

CONCEPTUALIZING PEACE IN KASHMIR: A METAPHORIC AND CULTURAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF UN ARCHIVES

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Abstract

Kashmir conflict is a longstanding issue despite of international resolving efforts made by United Nations (UN). The study conducted a Cultural Critical Discourse Analysis of the United Nations (UN) peace resolution archives regarding the ongoing conflict in Kashmir while focusing on the metaphoric representations of peace. By thoroughly examining UN resolutions archives, the research aimed to explain the cultural nuances employed in constructing peace discourse within the Kashmir conflict. The study employed Nuri's Cultural Critical Discourse Analysis (2010s) as a theoretical perspective and Cognitive Linguistics-Critical Discourse Analysis (2000s) as the analytical domain of the study. The analysis aimed to uncover the complex interplay of cultural, political and historical factors shaping the peace discourse in Kashmir. The study synthesized the key findings derived from the analysis of United Nations Security Council resolutions on the Kashmir conflict and highlighted the unique contributions to the field of Cultural Critical Discourse Analysis (CCDA) and Cognitive Linguistics by uncovering culturally embedded metaphors of peace.

Keywords: Cultural critical discourse analysis (CCDA), United Nations (UN) peace resolutions, Indo-Pak Kashmir conflict, Critical Linguistics-Critical Discourse Analysis (CL-CDA), Metaphoric representations of ideological framing of "Peace"

1. Introduction

Kashmir is considered as a bone of contention between India and Pakistan. To sort out the conflict and in search of peace in Kashmir there were various attempts by different actors, including the United Nations. In UN peace resolution archives, the concept of peace was constructed by the use of language while to maintain peace was a different idea and requires practical actions. The language used in resolutions had a different context and was not according to the context of regions' culture. By highlighting the codes representing peace, discourse play its role to gain stability, the present investigation, by revealing metaphoric representations of peace, seeks to subsidize to peace studies by shedding light on how metaphor frames policies and perceptions. To expose the metaphoric representation of peace within the context of conflict in Kashmir, the current study analyzes the resolutions by looking upon Nuri's Cultural Critical Discourse Analysis (2010s) as a theoretical framework and Cognitive Linguistics-Critical Discourse Analysis (2000s) as the analytical domain. Moreover, this study corresponds with Sustainable Development Goal 16 which deals that peace, equal rights and the preservation of linguistic diversity are important for all societies. The Kashmir and India conflict is one of them the research can support SDG 16 by giving insight into how it is facilitating effective conflict resolution and justice for all societies beyond power role while promoting equality and cultural understanding.

1.1. Research Question

What are the identification patterns employed in the resolutions to represent the metaphors of peace?

2. Literature Review

The studies on Kashmir issue are mostly on military clashes, political unrest, and several concerns of human rights. Jan and Ahmed (2022) are of the view that the representation of peace in Kashmir is just in discourse but the conflicts are rising even at the time of the 1971 war. This geopolitical dispute is based on many cultural differences. Hall (1993), and Hyatt and Simons (1999), stated that the Cultural codes of one community do not have the same values as most of the members of other cultural communities and Cultural codes are just like the basic foundations for the community structure and behave like its skeleton. CCDA helps to decode the cultural discourse. Here the term 'cultural code' defines the network of constantly repeated norms, shared values and beliefs which build a cultural community's credo (Bar-Tal, 2000; Nuri, 2010). Musolff (2012) states that metaphors contribute a lot to critical discourse analysis and those metaphors are the basic source of concepts to cognitive linguists' and help them to build arguments and add meaning to the discourse used in a social context. United Nations has created such metaphors in the Peace Resolution Archives on Kashmir. According to Gardner (2023), the current scenario of Kashmir with the emergence of peace and conflict transformation has a healing-centered approach which deals with the outer (socio-political) and inner (psycho-spiritual) worlds of peace. The study evaluates that how peace is culturally framed in a particular society what codes are used while peace is created linguistically within the discourse of United Nations Peace Resolutions on Kashmir. The study paved the way to research further dimensions of Cognitive Linguistics-Critical Discourse Analysis. Moreover, the construction of peace by cultural history requires a lot of research.

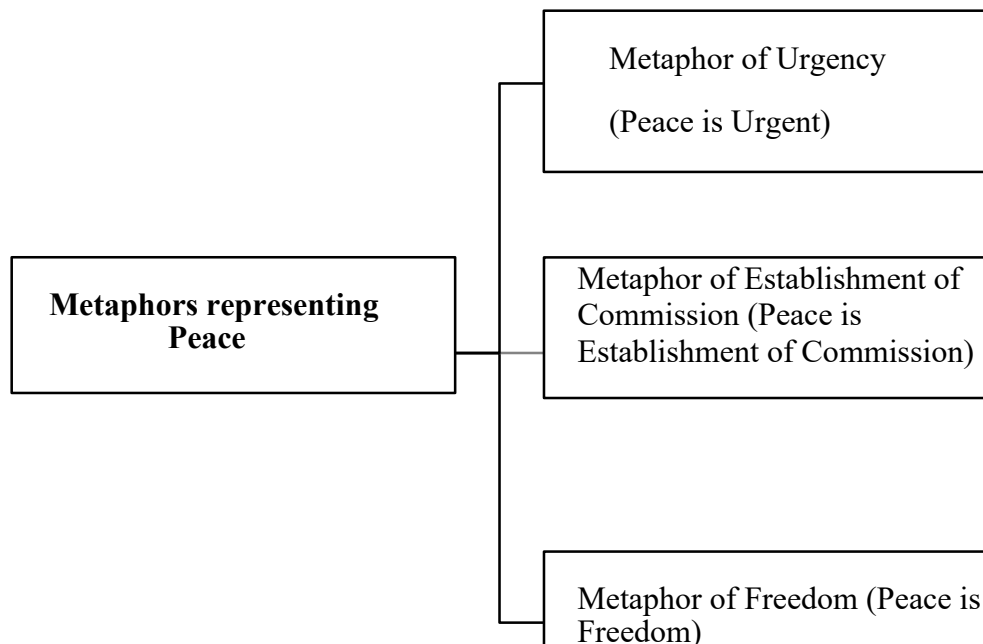
3. Methodology

The data of 5 archives comprising 10 pages and 3688 words, on the resolutions on Kashmir conflict from Resolution 38 (1948) to Resolution 13 August (1948), has been selected from United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions, are accessed through the United Nations Digital Library based on their direct relevance to Kashmir conflict. The required text of the resolutions is observed as a qualitative data analysis, a strategy of social research. Firstly, by applying NVIVO the phrases and sentences representing peace codes have been selected. Furthermore, MIP has been applied to all the selected phrases and sentences to avoid any biasness. Finally, the basic lexical meanings are searched from the Oxford English Dictionary Online 2024, (cambridge.org) and Merriam Webster on the basis of priority respectively. The resolutions incorporate observational and descriptive techniques and employs purposive sampling design a technique of non-probability sampling.

4. Results and Discussions

To represent the concept of peace in the resolutions different metaphors are being used in the United Nations resolutions. It leads the thoughts to a hidden meaning but sometimes in CDA metaphors get exploited to represent the required image over another real image. In the resolutions different metaphors are used to describe peace like peace is urgent, peace is the establishment of commission, and peace is freedom.

Figure 4.1
Basic Metaphors of Peace



Peace is Urgent

1. “Recognising the urgency of the situation” (Resolution 38 ,1948)

Lexical Units: recognising, urgency, situation

Basic Meanings:

Recognising: “to acknowledge the existence, validity, or legality of (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Urgency: a pressing need (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Situation: the set of things that are happening and the conditions that exist at a particular time and place (cambridge.org)

Contextual Meanings:

To avoid the worsening of situation the context implies a time sensitive requirement that it is necessary to control the situation as the UN had listen the both countries India and Pakistan. The use of word “urgency” represents the immediate and urgent changes.

Metaphorical Use: metaphorically the word “urgency” imparts a sense of instant action. It is about the requirement for the quick political participation to save the damaging situation of the local area of Kashmir while promoting peace which is not only about the time but more than it.

Cultural Interpretation: in international diplomacy the metaphorical use of urgency appeals to a cultural code where quick and immediate response is considered as moral duty of global community when security or peace is found at risk. The international stakeholders considered it their responsibility to take immediate action and it is their cultural expectation to maintain law and order while representing the cultural code of peace as an urgent requirement.

2. “a matter of urgency” (Resolution 39,1948)

Lexical Units: matter, urgency

Basic Meanings:

Matter: a situation or subject that is being dealt with or considered (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Urgency: a pressing need (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Contextual Meaning:

In the contextual meaning it implies that the Kashmir conflict is an important and urgent matter which suggests that the steps to control the situation must be quick, representing the limited and short time.

Metaphorical Use: metaphorically this phrase implies that urgency is needed to avoid further escalation and is used as non-literally because the issue is being treated as an important task.

Cultural Interpretation: in diplomatic matters time is sensitive and it must be used on demand which implies a cultural code. It reflects the Kashmir conflict is a diplomatic issue which requires decisive and swift action and suggests a cultural code of timeliness in global matters. Culturally to promote peace at first priority is international expectation to avoid harm.

3. *"The early restoration of peace" (Resolution 47,1948)*

Lexical Units: Early, restoration, peace

Basic Meanings:

Early: near the beginning of a period of time, or before the usual, expected, or planned time (cambridge.org)

Restoration: the act or process of returning something to its earlier good condition or position, or to its owner (cambridge.org)

Peace: freedom from war and violence, especially when people live and work together happily without disagreements (cambridge.org)

Contextual Meanings:

The instant returning of the previous condition of the state contextually referring to the peaceful situation of Kashmir. The instant stability and restoration of peace implies that it is crucial for the wellbeing of Kashmir region.

Metaphorical Use:

The immediate need to restore peace is metaphorical a non-literal urgency is being emphasized. Restoration of peace is metaphorically signifying that it is not just a simple action rather a prioritizing and swift action.

Cultural Interpretation:

The quick and prioritizing restoration metaphorically emphasizes that ensuring order and preventing conflict at diplomatic norms is considered a moral responsibility. Here it represents the cultural code of timely intervention for stability which is necessary for international peace and security.

4. *"Instructs the Commission to proceed at once" (Resolution 47,1948)*

Lexical Units: Instruct, proceed, at once

Basic Meanings:

Basic Meanings:

Instruct: to order or tell someone to do something, especially in a formal way (cambridge.org)

Proceed: to begin or continue a course of action (cambridge.org)

At once: immediately (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Contextual Meanings:

The phrase contextually indicates that official authoritative are responsible to take swift action without any hesitation. It supports the immediate action with no room for hindrance.

Metaphorical Use: The quick and instant instructions are beyond the literal sense of starting a journey rather implement a moral obligation to take instantaneous action to overcome the conflict at earliest priority.

Cultural Interpretation: The culture code of swift and quick diplomatic interventions highlights the moral obligation of the UN and international bodies to act without delay when peace is threatened.

5. *“Proceed without delay to the areas of dispute” (Resolution 51, 1948)*

Lexical Units: Proceed, without, delay, areas of dispute.

Basic Meanings:

Proceed: to begin or continue a course of action (cambridge.org)

Delay: a period of time when someone or something waits because of a problem (cambridge.org)

Dispute: a disagreement, argument, or debate (cambridge.org)

Contextual Meaning: Urgent and immediate action is required to resolve the contested issue without delay

Metaphorical Use: “Without delay” is metaphorical, signalling that the resolution of the dispute must take place immediately and that any hesitation could undermine peace efforts.

Cultural Interpretation: The phrase reflects a cultural code of urgency where delay is unacceptable in international diplomacy, especially in peacekeeping. It highlights the urgent need for peace and a swift resolution to prevent further suffering or escalation.

6. *“Accomplishing in priority the duties assigned” (Resolution 51, 1948)*

Lexical Units: Accomplishing, priority, duties, assigned

Basic Meanings:

Accomplishing: having achieved a great deal of success in one’s career or area of activity (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Priority: something that you think is more important than other things and should be dealt with first (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Duties: something that you feel you have to do because it is your moral or legal responsibility (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Assigned: to give somebody something that they can use, or some work or responsibility (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Contextual Meanings: In the context of the resolution, *accomplishing, priority, duties, and assigned* collectively underscore the structured and sequential execution of mandated responsibilities essential for effective peacekeeping.

Metaphorical Use: Priority is used metaphorically. While it literally refers to the order of tasks, in the context of diplomacy and peacekeeping, it is used to underscore the urgency of particular duties responsible for peace promotion.

Cultural Interpretation: The metaphor of priority reflects the cultural expectation that crucial tasks must be acted upon first to avoid escalation. It reflects an underlying code of urgent responsibility and timely intervention in conflict resolution, which is embedded in international diplomacy norms.

7. *“Cease-fire order to apply to all forces under their control in the State of Jammu and Kashmir as of the earliest practicable date or dates” (Resolution, 13 August, 1948)*

Basic Meanings: Ceasefire, Order, Apply, Earliest, Practicable, Date

Ceasefire: a time when enemies agree to stop fighting, usually while a way is found to end the fighting permanently (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Order: an instruction or command that someone must obey (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Apply: to make a formal request, usually in writing, for something (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Earliest: the time before which something cannot happen (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Practicable: able to be done (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Date: a particular day of the month, sometimes in a particular year, given in numbers and words (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Contextual Meanings:

In the context of peacekeeping, the cease-fire order directs all Indian and Pakistani forces to halt hostilities at the earliest practicable date.

Metaphorical Use: Earliest practicable date is used metaphorically. The urgency is not just about time but about implementing peace measures promptly.

Cultural Interpretation: The phrase emphasizes the urgency of halting violence and conflict as soon as it is logistically possible, reflecting a cultural code of immediate action in diplomatic efforts.

Peace is Establishment of Commission

1. *"A Commission of the Security Council is hereby established"* (Resolution 39, 1948)

Lexical Units: Commission, Security Council, established

Basic Meanings:

Commission: an official group of people who have been given responsibility to control something, or to find out about something, usually for the government (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Security Council: the part of the United Nations that tries to keep peace and order in the world, consisting of representatives of fifteen countries (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Established: respected or given official status because it has existed or been used for a long time (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Contextual Meanings:

The phrase establishes an authoritative body to address a conflict.

Metaphorical Use: The use of "established" metaphorically frames peace as a constructed, formalized process requiring organizational structures.

Cultural Interpretation: The cultural code behind this reflects the belief that institutional mechanisms are essential for legitimate conflict resolution, emphasizing the importance of systematic approaches in international diplomacy.

2. *"The Commission shall proceed to the spot"* (Resolution 39, 1948)

Lexical Units: Commission, proceed, spot

Basic Meanings:

Commission: an official group of people who have been given responsibility to control something, or to find out about something, usually for the government (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Proceed: to continue doing something that has already been started (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Spot: a small round area that has a different color or feels different from the surface it is on (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Contextual Meanings:

The Commission is described as a responsive, action-oriented entity.

Metaphorical Use: The metaphor implies peace requires a direct intervention by an authoritative body, suggesting institutional involvement.

Cultural Interpretation: This phrase frames peace as dependent on institutional action, reinforcing the belief in external, formal bodies as necessary for conflict resolution.

3. *"Member ship of the Commission established by its resolution 39 (1948) shall be increased to five"* (Resolution 47, 1948):

Lexical Units: Membership, Commission, established, increased

Basic Meanings:

Membership: the members, or the number of members, of a group, a club, an organization, etc (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Commission: an official group of people who have been given responsibility to control something, or to find out about something, usually for the government (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Established: respected or given official status because it has existed or been used for a long time (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Increased: greater in amount, number, value, size, etc (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Contextual Meanings:

Expanding membership signifies strengthening or broadening institutional capacity.

Metaphorical Use: Metaphorically, peace is framed as requiring reinforced collective effort, implying that resolving conflict demands increased resources and representation.

Cultural Interpretation: This reflects a cultural code that values collaboration and shared responsibility, ensuring that multiple voices contribute to the legitimacy and effectiveness of the commission.

4. *"Instructs the Commission to proceed" (Resolution 47,1948):*

Lexical Units: Instructs, Commission, proceed

Basic Meanings:

Instructs: to tell somebody what they must do, especially in a formal or official way (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Commission: an official group of people who have been given responsibility to control something, or to find out about something, usually for the government (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Proceed: to begin or continue a course of action (cambridge.org)

Contextual Meanings:

The phrase emphasizes and portraying the Commission as an active agent.

Metaphorical Use: Peace is metaphorically framed as requiring authoritative direction, highlighting the importance of institutional responsiveness.

Cultural Interpretation: The metaphor highlights the cultural belief in the importance of assertive leadership in international interventions, signaling that promptness in addressing issues is essential for successful outcomes.

5. *"The Commission will appoint military observers" (Resolution adopted on 13 August 1948)*

Lexical Units: Commission, Appoint, Military observers

Basic Meanings:

Commission: an official group of people who have been given responsibility to control something, or to find out about something, usually for the government (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Appoint: to choose somebody for a job or position of responsibility (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Contextual Meanings: In this resolution, the Commission functions as an authoritative body tasked with appointing individuals (military observers) and overseeing their activities.

Metaphorical Use: The Commission could metaphorically frame peace as requiring structured, formal mechanisms (e.g., appointing observers).

Cultural Interpretation: This metaphorical framing suggests a cultural code where peace is seen as a product of institutional processes and external regulation. The presence of military observers highlights a cultural ideology reflecting power dynamics in the Kashmir conflict.

6. “*Consultations with the Commission to determine fair and equitable conditions*” (Resolution adopted on 13 August 1948):

Lexical Units: Consultations, Commission, Determine, Fair and equitable conditions

Basic Meanings:

Consultations: discussions in which people talk about something in order to reach an agreement or decision (cambridge.org)

Commission: an official group of people who have been given responsibility to control something, or to find out about something, usually for the government (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Determine: to decide or conclude through reasoning or observation (Merriam-Webster)

Fair and equitable conditions: just, unbiased, equitable, in accordance with rules (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Contextual Meanings: In the context of the resolution, consultations involve diplomatic or administrative meetings with the Commission, likely set up to mediate or oversee aspects of peace-building.

Metaphorical Use: It metaphorically frame peace as an administrative process or structured dialogue, suggesting that peace is achieved through formalized bureaucratic mechanisms and as an outcome of negotiation and balance, implying that fairness and justice are central to the peace process.

Cultural Interpretation: The cultural expectation is that transparency in consultations is vital for establishing fairness in negotiations, reflecting the belief that inclusive communication leads to more sustainable agreements.

Peace is Freedom

1. “*Entitled to journey, separately or together, wherever the necessities of their task may require...*” (Resolution 39, 1948)

Lexical Units:

Entitled, journey, separately, together, necessities, task, require

Basic Meanings:

Entitled: feeling that you have a right to the good things in life without necessarily having to work for them (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Journey: an act of travelling from one place to another, especially when they are far apart (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Separately: as a separate person or thing; not together (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Together: so that two or more things touch or are joined to or combined with each other (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Necessities: things that you must have and cannot manage without (cambridge.org)

Task: a piece of work that has been given to someone (cambridge.org)

Require: to need something or make something necessary (cambridge.org)

Contextual Meanings: It implies being inherently authorized or responsible to fulfil a task shaped by the journey's demands and necessities

Metaphorical Use: Journey metaphorically represents the process of achieving peace and freedom while necessities of their task equate obligations with guiding principles for action.

Cultural Interpretation: This statement reflects the idea of freedom of movement. Culturally, it embodies the value placed on autonomy and the ability to navigate one's environment to accomplish essential tasks.

2. “*Invite the major political groups to designate responsible representatives to share equitably*” (Resolution 47, 1948)

Lexical Units: invite, major political groups, designate, responsible, share equitably.

Basic Meanings:

Invite: to ask or request someone to go to an event or to do something (cambridge.org)

Major political groups: significant or leading political parties or factions (cambridge.org)

Designate: to choose someone officially to do a particular job (cambridge.org)

Responsible: having the job or duty of taking care of someone or something (cambridge.org)

Share equitably: to divide or distribute something in a way that is fair and equal among all parties (cambridge.org)

Contextual Meanings:

The sentence suggests fairness, equality, and equal participation in the decision-making process and promotes the idea freedom is very necessary.

Metaphorical Use:

This sentence frames freedom as peace by invoking fairness and equal participation, which are key components of freedom. The equitable sharing of responsibilities and decision-making implies a democratic, inclusive process, reinforcing autonomy and collective rights.

Cultural Interpretation: The metaphor here reflects a cultural code of equality, fairness, and democratic governance and suggests that peace in the Kashmir conflict should be grounded in equal participation and respect for diverse voices.

3. *“free in expressing their views” (Resolution 47, 1948)*

Lexical Units: free, expressing, views

Basic Meanings:

Free: able to act or be done as you wish; not restricted (cambridge.org)

Expressing: to communicate or show a thought, feeling, or fact (cambridge.org)

Views: opinions or attitudes about something (cambridge.org)

Contextual Meanings: Suggests an environment fostering autonomy and reflects the exercise of personal and collective rights.

Metaphorical Use: free symbolizes peace as freedom.

Cultural Interpretation: The cultural code here indicates that genuine freedom reinforcing the idea that a healthy democratic society must cultivate an environment where individuals can freely express their thoughts.

4. *“Freedom of the Press, speech and assembly” (Resolution 47, 1948)*

Lexical Units: Freedom, Press, speech, assembly

Basic Meanings:

Freedom: The state or fact of being free from servitude, constraint, inhibition; liberty (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Press: a machine that prints books, newspapers, or magazines (cambridge.org)

Contextual Meanings: Signifies the unrestrained practice of these rights.

Metaphorical Use: This affirmation underscores the importance of expressive freedoms as fundamental human rights. Freedom metaphorically represents peace as empowerment and unrestricted expression.

Cultural Interpretation: Peace is culturally linked to upholding fundamental freedoms, reinforcing justice and equality. Culturally, it reflects the belief that open discourse and the ability to gather peacefully are cornerstones of a democratic society, allowing diverse voices to be heard and considered in decision-making processes.

5. *“All human and political rights will be guaranteed” (Resolution, 13 August 1948)*

Lexical Units: Human rights, political rights, guaranteed

Basic Meanings:

Human rights: fundamental human needs, interests, and freedoms (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Political rights: the right to take part in the government of one's country, directly or through freely chosen representatives. (cambridge.org)

Guaranteed: That which is formally promised or ensured, often by law or contract (cambridge.org)

Contextual Meanings:

The sentence underscores the universality of rights that should be protected for all individuals and suggests institutional commitment to safeguarding rights.

Metaphorical Use: Guaranteed rights frames peace as secured freedom. This guarantee underscores the universality of rights that should be protected for all individuals.

Cultural Interpretation: Freedom is tied to justice, equality, and institutional reliability, ensuring lasting peace. The cultural code resonates with the belief that the freedom to exercise one's rights is integral to dignity and equality, fostering a society where everyone can thrive.

6. *"The future status of the State of Jammu and Kashmir shall be determined in accordance with the will of the people" (Resolution, 13 August 1948)*

Lexical Units: Future, status, determined, will, people

Basic Meanings:

Future: The time yet to come (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Status: The social or professional position of someone or something (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Determined: firmly resolved (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Will: The faculty by which a person decides on and initiates action; volition. (Also implies future intention.) (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

People: Human beings in general; or a specific community or nation (Oxford English Dictionary Online, 2024)

Contextual Meanings: The future status is peace represents democratic choice and self-determination according to the choice of people.

Metaphorical Use: This sentence frames peace as freedom by emphasizing the importance of self-determination and the democratic principle that the future status of the region should align with the people's will.

Cultural Interpretation: The resolution reflects cultural codes of democracy, self-determination, and individual autonomy, which are critical to the metaphor of peace as freedom. It implies that true peace can only be achieved when the people's desires and rights are respected.

5. Conclusion

The present investigation scrutinized the metaphoric representation of peace in the UNSC resolutions dealing the Kashmir conflict by utilizing the CCDA framework unified with insights from Cognitive Linguistics, to analyze the conceptual and linguistic patterns in five resolutions. The findings showed that peace is constructed through metaphors that position with identified thematic domains, including urgency, the establishment of commissions, and freedom. The research suggested that the metaphors used to frame peace are transformed by the political, historical and cultural contexts of the stakeholders participating in the conflict of Kashmir. This contextual and cultural rooting underscores that the tracing and understanding of peace vary among contrasting frameworks of interpretation and are not global. These metaphors play role as "cultural channels," networking the deeper ideological and cultural frameworks that that steer international diplomacy to linguistic expressions. The essence of this academic investigation presents how metaphors not only narrate but also cogitate the fundamental values, beliefs and power dynamics which has deep influence on the global process of peace building that is discursive and diplomatic in efforts. This undertaken research exclusively pays attention on

UNSC resolutions, which gives limitations to its scope by excluding by other critical discourse sources, such as grassroots narratives, academic discussions, media representations, etc.

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