

# Corpus-based Study of Identifying Verb Patterns Used in Pakistani Newspaper Headlines

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**Abstract**—Newspaper headlines are an important subgenre of media genre and enjoy much significance in news discourse. Headlines are ascribed different functions as they are the opening section to their respective text. This corpus-driven study strives to identify those verb patterns which have been used in Pakistani newspaper headlines. To identify different verb patterns used in newspaper headlines, the researcher compiled a corpus of 3135 newspaper headlines consisting of 28646 words drawn from three on-line Pakistani English newspapers which include *The Dawn*, *The Nation* and *The News*. The researcher tagged this corpus by using the software TagAnt and analyzed this corpus with the help of corpus tool AntConc to identify the verb patterns used in these Pakistani English newspaper headlines. To this end, the researcher analyzed the compiled corpus in accordance with the POS Tags given by Tree Tagger Tag Set. This study has found different verb patterns which have been used in newspaper headlines.

**Index Terms**—newspaper headlines, verb patterns, news discourse, corpus, language description

## I. INTRODUCTION

Newspaper headlines are an important subgenre of media genre and enjoy much significance in news discourse. Headlines are ascribed different functions as they are the opening section to their respective text. Arousing readers' curiosity, encapsulating the content of a story and monitoring readers' perception, attention and reading process are those salient features which mark newspaper headlines.

The term pattern refers to an approach to language description which involves the prioritizing of lexical items in a language and their grammatical dependencies (Hunston & Francis 1998, 1999; Francis et al. 1996; Francis 1993). According to Mason and Hunston (2004), patterns means sequence of elements in which each element comprises of a word class, group, lexical item or clause.

### A. Characteristics of Headlines of English Newspapers

A newspaper headline gives reader an overall picture of news whereas newspaper headline writers use different stylistic devices to attract readers' attention. Swan (1995) styles newspaper headlines as short titles which are written in a special style. Reah (1998) maintains that headlines render a variety of functions owing to their being unique kind of texts and they enjoy specific shape, structure and content. The sensational style of headlines arouses readers' curiosity.

### B. Language Features of Newspaper Headlines

The use of lexical items is one of the major language features of newspaper headlines. According to Morley (1998), the vocabulary of headlines can be unusual, sensational and short. A special register is also another feature of the language used in headlines. Hakobian and Krunkyan (2009) claim that different stylistic phonetic devices like alliteration, rhythm, rhyme, parallel constructions and antithesis render the newspaper headlines more expressive. These researchers also claim that headline writers also use some lexical stylistic devices like metaphor, metonymy, simile, allusion and various kinds of epithets. McArthur (1992) maintains that the language of headlines is affected by constraints on space. While discussing the layout and punctuation of newspaper headlines, McArthur (1992) claims that many newspapers have sedate and largely lower-case styles. The punctuation is exploited in special conventions. For instance, the sign of exclamation is used to generate interest, the question mark implies speculation or doubt and comma is used for "and". The conventional punctuation marks are sometimes ignored. For example, the use of quotation marks characterizes such allegations or statements which newspaper intends to distance itself. So far as the style and syntax of newspaper headlines are concerned, McArthur (1992) claims that quality press tends to use high register and less emotive words to be relatively sober and restrained whereas the tabloids prefer to use colloquial and pejorative language. Present-day usage is marked with concentrated sequences which string terms together and these strings entail heavy pre-modification. McArthur (1992) has also thrown light on some more features of the language of newspaper headlines like strange combinations and unintended relations, ambiguity, word-play, allusions and mixed metaphors.

### C. Verb Patterns

Of the words of all classes, verbs can be described most comprehensively. The possible complementation of a verb is characterized by verb patterns. This approach to the grammar of verbs is different from the functional analysis to identify subject, object, complement clause element (e.g. Karlsson et al. 1995; Quirk et al. 1996) or participant role or case (Halliday 1994; Fillmore 1969). Mason and Hunston (2004) have described some verb patterns in three groups. The first group comprises of the patterns which include a clause element. For instance, these verb patterns are given as follows;

- verb + that clause and
- verb + noun group + wh-clause

The second group consists of the patterns which include one or more group or word class elements. These patterns have been given as follows;

- verb + noun group,
- verb + noun group + adjective/adjective group and
- verb + adverb

The third group of verb patterns consists of one or more specific lexical items. The instances of these patterns have given as follows;

- verb + as + noun group and
- verb + possessive + way + prepositional phrase or adverb.

#### D. Research Objective of the Study

The research objective of this study has been given as follows;

- To identify the verb patterns used in Pakistani English newspaper headlines.

#### E. Research Question of the Study

The research question of this study has been given as follows;

- What are verb patterns used in Pakistani English newspaper headlines?

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Mason and Hunston (2004) have conducted a study to recognize verb patterns. To this end, these researchers have used 100 instances of the verb 'decide' from the Bank of English Corpus. This study has taken the patterns of the chosen verb from Sinclair et al. (1995) and also taken a linear instead of hierarchical approach to the patterns of the selected verb. Moe (2014) has conducted a study to analyze the language of newspaper headlines of the daily English newspaper "The New Light of Myanmar". The researcher has collected 31 newspapers to analyze them thoroughly. This study has examined the language used in headlines at graphic, graphological, grammatical, semantic and lexical levels.

Alireza and Samuel (2012) have explored the rhetorical and textual strategies employed by two newspapers in their editorial headlines to propagate their vested ideologies. The researchers have used 40 editorial headlines from two English newspapers i.e. Tehran Times and New York Times. The results of this analyses carried out in this study reveal that these two newspapers have employed existential, interactive verb and nominalization as different kinds of presupposition. Moreover, these researchers maintain that the writers of the editorials published in these papers have also employed some rhetorical devices which include parallelism, alliteration, metonymy, pun, testimonials, quotations, allusions, neologism, antithesis and irony. Klavans and Kan (2015) claim that meaningful insight into the content and type of an article can be reached by comprehending the distribution and occurrence of verbs. These researchers also believe that the analysis of verbs in a document can lead to the understanding of the conceptual map of actions and events in a document. Verbs can also help in the categorization of articles into different genres. As Biber (1989) classifies verbs into three classes of private, public and suasive.

Develotte and Rechniewski (2001) have analyzed newspaper headlines to address how headlines acquire prominence through diffusion, orient readers' interpretation and share cultural context evoked by them. This study has also identified those typical linguistic features which are used in newspaper headlines for the analysis of national representation. This study has analyzed the linguistic features of designation, appraisal and presupposition. To this end, the researchers have constituted a corpus comprising of the headlines of Australian and French newspapers. Develotte and Rechniewski (2001) claim that headlines deliberately seek impact using alliteration, puns, emotive vocabulary and rhetorical devices. Headlines also act as such signposts that highlight the route that leads the readers not only to the content of a story but also the orientation which is essential for the understanding of an article. This study has found that Australian and French corpus have made use of designation along with two other processes i.e. generalization and personification. This study also reports that newspaper headlines resort to the use of appraisal and its different forms to reinforce allusions. In the same vein, these headlines also employ the linguistic feature of presupposition particularly linguistic presupposition which is derived from syntactic structure and from anaphoric or cataphoric use and pragmatic presupposition. Znamenskaya (2005) classifies the lexical and syntactical variation found in newspaper headlines.

According to her, the omission of articles, verbs and auxiliary verbs, nominalization, use of complex noun phrases, use of short words and the use of puns are such language features which mark newspaper headlines.

Mouzuaityte (2015) has analyzed British newspaper headlines to overview newspaper style, analyze language features of newspaper headlines and indicate the frequency of those stylistic features which are used in newspaper headlines. The researcher has used descriptive statistic and descriptive theoretical analysis as the research methods. According to the findings of this study, the omission of articles, relative pronouns, determiners, verbs and auxiliaries and titles is one of the salient features of newspaper headlines. This study also reports that the headlines writers also make use of short words, loan words, nominalization and noun phrases to make them more eye-catching and attractive. According to Mouzuaityte (2015), the use of certain linguistic strategies and gimmicks also characterize English newspaper headlines. Khamahani (2015) has carried out a study to investigate the lexical density in the headlines of Tehran Times and Azeri News. To this end, the researcher has collected 200 headlines from these two newspapers. This study has analyzed grammatical pre-modification which includes the use of deictic and post deictic. But this study has chiefly focused on the analysis of lexical density found in the selected newspaper headlines. This study reports that Azeri News headlines have higher lexical density than Tehran Times. The researcher has also found that there is a remarkable use of content words in Azeri News headlines. This study also reports that there is lexical density in nominal groups which are chiefly pre-modified. Bonyadi and Samuel (2013) have carried out a contrastive study to analyze the headlines of newspaper editorials. The researchers have collected 40 editorial headlines from the electronic versions of two English newspapers i.e. Tehran Times (TT) and New York Times (NYT). This study has analyzed the headlines of the selected editorials in terms of rhetorical devices and linguistic device of presupposition. The researchers have classified the selected headlines into two categories of verbal and nonverbal for their textual analysis. According to the findings of this study, there are 75% of New York Times headlines which belonged to nonverbal category whereas 25% of them belonged to verbal category. On the other hand, of Tehran Times headlines 60% were verbal type and 40% were nonverbal. This study also reports that editorial headline writers make use of parallelism, alliteration, testimonial, metonymy, pun, irony, quotation out of context, allusion, neologism and antithesis as rhetorical devices. So far as the use of presupposition is concerned, the researchers maintain that both the papers make use of existential and lexical presuppositions for the persuasion purposes equally. Weir and Anagnostou (?) have conducted a case study in corpus analysis to explore newspapers. The data for this corpus analysis comprises of the text content of a single file of 32,070 articles from a leading Scottish daily newspaper. The analysis conducted in this study consists in the dimensions of identifying a set of top ten terms in different categories, extracting insight on gender specific terms in the compiled corpus and contrasting characteristics of the compiled newspaper corpus and reference corpus i.e. the British National Corpus (BNC). Dazdarevic et al. (2015) have conducted a study on using corpus in enhancing reporting verb patterns in teaching and learning process. According to Dazdarevic et al. (2015), corpus approach is such an excellent linguistic tool which has opened up a new world language patterns. Corpus-based teaching of grammar has proved an essential tool as it presents different grammar structures and language variations. The study has analyzed different patterns in which the verbs like 'promise', 'advise' and 'deny' have been used. According to the findings of this study, the verb promise has been used in two 'patterns' i.e. "verb + infinitive" and "verb + ConSub". Of these two patterns, the former pattern is mostly used for spoken section and the latter pattern is used for written section. So far as the patterns for the verb 'advise' are concerned, the study reports that there are five patterns in which this verb has been used. These patterns include 'advise + ing', 'advise + ConSub', 'advise + base form of verb', 'advise + modal' and 'advise + do'.

### III. METHODOLOGY

To identify different verb patterns used in newspaper headlines, the researcher compiled a corpus of 3135 newspaper headlines consisting of 28646 words drawn from three on-line Pakistani English newspapers which include The Dawn, The Nation and The News. The researcher tagged this corpus by using the software TagAnt and analyzed this corpus with the help of corpus tool AntConc to identify the verb patterns used in these Pakistani English newspaper headlines. To this end, the researcher analyzed the compiled corpus in accordance with the POS Tags given by Tree Tagger Tag Set which was adopted from: <https://courses.washington.edu/hypertext/csar-v02/penntable.html>. The identified verb patterns have been presented in the section of the findings of this study.

### IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study has analyzed the compiled corpus with help of corpus tool AntConc and found different patterns of verbs which have been used in the Pakistani English newspaper headlines. The verbs which have been analyzed to identify their patterns include the verb "be" (is, was, were, being), "have" (has, having) and the present 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular, present, past, past participle and present participle forms of verb. These identified verb patterns have been given as follows;

#### A. Patterns of Verb 'Be'

This study has found that the verb 'be' along with its different forms i.e. 'to be', 'was', 'were', and 'being' has been used in different patterns. These patterns have been discussed as follows;

### 1. Patterns of Verb 'Be'

There are two types of patterns in which the verb 'be' has been used. They are given as follows;

- 1) noun + to be + past participle/adjective
- 2) noun + modal + be + noun/past participle/adjective
- 3) noun + be + past participle

These patterns have been illustrated with the help of the figures 1, 2, and 3 given as follows;

\_IN province\_NN 15\_CD varities\_NNS to\_TO be\_VB accorded\_VVN elite\_JJ status\_NN Two\_CD killed\_ chief\_NN wants\_VVZ Zardari\_NP to\_TO be\_VB admitted\_VVN to\_TO hospital\_NN Walking\_VVG on\_ Fawad\_NP urges\_VVZ world\_NN to\_TO be\_VB alive\_JJ to\_TO perilous\_JJ situation\_NN Rs300

Figure 1: Screenshot of patterns of verb 'be' (to + be)

accidents\_NNS Traffic\_NN police\_NN will\_MD be\_VB complainant\_NN if\_IN victim\_NN ` ` s\_NN heirs\_ for\_IN Sikh\_JJ pilgrims\_NNS will\_MD be\_VB completed\_VVN by\_IN Sept\_NP 30\_CD Polio\_NP US\_NP , France\_NP , Britain\_NP may\_MD be\_VB complicit\_JJ in\_IN Yemen\_NP war\_NN crimes\_

Figure 2: Screen shot of patterns of verb 'be' (modal + be)

` ` hell\_NN ` ` All\_DT women\_NNS issues\_NNS be\_VB dealt\_VVN by\_IN one\_CD govt\_NN dept\_

Figure 3: Screenshot of patterns verb 'be' (noun + be + past participle)

### 2. Patterns of Verb 'Was/Were'

The past forms of the verb 'be' (was/were) have used as main and auxiliary verb in the verb patterns used in the newspaper headlines as follows;

- I. noun + was + noun
- II. noun + was (modal) + past participle + noun
- III. noun + were (modal) + past participle + cardinal number + noun

The following figure illustrates these verb patterns used in newspaper headlines.

verify\_VV import\_NN documents\_NNS India\_NP was\_VBD a\_DT miracle\_NN democracy\_NN .SENT But\_CC Repatriated\_VVN Lahore\_NP ACs\_NP judges\_NNS were\_VBD appointed\_VVN 70\_CD days\_NNS back\_RB Province of\_IN Ukraine\_NP phone\_NN call\_NN was\_VBD Biden\_NP Tens\_NNS of\_IN thousands\_NNS march\_

Figure 4: Screenshot of patterns of verb 'was/were'

### 3. Patterns of Verb 'being'

This study has found that the verb 'being' has been used as main (lexical) verb in different newspaper headlines. It has also been found that this verb is not preceded by any auxiliary verb. This pattern also implies the passive structure of those newspaper headlines in it has been used. This pattern is given as follows;

noun + being + past participle

The following screenshot of the newspaper headlines illustrates this pattern.

SC\_NP to\_TO gain\_NN funds\_NNS being\_VBG deposited\_VVN by\_IN Bahria\_NP Town\_NP Agbegne urban\_JJ context\_NN Medical\_JJ waste\_NN being\_VBG dumped\_VVN around\_IN Abbasi\_NP Shaheed\_NP Hosp of\_IN flats\_NNS for\_IN workers\_NNS being\_VBG ensured\_VVN , says\_VVZ Ghani\_NP Murad\_NP ur Establishment\_NP Division\_NP Deadlines\_NNS being\_VBG extended\_VVN as\_IN NCC\_NP meets\_VVZ tomorrow\_ :. minister\_NN Court\_NN orders\_NNS not\_RB being\_VBG followed\_VVN in\_IN Zardari\_NP case\_NN :. lawyer

Figure 5: Screenshot of patterns of verb 'be' (being)

### B. Patterns of Verb 'Have'

According to the findings of this study, the verb 'have' has been used as main, auxiliary and causative verb in newspaper headlines. These verb patterns have been given as follows;

- I. to + have + noun + past participle
- II. modal + have + noun + present participle
- III. modal + have + noun

The following screenshot explains these three patterns of verb 'have'.

detained for refusing to have children vaccinated Govt considering  
Civil Defense , police may have difficulty meeting Muharram security  
wife ` IUB students will have internship facility at civil

Figure 6: Screenshot of patterns of verb 'have'

### C. Patterns of Present 3<sup>rd</sup> Person Singular Verb

This study has found that the most frequent pattern which appears in newspaper headlines comprises of the present 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular verb. There are 1225 concordance hits of this pattern used in the newspaper headlines. It has also been noted that this pattern is used to describe the actions of past as well as those of future. Mostly this form of verb is preceded by a noun or noun phrase but followed by different parts of speech. The structure of this pattern consisting of the present 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular form of verb has been given as follows;

noun + present 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular verb

According to the findings of this study, this pattern (noun + present 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular verb) is followed by different patterns like adjective, adverb, base form of verb, cardinal number, determiner, infinitive, particle, past form of verb, past participle, personal pronoun, plural noun, preposition, present participle, gerund, proper noun, proper noun plural, singular noun, wh- adverb (how) and wh-pronoun (what/who). The following figure 7 illustrates some of the patterns in the which the present 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular form of verb has been used.

from\_IN becoming\_VVG mayor\_NN Court\_NP rejects\_VVZ A\_DT class\_NN request\_NN for\_IN Zardari\_  
\_IN lab-grown\_JJ brains\_NNS France\_NP climbs\_VVZ aboard\_IN hydrogen\_NN train\_NN revolution\_NN  
resolve\_VV civic\_JJ problems\_NNS MPA\_NP promises\_VVZ action\_NN over\_IN funds\_NNS embezzlement\_NN B  
as\_IN local\_JJ PTI\_NP leader\_NN tortures\_VVZ AD\_JJ land\_NN record\_NN Nadal\_NP through\_  
`\_` s\_NN hero-turned-despot\_NN Mugabe\_NP dies\_VVZ aged\_VVN 95\_CD Provincial\_JJ govts\_NNS advise  
drill\_NN at\_IN Karachi\_NP airport\_NN finds\_VVZ agencies\_NNS ready\_JJ to\_TO respond\_VV fast\_  
opment\_NP Authority\_NP dissolved\_VVD PHC\_NP sets\_VVZ aside\_RP conviction\_NN in\_IN honor-related\_JJ  
killing\_NN case\_NN held\_VVD SHC\_NP sets\_VVZ aside\_RP death\_NN sentence\_NN of\_IN four\_  
hideouts\_NNS along\_IN border\_NN PIA\_NP plans\_VVZ to\_TO add\_VV two\_CD aircraft\_NN to\_  
for\_IN govt\_NN as\_IN CEC\_NP refuses\_VVZ to\_TO administer\_VV oath\_NN UAE\_NNS help\_  
in\_IN Balochistan\_NP ,\_ KP\_NP Govt\_NP agrees\_VVZ to\_TO allow\_VV 5\_CD ,\_ 000\_CD pilgrims\_NNS da

Figure 7: Screenshot of patterns of present 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular form of verb

### D. Patterns of Present Form of Verb

The present study has found the following verb patterns in which the present form of verb has been used in newspaper headlines.

- I. noun + to + present form of verb
- II. wh - adverb + to + present form of verb
- III. past participle + to + present form of verb
- IV. present non-3<sup>rd</sup> person singular + to + present form of verb
- V. modal + to + present form of verb
- VI. present participle/gerund + to + present form of verb
- VII. past tense (V2) + to + present form of verb
- VIII. adjective + to + present form of verb

In all the above given patterns, the present form of verb is followed by different patterns like adjective, adverb, base form of verb, determiner, particle, past participle, personal pronoun, plural noun, preposition, present participle/gerund, proper noun, singular noun, and wh-pronoun (what/who). The following figure 8 illustrates some of the patterns in the which the present form of verb has been used.

option\_NN but\_♦\_NN :; India\_NP to\_TO get\_VV a\_DT befitting\_VVG response\_NN if\_IN imposed\_its\_PP\$ credentials\_NNS They\_PP can\_MD file\_VV a\_DT charge\_NN posthumously\_RB against\_IN Jawah Zardari\_NP knows\_VVZ how\_WRB to\_TO control\_VV a\_DT puppet\_NN PM\_NP Indian\_JJ army\_VVD to\_TO make\_VV anti-polio\_NP drive\_VV a\_DT success\_NN in\_IN tribal\_JJ districts\_child\_NN safety\_NN needed\_VVN to\_TO stop\_VV abuse\_NN ,\_, moot\_NN told\_VVD Good\_JJ parentin drug\_NN maker\_NN ordered\_VVD to\_TO review\_VV accounts\_NNS Istanbul\_NP opposition\_NN leader\_Oghi\_NP Govt\_NP fails\_VVZ to\_TO take\_VV action\_NN against\_IN flawed\_JJ appointments\_NNS notice\_NN for\_IN failing\_VVG to\_TO look\_VV after\_IN Marghazar\_NP Zoo\_NP Tug\_NN ofaward\_NN Tottenham\_NP throw\_VVP away\_RB lead\_VV against\_IN Arsenal\_NP ,\_, unease\_NN persists\_VV shrink\_VV 26pc\_JJ Traders\_NNS to\_TO protest\_VV against\_IN CNIC\_JJ condition\_NN on\_IN Octdrive\_NN continues\_VVZ Traders\_NNS to\_TO protest\_VV against\_IN CNIC\_JJ condition\_NN on\_IN OctHouse\_NP Army\_NP ready\_JJ to\_TO thwart\_VV any\_DT Indian\_JJ misadventure\_NN Karachi\_NP`\_NP hasn\_♦t\_NP agreed\_VVD to\_TO return\_VV any\_DT money\_NN Pakistan\_NP to\_TO continue\_mark\_NN No\_DT plan\_NN to\_TO privatize\_VV any\_DT Punjab\_NP hospital\_NN :; minister\_NN P

Figure 8: Screenshot of patterns of present form of verb

#### E. Patterns of Past Form of Verb

The patterns in which the past of verbs has used in Pakistani newspaper headlines have been given as follows;  
noun + past form of verb

noun + wh-pronoun + past form of verb

noun + wh-determiner + past form of verb

noun + adverb + past form of verb

This study has found that in all the patterns given above the past form of verb is followed by different patterns like adjective, adverb, base form of verb, determiner, particle, past participle, personal pronoun, plural noun, preposition, present participle/gerund, proper noun, singular noun, cardinal number and infinitive. The following figure 9 illustrates some of the patterns in the which the present form of verb has been used.

to\_TO call\_VV two\_CD who\_WP strayed\_VVD across\_IN LoC\_NP terrorists\_NNS slammed\_VVD A s\_NNS held\_VVN ;; stolen\_VVN items\_NNS recovered\_VVD Acting\_NP VC\_NP ` `` s\_JJ appointment\_NN to\_in\_IN Brussels\_NP Ibrahim\_NP ,\_, Asghar\_NP put\_VVD Afghanistan\_NP on\_IN top\_NN India\_NP outgun\_expels\_VVZ WSJ\_NP reporter\_NN who\_WP wrote\_VVD about\_IN Xi\_NP ` `` s\_NN cousin\_NN Trump\_leader\_NN says\_VVZ she\_PP never\_RB discussed\_VVD resigning\_VVG with\_IN Beijing\_NP Dorian\_NP de blames\_VVZ UAE\_NNS for\_IN strikes\_NNS that\_WDT killed\_VVD 30\_CD Present\_JJ govt\_NN should\_MD

Figure 9: Screenshot of patterns of past form of verb

#### F. Patterns of Past Participle Form of Verb

The past participle form of verb has been used in newspaper headlines in the patterns given as follows;

I. noun + past participle

II. noun + auxiliary verb + past participle

III. noun + infinitive + past participle

IV. noun + adverb + past participle

V. noun + present participle + past participle

VI. noun + present form of verb + past participle

VII. noun + past form of verb + past participle

VIII. noun + cardinal number + past participle

According to the findings of this study, this pattern (noun + past participle form of verb) is followed by different patterns like adjective, adverb, cardinal number, infinitive, particle, noun (singular/plural), preposition and conjunction. The following figure 10 illustrates some of the patterns in the which the past participle form of verb has been used.

to\_TO why\_WRB police\_NNS not\_RB given\_VVN access\_NN to\_TO Uzair\_NP Baloch\_NP for\_  
 govt\_NN depts\_NNS to\_TO be\_VB privatized\_VVN Actor\_NN did\_VVD hurl\_NN threats\_NNS at\_  
 JJ restaurant\_NN sealed\_VVN ,\_ three\_CD arrested\_VVN after\_IN brawl\_NN with\_IN inspectors\_NNS Paki  
 of\_IN second\_JJ missing\_JJ miner\_NN found\_VVN after\_IN 13\_CD days\_NNS Reduction\_NN in\_IN  
 018\_CD New\_NP Zealand\_NP better\_RBR acclimatised\_VVN after\_IN close\_JJ Galle\_NP loss\_NN ,\_ says\_  
 -trust\_NP motion\_NN to\_TO be\_VB moved\_VVN against\_IN Sanjrani\_NP next\_JJ week\_NN Steps\_  
 in\_IN parks\_NNS Action\_NN being\_VBG taken\_VVN against\_IN schools\_NNS over\_IN fee\_NN hike\_  
 in\_IN Bajaur\_NN blast\_NN Five\_CD injured\_VVN as\_IN vehicle\_NN falls\_VVZ into\_IN ravine\_  
 on\_IN the\_DT cards\_NNS Two\_CD killed\_VVN as\_IN vehicle\_NN falls\_VVZ into\_IN river\_

Figure 10: Screenshot of patterns of past participle form of verb

### G. Patterns of Present Participle Form of Verb

The present participle form of verb has been used in newspaper headlines in the patterns which have been given below;

- I. noun + present participle
- II. noun + preposition + present participle
- III. noun + present form (base form) + present participle
- IV. noun + auxiliary verb + present participle
- V. infinitive + preposition + present participle
- VI. noun + adjective + present participle
- VI. noun + adverb + present participle

The present study has also found that the verb patterns of present participle form of verb given above are followed by different patterns like adjective, adverb, determiner, noun, particle, past participle, cardinal number and infinitive. The following figure 11 illustrates some of the patterns in the which the present participle form of verb has been used.

## V. CONCLUSION

This corpus-based study has strived to identify those verb patterns which have been used in Pakistani newspaper headlines. This study has identified different patterns in which verbs have been used. This study has identified that Pakistani newspaper headlines have mostly used base form of verb for present, past and future actions. Apart from this, it has also been found that present participle form of verb without any auxiliary verb has been used in the analyzed headlines.

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