

A Critical Analysis of Terminological Prejudices of Western Media on Islam



DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.7379417

Dr. Farhat Aziz*
Dr. Samina Saadia **

Abstract:

In the last few decades, the Western media has waged a war against the identity to victims of the followers of Islam. The media is being used as a tool to create widespread excitement and misunderstanding in the of Islamophobia. When reporting crimes and terrorism in the media, Islamic terms are used in such a way, which create a negative impression about Islam. These terms are removed from the religious context in such a way that their original meanings and concepts go into the background and new meanings created by the media become popular. Similarly, misleading statements and misrepresentations made in the media to spread fear against Muslims are commonly known as 'Islamophobia'. The bias of the Western media: The general concept of Islam propagated by the media houses states that "all believers in Islam are one and the same". Separation, walling and defaming Muslims around the world. This general conception of Islam is a creation of Western Orientalism, which makes non-Western cultures contradict the West. Following this Orientalism, Muslims are portrayed as alien, strange, backward and irrational groups. This can be observed when a Muslim is found to be involved in a crime, while the majority of Muslims show disengagement from his crime, but still the entire Muslim Ummah should be forcibly linked to that person's crime. Within Islam, there are many schools of thought, diverse populations and individuals and groups with diverse cultures, which can be called a Muslim Ummah in terms of basic beliefs and faith, but they cannot be brought into a general identity in any way. - No other person in the world can be held responsible for the actions of an individual or a group of individuals. But while giving a general identity to all the followers of Islam, the media blames the entire Ummah for the actions of an individual or a few individuals, it is an attack on the religious identity of all Muslims as well as the accused. This article is an attempt to describe a critical analysis of Prejudicial Attacks on Islam on the Western Media.

Keywords: Critical, Analysis, Prejudicial, Attacks, Islam, Western Media

* Professor Govt. Graduate APWA College for Women, Lahore.

** Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies Sheikh Zayed Islamic Center, University of the Punjab, Lahore

INTRODUCTION:

Islamophobia literally means: feeling threatened by Islam or expressing hatred towards Muslims. The term was first used by some Western writers and is now widely used in the Western media. Ways to compete are being considered. A few years ago, Donald Trump, a US president, surprised many, including Americans, by demanding that Muslims not be allowed to enter the United States. His remarks have been widely condemned in the United States and in Britain, where 30,000 people have so far signed a petition calling for his signature. However, his statement has exposed the existence of Islamophobia in the West.

Evolution of the concept of Islamophobia:

By the way, while Muslims were at their peak, Islamophobia in the West was still on the rise. Prejudiced Christian clergy and leaders traveled throughout Europe, spreading propaganda against Islam, the Prophet of Islam, and Muslims, telling them that Muslims worshiped an idol named "Muhammad." Mohamet or Mohamend used to speak and they used to make his believe in tyrants, liars, lustful and rulers. The Crusades were fought with religious fervor on the basis of these false propaganda. Oriental classical writings contain details of this misleading propaganda. Then came the second phase of Orientalism and it took on a scientific and investigative color and the intensity of this misleading propaganda diminished. When the Muslims fell and Western imperialism rose, the Muslims started turning to the West for various reasons. Thousands of Muslims were taken to the New World from Spain and Africa for forced labor in the United States, whose descendants settled there. After World War II, Germany was divided into two parts. The German people needed manpower from abroad to rebuild their country, which was met by Turkish workers. These workers remained in Germany. Similarly, Algeria was under French occupation before its independence, so a large number of workers from Algeria also moved to Paris and France and settled there. Religious as well as communist people and revolutionary elements from countries hostile to the kings and dictators of Syria and Egypt and Iraq generally turned to the West in search of political asylum, peace, better education, housing and employment opportunities. Many people from the subcontinent also came there for education and employment. After the tragedy of Palestine, the establishment of Israel and the forced evacuation of Muslims from it, this migration to the West continued to increase.

Arriving in the United States, England and other European countries, these migrants did not face any problems as long as they were engaged in their labor or employment, but since there were a large number of religious people among these immigrants, when they visited mosques and started expressing their religious and cultural identity through the establishment of Islamic centers. From then on, the problem started to arise. However, since the whole of Western society is secular, democratic and liberal, the people of the

West were compelled to grant religious and cultural liberties to Muslims from the East and especially the Arab world on the basis of these principles. But the bitter truth is that the aggressive expression of the religious and cultural identity of the immigrants was the point when Islamophobia began to emerge in the West.

Islamophobia and religious units:

The fact is that extremism is present in every society and in every religious unit. Among Muslims as well as non-Muslims. Islamophobia is a form of extremism against Muslims in the West, manifesting itself in various forms. It originated in the Neo-Nazi movement in Germany and is represented by the evangelical sect in the United States. Some political parties and leaders in Denmark and England raise their voices. Many groups and clergy affiliated with the Evangelical Church are sympathetic to Israel and hate Arabs and Muslims. There are other groups that are working for it. Many Christian pastors are at the forefront of the Qur'an burning campaign. Many clergy and women debaters are known for their anti-Islamic rhetoric, and their sarcasm can be heard on YouTube.

In the aftermath of the 9/11 tragedy, an Islamophobic group in the United States also used the abominable slogan "Bomb The Caaba." In France, ultra-secular groups and the government are afraid of the hijab of a Muslim woman. In Denmark, they are afraid of mosque minarets. In Sweden and Paris, satirical cartoons of the Prophet of Islam are used. In addition to the mass exodus of poor and honorable Syrian refugees to Europe, why not go to some people in the West is terrifying! This is why big media groups, such as Friedman, pro-Israel journalists, pastors like Jerry Fallwell, big Orientalists like Daniel Pipes and Bernard Lewis are shaking their heads. Trendad based Hindu Nobel Prize-winning author VS Naipaul's writings are biased against Muslims. In addition, US Fox News, CNBC, CNN, etc. are not biased about them in their reports and analysis. Most of their anchors and reporters are hostile to Muslims and Arabs and have a soft spot for Israel.

Islamophobic groups:

Islamophobic groups generally make the same accusations against Islam and Muslims as the fascist forces in India. The fact that Muslims have many marriages and more children, if their migration to Europe is not stopped, they will change the appearance and proportions of the population in a few days, they will become majority and they will rule and destroy our liberties and civilization. They are a threat to world peace because they cannot live in peace and harmony with other religions. They are a threat to Western civilization and to values. Women are enslaved, they do not give freedom of expression to human beings, they have no role in the evolution of civilization, etc. Of course some people will have misconceptions about Islam but most of the propaganda is done deliberately. Similarly, one of the constant weapons of Islamophobia is the desecration of the holy personality of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) for which he draws cartoons, publishes

books on his biography and focuses on events which hurt the character of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and unfortunately. All these are found in the Seerah literature based on the common and false traditions of the Muslims. Many such books have been written in the West and the authors are important authors and novelists who have predicted the decline of the West.

Islamophobia existed in the West even before 9/11, so a Moroccan research scholar examined the issue and found that in just two decades, about 25,000 books, pamphlets, films, cartoons and handballs were published against Islam and Muslims. However, it must be said that it has accelerated since 9/11 and now it has intensified with the insane, un-Islamic, inhumane and irrational activities of terrorist Muslim groups like Al Qaeda and ISIS, terrorism and massacre of innocents. In comparison to Islamic State, the name of an extremist organization called Islamic State has also come to the fore.

Islamophobia causes:

There are some internal causes with these external manifestations of Islamophobia and they must be brought to the notice of the readers. For example, many Muslims have waged a war of words against democracy and secularism, not only in the West but also in India. Some leaders have termed secular democracy as polytheism and in their absolute fatwa they have not taken into account the changing conditions of the times or the differences between the Muslim majority or the minority. Traditional Muslim scholars have failed to provide a reasonable modern interpretation of Islamic law of jihad that could appeal to the modern mind. Many of them are still ready to weigh people's necks on conversion, even today advocating the old nickname of slave (which has no place today). And some people, sitting in the West, taking advantage of its freedoms, sing the untimely the establishment of the Islamic Khilafah there. Some other people says that hatred of non-Muslims is a requirement of Islam, it is the duty of non-Muslims to break Kufr (Power). They also interpret the Islamic hijab unilaterally. Although there are not many people who misinterpret jihad, but these handfuls of people with their extremist thinking and actions cause misinterpretation of Islam and Muslims because the media snaps at them and sits down to discuss with those who have a correct understanding of Islam. Which is not often called.

The irrational, un-Islamic, bigoted, one-sided, unrealistic interpretation of the religion of these contractors of religion is the biggest culprit in creating a negative image of Islam and Muslims. The two Arab sheikhs, Abu Hamza al-Masri and Umar al-Bakri, who preached these things in Britain, were also mentioned in the newspapers. Those who oppose democracy and raise the slogans of global caliphate do not have the consciousness that they are fighting with the spirit of their time and to fight with the spirit of time is only to defeat oneself. Democracy has now become a part of the collective consciousness of the whole world, and its opposition to whatever it wants is a self-defeating campaign that is doomed to failure. Islam is a religion of realism and we are taught realism step by

step in the teachings of the Prophet, but today we have sworn that we will have nothing to do with realism.

Terminological Prejudices of Western Media on Islam:

In the last few decades, the Western media has waged a war against identity, the victims with only the followers of Islam. The media is being used as a tool to create widespread excitement and misunderstanding in Islamophobia. When reporting crimes and terrorism in the media, Islamic terms are used in such a way as to create a negative impression about Islam. These terms are removed from the religious context in such a way that their original meanings and concepts go into the background and new meanings created by the media become popular. Similarly, misleading statements and misrepresentations made in the media to spread fear against Muslims are commonly known as 'Islamophobia'. The "general perception of Islam" spread through media houses states that "all believers in Islam are one and the same". It is to defame Muslims all over the world. This general conception of Islam is a creation of Western Orientalism, which makes non-Western cultures contradict and contradict the West. Following this Orientalism, Muslims are portrayed as alien, strange, backward and irrational groups. This can be observed when a Muslim is found to be involved in a crime, while the majority of Muslims show disengagement from his crime but still the entire Muslim Ummah is forcibly linked to that person's crime. Within Islam, there are many schools of thought, diverse populations and individuals and groups with diverse cultures, which can be called a Muslim Ummah in terms of basic beliefs and faith, but they cannot be brought into a general identity in any way. • No other person in the world can be held responsible for the actions of an individual or a group of individuals. But while giving a general identity to all the followers of Islam, when the media blames the entire Ummah for the actions of an individual or a few individuals, it is an attack on the religious identity of all Muslims as well as the accused. In New York, for example, within six months of the 9/11 attacks, all articles and reports in the Western media identified the attackers as Muslims. In doing so, the media used its resources and the breadth of its influence as a weapon against Muslims. Ignoring the diversity and distinctions found among Muslims, the guilt of a few was placed on the head of the entire Muslim Ummah. This "generalization" has deliberately produced a number of negative consequences, but the most important of these is Islamophobia. The prejudice of the Western media can be gauged from the fact that it spreads the misconception that Muslims are the aggressors, the victims of which are other people. But the same media never says that Muslims are among the victims of an attack. For example, on the same day that a sabotage operation in Paris, a bomb blast in Beirut killed two people, all Muslims. The incident in Beirut was mentioned in the media, but it was not as well publicized as the tragedy in Paris. Secondly, in the Paris attacks, it was repeatedly stated that "the attackers were followers of Islam", but the Beirut victims were not mentioned as being followers of Islam. Respect for non-Muslims is taken into account in media reports, but not for Muslims. This attitude contributes to the spread of

Islamophobia. Several airports and the Boston Marathon bombings, the Charlie Hebdo attack in France, etc., received a lot of media attention after 9/11. The suspects were identified as Muslims, although revealing the suspects' religious identities and backgrounds was not newsworthy. If it were necessary for the news to state their religious identities, then the terrorism carried out by the followers of other religions would also reveal their religious identities, but this is not done at all. Similarly, if a person deliberately tries to stop a terrorist act, his identity is not disclosed. The media should have described Aitzaz Hassan's religious background and how a follower of Islam had thwarted the widespread destruction of a suicide bomber. But the Western media did not consider it necessary to acknowledge his sacrifice. This makes the media's bias clear that it only exposes events that can be used as support for its propaganda and as evidence for Islamophobia. A study on these terms was presented by Malaysian researchers Zain Bani Younis and Ishaq Hassan. He chose the Jordan Times and Al Jazeera from the Arab media and the BBC and The Guardian from the Western media. From 5 to 6 articles of these institutes were collected in which these terms are used. The focus of this research study has been on finding an answer to the question of how to use Islamic terms, regardless of the context, to link the Eastern and Western media 'terrorism' etc. to Islam. Do the study found that the terms "Islamism" and "jihad" were used more in negative contexts in the Western media than in the "eastern media". These researchers argue that misinterpreting terms related to Islam reinforces a prejudice and hatred against Muslims. The various terms that the media has focused on since the 9/11 attacks on news related to Islam include 'Islamic terrorism', 'Islamic fanaticism', 'Muslim extremism' and 'political Islam'. Sami and Malmir (2017) in a study presented that in the news stories that were published in the American media from 2001 to 15, in the 6 million words written about Islam and Muslims in Islam and Muslims. Presenting 'radical' and 'militant', they pointed out that Islam and Muslims are 'violent'. The most commonly used terms related to Islam are 'Islamist', 'Conservative', 'War', 'Extremism', 'Terrorism', 'Violence' and 'Militancy'. Among them, the term 'Islamist' is synonymous with 'terrorism' and in all articles written in the context of 'terrorism' it is presented in the same sense. Another issue is the inappropriate use of the term 'Allah O Akbar'. These are sacred words for Muslims, while the Western media uses the term as a slogan used by terrorists to express their hatred of their target. Presenting sacred words as an expression of hatred is the result of a serious misunderstanding and misguidance. Attacks are being carried out not only from outside to defame Islam and Muslims but also at the hands of Muslim societies and those with Muslim names. In order to achieve this goal, some Muslims have been trained to call themselves "moderate", "modern" or "liberal" Muslims in the eyes of the West. The use of these terms is intended to indirectly convince the public that one version of Islam is modern and moderate and that the whole of Islam is "extremist and terrorist." These terms give the impression to non-Muslims around the world that "moderate Muslims are good, pro-Western and pro-Western in war, while all other Muslims are our enemies and we have to fight them and eliminate them." It is a legitimate and legal act. "

Islamophobia and reactionary actions:

Most of our actions are reactionary and emotional and based on hatred of the "other". Our scholars generally interpret the Shari'a in such a rigid and rigid manner that the new generation and the modern mind think that the Shari'a is also a form of the Church, especially when the practical example before them is that of the Taliban, of the Islamic State, of pure Islam. Leaving the invitation is being extended to the sect and the religion which is becoming a big problem. Some are calling for political Islam, some for Sufi Islam and some for Islam. The writings of the advocates of these different types of Islam are all images of each group is proud of its own ideas.

The truth is always bitter, but the hatred and disgust that is found in the writings of most Muslim scholars and intellectuals for the West is a manifestation of extremism and emotional reaction among the Muslims. However, in addition to the negative aspects of Western civilization, there are certainly many positive aspects that should be appreciated. It is enough to take a cursory look at their writings and speeches to see how much our religious class hates other nations and human beings.

Muslims are deliberately entangled in petty issues and non-issues by the anti-Islamic forces at the international level as well as at home. All their forces fall prey to endless protests, failed demonstrations and fruitless sit-ins and angry rallies and violence. The tragic events of the Prophet's humiliation, the accursed cartoons, and the like are an essential part of Islamophobia. It should have been that our religious and national leadership would have shown more vigilance and instead of engaging the nation in beneficial demonstrations it would have found some positive and dynamic alternative to protect the Holy Prophet and the nation would have been trained along these lines to ignore such propaganda This is an indispensable part, and it is needed more than ever in the present age. If that had happened then perhaps the situation would not be as bad today as it is today.

In his recent address to the UN General Assembly, Prime Minister Imran Khan said that Muslims in many countries are being targeted without fear and danger by inciting Islamophobia, our shrines are being destroyed, our Prophet Khatam-un-Nabieen. The recent events in Europe, including the reprinting of insulting sketches by Charlie Hebdo, are recent examples. Demanding that the deliberate incitement to provocation, hatred and violence be outlawed on a global scale, the General Assembly should declare an International Day for the Elimination of Islamophobia.

Under the same clear policy, President Dr. Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan have recently strongly condemned the publication of insulting sketches of the Prophet of Islam in France. Dr. Arif Alvi said in his statement that "only a declining society that encourages the inappropriate philosophy of extremism can allow prejudice."

Islam is the source of peace and security and a universal religion that teaches love, respect, equality and tolerance between humanity, because without love, reconciliation and dignity, all the means to build a peaceful, just and prosperous society are considered meaningless and ineffective. That is why the aforesaid essentials in every case for the peace and tranquility of the world of the heart, while in order to lead a contented life, one must attain the path of Sufism through one religion and the light of faith with a perfect faith. It is considered even more important. History has shown that the great personalities of the world have not only adopted different ways and means in search of truth but also the existence of religions has been made possible by this search and search for truth; almost every religion has respected humanity And adopted a universal principles of equality and non-discrimination between human beings which have become the main philosophy and axis of life. What the elders have said is that man lives on love. Emotions of love and devotion to any entity, belief, thing or deed are inherent in human nature. That is why Islam is also called religion of nature. The devotion of the followers to their holy beings is also a natural thing while for the Muslims it is more than that and faith in all the books revealed by Allah Almighty and the prophets and messengers is one of the basic beliefs of Islam.

Unfortunately, as in the past, there are some elements in the present modern `age who interpret religions on the basis of their own choice and lack of knowledge and because of their ignorance, they become the cause of discrimination and hypocrisy among human beings. Today, our religion, Islam, is also a victim of the same ignorance and misunderstanding, which some elements hate and prejudice and are on the path of insulting our holy beings. Words or terms of Islamophobia are used to describe this attitude and thinking based on fear, hatred and prejudice against Islam and Muslims.

The term is a combination of the two words Islam and phobia - in which Islam means peace and security while the other word is phobia which means fear and apprehension. It is also a mental illness in which a psychiatric patient feels fear or apprehension of a particular thing or situation.

Conclusion:

Although, In response to Western domination, and in the spirit of proving the superiority of certain historical experiences of Muslims in comparison, a major trend in Muslim thought seems to be the rejection of these ideas and experiences, which is an unbalanced attitude. Any useful and good idea is the common denominator of humanity, even if its initial introduction comes from any group. In the same way, human civilization evolves by mutual benefit, and Muslim civilization, in its heyday, has never been afraid to take good and useful ideas from other nations, civilizations and societies.

The principle of giving public opinion importance in the formation of government is basically the principle of Islam itself, from which the Muslims in the very early period of their history gave up various practical reasons and gradually became completely unfamiliar with it. From the jurisprudential component, it can be deduced that when Islam attaches so much importance to the public opinion of the hostile nation, the public opinion of the Muslims will be very important to it in the collective affairs of the Muslims themselves.

Today, the West has adopted a method of peaceful transfer of power by recognizing public opinion as a fundamental principle in the removal of rulers, and by ignoring it, we are left with a hereditary monarchy and a stronghold in Islamic history. Methods such as seizure of power had to be justified and on the other hand there was practically no way of peaceful transfer of power. This is an experience that should be used with an open heart, not by rejecting everything the West says as an expression of Islam and launching a movement of "Look backwards, O days of rotation".

Recommendations:

1. European officials, including Commissioner for Foreign Relations Benita and Security Police Chief Javier Solana, are examining whether the use of politically correct terminology between Europe and Muslim countries exists. Whether it helps reduce tensions or not, they are trying to bridge the gap on their own. The two officials told European foreign ministers in Salzburg last month that the EU must work with the United Nations, the Arab League and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to restore trust with Muslim countries. The proposed strategy, which sent to European capitals, also said that foreign policy measures should be further supported by tougher domestic legislation on Islam. The fears that exist in India can be allayed and the atmosphere of dialogue with Muslims in Europe can be improved.

2. These use of new terms will not be enough to clear up years of misunderstandings. European officials acknowledge that the struggle to restore relations with Muslim countries will be a long and arduous one, and that it will take patience and perseverance to bring European Muslims into the mainstream. Concerned European policymakers, however, warn that it must begin somewhere. Many hope that as words and expressions change, so will Europeans' outdated and generally prejudiced views of Islam and Muslims.

3. If on the one hand Pakistan is taking every step to protect the honor of its beloved and great prophet which will prevent such apathetic and despicable act in future then on the other hand to save the environment of world peace and tolerance from deteriorating. He knocks on the door which brings harmony between all humanity and religions and

gives opportunities to understand each other. There is no doubt that if the followers of other religions study Islam carefully to understand the true Islam as a universal religion and follow the teachings of the Holy Prophet the Muslims will interpret Islam correctly through their words and deeds and the brothers of Islam. If the global message of tolerance and peace is conveyed through our actions and attitudes, then help in overcoming Islamophobia locally and globally can be achieved. At the same time, under the banner of the United Nations, the international community and the Muslim world under the OIC have a huge responsibility to take practical steps to address the plight of Islamophobia so as to ensure the protection of the honor of the saints. And do not offend the followers of any religion.

4. Many independent researchers working on media literature emphasize that news is not merely a means to an end. But in the hands of the West or secular Muslim countries and circles, the media has put the shackles of misinformation around our necks in the name of information. Those who rely solely on the media for information and education receive nothing but misguidance in today's environment. But then the question arises as to whether this situation should be accepted or efforts should be made to improve it.

References

- Ashrafi, Wahab. (2006): *Tarikh Adbeyat-I-Alam*, Islamabad, Porab Academy.
- Chaudhri, Hanif. (2006): *Afsana In Punjabi Zaban-o-Adab kee Mukhtasar Tareekh* by Dr. Inam ul haq Javed, Islamabad, National Language Authority.
- Grierson, G.A. (n.d): *Linguistic Survey of Pakistan Vol.III Indo-Aryan Family (Central Group)*, Lahore, Accurate Printers.
- Haider, Sajad. (2006): *Novel, Punjabi Zaban-o-Adab kee Mukhtasar Tareekh* by Dr. Inam ul haq Javed, Islamabad, National Language Authority.
- Hashmi, Hamidullah Shah. (2004): *Punjabi Zaban ka Aghaz wa Irtiqa In Study Guide M.Phil Pakistani Languages: Punjabi, Pahari, Gujri*, Islamabad, AIOU.
- Hashmi, Hamidullah Shah. (2009): *Urdu awr Punjabi: Lisani wa Adabi Ishtirak*, in *Pakistani Zabanin Mushtarik Lisani wa Adabi Warsa* by Dr. Inam-ul-Haq Javed and Abdullah Jan Abid, Islamabad, AIOU.
- Javed, Inam ul Haq. (1986): *Punjabi Drama*, Islamabad, Idara Saqafat-i-Pakistan.
- Javed, Inam ul Haq. (2004): *Jadeed Nasri Adab In Study Guide M.Phil Pakistani Languages: Punjabi, Pahari, Gujri*, Islamabad, AIOU.
- Rizvi, Kashif. (2007): *Pakistani Zabanin*, Islamabad.
- Saleem, Nadia. (2011): *Saleem and Faqiha Rizvi, The Lingering Impact of Colonization on Pakistan: Negative or Positive?*, In *South Asian Studies*; Vol.26, No.2, July-December 2011.
- Sindhi, Mimon Abdul Majeed. (1992): *Lisanyat-i-Pakistan*, Islamabad, National Language Authority, 1992, p.347.
- Zahid, Asmatullah. (2004): *Jadeed Sheri Adab In Study Guide M.Phil Pakistani Languages: Punjabi, Pahari, Gujri*, Islamabad, AIOU.