



# Framing of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: Evaluating The Treatment of Facebook Posts of Dawn And China Daily From 2015-2019

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## Abstract

*China – Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is significant economic cooperation between China and Pakistan that will connect China and resources rich Central Asian countries and Afghanistan with Arabian Sea through Gwadar. Present study examines that how Pakistan's newspaper Dawn and China's newspaper China Daily framing CPEC in their Facebook posts during 2015 to 2019. For this purpose, the content analysis is performed on the posts appeared on Facebook pages of Dawn and China Daily with key word search CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor). Accumulative 184 news related to CPEC appeared on the Facebook pages of above said newspapers within the time frame of 2015-2019. The broader aspects, categories are formed; as development, economy, political, social, strategic and other, examined the treatment on their frequency, positivity, negativity and neutral frames. The findings of the study reveals that there is significant difference between the Dawn and China Daily on the coverage of CPEC. The Dawn gave significance to the aspects of development, economy, strategic and marginal significance is given to political, social and other issues in their posts while significant post are positive whereas negative posts are also reflecting in results. China Daily has given significance to the issues related to development, economy and strategic whereas political and social issues are not appeared in any post whereas only neutral frames appeared on all posts of China Daily. The Dawn and China Daily reflect not much significance to the CPEC during year 2015 and 2016 whereas in year 2017 to 2019 the significant posts appeared related to CPEC on Facebook pages. Findings also reveal that Pakistani media outlet give significance to CPEC from aspects and likely to consider it a momentous in future.*

**Key Words:** China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Facebook pages, Framing, Dawn, China Daily

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## 1) INTRODUCTION

China Pakistan Economic Corridor is not only important for Pakistan, but for China as well, as connectivity at regional level is indispensable for it as an upcoming world power in the future. CPEC plan is a deliberate attempt to get cooperation in various fields that include: trade, energy, defense, education, science and technology. Sino-Pak relations are started from 1960's with numerous trade and free trade agreements. This already strong friendship ties are going to be more strengthened by project CPEC. This project will boost socio-economic ties and will improve the bargaining position of Pakistan in the region.

The Sino-Pak Economic Corridor is a main plan of "Belt and Road Initiative" described in 2015. The significance of this project is manifold. There are many aspects i.e. economic, social, cultural, political, and geographical among many others. There are multiple reasons and many dimensions on which research on CPEC is carried out. The above mentioned reasons and potential impact of CPEC make us investigate the way media is treating this project, and in which news frames are being framed and disseminated. This entire project is famously known "one belt one road". Numerous Western countries and India call CPEC a strategic route, this encompasses Pakistan's trading and developmental requirements. Basic part of the plan and cooperation is yet to be shown. The term "cooperation in shadow" is used for referring the relations. President Xi Jinping of China presented fresh foreign policy "Constructive Engagement". To further enhance constructive engagement plan's specific target is to put on eco-engagement. He is enthusiastically following this plan though the silk route; comprise of road, rail and maritime network (Small, 2015; p. 211).

Afridi and Khalid (2016) argues that both the countries, Pakistan and China signed fifty one memorandums of understandings along with project CPEC in the month of April in 2015. Metro project and Orange Line project are also signed in year, May 2014. Pak-China, bilateral trade in different sectors will augment the economy of both countries. Sino-Pak trade will reach US \$16 billion in 2015 and further increase of US \$25 billion in 2017. This project connects China with Africa, Middle East and USA. Another significance of this mega project is to have natural resources explored in this region owing to China's technological advancement and at finalization of CPEC, business class and other stakeholders of China can also invest in neighboring Pakistan (Irshad and Xin, 2014). This project will not only impact the region but also will impact other stakeholders outside the region through its outreach. The sensitivity of the project is signifying the role of media. Media is having the potential of formulating public opinion, shaping public perception and framing of news. On the other hand, owing to rapid shift of public interest from traditional media to social media, many of the traditional newspapers are establishing their online networks to reach their global readers. Nowadays, using of Twitter accounts and Facebook pages to disseminate the news become significant in the competitive news world environment. Now almost every established newspaper has its own Twitter account and Facebook pages to spread the news really fast in the competition of other newspapers. The present article explores "how and in what ways CPEC is being portrayed by The Dawn and China Daily's Facebook pages."

For this purpose, content analysis of the posts related to CPEC appeared on the Facebook pages during the year 2015 to 2019 is selected for this study. The data is collected from newspapers official Facebook pages, the data is categorized in major and sub-categories with formulating an established coding sheet. The coding sheet is developed on the conceptually and operationally determined frame for ensuring the reliability of the instrument.

## **2) CPEC AN OVERVIEW**

China and Pak share a firm bonding and are a perfect citation of good relations in both civilizations. Sino-Pak enjoys a positive neighboring and a healthy relationship together. Pak-China joins nuclear, military and economic relations jointly (Ishaq et. al., 2017). To strengthen the socio-political tie with full energy, various events are scheduled and managed by each country, Sino-Pak year of fraternity is jubilated in 2011 on the sixtieth annual celebration of relationship (Javaid & Javaid, 2016). In recent era, the kind of connection between Pakistan and China have bolstered, China strengthen its relations via economical and democratic ways to empower bond. It also strengthens the China-Pak relations to give boost to Pakistan economically with the help of trade and business. Malik (2018) is of the view that the global venture of Chinese President Xi Jinping is deep rooted in its glorious past and ancient Silk Route. Pakistan is an emerging developing state; the China Pakistan Economic Corridor is a big chance to boost economy of Pakistan. Sino-Pak's Corridor (CPEC) is a basic portion of One Belt and Road. Ishaq et. al., (2017) predicts that a crucial part will be played by port of Gwadar in vision of 2025 for each country. People Republic of China, as the emerging global power and Pakistan as to be Asian Tiger. Port of Gwadar is precious source to boost investment from China in Pakistan as CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) project. Bilateral business is strengthening political, economic and military ties between both countries.

## **3) GEOGRAPHICAL DIMENSIONS OF CPEC**

On the finishing of this Highway, Russia's trade would probably go through via Gwadar, as Russia showed her willingness to join CPEC. A five hundred km road, tie up Gwadar port via Rabat, Chaghi, and Panjgur to Afghanistan's Herat and will connect countries in Central Asia (Hussain, 2017). Whole region of Central Asia will supply around (80%) of USA oil by 2050. Via TAPI, Turkmenistan is capable of exporting its gas to global market through Gwadar. Resources of Caspian region's oil is expected as 17-49 billion barrels and its reserves of gas are estimated around more than 200 trillion cubic feet.

This road would be faster and less costly than the existing one between South Asia and Suez, to Mediterranean, Atlantic and Baltic port of North Sea. Russia's exports majorly depends on of this track, but the newer one would cut size time by twenty days and cost per container will be between 400-500 dollars. Counted resources as of Caspian Sea is around 4 trillion US dollars. Three more sections which are due to CPEC's geography and closeness are the major competitors of port of Gwadar. This significant project is consists of highways, railways and fiber optic and that

will be linking Pakistan with China through Gilgit Baltistan and four provinces of Pakistan. This plan has two portions, one is Eastern and second is Western (Hussain, 2017).

#### **4) GWADAR PORT: THE POTENTIAL OF REGIONAL TRADE**

Wilson (2019) is citing Asian Development Bank report that Gwadar has an immense potential regarding economic cooperation. The port would have an enormous impact on regional connectivity of traditional ways of communications, Gwadar will connect other countries like Central Asian nations through Afghanistan. The Gwadar port's most vital potential is to support Central Asia's international trading, and, in the longer run, to be developed as transshipment port. Closeness to Central Asian countries, makes it the best viable trading hub for the rest of global community.

#### **5) IMPACT OF CPEC ON CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES**

Being placed in such proximity, Gwadar port is a vital opportunity for the countries in central Asia for exporting its world's largest oil and gas resources (Chawla, 2018). The port of Gwadar is a replacement for Central Asian states to warm waters via Afghanistan. It has the capacity to replace the port of Dubai, which is very vital center of economic activities. As it cut short the journey of Central Asian states by 500 km and this is why it would expand transit fee to a large extent.

Shahzad (2019) elaborates that various resources of Central Asia made Gwadar an important area. The stream of the resources will be done via Gwadar port. Turkmenistan's oil and gas will be pumped through TAP, to world markets through the port of Gwadar. The countries, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and Kyrgyzstan are much distanced from Pakistan, which is resulted in comparatively a less flow of trade via Gwadar. The other three countries, owing to their close proximity to Pakistan, are potential beneficiaries of the port of Gwadar. The whole estimated trade of entire region is around \$ 20 billion, and that includes \$12 million of export as well. Pakistan is the only feasible choice for Central Asian states and Gulf's largest oil and gas reserves. And, the importance is doubled, as if in case, the blocked of Persian Gulf, Gwadar will be the best replacement. This is the reason it is called access point all times.

#### **6) MOTIVES OF CPEC**

China is enthusiastically considering India a cooperative partner in its "Maritime Silk Road" an effort to tie China to Europe through India and Africa. India can play a vital role in China's plan of economic integration. China is expecting compatibility of future plans with India's goals related to its economy. China is not only investing in CPEC project but also it is intended in investing in "Silk road with the road of Central Asian maritime and that joins with South-East Asia and connected to South Asian economic corridor (Fazil, 2015). Bilateral deal about establishing brotherly ties between Gwadar (Pakistan) and Karamy (China), and Lahore with Chengdu is established (Hussain, 2017). China is keen to preserve stability in politics as

it is needed for bolstering bilateral relationship. China's motive is observed by the policy of no strings-attached aid, unwillingness to meddle in the issues deal internally, and deep consideration of geographical sovereignty. A thorough study of China's foreign policy and analysis of its national interests leads to the result that China is having a very brief interests or willingness to change the imbalances of power in Pakistan that are exacerbating by China Pakistan Economic Corridor (Hameed, 2018). Kamran and Siddiqui (2015) argue that Moody (Moody's investor services) has stated this economic plan as «credit positive» for the state of Pakistan. The agency acknowledged in 2015 that most of the benefits of the project will not be operational till 2017, but, it also mentioned that, at least few of the favors from the corridor will expectedly start being observed even before that.

## **7) ROLE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF PAKISTAN**

Pakistani economy will get bolstered by (4%) annually till 2025 and owing to it Pakistan will have more than \$400 million annually in term of transportation (Fingar, 2009). As being announced on 12 March 2017 by Pakistani broker consortium, Pakistan is to pay China \$90 billion within 30 years. And the average annual return of payment would be approximately \$3 billion after 2020. The idea of economic zones under CPEC was a bit questionable for many of representatives of Pakistani private organizations and these doubts are being originated by the fear that don't know in which direction will it go in the future. In the beginning, there were some reservation regarding pros and cons of CPEC but now everyone is the same page that owing to this project, Pak-China would have a joint future in the coming days. This assumption is getting more strength after the completion of some initial projects and as the Foreign Indirect Investment is getting increased (Suleri, 2018).

## **8) INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT**

CPEC would not only be beneficial for Pakistan in terms of developing infrastructure and enhancing trade easiness, it is also very crucial for China as It will get a substitute route for trading and even that is too economical and short distanced. The basic motive behind it, is to give China a passage from Xinjiang to the port of Gwadar (Malik, 2018). The total distance, from Pakistan's Gwadar to China's Kashgar is about 2700 km, and that network is comprises of highways, railways and roads. The motorway will also be an addition in the project which is specifically designed for CPEC, and connects Lahore to Karachi and covers an approximate distance of 1100 km. when the project is completed then this will be a huge contribution in the term of infrastructure for Pakistan (Malik, 2018).

## **9) SECURITY PARTNERSHIP**

The security condition of both countries is a matter of concern after 2001 and starting of war on terror, and to cope up with that problem by combine security strategy is the utmost priority of both states. CPEC is emerged as an opportunity for both to bolster the law and order situation in Pakistan. Over all and specifically in the Xinjiang province of China. These preemptive measures will be in the best interest of China and Pakistan and on a broader perspective, for the entire region.

The CPEC has the potential to join both powers for a naval based security partnership majorly to have combined exercises to cope up piracy in seas. The great power led game posited on the naval based drives made both countries to have a joint venture in the Indian Ocean. This strategic fraternity of both the countries will not only boost their capabilities but also will work as a defensive posture against the motives of Indian superiority in the deep water (Wolf, 2020). In upcoming days, the port of Gwadar has all the capabilities to be transformed into a base of navy (Beckley, 2012).

## **10)PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONTACT**

Apart from the other economic and geo-strategic benefits, CPEC is a chance to bolster the fraternity among the people of the countries and have, in result, a sweet relationship between the two neighbors. This is what Chinese top notch leadership believes, people of both countries are inevitable in advancing development and in the making of history. People of both countries, according to President Xijnping, are persistent in helping and cooperating with their true neighbors. Within the span of 5 year, to further strengthening the mutual ties, China is willing to offer 2000 opportunities for the people having been trained. Apart from this, around 1000 teacher are to be sent to Pakistan (Beckley, 2012).

For Pakistanis, China is probably the friendliest country among all the other countries as per the result shown by a Pew research survey to assess people view point. (84 %) people were responded a positive view regarding China, where as US got only (16 %) of a favorable opinion. And if the results are representing facts then Pakistan is the country who is positive about China the most (Chandra, 2016).

## **11) STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE**

The growing impact of China is being observed in the perspective of global order of west. The idea of noninterference and common gain is carried out by China as well as rest of the countries it deals with. Though the same stance had been opted by Pakistan but the loop holes and breach in the commitments can be observed clearly (Hameed, 2018). The involvement of military establishment of Pakistan in the matters ranges from economy to politics gave them the crucial place in the matters of the state. CPEC is giving them further chance to enhance their already expanded role as being a major stakeholder in the CPEC project and let have control everything in the process of execution. And this time they get support by the Chinese reservation regarding law and order situation of Pakistan and moreover, been involved in fight with Uighur at their home give a further rise to Chinese concerns. The “Security Measurements” is the slogan that is used to give them impunity from justifying poor condition of transparency and overarching censorship. And this is what makes entire CPEC project stained and afflicted by dictatorial executions. This is what make assume that if there would not have been any local or international deterrence, CPEC will further boost already overarched powers of military establishment (Hameed, 2018).



## 12) SOCIAL MEDIA AND NEWS INDUSTRY

The importance of media is manifold with the passage of time. Now, the reliance of people on traditional media is getting less and less. People are using social media for the fulfillment of their basic needs. They have started using it to entertain, to educate, to inform and get informed and to formulate their opinions. This shift in the trends, regarding consumption pattern of the people regarding media have made news channels to draw their attention toward social media. Now many news channels have adopted social media for the dissemination of their product known as news. Now, whether or not, these “Social Media Stunts” will save the newspapers is a question worth a million. (Ju et. al, 2013).

Social media has evidently been changing the traditional pattern of media practices. As argued by Mhamdi (2018), “news media is increasingly a forum for information and debate with a non-linear flow of information and open-sourced journalism.” Social networks are rich sources of people’s posts and comments regarding various topics which offer a good soil for research (Salloum et al, 2017). News organizations now collect the information/news, arrange it, edit it and then instead of publishing it in the traditional form, they publish it on their websites.

Salloum (2017) analyzes and classifies posts and comments of Arabic newspapers’ Facebook pages. A total number of 24 Arab Gulf newspapers’ Facebook pages were investigated where 62327 posts and 9372 comments in Arabic were studied and analyzed. Finding revealed that, in the Arab Gulf region, UAE is the country that most frequently shares Facebook posts, and among total posts, video posts are the most catchy post type on Arabic newspapers Facebook pages. Any news organization operating its social media variant can share a post about any news event. And, any person who is on that particular social networking site can have this piece of information that is shared. Moreover, anyone can also interact with that shared post. Same applies with the people who are befriend with him or are the followers on social media can not only see the nature of interaction but they can also share and re-share the original post. These sharing based interactions help the news story to get diffused on social media. This ability to interact also makes every sharer a gate-keeper as well who decide whether or not shares a post (Shoemaker et. al, 2009).

Now, after the dawn of social media, people are not really dependent on mass media to spread their idea or any piece of information, they can now do it just by sharing a post. If a shared post/news is really “news-worthy”, it will go viral and everyone will share that. Otherwise, it will be lost owing to the unending bombardment of news on social media platforms (Klinger et. al, 2015).

CPEC is the project that can affect the entire globe including Pakistan. This importance of CPEC has made the role of newspapers very crucial regarding the coverage of CPEC. The specific portrayal of CPEC by newspapers can formulate the public opinion either in the favor or against the project CPEC.

### **13) NEWS MEDIA AND POLICY MAKING**

Baum, M. (2003) argues that nexus between the US news media and foreign policy initiatives and found that media discourse was indexed to the political elites. It is viewed that media play due role in formulation of foreign policy of a country and journalists follow the dictates of national foreign policy, especially during wartimes or when national interest of the country are threatened.

The American mass media, which are considered more professional and liberal amongst the contemporary news mass media of the world, supported American government policy in Persian Gulf War without questioning Bush Administration's propaganda campaign against Saddam Hussain. They portrayed Saddam very negatively and did not investigate objectively the causes of the war and American invasion of Iraq. Generally it is believed that media are maneuvered by states for the achievement of foreign policy goals particularly during conflict and crisis times (Pavelka, 2014).

Now, as importance of CPEC and vital role of News and Social Media is highlighted, it is therefore pertinent to study the linkage of both with regard to impact of Media in shaping of policies and public opinion. It is observed in many case studies that media organizations have a control in how they want general public to perceive a particular matter. Media Framing is the best media theory that perfectly explains this monopoly of media. It points out that media can portray any news in such a frame that suits them the best to make people think about in a certain way. Through this function, media is able to formulate public opinion in the favor or against any cause, project, country and organization.

### **14) EFFECTS OF FRAMING**

Fiske (1991) explained that framing is regarded quite effective being heuristic and it provides some mental shortcut which cannot always get desired results. Fiske and Shelley believe that humans are cognitive misers, which indicates that the specific meaning they ought to choose, are to think about a thing as little as they can. Frames are helpful in providing people quick and easy ways to process any information. Henceforth, people are more inclined towards using the already mentioned mental filters, in this case a series of schema, in order to process and comprehend a message (Entman, 1993).

De Vreese (2005) argues that it is quite thrilling to note that framing affects its audiences in many startling ways. Other than holding back the information which enables people to judge events, it can also motivate people to take such decisions that might be riskier and they would otherwise. Researchers have concluded that that when any problem is articulated negatively, which implies a loss, people are tilted towards the riskiest option in order to solve that problem. On the contrary positively framed problems translate into safer decisions. However, an integrated approach in the application of framing can form for generic and issue based framing.



In this study we will try to investigate how and in what manner the national media of Pakistan and China is portraying the project CPEC, moreover, we will also try to find out what particular aspects of CPEC are being highlighted by the newspapers Facebook pages.

## **15) METHODOLOGY**

This study is design to assess the Framing of Posts related to CPEC Newspapers' Facebook pages. Keeping in view the nature and requirements of the study, Content Analysis technique is implemented on this study. In this research, content analysis of posts related to CPEC of Chinese and Pakistani Newspapers' Facebook pages is performed. The population of this study consists of all the posts related to CPEC posted on Newspapers' Facebook Pages. For accurate results and more authenticity, it is envisaged that entire universe is to be taken, and researchers performed analysis on every post appeared related to CPEC on Pakistani (Dawn) and Chinese Newspaper (China Daily) Facebook's pages. For this purpose, following aspects, categories and sub-categories are formed, on the basis of their frequency, positivity and negativity in the broader classes as; development, economy, political, social, strategic and other. The news appear with the word "CPEC" on Facebook pages of China Daily and Dawn are part of this study and arranged and divided as per above mentioned categories through well-structured coding sheet. All the posts are further sub-divided in terms of their "Positive", "Negative" and "Neutral" inclination. To ensure the reliability, a pilot test is also performed on 28 posts related to CPEC and modified the instrument on required framing aspects. Framing theory is the foundation map for this study.

## **16) FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

Figure 1 reflects coverage of CPEC on Daily Dawn's Facebook pages. Table shows that there are total 176 post among those 83 are positive and 43 are negative and 50 Neutral. Table also categories that there are total 39 post on the aspect of "development" and among those 22 were positive, 04 were negative and 13 neutral. Whereas, on "Economy" there are 38 post, 15 positive, 10 negative and 13 neutral. On political aspect there are 19 post, 06 positive, 10 negative and 03 neutral. Social aspect of CPEC got coverage of 14 post, 6 positive, 04 negative and 04 neutral. On strategic aspect, among 44 posts, 30 were positive, 07 negative and 07 neutral. And on other category, there are 22 post, 04 positive, 08 negative and 10 neutral

Figure shows, Dawn's Facebook page gave highest coverage to the Strategic aspects of the CPEC with 44 posts. And least coverage was given to the social aspects of the CPEC with only 14 posts. On political aspect there are 19 post, 06 positive, 10 negative and 03 neutral. Social aspect of CPEC got coverage of 14 post, 6 positive, 04 negative and 04 neutral. On strategic aspect, among 44 posts, 30 were positive, 07 negative and 07 neutral. And on other category, there are 22 post, 04 positive, 08 negative and 10 neutral.

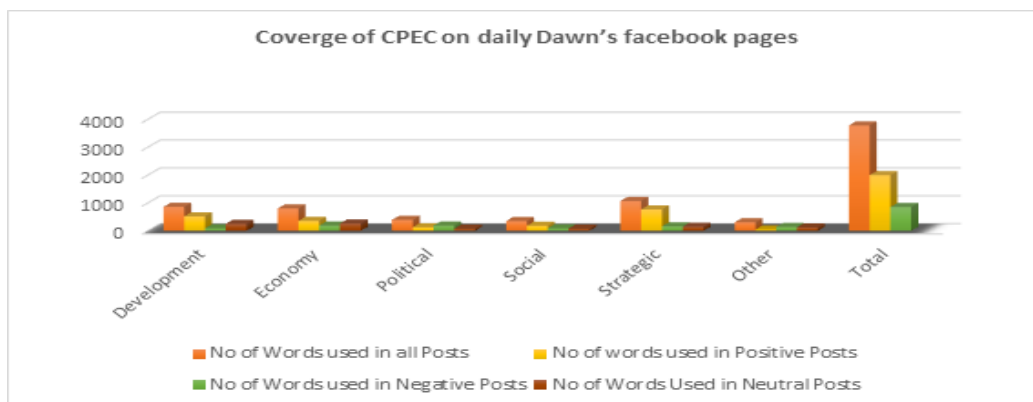


Fig. 1 Coverage of CPEC by on Daily Dawn's Facebook page

Fig1 depicts, Dawn's Facebook page gave highest coverage to the Strategic aspects of the CPEC with 44 posts. And least coverage was given to the social aspects of the CPEC with only 14 posts.

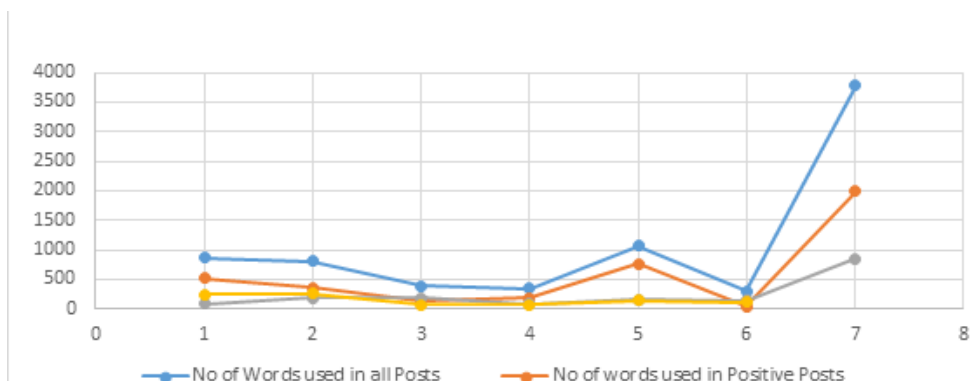


Figure 2 Coverage of daily Dawn Facebook on CPEC (Words)

Figure 2 shows coverage of CPEC on Daily Dawn's Facebook pages. Table shows that there are total 3782 words used in overall posts of Dawn on CPEC. Words used in positive posts were 1996, 852 in negative and 939 Neutral. Table also categories that there are total 858 words on the aspect of "development" and among those 519 were positive, 88 were negative and 251 neutral. Whereas, on "Economy" there were 803 words, 356 positive, 189 negative and 263 neutral. On political aspect there were 392 words, 127 positive, 187 negative and 78 neutral. Social aspect of CPEC got coverage of 351 words, 182 positive, 91 negative and 78 neutral. On strategic aspect, among 1072 words, 767 were positive, 158 negative and 147 neutral. And on other category, there were 306 post, 45 positive, 139 negative and 122 neutral. Table shows, Dawn's Facebook page gave highest coverage (in term of words) to the Strategic aspects of the CPEC with 1072 words. And least coverage was given to the "Other" aspects of the CPEC with only 306 words.

Figure 3 Coverage of CPEC on daily Dawn Facebook page (Year-wise)

Figure 3 reflects year wise coverage of CPEC on daily Dawn Facebook page. It is presented that the maximum coverage to the CPEC was given in 2017 with 75 posts and the minimum coverage was given to CPEC in 2019 with only 11 posts.

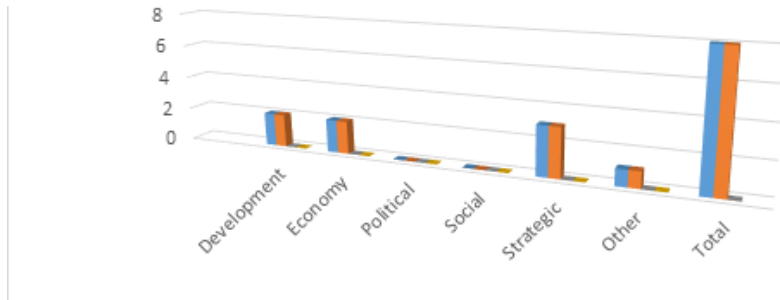


Fig. 4 Coverage of China Daily Facebook coverage on CPEC (Posts)

Fig. 4 shows coverage of CPEC on China Daily's Facebook pages. Table shows that there are total 08 post and all posts are positive and there is no negative and neutral post. Table also categories that there are total 02 post on the aspect of "Development" and both are positive. On "Economy" there are 02 posts, and these are positive. There is no post on Political and Social aspect and only one post on "Other" aspect.

On strategic aspect there are 03 posts, and all are positive. Figure reflects, China Daily's Facebook page gave highest coverage to the Strategic aspects of the CPEC with 03 posts on that. And least coverage was given to the Political and Social aspects of the CPEC as there is no post on these aspects.

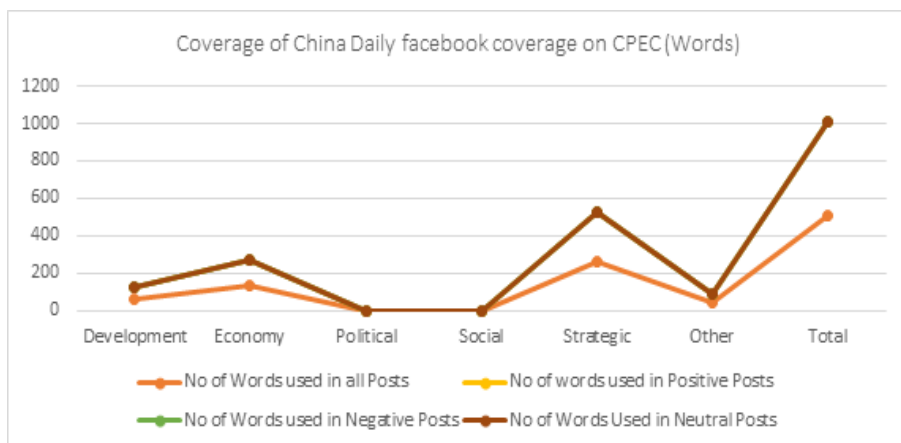


Figure 5 Coverage of China Daily Facebook coverage on CPEC (Words)

Figure 5 shows coverage of CPEC on China Daily's Facebook page. Figure shows that there are total 503 words used in overall posts of China Daily on CPEC. Words used in positive posts were 503, no negative and Neutral word. Table also categories there are total 63 words on the aspect of "development".

Posts on "Economy" aspect used 137 words. No post on Political and Social aspects and 42 words used in post fall in "other" category. On strategic aspect, Posts used 261 words, and all positive.

Table shows, China Daily's Facebook page gave highest coverage (in term of words) to the Strategic aspects of the CPEC with 261 words. And least coverage was given to the "Political" and "Social" aspects of the CPEC with no post on said aspects.

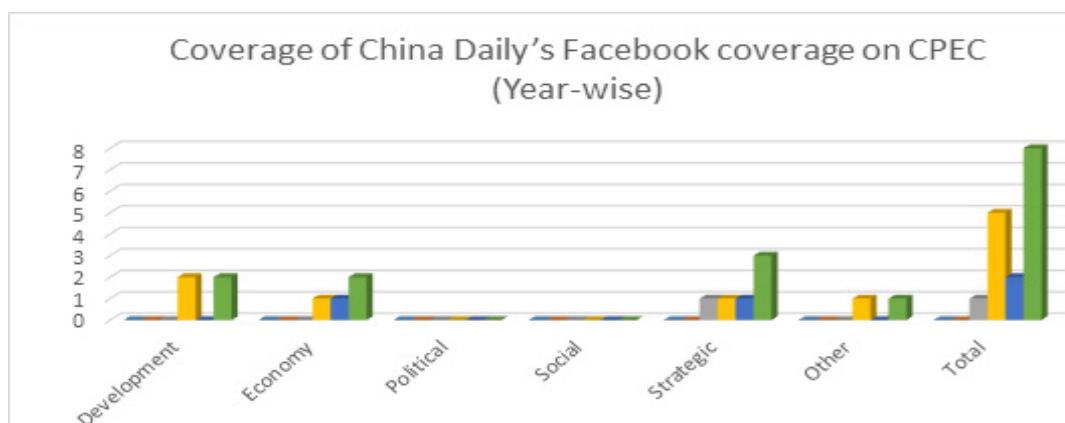


Figure 6 Coverage of China Daily's Facebook coverage on CPEC (Year-wise)

Table 1. Chi Square Statistics of coverage of various issues on Dawn and China Daily

	Development	Economy	Political	Social	Strategic	Row Total
Dawn	858	803	392	351	1072	3476
(O-E)	813.16	829.93	346.10	309.90	1176.91	
(O-E) <sup>2</sup> /E	2.47	0.87	6.09	5.45	9.35	

C h i n a Daily	63	137	0	0	261	461
(O-E)	107.84	110.07	45.90	41.10	156.09	
(O-E) <sup>2</sup> /E	18.65	6.59	45.90	41.10	70.52	
<i>Column Totals</i>	921	940	392	351	1333	3937

$\chi^2$  is 206.992. The p-value is  $< 0.00001$ . The result is significant at  $p < .05$ .

Table 1 depicts that a chi-square test of independence is performed to examine the relation between newspapers and the categories of coverage given on Dawn and China Daily. The relation between these variables are significant,  $\chi^2 (1, N = 4) = 206.992$ ,  $p = .00001$ . The daily Dawn is more likely to give significant coverage to CPEC on various aspects than China daily to be able to cover CPEC on their Facebook pages.

In this research the content analysis of 184 posts is conducted. From these posts, 176 posts belong to daily Dawn, 08 posts from China Daily. One of the theses of this research “It is more likely that Pakistani Newspaper’s Facebook pages are giving more coverage to CPEC than that of Chinese” Is supported by the results as it compares the coverage of CPEC on newspapers’ Facebook pages. Significant coverage is given by daily Dawn with 176 posts on the topic. Comparatively meager coverage is ascribed to China Daily with just 08 posts.

However, significant coverage to CPEC (In term of words) is given by daily Dawn with 3787 words and major coverage given to strategic aspects with 1072 words. Meager coverage observed in term of words is given by China Daily with just 503 words and 261 words out of 503 are attributed to strategic aspects of the CPEC and its maximum from China Daily.

It was also found out in this research that which of the newspapers gave maximum positive coverage and on what aspect. Significant positive coverage is from Daily Dawn with 83 posts and maximum posts (30) are on strategic aspects. China Daily is with 08 positive posts and 03 posts on strategic aspect of CPEC. Comparing the negative coverage, significant negative coverage is from Daily Dawn with 43 posts and maximum posts (10) are same for both Economy and Political aspects of the CPEC. China Daily didn’t post any negative news on CPEC because in China media respond to Chinese Communist Party’s policies and Belt and Road Initiative is the policy initiative by the Party for global connectivity and strategic posture. Results depict that significant percentage of favorable coverage is given by both China Daily China with (100 %) positive coverage and no post against the CPEC

project. Whereas, Dawn gave significant percentage of favorable coverage with (47.15 %) favorable posts. These findings also help in supporting Shen (2013) in a way that Chinese media is propagating party stance as it is depicting by the researchers that “effectiveness of party propaganda in China is based on how strong one’s connection is with the country and what kind of media content one is having on the day to day basis.” On the other hand, least unfavorable coverage was given by China Daily China with no negative post on CPEC and Dawn with (24.43 %) is second highest among other newspapers’ Facebook pages. Above mentioned findings supported one of the hypotheses of this research “It is more likely that CPEC is being portrayed positively on newspapers’ Facebook pages.”

Table 5.21 rejected one of the research hypotheses “It is more likely that economical aspect of CPEC is more highlighted than other aspects” as compared various aspects of CPEC covered by newspapers’ Facebook pages. It reveals that highest covered aspect of CPEC is Strategic. And the aspect which got the least percentage of coverage is Social. In the comparison between Pakistani and Chinese newspapers’ Facebook pages, on the positive/favorable coverage of CPEC, it is shown that Chinese Media is matchless when it comes to favorable coverage of the CPEC. The finding also inline with Feng (2012) as that research also reflects that the dominant tendency of Chinese media in supporting their government on issues under consideration. Results are same when we see it from another angle “comparison between Pakistani and Chinese newspapers’ Facebook pages, on the negative/unfavorable coverage of CPEC. Whereas, there is no negative post from Chinese newspapers’ Facebook pages on project CPEC.

## 17) CONCLUSION

China- Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is significant project for both countries. The literature reveals that Pakistan consider it an economic stimulus that have strategic significance for its underdeveloped region Baluchistan. This corridor is part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Chinese viewed it a link of the World with its underdeveloped western region. However, studies finds CPEC an energy corridor that will connect several Central Asian countries with the Arabian and Persian seas and it will emerged as energy market of the World. This study primly focused that how CPEC is viewed by China and Pakistan and for this purpose current study examined the Facebook posts of Dawn and China Daily from 2015 to 2019. The content categorized in development, economy, and strategic, political, social and other aspects. The content viewed from the frames of positive, negative and neutral. The findings reveal that both newspapers’ Facebook post give significance to strategic, development and economy aspects whereas they are varied on political, social and other aspects. Dawn’s treatment to the posts prevail on the frames of positive, negative and neutral whereas China Daily only covers neutral frames in its posts.

The coverage of both papers on their Facebook posts varied from 2015 to 2019. However, in year 2018 and 2019 both papers gave significant coverage to CPEC. The Dawn gave significant coverage to CPEC and also raised concern that are cited in literature by the foreign media outlets on the issues of political, social and others whereas China Daily don not give significance to Social, political and other issues.



CPEC is having significance for Pakistan and media of Pakistan report it from various aspects and covers all possible aspect whereas CPEC is having a strategic significance for China and report it in view of their Foreign policy and frame it in the connection of BRI.

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