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Article:	Exploring the Coverage of Arrest of Imran Khan and May 9 Incidents in International Media: A Content Analysis
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ABSTRACT

In this research paper we have attempted to explore and analyze the international media coverage of the arrest of Mr. Imran Khan, former Prime Minister of Pakistan and Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e- Insaf (PTI), and subsequent political unrest in Pakistan. The arrest and subsequent political unrest in the context of the alleged involvement of the military establishment made the incident the center of international media attention. However, given the political dynamics and historical political context, the selected media outlets; *Al Jazeera*, *Daily Sabah*, *Hindustan Times*, and *Washington Post* commented on these events very cautiously. We have used content analysis as a methodological and analytical tool to determine the nature of news coverage the selected media outlets have given to the arrest and subsequent political protests in the country. Our results show that all the selected news outlets not only criticized the human rights violations by the authorities but also the vandalism by the protesters after the arrest of Mr. Imran Khan on 09 May 2023.

Keywords; Imran Khan, PTI, May 09, Pakistan, Content Analysis

Introduction

The events of May 09, 2023 that took place in Pakistan left a deeply polarizing effect on the country and its' already-fragile political stability. The arrest of the former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan, raised concerns about the party's future and the future of the country. This elicited a wide range of reactions from the general public including riots all over Pakistan in protest of Khans' arrest (Ahmed, Rafique & Bukhari, 2023). The protestors raised criticism regarding the conduct of the new government and demanded for the former premier to be released. The following paragraphs will detail the reasons that led to this arrest, the reactions of the people and the effect it left on the political status of Pakistan.

Since Imran Khan was removed from office in April 2022, he had been charged with a variety of lawsuits and criminal cases. These cases are estimated to be around 160 in number while Khan denies any legitimacy of the allegations and claims that they are simply political propaganda to defame his image and weaken his status as a political figure of Pakistan (Naeem, Noureen & Munir, 2023). The allegations range from corruption to claims of instigation terrorism and riots in the country while Khans party denies any sort of misconduct. In November of 2022, Imran Khan leads a protest to pressurize the government to conduct early elections, during which he gets shot in the leg. This particular attack on the former premier led him to claim that it was an assassination attempt led by an ISI officer, namely Maj Gen Faisal Naseer. He repeated the same claim on 7th May, 2023 where, during a rally, he said that the senior intelligence officer was directly involved in orchestrating a plan to end his life (PTI, 2023). Imran Khan also said, in the same rally, that this officer was also responsible for the murder of Arshad Shareef, a former Pakistani journalist. A day later, the ISPR responded to the allegations raised by Khan and said they were not only baseless and unfortunate but also deplorable and unacceptable (Dawn.com, 2023).

During these rallies and marches led by the chairman of PTI, the supporters of the political party, the general public, were getting more and more charged to stand against the ruling government. Social media had a huge role to play in the polarization of the people, instigating them into getting more aggressive in their critique and demands (Javed & Javed, 2023). This aggression only seemed to be growing with every passing day and getting fueled by Imran Khan and his speeches. From this, the power of social media and the impact it has on the freedom of expression in a politically volatile country and its people can be observed. The aggression of the public and its amplification through news channels and other forms of electronic and print media only further provoked the government and threatening the ruling party's hold over the country's political stability (Raj, 2023). And the repercussions of provoking the establishments rule were severe as there was a catalyzed increase in targeted violence against the journalists of the country, an attempt to halt the freedom of expression.

On the morning of May 9th 2023, Imran Khan was enrooted Islamabad for the Islamabad High Court where he was to attend the hearing for his bail application. Before leaving for Islamabad, the former premier reiterated his claim that an ISI officer was planning to make another attempt on his life. He believed the Pakistani army to be behind these assassination attempts. At the High Court, when he was submitting his biometric data, the Pakistani Rangers forcibly entered the courts premises and the room that Imran Khan was in by breaking a window. The chairman of PTI was then apprehended by the paramilitary forces and then dragged out of the court and into a vehicle (Saifi & Taylor, 2023). After Imran Khan was

granted bail, he went on to explain the events of his violent arrested and commented that the officers were particularly aggressive with him, going as far as to strike his head with a baton although he had made no attempts to evade the arrest. Khan also added that this was not an arrest but an abduction as it could not be justified in any other way (Davies, 2023).

The events of that day caused a new aggression to rise in the public, in particular the supporters of Imran Khan, as riots and protests broke out all over the country. In Islamabad, the protestors blocked the main highways, started fires, and threw rocks at the policemen that were trying to subdue the crowd (Fraser, 2023). Protestors also wreaked havoc in the other cities of Pakistan as well as in London where they gathered outside the High Commission of Pakistan. Mobile services were shut down throughout the whole day, on order of the interior ministry, and access to several social media platforms was selectively restricted (Adil & Najjar, 2023). The police apprehended approximately 9000 protestors, several of which had been injured while eight had tragically lost their lives. The Islamabad High Court later ruled the arrest to be legal.

Following the arrests and the protests, the KSE index fell by more than 1 percent and the following day, on 10th May 2023, the Pakistani rupee fell to a low of 288.5 RS against the US Dollar (Reuters, 2023). Almost 2000 PTI supporters had been detained by 11th May after the army had been deployed to control the riots all over the country. This only led the protestors to shift their focus towards targeting the army and they vandalized military properties (Asad & Ali, 2023). The situation worsened to such extent that the army resorted to the use of firearms against the protestors. Until the 11th of May, where the Supreme Court of Pakistan ruled Imran's Khans arrest to illegal and ordered for his release, the protestors did not back down for expressing their rage for the establishment (Baloch & Ellis-Petersen, 2023).

The events of May 9th are a perfect example of understanding the influence of the former Prime Minister Imran Khan and the current opinions of the general public regarding the ruling government and the Pakistan Army. Pakistan continues to be in a state of political unrest and not much can be said for the future of the country.

Given the political upheaval in Pakistan and the dynamics of the situation, the international media have focused on the issue rigorously. This research endeavor is an attempt to explore and analyze how did *Al Jazeera*, *Daily Sabah*, *Hindustan Times*, and *Washington Post* covered the arrest of Mr. Imran Khan and the subsequent protests in the country. Therefore, following are our main research questions;

- How did the selected international media outlets portray Imran Khan's arrest on and after May 09 incidents?
- What are the predominant themes produced by the *Al Jazeera*, *Daily Sabah*, *Hindustan times*, *Washington Post* regarding the arrest of Imran Khan and the subsequent events?

Literature Review

Memon et al., (2011) while conducting a comprehensive analysis of the pervasive issue of political instability in both developing and undeveloped countries, highlighted how it poses a serious threat and hinders their growth. The authors scrutinize the role of political stability in nation and state building and emphasize on the importance of a robust political system in economic development, integration in society, maintaining state legitimacy, and the establishment of supremacy of law within a state. Without such, the development of state and

nation becomes absurd, giving rise to governmental conflicts. With the primary focus on Pakistan, the authors address the challenges posed by political instability and give insight into how legitimacy and identity crises contribute to this pressing matter. They seek to investigate the underlying causes and consequences of political instability in Pakistan and give insight on multifaceted challenges faced by nations.

Political stability plays a pivotal role in fostering nation-building, political development and national integration hence shaping the political landscape of a nation. Micheal (1971), accentuates the importance of stability in maintaining peace, harmony, civic order and constitutional contentment. The authors explore the major issue of political instability in developing and under developing countries and numerous problems that affect diverse aspects of the society, especially in multi-ethnic societies that have multiple cultural traits. The authors investigate the intricate relationship between political instability in context of identity crisis and legitimacy crisis in Pakistan. Political instability can transmute governance into absolute struggle for power among diverse groups hindering national development.

Memon et al., (2011) explore the factors contributing to political instability using the Leonard Binder framework. It identifies five key issues contributing to political instability: “Identity, Legitimacy, Penetration, Participation and Distribution crisis”. This approach provides a structured method to scrutinize the complex nature of political instability (Memon et al., 2011 as cited in; Lucin, 1971). The researcher explores in depth two significant driving forces causing political stability: Identity and Legitimacy crisis. The Identity crisis contemplates the nationalist sentiments and people desire to coexist in a common polity but in case of political shift, identity crisis emerges when a community that once accepted definitions of collective self becomes untenable under new territorial conditions. This phenomenon has been evident in the dismemberment of East Pakistan, depicting the impact of identity crisis on political stability (Memon et al., 2011 as cited in Samuel, 1971).

Furthermore, in the political system, legitimacy crises eventuate when constitutional structure collapses and the performance of the government is caused by conflicting perceptions of authorities (Samuel, 1971). People tend to develop a sense of national identity in stable systems that legitimizes the authority but if there is disconnection between mass demand for participation and elite’s response, lack of accountability and unfulfilled promises can exacerbate legitimacy crisis leading to collapse of constitutional structure and even potential civil unrest (Memon et al., 2011 as cited in Macridis & Brown, 1912).

In their study, Memon et al., (2011) circumnavigate around the significance of leadership and its importance in stability. Drawing on K.K Aziz’s insights between dictatorship and political leadership. He argues that the reason for the falling political landscape in Pakistan is weak political structure, hereditary leadership patterns, and emphasizes that military involvement has corrupted the political values and spirit of true democracy. He argues that dictatorial regimes further worsen democratically framework through unjust power sharing associations, ultimately incapacitating the democratic spirit of Pakistan (Ghauri et al., 2024; Memon et al., 2011 as cited in; Aziz, 2011).

Theoretical Framework

Framing Theory

Framing is an abstract concept since it has been used in a variety of ways by different people over time in various situations, making it impossible to operationalize in a way that is

accepted by everyone (Scheufele, 1999). Framing, according to Entman (1993), is essentially about awareness and selection. According to Entman, framing is the process of choosing certain aspects of a perceived reality and emphasizing them in a communication text to support a specific problem definition, causal interpretation, moral assessment, and/or suggested course of action for the item that is being discussed. He comes to the conclusion that frames serve four purposes in communication (i.e.) they identify issues, identify their sources, render moral judgements, and offer solutions. According to Chong and Druckman (2007), the foundation of framing is the idea that a problem may be viewed from several angles and that it is possible for it to have a variety of consequences concerning adaptable values. Thus, "the process by which people develop a specific idea of an issue or redirect their thinking about an issue" is referred to as "framing." This theoretical framework help to analyse the content of media regarding the political stance of different media outlets (Hassan et al., 2021). So, keeping in view the suitability of its assumptions, we have employed framing theory as theoretical foundation of this study.

Research Methodology

Data Collection

Keeping in view the scope and objectives of the research study, we have chosen four media outlets with global prestige. The media outlets include; *Al Jazeera*, *Daily Sabah*, *Hindustan Times*, and *Washington Post*. The logic behind selecting these media outlets is to explore how did the arrest of Mr. Imran Khan and the subsequent public protests were covered by the media. We have selected very first two news items regarding the issue under study appearing in these media outlets for the sake of analysis. So, in total, we have eight news items as sample to be studied.

Data Analysis

The researchers have employed the content analysis quantitatively and qualitatively to analyze the sample of the study. Content analysis is a method of analyzing data in a systematic order which ensures uniformity throughout the research. The strength of any content analysis lies in three main objectives which are; its systematic and organized order, its objectivity and its methodology. The systematic order defines the framework of the research which further advocates for its reliable evaluation, its objectivity represents values that portray that the research is free from any bias of the researcher. Lastly, its methodology serves as the collective framework of the research which is responsible for reliability and fulfilling the goal of the research. Moreover, content analysis helps in achieving comparison by analyzing pieces of content across multiple time periods. This helps the researcher to study the upward and downward trends of the study across different time periods, similar to longitudinal study.

Findings and Analysis

First news item selected from the *Al Jazeera* contained the headline; "How the world reacted to Imran Khan's arrest in Pakistan"

Al Jazeera: The qualitative analysis of *Al Jazeera* highlights that the arrest of former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan is covered in detail in the piece, with special attention to how it immediately affected rallies and demonstrations across the country. It offers thorough explanations of the government's reaction, highlighting the deployment of paramilitary personnel and the following internet service blocking that sparked strong international outcry. A variety of international responses are given, from the United States emphasizing the rule of

law and democracy to the United Nations emphasizing the need to treat political leaders fairly. Alongside the UK's appeal for nonviolent democracy are Amnesty International's worries about human rights abuses amid conflicts and internet bans. The article explores domestic instability in detail by providing detailed accounts of skirmishes, casualties, and public opinion. It also examines the current legal proceedings, impact from the media and the intricate relationship between the legal and political spheres of Pakistani administration.

While the quantitative analysis of this report explains how the arrest of Imran Khan is the main issue which is covered in detail (around 40 occasions in a 500-word text). The employment of resistance forces and internet service blocking are two significant examples of government activities that are mentioned about twenty-five times in the text. The number of references to other countries varies. The United States is cited nearly ten times, the United Kingdom approximately five times, the United Nations and the European Union approximately five times, and Amnesty International approximately three times. The article goes into great depth about the responses from within Pakistan, describing protests, skirmishes, casualties, and public opinion almost fifteen times. Furthermore, there are roughly seven allusions to court appearances by Khan, custody disputes, and legal actions, and about seven mentions of media impact while references to media influence are noted roughly 5 times. This quantitative analysis illustrates the prominence and recurrence of several elements within the discourse surrounding Imran Khan's detention by providing numerical insights into the prevalence and distribution of various themes and entities covered in the article.

After a thorough examination of coverage done by Al Jazeera regarding Imran Khan's detention, the writing stands out as an objective and fair account that delves deeply into Pakistan's legal, political, and social unrest. It highlights the fierce political rivalry, complex legal issues, and strong public reaction, reflecting the split feelings and heated climate across the country. The thorough approach taken by Al Jazeera emphasizes the wider ramifications for the democracy of Pakistan and its judicial integrity while providing a range of opinions. The reporting demonstrates a dedication to in-depth, complex journalism by conveying the nuances of the circumstance and the uncertain future for the nation.

The second news item selected from the *Al Jazeera* contained the headline; "Imran Khan Arrest: Why was the ex-PM detained? What happens next?"

Al Jazeera: The quantitative analysis shows how important themes appear repeatedly in the piece. There are perhaps a dozen references to Imran Khan's imprisonment, highlighting its pivotal position in the story. References to nationwide rallies and turmoil have been made about twelve times, highlighting the strong popular outcry against Khan's imprisonment. The topic of legal procedures has been brought up about seven times, providing background information on the judicial side of Khan's case. Additionally, Al Jazeera mentioned five mentions of the army's deployment and the social media closure, demonstrating the government's reactionary actions. Though particular dates like May 9 give the events a temporal structure, other sites like Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, and Quetta are cited five times or more, suggesting their significance in the protests.

The qualitative evaluation explains the nuances and complexity of the political environment while delving into the corruption case against Khan. Three references to the Al-Qadir Trust case are made to set the scene for Khan's arrest by giving background information on his alleged participation in land acquisition and financial activities. The piece deftly handles

the complex field of political dynamics as well. It discusses the gap between Khan and the military about six times mentioned, illuminating previous allegiances, military accusations, and current strife and providing context for the events that are transpiring.

An examination of Al Jazeera's news about Imran Khan's arrest reveals how well it covered the social, legal, and political repercussions in Pakistan. Given the complexity of Pakistani politics, the article goes into great length to depict the differing responses to Khan's detention, the roles played by the government and judiciary, and the public's reaction. It provides a sophisticated perspective on the changing political scene by highlighting both the local and foreign ramifications. The study points to Al Jazeera's dedication to provide a thorough and impartial story that captures the various facets and possible outcomes surrounding this momentous political event.

First news item selected from the *Daily Sabah* contained headline; "Pakistan's political tumult: How to avoid a looming civil war?"

Daily Sabah: The newspaper discusses recent political turmoil in Pakistan in regards to Imran Khan's arrest. The author has expressed the political crisis of Pakistan throughout the article 3 times. Similarly, the author has used the term "attack on military organizations" 3 times, and corruption, 4 times, emphasizing deeply rooted corruption and rebellion against Pakistan's state military. The newspaper expresses concern regarding the political landscape of Pakistan and blames it on wrongdoings and corruption of the state's own military and corrupted judiciary. On the basis of quantitative findings of the newspaper, the researcher can conclude that Daily Sabah has blamed the current political turmoil of Pakistan solely on Imran Khan's arrest and state's own hidden military dictatorship. Out of 885 words of this newspaper, 45 words are negative, however, Daily Sabah's author used 30 words in favor of Imran Khan, while criticizing Pakistan's governance landscape.

As for the qualitative analysis, the author highlights various concerns and expressions using terms such as "influential institutions", "crackdown on his hideout", "burning of iconic buildings". The author has notably discussed the escalating corruption and collapsing economy of Pakistan, to back this stance, the author has cited military generals such as Hameed Gul and Shahid Aziz. The newspaper implies that the failed political landscape of Pakistan demands for a change in the extravagant lifestyle of the state's own military, similarly it highlights the potential exploitation of Pakistan's political landscape due to external influence and funding.

Keeping in view the quantitative and qualitative analysis of the article, the newspaper may be labelled as negative due to the author's bold assumptions regarding Imran Khan's arrest and the wrongdoings of Pakistan's military, however in slight favor, the author expresses how important it is for Pakistan's young youth to stand up for what's right. Pakistan is in political turbulence after the recent incident of Imran Khan's arrest, his arrest has sparked deadly violent protests across Pakistan, fueling riots and looting. Public is blaming Pakistan's own military dictatorship for this political mishap while some experts believe that this upheaval is fueled by foreign authorities and funding which led to many prominent figures of Imran Khan's political party to resign from their respective positions. In this dark light, Pakistan continues to suffer from economic collapse, unemployment and hopelessness. This may ignite the fuel among the public of Pakistan to start a civil war. Critics argue that, in order to fix the political and governing framework of Pakistan, the public must address or confront the lifestyle and dictatorship of Pakistan's military elites.

The second news item selected from the Daily Sabah contained the headline; “Government supporters protest Khan's release as Pakistan unrest rages”

Daily Sabah: The newspaper discusses political unrest in Pakistan after the arrest of Pakistan’s former Prime Minister Imran Khan. In regards to quantitative analysis of the news, the author has used the word ‘arrest’ throughout his news for roughly about 6 times. The author mentions important citations of Supreme Court and interior minister Rana Sanaullah, while putting stress on the alarming situation of Imran Khan’s arrest. The quantitative data of the news mentions that almost 9 people were killed, hundreds of police officers arrested, and more than 7,000 people were detained in recent protests in favor of Imran Khan.

As for the qualitative analysis, the newspaper reveals political rage across Pakistan, the author has backed this stance by using terms such as “simmering political crisis”, “rampage through cities”, “the ongoing political unrest”. Despite Legal complications, Imran Khan and Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI) have engaged in an intense battle against the state's own military. Overall, the author of Daily Sabah adopts a neutral stance while criticizing the political landscape of Pakistan.

Keeping in view the quantitative and qualitative analysis of the article, the newspaper may be labelled as neutral, including the author's critical analysis regarding Imran Khan’s arrest and important decisions of Pakistan’s judiciary. Pakistan faces a political crisis while some people from opposition demand the resignation of the Supreme Court’s top judge for unlawfully releasing Imran Khan, however, unluckily, Khan had to face more court proceedings in light of the brutal violence that was caused by his supporters. Streets of Pakistan are filled with violent mobs in rebellion of former Prime Minister Imran Khan’s arrest. Reports state that more than 7000 people were detained and 9 killed in light of recent events. The critical situation is yet to find relief from the ongoing war between the public and state’s military.

First news item selected from the *Hindustan Times* contained headline; “Imran Khan's party to be banned? What Pakistan's defense minister said?”

Hindustan Times: Drawing on the quantitative content analysis, the intro of the newspaper contains 91 words. The newspaper has expressed its concern over Imran Khan’s wellbeing, labelling it as “embattled” while comparing it to the state's powerful military. The paragraph mentions Imran Khan’s arrest 3 times. It also cites defense minister Khawaja Asif's statement in regards to banning Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI), underscoring the alarming situation of PTI after Imran Khan’s arrest. On the basis of quantitative findings, the researcher can conclude that Hindustan Times has supported the arrest of Imran Khan, out of 149 words of the news, 15 words are in disfavor of Imran Khan while the researcher does not see any words favoring Imran Khan.

As far as the qualitative analysis is concerned, the paragraph contains expressions in disfavor of Imran Khan, such as; “political instability”, “army establishments being attacked”, and “state buildings set ablaze”. Hindustan Times implies that Imran Khan and his political party (PTI) is responsible for the ongoing chaos among the political scenario of Pakistan. These words may portray the author's negative sentiment towards the situation.

Keeping in view the qualitative and quantitative findings of this paragraph, Hindustan Times has adopted a negative stance while emphasizing political instability across Pakistan due to the former prime minister’s arrest. The newspaper discusses the arrest of former prime minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan on 9th may on allegations of corruption. Imran Khan, who

claims that allegations against him are false, is currently in a battle against the state's own military who are proven influential among the political hierarchy of Pakistan. Imran Khan's arrest has sparked violent and fierce protests in the streets of Pakistan, in which several of his supporters have been arrested for attacking military and state infrastructure.

The second news item selected from the *Hindustan Times* contained the headline; "Condemn violence publicly: Pakistan president's 'advice' to Imran Khan"

Hindustan Times: Drawing on the quantitative content analysis, the researcher has found out that the intro of news contains 61 words. Out of 61 words, the author of the newspaper has used several negative words against Imran Khan's supporters. The word "terrorist" and "violent protests" were repeatedly used at least 3 times throughout the article. The article presents a critical analysis of the aftermath of the violent protests that were held throughout Pakistan in disfavor of the former prime minister's arrest, while considerably mentioning the Al-Qadir Trust case. On the basis of quantitative findings, the researcher can conclude that *Hindustan Times* has supported the arrest of Imran Khan, out of 253 words of the newspaper, 17 words are negative while the researcher does not see any words in favor of Imran Khan.

As for the qualitative analysis, to express negative remarks, the author has used expressions such as "attack on government" and "attack on army installations" repeatedly. The news of Imran Khan's arrest by *Hindustan Times* may be labelled as negative. The author in defense to his stance has cited President Arif Alvi and Army Chief Asim Munir's statement regarding the violent protests that erupted in rebellion after the former Prime Minister's arrest.

Keeping in view the qualitative and quantitative findings of this newspaper, *Hindustan Times* has adopted a negative stance while daringly mentioning the discreditable Al-Qadir Trust case, and disclosing the events of violence that occurred throughout Pakistan due to Imran Khan's arrest. The newspaper briefly discusses the chaotic environment in Lahore's Zaman Park after Imran Khan's arrest in allegations of Al-Qadir trust case. The author fearlessly termed Pakistan Tehreek - e- Insaaf (PTI) supporters as terrorists while citing the Information Minister, Army chief, and the president of Pakistan to defend his stance. The Pakistan army clearly states that no such events will ever be tolerated again because they will not accept any disrespect towards the fundamental representation of military values. General Asim Munir states these events as "dark chapter" in the history of Pakistan.

The first news item selected from the *Washington Post* contained the headline; "Pakistani Supreme Court declares Imran Khan Arrest unlawful"

Washington Post: The quantitative analysis of this 18 paragraphs article presents a complicated story of judicial rulings, political tensions, and popular reactions to Imran Khan's arrest and the Supreme Court of Pakistan's subsequent ruling. *Washington Post's* (WP) focus is shaped by Khan's detention, which is cited about seven times, underscoring its significance in the ongoing political turmoil. Furthermore, the Supreme Court's decision is discussed roughly five times, and it came to light as a pivotal moment that both brings fresh uncertainty to the developing scenario and signals a stunning success for Khan's opposition. About twelve times in the article, references to rallies, altercations, and disturbances highlight the severity and social consequences of Khan's detention. These occurrences serve as a backdrop for the unfolding narrative, emphasizing the political systemic discontent and rising tensions in

Pakistan. In addition, WP mentions court cases and legal processes four times or more, highlighting the ongoing legal scrutiny Khan still faces in spite of the court's ruling.

The qualitative analysis presents the Supreme Court's decision as a major victory for Khan's opponents by deftly capturing the nuances of language. The fact that WP used words like "celebrated a surprise victory" highlight how important the choice was. Through a review of Khan's previous contacts with the armed forces and government, it explores the complex political landscape, highlighting conflicts and their effects on the political course of the country. Furthermore, as seen by the responses of Khan's activists and supporters, WP highlighted prevailing attitudes that typically expressed a lack of faith in the goals of the administration. The whole perspective of the event due to which Imran Khan was arrested was studied in detail by WP. Which helped enhance our understanding of Pakistan's complex political scene by providing exact event frequency.

Conclusively, the analysis of the Washington Post story highlights significant issues with media coverage in foreign events in addition to highlighting the complex political situation of Pakistan. The way the detention and its repercussions are described in the article prompts readers to think about its wider consequences for the rule of law and global relations. It also offers a positive in-depth viewpoint on Pakistan's challenges and the role that international media plays in influencing public perception of such significant events

The second news item selected from the Washington Post contained the headline; "Pakistan calls in military as protests mount over Imran Khan Arrest"

Washington Post: While studying the quantitative content analysis the researcher found out that Washington Post expressed how the word "Imran Khan" appears about eleven, indicating that his arrest and the events that followed were the main topics of discussion. About twelve times, the word "protests" is used, emphasizing the pervasive instability in Pakistan. Particular places like "Islamabad," "Peshawar," and "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa" are mentioned a lot, roughly 15 times total, highlighting the conflict's geographic reach. References to prominent figures such as "Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif," "Shah Mahmood Qureshi," and "Imtiaz Barki" occur about eight times, demonstrating their significance in the context.

The language and contextual representation that Washington Post used are examined in detail in the qualitative analysis. Using terms like "violent clashes," "spiral out of control," and "uncertainty," the words suggest that the events are tense and unpredictable. It illustrates the complexity of the problem by grouping events into four main themes: political unrest, court cases, demonstrations, and military action. The reasons behind Imran Khan's detention, the political context, and the protesters' goals are all covered in detail by WP. However, the tone of the article also has a sense of anxiety due to the instability, suggesting that Pakistan may be at risk as a result of the rapidly worsening circumstances.

In conclusion, the story's portrayal of increasing conflict and political turmoil in Pakistan is what makes it stand out. Themes of national unrest are highlighted, with references to "Imran Khan," "protests," and local instability occurring often, according to the qualitative and quantitative analyses. The piece highlights the unstable connection between governance, legal services, and public opinion while eloquently describing the disorganized circumstances of Khan's detention and highlighting more general structural problems with the country's system of government. In addition to highlighting the immediate consequences of Khan's

imprisonment, the reporting also highlights the pervasive unrest, enduring issues, and pressing necessity of settlement.

Discussion and Conclusion

At the outset of this study, we aimed to study the events of 9th May while analyzing the predominant themes produced by *Al Jazeera*, *Daily Sabah*, *Hindustan Times* and *Washington Post*. By analyzing the news published on 10th May by Daily Sabah after the arrest of former Prime Minister Imran Khan, the researchers quantitatively discover that, out of 1085 words of the newspaper, 66 words are negative while there are some words that accounts for the Daily Sabah author's neutral stance towards the situation of former Prime Minister Imran Khan's arrest. Daily Sabah's author implied his negative stance throughout various parts of the newspaper by using terms such as; "simmering political crisis", "rampage through cities", "the ongoing political unrest", "crackdown on his hideout", and "burning of iconic buildings". Imran Khan's arrest and events of 9th May have sparked deadly and violent protests throughout Pakistan, causing severe harm to Pakistan's infrastructure and Pakistan's political arena. Supporters of Imran Khan's political party Tehreek e Insaaf are considered responsible for brutal violence, vandalism and terrorism across Pakistan, attacking state and military installations.

In the aftermath, more than 7000 Imran Khan supporters were detained by state police with more than 7 killed in action. The motive of these supporters lies in rebellion against the state's judicial decisions. Imran Khan and his supporters firmly believe that false evidence is being fabricated against them to oust them permanently from the political domain of Pakistan, while large segment of Pakistan's population believe that this political unrest and arrest of former Prime Minister Imran Khan is due to shenanigans of Pakistan's military who are proven dominant in Pakistan's history of "important decisions". Some segment of the public believe that this turbulence might be caused by foreign or external influence from neighboring countries which led to many prominent figures of Tehreek e Insaaf to resign from their assigned positions. These political figures will most probably evade the alleged corruption charges against them and enjoy their extravagant lifestyle with some new political or governing position.

Imran Khan while addressing the media indicated that there is no law and order in Pakistan, it is as if it's the law of the jungle. In midst of this disturbance, the ordinary citizen of Pakistan is facing financial crisis, powerlessness and uncertainty. Many experts believe that Pakistan due to these factors could be at the brink of a civil war. The author of Daily Sabah newspaper, while adopting a critical stance, argues that citizens and young youth of Pakistan must raise their voice against the state's biased judicial and military decisions. The luxurious lifestyle of military elites must be addressed while ordinary citizens of Pakistan are facing severe economic and social crises. Khan was released shortly after his alleged accusations with the Al-Qadir trust case but unfortunately Khan had to go through more legal complications on behalf of his supporters, who were responsible for recent looting, mobs and aggression in streets of Pakistan.

Keeping in view the qualitative and quantitative findings of this newspaper, Daily Sabah has adopted a negative stance while criticizing the events and the aftermath of Imran Khan's arrest on 9th May. While irregularly, the author adopts a neutral stance while advising

on how the young youth of Pakistan can fix the current political upheaval across Pakistan. The state of Pakistan is yet to find its relief in the midst of these high stakes' incidents.

While analyzing the news published on 10th may by Washington Post, after the arrest of former Prime Minister Imran Khan, researcher quantitatively discovers that, a considerable percentage of the newspaper's 1609 words include words against related to the detention and subsequent events of ex Pakistani prime minister Imran Khan. This unfavorable position is expressed by the author(s) of The Washington Post using phrases like "deepened political turmoil," "violent demonstrations," "harsh crackdown," "stern response," and "chaotic scenes." These words, which reflect the general mood and how the events are framed, help to create a story that highlights the chaos and strife that follow Khan's arrest.

After thorough examination of the articles, citing the detention of former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, the rallies, and the political instability, it is evident that this complicated story is multifaceted. Given the number of times they reference Imran Khan and how intensively the articles have been composed, it appears that their description of the chaos and uncertainty that followed Khan's imprisonment, the ensuing unrest, the response from the government, and the force's engagement is their primary focus.

The government is usually presented negatively, with a focus on the harsh and sometimes violent tactics it employs to put a stop to protests and deal with the aftermath of politics that follows. It appears that the military's involvement has significantly escalated the situation, adding to its tension and uncertainty while also exposing an institution that is typically thought of as a source of stability. In addition, the works show Khan and his allies, like David and Goliath, as strong, uncompromising opponents of an unfair and dishonest system and government.

Despite every article's attempt to give a comprehensive picture by combining a variety of voices and viewpoints, there is a pervasive negative tone that suggests a skepticism of the government's intentions and strategies regarding balancing. However, this doesn't mean stories are overtly political; rather, by reflecting the challenging and contentious nature of the events they represent, they highlight the major risks and deep divisions that characterize the current political moment. The report claims that the problem is complex and devoid of clear-cut villains or heroes for that matter. Instead, it is the result of a sequence of events and responses that are intimately linked to the broader social, political, and historical background of the nation. According to the coverage, the issue is complicated and devoid of simple solutions, so there are no obvious heroes or villains. Rather, it's the outcome of a series of actions and reactions that are closely connected to the country's larger political, social, and historical context.

A close examination of these publications reveals that the present administration has been managing the matter in a sophisticated way. The important and frequently damaging character of the demonstrations, the controversial elements of Khan's arrest, and the wider social and political implications of the disturbances are all highlighted in this research. In highlighting the significance of the events and their potential impact on Pakistan's future, the articles present a picture of a country in crisis where the rule of law, institutions as well as identity is under threat. Keeping in view the method of content analysis, it suggests disapproval or disagreement from the newspaper's standpoint and paints a poor picture of the political environment and the way the arrest was handled.

However, the news published on 10th may by Al Jazeera after the arrest of former Prime Minister Imran Khan, the researchers quantitatively discover that Al Jazeera's coverage show that from a total number of 1435 words, approximately 80 of the terms used in the stories describing the detention of ex Pakistani PM Imran Khan have a negative connotation, which is indicative of the turbulent character of the events. Using phrases like "shock arrest," "violent demonstrations," "political turmoil," "clashes with security forces," and "escalation in clashes," Al Jazeera's writers clearly take a critical attitude. These words, which are noteworthy for their context and recurrence, highlight the turmoil and discord that followed Khan's apprehension.

A detailed as well as complex account is being told about the detention of Mr. Khan, the former prime minister of Pakistan, and the ensuing uproar on both national as well international level. Detailed stories cover Khan's arrest and the partition, while also gently criticizing the acts of the nation. It also highlights the accusations leveled against him in connection with the arrest and the widespread protests. It is clear from this quantitative debate that the focus should be on the divide and discontent brought about by his arrest. The wording is quite critical, suggesting a dire and harsh picture of the situation, with negative overtones related to the nation's actions and the demonstrations. By analyzing these articles, contextual interpretations highlight the turmoil, legal processes, public response, shows a complete picture of political situation in terms of quality. The primary subjects of the article's narrative flow are the repercussions of Khan's imprisonment, the reaction of his followers, and the government's retaliation. The emphasis is placed on the political turmoil and societal conflict, underscoring Khan's important contribution to Pakistan's contemporary political debate.

The narratives portray a nation undergoing turmoil, with its leaders striving to uphold their legitimacy and power amidst ongoing demonstrations and political resistance. On a usual basis the government is shown in a negative light, with an emphasis on the severe and occasionally violent methods it uses to put an end to demonstrations and handle the political repercussions that follow. The military's involvement is shown as a dramatic intensification, bringing a group that is frequently viewed as a stabilizing influence into the public eye and intensifying the stress and unpredictable nature of the situation. In addition, Khan and his allies are represented in the works as strong, uncompromising opponents of a government and system they believe to be unfair and corrupt, much like David and Goliath. This story presents Khan in two different ways: either as a political pawn or as a hero leading a campaign for justice and change for his people. Therefore, creating a complicated and controversial picture of Khan's life and legacy.

Even though the articles try to provide a complete picture by offering a range of perspectives, there is a critical tone throughout that shows skepticism of the government's aims and tactics. That's not to suggest that the stories are blatantly political; rather, they symbolize the high stakes and profound differences that define the contemporary political moment by mirroring the contested and disputed nature of the events they depict. According to the report, the issue is complicated and lacks even simple solutions, and there are no obvious heroes or villains. Instead, what happens is a chain of events and responses that are intimately related to the political, social, and historical background of the nation.

Conclusively, analysis of these articles' content provides a complex assessment of how the current administration has handled the situation, emphasizing the protests' dramatic and frequently violent nature, the controversial aspects of Khan's detention and appeals, and the

unrest's larger social and political ramifications. From these works, one can see that the country is at a crossroads, with the rule of law, its institutions, and its fundamental character all at danger. Even if they don't adopt a strong stance, they emphasize how grave the events are and how they would affect Pakistan's future. As it moves on, the play portrays tension, struggle, and uncertainty, symbolizing Pakistan's complicated political landscape and the many obstacles that the nation must overcome as it negotiates this wild. It appears that Al Jazeera has taken a position that critically emphasizes the turmoil, the strong public response, and the wider ramifications of Imran Khan's detention on May 9th, when combined with the qualitative findings from the articles.

By analyzing the news published on 10th may by Hindustan Times, after the arrest of former Prime Minister Imran Khan, the researchers quantitatively discover that, out of 402 words of the newspaper, 32 words are in disfavor of Imran Khan and his political presence. While researchers fail to analyze words in favor of Imran Khan. The Hindustan Times newspaper has defended his negative stance and implied chaos in Pakistan by using terms such as; “political instability”, “army establishments being attacked”, “state buildings set ablaze”, “terrorists”, “violent protests”. The Hindustan Times newspaper discusses the events of 9th may that involved former prime minister’s Imran Khan’s arrest in allegations that are associated with the discreditable Al-Qadir Trust case. Embattled Imran Khan who believes that he is being framed by the state's military is currently in confrontation against Pakistan’s judiciary. Imran Khan’s arrest fueled looting, riots and violent protests throughout Pakistan which led to several of his supporters being detained by the state’s police. Punjab’s caretaker Aamir Mir labelled Iman Khan’s supporters as terrorists who are responsible for terrorism and vandalism in Lahore’s Zaman Park. These events led to many prominent figures such as the Army chief, the President of Pakistan issuing statements in disfavor of Imran Khan and his political party Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI).

The newspaper also cites defense minister, Khawaja Asif, statement in regards to considerably banning former Prime Minister Imran Khan’s political party from Pakistan’s political landscape. General Asim Munir (Army Chief of Pakistan) states clearly that no such violent protests will ever be tolerated again by any political party because they are symbolically disrespecting the fundamental values and respect of the state's military, he stated these events as one of the “dark chapters” of Pakistan. President of Pakistan, Dr Arif Alvi while talking to GEO news stated that miscreants that were responsible for violent mobs and protests following Imran Khan’s arrest must be prosecuted immediately. Keeping in view the qualitative and quantitative findings of this newspaper, Hindustan Times has adopted a negative stance while criticizing the events and the aftermath of Imran Khan’s arrest on 9th May.

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