

# A Comparative Critical Discourse Analysis of the Two News Articles from the BBC News and the Hindustan Times

**Dr. Md Momtazur Rahman \***

Professor of English and Chair at the Department of Languages of the International University of Business Agriculture and Technology, Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Sultanul Arefin**

Department of Languages at International University of Business Agriculture and Technology, Dhaka, Bangladesh

## Abstract

This study conducts a comparative critical discourse analysis of two news articles from different newspapers, BBC News and Hindustan Times, based on Fairclough's CDA framework. In the realm of 'Text Analysis,' the BBC News article employs concise and straightforward sentences, focusing on direct presentation of facts, while the Hindustan Times uses a mix of varying sentences to offer comprehensive details about the subject's background and activities. In 'Discourse Practice,' both articles reflect the ideologies and beliefs of their respective outlets and audiences, influencing the production and interpretation of news texts. BBC News takes a balanced and international approach, while Hindustan Times adopts a one-sided, nationalistic stance. Within 'Sociocultural Practice,' both articles recognize the complex social and cultural context surrounding the Khalistan movement and the Sikh diaspora. The findings highlight the media's role in shaping public opinions and influencing international relations by framing and presenting news in specific ways.

**Keywords:** CDA (Critical Discourse Analysis), Media Discourse, Languages, Ideologies, Beliefs and Socio-cultural Contexts, the BBC News, the Hindustan Times

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is an emerging academic field that offers researchers various methods to uncover the underlying ideologies concealed within discourse that is typically accepted without question. Nevertheless, linguistic analysis plays a crucial role in these investigations. As stated by Taiwo (2007), language serves not only as a mirror of reality but also as a creator of reality. Our words are never devoid of bias; they possess the ability to reflect the perspectives of those who speak or write them. News reporting on any situation mainly manipulates discursive and representational strategies in portraying people, actions and events either negatively or positively based on certain

prejudiced ideologies. The form of mass media contains discourse which conveys social structure and power relation both explicitly and implicitly (Fairclough, 1995; Van Dijk, 1988). This study aims to carry out a comparative critical discourse analysis of the two seemingly straightforward news articles on the recent killing of a Canadian Sikh Hardeep Singh Nijjar, which can unveil themselves as intricate phenomena and potentially influence readers in diverse ways, even when addressing the same phenomenon.

### **1.1 An Overview of Sikh Hardeep Singh Nijjar**

Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Canadian Sikh, was born on October 11, 1977, and tragically passed away on June 18, 2023. He was a prominent figure in the Khalistan movement, advocating for an independent Sikh state. He also held a leadership position at a gurdwara in British Columbia.

Originally from India, Nijjar relocated to Canada in the mid-1990s. While many Sikh organizations considered him a human rights activist, the Indian government accused him of criminal activities and terrorism, alleging ties to the militant Khalistan Tiger Force. Nijjar and his associates vehemently refuted these allegations, asserting that his advocacy for Khalistan was rooted in peaceful means.

On June 18, 2023, Nijjar was fatally shot in the parking lot of a Sikh temple in British Columbia. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada announced on September 18, 2023, that Canadian intelligence agencies were actively investigating credible suspicions of potential involvement by Indian government agents in Nijjar's murder. In response to this incident, Canada expelled an Indian diplomat, while the Indian foreign ministry removed a key official and disavowed any connection to the assassination.

## **2. CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS (CDA)**

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), initially emerging in the mid-1980s through the contributions of scholars like Fairclough, van Dijk, and Wodak, delves into examining societal phenomena like inequality, dominance, and the misuse of social authority. It explores how these phenomena manifest, are justified, perpetuated, and resisted through language, both written and spoken, in social and political contexts. In their work, Fairclough and Wodak (1997) outline fundamental principles of CDA. These principles revolve around its focus on social issues, its ideological purpose, its role in shaping society and culture, and its dual nature of interpretation and explanation.

Van Dijk (1993) argues that language use and verbal interaction constitute the micro-level of social order, while power, dominance, and inequality between social groups belong to the macro-level of analysis in CDA. The primary aim of CDA is to understand pressing social issues through the analysis of discourse. It requires a multidisciplinary approach and an understanding of the intricate relationships between text, speech, social cognition, power, society, and culture, as emphasized by Van Dijk. Wodak and Meyer (2008) also note that CDA is characterized by certain principles, including a problem-oriented approach that necessitates the use of interdisciplinary and eclectic methods.

Furthermore, CDA seeks to demystify ideologies and power by systematically and reproducibly investigating semiotic data, whether it be in written, spoken, or visual form.

This approach underscores the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration to gain a comprehensive understanding of how language functions in constructing and transmitting knowledge, organizing social institutions, and exercising power. Halliday's view of language as a "social act" is a fundamental aspect to numerous CDA practitioners (Chouliaraki and Fairclough in 1999, Fairclough in 1989, 1992, 1993, 1995b, and 1995a, Fowler and Hodge in 1979, Fowler in 1991, and Hodge and Kress in 1993).

## **2.1 Media Discourse**

According to Van Dijk (1988), media discourse, including news reports, is a distinct form of language use and a socio-cultural practice. Media's influence has led to critical studies in fields like linguistics, semiotics, pragmatics, and discourse studies, as noted by Van Dijk (1993). Van Dijk (1988) defines media news as new information about events, things, or individuals, a type of program presenting news on television or radio, and news items in text or discourse form across various media. However, Fowler (1991) views news as a product influenced by political, economic, and cultural forces rather than an accurate reflection of reality. News, according to Van Dijk, should primarily be studied as a form of public discourse. The literature on newspapers and mass communication research explores the economic, social, and cultural dimensions of news and news media.

## **2.2 Language, Ideology, and Power**

The study of ideology and power, particularly the role of language in upholding and reinforcing them, has been a significant research focus. Van Dijk (1988) suggests that ideologies organize social group attitudes and often take the form of opinion statements, reflecting ideological constraints. Fairclough (2003) argues that ideologies are representations that contribute to establishing and maintaining relations of power, domination, and exploitation, shaping interactions and identities. Textual analysis is a vital aspect of ideological analysis and critique. Van Dijk (1988, 1993, 2001) further asserts that the aim of ideological discourse analysis is to systematically link discourse structures with ideological structures.

Rogers et al. (2005) emphasize that language is a social practice and that all language analyses should have a critical dimension. CDA aims to interpret, describe, and explain the relationship between language, social practices, and the social world. Language plays a role in indexing, expressing, and constituting social relations while also challenging them, with power taking both liberating and oppressive forms. Wodak et al. (2008) argue that power involves differences in social structure and is intertwined with language in various ways. Language indexes and expresses power and is entangled in situations where power is contested, challenged, and redistributed. Language serves as a finely articulated medium for expressing power differentials in hierarchical social structures.

## **2.3 The Concept of Frame and the Framing Process**

### **A Sociological Conception**

Goffman's (1974) Frame Analysis posits that individuals actively classify, organize, and interpret their life experiences in order to derive meaning from them. This process is facilitated by "frames," which are the "schemata of interpretation" that enable individuals

to locate, perceive, identify, and label occurrences or information (Goffman, 1974, p. 21). Gitlin (1980) adopts a similar framing concept in his seminal study of the relationship between the news media and the Student New Left movement. He defines frames as "persistent selection, emphasis, and exclusion" (p. 7), and links the concept directly to the production of news discourse. According to Gitlin, frames enable journalists to process large amounts of information quickly and routinely, and to package the information for efficient relay to their audiences (Gitlin, 1980, p. 7). Gamson has further developed the concept of framing, defining it as a "central organizing idea or story line that provides meaning" (Gamson & Modigliani, 1987, p. 143) to events related to an issue. A frame is the core of a larger unit of public discourse, called a "package," that also contains various policy positions that may be derived from the frame, as well as a set of "symbolic devices" (Gamson & Modigliani, 1987, p. 143) that signify the presence of frames and policy positions. These devices include metaphors, exemplars, catchphrases, depictions, and visual images (Gamson & Lasch, 1983; Gamson & Modigliani, 1989). Pan and Kosicki (1993), in their study of news framing analysis, present a media framing method for identifying news discourses from a constructionist approach. They view news discourse as a socio-cognitive process and propose a news framing method that focuses on the development of news texts covering the four structures of news discourse dimensions: syntactic structure, script structure, thematic structure, and rhetoric structure.

#### **2.4 Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis Framework**

British sociologist Norman Fairclough is a prominent figure in Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), alongside Ruth Wodak, Gunther Kress, and Van Dijk. Fairclough initiated his work in CDA in the early 1980s and introduced a foundational theoretical framework for future research in this field. Notably, Fairclough approaches CDA from both sociological and linguistic perspectives, emphasizing that language reflects reality and is an integral part of society rather than an external element. He views language as a social practice influenced by non-linguistic factors in society.

In Fairclough's 1995 framework for CDA, he delineates three dimensions of the communicative event: Text, Discourse Practice, and Sociocultural Practice. These dimensions are interconnected and play a crucial role in CDA analysis.

The relationship between these three dimensions can be illustrated in the figure below.

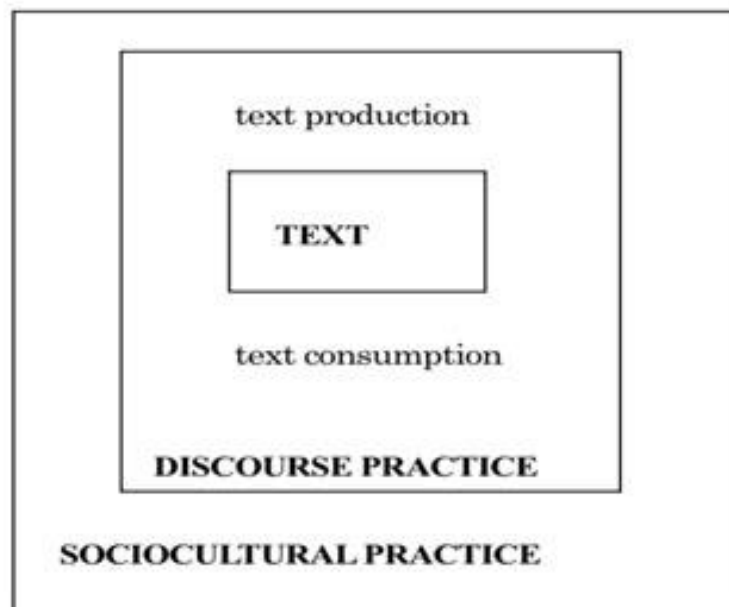


Figure 1. A Framework for Critical Discourse Analysis of 'Communicative Event' (Fairclough, 1995)

### 1. Text:

According to Fairclough (1995), Text, the first dimension, encompasses both written and spoken discourse. Fairclough emphasizes that texts can be oral, written, or a combination of both (e.g., television). Text analysis involves studying language structures, including vocabulary, semantics, cohesion, and grammar. Additionally, it requires examining the stages of text production and perception, which are part of Discourse Practice (Fairclough, 1995).

### 2. Discourse Practice:

This dimension comprises three essential steps: text production, text distribution, and text consumption (Fairclough, 1995). During text production, the writer encodes ideas and ideologies in the text, while the audience is clearly identified. In the interpretation phase, the audience decodes meaning based on their beliefs, knowledge, and prior experiences (Fairclough, 1995). The text can influence the audience's perspectives and beliefs (Fairclough).

### 3. Sociocultural Practice:

The third dimension, Sociocultural Practice, involves analyzing the social and cultural context in which the communicative event occurs (Fairclough, 1995). It explores how discourses function within various societal domains and their relationship to power and dominance. To analyze Sociocultural Practice, one must combine insights from Discourse Practice and Text analysis (Fairclough, 1995).

Furthermore, Fairclough (1989) distinguishes between three components of discourse: description, interpretation, and explanation. Description focuses on the formal properties of the text, while interpretation delves into the relationship between

interactions with the text and the text's role in the process of interpretation. Explanation explores the connection between social context and the processes of production and interpretation, along with their social impacts.

In summary, Norman Fairclough's contribution to Critical Discourse Analysis revolves around a three-dimensional framework that integrates sociological and linguistic perspectives. This framework emphasizes the interconnectedness of Text, Discourse Practice, and Sociocultural Practice in the analysis of communicative events, offering a comprehensive approach to understanding the role of language in shaping societal discourse.

### **3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This study represents an analysis of two news articles using the perspective of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). CDA is a framework to study or examine how an individual or institution makes use of language by not only identifying the textual features but also interpretation based on the context and interaction within it. CDA is seen as the practice of language in society (Fairclough, 1992; Gee, 1999), the representation of power in social life (Weiss and Wodak, 2003), as a means to connect linguistic analysis to social analysis (Woods and Kroger, 2000). Therefore, it can be generalized that CDA concerns in scrutinizing the power and ideologies embedded in both linguistic and social aspects. The research employed the CDA framework proposed by Fairclough's (1995) framework for CDA, which consists of three dimensions of the communicative event: 1. Text, 2. Discourse Practice, and 3. Sociocultural Practice.

The data for the current study were drawn from an article of the BBC News and an article of the Hindustan Times. Both the articles were online and published on 19 September, 2023. The headline of the BBC article is 'Hardeep Singh Nijjar: Canada accuses India of role in Sikh leader's murder'. The headline of the Hindustan Times is 'Who was Hardeep Singh Nijjar, Khalistan terrorist at center of standoff between India and Canada?'

Two news articles were selected from the BBC News and the Hindustan Times on the basis of purposive sampling. The BBC News, a UK based English news agency, is one of the most famous news media in the world for free and credible news reports. The other news article was selected from the Hindustan Times, which is one of the popular English newspapers in India. The purpose of selecting the two newspapers was that one was a global newspaper and the other one was a regional/Indian newspaper, which revealed reports on Canadian Hardeep Singh Nijjar's killing. Hardeep Singh Nijjar, who was born in India, was a Sikh separatist leader. He was shot and died on June 18, 2023 in Canada. The study was an attempt to explore how the same issue was treated differently in the two newspapers which underlined their ideologies using CDA. Data were analyzed on the basis of articles' contents and structures under the CDA framework by Fairclough's (1995).

## 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### A Comparative Critical Discourse Analysis of the Two News Articles:

This section presents the findings and discussions based on Fairclough's (1995) framework for CDA. The section begins with analyzing 1. Text, followed by 2. Discourse Practice, and 3. Sociocultural Practice. These dimensions are obviously interconnected and play a crucial role in CDA analysis.

#### 4.1. Text (Analysis of sentence structures, grammar, quotations (direct-indirect speech), quoting verbs, and lexical choices)

Text analysis is the first dimension of Fairclough's CDA framework. This section is all about the analysis of syntactic structures, grammar, quotations (direct and indirect speech), word choices (lexical choices)/semantics. Analysis of text means linguistic analysis in terms of vocabulary, grammar, semantics, the sound system, and cohesion-organization above the sentence level (Fairclough, 1995b)

#### Syntactic Structure:

This section examines the syntactic structures used in both articles: BBC News Article and Hindustan Times News Article.

#### Sentences used in BBC News Article:

"Mr Nijjar, 45, was shot dead in his vehicle by two masked gunmen in the busy car park of the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in Surrey, a city about 30km (18 miles) east of Vancouver".

"A prominent Sikh separatist leader in the western-most province of British Columbia, he publicly campaigned for Khalistan - the creation of an independent Sikh homeland in the Punjab region of India".

"Any involvement of a foreign government in the killing of a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil is an unacceptable violation of our sovereignty".

"We urge the government of Canada to take prompt and effective legal action against all anti-India elements operating from their soil".

"After Mr Trudeau's comments, several large posters and tributes to Mr Nijjar were visible at the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in Surrey".

The BBC article uses concise and straightforward sentences, focusing on presenting the facts and allegations. It avoids complex sentence structures and uses a direct reporting

style. The sentences are written, mostly in simple sentences using appositives. Few sentences are written in complex and compound sentences.

Sentences used in the Hindustan Times Article:

“Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a pro-Khalistan supporter was gunned down on June 18 outside a Sikh cultural centre in Surrey, British Columbia, Canada”.

“The Canadian premier said his government has been working closely and coordinating with Canada’s allies on the case. The expulsion comes as relations between Canada and India are tense over the rise in pro-Khalistan activities in Canada”.

Nijjar, associated with banned Indian separatist group Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), held the position of 'Number 2' after Gurpatwant Singh Pannun.

“He hailed from Jalandhar's Bharsingh Pura village as per Punjab Police dossiers and moved to Canada in 1996”.

“In Canada, he began working there as a plumber, however over the past few years, his wealth saw a sudden rise, due to his involvement in pro-Khalistan activities”.

“Nijjar's involvement in terrorism started with his membership in Babbar Khalsa International, led by Jagtar Singh Tara. Subsequently, he established his own group, Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF). He played a significant role in identifying, connecting, training, and funding Khalistani cells in India, accumulating over 10 FIRs against him”.

The Hindustan Times article employs a mixture of simple, complex and compound sentences to provide detailed information about Hardeep Singh Nijjar's background and activities. It uses a narrative style to build a comprehensive picture.

Quotations (Direct and Indirect Speech):

Quotation and reported speech plays an integral part in news reporting. Since readers may not know the real situation being reported, journalists have the authority to shape the readers’ perception by his writing. Thus, it is crucial whether the verbal action in the news is presented using direct or indirect speech. The use of quotation is able to show the party holding the power (Van Dijk, 1988).

The BBC News Article:

The BBC News article uses a direct quote from Justin Trudeau: "Any involvement of a foreign government in the killing of a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil is an unacceptable violation of our sovereignty".



The BBC News uses the indirect speech from the Indian Ministry of External Affairs: "completely rejected" Mr. Trudeau's claims, described as "absurd" and politically motivated.

The Hindustan Times Article :

The Hindustan Times quotes Justin Trudeau directly: "credible allegations of a potential link" between Indian agents and Nijjar's killing. It provides direct quotes from the Punjab Police dossier and Justin Trudeau's statement.

Both articles include direct quotes from relevant figures, but they differ in their selection of quotes, with BBC News including quotes from both sides, while The Hindustan Times focuses on Trudeau's statement and Nijjar's background.

#### Quoting Verbs:

BBC News Article uses the following quoting verbs: "said," "expelled," "described," "accused," "urged".

The Hindustan Times Article uses the following quoting verbs: "claimed," "said," "hailed," "established," "partnered".

The quoting verbs in both articles reflect their tone and perspective. The BBC News uses more neutral verbs, whereas The Hindustan Times employs verbs like "claimed" and "hailed," which convey a stronger point of view.

#### Lexical Choices:

The selection of vocabulary is highly influential in shaping the stance and perspective of the two news organizations. Lexical choices primarily reflect writers' viewpoints regarding the news since they have the liberty to select specific words when describing a news event. Additionally, this choice of language defines specific identities, values, and sequences of events, even when these aspects are not overtly expressed (Machin and Mayr, 2012). Another central assumption of CDA and SFL is that speakers make choices regarding vocabulary and grammar, and that these choices are consciously or unconsciously "principled and systematic" (Fowler et al., 1979, p. 188). Thus choices are ideologically based.

The BBC News Article uses the following words:

"credible allegations"

"expelled a Canadian diplomat"

"prominent Sikh separatist leader"

"independent Sikh homeland"

"anti-India elements"

"stand up and acknowledged"

"tense meeting"

"tackle what it calls 'Sikh extremism'"

The Hindustan Times Article uses the following words:

"pro-Khalistan supporter"

"Khalistani terrorist"

"agents of the Indian government"

"rise in pro-Khalistan activities"

"associated with banned Indian separatist group"

"wealth saw a sudden rise"

"established his own group, Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF)"

"partnered with fellow gangster Arsh Dalla"

The lexical choices in both articles reveal their respective biases. BBC News uses more neutral language, while The Hindustan Times employs stronger terms like "terrorist" and "agents of the Indian government," emphasizing a negative portrayal of Nijjar and his activities.

## **4.2. Discourse Practice (Analysis of discourse)**

Discourse Practice is the second dimension of Fairclough's CDA framework. According to Fairclough's (1995) framework, the second dimension, Discourse Practice, analyzes interesting aspects of text production and interpretation of the two news articles, including the influence of newspapers' ideologies and beliefs as well as the audiences' ideologies and beliefs. Here is the analysis.

The BBC News Article:

### **1. Framing and Tone:**

The BBC News Article: The BBC article describes Hardeep Singh Nijjar as a "prominent Sikh separatist leader" and mentions that he campaigned for Khalistan. The tone used is relatively neutral and factual.

The Hindustan Times Article: This article consistently labels Nijjar as a "pro-Khalistan terrorist" and associates him with banned separatist groups. The tone used in this article carries a negative connotation and suggests a more biased perspective.

### **2. Attribution of Responsibility:**

The BBC News Article : The article mentions that Justin Trudeau raised "credible allegations potentially linking" the Indian state to Nijjar's murder. It presents Canada's

position and concerns about the involvement of the Indian government but also includes India's denial.

The Hindustan Times Article: This article immediately dismisses Trudeau's allegations, referring to Nijjar as a "Khalistani terrorist" and reinforcing the Indian government's position that such claims are "absurd".

### **3. Audience Ideologies and Beliefs:**

The BBC News Article: The BBC, being an international news outlet, tends to adopt a more balanced and objective tone. It aims to provide information to a global audience and, in this case, allows space for both sides of the argument. It highlights Sikh community perspectives and Trudeau's statements.

The Hindustan Times Article: As an Indian newspaper, the Hindustan Times appears to cater to a primarily Indian audience. Its portrayal of Nijjar as a terrorist and the dismissal of Trudeau's claims align with the Indian government's stance on Sikh separatism. The article reinforces the belief that Nijjar was a threat.

### **4. Historical Context:**

The BBC News Article: The article briefly mentions the historical context of Sikh separatism in India, providing some context for international readers who may not be familiar with the issue.

The Hindustan Times Article: This article delves into Nijjar's history and involvement in separatist activities, presenting a comprehensive narrative that reinforces the idea that he was a dangerous figure.

### **5. International Relations and Political Impact:**

The BBC News Article: The BBC article discusses the diplomatic tensions between Canada and India, including the expulsion of diplomats and the suspension of trade negotiations. It also mentions Trudeau's encounter with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the G20 summit.

The Hindustan Times Article: This article focuses less on international relations and more on Nijjar's background and alleged activities, which may be more appealing to an Indian audience interested in security matters.

In summary, the two newspaper articles reflect the ideologies and beliefs of their respective news outlets and audiences in the production and interpretation of news texts in discourse perspectives. The BBC News adopts a more balanced and internationally oriented approach, presenting different perspectives and acknowledging the diplomatic tensions. The Hindustan Times, on the other hand, adopts a more one-sided and nationalistic stance, framing Nijjar as a terrorist and emphasizing his alleged activities. These differences highlight the role of media in shaping public perceptions and influencing international relations.

### **4.3. Sociocultural Practice (Analysis of Social and Cultural Context)**

Fairclough's third level of CDA framework is the 'Sociocultural Practice. This section provides an analysis of the social and cultural context of both news articles.

Social and Cultural Context in the BBC News Article:

The BBC article provides context about the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada, emphasizing his status as a prominent Sikh separatist leader.

It acknowledges that Sikhs are a religious minority in India, making up about 2% of the population, and mentions that some Sikh groups have long called for a separate homeland. The article briefly touches on the history of Sikh separatist insurgency in India in the 1970s and the subsequent quelling of the insurgency in the following decade. It highlights the presence of a significant Sikh population in countries like Canada and the UK, underlining the cultural and diasporic context of the Khalistan movement. The article references the diplomatic tensions between Canada and India, indicating the global implications of the case within a multicultural context.

Social and Cultural Context in the Hindustan Times Article:

The Hindustan Times article focuses on the background and alleged activities of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, portraying him as a pro-Khalistan terrorist. It provides detailed information about Nijjar's involvement in various activities, including terrorism and criminal acts, highlighting his role within separatist groups. The article mentions Nijjar's migration from India to Canada, suggesting the transnational aspect of the Khalistan movement. It discusses Nijjar's association with banned separatist groups and his alleged involvement in training, funding, and orchestrating violent actions in India. The article highlights the tension between Canada and India due to the rise of pro-Khalistan activities, indicating the global reach of Sikh separatism.

Overall Social and Cultural Context Analysis:

Both articles acknowledge the complex social and cultural context surrounding the Khalistan movement and the Sikh diaspora. The BBC article provides a more general overview of this context, emphasizing the global presence of Sikhs and the historical background of the movement.

The Hindustan Times article delves deeper into the individual background of Nijjar and his alleged involvement in violent activities, highlighting the transnational nature of Sikh separatism. Both articles touch on the diplomatic tensions between Canada and India, illustrating the impact of these events on international relations within the Sikh community.

In summary, the social and cultural context in these articles plays a crucial role in shaping the narrative of the Hardeep Singh Nijjar case. It highlights the global nature of Sikh separatism, the historical backdrop, and the tension between the diaspora and the Indian government.

## 5. CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS

This study conducts a comparative critical discourse analysis of two news articles from the two different newspapers: BBC News and Hindustan Times. The analysis is based on Fairclough's framework for CDA, examining three dimensions: Text, Discourse Practice, and Sociocultural Practice.

In the realm of Fairclough's first dimension, 'Text Analysis,' the BBC News article employs concise and straightforward sentences to present facts and allegations directly. Conversely, the Hindustan Times uses a mix of simple, complex, and compound sentences to offer comprehensive details about the subject's background and activities. Both articles incorporate direct quotes, but they differ in their selection. BBC News includes quotes from both sides, while Hindustan Times focuses on specific quotes from Justin Trudeau and the subject's background. Lexically, BBC News employs more neutral language, whereas the Hindustan Times uses stronger terms such as "terrorist" and "agents of the Indian government."

In the context of Fairclough's second dimension, 'Discourse Practice,' both newspaper articles reflect the ideologies and beliefs of their respective outlets and audiences, influencing the production and interpretation of news texts. BBC News takes a balanced and international approach, presenting diverse perspectives and acknowledging diplomatic tensions. In contrast, Hindustan Times adopts a one-sided, nationalistic stance, portraying Nijjar as a terrorist and emphasizing his alleged activities. These distinctions underscore the media's role in shaping public opinions and impacting international relations.

Within Fairclough's third dimension, 'Sociocultural Practice,' both articles recognize the intricate social and cultural context surrounding the Khalistan movement and the Sikh diaspora. The BBC article offers a general overview, highlighting the global presence of Sikhs and the historical context of the movement. Conversely, the Hindustan Times delves deeper into Nijjar's individual background and alleged involvement in violent activities, emphasizing the transnational nature of Sikh separatism. Both articles touch upon diplomatic tensions between Canada and India.

Overall, the study's implications highlight how two different news reports may approach the same incidence with distinct reporting styles, language choices, and ideological perspectives. These differences in reporting can significantly impact how readers perceive and interpret news, as well as their understanding of complex sociocultural and geopolitical issues. The findings of the study underscore the role of the media in shaping public opinions and influencing international relations by framing and presenting news in specific ways.

## REFERENCES

- Chouliaraki, L. & Fairclough, N. (1999). *Rethinking critical discourse analysis*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- Fairclough, N. (1992). *Discourse and social change*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

- Fairclough, N. (1989). *Language and power*. New York: Longman.
- Fairclough, N. (1995a). *Critical discourse analysis: The critical study of language*. Harlow, UK: Longman.
- Fairclough, N. (1995b). *Media discourse*. London: Arnold.
- Fairclough, N. (2003b). *Analyzing discourse*. London: Routledge.
- Fowler, R. and Hodge B. (1979). *Critical linguistics*. In R. Fowler et al (Eds.). *Language and control*. London: Routledge and Keegan Paul. pp. 185-213.
- Fowler, R. (1991). *Language in the news: Language and ideology in the press*. London: Routledge.
- Fowler, R. (1991). *Language in the news: Discourse and ideology in the press*. London: Routledge.
- Gee, James P. (1999). *An Introduction to discourse analysis: Theory and method*, Routledge. London.
- Gitlin, T. (1980). *The whole world is watching: Mass media in the making and unmaking of the new left*. University of California Press: Berkeley.
- Gamson, W. A., & Modigliani, A. (1987). The changing culture of affirmative action. In R. G. Braungart & M. M. Braungart (Eds.), *Research in political sociology* (Vol. 3, pp. 137-177). Greenwich, CT: JAI Press.
- Gamson, W. A., & Modigliani, A. (1989). Media discourse and public opinion: A constructionist approach. *American Journal of Sociology*, 95, 1-37.
- Gamson, W. A., & Lasch, K. E (1983). The political culture of social welfare policy. In S. E. Spiro & E. Yuchtman-Yaar (Eds.), *Evaluating the welfare state: Social and political perspectives* (pp. 397-415). San Diego, CA: Academic Press.
- Goffman, E. (1974). *Frame analysis: An essay on the organization of experience*. Harvard: Harvard University Press.
- Hodge, R and Kress, G. (1993). *Language as ideology*. (2nd ed.). London: Routledge.
- Machin, D., Mayr, A. (2012). *How to do critical discourse analysis: A multimodal introduction*. Los Angeles: SAGE.
- Pan, Z, and Kosicki, G. (1993). Framing analysis: An approach to news discourse. *Political Communication* 10(1):55-75.
- Rogers, R., Berkes, L, M., Mosley, M., Hui, D., & Joseph, G. O. (2005). Critical discourse analysis in education: A review of the literature. *Review of Education Research*, 75(3), 365-416.
- Taiwo, R. (2004). Speech as headline in Nigerian newspapers. In Segun Awonusi, & E. A. Babalola (Eds), *The domestication of English in Nigeria* (pp. 323-335). Lagos: University of Lagos Press.
- Taiwo, R. (2007). Language, ideology and power relations in Nigerian newspaper headlines. *Nebula*, 4(1), 218-245.

- Van Dijk, T, A (1988). News as discourse. New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc.
- Van Dijk, T. A. (1988). News as discourse. Hillsdale, N|: Erlbaum.
- Van Dijk, T. A. (1993). Principles of critical discourse analysis. *Discourse and Society*, 4(2), 249-283.
- Wodak, R., & Meyer, M. (2008). Critical discourse analysis: History, agenda, theory, and methodology. London: Sage Publications.

## **APPENDIX:**

### **1. News Article**

Title:

**Hardeep Singh Nijjar: Canada accuses India of role in Sikh leader's murder**

By BBC News (published on 19 September, 2023)

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-66848041>

On Monday PM Justin Trudeau said Canada was looking at "credible allegations potentially linking" the Indian state to Hardeep Singh Nijjar's murder. Mr Nijjar was shot dead outside a Sikh temple on 18 June in Canada. India has expelled a Canadian diplomat after Canada expelled Indian diplomat Pavan Kumar Rai over the case.

Mr Nijjar, 45, was shot dead in his vehicle by two masked gunmen in the busy car park of the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in Surrey, a city about 30km (18 miles) east of Vancouver.

A prominent Sikh separatist leader in the western-most province of British Columbia, he publicly campaigned for Khalistan - the creation of an independent Sikh homeland in the Punjab region of India.

Sikhs are a religious minority that make up about 2% of India's population. Some groups have long called for a separate homeland for Sikhs.

In the 1970s Sikhs launched a separatist insurgency in India which saw thousands killed before it was quelled the following decade.

Since then, the movement has been mostly limited to countries with large Sikh populations such as Canada and the UK. There are an estimated 1.4 to 1.8 million Canadians of Indian origin and the country has the largest population of Sikhs outside Punjab.

India has in the past described Mr Nijjar as a terrorist who led a militant separatist group - accusations his supporters say are unfounded. They say he had received threats in the past because of his activism. Mr Trudeau said in parliament on Monday that he had raised the issue of Mr Nijjar's killing with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the recent G20 summit in Delhi.

"Any involvement of a foreign government in the killing of a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil is an unacceptable violation of our sovereignty," he told lawmakers.

On Tuesday, India's ministry of external affairs said that it "completely rejected" Mr Trudeau's claims which it described as "absurd" and politically motivated.

"We are a democratic polity with a strong commitment to rule of law," the ministry said in a statement.

It accused Canada of providing shelter to "Khalistani terrorists and extremists" who threaten India's security.

"We urge the government of Canada to take prompt and effective legal action against all anti-India elements operating from their soil," the ministry said.

**An unsolved murder in Canada fuels rifts with India**

After Mr Trudeau's comments, several large posters and tributes to Mr Nijjar were visible at the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in Surrey.

Moninder Singh, a spokesman for the British Columbia Sikhs Gurdwaras Council, told the BBC that the community appreciated "that at least the prime minister stood up and acknowledged that there is a foreign hand behind this murder".

Other Sikh groups in Canada, including the World Sikh Organisation, welcomed the prime minister's statement, saying Mr Trudeau confirmed what was already widely believed in the community.

Mr Trudeau's remarks come after his tense meeting with Mr Modi last week during the G20 summit in India where Mr Modi accused Canada of not doing enough to quell "anti-India activities of extremist elements", referring to the Sikh separatists.



Canada also recently suspended negotiations for a free trade agreement with India. It gave few details on why, but India cited "certain political developments".

Mr Nijjar is the third prominent Sikh figure to have died unexpectedly in recent months.

Stranded Trudeau leaves India after frosty visit

In the UK, Avtar Singh Khanda, who was said to be the head of the Khalistan Liberation Force, died in Birmingham in June. West Midlands police told the BBC they were not opening an investigation.

"Following speculation surrounding the death of Avtar Singh Khanda, a thorough review was undertaken by West Midlands Police which concluded that there were no suspicious circumstances," the force said.

Paramjit Singh Panjwar, who was designated a terrorist by India, was shot dead in May in Lahore, the capital of Pakistan's Punjab province.

The backdrop to the tension between Delhi and Ottawa is the increasing pressure the Indian administration has put on governments of three countries with sizeable Sikh populations: Canada, Australia and the UK.

It has openly said that a failure to tackle what it calls "Sikh extremism" would be an obstacle to good relations.

On Tuesday, the White House said it was "deeply concerned" about Mr Trudeau's allegations.

"We remain in regular contact with our Canadian partners. It is critical that Canada's investigation proceed and the perpetrators be brought to justice," White House National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson said.

## 2. News Article

Title:

**Who was Hardeep Singh Nijjar, Khalistan terrorist at centre of standoff between India and Canada?**

By The Hindustan Times (published on 19 September, 2023)

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/who-was-hardeep-singh-nijjar-khalistan-terrorist-at-centre-of-standoff-between-india-and-canada-101695083479000.html>

Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a pro-Khalistan supporter was gunned down on June 18 outside a Sikh cultural centre in Surrey, British Columbia, Canada.

Canada on Monday expelled a top Indian diplomat amid probe into the killing of pro-Khalistan terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on its soil. Canadian prime minister Justin Trudeau claimed 'credible allegations of a potential link' between agents of the Indian government and the killing of the Khalistani terrorist.

Hardeep Singh Nijjar was gunned down on June 18 outside a Sikh cultural centre in Surrey, British Columbia. "Any involvement of a foreign government in the killing of a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil is an unacceptable violation of our sovereignty," Trudeau said in the Canadian parliament.

The Canadian premier said his government has been working closely and coordinating with Canada's allies on the case. The expulsion comes as relations between Canada and India are tense over the rise in pro-Khalistan activities in Canada.

Who is Hardeep Singh Nijjar?

1)Nijjar, associated with banned Indian separatist group Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), held the position of 'Number 2' after Gurpatwant Singh Pannun. He hailed from Jalandhar's Bharsingh Pura village as per Punjab Police dossiers and moved to Canada in 1996.

2)In Canada, he began working there as a plumber, however over the past few years, his wealth saw a sudden rise, due to his involvement in pro-Khalistan activities.

3)Nijjar's involvement in terrorism started with his membership in Babbar Khalsa International, led by Jagtar Singh Tara. Subsequently, he established his own group, Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF). He played a significant role in identifying, connecting, training, and funding Khalistani cells in India, accumulating over 10 FIRs against him.

4)In 2014, Nijjar masterminded the assassination of self-proclaimed spiritual leader Baba Bhaniara. In 2015, he conducted a training camp in Canada to instruct Mandeep Singh Dhaliwal, who was subsequently dispatched to Punjab with the mission of targeting Shiv Sena leaders. Mandeep was arrested in June 2016.

5) In November 2020, Nijjar partnered with fellow gangster Arsh Dalla, who was also residing abroad. Together, they got involved in the murder of Manohar Lal, a follower of the Dera Sacha Sauda, which took place at Lal's office in Bhagta Bhai Ka, Bathinda, in 2021.

**Correspondence & First Author-** Professor & Chair Dr. Md. Momtazur Rahman, Department of Languages, International University of Business Agriculture and Technology, Dhaka, Bangladesh, email: [momtazur@iubat.edu](mailto:momtazur@iubat.edu)

**Second Author-** Sultanul Arefin, Department of Languages, International University of Business Agriculture and Technology, Dhaka, Bangladesh, email: 20113053@iubat.edu