

Lexical Choices and Geopolitical Crisis: A Corpus-based Eco-Linguistic Analysis of Pakistani English Newspapers' Editorials

¹Umaira Rauf, ²Muhammad Kamran Abbas Ismail

¹MPhil Scholar, Department of English, University of Okara, Punjab, Pakistan

²Lecturer, Department of English, University of Okara, Punjab, Pakistan

***Corresponding Author:** kamran.ch@uo.edu.pk

Abstract

This study aims to examine how geopolitical crisis are linguistically constructed and ecologically erased in Pakistani English news editorials, with a specific focus on climate change discourse during the April-June 2025 Indo-Pakistani conflict, delimited to three leading English-language newspapers: Dawn, The Express Tribune and The News International. Language does not merely define the world; instead, it constructs, legitimizes, and naturalizes certain ways of seeing it. Geopolitical crisis, particularly in South Asia, play a crucial role in determining official responses in shaping media discourse in ways that frequently subordinate ecological concerns to anthropocentric political agendas. Despite the growing urgency of climate change as a 21st-century challenge in countries like Pakistan, the intersection of geopolitical crisis discourse and Eco-linguistic analysis remains a critically understudied domain in both linguistic and environmental communication scholarship. This study employed a mixed-method, corpus-based Eco-linguistic design guided by Stibbe's (2015) 'Stories we live by' framework. The purposively compiled corpus of approximately 110 articles and 36,520 tagged tokens were drawn. Quantitative analysis was conducted AntConc for frequency, collocation, and concordance analysis while the USAS semantic tagger was applied to identify ecologically relevant lexical domain. Qualitative discourse analysis was subsequently performed on the corpus to examine seven Eco-linguistic stories. The study identified the geopolitical semantic priorities and features of climate change in Pakistani media discourse from the perspective of Eco-linguistic analysis, which helps in corpus-assisted climate change, eco-linguistics, and also in critical discourse analysis. Findings of this research practically give directions to policymakers, educators, and journalists to produce a precise, approachable, and engaging reporting and stretches an actionable-responses for refining climate literacy.

Key words: Corpus-Based, Eco-Linguistic, Environmental Ideologies, Lexical Analysis

Introduction

Language does not merely define the world; instead, it constructs, legitimizes, and naturalizes certain ways of seeing it. When two nuclear states mobilize their populations, institutions, and media toward conflict, the words chosen to narrate that mobilization carry consequences that extend far beyond the immediate political moment. They shape how citizens understand their relationship to the land they inhabit, the water they drink, the air they breathe, and the non-human life with which they share their geography. Yet the linguistic dimension of geopolitical crisis, particularly its ecological dimension, has remained remarkably understudied in both conflict studies and Eco-linguistics.

The Indo-Pakistani conflict discourse, particularly in its most recent and most dangerous escalation following the April 2025 Pahalgam attack, offers an extraordinary case study for examining how language simultaneously produces geopolitical meaning and erases ecological reality. When Pakistan's National Security Committee describes the potential diversion of Indus river waters as an act of war, and when Indian Prime Minister Modi speaks of making Pakistan's economy pay for terrorism, something linguistically significant is happening that exceeds both the immediate political stakes and the conventional frameworks of conflict analysis. A natural river system, considered one of the world's great hydrological networks, sustaining hundreds of millions of human and non-human lives across an entire subcontinent, is being inscribed into a discourse of warfare, sovereignty, and punishment. The ecological entity disappears, and the geopolitical weapon takes its place.

This transformation from river to weapon, from ecosystem to resource, from shared natural heritage to contested national asset, is precisely what eco-linguistic analysis is equipped to examine. And it is precisely this examination that the existing literature has largely failed to undertake.

Einar Haugen (1972), a Norwegian-based American linguist, is regarded as a pioneer of Eco-linguistics. Eco linguistics is termed as an emerging branch of linguistics which is aimed at identifying the relationship between language and its environment. By using the metaphor of ecology to language, he defined Eco-linguistics as the study of interactions between humans and their environmental components (p.325). Edward Spair (2001) was the first to link language with the physical and social aspects of the environment. It is the language that fashions certain frames and thoughts in the human cognitive system, empowering them to distinguish reality.

Steffesen and Fill (2014) identified four approaches named symbolic ecology for the co-occurrences of language in a specific area; natural ecology, which demonstrates how language is related to the ecosystem and biological traits; socio-cultural ecology to investigate the dynamic nature of language, and a cognitive theory which highlights how language shapes our identity and makes various speech communities.

Media discourse not only reflect geopolitical crises but constructs meaning through particular lexical choices. This study scrutinizes how such geopolitical crises are fabricated through Pakistani English news discourse, using Stibbe's (2015) framework of 'Stories we live by,' in a corpus-based Eco-linguistic approach. This study aims to block methodological gaps by merging semantic tag set analysis with corpus-based discourse methods to measure the affiliation between institutional framing and ecological action. The current study aims at exploring that the systematic anthropocentrism of geopolitical crisis in a media discourse is not just a linguistic reflection of political reality but a linguistic construction of it.

Eco-linguistics has paid remarkably little attention to geopolitical crisis-related discourse in domains like the language of war, threat, deterrence, and conflict as a site in which ecological relationships are simultaneously at stake and discursively erased. This gap is both theoretically puzzling and practically consequential.

Literature Review

Eco-linguistics deals with linguistic patterns that impact humans' thinking capability and their way of handling the planet. Basically, it is the study of language that shapes, impacts, nourishes, or destroys human interactions among them and also with their society (Yuniawan, 2017, p. 291). There were some concerns raised about the framing of certain environment-related issues by the media (Allan et al., 2000, p.17).

The term discourse is grounded in Foucauldian theory, which constitutes a central element of Foucault's structure. Language has been imprinted with the power relations and has the ability to shape our psyche in one way or another, but it is dependent on an inescapable power dynamic. The notion of discourse is multidimensional in nature, extensively professed, and embraces fluctuating meanings dependent on its context (Pitsoe, 2013).

The role of media in governing humans' perception of the environment is still unquestionable. There are numerous studies which indicated that dominant media tend to neglect eco-friendly behaviors and promote human-centered attitudes and those discourses that prevent the safety of the ecosystem (Harré et al., 2025).

Stibbe (2015) argued that human language carries cognitive and evaluative frameworks, present in our everyday use of linguistic choices, which shape individuals' perception of the world and how different societies understand their relation with the world. He proposed seven stories named: ideology, frame, metaphor, evaluation, conviction, erasure, and salience. It is what he called "stories we live by". These are actually mental models that shape our behavior and are the root cause of all the environmental problems that we are currently facing.

Van Dijk (2011) named ideologies as the belief systems developed and cultivated by group members in a society. In Eco linguistics, a question arises whether ideology motivates people to preserve the ecosystem from failure. Social perspectives on climate change can be grasped effectively by employing effective framing (Schafer & O'Neill, 2017). Metaphors have the capacity to shape our cognition, the goals we seek, and the plans that we make, and are also responsible for the reactions of our actions (Lakoff, 2004, p.XV).

The formation of geopolitical narratives in Pakistani media news discourse often highlights human-centered frameworks, repeatedly camouflaging the ecological impacts of localized crises through specific lexical choices (Fatima & Arslan, 2023). Despite the extensive framing of anthropocentricity, there subsists a prominent academic emptiness while utilizing methodical corpus-linguistic instruments, like the USAS semantic tagger and the AntConc, to measure how these linguistic choices reflect broader environmental and geopolitical crises (Saleem et al., 2025).

Present studies in the Pakistani context have predominantly depended on theme-based qualitative analysis or LDA-based models to reconnoiter disaster reporting (Nawaz et al., 2025), but these investigations frequently fail to provide the semantic clarity that is needed to show how certain lexical assortments reinforce unmanageable ideologies (Nasar et al., 2025).

These semantic relationships seek to disclose the degree to which Pakistani editorial language emphasizes immediate policy and security issues in contrast to the fundamental environmental deterioration that is associated with regional conflicts (Bashir et al., 2025). This analytical method is essential as the studies in current media discourse often abandon the identity formulated through ecological and linguistic means, such as collocation and semantic prosody. The absence of this computational analysis in previous studies, the discursive methods that endorse anthropocentric power hierarchies are inadequately imagined, and there are deficient connections for empirical linguistic data.

Carvalho (2007) suggested that it is ideology that is used to measure everyday reality against an ideal world (p.225). Reporting based on identity has the ability to boost not only harmony among the people but also prejudiced determinations in the response to disaster (Fetzer & Garg, 2025). Stibbe (2015) termed evaluation as a story developed in the reader's mind in which appraisal patterns represent things in a positive or negative way, and appraisal patterns are considered to construct these stories (p.84).

Theoretical Framework

This study is guided by Stibbe's (2015) *Stories we live by*, an Eco-linguistic framework which gives a systematic approach in analyzing how language influences humans' perception and their relationship with the natural world. In this framework, the ideological positioning is determined with the help of erasure, framing, and salient features of the corpus. This portion explores the ways in which salience is manufactured about climate change by using gaudy explanations.

Table 1
Stibbe's (2015) Theoretical framework of Eco-linguistic

Tool	What it is about	What to search for
1. Frame	Frame is a type of story used to frame the structure of another area of life	Psychological constructs which enable individuals to comprehend reality and to create what they believe to be a real world
2. Ideology	Identity is perceived as a narrative set in the minds of people about who they are in general, with some integrated characters like temperament, manners, appearances and personal dogmas. Likewise, self-identity is marked as a developing narrative they share with the society about what kind of persons they are.	Discourses, i.e. as the belief systems developed and cultivated throughout by group members in a society.
3. Metaphor	According to Stibbe (2015), metaphor is about framing of an imaginable area of life, different from the target realm.	The capacity of words to shape our cognition, the goals we seek and the plans that we make and also responsible for the reactions of our actions.
4. Evaluation	Evaluation is a kind of story developed in reader's mind in which appraisal patterns represents things in a positive or negative way.	The appraisal patterns represents things in a positive or negative way and these appraisal patterns are considered to construct these stories.
5. Conviction	Conviction is the use of linguistic patterns in reader's mind to represent whether the description is true, false, uncertain or certain.	Facticity patterns determine the accuracy or the disapproval of the statement. These patterns are those positive linguistic techniques that combine to make the description of a story true or false.
6. Erasure	Erasure is a kind of story developed in reader's mind which has an ability to erase some unimportant and unworthy people, events and information from the text	Patterns of language that excludes and marginalize an agent from identity categories.
7. Salience	Salience is a type of story developed in the mind of reader that something is of worth and important to consider	In visual analysis, language patterns on the basis of its size, position, color and tonal values which back ground an area of life.

Material and Methods

This study employed a hybrid approach to corpus-based Eco-linguistics to inspect how the media discourse in Pakistani news editorials discursively constructs the environmental ideologies in its news stories. Nearly 110 newspaper articles made up the corpus for this study and were fit for computational and critical discourse analysis. The researcher cleaned all non-textual data from the corpus and maintained the original spelling and punctuation marks. Quantitative analysis was done through AntConc, and the USAS semantic tagger was used to tag the environmental semantic domains present in the corpus. The final assembled corpus contained roughly 36,520 tagged words (tokens), which was sufficient for both quantitative and qualitative discourse analysis.

Data Analysis

This study used a corpus-based eco-critical discourse analysis approach to study lexical patterns not only at the surface level but also to examine the underlying environmental ideologies in news

discourse in editorials. Frequency analysis through AntConc was directed to identify conspicuous environmental ideologies that are cleaned through appropriate USAS semantic tagging. The analysis is directly based on Stibbe's (2015) Eco-linguistic framework and inquiries about the binary nature of human-centered versus nature-centered ideology by considering rhetorical strategies and what remains implicit in the news media discourse.

Each story is deliberated disjointedly. Collocate analysis is used to study the linguistic structures of these stories. The concordances of lexical items are also studied to advance the acceptance of how these stories are contextualized in the news corpus.

Frame

Frame is a type of story used to frame the structure of another area of life (Stibbe, 2015, p.17). Lexical analysis is analyzed through effect size of lexis “water terrorism”, “treaty” and “IWT”.

The effect size for “water terrorism” is 9.549 which shows the framing of water politics as violence and Log likelihood for 5 types of water terrorism is 11.364. The effect size of “treaty” is 6.304 and 6.099 and log likelihood is 221.767 and 158.802 with “indus” and “waters”. The effect size of IWT with “suspension”, “unilateral” and “hold” is 5.812, 5.643 and 5.005 respectively. The least effect size of IWT with “the” is 1.091. The maximum log likelihood of IWT is 36.920 and then 23.640 with “suspension” and “unilateral” respectively.

Table 2
Lexical analysis of framing

Rank	Token	Frequency
1.	Treaty	41
2.	Violation	6
3.	Terrorism	49
4.	Rhetoric	30
5.	International	67
6.	Riparian	9

KWIC- Key instances from the corpus

“the Indus waters treaty ‘in abeyance’”

“Pakistan unequivocally condemns terrorism”

“India’s escalatory rhetoric in the aftermath of the tragic slayings in ihk”.

Identity

Identity is perceived as a narrative set in the minds of people about who they are in general, with some integrated characters like temperament, manners, appearances and personal dogmas. Likewise, self- identity is marked as a developing narrative they share with the society about what kind of persons they are (Stibbe, 2015).

Pronouns are used to create difference between humans and non-humans. Pronouns like “it” and “its” perform a vital role in the formation of identity especially when the discourse is constructed by war metaphors to determine whether it is presented as advisory-enemy, victim-patient or as mediator with intentionality. In this corpus “it” is taken as grammatical subject which performs action and “its” as processor. Both these pronouns make together almost 60% of all used pronouns in this corpus. Here climate change is personified as an active agent and danger as an abstract phenomenon.

Table 3
Lexical analysis of pronouns

Rank	Pronoun	Frequency	Discursive Function
1.	It	339	Active agent
2.	Its	271	Active agent
3.	Their	91	Out group

4.	We	48	In group
5.	Our	53	In group
6.	Us	52	In group
7.	They	49	Out group
8.	Them	13	Out group

KWIC- Key instances from the corpus

“a nation turns to its armed forces for leadership”

“we must also solemnly honour our martyrs”

Pakistani identity is positively constructed through: armed forces, martyrs, sovereignty — all collocating with high effect sizes (>9). India's identity is negatively constructed through terms like brazen, reckless, isolated, hegemonic, and Hindutva.

Table 4
Lexical analysis of identity construction

Identity	Token	Collocate	Effect size	Log likelihood
Pakistani identity	Sovereignty	Pakistan	6.842	16.292
	Defended	Forgive	10.871	13.226
	Civilized	Loving	10.871	13.226
Indian identity	Isolate	Rebound	8.412	19.577
	Hegemonic	Excuse	9.064	10.687
	Hindutva	Dispensation	10.286	24.866

KWIC- Key instances from the corpus

“pakistan has not only defended its borders”

“as the hindutva-laden mindset unleashed aggression on pakistan”

Metaphor

According to Stibbe (2015), metaphor is about framing of an imaginable area of life, different from the target realm (p.17). Through a close lexical analysis of the corpus, 8 metaphors are identified in the news editorial corpus.

Table 5
Lexical analysis of metaphoric expressions

Metaphors	Key lexis
1. Politics is War	aggression–retaliation–escalation–ceasefire
2. Political Process is a Journey	path forward, brink, off ramp
3. State is a Person	restraint, Indian aggression
4. Political Dysfunction is a Disease	poisoning ties, festering rot, intoxicated
5. Crisis is a Natural Disaster	powder keg, conflagration, volatile, flames
6. India is a Predatory Animal	baying, cornered beast, hawkish
7. Truth is Light / Deception is Darkness	clear, fog of war, transparent, exposed
8. Water is Life / Blocking is Killing	lifeline, weaponising, act of war

The dominant war metaphor "ceasefire" occurs 26 times. Lexical chains supporting war semantics: aggression–retaliation–escalation–ceasefire (frequencies 33–5–35–26–35).

KWIC- Key instances from the corpus

“it is now time for all to step back from the brink”.

“Pakistan can and will defend itself against Indian aggression”

“if the internal rot remains untreated”

“the cycle of violence will continue”

“New Delhi will take a more hawkish line towards Islamabad”

“increasingly difficult to decipher in the fog of social media”

“water is a lifeline for Pakistan’s economy,”

Evaluation

Evaluation is a kind of story developed in reader’s mind in which appraisal patterns represents things in a positive or negative way (Stibbe, 2015, p.84). Here political agency is removed by evaluation through human beings prefer natural forces. Lexical analysis of evaluation is done by using natural elemental vocabulary, deterministic syntax and historical naturalization.

Table 6
Lexical analysis of evaluation

Evaluation	Key lexis	Frequencies
1. Natural elemental vocabulary	Hawkish	2
	seeds of	3
	mushrooming	4
2. Deterministic syntax	cycle of violence	2
	will continue	4
	inevitable	4
3. Historical naturalization	decades	9
	cultural	13

KWIC- Key instances from the corpus

“nearly eight decades of hostility have given nothing positive to the region”.

“Delhi’s designs to make use of Kabul as a proxy for destabilizing Pakistan has wrecked regional stability and led to mushrooming of terror outfits and their abettors across the country”.

“declares war on pakistan’s cultural forays”

Conviction

Conviction is the use of linguistic patterns in reader’s mind to represent whether the description is true, false, uncertain or certain (Stibbe, 2015). In this news editorial corpus, conviction is analyzed by investigating the use of modal verbs, quantifiers, hedges and the authoritative resources.

Table 7
Lexical analysis of conviction

Type	Example	Key frequencies
1. Modal verbs	must (142), will (105), may (75)	Deontic urgency
	all (92), both (76), more (74)	
2. Quantifiers	perhaps (19), possible (8)	Totalization
3. Hedges		Measured uncertainty

Conviction is attributed to named voices: Modi (41), Prime Minister (39), Asim Munir (9).

KWIC- Key instances from the corpus

“as a responsible power, must learn to live with its neighbours....”

“But it would be lazy to pin all blame on the BJP”.

“.....though perhaps it should have refrained from cancelling the visas of visiting Indians”.

Erasure

Erasure is a kind of story developed in reader’s mind which has an ability to erase some unimportant and unworthy people, events and information from the text (Stibbe, 2015). Lexical analysis of the corpus is a dominant ideological tool to construct reality through passive voice or by using the technique of nominalization, passive voice, collective abstraction and lexical gap.

Nominalization: escalation (35), suspension (16), violation (6) agents are erased by converting verbs to nouns.

Passive voice: responsible actors disappear.

Collective abstraction: the region (36), South Asia (34), the people (22) individual suffering is erased.

Lexical gap: No ecological vocabulary (biodiversity, habitat, ecosystem, riparian ecology) exists in the corpus. The Indus River appears only in legal/political contexts: IWT (25), Indus water (11), Chenab River (3).

KWIC- Key instances from the corpus

"five Indian jets were downed", "40 lives were lost"

"nearly eight decades of hostility have given nothing positive to the region"

"any attempt by india to prevent the flow of water to pakistan under the indus waters treaty"

"the fact is that kashmir remains an internationally disputed issue".

"forcing an immediate rollback of IWT suspension"

Salience

Salience is a type of story developed in the mind of reader that something is of worth and important to consider (Stibbe, 2015). This story explores the ways in which salience is manufactured about the climate change by using gaudy explanations. The most important collocations of salience words are given in the table below.

Table 8
Frequency of salient lexical analysis

Rank	Token	Frequency
1.	Pakistan	548
2.	India	446
3.	Kashmir	83
4.	Pahalgam	46
5.	Modi	41

Salience is constructed through clause-initial positioning (68% of sentences use war lexis as grammatical theme), lexical repetition (aggression 33 times; sovereignty 14 times), and headline-body coherence (conflict = 58, the highest negative salience token).

KWIC- Key instances from the corpus

"Sovereignty of Pakistan" Here sovereignty is repeated in every editorial which describes the hidden meaning of national priority.

"India has launched brazen, unprovoked aggression" Here India's aggression is taken as grammatical theme.

"Kashmir bleeds as India's crackdown intensifies"

Corpus tools USAS tagger and AntConc altogether help in determining the prevailing geopolitical lexicons, studying their collocation performances, and construing their concordance outlines to evaluate geopolitical framing of war discourse in news editorials.

Table 9
USAS Semantic Tags associated with Environment

USAS Semantic Tags	Label	Frequency	Lexeme
A1.1.1	General actions	4	Significantly
A1.1.2	Damaging and destroying	10	Killing
A1.7+	Constraint	19	Restraint

A2.2	Cause	11	Provocation
A6.1	Comparison	7	Others
A10+	Open/close	6	Blocking
B2	Health and disease	8	Wounded
E2-	Abhor	9	Hate
E3	Emotionl restraint	78	Peace
E3-	Agitate	12	Threats
F4	Farming	57	Attack
		32	Waters
		49	Prime minister
G1.1	Government	20	Civil
		70	State
G1.2	Politics	4	Politics
G2.1	Crime	58	Security
G2.2-	Moral principles	8	Blaming
G3	Warfare, defence	41	Treaty
		98	War
K2	Music	1	Drums
L1+	Life and death	5	Life
L2	Inanimate	12	Killings
		7	Death
M1	Non-humans	2	Baying
M2	Movement	3	Jumped
M3	Put,take	14	Held
M5	Means of water transport	7	Flow
M6	Means of air transport	9	Aircraft
N1	Places	34	National
O1.2	Liquid materials	91	Water
O4.5	Physical properties	6	Drones
S7.1+	Obligation and necessity	142	Must
X8	Trying	17	Efforts
		9	Asim
Z1	Personal names	17	Sharif
		41	Modi
		177	Indian
Z2	Geographical names	57	Pakistani
		3	Kashmiri
		548	Pakistan
Z3	Other proper names	446	India
		83	Kashmir

The above table is generated from a geopolitical corpus and reflects geopolitical semantic priorities. However, this corpus is not without values of: the O1.2 water tokens, the F4 farming tokens, the L2 near-zero finding, and the complete absence of W5 ecology vocabulary collectively articulate a intelligible and critically weighty story that this corpus constructs a discourse in which the natural world is entirely instrumentalized within human political conflict and in which the conceptual vocabulary of ecological thinking is simply absent. That absence is itself the most important Eco-linguistic finding, which is supported by the table.

Discussion

The absence of damage language in ecological contexts (deforestation, pollution, biodiversity loss) versus its abundance in political contexts (attacks, provocations, hostilities) is an important ideological marker. L2 (2 tokens), W6 (absent), and W5 (absent) collectively confirm that non-human living beings and ecosystems are invisible in this discourse. The natural world exists in the corpus only insofar as it is economically or strategically significant to human actors. For environmental analysis, high S7.1+ frequency in combination with environmental nouns (O1.2, F4) indicates that environmental issues are being framed as an anthropocentric framing in which nature features as an object of human duty rather than as an entity with intrinsic claims.

Pakistan's positive identity (avg effect size >10) versus India's negative identity (avg effect size ~9.5) reflects a statistically computable ideological asymmetry across the entire editorial corpus and is consistent with Hall's (1996) argument that identity is perpetually constructed through a negative

counterpart. Entman's (1993) four-function framing model, including the process of defining the problems, diagnosing causes, making moral judgments, and then suggesting remedies, in this corpus is set across the framing lexis along with their frequencies: violation (6), treaty (41), international (67), rhetoric (30), and terrorism (49), achieving every function of his four-functional model.

Goatly's (2007) war metaphor "washing brain" is confirmed by this corpus analysis by showing conflict through war vocabulary as an ordinary state of shared associations. The current corpus exceeds the metaphor of war to water management, treaty, law, media discourse, and cultural altercation, which in turn beats Lakoff and Johnson's "Argument is war". In conviction, this study confirms Bakhtin's (1981) prediction that in an epilogue discourse, multiple voices are absorbed and are not heard genuinely.

In evaluation, this naturalization is lexically achieved through natural vocabulary, lexical choice, sentence structure, and historical naturalization, which is familiar to what Lakoff (2004) calls "don't think of an elephant" for framing a political frame by using a single word. This study also confirms Fowler's (1991) argument that in the news editorial corpus, the word frequency is structured ideologically, as in this corpus, the salience of the story is extended from South Asian climate change journalism to Western broadsheet contexts.

Conclusion

The focus on lexical analysis as the primary methodological tool for addressing this problem is theoretically and practically justified on several grounds. Lexical choices are the most immediately accessible and pedagogically demonstrable site of ideological construction. When a corpus tool like USAS assigns semantic tags to corpus tokens, it maps the conceptual vocabulary through which a discourse organizes its world. The discovery that O1.2 (water) tokens cluster with G3 (warfare, defence) and S7.1+ (obligation/must) rather than with W5 (ecology) or O1.1 (natural substances) is not a trivial finding, it reveals at the most granular linguistic level that water in this discourse inhabits a warfare frame rather than an ecological frame.

This study is based on Stibbe's (2015) "stories we live by" framework. The news editorial corpus witnessed Stibbe's (2015) seven story types in a very organized and dovetailing manner to construct an intelligible sociopolitical reality of Pakistan as an independent, controlled, and tactfully reasonable, and India as a destructive, illogical, and globally remote. At the same time, Kashmir is represented as an everlasting geopolitical powder keg instead of a living community, and the Indus water disagreement is highlighted as a source of conflict and violence instead of a legal and political disagreement between the two nations. The field has studied how the two states construct each other as enemies, how Kashmir is framed as a territorial dispute, and how nuclear deterrence rhetoric functions. It has not studied how the shared natural environment is linguistically constructed, erased, or weaponized in the same discourse.

The most significant finding of this Eco linguistics study is not what the corpus has displayed, but what it cannot display. The frequency of IWT in this corpus is 25, and the maximum likelihood of IWT is 36.920, having an effect size of 5.812 with "suspension". The Indus Waters Treaty is represented as a significant climate change, demonstrating a threat to the lives of almost 240 million people of South Asia. This climate change is discussed through political, legal, and military framing in this discourse. The Indus River is not treated as an ecosystem, but as a weapon, a lifeline, an act of war, and a legal right. This is the most significant story of journalism in climate change discourses in the wake of the counter-narrative. When rivers become weapons and agricultural land becomes strategic territory, the ecological entity is not merely ignored. It is actively transformed through specific lexico-grammatical choices. Analysis of these choices reveals the precise linguistic mechanisms by which anthropocentrism operates in non-environmental discourse.

According to Stibbe (2015), Eco-linguists demand the distinction between useful and destructive stories and how these destructive be struggled to exist? (p.9). This examined corpus demonstrates the journalistic stories of climate change, including erasing human agency, naturalizing conflict, foregrounding violence, and lessening a shared ecological inheritance to channel national

stability. Identification of these stories gives rise to the counter-stories that have the power to substitute them. In language, stories not only depict reality, but also frame our experiences of courage and reality, and encourage us to give reactions in constant ways (Stibbe, 2015, p.9).

Recommendations

The future research, may explore by analyzing the linguistic construction of climate change discourse in other text sources, i.e., newspapers, magazines, and journals published in English as well as indigenous languages, to compare framing patterns and audience impacts. In the current discourse, the absence of Indus water, an Eco-linguistics blind spot, is recognized in this study, which demands an enthusiastic ecological discourse to analyze water security journalism in the South Asian context.

This study can be extended to Urdu and Hindi language Pakistani and Indian news media discourse, which would allow us to test the different types of stories and metaphoric expressions. For this, Fairclough's (2023) concept of interdiscursivity would be predominantly fruitful in a polyglot South Asian climate change context. Analyzing geopolitical crisis discourse Eco-linguistically would significantly extend the field's scope and demonstrate the pervasiveness of anthropocentric language patterns beyond their most obvious sites.

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