

A Foucauldian Analysis of Omer Shahid Hamid's The Election

Komal Farooq

komalfarooq254@gmail.com

Department of English Literature, NUML University, Islamabad, Pakistan

Corresponding Author: Komal Farooq komalfarooq254@gmail.com

Received: 04-02-2026

Revised: 17-02-2026

Accepted: 03-03-2026

Published: 17-03-2026

ABSTRACT

This article studies Omer Shahid Hamid's novel "The Election" by using the idea of Michel Foucault. The control, politics, power, and the way the state manages people's lives is especially highlighted in this paper. Achille Mbembe's necropolitics concept of how a government decides who is exposed to death and who lives safely. The novel analyzes the close portrays of political speeches, government institutions and role of media, during the time of election. The novel presents the typical scenarios of elections as a powerful system which shapes people's thinking, acceptance of violence as a normal during this time and the difficulty of people to distinguish between what is wrong and right. The novel is directly connected with the political fiction of South Asian. The story reflects the unfair treatment of the state, the surveillance and the real life politics.

Keywords: *Foucauldian Discourse Analysis (FDA), necropolitics, Pakistani Anglophone fiction, moral ambiguity, governmentality, biopolitics, electoral politics, media discourse*

INTRODUCTION

Omer Shahid Hamid's novel "The Election" is a political satire on how the election in South Asian countries really works. The role of media and political scenarios influence the mind, life and shape their opinions on this democratic system. Hamid's previous work directly focused on crime, law enforcement institutes and violence but this novel "The Election" is mainly focused on the political system ,how politics and elections work. The novel directly shows how political leaders influenced people through their strategies, performance to gain power. Consequently, the story creates a confusion and difficulty for readers to distinguish right from wrong ,in the circumstances which are all surrounded by mixing of good and bad together. The study connects the Michel Foucault idea with "The Election" in light of his theories of power, governmentality, discipline and power over life(biopower). The use of another political philosopher's idea necropolitics, by Achille Mbembe who explains how a modern government or state decided to whom to get protection and who pushed towards danger. By discussing these ideas this article asks: How government institutions control people's thinking? And how does the novel depict the confusion that arises in ordinary people's minds? The novel also raises the question about the life, death, and legitimacy of goals that occur in the life and mind of political leaders that creates moral confusion.

Michael Foucault's theories are very contributing and helpful for readers while studying modern political fiction because he focuses on how power controls and works in our daily life, not just on right and wrong. He also focuses on the impact of control on life through rules, media, language and institutions. The ideas and life of people shaped and controlled without the use of direct forces while Mbembe's concept of necropolitics directly contributed to this idea he also shows that how power works behind the violences that who may live die and who may live safely are all rights given to people with more power. Foucauldian Discourse Analysis (FDA) is used as a tool which helps in studying how political language, media discourse, and institutional speeches and contribution creates a powerful structure in the novel. Therefore, this article offers analysis of novel through Foucauldian lens which aims three things that are: Firstly, novel shows that how surveillance and government takes control on public during election. Secondly, the

necropolitics and biopolitical ideas by authorities manage the violence's and control people's lives. Lastly, it shows how a novel creates moral ambiguity, in which the political system shapes the characters and institutions which operate in ethically troubling situations.

Research Objectives

1. To analyze the elections by using Foucault's idea.
2. To identify how the media, politics and government institutions are controlled by power and control work.
3. To show how a moral ambiguity (right and wrong) affects during the period of election through media and politics.

Research Questions

1. How does the novel “The Election” present the use of control and power in elections?
2. How do different groups like the media and government institutions show political control over people's lives?
3. How do people, politicians, media, and voters face moral ambiguity during the period of election?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Pakistani and South Asian contemporary English fiction increasingly focus on the themes like political power, identity, social violence and state control. These fictions explore how postcoloniality, globalization and institutions, specifically government institutions, control the lives of the people. By examining the novel “The Election” gives a straight path to contribute these terms through the lens of Foucault's idea and Mbembe's idea of necropolitics. The novel presents government, media, and violence and moral dilemmas through the plot and characters in the novel.

Situating the Election in Pakistani Political Fiction

Although “The Election” is a newly published South Asian English novel based on political fiction, there is not much peer-reviewed research on this novel. However, we can still understand it by applying the Foucauldian theory on this novel which goes relevant to this. Pakistani literature mostly focuses on cultural hybridity, postcolonial challenges and identity through storytelling narrative writing (Jahan, Butt and Rehman). For instance, research on Mohsin Hamid, Nadeem Aslam and Kamila Shamsie show how the characters struggle with political power, challenges faced by dominant ideas, questions social power and complex cultural identities in an age of globalization (Butt et al.,2024). Previous researchers also showed how a narrative style and storytelling techniques are shaped in Pakistani Political English Fiction. Ajmal Saddique and Kanwal (2025) presented the argument that a Free Indirect Discourse (FID) gives a freeway where historical and personal experiences collectively help novels to support and present the idea of power and identity (Ajmal et al., 2025). This technique shows how an experience and story is told not just to present the ideas they talk about, which influenced the readers to understand the social realities and relations of power. These ideas suggest that The Election, which is a political novel, fits completely into South Asian and Pakistani literature. The novels and fiction explore how power, identity and struggle works against dominant ideas and these are suitable for analyzing by using neo political and Foucauldian ideas. Although the work and research on the novel The Election is limited, it is possible that the already done research and

reviews on Pakistani English literature or fiction helps us provide a useful background. This shows that the newly published novel is worth reading and studying in depth by using the techniques or tools like necropolitics, biopolitics, discourse analysis to have proper understanding of the governance, power and social dynamics.

Methodology Foundation and Foucauldian Theory

The work of Michel Foucault is the central idea while Achille Mbembe's concept of necropolitics directly contributes to his idea which extends the study of this research article. The Election is interpreted through the lens of governance, politics, media and power draws an argument on classical interpretations of why power is crucial. In *Discipline and Punish* (1977), Michel Foucault explains how modern power works not just through punishment and force but through the name of discipline. The discipline includes the rules, surveillance, institutions and internal authorities which control (Foucault 135-169). Institutions like schools, prisons, hospitals, bureaucracies, factories and hospitals all help people to train, observe and shape them into “docile bodies” (Foucault 135-169). Foucault also presented the idea that power not only controls individuals but also controls the population. There is also a lecture published as *Security, Territory, Population* by Foucault. In this lecture he introduces life governing power (biopower): how they manage life, health, and population by regulations, statics and administration (Foucault, *Security*). Biopolitics shifts the power from the hands of sovereign direct control of life and death to the people and system who manages and controls life “to manage, sustain and multiply life (Kristensen; Cisney). This is very helpful in analyzing the novel *The Election* because this novel shows all the aspects of how political systems work through bureaucracy, media and public discourse rather than explicit oppression alone. He also focuses on the concept of modes of social control (governmentality), which shows that the power does not always work through the forces. Instead, people also adopt the rules and regulations from the society and start working on them by controlling their behavior through the social expected rules. They adopt the new norms and rules and try to do what is expected for them (Erlenbusch- Anderson). Necropolitics focuses on how the political system and powers decide who can live or not and who can face threats and who is expendable (Mbembe 2003) whereas biopower mainly focuses on regulating life. This term is used in the time of marginalized, violence, terrorism, drone warfare and under the condition of war (postcolonial) societies. Mbembe in his essay also shows that people face violence and control over death during the time of modern sovereignty which creates a “death-world” where several people live in the state of living death (Mbembe 11-40). Achille Mbembe introduced these concepts in his essay *Necropolitics* (2003) , which years later published as a book (2019). He also explains that in today's political circumstances especially in postcolonial, racist and society which is highly affected by conflicts in this power is practiced through death. Mbembe describes that sovereignty as a “death world” from “right to kill” which the reduction of certain lives as a living death (Mbembe 2003, 11-40; trans. Meintjes). Through this the idea of Foucault's is challenged, which was that modern power mainly works through discipline and regulation. Necropolitics on the other hand shows that exclusion, control over life, violence and death all remain the center of political power.

By applying necropolitics to the novel *The Election* it clearly helps readers to analyze how the authorities use power to not only manage the life but also the one who chooses whose life is valued and sacrificed. The Election shows straightly how violence, fear and manipulation by politics influences the mind of people and leads them towards the moral ambiguity which makes necropolitics as a crucial lens for interpretation. By studying both ideas of Foucault's biopower and Mbembe's necropolitics side by side we get a fundamental framework for analyzing the life, media, surveillance, death and moral ambiguity in the novel.

To apply Foucault's and Mbembe's theory in literature the researcher and scholars often use Foucauldian Discourse Analysis (FDA). Through FDA it is helpful to analyze how power, social control and knowledge are represented in institutions, language, media and narrative structures within the novel. Foucauldian

Discourse Analysis is relevant and works very well with the novel unlike the classical Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). FDA explores social institutions and the story of the novel both. For instance, in 2023 Foucauldian Discourse Analysis is applied to Nadeem Aslam's "The Golden Legend" (Zahoor, Ilyas and Ajmal 2023) which explores how a novel represents the dominant powers or societal discourse which represents the marginalized groups and societies and also highlights the relation between power and knowledge in these social institutions (Zahoor et al. 241-251). Similarly, the Foucauldian Discourse Analysis framework is applied to Kamila Shamsie's novel "A God in Every Stone" (Shahi, Munir and Khan 2024) which shows how identities and collective consciousness is structured by colonial power and through knowledge (Shahi et al.). By using these studies, it is clear that Foucauldian Discourse Analysis with close reading is a valid method to apply on the fiction. FDA allows the institutions, media, narrative to act as a form of power which makes it an ideal approach for studying the contemporary novel *The Election*.

Politics and Power in South Asian Fiction

To support the comparative and regional scope for this research, it is crucial to examine Pakistani English fiction and South Asian literature through discourse, identity, violence, biopolitics, political theories and necropolitics. Pakistani fiction and South Asian fiction provide a great and enriched space for necropolitics and Foucauldian analysis. In (2024) a very recent article which shows how subjectivity and biopolitics controls in *The Golden Legend* by Aslam's and *Exit West* by Hamid both applied Foucault's concepts. The contemporary Pakistani English writer and South Asian authors use Foucault's concept of biopolitics (Aslam and Hamid). In these novels the author shows how the lives of characters are shaped by the tools used by government, migration, people who manage the bodies and state mechanisms under the political instability. These analysis shows that in shaping the identity, subjectivity and life experiences in South Asian fiction, biopolitical governance plays a crucial role (Ejaz, Shaheen and Qamar 2024). This research article is very useful because it represents that applying Foucault's biopolitical framework to Pakistani (English) anglophone fiction is possible and still undergoing. The article also shows that during the context of migration, diaspora and identity crisis through the relation of power and subjectivity is represented in contemporary novels. The novel *The Election* provides a thematic and methodological interpretation for the readers that how a bureaucracy, media, nationalism, migration through the government controls the minds and shapes the thinking and identity pattern of an individual. Another study of the posthuman analysis of contemporary Pakistani Anglophone fiction which contains the elements of biopolitics of drone welfare (Liaqat and Raza). The posthuman subjectivity, drone violence, themes of war all engage the necropolitics themes in Pakistani Anglophone fiction are studied in the interdisciplinary article *Necropolitics and Biopolitics of Drone Warfare* (Liaqat and Raza). In this article the authors or scholars argued that Pakistani English novels represent or reflects the political realities of drone warfare and other state of violence which is illustrated in contemporary style of necropolitics and biopolitical rigms. This research also determines that necropolitics is not applied to African but only to the South Asian context as Mbembe's situated these studies in Africa. This gives path to new research on how a novel *The Election* presented death, violence, political sacrifice and power in the frame of necropolitics. Furthermore, the research of Ajmal, Saddique and Kanwal on *Free Indirect Discourse (FID)* shows the narrative technique in Pakistani English novels. This term shows how a narrative technique and voice act as the reflection to represent social and political tensions in culture. The collection of personal and collective historian background, identity crises and socio-political engagement (Ajmal et al. 2025) all clearly shows the social and political tensions. Through the help of this research, it is suggested that by the close reading of the narrative style used in the novel "The Election" disclose the subtle working of power, identity and politics which is disclosed through language and discourse. By having an in-depth look gives broader literary cultural studies which focused on the cultural postcolonial hybridity and identity (Butt, Rehman and Jahan 2024) shows the mere aspects of complexity of identity negotiation in Pakistani literature, under the multicultural influence, diaspora and globalization influence (Butt et al.). These dynamics shows the interweave with political; necropolitics and biopolitical framework in which authors or researchers depicts

the hybridization (changing national identities), migrants lives, narrative and governance of population reflect the stories of how lives are controlled and how other lives are treated as violently: marginalized people die in violence and poverty (erasure or death).

Hence, the existing researches on the South Asian and Pakistani Anglophone fiction makes people to develop interest in themes like identity, power, death, violence and governance by using the thematical tools, theoretical tools from postcolonial theories, discourse theory and political philosophy. This gives a broader way to have comparative studies and methodological precedent for applying Necropolitics and Foucauldian analysis on the novel *The Election*.

Research Gap

The contemporary South Asian and Pakistani Anglophone fiction is now examined increasingly in the current era through the lens of surveillance, identity crisis, violence, power, biopolitics, the Scholars or authors do not fulfill the recently political novels and stories, their main focus is remained mostly on older and established works but they create a gap in research about the understanding of current political affairs and contemporary trends. There is a number of researches shows that Omer Shahid Hamid's earlier work on crime which showcases the modes leading to crimes, policing narratives which particularly studies in relation of violence, law enforcement institutes and urban crimes (Ahmed, Touqeer; Liaqat). Through this analysis the exploration of themes like coercion, authority and criminality which is however only confined to Omer Shahid Hamid's pre- *The Election* corpus. The growing current affairs create a relevance of Foucault's and Mbembe's framework in the environment of South Asian and Pakistani Anglophone fiction which is systematic and provides a Foucauldian Discourse Analysis (FDA) but there is still no proper peer review of FDA on *The Election*. The biopolitics and necropolitics studies is applied already on the Pakistani Anglophone fiction such as authors like Mohsin Hamid, Kamila Shamsie and Nadeem Aslam which gives a clear relation with war, surveillance, migration and identity crisis (Ejaz, Shaheen and Qamar; Liaqat and Raza; Shahi et al.). These studies do not properly address *The Election* and the nor the electoral politics and media surveillance that is now discussed in the Omer Shahid Hamid's latest political satire which operates necropolitics and biopolitical technologies and framework.

The Foucauldian Discourse Analysis is applied to the South Asian novels which address religion, extremism and colonial powers (Zahoor et al.; Shahi et al.). There are no proper studies of war, power, moral ambiguity and death politics in light of Foucauldian Discourse Analysis (FDA) within the specific context of the election period that is already represented in the novel *The Election*. Through this, the media manipulation which acts as the mind control of the public and influences their minds, elections, institutional surveillance and necropolitics which helps in making decisions remains under theorized in light of the novel.

This absence of clear methodological and theoretical gap helps us to identify the lack of focus on governmentality concept by Michel Foucault, discipline, and biopower parallel to Mbembe's necropolitics to the *Election*. The gap is crucial to address because it helps to identify contemporary political control and normalization of violence in the period of the election in South Asian countries.

This article is the first to address the gap of *The Election* through the Foucauldian Discourse Analysis on necropolitics. This contributes to the study of Omer Shahid Hamid's novel and the political fiction, South Asian fiction biopolitics which addressed the dynamics of media, moral ambiguity and governance in light of postcolonial democratic framework.

METHODOLOGY

The research article presented Foucauldian Discourse Analysis (FDA) as a methodological framework which is supported by the close reading of the textual reading of the novel “The Election” by Omer Shahid Hamid. Foucauldian Discourse Analysis is useful when we study political fiction. This helps us to examine the power, subjectivity and truth which leads us to understand what can be said, to whom the authority is given to speak, and how certain things are normalized in the name of truth (Arribas- Ayllon and Walkerdine 2008; Willig 2013). As The Election novel is portrayed around the political language, institutions rhetoric, media discourse or narrative and public performance like how things influence and shape people's minds. FDA helps us to highlight the hidden aspects of how power circulates and the moral ambiguity among people is generated through these discursive formations.

Analytical Procedure

The three primary discursive sites that help us to examine The Election are; institutional surveillance and bureaucratic power organizations, media discourse, violence, threat and exclusion. The novel presented the deep depiction of our society as how election commission, party machinery, law enforcement institutes and actors who performs duties of administration are analyzed. The conduct of political subjects (Foucault, Discipline and Punish; Foucault Security, Territory, Population) are shaped by the governmentality and disciplinary techniques such as surveillance, documentations and regulations.

The media plays a crucial role to construct truth through speeches, fabricated media narratives, television debates and social media fragmentation. This media shapes and influences the minds of the voters and acts as a persuasive power within the boundaries. Through the lens of biopower (managements of population, health and life) and necropolitics which shows exposure to death and how control helps researchers to present the scenes which involve state or non-state coercion, abandonment and non-state violence all studies are involved. This shows how the political powers decide whose life is worthy or not; because lives matter and act as essential aspects or elements which helps us to understand the construction of moral ambiguity among nations. By analyzing these sites, we come to know that patterns of ideas and certain recurring themes keep underwing and appearing in the repetition of these patterns are known as discursive formation in discourse analysis. These are directly linked with the subject situation of the construction of novel like voters, politician, media spoke persons, expendable citizens and criminals produced the mechanism of power and moral ambiguity.

Alignment of Theory and Method

The methods and theoretical tools both correspond directly to each other in this research study. Foucauldian Discourse Analysis FDA is used in this novel to examine how bureaucratic rationality, reasoning, surveillance and government institutions shape the political system and normalize the obedience in this regard (Foucault; Lemke 2019). The novel shows how the public and authorities such as political actors are subtly governed everyday rather than the overt forces. The analysis also shows the major issue which we discussed previously, how life and death become a political object where the authorities and state keep check and balance, measures and monitors and organizes the population. In the same aspect the violence and abandonment to citizens caused “death-worlds” (Mbembe). This reveals how a novel exposes the connection of power with normalization of violence, expandability, danger and risk. Arribas-Ayllon & Walkerdine (2008), shows that Foucauldian Discourse Analysis provides a deep study of how the lives of characters become a subject for the authorities, institutions and media as they decide who to whom to consider legitimate, dangerous, rational, immoral and patriotic. This is a very crucial element while we are addressing the novel The Election as the portrayal of moral ambiguity.

Data Sources

The novel “The Election” itself is a complete text which provides an in-depth and core material by Omer Shahid Hamid. The way he shows the institution's power, moral dilemmas, violence and political tensions are selected as discourse analysis and line-by-line analysis of The Election. The secondary data is produced through the Scholarly work of Foucault which is biopower, discipline and governmentality. The Necropolitics concept of Achille Mbembe's makes this novel easy for the comparative study of Pakistani Anglophone fiction and South Asian political fiction. Previous researchers showed how Foucauldian Discourse Analysis FDA application in South Asian anglophone literature (Zahoor et al. 2023; Shahi et al. 2024) . These three studies make this novel relevant to the contemporary political literary debates, giving readers the clear interpretation and strengthening the reliability of methodology on the study.

FDA allows the readers to uncover the hidden aspects through which media and political institutions shape and influence the mind of the people. By interpreting the violence and political fear during time of election through the study of necropolitics and Biopolitics perspectives which shows how The Election creates the blurred identity and also blurs the ethical boundaries, conflicts the truths and creates moral ambiguity.

This methodology directly shows how power is exercised and how power produces the political subjects, how the narrative world creates a moral ambiguity within the novel while addressing the research questions. The methodology fully supports the questions of the research article.

ANALYSIS

The analysis of the novel is processed in the three parts: (1) governmentality and disciplinary apparatuses (formal system which monitors and enforces the rules); (2) biopower and necropolitics; (3) moral ambiguity and subjectification.

Firstly, the narrative style of Hamid makes reader as well as himself a close attention towards the machinery of electioneering: media controllers, campaign officers, polling staff and bureaucratic actors of parties. Many scenes in the novel fictionalizes the governmentality the tools and techniques through which the political parties aim to govern people not through any forces but from the help of regulations, calculations and management (Lemke; Nilsson). The novel clearly represents the scenario of election in a fine way like describing surveillance over voting areas, political campaigns use microtargeting and voter lists. This shows that as a doctor keeps a record of his patient and handles his patient the same in the case of election the administrators handle all the data. The group of people are treated as a group to be measured, sorted and manipulated not with the unique voices because they wanted to influence the election (Hamid). This creates a correspondence with Foucault's idea of modern government. Where biopower is perceived as a “make live and let die” by the maximum population (Foucault; Foucault lectures). The social media campaigns and television debates as shown in the novel The Election creates a sense of understanding of how surveillance and control operate. The particular way of delivering the news, the posters, scripts and media act as a platform through which the behavior of people is observed, monitored and recorded. The media plays a crucial role in shaping the self-regulation of the political actors and public who perform tasks (Foucault, Discipline and Punish). The novel also highlights the politician's scripts which fully contribute under the influence of the media. In exposure of a politician's subjectivity as the people and media pressure them to fulfil their standards and fit into the image they create for them as a man who is honest, likely to win votes and remorseful. The Election also focuses on technocratic talk, which is polling rules, chain of custody rules and security which is the major concern. It shows how governmentality takes help from the experts and experienced ones in regard to knowledge and technical systems (Lemke; Ramhurry). In light of these aspects the novel The Election by Omer Shahid Hamid shows how election occurs as a neutral system while the moral and political strikes remain highly debated.

Secondly, as government institutions manages the population through the set framework of life, Omer Shahid Hamid also presented the stages where death and how to treat others is used as a political tool. Necropolitics by Achille Mbembe illustrates the scenes in which the violence is adopted and becomes normalized in the culture which is helpful for politics. The existential threats from the opponents created a necropolitics as underlying foundations for the electoral competition (Mbembe). The characters in the novel show that they face fear, not to win the election or votes but to change the rules about perspective and the experience which are considered as real or legitimate in politics. The earlier novel of Omer Shahid Hamid shows the police and violence which gives external treatment (Ahmed; Touqeer). The Election also contributes to his idea which has main concern about how the political actors normalize the violence to show their power and authority. For example, to understand the idea in the stage of “security crisis” during political campaigns, this reflects Mbembe's argument that the modernity in politics produces the areas where the authority decides when they are in power to make others live and let them die (Mbembe). In the same circumstances Foucault's idea of biopower helps the novel to proceed and focus on the public health, the images, the use of language which is used in political speeches influenced the mind and thoughts of people. In most of the speeches the politicians address only about “the youth” and “the forgotten” which act as the group which monitors and controls the discussion of well-being, health and life as the important tool for government. The biopolitics and necropolitics creates novel as the main ethical tension for readers as the same institutes who promised to provide everything and protect life and improve life are also the ones which justify the violence and label them as threats.

Lastly, the novel itself avoids clearly showing heroes and villains. The characters in the novel are in state of grey zone which is created through the performance, survival and needs which is analyzed through FDA which directly contributed to subjectification under the power (Arribas- Ayllon and Walkerdine). The security forces give excuses for the violence; the data manipulation campaign operatives present arguments as national security and journalists defend the unnecessary outreach. Through the interconnectedness in political institutions, media logics and security forces creates ambiguity. When a state sees its population as the target of biopolitical and necropolitical threats the ethical consideration becomes flexible. According to the Foucault, power act as the network which produces subjectivities, makes people shaping the understanding of the people and actions feel possible (Foucault; Willig). The narrative style of Omer Shahid Hamid invites readers to understand all the complexities which make sense about the choices which are morally troubling and make the sense in their personal cases. It is the individual's responsibility which is shaped by the discourse that shapes their actions and identities.

Linking Literary Representation with Political Practices

The Foucauldian reading of *The Election* shows that how the political scenes are representation of the real political circumstances in the contemporary electoral policies as many scholars review the novel and show topical approach rather than allegory (Kehar; *The News*). The media role, the strategic use of security corresponds with the real environment during elections all across Pakistan and South Asia (Policy reports; media analyses). When the Mbembe's necropolitics is combined while analyzing the modern electoral system shows that elections still rely on the violence, legal exceptions and exclusion. These include the strategies made by political leaders or government institutions which leads to the dehumanization of the opponents and suspends all the rights and laws through their speeches and actions. Methodologically, the research article shows that FDA is very useful as the media documentaries, the political fiction, the politicians speeches and administration's document help to reveal how the people thought that they are the political subject for their authorities through the fiction. This adds to the idea of the FDA based studies of South Asian fiction which is already found or represented (Liaqat; Zahoor; Bashir).

CONCLUSION

Omer Shahid Hamid's novel *The Election* shows the electoral politics which reflects contemporary policies in aspect with governmentality, biopower and necropolitics work with pairs (tandem). The novel echoes the power idea presented by Michel Foucault that how authorities and government institutions use power to manage and provide information, create news through media, and use violence which influence the minds and thoughts of the people. This shows how power shaped the identities and made people act normal during the time of violence. The analysis of the novel "The Election" helps us to understand and imagine political life and shape our way of thinking and perceiving rather than just presents and mirrors the realms of politics around us.

The scholars who study South Asian fiction and political theory the contemporary novel *The Election* gives them a more sensible and research material for more in-depth study by using Foucault theory and ideas. The scholars who want to study *The Election* in future can compare how Hamid portrays the election with how elections actually run. They can also find the role of power and certain patterns like language inside the novel and the real coverage through media by using discourse analysis. At pedagogical level, the literature should be taught which follows the thinkers like Foucault and Mbembe to make students understand how literature gives way, technique and tools to analyze the modern power operates.

WORKS CITED

- Arribas-Ayllon, Michael, and Valerie Walkerdine. "Foucauldian discourse analysis." *The Sage handbook of qualitative research in psychology* 2 (2017): 110-123.
- Bashir, Saima, and Malik Muhammad Tanveer. "From Reluctance to Rebellion: A Foucauldian Analysis of Bina Shah's *Before She Sleeps*." *Journal of Development and Social Sciences* 5.4 (2024): 201-211.
- Foucault, Michel. *Discipline and punish: The birth of the prison*. Vintage, 2012.
- Foucault, Michel. *Society must be defended*. Point Par Point, 2006.
- Shakir, Muhammad Bilal. *Divergent Mobilization: Explaining the Disjuncture Between Social Mobilization and Electoral Success of Islamist Political Parties in Pakistan (1947-2024)*. Diss. McGill University (Canada), 2024.
- Lemke, Thomas. *Foucault, governmentality, and critique*. Routledge, 2015.
- Liaqat, Qurat Ul Ain, and Rizwan Akhtar. "Repression and Resistance: A Foucauldian Discourse Analysis of Power Structures in the Novel *A God in Every Stone* by Kamila Shamsie." *Journal of Research in Humanities* 55.01 (2019): 1-16.
- Pressfeldt, Victor. "Imagining the Neoliberal State"
- Ahmed, Toqeer. "Political Violence and Necropolitics in Omar Shahid Hamid's *The Prisoner*." *GEMA Online Journal of Language Studies* 22.2 (2022).
- Goetz-Charlier, Alexandra. *Biopolitics as an Enabling Function of Genocide: Revisiting Foucault's Theory of Biopower to Conceptualize Mass Mobilization for Genocide*. MS thesis. Harvard University, 2023.
- Vitales, Hazel Marie M. "Foucault and beyond: from sovereignty power to contemporary biopolitics." (2020).
- Foucault, Michel. *The Foucault effect: Studies in governmentality*. University of Chicago Press, 1991.
- Yaqin, Amina. "Necropolitical Trauma in Kamila Shamsie's Fiction." *Muslim World* 111.2 (2021).

- Lemke, Thomas. Foucault, governmentality, and critique. Routledge, 2015.
- Liaqat, Qurratulaen, and Amra Raza. "Necropolitics and Biopolitics of Drone Warfare: A Critical Posthuman Analysis of Contemporary Pakistani Anglophone Fiction." *New Horizons* 15.1 (2021): 117-134.
- Shahi, Zunaira, Haniya Munir, and Anbreen Akhtar Khan. "Postcolonial Identity and Discourse: Foucauldian Analysis of Shamsie's A God in Every Stone." *Pakistan Languages and Humanities Review* 8.2 (2024): 19-27.
- Zahoor, Badar, Muhammad Ilyas, and Muhammad Ajmal. "A Foucauldian discourse analysis of Nadeem Aslam's the golden legend." *Pakistan Languages and Humanities Review* 7.4 (2023): 241-251.
- Mbembe, Achille. *Necropolitics*. Duke University Press, 2020.
- Foucault, Michel. *Security, territory, population: lectures at the Collège de France, 1977-78*. Springer, 2007.
- Foucault, Michel. *Discipline and punish: The birth of the prison*. Vintage, 2012.
- Ejaz, Rimsha, Aamer Shaheen, and Sadia Qamar. "Biopolitical Control and Subjectivity in Aslam's The Golden Legend and Hamid's Exit West." *Pakistan Languages and Humanities Review* 8.3 (2024): 678-688.
- Butt, Samina Khaliq, Amna Rahman, and Mudasar Jahan. "CULTURAL HYBRIDITY AND THE POLITICS OF IDENTITY IN PAKISTANI LITERATURE: A CRITICAL POSTCOLONIAL ANALYSIS." *Review Journal of Social Psychology & Social Works* 2.1 (2024): 143-168.
- Ajmal, Muhammad, Safia Siddiqui, and Atiqa Kanwal. "Blurring Boundaries: The Use of Free Indirect Discourse in Contemporary Pakistani Novels." *Pakistan Languages and Humanities Review* 9.3 (2025): 01-09.
- Mbembe, Achille. "Necropolitics Public Culture, 15 (1) 11–40." DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1215/08992363-15-1-11> (2003).
- Rahman, Tariq. "Language and politics in Pakistan." (No Title) (1996).