

## **Abstract in English**

This study investigates the Jang newspaper's editorial coverage of Afghan Taliban takeover of Kabul in 2021. To guide the analysis, this research incorporated quantitative and qualitative content analysis and interviews with the journalists who were associated with the Jang newspaper's editorial department during the time of the takeover. The findings indicate that the Jang newspaper followed the Pakistani foreign policy in regards to Afghanistan by welcoming the Taliban group's takeover on the grounds of potential Geo-strategic benefits, adopted a hawkish position, and assumed the responsibility of protecting state defined national interest rather than fulfilling journalistic responsibilities. The coverage showed the case of structural censorship being observed by the Jang newspaper as it bears in mind of not crossing any redlines drawn by the state. This study makes a significant contribution to the literature on the functionality of media in a semi-authoritarian security state where the authority rests with the armed forces rather than elected leadership. Given the near uniformity of results, it can be argued that Pakistani media collectively operates in concert with the state's official narrative.