

Study of Action Verbs Used in the Speeches of General Raheel Sharif: A Pragmatic Analysis

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Abstract

The present study investigated the speech acts used by retired 15th Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Raheel Sharif in his spoken discourse. The selected speeches were examined considering Searle's (1979) classification of speech acts using his concept of Illocutionary Force Indicating Devices (IFIDS). As there is no such research yet conducted on this subject, therefore, it is significant in filling the research gap in this area. The qualitative study aimed to identify the illocutionary acts used by the General to eliminate the terrorism from Pakistan. A total of thirteen news reports were taken from Pakistani local English newspapers, The Nation, and Dawn from November 2013 to November 2016. All the selected utterances were in direct speech and focused on the theme of terrorism. Therefore, the results indicated that Chief used declarative act to assert the determination and commitment of Pakistan Army against terrorism. It also reflected on authority to persuade his troops and institutional beliefs of the organization.

Keywords: Language; Pragmatics, Spoken discourse, Context, & Searle's (1979) classification Illocutionary Speech Act

1. Introduction

Language is a tool to demonstrate affections, desires, or choices by speakers. It is used to manifest their appeals, directions, and endorse an action to listeners. The basic purpose of the use of language is to make declarations as per any situation. Therefore, it is a form of a communication that includes two or more people in the conversation sharing same context and common goals. By doing so, the speaker and listener give their

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consideration to an issue that needs special attention. The present study aims to analyze the use of speech acts in the speeches of Retired 15th Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Raheel Sharif. At that time, the whole Pakistani society was badly affected by the issue of terrorism. Due to terrorism, Pakistan was portrayed as an unsafe country in the world. The COAS took notice and initiated the military operation Zarb-e-Azb on 15th June 2014, to fight against terrorists in the Northern areas of Pakistan. This action of the General was quoted by The Express Tribune newspaper as “*with backing of the entire nation, we will eliminate the scourge of terrorism from our soil forever*”.

1.1 Problem Statement

It is a fact the human beings use language to communicate their intentions, desires or emotions to people. Using speech acts, speakers use performative verbs (VP) to achieve their desired task. In this research, it remains to be seen how General (Retired) Raheel Sharif used illocutionary acts to persuade his audience to perform desired acts and eliminate terrorism. He persuaded his audiences by conducting a military operation Zarb-e-Azb operation, Pakistan can get rid of terrorism.

1.2 Research Objective

a. To analyze the speech acts used by General Raheel Sharif for persuading his audience.

1.2 Research Question

a. How were the speech acts used by General Raheel Sharif for persuading his audience?

2. Literature Review

2.1 Pragmatics

Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics. In Foundation of Theory of Sign (1938), Charles Morris, an American philosopher introduced the term pragmatics in his work.

Yule (1996) has discussed four aspects in the study of pragmatics. First, ‘pragmatics is the study of speaker meaning’. It focuses on the meaning ‘as communicated by a speaker’. Second, ‘pragmatics is the study of contextual meaning’. Context is an important element to study speaker’s meaning as communicated in a context. Third, ‘pragmatics is the study of how more

gets communicated than is said'. Lastly, 'pragmatics is the study of the expression of relative distance'. He concludes it is the 'study of the relationship between linguistic forms and users of those forms. The advantage of studying language via pragmatics is that one can talk about people's intended meaning, their assumption, their purposes or goals and the kinds of actions that they are performing when they speak' Levinson (1983) defined pragmatics 'is the study of those relations between language and context that are grammaticalized, or encoded in the structure of a language'. Beside this, Allott (2010) related pragmatics with philosophy which focuses on the relationship between the meaning of sentences and their speaker's meaning when they produce them. Furthermore, pragmatics examines language in use and fragment of utterances uttered by speaker in the context. These utterances may not be complete sentences. The meaning of language can be explored at different levels. First, semantics studies from linguistics knowledge whereas pragmatics focuses on invisible meaning that cannot be foresee through linguistic knowledge. Unlike semantics, pragmatics considers aspects of physical and social world. Semantic analysis restricted at word level, but pragmatics analysis is focused on speaker's utterances. These utterances are unique because they are uttered in a physical situation at a particular time to reflect an action for communication. Since 1940s post-war Oxford philosophers such as Paul Grice, J.L. Austin, Peter Strawson, J.O. Urmson, R. M. Hare, and Stuart Hampshire had a huge impact on the study of pragmatics. Therefore, this research explored use of language to identify the speech acts uttered by the General in his speech.

2.2 Discourses

Cook (2004) highlighted that there are two forms of discourse: spoken and written. The former one is loosely structured whereas the latter is planned and structured. Spoken discourses includes variety of daily based communication, classroom talks, professors' lectures, conversation between an employer and employee or courts spoken discourse. These spoken discourses can also be found in written discourses. The "different types of language used in different sorts of social situation (e.g newspaper discourse, advertising discourse, classroom discourse, the discourse of medical consultations)". Whereas Scollon (2012) suggested that discourses are form of raw data for analysis. Discourses include human speeches, their autobiographies, speech acts, and real objects from the physical world such

as symbols on the freeways, medications discourses, architectures design or any formal and informal documents. Besides this, conservations are also form of discourse. On the other, spoken discourses are composed of utterances ‘actual speech sequences in specific situation.

2.3 Context

Yule (2010) states two types of contexts, linguistic and physical context. The former one, is also known as ‘co-text’. “The co-text of a word is the set of other words used in the same phrase or sentence. The surrounding co-text has a strong effect on what we think the word probably means”. And last one, is related to “our understanding of much of what we read and hear is tied to this processing of aspects of the physical context, particularly the time and place, in which we encounter linguistics expressions”. On the other hand, Tanskanen et al. (2010) examined that all discourses are a part of context and context is present in discourses, produced by speakers or writers through interactions. Therefore, discourses are constructed in certain contexts and thereby context is seen as embedment of the discourse.

2.4 Previous Research

There are several studies carried out to analyze the speeches of eminent speakers of the world using speech acts theory. Mgbakoigba (2013) analyzed the speeches of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak delivered in 1981 and 2011. The speech act theory was employed and it was found out that the statements of speeches lack the appropriateness which led to the crisis in Egypt.

Similarly, Akinwotu (2013) investigated the use of language in public interaction in the speeches of presidential candidates of Nigeria Awolowo. The research aimed to study and inferred the speakers’ intentions of using a language in political discourse interaction. The objective of the study was to investigate the use of illocutionary acts that are existing and are recognized as speakers’ intentions to establish their communicative goals in the particular social context to accept their nomination as presidential candidates in Nigeria. For this study, the researcher selected two speakers from Nigeria, Chief Awolowo who is Presidential applicant of Unity Party in 1979, and Chief Abiola a member of the Social Democratic Party in 1993. These speeches were designed for oral communication. The Chief Awolowo’s speech was obtained from a collection titled as Path to Nigerian Greatness (1986) whereas Chief Abiola’s speech was obtained from an

election campaign publication entitled *Hope '93: Farewell to poverty* (1993). The researcher used Searle's (1976) classification of illocutionary speech acts. The results revealed that the speaker used great percentage of assertive (27.3%) speech acts in their speeches. Secondly, the speakers use both expressive and commissive speech acts with same ratio (22.70%). In expressive speech acts, the speaker uses adjectives like 'grateful' and 'unqualified' to express the minds of the speakers. Whereas the speakers in the commissive acts vow to act altruistic and work for the well-being of the people. The speaker used the verb 'dedicate' to influence his audience to recognize him as a candidate with good intentions. On the other hand, the speaker Abiola used verb phrases like 'will draw' and 'will be' to commit himself to future acts. Thirdly, the speakers used in their speech's directive speech acts in lesser amount (18.2%) and lastly, they both had used declarative only fewer times (9.1%). The importance of the use of speech acts aims to persuade the audience to accept the nomination of speakers.

Haider (2014) investigated Malala Yousaf Zai's speech given at United Nation Youth Assembly on 12th July 2013. The theory of Critical Discourse Analysis, and the framework of Aristotle's three modes of persuasion in speech, ethos, pathos, and logos were used by the researcher. The main gap of the study was to explore the hidden meaning in the speech of Malala Yousaf Zai. Also, to make her ideology related to terrorism and girl's education transparent. At ethos, she related to her personal experience and declared that she is not afraid of terrorist, the Taliban. She will continue to work for development of girl's education. At next level, pathos, she rejected terrorism and mentioned the name of famous world leaders such as Jesus, Lord Buddha, Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Bacha Khan and Mother Teresa. Through use of such words, she tried to persuade the audience to promote education and to eliminate terrorism.

Sameer (2017) studied the use of speech acts to reveal what speakers do when they communicate with their listeners. He discovered speech acts enacted anything through discourse, spoken or written. For this purpose, the researcher had taken two Egyptian inaugural speeches delivered by El-Sadat in 1970 and El-Sisi in 2014. The speakers represented two different time periods, but they belonged to same context. The researcher used two models to analyse the data, first, Searle's theory of speech acts and

secondly, Ferrara's (1980) model to discover the relationships between the speech acts that follows: justification, contrastive apposition and amplification. Furthermore, researcher's analysis concluded that there was a little difference between the two speakers' speeches. In El Sadat's spoken discourse, the speaker used commissive speech acts whereas El-Sisi's spoken discourse used assertive speech acts to get the foremost place in the eyes of the audience.

In summary, most of the above-mentioned researchers were interested to explore the areas of language in use. Similarly, in the present study, the researcher also intends to do a pragmatic analysis of the speeches using speech act theory. Therefore, Searle (1979) classification of illocutionary acts has helped to understand the use of language such as performative verbs to persuade listeners to perform different tasks in Zarb-e-Azb, a military operation to diminish terrorism.

2.6. Theoretical Framework

Miller (2001) described that these acts must do something with words. All utterance are acts. Yule (1996) stated 'an act performed by the use of an utterance to communicate' (p.134). On the other hand, Searle, Kiefer & Bierwisch (2012) suggested that illocutionary acts have purpose to convince or persuade listeners. Therefore, the researcher conducted a pragmatic study of the utterances using theory of Searle's (1979) classification of illocutionary acts to identify speech acts. Yule (1996) illocutionary act is 'the communicative force of an utterance' (p.130). Searle (1979) proposed five kinds of illocutionary speech acts: assertive, directives, commissive, expressive, and declaration.

2.6.1 Assertive

In this form of illocutionary speech act, Searle (1979) believes the main aim is 'to commit the speaker to something's being the case, to the truth of the expressed proposition' (p.12). The objective of such as speech act is to syntactically arrange words to describe psychological situation and ideas by human beings.

2.6.2 Directives

Directives are illocutionary speech acts that are uttered by the speaker in order to direct the hearer to do something in the real world. Searle (1979)

believes that main purpose of directive speech act is to show the intention of the speaker. Speaker uses verbs such as 'ask, order, command, request, beg, plead, pray, entreat, and also invite, permit and advise' (p. 13). Here, the speaker wants the worldly affairs to fit into the words of the speech.

2.6.3 Commissive

According to Searle (1979), commissive speech acts 'are those illocutionary acts whose point is to commit the speaker to some future course of action. The direction of fit is world-to-word, and the sincerity condition is Intention' (p.14)

2.6.4 Expressive

Searle believes expressive illocutionary speech acts are used 'to express the psychological state specified in the sincerity condition about a situation specified in the propositional content' (p.16). In such a speech act the speaker describes what s/he feels about their personal experiences. 'The paradigms of expressive verbs are 'thanks', 'congratulate', 'apologize', 'condole', 'deplore' and 'welcome'. Therefore, expressive speech acts used by speakers aim to express true condition of their personal experience through their speeches.

2.6.5 Declaration

Lastly, Searle (1979) has described declarative illocutionary speech act that 'declaration bring about some alteration in the status or condition of the referred to object or objects solely in virtue of the fact that the declaration has been successfully preferred. Making a statement is as much performing an illocutionary act as making promise, a bet, a warning or what have you'. Therefore, 'it is only given such institutions as the church, the law, private property, the state and a special position of the speaker and hearer within this institution that one can excommunicate, appoint, give and bequeath one's possessions or declare war' (p.18)

3. Methodology

This study is qualitative in nature. The data comprised the utterances of 15th COAS of Pakistan General (Retired) Raheel Sharif. The speeches were delivered during his tenure from November 2013 to November 2016. Only the direct speeches (reported as it is) were considered, seven speeches from

The Nation, and six speeches from the *Dawn* Newspapers. The details of the speeches are given in the following:

Table 3.1: Details of the Speeches

Sr. No	Date	Reported Newspapers Headlines	Source
1	September 7, 2014	Zarb-e- Azb has long term objectives: COAS.	The Nation
2	March 29, 2015	Future generations to get terror-free Pakistan says COAS.	The Nation
3	April 16, 2015	COAS warns foreign powers to keep off Balochistan.	The Nation
4	June 8, 2015	Zarb-e-Azb to bring peace, stability in region: COAS.	The Nation
5	June 14, 2015	CPEC, Gwadar port to be built at any cost: COAS.	The Nation
6	October 2, 2015	All efforts will be made for CPEC's success, says Army Chief.	Dawn
7	November 21, 2015	'Operation should have started yesterday', says Army Chief.	Dawn
8	February 10 th , 2016	Entering most difficult phase of operation: COAS.	The Nation
9	February 25 th , 2016	Raheel orders launch of Zarb-e-Azb's final phase.	Dawn
10.	February 29 th , 2016	Will go to any length to finish terrorists: COAS.	The Nation
11	May 28 th , 2016	COAS lauds preparedness of armed forces.	Dawn
12	August 1 st , 2016	Noose tightened around terrorist, says army Chief.	Dawn
13	September 24 th , 2016	Army ready to beat back aggressors, says COAS.	Dawn

The table shows the dates when the speeches were delivered, newspapers headlines for those speeches and reporting newspapers. Under the headlines of the newspapers, the direct speeches are under quotation marks, and they are considered for analysis, so that the uninfluenced data may be collected. It may maintain authenticity of the data and avoid any discrepancy of the

research. Since the direct speeches were considered; thus, two English newspapers helped in providing more direct information.

4. Data Analysis

The speeches were analyzed in chronological order, from serial no 1 to serial no 13, considering Searle's (1979) classification of illocutionary acts theory. He gives the concept of Illocutionary Force Indicating Devices (IFIDS) that highlight the performative verb (VP) used by speaker to perform illocutionary act. The speeches were analyzed to find out the use of illocutionary acts for knowing the intended meaning of the speakers' utterance which aims to fight against the social issue of terrorism.

Table 4.1: Speech Act Analysis of the Speech No.1.

Sentences	Speech Acts
"Elimination of this menace is a national undertaking and only with sustained focus of the entire nation, we can jointly accomplish our objective of a terror-free Pakistan," he expressed his resolve.	Expressive & Declarative

The Nation newspapers' headline, '*Zarb-e-Azb has long term objectives*', on 7th September 2014, reported the COAS' utterances at Mirali, North Waziristan, on 48th Defence Day of Pakistan. COAS appreciated and escalated the moral of the army men serving in those areas to fight against terrorist groups and their organizations conducting terror activities within Pakistan. He expressed 'elimination' (noun) means to destroy completely 'menace' of terrorism in the Northern areas. He used the word 'accomplish' (VP) to declare his objective 'of a terror-free Pakistan'. The speaker's utterance is composed of both expressive and declarative act to show his intentions for the National Objective Plan and *Zarb-e-Azb* operation in the North Waziristan agency and areas of FATA.

Table 4.2: Speech Act Analysis of the Speech No.2.

Sentences	Speech Acts
"We have to collectively put efforts to give our next generation a terror-free country, to provide them conducive environment, to help them apply their knowledge and creativity to achieve optimum effects for national growth."	Expressive/Declarative
"We are taking menace of terrorism head on and will go anywhere in the country to eliminate in totality," army chief pledged.	Declarative

The Nation newspapers' headline 'Future generations to get terror-free Pakistan', on 29th March 2015, reported the COAS' utterances at CMH, Lahore Medical College, Lahore. He used an adverb 'collectively' that a teamwork to be needed for diminishing the terrorism. He informed that not only the troops, but also military doctors could render their services to provide a 'terror-free Pakistan' for future generation. He used VP like 'to give', 'to provide', 'to help', 'to achieve', 'are taking', 'will go', and 'to eliminate' to express his enthusiasm and determination to finish terrorism and be provided 'conductive' environment in Pakistan.

Table 4.3: Speech Act Analysis of the Speech No 3

Sentences	Speech acts
"We will unearth terrorists, their abettors, sympathisers and financiers. None of them will find any place in the country to hide."	Declarative
"We will defeat terrorism comprehensively."	Declarative

The Nation newspapers' headline, 'CAOS warns foreign powers to keep off Balochistan' on 16th April 2015, reported the COAS' utterances in a meeting with the governor, and the Chief Minister of Balochistan. COAS used declarative speech act to show his determination in the fight against terrorist. His commands were the reflection of his objectives of the *Zarb-e-Azb* operation that needed to be achieved. This speech was not only about him but also the institution he worked for. The speaker used VP 'unearth' to show an action against the 'terrorist, the abettors, sympathisers and financiers', he intended to finish and 'defeat' terrorism once for all.

Table 4.4: Speech Act Analysis of the Speech No. 4

Sentences	Speech acts
"with the support of our nation, we have successfully dismantled terrorists' infrastructure and created significant effects."	Declarative
"we as a nation are determined to take this surge to its logical end, whatever it may take." He added.	Declarative
"We will always stand with our brothers on their way to greater security and prosperity"	Declarative

The Nation newspapers' headline, 'Zarb-e-Azb bring peace, stability in region' on 8th June 2015, reported the COAS' utterances at a reception hosted in Colombo to the Sri Lankan Military students trained in Pakistan.

The speaker gave a positive sight using an adverb ‘successfully’ for the operation of *Zarb-e-Azb*. He appreciated his army men and their efforts using past form of verb ‘dismantled’ to destroy the ‘infrastructure’ of the terrorists and their organizational structures in the North Waziristan and FATA areas which ‘created significant effects’, specifically, for the people living there. Similarly, the speaker used verb ‘determined’ that demonstrated their willpower to achieve their objectives of *Zarb-e-Azb* operation to fight the terrorists. The speaker used the phrase ‘whatever it may take’ to specify that they are ready to take any steps and to render as much as sacrifices in the fight against terrorism. Therefore, the speaker used declarative speech acts, and reassured the Sir Lankan soldiers that Pakistan has achieved tremendous results in the fight against terrorism. This exhibited that Pakistani army was ready to deal with the both the external and internal threats.

Table 4.5: Speech Act Analysis of the Speech No.5

Sentences	Speech Acts
“We are ready to pay any price to protect our nationhood and safeguard our interests, be it Kashmir, development of new ports or exploitation of natural resources...We are acutely aware of our enemy’s campaign and will defeat its designs,” he declared,	Declarative
“The entire nation expresses resolve to eliminate the menace of the terror and operation <i>Zarb-e-Azb</i> is delivering decisive results. The terrorists are now resorting to desperate actions. Battle against terrorism won’t be won alone and it is encouraging to see the entire nation is pursuing this national effort with great sense of purpose.”	Declarative and expressive

The Nation newspapers’ headline, ‘*CPEC, Gwadar port to be built at any cost*’ on 14th June 2015, reported the COAS’ utterances. The speaker used VP such as ‘to pay any price’, ‘to protect’, ‘will defeat’, and ‘to eliminate’ for the fight against terrorism. He showed his satisfaction on the results being delivered by Pakistani army in the fight against terrorism using expressive speech act to mirror the effects of the operation to his audience. Whereas the speaker knows that the ‘entire nation’ of Pakistan wants ‘to eliminate the menace’ of terrorism. The speaker used a positive lexicon ‘decisive’ an adjective that showed *Zarb-e-Azb* operation was displaying positive results. Consequently, highlighting terrorists’ situation as being ‘desperate’ since hunt down started against them. Here, the speaker acknowledged the efforts and support of ‘the entire nation’ in support of the *Zarb-e-Azb* operation and showing their cooperation to bring these terrorists

to their real fate. Hence, the speaker used more declarative acts than the expressive acts which highlight the objectives of *the Zarb-e-Azb* operation.

Table 4.6: Speech Act Analysis in the Speech (No.6).

Statements	Speech Acts
"Our environment and context need to be understood," he said. "We want to finish terrorists and their nurseries."	Directive / Declarative
COAS urged the international community to play its role for the regional peace. "Terrorism is a global issue and warrants global response. The funding of all terrorist organization has to be checked by all."	Directive
"We are against use of proxies and won't allow it on our soil," army chief said.	Directive

In the *Dawn* newspaper, a news headline '*All Efforts will be made for CPEC's Success*' on October 2nd, 2015, published Chief's address to the people of the international community at the international institute for strategic studies and House of Commons. In the utterance (No.1), the speaker is informing the foreign community about the social situation. And in the second half of the sentence, he is declaring using VP 'to finish' the objectives of *Zarb-e-Azb* operation to international community who are present to attend his speech. He is informing and suggesting the foreign community for full attention towards the issue of terrorism and uses words like 'has to be checked', 'against use of proxies', and 'won't allow' for the terrorists.

These choices of words indicated actions that needed to be taken by international community as well as Pakistan authorities. Secondly, he wanted the international community to take an action that 'warrants global response' and wanted them to come to one page to wipe out these demonic figures from their territories. The speaker believed that the world needs to pay attention to what was happening in their country and borders. There should be complete check on the funding received from foreign organizations. Therefore, the speaker in his speech used declarative speech acts to convey his stance on the issue of terrorism

Table 4.7: Speech Act Analysis in the Speech (No.7).

Statements	Speech Acts
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General Raheel expressed, “unflinching commitment of the armed forces in ensuring peace and security in the country as well as in countering external threats”.	Expressive
He said that the operation against terrorists “should have started yesterday” but now that it had started it would continue.	Declarative
“The armed forces of Pakistan would take the war against terrorism to its logical conclusion and would not let the sacrifices of martyrs go in vain,” he said.	Declarative
“There is no going back now. The operation will continue,” he said. “I see light at the end of the tunnel.”	Declarative

‘*Operation should have started yesterday*’, a news report published in *Dawn* newspaper on November 21st, 2015, reported COAS’ utterances to Pakistani community as well as Americans living in United States of America. He used VP such as ‘should have started’, ‘would take’, ‘would not let’, ‘will continue’, and ‘see light’. The speaker used adjective ‘unflinching’ to assign a quality to the armed forces in their ‘commitment’ to fight the terrorists in the tribal areas of Pakistan. On the other hand, he gave a positive portrayal of armed forces of Pakistan ‘in countering external threats’. Here, the speaker referred to ‘external threat’ that these terrorists were facilitated by foreign organization to perform terror acts in the country. On the contrary, the speaker declared that the operation *Zarb-e-Azb* ‘should have started yesterday’ in the country. As seen the speaker’s utterances highlighted the use of declarative and expressive statements to present his stance in front of the audience. But the speaker used more declarative as compared to expressive statements. And he also emphasized the need to continue the operation to its last phase and taking it to its ‘logical conclusion’ to wipe out the terrorists from Pakistani soil.

Table 4.8: Speech Act Analysis in the Speech (No.8).

Statements	Speech Acts
“We are in the most difficult phase of the operation after successfully evicting terrorist from their sanctuaries and restoring the writ of the state,” said the army chief	Declarative
“With unflinching resolve and courage, our proud tribesmen of Fata and people of KP stood up to atrocities of the terrorists, pushed them back and marginalised them in the society, which deserves highest of accolades.”	Expressive

"Together, Insha Allah, with our tribal brethren we shall ensure that terrorist and their facilitators are never allowed to return to these areas."

Declarative

In the newspaper *The Nation*, a news headline '*Entering most difficult phase of operation: COAS*' published on February 10th, 2016, reported utterances delivered by General Raheel Sharif on the operation *Zarb-e-Azb* in the North-Western tribal areas of the country. The chief used VP 'evicting terrorists', 'restoring the writ', 'we shall ensure', and 'are never allowed to return' to declare the objectives of the operation and the institution he represented. At this point, army had fought the terrorists and targeted their hideouts in the cities and mountainous areas of North Waziristan and FATA. He used an adverb 'successfully' to highlight the positive image of the *Zarb-e-Azb* operation. The soldiers of Pakistan army worked hard at the ground level to finish and 'evicting' the terrorists from their sanctuaries' where they took a safety pursuit from armed forces of Pakistan. But now, these terrorists were forced to face their real fate since the start of the *Zarb-e-Azb* operation. In addition, the speaker expressed his appreciation to the people of North Waziristan and FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with words like 'unflinching resolve', 'courage' and 'deserves highest of accolades' to fight the demonic humans of the earth. They not only fought with them but also 'pushed them back and marginalised them in the society. Furthermore, the speaker used an adverb 'together' to refer to both armed forces and Pakistani nation as whole, as they were determined 'that terrorists and their facilitators are never allowed to these areas'. As a result, the speaker used declarative speech acts more as compared to any other acts.

Table 4.9: Speech Act Analysis in the Speech (No.9).

Statements	Speech Acts
"Commence forthwith the last phase of the operation which aims at clearing remnants of terrorists from their hideouts in deeply forested ravines, isolate them and indiscriminately sever their links with their abettors anywhere across the country," he was quoted as saying to the troops during a visit to Shawal.	Directive

A news headline '*Raheel orders launch of Zarb-i-Azb's final phase*' in the newspaper *Dawn*, reported a speech delivered by Chief to his troops operating in Shawal valley on February 25th, 2016. COAS used directive

speech act commanding his troops ‘to commence forthwith’ for the final stage of the *Zarb-e-Azb* operation. The speaker used VP ‘commence forthwith’ for his troops directing them to move further on and to continue their fight against terrorism. According to the speaker, the military operation *Zarb-e-Azb* has come to ‘the last phase’. Whereas in the sentence ‘aims at clearing the remnants of terrorists’, the speaker used another VP ‘aims at’ to show action against the remaining of the terrorists and none will be spared. The speaker directed his troops to destroy their ‘hideouts’ of the terrorists in the mountainous areas of North Waziristan and FATA. Furthermore, he emphasized the need to cut their connections with their ‘abettors’ and to abolish them ‘indiscriminately sever their links with their abettors anywhere across the country’. The speaker directed the troops to carry out this operation ‘across the country’ that means not only North Waziristan and FATA were under attack but also other provinces of Pakistan.

Table 4.10: Speech Act Analysis in the Speech (No.10).

Sentences	Speech Acts
“Terrorist will not be given chance to flee and army is determined to eliminate all the militants.”	Declarative
“We are determined and will go to any length to finish all pockets of terrorists from any nook and corner of the country.”	Declarative

In the newspaper *The Nation*, a news report published a news heading “*Will go to any length to finish terrorists*” on 29th February 2016 reported utterances of COAS. COAS used VP in his utterances ‘to flee’, ‘to eliminate’ and ‘to finish’ for the terrorist. In contrast, the speaker used the verb ‘determined’ twice to show his preparedness and his seriousness towards the issue of terrorism. Therefore, the speaker’s use of language reflected the declaration of his stance to continue with the mission *Zarb-e-Azb* and to abolish terrorism from Pakistan.

Table 4.11: Speech Act Analysis in the speech (No.11).

Statements	Speech Acts
“With first-hand war experience, operational employment and state-of-combat readiness, our armed forces are fully capable and prepared to respond to the entire spectrum of threats.”	Declarative

"Together, we will uproot this menace and overcome all challenges facing Pakistan," he said.	Declarative
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In the newspaper *Dawn*, a news headline '*COAS lauds preparedness of armed forces*' on May 28th, 2016, reported a speech delivered by General Raheel Sharif at the Naval War College. The speaker highlighted the role of Pakistan's army in the military operation *Zarb-e-Azb*. The speaker used the phrase 'with first-hand war' to associate the fact that Pakistani soldiers had been fighting on the frontline with the terrorists. They were aware about the 'operational employment' techniques and 'state-of-combat readiness'. Pakistan Army had been working out the strategies to fight the demonic figures both at internal and external level. The speaker used the phrase 'with first-hand war' compatibilities to draw a powerful image of the Pakistan army and its institution. On the other speaker used the phrase 'entire spectrum' to reveal that there were many threats at internal and external. The speaker believed the army of Pakistan was 'fully capable' to fight them. Furthermore, the speaker used a VP 'uproot' for the terrorists. This showed the speaker's belief for the terrorists and terrorism prevailing within Pakistan. In addition, the speaker used adverb 'together' to show companionship with his soldiers and vows to 'overcome all challenges' such as terrorism in Pakistan. Therefore, the Chief used declarative speech acts in his speech.

Table 4.12: Speech Act Analysis in the Speech (No.12).

Statements	Speech Acts
"The noose has been tightened around terrorists and their facilitators and their facilitators and the day is not far off when the country will become a haven of peace, prosperity and progress," he said.	Declarative
"The Shandur festival not only attracts domestic and foreign tourists but also gives a loud message to terrorists that we cannot be intimidated into shunning our traditions," the army chief said.	Declarative

'*Noose tightened around terrorist*' a news headline in *Dawn* newspaper reported utterances delivered by General Raheel Sharif on August 1st, 2016, at the closing ceremony of Shandur festival held in Chitral. The Chief in his speech used declarative acts to direct the attention of the

audiences towards the current situation of peace after the military operation *Zarb-e-Azb*. The speaker used the term ‘noose’ negative imagery for the terrorists that means a rope that was tighten for hanging a criminal. Furthermore, the speaker asserted that ‘The Shandur festival’ was a proof of peace and stability in Pakistan. The speaker believed holding such festival allures the ‘domestic and foreign tourists’ both at national and international level. Festival like these, were sending a ‘loud message to terrorists’ that we were not frightened of them and ‘we cannot be intimidated into shunning our traditions.

Table 4.13: Speech Act Analysis in the Speech (No.13).

Statements	Speech Acts
“Inshallah with the backing of the entire nation we will defend each and every inch of our beloved country, no matter what the cost,” he said	Declarative
“Let there be no doubt that our valiant armed forces have the capability to counter complete threat spectrum,” the army chief said.	Declarative
“We have turned the tide against terrorism primarily due to resilience displayed by the whole nation and professionalism of our society forces,” he noted.	Expressive

A news headline, ‘*Army ready to beat back aggressors, says COAS*’ in *Dawn* newspaper reported a speech delivered by General Raheel Sharif to the military officers of the National Counter-Terrorism Centre (NCTC) located near Kharian published on September 24th, 2016. The speaker used VP ‘will defend’ and ‘to counter complete’ which reflected the speaker’s intention. On the contrary, the speaker also appreciated the work done by the armed forces in these two sentences, ‘we have turned the tide’ and ‘professionalism of our security forces’. The speaker believed ‘with the backing of the entire nation’, the army will protect the independence of Pakistan. The speaker used Islamic terminology ‘Inshallah’ to refer to his commitment to protect Pakistan in all odds. Furthermore, the speaker pronounced in his speech that there was ‘no doubt that our valiant armed forces have capability to counter complete threat spectrum’. According to the speaker, armed force of Pakistan had gained their first-hand experience in handling ‘threat spectrum’ like internal and external type of terrorism. On the contrary, the speaker admitted the role of the ‘whole nation and professionalism of our society’ with their toughness to fight terrorists.

Therefore, speaker used declarative acts more as compared to expressive act.

5. Discussion

In the analysis, the speech (No. 1), General Raheel Sharif declared the objectives of *Zarb-e-Azb* military operation and responsibilities of Pakistani Army. The General used declarative statement 'elimination of this menace' to show his resolve and his intentions for the National Objective Plan and *Zarb-e-Azb* operation in the North Waziristan agency. Beside this, he used verb 'accomplish' to declare his objective 'of a terror-free Pakistan'. Likewise, his speech (No.2) the speaker used VP like 'to give', 'to provide', 'to help', 'to achieve', 'are taking', 'will go', and 'to eliminate' to inform his enthusiasm and determination to finish terrorism from Pakistan. He used verb 'to provide' to command his troops to serve their purpose to bring forth 'conductive' environment for their future generation. In both speeches (No.1 & No.2), the speaker is stating his intentions for complete abolishment of the terrorists. In the speech (No.3), the speaker used declarative speech act to show his determination in the fight against terrorists. His words are declaring the objectives of the *Zarb-e-Azb* operation that needed to be achieved by the end of the operation. On the other hand, the speaker used VP 'unearth' to show an action against the 'terrorist, the abettors, sympathisers and financiers'. The speaker is determined to finish and 'defeat' terrorism once for all. On the other hand, in the speech (No.4) the speaker loudly declared 'we have successfully dismantled' tremendous outcomes of the *Zarb-e-Azb* operation. In speech (No.5) the speaker used declarative speech acts using VP such as 'to pay any price', 'to protect', 'will defeat', and 'to eliminate' for the fight against terrorism. Here, the speaker is supporting the objectives National Plan and promoting the belief of diminishing terrorism. Similarly, speech (No. 6) the Chief to foreign community declared his and his institutional desire to finish terrorism through *Zarb-e-Azb* operation. In speech (No. 7) he speaker in his speech used declarative acts stressing on taking the operation *Zarb-e-Azb* to its 'logical conclusion' to its last phase using Vp like 'should have started', 'would take', 'would not let', 'will continue', and 'see light'. Beside this, speech (No.8) the Chief used VP like 'evicting terrorists', 'restoring the writ', 'we shall ensure', and 'are never allowed to return' to declare the objectives of the operation and the institution he represented. At this point, the army had fought the terrorists and targeted their hideouts in the cities

and mountainous areas of North Waziristan and FATA. He used an adverb 'successfully' to highlight the positive image of the *Zarb-e-Azb* operation. The Pakistan Army soldiers worked hard at the ground level to finish and 'evicting' the terrorists from their sanctuaries' where they took a safety pursuit from armed forces of Pakistan. In speech (NO.10) the speaker used declarative speech acts to show his preparedness and seriousness towards the issue of terrorism and to continue with the mission *Zarb-e-Azb* to abolish terrorism from Pakistan. Whereas speech (No 11) Chief declared that Pakistani Army is fully prepared to deal with anything of threat. In speech (No12) the speaker asserts that Shandur festival is reflection of safe Pakistan. And in speech (No.13) the speaker used declarative acts to emphasise using VP like 'will defend' and 'to counter complete' to counter terrorism. He also admitted the positive role played by Pakistani nation in the fight against terrorists.

5.1 Directive

In speech (No.6) the speaker is directing foreign community to give full and complete attention and act against terrorists and their illegal activities such as funding from organizations. Whereas in speech (No.9) COAS used directive speech act commanding his troops 'to commence forthwith' for the final stage of the *Zarb-e-Azb* operation. The speaker used VP 'commence forthwith' for his troops directing them to move further on and to continue their fight against terrorism.

5.2 Expressive

In speech No. 1 the speaker expressed appreciation the need of support of Pakistani nation. Likewise in speech No.2 the speaker stressed the need collective by both Pakistani nation and his troops to eliminate the terrorists. In speech No.5 he expressed satisfaction on the results offered through *Zarb-e-Azb* operation. In speech No.7 the chief at foreign grounds expressed his gratification on the results coming from the military operation and appreciated his troops. In speech No. 8 In addition, the speaker expressed his appreciation for the people of North Waziristan and FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with words like 'unflinching resolve', 'courage' and 'deserves highest of accolades' to fight the demonic humans of the earth. In speech no13, the speaker appreciated the work done by the armed force and painted a strong picture of Pakistan Army.

6. Conclusion

In the present study, the researchers explored the speech acts used by the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) in the speeches. As the subject was crucial and an important subject of Pakistan Armed Forces, therefore, there was a difficulty faced by the researchers in finding complete speeches. Then, the researchers collected news reports quoting the Chief from Pakistani local English newspaper, *The Nation* and *Dawn*. The results indicated the Chief used declarative speech acts more as compared to directive and expressive acts. The use of declarative speech acts showed the authority of the speaker to declare his utterance and the institution he represents. While he is declaring, he also reflecting on the institution policies. He persuaded his men in the fight against terrorism by declaring it as sole responsibility and objective of Pakistani Army. On the other hand, his declarations are continuously a threat to terrorist well-being. Therefore, his declaration has led in diminishing the terrorism and terror activities in Pakistan. Nevertheless, this proved to be positive sign for the development of economy both at international and national level. Foreign investors started to take interest in the Pakistan economy and educational activities improved too. People had their hopes high on the armed forces for the protection of the sovereignty of Pakistan and their well-being.

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