

# Ideational Meaning: Media Representations of Sino-Bangladesh Relation and Its Actors

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## Abstract

This study, within the frameworks of Systemic Functional Grammar and Critical Discourse Analysis, aims to explore how Bangladesh's news agency BSS (1975-2016) represents Sino-Bangladesh relations. Three methods are employed to collect the data: (i) the 40 year media coverage, (ii) questionnaire and (iii) observations at the newsrooms. By examining 140 news reports and investigating linguistic features, this study shows how the BSS under government control represents China and Sino-Bangladesh relations. This study will focus only on the analysis of the news headline as a 'micro story', while the news body is completely excluded from the analysis. The findings will show how the social actors are constructed through the BSS media discourse on the topic. This study will detail the representations of the actors at the clause as a representation. The main reason for historical change is the establishment of the diplomatic ties between Bangladesh and China in 1975. This paper clearly explains how the media representation generally reflects social practice, ideology and power relations in social structures at the time of reporting.

**Keywords:** critical discourse analysis, systemic functional grammar, Sino-Bangladesh relation, BSS media discourse, representation

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## 1. Background of the Research

The critical discourse analysis approach applied to analyze language use on the topic of Sino-Bangladesh relations must fit the proposed research. Frantz (2006, p. 2) explained that traditional linguistic approaches have their own domains. The early studies focused on the systems of language analysis during the last 100 years as linguistics has become a scientific discipline for applying methods of empirical and historical investigations. In this context, meaning is generally considered a core concept to the study of applied linguistics. Bloomfield (1933), for example, argued that meaning was so messy that it was impossible to define linguistic meaning in analyzing grammar. Chomsky (1957, 1965) advocated that the best method of analyzing grammar was through formal learning. Both believed meaning was relevant to linguistic analysis, although it could theoretically be isolated from specific instances of language use (Chomsky, 1957). Social scholars (Gramsci, 1971; Foucault, 1972; Habermas, 1984; Hall 1985) have demonstrated that social and political power may be created by, reflected in, and resisted through language use. A second generation of discourse analysis developed the main ideas of Michel Foucault, focusing on the relation between power and knowledge (Foucault, 1980). Critical discourse analysis (CDA) was finally generated through the works of Fairclough (1989), Wodak (1989) and Van Dijk (1993). An examination of the roles of actors over the social practices can be an important analytical tool for CDA (Fairclough, 2003, p. 17). Discourse is responsible for the construction of our social realities (Foucault, 1972, p. 215). Truth represents truth and regulates discourse (Foucault, 1980, p. 131). Truth endorses certain ideas while rejecting others. This is called the critical discourse analysis to the common sense assumptions which often go unquestioned because they are believed to represent truth and reality (Fairclough, 2001, p. 77). Recently, new dimensions have emerged from interconnection between critical linguistics (CL) and critical discourse analysis (CDA) in the field of applied linguistics. *CDA* is mainly concerned with the relationship between language, ideology and power (Fairclough, 1989, 1992, 1995a). Within the last four decades, theoretical linguistics (sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, discourse analysis) have maintained a common connection of analyzing language use scientifically. The analysis requires two main things against traditional linguistics. First, analysis must focus on situated meanings. Second, it requires the interpretations of situated meanings. The question of the relationships among society, culture and language is a highly complex question related to Williams (1981). Human beings are reflexive; there is always a dialectical interconnection between what they do and how they represent (Fairclough, 2003, pp. 18-23). Cultural systems help clarify the relationship between culture and language. Cultures are not only discourses but also systems of consciousness. CDA is especially suited to the study of media discourse (van Dijk, 1993, p. 249; Fairclough, 1995b, p. 2). For example, Zhang (2014, p. 2273) examined the political news reports between the context of American and Iraq including *The New York Times* utilizing Fairclough's framework. As a resource of discourse, I shall analyze the BSS media discourse of Sino-Bangladesh relations. CDA is a branch of discourse analysis that highlights cultural and ideological meaning of the media representations asking the questions: (i) What changes have taken place during the period of the relations between discourse change and change in the relationship between Bangladesh and China by the BSS media discourse (1975-2016)?; (ii) How are social subjects and their actions represented

through use of grammar, text, and discourse practice? The BSS was chosen because of its 40 year international news coverage, which must necessarily uncover the complexity of Sino-Bangladesh relations. The main objective is to explore how language is used to express meaning. The findings show how the results might affect theory and practice in this field. This is the background of this study falling into five parts. Part two discusses historical and political contexts. Part three examines data collection and its framework. Part four is the central part, which focuses on the media representations of Sino-Bangladesh relation and its actors. Part five, conclusion, summarizes the main findings, including implications, limitations and suggestions for further research.

## 2. Historical and Political Contexts

This category aims to explore the early historical and empirical reviews of Sino-Bangladesh relations because of many reasons. China rises dramatically in modern world, which will tomorrow's biggest power that influences all countries including Bangladesh (Ministry of Information, 2017). The Rise of China has become a great factor into the regional discourse (Chandra, 2015, p. 220). China's rise needs to be studied by all Asian countries for two reasons: One is led by India, and the other by almost all other countries. It was during the 1970s that early projects were taken to explore the possibility of regional cooperation by the European funding agencies (UNDP, ADB) for undertaking research (Chandra, 2015, p. 182). As an old Chinese saying goes, we can always get a better understanding of the present by reviewing the past (BD-China Embassy, 2017). With this aim, I look back into the early history of Sino-Bangladesh relations through the Silk Roads connecting China and this region (Bangladesh, 1988; Xianyi, 2010; Keay, 2011). In ancient times, the Silk Roads were a meeting place of world cultures and religions, first for Buddhism and later for Islam (Allan, 2013, p. 145). Many Chinese scholars believe that the Southern Maritime Silk Road was the earliest link between China and the Indian subcontinent. The Silk Road was an original passage through which, some minorities in Bangladesh came from Sichuan, Yunnan, Tibet and Mongolia (Uddin, 2013, p. 230). In the early 21st century, Xi Jinping, the President of China wants to revive the ancient Silk Road linking China with Asia, Africa and Europe (Islam & Askari, 2015, pp. 18-23). It marks the return of a legend with historical and linguistic references to "yi dai yi lu," (a belt, a road). It is a gigantic project covering about 60 countries and half of population in the world. In an ideal scenario, the new Silk Road can become the biggest economic trade route since the Marshall Plan, with which the United States helped Germany get back on its feet after the Second World War. The Western media (AFP, May 15, 2017) reports asking the question: What is Beijing trying to achieve with its Silk Road plan? The most advanced countries (China, India, Brazil, Russia and South Africa) are advocating for south to south cooperation as the Rise of India and China (Roca, 2013, p. 164). However, this study considers only two countries, Bangladesh and China; both have many problems in the 21st century (Yasinbin, 2012, p. 3; Sarker, 2014, p. 83). The main problem is the language barrier and climate change is one of the biggest threats to both countries and both need to share their lessons (CASSLD, 2013, p. 3). In 1971 China did not support Bengali nationalism during the War of Independence due to close relations with India, USSR and China-Pakistan-US alliance (CASSLD, 2013, p. 34). In 1972 China used its veto power against Bangladesh's UN membership (Datta, 2008; Singh, 2010). China stopped opposing UN membership after the treaty was signed among Bangladesh, Pakistan and India on 28 April 1974. China officially recognized Bangladesh in the United Nations on 31 August 1975. The last four decades was a critical period for China at various levels, with whom, Bangladesh is going ahead with the spirit of the modern diplomatic ties termed as 'old tested friendship', started in the October 1975, a great reflection and broadly defined as a "time-tested, all weather friendship" (China Brief, 2009, p. 10). Their relations must develop even more, although the World agencies (AP, AFP and Reuters) dominate the national agencies such as BSS (Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha) (Bell 1991 p. 48, Glass 2001 p. 232). Reuters (founded in 1851) is one of the oldest news agencies in the world, had its branches in different parts of British India (UNESCO, 1953, p. 11). The Associated Press of Pakistan (APP, founded in 1949) was turned to the Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS, 1972) connecting with the World agencies, which have representations in the shape of stringers (Ministry of Information, 2008, p. 471). Therefore, the BSS plays a significant role with its 40 year international news coverage towards the topic of "Sino-Bangladesh relations" though it is a field of political science and global studies. A few books written by Bangladeshi and Indian scholars in English, have adopted the realist approach to study Sino-Bangladesh relations (Begum, 2015, p. 358). It is politically related with the term, International Relations (IR) from the time of the Greek historian Thucydides, the father of political philosophy (Cochrane, 1929, p. 179). Bangladeshi scholars (Rashid, 2010; Pandey, 2013; Parlone, 2013) discussed about South Asian countries' economic relations with China, while Bangladesh relations were discussed with India, Pakistan, US (United States), USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), China, and the Muslim World at the dawn of the 21st century. Application of the CDA on language use has been neglected in the country for a long time. Therefore, this study will investigate into the BSS media language use of Sino-Bangladesh relations.

## 3. Data Collection & Theoretical Framework

The data corpus for this study consists of 140 front-page news reports focusing on the "Sino-Bangladesh

relations” that appeared in the BSS during the periods (1975-2016). The BSS is only the government owned agency, which directly receives foreign news through satellite from the world agencies and domestic news from its branch offices. The news, which are collected and edited by a group of professional journalists, are regularly distributed primarily to the government offices, print and electronic media and secondly to the regional and world agencies (Ministry of Information, 2017, p. 343). However, I started collecting data from the BSS in June 2017. After primary analysis, 140 news reports are classified as “Sino-Bangladesh relations” in the text itself on attribution of news stories (Bell, 1999, p. 244). In gathering theoretical studies, 177 related studies were downloaded from the ProQuest database and Google Scholar. Only 79 studies applying CDA approaches were included and organized under two main approaches. My first approach is Halliday’s (1994, p. 30) Systemic Functional Linguistics, which clearly interprets three definitions as psychological Subject (Theme), grammatical Subject (Subject) and logical Subject (Actor). This is believed that Subject, Actor and Theme function at three distinct clauses: (i) The ‘Theme’ functions in the structure of the clause as a message; (ii) the ‘Subject’ functions in the structure of the clause as an exchange; and (iii) the ‘Actor’ functions in the structure of the clause as a representation. As Halliday (1994) suggests, “Three headings refer to the transitivity system that enables human beings to build a mental picture of their reality” (108). This study focuses only on the structure of the clause as a representation, while the other structures are excluded from the analysis. My second approach adopts Fairclough’s (1995a, p. 15) critical discourse analysis to analyze situated meanings in the context of social change. Fairclough (1995a, 39) defined institutional subjects as ‘social subjects’, which occupy subject positions in a variety of institutions. Three models (text, discourse practice, social practice) can contribute to the representations of social subjects, social actions and relations (98). As Malinowski (1923) points out, “The analysis may refer to the context of situation, institutional context, and context of culture”. Fairclough (1995b, p. 3) also advocated media discourse, which influences social subjects and their actions. Therefore, I shall analyze the BSS media discourse using Fairclough’s framework associated with Halliday’s Systemic Functional Grammar, the best tool for examining “linguistic and ideological meanings” (Bell & Garrett, 1998, p. 18; Fowler, 1994, p. 39). This study aims to discuss the media representations of Sino-Bangladesh relations linking between discourse, ideology and power.

#### **4. Media Representations of Sino-Bangladesh Relation and its Actors**

This category aims to explore the historical changes of Sino-Bangladesh relations for two main reasons. First, analysis focuses on the situated meanings defined by the context of situation. Second, it focuses on the interpretations of situated meanings using Halliday’s systemic functional linguistics.

##### **4.1 Situated Meaning**

This subcategory aims to define the situated meanings of Sino-Bangladesh relations asking the first question: What changes have taken place during the period of the relations between discourse change and change in the relationship between Bangladesh and China (1975-2016)? The establishment of Sino-Bangladesh relations in the October 1975 is widely seen as a great reflection in both countries (Ahmed, 2013, p. 275). Since then, the bilateral relations between Bangladesh and China have been growing very rapidly. Both countries started to exchange students since 1976. Major General Ziaur Rahman visited China in 1977 with a view to sign various agreements. The scientific and technological agreement was signed in March 1978 and a cultural agreement in November 1979. During the periods (1983-2015) both countries have had 70 Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2017). In 1983, Bangladesh and China established the joint economic commission. In 1986, Bangladesh provided funds to build the first primary school in Beijing with the name of Sino-Bangladesh friendship school. In 1989, an agreement was concluded on the mutual exemption of visas. In 1990, an MOU of bilateral consultations was held between two countries. In 2002, ten agreements included the construction of the 6<sup>th</sup> BD-China friendship bridge, the development of Khulna power plant, the Barapukuria power plant, the Pagla water treatment plant and the North Dhaka sewerage treatment plant, the Dhaleswari River, military and cultural agreements. In 2003, three agreements included the construction of the BD-China friendship center, economic and cultural agreements. In 2005, fourteen agreements enclosed training for people, a concessional loan by China to Bangladesh, five MOUs of agriculture, digital telephone exchange, natural gas, water resources, the Barapukuria coal mine, an Exchange of Letter for flood control, public security, nuclear energy, group travel and friendship city. In 2005, Bangladesh and China agreed to start a direct air route between Dhaka and Beijing through Myanmar. In 2006, China submitted a report to the United Nations for its exports and imports of major arms for Bangladesh. In 2008, five agreements included three MOUs for the construction of the BD-China friendship conference centre, the Brahmaputra River, agricultural and cultural agreements. In 2009, four agreements included an MOU of joint agricultural research, the confirmation of the ‘Shanghai Expo 2010, two Letters of Exchange for the constructions of the Kazirtek Bridge and the rural schools. In 2010, ten agreements included the Shahjalal Fertilizer, the 7<sup>th</sup> BD-China friendship bridge and three Bailey bridges as well as five MOUs with Yunnan Government in education, tourism, power plant, agriculture and natural resources. In

2011, a contract was signed on the introduction of 3G network in Bangladesh. In 2012, four agreements included the construction of the 7th BD-China friendship bridge, the Shahjalal Fertilizer and the Padma water treatment plant. In 2013, a loan agreement was concluded between Bangladesh and China. In 2014, seven agreements included an MOU of joint economic zone, an MOU of the construction of multilane road tunnel under the Karnaphuli River, two Letters of Exchange for natural calamity, flood control, cultural, economic and joint venture. In 2015, seven agreements related to five MOUs of education and mass media, an exchange of notes for the equipment and an agreement of 705 million USD for the Multilane Tunnel Project. Due to the better diplomatic ties, many high level state visits have exchanged visits each other during the last 40 years. For an instance, President Xi Jinping paid a two day official visit to Bangladesh on 14 October 2016. On the other hands, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attended the second China-South Asia Expo at Kunming on 4 June 2014. Up to now the joint committee has had 12 meetings, 35 visits including 207 persons in different fields during the periods (1984-2016). China, India, Myanmar and Bangladesh were the active participants in a meeting on February 6-7, 2002. China wants to make a common economic grid circling Myanmar, Thailand, and India using its Yunnan province. Bangladesh and China have the prospect to build the 900km Kunming-Chittagong Highway through Myanmar (Ahmed, 2013, p. 279; Sarker, 2014, p. 83). Since Bangladesh and China are facing trade imbalance, China gave zero-tariff treatment to 4,762 products from Bangladesh on July1, 2010. Both countries have also had a number of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) addressing climate change (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2017, p. 3). Adopting a look east foreign policy, therefore, the Sino-Bangladesh relation is termed as a symbol of ‘old trusted friendship’.

#### 4.2 Interpretation of Situated Meaning

This subcategory aims to interpret the situated meanings using Halliday’s transitivity system that looks at how meaning is represented through the news headlines of Sino-Bangladesh relations, asking the second question: How are social subjects and their actions represented through use of grammar, text and discourse practice? As Halliday (1994, p. 15) points out, “Transitivity system is a network of systems for making meanings.” The system shows how language users build a mental picture of their reality that consists of outer and inner experiences. The outer experience is the process of the external world, while the inner experience is the process of consciousness (107). The process of the external world is called Material process while the process of consciousness is called mental process. With these two processes, there is a third type of process called Relation process. On the borderline between Material and Mental processes are the Behavioural processes. On another borderline between Mental and Relational is that of Verbal processes. On the borderline between Relational and Material are that of Existential, of all are simply recognized to transitivity system. Halliday (1994, p. 108) suggests three components: the process itself, which is expressed in its verb phrase; the participant, which is typically realized in its noun phrase; and the circumstance, which is usually expressed in its adverbial or prepositional phrase. Transitivity expresses the representational meaning of the clause with participant and circumstance. Using systemic functional view of language, the transitive structure can include the main processes summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1: Process Types of Systemic Functional Grammar**

Process types	Examples
Material	Chairman Mao <b>meets</b> Major General Ziaur Rahman
Behavioral	Bangladesh, China <b>signs</b> six instruments
Mental	Minister <b>praises</b> PRC assistance to army
Verbal	Outgoing Dacca Envoy <b>talks</b> with PRC leader
Relational	New development <b>[is]</b> in China-Bangladesh relations
Existential	China <b>[is]</b> to <b>remain beside</b> Bangladesh: Wang

The Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) adopts transitivity system as a semantic system on the idea by a clause about the world in which an action, situation and relation are predicted by the participants in language use. As Fairclough (1992) points out, “Transitivity analysis offers insights into social, cultural and ideological factors that may influence how a process is signified linguistically in a particular text.” To explore the construction of social subjects in the BSS discourse, I first look at the clause as a representation of how ideologies are constructed in the front-page news headlines, which generally summarize the news contents termed as a “micro story” and “tap & tag” (van Dijk, 1988, p. 226; Bell, 1991, p. 185). To analyze the transitivity in the headlines, I collected 140 news stories on Sino-Bangladesh relations from the BSS (1975-2016). This study has focused only on the Material, Mental and Relational processes, while the other processes are completely excluded from the analysis as there is no priority of one process over another. Table (2) summarizes 54 Material processes using the roles of participants and processes developed by Halliday (1994, p. 108). This assumption is related to the representations of the power and semantic relations in the “who does what to whom” of the Indo-European language families (Robert, 1987, p. 11). Table (2) shows choice in texts with 38 actors and 16 goals appearing in the subject positions. Most of the actions and situations that involve China are

realized as actors in active structures whereas those of Bangladesh are expressed as goals in passive structures. In doing so, the BSS presents Bangladesh and China as two participants who are actively involved in the doing processes. The Bangladesh related participants are presented as goals, which are acted upon and affected in passive structures (headlines 2, 10-15, 24, 26, 28, 47) while the China related participants appearing as goals (headline 3, 7, 53).

**Table 2: Material Process in the Headlines**

H	Date	Participant	Process	Participant
1	04/01/1977	Chairman Mao {Actor}	meets	Major General Ziaur Rahman
2	04/01/1977	Major general Ziaur Rahman's speech {Goal}	[is delivered]	[by the speaker]
3	04/01/1977	Vice-Premier Li Hsien'nien's Speech {Goal}	[is delivered]	[by the speaker]
4	19/08/1982	PRC jute {Actor}	purchase	[from Bangladesh]
5	17/04/1987	Ershad {Actor}	visits	Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge Sites
6	19/09/1987	PRC {Actor}	invites	Moazzem
7	01/10/1987	Embassy celebration {Goal}	[is held]	[by China]
8	25/12/1988	China, Bangladesh {Actor}	[is] to work	on flood control
9	19/06/1991	Papers {Actor}	report	on Zia's visit to PRC
10	19/06/1991	Dinner {Goal}	[is] hosted	[by China]
11	21/06/1991	20 June activities {Goal}	[are reported]	[by the Media]
12	21/06/1991	Visits Ming Qing Palace {Goal}	[are paid]	[ by the Prime Minister ]
13	21/06/1991	Protocol {Goal}	[is] signed	[by Bangladesh and China]
14	22/06/1991	Foreign Minister's Press Conference {Goal}	[is held]	[by Bangladesh]
15	08/07/1991	Flood Research Accord {Goal}	[is] signed	with PRC {Actor}
16	24/09/2003	BNP team {Actor}	reaches	China
17	17/8/2005	Bangladeshi MP {Actor}	leaves	for China on official visit
18	22/10/2008	Bangladesh {Actor}	[is] to give	full support to China in UN to protect rights of member countries
19	01/03/2010	China {Actor}	[is] to provide	support in building digital Bangladesh
20	17/03/2010	PM {Actor}	leaves	Dhaka for Beijing
21	17/03/2010	PM {Actor}	arrives	in Beijing
22	16/06/2010	Chinese vice president {Actor}	places	wreath at national memorial
23	07/03/2011	Bangladesh: Russia {Actor}	edges out	China in Hasina's quest for N-power plant
24	03/01/2012	Deal {Goal}	[is] signed	for 7th Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge
25	24/10/2012	Press {Actor}	reports	Aid for trade: second general issues for Bangladesh
26	29/04/2014	MOU {Goal}	[is] signed	with China to set up 1,320MW coal-fired plant
27	03/06/2014	PM {Actor}	[is] to visit	China on Friday
28	12/06/2014	Bangladesh-China joint statement {Goal}	[is held]	[by Bangladesh and China]
29	03/09/2014	China {Actor}	[is] to publish	book on Bangabandhu's visit
30	20/09/2014	Bangladesh {Actor}	maintains	outstanding relations with India, China
31	25/10/2014	Bangladesh {Actor}	joins	21 countries in China-led Asian bank
32	09/01/2015	Chinese President {Actor}	[is] to inaugurate	construction of Karnaphuli tunnel: Quader
33	02/02/2015	Chinese cultural show {Actor}	begins	in City
34	06/05/2015	Chinese Premier {Actor}	[is] to visit	Dhaka in September
35	24/05/2015	Chinese Vice-Premier {Actor}	arrives	[in Dhaka]
36	24/05/2015	Bangladesh, China {Actor}	sign	six instruments
37	26/05/2015	Chinese Vice-Premier {Actor}	leaves	for home
38	19/06/2015	Bangladesh, China {Goal}	[is] to be	by high-speed train

			connected	
39	29/06/2015	Japan {Actor}	[is] to build	deep-sea port at Matarbari, China at Payera
40	28/07/2015	Chinese embassy {Actor}	hosts	reception on PLA anniversary
41	26/08/2015	China {Actor}	[is] to continue	support to Bangladesh for economic uplift
42	09/09/2015	No alternative to socialism {Actor}	[is] to eliminate	discriminations: Inu
43	09/10/2015	BCFA {Actor}	[is] to celebrate	40th founding anniversary of BD-China diplomatic ties
44	15/10/2015	Speaker {Actor}	meets	Chinese vice-president
45	26/10/2015	Four Decades of Sino-Bangladesh Relations {goal}	[are completed]	[in 2015]
46	10/10/2016	Exports to China {Actor}	increasing	[from Bangladesh]: Tofail
47	11/10/2016	28 projects {Goal}	[are] finalized	[by China]
48	14/10/2016	Bangladesh {Actor}	rolls out	red carpet for Jinping
49	14/10/2016	Hasina, Xi {Actor}	lay	foundation of tunnel, industrial zone
50	14/10/2016	JS speaker {Actor}	calls on	Chinese president
51	14/10/2016	Xi's visit {Actor}	lifted	Dhaka-Beijing ties to "strategic relationship"
52	15/10/2016	Jinping {Actor}	places	wreath at National Memorial
53	15/10/2016	Chinese President {Goal}	[is] given	hearty send off [by the Prime Minister]
54	15/10/2016	Bangladesh, China {Actor}	ink	\$13.6bn deals

**Footnote-1:** The curly brackets {} indicate the semantic roles of the participants or process types. The square brackets [] indicate an elided item. The third brackets ( ) indicates reference.

It can be seen from Table 2 that 38 actors are represented as what Fairclough (1995a, p. 39) calls “institutional subject”, a term that refers to the participants. Of 17 place the Chinese participants as Actor, including “Chairman Mao” in 1, “PRC” in 4, 6, “China” in 19, 29, 41, “Chinese President” in 22, 32, “Chinese cultural show” in 33, “Chinese Premier” in 34, 35, 37, “Chinese embassy” in 40, “No alternative to socialism” in 42, “Exports to China” in 46 and “Jinping” in 51, 52. Of 13 place the Bangladeshi participants as Actor, including “Ersad” in 5, “BNP team” in 16, “MP” in 17, 20, 21, 27, “Bangladesh” in 18, 23, 30, 31, 48 and “Speaker” in 44, 50. Of 8 place the Sino-Bangladesh-related participants as Actor, including “Paper” in 9, “China, Bangladesh” in 8, “Press” in 25, “Bangladesh, China” in 36, 54, “Japan” in 39, “BCFA” in 43 and “Hasina, Xi” in 49. Table (2) also shows 16 goals as Subject in passive structure. Of 11 place the Sino-Bangladesh-related participants as Goal, including “dinner” in 10, “20 June activities” in 11, “protocol” in 13, “foreign Minister’s press conference” in 14, “flood research accord” in 15, “deal” in 24, “MOU” in 26, “Bangladesh-China joint statement” in 28, “Bangladesh, China” in 38, “four decades of Sino-Bangladesh Relations” in 45 and “28 projects” in 47. Of 4 place the China related participants as Goal, including “Vice-Premier Li Hsiennien’s speech” in 3, “Embassy celebration” in 7, “Visit Ming Qing Palace” in 12 and “Chinese President” in 53. Only one places Bangladesh as Goal, “Major general Ziaur Rahman’s speech” in 2. The social subjects are expressed by the verb phrases that typically require animate subjects such as PRC invites in 6, Papers report in 9, Bangladesh [is] to give in 18, China [is] to provide in 19, Russia edges out in 23, Press reports in 25, China [is] to publish in 29, Bangladesh maintains in 30, Bangladesh joins in 31, Chinese embassy hosts in 40, China [is] to continue in 41, BCFA [is] to celebrate in 43, Bangladesh rolls out in 48 and Xi’s visit lifted in 51. By connecting the social subjects with the actions of the verbs, the BSS seems to ally all the institutional subjects with “no alternative to socialism” to remove “discriminations” from two countries in 42. After analysis of Actor and Goal in the material process, this study needs to analyze the mental process suggested by Halliday (1994, p. 117). Table (3) summarizes 42 mental processes with Sensor and Phenomenon appearing in the subject positions. Of 19 place the Bangladesh related participants as Sensor, including “outgoing Dhaka envoy” in 1, “Minister” in 6, “PM” in 9, 20, 21, 24, 26, 28, 37, “Bangladeshi politicians” in 10, “Dhaka” in 11, 40, “Air Chief” in 12, “Proposed deep sea port in Bangladesh” in 14, Bangladesh” in 15, 23, “Hamid” in 22, “Speaker” in 29 and “President” in 39. Of 12 place the China related participants as Sensor, including “Chinese PM” in 7, “Better China-US ties” in 13, “China” in 16-18, 27, 32, “Yunnan governor” in 19, “Chinese Premier” in 25, “Chinese President Jinping” in 33, “Chinese Minister” in 38 and “Xi” in 41. Only 1 places the Sino-Bangladesh related participant as Sensor, “Bangladesh-China” in 34. Table (3) also shows 10 passive structures placing the Sino-Bangladesh-related participants as Phenomenon, including “PRC” in 2, “remark on trade” in 3, “curbing baby boom” in 4, “all possible help” in 5, “China’s continued support to Bangladesh Army” in 8, “relations with China” in 30, 31, “friendship between Bangladesh and China” in 35, “China-Bangladesh” in 36 and

“Bangladesh-China ties” in 42. By applying transitivity in the headlines, I need to look at the representations of the relational processes, which establish the power relations between the Material processes of the physical world and the Mental processes of the abstract world.

**Table 3: Mental Processes in the Headlines**

H	Date	Participant	Process	Participant
1	18/08/1982	Outgoing Dacca Envoy {Sensor}	talks	with PRC leader
2	01/10/1987	PRC {phenomenon}	[is] greeted	on national day, Dhaka celebration
3	19/06/1991	Remark on trade {phenomenon}	[is] questioned	[by Bangladesh]
4	21/06/1991	Curbing baby boom {phenomenon}	[is checked]	[by Bangladesh and China]
5	21/06/1991	All possible help {phenomenon}	[is] assured	[by China]
6	07/05/1992	Minister {Sensor}	praises	PRC assistance to Army
7	13/01/2002	Chinese PM {Sensor}	promises to narrow	trade gap with Bangladesh
8	04/06/2002	China's continued support to Bangladesh Army {phenomenon}	[is] assured	[by the speaker]
9	03/11/2003	PM {Sensor}	urges	Chinese entrepreneurs to invest in Bangladesh
10	11/04/2005	Bangladeshi politicians {Sensor}	term	Chinese MP's visit as significant
11	28/08/2005	Dhaka {Sensor}	sees	Beijing as core of Look East Policy
12	29/10/2009	Air Chief {Sensor}	apprises	President of his upcoming China visit
13	06/12/2009	Better China-US ties {Sensor}	will benefit	Bangladesh: Chinese envoy
14	21/03/2010	Proposed deep sea port in Bangladesh {Sensor}	will benefit	all neighbours: Hasina
15	22/03/2010	Bangladesh {Sensor}	plans	deep sea port eying East, South Asian neighbours
16	27/09/2011	China {Sensor}	rates	growing Indo-Bangla relations 'positive'
17	22/10/2012	China {Sensor}	wants to assist	BD facing climate risk
18	13/05/2014	China {Sensor}	seeks	a new dimension of relations with Bangladesh
19	08/06/2014	Yunnan governor {Sensor}	assures	of promotion of trade with Bangladesh
20	09/06/2014	PM {Sensor}	hopes	new avenue of cooperation with China
21	28/06/2014	PM {Sensor}	apprises	President of her Japan, China visits
22	08/11/2014	Hamid {Sensor}	seeks	more access to Chinese market
23	09/11/2014	Bangladesh {Sensor}	seeks	Chinese investment
24	22/04/2015	PM {Sensor}	holds	talks with leaders of five countries
25	07/05/2015	Chinese Premier {Sensor}	will visit	Dhaka in September
26	24/05/2015	PM {Sensor}	seeks	more Chinese support for major priority projects
27	25/05/2015	China {Sensor}	may benefit	from BD's successful socio-economic policies
28	09/06/2015	PM {Sensor}	hopes	new avenue of cooperation with China
29	12/06/2015	Speaker {Sensor}	seeks	Chinese assistance for energy sector
30	15/06/2015	Relations with China {phenomenon}	will be cemented	further in future: Syed Ashraf
31	16/06/2015	Relations with China {phenomenon}	[is] to be cemented	further
32	25/08/2015	China {Sensor}	offers to invest	350m in various sectors
33	27/09/2015	Chinese President Jinping {Sensor}	promises to cut	trade deficit with Bangladesh
34	27/09/2015	Bangladesh-China {Sensor}	agreed to raise	Partnership to Newer Height
35	21/11/2015	Friendship between Bangladesh &	be further	: Chinese Minister

		China {phenomenon}	cemented	
36	22/11/2015	China-Bangladesh relations {phenomenon}	be further cemented	, says Chinese minister
37	26/11/2015	PM {Sensor}	hopes	getting China in Bangladesh's development efforts
38	12/10/2016	Chinese Minister {Sensor}	seeks	media campaign for enhanced connectivity
39	14/10/2016	President {Sensor}	seeks	duty & quota-free entry of all products into China
40	15/10/2016	Dhaka {Sensor}	eyes	long-term ICT cooperation with Beijing
41	15/10/2016	Xi {Sensor}	promises to continue	Chinese support for development
42	16/10/2016	Bangladesh-China ties {phenomenon}	strengthen	: Syed Ashraf

**Footnote 2:** [The letter (H) indicates “Headline” in all the Tables].

This study examines how the participants are classified as identifying and attributive in the relational process. In identifying process, the identified and the identifier (Halliday’s (1994, p. 122) Token and Value) are used to identify each other. I shall first explain the relational process on the intensive type, ‘X is A’. In this type, the most typical verb is ‘be’ while X and A are nominal groups. Tables (4-5) have included 44 relational processes with Carrier and Attribute according to Halliday (1994, p. 130). Table (4) illustrates 17 Carriers appearing in the subject positions: Of 8 place the Bangladesh related phrases as Carrier with “MP’s” in 2, “AL” in 6, “PM” in 7, 8, 9, 10, “President Abdul Hamid” in 12, 13. Of 6 place the China related phrases as Carrier with “Message” in 3, 4, “talks” in 5, “Beijing” in 11 and “six member Chinese delegations” in 16. Of 3 delete Bangladesh and China from Carrier, including “new development” in 1, “major FDI boost” in 15 and “global economy” in 17. Table (4) also shows 17 circumstantial elements at the end of the clause. Of 10 place the Sino-Bangladesh related phrases as Circumstance, including “in China-Bangladesh relations” in 1, “for further development of communication between China, Bangladesh” in 6, “for increasing Chinese investment in Bangladesh” in 7, “for direct road, rail links with China” in 8, “for strong ties with China” in 9, 10, “for new height in ties with Dhaka” in 11, “for reducing Bangladesh-China trade gap” in 13, “for taking Dhaka-Beijing relations to new heights” in 14 and “in precarious state” in 17. Of 6 place the China related phrases as Circumstance, including “to PRC” in 2, “to Li” in 3, “to Zhao” in 4, “with Li” in 5, “in Beijing” in 12, “from China on the way” in 15. Only 1 places the Bangladesh related phrase as Circumstance, “in city” in 16.

**Table 4: Circumstances in the Headlines**

H	Date	Carrier	Process	Circumstance
1	06/01/1977	New development	[is]	in China-Bangladesh relations
2	21/09/1987	MP’s	[is]	to PRC
3	01/10/1987	Message	[is]	to Li
4	01/10/1987	Message	[is]	to Zhao
5	20/06/1991	Talks	[are]	with Li
6	05/12/2009	AL	[is]	for further development of communication between China, Bangladesh
7	19/03/2010	PM Hasina	[is]	for increasing Chinese investment in Bangladesh
8	20/03/2010	PM	[is]	for direct road, rail links with China
9	12/12/2011	PM	[is]	for strong ties with China
10	12/12/2011	Bangladeshi PM	[is]	for strong ties with China
11	12/05/2014	Beijing	[is]	for new height in ties with Dhaka
12	08/11/2014	President Abdul Hamid	[is]	in Beijing
13	02/02/2015	President	[is]	for reducing Bangladesh-China trade gap
14	25/05/2015	China	[is]	for taking Dhaka-Beijing relations to new heights
15	19/06/2015	Major FDI boost	[is]	from China on the way: FBCCI president
16	25/11/2015	Six member Chinese delegation	[is]	in City
17	16/10/2016	Global economy	[is]	in precarious state, Xi tells BRICS summit

Table (5) shows 13 possessive processes as a nominal group formulated by Halliday (1994, p. 133). It can also be seen from Table (5) that the ideological relations are constructed with the ownership of social subjects and their words, which are “Bangladeshi products” and “duty free access to China” in 1 and “China” and “full assistance to achieve goals of Vision 2021, 2041” in 11. In addition, the rhetorical relation between “Dhaka-



Beijing Agree” and “cooperation to newer height” in 5 and “China” and “Bangladesh” in 7-9 has reinforced Sino-Bangladesh relations stronger. Their reality shows “Water availability” with “Himalayan river basins” in 2, “China” with “develop road and rail communication” in 12. In a wider sense, “Chinese policy” is assigned with “economic ties with neighbours” in 4, which increase the regional relations. China recognizes “Bangladesh becomes middle income country by 2021” in 3. Thus in 10 “China is Bangladesh’s inspiration to achieve middle-income status”, whereas China is the Token and Bangladesh’s is the Value.

**Table 5: Possessive Processes in the Headlines**

H	Date	Possessor	Possession	Possessed
1	18/03/2010	Bangladeshi products	[is] to get	duty free access to China
2	17/06/2010	Water availability per capital	[is] to decline	in Himalayan river basins
3	21/10/2012	China	[is] to help	Bangladesh become middle income country by 2021
4	06/06/2014	Chinese policy	[is] to accelerate	economic ties with neighbours: PM
5	11/06/2014	Dhaka-Beijing agree	[is] to extend	cooperation to newer height
6	14/06/2014	China visit	[is] to deepen	relation: PM
7	28/12/2014	Wang: China	[is] to remain beside	Bangladesh
8	28/12/2014	China	[is] to remain beside	Bangladesh: Wang
9	13/01/2015	Wang: China	[is] to remain beside	Bangladesh
10	02/04/2015	China	is	Bangladesh’s inspiration to achieve middle-income status: FM
11	25/05/2015	China	[is] to extend	full assistance to achieve goals of Vision 2021, 2041
12	29/10/2015	China	[is] to help	develop road & rail communications
13	27/01/2016	BCIM-EC	[is] to help	change socio-economic scenario in Asian region

Table (6) shows 14 intensive processes, whereas the Subject is the identified/Token and the rest is the identifier/Value (Halliday, 1994, p. 124). China is the Token which promotes 5 positive values such as “tested friend of Bangladesh” in 3, “eager to be partner of building digital Bangladesh” in 7, “keen to ink FTA to cut trade deficit” in 8, “keen to provide financial assistance to Bangladesh” in 13 and “keen to scale up investments” in 14. Chinese FM is the Token carrying Value with “Saturday” in 5 and “Today” in 6. Bangladesh is the Token which promotes 3 positive values such as “a strategic partner of China” in 4, “a middle income nation by 2021” in 11, 12 and “PM” is the Token “maintaining good ties with neighbours” as Value in 9. Only 2 tokens are constructed with the values as “Bangladesh” in 1, “science minded” in 2. Furthermore, the BSS categorizes India, along with China as a Token and “epoch making” as a Value in 10. Table (6) also brings together in a single display all the categories of relational processes, where the Subject, in the column of the Token/identified is constructed by the Finite along with circumstance in the mood structure. Therefore, the BSS writers have constructed Sino-Bangladesh relations both syntactically and thematically.

**Table 6: Intensive in the Headlines**

H	Date	Identified/Token	Intensive	Identifier/Value
1	21/06/1991	Canal digging	[is]	[necessary in Bangladesh]
2	23/06/2002	Encourage Youths	[is] to be	science minded: PM
3	16/06/2010	China	[is]	tested friend of Bangladesh: Speaker
4	10/06/2014	Bangladesh	[is]	a strategic partner of China: Xi
5	23/12/2014	Chinese FM	[is]	due on Saturday
6	27/12/2014	Chinese FM	[is]	due today
7	28/12/2014	China	[is]	eager to be partner of building digital Bangladesh: Chinese FM
8	29/12/2014	China	[is]	keen to ink FTA to cut trade deficit
9	15/06/2015	PM	[is]	keen on maintaining good ties with neighbours
10	01/09/2015	Bangladesh's relations with China, India	[is]	Epoch-making: Inu
11	25/09/2015	BD	[is] to be	a middle-income nation by 2021- global report
12	27/09/2015	Bangladesh	[is] to be	middle-income nation by 2021: report
13	19/11/2015	China	[is]	keen to provide financial assistance to Bangladesh
14	27/11/2015	Chinese entrepreneurs	[are]	keen to scale up investments
		<b>Subject</b>	<b>Finite</b>	<b>Circumstance</b>

	<b>Mood</b>	<b>Residue</b>
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## 5. Conclusion

The findings show how the social subjects are constructed through the BSS media discourse of Sino-Bangladesh relations. Chapter four explained that the media representation in the headlines of the social subjects generally reflects social practice, ideology and power relations in social structures at the time of reporting. Using Halliday's transitivity system, this analysis has found how the English clause is combined with three functional components (called 'metafunctions'), which are the representations of Bangladesh and China as two participants, Actor and Goal in the Material; Sensor and Phenomenon in the Mental; and Carrier and Attribute in the Relational processes (Token as Subject). The systems are the mix of the configurations among the types of processes, participants and circumstances. By using 140 news headlines, the BSS must try to reflect its audiences towards the Sino-Bangladesh relations. This study has pointed out 55 participants as China, 46 participants as Bangladesh and 39 participants as Sino-Bangladesh relations appearing at the subject position. Representations of the participants as social subject not only encode the evaluation and judgment but also create an opposition between us (Bangladesh) and them (China) and construct a world of 'ideology' that must remove discriminations from both countries. Part four detailed the representations of Bangladesh and China as two dominant actors constructed with use of personal terms in understanding how ideologies reside in texts and language is a material form of ideology (Fairclough, 1995a, p. 73). The actors can be represented linguistically in various ways. Name reference is a key device in understanding the representation of the actors to the readers of the headlines. 'Chairman Mao' and 'Xi' are two historical figures appearing in the clause as a representation. The people with extreme beliefs on particular meanings seem to demand that the complexity is inherent in many headlines, where power is often associated with the act of controlling the non powerful participants (Renugah, 2015, p. 63). CDA balances the emphasis on the text with the careful examination of media discourse practices, although the BSS looks for newswire stories that are 'copy ready'. This article, however, is a step towards the examination of media discourse which is not limited to the text and talk but accounts also for their functions (van Dijk, 2005, p. 66). CDA provides analysts with the tools to explain the structures of social and political contexts within media discourse, which has the power to influence social relations, social subjects and identities (Fairclough, 1995b, p. 2). Therefore, CDA calls solidarity between Bangladesh and China with the establishment of diplomatic ties in the October 1975, which is the main actor of making Sino-Bangladesh relations stronger. As we celebrate the 43<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sino-Bangladesh relations in the October 2018, the historical review will fill us with confidence and expectations to our two nations, who will join hands and move forward in constructing the old trusted friendship. Analysis of the media representations reveals the ideational meaning of social subjects and their actions within contexts of Sino-Bangladesh relations, which will be benefited in many ways. This study covers the BSS media discourse, which was limited to the analysis of news headlines. Another limitation is the news body, which was excluded from the analysis if these relations will develop more, many issues will include with this relation in future.

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