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Conflict Journalism in Pakistan: A Quest for Constructive Reporting

ABSTRACT

This study offers a unique perspective to the analysis of conflict communication by applying all the three strands of critical discourse analysis as varyingly advocated by Fairclough and Van Dijk to investigate the reporting Taliban and Balochistan conflicts in Pakistan media. Through textual analysis and detailed interviews with reporters, editors and experts, the study analyses how these conflicts are reported and the factors that determine the nature of reportage. It is concluded that the Daniel Hallin model of media sphere is best suited to explain the nature of conflict communication either towards constructive or destructive coverage.

Keywords: Conflict communication; critical discourse analysis; securitization, politicization, sensationalism; empathy; responsibility.

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