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**APPLICATION OF MULTIDIMENSIONAL ANALYSIS ON COVID  
THEMED EDITORIALS OF DAWN**

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**Abstract**

*During the trying times of the Covid-19, the media discourse manifested in the form of Newspaper editorials exhibiting careful use of language. So, in order to analyze such language use, a well reputed newspaper published electronically and in print was selected. Two hundred editorials containing 82,430 words covering the covid theme from Dawn news formed the specialized corpus for the present study. To analyze this corpus, Biber's Multidimensional Model which was proposed in 1995 has been applied. After compilation of Corpus the data were sent to Biber's lab for tagging. The raw tagged data has undergone various statistical processes such as factor analysis and promax rotation. The results yielded five dimensions and the system generated diagrams provided the closest text types. The dimensions thus formed include; broadcast, conversations, personal letters, academic prose, and official document. The results obtained from linguistic features having the highest negative or positive loadings were presented in the form of mean values, graphs, figures, and tables. The findings indicate that the editorials from the Dawn are more informational as compared to narrative. Their content had more informational values.*

**Keywords:** *Dawn News, editorials, old MD, Covid-19, linguistic features*

**Introduction:**

Biber introduced an approach (1988) to systematically analyze corpus that has a wide range of written as well as spoken English data. He used computer-based identification techniques in order to tag data containing statistically significant syntactic and lexical categories. His method is useful to form functional dimensions of linguistic features that co-occur in patterns, identifies types of texts closest to each dimension, along with



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cooccurrence of linguistic features. It also helps to identify their common communicative functions. The complementary distribution of linguistic features helps identify a dimension in a sort of continuum in which the linguistic features having the positive and the negative loadings are formed. Biber's old MD that marks sixty-seven linguistic features have five textual dimensions. The model was created to help find the underlying meaning of the text. Initially the proposed model was could identify the textual variations between spoken and written language use. However, this model is used in the study to explore dominant linguistic features, their communicative function and the closest text type.

### **Research question**

How does the application of Biber's old MD distribute the text types and linguistic features of Dawn News Editorials in terms of five textual dimensions?

### **Literature Review**

Earlier research on newspapers done to derive features of Pakistani English without specifically focusing on the editorials (Alvi, Mehmood, & Rasool 2016). According to their findings Pakistani English is a non-native variety hence it should be considered as having an independent status. To address their concern, they developed a corpus of Pakistani English from the newspapers. Their findings reinforced the idea that Pakistani English is a marked sub-register. As a methodology they also applied multidimensional MD analysis to find traces for their stance. The data were collected from five newspapers and the corpus was tagged to identify sixty-seven linguistic features. The cooccurrence of linguistic features were marked in the corpus and evaluated through software. The present study takes a step towards analyzing the data from a single source that is Dawn newspaper.

According to Tan, et al (2020) the pandemic of Covid-19 developed its own style of discourse. Their study was conducted on both micro and macro levels, in which macro level considers the discourse of the governing bodies and micro level involves the common people's discourse. They selected pictures on Covid-19 themes and analyzed their captions. The results showed that recurring verbs along with the content verbs formed their data.

### **Dimensions of Dawn**

Figure 1 and 2 give the identification of closest text type as found in the editorials from Dawn newspaper.



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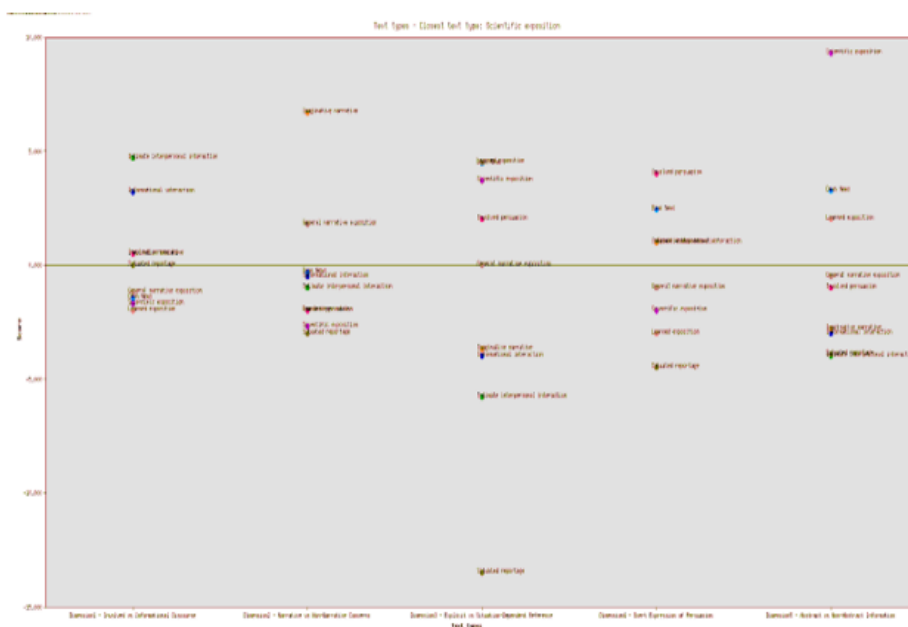
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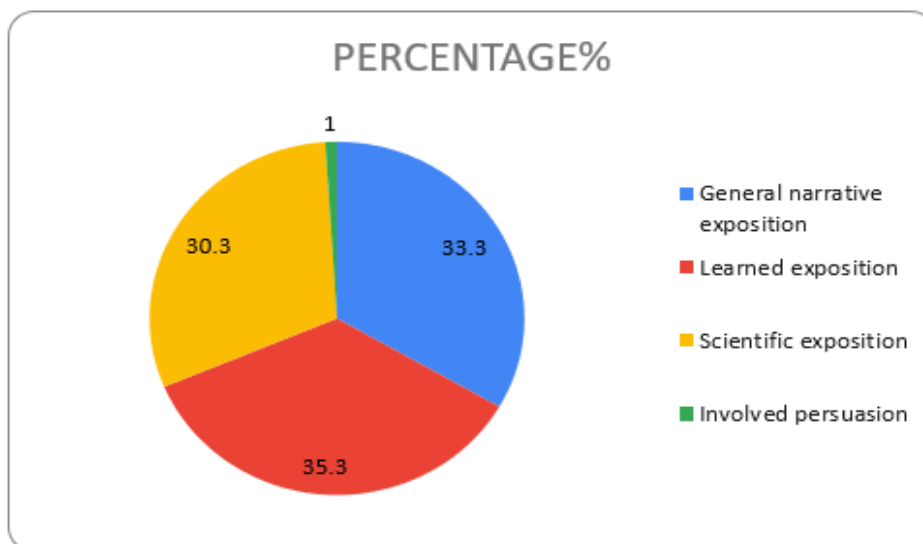
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**Figure 1**  
*Closest Text Type*



**Figure 2**  
*Pie Chart representation*





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The chart given in Figure 2 gives surprising results as learned exposition is the most prominent feature with the score of 35.3 percent. Dawn News editorials do not have much difference with the other text types for instance general narrative exposition has a score of 33.3 percent and scientific exposition has 30.3 percentage. On the other hand, involved persuasion has a greater difference as it is only 1%. So, the text is sort of a balance among learned exposition, scientific exposition, and general narrative exposition.

**Table 1**

*Descriptive Statistics of the Corpus*

Linguistic					
Feature	Mean	Minimum Value	Maximum Value	Range	Standard Deviation
AMP	-0.542487562	-1.04	2.23	3.27	0.697601449
ANDC	-0.144129353	-0.94	4.02	4.96	0.758645084
AWL	1.432935323	0.28	2.48	2.2	0.423787495
CAUS	-0.344179104	-0.65	2.76	3.41	0.647417522
CONC	0.75238806	-0.63	13.5	14.13	2.340650822



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COND	-0.102985075	-1.14	4.23	5.37	1.112396982
CONJ	1.459402985	-0.75	9.44	10.19	1.961710387
DEMO	-0.209751244	-2.36	3.31	5.67	1.110462263
DEMP	-0.134776119	-0.96	2	2.96	0.634132537
DPAR	-0.45079602	-0.52	1.26	1.78	0.283304365
DWNT	0.413134328	-1.25	6.38	7.63	1.671059732
EMPH	-0.321741294	-1.5	2.57	4.07	4.07
EX	0.132487562	-1.22	8.33	9.55	1.445944598
FPP1	-0.912189055	-1.04	-0.23	0.81	0.16404019
GER	-0.009502488	-1.84	6.24	8.08	1.549124834
HDG	-0.46	-0.46	-0.46	0	1.39124E-15
INPR	-0.651741294	-0.7	2.25	2.95	0.281796829
JJ	0.998507463	-1.19	2.91	4.1	0.776111307
NEMD	1.508109453	-1	7.05	8.05	1.932061181
NN	1.603880597	-0.15	3.94	4.09	0.743874899
NOMZ	1.367761194	-0.99	3.83	4.82	0.875376184
OSUB	1.655771144	-0.91	10	10.91	2.536853667
PHC	2.523681592	-1.26	9.44	10.7	2.080323864
PIN	0.103631841	-1.55	2.44	3.99	0.646356901
PIT	-0.02880597	-1.45	3.28	4.73	0.860681455
PLACE	0.67920398	-0.91	5	5.91	1.173471075
POMD	0.233333333	-1.66	5.43	7.09	1.312490889



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PRED	1.27840796	-1.81	10.04	11.85	1.925490964
PRMD	0.007114428	-1.33	3.48	4.81	1.075491344
RB	-1.872139303	-3.15	-0.27	2.88	0.518973892
SPP2	-0.718208955	-0.72	-0.51	0.21	0.018159739
SYNE	-0.156218905	-1.06	4.44	5.5	1.209448896
THAC	0.734626866	-0.5	9	9.5	2.14073118
THVC	0.292437811	-1.14	3.72	4.86	1.084660098
TIME	-0.230099502	-1.49	3.26	4.75	1.084267029
TO	0.751940299	-2.14	5.09	7.23	1.229568915
TOBJ	0.859800995	-0.73	6.64	7.37	1.828399289
TPP3	-0.926318408	-1.33	0.38	1.71	0.342028329
TSUB	2.289552239	-0.5	14.87	15.37	3.352675096
TTR	0.889651741	-1.22	2.67	3.89	0.808446893
VBD	-0.666666667	-1.32	0.79	2.11	0.362159265
VPRT	-0.7139801	-1.7	0.34	2.04	0.372427281
XX0	-0.539850746	-1.39	0.98	2.37	0.533965802
[BEMA]	-1.169154229	-2.98	0.76	3.74	0.697451634
[BYPA]	0.452437811	-0.62	6.08	6.7	1.483839118
[CONT]	-0.73	-0.73	-0.73	0	2.22599E-16
[PASS]	0.603084577	-1.09	4.68	5.77	1.020629922
[PASTP]	6.713731343	4.75	21.25	16.5	2.84598375
[PEAS]	0.961393035	-1.65	4.96	6.61	1.261986549



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[PIRE]	0.071293532	-0.64	3.73	4.37	1.185629925
[PRESP]	0.565223881	-0.59	6.18	6.77	1.420329565
[PRIV]	-0.761343284	-1.73	1.03	2.76	0.476134106
[PROD]	-0.716517413	-0.86	0.49	1.35	0.308886405
[PUBV]	-0.085223881	-1.43	2.81	4.24	0.88556314
[SERE]	2.9	-0.25	20	20.25	4.241535689
[SMP]	0.077512438	-0.8	5.4	6.2	1.441854286
[SPAU]	-0.10800995	-2.2	5.76	7.96	1.522508463
[SPIN]	0.055	0.15	-0.03	0.02	0.308886405
[STPR]	-0.52721393	-0.74	1.56	2.3	0.454002422
[SUAV]	0.430497512	-0.94	7.52	8.46	1.274705359
[THATD]	-0.360895522	-0.76	2.05	2.81	0.480205367
[WHCL]	-0.11800995	-0.6	5.2	5.8	1.148423276
[WHOB]	-0.714527363	-0.82	2	2.82	0.387986985
[WHQU]	0.118855721	-0.33	9.83	10.16	1.533129213
[WHSUB]	0.02199005	-1.05	5.05	6.1	1.215952721
[WZPAST]	-0.217114428	-0.217114428	2	2.81	0.646170745
[WZPRES]	1.367014925	-0.89	7.06	7.95	1.649416274

The following table and figure derived from the data show the most significantly relevant dimension. From the results it is evident that the dimension 1 has maximum score, dimension 2 has the lowest score and the remaining dimensions are distributed evenly.

**Table 2**

*Eigen Values of Factor Analysis*

<b>Eigen value</b>				
Dimension 1	Dimension 2	Dimension 3	Dimension 4	Dimension 5
45634.2	1203.2	6093.6	3399.9	3897.8
% of Variance				
-0.07	-0.002	0.02	0.01	0.02



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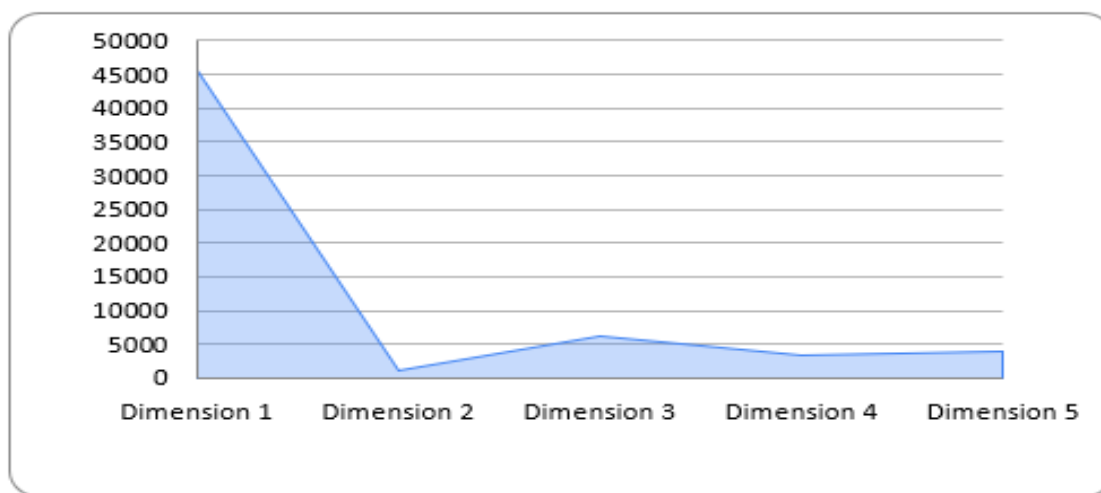
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**Figure 3**

*Scree Plot of Eigen Values*



**Table 3**

*Descriptive Dimension Statistics for all dimensions of DN*

Linguistic Feature	Mean	Minimum Value	Maximum Value	Range	Standard Deviation
Dimension 1	-14.56557214	-23.31	-2.63	20.68	3.867086345
Dimension 2	-0.315721393	-5.29	9.84	15.13	2.432240243
Dimension 3	4.4460199	-3.09	13.9	16.99	3.256105815
Dimension 4	2.420497512	-7.37	10.91	18.28	3.333370779
Dimension 5	3.247512438	-3.06	11.23	14.29	2.981599702

The table 3 shows that dimension 1 and dimension 2 have mean negative values. This means that the editorials from DN contain informational value and non-narrative style. The mean score of dimension 1 is -14.56. The remaining dimensions of DN except for dimension 1 and dimension 2, all have positive mean values.





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**Table 4**

*Inter-dimensional Correlations*

COORELATIO N					
	Dimension1	Dimension2	Dimension3	Dimension4	Dimension5
Dimension1	1				
Dimension2	-0.035306637	1			
Dimension3	-0.137286284	-0.148877681	1		
Dimension4	0.245074303	-0.043828809	0.083213513	1	
Dimension5	0.09094442	0.131458296	-0.141284802	0.072663993	1

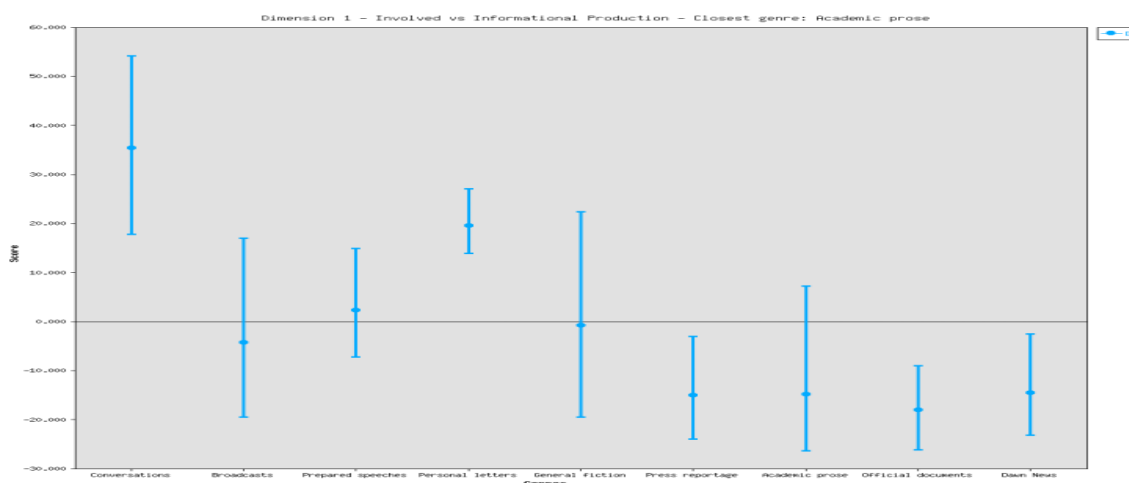
The table 4 shows inter-dimensional correlations of Dawn. It shows that the highest positive correlation is between dimension 1 and dimension 4. This implies that a positive direct relation can be observed in the linguistic features as they are found in dimension 1 and dimension 4.

## 4.1. Dimension 1: Involved Vs Informational

The figure 4 reveals that the closest text types of Dawn for the dimension 1 are press reportage and academic prose. It shows that the text is informative. Moreover, the texts are written in academic style.

**Figure 4**

*Dimension 1*





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**Table 5**

*Factorial Structure of Dimension 1*

Negative Linguistic Feature		Positive Linguistic Feature	
PRIV	-0.76	SERE	2.9
THATD	-0.36	AWL	1.43
CONT	-0.73	PLACE	0.68
VPRT	-0.71	PASS	0.6
SPP2	-0.72	WZPRES	1.37
DEMP	-0.13	TTR	0.89
PROD	-0.72	POMD	0.23
FPP1	-0.91		
CAUS	-0.34		
BEMA	-1.17		
DPAR	-0.45		
INPR	-0.65		
HDG	-0.46		
RB	-1.87		
EMPH	-0.32		
AMP	-0.54		
WHCL	-0.12		
COND	-0.1		
PIT	-0.03		
WZPAST	-0.22		

According to table 5, the results indicate that it is a strong dimension. There are twenty features with negative values whereas, seven linguistic features have positive values. Only one positive feature was excluded from the analysis that has the value less than the cutoff



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point, which is 0.35. applying the same cutoff point, seven linguistic features are excluded from the analysis having negative values. It is evident that the significant loading is on the negative side. It connotes that the text is informational and not that much involved. The linguistic feature such as total adverbs has the highest loading of -1.87 in the editorials of Dawn. It means that the information provided in Dawn editorials is elaborated with the help of different types of adverbials amidst the Covid-19 scenario. The following example shows some adverbials used within a single sentence;

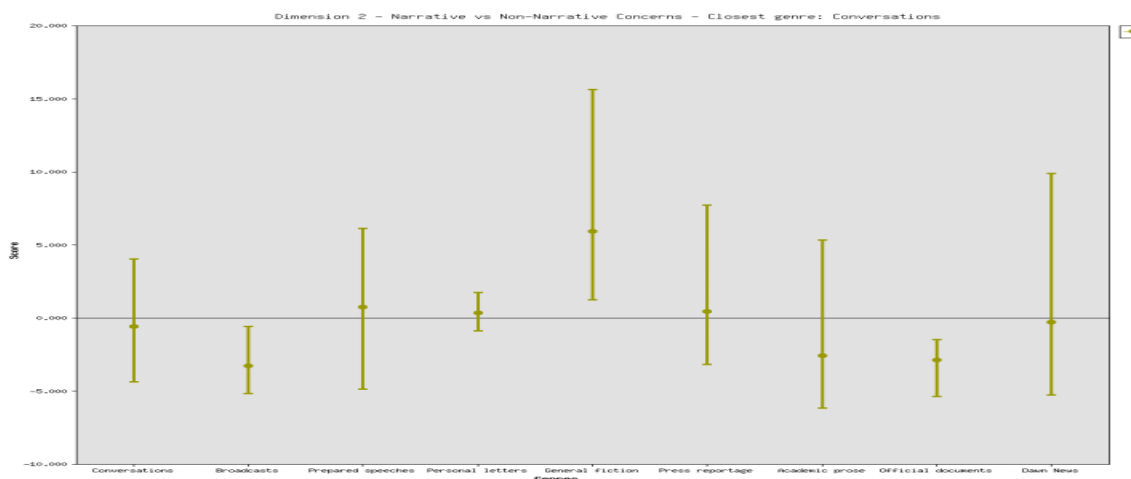
Once\_RB again\_RB .\_, a\_DT new\_JJ strain\_NN of\_IN corona-virus\_NN is\_VBZ making\_VBG headlines\_NNS and\_CC spreading\_VBG panic\_NN around\_IN the\_DT world\_NN .\_. while\_IN not\_RB much\_JJ is\_VBZ known\_VBN about\_IN the\_DT infection\_NN at\_IN this\_DT stage\_NN .\_, it\_PRP is\_VBZ thought\_VBN to\_TO have\_VB spread\_VBN from\_IN an\_DT animal\_NN to\_TO people\_NNS with\_IN increasing\_VBG fears\_NNS of\_IN human-to-human\_JJ transmission\_NN and\_CC has\_VBZ similarities\_NNS to\_TO the\_DT SARS\_NNP outbreak\_NN of\_IN the\_DT early\_JJ 2000s\_NNS .\_.

## Dimension 2: Narrative Vs Non-narrative

The closest text type according to the figure five is conversation. The editorials of Dawn are written in non-narrative style.

**Figure 5**

*Dimension 2*





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**Table 6**

*Factorial Structure of Dimension 2*

<b>Dimension 2</b>			
<b>Negative Linguistic Feature</b>		<b>Positive Linguistic Feature</b>	
VBD	-0.67	PEAS	0.96
TPP3	-0.93	PRESP	0.57
VPRT	-0.71	AWL	1.43
XX0	-0.54		
PUBV	-0.09		
WZPAST	-0.22		

From the table 6 it can be observed that four linguistic features have significant negative loading. In the same column having negative values; two linguistic features are excluded for having lesser scores. From the three linguistic features having positive values a feature such as; word length has the maximum frequent occurrence. This exhibits that the Covid-19 themed editorials of Dawn have focused on word length more than any other feature. Since in this dimension there are more negative values as compared to the positive ones, therefore, the text is non-narrative. The following extract shows incidences of this feature;

In\_IN fact\_NN ,\_ it\_PRP is\_VBZ a\_DT rather\_RB remarkable\_JJ fact\_NN that\_IN ,\_ so\_RB far\_RB ,\_ Pakistan\_NNP has\_VBZ yet\_RB not\_RB reported\_VBD a\_DT single\_JJ case\_NN ,\_ despite\_IN fears\_NNS being\_VBG expressed\_VBN by\_IN some\_DT that\_IN the\_DT virus\_NN may\_MD already\_RB be\_VB here\_RB ,\_.



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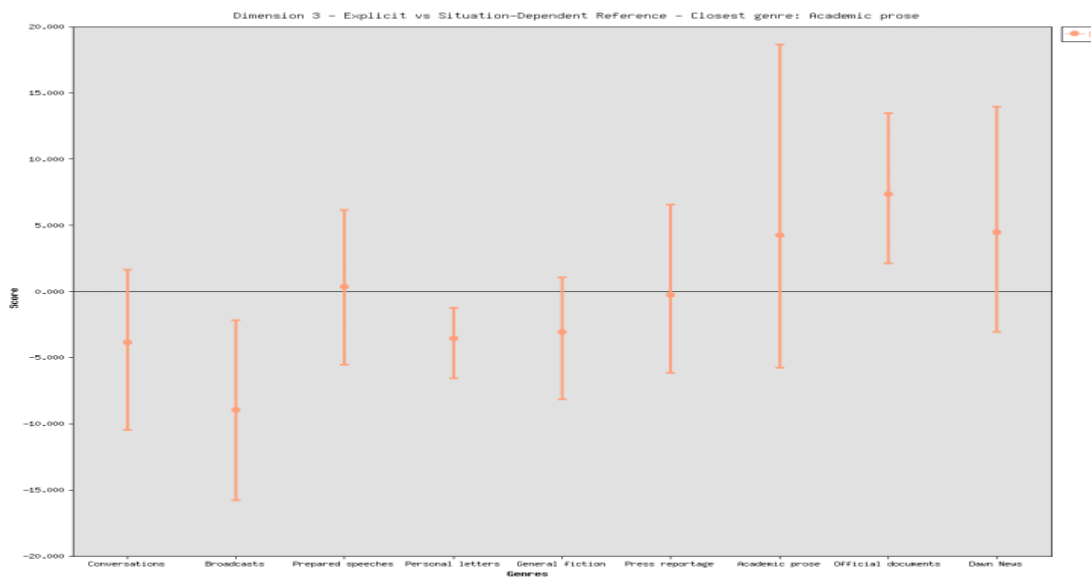
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## Dimension 3: Explicit Vs Situation Dependent Reference

Following the same pattern of the previous dimensions, dimension three of Dawn also shows similar inclination towards academic prose. The figure 6 further shows that the data contain linguistic features marking it more explicit as compared to situation dependent. Hence the information is provided in an explicit manner.

**Figure 6**

*Dimension 3*



**Table 7**

*Factorial Structure*

Dimension 3			
Negative Linguistic Feature		Positive Linguistic Feature	
WHOBJ	-0.71	PHC	2.52
TIME	-0.23	NOMZ	1.37
RB	-1.87	PLACE	0.68
		PIRE	0.07
		WHSUB	0.02



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The factorial structure of the dimension 3 reveals that two positive and one negative linguistic feature contain lesser values than 0.35 so, they are excluded. The remaining features having positive values are dominant. This shows that Dawn newspaper editorials are more explicit than situation dependent. Phrasal coordination which includes; (**All occurrences of and, &, or and nor**) has the highest value of 2.52 which reinforces the informational value attached to the contents of Dawn editorials. This is further revealed from the following extract from the data;

So\_RB far\_RB .\_, Pakistan\_NNP has\_VBZ remained\_VBN unscathed\_JJ from\_IN the\_DT  
larger\_JJR damage\_NN wrought\_VBN by\_IN the\_DT variant\_NN **and\_CC** the\_DT  
government\_NN must\_MD do\_VB all\_DT it\_PRP can\_MD to\_TO keep\_VB things\_NNS  
that\_WDT way\_NN .\_.

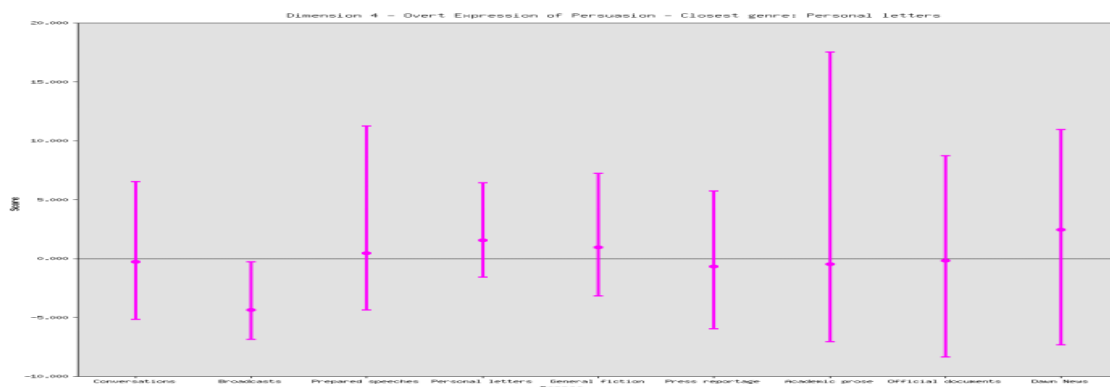
During the Covid-19 phase the readers were seeking excessively for some pieces of information to get awareness about the situation. This concern led to the editorials which were packed with phrasal coordination to link similar items.

### Dimension 4: Overt Expression of Persuasion

The dimension four has different trend other than the previously analyzed data sets from dimension 1, 2, and 3. The following figure reveals that the closest text type of this set of editorials on this dimension is personal letters. This means that information in the editorials is openly stated.

**Figure 7**

*Dimension 4*



**Table 8**  
*Factorial Structure of Dimension 4*

Dimension 4	
Negative Linguistic Feature	Positive Linguistic Feature
SPAU                    -0.11	TO                        0.75
COND                   -0.1	NEMD                  1.51
	SUAV                    0.43
	PRMD                   0.01

At the dimension four all the negative features have lesser values than the cutoff point so they are excluded. Where the positive features are concerned, one linguistic feature is excluded for having a value less than 0.35. The linguistic feature such as; Necessity modals NEMD that includes; (Necessity modals i.e should, ought, must) have been used excessively in Dawn News. This means that assertion is a part of editorial writings as shown in example below;

And\_CC while\_IN the\_DT World\_NNP Health\_NNP Organization\_NNP has\_VBZ  
postponed\_VBN its\_PRP\$ decision\_NN to\_TO declare\_VB a\_DT global\_JJ health\_NN  
emergency\_NN ,\_, necessary\_JJ precautions\_NNS **must**\_MD be\_VB taken\_VBN to\_TO  
curtail\_VB its\_PRP\$ spread\_NN .\_.

#### **Dimension 5: Abstract Vs Non-abstract Information**

Closely observing the following figure reveals that No text type is extremely close to the general pattern of DN editorials. However, the closest line indicates it to be official documents as shown in figure 8.



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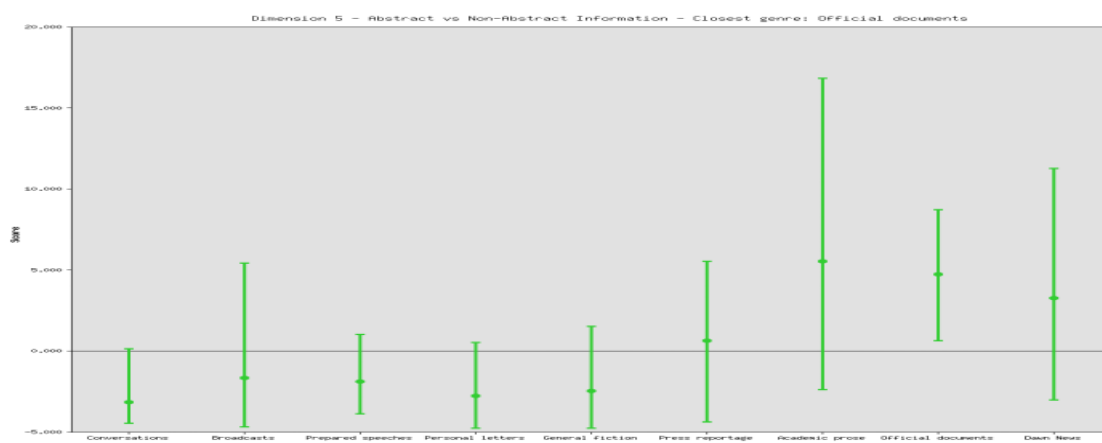
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**Figure 8**

*Dimension 5*



**Table 9**

*Factorial Structure of Dimension 5*

Dimension 5			
Negative Linguistic Feature		Positive Linguistic Feature	
WZPAST	-0.22	CONJ	1.46
		PASS	0.6
		PASTP	6.71
		BYPA	0.45
		OSUB	1.66
		PRED	1.28
		TTR	0.89

There is no linguistic feature having significant value in dimension 5 on the negative scale. Contrary to this there are seven linguistic features having positive values which are





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statistically significant. The linguistic feature such as; past participial clauses have the maximum value which is 6.71. The linguistic feature such as past participial clauses PASTP (**gone, read, walked, seen, etc.**) provides the authors an opportunity to provide a lot of information in syntactically brief expressions. It adds to the economic value by cutting short printing space of the paper. An incident form the data is given below;

At\_IN the\_DT time\_NN ,\_, it\_PRP was\_VBD thought\_VBN to\_TO be\_VB the\_DT right\_JJ  
decision\_NN ,\_, as\_RB little\_JJ was\_VBD known\_VBN about\_IN the\_DT disease\_NN  
and\_CC how\_WRB it\_PRP spread\_VBD ,\_, and\_CC as\_IN the\_DT already\_RB  
**burdened**\_VBN health\_NN facilities\_NNS here\_RB were\_VBD deemed\_VBN ill-  
equipped\_JJ to\_TO treat\_VB infected\_JJ patients\_NNS ,\_, let\_VB alone\_RB manage\_VB  
a\_DT potential\_JJ outbreak\_NN ,\_.

## **Conclusion**

Covid-19 themed editorials from Dawn News have informational content which is provided in non-narrative non-fictional style. Information such as facts and figures are provided in explicit manner. Instead of narrating stories the editorials primarily focused on persuading the readers and explicitly informing them about Covid-19 precautions.



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