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RESEARCH PAPER

Social Networking or Social Disunion: An Analysis of Cyber-speech-Terrorism between Pakistanis and Americans

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ABSTRACT

Technological advancements have transformed the globe into a village with the advent of social media and these developments have brought so many advantages wrapped in dangers. Distance of thousand miles is just a click away i.e. web/internet; which is promoting togetherness by using networking and disunion in terms of cyber-hate, simultaneously. Pak-US shares a love-hate relationship with some unclear goals. Henry Kissinger's quote 'America has no permanent friends or enemies, only interests' exactly defines American mindset whereas America is not less than a fantasy for Pakistanis. This paper is concerned with the critical analysis of cyber-hate-speech between Pakistan & US by considering major issues of current year. Sample data has been collected from WordPress, Twitter, Linked-in and face-book and analyzed on both quanto-qualitative measures. Observations have shown that knowingly & unknowingly social networking websites have turned into war zones with the exchange of hate feelings without the discrimination of age, gender, religion and social status.

| **Keywords:** | Hate Speech, Office365, Whatsapp |

Introduction

The Phenomenon of Cyber Hate speech came into existence with the advancement of modern civilization (Donegan, 2012) in terms of Social media and development of technology. Reduction in millage of distant places turned wide spread world into a global village. The boundaries of different regions are in access of masses on a single click of Computer. Modern technology of cell phones, (Muzaffar, Yaseen. Safdar, 2020; Donegan, 2012) 3G/ 4G internet facilitated people to retrieve every component of Knowledge while Social media provided a channel of communication to express views of every individual on any issue (Brennan, 2009). The regular practice of freedom of Speech was never applicable before in similar manner like internet blogs, Twitter, Facebook, Internet forums, video hosting sides You Tube. These practices of expressions are one of the major sources of cyber hate speech that stimulates hatred on the core issues of race, religion, ethnicity or national basis (Rosenfeild, 2003) among different nations or ethnic groups due to having large available audiences. Every individual keeps the right to express his notions in civilized world through internet, but not to discriminate the identity of any group that engendered hate between nations.

The relationship of Pakistan and US remains in constrains in the vision of a common man having different views of the two nations on different political and religious grounds. On the other side, the Government of both countries has tried to focus on international interpretations. This research explores the facts driven by the social media to analyze how masses of these two nations react on different matters and take part in act of cyber hate

speeches on different internet sites like Facebook, Twitter, World press, You Tube and internet blogs. It's an attempt to understand what areas are targeted most between America and Pakistan on the stage of internet.

Literature Review

The term Hate speech or cyber hate speech is roughly defined to enfold anything that perceived by the readers or users of internets an expression of hate that any individual or identified group consider itself worst, threatening, offending and scandalous (Nemes, 2002). According to the European court of Human rights different targeted groups become the victim of accepted discrimination which shows the intolerance of a specific group of people with different political, religious, social, and ethnic views (Olsson & Perry, 2009) hate speech creators used against minorities, immigrants and people of different nations.

As Technological evolution changed the manners of interaction generally as well on online ground explicitly. One word or a single sentence is considered enough to comment on any idea, thought, information and news. Different online forums, Web sites and blogs invite people to poll their opinions on any specified issues that allow people to get closer on social issues to express their views while the similar channel provide a chance to share hatred views against individual or group of people (Brennan, 2009) that hurts the feeling of a particular group without showing hate speech originators identity or any fear of the physical response against any individual or group.

The most common discussed international issues throughout the world on Social media are Political situations that often arise within or outside the nations, Religious issues related to any sect of almost in every religion, and Social problems due to common differences among ethnic groups having different values, customs, and moral believes (Nemes, 2002). The historical controversies between different groups such as India and Pakistan, or America and Pakistan always criticized under the Hate propaganda on International social media. While on any national point of view less numbers of outsiders involved due to the less concern and focused on debate of individual groups.

In Pakistan more than 20 million people use Internet facility and face same issues that are targeted on Social media of Pakistan for instance Websites of different Political parties were evidence of cyber hate speech during the election of 2013 (Muzaffar, Chohdhry, & Afzal, 2019; Haque, 2014) whereas the religious groups Shias, Ahmadies, Hindus, and Christians in addition among the Ethnic groups Afghans, Americans, Jews, Indians, become the victim of more than twenty million users of internet in Pakistan.

The Reason of Cyber hate speech occurring between Pakistan and US on social media is specifically not new. Since last two decades, Pakistan has been criticized for the terrorist activities. The war against terror is being fought both with ammunition and exchange of hate speech on internet across the globe. Conflict between Islam and West is the second reason of Cyber hate speech in America and Pakistan (Haque, 2014). Different controversial groups inside Pakistan use cyber hate speech during commenting of different web sites like "US- Agent", "American Funded", "Jew", "Jewish agents", "Yahoodi", "CIA-funded", "Anti Islam" on the other side American use cyber hate speeches in terms of labels as "Terrorist", "Extremist" to attacked on Islam and Muslims.

To stop that cyber hate speech controversies among the groups of different international agencies, different programs are being channelized on various modes of internet communication after September 11 2001, for instance: The council of Europe's Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime deals with the Hate speech related to racist who attack other groups. SNS Social networking sites that restricted racism, ADL Anti-Defamation League related to the electronic communication technology that spread terrorist messages. CoE council of European crime promotes the mandate to protect human right

included discrimination against any group (Bernnan, 2009). Different projects like Georgeia, Ukraine, INACH, Insafe, Enasco, and Inhope are also actively participating against cyber hate crime throughout the world. While the common perception that Pakistani internet users are not aware of hate speech laws in Pakistan (Haque, 2014).

The history of Legislation against Hate Speech crimes remained in practice as a part of British rule to maintain the colonial power in south Asia (Dahavan, 2007). Especially against the sensitive issues of religious matters. That could harm the emotions of other religious groups. Theses hate speech crimes were purely analyzed under the lenses of "Right of Free speech" among narrow cultural and historical context of different groups of South Asian region.

Similarly, these laws provide a framework to follow some moral boundaries (White, 2002) in discourse that do not challenge the assumptions of settled conceptualization on different issues like the concept of blasphemy that is different in Eastern and Western side due to the different approaches for example Mohammad's cartoon that hurt and considered an offence which outraged Muslims feeling while Europeans take it under the broader term as right of free speech (Haque, 2014). The western approach of understanding believes of different ethnic groups is another fact that developed cyber hate speech milieu between these two nations.

America and Pakistan both have different laws to prevent the hate speech issues but the major differences in philosophical backgrounds of two nations turn the cyber hate speech into a war of comments. Different efforts are made by different organizations in Pakistan to control the cyber hate speech for instance PEMRA 2000, ATA 1979, PTA 1996 (Hague, 2014) As well Pakistan's constitution Article 19 clearly defines freedom of speech with its limitations that should not be harmful for any individual or group. Pakistan's penal code addressed hate speech in Article 153-A that deals with "Promoting enmity between different groups" while Penal code's article 295-298 restrict any person to blasphemy laws, also declared very harsh punishment for religion based hate speech.

To reduce the fact of victimization of targeted groups of cyber hate speech discrimination of believes, values, and understanding the concept of freedom of speech and its limitation in different context is essential. That often revolves around the national focus of legislation related to the cyber hate speech which varies from nation to nation. Meanwhile US and Pakistan both are the victims of cyber hate speech attacks in similar context too. The purpose of this study is to find these specific similar grounds where cyber hate speech is commonly fought between two nations to avoid the future hate speech wars in US and Pakistan of this globalized world in internet era.
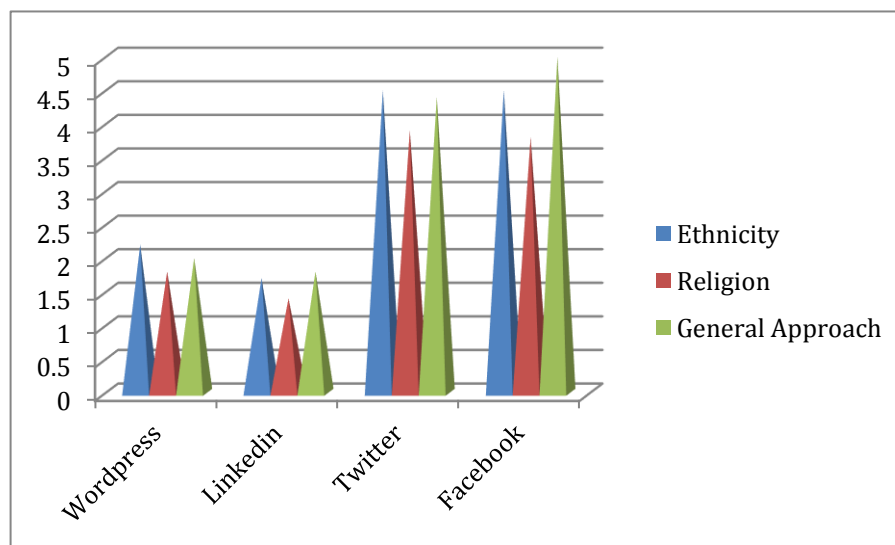
Analysis

Pak-US share a love-hate relationship since Pakistan came into being. To practice superpower's status, US have tried every possibility to ruin Pakistan's solidarity whereas Pakistan has somehow managed its standing. The biggest problem in Pakistan is the lack of common interests between the ruling party and the masses. In comparison to our local settings this problem is not faced by US citizens; they like their government and respect it and vice versa. One thing which is common between the both countries is 'hate'. Pakistani common people fantasize US and want from their core to get settle there (for their own good). Contrary to this, US citizens consider Pakistan 'a third world state' and 'a home of terrorists'; general processes of immigration, hospitalization and of work surroundings will second this.

This research has been conducted to analyze the cyber-hate-speech occurred in the present year by seeing the on-going controversies. Recent events have been identified from the published press releases of Pak-US consulates official websites; where it was noted that

there was no notable issue found between the two countries except 'axact' scandal. Both the countries have tried to improve their relationship by using diplomatic and non-diplomatic means. Meanwhile, officials have exchanged their respective country's ideologies and perspectives on drone attacks, talibanization and terrorism by securing their rights.

Hate speech data has been collected from Wordpress (https://wordpress.org/), Twitter, (https:// twitter.com/) Linked-in (https://www.linkedin.com/) and Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/). Retrospective Monitoring and Mapping strategies have been used for this purpose; ranging from January – May 2015 i.e. on above mentioned apps. Official Pakistani and U.S. Embassy/consulate pages were surfed on Twitter and Face book whereas word press and linked-in have been surfed on general search basis.

Altogether 2,050 micro-blogs have been collected to follow Quantitative approach from the mentioned apps on race, religion and general approach towards each other. This data was analyzed by Qualitative approach as well. Their graphical description is as follows:

Discussion

Religion

Pakistan is an Islamic Republic state i.e. dominated by Islam up to 97% whereas United States has Christianity as their official religion straightly up to 75%. Both the countries do have other religions like Hinduism, Buddhism and Jews but in minority. Pak-US relations are not new on discussion panel but certainly they are same as they were. None of the approach has been changed since the beginning. Some Pakistanis worship America for their fast economic, social, political and business growth although Americans odium Pakistanis for fundamentalism, ineffective media coverage, wrong terrorism beliefs.

Religion is a major difference between both of them although these two religions are not completely different from each other as Islam and Hinduism are. But still difference of opinion and act is visible. One important point here is that the majority of Pakistanis is sensitive about their religion and its practices whereas this 'sensitivity' is not common in US and replaced by modernism which is a high point of attraction for all Pakistanis. Freedom is the most wanted thing of our youth.

Social networking has paved many ways to share opinion on every issue. For instance,

The apprehension usually hits the night before a job interview or a big court case, as Zahra Cheema, a young lawyer, looks at the colorful head scarves and flowing abayas in her closet and silently wonders: "Should I try to make myself look less Muslim?"

"Every time I walk into the room, the first thought is, 'There's a Muslim,'" said Ms. Cheema, 25, the American-born daughter of Pakistani immigrants, describing that moment when she meets with a potential employer or argues a case in court. "I worry that essentially the hijab will override all my other merits."

And what about social media? Would law firms ask her in for interviews if hiring managers saw pictures of her wearing a head scarf on Facebook and LinkedIn? After experimenting a bit, she said, the answer was clear: The photographs had to go.

"I get callbacks" when her LinkedIn and Facebook profiles appear without photos, Ms. Cheema (2015) said ruefully. "The other way, I don't."

Hijab issue is discussed in this blog. Hijab is a Muslim practice and common in Muslim countries but uncommon and objectionable in US. This is still a question that Americans fear Islam more or hate Muslims more but for sure religious practices are not that easy as they claim.

"Neither could the principles of the relief organization possibly be Islamic nor could the services it provides possibly be good for Muslims," (Pak-US Relationship, 2015)

US always relate Pakistani Islam and Osama bin Ladin's Islam whereas the former has always strongly criticized the prior. Osama bin Laden and 9/11increased the hatred b/w both the countries on all societal levels. The above shown quotation is highlighting Osama bin Ladin's perspective for Islamic NGOs running in Pakistan.

Ethnicity

It is about the similarities and differences of the Pakistani and Modern cultures. America is a secular and modern state in all means whereas Pakistan's middle class has somehow managed tight grip on the culture, lower class can do anything for money so have no values and upper class don't consider them important as their only point of concentration is the maintenance of social status.

For instance, consider:

Learn about the life of American Muslim! (Pakistan Embassy, April 3, 2015)

this is what is so beautiful about America. I love their acceptance of other cultures and people. America is absolutely the most 'free' country in the world and will remain so. Occasionally you will see a stumble here and there (like in post-911 period) but eventually the truth wins and America is back on track. God Bless America!

Like • Reply • 4 • April 3 at 3:24am

Why do some Americans hate Pakistan?

I'm a Teenager from Pakistan. I usually go to the US twice a year. Since the past few years. I've been getting a lot of hate from the people there. Whenever I meet someone and when they get to know I'm a Pakistan, the whole conversation changers into an argument. I mean what's wrong with being a Pakistani? I know we're going through a bad phase but that doesn't make me a terrorist. Pakistan has a lot to offer in the field of Music, our Artists are

known all over the World. Some of our bands are brand ambassadors for Gibson Corporation USA. But everyone calls Pakistanis Terrorists.   Why?

Like • Reply • 4 • February 19 at 01:12am

In the above facebook posts cultural differences and their after effects are expressing the hate felt on both sides. Both cultures and life styles are certainly different but unfortunately have no moral acceptance for each other rather animosity can be seen.

General Approach

Other than religion and ethnicity there is one more important thing which is the general approach towards each other. This holds scholarship offers/issues, reactions on routine matters, aid approaches, etc. Consider the following microblogs:

President Obama is the second US President after Jimmy Carter not to visit Pakistan on his India trip, and first President George H. Bush not to have visited Pakistan at all. The United States has worked hard to assure Pakistan that President Obama's visit to India will not in any way jeopardise its relations with Islamabad.

Pakistan Embassy, DC @PakEmbassyDC Apr 30

A group of #Pakistani journalists visiting the US under @StateIVLP met with Press Attache @nhotiana at the Embassy @Arezzo_Ahmad @PakEmbassyDC @StateIVLP @NHotiana I'd actually like to apply for the position of top jahil. I guarantee even less work done.

Pakistan Embassy, DC @PakEmbassyDC Apr 16

Twitter Post: Embassy spokesperson @NHotiana: "#Pakistan had to develop nuclear capability   purely   for   self-defense" http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/16/opinion/pakistans-nuclear-arms.html?_r=0   … @JalilJilani

Apr 16

Retweet: @PakEmbassyDC @NHotiana @JalilJilani NYT story was more like an agenda work than objective reporting

Facebook Post: U.S. Embassy Islamabad English Access Micro-scholarship Program held a two-week All Pakistan Access Institute (APAI) in Islamabad for fifty Access students from fourteen different cities of Pakistan.

Reply: get the hell out of my country u Americans secular punks we don't need ur sympathies

Like · Reply · 6 · May 29 at 6:29am

These microblogs are representing the feel both countrymen hold for each other. By visiting India and omitting Pakistan from the trip shows the hidden agenda and hatred which is raised and discussed on media as well. NYT's (New York Times) suggestions are repeatedly criticized in all social circles whether they are on nuclear issues, diplomatic means and on cultural basis.

Conclusion

Social networking has not only simplified lives but has also started social disunion which reads hypothesis 'How social networking is promoting social disunion? Now people, who have no access/right on authorities easily exchange their hate on social websites. Earlier there was no such way of smooth communication which was good to restrict emotions in self but now they are flooded on Internet. To some extent, this is worthy to know what is felt and thought on root levels as they are the people who actually face policies and decisions. But increasing hatred is not a good sign to call world a 'global village.

This seems an endless activity as it was initiated on general messenger chat rooms, than social websites like facebook, twitter provided another platform, and now other than regular newspaper articles blog posts have become very common and people are not leaving professional collaborating sites like linkedin to exchange hate.

Cyber hate speech analysis provides a deep insight of what educated/literate class perceive about the ongoing facts and events. They are the people who are exposed to the whole internet world, they are not ignorant about anything, and hence their feelings can't be ignored as they are the folks; who bring revolutions.

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