Democratic Discourse in Pakistan: A Critical Examination of Political Parties' Perspectives

Hira Shabbir
Riphah International University Faisalabad
Email: hirashabbir6805850@gmail.com

Dr. Noreen Saba
Assistant Professor, National University of Modern languages (Multan Campus),
Email: drsaba.noreen2020@gmail.com

Muhammad Ezaan
Riphah International University Faisalabad
Email: ezaanakmal000@gmail.com

Abstract
This study examines the different views within different political parties in Pakistan towards democratic trends through a critical discourse analysis (CDA) framework. Utilizing Fairclough's three-dimensional model, this research analyzes political speeches, party manifestos, and social media posts to uncover the linguistic and discursive strategies employed by various parties to construct their understanding of democracy. The findings highlight how parties like (PPP) and (PML-N) emphasize liberal democratic values, whereas parties like (PTI) and Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) advocate for a more Islamic and authoritarian approach. This study demonstrates how political discourse shapes public opinion and legitimates power dynamics in Pakistan's complex political landscape**.**

Keywords: Keywords: Political Discourse, Democratic Trends, Pakistan, Language And Politics, Language And Power, Political Parties, Critical Discourse Analysis, Political Ideologies', Democratic Consolidation, Discursive Construction.

Introduction
Language plays a vital role in society, facilitating communication, interpersonal relationships, and cultural transmission. In politics, language is a crucial tool for shaping public opinion, negotiating power, and constructing identities. Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) provides a framework for examining the complex relationships between language, power, and social dynamics.

Background of study
Pakistan's democratic issue has been marked by intervals of military rule, political turmoil, and social unrest. Despite democratic transitions, the country's political landscape remains fractured, with different parties holding divergent views on democracy. This study takes Fairclough's CDA model to investigate the linguistic and ideological differences shaping Pakistani political parties' views on democracy.

Problem statement
The different point of views on democracy within and between Pakistani political parties

poses significant challenges to democratic consolidation, including conflicting discourses, political polarization, and erosion of democratic norms.

Research Question
1. How do Pakistani political parties discursively construct democracy, and what ideologies shape these constructions?
2. How do internal conflicts within political parties impact the stability and effectiveness of democratic systems?
3. What are the consequences of intra-party disagreements for democratic governance and consolidation?

Research Objective
1 Examine how political parties' language and rhetoric shape their understanding of democracy and reveal underlying ideologies.
2 Investigate the discursive strategies used by parties to construct and promote their visions of democracy.
3 Examine how parties' discourse and actions influence democratic progress and identify areas for improvement."

Research Significance
This study offers insights for Language and discourse strategies used by Pakistani political parties. Ideological differences and contradictions within and between parties. The impact of parties' discourse on democratic consolidation.

Delimitation
This research focuses on major Pakistani political parties, excluding smaller parties, and analyzes discourse in Urdu and English languages within a specific time frame, using existing literature and secondary data sources.

Review of Literature
Chowdhary, R. (2015) this analysis probes the transformations in party politics over 15 years, exploring their repercussions in dual settings. By situating these shifts within the broader context of regional tensions and separatist trends, the study evaluates the electoral outcomes and interrogates the challenges emerging from the recalibration of political forces.
Nazar, M. (2016) a critical analysis of Pakistan's Islamic parties sheds light on the distinctive dynamics that inform their development and behavior. This study provides a detailed exploration of the historical and contextual factors that have influenced these parties' growth and transformation.
Ahmad, I., &Rafiq, A. (Eds.) (2016) International discourse on Pakistan presents a multifaceted picture, with areas of agreement and disagreement emerging across various stakeholders. A detailed analysis reveals both commonalities and divergences in how Pakistan is perceived and understood globally.
Saikia, S. (2015) The Congress party's decline, already underway since the AGP's landslide victory in 1985, was further cemented by this election, marking a definitive shift away from its broad-based appeal."
Chacko, J., Mufti, M., Siddiqui, N., &Shafqat, S. (2020) Studies reveal the challenges faced by Pakistan's religious political parties, operating in a landscape marked by shifting balances between authoritarian rule and democratic governance.

Vol. 3 No. 5 (May) (2025)

Azhar, M., & Muhammad, A. (2015) this research explores the reasons behind the limited success of Islamist parties in Pakistan, specifically their inability to achieve state-level Islamization and widespread social adoption of their ideology. It also examines why these parties have struggled to garner majority support despite consistent participation in electoral processes.

Kamran, T (2008) studied show that Democracy and governance in Pakistan.
Lahore: South Asia Partnership Pakistan.

Rizvi, H. A. (2011) Pakistan's democratic experiment has faced repeated challenges. Despite brief periods of stability, the country struggles to sustain democratic governance. Military interventions have frequently disrupted the democratic process. The 2008-2010 periods showed some resilience, but the future remains uncertain. Institutional weaknesses persist.

Jalal,S.U.(2018). This research examines the fundamental elements of democracy, focusing on key factors that contribute to its success. Essential characteristics of a thriving democracy include unbiased elections, a free press, civic education, active political participation, and interfaith harmony.

Wu, X., & Ali, S. (2020). The study shows the novel changes in Pakistan's party politics: Analysis of causes and impacts. Chinese Political Science Review.

Jan, F. (2010) This research seeks to provide a precise characterization of a fragile state, with a focus on the dynamic and evolving nature of state fragility, using Pakistan as a key case study.

Azhar, M., & Muhammad, A. (2015) The paper investigates the factors hindering religion-political parties' ability to implement their vision of an Islamic state and society, and their failure to win widespread popular support. It discusses the underlying causes of their dwindling electoral success.

Chowdhary, R. (2009) the analysis highlights the interplay between regional identity and political mobilization, with a focus on the dynamics preceding the parliamentary elections. The Amarnath issue sparked widespread protests, amplifying separatist sentiments in Kashmir and regional identity politics in Jammu. This event is a critical lens through which to understand the electoral landscape.

Malik, S., & Iqbal, Z. (2010) the analysis reveals how Pakistani media portrays the Taliban, focusing on two major newspapers' editorial stances. We identify a predominantly negative narrative, highlighting differences and similarities in their coverage.

Theoretical Section

(Bayram, 2010) This study applies Norman Fairclough's critical discourse analysis framework to examine how political language shapes and performs identity, background, and affiliations. Focusing on Turkish President speech, it analyzes the linguistic and discursive strategies used to reflect his ideological, cultural, and personal beliefs, highlighting how language reinforces social and political values."

(Bhatia, 2006) This study examines diplomatic language in press conferences between former Chinese President and US President applying critical discourse analysis. Despite their differing backgrounds and ideologies, the analysis reveals three key themes: fostering mutual trust, subtle persuasion, and strategic evasion to navigate uncomfortable questions.

(Asaktikpi and Gadzikwa, 2020) This research explores how political parties use fear and hope in their communication strategies to legitimize their choices. Drawing on examples from the 2015 Greek bailout referendum and South African leaders' responses

Vol. 3 No. 5 (May) (2025)

to xenophobia, the study highlights the role of emotional appeals in shaping public opinion and creating social divisions.

(Manual and Khalid, 2023) This research examines how national and political identities are constructed through language in inaugural speeches. Using a mixed- method approach, the study reveals the powerful role of linguistic devices in shaping identities, with implications for education, policy, and societal understanding of cultures.

(Debars,2023) The study examines how specific parties highlight democracy through critical discourse analysis. These parties position themselves as chief of self- governing parties, yet their understanding of democracy is limited and conventional.

(Owen, 2018) Bilawal, as a young politician, is fervently committed to establishing a stable democracy in a country with a history of dictatorship. He has consistently demonstrated this commitment through both words and actions. Notable examples include his support for, a Hindu minority senator, and , showcasing his inclusive approach."

(Shania et al, 2017) This research examines Imran Khan's political speeches, particularly his maiden parliamentary address, to uncover the persuasive strategies and ideological underpinnings of his party's platform. Using Norman Fairclough's critical discourse analysis, the study explores Khan's commitment to democracy in Pakistan and assesses his political maturity."

(Khan, 2019) the Research highlights the impact of political leaders' language on Pakistan's democratic path. This book applies critical discourse analysis to explore how language shapes public opinion, political narratives, and legitimacy in Pakistan's political landscape. It examines the discourse of major parties, leaders, and media, revealing their ideologies, agendas, and rhetorical strategies.

(Ahmed 2020) the research evidence suggests that Pakistan's politicians often resort to populist tactics to mobilize support and consolidate power. This article examines the threats posed by such rhetoric to Pakistan's democracy and advocates for prioritizing democratic values, promoting respectful political engagement, and strengthening democratic institutions. It also seeks to stimulate a wider debate on the root causes of democratic decline and the role of populist rhetoric in this process."

(Hussain, 2018) Studies demonstrate a correlation between populist discourse and the decline of democratic values, as well as the weakening of institutional checks. The article "Populism and Democratic Erosion in Pakistan" investigates how populist leaders' actions and rhetoric contribute to social inequality in Pakistan. By manipulating public sentiment and undermining institutions, populism can lead to democratic backsliding. This research highlights the need to address the challenges posed by populism to ensure the long-term viability of democratic systems in Pakistan.

(Rahman, 2017) Studies using Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) have found that Pakistani leaders often use a binary 'Us vs. Them' narrative, creating divisions and opposition to perceived enemies. An analysis of Pakistan studies textbooks reveals a similar binary approach to political identity, emphasizing Islam and the two-nation theory. This can be exclusionary and restrictive for minority groups. The study advocates for a more nuanced and inclusive representation of identity, promoting diversity and shared citizenship. It also highlights the importance of critical thinking and media literacy in challenging binary discourses and fostering a deeper understanding of political identity.

(Ali, 2019) studied the binary discourse has been shown to contribute to the political division. The researches investigate how dual discourse (Us vs. Them, Good vs. Evil, etc.) is used in political language and media reprehensive in Pakistan, contributing to

Vol. 3 No. 5 (May) (2025)

political divergence and social division.

(Shah, 2018) Pakistan's politics often prioritizes short-term gains over long-term stability, hindering democratic consolidation. The country has struggled with provincial tensions, military rule, and external influences. Weak national parties have led to reliance on bureaucracy and military for stability. Democratic governments have been fragile, with frequent military interventions and corruption.

(Hague, 2017) Pakistan's transition from military rule has been overlooked. Comparing it to Bangladesh reveals key factors for successful democratization: military interests, independent civil society, and ethnic polarization. These elements are crucial for understanding democratic consolidation.

Theoretical Framework
Methodology

This research project employs Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) using Fairclough's three-dimensional model to analyze political speeches. The study uses a qualitative approach, focusing on non-numerical data such as text and speeches. Nine speeches from different political parties were analyzed using Fairclough's model, examining textual, discursive, and ideological perspectives. SPSS software was used for data analysis. The study aims to explore how political speeches are constructed and how ideology emerges, providing insights into democratic trends and political discourse.

Data Collection

This study examined the discourse of major Pakistani political parties (PTI, PML-N, PPP, and JUI-F) on democracy and democratic values through qualitative content analysis. The analysis included party manifestos (2013 and 2022 elections) and speeches available on (link unavailable) Data collection spanned December 2023 to April 2024. Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) was used to investigate language and discourse strategies. Additionally, statistical analysis was applied to survey and focus group data.

Data Analysis
Speech 1 Imran khan - Pakistan's Future A new Beginning (2018)

This analysis examines Imran Khan's speech, highlighting themes of democracy, sovereignty, and good governance. Key points include: Depoliticizing institutions: Khan emphasizes the need to depoliticize institutions like the Election Commission and judiciary to ensure impartiality and independence. Promoting transparency and accountability: He stresses the importance of truthfulness and transparency in leadership, citing examples from Switzerland and Hazrat Abu Bakr (RA).The speech employs a formal and rhetorical style, using relational, expressive, and directive language to persuade the audience. SPSS software was used for data analysis.In conclusion, Khan's speech reflects democratic ideals, emphasizing the need for justice, equality, and inclusive citizenship.
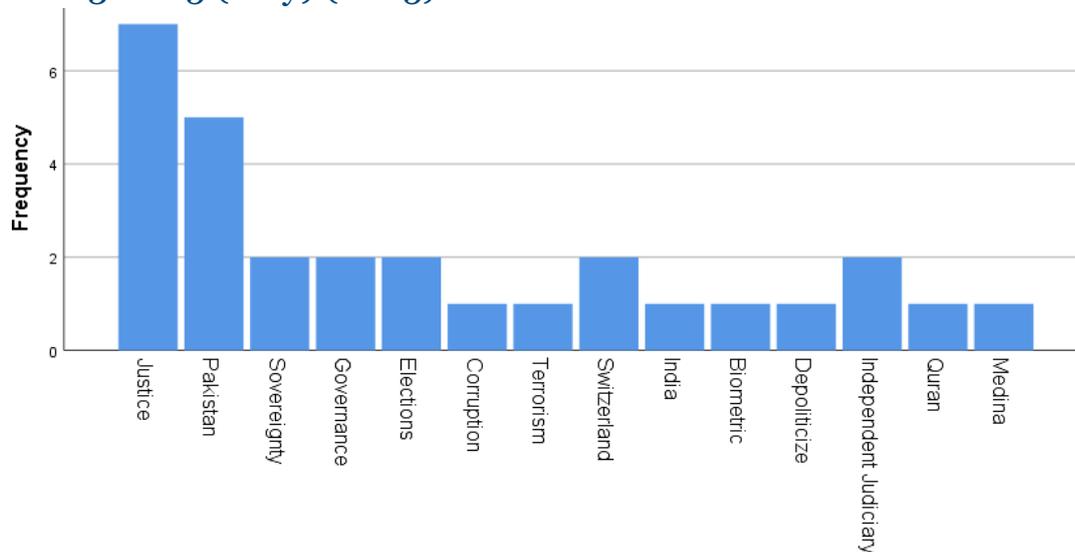
Figure 0.1 *Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) – Imran Khan- Pakistan Future; a new beginning (2018)*

Table 0.1 *Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) – Imran Khan- Pakistan Future; a new beginning (2018)*

Frequency			Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Justice	7	24.1	24.1	24.1
	Pakistan	5	17.2	17.2	41.4
	Sovereignty	2	6.9	6.9	48.3
	Governance	2	6.9	6.9	55.2
	Elections	2	6.9	6.9	62.1
	Corruption	1	3.4	3.4	65.5

Speech 2Maulana Fazal -ur- Rehman –Islam Democracy(2019)
The speech emphasizes a strong commitment to democracy, sovereignty, and protection of Pakistan's interests. Key themes include: Protection of democracy: Preserving democratic values and protecting the Constitution. Anti-corruption: Critiquing corruption and emphasizing transparency and accountability. National sovereignty: Protecting national interests and sovereignty. The speech employs emotive, relational, and directive language styles to persuade and mobilize the audience. SPSS software was used for data analysis .In conclusion, the speech reflects democratic ideologies, emphasizing the importance of freedom, right to vote, and protection of rights.
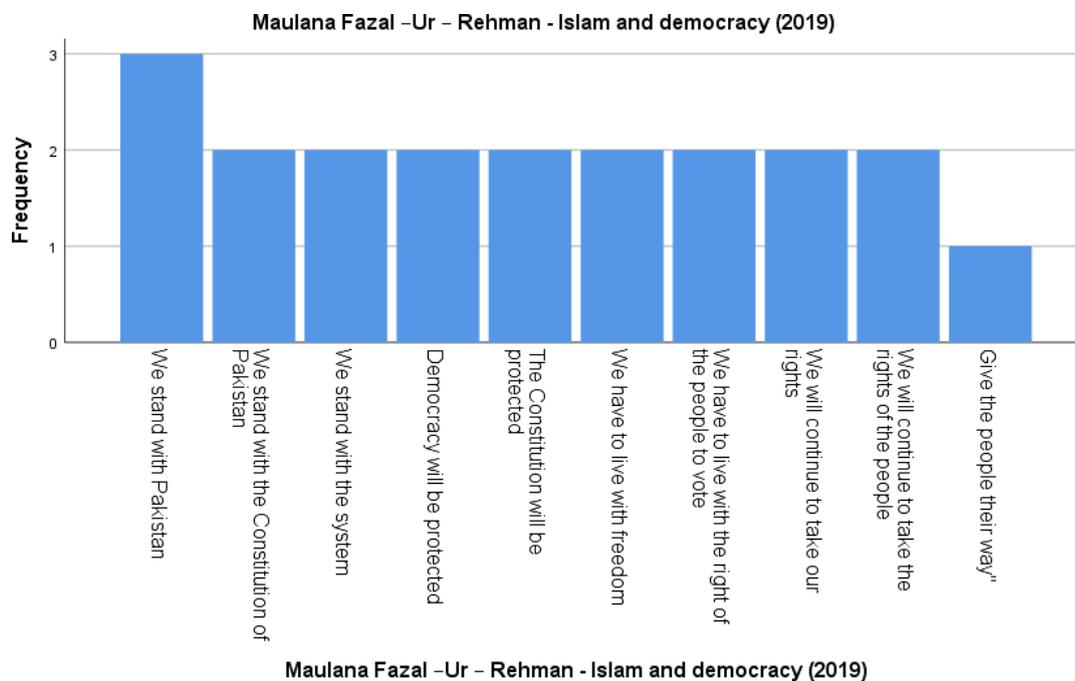
Vol. 3 No. 5 (May) (2025)

Maulana Fazal –Ur – Rehman - Islam and democracy (2019)

Figure 0.2: *MaulanaFazal-Ur-Rehman – Islam and democracy (2019)*
Table 0.2 *MaulanaFazal –Ur – Rehman - Islam and democracy (2019)*

	Frequency		Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	We stand with Pakistan	3	15.0	15.0	15.0
	We stand with the Constitution of Pakistan	2	10.0	10.0	25.0
	We stand with the system	2	10.0	10.0	35.0
	Democracy will be protected	2	10.0	10.0	45.0
	The Constitution will be protected	2	10.0	10.0	55.0
	We have to live with freedom	2	10.0	10.0	65.0
	We have to live with the right of the people to vote	2	10.0	10.0	75.0
	We will continue to take our rights	2	10.0	10.0	85.0

Vol. 3 No. 5 (May) (2025)

We will continue to take the rights of the people	2	10.0	10.0	95.0
Give the people their way"	1	5.0	5.0	100.0
Total	20	100.0	100.0	

Speech 3Bilawal Bhutto Zardari – Democracy and Social Justice (2018)
The speech by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari emphasizes democratic values, provincial rights, and unity to address Pakistan's challenges. Key themes include: Defending democracy: Criticizing undemocratic forces and emphasizing commitment to democratic values. Social welfare: Highlighting party achievements in healthcare and pension increases. Nationalism and regional grievance: Emphasizing Sindh's rights and protecting provincial interests.The speech employs declarative, relational, emotive, and directive language styles to persuade and mobilize the audience. Overall, the speech reflects a progressive and inclusive political agenda rooted in democratic socialism, nationalism, and populism.

Table 0.3 *Pakistan People Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari – Democracy and social Justice (2018)*

Frequency			Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Democracy	2	7.1	7.1	7.1
	We will defend	2	7.1	7.1	14.3
	Together	3	10.7	10.7	25.0
	People	4	14.3	14.3	39.3
	Pakistan	4	14.3	14.3	53.6
	Prime Minister	3	10.7	10.7	64.3
	Elected	2	7.1	7.1	71.4
	Rights	2	7.1	7.1	78.6
	Unite	2	7.1	7.1	85.7
	Victory	1	3.6	3.6	89.3
	Free treatment	2	7.1	7.1	96.4
	Justice" (implied)	1	3.6	3.6	100.0
	Total	28	100.0	100.0	

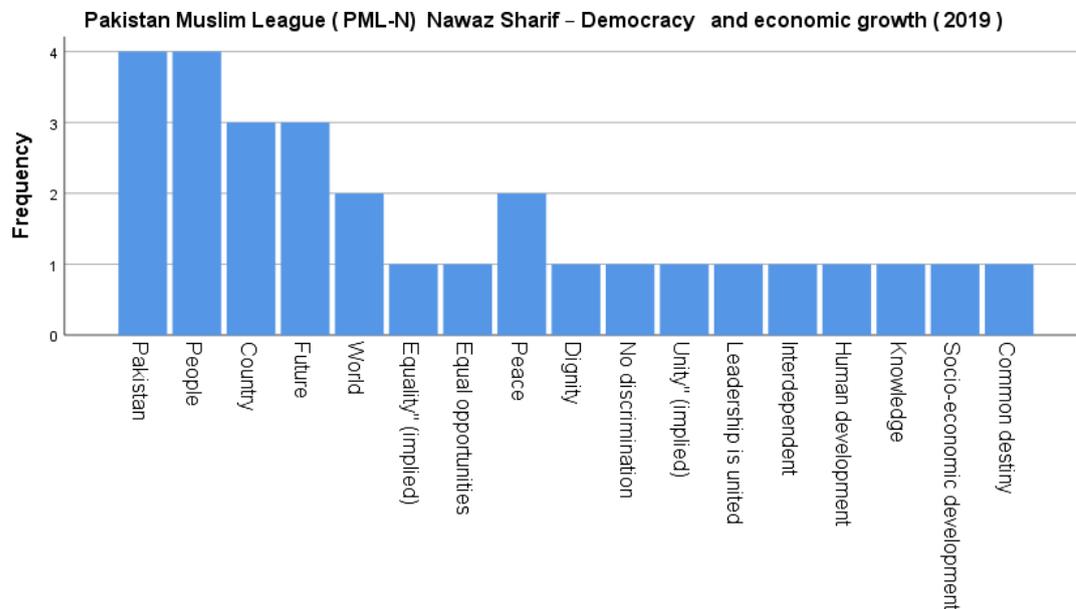### Speech 4 Nawaz Sharif – Democracy and Economic Growth " (2013)

Figure 0.3 *Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) Nawaz Sharif – Democracy and economic growth (2018)*

Nawaz Sharif's speech emphasizes a vision for a prosperous and peaceful Pakistan, where every citizen has access to equal opportunities and can live with dignity. Key themes include Democracy and equal opportunities: Emphasizing the importance of equal rights and opportunities for all citizens. Unity and collective action: Stressing the need for unity and cooperation to achieve progress and development. National security and counter-terrorism: Expressing confidence in defeating terrorism and ensuring national security. The speech employs declarative, relational, emotive, and directive language styles to inspire and motivate the nation. Overall, the speech reflects a democratic vision for Pakistan, where citizens enjoy equal opportunities, peace, and dignity, and where the government is committed to progress, unity, and national security. Data analysis was conducted using SPSS software.

Table 0.4 *Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) Nawaz Sharif – Democracy and economic growth (2018)*

Frequency			Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Pakistan	4	13.8	13.8	13.8
	People	4	13.8	13.8	27.6
	Country	3	10.3	10.3	37.9
	Future	3	10.3	10.3	48.3
	World	2	6.9	6.9	55.2
	Equality" (implied)	1	3.4	3.4	58.6

Equal opportunities	1	3.4	3.4	62.1
Peace	2	6.9	6.9	69.0
Dignity	1	3.4	3.4	72.4
No discrimination	1	3.4	3.4	75.9
Unity" (implied)	1	3.4	3.4	79.3
Leadership is united	1	3.4	3.4	82.8
Interdependent	1	3.4	3.4	86.2
Human development	1	3.4	3.4	89.7
Knowledge	1	3.4	3.4	93.1
Socio-economic development	1	3.4	3.4	96.6
Common destiny	1	3.4	3.4	100.0
Total	29	100.0	100.0	

Speech 6Siraj-ul- Haq - Islam and Democracy A JIP Perspective (2019)
The speech by Sirajul Haq emphasizes the importance of Islam and democracy, arguing that Islamic rules align with democratic ideals like consultation, answering, and justice. Key themes include: Islam and democracy compatibility: Highlighting the alignment of Islamic teachings with democratic principles. Democratic system grounded in Islamic ethics: Advocating for a democratic system guided by Quranic injunctions of justice, compassion, and equality.The speech employs declarative, relational, emotive, and directive language styles to convey a sense of authority, collective voice, and urgency. Overall, the speech reflects a vision of a just and democratic society guided by Islamic principles. Data analysis was conducted using SPSS software.
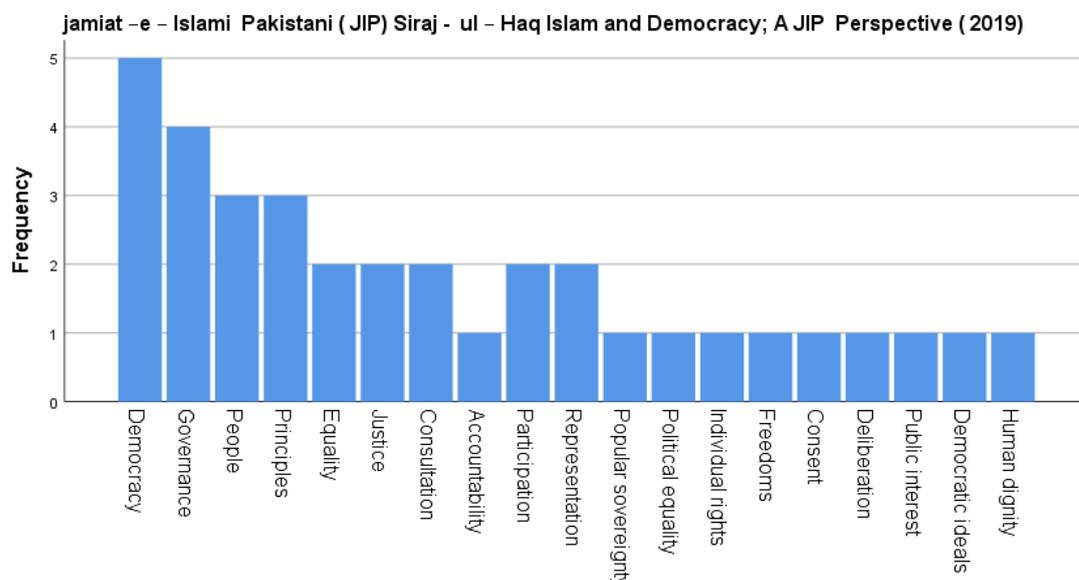

Figure 0.4 Siraj-ul- Haq - "Islam and Democracy ; A JIP Perspective (2019)

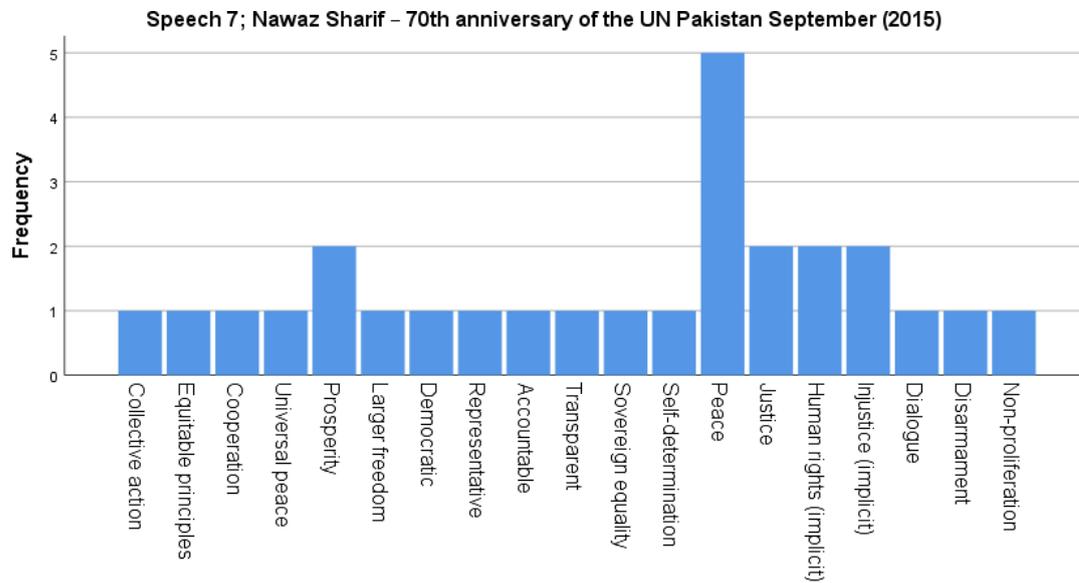**Table 0.5**_Siraj-ul- Haq - "Islam and Democracy ; A JIP Perspective (2019)_

Frequency			Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Democracy	5	14.3	14.3	14.3
	Governance	4	11.4	11.4	25.7
	People	3	8.6	8.6	34.3
	Principles	3	8.6	8.6	42.9
	Equality	2	5.7	5.7	48.6
	Justice	2	5.7	5.7	54.3
	Consultation	2	5.7	5.7	60.0
	Accountability	1	2.9	2.9	62.9
	Participation	2	5.7	5.7	68.6
	Representation	2	5.7	5.7	74.3
	Popular sovereignty	1	2.9	2.9	77.1
	Political equality	1	2.9	2.9	80.0
	Individual rights	1	2.9	2.9	82.9
	Freedoms	1	2.9	2.9	85.7
	Consent	1	2.9	2.9	88.6
	Deliberation	1	2.9	2.9	91.4
	Public interest	1	2.9	2.9	94.3
	Democratic ideals	1	2.9	2.9	97.1
	Human dignity	1	2.9	2.9	100.0
	Total	35	100.0	100.0	

Speech 7 Nawaz Sharif – 70th anniversary of the UN Pakistan September (2015)

 Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister of Pakistan at the time, delivered a speech Key themes include: UN reform: Calling for a more democratic and representative Security Council that reflects the interests of all member states. Peace and prosperity: Emphasizing the importance of peace, prosperity, and larger freedom for all, and promoting dialogue and cooperation to achieve these goals. Kashmir dispute: Highlighting the unresolved Kashmir dispute as a persistent failure of the UN and calling for its resolution.The speech employs a formal and diplomatic tone, with a focus on eloquence, emotional appeal, and masterful use of rhetorical devices, imagery, and figurative language. He advocated for a more democratic, representative, accountable, and transparent Security Council that reflects the interests of all member states, based on the principle of sovereign equality.

Vol. 3 No. 5 (May) (2025)

Speech 7; Nawaz Sharif – 70th anniversary of the UN Pakistan September (2015)

Figure 0.5 *Nawaz Sharif – 70ᵗʰ anniversary of the UN Pakistan September (2015)*

Table 0.6 *Nawaz Sharif – 70ᵗʰ anniversary of the UN Pakistan September (2015)*

Frequency			Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Collective action	1	3.7	3.7	3.7
	Equitable principles	1	3.7	3.7	7.4
	Cooperation	1	3.7	3.7	11.1
	Universal peace	1	3.7	3.7	14.8
	Prosperity	2	7.4	7.4	22.2
	Larger freedom	1	3.7	3.7	25.9
	Democratic	1	3.7	3.7	29.6
	Representative	1	3.7	3.7	33.3

Accountable	1	3.7	3.7	37.0
Transparent	1	3.7	3.7	40.7
Sovereign equality	1	3.7	3.7	44.4
Self-determination	1	3.7	3.7	48.1
Peace	5	18.5	18.5	66.7
Justice	2	7.4	7.4	74.1
Human rights (implicit)	2	7.4	7.4	81.5
Injustice (implicit)	2	7.4	7.4	88.9
Dialogue	1	3.7	3.7	92.6
Disarmament	1	3.7	3.7	96.3
Non-proliferation	1	3.7	3.7	100.0
Total	27	100.0	100.0	

Conclusion

The study examines the complex dynamics of democracy in Pakistan, highlighting the diverse views of political party leaders on democratic principles and practices. Through critical discourse analysis, the research reveals that these leaders hold different views on democracy, showing specific point of views beliefs and power relations. The findings indicate that Pakistani political parties prioritize their own interests over democratic values, leading to intra-party conflicts, factionalism, and polarization. The study underscores the importance of political parties managing internal differences and prioritizing democratic principles to foster a more inclusive and representative system. It highlights the complexities of democratic development in Pakistan. The study's findings suggest that democratic consolidation in Pakistan requires political parties to prioritize democratic values, manage internal conflicts, and promote constructive debate. By doing so parties can contribute to a more stable and representative democratic system, ultimately strengthening Pakistan's democracy.

References

Ahmed, Z. S. (2023). *A comparative analysis of populist leaders in Pakistan*. In *The Routledge handbook of populism in the Asia Pacific*. Routledge.

Ahmad, I., & Rafiq, A. (Eds.). (2016). *Pakistan's democratic transition: Change and persistence*. Taylor & Francis.

Akhtar, N. (2013). Role of political parties in the democratic system of Pakistan. *Al-Kubaisi, H. A. R., Shah, F. A., Siddiqui, A. H., & Ahmed, S. (2024). Electoral Politics in Pakistan: Trends, Issues, and the Role of Political Parties. Remittances Review, 9*(1), 854–890.

Ali, L. (2019). Australian Muslim women's borderlands identities: A feminist, decolonial approach. In *Decolonial feminist community psychology* (pp. 95–110). Springer.

Asakitikpi, A. O., & Gadzikwa, J. (2020). A critical discourse analysis of online YouTube news coverage of South African discourses on xenophobia in democratic South Africa. *Politikon, 47*(4), 479–493.

Vol. 3 No. 5 (May) (2025)

Azhar, M., & Muhammad, A. (2015). Electoral performance of religio-political parties in Pakistan: An assessment. *Pakistan Journal of Islamic Research, 16*(2), 35–49.

Bayram, F. (2010). Ideology and political discourse: A critical discourse analysis of Erdogan's political speech. *ARECLS, 7*(1), 18–33.

Bhatia, A. (2006). Critical discourse analysis of political press conferences. *Discourse & Society, 17*(2), 173–203.

Bibi, F., Jameel, S., & Jalal, S. U. (2018). What is democracy? Challenges for democracy in Pakistan. *Global Political Review, 3*(1), 66–75.

Boukala, S., & Dimitrakopoulou, D. (2017). The politics of fear vs. the politics of hope: Analysing the 2015 Greek election and referendum campaigns. *Critical Discourse Studies, 14*(1), 39–55.

Chacko, J., Mufti, M., Siddiqui, N., & Shafqat, S. (2020). Religious parties. In *Pakistan's political parties: Surviving between dictatorship and democracy* (pp. 105–121). Georgetown University Press.

Chowdhary, R. (2009). Electoral politics in the context of separatism and political divergence: An analysis of 2009 parliamentary elections in Jammu & Kashmir. *South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal*(3).

Chowdhary, R. (2015). Democratic processes in the context of separatism and political divergence: An analysis of 2014 assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. *Studies in Indian Politics, 3*(2), 164–178.

Debras, F. (2023). Back to the future, recovering the past: A critical discourse analysis of the terms 'democracy' and 'direct democracy' in the speeches of the Rassemblement National and the Freiheitliche Partei Österreichs. *Journal of Contemporary European Studies, 31*(2), 306–317.

Farrelly, M. (2014). *Discourse and democracy: Critical analysis of the language of government*. Routledge.

Fiaz, M. K., & Nawaz, R. (2023). Opiate of the masses: Analysing dynamics, rhetoric, and sociopolitical consequences of populism in contemporary politics of Pakistan. *South Asian Studies, 38*(1), 129–154.

Hassan, S. (2020). Populism and popularity in Imran Khan's 2018 election speeches. In R. Breeze & A. M. Fernández Vallejo (Eds.), *Politics and populism across modes and media*. Peter Lang.

Hoque, M. M., & Tama, R. A. Z. (2020). China's Belt and Road Initiative: Global politics and implications.

Jan, F. (2010). Pakistan: A struggling nation-state. *Democracy and Security, 6*(3), 237–255.

Karamat, S., Muzaffar, M., & Shah, A. S. (2019). The politics of religious extremism in Pakistan: An analysis. *Review of Economics and Development Studies, 5*(2), 315–322.

Malik, S., & Iqbal, Z. (2010). Construction of Taliban image in Pakistan: Discourse analysis of editorials of Dawn and The News. *China Media Research, 7*(2), 46–56.

Mayer, R. E. (2001). Multimedia learning. In *Psychology of learning and motivation* (Vol. 41, pp. 1–19). Academic Press.

Mayer, R. E. (2001). Changing minds: Comprehension and engagement in multimedia learning. *Learning and Instruction, 11*(3), 247–257.

Mayer, R. E. (2001). The science of learning: A conceptual framework for

learning with media. *Journal of Educational Psychology, 93*(2), 292–301.

Muhammad, M., & Muneam, K. (2023). A critical discourse analysis study of identity construction in selected political speeches. *Journal Name*, *62*, 37–66. *(Please confirm journal name)*

Munir, M. (2014). Critical discourse analysis of Benazir Bhutto's selected speeches. *Unpublished manuscript*. Retrieved October 13, 2020.

Nazar, M. (2016). Islamic political parties and the nature of politics in Pakistan. *Asian Journal of Political Science, 24*(2), 237–265.

Owen, B. J. (2018). *The struggle for power in Pakistan: The Bhutto dynasty*. Oneworld Publications.

Rahman, F. S. (2018). Local voices challenging global campaigns: Re-thinking childhood, agency, and girls' education in northwest Pakistan (Doctoral dissertation, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign).

Rizvi, H. A. (2011). Democracy in Pakistan. *Panorama: Insights into Asian and European Affairs*, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia/Singapore.

Shah, R. A., Hussain, S., Nawaz, F., & Muhammad, L. (2021). Critical discourse analysis (CDA) of prominent political figures' speeches and interviews. *Jahan-e-Tahqeeq, 4*(3), 714–723.

Saikia, S. (2015). General election 2014: Will BJP's gains polarize Assam further? *Studies in Indian Politics, 3*(1), 69–80.

Wu, X., & Ali, S. (2020). The novel changes in Pakistan's party politics: Analysis of causes and impacts. *Chinese Political Science Review*.