

A Critical Discourse on the Transgender Act and the Role of Social Media in this Issue

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Abstract

This article presents a critical discourse analysis of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act (2018). The study illuminates the discursive strategies employed by the system to manipulate public perception and foster societal conflict. It specifically examines the role of social media in shaping discourse surrounding the transgender act. The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2018 was enacted by the Pakistani Parliament on May 11, 2018. Authorities assert that this legislation is a significant milestone, recognizing transgender individuals as equal citizens of Pakistan. However, the discourse surrounding the act extends beyond its legal provisions to encompass how it has been framed and communicated. This study holds importance in shaping Pakistan's cultural and political landscape, particularly in understanding how it generates ambiguity on social media platforms. Employing qualitative methods, Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is utilized to scrutinize the Transgender Act, with the research grounded in Fairclough's model. The passage of the act elicited both criticism and praise from various sectors of Pakistani society. Critics, referencing Fairclough's model, argue that the act may lead to an increase in homosexuality and same-sex marriages in Pakistan. This analysis sheds light on emerging societal issues stemming from lexical ambiguity within the legislation, providing insight into the discursive strategies employed by authorities to sow discord within society.

Keywords: Critical Discourse, Discursive strategies, Social Media, Transgender Act, Homosexuality

Introduction

This work deals with the discursive representation of language in the transgender bill 2018 passed by the parliament of Pakistan. In this bill, language is cleverly used to create ambiguity in meaning. As language has the power to divert people's minds and create different meanings in the same community. In the transgender bill, 2018 authorities also use language as a weapon to divert the mind of people in the wrong way or against the rules of Islam. Basically, the transgender bill 2018 is about transgender. Transgender is a discursive word that means to change gender on the basis of self-perception. It means if a boy feels like a girl so he has the right to change their gender and considers a girl which is against the rules of Islam. Transgender is a mental condition, not a biological or natural phenomenon. It is the discursive word to spread ambiguity in people's minds because people in our society are not properly aware of this term. In this bill, they tried to link with intersex or khansa persons. Khansa or intersex means those persons whose sex parts are biologically defective from the time of birth. Khawaja Sira term is also used in this bill which means disabled human beings who are not defected by birth but defected after birth through castration. In Pakistani society, people kept transgender, intersex, guy and shemale in the same category. They consider gender and sex have the same meaning. These words

gender and sex spread confusion in people's minds because they are not fully aware of these two terms. Basically, sex is a natural phenomenon but gender is a term that is constructed by our society.

Intersex persons have the same gender and sex as well, but transgender persons have different sex and gender. Gender can be the innermost feeling of a person it may change with the passage of time. It is also a mental health disorder. Transgender is basically unable to identify their assigned sex. If a person wants to change his gender that person may be the victim of gender dysphoria a psychological disease. It is the duty of doctors to be aware of people or recommends them to a psychiatrist. Changing gender is not the way to overcome this type of feeling as a transgender activist. Due to the discursive use of language people are confused and instead of raising their voices against this type of activity, they are entangled in both meanings. People are giving arguments to each other about the meaning they perceive is correct. To create ambiguity in people's minds is the first aim of authorities. Changing sex on the basis of perception or other basis is not only against Islam and norms but also harmful to health. Social media also plays a vital role in creating the confusion in peoples mind and also support the homosexuality in their movies. Hollywood and Bollywood also support this type of stuff on social media and LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, transgender and bisexual) accounts share some pictures of rainbow flags at Islamic places to create confusion and negativity about Islam.

Research Questions

- How do authorities create ambiguity through language?
- How does parliament take advantage of the lack of awareness in society?

Literature Review

Some researchers gave different definitions regarding sex and Gender. It is claimed by many researchers that Sex is a biological inheritance. It is inherited by nature. Hums (2003), use term cultural shaping for gender and he also claimed that gender is unstable. It is un- stable because it is considered that if a person is suffering from Gender dysphoria. If a person may not able to recognized his or her gender. After sometime he may overcome this problem so he may able to recognize his or her gender.

Coates (1994) elaborates on the principle of gender, he claims that it is the presentation of oneself in society as a "gendered being". Gender is based on the person as he is representing himself in society.

Research Methodology

This research follows the qualitative method. Data collected in this research is through secondary methods. Language is analyzed in Transgender Bill (2018). The language of the bill is analyzed under the FairClough model. It analyzed language in three dimensions. To collect the data for this research different articles were studied. For the best understanding of discursive strategies, different bills of the national assembly were reviewed. Different reviews on social media were observed. It helps to understand the ambiguity-related language. The material was in the form of videos, speeches and Twitter posts.

Data Analysis

The analysis is based on the text or discursive language used in the Bill passed by the national assembly of Pakistan. The language used in the bill manipulates people's minds in the wrong way. Authorities frame the mind of people in the negative direction by interlinking the transgender term with intersex (khansa) because people are not properly aware of these terms and the background of these terms. In this bill, authorities give permission to people to change their gender according to their needs or self-perception. Basically, the Transgender word itself is an ambiguity. These words create confusion in youth. Actually this word is not about intersex people. Before discusses about this term, they need to understand what is the hidden meaning of transgender? Transgender itself means exploring your own gender on the basis of your emotions or change it according to your feelings which are against the social norms. There is a difference between "gender" and "sex". Gender is a mental condition of a male feels like a female and vice versa. If a man interested in male (MSM) this condition known as gender but sex is a biological phenomenon difference between male and female on the basis of their sex parts. So, Transgender mean to change their gender according to their choice. Khawaja Saad Rafique (a political figure) in an interview with Samma TV said that this act is about "Khawaja Sira", people just perceived it wrong. It's not about the normal male or female. It's about the people who are biologically defective by birth. This bill gave them their rights according to their choice.

First of all, they need to understand the difference between Khawaja Sira, Intersex and Transgender. Khawaja Sira persons are not biologically defective by birth they castrate their sex parts after birth because of their culture. If this act is about the intersex (khansa) then why not it named as an intersex act? The transgender word create confusion and leads people in the wrong way. If this act is really for intersex persons then authorities should change the name of this act. Political figures also create confusion through their speeches or interviews. It seems clear in the act or in the discursive sentences that bill is for Transgender. In chapter 2 Recognition of identity of the transgender person, it is stated that:

"Transgender persons have the right to be identified as per self-perceived gender"(chapter 2: transgender act 2018).

In this sentence, a big ambiguity is self-perceived". Self-perceived means emotions or feelings about their gender. If a male consider himself a female then according to this bill he have right to change his gender. Actually this is a psychological disease in which male perceived himself as female. Medication or diagnose of this disease is also available. This disease change with the passage of time. Patient mind change about their gender after some time. This reaction is irreversible. If a patient of this disorder done their surgery but after sometime his or her mind change about their gender then it is impossible to change his or her gender again. It may lead to the stage of suicide. Due to this act ratio of suicides may increase in our society. In a program (Raja Zia Ul Haq with Youth Club)

Advocate Abdur Rahman claimed that sixteen thousand males and twelve thousand females alternate their gender. The reason behind this change is same sex marriages as it is claimed by authorities that this bill is for intersex then it was further added in this interview that only nine intersex people take the privilege of this act. . These rules totally promote gay or lesbians in our society. The transgender word is first introduced in the West in 1990. They promote same-sex marriages or LGBT. According to news in 2010 America gave 10 million dollars to Pakistan to appropriate the transgender program. Pakistani embassy from 2010 supports LGBT in Pakistan which is against the culture and destroy our social norms.

The analysis of the transgender bill shows, authorities due to following discursive strategies:

1.	Lexical or semantic Ambiguity	Authorizes create lexical and semantic ambiguity in the text. People are not aware of the two different terms sex and gender. Society interprets the same meaning from both terms.
2.	Using transgender as a Frenemy	Some speeches regarding this act by transgender persons were shown on social media to show this act is for “trans gender’s rights” which is perceived by society it is for the rights of “Khansa”
3.	The greed for Freedom.	This act becomes strong due to the people who were in its favor. Because they consider this act will provide them liberty. This act especially supported homosexual persons.
4.	Cultural Imperialism	Language policy is used in transgender act to promote American culture in Pakistan. It is done by authorities because American dominancy.

Here is a phrase used in the bill "unwelcome sexual harassment" or forced sex is prohibited. (Chapter I: Transgender act 2018). This phrase is about the unwelcome sex with the transgender that is prohibited and considered a crime then what about sex workers? The people who agree with this sex work and made it a profession why not this bill prohibit them? They are actually promoting sex work which is against Pakistani culture. They just want to promote the western culture in an Islamic country because their culture is dominant in all over the world. Sex workers are basically gay, lesbian, Transgender (LGBT) and bisexuals and United Nations development programs promote sex workers in all over the world. They have a budget for transgender people of approximately 39 billion, 30 billion for female sex workers and 41 billion for MSM (gay or male sex with male). Before the transgender Act 2018, a bill passed by the National assembly Pakistan "Domestic Violence Bill" against parents to snatch the rights of parents and give rights to the child. According to this bill, parents have no right to harm their children even if they are wrong.

Basically, it is a scheme of the west to promote their own culture and our government supports them in their dark agendas. They snatch the rights of parents due to this parents are also not allowed to convince their children and give them medication for gender dysphoria. Children have right to complain against their parents. The medical board also has no rights due to Transgender Act 2018 to recommend patients for diagnose of this psychological disease gender dysphoria. Doctors are bound to do surgery of their sex parts .If doctors force them for the treatment of this psychological disease transgender have right to complain and under this law medical license of the doctor will be cancelled. Before this act Feminism strike is also started in our country for the rights of women from which women’s take advantage of it in a negative way and they also have right to change gender according to their needs because they said "*they are the owner of their live*". Gender-affirming services are also available to support Transgender even they stated how to transform a male into a female by surgery of their sex parts, increasing their chest size, by changing their vocals. All the sexual minorities are linked with the "Aurat March" for the rights of women and transgender as well. Some people said that dancing, sex work and begging is the mean of their earning. But sex work is illegal and dancing and begging in public places are also considered a crime. Sex work is also prohibited in Islam.

Naz male health alliance is an institution in Pakistan founded in 2011 that support sex workers, transgender, and MSM technically and financially. After transgender bill 2018 “Joy land” movie released in Pakistan which fully support homosexuality. Movie is about the love story between two males. Director of the movie support it and said that this movie is for our young generation and it is our duty to entertain our youth and trust our youth what they want to see. The Writer of this movie is Maggie Briggs. She is a non-Muslim American Writer. Actually the agenda behind writing this story is to import western culture in Pakistan and Pakistani government allowed to release this movie which is against the norms or culture of Pakistan. American culture also celebrates this movie and gave an Oscar “*Queer Palm*”. Variety magazine claims that this is a first Pakistani movie which is supported by America and earn American dollars in large amount. Director of the movie (Saim Siddiqui) said this movie is not against the social norms because people have right to choose their gender according to transgender bill 2018. Behind this movie a preplanned dark agenda is present against the rules of Pakistani culture. Indian LGBTQ news also gave the review on joy land movie and stated it is a beautiful picture which truly portray the soul love and homosexuality in Lahore.

Actually the agenda behind this movie is to make Pakistanis like animals. Pakistani economy is already weak due to some reasons but Pakistani people survive only on the basis of beautifully organized cultural norms, through this agenda (transgender Act) they want to destroy Pakistani culture. As it is considered from decades that dominated countries always try to impose their culture on the developing countries.US embassy also supports the homosexuality they said in a tweet that they fully support the movements of LGBTQ in Pakistan. A speech from Dr. Mehrub Moiz at “Aurat March” she belongs to Khawaja Sira community and said

“people born as a gay, gay genes are present in the body before birth now if they are gay or male sex with male then it is alright, they born in this way and it is normal for a male to attract towards a male”.

This is not scientifically proved that a person born with gay genes, there is no gay genes in the human body it just something that they do out of their own choice. It is just their negative perception or may be disorder that what they feel about their gender. There is a misconception that gay genes are present. They just want to divert the minds of our youth in the wrong way. It is scientifically proved there is only two sex male, female and intersex (biologically defected by birth). In an interview Mehrub Moiz said that they just want to create a concept about gay or homosexual person that they are normal but the gay genes are present in them, actually they are born in this way. They clearly said that they used this transgender term in order to spread homosexuality, not by rainbow flags or LGBT. They are taking another route towards doing that thing. Objective is same but the way that lead to this dark agenda is different. This is not possible that a person is biological male but gay genes are present in them. There is no scientific proof which claims that gay or female genes are present in a male.

Rainbow flag represent the homosexuality. In America or recently we seen in the Pakistan during the strike of “Aurat March” rainbow flags used by the gays and lesbians in strikes for their rights and to support the transgender or LGBT. On social media some posts are available on the websites of LGBT, they make some paintings of rainbow flag on Islamic places like “Kiblah” and some discursive captions are used to frame the peoples mind in a negative way. Through these discursive statements they want to show that Islam also support homosexuality. But this is against the sharia to support the homosexuality. They just want to portray a negative image of Islam by hitting Islamic ideology and side by side they promote west culture in the Pakistan.

This agenda was preplanned by west culture from early years. Before transgender act a campaign started by the west named as “*Silent No More*” which also support the rights of homosexual persons. In 2016 in this campaign it is stated that transgender persons are less educated because society didn't accept them as a normal human being and the only source of their earning is begging, dancing and sex work due to these reasons gave them relief from article 377 criminal court of Pakistan and do not punished them against their illegal works. Actually they hitting our culture and they want a free society in which sex is common. Basically they make Pakistanis like animals and destroy our political and economic system.

Due to transgender act women of our society is not safe. Giving rights to a community doesn't mean to snatch rights of other community. Cases of harassment increases due to homosexuality. Due to Transgender, women's are not even safe in their private places. Government of Pakistan said that rules are designed under the light of this act in which it is clearly stated that “transgender persons are fall in the category of X-gender”.

Some rules are made by authorities under this act to misguide peoples. In these rules it is stated that transgender peoples are fall in the X-category. X-gender category basically don't define a person specific gender like male or female. This category define a person as third gender. First of all peoples need to understand that no rules are applicable under the act passed by national assembly if X-gender is not discussed in the transgender bill 2018. Under any law or act rules are not made by the national assembly Pakistan, they give right of making rules to the federal government and ministry of human rights. Rules always advance the causes and purposes of given act but here rules are not followed the transgender act. Rules are never against that act. In this act nowhere X-gender category is discussed. If rules not followed the act passed by assembly they are not considered authentic. In future anyone from Transgender community raise their voice against these rules because these are not fulfilled the rights which discussed in the transgender act 2018.

By chance if it is applicable than it is a threat for the women of the society. Recently some cases arrived that a transgender which is biological male but he identify himself as a female, sexually assault women. If transgender bill is not rejected by our society then women of the society are insecure. Recently a case appears that a transgender women which is biologically man but perceive himself a women sexually assault 2 women's after punishment, he claims that he perceived himself a women just because of his kept him in female prison but after this he again sexually assaulted 2 women's. According to CBN news transgender sexually assault girls in the bathroom of Loudoun county high school. Women's are not even secure in bathrooms.

Conclusion

Analysis of transgender bill shows the discursive language which is used in the Transgender bill 2018 against the social norms or culture of Pakistan and authorities try to divert the mind of people in the negative way. They made an act against the rules of Pakistani culture and want to promote the homosexuality. Different strategies used to impose the western culture. They made act for the transgender but after seeing the reaction of people they change their language and said this bill passed for the rights of intersex persons. Actually they interlink both terms (intersex and transgender) because people of our society don't aware from these two terms. Authorities take negative advantage from un-awareness of people. Social media also play an important role to spread homosexuality in our culture. They also use Islamic places or rainbow painting on that places and used discursive statements for the purpose of spread homosexuality.

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