ABSTRACT
This dissertation looks at the relationship between military rule and television drama in Pakistan. While focusing primarily on the regime of General Zia-ul-Haq (1977-1988), this research uses the regime of General Pervez Musharraf as a point of comparison. With the help of literature available as well as primary research, it presents a general understanding of these two regimes by using two dramas (from each era) as references. To be able to do so, I look at the extent to which the regimes interfered with the content of television drama and the effects that they had on the television dramas being produced in those times. I also question if creativity flourished more during the restrictive times of Zia as compared to the open and liberal social environment of Musharraf's rule. In conclusion, I note that although the content of television drama was largely scrutinised by the Zia-ul-Haq regime, people making dramas found a way to get their message across in a subtle way. The dramas made during Musharraf's time are more reflective of society and show the freedom that media clearly enjoyed under him. However, in some places, they are even more conservative than what we saw in Zia's times.