

US War on Terror: Portrayal through Caricatures in Selected Newspapers of Pakistan

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Abstract

This study is an attempt to find out the relationship of cartoons in the print media in relation to the United States war on terror. It is an effort to highlight the depiction of this war through caricatures in Pakistani press with special reference to the two leading newspapers of the country i.e. The Dawn and The Nation. For data collection, a questionnaire, using Likert scale, has been designed to get the feedback of the people especially the educated segment of the society. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) has been used to analyse the questionnaire and the subsequent results and findings of the data. A total of 140 students were given the questionnaires for collecting information about the role of cartoons in the said newspapers. Based on this data, this study has investigated cartoons about war on terror since 9/11, 2001. It concludes after the discussion and analysis that this war on terror is not a success for the United States and the rest of the world in general since many people are thinking otherwise.

Keywords: USA, Pakistan, war on terror, print media, role of cartoons

INTRODUCTION

The images and pictures had been exercising a powerful and magical influencing role on the human beings as they have always worshiped and feared of them (Freedberg, 1991). A Caricature (Cartoon) can be defined as a line art which has judgmental and critical content; intended to address a specific problem with exaggerated drawings (Sarigül, 2009). Exaggeration is a key to understand the message behind a caricature as an art. The cartoonist tries to depict a situation, incident or an event which the people either think of as propaganda or an opinion (Steuter, Wills, & Marlette, 2008). Caricature like all other visual communication bears a message where there is always a sender and a receiver. A sender encodes messages in his/her depiction and the receiver decodes those messages and thereby communication occurs. This communication depends on the understanding, knowledge, and perspective of the receiver. Since caricature is a different type of visual communication, it contains humoristic, satirical, ironical,

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exaggerating messages of the cartoonist and/or the public (Shaikh, Tariq, & Saqlain, 2016). Human sight plays a crucial role in understanding a message easily. It is the most effective tool to convey humour. According to Abidin Dino¹, “as a weapon or a tool, the caricature is much stronger than a poem or a painting. To reach masses, it should be realized that caricature is the short cut to say something (Sarigül, 2009)”.

Cartoons have become an integral part of the newspapers especially for political campaigns, propaganda and depiction of war issues across the globe (Diamond, 2002). They provide an insight into the everyday issues and problems of the world community in general and of a specific region. That is why editorial cartoons are such a meaningful way of communication that there is hardly any newspaper in the world devoid of cartoons. Many people are subscribing newspaper only because of cartoonist representations of different issues. They can get the required information in a glance without reading the long and winding articles. It is a source of factual but satirical and ironic representation of the issues. Nonetheless, the cartoons reflect what the public finds absurd, worrisome and desirable without necessarily being able to say why (Giarelli & Tulman, 2003).

It is with this intent that this study highlights the role of cartoons in representing the US war on terror in two Pakistani newspapers i.e., *The Dawn* and *The Nation* since 9/11, 2001. This war has created many new problems due to certain reasons. The most important issue of the affected people has been that they have not been agreeing with the very definition of the word terrorism. For the US, it might be terrorism, but for the people directly suffering the onslaught of this war, this has often not been terrorism rather it has been considered as their self-defence. Therefore, the very root of the war has a problematic one. As a result, whenever there has been a media depiction of this war through cartoons, they have different facets, one in favour of the war and the other against the war. Cartoons certainly give an understanding of a story; however, a reader should be able to read between the lines.

Statement of the Problem

As mentioned earlier, cartoons play a vital role in depicting national and international issues and problems in print media of a country. This study highlights the significance of caricatures in the representation of war against terrorism in Pakistani newspapers with special reference to two leading papers i.e., *The Dawn* and *The Nation*. This war has not been welcomed at the mass level in Pakistan, and the caricaturist depiction of the feelings and emotions of the Pakistani community have been expressed as against it.

Objectives of the Study

- a) To find out how the people of Pakistan consider the role played by cartoons in the national newspapers.
- b) To highlight irony and satire in the cartoons depicting the war on terror.
- c) To underline the message that these cartoonists try to convey to the Pakistani community.

Significance of the Study

Caricaturist analysis of the war on terror is important in the sense that it is a medium through which the affected people can convey their messages to the international community. This study has been, therefore, an addition to the existing literature on the subject since there has been very limited stuff available on this subject. It has given an insight to the people who have been directly or indirectly the victims of this war.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This portion of the paper has focused on the academic background of the use of cartoons in different newspapers throughout the world. Cartoons are used as means of irony and satire regarding a specific issue. The task of satire has always been to ridicule and taunt, and off-course it has never been gentle (Stromsted, 2017). However, the significance of editorial cartoons especially in politics and war affairs cannot be neglected in the present times where every individual is short of time. It is the easiest way of looking into a thing in a couple of seconds instead of reading a long article. Among many modes of visual communication, caricature is perhaps a very important means of transmitting one's feelings and emotions about a specific event or an incident. This type of communication depicts certain messages with exaggerated illustrations. It is a very pithy and epigrammatic medium of criticism conveying a lot of information in a little space. The sole purpose of this depiction since its inception was to highlight the vices and follies of the societies thereby enabling them to rectify their shortcomings. Human beings are, therefore, the primary concern of this portrayal or representation. This section, hence, traces the history of caricature in the world in general and in Pakistan especially Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Towards the end of the section, the role of caricature in the war against terror will be highlighted and discussed briefly.

History of Caricature

To Sarigul, the history of caricature starts with the Neolithic Age as pointed out by referring to an old drawing of Ti-n-Lalan of Fisan. The caricature at this point was at its initial stage having altogether a different purpose as

compared to its use in the contemporary world. It continued its journey through Middle Ages where most of the drawings were the outcome of church which is quite ironic. Further, he refers to this aspect of caricature in this age as having a moral purpose for the masses to understand the gravity of their actions by not following the teachings of the church (Sarigül, 2009).

Grotesque² drawings appeared in the Renaissance period through the paintings of Leonardo Da Vinci³ (Fig. 1). Da Vinci approach was relatively different from the rest of his contemporaries or the earlier drawings. He was interested in the ugly looking faces as compared to other cartoonist as they were following the ideal beauty of human body. This makes his drawing closer to caricatures as shown in the figure (Sarigül, 2009).



Figure-1: Painting of Leonardo Da Vinci

The word ‘caricature’ was established in 16th century by Annibale Caracci.⁴ As he was famous for his humorous and exaggerated paintings, the caricature became known for exaggeration of what is characteristic (Lien, 2015). However, only paintings could not be used for transmitting the actual meaning of caricature in the modern sense of the world. This is because they were not intended towards a specific end as it is today. These images evoked feeling of caricature only just for the sake of drawing and no satire and irony. However, in the present world, caricature is intended to convey a specific problem from different perspectives with different interpretation (Barthes, 1977).

History of Caricatures in Pakistan

Cartoonists in Pakistan have been really facing tough and hard times since there is less freedom of expression to be enjoyed in true sense as compared to

developed countries of the world. As compared to the Western world, Pakistani people and Pakistani media have not reached that level where they can express and tolerate the cartoonist representation of incidents and events. Mostly, cartoons are based on the political leadership of the country where the people can show their frustration, anger, and disappointment regarding the duality of these characters.

Mohammad Zahoor is one of the famous cartoonists of KP. He started his career with *The Frontier Post*, a leading English Newspaper of the province, in 1986 after completing his bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from the University of Peshawar. He was fortunate enough to have association and supervision of an editor like late Aziz Siddiqui, the magazine's editor Mahir Ali, few cartoonists like 'Feica' (Rafiq Ahmed), 'Vie Ell' (Yousaf Lodhi); and Hassan Musanna. The theme of his cartoons mostly rests on the despotic rule of General Zia-ul-Haq era, the Afghan Jihad against USSR, increasing insecurity and violence in the country and especially in the KP, inflation, and some of the political personalities. The cartoonist was aware of his surrounding that is why he has brilliantly displayed the social and political aspects of the region through caricatures (Zahoor-Cartoons, 2004).

Yusuf Lodhi (Vai Ell) was another prominent Pakistani blunt cartoonist who has given a new dimension and perspective to the role of caricature in Pakistan. According to Seher Gul, he has been "something of a born vivand, the consummate anti-establishment liberal (*The Friday Times*, 2011)". He had a very tough and hostile environment to work in since his approach always remained anti-establishment. There are many instances in his life which prove this assumption. His book, for example, *Bhutto: My Master* was banned in 1974 by the KP (then NWFP) government because of his harsh and severe criticism of the Bhutto's authoritarian and despotic rule in the country. He suffered a lot in this struggle, but he never lost his faith in the right and his opposition against the wrong (*The Friday Times*, 2011).

Another prominent and distinctive cartoonist of the country is Jawed Iqbal who was born at Sialkot. He has a vast experience of 38 years during which he was associated with different organizations. They include, *The Daily Jang*, the largest newspaper of the country having circulation even outside the country. Jawed has adopted a modern approach to the problems of the modern world, and that is why his sketches always remained fresh and appealing to the modern intellect. His canvas is all-encompassing whereby he highlights different problems existing in the country. However, his political cartoons are very much appreciated

by the readers since they are directly concerned with the dual personalities of our political leaders.

In the history of Pakistan, there is a rich period of General Musharraf's regime through which he spent almost nine years in the ruling office. Many prime ministers like Zafarullah Khan Jamali, Chaudhry Shuja'at Hussain and Mian Muhammad Soomro took their turns for the premiership during the General Pervaiz Musharraf Regime. However, the most prominent and favourite target of the cartoonist in Pakistan has been General Zia-ul-Haq. He has been criticized for many reasons in the newspaper cartoons. The features which the cartoonist highlighted were his eyes having black shadows, beaked nose, and especially his moustache with a wicked grin. The cartoonists try to give the impression of a vulture or a hawk when they portray such a person. Eventually, we put aside all other features and any wicked person in a military uniform having big moustache is directly associated with General Zia-ul-Haq.

The second most depicted personality by the cartoonists has been Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. A well-known cartoonist Zahoor has tried in figure-3 to highlight his features in the following picture (Nazar, 2012). The simplicity and total disregard for the person has been reflected in the caricature. It is a very big zero which has been divided by another zero. The cartoonist shapes his lower jaw bigger than his head and the message can be taken out of this representation although it is not very explicit.

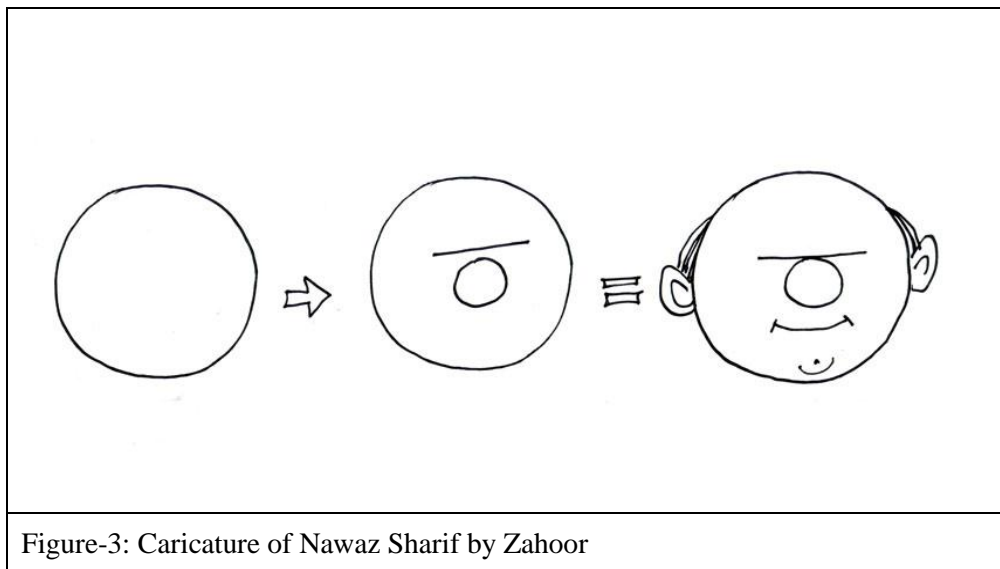


Figure-3: Caricature of Nawaz Sharif by Zahoor

Zardari is yet another person who is considered as the Machiavellian prince of Pakistani politics. This aspect of his personality has been depicted time and again at many forums in the country. His face structure and overall personality has the features of his signature teeth and deceitful smile. Many cartoonists portray him as a two-teeth squirrel that is smart and alert though both are carrying negative messages.

Significance of Caricatures duringa War

A cartoonists work is effective only if (s)he can make his/her readers understand the framework in which the point has been made. Cartoons in a specific country are the product of its culture and can be summarised as, “cartooning is a culture-creating, culture-maintaining, culture-identifying artefact (DeSousa & Medhurst, 1982)”. Caricatures also document a country’s and a nation’s underlying assumptions about its cause to wage a war against a group or a country thereby it tries to justify and sustain those assumptions during the fight. Everywhere in the world, the press supports or opposes the fight which certainly reflects and moulds the attitude of the concerned people (Fasold, 1990). Mainstream newspapers, magazines, publications, and reprint volumes of the major cartoonists try to investigate patterns in the portrayal of the enemy; to highlight and investigate the role of stereotypes; and to discuss whether these wartime cartoons are used as propaganda items or not? (Wodak & Chilton, 2005).

Editorial cartoons are considered as the crux of depicting wartime strategies and concerns of the people and the government (Bivins, 1984). State-owned newspapers try to support the government’s role and objectives in fighting a cause; the rest portrays the concerns of the laymen by highlighting their miseries. They have great influence in shaping the attitudes of the people because they are the visual representation of the incidents taking place around them (Zinn, 2003). According to Kemnitz, “editorial cartoons are primarily visual means of communicating opinions and attitudes or of ‘summing up’ situations”. He further argues that such caricaturist representation provides a deeper understanding into “the depth of emotions surrounding attitudes (Kemnitz, 1973)”. This depiction, therefore, is a useful tool for as historian to analyse the facts in an impartial way. Emotions in warfare are a must, and wartimes cartoons are a very effective source of producing and igniting these emotions. The historians see things from a different perspective i.e., they try to remain neutral during war times in their writings. Since laymen are not much experts in state’s policies, it, therefore, becomes very difficult for them to point out the exact meaning the cartoonists want to convey (Wigston, 2002).

Nonetheless, “a really good cartoon is witty, truthful (or it depicts ‘one side’ of the truth) and serves a moral purpose (Nevins & Weitenkampf, 1944)”. The positionality of the cartoonists really matters. Only then they would be able to squeeze their opinion into a suitable and relevant visual metaphor. They have a moral purpose, of course, and it is to support or to thwart a perceived wrong. Cartoons which are lacking one or all these aspects are considered as weak and useless. As a result, one of the primary functions of the editorial cartoonist is societal critic. It is up to the cartoonist whether he/she wants to depict something positively or negatively. However, “the negative caricatures of enemy’s leaders during wartime are of two types: those that poke fun at them and make them look foolish and those that demonize and vilify them (Caswell, 2004)”. The best representation is that which reflects their creator’s passions against the wrong and injustices.

It can be analysed from the above discussion that wartime cartoons play a pivotal role in shaping and moulding the attitude and thinking of the people concerned. It can be used to ignite negative feelings and emotions among the citizens of a country against its enemy thereby causing destruction at large scale (Cahn, 1984). By doing so, it can be used to create stereotypes in the minds of the people and get their support for waging a war against them. On the other hand, it can be also used positively but that is very rare. Nonetheless, the political caricatures have also gained considerable importance during the civil wars and political turmoil. It gained significance especially when a prominent cartoonist Thomas Nast published some cartoons on the political situation of United States like Uncle Sam, the Republican Elephant and the Democratic Donkey (Burns, 2007).

METHODS AND MATERIAL

For analysing the role of cartoons in the daily newspapers of Pakistan, a questionnaire has been designed using a Likert scale⁵ for measuring the frequencies and finding out the percentages. There was a total of nine questions in the questionnaire regarding the role of cartoons in the print media. The questionnaire was distributed among the participant to get the data for the analysis of this impact on the people. Surprisingly, all of the respondents being university graduates have given their opinion. The purpose of this questionnaire was to determine the level of approach of the undergraduate members of the society with respect to the war against terrorism in the country. This is being important to highlight the level of significance which the people and masses give to representation of issues in this way. For the analysis of data collected through questionnaires, the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) has been used.

The tables of the obtained data along with the analysis have been discussed in detail. In addition, a few interviews have also been conducted and the expert opinion of the cartoonists has also been taken for this analysis.

Moreover, several cartoons have been selected from the selected two newspapers i.e., Daily Dawn and The Nation since 9/11, 2001. These cartoons were then further categorized into three different segments in the analysis chapter for the sake of understanding. First part is related to the role played by the war on terror at Iraq, and what are its repercussions. The second part is related to Afghanistan, and the third to Pakistan. These cartoons have specifically depicted the war on terror which has been fought in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan. In addition, an analytical approach has been adapted to the interpretation of cartoons in different newspapers.

The limitations of this research study included:

1. It has pointed out the scope of editorial cartoons only.
2. Only two newspapers i.e., Daily Dawn and The Nation have been included for data collection and analysis.
3. Due to the use of questionnaire method for data collection, the study covers only the opinion of the educated people of Pakistan.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Keeping in view the available literature and the data collection, both the quantitative and qualitative data has been analysed thoroughly. Detailed discussion appears below:

Quantitative Analysis of Caricaturist Representation of US War on Terror

Caricatures especially during the war times have become an integral part of newspapers all over the world. Majority of newspaper readers take interest in the daily news due to the cartoonist representation of socio-economic and political issues in just a glance. No doubt, “cartoons reflect what the public finds absurd, worrisome and desirable without necessarily being able to say why (Giarelli & Tulman, 2003)”. This portion of the paper gives a detail description of the data collected through questionnaire and the analysis with a critical discussion. Afterwards, there is a thorough discussion on the war on terror as represented through caricatures in different newspapers of the country. An analytical approach has been adapted for discussion and interpreting these cartoon images depicting various aspect of the war on terror.

The very first question in this questionnaire was about the inclusion of cartoons in the newspapers. Table-1 shows 80% respondents are in favour of this inclusion and 20% are not its favour. Therefore, it is clear from the data that majority of the people supports this idea while there is only a low level of respondents who are against it.

Table No. 1: Cartoon is an Imperative Part of a Newspaper					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Neutral	28	15.1	20.0	20.0
	Agree	70	37.7	50.0	70.0
	Strongly Agree	42	22.6	30.0	100.0
	Total	140	75.5	100.0	
Missing	System	13	24.5		
Total		153	100.0		

The second question is about the effectiveness of cartoonist representation of an issue. Once again, a majority of 70% believes that visual representation of an issue is an effective way of communicating the ideas, feeling, and emotions to others, while only 30% respondents think the other way. Even in that 30%, some of them are against it and the others are just neutral. Overall, cartoonist representation is a vital part of a newspaper.

Table No.2: Cartoon is an Effective Way of Communication					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Neutral	42	22.6	30.0	30.0
	Agree	56	30.2	40.0	70.0
	Strongly Agree	42	22.6	30.0	100.0
	Total	140	75.5	100.0	
Missing	System	13	24.5		
Total		153	100.0		

The third question is about the role of cartoons during war time where they are used as a vehicle for promoting and influencing the pre-existing viewpoints. Once again, majority of the people supports this claim. To be very exact, 60% respondents support this notion while only a very meagre number of

10% negates it. The remaining 30% are neutral on this issue as shown in the Table No. 3 with details of these facts.

Table No.3: Wartime Cartoons Perform a Role of Opinion Building and Influencing the Pre-existing Viewpoints					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Disagree	14	7.5	10.0	10.0
	Neutral	28	15.1	20.0	30.0
	Agree	70	37.7	50.0	80.0
	Strongly Agree	28	15.1	20.0	100.0
	Total	140	75.5	100.0	
Missing	System	13	24.5		
Total		153	100.0		

Another assumption was that during wartime, political cartoons are used for criticizing the role of politicians. They are either highlighted as corrupt people, or they are thought of incapable of dealing with the matters of extreme significance. Since these people are at the power corridors, they are the eminent target of the cartoonists. As a result, they depict the personalities of these politicians as they perceive them. The table-4 below shows that 60% respondents are in favour of this assumption, 20% remained neutral and only 20% are against it. The data obtained shows that majority of the people think as assumed by the researchers.

Table No. 4: During Wartime, Political Cartoons are Used for Criticizing Politicians					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Disagree	28	15.1	20.0	20.0
	Neutral	28	15.1	20.0	40.0
	Agree	56	30.2	40.0	80.0
	Strongly Agree	28	15.1	20.0	100.0
	Total	140	75.5	100.0	
Missing	System	13	24.5		
Total		153	100.0		

There was another assumption that cartoonist representation of the war on terror in Pakistan is biased. Once again, the majority of 70% thinks that this war is represented not a fair just way in the Pakistani media. In this percentage, 40% are strongly in favour of this claim and 30% agree only. However, the important point is only 10% are against this claim while 20% remains neutral about this aspect of the war. The data given in the table-5 show the analysis.

Table No. 5: Cartoon Representation of War in Pakistan is Biased					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Disagree	14	7.5	10.0	10.0
	Neutral	28	15.1	20.0	30.0
	Agree	42	22.6	30.0	60.0
	Strongly Agree	56	30.2	40.0	100.0
	Total	140	75.5	100.0	
Missing	System	13	24.5		
Total		153	100.0		

There was yet another important aspect of analysing the impact of this war on the people i.e. the political cartoons which are used for promoting an issue like war. Sometimes they are used to make people understand the gravity of the situation. However, at many times the political government focuses its attention to create hype in the minds of the people and tries to convince them that the war is inevitable. The table-6 shows that majority of the people i.e. 60% agrees to this claim, 30% are neutral and only 10% are against it.

Table No. 6: Political Cartoons are Used to Promote an Issue					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Disagree	14	7.5	10.0	10.0
	Neutral	42	22.6	30.0	40.0
	Agree	56	30.2	40.0	80.0
	Strongly Agree	28	15.1	20.0	100.0
	Total	140	75.5	100.0	
Missing	System	13	24.5		
Total		153	100.0		

The next assumption was about the role of caption in the depiction of cartoons. Since the respondents are university graduates, majority of them agree to the claim which is 70%. The rest of the 30% are either neutral or against it as shown in below table-7.

Table No. 7: Caption Plays a Pivotal Role in Conveying Cartoons' Messages					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Disagree	14	7.5	10.0	10.0
	Disagree	14	7.5	10.0	20.0
	Neutral	14	7.5	10.0	30.0
	Agree	70	37.7	50.0	80.0
	Strongly Agree	28	15.1	20.0	100.0
	Total	140	75.5	100.0	
Missing	System	13	24.5		
Total		153	100.0		

Coming to the expectations of the people, 20% are against the idea that the newspapers are meeting with the expectations of the viewers and masses, 40% are neutral and 40% in support of it. The data in table-8 show the analysis of this discussion.

Table No. 8: Wartime Cartoons in the Country are Meeting the Expectations of the Masses					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Disagree	28	15.1	20.0	20.0
	Neutral	56	30.2	40.0	60.0
	Agree	42	22.6	30.0	90.0
	Strongly Agree	14	7.5	10.0	100.0
	Total	140	75.5	100.0	
Missing	System	13	24.5		
Total		153	100.0		

The last question asked from the respondents was whether Pakistani cartoonists are following journalistic ethics. Surprisingly, majority of the respondents i.e. 50% think that they are not following journalistic ethics, 30%

remained neutral and only 20% think the other way. The data analysed in table-9 illustrate this notion.

Table No. 9: Wartime Cartoons in Pakistan are Following Journalistic Ethics					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Disagree	28	15.1	20.0	20.0
	Disagree	42	22.6	30.0	50.0
	Neutral	42	22.6	30.0	80.0
	Agree	28	15.1	20.0	100.0
	Total	140	75.5	100.0	
Missing	System	13	24.5		
Total		153	100.0		

Qualitative Discussion on Caricaturist Representation of US War on Terror

The results of the data collected by researcher through field survey show that cartoonist representation of any issue is considered significant since it creates a visual effect on the mind of the readers. After seeing the impact of cartoons in the newspapers, this study evaluates the representation of the war on terror since 9/11, 2001. For this investigation, the cartoons have been selected from two leading newspapers of the country i.e., The Dawn and The Nation.

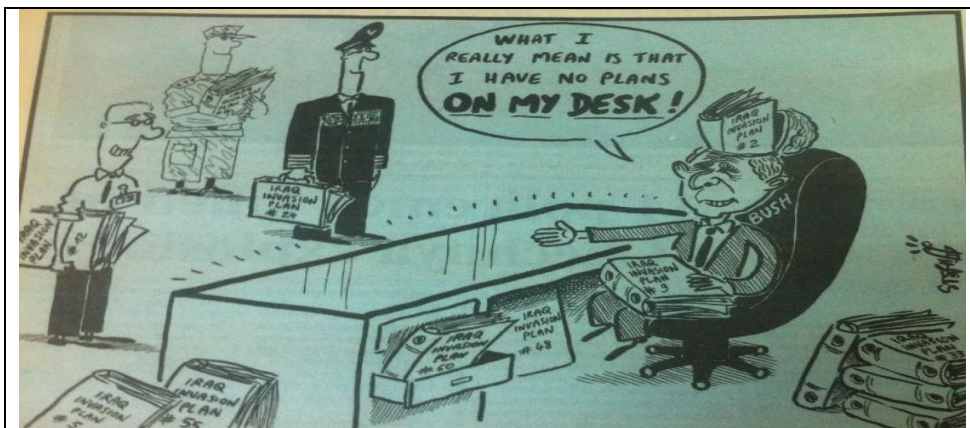


Figure-4: US President on Iraq War

Coming to the first cartoon (fig: 4), the cartoonist has tried to show the disdain of the US President G.W. Bush towards Iraq (Daily Dawn, August 7, 2002). He makes many plans, as shown in the picture, to invade Iraq. However, he

has no plan for the complete destruction of the country. He seems helpless and his pessimism has many reasons too. It is ironical while having his advisors around him with a lot of files in their hands and a lot more around his desk; still he thinks that he has no plan for Iraq. The fact is that he had to convince the international community for what he had been planning to do in Iraq. It is, in fact, this subliminal message which the cartoonist has tried to convey, and he has been successful in his attempt to do so.

Related to the issue of Iraq's crisis, there is yet another cartoon (fig: 5) expressing G.W Bush's concerns regarding the situation through a sports game "golf"(Daily Dawn, October 4, 2002). The main hurdle in his action plan is that of UN Security Council's new resolution. What the cartoonist suggests is that Bush tries to find a solution to this obstacle. Now, the visual for the solution of the UN Security Council is alarming since he is rooting out the existence of this body which will ultimately pave way for his action against Iraq. When he says in the previous image that he has no plan on his table, it was basically this core issue of handling the international community on this issue of Iraq.



Figure-5: Bush on UN Security Council's Resolution

The Iraq war is one of these complicated issues, because there were no weapons of mass destruction (WMD) found even after the United States completed its operation against it. Looking at the picture below (fig: 6), it is evident that the United States has annihilated the Iraqis by killing 66,500 people in its war against terror, WMDs, the Iraqi occupation for several other reasons(Daily Dawn, December 3, 2002). However, still, the second picture (fig: 7) shows that the US president is going on with strongcommitment and is feeling confident

which is quite ironic in today's democratic world(The Nation, December 17, 2002).

In the next two pictures shown in figure-8(The Nation, April 2, 2003)andfigure-9(The Nation, April 12, 2003), the cartoonists have tried to show that the US



Figure-6: Bush on WMD

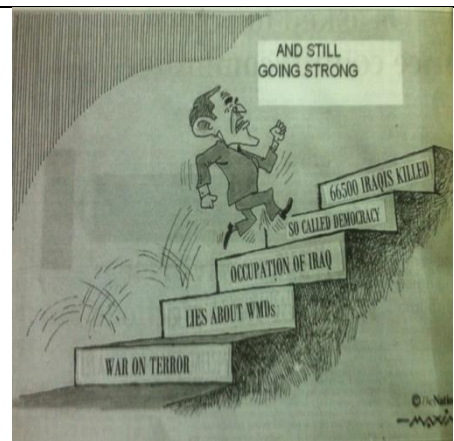


Figure-7: Bush's Confidence

has full control over the international issues. It does not need any permission from the UN General Assembly, UN Security Council, or any other international forum to attack a country that it deems to be attacked. In this depiction, all these organizations have been shown under the feet of the US. It shows that for the US, the world opinion is not important.

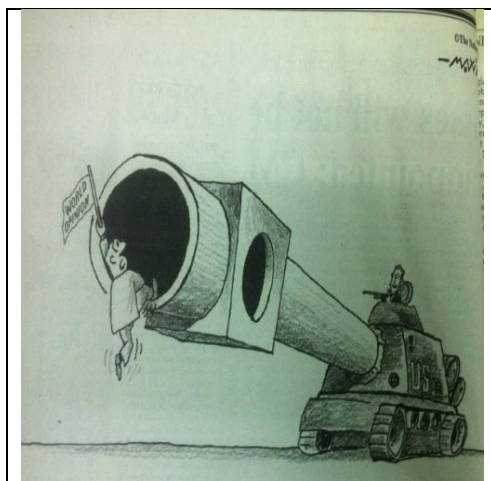


Figure-8: US ignoring World Opinion

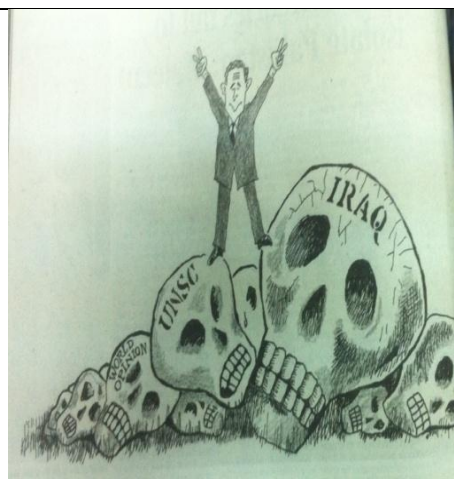


Figure-9: Bush Controls the World

The American war on terror has reached to a level where it has become very destructive due to its severe repercussions. The government of the United States although has a deep understanding of the world concerns over this war has ignored the outcome of this war. There is a strong reaction to this war especially from Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

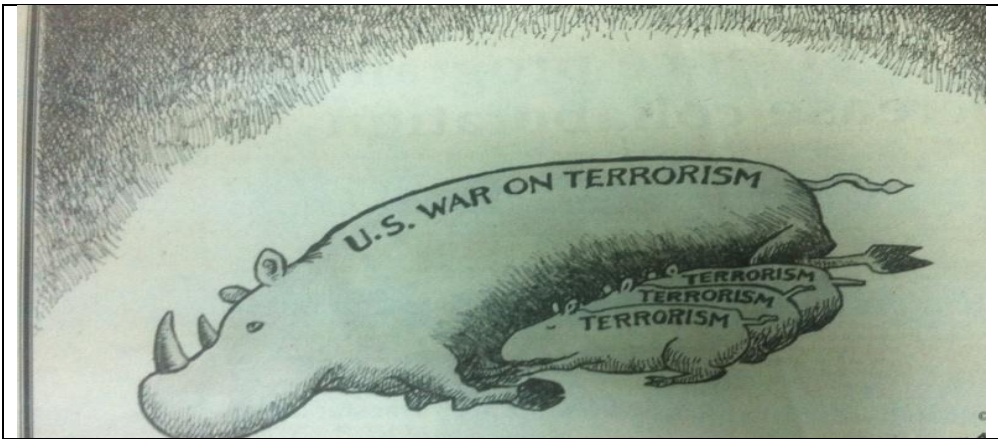


Figure-10:US War on Terror Policy is Spreading Terrorism

The next cartoon (fig: 10) compares the US war on terror to an animal where she is giving birth to many kids of the same problems thus spreading the evil of terrorism in developing world (The Nation, September 27, 2003). On the other hand, this war has resulted in human and capital loss in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iraq.

In the next figure (fig: 11), the former Pakistani president, General Pervaiz Musharraf has been shown sandwiched between Taliban and the US(The Nation, August 07, 2006). Two opposing ideas are coming from both sides where US insists on doing more to tackle the militancy while the religious leaders are raising their voice for no more support to US in war on terror. The general, while his hand in his pockets, is confused what to do since Taliban and political parties of the country were against his rule under the military control. It has a great impact on the people of Pakistan and Afghanistan. His predicament is evident by his helpless position.



Figure-11: General Musharraf and Partners (Do More and No More)

In the figure-12, the US army has been shown struggling hard to have complete control on Afghanistan (Daily Dawn, June 11, 2011). In fact, in its effort to occupy a nation and a country like Afghanistan has been depicted as in contrast to the US. The mountain shows a strong Afghanistan where the US army is striving its best to be on top of affairs. However, the US troops cannot stay there for certain reasons. The troops are trying to stay on the top but they cannot control even themselves, which is ironic. They believe that they have conquered a land.



Figure-12: US Controls Afghanistan



Figure-13: The Option of Dialogue

However, they have suffered a lot of injuries both in terms of soldiers and in terms of recession in its economy. It is around 2009 that this feeling of

balancing has emerged. In 2011, there was another cartoon (fig: 13) in the daily *The Nation* which suggests an escape for the US through a dialogue to get out of this quagmire in which they are in since 9/11 (*The Nation*, July 15, 2011). It is visible from the picture that how Pakistan is in a dominating position in this war and how the US-led coalition is on back foot for they need an escape and a safe exit from this war.

Finally, there appears another cartoon (fig: 14) in 2013 where Barack Obama, the US president, is suggesting that money will solve the Afghan problem (*The Nation*, September 13, 2013). Doing so he wants to overcome concerns of the Pakistani political leaders because they are very prone to money. The fact is that it is accompanied by the drone attacks which are yet another serious repercussion of the war on terror especially for Pakistan. The area which these drones are attacking is a hard core for this battle because there is retaliation in this area. This is a border area between Pakistan and Afghanistan, so cross-border filtration is very much easy due to a long border.



All this analysis shows that the war on terror has caused great damage to South Asia especially Pakistan. Since Pakistan has been one of the most important and frontline states in this war, the direct impact of this war is visible in the country as a reaction. Pakistani army has been consistently fighting against the Taliban thereby causing them great damage. However, it is also a fact that the US has failed in its war against the Afghan Taliban. They are leaving Afghanistan in very dangerous situation which is much destructive than the one left by the USSR. The reason is that Afghan Taliban, at that time, were friends of Pakistan and the United States, and they were the enemies of the USSR only. Today the situation

has been changed drastically because they think Pakistan and the United States as their enemies which is quite logical and reasonable. All the caricatures in this analysis have also highlighted the fact that the US wants a safe exit for the war on terror in Afghanistan. This will make the regional situation worse as peace and stability is important for Afghanistan as well as the Central and South Asian region. The overall result shows that the US war on terror is a failure and waste of money and resources. In addition, it also discusses the gravity of human loss and human sufferings.

CONCLUSION

Cartoon is one of the best descriptions of any idea whether political, economic, or religious as compared to the description in words. It is a great skill through which a caricaturist/cartoonist tries to convey his/her message in subtle visuals. The viewers should also understand the subliminal messages containing cartoons. The present study was an attempt which tries to analyse the scope and role of editorial cartoons. Their role is very important because it is a great source of making pun of the issues concerned. The first objective of this study was to determine the role played by editorial cartoons. Table-1 shows that 80% respondents are in favour of this inclusion and 20% are not its favour. Therefore, it is clear from the data that majority of the people supports this idea while there is only a low level of respondents who are against it. The second question is about the effectiveness of cartoonist representation of an issue. Once again, a majority of 70% believes that visual representation of an issue is an effective way of communicating the ideas, feeling, and emotions to others, while only 30% respondents think the other way.

The findings of the third question in table 3 also supports the researchers claim to be very exact, 60% respondents support this notion while only a very meagre number of 10% negates it. Regarding the role of politicians, the result shows that 60% respondents are in favour of this assumption, 20% remained neutral and only 20% are against it. The data obtained shows that majority of the people think as assumed by the researchers. Table-5 shows the biasness of the cartoon representations where most of the respondents expressed their opinion. The role of cartoons in creating hype by the politicians has also been investigated whereby the majority (Table-6) testifies the claim. The captions have also significance in the depiction of cartoons where 70% of the respondents agree to the assumption that role played by it. However, the newspapers are not coming up to the expectations of the masses since they want a representation of their feelings and sentiments which the newspapers are not meeting with as the results of table no 8 shows. Once again very closely related to this notion was the idea of

professional ethics which surprisingly almost the majority of the respondents are not agreeing with. Table-9 shows the results of this claim.

In a nutshell, this analysis shows that the war on terror has caused great damage to South Asia especially Pakistan. Since Pakistan has been one of the most important and frontline states in this war, the direct impact of this war is visible in the country as a reaction. Pakistani army has been consistently fighting against the Taliban thereby causing them great damage. However, it is also a fact that the US has failed in its war against the Afghan Taliban. They are leaving Afghanistan in very dangerous situation which is much destructive than the one left by the USSR. The reason is that Afghan Taliban, at that time, were friends of Pakistan and the United States, and they were the enemies of the USSR only. Today the situation has been changed drastically because they think Pakistan and the United States as their enemies which is quite logical and reasonable. All the caricatures in this analysis have also highlighted the fact that the US wants a safe exit for the war on terror in Afghanistan. This will make the regional situation worse as peace and stability is important for Afghanistan as well as the Central and South Asian region. The overall result shows that the US war on terror is a failure and waste of money and resources. In addition, it also discusses the gravity of human loss and human sufferings. As a matter of fact, Pakistan and the rest of the world in general should not support anymore this war on terror since it is causing great damage to the world.

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Notes:

¹Abidin Dino (1913-1993) was a well-known Turkish painter who published articles and cartoons in newspapers and magazines.

²Grotesque: In modern English, grotesque has come to be used as a general adjective for the strange, fantastic, ugly, incongruous, unpleasant, or bizarre, and thus is often used to describe weird shapes and distorted forms.

³Leonardo Da Vinci (1452-1519) was an Italian polymath of the Renaissance, who is widely considered as one of the greatest painters of all time in the world.

⁴AnnibaleCaracci (1560-1609) was an Italian painter.

⁵Likert Scale is typically a five, seven, or nine-point agreement scale used to measure respondents' agreement with a variety of statements.