THE ROLE OF CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE PORTRAYAL OF CRIME EVENT REPORTS IN PAKISTANI NEWSPAPER *THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE*

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Abstract
This study investigates the representation of crime news event reports in The Express Tribune using Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar, with a focus on circumstantial elements. Circumstantial features are frequently overlooked in systemic functional studies as secondary to participants and processes. The present studydemonstrates that the circumstancesplay a crucial role in shaping crime news discourse and creating meaning. Using AntConc and the UAM Corpus Tool, an analysis of 100 crime reports revealed that The Express Tribune selectively employs circumstantial details to prioritize concise reporting, often simplifying complex crime events.These linguistic choices demonstrate how the newspaper's reporting tactics present crime as isolated incidents rather than contextually detailed events. The findings of the research showed that contextual meanings are conveyed through circumstantial elements in Pakistani crime news events. The results highlight how important circumstantialelements are for providing context, clarification, and possibly even altering audience perception.The study identifies selective use of circumstantial elements that may influence reader perceptions.Additionally, the results suggestthat a broader awareness of circumstantial evidence can encourage more thorough and objective reporting techniques.
Keywords: systemic functional linguistics, circumstantial, crime news events, representation.

1. Introduction
Halliday (2014) established the Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) theory, which provides a thorough framework for examining how language generates meaning in social circumstances. Through its three metafunctions—ideational, interpersonal, and textual—SFL demonstrates how linguistic choices shape social reality, negotiate relationships, and organize discourse. This makes SFL particularly useful for investigating the representation of crime in media discourse, where language not only informs but also shapes public opinion. The ideational metafunction, which encodes experience, is critical to the linguistic depiction of crime events. Experientials are classified into processes,material, mental, relational, behavioral, and existential categories by processes that are realized by verbs, participants realized by nouns, and Circumstances realized by adverbial and prepositional phrases.

In language studies, circumstances are just as important as processes, but are usually viewed as of secondary importance. Circumstantial elements give crucial background information in crime

reports: "Two men attacked a woman during a street robbery in Karachi late last night" places the crime in three different contexts: chronologically (late last night), geographically (in Karachi), and circumstantially (street robbery). These components are more than just additional items; they shape the interpretive framework that influences readers' understanding of crime events.

Furthermore, sensationalist language is frequently used in crime reporting in Pakistani English-language media, exaggerating incidents and escalating public fear. Essential to this dramatization are circumstantial aspects, which emphasize dramatic locales (residential areas), emphasize urgency through time references (late at night), and heighten anxiety by emphasizing means (armed with weapons). However, these same components are also essential for revealing the circumstances, motive, and cause of crime—details that give readers a more realistic perspective of what happened.

1.1 Research Objective

The objective of this study is to move the focus of analysis away from processes and toward the circumstantial markers that support ideological framing and narrative coherence. The depiction of events is enhanced by circumstantial meanings, which shed light on the where, when, how, why, and on whose behalf crimes occur.

2. Literature Review

Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) offers a strong framework for studying language in relation to society. It makes it possible for researchers to pinpoint the ideational, interpersonal, and textual metafunctions that influence the representation of events and viewpoints in speech.Systemic Functional Linguistics is a powerful tool for studying the complex structures and meanings buried in newspaper writings because it provides a strong framework for understanding language within its social environment. According to SFL's paradigm, these metafunctions describe how language structures discourse, enacts social interactions, and depicts reality. (Halliday, 1978, 2014).

The newspapers' news texts deal with political, religious, economic, social, cultural, and ethical issues of a society. They also depict happenings like accidents, theft, murder, rape, and abduction, etc., occurring in everyday life around us. Common readers believe that they depict an unbiased reality. But it is not so. Linguists believe that media texts, spoken or written, are always biased and loaded with ideological underpinnings. Hence, SFL reveals how language frames, positions, and persuades readers in addition to providing information. Prior studies have highlighted SFL's ability to highlight the strategic use of language in media texts, uncover power relations, and identify underlying biases (Halliday, 2014). Therefore, SFL becomes an effective instrument for investigating the importance of circumstances in the representation of crime event reports, since it enables an in-depth analysis of how circumstantial elements shape the meaning-making of news discourse.

According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), circumstantial aspects are crucial resources that extend clauses' semantic potential by locating processes inside contextual frames. These nine categories—extent, place, manner, cause, contingency, accompaniment, role, matter, and angle—are realized through prepositions, adverbs, and adverbial groups. They allow speech to capture not only the "what" of occurrences, but also the "where," "how," and "why." While this categorization provides a systematic framework, applying it to media texts like crime news

reports raises concerns about how linguistic patterns transform into an ideological stance and influence the readers' perception of the crime event.

Previous research demonstrates how circumstantial analysis is handled in an unorganized way. Jegede (2018), for example, limited his research to four categories—location, extent, method, and reason—ignoring the larger semantic possibilities of circumstantial elements in narrative framing. Similarly, Rana and Abbas (2022) focused on temporal and spatial markers, connecting them to qualifiers and pre-modifiers, but their narrow scope restricted the understanding of how other categories, such as role, angle, or accompaniment, contribute to meaning-making. Such partial treatments, while useful, run the risk of simplifying the complexities of media discourse.

In contrast, the current study takes a more complete approach, incorporating all nine circumstantial categories from The Express Tribune crime reports. This broader reach not only increases descriptive richness but also emphasizes how circumstantial choices incorporate sensational meanings and ideological framings, demonstrating the delicate interplay between language and power in news discourse.

Several studies have examined linguistic choices across genres using SFL's transitivity model. For instance, a corpus-based analysis of transitivity patterns in Mohsin Hamid's novel Moth Smoke was carried out by Zaheer et al. (2020). Based on Halliday's paradigm, their analysis integrated participant role functions and ideational metafunction analysis. The results revealed that material processes and locational circumstances dominated the narrative, emphasizing how events are located socially and physically. The study is constrained by its concentration on a single novel, even though its value is to show how SFL mirrors ideational patterns.However, the results highlight the importance of looking at circumstantial choices to understand meaning construction—a viewpoint that is directly applicable to assessing newspaper crime event reporting.

Other scholars have applied SFL to various situations. Dreyfus and Hao (2020) studied circumstantial meanings in register, discourse semantics, and lexicogrammar, comparing historical and literary texts to demonstrate disciplinary variety.They proved that circumstances play a crucial role in forming textual registers and disciplinary knowledge by looking at how these meanings operate differently across literary and historical genres. Their results demonstrated that circumstantial features do more than only "locate" events; they also help to generate knowledge in historical accounts and create atmosphere in literary compositions. This holistic approach emphasizes how important it is to analyze circumstances in crime reporting, since they provide not only factual information (when, place, and manner), but also narrative atmosphere and ideological framing.

Further insights can be discovered through media and ideology research. Kemble and Melissa (2020) investigated gendered representations in sports media, demonstrating how linguistic choices extended patriarchal assumptions despite modifications in discursive patterns.Yasmin (2021) investigated how women are portrayed in English-language publications in Pakistan and how this affects reader attitudes. In order to ensure methodological triangulation, the study integrated discourse analysis, content analysis, and semi-structured interviews with six experts, using data from Dawn, The News, Daily Times, and The Nation over the course of one month. The results showed that women were noticeably underrepresented in crime reports, which shaped readers' gendered perspectives and reinforced patriarchal biases. This study emphasizes the ideological significance of language silence and selective representation in crime news, which is

important to comprehend how reporting situations can either support or undermine power dynamics. In order to understand how reporting circumstances can either reinforce or weaken power relations, this study highlights the ideological significance of linguistic silence and selective portrayal in crime news.In conjunction with SFL, to shed light on how linguistic decisions and processes frame political occurrences. This supports the use of SFL in news reporting, which is a framework that is essential to the current investigation of crime reports from Pakistan.

Macy et al. (2023) examined professional decision-making in domestic violence instances in China, extending to legal and organizational discourse. The study examined 683 participants' replies from community groups and criminal justice institutions using a vignette-based opinion poll, descriptive statistics, and logistic regression. The results showed that decisions to make an arrest or mediate were influenced by organizational, legal, and attitude issues, with differences within professional groups. This study illustrates how legislation, societal attitudes, and decision-making connect, which is essential to comprehending how crime news discourse may reflect or contradict institutional perspectives in Pakistan, even if it is not specifically media-focused.

Wilcox et al. (2023) used data from the Rural Substance Abuse and Violence Project to critically analyze the gendered effects of school-based crime reduction programs. In line with labeling theory, the study found that while security measures decreased crime among males, they paradoxically increased it among females. Harsh disciplinary and zero-tolerance rules increased crime rates for both sexes, indicating that punitive control could encourage resistance and estrangement rather than compliance. In contrast, social control theory was supported by the fact that a positive school atmosphere, which placed an emphasis on supportive connections and engagement, decreased offending for both genders. The findings draw attention to the risks associated with general, disciplinary approaches and support gender-sensitive, situation-specific treatments that promote trust and inclusivity. However, generalizability may be limited by the study's focus on rural schools and its reliance on self-reported data. In general, the study makes a substantial contribution by highlighting the gendered complications of school crime prevention and encouraging critical thought about striking a balance between theoretical understanding, real-world application, and structural limitations.

A common element across these works is that circumstances, processes, and language techniques are ideologically charged rather than neutral. They strengthen societal power systems, mold public opinion, and create certain representations of reality. These observations highlight the importance of examining circumstantial meanings in The Express Tribune's crime reports since doing so can show how time, place, cause, and other circumstantial factors are deliberately used to depict crime incidents in Pakistan.

These investigations confirm that linguistic and contextual elements are not ideologically neutral, but actively alter representations of reality, support power systems, and direct audience interpretations. However, much of the past study is either genre-specific (literature, education, or institutional discourse) or strictly focused on circumstantial features (for example, focusing solely on location or time). Few studies do a comprehensive analysis of all nine circumstantial categories in crime reporting, and even fewer apply this paradigm to the Pakistani media.

To fill this identified gap, the current study used Halliday's (2014) Systemic Functional Linguistics model to comprehensively investigate the use of circumstantial elements in The Express Tribune's crime reports. This study extends earlier research's partial treatments of

circumstances by providing a full analysis of all nine categories—extent, place, method, cause, contingency, accompaniment, role, matter, and angle. The goal is not simply to map their prevalence, but also to show how these circumstantial choices createideological framings and impact readers' perceptions of crime in Pakistan. As a result, the study contributes to a better understanding of the relationship between language, media representation, and circumstantial elements, broadening the explanatory reach of SFL in the context of crime news discourse.

2.1 Research Questions

1. What specific frequencies and patterns of circumstantial elements are employed in the representation of crime event reports in the Pakistani English newspaper, *The Express Tribune*?
2. How do different circumstantial categories depict crime incidents and settings in *The Express Tribune*?

3. Research Methodology

3.1 Data Collection

The Express Tribune's 100 crime news event reports were collected between January 1, 2021, and February 24, 2023, as it corresponds to a significant period of crime reporting and data availability.Each news report is copied from the source e-newspaper and pasted into a separate Word file along with the date and day of publication. These files were then converted to Unicode files. Afterconverting into notepad files, each file was edited, and the redundant details, header, footer,notes,andpictures were removed from each file. This study focuses on how crime is discursively constructed through circumstantial elements. This method places the study straight in the fields of discourse analysis.

3.2 Tool

To annotate and analyze, the UAM Corpus Tool was used. This software is frequently used in discourse analysis and linguistic studies since it enables human and semi-automatic annotation of huge corpora (O'Donnell, 2008). The tool, which was based on Halliday's functional linguistics, made it easier to code texts for processes, participants, and circumstantialelements within the framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL).

3.3 Data Analysis

The combination of quantitative dimension and qualitative interpretation resulted in a systematic analysis.The study used a mixed-method approach, which included both quantitative and qualitative methods. The UAM Corpus Tool calculated the frequencies and percentages of processes, participants, and contextual components. These findings were given in tables for systematic interpretation. To improve accuracy, the UAM results were compared to AntConc search results, ensuring that all possible circumstantial aspects (temporal, spatial, causative, manner, and so on) were consistently identified. This methodological accuracy increased the credibility of the findings.

3.4 Annotation Scheme

Previous research restricted its scope to process types, ignoring the critical importance of circumstantial aspects in clause interpretation. The presentstudy is conducted to fill this gap by focusing on a comprehensive taxonomy of circumstantial elements to highlight the intricate ways in which circumstances influence meaning.
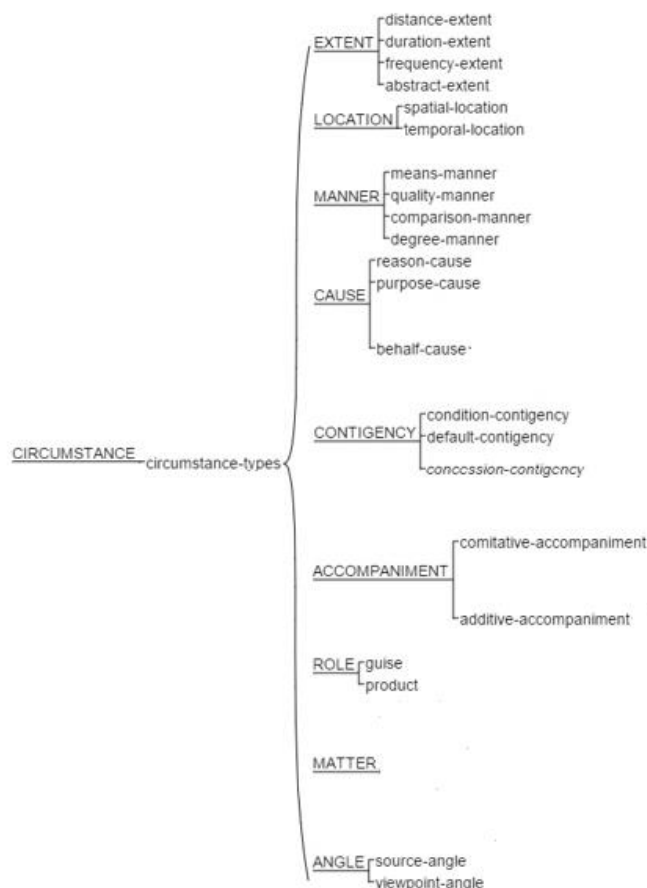
Figure 1: Annotation Scheme

The scheme in figure 1 represents circumstantial elementsby classifying them into distinct types and subtypes: extent (distance, duration, frequency, abstract), location (spatial, temporal), manner (means, quality, comparison, degree), cause (reason, purpose, behalf), contingency (condition, default, concession), accompaniment (commutative, additive), role (guise, product), matter, and angle (source, viewpoint).

4. Results

4.1 Interpreting the Results of Circumstances in "The Express Tribune" Crime Event Reports

4.1.1 Spatial Location

This unit explored the meanings associated with crime news reports in Pakistan that could be inferred from the circumstantial analysis of crime news items from The Express Tribune, demonstrating how spatial location shapes crime narratives. A quantitative analysis showed in the table suggests that the use of In indicates a strong inclination to root crime reports in specific, localized contexts.

Table 1: Spatial Location

Spatial Location	Frequencies
In	628
On	52
At	42
To	21
From	38

For example, the Mastung incident, in which five terrorists were killed by police, makes use of 'In' to pinpoint the event at a specific location, increasing the report's concreteness and factual weight. Similarly, the Kharan operation, described by On, depicts violence as taking place on a specific territory, giving the story a spatial and situational dimension.

When crime incidents are linked to specific locations (in Mastung, Quetta, or along the Kharan Road), they gain credibility and concreteness. The use of "where" ensures that the news is perceived as factual rather than abstract. The frequent use of "In" implies that reports are rooted in restricted contexts. This tendency creates a "geography of crime," in which specific locations (e.g., Balochistan, Karachi, Swat) are constantly associated with violence, reinforcing views of them as dangerous or unstable.

4.1.2 Temporal Location

The temporal dimensions of spatial locations in connection to crime events are the main subject of this section's analysis of The Express Tribune's crime reports. The terms "On," "In," and "Between," together with their frequency of occurrence, are listed in Table 2 to show how these temporal markers were employed to characterize crime incidents.

Table 2: Temporal Location

Temporal Location	Frequencies
On	150
In	18
Between	1

The investigation of temporal circumstances in The Express Tribune crime reports reveals a significant variety in frequency, with on (150) and in (18) appearing frequently, whereas markers such as between appear only once. In the Swat LakkiMarwat operation, where CTD authorities reported killing three most wanted terrorists, the frequent usage of "crime" as an event occurring inside routine cycles normalizes violence as an almost everyday occurrence.

In contrast, the Quetta grenade attack, indicated through the solitary use of between, situates violence as an isolated occurrence, highlighting journalism's inclination to divide crimes temporally rather than depict them as continuous processes.

Critically, the unequal distribution of temporal words is not ideologically neutral.By situating violence at the periphery (Swat, Balochistan), crime is portrayed as emerging from "marginal" places, reinforcing the notion that instability originates at the borders or from "outside," while the state remains the center of order.

Location circumstances play an important role in crime reports since they create crime narratives that are physically constrained and temporally immediate, providing drama and credibility and reinforcing regional and political prejudices by consistently associating particular locations with violence.

4.1.3 Extent

The Express Tribune's investigation of the extent of circumstances demonstrates that, even with their rarity, they have a disproportionately prominent influence in shaping crime narratives. For example, the term "so far", which appears just three times, indicates that the report is tentative and that the inquiry is ongoing.

The example given from the Express Tribune article on a car attack in Naseerabad, Quetta, that killed four family members, illustrates how "so far" frames the story. It enables the news report to recognize the ongoing inquiry and the case's lack of closure.

Therefore, even if the extent category "so far" is not very common quantitatively, it has a significant qualitative function in determining temporality, authority, and trustworthiness in the discourse around crime news. The study clearly interprets this circumstance as a discursive choice that places crime events in an open-ended framework and makes the reader aware of the continuous and unresolved nature of such incidents, rather than as a mere linguistic marker.

4.1.4 Distance

Similarly, distance markers (near, close, across, afar, along) do more than only indicate space; they actively shape a criminal situation. "Near" and "nearby" bring violence into the reader's immediate context, enhancing anxiety and vulnerability, but "across" and "away" externalize risks, typically associating them with cross-border infiltration or hostile peripheries.

Table 3: Distance

Distance	Frequencies
Near	34
Along	12
Nearby	10
Across	8
Away	5
Throughout	1

The Express Tribune's analysis of distance markers indicates that spatial circumstances go beyond basic description to create a layered criminal environment.The Singi-Rawalpindi incident, in which two police officers were killed in an intelligence-based operation, exemplifies the use of the 'near' distance feature. This option heightens readers' sense of vulnerability by placing crime in familiar or relatable settings, hence increasing spatial anxiety.

Critically, the recurring usage of 'near' regionally and across peripherally establishes a discursive tension: violence is both localized (immediate and familiar) and externalized (foreign and invading). This polarization not only fuels public fear, but it also aligns with state-centered ideology by depicting the center as a dangerous region under constant attack from external or peripheral zones.

4.1.5 Duration

Duration markers (after, while, since, recent, and ago) give narrative complexity by placing crimes in temporal contexts. Words like "during" and "after" imply continuity and aftermath, situating crime within wider patterns of violence, but "recent" emphasizes immediacy and urgency. These decisions ensure that crime is shown both from time to time and as part of a larger historical context.

Table 4: Duration

Duration	Frequencies
After	87
During	80
Recent	6
Since	5
Ago	5
As Yet	3

Table 4 identifies duration as a crucial subcategory of extent circumstances, indicating how temporal features shape crime narratives in The Express Tribune. Words like during and since demonstrate how events are framed within periods of action or continuity, as seen in the South Waziristan encounter, where an army soldier and a terrorist were killed during an exchange of fire, and the Barkhan tribal clash in Quetta, which killed seven people after ongoing tensions continued. Although these markers occur at varied frequencies, their role goes beyond temporal description: they place violence within broader timelines, providing consistency and continuity to incoherent crime reporting.Thus, even when infrequent, duration markers influence readers' perceptions of crime as chronic, cyclical, and intrinsically connected to broader social conflict.

4.1.6 Frequency

The extent circumstances in The Express Tribune serve not as peripheral linguistic elements, but as important devices that dramatize crime, negotiate journalistic credibility, and perpetuate ideological frames of danger, recurrence, and uncertainty. They turn factual reporting into rhetoric that portrays crime as widespread and unstable, impacting public perceptions of security in Pakistan.

Table 5: Frequency

Frequency	Frequencies
Once	5
Twice	1
Often	2
Never	3
Few	5
Many	4
Always	1
Least	40
Several	14

Table 5shows how frequency, as a subcategory of extent circumstances, functions not just as a language marker but also as a discursive instrument in The Express Tribune's crime coverage. Terms like, several as used in the LakkiMarwat ambush in which a police officer and his friend were killed, depict repetition and recurrence, presenting criminality as broad and continuous. While other frequency markers occur infrequently or not at all, their distribution highlights the biased ways in which crime is assessed and dramatized.

4.1.7 Manner

Manner circumstances describe how events occur, to what degree, and through what means. The South Waziristan atrocity report demonstrates its function in increasing narrative effect.Thus, manner circumstances are essential semiotic resources rather than simple textual embellishments.

4.1.8 Means

The "means" subcategory focuses on how words like through, using, by, via, and with the help of express the means of crime. Such linguistic choices are not neutral; they give crimes discursive weight by contextualizing their occurrence.

Table 6: Means

Means	Frequencies
Through	10
Using	9
By	3
With the help of	3
Via	1

For example, the Quetta IED explosion report, in which four individuals were injured, uses the word "through" to emphasize the methods of violence, making the crime process vivid and contextual. This demonstrates how means serve not just as a circumstantial resource, but also as a rhetorical approach to validate the narrative's truth.

4.1.9 Degree

The circumstance of "degree" actually enables the level of an action or process. Here, the researcher's strategy is to uncover the sub-types of degree along with their relations in Pakistani street crime text gathered from Express Tribune news reports, specifically.

Table 7: Degree

Degree	Frequencies
Least	40
Large	14
Huge	3

Table 7 lists the types of degree-circumstance as "huge, large, least". This vocabulary pattern reveals that street crimes are frequently discounted using qualifiers like "least," but unusual instances, such as large-scale bombings, are given increased linguistic weight using adjectives like "huge." The incident of the Quetta IED explosion enables the degree of circumstance as an elaboration here. The IED explosion resulted in injuries to four people, which is a level of violence that is heightened to express the seriousness of the situation. Such decisions illustrate how reporters manipulate public perception by using certain circumstances strategically.

The key inference from this approach is that, although quantitatively limited, manner circumstances play a qualitatively powerful influence. They give crime news reports explanatory depth, emotional impact, and discursive legitimacy. These linguistic resources impact the ideological position of news discourse by describing how crimes occur, what means are used, and to what degree. In doing so, they support altering readers' views of crime severity, agency, and social consequences.

4.1.10 Cause

The Express Tribune's crime event reports are heavily influenced by cause circumstances, which are classified as reason, purpose, or behalf. They give interpretive frameworks that explain why

crimes are committed and for whom, influencing both story formation and ideological orientation.

4.1.11 Reason

The first category, Reason, serves to establish crime event reports within a causal framework by answering the implicit question, "why" an incident occurred. As shown in Table 8, the frequencies of reason markers 'because, due to and for' demonstratethat, despite their quantitative limitations, these markers are discursively significant. They show how news discourse selects and emphasizes specific causes, legitimizing or explaining criminal activities.

Table 8: Reason

Reason	Frequencies
Because	5
Due to	5
For	1

For example, in the Qilla Abdullah IED blast, the reporting does more than just record the facts of a soldier's death and the injuries of eight others; it also puts the tragedy within the causal logic of militant activity. This demonstrates how the Reason circumstances serve as tools for ideological meaning-making, changing a simple report of violence into a constructed account that stresses a hidden or underlying purpose. Thus, Reason is both descriptive and evaluative, adding to the textual authority of the news narrative.

4.1.12 Purpose

The Purpose subtype offers extra depth by projecting the motivation behind criminal activities. The circumstantial marker's high frequency (56 occurrences) indicates the prevalence of purpose-driven explanations in crime reporting. This regularity shows that crime narratives are about more than just what happened, but also why. For example, The Express Tribune's coverage of the TTP attack in AkoraKhattak, in which three police officers were killed, emphasizes the attackers' purpose. By emphasizing purpose, the report fosters a narrative of intentionality that situates crime within larger sociopolitical concerns. Critically, this illustrates how the media embeds violence into a logic of purposeful activity, presenting crime as a deliberate strategy rather than a random occurrence.

4.1.13 Behalf

The analysis of Express Tribune crime news reports revealed that phrases against (34) and for (1) dominated this category of circumstantial elements. The emphasis on 'against' indicates how criminal discourse frequently associates culprits or actions with opposing viewpoints. For example, in the Express Tribune's report on a former bank manager sentenced to 28 years in prison for corruption, the word "against" portrays the legal action as an oppositional posture in favor of social justice. By framing crimes as acts against individuals, institutions, or society, the media implicitly legitimizes disciplinary measures and supports accountability discourses.

When viewed together, Reason gives explanatory depth, Purpose emphasizes intentionality, and Behalf encodes agreement and disagreement. While the raw frequencies (e.g., Reason: 11, Purpose: 56, Behalf: 35) indicate quantitative variance, the qualitative impact is found in how these circumstantial elements characterize crime as a socially, politically, and morally contextualized phenomenon, rather than separate acts.

4.1.14 Matter

Matter circumstances in The Express Tribune serve as more than just grammatical devices; they purposefully pinpoint crime into larger social contexts and matters. This linguistic pattern not only locates crimes socially and symbolically associates them with specific settings, indirectly strengthening public perceptions of risk in certain situations.

Table 9: Matter

Matter	Frequencies
In	64
About	14
Of	5
Regarding	2

Table 9 shows the frequency distribution of matter markers, emphasizing its thematic importance. The matter circumstance does more than explain; it places the report within broader sociopolitical concerns regarding lawlessness in conflict-prone social settings. Hence,the presence and distribution of matter circumstances indicate a twofold role: first, in establishing textual cohesiveness by connecting processes and circumstances of matter, and second, in shaping interpretive frames that direct readers to certain contextual understandings of crime.

4.1.5 Accompaniment

Within Halliday's paradigm, accompaniment circumstances answer the queries "who/what else?" and "along with whom/what?" by expanding events beyond their principal actors. Far from being only a linguistic supplement, accompaniment places crimes in a relational framework, emphasizing unity and shared responsibility.

Table 10: Accompaniment

Accompaniment	Frequencies
With	84
Also	83
Too	6
As Well As	5

The quantitative significance emphasizes its status as one of the most common circumstantial categories in crime news reports data. From a critical approach, the prevalence of and criminal discourse illustrates how it connects characters, acts, and objects to produce narrative continuity and interpretive depth. For example, news of suspects being arrested with weapons or police officers being killed alongside other cops depicts crimes as socially rooted phenomena rather than isolated incidents. In this view, accompaniment is both additive and constitutive, framing crimes as part of larger social acts, networks, or surroundings.Their frequent appearance in The Express Tribune emphasizes the journalistic requirement to contextualize crime through association, thereby increasing credibility, coherence, and the feeling of interconnectedness in the discourse on Pakistani crime reports.

4.1.16 Angle

Within Halliday's theory, angle circumstance establishes the narrative voice, adds credibility, and conveys authority.

4.1.7 Source

The use of "according to" _that appeared 57 times in The Express Tribune_indicates how crime reporting is primarily reliant on attribution to external voices, such as police officers,

eyewitnesses, or government representatives. Far from being impartial, this attribution establishes journalistic objectivity by giving responsibility for information to institutional or individual sources. Angle conditions improve the credibility of the crime event while also separating the reporter from the direct allegation, protecting the crime reportage from any bias or contestation.

The qualitative relevance of angle circumstances is clear in crime events such as the Harnai incident, in which the Express Tribune reported that "three coal miners were shot dead in Harnai, according to police." The angle-source in this case not only adds detail but also anchors the narrative in institutional authority.

Angle circumstantial elements have three primary representational roles. First, they increase textual authority, making news events appear factual and verifiable. Second, they contribute to the crime reporting's objectivity claim by isolating the writer from the facts being conveyed. Third, they influence reader perception by indicating which voices weigh the development of crime narratives.

5. Conclusion

The SFL analysis of the crime news texts from The Express Tribune the first question investigated the styles and patterns of circumstantial elements utilized by The Dawn and Express Tribune in Pakistani crime publications, highlighted the circumstances of location, extent, manner, cause, matter, accompaniment, and angle used by both newspapers, along with their specific frequencies. Moreover, the study examined the contextual meanings conveyed through circumstantial resources in Pakistani crime events by The Express Tribune.

The focus of the second research question in the study was to identify the roles and manifestations of circumstantial elements in crime events of The Express Tribune. The Express Tribune's findings provide crucial insights into how Pakistani street crimes are linguistically represented. The newspaper continuously relied heavily on location, extent, manner, cause, matter, accompaniment, and angle, neglecting contingency and role. This shows that, while "*The Express Tribune*" emphasizes spatial and causal contexts to contextualize events, it eliminates speculative or peripheral elements, resulting in a clear news-delivery style.

Overall, the analysis shows that *The Express Tribune* frames crime events using a minimalist, action-oriented discourse that prioritizes headlines, factual delivery, and selective circumstantial evidence. This reporting technique, while effective in providing critical facts, hinders deeper contextualization of crime incidents. As a result, the Tribune's crime news reporting shows emphasis on conciseness rather than interpretive or investigative depth.Because the Tribune's reporting style significantly focuses on Location and cause circumstantials while ignoring contingency and role, it is suggested that reporters include a broader range of circumstantial aspects.

5.1 Implications

The study emphasizes that how linguistics and circumstantial choices affect the portrayal of crime events. Reporters may produce more accurate and powerful stories by having a better understanding of how various circumstantials, affect the narrative. According to the study's conclusions, media professionals should choose language more carefully to minimize prejudices and guarantee a more impartial portrayal of crime news events. This might result in more responsible and truthful reporting, which would change how the public views crime.

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