

## Media Discourses of Pakistan Government Officials on Panama Leaks: A Critical Analysis

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### Abstract

*The present paper attempts to focus media discourses of Pakistani Government Officials in the backdrop of PANAMA LEAKS scandal. PANAMA PAPERS, usually called Panama Leaks, are about 11.5 million leaked documents about the economic corruption of the most influential statesmen, politicians and business tycoons of the world. According to PANAMA PAPERS (April 2016), Pakistani Ex. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his family members have also been reported guilty of having off-shore companies and illegal sources of income. The representatives of the government come forward and try to defend Prime Minister and his family members through their political rhetoric. They do not answer the allegations put against them but accuse their opponents of 'derailing democracy' and creating hurdles in the path of the progress of the country. The research questions of the study are: why and how do Government officials try to win the sympathies of the common people on the issue of PANAMA LEAKS through their political rhetoric on electronic media, and how does 'social pressure' lead the political leaders to defend themselves and their political ideologies?*

*The study attempts to focus the media discourses of only four Government officials on PANAMA LEAKS after the ruling of the Supreme Court to make Joint Investigation Team (JIT) on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The research is carried out under a grand theory of Critical Discourse Analysis. The researcher's qualitative approach alongside with Van Dijk's "ideological square" is taken up as a middle-range theory to investigate the research questions. Keeping in mind the idea of triangulation, the concept of "social pressure" has been taken from the field of cognitive psychology to understand the working of the political mindset behind these media discourses.*

*The analysis reveals that the politicians fight not for the rights of the common people, but they have their own political motifs. They assert dominance and*

*power through challenging the thinking, beliefs, and views of the common people. The beneficiaries of the study are the common people of Pakistan. The study aims at encouraging them to wisely use the power of their votes and choose the people who could be the true representatives of their hopes and aspirations.*

**Keywords:** *Critical Discourse Analysis, Media discourse, PANAMA LEAKS, Socio-cognitive approach, Triangulation, Social pressure*

## **1. Introduction**

PANAMA leaks reveal the corruption of some of the most powerful and influential statesmen of the world. The present study discusses the political stance of the Government officials on Ex. Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's alleged corruption. The media discourses of the selected Government representatives hardly address the allegations put against Nawaz Sharif. They consume their energies to convince the audience that Panama Leaks is not a problem at all. It is the conspiracies of the opponents of the Government who have been trying to defame the most popular and loved political leader whom the people of Pakistan have elected their Prime Minister for the third time. They are trying to derail the economy and democracy of the country for their political gains. The research studies how politicians exploit the innocence of the common people to assert their power and dominance through their political rhetoric.

### **1.1 Background**

The study is carried out in the background of PANAMA LEAKS Scandal where the most influential politicians of our country including the most powerful Ex. Prime Minister of Pakistan has also been found guilty of corruption. Unlike other politicians of few other countries, the Ex. Prime Minister does not surrender but decides to fight his case in the courts. The Supreme Court of Pakistan makes Joint Investigation Team (JIT) probe the matter in depth. The representatives and the officials of the Government come forward to defend and safeguard their alleged Prime Minister. Furthermore, the political narrative of the Government is critically analyzed through the analysis of the media discourses of the Government officials.

## **1.2 Statement of Problem**

The Government officials use political rhetoric to win the sympathies of the common people on the issue of PANAMA LEAKS scandal and try to assert their dominance through their counter-narrative.

## **1.3 Purpose of Study**

The purpose of the study is to investigate how politicians try to win the sympathies of the common people through their narrative with the use of political rhetoric. What gadgets are monopolized by these tricky politicians to beguile the common people and assert their dominance? Moreover, how do they manipulate effective propaganda using electronic and social media?

## **1.4 Research Question(s)**

1. Why and how do Government officials try to win the sympathies of the common people on the issue of PANAMA LEAKS through their political rhetoric on electronic media?
2. How does 'social pressure' lead the political leaders to defend themselves and their political ideologies?

## **1.5 Aims and Objectives**

The primary objective of the study is to demystify semantic, pragmatic and paralinguistic aspects of the political discourses of the politicians on PANAMA LEAKS. The secondary objective is to find out how politicians try to legitimize their political corruption through their political narrative.

## **1.6 Delimitation**

The media discourse of following Government representatives after the formation of Joint Investigation Team (JIT) are taken up for study: Ahsan Iqbal, Talal Chaudhary, Danyal Aziz, and Abid Sher Ali.

## **1.7 Significance of Study**

The present study attempts to examine how people in power try to control the minds of the people through their political rhetoric even they are guilty of

corruption and wrongdoings. They not only highlight their so-called achievements to beguile the common people but also exploit the weak points of their opponents to show that they are the only savior of the people. They portray themselves to be the only well-wishers of the common people. Awareness is aimed to be created among the common masses through showing them the true picture of these so-called leaders. The beneficiaries of the study are the common people of the Pakistan who have constantly been neglected ever since the birth of Pakistan. Furthermore the research also endeavors to inspire future researchers who have interest in the field of politics and Political Discourse Analysis. The political stance of the Muslim countries of the world towards Muslim genocide in Burma and the inhuman treatment to the Muslims of Kashmir and Palestine could be some other vistas to be explored by the future researchers.

## **2. Literature Review**

### **2.1 What is Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)?**

Fairclough considers Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) an interdisciplinary approach to the study of discourse, and it sees language as a form of social practice. Scholars working in the tradition of CDA argue that (non-linguistic) social practice and linguistic practice constitute one another and focus on investigating how societal power relations are established and reinforced through language use (Fairclough 1995).

CDA is discourse analysis which aims to systematically explore often opaque relationships of causality and determination between (a) discursive practice, events, texts, and (b) wider social and cultural structures, and processes; to investigate how such practices, events, and texts arise out of and are ideologically shaped by relations of power and struggle over power; and to explore how the opacity of these relationships between discourse and society is itself a factor securing power and hegemony. (Fairclough, 1993, p.135)

If controlling the mind is a first major form of power, controlling people's mind is the other fundamental way to reproduce dominance and hegemony. Within a CDA framework, "mind control" involves even more than just acquiring beliefs about the world through discourse and communication. First, recipients tend to accept beliefs, knowledge, and opinions (unless they are inconsistent

with their personal beliefs and experiences) through discourse from what they see as authoritative, trustworthy, or credible resources, such as scholars, experts, or reliable media (Nesler et al., 1993).

Finally, Fairclough and Wodak (1997: 271-80) summarize the main tenets of CDA as follows:

1. CDA addresses social problems
2. Power relations are discursive
3. Discourse constitutes society and culture
4. Discourse does ideological work
5. Discourse is historical
6. The link between text and society is mediated
7. Discourse analysis is interpretative and explanatory
8. Discourse is a form of social action

## **2.2 What is Triangulation?**

Triangulation refers to the use of more than one approach to the investigation of a research question to enhance confidence in ensuing finding. Since much social research is founded on the use of a single research method and as such may suffer from limitations associated with that method or from the specific application of it, triangulation offers the prospect of enhanced confidence. Triangulation is one of the several rationales for multi-method research. The term derives from surveying, where it refers to the use of a series of triangles to map out an area. (Bryman)

## **2.3 Van Dijk's Ideological Square**

Van dijk (2000) devised four principles that are very helpful for the critical analysis of the ideological standpoints. The four principles are as follows:

1. Emphasise positive things about Us
2. Emphasise negative things about Them
3. De-emphasise negative things about Us
4. De-emphasise positive things about Them

## **2.4 Social Pressure**

Social pressure means the influence that is exerted on a person or group by another person or group. It includes rational argument, persuasion, conformity, and demands.

## **3. Research Methodology**

### **3.1 Explanatory Research**

This is Explanatory research as it is carried out to know why something happens. It comes after exploratory and descriptive research. It seeks to explain and expound the reasons and causes behind the occurrence of any phenomenon.

Explanatory research helps us in understanding questions related to why and how. It helps in identifying and understanding the reason behind the success or failure of any work of art. Majumdar says, 'Whereas both exploratory and descriptive studies primarily address 'what' and 'how' in the research population, the experimental studies seek an answer to 'why' such a relationship exists. These studies deal with a causal hypothesis or causal relationship. Causes are not discovered but invented.'

### **3.2 Research Design**

Research is conducted under the grand theory of "Critical Discourse Analysis," and the researcher's qualitative approach alongside with van Dijk's Ideological Square is taken up as middle range theory. Since the present study is Triangulation research, the concept of "Social Pressure" is taken up from the field of cognitive Psychology along with Teun Van Dijk's "Ideological Square" for ensuing better judgment and results of the research. As a research process, it tries to find out the reasons behind human actions that affect the world. It deals with the why and how of the human behaviour or action.

### **3.3 Theoretical Paradigm**

The present study endeavors to advance an ideological position that the politicians are not generally the same what they present themselves to be. They pretend themselves to be the godfathers of the common people, but they lack

the very ingredients of becoming the leaders and well-wishers of their people as their sole purpose is to be in authority and rule the ignorant masses. It becomes Orientalist research as it focuses on some forms of inequality, discrimination or stratification in society. Some areas in which inequality displays itself are large differences in power, income, authority, access to high-quality education and occupation.

### **3.4 Practical framework**

The practical framework of the research includes the concept of “Social Pressure” and the following four principals of Van Dijk’s Ideological Square;

- Emphasise positive things about Us
- Emphasise negative things about Them
- De-emphasise negative things about Us
- De-emphasise positive things about Them

### **3.5 Population**

Media discourses of Political leaders of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PMLN) after the ruling of JIT on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

### **3.6 Sampling**

The selection of media discourses of the Politicians is made through heterogeneous non-probability sampling depending upon the needs and requirements of the current study. The media discourse of only four following Government officials have been taken for critical analysis;

1. Ahsan Iqbal
2. Talal Chaudhary
3. Danyal Aziz
4. Abid Sher Ali

### **3.7 Method**

The media discourses of the selected political figures are firstly transliterated and then translated into English for critical analysis.

### 3.8 Data Collection and procedures

Media discourses of selected Government officials are recorded from electronic media for further investigation. These discourses are the ones that were broadcasted on TV after the ruling of Supreme Court of Pakistan to form Joint Investigation Team (JIT) on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017. Furthermore selected discourses of are taken up as sources and the punch lines of the politicians are taken up for critical analysis to show that they try their level best to legitimize corruption through their political rhetoric. The punch lines are selected, explained and analyzed as it is not possible to analyze the whole speeches of the politicians because of limitation of time and space. The punch lines are transliterated, translated into English and critically analyzed. Triangulation, the use of more than one approach to investigate the research question, is used to enhance confidence and validate the results.

## 4. Data Analysis

### 4.1 Ahsan Iqbal's Press talk on 20 April 2017

**Ahsan Iqbal:** "Aj hamein aik aham kamyabi hasil hui hai. Wo nakam siyasatdan jin hon ne pehlay dharnay kay zariay awam kay mendate mein shabkhood marnay ki koshish ki aur uss mein nakam huay. Uss kay baad un hon ne paey-dar-paey awam ki adalat mein shikast kha'i, Kashmir mein shikast kha'i, Gilgat Baltistan mein shikast kha'i, baldiati elections mein shikast kha'i, cantonment board mein shikast kha'i, Baldiati Elections kay baad zimini elections mein shikast kha'i, khud Peshawar mein shikast kha'i, 2013 mein jeeti hui seeton pe shikast kha'i un hon ne koshish ki kay adalat kay zariay wo shabkhood marein. Aur wazir-e-azam ko iqtadar se hatanay kay liay chor darwaza istemal karein..."

*(We have got an important victory today. Those flopped politicians who firstly tried to attack the mandate of the people in the darkness of the night through demonstrations and sit-ins but failed, then they were defeated again and again in the court of the people, they were defeated in Kashmir (elections), they were defeated in Gilgat Baltistan, they were defeated in local body and Municipality elections, they were defeated in Cantonment Board, they were defeated in By-elections after their defeat in Municipality elections, they were defeated in Peshawar, they were even defeated on their already won seats in 2013 elections, those politicians then tried to attack in the darkness of night*

*through the courts and tried to remove the government of the Prime Minister through back-door)...*

“JIT ka tashkil dia jana iss baat ka saboot hai kay adalat ne un tamam evidences ko mustarad kia hai aur tasleem nahi kia hai jo adalat kay samnay pesh kia jata raha. Alhamdulillah aj Supreme Court ne uss sazish ko bhi nakaam bana dia hai. Tou aj Pakistan kay awam ki fateh hui hai. 2013 ka awami mendate jeeta hai aur un logon ko shikast hui hai jo chor darwazon kay zariay Pakistan mein iqtadar ki tabdeeli karnay ki koshish kartay rahay”.

*(The ruling of formation of JIT is the proof of fact that the court has discarded all the evidences that were presented to the court. By the grace of Almighty, the Supreme Court has thwarted the conspiracy. So it is the victory of the people of Pakistan. The public mandate of 2013 Elections has won, and those people have been defeated who have been trying to deracinate the Government from the back door).*

### **Analysis**

Ahsan Iqbal was selected as member national-assembly in general elections 2013 in the constituency NA-117 Narowal. He was the part of Central Parliamentary board and was appointed as Minister of Planning and Development and Deputy Chairman of planning commission of Pakistan.

Ahasn Iqbal has made the people count the defeats that PTI has gone through after the general election 2013. In his counter-narrative, he is of the view that Imran Khan has constantly been trying to destabilize the Government of present Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif through different conspiracies. He has actually made a strong use of the second principle of van Dijk's Ideological Square. Moreover, the purpose of doing so is to divert the attention of the people from Nawaz Sharif's alleged corruption to the 'sins' of Imran Khan that he has been committing since general elections 2013.

Pakistan Muslim League (N) and the representatives of the Government consider Imran Khan the sole cause of their disturbance that is why the government officials exclaim it to be the attack on the mandate of the people that was bestowed upon them in general elections 2013.

Interestingly PTI claims it to be their victory that Supreme court has made JIT probe the alleged corruption of the Prime Minister of Pakistan. They consider Joint Investigation Team as Crime Investigation Team that would expose the crimes of the ruling party that were hidden from the eyes of the people of Pakistan. Pakistan Muslim League (N) and the officials of the Government, on the other hand, have their own counter-narrative in this regard. They think and proclaim that the opponents of the Government have been attacking the mandate of the people unlawfully and derailing democracy. Moreover, they have been doing all this to appease their lust for power and authority. They claim the ruling of JIT to be their success as the Court has refused to accept the “evidence” that was produced to the Court by Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf.

#### **4.2 Talal Chaudhary’s Press talk Outside Judicial Academy Islamabad (7<sup>th</sup> June 2017)**

**Talal Chaudhary:** “Ye Pakistan ka pehla muqadma hai kay jis mein pakistan ka teesri dafa ka Wazir-e-Azam, maqbool tareen leader us kay khilaf tehqeeqat aik “Ishtehari” kay kehnaay pe ho rahi hein”.

*(It has been the one and only case that has been initiated on the wish of the “proclaimed offender” against three times elected Prime Minister and the most popular leader of Pakistan)*

“Tahafzzat honay kay bawajood ham (JIT mein) pesh hotay rahay. Pehlay ye narrative banaya gaya kay Sharif family bhag jaey gi. Hassan aur Hussain qannoni sahara le kar kay wo non-resident Pakistani hein aur wo pesh nahi hon gay. Jab wo pesh ho gaye tou aik naya narrative banaya gaya aur summons leak kiay gaye aur un summons ki ibarat iss tarah thi kay lagta hai kay Sharif family taawan nahi kar rahi...”

*(In spite of the reservations, we faced JIT. It was the first narrative established that the Sharif family shall run away. Hassan and Hussain shall not face JIT on the plea that they have been the non-resident Pakistani citizens. When they came and faced JIT another narrative was made and summons were leaked. And the wording of the summons seemed to show as if Sharif family were not cooperating”.*

“Pehlay usay (Nawaz Sharif ko) saza mili Atomi dhamakay ki wo jala watan hua. Ab uss ne muashi dhamaka kia CPEC ki surat mein. Hamein pata hai kay

iski price bhi hamein pay karni chahiay. Agar koi bahana bana kar saza deni hai tou bahanay na bnaein, hamein seedhi tarah waja bata kar saza dein”.

*(Firstly he (Nawaz Sharif) was punished for atomic explosions. Now he had made economic explosion in the form of CPEC. We know that we have to pay the price for that. If you want to make an excuse, don't make lame excuses. Tell us the reason straightforwardly).*

“Ye JIT hai ya qasai ki dukan hai? Kisi ko zabardasti kehtay hein kay apna bayan-e-halfi wapas lo. Kisi ko kehtay hein ye kaghaz hein in pe dastakhat kar do. Kisi ko kehtay hein kay agar tum ye nahi karo gay tou tumhein 14 saal saza ho jaey gi. Ham ne pehlay kaha tha kay ye case qanooni nahi siasi hai, hamein siasi inteqam ka nishana bnaya ja raha hai”.

*(Is this a JIT or a butcher's shop? They compel someone to take his affidavit back. Sometimes they compel someone to sign the documents. Sometimes they blackmail someone to sentence 14 years imprisonment for not acting upon what they say. We had already told that it is not a lawful case, it is a political case and we are being victimized of political revenge).*

## **Analysis**

Talal Chaudhary is a famous politician who was elected as member of national assembly from constituency NA-76 from Faisalabad in general election 2013. He has been one of the key members of national assembly for PMLN and a strong political speaker for his party. He has also served as Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Science Information Technology.

Talal Chaudhary pounces on the opponents with the strongest statement that the Prime Minister has been called to justice on the wish and saying of the ‘Proclaimed Offender.’ This is a strong politic rhetoric to control the minds of the common masses and to challenge the credibility of the political opponents and law agencies. He tries to prove the allegations and predictions of his opponents mere nonsense. He presents his counter-narrative in such a powerful way that all the allegations of the political opponents seem to be nothing but eyewash.

Speaking in terms of van Dijk's Ideological Square, Talal Chaudhary exploits the first principal to highlight the positive points of Prime Minister and Pakistan Muslim League (N). PM's decision to face JIT while having reservations, the hallmark of PMLN's government to do an atomic experiment and making Pakistan an atomic power in 1998 and starting CPEC project in 2017 are some of the things that are adroitly highlighted by Talal to win the praise of the people.

#### **4.3 Danyal Aziz's Press talk Outside Judicial Academy Islamabad (16<sup>th</sup> June 2017)**

**Danyal Aziz:** "Ye kesa qanoon hai kay muntakhab Wazir-e-Azam to JIT mein pesh hotay huay laikan dusri taraf 'Ishtehari Khan' azad ghoom rahay hein. Uss anokhay laadlay kay liay kesa kesa intezam kia jata hai kay Ishtehari sahib yahan se ja rahay hein g, Ishtehari sahib wahan se aa rahay hein g".

*(What kind of law is this that the elected Prime Minister faces JIT while proclaimed offender enjoys complete freedom. Such freedom is offered to this 'unusual darling' that he has no problem to go wherever he wants and no problem to do whatever he likes).*

"Ye pakistan kay tamam shehri jo hein unko ye saholat muyassar nahi kay wo chahay PTV pe hamla kar dein, wo chahay assembly pe hamla kar dein, wo chahein police kay thanon ko tor kar wahan jo qaidi hein unko farar kar kar le jaein, record jala dein, wo Wazir-e-Azam house pe hamla kar dein wo FBR ko gali nikalein, wo IG Police ko gali nikalein. Wo Election Commission ko gali nikalein, wo Supreme Court pe ja kay apna gandi shalwarein taank dein (tou unko koi na puchay. Tou ye jo hawa hai isko ham pehchantay hein ye hamaray liay koi ajuba nahi hai. Ham samajhtay hein jab ye hawa chalti hai tou kesay chalti hai, ye chalti hui dekhi hai ham ne. Aur ye puranay Pakistan wali hawa hai ye naya Pakistan wali khushbu nahi hai".

*(This facility is not available to any citizens of Pakistan except some. They (people of PTI) attack PTV building, they attack National assembly. They attack police stations and help the prisoner flee from there, they burn the records, they attack Prime Minister house, they abuse FBR, they abuse ID Police. They abuse Election Commission of Pakistan, they disgrace Supreme Court of Pakistan and hang dirty clothes there but no one asks them to be answerable for their actions. We know this uprising. This is not a wonder. We know how this revolt breeds. And this is the air of 'Old Pakistan' and not the fragrance of 'New Pakistan').*

## Analysis

Danyal Aziz joined PMLN in 2013 and won the constituency NA-116 Norowal in general elections 2013 and is an important member national assembly of PMLN.

Danyal Aziz, in his press talk at different times, strongly advocates the case of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif as he thinks him to be the innocent. In comparison with Imran Khan, Chairman Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf, he bashes and makes fun of him by pronouncing him "Ishtehari Khan." Imran Khan, according to Danyal Aziz, has no right to criticize the Prime Minister of Pakistan as he has no courage and strength to face the courts on his alleged crimes while the third-time selected Prime Minister faces the courts and JIT. The purpose of making fun of double-standard law for two political parties namely PMLN and PTI and two different politicians Nawaz Sharif and Imran Khan is to control the minds of the people that the Prime Minister is innocent while the proclaimed offender is not. He makes the people count the political crimes of Imran Khan but he has not been brought to justice. The crimes are hideous unforgivable but this is the double-standard of the accountability that creates huge differentiations. The purpose is also to win the sympathies of the people that the Prime Minister wants to establish the supremacy of law and justice whatever the decisions of the court might be.

### 4.4 Abid Sher Ali's Press talk Outside Judicial Academy Islamabad (2<sup>nd</sup> July 2017)

**Abid Sher Ali:** "Imran Khan jamhuriat par badnuma daakh hein. Imran Khan Pakistan ka Mir Jafar aur Mir Sadaq hai. Kesi tehqeeqat hein jin kay tarjuman Sheikh Rasheed aur Tehik-e-Insaf hai. Wo Sheikh Rasheed jisko 3 talaqein ho chuki hein Sheikh Rasheed nay kaha kay 10 roz baad hakumat girnay wali hai"?

*(Imran Khan is an ugly stain on the face of democracy. Imran Khan is actually Mir Jafar and Mir Sadaq (two historical traitors) of Pakistan. What is this investigation all about whose translators are Sheikh Rasheed and Tehrik-e-Insaf? Sheikh Rasheed, who has been divorced thrice, said that the Government will fall down within 10 days.)*

"Aik rupay ki bhi corruption Sharif family pe ho, kick back ki surat mein ya kisi bhi surat mein tou ham har cheez ka khamyaza bhugatnay kay liay tayyar hein.

Laiken karobari cheez ko nathi kar kay cheezain ham par ssadar ki gai, ye ham nahi manein gay”.

*(We are ready to face the circumstance whatever they be like if Sharif family has ever done a corruption of even a single rupee in the form of any kick back or any other form whatsoever).*

“Dekhein, 2 baar hamari hakumat ko khatam kia gaya. Ye (mukhalifeen) har saal hamaray ooper aik buhran ki kefiat lay aatay hein. Ham buhrano se nahi ghabra rahay. Puri qaum monitor kar rahi hai in cheezon ki. CPEC kay ooper jin logon ko khadsha hai kay CPEC Pakistan ki taqdeer badlay ga wo log Pakistan kay khilaf sazishein kar rahay hein”.

*(See, our Government has been pulled down twice. Our opponents compel us into different crisis every year. We are not afraid of the crisis. The people are monitoring all these things. The people, who are afraid of CPEC that it will change the fate of the country, are the miscreants and doing conspiracies against Pakistan).*

“Wazir-e- Azam sahib ne khud Supreme Court ko khat likha tha kay aap commission bnaein aur commission ki roshni mein mai aur mera khandan har forum pe pesah honay kay liay tayyar hein”

*(The prime Minister himself wrote a letter to the Supreme Court to formulate a commission. He offered himself and his family to come to any forum under the orders of that commission).*

## **Analysis**

Abid Sher Ali is one of the most outspoken member national assembly of PMLN. He was elected as MNA for the third consecutive time from constituency NA-84 Faisalabad in the general elections 2013. He was appointed as the Minister of State for Water and Power in July 2013.

Negative others projection has been the most important part of the political rhetoric of the politicians in the most recent times. Abid Sher Ali skillfully utilizes this political weapon to divert the attention of the viewers and the listeners from the wrong doing of the accused Prime Minister by calling his opponents and especially Imran Khan an ‘Ugly stain on the face of democracy’.

According to the counter-narrative of Abid Sher Ali their opponents had conspired against Nawaz Sharif when he made this nation an “Atomic power,” and now they are conspiring against him as he is going to make Pakistan an “Economic power” in the shape of CPEC. So the only purpose of the opposition is to stop Pakistan from moving ahead in the right direction and make progress. Ironically he does not answer the allegations put against the accused Prime Minister rather declare it a conspiracy against the sitting Prime Minister and the present Government. The first two principles of van Dijk’s Ideological Square have skillfully been exploited by Abid Sher Ali to catch the attention of the people and win the sympathies of the common masses.

Abid tries to win the sympathies of the listener on the plea that the opponents of Pakistan Muslim League (N) have always conspired to pull PMLN into crisis. They are afraid of the popularity and success of PMLN. He directly accuses PTI to be afraid of economic projects of the Government like CPEC as these projects would change the fate of the country and there would be nothing left for the conspirators.

## **5. Conclusion and Results**

The government officials use political rhetoric to advocate the case of alleged corruption of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Pakistani Prime Minister should have resigned like the Prime Ministers of Ice Land and Ukraine, but it is the lust of power and authority that enforces him not to resign. The conclusion of the study is summed up as under;

The representatives of the Government always try to convince the people on the political stance of the Government whatsoever. Their speeches, press conferences, and media talk all reveal as if their leader is the most innocent person in the world and their opponents are trying to defame him for their own political motifs. They try to legitimize corruption through the way the conduct their media discourses. Van Dijk’s Ideological Square helps us understand the mindset of the Government officials who are not more than the mouthpiece of the Prime Minister whom they represent. The four principles of his Ideological Square show that the altruism shown by the Government is nothing but a fake show. Politics is also the name of mind games. Political leaders emphasize positive things about them to highlight their achievements. They claim themselves to be the altruist and the true defender and advocates of the interests

of the common people. However, eventually, it is not the interest of the common public that inspires them on action but their own political interest of winning the sympathies of the people that can only be achieved through the propaganda and altruism. Negative aspects of the political opponents are emphasized to show the people that they have not only been corrupt, but they have also been failed to win the confidence of the people in serving them. They have also exploited the moral and political affiliation of the people who have elected them and sent them to the assemblies for their representation. Political leaders de-emphasize negative things about them as they have never committed any wrong. They also claim it to be the vain tricks of their political opponents to defame and degrade them in the eyes of the people. It is very rare that the people in Government discuss and appreciate the efforts and achievements of their opponents. Who would like to lose his importance in the eyes of the people whom he represents? The "Social Pressure" compels the politicians to assert a counter-argument that can help them assert their dominance over their opponents and win the applause of the common people. Politicians always try to control the minds of the people and influence their thinking on specific political concerns through their political discourses. Belligerence, counter-narrative, political rhetoric and altruistic political stance are some of the political gadgets through which government officials try to prove the innocence of the Prime Minister over PANAMA LEAKS Scandal.

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