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MODAL VERBS AS EDITORS' PERSONAL STANCE MARKERS: AN ANALYSIS OF PAKISTANI ENGLISH NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to examine the use of different modal verbs for the purpose of personal stance marking in Pakistani English newspaper editorials. For this purpose, a corpus of 250 editorials has been developed from the editorials published in 'The News' and analyzed using AntConc 3.4.4.0. Results show that the modals of prediction (will, would) are most extensively used in Pakistani English newspaper editorials which further means that prediction is the characteristic feature of the said editorials. In addition, Pakistani editorialists have been found to report information about news events with personal as well as institutional judgements and stances which have been realized through the use of different modal verbs. Moreover, the editorialists have also been found to use the said verbs to maintain their authorial persona, make the readers align with their personal or institutional views and thereby manipulate their opinions in favour or against the state of affairs. To cipher the development of negative impression in readers' minds about this bias or manipulation, the writers have been found making use of 'intermediate value' models. Thus, the study suggests the readers of Pakistani English newspaper editorials to be conscious of the fact that the said editorials might be biased and affect their opinion.

Keywords: Editorials; editorialists; editors' stance; modality; modal verbs; stance markers; personal stance in editorials.