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REPRESENTATION OF BREXIT IN PAKISTANI MEDIA: A CORPUS-  
ASSISTED CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

*Azizullah Khan<sup>1</sup>, Zawar Hashmi<sup>2</sup>, Ejaz Mirza<sup>3</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>Lecturer NUML, Rawalpindi

<sup>2,3</sup>Assistant Professor, NUML, Islamabad

Email: [aziz.ullah@numl.edu.pk](mailto:aziz.ullah@numl.edu.pk), [zhshah@numl.edu.pk](mailto:zhshah@numl.edu.pk), [emirza@numl.edu.pk](mailto:emirza@numl.edu.pk)

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## ABSTRACT

The withdrawal of Britain from the European Union in the politico-historical referendum of June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 is a watershed event that has caught the attention of the media worldwide. The language used by Pakistani media to construct this politico-historical event is ideologically motivated. To-date, there is no evident study that has linguistically investigated Pakistani media coverage of Brexit. Therefore, this paper attempted to thoroughly examine Brexit in the Pakistani media and their vested interests. For this purpose, a corpus of 2m words was compiled from top three Pakistani English newspapers i.e. the Dawn, the News international, and the Express Tribune, in the time span of June 23<sup>th</sup>, 2016 till March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The corpus was analyzed via Ant Conc software opted tools such as keyword list, collocates and concordance consecutively. Galtung and Ruge's theory of news values and Stubbs' discourse prosodies were applied to interpret the obtained results. The analysis reveals that Pakistani English newspapers have uniformly represented the Brexit issue in negative ways. Moreover, Brexit is highlighted that has immense economical repercussions not only for the Britain & EU but also for the international world. Particularly, Pakistan is more highlighted as Brexit's affectee in terms of GSP-plus status package, remittances and exports.

## INTRODUCTION

The term Brexit is a portmanteau formation of Britain and exit emerged to refer to the official withdrawal of the UK from the EU. The term got its popularity and import in the background it attained as a politico-historical event. The struggle for Brexit started when the social, economical and political relation of Britain with the EU became more critical, although their relation has remained

in a fragile state since the very beginning. In the 1950s, subsequent to WW II, the six European countries namely West Germany, Belgium, Italy, France, the Netherlands and Luxemburg collectively signed a treaty on the ground to build stronger ties known as the treaty of Rome and formed the EEC (European Economic Community). They called the UK to become a member of the EEC but the call was declined. However, in 1960s these countries economically outperformed than the UK. Noticing such economic rise, the UK in 1973 became member of the EEC. A couple of years, the UK held the in/out referendum on its EEC membership and 67% Britons voted to stay remain in the EEC. Measuring such attitude of the UK in the EEC, in 1998, Stephen George called it “awkward partner in the EEC”.

In 1993, the EEC was replaced by EU and its purpose was broadened from Economic union to a stronger political union integrating 28 members enacted its own laws and reforms. The Schengen Visa was introduced in EU states but the UK remained detached and did not open its borders for other member states. Similarly, the UK also did not opt for adopting a single currency of the EU i.e. euro but wanted to keep the pound as their national currency (see Hobolt, 2016; Peers, 2016). In 2009, the EU endorsed Lisbon Treaty and adopted article 50 that states the official procedures for a member leaving the EU. At this time, a few EU countries including Greece, Italy and Portugal were bumped by economic hits and their people preferred the destination UK to migrate. This act of immigration from economically weak countries agitated UKIP (United Kingdom Independent Party) and other UK's nationals to instigate the departure of Britain from the EU. Hence, the UK's PM David Cameron under the pressure of UKIP and other MPs officially decided to held the in/out referendum on the membership of the EU. The referendum was declared on 23<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 that resulted in the leaving off the EU, statistically 51.9 % voted to exist and 48.1 % voted remained.

Media at national as well as transnational levels aired the results of the Brexit referendum that shocked many nations. However, at national level, Reuters institute (2016) highlighted British media position as biased on Brexit decision. Newspapers, for examples, Daily Express, Daily Star, Daily Mail, the Sun were reported as pro-exit while the Financial Times, Daily Mirror and the Guardian were reported as pro-remain. At transnational level, Bijsmans & Leruth (2017) reported Brexit as a dividing blow for the EU while investigating the media coverage of three European countries such as France, the Netherlands and Germany. Besides this, the African Commonwealth countries were also reported that feared by the Brexit results. According to Kohnert (2018), business tycoons and politicians across African Continent believe the UK as their committed supporter in many sectors such as education, health, aid etc, in the EU. Exiting of the UK is observed as a serious reduction in attention to the African Commonwealth countries. Indian's reaction to Brexit was observed positive. Desk (2019) as well as Seth (2019) reported Brexit was to open up more opportunities rather than challenges for India. Indian after Brexit would proceed to extend trade ties both with the EU and the UK. Moreover, India is optimistic to increase trade, investment and the flow of immigrants to UK in the post-Brexit era.

Brexit being a watershed event also caught the attention of the Pakistani media. As observed by Ashraf, 2016; and Khan, 2018 that Brexit is impactful for Pakistan in many ways. At the first place, as the UK leave the EU, Pakistan would bears the loss of GSP + status package which means Pakistan can export to the UK as much as it can without any tariffs. In 2014, this package was backed up in favor of Pakistan by Germany, UK and France. Brexit will threaten such package in a way that Pakistan will lose one of the voices for its attainment. Similarly, in the aftermath of Brexit, the exports ratio will also decline due to the loss of GSP + status package (Generalize System of Preferences) and Pakistani exports in the other EU countries will become less competitive that will result in the lowering of GDP. Moreover, the UK's step toward hard policy for the immigrants after Brexit will also cause a serious reduction in the remittances. According to the Pakistan Business Council report prepared by Amir & Ali (2018), Pakistani immigrants who reside in the UK dispatch remittances that add 20% to the GDP. Furthermore, Brexit is also highlighted that would have effects on Pakistan's economy, education, health, business and investment sectors. These are the reasons that developed the interest of Pakistani media in the Brexit event. However, media use language to represent an event in a particular way. Each country media do not represent the same event in the same way but they portray the event according to their vested interests. This is the intellectual phenomenon which motivates this study. Individual corpus from top three Pak-English newspapers was gathered. The corpus was titled as the Dawn, the News International and the Express Tribune. These corpora were abbreviated as the DC, the NIC and the ETC and used throughout this paper. The objects of the corpora were reports, editorials and columns printed about Brexit in period starting from 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016 till 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Three corpus tools i.e. keyword list, collocates and concordance were exploited via AntConc software and the extracted results were interpreted with Galtung & Ruge's theory of News Vales as mentioned by Badnarek & Capel in 2012 and Stubbs' discourse prosody. The study attempted to seek answers to the following research questions.

- 1) What keywords or lexical items have been used by Pakistani print media to construct the Brexit matter in a particular way?
- 2) What are the most frequent themes/topics about Brexit issue communicated through keywords in the Pakistani English newspapers?
- 3) In what ways does the keywords analysis in concordances reveal the vested interest of Pakistani media in constructing the Brexit issue?

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Over the last few years Brexit being a politico-historical event has been seen by researchers with different perspectives in different media. Although it is central to UK and the EU but its impactful nature has made it worldwide event. In this regard, it has been seen by the countries as per their vested interests. Owing to the impactful nature of Brexit, it has become arena at international level. Mostly studies on the concerned subject accounted Brexit as a watershed event that does not leave any countries free of political, economical and social implications. Such aspects of Brexit are underlined in the media representation that is done

by using ideologically loaded language (Fowler, 1991; Fairclough, 1989; Van Dijk, 1995). Representation of an event according to Fairclough (1989) is a very complex process in which the media reflects upon a series of steps such as inclusion and exclusion. They have covered and focused on one or the other impactful aspect of Brexit as being highlighted in the following studies.

Among the European countries' media such as Greek, Polish, French, Italian, German, Swedish and Irish, Brexit was seen as a common issue by Borchardt, Simon, & Bironzo (2018). Although Brexit was portrayed as central to UK but it had bad repercussions for other EU countries. For example, Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland were shown that worried about the stark divide between them caused by Brexit. Similarly, the Greek media saw Brexit as a big loss to their pharmaceutical export in the UK. Polish media also critically saw Brexit that would threaten their citizens' rights, economy and trade. In addition, German media reported Brexit would be a big loss to the EU's economy and its political body but Germany would not let the EU be weakened by it. German media emphasized the UK to remain attached to the EU as it has a great market in the UK. If the UK decided to leave the EU, Germany would get a sever hit to their market. Italy was reported to have more interest in their citizens' rights than in other issues with regard to Brexit. Most of the Italians are immigrants in the UK, however, if they were get displaced after Brexit then Italy would face a serious economic problem. Moreover, Brexit was also covered to create political chaos in the EU particularly in Sweden to demand as "Swexit".

Similarly, at national level, the Reuters Institute (2016) has also seen the Brexit issue which has divided the British media in their perspective. Newspapers such as the Sun, Daily Mail, Daily Express, Daily Telegraph, Daily Star exposed their position as Brexit supporters. Others like Financial Times, the Guardian and the Daily Mirror held their standing as anti-Brexit. However, the Times was viewed as neutral. At international level, the Brexit issued took the interest of many countries because of its watershed effects. As Kohnert (2018) saw Brexit is a warning call for all the African commonwealth countries. Nevertheless, Westcott (2018) optimistically saw Brexit that it would create golden opportunities for the African countries as they would get more attention of the UK in the post-Brexit times.

In Indian context, Brexit was also optimistically seen by the Desk (2019) and Seth (2019) to create more opportunities for Indians than challenges. In the post-Brexit times, they said India would get the opportunity to separately reconstitute trade deals both with the EU and UK. India is also optimistic that UK will allow more Indians immigrants after it leaves the EU. In addition, Indians would also be preferred in jobs in the aftermath of Brexit. Moreover, whatever the nature of Brexit is, Indian is going to be benefited. This means Indian is looking for opportunities unlike other EU countries who viewed Brexit as a threat to their economy, citizens' rights and trade relations.

As other countries media covered this politico-historical event, Pakistani media also caught the attention of it. Pakistan remained under the control of UK since 1857 and after, it is its consistent benefactor in different sectors such as health, education, social welfare, technology etc. Due to such relations, Brexit issue

was deemed important for Pakistan. Moreover, Ashraf (2016) discovered that Brexit would not leave Pakistan free of implications. He said, the UK is the third home to Pakistani diaspora and immigrants after Saudi Arabia and UAE as there are 1.7 million Pakistanis reside in the UK and they annually send remittances about \$2.7 billion that adds much to FDI. Similarly, 23% of the Pakistani exports that include textile, outfits, sports etc are exported to UK and then they are supplied to other European countries. After the Brexit blow, the exports dropped down as a result of decline in pound value. This resulted in the decrease of demand for Pakistani exports and their costly nature. The reduction in the demand of Pakistani exports also resulted in reduction in remittances sent by Pakistanis from the UK. Furthermore, Amir and Ali (2018) accounted that the Brexit also posed threat to the package applied to Pakistani exports i.e. GSP (Generalized system of Preference). Such package was given to Pakistan with the supportive voice of the UK, Germany and France so if the UK quits the EU, Pakistan will face the danger of losing GSP-plus status package on its exports that would be a great shock to its economy.

However, Brexit has been critically seen by researchers in the media of different countries as per their vested interest. At international level, there is no subtle or evident study that accounts for Brexit which has been seen in Pakistani media. Due to this lack of intellectual space in the realm of academic scholarship, the study makes an attempt to expose the perspective of Pakistani media on the politico-historical event i.e. Brexit. The study critically views the coverage of Brexit in the corpora made up from Pak-English newspapers abbreviated as the DC, the NIC and the ETC. Each corpus was gathered from newspapers' editorials, columns plus news reports issued in the selected time frame i.e. June 23<sup>th</sup>, 2016 till March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The corpora were analyzed with the methodological tools of corpus linguistics and CDA.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### *Methodological Framework*

This study was underpinned by the synergy of two methodological strands i.e. Corpus Linguistics and Critical Discourse Analysis. This combination is formally known as CACDA (Corpus-Assisted Critical Discourse Analysis) introduced by Baker, et al (2008). They proposed some methodological steps in the light of which this study was carried out. The first step was the formulation of research questions about Brexit event in Pakistani media. The second step was about collecting data about Brexit event from top Pak-English newspapers. These newspapers corpora were abbreviated as DC, NIC and ETC. These abbreviations are used in this paper to represent the three newspapers corpora. Whatever news articles were issued about Brexit event in the opted period were put into the corpus. The third step was choosing corpus tools for analysis so the study picked up keyword list, collocates and concordance for exploitation of the corpus. In the fourth step, the study extracted keywords and their frequencies by bringing the reference corpus against the specialized corpus. This step proved to be helpful in finding out the aboutness of the Brexit event in the compiled corpus. In the fifth step, top ten most frequent and strongest collocates of the opted keywords were rigorously scrutinized in-depth in concordance so that to

know how Brexit event was constructed by Pakistani media. The last step was reviewing the research questions and suggesting possible implications.

### *Construction and Description of Brexit Corpus*

Corpus for this study was constructed from the news reports, editorials plus columns published about Brexit matter in top three Pak-English newspapers i.e. the DC, the NIC, and the ETC during the selected specific time period. Each newspaper website home page was accessed and whatever article about Brexit issue was found was saved in Ms-word file with html link, date and headings. Subsequently, the file was converted into plain-text in order to be processed via Ant Conc software version 3.5.8. The statistical account of the Brexit corpus for this study is given below.

**Table 3.1:** Corpus description for the study

Name	Duration	Articles' number	Word count	Tokens	Types of words
D-Corpus	June2016-March2019	492	2,23,573	2,26,691	11,842
NI-Corpus	June2016-March2019	341	1,74,443	1,75,853	10,908
ET-Corpus	June2016-March2019	450	1,89,659	1,91,686	10,519
Total	-	1,283	5,87,675	6,18,956	33,275

### *Tools For Corpus Analysis*

In order to exploit the corpus for the determined purpose, I used the corpus tools such as keyword list, collocation and concordance consecutively. With discourse point of view, keyword list tool was opted so that to fine out the keyness or aboutness of the corpus. Collocation tool was selected to know why statistically certain words are repeated with the keywords under examination. Finally, the collocates of the selected keywords were examined in the immediate context to know what discourse prosodies are found about the subject i.e. Brexit.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### *Keyword Analysis*

Keywords are the statistically significant words in the corpus under analysis that occur with higher frequency particularly in comparison with the reference corpus (Baker et al. 2008). These words are meant to expose the 'aboutness' of the corpus that what topics the corpus deals with (Scott, 1999). Focusing on the keywords in this study will not only reveal the corpus communicated topics about Brexit but they will also lead to further investigation of Brexit in collocation and concordance analysis. Manipulating Anthony's AntoConc (version 3.5.8), this study generated 100 keywords of highest frequency from each newspaper corpus by putting it against the reference corpus i.e. (BE06).

The corpora from which the keywords were generated were named after the newspapers such as the DC, the NIC and the ETC.

Following Baker (2010), Aluthman (2018), and Kandil (2009), the generated hundred keywords were grouped under the thematic connection they had. The set of keywords were put together in a group that conveyed one theme or another. Grouping the keywords was a meticulous and rigorously conscious observation and examination of a keyword in the collocation and concordance context. After the practical observation, it was found that the keywords constituted three different thematic categories. The keywords under the thematic categories are displayed below.

**Table 4.1** Thematic mapping of the extracted keywords

Thematic category	The D-corpus	The NI-corpus	The ET-corpus
Brexit as a Political process	Brexit, deal, vote, referendum, talks, negotiations, leave, divorce, agreement, voted, exit, border, summit, election, withdrawal, backstop, transition, departure, immigration, remain, opposition, political, membership, uncertainty, crisis, parliamentary, leaves, delay, plan, campaign, independence.	Brexit, deal, vote, referendum, leave, talks, voted, negotiations, agreement, exit, border, withdrawal, divorce, summit, remain, election, backstop, political, immigration, opposition, crisis, citizens, transition, uncertainty, departure, independence, campaign, negotiating, delay, membership, decision, deals, quit, majority.	Brexit, deal, vote, referendum, leave, exit, voted, talks, negotiations, divorce, agreement, border, summit, independence, election, remain, ties, campaign, withdrawal, opposition, departure, immigration, political, uncertainty, backstop, negotiating, delay, votes, citizens membership, decision, majority, leaves.
Brexit as a Trade and economical issue	Trade, pc (percent), economy, customs (union), market, economic, financial, ties, pound, crisis, trading, single (market), bank, BoE, sterling, tariffs.	Trade, percent, economy, agreement, economic, billion, market, exports, ties, customs (union), markets, crisis, euro, BoE, sterling, pound, financial, bank, euros trading, GSP, finance, growth, global.	Customs union, trade, percent, market, economy, exports, markets, economic, ties, billion, investors, pound, sterling, global.

Brexit as a National & international Issue	EU, Britain, European, minister, bloc, british, parliament, party, Brussels, government, UK, leader, lawmakers, Europe, Ireland, Conservative, MPs, northern, Labour, pro (Brexiters), Irish, country, Gibraltar, Pakistan, United (states), foreign, eurosceptic, kingdom, citizens, countries, conservatives, UKIP, Spain, Germany.	EU, Britain, European, minister, british, UK, bloc, parliament, Brussels, MPs, Pakistan, party, leaders, government, Europe, Conservative, Labour, lawmakers, Ireland, Irish, country, united (states), northern, citizens, Brexiteers, Britons, countries, kingdom, Global, Germany, Gibraltar, UKIP, Majority.	EU, Britain, European, minister, parliament, british, bloc, party, UK, Brussels, government, Ireland, Pakistan, MPs, lawmakers, northern, conservatives, united, leaders, Scotland, Irish, London, opposition, Europe, Labour, country, states, Scottish, investors, foreign, voters, Britons, majority, citizens, commons, Gibraltar, global.
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The above categorization of the hundred keywords from each corpus was done on the basis of words thematic connection as a set of words in one category constitute the whole theme or topic. Only 100 keywords were taken for analysis because Gibraltos & Marchi (2011) said it is difficult to analyze more than hundred keywords which are given by the software. The first topic i.e. Brexit as a political process is communicated by words that are similar across the three compiled corpora. Those words communicated Brexit as a political event negotiated by the officials in the UK and between the UK and the EU. Moreover, these words have been used to portray the issues such as Brexit vote, referendum, Brexit deal, border issue, backstop, immigration, withdrawal agreement,

***Brexit as a Political Process***

The group of generated keywords in part highlighted Brexit as a deadlock issue being in process between the shareholders (UK & EU). The keywords in the corpora uniformly reflected Brexit as a series of controversial political activities including Brexit vote, no-deal and Brexit deal, backstop, immigration, citizens’ rights, single market issue, etc. Such issues were covered that represented Brexit as an impending and longstanding issue in which both the stakeholder was stuck to take the final agreement.

***Brexit as a Trade and Economical Issue***

In most studies, Brexit was viewed as in both optimistic and pessimistic light particularly in trade, investment and economy (Amir & Ali, 2018; Borohardt,

Simon & Bironzo, 2018; Westcott, 2018). As for as this study is concerned, the generated keywords which constructed the theme reflected Brexit an economical and trade loss more than the opportunity for the UK and the European countries. The UK was highlighted to cut off all the previous trade ties with the EU and establishing new trade ties were depicted in deadlock. Besides this, the Brexit issue was delineated that also shaken the trade relations between countries such as the UK, USA, and particularly between Pakistan and the UK. Pakistani exports and GSP+ status package were highlighted to suffer if Brexit made its way out of the EU. Nevertheless, Brexit in the post-Brexit times was less depicted to pave the way for the UK to have free trade ties with the countries around the world. However, Pakistan was less highlighted to benefit from the UK after Brexit as the UK would pay more attention to the countries with bigger economies.

***Brexit as a National and Transnational Issue***

The keywords in part also traced Brexit having impacts at national and global level. The historical, political and socio-economical ties of the UK with the EU countries and Non-European countries particularly its former colonies, make the Brexit as an impactful issue. Such brooding atmosphere created by Brexit as determined through the analysis of the keywords in context does not only leave the UK free of effects but also creates transnational issues such as immigration, backstop, trade ties, citizens’ rights, Gibraltar, and resettling trade ties particularly with Pakistan, the EU countries and the USA.

***Keywords for In-depth Investigation***

The thematic categorization of keywords further leads to the analysis of those keywords which are inevitable to the corpus because they reflect the “aboutness”. Hence, few keywords were opted for the collocation and concordance examination. For instance, the words: Brexit, backstop and immigration were picked up from first category. Similarly, trade, economy and market were chosen from second thematic category, and finally, the words: Pakistan, citizens and Gibraltar were hand-picked from the last thematic category. The first ten statistically highest and strongest collocates of the keywords were viewed in their contextual environment through discourse prosodies proposed by Stubbs and the news values proposed by Galtung and Ruge.

***Collocate “Vote” in the textual context of ‘Brexit’***

1	in Europe have welcomed the result of the <b>Brexit vote</b> , and are demanding referendums in their own
2	eating a “toxic climate” of uncertainty since the <b>Brexit vote</b> and described former London mayor Boris Johnson,
3	. The pound, which has fallen because of the <b>Brexit vote</b> and plunged ahead of May’s announcement
4	rclays Capital. After Mr Cameron lost the June 23 <b>Brexit vote</b> and resigned, Mr Rogers drew criticism from
5	pick Britain’s next premier after a shock <b>Brexit vote</b> , as departing David Cameron turned his fire
6	ealt with chaotic financial markets following the <b>Brexit vote</b> . <b>BREXIT</b> has certainly shaken the European Union.
7	centrist Liberal Democrats, support having a new <b>Brexit vote</b> . “ <b>Brexit</b> is not a done deal. Brexit
8	of a debate in Labour on a second <b>Brexit vote</b> . <b>But</b> he was clear that he preferred
9	to cut immigration — a key issue in the <b>Brexit vote</b> — <b>but some</b> of her ministers are now
10	’ poll taken in the immediate aftermath of the <b>Brexit vote</b> . <b>But</b> the rebound was small. “The animal
11	depreciation, he said. The BoE responded to the <b>Brexit vote</b> by cutting interest rates to a new
12	perations outside Britain because of the June 23 “ <b>Brexit</b> ” vote. “ <b>CEOs</b> are reacting to the prevailing uncertainty
13	f “uncertainties” ahead for the eurozone over the <b>Brexit vote</b> . <b>Describing</b> the ECB’s current ultra-loose
14	sniggers when it was announced soon after the <b>Brexit vote</b> ended David Cameron’s stint as prime
15	the deepest turmoil since last June’s shock <b>Brexit vote</b> , <b>EU leaders</b> were left wondering how divorce

The word ‘Brexit’ has been repeated 5002 times in the corpus compiled from Pakistani English newspapers corpus. One of the strongest collocates of Brexit is ‘vote’ which occurred 377 times in the co-textual environment of Brexit. Brexit vote refers the referendum held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2016 that marked the UK’s exit from the EU as 51.9% Brexiteers voted to exit and 48.1 % Britons decided to continue with the EU. However, Brexit vote in the above concordances has been depicted negatively by words such as uncertainty, shock, turmoil, issue, chaotic, resigned, fallen, toxic climate etc. This depiction of Brexit vote which has been drawn linguistically in negative terms renders negative meaning to the keyword Brexit and its collocate ‘vote’. Observing ‘vote’ as a collocate of Brexit in the immediate surroundings, it was examined that Brexit vote would target the EU to be politically disturb as the same referendum may be demanded by other EU countries highlighted in line 1 of the concordances. In addition, Brexit vote is covered that bore political chaos as pointed out by Belgian Prime Minister. Brexit vote, in lines, 3, is also portrayed for depreciating the value of pound. Moreover, Brexit vote in lines 4, 5 & 14, is covered that made David Cameron to relinquish the seat of Prime minister. Furthermore, Brexit vote is depicted that created disturbance in UK’s financial market, flamed the root issue of immigration, discouraged companies to invest in Britain and about Britain’s economy fall down, and also appealed to serious political turmoil. Thus, the portrayal of Brexit vote in the Pakistani English newspapers has been found negative. However, Desk (2019) critically examined Brexit with Indian perspective and stated India’s media was positive about the event. India would look for opportunities in Brexit in terms of immigration, trade and investment rather than having its repercussions.

***Collocate ‘Control’ In the Textual Context Of ‘Immigration’***

1	June 23 to exit the EU, with the issue of immigration and control of the free movement of people from
2	. May insisted on Sunday that she wants to tackle immigration and take "control over our borders", but has also
3	ld the BBC, saying her department was examining immigration control systems and that no decisions had yet been
4	will leave Europe’s single market in order to control EU immigration. In a highly-anticipated speech, May also
5	ctives for the negotiations last week, promising to control immigration and pull Britain out of the EU’s
6	been previously touted. May has said she wants to control immigration and remove Britain from the jurisdiction of the
7	pull out of the single market in order to control immigration from the EU, which ran at 284,000 in the
8	ation again. "We will decide for ourselves how we control immigration." The announcements by May — who campaign
9	referendum vote was a vote for us to... bring control into our immigration system. I’m clear that is
10	the European Court of Justice, in order to regain control of EU immigration. Hammond, in an interview with Germany
11	was not leaving the EU "only to give up control of immigration again. "We will decide for ourselves how
12	continue to aim for her original goal of winning control of immigration and law-making. May has yet to
13	o restore parliamentary sovereignty and to regain control of immigration. On the EU side, the goal will
14	e trade deal, maintain security cooperation, regain control over immigration and restore sovereignty over British laws.
15	ible access to EU single market while ensuring full control over immigration. As everyone knows, however, nobody in t
16	- by the end of March. May has promised tighter control over immigration when Britain leaves the bloc, even if

Immigration is the burning and root issue from which the Brexit event flamed. The keyword ‘immigration’ occurred 344 times in the constructed corpus. It is dealt in the concordance lines that immigration remains the main issue that instigated the Brexit as most of the Britons wanted to limit the free movement of the Europeans to the UK. It was also chosen as one of the slogans of Brexit to stop immigration from the EU. In the corpus, the strongest collocate of

immigration is ‘control’ which accompanies 147 times with the word immigration. This combination exposes that Britain and its social actors are very active to limit immigration from the European Union countries. Britons attitudes towards immigration have been enclosed in words such as control, issue, tackle, remove, pull out, full control, regain control, winning control, bring control, examining control, tackle control, tighter control etc. All these words impart negative discourse prosody to the word immigration. Theresa May is highlight that shown active in controlling the borders of the UK after its exit. She suggests pulling out the whole of UK from the single market and leaving the European court of Justice for stopping immigration into the UK. But such suggestions bear other problems for the UK as leaving the single market would cause Britain to obey WTO’s rules subsequently. However, Britain wants to have free trade links with the EU after its exit and also a majority of the Britons desires to remain the part of single market. But according to the EU’s single market rule, free movement it is its essential clause. So the EU says if Britain wants to remain in the single market then it must allow the free movement of people which is a gate way for immigration. Taking this decision has put Brexit issue in deadlock statue as neither the British MPs agree among themselves to leave the single market nor the EU allows them to go for cherry picking methods. This aspect of Brexit issue makes Brexit a negative and controversial issue. Similarly, Aluthman (2018) explored the same attitudes toward immigration by the EU while carrying out a study on the same event corpus constructed from blogs tweets, and newspapers articles. The research was sponsored by the EU. He found that British emphasized to curb EU immigration as also found in this study.

### *Collocate ‘Uncertainty’ In the Textual Context Of ‘Economy’*

1	ending, the most important pillar of the domestic <b>economy</b> , <b>could falter if uncertainty</b> about the economy spilled
2	cond independence referendum is creating damaging <b>uncertainty for the Scottish economy</b> ,” he said. “If Scotland
3	to a slow recovery and more recent Brexit <b>uncertainty hanging over the economy</b> , and its benchmark lending
4	ahead, most notably business investment.” Brexit <b>uncertainty has dogged the British economy</b> for nearly three
5	next week, hurtling the world’s fifth-largest <b>economy into even deeper uncertainty</b> and leaving open a
6	that would pitch the world’s fifth-largest <b>economy into even deeper uncertainty</b> . While agreeing with May
7	in the bloc. The vote has added to <b>uncertainty over the global economy</b> . The exit process is
8	week BoE Governor Mark Carney said Britain’s <b>economy was suffering from uncertainty</b> and higher prices caused

The keyword ‘economy’ repeats 618 times in the constructed corpus of Brexit from Pak-English newspapers. Its combination with the collocate ‘uncertainty’ is observed 189 times. The close examination of the pattern bears that Pakistani newspapers have pointed out Brexit being a watershed event with negative economic perspectives. They highlight that Brexit means exiting from the enormous economic bloc. In addition, owing to the Brexit impacts on Britain, EU and global economies, Pak-English newspapers featured Brexit is impactful economical issue. In the concordance instances, the pattern reveals that Brexit vote let the uncertainty overcome the British’s economy, EU’s economy and world’s economies. It also makes explicit that the collocate ‘uncertainty’ imparts negative prosody to ‘economy’. This also highlights Brexit being an economical issue not specific to Britain or the EU but to the world.

Moreover, Brexit has also been covered with the perspective of Pakistan. Pakistan has been politically remained under the rules of British Empire before 1947; therefore, it has long standing political and trade relationships which may be affected on account of Brexit. Beside this, Ashrif (2016) and Amir & Ali (2018) state that 23% of the Pakistani exports that include textile, outfits, etc are exported to Britain and then they are supplied to other European countries. After Brexit, a decline was noticed in such exports caused by the fall in pound value. This resulted in the decrease of demand for Pakistani exports and their costly nature. So reduction in the demand of Pakistani exports also resulted in reduction in remittances sent by Pakistanis from the UK. Hence, the Pakistani newspapers take Brexit an important issue to be covered via media. To specifically examine the Brexit with Pakistani perspective, the following concordance lines are focused.

***Collocate ‘Exports’ in The Textual Context Of ‘Pakistan’***

1	leaving the EU will hit the country's exports. Chishti termed Pakistan as a "great place to
2	in FY2017, according to the State Bank of Pakistan. Exports are mainly of textile and clothing and
3	. The depreciation of pound and euro would make Pakistani exports more expensive in EU and British markets.
5	from January 2014, permitted nearly 20 percent of Pakistani exports to enter the 28-member countries' Europe
6	is the single largest block in terms of exports for Pakistan. As EU goes through the transition
7	fresh vegetables have major share in horticulture exports for the UK and Pakistan may enhance the
8	of preferences (GSP) plus granted by EU to Pakistan in 2014. Pakistan's exports rose 38 percent to EU
9	the last year was £1,584 million, which includes Pakistan's exports of £1,069 million to UK. The balance
10	, there will be no immediate negative impact on Pakistan's exports to EU countries following the Brexit.
11	notified. So no immediate threat is there for Pakistan's exports to EU member countries and UK.
12	's largest trading partner. Nearly a quarter of Pakistan's exports to EU (textiles, garments, leather goods,
13	to the euro depreciation against dollar in 2015, Pakistan's exports to EU decreased by 11% in dollar
14	of euro would amplify the negative impact on Pakistan's exports to EU and UK. As the
15	to the Common Market, the significant portion of Pakistan's exports to the continental Europe routed through
16	triggers a fall in consumer demand in Britain, Pakistan's exports to UK will be affected. The

The keyword ‘Pakistan’ repeats 638 times in the constructed corpus about Brexit issue. It is accompanied 197 times by one of its strongest collocates ‘exports’. Their co-occurrences in Pak-English newspapers corpus underline the impacts of Brexit on Pakistani exports. It is pointed out that the allotment of GSP-plus status package to Pakistan was given by EU in 2014 that meant Pakistani exports would enter to the EU without any tariffs and as a result the Pakistan’s export revenue increased as 20% of the exports were allowed to the EU countries. Out of the 20 per cent, quarter is only received by the UK. Therefore, the exit of the UK would put Pakistani exports in danger as Pak’s exports demand would become less in the EU. Pakistan would also likely lose the given package as the strongest supporter of the package is leaving and there would not be any one like the UK in the EU to prefer Pakistan for GSP-Plus status package. Similarly, the depreciation of the value of euro and pound caused by Brexit would also cause in the reduction of the revenue received from Pakistani exports. In addition, the repercussion of Brexit on Pakistani exports in the above concordance lines have been referred to by words such as hit, expensive, depreciation, decreased, negative impact, affected, fall etc. All these lexical items impart negative prosody to Pakistani exports. However, the

Pakistani English newspapers have focused more on the negative sides of Brexit. Thus, this highlighted impactful nature of Brexit issue not only at national but also at international level. Similarly, Amir & Ali (2018), Khan (2018) and, Ashraf (2016) also reported the same results as it was explored that Brexit would put Pakistani exports in great danger and would likely to lose the given GSP-plus package. But in the Indian context, Desk (2019) and Seth (2019) reported that Brexit would open up many opportunities particularly in terms of trade (exports) both with the UK and the EU. They added if Brexit were to happen or not, India would be benefitted in both cases rather than facing challenges.

## CONCLUSION

This study began to expose the vested interest in the Brexit corpora compiled from top opted Pak-English newspapers. In this respect, the attempt was made to explore the lexical items which constructed the Brexit issue and what themes/topics were conveyed by those lexical items. The object of analysis was corpora gathered from top opted Pak-English newspapers in the period starting 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2016 till 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2019. The analysis was three dimensional. In the first place, to determine corpus's aboutness, the corpus tool 'keyword list' was executed. Second, collocation tool was employed to trace why certain words were statistically repeated with the selected keywords, and finally, collocates of the selected keywords were critically examined in concordance lines. The keywords analysis revealed that Pakistani English newspapers had covered the Brexit issue from three different thematic perspectives such as Brexit was covered as a long-standing political process going on within the UK and between the UK and the EU, the focus on the trade and economical aspects of the Brexit event, and Brexit association with national and transnational world. Moreover, the collocation and concordance analysis brought to expose the vested interest of the newspapers which uniformly covered the Brexit as anti-globalized issue as it has bad repercussions for the UK itself and international countries such as Pakistan, US, and specifically, the impacts of Brexit on Pakistan's exports, remittances, trade and economy were more highlighted.

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