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TEXTUAL POETICS AND FIGURATIVE NARRATIVE: A CRITICAL STUDY OF PAKISTANI DIPLOMATIC CYPHER

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ABSTRACT

Diplomatic Cypher is loaded with such language, which is institutional and of soft tone. Most are directive or persuasive. Recently, a Diplomatic Cypher was sent to the foreign office of Pakistan by the Pakistani Foreign Ambassador in the USA, Mr. Asad Majeed Khan, which consisted of the discussion held between the USA representative and the Pakistani Ambassador. It is claimed that after the Cypher, Pakistani Prime Minister of the time, Mr. Imran Khan, was removed from its ministry, and a new wave of narrative started building in Pakistan and outside Pakistan. The present study is conducted to understand the language narrative strategy as the textual poetics and figurative inlaid in the Cypher. The study has adopted Gerard Genette's (1970) theory of language analysis, which is based on Tense (Order, Duration, and Frequency), Mood (Focalization and Distance, Dealing with Diegesis Mimesis). The study also analyzed the figures of speech by the researcher's inferring knowledge. The study finds that the text (speech) of Donald Lu is full of aggression and directive, while the text of Asad Majeed Khan is persuasive and focalized. There is internal focalization at the early part of the Cypher in which are internal discussion, while external focalization is there in which the behavior, character, actions, and information of Imran Khan are discussed, which are presented as unacceptable by the USA. These are restricted information, while the stretches of the diplomatic struggle for dominance are about other aspects of international affairs. The language of Donald Lu mainly consists of paradox in which high concerns are shown about internal matters of Pakistan, while irony is also widely used. The language of Asad Majeed Khan is persuasive; most minor irony is used while clear statements are there on behalf of Pakistani foreign policy.

Keywords: Textual Poetics, Figurative Language, Pakistani Diplomatic Cypher

Introduction

Pakistan faced a number of political vitality during the regime of Imran Khan, which came into power in 2018, due to the reforms, policies, challenges, and ambitions that resulted in the shape of regime change. Imran Khan was elected in 2018 with the

economic reforms and the anti-corruption narratives. Khan's government has to face a number of challenges in the shape of financial instability, inflation and burgeoning opposition coalitions. The discussion about the potential of the regime change occurred in the diplomatic channels (Khaliq, 2022). It was April 10, 2022, when the regime of Imran Khan was changed, and Imran Khan blamed the USA intervention in the regime change operation in Pakistan for receiving the diplomatic Cypher consisting of sensitive language. The language inlaid in the Cypher was coded based on the intentions of the strategic decisions (Bukhari, et al., 2024). In Pakistan, the diplomatic Cypher was considered a tool of regime change and presented the US narrative of the new leadership in Pakistan (Ashraf et al., 2023).

The domestic political narrative of Pakistan has been influenced by the foreign government and international organizations through intervention in Pakistani political stances (Khaliq, 2022). This has reflected the discussion of USA-based standards and the global commitments that require the fall short of Imran Khan's regime in Pakistan.

Statement of the Problem

Though the diplomatic Cypher is loaded with a soft and institutional narrative, at times, the language styles are quite different and diverse when there are stretches of power between two nations. An independent state representative has a different textual style, while an ally state's representative has a different language style. The diplomats present stretches of directions and follow through figurative language.

Research Objectives

- To investigate the textual poetics and figurative language machinery used in Pakistan diplomatic Cypher.
- To highlight the meanings of text and figurative language presented in Pakistani diplomatic Cypher

Research Questions

1. What type of text is used in the Pakistani diplomatic Cypher?
2. Which is the figurative machinery used in Pakistani diplomatic Cypher?
3. What are the meanings of the textual poetics and figurative language inlaid in Pakistani diplomatic Cypher?

Significance of the Study

The present study helps to understand the nature of narrative inlaid in the language of the diplomatic Cypher. It also helps to understand the figurative machinery used, including the tense and mood of the characters. The study helps to understand the stretch of direction and persuasiveness between two nations with independent and dependent foreign policies.

Literature Review

The use of metaphors and the symbolism is also much evident in the language of cyphers. This strategy is used for obscuring the meanings to maintain the connection of shared historical or geopolitical events. The covert way of message conveying is providing through this strategy which make difficult to unintended the recipients for interpretation. The metaphors employed in the diplomatic cypher in the shape of

codes, are intended to provide the signals in the ambiguous and comprehensible way based on the knowledge of the recipient (Thibodeau, et al., 2019).

The diplomatic cyphers are not cultural free yet these are influenced by the language strategies being used for cultural practices. The messages in the cyphers, are culturally coded which are used by the diplomats through usage of particular terms, phrases and reflection of historical tier or shared understanding. The culturally loaded language is the strategy which is used for trust building, or reinforcing the allied countries to tie them with strong cultural connections. Cryptographic diplomacy is not just to secure the information yet it is used to ensure the cultural understanding and resonance (Masood et al., 2024).

There is power imbalance in the diplomatic cypher being presented through the lexical choices. The tone, term, registers, and language strategies present the dereference or the superiority even in the cryptographic context too. The powerful notion of the language choices, presents the dominance. The smaller states may apply the more neutral and deferential language by avoiding the confrontation (Jahangir & Amir, 2024).

The role of pragmatics cannot be neglected in the diplomatic cyphers. The choices of the words are encoding the messages by avoiding the misunderstanding by constructing the language as highly sensitive. The diplomatic cyphers are presented according the recipients' county perceptions and the linguistic choices in the cypher ensure the clear and secure the intended meaning pragmatically (Smith, 2024).

There is cryptographic method on which the diplomatic language relies for securing of the sensitive messages and directions. The used language strategies are pivotal which ensure the clarity of the secrecy. Not only the messages are encoding in the cypher yet the linguistic nuancing is implied for true meanings disguising. Such strategy is used at the time of conflict or at the time of delicate negotiation. The purpose behind such language strategy is to escalate or desolate the tensions between two nations. The linguistic choices are carefully designed in the cyphers to project the diplomatic strength and dynamics of diplomacy (Aljarelah, 2024).

Simeonov (2017) mentioned that the diplomatic cyphers are based on the classical and rhetorical principles. These rhetorical strategies are the important aspect of diplomatic cypher communications. Encoded of the open messages are widely influenced by the recipient's actions and these are loaded with the rhetorical illustrations. The use of rhetorical devices in the diplomatic cyphers lead towards the goal of persuasion without comprising the message security.

The language used in the cypher not only manipulate the situation yet it also let towards the misleading, obscuring, or subtle the alter perception of the recipients. The diplomatic crises are addressed in the diplomatic cypher in the relevant way by using the misdirection to avail the time and to avoid the conflict. The diplomatic cypher involves the layers of meanings, to control or flow the information about the particular event or the subject (Fatima et al., 2024).

Research Methodology

Present study is qualitative which is based on the textual analysis of Pakistani diplomatic Cypher. Qualitative study presents the textual analysis in descriptive way (Gay et al., 2012). The study has adopted the Cypher as the sample of the study. Theory of Gerard Genette, (1970) 's language analysis is adopted for textual analysis.

Gerard Genette, (1970) 's theory of language analysis is consisted of the major aspects as Tense and Mood. Textual poetics describes the use of figurative language in the text. Gerard Genette (1970) presented the three dimensions of narrative analysis. Tense (Order, Duration, and Frequency), Mood (Focalization and Distance, Dealing with Diegesis Mimesis).

(Gerard Genette, 1970) (Tense (Order, Duration, and Frequency), Mood (Focalization and Distance, Dealing with Diegesis Mimesis)

The researcher explores the figurative language by inferring and observing the text after lying its category of manipulation.

Data Analysis

4.1 Textual Poetics

Textual poetics describes the use of figurative language in the text. Gerard Genette (1970) presented the three dimensions of narrative analysis. Tense (Order, Duration, and Frequency), Mood (Focalization and Distance, Dealing with Diegesis Mimesis).

In the **tense** dimensions, the order of actions is as "held of meeting, "then Donald Lu showed concerns about the Pakistani stance that Pakistan would not take the aggression of neutrality and it is unacceptable. The aggression and policy are dependent on the running political situation (which was in the shape of no-confidence motions in Pakistan". After that the justification of Asad Majeed was started and called this perception as incorrect. It was assured that diplomatic aspects are not told in public in Pakistan. The duration of the story is not confined while the frequency is also one time of happenings.

In **Mood**, the focalization is the sub technique through which the information is restricted. Here in the story "Cypher", the information is restricted as the Cypher is known as the diplomatic pass and secret serving is confidential and is not publicly told. The narrative is focalized as the information is restricted internally and externally. There are three types of focalization so these are loaded in the story. The early first is the internal focalization and it can be observed that the Cypher is diplomatically confidential and is protected in thoughts and motivations. These thoughts are conversational loaded expressions through specific words. These are officially confidential but it was leaked on the Intercept website. The external focalization is the second type of focalization which restricts the character's actions, behavior and the setting. The character's behaviour is restricted in the Cypher as main Character is Imran Khan who is told to act upon the external focalization and would not give out the information. On the other hand, behaviour is the intentions of the US officials and Imran Khan is in concern which is also officially confidential but later it was exposed and told to the public. The setting of the story could not be fixed and all the actions were exposed after regime change in Pakistan and the story (Cypher) lost its external focalization as well. The third segment is the zero focalization and the character is not

restricted about confidential information. Here the official aspects restrict to the public the information but both characters as USA and Imran Khan exposed the information before the public. The intentions behind this actions of the USA are to show its supremacy while the intentions of Imran Khan are to expose US diplomacy of interventions in other's official and government aspects.

The duration of the **action** in the story (Cypher) can be seen repeatedly as the action of "violation of US policy" is repeatedly discussed and the concerns of the US are shown as of high level.

Diegesis is the narration aspect of the story in the mimesis (representational way). The term is wide in range and is described in multiple meanings. Narrator is Asad Majeed Khan who is intended to describe all the aspects of the story in a concerning and encoding way. The narrator is seen here as the extradiegetic way and is not intended to present the story in the fictional way either than as the realistic way.

Mimesis can be of imitation, nonsenseness similarity, receptivity, representation, mimicry, the actor of expression, act of resembling and the presentation of self. Here in the story the act of expression is presented where the narrator is discussing as well as presenting himself for favour of the its nation through selection of particular discourse.

4.2 Figures of Speech

4.2.1 Figures of Speech in Donald Lu Text and Its meanings

Paradox

"People here and in Europe are quite concerned about why Pakistan is taking such an aggressively neutral position (on Ukraine),

Meanings: People in Europe and the West are worrying about the Pakistani stance and Pakistan would not take a neutral stance. The statement is contradictory as the policy of Pakistan is opposite to Europe but is true itself.

"I think if the no-confidence vote against the Prime Minister succeeds, all will be forgiven in Washington because the Russia visit is being looked at as a decision by the Prime Minister.

Meanings: The stamen is a threat to the opponent listener and is clearly mentioned that things are not true but reality is that Prime Minister Imran Khan is not in the camp of the West.

"Those visits were specifically for seeking resolution of the Ukraine standoff while the Prime Minister's visit was for bilateral economic reasons."

Meanings: The visits of Europeans are true but the visits of Pakistani PM Imran Khan are not true because that is for gaining support of Russia rather than economic reasons.

"There were still ongoing discussions in Washington on whether the U.S. should attend the Extended Troika meeting or the upcoming Antalya meeting on Afghanistan with Russian representatives in attendance, as the U.S."

Meanings: Though the meeting was not held, which is true but contradicted the fact that the US wants to blame Imran Khan that the meeting was tried to be held in China with the Russian president.

"The U.S. lawmakers' strong feelings about India's abstentions in the UNSC and UNGA came out clearly during the hearing."

Meanings: US understands the neutral stance of India but cannot take as serious a stance against India as is taken for Pakistan.

"Otherwise, we will have to confront this issue head on and decide how to manage it."

Meanings: The truth is that the decision is made but contradicted is that the no-confidence motion is awaited.

Synecdoche

"If such a position is even possible. It does not seem like such a neutral stand to us."

Meanings: Neutral stance of Pakistan is not acceptable for S and it is a big issue for US.

Irony

"Tied to the current political dramas in Islamabad that he (Prime Minister) needs and is trying to show a public face."

Meanings: The US wants to see regime change in Pakistan.

"Those visits were specifically for seeking resolution of the Ukraine standoff while the Prime Minister's visit was for bilateral economic reasons."

Meanings: US wants to make unequal visits as Pakistan cannot be compared with European countries.

"I think we will actually see a change in India's policy once all Indian students are out of Ukraine."

Meanings: US wants to see change in Indian policy but unable to enforce them as is forced by Pakistan.

"I would argue that it has already created a dent in the relationship from our perspective. Let us wait for a few days to see whether the political situation changes, which would mean that we would not have a big disagreement about this issue and the dent would go away very quickly."

Meanings: Relationships between US and Pakistan can only be maintained if regime change occurs as there is already a dent in the relationship.

Hyperbole

"Tied to the current political dramas in Islamabad that he (Prime Minister) needs and is trying to show a public face."

Meanings: Policy of Imran Khan is shown as the narrative of the whole public in Pakistan.

"I think if the no-confidence vote against the Prime Minister succeeds, all will be forgiven in Washington because the Russia visit is being looked at as a decision by the Prime Minister."

Meanings: The narrator is saying about the success of the motions neither the consequences could be worse.

Epigram

"He categorically replied in the negative and said that it was due to the Prime Minister's visit to Moscow."

Meanings: Dent's relationship is by the actions of Imran Khan as he has no intentions towards the US rather than Russia.

Apostrophe

"It seemed that the Prime Minister's visit to Moscow was planned during the Beijing Olympics and there was an attempt by the Prime Minister to meet Putin which was not successful and then this idea was hatched that he would go to Moscow."

Meanings: There is no existence of such a plan but perception is made as China and Russia are rivals to the US.

4.2.2 Figures of Speech in Asad Majeed Text and Its meanings

Paradox

"This was not a correct reading of the situation as Pakistan's position on Ukraine was a result of intense interagency consultations."

Meanings: The narrator is intended to contradict the existing situation.

"The Prime Minister's visit, I stressed, was purely in the bilateral context and should not be seen either as a condonation or endorsement of Russia's action against Ukraine. "

Meanings: The narrator is contradicting the narrative of Westerns and clearly calls the truth decision of PM Imran Khan.

"Our priority was to have peace and stability in Afghanistan, for which it was imperative to have cooperation and coordination with all major powers, including Russia."

Meanings: The narrator is a conductor to its listener but presenting the entire policy of the country.

"We were surprised that if our position on the Ukraine crisis was so important for the U.S., why the U.S. had not engaged with us at the top leadership level prior to the Moscow visit and even when the UN was scheduled to vote."

Meanings: The truth is conveyed to the opponent listener but the reality is presented in a way that the narrator is contradicting and opposing the discourse itself.

Irony

"We did not want the Ukraine crisis to divert focus away from Afghanistan."

Meanings: Narrator wants to share that the Afghanistan issue is more important than Ukraine.

"Countries should not be made to choose sides in a complex situation like the Ukraine crisis and stressed the need for having active bilateral communications at the political leadership level."

Meanings: The countries would be given their choice of vote in the UN not by force.

Euphemism

"Any political leader, whether in Pakistan or the U.S., would be constrained to give a public reply in such a situation."

Meanings: If someone is forced to get away its throne then the leader has the right to convey the situation to its natives; anyone can do it.

"There was also a feeling that while the U.S. expected Pakistan's support on all issues that were important to the U.S., it did not reciprocate and we do not see much U.S. support on issues of concern for Pakistan, particularly on Kashmir. "

Meanings: Kashmir issues are the utmost reality and cannot be neglected after the wall of US intentions.

"Pakistan valued continued high-level engagement and for this reason the Foreign Minister sought to speak with Secretary Blinken to personally explain Pakistan's position and perspective on the Ukraine crisis. The call has not materialized yet."

Meanings: Pakistan stance on different issues is clear and believes in bilateral discussion rather than attacks and diplomatic propagation.

Epigram

"I said that over the past year, we had been consistently sensing reluctance on the part of the U.S. leadership to engage with our leadership."

Meanings: The statement is tricky and clear, making the opponent understand that Pakistanis are ignored by the US and its leadership is not engaged in global political domains.

Anesthesia

"It was extremely important to have functioning channels of communication at the highest level to remove such perception."

Meanings: Continuity of discussion channels are necessary rather so that the perception would be removed and there had been many wrong perceptions and beliefs about each other in global political domains.

Conclusion

It is grounded in the linguistics theory and the structuralist theory, which probably presents the ad surface structures. The linguistics and narrative strategies are corresponded by deep and surface structures to search such techniques in which coherence and unity are maintained in the narrative structures. These methods can be more inclined to the oral discourse than the written, so interest is produced in the talking and telling ways to examine the process using the talking communication functions). The discussion in the Cypher is based on the stretch of the narrative of own nation's foreign policies between Pakistani Ambassador Asad Majeed Khan and the USA representative Donald Lu. There are stretches of textual and figural practices in the discussion.

Findings

- The text of Donal Lu is full of aggression and presents the policies Pakistan should be dependent on the USA.
- The language of Asad Majeed is assuring and persuasive.
- The Cypher was a set of officially restricted information, yet it was published.
- The early part of the Cypher is internally focalized in which there is internal discussion. Still, in the second part, there is external focalizing in which the behavior, characters, information, and actions are restricted. There is also zero focalization in the last part which presents that the information is not restricted.
- The setting of the story is not defined with the background as there is scattered information inlaid in the Cypher.
- The narrator of the Cypher is Asad Majeed Khan, and he presents the information as these rather than exaggeration.

- The story is full of acts of expression in which the particular discourse related to foreign policy is discussed.
- The speech (text) of Donald Lu is widely full of paradoxes in which the worry is shown by the USA and Europeans about the extreme neutrality of Imran Khan as he does not favor the Western policy on the Russia-Ukraine war.
- Internal matters of Pakistan are highly discussed as these would be according to the Western perspectives. There is also a threatening tone and behavior in the text of Donald Lu.
- Some of the text of Donald Lu is of synecdoche, irony, hyperbole, epigram, and apostrophe. These figures of speech are practiced to point out the Pakistani and international situation.
- The text of Asad Majeed Khan is directive and lies in the category of paradox, irony, euphemism, epigraph, and anesthesia. The text is least ironical which presents the clear intentions of Asad Majeed Khan.

Recommendations

- Figurative language and textual poetics will be analyzed using Gerard Genette's (1970) theory of language analysis as a research model.
- Applying Gerard Genette's (1970) theory of language analysis, one can understand the text as it is directive, influential, persuasive, or recommended.

Gap for Further Research

Research can be conducted on culture analysis, cultural text analysis, and cultural code analysis. It can also be performed in the same field as language and ideology and language power perspectives. Research can also be conducted on the exact text under resistance discourse manipulation and understanding.

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