

Rethinking Peace Journalism in Pakistan: A Critical Analysis of News Discourse on the Afghan Refugee Repatriation Conflict

Authors : Ayesha Hasan

Abstract : This study offers unique perspectives and analyses of peace and conflict journalism through interpretative repertoire, media frames, and critical discourse analyses. Two major English publications in Pakistan, representing both long and short-form journalism, are investigated to uncover how the Afghan refugee repatriation from Pakistan in 2016-17 has been framed in Pakistani English media. Peace journalism focuses on concepts such as peace initiatives and peace building, finding common ground, and preventing further conflict. This study applies Jake Lynch's Coding Criteria to guide the critical discourse analysis and Lee and Maslog's Peace Journalism Quotient to examine the extent of peace journalism in each text. This study finds that peace journalism is missing in Pakistani English press, but represented, to an extent, in long-form print and online coverage. Two new alternative frames are also proposed. This study gives an in-depth understanding of if and how journalists in Pakistan are covering conflicts and framing stories that can be identified as peace journalism. This study represents significant contributions to the remarkably limited scholarship on peace and conflict journalism in Pakistan and extends Shabbir Hussain's work on critical pragmatic perspectives on peace journalism in Pakistan.

Keywords : Afghan refugee repatriation, Critical discourse analysis, Media framing , Peace and conflict journalism

Conference Title : ICPCJ 2019 : International Conference on Peace, Conflict and Justice

Conference Location : Venice, Italy

Conference Dates : April 11-12, 2019