

Deconstructive Analysis of Raheel Sharif's Defence Day Speech (6th September 2016)

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Abstract:

Research explores the national security state of our motherland after different military operations, in the light of General Raheel Sharif's speech on Defence Day 2016. In his memorable speech, he pays tribute to the martyrs of nation especially the martyrs of 1965 War. His speech was related to the main issue i.e terrorism which is continuously threatening the internal security of the nation. In order to root out the nexus of terrorism from Pakistan, various anti-terror military operations were held in North-Waziristan, FATA Agency and other tribal areas across Pak-Afghan border to maintain peace in the country. Through his speech, he gives a loud and clear message to the enemies of nation that Pakistan is not only a strong nation but now it is also invincible. He further elucidates the progress of economic ties by China- Pakistan Economic Corridor project(CPEC) and Pak-Afghan good relationship to establish peace and prosperity in the region. For this detailed analysis Jacques Derrida's stance of Deconstruction theory is applied which allows reader the authority to interpret as many meanings as much possible. The reader is not restricted to read the text within its given meanings. The reader can act as analyser of a text and dig out multiple meanings from it. Deconstruction theory always aims at finding relationship in a text and also can figure out those meanings which writer did not intend to say. Some selected phrases of his speech were taken which were related to the research objective of the paper.

Keywords: Terrorism, Internal security, Fanaticism, Military Operations, Defense Day, 1965 War. Post 9/11 effects

Introduction:

General Raheel Sharif belongs to a family which has a vast background in the field of the military as he is the son of Maj. Rana Muhammad Sharif (late). General Raheel Sharif received several awards and medals throughout his career. Raheel Sharif has served on various military positions in Pakistan. He gained great name by working devotionally for sake of his country, Pakistan. He faced a lot of difficulties but remained encouraged and self-motivated.

He was appointed as 15th Chief of Army Staff of Pakistan Army on 27th Nov 2013. He played an enormous role to fight against terrorism in Pakistan by starting Operation Zarb-e-Azb. He retired on 29th Nov 2016. He is undoubtedly Pakistan's most popular Army Chief and in his three-year tenure, he got so much popularity. He is one of the most successful army chief. Being an Army chief this is his last defense day speech in which he pays tribute to the martyrs of the nation. He also clearly conveys the message of national security against terrorism to the enemies.

Historical Background:

This speech was in commemoration of a historical chapter from Pakistan's anecdote. A day when it's arch-rival India, approximately five times superior in all aspects of national and military power attacked Pakistan; and met a fateful retort from its ferocious armed forces. 6th September 1965 marks the beginning of this seventeen-day war amongst India and Pakistan over the unresolved and disputed issue of Kashmir. Heightened tensions due to Operation Gibraltar followed by border skirmishes in Sir creek area; antagonized India into crossing over the International Border in Lahore and Sialkot Sector coupled with a breach of air and maritime sovereignty of Pakistan. The befitting response mounted over transgressors by Pakistan armed forces with full support of nation is well documented in the pages of history; which witnessed the largest

tank battle after WW-II in Chawinda sector as it was turned into graveyard for Indian Sherman tanks. On the air front; likes of Squadron leader MM Alam made world record by downing 5 Indian jets in less than 30 seconds. Guardians of Pakistan's maritime frontiers were also no less when its only one submarine GHAZI kept all Indian navy tied up at Bombay dockyard by destroying many of its frigates and still returned undetected to its shore. The arrogant enemy was subjugated and forced to bend its knees in front of a robust Pakistani nation and armed forces for whom no sacrifice was too big in order to defend their motherland. COAS in his speech paid huge tribute to those martyred for the sacred cause and that valor/ resolve showed by a resilient nation which has become our proud distinctiveness in the comity of nations.

Operation Zarb-e-Azb:

After the 1980s Afghan War and post 9/11 incident the internal security state of the nation was not much stable. Since 2002, Pakistan armed forces have carried out a series of military operations in the North Waziristan Agency in FATA bordering Afghanistan in order to root out the gauntlet of terrorist activities in the nation. In Pakistan, the presence of militant groups in NWA was seen as a major cause of worst terrorist attacks in last few years. Militant wings had stronghold in NWA and terrorist wings were active in using Pakistan's own soil for their nefarious designs.¹

On June 15, 2014, Pakistan Army commenced another major military operation named as Operation Zarb-e-Azb which is named on one of the swords of Holy Prophet (PBUH) used in the Ghazwas of Uhad and Badar. Zarb-e-Azb means "swift and conclusive strike". The operation was a result of TTP attack on the Jinnah International Airport Karachi. The defenders of Pakistan initiated the operation with unflinching faith and undaunted commitment to eradicate the scourge of terrorism while fighting without any discrimination of "good" and "bad" Taliban. Operation Zarb-e-Azb was carried out under four major objectives:

- Targeting the militant groups in North Waziristan Agency (FATA)
- Targeting all foreign terrorist hiding and operating from FATA
- Saving the civilian population from the terror of TTP and rehabilitating the resultant IDPs
- Lastly sustaining peace and internal security in the state.²

Operation Zarb-e-Azb has seen fewer casualties on part of military forces because of the strategy pursued. Army Chief General Raheel Sharif said during his visit to Gawadar Port on April 12, 2016, according to the ISSI report:

“It ultimately aims at breaking the syndicate of terrorism, extremism, and corruption.”

General Raheel Sharif in his speech pays tribute to the martyrs of the nation particularly the martyrs of 1965 war, Operation Zarb-e-Azb, APS school Peshawar, Bacha Khan University and many others.

Deconstruction Theory:

Deconstruction as a theory emerged in the early 1960s. However, it became a literary sight in the late 1970s. Its major proponent is Jacques Derrida. It shows the idea that a single text could have multiple meanings. Deconstruction believes that meaning is produced by the reader as he communicates with the text. In fact, they argue that the writer himself does not understand his artistic framework as it is believed he writes under the influence of some supernatural beings that inspire him. The reader and the critic offer multiple interpretations of his work. It implies that every reader or critic arrives at his own distinct meaning after relating with a text. This further shows that a text has multiple meanings embedded inside it at its period of composition, which can only be discovered or unveiled by close reading.

Suhasini B. Srihari(2016)³ explores how we can deconstruct a random text. The research investigates how we can analyze a

text clearly at its base level. The researcher applies deconstruction to random text and analyses that very text. She says that whenever there is a phrase, it has two meanings; obvious meanings and latent meaning. Surface level reading can be called as obvious reading but when we re-read the text and try to figure out the different meanings and analyze text stylistically then this reading would be latent reading. Through latent reading we can make multiple meanings of a single text. She also says that binary opposition is very important for a text to stay fixed otherwise the whole of the text would be shattered. She examined a piece of random text and tried to analyze the obvious and latent meaning. She concludes the paper and says that whenever we re-read the text it means the references like; history, biography of writer and geographical settings gets excluded.

Ayebanoah, Timibof⁴ in their work explicate the deconstruction theory, its significance, and importance in literary criticism. The researchers argue and conclude the classical works of William Shakespeare and Chinua Achebe. They say that this theory stood against the idea that a single text has stable meaning rather we can interpret as much as many possible meanings from one text. Deconstruction calls for the death of author and challenges that a text does have single meaning. They argue that the writer himself sometimes cannot understand what he wrote because he does write natural beings and gets inspired by them. Deconstruction says that a text has multiple meanings and we can interpret those meanings only by close reading of a text. They further argue that deconstruction as a theory is closely related to criticism. This theory has its great significance in literature because it makes the reader, author of his own. So deconstruction stands on dynamics of language. A single text can have multiple meanings and these meanings are always flexible.

Research Objectives:

- To explore how the military operations (i.e. Operation Zarb-e-Azb) are an important step in order to get peaceful Pakistan.

- How General Raheel Sharif is giving a hidden message to enemies through his ideology?

Data Analysis:

1. *“Zarb-e-Azb might be just another military offensive for the world, but for us, it is the war of survival for our homeland.”(line:44-45)⁵*

Contextually, it is being referred that military operations are considered to be the crucial step in order to maintain peace and national security. By going into the background of the Operation Zarb-e-Azb, we know that it was final operation amongst the series of operations conducted against TTP by Pakistan Army in FATA i.e. Operation Rah-e-Haq, Rah-e-Raast, and Rah-e-Nijaat. It was aimed at clearing final stronghold of TTP in Pakistan i.e. North Waziristan. However, once military offensive took place, it not only achieved its objective by throwing TTP of the land in short duration but then it was realized in the length and breadth of country by masses that it's not only presence of TTP in North Waziristan that needs to be dismantled but also the allied problem, like city-based violent groups and nexus of corruption/nepotism with terrorism, has to be broken to achieve the lasting peace.

By analyzing the statement at the textual level, the words *“another military offensive for the world”* and *“war of survival of our homeland”* are used to intensify his expressions. COAS rightly pointed out that Operation Zarb-e-Azb has now transformed into concept/idea to get rid of all menace strongly cultivated into the country's roots. Furthermore, National Action Plan (NAP), Rangers operations in Karachi against terrorist groups, Intelligence-based operations in the entire breadth of country by Law enforcement agencies, check against funding of Madaris etc are the steps which are in progress in the domain of Operation Zarb-e-Azb.

Therefore, surely Zarb-e-Azb has become a war of survival for Pakistan because failure is no option against all these menaces. For the rest of the world, it may seem like just another military offensive against terrorism as they are in progress in another

part of world like Middle East, Afghanistan, etc. But for Pakistan it has become all-encompassing and it is being deliberately shaped accordingly to fight all evils under one ambit to achieve lasting peace in the country in particular and world in general.

After interpreting this statement through Deconstruction theory, his words show the strength of the nation and its army and clarify the position of military operations which are important for peace and survival of the country.

2. *“Army and Law Enforcement personnel are putting their lives at stake to curb the Facilitators, Abettors, Financiers, and Sympathizers of the enemies, some elements are trying to create an atmosphere of mistrust in the nation towards security and intelligence organizations.”(line 65-67)⁶*

In the terms of context, this line is being referred to those disgruntled elements that are creating mistrust in the nation and assuring the nation about positive role of Law Enforcement Agencies and advising them to not fall prey for this malicious propaganda. Karachi being metropolitan city and financial / business hub of Pakistan has immense importance for country and can be truly termed as economic backbone of country. Over the period of time it had slipped under the control of evil powers either in the shape of political mafia, drug/human traffickers, terrorist / banned organization, extremist outfits and land mafias, etc which had brought life to almost standstill in the economic hub of country. Furthermore, it was ascertained that all these mafias work for hand in gloves and this source of black money are providing full assistance/fillip in promoting terrorism in the country and Karachi in particular by investing billions. Therefore, Operation by Law enforcement agencies was initiated with full throttle under the supervision of Sindh Rangers against these elements and backbone of these mafias had been broken by apprehending focal characters which were sympathizers. abettors, financiers and facilitators of terrorism in one way or the other which gave rise to hue and cries by the effected mafias. These mafias in turn also tried to malign the

image of armed forces and intelligence agencies which were taking part in operation to make this initiative as disputed and tried to halt it in one way or the other. COAS shows the power and struggle of the army against all these issues.

This analysis shows the stance of Derrida which deals to make inexplicit, explicit.

3. *“Here I want to make it clear that we are fully aware of all covert and overt intrigues and intentions of our enemies... We know our friends and foes all too well. We know well how to abide by bonds of friendship and how to avenge upon our enemies.”(line:91-94)*⁷

The choices of words in this speech in a particular context like “I want to make it clear” and “We” shows the intensification of expression. By using the word “covert and overt” contextually COAS is referring toward the situation that Pakistan, over the years has remained a victim of nefarious design of our enemies be it internal or external in the form of India and few foreign intelligence agencies who have always worked against the stability of country. Pakistan as a nation had been bearing the brunt for last over a decade by sacrificing our fellow citizens and material damages. However, nation has fought with resilience against these odds and stood its ground against all evil designs of our enemy. We have been able to unearth and dismantle the terrorist networks like TTP from our soil which was operating on behest of Indian intelligence agency RAW. The recent capture of Indian serving naval commander Kulbushan Yadev is glaring example of Indian nefarious designs. Furthermore recently announced project of CPEC has also turned the regional players against Pakistan as they cannot see Pakistan on road to prosperity. Therefore COAS is referring to all those threats which Pakistan is facing internally or externally from western borders in the form of hostile intelligence agencies and eastern borders like ceasefire violations by Indian Army on LOC and assuring nation that security institutions are aware of these threats and are ever ready to tackle them in the best interest of country at all cost.

Furthermore, COAS in his landmark speech reminded Afghanistan, the next-door neighbor, and brother Islamic country to not fall prey for Indian designs as India is consistently miss-using Afghanistan's soil against Pakistan in her own interest. Pakistan since last three decades is giving shelter to 3 million Afghan refugees and all economic interest of Afghanistan are with Pakistan, even then disillusioned leadership of Afghanistan is being used by India against their interest. COAS is reminding the regional countries especially Afghanistan that they must not turn against their brother as we know how to abide by rules and bonds of friendship and threatening India that Pak Army knows how to avenge their enemies as sooner or later all these debts will be paid onto you with interest.

The use of words like "*we know*" is repeated twice in this quote which shows the power and the unity among the nation as the audience is the whole nation.

4. "*On behalf of my entire nation, I want to impress upon the enemies of peace and humanity that if we can win, we also know how to protect our victory.*"(line:110-111)⁸

COAS in this line shows the power and unity of Pakistan Army and Nation by using the pronoun "*We*". Here he is warning the enemies of peace and humanity that Pakistan is a powerful country. Pakistan, as a nation has indeed fought valiantly against the menace of terrorism rather we are the only nation which has stood up to the task so far. If we look around, nation-states have crumbled under the pressure of terrorism and have been dismantled. Pakistanis had sacrificed a lot but stood with their armed forces with the resilience and have defeated not only the terrorists but their ideology as well. Particularly in FATA where TTP had the stronghold have been cleared and writ of the government has been established in complete length and breadth of the country. Operation in Karachi has attained large success with all mafia being dismantled successfully, extremist elements have been brought under check in entire

country and nation as a whole has found it lost direction towards prosperity. Furthermore, Initiation of CPEC project has also given economic stability to country. However, foreign intelligence agencies are trying hard to sneak into peaceful environment and are searching for softer targets to shatter the peaceful journey.

Therefore, COAS being fully cognizant of the fact is addressing those disgruntled elements to refrain from their evil designs because if we as a nation can come this long way to secure our objectives and achieve victory then be assured that we also know how to protect this victory forever. The repetition of pronoun “we” also demonstrates the solidarity with the audience as he is addressing to the whole nation.

5. *“I want to make it clear to all enemies of Pakistan that Pakistan has always been strong and today it is invincible.”(line:12-13)⁹*

Inter-textually. COAS is focusing on the word “*invincible*”. The socio-political and historical background behind this line remind the enemies the way she was beaten back in 1965 war with resolve, courage, and steadfastness of armed forces and nation has assured them of our strength in the past. Furthermore, he gave a loud and clear message to India that today Pakistan has reached much far ahead and became Invincible for her as today we are in possession of Nuclear Technology and latest missile systems. Despite being nuclear neighbors, India had developed military strategy i.e. Cold Start Doctrine which was aimed at capturing shallow depth of Pakistan while remaining below nuclear threshold. In turn, Pakistan also adopted new military strategy with the name of New Concept of War Fighting (NCWF) to counter India. However, COAS used the word “*invincible*” due to reason the Pakistan test-fired the Low yield nuclear weapon often referred to as tactical nuclear weapon which is specially designed to destroy Indian cold start doctrine and Indian are much worried about it because their military strategy on which they worked for decades have been outsmarted by Pakistan in few years.

Therefore, COAS rightly termed that Pakistan Invincible in the view of latest developments.

Through his discourse, COAS is depicting Pakistan as a strong nation and clarifying the enemies that if any one of them will try to disturb the security and peace of our nation then they will be dealt with iron hands.

Conclusion:

The present research after detailed and unbiased analysis reveals that tribute is paid to the martyrs of the nation in this speech. As speech is being delivered on Defence day which has a particular historical perspective, the major portion of his speech depicts that how he has defended his motherland against enemies. He discusses the important issue of the country i.e. terrorism and how to overcome this serious issue to protect the security of our motherland. Pakistan is a direct victim of terrorism after the 9/11 incident and because of some other weak internal security policies in the region. Various terrorist attacks occurred in different cities off and on which completely destroys the law and order of the nation. In order to root out this nexus of terrorism from the country, various operations were held by the Pakistan Army. All the military operations result in positive terms for our country and also led as an important supportive factor in establishing the economic ties between Pakistan and China due to the China- Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

Besides these military operations, we as a nation also have to stand out stronger to wipe out all the hotbeds of militants from our country. We need to follow the zero-tolerance approach against TTP. In order to eradicate terrorism, Pakistan also needs a strong Civil-Military relationship. All the political parties or Government should stand on one page with Armed forces so that they can better maintain the law and order situation in the state and prevent the insecurities in Pakistan. Thus, Pakistan's nation is united under the leadership of her armed forces and believes in its future success which will definitely enhance the state of security of Pakistan.¹⁰

Hira Ali & Sidra Iqbal

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