study is an attempt to explore that how the photographs in two prominent Afghan newspapers (The Kabul Times and *Weesa*) are covering the war relevant portrayal events in Afghanistan as the research conducted earlier suggested that Afghan media is escalatory while reporting on conflict, because the media persons had no access to the conflict zones. This research will make it clear that to what extent the war related photographs in selected newspapers are related to war and peace journalism considerations.

### **Objective of the study**

- To analyze framing of news photograph depicting war in Afghanistan
- To determine whether the photographs conform to the perspective of peace journalism
- To determine the key attributes of war and peace journalism approach

### **Significance of the study**

This study is very important for many reasons, but two of them are more especially noticeable. First, it discusses how the portrayed photographs depict the current war in the country. Second, it addresses the point whether these photographs are escalatory or de-escalatory while reporting on Taliban and other war and peace related events. On the other hand, this study provides a strong background in the same topic and helps in resolving issues related to peace and conflict in Afghanistan. As very few studies are available on visual communication —specifically on conflict communication in the country. This thesis focuses on the war and peace journalism theory developed by John Gulting. Therefore, this study is significant both for researchers and policy makers to know the findings as well as the theoretical and methodological approaches.

### **Literature Review**

Scholars of communication studies maintain that visuals have great effect on audience and imprint deep images of events in their minds. Many studies explain that visual news events can influence the public retention. Even some pictures become icons and serve as

exemplars of particular events or issues. Later, the news is recalled through those key images or icons (D.Perlmutter, 2005). Fahmy (2008) conducted a study about war related photographs. These photographs portrayal the visual coverage of Iraq war in the US press (The New York Times), and the British press (The Guardian). Both the dailies portrayed the war differently. The researcher found that the US press published one-fifth of its photographs portraying Iraqi civilian deaths. Similarly, the Guardian newspaper ran one fifth of its photographs depicting loss of civilian life in Iraq. Also, the findings indicate that The New York Times newspaper overall published fewer images of tragedy and material destruction and damages, it is considerable that both the US and British newspapers consistently ran more images of casualties and suffering of Arabs/Muslims, as well as visuals showing material destruction of Arabs/Muslims in Iraq (Fahmy, 2008).

Winkler and Dauber (2014) discussed the problem of visual propaganda in the online environment in their book. They argue that extremist groups preferring the web to share visual contents easily. Because they know that visual imagery helps them more to achieve their goal and to avoid drawing incomplete or misleading conclusions about the message embedded in extremist online media campaign. They argue that the basis for the visual-image, vision itself and the vast majority of human beings process what they see and the way they experience the world visually, which in turn, is a function of the way the eye and the brain work together. The structure of the eye, and the way it responds to light and movement, constrains the process of interpreting images to a great extent. Humans process images more quickly than text, making images more emotionally visceral and responses to images are more immediate and powerful than responses to text(Dauber, 2014).

Perlmutter (1998) finds that some photographs serve as examples of a specific event and become icons among the people. He considers photos as the icons of outrage in international crises. Therefore, people associate news with key images or icons and recollect the events in terms of those images or icons. In addition, whether it is acceptable or not, pictures can make humans excited, disgusted, curious, and happy about several things. Even our dearest and worst moments can also be remembered through images. Moreover, images can help us predict futureand remind past (Perlmutter, 1998).

Khan and Mazhar (2017) determined the impact of photographs on viewer's exposure and retention. They found, those photographs are related to the text or to the news stories, have more information retention. On the other hand, those photos which were irrelevant to the body of the news have intermediate amount of information retention. While, the news without visual portrayal and depiction have minimum amount of information retention. The researchers applying experimental method of research on this study. They suggested that the photographs have great impact in the selection of news stories to be read first. Also, the news stories which are covered in photographs have more chances to be selected first for exposure. On the other hand, the size of photographs is also considered as an important factor in the selection of news story. While, news with bigger size image is selected first for exposure while image with smaller size has lesser chance to be selected first for exposure (Khan & Mazhar, 2017)

Jensen (2014) analyzes the visual and verbal narrative of the National Geographic Magazine. He describes that the strength of visual communication is turning out to be more and more palpable in its capacity to immediately associate the viewer with a challenge, a thought, or even a memory which can be followed by a sensation. It is also evident that the simple use of a photograph creates or retrieves memory, learning, and emotional agitations. He also finds that 53% of its subscribers read only the picture captions of National Geographic magazines (Lutz &Collins, 1993). It means that most of newspapers and magazine's readers only see the photographs without following the text (Petersen, 2014).

Griffin (2010) in the analysis of the photographs of Vietnam, Gulf war and Iraq invasion in 2003 states that the images of war like photographic records of other vivid crises and events are often assumed by the audiences as spur-of-the-moment, influential and true representation of real events and real human involvement. Similarly, the images are considered to associate the viewers of the image with shown happenstance and exciting genre counter of the photographer, reporter, artist who recorded the scene. Human predilections for emotional identification has special tendency towards deadly images of war and conflict like situation. Images can simply seduce the viewers into thinking that they can experience human events vicariously, just with the access of right cable and Satellite TV or internet access, and that viewers can know something of the calamities and victories felt by those directly affected by the war simply by seeing the pictures of the war (Griffin M. , 2010).

Oates and Reder (2013) conducted a study to know in which condition the impact of photograph is lower than text. In this experimental study the researcher provided subjects with list of 60 words and 60 photographs. Each photograph and word was shown for 2 seconds then after showing all words and photographs, they found that those subjects which are written in unique font style were more remembered than subjects which are shown in photographs, because the subject explained in text with unique font style got more attention than the subjects which are explained in photographs (Reder, 2013).

Similarly, those news stories and events which are describe in peace journalism approach are more remembered than the events which are describe in war journalism approach, because the overall condition of the social environment is going toward the ware and in this war condition peace related events are more remembered and get attention. The peace journalism approach practices the vision of conflict analysis to update the concept of balance, fairness and accuracy in reporting. Also, provides a new routes map tracing the connection between journalists and their sources (Fong, 2009).

### **Research Questions**

R.Q.1: Do the Kabul Times and Weesa differently report the Taliban conflict in terms of war and peace frames?

R.Q.2: How the selected press visual frame the Taliban conflict in terms of primary role?

R.Q.3: How the visual framing of Taliban conflict is distributed in terms of orientation of stakeholders in the conflict?

### **Research Methodology**

Content analysis communicational research tool is selected for this study which analyses the visuals content of Taliban war related photographs in Afghanistan's two famous newspapers. Content analysis developed as the technical and systematic research method during 2<sup>nd</sup> world war when US organized a project to defeat enemy propaganda. Bernard Berelson was among those who published content analysis in communication research in 1952 and he announced many comprehensions for techniques as important tool for media and social sciences researchers. Later, Content analysis got much attention among social science researchers. This well-known research method used as an important tool for politics, history and communication research. There are many deferent definitions of content analysis by several scholars, but according to the Bernard Berelson (1952) content analysis is the technique for the objective, systematic, and quantitative description of the observable content of communication (Berelson, 1952). Another famous scholar of social science and communication Holsti (1968) defines the content analysis as the method or technique for making interference by systematically and objectively identifying the characteristics of message (Holsti, 1968). Content refers what is contained, and content analysis is the analysis of what is contained in the message. There are many topics or stuff for content analysis such as; news stories, radio, television, symbols, letters, books, text, documents, songs, and all the things which contain any type of message.

### Sample of the Study

This is the quantitative content analysis of war related photographs in which the researcher wants to analyze the war related photographs of two Afghani newspapers *Kabul Times* and the daily *Weesa*. Data related to the topic will be collected in the form of hard copies from the offices of these two newspapers which are located in Kabul. Then, for analysis purpose, the researcher will select every third day's copies of daily *Kabul Times* and *Weesa* through systematic sampling from July 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018. The systematic sampling will be applying only on those related photographs which are appeared on front and back page of the dailies. The selected time period is particularly important, because a number of deadly attacks were happened in this duration. On the other hand, the current peace negotiations also took a positive turn during this time period.

The primary data of this dissertation is contained of 122 photographs related to the conflict events of total six months of timeframe, from first July to the end of December 2018. In this data, The *Kabul Times* (English) newspaper contributed with 44 pictures and *Weesa* (Pashto) daily, contributed with 88 pictures. To get the representative sample all the photographs are selected for the analysis which depict the victims, belligerents, protestors, negotiators, destruction of war, injured including dead bodies of security forces and militants.

### Data Coding

In this study, the researcher selected a specific model of data coding to analyze the portrayal of real photographs in visual context related to war and peace journalism strictures. This model of coding was already used by many past researchers in the visuals analysis of conflicts in war versus peace journalism such as Maslow, Fahmy and Numann. In this study, overall 122 photographs which are depicting war and peace frames are analyzed and the researcher coded every picture separately. For instance, the main category of "Group Oriented" is divided into few sub categories of 'only people oriented like civilian' and 'elite oriented like national', 'political party and organizational leaders'. All the photographs related to the sub category of 'people oriented' are coded as '1' and those photographs which are related to the sub category of 'elite oriented' are coded as '2'. This categorization and coding system is very important because all the photographs are not in the same orientation, that's why we have to separate it in bellow specific categories.

### Research Findings

The analysis resulted from SPSS of the five questions in this study is given consecutively. The result of the first research question shows that the portrayal of Taliban conflict is varied in both *Kabul Times* and *Weesa* newspaper regarding to war and peace journalism frames. The research data (from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 31<sup>th</sup> December), consisted of 122 war and peace related pictures, demonstrate that the *Weesa* newspaper contributes higher number of pictures than *Kabul Times*: *Weesa* depicts 63.9% (n=78) while *Kabul Times* depicts 36% (n=44) relevant pictures. In the first table, the total provided data of *Kabul Times* depict 36.3% (n=16) war framed pictures and 63.6%(n=28) pictures in peace frame. On the other hand, *Weesa* frames 51.2% (n=40) pictures in war and 48.7% (n=38) pictures in peace journalism frames out of its total provided data. The *Kabul Times* contributes more peace frames than war in pictures while covering war in the country. The *Weesa* newspaper, however, uses more war frames than peace in its portrayal. Overall, the results of both the dailies suggest that peace framed pictures are comparatively more than the war framed pictures.

**Table 1: Shows the number of pictures collected for this study**

| Newspaper   | Type of photos |       | Total |
|-------------|----------------|-------|-------|
|             | War            | Peace |       |
| Kabul Times | 16             | 28    | 44    |
| Weesa       | 40             | 38    | 78    |
| Total       | 56             | 66    | 122   |



The results of 2<sup>nd</sup> research question presents how the selected press visually frames the Taliban conflict in terms of primary role. In other words, what is the central message conveyed by the photographs? In the visuals of selected newspapers, Kabul Times depicts 33.3%(n=7) pictures of war victims, 26.3%(n=5) war aggressors, 28%(n=2) war heroes, 43.3%(n=23) peace negotiators, 37.5%(n=3) peace demonstrators, 3 neutral or non-military observers, and 16.6% or only one picture of no function (when no people are shown or barely visible). The same newspaper does not depict any military observer out of its whole coverage of 44 photographs. On the other hand, the Weesa newspaper depicts 66.6% (n=14) photos of war victim, 73.6% (n=14) war aggressor, 71.4% (n= 5) war heroes, 56.6% (n=30) peace negotiators, and 62.5% (n=5) peace demonstrators. Weesa newspaper does not portray any neutral or non-military observer pictures in its rendering. It also portrays 5 photographs of military observers and 83.3% (n=5) no function picture out of its whole coverage of 78 photographs. As a result, both the dailies frame peace negotiators as their primary role due to the increased number of peace related photos in their overall coverage.

**Table 2: Showing the visual framing of war in terms of orientation**

| Specification :Primary Role    | Kabul Times | Weesa | Total |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------|-------|
| War Victim                     | 7           | 14    | 21    |
| War Aggressor                  | 5           | 14    | 19    |
| War Hero                       | 2           | 5     | 7     |
| Peace Negotiator               | 23          | 30    | 53    |
| Peace Demonstrators            | 3           | 5     | 8     |
| Neutral: Non-Military Observer | 3           | 0     | 3     |
| Neutral: Military Observer     | 0           | 5     | 5     |
| No Function                    | 1           | 5     | 6     |
| Total                          | 44          | 78    | 122   |

15.6%. The rescue oriented and media oriented pictures are depicted in the same frequency and percentage. Both newspapers depict two pictures without framing people as an object with 1.6 percentages. In a nutshell, the visual framing of both the newspapers is elite oriented signifying the progression of talks towards peace.

**Table 3: Showing the visual framing of Taliban war in terms of orientation of stakeholders**

| Group Oriented       | Frequency | Percent |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|
| Only people oriented | 21        | 17.2    |
| Elite-oriented       | 63        | 51.6    |
| Force-oriented       | 13        | 10.7    |
| Militant- oriented   | 19        | 15.6    |
| Rescue-oriented      | 2         | 1.6     |
| Media-oriented       | 2         | 1.6     |
| No people are shown  | 2         | 1.6     |
| Total                | 122       | 100.0   |

**Discussion and Conclusion**

The objective of this dissertation is to know the extent of photographs frames that how war related photographs are framed in Afghanistan’s two prominent newspapers; whether or not the photos conform to the perspective of peace journalism. The researcher followed the theory of Johan Galtung to determine the key attributes of war and peace journalism approach. Galtung (2000) interprets war and peace journalism as two opposite

frames in the conflicts. Similarly, war and peace journalism identified by McGoldrick (2005), Griffin and Lee (1995) as two competing frames in the clashes. In fact, this study would be the newest of its kind study in Afghanistan, in which the visuals of war and peace related photographs have been analyzed based on war and peace journalism method. Interestingly, the findings of this study are very closely in line with the existing literature regarding to the selected topic.

As discussed in the findings chapter in the result of first research question, the peace framed photographs was the dominant perspective in the related photographs of both selected newspapers. In other words, overall results proposed that the peace framed pictures were more than the war framed ones, covered in both newspapers. The main reason would be the current peace negotiation process between US and Taliban. While, peace journalism is possible when the environment is totally provided for peace negotiations and the viewpoints would be positive towards peace. The relevant literature suggested.(Fong, 2009). Similarly, the national feeling and public patriotism have been in the peak among all politicians and local Afghans during peace negotiations and finding a blameless solution for Afghan conflict.

However, Weesa's number of peace framed photographs were less than war framed photographs, but this is not amazing and surprise, because the majority of the studies which are held on the conflict reporting have found that war journalism is the standard and peace journalism is in exception, as discussed;( Fahmy,2004; Lynch, 2015). Oppositely, The Kabul Times Peace framed photographs were far greater than war ones. The main reason could be the association of Kabul Times with government because government was pro peace negotiations. Therefore, it ultimately framed peace rather than war. On the other hand, Weesa, being a private newspaper, that's why this daily may felt more responsible to depicted people vice oriented events and sometime provided many events in visuals for business purposes as will. Another main reason of the dominance of war journalism in Weesa newspaper is the Weesa's focus and centrality on the war related events. Because, it has been proved by the majority of interior and foreign studies (Keeble and Mair,2010; Mohammad,2012) that the country's private sector of press is mostly focus on war journalism while reporting on the country's events and clashes.

As shown in the result of second research question, the primary role or the central message conveyed in the photographs was affected due to the number of variables found in both selected newspapers. On surface, Weesa seemed to have gone towards war, but with closer observation of its frames, the number of peace negotiator's pictures was much more than the frames of war aggressors. Therefore, it can be concluded that even with greater number of war frames, Weesa still supported peace journalism due to the focus of the frames on peace negotiators. As Ottosen (2010) declared that peace journalism has main role to end Afghan conflict and bring an existent peace to the country.

There was also a concern of the depiction of demonstration covered so few by both the dailies. However, peace demonstrations were at peak during the study timeframe. The explanation for the less coverage of demonstrations was probably due to the dilapidated security situation at different provinces where they occurred. It might have been extremely dangerous for the dailies to cover the peace demonstration in the outskirts of different provinces such as Helmand etc. However, it is worth mentioning that the hike of demonstrations was very nicely covered by BBC World saying, "The people's peace movement started its marches in early 2018 in Helmand in protest against violent attacks, after a car bomb in a stadium in the south of the province killed 17 civilians and injured 50. Since then they have travelled to other parts of the country, often marching through areas controlled by the Taliban. Their walks have attracted a lot of local support as well as international attention" (BBC, 2019).

As shown in the result of third research question in finding chapter, the percentage (51.6%) of elite oriented picture was strikingly higher to other orientations of the frames collected for the study. Therefore, this was a strong evidence of usage of peace journalism in the media and indicates that the negotiation's talks going towards peace. This finding was supported by the previous literatures as well. For instance, the researchers such as Fahmy (2010) and Fong (2009) suggested that peace journalism method is usually followed by the national media during internal conflicts. From the nationalistic perspective this finding supports the framing theory which claims that media is following national interests while reporting on deferent stories.

In general, the result of this findings shows that the visual portrayal of Taliban armed conflict in Afghanistan by the selected famous newspapers Kabul Times and Weesa tilted to the peace journalism. The Kabul Times framed the photographs in both peace and war journalism approach, but the number of peace framed photos were higher than war ones. The conflict related visuals were oppositely framed in Weesa newspaper. It meant the number of war framed pictures were higher than peace. The conflict related photographs presented both positive and negative emotions in the visual frames, but overall positive-oriented emotion dominated the visuals which are covered by the selected newspapers. They portrayed anger, frustration, sadness, pain, hope, optimism, redemption, happiness, delight, pleasure and empathy. However, the highest percentage and frequency were indicated in 'hope and optimism'. Ultimately, the research suggested a strong hope of 'Peace' as by product of the ongoing peace talks for the longest war of the US in Afghanistan against Taliban.

### **Recommendations**

1. The researcher and media owners can use the content analysis research method as a basis for determining the effectiveness of Elections in Afghanistan through visual content analysis of frames depicted in the pictures.
2. This study provides guiding map for the researchers who want to dive deep into the realm of sports photo frame analysis. On the other hand, the researchers interested in determining the orientation of a daily; especially its impartiality, would find this research as a great reference for them researches.
3. Furthermore, many rehabilitation projects have been implemented in Afghanistan since the coming of US and NATO Forces there. The visual frames of those constructions can be used for an Evaluation Research; probably for a PhD Dissertation, in order to see the effectiveness and sustainability of those projects.
4. The last, but not the least recommendation would be the analysis of the visual frames for the internal peace negotiations between the government and Taliban, which are still far from resolution in any time soon.

### **Limitation**

The shortage of war and peace related pictures in Afghan newspapers were the premier limitation of my research. Therefore, I could collect only 122 pictures in my samples. It usually happens in the media of Afghanistan that despite the vitality and importance of some issues, their pictures would not be available in them. Maybe, the access of media is usually very limited to the areas where an incident happens. Consequently, there are news but without any visuals.

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