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Abstract

The news of war and peace in Afghanistan has been in the headlines of national and international media for many years now. In this research, the representation of this news in two news networks: one national and one international news networks (TOLO News and Voice of America-Persian) has been analysed from the perspective of the Afghan society. The statistical data of this research has been collected by a survey method with a questionnaire tool. The statistical population of this research is the audience of news channels randomly surveyed in different cities of Afghanistan with various personal characteristics. The sample size in this research was 385 people and the results of distributed and collected data were analyzed using "SPSS" software. The theories used in the theoretical foundations of this research are two practical and essential theories of communication: "gatekeeping theory and representation theory." The research findings are presented in two levels of data description (one-dimensional tables) and data analysis (two-dimensional tables). The findings of the research show that in the representation of the events related to war and peace in Afghanistan, the Voice of America-Persian television channel has the most censorship of the facts of these events in their news coverage compared to TOLOnews TV, and TOLOnews has more pacifist policy in covering these news events. On the other hand, the Voice of America TV has used less pacifist policy in covering these events.

Keywords: News coverage, Representation, Gatekeeping, Audience, Television, War, Peace, TOLOnews, Voice of America-Persian.

Introduction

The war is one of the worst phenomena that has plagued the people of Afghanistan for decades, and endeavouring to achieve peace and stability is a wish that never came true. Both cases have been news-making phenomena in the national and international media. The media, especially television news networks, have a unique role, importance and place as a link connecting events with the audience. The role of television in providing

information cannot be denied. Accessing information about daily events through television has become the everyday life of Afghan families. In critical situations of war or sometimes hope for peace and tranquillity, the attention and gaze of every citizen of this country have drawn to the media news, including television news channels. There is no doubt that reporting is one of the primary responsibilities of the media. In critical situations, this responsibility becomes heavier and should be based on the principles and rules of news reporting. Filtering the news or highlighting specific and selected margins in the news, framing the information for the benefit of a particular team or group in the broadcasting of information, distracts the media workers from their responsibility and professional ethics. In this research article, an attempt has been made to investigate news events about war and peace in Afghanistan from the audience's perspective, and after analyzing the statistical population, the research reaches some results.

2. Problem Statement

This research seeks the audiences' opinion of the investigated television channels and the way they represent the news of war and peace in Afghanistan. The selection, processing, and transmission of news from the place of its occurrence to the access and the audiences' opinion is the responsibility of the mass media, and that is the emphasis of all communication experts. This responsibility must be carried out with complete honesty and impartiality to gain the satisfaction and trust of the audience. Unbiased reporting of information in news coverage of any event is the primary responsibility of news media. According to Chomsky, the media forgets its responsibility and seeks to cover a specific social and political goal, which is not to inform people about accurate information events.¹

The main focus of this article is to investigate the attitude of the statistical society, the way of coverage and representation of Afghanistan's war and peace news in two news channels: one national (TOLO News) and one international (Voice of America-Persian). Undoubtedly, the media is always looking for new and attractive events, and war and violent conflicts are examples. The notion of "confrontation" is one of the standards that news finds its way to media coverage, and the media influence the audiences' opinions, attitudes, and behaviour in how they cover and represent the events. Exclusivity, filtering, highlighting the margins instead of the text, and deviating from the news instead of covering the publication events also put the audience on the wrong path of news and information. The news of peace and war are both covered by the media. How the analyzed news networks represent both phenomena is the main focus of this research article.

3. The Necessity and Importance of the Research Topic

Scientific research on the representation and coverage of war and peace news in Afghanistan is considered one of the scientific and practical necessities of Afghan society in the current situation. Over three decades of war and ups and downs to reach peace, many events and incidents have often been the focus of national and international media coverage. Today, the main expectation of the Afghan people from the media is to reflect these events impartially based on the professional tactics of media coverage. Television is one of the most important sources of information for the people of Afghanistan. As the primary means of obtaining this information, the news is at the heart of this news source.

¹ Chomsky, Noam and Edward San Herman. News filters, translation: Teja Mir Fakhraei, Tehran: Iran Institute Publications, no.4 (1391): 180

Today, media news can satisfy, motivate, stimulate, and mobilize the audience's necessary information and change their attitude toward their surroundings.

Realism in the media and news coverage tactics in the representation of news coverage in the current situation of Afghanistan by news networks, valuing war victims from the media point of view, and other issues that can add to this field require serious scientific research. In this context, the results of the research subject highlight the importance of the subject in using research solutions in society. In most cases, due to ignorance and unawareness, and to attract more audiences, the media reflect operations against national values and war activities in a way that leads to the escalation of the issue, and indeed, they encourage individuals and groups to carry out "terrorist" operations to achieve their goals. It is essential to refer to the audience's point of view of the investigated networks because of an important question: Are these media in the representation of the war news to intensify the tensions in their news coverage? Are they seeking to reflect a real and positive peace in their news coverage of the events related to peace, or as Galtung said, do they consider the absence of war as peace, which is (negative peace). Understanding these issues is one of the necessities of the current conditions of the Afghan people.

4. Research Purposes

1. The main purpose of the research

Understanding how the news of war and peace have been covered and represented in Afghanistan by the two investigated TV channels from the audience's point of view.

2. Research sub-goals

1. Understanding the news coverage tactics in TOLOnews national television in covering and representing the news of peace and war in Afghanistan from the audience's perspective.
2. Understanding the news coverage tactics of Voice of America-Persian international television in covering and representing the news of peace and war in Afghanistan from the audience's perspective.
3. To understand the extent of censorship in the representation of news when covering the events of war and peace in Afghanistan in both news channels from the audience's perspective.

5. A Conceptual Review of the Research Topic

5.1 Television

In terms of its literal meaning, television is derived from the two combined words "tele", meaning "far", and "vision", meaning "view or display". The communication system for broadcasting and receiving moving images and sounds from a long distance is through the receiver in this system, which is called TV. Television is a telecommunication tool for sending and receiving moving pictures and sounds from a distance.² In addition to the significance of the power of TV and its role as the primary source of information, the essential mission of television is to satisfy the information and requirements of the audience. Today, because there is a television in every home, the programs should be

² McQueen, David. *A guide to TV recognition*. Translated by: Fateme Karamali and Esmat Givian, Tehran: Publications of the General Directorate of Broadcasting Research, no.12 (1393): 25

aligned with the necessity of the audience and meet the needs of the audience.³ In the past three decades, the role of television in informing the people of Afghanistan has become more prominent every day due to the coverage of war and peace events in this country. Even in today's age, news is at the top of the audience's preference; television in Afghanistan is still a popular medium and the source of information and news. Despite poverty, rural living, and lack of access to internet services and telecommunication networks, television is the most popular media in Afghanistan.

5.2 News

As the first communication tool, news has had many meanings and definitions. The descriptions of news are constantly changing. What is considered news in TV newsrooms today? Years ago, it was not exciting and vice versa.⁴ Naeem Badayei and Hossein Qandi have defined the news as a report of objective and actual events with one or more news values.⁵ In this research, the meaning of the news is about the events related to war and peace in Afghanistan, which gets media coverage. The representation of these events is valued and selected due to the abundance of news in today's era, and the greater the value of an event, the more news values it has, and the higher the chances of media coverage. But sometimes, the event is not only covered based on its value, but it also plays a role in the coverage, the way the news is covered, and the reasons inside and outside the organization in the media. The news, the determining values in making news of events, and the permission to cover the event in all media in Afghanistan are very diverse compared to many other countries. News that has been considered important news in other countries of the world, such as road accidents and the bankruptcy of a manufacturing company or the establishment of an industrial factory. However, in Afghanistan, due to the multitude of 'terrorist' events, war, peace, armed clashes, and the above events are considered the least valuable news and have less success in media coverage.

5.3 News Coverage

News coverage is one of the complex categories in news studies, and in the field of news coverage, many factors, both internal and external, are influential. News coverage is the process of representing events and occurrences through communication.⁶ News coverage is a set of activities that take place on the news so that the value of news is raised higher or lower than its actual status, and the worthiness of that news becomes less, more, or zero in the vicinity of other content.⁷ The appliance of disseminating news: News agencies, press, radio and television, mobile phones, internet, weblogs, and virtual networks are all tools of news coverage. In addition, in news coverage of events, the type of media, technology, professional workforce, competitors, and audience of the media are the influential factors.

The meaning of news coverage in this research is the publication of the news of war and peace in Afghanistan and how representation is investigated through the reflection of the events on television. News coverage is one of the categories examined in this research,

³ Cazeno, John. *The Power of Television*. Translated by: Ali Asadi, Amir Kabir Publishing House, Tehran., no.5 (1364): 171.

⁴ McQueen, "A guide to TV recognition".

⁵ Badayei, Naeem and Hossein Qandi. *Modern Journalism*. Tehran: Allameh Tabatabai University Press, no. 2 (1378): 42.

⁶ Dahlgren, Peter. "Television and the public sphere: Citizenship, democracy and the media." *Television and the Public Sphere* (1995): 1-192.

⁷ Sultanifar, Mohammad and Shahnaz Hashemi. *News Coverage*. Tehran: Simai Sharq Publications, no.12 (1382): 45.

which is the same way of representing the news related to the conflicts and compromises related to Afghanistan. The media, especially television, use news coverage tactics to cover news events. News coverage tactics are a set of plans and measures the media takes to identify, select, reflect, stream, perpetuate, and influence the message to the audience's minds. The most important tactics used to represent television news events are broadcasting direct news, breaking news, information bombardment, parallelization, the voice of people and experts, desensitization, normalization, selection, gatekeeping, highlighting, quoting, censorship, and distortion.⁸

5.4 Peace and Media Coverage

Peace is the opposite of conflict and can be newsworthy. In other words, peace means reconciliation and the elimination of hatred. In some interpretations, peace is not only the end of the war, but in most cases, even if there is no war, violence can appear in different dimensions and levels of society. According to Galtung, peace without social justice is negative peace. The preconditions of positive peace are when there is a free flow of information, corruption is at a low level, and accepting the rights of others is a priority. Representation of events is usually something, sometimes framed based on the public's and sometimes the media's preferences. These priorities facilitate the selection and censorship of news. News coverage, the media often tends to "cover intense conflict." That is more common in Afghanistan-related news in the last three decades, which appears high in a graph. War, terrorist attacks, bombings, and other acts of violence have attracted the attention of national and international news media.

Of course, the Bonn meeting in 2001 and recently the Doha agreement and other programs and small agreements were not a mechanism for establishing permanent peace in Afghanistan, and only for a while these agreements were at the top of the news coverage of the national and international media, which had various opinions about the news coverage in national and international by media. The main goal of media coverage of peace is to interdiction and prevent war and violence. Moreover, it seeks to provide grounds for reconciliation and peace for the parties involved through creative strategies that pay attention to the roots of conflicts and guarantee the stability of peace and agreement to some extent.⁹

5.5 War and Media Coverage

War means armed conflict between two or more parties. In politics, struggle and conflict between two or more governments has been defined as "foreign war" or within the domain of a government between the ruling power and claimant powers as "civil war".¹⁰ According to Julius and Kolb, war may refer to a socially recognized situation in which large-scale, more or less continuous armed conflicts between two or more countries, governments, and groups with the ruling power.¹¹ War and news related to the conflict are the main fodder of the media. Whatever the causes of the war news, it is attractive to the media and gets covered sooner. Today, media itself is one of the tools of war in the success of disputed programs that come into action when war events occur to reflect them.

⁸ Nasrullahi, Akbar. *Guide to News Coverage in the Media*. Tehran: Fars News Agency, no.13 (1392).

⁹ Zabelizadeh, Ardeshtir. "War of narratives: In the discourse of competing media", Tehran: *Radio and Television Research Center of the Islamic Republic of Iran*, no.18 (1392): 40-44.

¹⁰ Ashouri, Dariush. *Political Encyclopaedia*, Marwarid Publications, Tehran, no.1 (1393): 115.

¹¹ Gold, Julius and William L. Kolb. *Culture of Social Sciences*. Translation: Mohammad Javad Zahedi and others, Maziar Anshtarat, Tehran, no.8 (1391): 333.

For the media to be able to reflect such events consciously and with insight, they faced two situations: either they acted as deterrents from war events, or they caused the escalation of war operations.

In terms of deterrence, emphasizing the immorality and irreligiousness of war, reflecting the human and life losses of war events, reflecting the psychological recompense of war, not spreading the views and motives of the perpetrators of the war, and also investigating the veritable incentive of the fighters are among the most important things that the media pay attention to in covering the events. In the coverage of the war and peace news related to Afghanistan before the collapse of the republican system in the month of Asad in 1400, the domestic and international media and the coverage of this country's war and peace news was dual and multiple attitudes can be seen. Following a dual attitude by the media may have external or internal factors, but representing this accurate news also confuses the audience.

5.6 The Investigated News Networks

In this research, two news channels, "TOLO News" as a domestic and "Voice of America - Persian" as an international news channel, are analyzed from the perspective of Afghan audiences.

5.6.1 Voice of America - Persian "VOA"

In his book "The History of VOA", Alan Hight states the time of the establishment of Farsi TV of Voice of America in 1996. In this way, nearly two decades after Ahmad Reza Baharlu started working in the Voice of America group and launched the Farsi Radio Voice of America, he was also entrusted with the responsibility of commencing the television of this group. On October 18, 1996, the first Persian TV airwaves - The Voice of America, performed by Ahmed Reza Bahar Lo- were broadcast worldwide.¹² The motto of this media is: Our only duty is to inform. The reason for choosing the news network (Voice of America-Persian) for this study is the high level of viewership of the Afghan audience from this foreign media, and the networks in question cover and reflect more events related to Afghanistan in its news coverage.

5.6.2 TOLONews

TOLO Global Network is one of the active media in Kabul-Afghanistan, established in 2012. This television, owned by Mobi-Group, broadcasts programs 24 hours a day, and this media's programs can be received all over Afghanistan. As well as in most of the world, it is also possible to access it through satellite. In addition to broadcasting news in Farsi, Pashto, and English, most of its programs focus on Afghanistan's social, economic, and political situation, which is the interest of most Afghan people. Therefore, TOLO TV is one of the most pioneering media that has enjoyed a good reputation among its audience for nearly 15 years.¹³ TOLO News is one of the television channels that started broadcasting after the establishment of TOLO in 2010, and today, it is one of the most prominent and popular news channels in Afghanistan. The reason for choosing the TOLONews TV news channel for this study is that TOLO News is the most popular TV

¹² Tohidi Nejad, Sarmad. "How to Reflect the News Related to ISIS in Domestic and Foreign Media: Content Analysis of BBC Farsi, Voice of America And Press TV Websites". Master's thesis, *Allameh Tabatabai University, Faculty of Communication Sciences*, no.16 (1393): 12.

¹³ Nei "Institute for the Support of Free Media in Afghanistan". *Afghanistan Media*, Kabul, New York, no.14 (1390): 95.

news channel in Afghanistan, which covers news and events related to Afghanistan 24 hours a day.

5.7 Representation of news in media coverage

Representation in the media deals with the different aspects of reality, and media is the channel through which to express this fact. The main issue of discussion is to what extent the media reflects the facts correctly. Representation is one of the media's primary functions in covering and reflecting reality. Representation can be a manipulated form of external reality. Honesty and consideration of national interests in the coverage of events can play a significant role in the credibility and trust of the audience towards the media. According to Galtung, the media covering the events in all the frameworks related to the broadcast and distribution of programs consciously or unconsciously support and promote the peace discourse. This case has been highlighted upside down in the coverage of Afghanistan-related events. The media can be the best way to adopt and establish peace through education. The main goal of peace education is to nurture and empower people to solve conflicts with more creativity and less violence.¹⁴ Addressing positive news is defined by Galtung as a form of responsibility and criticizes the criteria of setting negativity, personalization, and closeness to institutions and people.

6. The Theoretical Framework of Research

The theoretical framework used in this research is the theories of "Gatekeeping and Representation."

6.1 Gatekeeping theory

The concept of gatekeeping in the media coverage of news events is where the information and news of events pass. The gatekeeping concept is the same as selectivity. The news values in the event can help at some range in the selection of the event to become news. In addition to news values, internal and external factors play a prominent role in news selection. Shumiger considers selectivity a process during which billions of messages worldwide are summarized and transformed into hundreds of paramorphic messages and reach assumed people at a given time.¹⁵ As gatekeepers, communication planners can exert some power in the communication process by determining what information should be left out and what information should be allowed to pass.¹⁶

The investigated news networks select and publish news according to their attitude to dealing with news events and their audiences, or they manage and publish news content according to their perspective and news policy. In this case, the exact type of orientation of the media regarding the same news can be different. This index is investigated through the response of the statistical community of this research, as well as how much the media officials and news managers in the investigated networks try to adhere to the principles and professional rules of information, considering their gatekeeping mission. The ups and downs in the phenomena of war and peace in Afghanistan for many years, the news of both phenomena have sometimes been in the headlines of the national and international

¹⁴ Khaniki, Hadi and Ali Shaker. "Peace journalism and its news values in Iran". *Scientific Quarterly of Culture-Communication Studies*, no.10 (1397): 13.

¹⁵ Boroujerdi Alavi, "Mahdakht. What is goalkeeper news and who are the goalkeepers?". *Media Studies and Research Center, Tehran*, no.3 (1380): 61.

¹⁶ Windall, Son, Beno Signitzer and Jane Olson. *Application of Communication Theories*. Translation: Alireza Rahghan, Tehran: Center for Media Studies and Research, no.17 (1376): 220.

media, and each media has given media coverage from the angle of this news according to its broadcasting policy.

6.2 Representation theory

Representation theory is one of the essential theories of communication. As the significant sources of news and events, the media play an irreplaceable role in shaping public opinion with (representation). Representation emphasizes that although images of events appear actual in media coverage, they never represent the real world. The representation is formed in three classification attitudes: 1. Reflective or reflexive 2. Voluntary 3. Structuralist. Each of these three attitudes seeks to answer the question of where the meaning comes from and how we can find the correct meaning of a word or image. Likewise, Stuart Hall defines representation as the process by which meaning is produced and distributed among members of a culture of exchange.

Therefore, the concept is formed and made through the system of representation.¹⁷ The action of the media is to represent hidden and latent things or beliefs, ideologies, and discourses. Still, to maintain and provide consensus and pretend to be a free choice, the media keeps its activities covered or hides the fundamental values and structures (same). The representation theory emphasizes that representation affects the made of social reality. Indeed, the representation is a media-made reality.

7. Research Methodology

The research method in this research is a quantitative survey method. The survey method is one of the most used in human sciences research. Today, surveys have been the dominant aspect of media research. Survey research is also the principal methodology of social science academic research to measure the impact of mass media.¹⁸ A questionnaire technique has been used to collect information. Questionnaire questions have been used by the topic and objectives of the research; after completing and finalizing the questions, they are distributed to the respondents and then collected.

After collecting the questionnaires, the data was extracted using "SPSS" software, and as a result, the data was described and explained. The best way to cover the events related to Afghanistan is to check the sight of the citizens of this country. The statistical population of this research consists of people who carefully follow the news related to war and peace events in Afghanistan through the investigated networks. Therefore, surveying and getting the audience's opinions is the best way to reach the truth.

8. Research findings

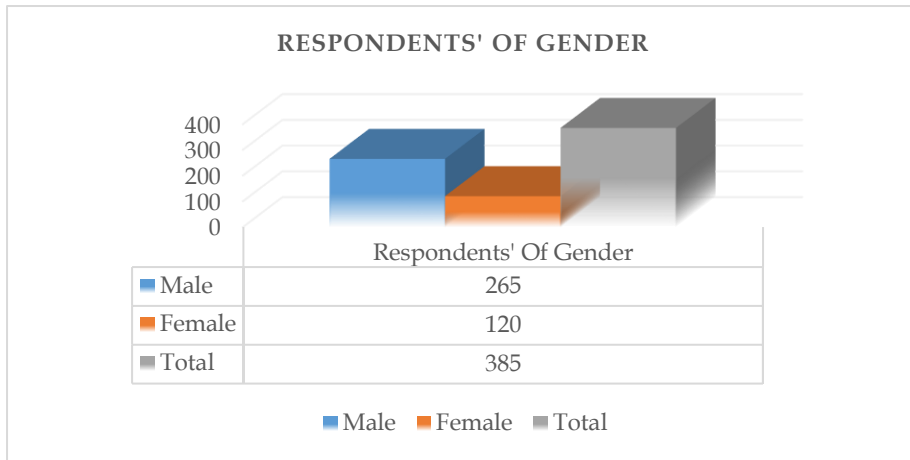
8.1 Description of research findings

The total number of questionnaires used in this research to collect the information is 385. According to the questions, the tables have been arranged and raised in the questionnaire, as well as frequency distribution.

¹⁷ Mahdizadeh, Seyyed Mohammad. *Media Theories: Common Thoughts and Critical Perspectives*, Tehran: Hamshahri Publications, no.11 (1386): 22.

¹⁸ Gunter, Barry. *Media Research Methods*. Translation: Mino Niko, Tehran, General Directorate of Cima Research, no.9 (1383): 360-364.

Chart 1: Respondents of gender



Source: The statistics' results according to the research respondents were obtained through the SPSS software.

According to chart number 1, Out of the total of 385 respondents, the highest proportion, i.e., 68.83% or 265 people, are men, and the least number of respondents, i.e., 31.17% or 120 people, are women. The majority of men in the statistical population of this research is due to the low presence of women in education, administration, and work outside the home. The social conditions at the time of this article's research also indicate the severity of the drop in women's interest in sharing and responding to research questionnaires and such programs. War and peace are both phenomena that affect all members of society. The value of including the news of both phenomena has led to the participation of women and men in the statistical community of this research.

Table 1: The amount of benefit of the respondents from the investigated news networks

Cumulative Percent			Per cent	Frequency		
Voice of America	TOLO News	voice of America	TOLO News	voice of America	TOLO News	
36.4	23.4	36.4	23.4	140	90	Minimum
63.6	76.6	41.5	31.2	160	120	Medium
100.0	100.0	22.1	45.4	85	175	Maximum
		100.0	100.0	385	385	Total

Source: Based on the response of the statistical society through the SPSS software.

The findings of frequency distribution table number 1: In terms of the amount of benefit of the statistical society of this research from the investigated television channels with the coverage of war and peace news in Afghanistan, the highest proportion in TOLO News TV is the "high" option, which is 175 people (45.4%) and in the Voice of America TV, the "medium" option is 160 people (41.5%), the lowest ratio in the benefit of the audience on TOLO News TV is the "minimum" option, which is 90 people (23.4%) and on Voice of America TV, the lowest ratio is the "high" option, which is 85 people (22.1%). According to this research, most of the statistical society benefits from TOLOnews TV compared to Voice of America TV. Benefiting from the media can help in presenting the audience's perspective regarding the coverage of news events by a media. Based on the theory of use

and satisfaction, audiences actively use the media and consciously make choices to meet the information they need. They also consciously express their satisfaction and dissatisfaction with media programs.

Table 2: The amount of unbiased coverage of war and peace news in Afghanistan in the investigated networks

Cumulative Percent		Per cent		Frequency		
Voice of America	TOLO News	Voice of America	TOLO News	Voice of America	TOLO News	
42.6	23.9	42.6	23.9	164	92	Minimum
57.4	76.1	36.9	39.7	142	153	Medium
100.0	100.0	20.5	36.4	79	140	Maximum
		100.0	100.0	385	385	Total

Source: The statistical population in this research.

Based on the findings of frequency distribution table number 2: The degree of compliance with the principles of impartiality in the coverage of news events related to war and peace in Afghanistan, in TOLO News TV, the highest proportion of "medium" selection, which is 153 people (39.7%) and the highest proportion in Voice of America TV, the "minimum" selection of 164 people (42.6%).), the lowest ratio in TOLO News TV is the "minimum" selection of 92 people (23.9%), and the lowest ratio in Voice of America TV is the "high" selection of 79 people (20.5%). Unbiased coverage of news events is one of the professional principles of journalism in covering and reflecting news events. Sometimes, based on the publication policy and protecting their interests, the media hide the facts of the events and do not cover them realistically. This orientation and censorship in the coverage of news events, news that has the value of conflict and war, is increasing more and more. The findings of this article showed, from the perspective of the statistical society of this research, that TOLO News TV performs far better than Voice of America TV in impartial coverage of events related to war and peace in Afghanistan. The least respondents to the questionnaires of this research have been given the option of approval in the impartial coverage of the events, war and peace in Afghanistan. Based on the findings of this research section, the coverage of Afghan war and peace news on Voice of America TV was published with the presentment attitude of censorship, which shows the lack of trust of the Afghan audience towards the media. TOLOnews news channel has attracted more trust from the statistical society in its relative observance of neutrality principles to cover the news related to peace and war in Afghanistan. In the questionnaires of this research, an open question included presenting the suggestions of the respondents; most of the respondents were sceptical about the impartiality of Voice of America TV in representing the news of war and peace in Afghanistan, and they emphasized the marginalization and negativity of the news coverage by this media.

Table 3: Militant policy in the coverage of Afghan War and Peace News events

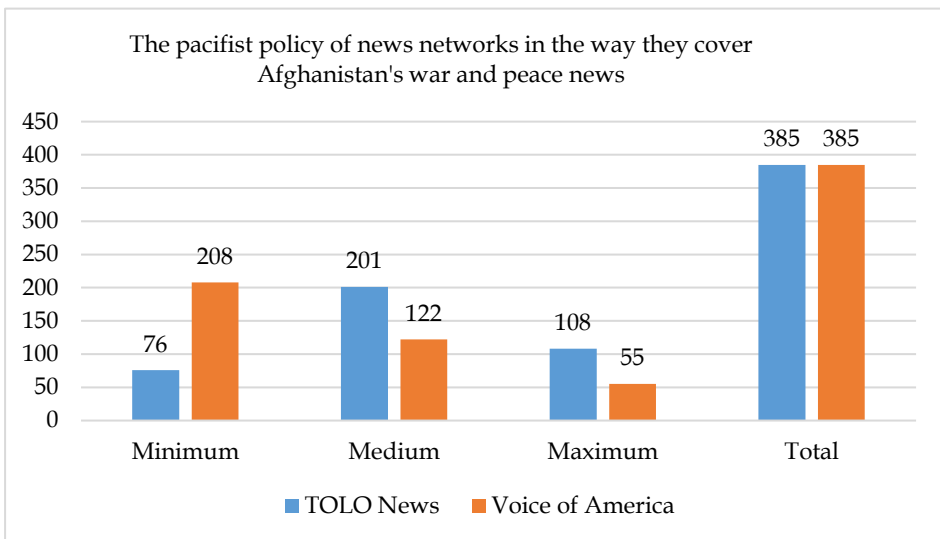
Cumulative Percent		Per cent		Frequency		
Voice of America	TOLO News	Voice of America	TOLO News	Voice of America	TOLO News	
16.9	51.2	16.9	51.2	65	197	Minimum
83.1	48.8	32.2	33.2	124	128	Medium
100.0	100.0	50.9	15.6	196	60	Maximum
		100.0	100.0	385	385	Total

Source: The data of this research is based on the response of the statistical society through the SPSS software.

The findings of frequency distribution table No. 3: In the coverage of war and peace news in Afghanistan with the attitude of highlighting bellicose policies in reflecting events, TOLO News TV has the highest proportion of "minimum" selection of 197 people (51.2%), and Voice of America TV has the highest proportion of "high" selection of 196 people (50.9%) and the lowest The ratio on TOLO News TV shows the "high" selection of 60 people (15.6%) and the lowest ratio of the "minimum" selection on Voice of America TV shows 65 people (16.9%). Representation of news events in media coverage is one of the tactics used by the media. Representation is usually accomplished in different ways based on media publication policy. In the findings of this research, based on the respondents' point of view, the TOLOnews news channel covers war-like politics less in the representation of events related to war and peace in Afghanistan.

On the contrary, according to the statistical society of this research, a high percentage of war-like politics is represented in the coverage of news events related to war and peace in Afghanistan on Voice of America TV. Based on the audiences' opinion of this research, the Voice of America news channel reports more about conflict and violence related to Afghanistan, not peace; even when covering news related to peace, they have a negative representation. As MacDonald suggests, encounters make news, not compromises, and he recognizes the news as exciting and different. Indeed, it defines non-violence issues as exhausting. The TOLO news television news channel has been called relatively newsworthy coverage, and they have stated that the TOLO news channel, at least in the coverage of events related to peace, puts the phenomenon of "peace" in the focus of its news values.

Chart2: The pacifist policy of news networks in the way they cover Afghanistan's war and peace news



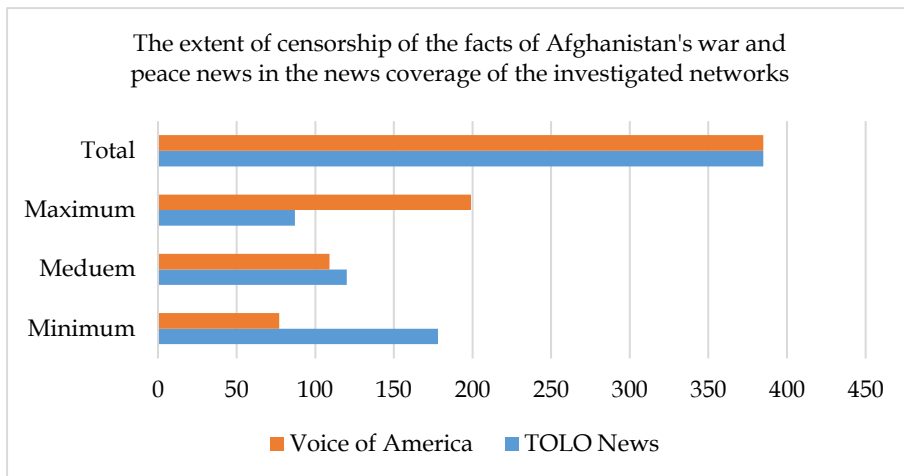
Source: The statistical population in this research.

Based on the findings of chart number 2: Peace-loving policies in the coverage of news events related to war and peace in Afghanistan, the highest proportion in TOLO News TV is the "medium" selection of 201 people (52.2%), and in the Voice of America TV, the highest proportion is the "minimum" selection of 208 people (52.02%) and the lowest proportion on TOLO News TV, 76 people (19.74%) chose the "minimum" selection, and on

Voice of America TV, the lowest percentage was the "high" selection of 55 people (14.3%). According to Table No. 3, the broadcast coverage policy on the Voice of America news network reflecting the events related to war and peace in Afghanistan is more of a war-loving policy and less of a pacifist policy. The findings of Chart No. 2 and Table No. 3 are both wholly consistent and emphasize this issue. In the TOLONews news channel, the coverage of events related to war and peace in Afghanistan is less covered and represented by war-loving policies. Still, in peace-loving policies, the most option shows the "medium" limit, which emphasizes the findings of Table No. 3 of this research.

In the representation of news about war and peace, Galtung proposed two styles of news coverage: positive or peace journalism and negative or war journalism. Decision makers or planners focus on which side of the conflict is superior in reflecting on the coverage of events.¹⁹ The media that focuses on negativity in war is more concerned about which side is winning and which side is losing. In this type of news coverage, the audience is exposed to concealment of information, lying, justification, and censorship in the representation of news. In the following graph, the amount of censorship of facts in the two investigated networks has also been analyzed from the respondents' point of view in this research.

Chart 3: The amount of censorship of news facts in the investigated networks



Source: The statistical population in this research.

Findings of chart number 3: It shows that out of the total number of respondents to the questionnaires of this research, in terms of which channels censor most of the news facts related to war and peace in Afghanistan in the coverage of news events, the highest proportion in the TOLO News TV news channel is the "minimum" selection of 178 people (46.23 %) and on the Voice of America news channel, the highest ratio was the "high" selection of 199 people (51.7%), and the lowest ratio was the "high" selection of 87 people (22.6%) on TOLONews TV, and the lowest ratio was the "minimum" selection on the Voice of America TV. » 77 people (20%) form the respondents. The tactic of gatekeeping or censorship of news facts is one of the most used tactics of the media field in covering events. According to the opinion of the statistical society of this research, the censorship of the facts of the coverage of the events related to the news of war and peace in

¹⁹ Fanous, Mir Aziz Ahmad and colleagues. *Peace Journalism*, Kabul: Hamed Resalat Publications, no.7 (1400): 26-34.

Afghanistan is much more in the Voice of America news network and less in the TOLO News network.

Trust, expressing satisfaction with the benefits of the media, and satisfying and persuading the audience's informational needs depend on the amount of coverage of the existing facts and effectiveness on the media audience. A media that ignores the necessity of the audience in covering the news, censoring the facts, marginalizing the representation of events, and fueling the cracks in society may have an audience. Still, they never have the trust and satisfaction of the audience. The media, whose news is mainly represented in war journalism, often avoids covering peace initiatives. Voice of America TV is one of the overseas TV channels with large audiences in Afghanistan. Meanwhile, the findings of this research show that the audience of this media does not trust and is not satisfied with the coverage of news events related to Afghanistan, especially the news related to war and peace in Afghanistan.

8.2 Explanation of research findings

The analysis and interpretation of research findings are calculated based on the chi-square test or two-dimensional tables.

Table 4: Calculating the relationship between the amount of censorship of news events related to war and peace in Afghanistan with the amount of expressing satisfaction and trust in the benefit of the respondents of this research.

	Chi-Square Tests		
	Value	df	Asymptotic significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	13.561 ^a	4	.009
Likelihood Ratio	13.560	4	.009
Linear-by-Linear Association	7.308	1	.007
N of Valid Cases	385		

- a. 0 cells (0.0%) have an expected count less than
- b. The minimum expected count is 16.20.

Source: The data analysis of this research is based on the response of the statistical society through the SPSS software.

According to the chi-square test calculated as 13.561, the degree of freedom is 4, the error is 1%, and the confidence is 99%; the relationship between the two variables is significant. In other words, there is a relationship between the amount of censorship of the reality of Afghanistan's war and peace news in the media coverage of the investigated networks and the satisfaction and trust expressed by the respondents of the questionnaires of this research. No matter how much censorship of news facts is done in the coverage of events by news networks, they will have the same amount of dissatisfaction and mistrust of the audience. Based on the theory of use and satisfaction, the audience is aware and has its orientation and perspective toward media messages. If the audience's informational needs are not satisfied, the audience is not satisfied with the benefit of the media.

The findings of this research, based on the statistical societies' perspective, with the high level of censorship in the Voice of America TV news network compared to the TOLO News network in the representation of news related to war and peace in Afghanistan, the percentage of satisfaction expressed and it shows with the benefit of the Voice of America TV is lower than that of TOLO News TV. Media with positivist news in their representation promote peace discourse in reflecting news events. Most of these media

have a positive attitude and seek to replace empathy and positivity instead of confrontation and conflicts. In this type of media, the amount of benefit, trust, and the audience's satisfaction is high.

Table 5: Calculate the relationship between the amount of filtering news facts related to Afghanistan's war and peace in media coverage and consider the benefits and interests of the Afghan people in covering these events from the respondents' perspective to the questionnaires of this research.

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	df	Asymptotic significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	16.184 ^a	4	.003
Likelihood Ratio	16.349	4	.003
Linear-by-Linear Association	5.390	1	.020
N of Valid Cases	385		

- a. 0 cells (0.0%) have an expected count of less than 5.
- b. The minimum expected count is 10.18.

Source: The data analysis of this research is based on the response of the statistical society through the SPSS software.

The relationship between the two variables is significant based on the chi-square test calculated as 16.184 and 4 degrees of freedom and 1% error and 99% confidence. In other words, there is a relationship between the amount of censorship of news facts related to war and peace in Afghanistan and the media coverage of these news events in the networks investigated in this research. The ethical and professional principles of journalism require neutrality, honesty, and balance to be considered in the coverage of news events. The media should rely on ethical and professional principles and standards of journalism in representing and covering news events. If any of the ethical and professional principles and standards are ignored, it will lose the trust of the audiences, which is considered an asset for the media. Social interests and benefits of the audience in positive media or peace journalism are pursued in the best ways, mainly through education, improving the audience awareness, discovering the causes of violence and providing solutions, and adopting preventive support positions. But in journalism, the negative representation of events by reproducing political propaganda and war leads to the intensification of conflicts. In the investigated networks, both issues have been discussed in the research findings.

9. Conclusion

This research is based on the importance of communication theories of "Gatekeeping and Representation". War and peace are two news-making phenomena, and the media often use filtering and exaggeration tactics to cover both phenomena's events. Unfortunately, for many years, both the phenomena of war and peace have plagued the people of Afghanistan, who do not get rid of the first phenomenon and do not reach the second phenomenon, but, in both cases, it is always on the headlines of the national and international media. The news networks investigated in this research are among the prominent examples of domestic and foreign news networks with an Afghan audience. They have evaluated how they cover the events of both cases (war and peace) in Afghanistan from the respondents' perspective. According to the findings of this research, the Voice of America-Persian TV channel has the highest amount of censorship of news facts related to the peace of the war in Afghanistan in its news coverage, and the most policies in the coverage of the news events of these media is war-like policies, which it can

observe as fueling ethnic, religious, linguistic divisions... and this news network pays less attention to pacifist policies in covering news events related to war and peace in Afghanistan. Based on the perspective of the statistical society of this research, the tendency of the Voice of America-Persian TV towards the representation of news related to war and peace in Afghanistan is negative.

In the same way, the TOLONews news channel, which has the largest audience among domestic televisions in Afghanistan, has a relatively more pacifist policy and a less belligerent policy in representing the news in covering news events related to war and peace in Afghanistan, and it censors the facts relevant to these events less. From the point of view of the statistical society of this research, this is considered an advantage and media credibility for TOLONews TV. The attitude of this news network in representing the news of war and peace in Afghanistan is positivist. However, the media is not always honest in covering the news of war and peace and only covers the news of the events, not necessarily the facts of the news of war and peace, because it has shown in both investigated media that they have played a role in censoring the news facts related to war and peace in Afghanistan, and usually used the tactics of selection and gatekeeping of news and did not fully respect honesty and impartiality in representing the facts.

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