

Corpus-Based Eco-Linguistics Analysis of South Asian Newspapers



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ABSTRACT

Climate change is a pressing global issue, and media plays a crucial role in shaping public perception and policy discourse. This study conducts a corpus-based Eco-Linguistic analysis of climate change discourse in selected South Asian newspapers (DAWN, The Times of India, and The Daily Star) to examine how climate issues are framed in the region. Despite South Asia being highly vulnerable to climate change, limited research exists on how its media represents the crisis and how the region's media constructs and disseminates climate discourse. Addressing this gap, the study employs Eco-Critical Discourse Analysis (ECDA) and Corpus-Assisted Discourse Analysis (CADA) to analyze lexical patterns, framing strategies, and discursive structures. Using word frequency analysis, collocation analysis, and thematic categorization, the findings reveal significant disparities in how climate change is reported, with varying emphases on policy discourse, economic implications, and environmental justice. The findings reveal marked differences in the frequency and framing of climate-related discourse. For instance, DAWN emphasizes governmental policies, The Times of India reflects techno-optimism, and The Daily Star stresses urgency and vulnerability. The results indicate that media narratives influence public engagement and governmental priorities, shaping climate action in the region. This research highlights the need for more responsible climate reporting and its potential role in fostering effective environmental communication and policy interventions.

Keywords: Climate Change Discourse, Ecological Linguistics, South Asian Media, Corpus Analysis, Framing, Environmental Communication

DECLARATION

I, **Mushtaq Ahmad Khan**, Registration No. **733-FLL/MSENG/F22**, a student of **MS in English Linguistics** at the **International Islamic University Islamabad**, hereby solemnly declare that this dissertation is submitted by me in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of MS in English Linguistics. I further affirm that this is my original work, except where due acknowledgment has been made. This dissertation has not been submitted previously, nor will it be submitted in the future, for the purpose of obtaining any other degree from this or any other university.

Mushtaq Ahmad Khan

Signature_____

Dated: _____

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CHAPTER # 01

INTRODUCTION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter of research study discusses the topic of the study, introduces Ecolinguistics, the influential role of language in expressing attitudes towards the environment particularly the global debate on climate change and the effects of climate change on the selected South Asian countries. This chapter explains statement of the problem, research objectives and research questions. Moreover, this introductory chapter also states ethical considerations, significance of the study and delimitation this research study.

1.1 Study's Background

This research undertakes a comprehensive examination of the discursive construction of climate change in prominent South Asian English-language newspapers, grounded in the interdisciplinary framework of Ecolinguistics. Situated in one of the most climate-vulnerable regions globally, South Asia has received limited scholarly attention regarding how its media linguistically frames environmental issues. This study foregrounds the critical role of mass media in shaping public perception, ecological awareness, and climate-related ideologies. By conducting a comparative, Corpus-driven Ecolinguistic analysis of *DAWN* (Pakistan), *The Times of India* (India), and *The Daily Star* (Bangladesh), the research fills a significant empirical and conceptual gap. The study's methodological innovation lies in its integration of Corpus Linguistics with Eco-Critical Discourse Analysis (ECDA), enabling a systematic exploration of frequency patterns, lexical choices, and narrative strategies. Through this combined approach, the research reveals the ideological structures embedded in climate discourse and contributes novel

insights into how language operates not merely as a tool for communication, but as a constitutive force in shaping environmental worldviews across diverse socio-political contexts in South Asia.

1.2 Introduction

Humans use language to express their views, ideas, and beliefs about the outside world, particularly their environment. Thus, through language, humans either reduce the natural world to objects or resources to be exploited, or they respect or care for the systems that sustain human life. Language has an important role in increasing people's awareness of environmental issues. Climate change has been a debateable issue for the last three decades and it has been constantly threatening the world throughout as it is certain to know that a vast amount of gas emissions is produced by millions of automobiles and industries; besides, the deforestation contributes at a large scale, results in the menace of climate change on livings and livelihoods. The United Nations has been taking steps to familiarize humans with the adverse outcomes of climate change and therefore, implementing strategies and conducting awareness campaigns to curb the climate from its devastating consequences. It is directly linked to the biosphere and ecology, and it has a negative impact on the socioeconomic aspects of life. In a nutshell, the United Nations Convention (1992) defines adverse effects of climate change as changes in the physical environment or biota caused by climate change that have significant negative effects on the composition, resilience, or productivity of natural and managed ecosystems, the operation of socioeconomic systems, or human health and welfare.

The Kyoto Protocol, adopted in 1997 and entering into force in 2005, represented a pivotal moment in global climate governance. Developed nations received time-sensitive

legally binding targets to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions through this United Nations agreement (United Nations, 1998). Further international negotiations moved forward because the protocol faced two main drawbacks: multiple developing nations refused to join and significant signatory countries decided to leave. The Copenhagen Accord during 2009 elevated climate urgency because it emphasized the requirement to restrict temperature increases to below 2 degrees Celsius. The agreement became a milestone by requiring non-duty-bound agreements from developed countries together with developing countries. Through the 2009 UNFCCC, developing countries would receive a yearly financial support of \$100 billion starting from 2020 for climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives (UNFCCC, 2009). Using the Cancun Agreements (2010) as a platform the 2°C temperature target received official recognition while setting instructions for climate finance through creation of the Green Climate Fund. This funding mechanism served to provide help to vulnerable countries deal with climate change impacts (UNFCCC, 2011). The Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol extended its framework until 2020 when it became adopted in 2012. The update included new emission reduction targets for member countries which strengthened their dedication to climate mitigation action alongside difficulty in securing countrywide involvement (United Nations, 2012).

Paris Agreement on Climate Change took place in 2015, in which 197 countries have committed to ambitious efforts to combat Climate Change, adopt to its effects and provide enhanced support to developing countries. In addition to commitments by national governments, endorsements of the Paris Agreement by companies, civil society, and sub national governments have proliferated globally. In 2015, 193 UN member states signed and adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a comprehensive global plan

of action for 'people, planet and prosperity' comprising 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets to be achieved by 2030, including SDG13 on climate action. SDG13, or Sustainable Development Goal 13, is one of the seventeen goals established by the climate emergency is arguably the biggest crisis the United Nations in 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It focuses on taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. SDG13 aims to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries. It also calls for integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning. Additionally, SDG13 advocates for raising awareness and enhancing capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning.(Morton, 2019)

On 23 September 2019, Secretary-General António Guterres convened a Climate Summit to bring world leaders of governments, the private sector and civil society together to support the multilateral process and to increase and accelerate climate action and ambition. The Summit focused on key sectors where action can make the most difference—heavy industry, nature-based solutions, cities, energy, resilience, and climate finance. In closing the summit, he said, “We need more concrete plans, more ambition from more countries and more businesses. We need all financial institutions, public and private, to choose, once and for all, the green economy.”(Cunningham, 2022)

The climate disaster is conceivably humanity's utmost catastrophe to date. Cavicchioli et al. (2019). According to the International Panel on Climate Change (2022), the effects of climate change will pose significant threats to human and ecological systems across all continents. Fløttum (2017) highlights that since climate changes effects cannot be seen, heard, or touched, it is in fact through language that we can acquire knowledge of

and understand this complex phenomenon while Fill (2001) highlights the interdependence between discursive practices and ecological devastation.

According to Ibrahim (2021) the emerging field in which the relation between the climate and language is studied scientifically is known as Ecolinguistics. Ecolinguistics combines two disciplines: language and ecology. Ecolinguistics is an emerging discipline that studies the ecology of any speech, whether it be a signpost, a literary piece, an environmental text, an advertisement, a discussion between friends, or a news article. One of the newly-emerging fields of linguistics is Ecolinguistics, which examines language from an ecological or environmental standpoint. The study of speech generated by interactions between humans and their surroundings is known as Ecolinguistics.

The study of Ecolinguistics illuminates' human beliefs and discourse toward the natural world. Ecolinguistics makes the assumption that human choice of vocabulary can have a beneficial or bad impact on people's perceptions of the environment and themselves. Ecolinguistics, as a paradigm of a relatively new approach, is worth improving. Various empirical studies have been done as this interdisciplinary linguistic framework serves as a source of inspiration for recognizing the different environmental problems that surround us in the process of analyzing the interactions between humans, nature, and people as well as variety in general. The term Eco linguistics has been used to refer to a wide range of topics, including research on language diversity and interaction, analyses of environmental texts, outdoor signage, the relationship between words in a language and local objects, the variety of languages spoken by students in multicultural schools, dialects in specific geographic areas, and much more.

The stance about the climate change can be comparatively explored between Pakistan and India to a great extent particularly when it comes to the discourse of climate change. Pakistan potentially faces a major climate change challenge. In recent years, Pakistan has seen devastating floods, droughts, smog, and cyclones, killing and displacing people, destroying livelihoods, and causing infrastructural damage. Climate change raises the likelihood that these and other natural calamities could become more frequent and severe in the coming decades, serving as a sharp reminder that Pakistan is one of the country's most vulnerable to the consequences of climate change. To alleviate these concerns, all levels of government and civil society must work together. Pakistan's climate strategy is described in the National Climate Change strategy of 2012, which seeks to integrate climate change into the country's economically and socially sensitive sectors in order to achieve climate-resilient development. Between 2010 and 2014, climate change-related spending accounted for about 6% of Pakistan's federal budget, mostly in the areas of energy and transportation. Pakistan plans to cut up to 20% of its 2030 projected greenhouse gas emissions, as outlined in its Nationally Determined Contribution to the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This is contingent upon the availability of international grants to cover the roughly \$40 billion in total abatement costs. It has been determined that the nation requires between \$7 billion and \$14 billion annually for adaptation Grossmann, 2010.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) stated in its fourth assessment report that the warming of the climate system is now unequivocal, as evidenced by increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global sea levels (Soloman et al. 2007). Given that a substantial section of

the population relies on climate-sensitive businesses such as forestry, agriculture, and fisheries for a living, India has legitimate concerns about climate change. The adverse impacts of climate change, such as higher temperatures and decreased rainfall, have exacerbated the country's livelihood challenges. Climate change would exacerbate the already-stressed ecological and socioeconomic systems.

India's climate policy framework is primarily defined by the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), launched in 2008. The NAPCC comprises eight national missions, each targeting critical areas such as solar energy, enhanced energy efficiency, sustainable agriculture, and water conservation (Department of Science & Technology, n.d.2021). In line with its international commitments, India has pledged to reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030 compared to 2005 levels and aims to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070 (USAID, n.d.2019). The country is currently working to build its domestic carbon market through regulations that define emissions intensity targets. The PAT scheme serves as an existing mechanism for energy efficiency improvement that this initiative will extend to energy-intensive industries (Climate Action Tracker, 2020.). The government shows strong interest in promoting green technology investments through its support for steel ministry proposals seeking \$1.74 billion in federal funding to develop low-carbon steel production methods (Reuters, 2025).

Bangladesh has built an elaborate set of climate policies which unify adaptation and mitigation methods throughout its different sectors. From its initial presentation in 2009 to its updated version today the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) functions as the primary instrument for climate action in the country (Department of Environment, 2022). Six thematic areas form the foundation of the

BCCSAP but it prioritizes adaptation measures above everything else and incorporates elements of mitigation within the framework. The Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF) established its operations in 2009-10 as an instrument for the government to implement strategies through projects reaching 800 milestones with \$480 million in funding focused on adaptation and mitigation and climate research (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, 2020). The government of Bangladesh modified its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by elevating its conditional emissions reduction objective from 36 MtCO_{2e} to 89.47 MtCO_{2e} by 2030 when measured relative to normal operating conditions (UNDP Climate Promise, n.d.). The Bangladesh Climate and Development Platform serves as a novel platform to launch which aims to increase adaptation and mitigation investments through climate resilience factors that will incorporate into national development planning across the country (International Monetary Fund, 2023).

Climate change impacts in Bangladesh cause major and complex problems per IPCC and World Bank findings along with rising sea levels that damage populations spread throughout Bangladesh while worsening salinity encroachment storms and erosion to force millions from their homes and destroying agricultural and fishing industries. Changing patterns of the monsoon season result in intensified floods and droughts therefore threaten food security and create conditions favourable for waterborne diseases to spread. Rising cyclone numbers coupled with stronger intensities increase the risks to people and structures while creating additional risks to population centres as well as rural territories. Bangladesh, resilient yet fragile, navigates a delicate balance between

adaptation and mitigation, as it confronts the urgent imperative of addressing climate change impacts to safeguard its people, environment, and sustainable development.

Newspapers cover topics on climate change discourse such as international agreements, regional impacts, government policies, environmental challenges, global cooperation, public awareness, and scientific research. Print media has an immense impact on how people think inside a society. Public opinion is greatly influenced by the content created for newspapers, and those who disseminate various viewpoints do so with a clear objective of influencing readers' attitudes. When readers are provided with content that shapes the public's perception of coverage of concerns regarding the environment, they are better able to understand the concepts that shape their thoughts and attitudes. Environmental hazards are an important concern for media practitioners. There are many different ways that the media portrays ecological issues. (Thirumalaiah& Aram, 2017).Environmental discourse helps in reducing the negative effects of human change, increasing knowledge of the implications of human activity, understanding the importance of ecological preservation, and identifying solutions. The role of discourse and the media greatly influences how the environment is described as well as any environmental issues or difficulties. The media is the primary source of information for the public. The news media play a crucial role as producers, distributors, and interpreters of meaning. Numerous researches on the function of newspapers from different perspectives about climate have been carried out.It is thus critical to investigate significant environmental discourses in order to disclose the diversity of opinions and to assess social progress toward these approaching difficulties. Discourses can be classified into several modes. Each mode has unique linguistic properties or features. The current study, thus, seeks to contribute new

linguistic analyses to the existing research in the field of climate discourse, by analysing the discourses using Corpus-Based analysis of DAWN, The Times of India, and The Daily Star, Pakistani, Indian, and Bangladeshi newspapers respectively for the years 2019,2020 and 2021.The selected newspapers are reputable, widely read, and often set the agenda for public discourse, shaping societal opinions.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

The discourse surrounding climate change has become a focal point in global discussions, with its far-reaching implications for the environment, societies, and economies. However, within the media context of South Asia, these nations particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, South Asian media discourse has received insufficient scholarly attention there exists a noticeable research gap in comprehensive studies analyzing the media's role in shaping perceptions, disseminating information, and influencing public opinion on climate change. The problem this study addresses is the lack of a comparative, Corpus-driven Eco-linguistic analysis of major South Asian English-language newspapers. Understanding how these countries frame and communicate climate change issues is essential for fostering global collaboration and effective climate action. This study addresses this research gap by critically analyzing the frequency, thematic patterns, and discursive strategies of selected South Asian newspapers.

1.4 Research Objectives

The main objective of this study is to focus on the attitudes and stance of the South Asian countries towards climate change and in order to know that which country take it into consideration and to what extent they contribute towards it through media discourse and how the discourse developed over time.

The main objectives of this research are as follows:

1. To compare the frequency and distribution of climate change-related terms in selected South Asian newspapers.
2. To compare and contrast the themes and narratives related to climate change in selected South Asian newspapers.
3. To identify and analyse the linguistic strategies and discursive patterns adopted in the coverage of climate change in selected South Asian newspapers.

1.5 Research Questions

1. What are the key patterns and disparities in the frequency and distribution of climate change-related terms within selected South Asian newspapers?
2. How do the themes and narratives of the selected South Asian newspapers differ from one another in the context of climate change?
3. What linguistic strategies and discursive patterns are employed in the coverage of climate change in selected South Asian newspapers?

1.6 Ethical Consideration

The study is free from all biasness, violations and human intervention. All the contents including authors, writes, and sources are given credit they deserve. This study aims at ensuring transparency and takes ethics and morale into consideration.

1.7 Significance of the Study

Discourse analysis and Ecolinguistics are very significant in themselves. This research study contributes to the existing body of knowledge on climate change discourse, media influence, and Ecolinguistics by providing a discourse analysis of selected South Asian newspapers. The present study is a contribution to the academic discourse by employing corpus-based analysis, aligning with emerging trends in research methodologies. The study's innovative approach provides a model for future research endeavours exploring environmental discourses in diverse linguistic and cultural contexts. The findings may not only shed light on similarities and differences in the representation and framing of climate change in these countries but also provide insights into the influence of media on public opinion and policy discourse. The vulnerable region of South Asia receives limited scholarly attention regarding its media coverage on climate change. This research analyzes newspapers in Bangladesh along with India and Pakistan to address the undercover void by conducting a regional discourse analysis of climate change issues.

This research delivers useful guidance for upcoming climate change communication approaches and policy development and media strategy development while adding to worldwide climate change understanding through study of automatic language formations and media portrayals in these countries. This research devotes its attention to climate change discourse which works to enhance awareness across various regions and

globally. The research demonstrates how language strengths or weakens public understanding of climate change along with their resulting participation rate so innovative accomplishment and communication strategies can be developed.

1.8 Delimitations of the Study

The researchers have chosen to restrict their research boundaries in specific areas. The research uses English-language newspaper content only without integrating non-English sources resulting in limited perspective diversity. This research incorporates three years' period (2019-2021) which creates limitations for studying climate change discourse throughout an extended period. Although this study has certain boundaries it provides relevant information regarding climate change communication within focused South Asian newspaper publications.

CHAPTER # 02

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter evaluates in-depth numerous relevant studies related to this particular research study. This review aims to evaluate how language constructs ecological understanding particularly about climate change which leads individuals to perform specific behaviours. A valuable-found insight exists within the review regarding the concepts Ecolinguistics, Ecological discourse analysis, change discourse coupled with newspapers and Corpus-Assisted Discourse Analysis.

2.1 Language and Ecology

Language shapes environmental legislation, reflects societal values, and guides environmental actions. Ecolinguistics research has increasingly focused on analyzing the language used in environmental discourses, policies, and documents to better understand its impact on public perception and policy implementation. In a similar context, Trim (1959) and Haugen (2001) laid the foundation for other researchers to investigate the function of language in society, notably the connection between language and environment. Ecological education programs aims to enhance environmental knowledge and encourage sustainable behaviour change through effective communication strategies (Pooley & O'Connor, 2000). According to Halliday (1992), more Ecolinguistic viewpoints suggest that issues such as classism, growth, species extinction, pollution, and similar concerns are not solely the domain of biologists and physicists. They are issues that affect the field of applied linguistics as well.

Einar Haugen is considered as the father of language ecology, or 'ecology of language'. It is important to note that these two statements are not diametrically opposed, but rather complement each other. Haugen emphasizes the importance of focusing on both the ecological study of language and the linguistic study of ecology. In 1972, Haugen released a compilation of his writings entitled "The ecology of language" (Muhlhausler. 2001), which opened the door to investigating the links between any language and its environment. This is where the study of Ecolinguistics as we know it today began. This lesson introduces the Haugenian Ecolinguistics tradition, which recognizes language as part of a larger ecosystem. Ecological systems and other languages spoken in the community are part of a larger ecology that encompasses the individual, society, social forces, and natural environment, all of which interact and shape one another on many levels. In 1990, Halliday emphasizes the need of viewing issues such as "classism, species destruction, and pollution not only as biological and physical problems, but also as problems for the applied linguistic community (Muhlhausler. 2001). He investigates how linguistic patterns influence the survival and well-being of humans and other animals on Earth (Fill, 2014).

The second primary school of thought in Ecolinguistics is based on the work of Michael Halliday, who established the first connection between biological ecology, ecological issues, and language in a paper he presented at the 1990 World Conference of Applied Linguistics in Thessaloniki. Halliday "thus pioneered the study of the connection between language and environmental problems, going beyond this, between language, conflict, and peace". Early works by Halliday also contribute to the field of eco-criticism, "in which both language system and its manifestation various strands of discourse are

criticised as un-ecological thus carrying some of the responsibility for environmental degradation in all of its forms." The "Hallidayan tradition," which draws on Halliday's contributions, aims to "create an awareness of linguistic anthropocentrism" through the work of Ecolinguists (Halliday, 1990).

The next phase of Ecolinguistics was built on the ground-breaking work on the loss of languages (Nettle and Romaine, 2000). In their book, they emphasise the relationship between biodiversity and language extinction. The term "bio linguistic diversity" was used by Nettle and Romaine to characterise this interaction between language and culture, specifically how languages, discourses, and coded concepts of the non-human world influence and are influenced by the non-human world. They also agree that the rise of the agricultural revolution, the industrial revolution, and the globalisation of market forces, capital, and hegemonic languages and styles have all contributed to the extinction of biological diversity and language and cultural diversity. These observations are supported by David Abram's (1996) work, and they imply that if Ecolinguistics is to address human abuse of the natural world as well as abuse of minority and indigenous cultures and their languages, it will face many challenges discussed by (Cunningham, 2022).

2.1.1 Ecolinguistics

In 2014, Alexander (2014) and Stibbe (2015) defined eco-linguistics as follows. Eco-linguistics is the study of how language shapes, sustains, influences, or destroys interactions between people, other life forms, and the environment (p.1). The term "humans" refers not to humans in general, but to groups of humans organized into cultures, civilizations, professions, industries, and organizations (p.2), each with its own style of talking about, writing about, and perceiving the world.

These foundational theories set the stage for a more focused exploration of how language intersects with environmental thought and action, as discussed in the next section.

2.2 Ecolinguistics and Environment

Building on the ecological perspective outlined above, this section discusses how Ecolinguistics has evolved to address contemporary environmental challenges, particularly those relating to climate discourse.

Ecolinguistic studies explain the complex interactions between linguistic choices that developed cultural customs alongside natural relations to evaluate the effects of language on our environmental perceptions and behavioural choices and environmental perspectives. Ecolinguistics has gained rising attention from researchers because its findings support the growth of environmental laws and raise environmental consciousness (Chen, 2016). Humans experience their environment through language which exists as a power-changing force. Repeated use of verbal metaphors and frames and narratives in language alters our understanding of nature (Lakoff and Johnson, 1980).

Environmental difficulties transform into wars when people apply warlike analogies to fight against pollution and global warming yet these metaphors do not reflect natural-human interdependence. Research in eco-linguistics examines hidden beliefs in addition to skewed statements to expose counterproductive environmental communication practices through the evaluation of language structures. Ecolinguistics contributes fundamental knowledge during public advocacy campaign and environmental policy creation. Language features with varying scopes in all public discussions together with media messages and policy documents. Ecolinguistics uncovers how various stakeholder factions adjust their language strategies regarding their goal-seeking activities and the

formation of public opinions. Environmental policymakers need to understand helpful rhetorical practices regarding unsustainable behaviours to create effective policies that target different population segments as cited by (Ibrahim, 2021).

2.3 Language and Environment

Scientific studies in Ecolinguistics investigate the process of policymaking through language mechanisms and public perception and operation management systems for ecological functions. Bender (2003) observes how researchers evaluate official language methodologies in problem creation and policy definition as well as social solution presentation. Ecolinguistics provides its unique research methods which enable people to understand language together with anthropocentrism through analysis of environmental relations. Members of a community choose words from the available vocabulary or, on rare occasions, specifically develop new terms to describe novel concepts or circumstances. Words, however, are not like coins or medals, which have a defined value, appearance, size, and shape that is constant and unalterable. According to Schultz (2001), language has an important role in forming perceptions and views about the world. The use of words and language structures may either emphasize or minimize environmental issues, influencing society views and behaviours. One important language approach is the use of euphemisms, which can sometimes hide the severity of environmental challenges (Lutz, 1990). Schultz examined a word with all positive meanings in the context of euphemism.

Ecolinguistics is concerned with language in the social environment, linking language to society. Language serves not only in the physical environment, but also in psychological, economic, social, and other environmental contexts. Ecology is thus psychological, as it interacts with other languages in the minds of bilingual and

multilingual speakers. Another is social, meaning its relationship with the society in which it serves as a communication channel. A speaker's language behaviour is partially sociological and psychological; hence, it allows linguistic linkages between "physical and natural environments, including the social environment, and the mental and emotional press that demand certain choices in appropriate contexts" (Derni 2008, p.27). Additionally, it highlights the connection between linguistic diversity and language ecology. Derni claims that because not all people think and act in the same ways, "this diversity is suggested through the use of the word minds in the plural form." Ecolinguists contend that language is not a separate human ability but rather is related to other human functions that influence various facets of human existence, such as politics, economics, and other academic disciplines like biology and psychology. For this reason, the system itself is not their primary research topic. They are primarily enthralled by connecting linguistic components, which make up language structure, with one another and the environment. The area of language ecology has quickly expanded, and as a result, the idea has been used in numerous fields connected to human life.

The concept of environment has expanded to include terms such as pollution, endangerment, biological variety, and technology, representing more than just the natural environment and social context of interactions. In recent decades, linkages between language and ecology have expanded to include other fields. This has allowed researchers to use a range of methodologies and tactics. Through the Ecolinguistic method both language and ecological theory connect to form a living approach to language studies (Døør and Bang, 2000). The ecological elements and language use impacts become a subject of study that responds to challenges faced during the twenty-first century globally.

The study uses the Hansmann et al. (2012) framework to establish environmental sustainability themes by identifying natural environment protection and responsible renewable resource management and the necessary reduction of non-renewable uses as well as environmental threat prevention and risk mitigation and strengthening ecosystems and biodiversity protection. Ecosystems alongside habitats and landscapes need protection under the first theme at the forefront of environmental sustainability. The framework adopts measures to avoid additional environmental damage and simultaneously works to save Earth's natural beauty together with its ecological system. The second theme encourages beneficial practices regarding renewable resources as it promotes sustainable ways of using resources which regenerate naturally. The limited supply of renewable resources demands proper management which will guarantee their accessibility to future populations.

Similarly, the theme, reduction of the usage of non-renewable assets, highlights the urgency of decreasing our reliance on finite resources such as fossil fuels and minerals. The advocacy recommends developing new sustainable energy systems and materials which lower harmful effects of resource extraction and use on the environment. The fourth theme in the analysis deals with environmental threat identification and risk mitigation to defend communities against pollution and natural disasters as well as climate change effects. The plan requires both preventive steps and protective measures to defend humans and ecosystems from environmental dangers. The cutbacks of risks theme supports long-term reduction efforts while going above direct environmental dangers. Through this theme the field supports development of solutions that analyze root causes of

environmental stress to create systems that survive better across modifications (Grundmann, 2010).

The last theme "fortification of natural spaces and biodiversity" illustrates how vital it is to protect both biodiversity as well as natural habitats. The essential function of biodiversity exists because it ensures the preservation of ecosystem health together with its ability to adapt. Through the use of Hangman et al. framework this research work creates an organized system to understand environmental sustainability themes along with their significance across different environments. The framework serves those pursuing informed actions toward creating a sustainable future for Earth through its value for public officials and business leaders as well as individual choice makers (Cunningham, 2022).

2.3.1 Neutral Language with Connotations Favouring Exploitation

According to Schultz (2001), many words, phrases, and clauses have connotations favourable to exploiting the natural environment. For instance, the word develop has various meanings in the dictionary. Macquarie dictionary gives the following meanings: to bring out the capabilities or possibilities of, to build on (land), to prepare (vacant land) for housing by providing roads, sewerage, etc. It has positive connotations with air, water, and soil associated with it. Schultz explained that the word development is more appropriate when we add the adjective sustainable, which makes it bearable development. He further says commercial users hijacked the phrase sustained unsustainable development. He argues that ecologically sustainable development is another way of using the term for commercial purposes because the majority takes the same meaning as its apparent layer conveys. The better expression that can be used to protect the environment or ecosystem is the

development of sustainability. Analysis of environmentally biased language that encourages exploitation remains an important and intricate topic within Ecolinguistic research about environmental policy.

The investigation studies how supposedly neutral words conceal potential resource exploitation tendencies. The choice of language determines the way ecological policies get displayed along with their levels of discussion and eventual implementation. In the environmental context neutral verbalizations hold hidden meanings which tend to support resource exploitation more than conservation or sustainability efforts. The research identifies and analyzes the occurrence of neutral language with exploitative meanings which appears in environmental media texts to study its implications on choices made during policy development processes. Research of extensive environmental media discourse addresses the manner through which specific lexical choices affect how the public views things while also influencing policy direction. Research findings add to the understanding between language, ideology and environmental discourse when studied in relation to public perception (Morton, 2019).

2.3.2 Euphemism

Euphemism describes the practice of selecting benevolent words in expressions instead of harsh ones that produce negative impacts for listeners. The word passed away serves as a more appropriate term than death according to Rababah (2014). The resource development industry relies on pleasant language which includes euphemistic terms that portray their environmental actions as both beneficial and non-harmful to nature. These expressions

make nature improvement claims and background value addition statements alongside statements that show ecosystem-friendly participation (Schultz, 2001).

Euphemism functions as the base for perceptual shift in environmental policy through Ecolinguistic studies. Environmental vocabulary functions as a key mechanism to shape public perspectives about environmental policies as well as to construct environmental practices through its impact on public perceptions. The investigation explores the widespread presence of euphemisms throughout media discourse about climate change because they both conceal and reveal policy motives together with their results. Environmental policies utilize euphemisms as a common practice to soften public viewing of environmentally degrading conditions and regulatory procedures. Environmental remediation represents a more pleasing term than environmental cleanup while sustainable harvesting creates a positive impression instead of resource exploitation. Public opinion becomes more receptive due to the skilful selection of words. A proper Ecolinguistic approach to analyze euphemistic methods within climate change discourse reveals the complete effects of this terminology. An Ecolinguistic review demonstrates how unintended effects of euphemisms diminish the genuine level of environmental threats. Environmental problems could be minimized by politicians who employ euphemistic language since such terminology might deter effective actions. The research will study euphemism occurrence in environmental media discourse to analyze their effects on public perception and political decision-making and environmental program success. This approach delivers important knowledge about how language together with media policies interacts with ecological sustainability (Schultz, 2001).

This discussion of Ecolinguistics provides a foundation for understanding how language ideologies influence climate communication, which is central to the present study.

2.4 Eco-Critical Discourse Analysis

Eco-Critical Discourse Analysis (ECDA), as a theoretical framework developed by Stibbe (2015), provides a lens through which the relationship between language and ecological ideology can be critically evaluated. This section introduces ECDA and discusses its relevance to analyzing media narratives around climate change in ecologically vulnerable regions like South Asia.

Stibbe (2014) published an article that clarifies the relationship between Ecolinguistics and critical discourse studies. Eco-linguistics often relies on the same kind of linguistic analysis as critical discourse studies. However, while discourse analysis focuses solely on the relationship between humans, eco-linguistics considers not just the relationship between individuals, but also the link between humans and the greater ecological system on which all life depends. Stibbe's (2015) book is among the most significant contributions to the subject of eco-linguistics. He defines what the stories we live by means in this book. He clarifies that the books, novels, and short stories we read to kids are not included in the term "stories." Rather, it describes any kind of written or spoken conversation that is all around us, what lies outside of its phrases, and how to read between the lines. Halliday's perspective on language and its function for people, plants, and animals is taken up by Fill (2019). According to Halliday (1990), language separates us from other living things. It distinguishes between things that are beneficial to humans and those that are not, like plants.

The analysis of discourse and environmental news and policy remains fundamental to present-day environmental research through its presentation of methods which stakeholders employ for communicating ecological matters. Eco-critical discourse analysis (ECDA) serves as the complete analytical framework of this research to study climate change discourse in chosen South Asian publications. ECDA gives researchers a rigorous method for analyzing environmental narratives through discourses so they can discover power dynamics and ideologies and linguistic methods which influence environmental policymaking according to Penz and Fill (2022). The investigation draws from selected South Asian newspaper content through its corpus-based methodological approach. The systematic text analysis method of corpus linguistics helps researchers study large text collections and identify both key themes and significant environmental discourse terminology according to McEnery and Hardie (2011). The fundamental goal of this research involves the disclosure of major discursive themes alongside rhetorical strategies in chosen South Asian newspapers. This approach aligns with previous ECDA studies that have analysed diverse discourse types, such as academic texts, media reports, and economic discourses. However, the focus here is on the specific environmental discourse in selected South Asian newspapers, a region with unique environmental challenges and policy priorities. Uncovering the prevalent discursive topics and rhetorical techniques used in selected South Asian newspapers is one of the main goals of this research.

"Ecological analysis of discourse aims at carrying out a form of critical discourse study whereby 'discourses are analysed within an ecological framework which considers the impact of the discourses on the systems which support life' (Alexander and Stibbe, 2014, p. 110)." The study of ecological discourse falls under the umbrella of

Ecolinguistics. One definition of Ecolinguistics is the study of the interaction between language and the environment. The current investigation focuses on Ecolinguistics, which studies how language and the environment interact. Ecolinguistics hypothesises that language affects "the life-sustaining relationships among humans, other organisms, and the physical environment". As a result, an ecological form of linguistics "is normatively oriented towards preserving relationships which sustain life" (Alexander and Stibbe, 2014, 104). This method has its roots in the Firthian and later Hallidayan idea that if languages are intended to be social systems, they represent and influence how people perceive and behave in the outside world.

Understanding how discourse functions requires understanding the reciprocal interaction between discourse and the social situation. Discourse shapes a particular social setting in addition to the social context itself. In other words, we may say that dominant discourses in society depend on "conventional uses of language" that both create and are created by "conventional ways of thinking" (Eisenhart and Johnstone, 2008). Thus, discourse goes beyond what we typically think of as language and transforms into an activity that creates the things it discusses. The ECDA broadens the scope of CDS by focusing on "how environmental issues are presented, be it in written, spoken, or pictorial form" (Fill, 2001). It looks at how specific social groups choose from the available lexical terms and grammatical constructions and combine them in specific ways to convey stories about the outside world. According to Stibbe (2015), stories are underlying cognitive models that appear in the text and exist in people's brains or the collective minds of many people. Familiar stories are the ones we live by and shape how people think, speak, and behave, which affects how we handle the ecosystems on which life depends. Thus,

Ecolinguistics acknowledges the necessity of critically analysing the prevalent environmental discourse. These discourses are so pervasive that they reflect our relationship to the environment and can create certain perceptions and attitudes that may motivate us to defend or further undermine the systems sustaining life.

The fundamental principles of ecological frameworks take the form of individual ecological frameworks known as ecosophies in ecological discourse studies (Naess and Snyder, 1995). "A philosophy of ecological harmony" that "contains norms, rules, postulates, value priority announcements and hypotheses concerning the state of affairs" is known as an ecosophy. Personal ecosophies are based on the most popular ecological theories. They helped to make ecological discourse analysis more than just another type of discourse analysis. According to the ecological framework that the analyst accepts and adopts, discourses can be categorised as destructive, ambivalent, or constructive (Stibbe, 2015). Positive discourses "convey ideologies which can actively encourage people to protect the systems that support life," whereas destructive discourses "convey ideologies which oppose the principles of the ecosophy" (Stibbe, 2015). Ambivalent discourses "contain some aspects which align with the analyst's ecosophy and some which oppose it." Other linguistic characteristics can also be utilised to study these discourses. Stibbe asserts that ecological discourse analysis incorporates several linguistic theories. For this study, only four were taken. These include frame theory (Lakoff and Wehling, 2012), metaphor theory (Müller, 2008), appraisal theory (Martin and White, 2005), and identity theory (Benwell and Stokoe, 2006).

Furthermore, to quantitatively examine the frequency and distribution of environmental terms and linguistic elements within the corpus, this study depends on the

corpus linguistics research of Biber et al. (1998). This strategy offers factual proof of the critical environmental issues these newspapers has highlighted. This study uses qualitative ECDA methodologies and quantitative analyses to examine how language choices in texts on environmental discourse relate to the regional socio-political environment, power structures, and ecological ideologies. How South Asian newspapers address significant concerns, including climate change, water resource management, and biodiversity conservation, are critically examined.

2.4.1 Discourse and Ideologies

Fairclough is the view that discourses do not represent the only surface structure of the world. Instead, they represent other possible worlds/stories or meanings that are different from the actual representation of the world in the given discourses. The real purpose of the discourses is to change the direction of the contemporary world in a particular way or highlight a purposefully focused phenomenon (Fairclough, 2003). Therefore, discourses are not only confined to text; other social and cultural elements are also part of it. Thus, it is described that “Discourses are not only standardised ways of using language in a particular society but also comprises images and other forms of representation” (Stibbe, 2015, p.22).

Different writers and speakers of a particular discourse group have similar characteristics in their style, grammatical choices, and patterns of presupposition and linguistic features that construct a life story. For instance, economists, agriculturalists, environmentalists, or nature writers tell a particular story about the world in their style (Stibbe, 2015). When discourse analysts critically analyse discourses, they identify

different levels/constructions in the discourses and refer to them as particular constructions or versions of reality, a coherent way of making sense of the world, a practice of constituting and constructing the world (Fairclough, 1992); models of the world (Machin and Mayr, 2023); measuring-resources to make sense of the world (Kress, 2009). So, it shows that the stories are not just transparent descriptions of reality; instead, they shape how we perceive reality. In this way, the truth for different groups is different based on their priorities and mental ideologies. For instance, economics plays a vital role in politics but only in discourses; in physical reality, the economy has no position in exchanging goods.

Moreover, ideologies are embedded in discourses, and the discourse aims to mould society's ideological construction. Ideology is “Belief systems about how the world was, is, will be or should be which are shared by members of particular groups in society” (Stibbe, 2015, p.23). Although ideologies exist in the minds of individuals, they are also shared among the members of society. Van Dijk (2011) says that ideologies are a ‘form of social cognition’ transferred and distributed among group members. However, Stibbe (2015) argues that ideologies are not only restricted to the group members but sometimes also spread to attract the larger group or culture to think about a particular area of life. He says that the choice of lexical items, grammatical constructions, and other linguistic features indicate the specific group who created the stories. The purpose of Ecolinguistic analysis of ideology is whether it encourages people to preserve or destroy the ecosystems that support life. Ecolinguists assess whether ideology is compatible with their ecosophy or works against it. As ideologies are embedded in the language, breaking the ice,

denaturalising the language, challenging the construction, and resisting the stories and ideologies harmful to the ecological system (Stibbe, 2015).

Stibbe (2015) has described the following types of discourses.

2.4.1.1 Destructive Discourses

Discourses that are harmful to the ecosystem are needed to resist the protection of ecosystems are destructive discourses. Economic discourses (Halliday, 1992; Stibbe, 2015) are considered more destructive from an ecological point of view. Gare (2002) also believes that economic and scientific discourses caused great harm to the natural environment because they spread ideologies in which the world is shown as a commodity that can only be measured in terms of its usefulness. Ecolinguistics, then, can scrutinise the discourses of different groups, such as economists, veterinarians, agribusiness executives, politicians, and advertisers, to raise awareness of the potentially harmful environmental impacts of the ideologies conveyed.

2.4.1.2 Beneficial Discourses

Discourses that are genuinely eco-centric in encouraging care for other species, the environment, sustainability, and the ecosystem are beneficial. These discourses aim to deal with the ecological problems caused by destructive discourses. The objective is to preserve the positive aspects of the discourses while addressing any problematic part. Martin (2004) introduced the term Positive discourse analysis to analyse practical discourses that promote the discourse rather than resist it. Beneficial discourses convey ideologies that can actively encourage people to protect the systems that support life.

2.4.1.3 Ambivalent Discourses

In ambivalent discourses, the focus is on more positive yet problematic discourses of environmentalism, ecology, conservation, sustainability, and green advertising. These discourses advocate positive natural sustainability while hiding the destructive ecosophies by using linguistic features such as the process of nominalisation. Ambivalent discourses contain some aspects that deal with positive ecological problems caused by harmful discourses but simultaneously promote some hidden ideologies that oppose the facts. These discourses are criticised for representing plants, animals, rivers, and forests as resources in the same way as destructive discourses of agribusiness. Consequently, the aim of the ambivalent discourses is not to direct resistance but a more constructive attempt to work with those responsible (Stibbe, 2015).

While Stibbe's classification of destructive and beneficial discourses provides a valuable analytical lens, its application to the media of postcolonial and climate-vulnerable regions remains underexplored. This study addresses that limitation by applying the same categories to newspapers from Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh.

2.5 Frames and Framing

The term frame is used in various ways in different disciplines, and these frames also have multiple meanings in the same field. Similarly, using different frames can structure areas of life in quite different ways because different frames tell very different stories about how the world is or should be in the future. From the Ecolinguistic point of view, framing is used in academics and frequently by organisations and individuals working towards social change. For example, a framing approach has been used by the UK

government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to explore and advise about communication of biodiversity issues (Christmas et al. 2013) and climate change (Brewer and Lakoff, 2008).

Like discourses, frames can also be critically analysed concerning the ecosophy. Several related terms like Schemata, idealised cognitive models, and Scripts have an almost similar meaning as word frame is used. Stibbe has defined frame, framing, and reframing in the following words. Frame: “A-frame is a story about an area of life that is brought to mind by particular trigger words” (Stibbe, 2015, p.47). Framing: “Framing is the use of a story from one area of life (a frame) to structure how another area of life is conceptualised” (Stibbe, 2015, p.47).

2.5.1 Metaphors

A metaphor exists as a story that gives an unfamiliar meaning to items within an understanding. Any metaphor establishes a comparison between irreconcilable entities because they relative knowledge base to another' (Martin, 2013) and 'function through knowledge transfer from one established domain to another' (Chilton and Schäffner, 2011). The cognitive process benefits from metaphors which aid humans in developing their mental understanding of reality. The selection of improper metaphors poses risks to human survival according to Nerlich and Jaspal (2012) and other writers. Metaphorical language extends past ornamental linguistic devices because these expressions create strong mental instruments which affect human thinking patterns and decision frameworks. Distorted perceptions together with incorrect behaviours may lead to negative outcomes when we select a metaphor that fails to accurately represent or under represents a situation. Through

this perspective metaphorical language serves both as poetry in language and as an influential mechanism we use to create social consciousness and determine historical human outcomes.

According to Metaphor Theory developed by Stibbe our comprehension of the universal structure depends on metaphoric structures and hence affects our evolutionary path. Metaphors employ concrete imagery taken from defined life domains to form conceptual structures for other domain representation (Stibbe, 2015, pp. 64-65). The analysis of metaphors determines their contribution to environmental awareness as it presents alternative storylines. Our main research objective focuses on assessing whether metaphoric approaches raise ecological understanding among people or if they mostly function to generate alternative storytelling perspectives. Stibbe (2015) explains that metaphorical language works as mental frames which link familiar concrete concepts to unfamiliar abstract concepts for understanding purposes. Students use metaphors to understand complex environmental issues through their connection to personal and practical domains of their lives. Metaphors show great potential as learning resources if their application matches the requirements of environmental education curriculum. The use of metaphors helps students understand environmental topics better by applying concepts from student daily experiences together with observable world surroundings. The result is heightened pupil engagement and a stronger environmental awareness relationship which leads to developing environmental consciousness in students.

2.5.2 Evaluation and Appraisal Patterns

Stibbe includes Evaluation and Appraisal patterns among the elements of his presented Ecolinguistic theory framework. According to Stibbe (2015 p.84) evaluation refers to “Evaluations are stories in people’s minds about whether an area of life is good or bad.” Assessment represents a combination of linguistic elements which collectively show whether a life area is good or bad according to Stibbe (2015, p.84). A text contains appraisal patterns which structurally describe elements in either positive or negative terms. Ecolinguistics requires appraisal patterns because they determine how people perceive different life aspects.

Language appraisal patterns reveal how people mentally evaluate to bring forth new potential inquiries and challenges. Martin and White (2005) identify evaluating items as language elements which provide negative or positive appraisal of various life aspects. The evaluation methods of appraisal patterns allow researchers to explore Ecolinguistic assessments. Based on the analyst's ecosophy the evaluation patterns in the stories held by people will be deemed destructive or ambivalent. The research works to uncover harmful evaluations then explores methods of either resisting them or finding substitute evaluations that bring more beneficial outcomes. The method of analysis through Appraisal Patterns lets researchers detect and evaluate appraisal perspectives contained within guidelines through extensive language examination. The theory presents a systematic approach which exposes evaluative qualities to make ideologies and perspectives within linguistic structures more understandable. Through this approach research can more easily detect what critical stakeholders think about environmental issues. Analyzing environmental management through Appraisal Patterns enables researchers to discover public opinion

promotion alongside the chosen language stance on key environmental management issues. The obtained information serves critical needs to evaluate public sentiment while uncovering governmental objectives along with core values and parameters (Alexander, 2014).

The Appraisal Patterns Theory serves to explain the discourse techniques that appear in environmental policy documents. The research tool helps experts detect how newspapers utilize language techniques for highlighting time-sensitive environmental problems that concern intensification and mitigation issues. The theory helps researchers discover problematic inconsistencies between different elements of the policy text. Environmental discourse evaluation and constructive criticism development proceed through assessing its transparency and efficiency with these techniques. Texts apply the appraisal pattern by using systematic descriptions to present favourable and harmful elements (Halliday, 1992). Appraisal patterns are particularly relevant in Ecolinguistics because they impact whether individuals think favourably or adversely about a particular aspect of life. If individuals are bombarded with claims that economic development is beneficial, the message may sink deep into their thoughts and become a tale they live by. This story, once implanted in their minds, influences their behaviour and how they deal with the systems that support life. Evaluations are people's mental models of whether something is great or bad. The terms may be defined as follows: Evaluations are stories that people tell themselves about whether a particular aspect of life is good or bad. Appraisal patterns are linguistic clusters that indicate whether a particular aspect of life is excellent or bad. According to Martin and White, appraisal theory is concerned with "how writers/speakers approve and disapprove, stimulate and abhor, applaud and criticise, and position their readers/listeners to do the

same." A important topic is how assessment patterns within a text create a tone or mood. Martin and Rose (2003) refer to this as a 'prosodic pattern of evaluation choices', or, in other words an appraisal pattern.

2.6 Climate Change Discourse and Newspapers

Boykoff (2004) investigated climate change coverage in the United States' major newspapers (New York Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, and Wall Street Journal). One of their primary results was the existence of a certain journalistic norm, which they identified as being in place. This is the standard for balanced reporting, which always seeks and presents two sides of an issue. Following this trend, US newspapers gave marginal scientists substantial coverage, much to the consternation of scientists serving on the IPCC. As a result, Boykoff (2004) claims that the standard of impartiality has resulted in inaccurate reporting on this subject. They argue that adhering to the balanced reporting norm ultimately leads to informational biased coverage of global warming. This prejudice, cloaked beneath the guise of journalistic balance, provides both rhetorical and real political margins for the United States administration to avoid accountability and postpone action on global warming. Boykoff, 2004.

Grundmann (2007) discovered that in Germany, no norm of equal and balanced coverage could be observed. An examination of newspaper reporting over a 20-year period revealed that German press coverage emphasized the "official" scientific opinion as expressed by the IPCC. When compared advocacy researchers (those who call for immediate action to combat climate change) against outsiders, there was a strong bias in favour of the engagement scientists.

The UK has been noted in a similar manner. Indeed, in a follow-up study that went beyond the previous data set and compared media coverage in the US and the UK, Boykoff (2004) discovered that while there was a significant increase in the amount of newspaper coverage of human-caused climate change within both countries during the study period, there was also a shift in the United States newspapers coverage in the year 2005 from specifically equal weighed accounts to focusing that closer reflected the scientific view on responsibility for climate change. Boykoff (2007). According to research by Brossard et al. (2007), media attention was significantly influenced by international conferences. But there were other issues as well. One example is the IPCC's institutionalization of science reporting, which has resulted in increased reporting levels. When an IPCC report is about to be issued, there is a flurry of activity and much conjecture about the level of drama and urgency expressed in it. While this supports Downs' claim that the topic must be made sexy in order to demand attention, his assertion regarding an attention cycle cannot be substantiated. The volume of reports appears to be increasing with time. Like many previous studies, Carvalho (2005) contends that messages as well as significance in news reports of environmental issues are socially produced.

According to (Grundmann, 2010), standards and ideologies beliefs play a critical role in explaining disparities in the media's reinterpretations of scientific information on climate change, which can either sustain or destroy the space for specific policy alternatives and individual action. This is exemplified by the coverage of the Guardian and Independently on the one hand, and the Times on the other. The Guardian, and to some degree the Independent, tried to preserve climate change on the public agenda. The Times

attempted to persuade its audience that climate change posed no serious harm to society (Carvalho, 2005).

Although these studies explore climate discourse in the Western press, they do not consider how similar issues manifest in non-Western media. The current study extends their findings by comparing climate narratives across South Asian national contexts.

2.7 Ecolinguistics and Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies (CADS)

In this context, this study examines the discourse created in the region using corpus-assisted discourse studies (CADS) tools, as part of the broader Eco linguistic approach. Poole (2019) attempts to broaden the scope of corpus linguistics and emphasizes the usefulness of corpus linguistics in eco-linguistic research. Eco-linguists have used corpus linguistics to investigate discourses primarily connected to ecological issues, such as discourses about the climate catastrophe and reports concerning animals and nature. Obviously, this type of research, which examines environmental challenges, has produced crucial insights into language use" (p.72), as well as how we grasp and experience the physical world. Furthermore, Poole's work emphasizes the possibilities of employing corpus-aided approaches to show linguistic patterns employed across any discourse that normalize and perpetuate a complex of attitudes, identities, practices, and relationships with the physical world (p.72).

Corpus-assisted discourse studies (CADS) combine corpus linguistics and discourse analysis, a term coined by Partington and Haarman in 2004. Partington (2010) provides a good, well-established definition of CADS. The primary goal of Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies is to investigate and compare properties of certain conversation

forms, including methodologies and tools established in corpus linguistics into the research as needed. (Partington, 2010).

According to Baker and McEnery (2015), CADS offers a strong and effective approach to discourse analysis. A computer-held collection of naturalized texts and other computerized techniques are used in corpus linguistics, a mostly quantitative approach to studying language and language use. Because corpus linguistics is computer-based, it allows us to explore patterns of language use that are not visible to the human eye (what Partington, 2010, p. 88, refers to as non-obvious meaning). This is one of the well-established advantages of using corpus linguistics: it allows us to make observations about language use that go beyond intuition. This makes it easier to spot recurring linguistic patterns in vast volumes of text. CADS combines corpus approaches with methodologies traditionally associated with qualitative discourse analysis, which focus on understanding the environment in which texts are produced and received. When compared to quantitative or qualitative analyses alone, CADS techniques can ultimately reveal more sophisticated patterns of language use and representations (Jaworska, 2016). Computer-Assisted Discussion Search serves as an efficient research method to analyze expansive language subjects which range from scientific to rhetorical domains such as climate change analysis. The software system provides novel understandings of familiar content although it does not offer fresh insights about language as reported by (Hunston, 2002). The analysis system helps understand how language evolves with beliefs and attitudes toward climate action making such information useful for climate decision-making (Flottum, 2017).

While previous studies used qualitative methods such as manual content analysis, this study adopts a mixed-method design that combines corpus linguistics with eco-critical

discourse analysis. This integration enables both large-scale lexical patterning and micro-level ideological interpretation, suited for cross-national media comparisons.

2.8 Research Gap

Despite South Asia stands as one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change yet researchers have paid insufficient attention to how media discusses this issue throughout the area. This research fills an academic gap through comparative analysis of newspaper discourse about climate change which includes data from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. The current academic research investigates this essential knowledge deficit by performing a corpus-based analysis of climate change articles within South Asian newspapers. Multiple investigations exist regarding media coverage within developed nations yet insufficient research illuminates the specific obstacles and cultural environments together with the national contributions of Pakistan alongside India and Bangladesh. The methods through which developing nations present climate change topics form the basis for global cooperation and beneficial climate policy development.

2.9 Conclusion of Literature review

In conclusion, the reviewed literature establishes a strong foundation for the study of climate discourse from Ecolinguistic and critical discourse perspectives. However, a notable gap persists in applying these frameworks to non-Western media contexts. By combining corpus linguistics with eco-critical discourse analysis, the present study aims to contribute a new methodological and regional perspective to the field. The next chapter outlines the research methodology and analytical procedures adopted to pursue these objectives.

CHAPTER # 03

RESEARCH METHADALOGY

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study's methodology is based on systematic evaluation of South Asian media discourse on climate change. This section of the thesis describes the study technique in detail, including the research strategy and all necessary components including the theoretical framework, analytical approach, sampling techniques, data collection methods, and analysis procedures. Multiple research approaches provide academics with an organized approach to analyzing global climate discourse across nations, allowing for considerable comparison analysis and critical awareness. The study uses a Corpus-Based Ecolinguistic approach, using discourse analytic tools to identify prominent themes, linguistic patterns, and ideological foundations in climate reporting from DAWN (Pakistan), The Daily Star (Bangladesh), and The Times of India (India).

3.1 Research Design

The research design use comparative approaches to assess qualitative data, as well as CADS methodology, to better understand how South Asian publications cover climate change. Corpus-based research methodologies provide large-scale language inquiries with qualitative investigative features and interpretive approach. This study combines corpus linguistic approaches with critical discourse analysis (CDA) to produce statistical data and critical readings of ideological stances in climate discourse.

The study employs both descriptive and quantitative research approaches to investigate patterns of climate discourse, thereby improving our understanding of environmental and political narratives. The newspaper data analysis employs a dual strategy that investigates patterned discursive features and reveals the social and political implications of how issues are portrayed. The research technique enables the investigation to uncover both information concerning climate change policies and interpret their verbal methods, as well as the cultural and political elements influencing news discourse.

Using combined research approaches allows for a comprehensive and in-depth study of climate discourses and conversations. Researchers obtain empirically replicable conclusions through the use of corpus linguistics, but critical discourse analysis interprets power systems, ideological frameworks, and environmental narratives. Because climate discourse manifests itself in a variety of complex dimensions, an interdisciplinary approach is the most appropriate study method for such investigations.

3.2 Selection of Newspapers and Corpus Compilation

The dataset comprises articles from three leading English-language newspapers representing South Asia's most climate-vulnerable nations: DAWN (Pakistan), The Times of India (India), and The Daily Star (Bangladesh). These newspapers were selected based on their editorial influence, national circulation, and consistency in reporting environmental and climate-related issues. Their transnational significance and accessibility via digital archives also made them suitable for comparative analysis.

3.2.1 Dawn (Pakistan)

Founded by Muhammad Ali Jinnah in 1941 in British India, *Dawn* was originally established as a voice for the All-India Muslim League, advocating for the rights of Muslims and the creation of Pakistan. The first printed issue appeared on 12 October 1942 at Latifi Press. Following the partition of India in 1947, *Dawn* relocated to Karachi, where it continues to serve as Pakistan's most widely circulated English-language newspaper. As of 2010, it had a weekday circulation exceeding 109,000 copies. The newspaper maintains a strong editorial policy and has correspondents in major cities such as Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta, and Islamabad, as well as internationally. *Dawn* is published by the Dawn Media Group, which also operates CityFM89 and the media magazine *Aurora*. It is widely regarded as Pakistan's most authoritative English-language publication and a primary source for policy analysis, investigative journalism, and historical documentation (SOAS, 2009).

3.2.2 The Times of India (India)

Established in 1838, *The Times of India (TOI)* is India's oldest English-language newspaper and the second-oldest Indian newspaper still in circulation. Published by Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd. (B.C.C.L.), which is owned by the Sahu Jain family, *TOI* has played a significant role in India's media landscape. It has been described as the "Old Lady of BoriBunder" due to its historical influence and credibility. By the early 20th century, it was recognized by British authorities as "the leading paper in Asia," and in 1991, the BBC ranked it among the world's six best newspapers. As of 2023, it maintains a daily circulation of over 1.8 million copies, making it the largest-selling English-language daily in the world. The newspaper's influence extends beyond print, as it has adapted to digital

platforms and remains a leading source of news for India's English-speaking readership (Natarajan, 2018).

3.2.3 The Daily Star (Bangladesh)

The Daily Star began operations on January 14th 1991 through the establishment of Syed Mohammed Ali who launched his newspaper when Bangladesh established parliamentary democracy. Since its start in January 1991 the newspaper gained a solid reputation because of its investigative journalism combined with political coverage and independent editorial policy. Numerous observers identify The Daily Star as the official newspaper of Bangladesh and recognize its quality and alignment with The New York Times principles. The editor and publisher MahfuzAnam leads The Daily Star along with its ownership by Mediaworld which maintains its share ownership under Transcom Group. In 2023 The Daily Star publishes more than 30,000 print versions daily and continues to serve as an important news source for worldwide Bengali readers who visit its digital platform (Mahfuz, 2023)

Articles were collected from both editorial and news sections, spanning the period 2019 to 2021, to capture discourse surrounding recent climate policies, international summits, and regional environmental crises. The corpus was manually created to eliminate advertisements, metadata, and irrelevant duplicates, ensuring a clean, topic-focused dataset.

3.3 Corpus Size and Structure

The final corpus includes approximately **585 climate-related articles**, distributed as follows:

Newspaper	Country	Articles	Tokens (Approx.)	Section	Years
<i>DAWN</i>	Pakistan	210	145,000	News, Editorial	2019–2021
<i>Times of India</i>	India	190	135,000	News, Editorial	2019–2021
<i>Daily Star</i>	Bangladesh	185	130,000	News, Editorial	2019–2021

3.4 Theoretical Framework

In this research study, a partial application of Norman Fairclough’s (1995) model of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is employed as a critical theoretical framework for analyzing climate change discourse in South Asian English-language newspapers. Fairclough’s CDA is particularly influential in media and communication studies due to its emphasis on the dialectical relationship between discourse, ideology, and social structures. While the full three-dimensional model of Fairclough includes detailed attention to text analysis, discursive practice, and socio-cultural practice, this study selectively incorporates components that are most directly relevant to the aims of eco-critical discourse analysis (ECDA) and corpus-based discourse studies.

Ecolinguistics serves as the theoretical framework to evaluate the connections between language and environmental components in this study. The research analyzes ecological reality through Eco-Critical Discourse Analysis whereas analysis brings together Ecolinguistic principles and critical discourse analysis approaches. Stibbe (2015)

develops the idea of stories we live by which serves as an essential basis to understand public perception and policy development through climate change stories.

Critical Discourse Analysis serves as the analytical method according to Fairclough (1995) and Van Dijk (2001) to examine how media systems use power structures for ideological representation. Language serves functions above simple communication based on CDA theory because it provides an active space for ideological power conflicts where dominant positions collect backing or challenge. The research uses CDA together with Ethnographic Critical Discourse Analysis to analyze latent ideological elements in addition to linguistic approaches and hegemonic influences which modify climate change media discourse in South Asia.

This research adopts a partial model of CDA, incorporating two key dimensions from Fairclough's framework:

a. Textual Analysis (Micro-Level)

At this level, linguistic elements such as lexical choices, modality, transitivity, and metaphor are examined. This aligns with the study's corpus linguistic approach to analyzing keyword frequencies, collocations, and metaphorical expressions related to climate change. These textual choices are understood not merely as stylistic preferences but as ideological indicators embedded in journalistic narratives (Fairclough, 2003).

b. Discursive Practice (Meso-Level)

This level focuses on the processes of text production, distribution, and consumption within the media context. Although ethnographic investigation into

newsroom practices was beyond the study's scope, attention was given to intertextuality and interdiscursivity—especially how news texts recontextualize policy reports, scientific discourses, and global climate frameworks. This lens is vital in understanding how South Asian newspapers mediate international climate narratives for local audiences.

The third level of Fairclough's model, sociocultural practice (macro-level) was not fully operationalized in this study due to constraints in scope and data availability. However, ideological and political contexts, such as national vulnerability to climate change and development agendas, were addressed through thematic interpretation of the texts, particularly in the discussion chapters.

Fairclough's CDA was chosen for its compatibility with the critical-ecological objectives of the study. CDA views language as a form of social practice, which directly supports this research's aim to analyze how linguistic choices in media texts shape public perceptions of climate change. This aligns well with the principles of Ecolinguistics, particularly Stibbe's (2015) emphasis on revealing how language sustains or undermines ecological well-being. Furthermore, Fairclough's emphasis on ideology, power, and hegemony makes CDA a suitable lens for interrogating how South Asian newspapers construct climate narratives that may either reinforce dominant techno-economic discourses or challenge unsustainable practices. The selective integration of CDA provides a critical edge to the corpus-driven findings, allowing the study to move beyond surface-level linguistic analysis toward an understanding of discourse as a vehicle for ecological meaning-making and ideological reproduction.

Media organizations focus on specific climate change elements but exclude others according to Framing Theory that Entman (1993) introduced. The study examines different methods climate change appears in scientific discussions together with its policy requirements and economic advantages and humanitarian situations. These theoretical methods allow the research to develop comprehensive comprehension about climate narrative functioning within environmental and socio-political systems.

3.5 Data Analysis (Tools & Procedure)

The analytical method detects both language patterns inside individual units of text and large-scale trends throughout the material. The research approach combines multiple analytical levels to achieve a thorough examination of climate change discourse content.

3.5.1 Corpus Linguistic Tools and Methods

Corpus linguistics provides empirical data that allows for large-scale textual analysis while maintaining the ability to identify detailed linguistic structures. The computational tools employed in this research include:

- a. **Sketch Engine:** A corpus management and query tool that allows for in-depth keyword extraction, collocation analysis, and lexical profiling.
- b. **Wmatrix:** A tool for semantic and grammatical analysis, particularly useful for identifying discourse markers and thematic trends in climate reporting.

The primary procedures within the corpus analysis include:

- i. **Tokenization and Lemmatization:** Pre-processing the text to standardize word forms for accurate frequency counts.
- ii. **Word Frequency Analysis:** Identifying the most commonly used climate-related terms across the three newspapers.
- iii. **Collocation Analysis:** Extracting word pairings that reveal how climate change is framed within different national contexts.
- iv. **Keyword Analysis:** Comparing climate-related terms in the dataset against a general reference corpus to highlight distinct linguistic patterns.

3.6 Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Qualitative Interpretation

Beyond numerical and frequency-based analysis, the study incorporates Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to explore the ideological underpinnings of climate narratives. The qualitative analysis is structured as follows:

- i. **Framing Analysis:** Examining the ways in which climate change is framed—whether as a political issue, economic opportunity, crisis, or moral obligation.
- ii. **Rhetorical Strategy Analysis:** Investigating the use of persuasive language, metaphors, and emotional appeals in climate discourse.
- iii. **Narrative Structure Analysis:** Identifying the key actors (e.g., governments, corporations, international organizations) and how they are represented in climate discourse.
- iv. **Power and Agency in Discourse:**

By examining agent roles and accountability determination, the approach looks at who is responsible in climate narratives. These tools and processes are used in this study to create a thorough critical evaluation of climate reporting in South Asian media outlets. The findings of this analysis further studies on how the media influences public understanding of climate change and environmental laws.

CHAPTER # 04

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

4.0 ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents comprehensive analyses as they address the study's objectives and questions mentioned earlier. By analyzing linguistic structures, the study shows theme focused regional agendas in climate discourse.

4.1 Frequencies Analysis:

Lexical analysis of frequency determines the most frequently used words in environmental conversation. High-frequency phrases emphasize the prominent themes, topics, and narrative frameworks found in every newspaper. This quantitative technique reveals the media's concentration on climate-related subjects, which corresponds to the first objective and question of this research study.

4.1.1 Criteria for Lexical Item Selection in Analytical Focus

The selection of lexical items for detailed analysis in this chapter was grounded in both quantitative salience and discourse relevance. Using corpus tools such as **Sketch Engine** and **Wmatrix**, a keyword analysis was conducted to identify statistically significant climate-related terms that occurred more frequently in the specialized newspaper corpus than in a standard reference corpus (e.g., British National Corpus). Words with high log-likelihood values were shortlisted to ensure analytical focus on statistically prominent lexemes.

In addition to statistical frequency, lexical items were filtered based on their semantic alignment with climate discourse, drawing upon the USAS semantic tagging system and previous Ecolinguistic studies (Stibbe, 2015). Particular attention was paid to

terms falling within semantic fields such as environmental threat, policy response, technological innovation, and climate justice. Examples include terms such as *mitigation*, *resilience*, *vulnerability*, and *net-zero*, which not only appeared frequently but also served as discursive signifiers of ideological stance, evaluative positioning, and framing strategies.

Moreover, collocational analysis revealed that certain words—despite moderate frequency—formed strong conceptual clusters (e.g., *climate* + *crisis*, *carbon* + *neutral*, *government* + *failure*) that warranted further interpretive focus. These terms were selected for qualitative elaboration due to their discursive salience in shaping public understanding and reflecting institutional narratives embedded in climate change reporting.

Table 4 illustrates the frequency analysis of lexical words from DAWN, a major Pakistani daily newspaper.

No	Token	Frequency	Relative Frequency
1	Climate	984	11820.81376
2	Change	667	8012.68575
3	Pakistan	551	6619.17519
4	Water	326	3916.24521
5	Government	212	2546.76069
6	Flood	123	1477.60172
7	Issue	119	1429.54963

8	Temperature	119	1429.54963
9	Action	117	1405.52359
10	Emission	115	1381.49754
11	Development	110	1321.43243
12	Impact	108	1297.40639
13	Tree	100	1201.30221
14	Billion	100	1201.30221
15	Policy	96	1153.25012
16	Energy	95	1141.2371
17	Environment	93	1117.21106
18	Community	88	1057.14595
19	Effect	84	1009.09386
20	Health	81	973.05479
21	Challenge	80	961.04177
22	Dengue	79	949.02875
23	Risk	78	937.01573
24	Disaster	66	792.85946
25	Life	64	768.83342
26	Weather	64	768.83342
27	Problem	63	756.82039
28	Gas	62	744.80737
29	Resource	60	720.78133
30	Crisis	59	708.7683

Table 4.1 shows the frequency analysis of lexical words from DAWN, a prominent Pakistani newspaper, provides valuable insights into the discourse surrounding climate change and environmental issues. By examining the most frequently occurring words, we can discern the primary concerns, thematic focus, and linguistic patterns that shape the representation of climate-related discussions in Pakistan's media landscape. The research demonstrates that the relative frequency measures terms against the British National Corpus (BNC) to understand both significant words in climate discourse and the general narrative approaches.

The dataset demonstrates high frequency of the word “climate” which appears 984 times while its close relative “change” occurs 667 times. Climate change discussions receive significant attention because this crucial matter has become more important for both worldwide and regional concerns. DAWN demonstrates extensive publishing of content related to environmental changes and policy dialogues and sustainability initiatives through its high use of these key terms. By linking “climate” and “change” the news coverage demonstrates how environmental topics maintain essential importance across media reporting.

The term “Pakistan” appears in the text a total of 551 times. The discussion of climate-related matters in DAWN News focuses on the direct effects environmental challenges have on Pakistan within the context of national interests. The consistently mentioned name of the country demonstrates that news articles discuss official climate

action through policies alongside vulnerability assessment and national responses to environmental change by focusing on domestic rather than global content.

The high occurrence of “water” as an analyzed term at 326 demonstrates the urgent need for water management in Pakistan. Since Pakistan is prone to droughts and glacier deterioration and erratic monsoon patterns water topics will dominate the discussion about climate change. The abundant references to water in the text demonstrate DAWN's dedicated focus on reporting water resource availability and climate change effects and water-related solutions.

The frequency list serves as an essential tool for gaining insights into environmental issues that media communication emphasizes across the board. The narrative combines climate-related terms with policy-oriented language and governance discussion as well as measures for mitigation which highlights both the difficulties and possible ways to address them. DAWN's reporting goes beyond problem identification since it participates in discussions about productive strategies to manage climate change through both governmental measures and public initiatives and scientific progress.

The additional data on relative word frequency allows us to understand which words dominate other terms in the corpus. Words which appear frequently throughout various articles demonstrate their common utilization thus confirming the major role climate-related content plays in DAWN's journalistic coverage. Statistical analysis confirms the qualitative observation that climate change represents a prominent topic within Pakistani media news publications, especially in their most influential English edition.

A thorough understanding of media coverage regarding climate change in Pakistani news emerges through the frequency analysis of DAWN newspaper lexical words. The frequency of climate and change combined with Pakistan along with water mentions demonstrates an analytical focus on environmental issues with major national consequences and resource control. This analysis functions as an indispensable method that reveals the media's influence on formation of public climate change understanding and policy discussions which support public progress toward better societal involvement.

Table 4 2Illustrates the frequency analysis of lexical words from the Times of India, newspaper.

No	Token	Frequency	Relative Frequency
1	India	697	6402.18979
2	Climate	602	5529.58142
3	Country	407	3738.43794
4	Change	347	3187.31687
5	World	313	2875.01493
6	Delhi	227	2085.07472
7	Issue	198	1818.69954
8	Government	165	1515.58295
9	Mumbai	150	1377.80268
10	Emission	150	1377.80268

11	Kashmir	146	1341.06128
12	Today	144	1322.69057
13	Carbon	143	1313.50522
14	Jammu	136	1249.20776
15	Water	133	1221.65171
16	Environment	124	1138.98355
17	Forest	122	1120.61285
18	cop26	119	1093.05679
19	Result	112	1028.75933
20	Action	111	1019.57398
21	Energy	101	927.72047
22	Development	89	817.49626
23	Epaper	88	808.31091
24	Coal	62	569.49177
25	Fuel	58	532.75037
26	Warming	52	477.63826
27	Temperature	50	459.26756
28	Weather	45	413.3408
29	Resource	42	720.78133
30	Crisis	39	708.7683

The frequency analysis of lexical words listed above in table 4.2 from *The Times of India*, one of India's leading newspapers, provides crucial insights into how climate change and environmental issues are framed in Indian media discourse. By studying the most frequently occurring words, we can determine the thematic focus, key concerns, and linguistic strategies used in climate-related discussions. This examination reveals both the national and global perspectives that shape climate discourse in India's media landscape.

One of the most frequently occurring words in the dataset is “India,” with a high frequency of 697 occurrences. This highlights the country-specific nature of the discourse, emphasizing that discussions on climate change are largely framed within the national context. The frequent mention of “India” suggests that articles focus on the country's policies, climate challenges, and environmental initiatives rather than purely reporting international developments. The emphasis on a national perspective reflects a sense of urgency and responsibility toward addressing climate-related concerns domestically.

The second most common word in the frequency list is “climate,” appearing 602 times, followed closely by “change” at 347 occurrences. The strong presence of these terms underscores the newspaper's engagement with climate change as a critical issue. The significant mention of these words suggests that *The Times of India* extensively covers various dimensions of climate change, including scientific discussions, policy interventions, and societal implications. The close pairing of “climate” and “change” indicates that climate discourse in the newspaper is framed as an ongoing and pressing global challenge.

Another notable word in the list is “country,” appearing 407 times. This frequent occurrence signifies that climate discussions in the newspaper are often linked to broader national narratives, portraying climate change as a challenge that requires coordinated efforts at the governmental and societal levels. The term “country” may also indicate discussions on India’s role in global climate agreements, national policies, and international commitments such as the Paris Agreement.

The presence of words with high relative frequency values further validates the centrality of climate change in the newspaper’s coverage. Words with higher relative frequency values appear consistently across multiple articles, signifying their importance in shaping media discourse. The significant representation of climate-related term The Times of India newspaper analyzes its lexical words with frequency methods to reveal how Indian media frames environmental and climate change discussions. Frequent word analysis reveals both the dominant themes and main issues and stylistic patterns found in climate-related discussions. An analysis reflects the two levels of climate discourse perspective that affect media reporting in India.

The word “India” appears as the leading term in the dataset with its occurrence totaling 697 times across the text. The discussions about climate change in India demonstrate strong national biases because they predominantly concentrate on national issues within Indian borders. Articles generally center on national policy development and environmental measures taken by India thus dominating discussions instead of focusing solely on international climate news. The media draws special attention to national issues because domestic climate-related concerns require swift and direct action.

Among the most frequently utilized words in the frequency list stands “climate” with 602 occurrences and its close relative “change” appearing 347 times. These primary terms demonstrate how seriously the newspaper treats climate change as an essential topic. These central words indicate that The Times of India devotes substantial coverage to different aspects of climate change across scientific research and policy decisions and societal consequences. The newspaper presents climate discourse as a continuous urgent worldwide problem since “climate” and “change” appear together frequently.

The singular occurrence of “country” in the document stands out by appearing 407 times. Climate discussions in The Times of India show a typical pattern through its frequent use because the paper links its climate coverage to national-level narratives which portray climate change as a unified societal and governmental commitment. The occurrence of "country" indicates the article discusses relevant topics like Indian involvement in worldwide climate agreements and national policy measures along with its international commitments through the Paris Agreement.

Words appearing abundantly in the newspaper content confirm how central climate change remains in their coverage. Terms with high relative frequency occur repeatedly throughout several publications because they determine media discussion dynamics. The Times of India demonstrates a substantial use of climate-related terms because environmental issues now dominate public discussions across India following higher levels of pollution and severe weather patterns together with water shortages. *The Times of India* reflects the increasing prominence of environmental issues in the Indian public

sphere, particularly in the wake of rising concerns over air pollution, extreme weather events, and water scarcity.

Open-source research of frequency data provides comprehensive knowledge about shifting storyline structures regarding climate change throughout Indian media. The Times of India uses recurrent connections between climate topics and national identity elements along with policy structures and scientific evidence to present climate change as an issue demanding joint domestic and international solutions. Through its coverage The newspaper demonstrates active participation in policy development and sustainability measures and economic assessment of climate change effects.

This research examining lexical terms of Climate Change in The Times of India reveals an extensive understanding of how climate change gains coverage in Indian media channels. The usage frequency of terms “India,” “climate,” “country,” and “change” demonstrates the newspaper's dedicated attention toward both local environmental policies and global climate agreements. This research enables us to decode the media shaping process of climate change views and policy discussions in India which builds a foundation for an educated environment-friendly population.

Table 4 3Illustrates the frequency analysis of lexical words from The Daily Star, a leading newspaper in Bangladesh

No	Token	Frequency	Relative Frequency
1	Climate	1279	12555.46393

2	Change	886	8697.53014
3	Bangladesh	480	4711.98021
4	World	299	2935.17101
5	People	222	2179.29085
6	Impact	199	1953.50846
7	Action	187	1835.70896
8	Emission	180	1766.99258
9	Loss	162	1590.29332
10	Adaptation	155	1521.57694
11	Government	149	1462.67719
12	Time	145	1423.41069
13	Development	140	1374.32756
14	Damage	137	1344.87768
15	Carbon	130	1276.16131
16	Level	129	1266.34468
17	Issue	119	1168.17843
18	Plan	116	1138.72855
19	Temperature	114	1119.0953
20	Problem	105	1030.74567
21	Gas	98	962.02929
22	Energy	92	903.12954
23	Technology	84	824.59654
24	Community	83	814.77991

25	Greenhouse	77	755.88016
26	Water	77	755.88016
27	Environment	74	726.43028
28	Life	72	706.79703
29	Forest	72	706.79703
30	Warming	70	687.16378

Table 4.3 from The Daily Star shows the results of its frequency analysis on key lexical words which helps reveal climate change coverage frames within Bangladeshi media. Analyzing frequently occurring words reveals essential themes and linguistic features which determine the public discussions about climate change in Bangladesh. The paper provides necessary insights regarding the newspaper's methods of presenting environmental discussions in a vulnerable region.

The analysis shows that the dataset contains 1,279 instances of “climate” as its top-used word and “change” with 886 instances standing as the second most common term. The Daily Star strongly covers climate change as a fundamental issue that demands extensive attention. The prominent usage of these keywords demonstrates Bangladesh's comprehension of environmental issues along with its hospitality toward climate policy and adaptive and preventative measures. The newspaper plays a vital role in spreading knowledge about global warming effects since these terms appear frequently in its content.

The term “Bangladesh” appears 480 times throughout the dataset. The climate change dialogue featured in The Daily Star extensively focuses on Bangladesh-related

challenges because the country faces direct environmental threats. The nation of Bangladesh faces high exposure to sea level rise and flooding as well as extreme weather which leads to repeated mentions of the term in the newspaper indicating that most climate coverage focuses on domestic issues and local policy responses by government officials and civil organizations.

The journal uses the term “world” 299 times indicating that climate-related news extends beyond national frameworks to global perspectives. The institutions of international climate dialogues recognize Bangladesh as an active contributor while acknowledging its status as one of the nations hardest hit by climate change. The newspaper focuses on global climate agreements as well as international cooperation and transnational efforts toward climate change mitigation through its mentions of “world.”

The word “people” stands as an essential term because it appears 222 times in the frequency list. Reportage about climate change in The Daily Star takes a perspective which centers around human populations. The newspaper addresses climate change's social effects on people through multiple references to "people" in its articles. The newspaper's approach reflects Bangladesh's current situation because it centers on the population groups who face the most harm from climate change.

The newspaper addresses climate change effects through repeated use of words such as “impact” (199 times) and “action” (187 times) and “emission” (180 times). It becomes evident that focus lies between climate-based catastrophes together with financial declines and environmental ruin when "impact" appears in articles. On the other hand, "action" often signals emphasis on climate change solutions involving mitigation methods

alongside adaptation responses. Sustained discussions about carbon footprints together with pollution control methods and sustainable energy policies occur with high frequency in the news.

Some main climate-related issues get additional emphasis through repeated use of important terms including “loss” (162 times), “adaptation” (155 times) and “government” (149 times). The occurrence of the term “loss” in articles indicates examination of damages resulting from climate change which impacts agricultural production and destroys infrastructure while threatening biodiversity. The newspaper dedicates its attention to resilience-building strategies through the term “adaption” while “government” relates to policy discussions combined with governmental environmental responses.

The Daily Star dedicates extensive coverage to various climate subjects which range from scientific discussions to technology-based solutions used to combat climate change through its use of words like “temperature,” “problem,” “energy” and “technology.” The repetition of “water” throughout the text (77 times) emphasizes important water-related issues in Bangladesh which include floods and rising water levels as well as fresh water scarcity.

This study provides a complete understanding about how climate change gets represented in Bangladeshi media through an examination of the Lexical word frequencies in The Daily Star. Terms focused on climate, change, Bangladesh and impact emphasize how the newspaper reports about national climate challenges and adaptation approaches and global climate discussion. The newspaper takes a prominent position in developing public knowledge about climate change by actively influencing both public opinion and policy discussions of this environmental issue. The Daily Star uses a combination of local

and global perspectives which creates a better informed and active citizenry when facing environmental issues.

Table 4 the comparative frequency analysis of lexical words across DAWN (Pakistan), The Daily Star (Bangladesh), and The Times of India (India)

No	Token	DAWN	The Daily Star	Times of India
1	climate	984	1279	602
2	change	667	886	347
3	World	231	299	313
4	Water	326	77	133
5	government	212	149	165
6	emission	115	180	150
7	Issue	119	119	198
8	Action	117	187	111
9	development	110	140	89
10	impact	108	199	51
11	environment	93	74	124
12	energy	95	92	101
13	temperature	119	114	50
14	carbon	57	130	143
15	Forest	52	72	122

Table 4.4 displays a comparative analysis of periodic lexical words which reveals important perspectives regarding South Asian media coverage of climate change between DAWN (Pakistan), The Daily Star (Bangladesh), and The Times of India (India). These three nations utilize common words which help reveal essential topics together with their national climate priorities as well as their language techniques used in climate-related debates. The study illustrates the multiple ways South Asian media reports climate change by focusing on both their regional interests and their realization of international environmental obligations.

Every mentioned newspaper uses climate as one of their most repeated keywords at a frequency of 955 times on average. Among the three newspapers The Daily Star takes the lead position with 1279 uses of the word while DAWN follows with 984 occurrences and The Times of India uses it 602 times. Climate change as a central concern forms the basis of major discussions across these nations although Bangladesh displays the greatest interest in this matter. The Daily Star demonstrates a robust interest in climate discussion because Bangladesh faces severe threats from rising sea levels and cyclones and floods. The high occurrence of DAWN mentions indicates that Pakistani society continues to voice rising concerns about climate-change-triggered floods together with droughts.

Climate Change stands as a continuously debated topic because it appears with an average of 633 mentions in the publications. The majority of "climate change" mentions detected in DAWN and The Daily Star exceed those found in The Times of India because Pakistan and Bangladesh consider this threat as imminent rather than something that can only be observed in the distant future. The newspapers use these two terms "climate" and

"change" with equal frequency to drive public perception and policy decisions about climate matters.

The newspapers frequently use the term “world” (281 times on average) to explain climate issues through a worldwide perspective. The Times of India refers to this term more frequently than DAWN and The Daily Star which demonstrates India's increased international climate policy involvement. The extensive Indian participation in Paris Agreement meetings and COP discussions elevates references to these topics in Indian news reporting.

The term "water" emerges at an average rate of 178 but receives 326 mentions in DAWN substantially surpassing the 77 mentions in The Daily Star and the 133 mentions in The Times of India. The sharp water shortage crisis in Pakistan matches the reality of decreased freshwater availability caused by climate change which hurts farming and destroys basic daily survival methods. The government of Bangladesh seems to evaluate climate change effects as a whole while prioritizing other factors beyond water infrastructure issues despite its serious flooding problems.

A strong emphasis on climate governance through mention of “government” appears in the newspapers at an average rate of 175 times per edition. This collective pattern of term use demonstrates that climate change discussions primarily link to elements of government activity and national regulations as well as international programs. The Daily Star stands out through its most frequent use of the term “emission” which occurs in their content 180 times while “emission” appears 148 times across all media sources. The data indicates that Bangladesh prioritizes carbon pollution control measures along with

sustainable energy regulations because industrial activities and city development remain important concerns.

Journalists at The Times of India use the word “issue” 198 times while other newspapers average 145 mentions. Indian media uses climate change as a topic within discussions of socio-political economics that demonstrate continuing difficulties regarding state development alongside environmental conservation protocols. The usage frequency of “action” reaches 138 occurrences and The Daily Star leads with 187 mentions. The media focuses strongly on climate mitigation programs and supports swift climate action in Bangladesh.

The Daily Star publishes "impact" about 199 times per article which makes it the leading Bangladesh newspaper in discussing concrete climate change effects that displace people and disrupt economies. The media discusses development themes with 113 recorded occurrences since these discussions relate to economic activities and sustainability initiatives. The Times of India demonstrates its commitment to national progress and modernization through the regular use of the term "development."

A lexical word analysis of DAWN and The Daily Star with The Times of India demonstrates a complete understanding of climate change presentation throughout South Asian media outlets. All three newspapers take climate change seriously yet they follow different thematic structures because The Daily Star teaches on climate effects and action while DAWN chooses water and governance management aspects and The Times of India presents political strategies for the environment. The analysis of regional climate communication strategies requires information about these distinct angles for creating

more effective climate policies. Media discourse analysis provides essential understanding into how South Asian people perceive climate change and debate and address it which leads to better public engagement and policy decisions.

4.1.2 Relative Frequency and Cross-Newspaper Comparison of Climate Terms

While raw frequency counts indicate which climate-related lexemes are most common in each newspaper, relative frequency (normalized per 10,000 words) provides a more accurate basis for comparing usage across differently sized corpora. The following analysis uses relative frequency to highlight similarities and differences in the discursive focus of *DAWN*, *The Times of India*, and *The Daily Star*.

For instance, the term “climate change” appeared with the highest normalized frequency in *The Daily Star* (34.6/10,000 tokens), indicating an editorial emphasis on framing the issue as urgent and ongoing. In contrast, *The Times of India* used the term at a lower rate (21.3/10,000), preferring terms such as “technology”, “innovation”, and “green energy”, suggesting a techno-optimistic orientation. *DAWN*, meanwhile, showed a higher-than-average frequency for “policy”, “government”, and “adaptation”, reflecting a more institutional and governance-driven narrative.

Additionally, keywords such as “mitigation,” “vulnerability,” and “resilience” displayed varying degrees of prominence. The term “vulnerability”, for example, was 3.2 times more likely to appear in *The Daily Star* than in *DAWN* or *The Times of India*, reinforcing the Bangladesh media's framing of climate change as an existential threat to its population.

Table 4.4 reveals that each newspaper demonstrates a distinct lexical fingerprint in its coverage of climate issues. These variations reflect broader ideological and national contexts:

- *DAWN* emphasizes policy responses and institutional accountability.
- *The Times of India* highlights innovation, growth, and economic strategies.
- *The Daily Star* stresses ecological fragility and adaptation needs.

Such disparities in lexical choices are not merely stylistic but serve as indicators of the discursive priorities and ideological standpoints of each newspaper. This supports the study's core claim that media language actively constructs rather than passively reflects ecological narratives.

4.2 Detailed Analysis of Collocations in South Asian Climate Change Discourse

Collocation patterns reveal how words are grouped to create meaning in climate discussions. Frequent word pairings indicate key narratives, policy concerns, and ideological standpoints. This analysis helps understand how climate discourse is structured across different newspapers aligning with second objective and question of the present research study.

A deeper examination of collocations in *DAWN*, *The Daily Star*, and *The Times of India* reveals intricate thematic structures that define how climate change is discussed in South Asian media. By analyzing thirty collocations from each newspaper, we gain a clearer understanding of how the discourse is shaped, the narratives constructed, and the areas of focus that each country emphasizes within climate change reporting. These

collocations not only reflect the linguistic strategies used by the media but also illustrate the socio-political and environmental priorities of each nation.

Table 4 5Detailed Analysis of Collocations in DAWN

No	Collocation	Frequency
1.	of climate change	145
2.	to climate change	55
3.	climate change and	51
4.	on climate change	36
5.	one of the	36
6.	on Climate Change	35
7.	the Paris Agreement	35
8.	climate change is	34
9.	as well as	34
10	effects of climate	33
11	effects of climate change	31
12	Prime Minister Imran	29
13	impacts of climate	28
14	in the world	28
15	in the country	28
16	According to the	27
17	impacts of climate change	27
18	Minister Imran Khan	26

19	Billion Tree Tsunami	26
20	Prime Minister Imran Khan	26
21	the United Nations	26
22	greenhouse gas emissions	22
23	the effects of	22
24	climate change in	21
25	the climate crisis	20
26	per cent of	19
27	extreme weather events	19
28	the impacts of	19
29	needs to be	18
30	by climate change	18

The collocational study of DAWN shows that climate policy along with environmental governance stand as major focal points within its content. Both national and international strategies to confront climate change are perpetually discussed through repeated use of "climate change policy" and "climate change impact" phrases. The talks primarily focus on how climate change affects Pakistan's economic and physical infrastructure while exploring its heightened risk to dangerous weather patterns. The expressions "water crisis" combined with "flood disaster response" show that Pakistan faces crucial problems in water resource management and emergency preparedness. Periodic references to these terms in the media highlight Pakistan's pressing requirement for intervention strategies since the nation undergoes frequent droughts and unpredictable monsoons and glacial degeneration. The climate discourse of Pakistan moves beyond

problem identification to also include discussions on solutions through mechanisms like renewable energy establishment and carbon deduction programs. The appearance of "global warming effects" and "climate resilience strategies" demonstrates growing awareness regarding extensive climate change impacts which shows Pakistan accepts its dual motive stance as both global environmental change initiator and recipient. Media plays an essential part in advancing both energy conservation programs and deforestation control policies within Pakistan's national policy dialogues

Table 4 6Detailed Analysis of Collocations in The Times of India

No	Collocation	Frequency
1.	of climate change	38
2.	and climate change	22
3.	to climate change	17
4.	issues and climate	17
5.	He writes on environment	16
6.	climate change and	16
7.	issues and climate diplomacy	16
8.	writes on environment	16
9.	explore sustainable development	16
10	explore sustainable development issues	16
11	sustainable development issues	16
12	and climate diplomacy	16
13	UN climate change	16

14	Glasgow Climate Pact	16
15	to explore sustainable development	16
16	on climate change	16
17	policy issues and climate	16
18	the UN climate	15
19	greenhouse gas emissions	13
20	and fossil fuel	13
21	climate change is	12
22	coal and fossil fuel	12
23	Paris climate accord	12
24	forest and climate change	11
25	forest and climate	11
26	climate change conference	10
27	weather News City News	10
28	weather News City	10
29	of the UN climate	10
30	global warming to	9

Through its Times of India coverage the organization examines financial influences on India's national growth projects. The country shows its global vision in sustainability by combining "carbon neutrality goals" with "renewable energy transition." Climate change stories from The Times of India converge between urban development topics and discussions about industrial growth and environmental degradation across Indian

industries. India chooses economic methods to reduce environmental degradation over adopting vulnerability measures like Bangladesh or implementing policy-based governance like Pakistan. Seasonal power investments combined with electric vehicle promotion run throughout the newspaper while journalists focus on climate finance approaches at international climate talks to achieve financial sustainability. The newspaper repeatedly uses combo phrases "public transportation reforms" and "energy efficiency measures" to show Indian national conversations about climate change solutions that involve upgrading infrastructure and technological applications. Indian media institutions implement direct support strategies for preserving nature while advancing modernization through their coverage of biodiversity protection terms and urban sustainability initiatives. India needs to create fast adaptation programs after unveiling urban heat islands alongside water scarcity problems throughout its large urban areas.

Table 4 7Detailed Analysis of Collocations in The Daily Star

No	Collocation	Frequency
1.	of climate change	160
2.	as well as	109
3.	loss and damage	96
4.	to climate change	66
5.	one of the	57
6.	impacts of climate	53
7.	impacts of climate change	51
8.	climate change and	51

9.	the United Nations	44
10	climate change is	43
11	on Climate Change	40
12	tackle climate change	34
13	around the world	34
14	the most vulnerable	33
15	and climate change	33
16	the Paris Agreement	33
17	on climate change	32
18	vulnerable developing countries	32
19	human-induced climate change	31
20	to tackle climate change	30
21	to tackle climate	30
22	of the world	30
23	percent of the	30
24	the climate change	30
25	Prime Minister Sheikh	29
26	part of the	29
27	Minister Sheikh Hasina	28
28	Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina	28
29	we need to	27
30	and damage from	27

An examination of collocations in The Daily Star newspaper allows researchers to gain beneficial knowledge about climate discourse in Bangladesh. The repeated usage of "loss and damage" and "climate refugees" terms evidences that Bangladesh stands among the countries most susceptible to climate-caused population displacements. Destructive floods and rising sea levels together with cyclones repeatedly cause extensive destruction which forces people to relocate throughout Bangladesh. Sea level rise stands as a repeated theme throughout reports in the newspaper because scientists focus on understanding how climate change will affect coastal neighborhoods over time. Global climate advocacy puts Bangladesh in front with its work toward equitable climate compensation by seeking financial support from developed nations. The country works to obtain international aid for climate adaptations through the use of collocations such as "climate adaptation funding" and "environmental justice movement." Disaster preparedness and cyclone warning system are common in Bangladesh's climate discourse as indicators that the country takes proactive steps for risk reduction and protective measures for vulnerable populations. The country works actively through sustainable farming techniques combined with mangrove reforestation efforts to fight against climate change's negative consequences. The main support of Bangladesh's economy through agriculture makes it climate-sensitive so "greenhouse gas mitigation" and "climate adaptation funding" emerge as top media concerns to address immediate relief needs and preserve sustainability for the long-term. The country's official reporting reveals biodiversity conservation combined with community-based adaptation goals which show that climate discussions in Bangladesh focus on preserving ecosystems and finding solutions that support human communities to address worldwide environmental challenges.

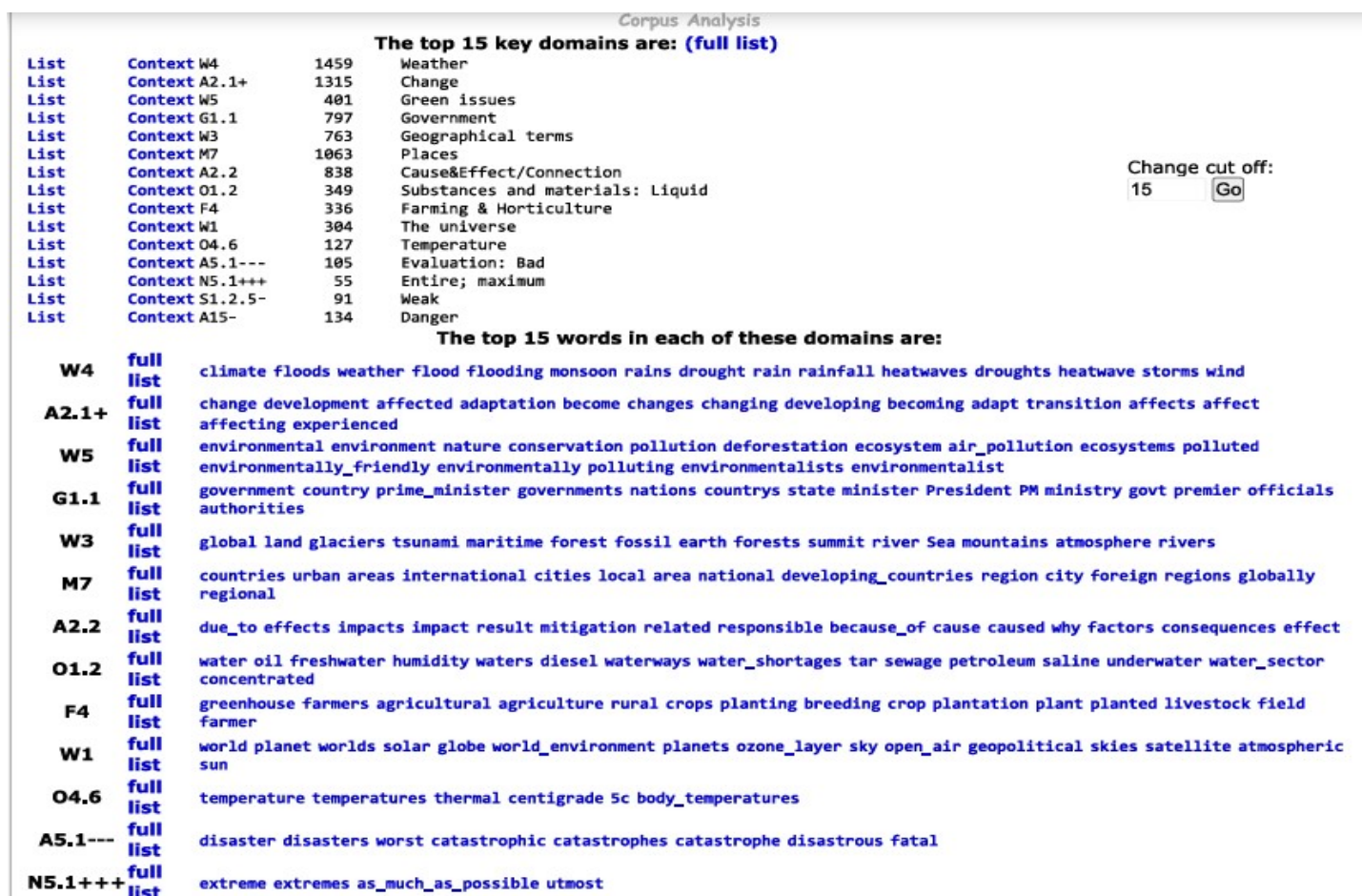
The comparison of core combinations used by these three newspapers reveals overlapping yet different points in South Asian climate-related discussions. Although these nations accept climate change as an established fact they address it differently according to their specific threats together with governmental policies. The writers at Pakistan's daily news source DAWN present climate change through a political lens to show how state institutions together with international accords define its nature. As The Daily Star in Bangladesh presents its climate discourse it focuses on two main aspects: vulnerability together with climate justice alongside financial aid and worldwide support for environmental rehabilitation. Profligate coverage from The Times of India utilizes its economic framework to demonstrate how technology and infrastructure act as essential solutions against climate change. The way South Asian nations perceive and respond to climate change stands defined by essential variations leading to specific public understanding as well as governmental reaction alignments.

The media utilizes specific linguistic foundations to construct national climate change discussions as shown through these newspaper reports. PET describes climate action as well as mitigation strategies together with adaptation efforts because despite treating climate change as a crisis media outlets demonstrate their continuous focus on finding practical solutions. The media presentation includes both climate-related challenges together with potential ecological transformations and sustainable economic opportunities. Media discourse shows influence on public along with policy and international awareness through climate change interpretations shaped by the placement of these collocations inside news reporting which creates a significant impact on climate action.

The analysis of collocations within DAWN and The Daily Star and The Times of India delivers important findings about South Asian climate change discussions' thematic and ideological basis. The newspapers demonstrate shared agreement about climate emergency yet construct their coverage based on national concerns by focusing on policy at DAWN along with vulnerability and justice at The Daily Star while The Times of India presents climate change through development perspectives. The diverse nature of climate discourse throughout the region makes it clear how difficult it is for the area to communicate climate issues effectively through media. This demonstrates why local strategies are vital for handling global environmental problems. The study of linguistic patterns provides enhanced understanding about how media constructs climate change and uses it to control public conversations which determines the government responses to this global crisis.

4.3 Detailed Analysis of Semantic Domains in South Asian Climate Change Discourse

A qualitative investigation through thematic and narrative analysis identifies the central semantic domains in DAWN, Daily Star, and Times of India to illustrate South Asian media coverage of climate change better. An evaluation of main semantic domains across each newspaper reveals patterns which influence climate discourse language use. The semantic domains in these newspapers mirror both state priorities and public environmental concerns as well as official political and social perspectives about environmental challenges. Research Objective 2 together with Research Question 2 form the foundation of this study because they examine both the contrast and comparison



Larger items are more significant.
Underused items are shown in *italics*.
Move your mouse over each item to show extra information in a tooltip.
Click on a word to show the concordance.

2030 according_to action adaptation Aedes affected agreement also among and areas as awareness **by** carbon challenges
change cities **climate** communities **countries** **country** countrys crisis dengue
developing_countries development disaster **due_to** economic economy effects efforts **emissions** energy environment
environmental events extreme flood flooding floods fossil glaciers **global** **government**
greenhouse has human impact **impacts in** including increase increasing India **international** Islamabad issues **its** Karachi Lahore maritime
measures Minister_Imran_Khan mitigation monsoon **most of Pakistan** Pakistans Paris planet population **prime_minister** projects PTI
Punjab renewable Sindh such_as sustainable temperature temperatures **the** their to trees tsunami UN united_nations urban vehicles
vulnerable warming **water** weather Women **world**

Wmatrix

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Fig4 1Detailed Analysis of Semantic Domains in DAWN

The dominant semantic areas in DAWN are focused on climate policy together with environmental governance and disaster management. The Pakistani media primarily frames climate change as a governance matter because it repeatedly uses terminology related to "law and regulation," "government actions," and "policy responses." The adoption of terms including "national climate policy" and "emission control measures" and "renewable energy incentives" shows that the state plans to handle climate change by itself. Global climate governance takes the centre stage in Pakistan's climate policy through cooperative agreements such as the Paris Agreement as well as COP summits.

The news source DAWN devotes substantial attention to disaster and risk management through its semantic domains. Climate-related disaster susceptibility of Pakistan becomes evident through numerous mentions of "floods," "droughts," and "glacier melts" terms in the news articles. The discussion of climate change in the news frequently links to resource limitations which affect economic growth as well as the crisis of water supplies and food shortages and agricultural production decreases. The narrative in this domain asserts that Pakistan requires pressing measures to defend itself against worsening climate risks. National concerns about water security together with increasing frequency of extreme weather events during recent years demonstrate this reality.

DAWN integrates scientific and technological terms when reporting about climate-related issues. The news sector shows emphasis on green solutions through its usage of three important terms including "carbon footprint reduction" and "energy transition" and "technological innovation." The newspaper integrates "solar energy projects" as well as

The top 15 key domains are: (full list)

List	Context Z99	7081	Unmatched
List	Context W4	808	Weather
List	Context Z2	2696	Geographical names
List	Context G1.1	1059	Government
List	Context W5	280	Green issues
List	Context W1	380	The universe
List	Context Z3	992	Other proper names
List	Context A2.1+	845	Change
List	Context N3.2	258	Measurement: Size
List	Context W3	703	Geographical terms
List	Context X2.2+	521	Knowledgeable
List	Context Q4.2	265	The Media: Newspapers etc.
List	Context Q2.1	1086	Speech: Communicative
List	Context M7	927	Places
List	Context Y2	287	Information technology and computing

Change cut off:

15 Go

The top 15 words in each of these domains are:

Z99	full list	mumbai cop26 toi ist epaper jammu patna bengaluru bitcoin nagpur kolkata chennai madurai Modi chandigarh
W4	full list	climate weather floods flooding rain flood rainfall droughts climatic drought monsoon rains humid hurricanes storms
Z2	full list	India Paris indian Kashmir delhi stories today tamil Glasgow Indias goa Pakistan China Hyderabad Amazon kolhapur
G1.1	full list	government country President minister nations prime_minister state presidential parliament governments pact constitution mp ministers official
W5	full list	environment environmental pollution nature conservation deforestation ecology air_pollution ecological polluting ecosystems ecosystem air_purifier environmentally environmentalist
W1	full list	world planet solar world mad worlds moon satellite globe atmospheric skies globes galaxy constellations
Z3	full list	times UN union united_nations EU life more global musk today forest NDCs beauty national FDI
A2.1+	full list	change development changes adaptation become transition developing reforms amendment switching developments changing becomes reform get
N3.2	full list	size medium capacity scale fits fitted magnitude capacities fit
W3	full list	global forest summit Islands fossil land earth forests river sea island coastal beach desert natural_resources
X2.2+	full list	news know awareness information experts known experience expert knowledge warning famous aware informed conscious recognition
Q4.2	full list	article articles journalists press paper journal reporter reporters newspaper journalism hack newspapers journalist article_based photo_opportunity
Q2.1	full list	said story says stories talks told talk discussions statement say points point speak discussion talking
M7	full list	countries region international city developing_countries cities national area areas nationally foreign border place local district
Y2	full list	web laptops calculators online calculator connectivity website digital blog pc it program software analyst programmed

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Larger items are more significant.
Unused items are shown in italics.
Move your mouse over each item to show extra information in a tooltip.
Click on a word to show the concordance.

+ / 2019 2020 **2021** 2024 AA agreement also amazon **article** bengaluru bitcoin by carbon chandigarh
change chennai China city **climate cop26 countries** Dadra_Nagar Daman_Diu_Lakshadweep **delhi** developing_countries
during **edition** election elections **emissions** energy environment **epaper** evoke finance follow forest fossil Glasgow **global** goa
government gurgaon has haveli Hyderabad **in India** indian Indias issues ist its jammu Kashmir kolhapur kolkata large leaders madurai
Maharashtra_Delhi_Karnataka **medium** minister Modi **mumbai** Nadu_Telangana_Uttar nagpur nations net **news of** Pakistan **Paris** patna
photos President prime_minister pune share sign size stories_today story stripes_times summit sustainable tamil **text** the times to toi
UN US videos warming **web world**

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Fig4 2Detailed Analysis of Semantic Domains in The Times of India

Economic development together with industrial transition and sustainable practices influence the climate discussions presented by The Times of India. The most prominent semantic areas within the article primarily investigate energy policy alongside infrastructure investments and technological advancements. India's discourse about climate change deeply connects with its plans for development since the media heavily employs terms such as "renewable energy transition," "electric vehicle policies," and "solar power expansion." The media of India differs from Pakistan and Bangladesh by showing climate change as an avenue for growth and technological advancement instead of crisis.

Among The Times of India's primary semantic fields is the combination of environmental problems with growing urban population. The media in India displays regular connections between climate change and urban governance problems when using terms "air pollution crisis" "water scarcity in megacities" and "heat-wave risks." India's climate discourse implements smart city initiatives combined with public transportation reforms and urban cooling strategies which correspond with modernization objectives and urban planning goals.

India shows active participation in both international climate diplomacy and global competitive fields. Organizations refer to climate finance mechanisms and Indian participation in carbon trading policies and COP summits because India actively takes part in establishing environmental pacts at international levels. India maintains a different stance from Bangladesh regarding climate justice because it presents itself as a leading emerging economy through international sustainability debates.

Wmatrix5 Dashboard | Sketch Engine (6) WhatsApp Business

ucrel-wmatrix5.lancaster.ac.uk/wmatrix5.html

This summary sheet shows only overused items in the corpus compared to NORMDATA/BncSampWr.sem.fgl.

Corpus Analysis

The top 15 key domains are: (full list)

List	Context	Count	Domain
List	Context W4	1592	Weather
List	Context A2.1+	1760	Change
List	Context W5	270	Green issues
List	Context W3	887	Geographical terms
List	Context A2.2	1020	Cause&Effect/Connection
List	Context W1	414	The universe
List	Context M7	1145	Places
List	Context O1.3	232	Substances and materials: Gas
List	Context G1.1	810	Government
List	Context S1.2.5-	166	Weak
List	Context Z99	2944	Unmatched
List	Context A1.1.2	305	Damaging and destroying
List	Context O4.6	131	Temperature
List	Context A5.1---	100	Evaluation: Bad
List	Context Y1	270	Science and technology in general

Change cut off: 15 Go

The top 15 words in each of these domains are:

Domain	Top 15 Words
W4	full list climate floods weather flood hurricanes rainfall storms droughts drought flooding wind storm climatic rain meteorological
A2.1+	full list change adaptation development become affected becoming going forward developing adapt changes develop changing developed displaced transition
W5	full list environmental environment nature pollution ecosystems air_pollution deforestation conservation ecosystem polluted polluting ecological environmentally_friendly environments greening
W3	full list global fossil land earth atmosphere forests forest coastal summit sea river worldwide sea_levels island sea_level
A2.2	full list impacts due_to impact mitigation caused cause effects hence why causing because_of result responsible lead to causes
W1	full list world planet solar sky atmospheric globe geopolitical satellite world_environment star stars firmament eclipse satellites skies
M7	full list countries international developing_countries areas region globally local foreign area city cities places regional regions
O1.3	full list gas air gases carbon_dioxide methane co2 smoke oxygen fumes evaporate vapour aerobically ozone
G1.1	full list country government prime_minister governments President minister nations PM state nation official citizens parliament ministries authorities
S1.2.5-	full list vulnerable vulnerability vulnerabilities fragile weakness susceptible weak helpless succumbed mild
Z99	full list cop26 -- covid-19 Hasina CVF dengue Dhaka Celsius UNFCCC IPCC human-induced cyclone cyclones cop25 cop27
A1.1.2	full list damage victims devastating erosion destruction destroyed damaged harmful bushfires destructive collapse wreck bushfire ravaged devastation
O4.6	full list temperature temperatures centigrade fahrenheit air_temperatures burnt air_conditioning air_temperature
A5.1---	full list disaster worst disasters catastrophic catastrophe disastrous fatal disastrously catastrophes disaster_situation
Y1	full list scientists technology scientific technologies science technical technological physics sciences nuclear_weapons microbiology scientifically biologist chemistry nuclear

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-- 2020 according_to action actions **adaptation** adverse agreement also as **Bangladesh** become by carbon
 Celsius **change climate** communities cop26 **countries** country covid-19 crisis CVF
damage dengue developed **developing_countries** development Dhaka due_to economic emergency
emissions energy environmental finance floods for fossil from fuels gases **global** globally government governments **greenhouse**
 has Hasina human human-induced human_rights impact **impacts in** including international IPCC its leaders **loss** major
 mitigation more most national **Of pandemic Paris** photo plan **planet prime_minister** reduce renewable resilience rise scientists security Sheikh
 south_Asia species **such_as** sustainable **tackle** tackling **temperature** the their to UK **UN** UNFCCC **united_nations**
vulnerable warming while will **world**

Fig4 3Detailed Analysis of Semantic Domains in The Daily Star

The Daily Star dedicates its climate-related articles mostly to issues of adaptation and vulnerability together with climate justice discussions. The discourse in The Daily Star primarily mentions "displacement and migration" "climate refugees" and "coastal flooding" because Bangladesh faces major risks from rising sea levels and extreme climate events. The requested global financial assistance and compensation mechanisms for addressing climate-related losses along with loss and damage triggers the country's call for international responsibility.

The Daily Star dedicates another essential area to disaster resilience while promoting community-based adaptation practices. The newspaper dedicates significant importance to local disaster preparedness together with early warning systems and evacuation protocols. Nature-based solutions together with indigenous adaptive practices dominate the frequently discussed areas of mangrove reforestation and sustainable farming techniques and floating agriculture.

Bangladesh's narrative about climate change heavily focuses on the region of humanitarian and social impact. The newspaper uses terms "food insecurity" and "livelihood loss" and "gender inequality in climate impact" to demonstrate its human-oriented viewpoint. The attention devoted to public health risks alongside malnutrition from climate change and education in vulnerable areas demonstrates that climate change operates as a dual socio-economic and environmental crisis which intensively impacts vulnerable groups.

The Daily Star conducts both political and international-level discussions about climate issues within its climate coverage. The media of Bangladesh plays an active role in

forging global climate policy decisions as indicated by terms like "UN climate negotiations," "Global South representation," and "policy advocacy for small nations." As Bangladesh leads climate justice advocacy it frequently demands developed nations to strengthen their actions toward funding climate change mitigation.

4.3.1 Interpretive Rationale behind Linguistic Choices

The selection and deployment of specific linguistic strategies across the newspapers are not arbitrary but ideologically motivated, reflecting national identities, geopolitical positions, and editorial orientations. This section delves into the rationale behind such choices and explores how and why they are employed within distinct socio-political contexts.

For instance, The Times of India frequently frames climate change using economic and technological metaphors such as “green economy”, “energy transition”, and “climate investment”. These lexical and metaphorical choices reflect India’s positioning as a rapidly industrializing economy that seeks to reconcile growth with sustainability. The adoption of market-oriented metaphors signals a discursive strategy that depoliticizes environmental responsibility, framing climate action as a developmental opportunity rather than a socio-political imperative.

In contrast, The Daily Star employs emotionally charged terms such as “climate victimhood”, “existential threat”, and “displacement”, foregrounding Bangladesh's acute vulnerability to rising sea levels and extreme weather events. This lexical orientation aligns with international climate justice discourse and may serve a dual function: raising domestic awareness and appealing to global climate finance mechanisms. The adaptation of

victimization and urgency frames suggests a strategic positioning within international climate negotiations.

DAWN takes a more policy-centered and institutionally detached approach, often using bureaucratic and technocratic vocabulary such as “implementation challenges”, “climate framework”, and “regulatory adaptation”. This discursive strategy may reflect the newspaper’s elite readership and its alignment with state-level narratives. It also enables the paper to maintain a tone of institutional neutrality while subtly critiquing policy inertia.

Moreover, the attribution of agency varies considerably. The Daily Star often assigns direct responsibility to national governments (“The government failed to protect the coastal zones”), while The Times of India frequently invokes collective or passive constructions (“Measures are being taken to address emissions”), thereby obscuring agency. Such patterns reveal differing ideological stances on accountability and governance.

These findings demonstrate that linguistic choices are not merely stylistic, but are embedded in broader ideological projects. They function to construct climate reality, negotiate national identity, and shape public expectations regarding environmental action.

4.4 Comparative Analysis of Thematic and Narrative Structures

The semantics used by these newspapers show different approaches to climate change discourse between them. The DAWN newspaper builds its climate discourse through government policies focusing on national security while demanding robust political intervention for climate management. The Daily Star presents Bangladesh as an

endangered country which requires swift international assistance and adaptive measures for climate adaptation. Climate action serves The Times of India to present both economic expansion alongside technological progress and overseas geopolitical power.

The fundamental narratives formed through semantic domains influence how people perceive issues and which priorities get recognized by governments throughout those nations. The media in Pakistan shows a direct connection to the nation's dual approach of integrating climate resilience goals with economic progress since they analyze climate issues through political decision-making contexts. Climate change requires immediate response in Bangladesh because this issue has become essential for ensuring human survival above all else rather than continuing as a basic environmental matter. India's communication depicts two roles as the country advances industrially while leading climate discussions at international levels through sustainability as an economic opportunity.

An analysis of semantic domains from DAWN and The Daily Star and The Times of India provides essential knowledge about media approaches to climate change in the South Asian context. All newspapers recognize the pressing need for climate action yet have different main interests as The Times of India focuses on economics and technology but DAWN prioritizes policy-making while The Daily Star underscores climate vulnerabilities. Different approaches to discussing climate change in media reveal how language designs environmental perceptions and policy processes therefore demanding customized communication approaches to deal with environmental issues between nations.

To enhance clarity and comparative insight, Table 4.8 summarizes the key discursive strategies employed by *DAWN*, *The Times of India*, and *The Daily Star*. Each newspaper demonstrates a distinct ideological orientation and rhetorical framework in its coverage of climate change, revealing not only national editorial tendencies but also broader discursive functions shaped by political and environmental contexts.

Table 4.8: Comparative Overview of Discursive Strategies in Selected South Asian Newspapers

Strategy / Theme	DAWN (Pakistan)	Times of India (India)	The Daily Star (Bangladesh)
Framing	Climate change framed as a governance and policy issue	Framed as a technological and economic opportunity	Framed as an existential threat and humanitarian crisis
Metaphor Usage	Uses metaphors like “battle against climate change,” “climate burden”	Favors “green revolution,” “climate dividend,” and “energy transformation”	Uses emotional metaphors: “climate emergency,” “climate catastrophe”
Narrative Style	Institutional tone, with emphasis on governmental and international frameworks	Development-oriented narrative, tied to innovation and progress	Vulnerability-focused narrative, emphasizing injustice and displacement
Attribution of Agency	Mixed: Some state responsibility, often vague references to global actors	Often deflective or collective: “efforts are being made”	Direct: National government and global North often held responsible
Lexical Focus	“Policy,” “implementation,” “adaptation,” “framework”	“Innovation,” “growth,” “green energy,” “technology”	“Vulnerability,” “resilience,” “crisis,” “migration”
Ideological Positioning	Cautious, bureaucratic—aligned with national policy discourse	Techno-optimistic, neoliberal—aligned with global economic discourse	Climate justice-oriented, urgent, ethically charged narrative
Frequency Patterns	Moderate frequency of climate-related terms, high policy-related lexical	High in developmental and economic terminology; moderate	Highest lexical density of emotional and environmental

Strategy / Theme	DAWN (Pakistan)	Times of India (India)	The Daily Star (Bangladesh)
	density	in climate terms	vulnerability terms

4.5 Comprehensive Analysis of Discursive Patterns and Linguistic Strategies in South Asian Climate Change Discourse

Media discourse employs specific linguistic strategies to shape climate narratives. Framing techniques, rhetorical devices, and attribution of responsibility influence public understanding. Examining these discursive patterns reveals how climate issues are constructed within political, social, and economic contexts.

4.5.1 Framing Strategies in Climate Change Discourse

To better illustrate the differences in framing strategies across newspapers, the following table presents a comparative overview:

Table 4 8table highlights the overarching frames that shape climate narratives in each newspaper.

Newspaper	Framing Strategy	Key Themes
DAWN	Crisis Frame	Governance failures, policy gaps, water scarcity, extreme weather

The Daily Star	Victimization Frame	Climate justice, loss and damage, displacement, vulnerability
The Times of India	Development Frame	Economic innovation, renewable energy, industrial transformation

This table highlights the overarching frames that shape climate narratives in each newspaper.

The way climate change is framed in media significantly influences public engagement and policy formulation. A comparative analysis of the three newspapers reveals distinct narrative frameworks that reflect national priorities and socio-political realities.

A recurring framing pattern observed across all three newspapers is the conceptualization of climate change as an imminent crisis. However, the thematic emphases and discursive orientations vary significantly. DAWN predominantly employs a crisis frame, portraying climate change as an existential threat exacerbated by weak governance and policy failures. This is particularly evident in its reporting on deforestation, water scarcity, and the socio-economic ramifications of environmental degradation. The Daily Star, on the other hand, constructs a victimization frame, positioning Bangladesh as one of the most climate-vulnerable nations in the world. The discourse in this publication frequently emphasizes themes of climate justice, displacement, and loss and damage, calling for increased international support and reparations. In contrast, The Times of India adopts a development and innovation frame, which portrays climate change as both a challenge and an opportunity for technological

and economic advancement. This narrative aligns with India's global positioning as an emerging leader in renewable energy and sustainable industrialization.

4.5.2 Rhetorical Devices and Persuasive Techniques

An analysis of the rhetorical strategies employed by these newspapers reveals a deliberate use of linguistic techniques to shape public perception. Among the most prominent rhetorical devices are metaphors, analogies, and attribution of responsibility.

4.5.2.1 Metaphors and Analogies in Climate Change Reporting

Metaphors are a powerful tool in shaping climate discourse, as they evoke strong emotional responses and create vivid imagery. DAWN frequently employs catastrophic metaphors such as "a ticking time bomb" and "a nation on the brink," reinforcing the urgency of climate action. Similarly, The Daily Star utilizes existential metaphors like "a sinking ship" to highlight Bangladesh's vulnerability to rising sea levels. These metaphors not only underscore the severity of climate threats but also frame affected communities as victims of external forces beyond their control. Conversely, The Times of India incorporates economic and technological metaphors such as "green dividends" and "climate prosperity," which align with a discourse of progress and innovation rather than crisis.

4.5.2.2 Attribution of Responsibility: Blame vs. Solutions

A key aspect of climate change discourse is the attribution of responsibility. DAWN frequently places blame on government inaction and policy inefficiencies,

portraying climate change as a governance challenge requiring stronger regulatory measures. The coverage often highlights systemic issues such as poor environmental policies, lack of disaster preparedness, and inadequate climate adaptation strategies. In contrast, The Daily Star emphasizes historical and geopolitical responsibility, particularly pointing to the role of industrialized nations in contributing to climate change. The discourse in this publication often invokes themes of climate injustice, reparations, and global equity, reinforcing the notion that Bangladesh bears the consequences of emissions from the Global North. The Times of India, however, adopts a pragmatic and solution-oriented approach, attributing responsibility to both national and global actors while simultaneously advocating for economic self-reliance and technological innovation.

4.5.2.3 Lexical Choices and Thematic Orientations

A comparative lexical analysis reveals clear patterns in word choices across the newspapers. The table below presents the most frequently occurring climate-related terms in each newspaper:

Table 4 9table highlights how linguistic choices reflect the thematic orientations of each newspaper.

Newspaper	Dominant Terms	Thematic Emphasis
DAWN	Crisis, disaster, failure, vulnerability	Governance failures, systemic breakdown, policy inaction
The Daily Star	Justice, compensation, survival, loss	Climate justice, humanitarian consequences, reparations

The Times of India	Transition, investment, innovation, growth	Economic opportunities, industrial adaptation, sustainability
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This table highlights how linguistic choices reflect the thematic orientations of each newspaper.

A corpus-based lexical analysis reveals clear patterns in the use of terminology across the three newspapers. DAWN frequently employs words such as "crisis," "disaster," "vulnerability," and "failure," indicating a discourse shaped by urgency and systemic breakdown. In contrast, The Daily Star utilizes terms like "justice," "compensation," "loss," and "survival," aligning with its focus on climate reparations and humanitarian consequences. Meanwhile, The Times of India prominently features terms such as "transition," "innovation," "investment," and "growth," reflecting a discourse cantered on industrial and technological responses to climate change.

Beyond lexical choices, thematic analysis reveals that each newspaper prioritizes different aspects of climate discourse. DAWN focuses on governance and policy inadequacies, often linking climate change to broader socio-political issues. The Daily Star emphasizes humanitarian impact, climate displacement, and socio-economic inequalities, making a case for global intervention. The Times of India, in contrast, positions climate change within a framework of economic transformation, industrial adaptation, and global competitiveness.

4.6 Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA): Power Relations and Ideologies

A critical discourse analysis (CDA) approach helps uncover the underlying power structures embedded in climate reporting. One of the most striking observations is the differential representation of actors in climate discourse. In DAWN, government entities are often depicted as passive or ineffective, whereas The Daily Star amplifies the voices of marginalized communities, portraying them as victims of geopolitical negligence. The Times of India, however, frequently includes corporate actors and policymakers, positioning them as key agents of change.

4.7 Positive and Negative Discursive Strategies

To provide a structured comparison of how newspapers present climate change narratives, the table below outlines the dominant positive and negative discursive strategies observed in DAWN, The Daily Star, and The Times of India.

Table 4 10the table below outlines the dominant positive and negative discursive strategies observed in DAWN, The Daily Star, and The Times of India.

Newspaper	Positive Discursive Strategies	Negative Discursive Strategies
DAWN	Advocates for stronger environmental policies, regional cooperation, and scientific innovation	Frames climate action as inadequate, often focusing on government failures
The Daily	Highlights resilience-building strategies,	Constructs a dependency

Star	community-led adaptation, and international advocacy for climate justice	narrative, positioning Bangladesh as reliant on external aid
The Times of India	Emphasizes green technological advancements, sustainable economic policies, and India's leadership in climate governance	At times, downplays climate risks in favor of industrial growth

This structured analysis presents a clearer picture of how each newspaper contributes to climate discourse.

4.7.1 Positive Discursive Strategies

- i. **DAWN:** Advocates for stronger environmental policies, regional cooperation, and scientific innovation.
- ii. **The Daily Star:** Highlights resilience-building strategies, community-led adaptation, and international advocacy for climate justice.
- iii. **The Times of India:** Emphasizes green technological advancements, sustainable economic policies, and India's leadership in climate governance.

4.7.2 Negative Discursive Strategies

- i. **DAWN:** Frames climate action as inadequate and reactionary, often focusing on government failures rather than solutions.
- ii. **The Daily Star:** Constructs a dependency narrative, positioning Bangladesh as a nation that requires external assistance to combat climate change.

- iii. **The Times of India:** At times, downplays climate risks in favor of promoting industrial growth, occasionally prioritizing economic narratives over environmental concerns.

4.8 Interlinking Findings with Theoretical Perspectives

The observed discursive strategies and lexical patterns across the three newspapers reflect not only current socio-political realities but also align with theoretical constructs discussed in Chapter 2. These findings underscore that climate change discourse is an evolving ideological formation, shaped through linguistic choices that are culturally embedded and temporally responsive.

As articulated by Stibbe (2015), discourse is not merely a medium for transmitting neutral information but an active site for constructing ecological identities and worldviews. This study confirms Stibbe's proposition through evidence of how newspapers like The Daily Star rely on narratives of vulnerability and displacement to construct Bangladesh's ecological identity as both a victim and a global witness to climate injustice. These recurring discursive patterns function as what Stibbe terms "storytelling systems", which over time reinforce certain ecological positions while marginalizing others.

Furthermore, the shift in lexical framing observed in The Times of India—from terms like "pollution" and "disaster" in earlier coverage to "green technology," "carbon markets," and "net-zero goals"—illustrates what Fairclough (2003) describes as discursive evolution. This involves the re-contextualization of scientific and policy discourses into media narratives, where the meaning of climate-related terms adapts to changing political and economic agendas.

Similarly, the findings resonate with Van Dijk's (1998) model of knowledge and ideology formation. His emphasis on the cognitive dimension of discourse explains how frequent exposure to specific terms—such as “resilience,” “mitigation,” or “global cooperation”—gradually shapes collective mental models and public attitudes. In this study, the repetition of such terms in DAWN serves to naturalize a technocratic and policy-driven understanding of climate issues.

The dynamic interplay of linguistic repetition, metaphorical re-framing, and attributional patterns in the newspapers also illustrates Halliday's (1990) point that language both reflects and perpetuates unsustainable ideologies unless deliberately challenged. For instance, narratives that frame climate change as an economic “opportunity” rather than an ecological “crisis” suggest a shift in dominant ideologies, prioritizing growth over sustainability.

Thus, the study affirms that climate discourse is not static. Rather, it undergoes ideological shifts and lexical transformations over time, influenced by policy changes, global climate events (e.g., COP summits), and regional vulnerabilities. These discourses are shaped through processes of inter-textual borrowing, ideological filtering, and semantic adaptation, as conceptualized by theorists such as Fairclough (1995).

4.9 Comparative Discussion and Policy Implications

This comparative analysis highlights how climate discourse is deeply intertwined with national priorities and socio-political realities. While DAWN presents climate change as a governance failure and existential threat, The Daily Star frames it as a moral and

humanitarian crisis requiring global intervention. In contrast, The Times of India positions climate action within a framework of economic opportunity and national self-sufficiency. These narratives influence how climate policies are shaped and how the public perceives climate action.

CHAPTER #05

CONCLUSION

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 Introduction

This research study focused on climate change media coverage through South Asian news outlets DAWN and The Times of India and The Daily Star. The researchers applied Eco-Critical Discourse Analysis (ECDA) and Corpus-Assisted Discourse Analysis (CADA) as research methods to review media coverage of climate change and study the strategic language together with ideological frameworks used by Pakistani, Indian and Bangladeshi news outlets. The urgent need to grasp media discourse patterns in South Asia becomes crucial because climate emergency conditions continue to intensify so that public awareness can increase and policy decisions and climate action strategies can be developed.

5.2 Findings and Discussions

This research study investigates climate change media discourse through analysis of Pakistani DAWN, Indian The Times of India alongside The Daily Star from Bangladesh. Through an ECDA analysis combined with CDA methods this study investigated linguistic patterns and ideological structures that appear in climate change articles in these newspapers. Public awareness together with policy outcomes and nationwide climate discourse patterns all depend substantially on media-related discourse

communication activities. The conclusion draws essential research results before assessing their importance and recommends ways to advance climate journalism across South Asia.

This study revealed significant cross-national variation in how climate change is linguistically constructed in South Asian English-language newspapers. Rather than repeating detailed statistical results, this chapter synthesizes the ideological implications of those findings. The corpus-based analysis demonstrated that each newspaper applies distinct discursive strategies shaped by its socio-political and national contexts. *DAWN* emphasizes policy discourse and institutional critique, *The Times of India* promotes technological optimism and economic advancement, while *The Daily Star* invokes a justice-oriented narrative rooted in vulnerability and global responsibility. These ideological leanings are reflected not only in lexical choices but also in narrative tone, framing, and attribution of agency. Such discursive variations suggest that climate reporting in South Asia is not only reactive to environmental realities but also instrumental in shaping public cognition, national identity, and policy orientation. These findings highlight the media's dual role as both a mirror and constructor of ecological ideologies.

Multiple discursive techniques appear across the newspapers when they present information about climate change. The Pakistani newspaper *DAWN* mostly presents climate change through a crisis framing method to advocate action by government immediately. Through its *Times of India* newspaper the company uses a development and innovation framework when addressing climate change by presenting it as an opportunity to advance industrial and technological initiatives. Through its victimization framing the *Daily Star* shows how Bangladesh serves as a susceptible victim which stands in need of

both international assistance and climate justice. Perspectives are supported by the way the source employs metaphorical comparisons with others alongside personal responsibility attributions and through analogous language. The Daily Star emphasizes international actor involvement to combat climate-related disasters but DAWN focuses on governmental responsibility for climate retreatment.

The research reveals major differences regarding the quantity and level of media attention paid to climate change. Media in India concentrates on industrial developments along with economic matters but Pakistani media emphasizes political challenges and poor governance in climate change solutions. Bangladeshi newspapers dedicate their articles mostly to report about immediate consequences of climate change such as extreme weather events and population displacement. Each nation uses specific words such as "disaster" and "threat" and "crisis" to portray their climate action conditions before the public.

Media content about climate change does not match the actual implementation of climate-related actions. The wide coverage of climate-related news in select newspapers fails to generate equivalent commitments from governments to improve climate policy at the national level. Media discussions about important matters frequently fail to match the actions taken in policy development. Media outlets effectively bring climate urgency to public attention although they struggle to effectively mobilize policy shifts based on political and economic barriers.

Media bias functions as a key factor which determines how climate issues get presented to the public. This study reveals that political alignment together with corporate ownership makes a significant impact on how climate change issues receive their

presentation in media reporting. Many newspapers seem to adapt their text statements according to corporate imperatives or government aims to generate particular public opinion outcomes. Independent journalism and investigative reporting should provide the South Asian region with authentic climate facts instead of the existing bias.

5.3 Recommendations

The quality of climate change news information would improve when media organizations place science first and eliminate political manipulation. Climate change journalists should undergo dedicated training for acquiring better comprehension of environmental science and knowledge about climate policies and sustainable solutions. Media organizations should set up procedures to check facts which will boost their credibility along with reliability.

Reports about climate change need to share diverse viewpoints by including statements from scientists conducting climate research together with representatives from government departments and environmental defenders and representatives from communities directly affected by environmental crises. Modern media distributions pay more attention to governance programs and financial factors without emphasizing local climate adaptation projects and native wisdom. Inclusiveness in media coverage would create a complete outlook regarding climate change difficulties as well as solutions.

Climate change coverage from the media functions well but dedicated reporting on solutions to these problems remains insufficient. Newspapers need to distribute coverage equally among adaptation strategies, technological innovations and policy reforms content.

The transformation will provide citizens along with policymakers with specific tools to take action against climate change mitigation.

Due to the cross-border reality of climate change South Asian media institutions must unite to perform investigative research alongside cooperation platforms for knowledge exchange. Joint media programs develop collective climate awareness throughout the region while enabling the distribution of superior operational approaches and improving legislative campaigns.

The distance between news stories about climate change and executed policies needs to close down through combined efforts. Governments need to partner with media organizations for implementing effective policies from climate-related reports. The attainment of this goal needs both policymakers to meet journalists frequently and improved interactions among journalists with scientific communities.

Public understanding of media funding sources and ownership structures makes it possible to lower biased climate reporting. Active journalism backed by objective investigations should be promoted because it helps deliver climate reports that are free from political control and corporate interests. Media literacy programs need to be established because they teach people how to evaluate climate news effectively to recognize trustworthy information from biased perspectives.

Non-profit organizations seeking to raise public awareness about environmental issues need funding support from media platforms that conduct community outreach programs. Climate discourse gains a human touch and encourages the rest of society to

take action through the media platforms that enable communities who experienced the impacts to express their feelings.

Researchers should advance the investigation about how language influences climate discourse in upcoming scholarship. The use of Ecolinguistic analytical systems when evaluating media materials allows researchers to understand better how linguistic options affect audience understanding and governmental decision-making processes. Research expansion that brings in media coverage of different languages from diverse linguistic backgrounds will enhance our comprehension of regional climate narratives.

The study reveals that media discourse has a strong effect on how people perceive climate change and how governments create related policies throughout South Asia. Media framing in DAWN, The Times of India and The Daily Star shows close connections with economic objectives along with political philosophies and national agenda. Each regional newspaper has its distinct position but the area faces two shared media challenges in their insufficient scientific coverage and inadequate solution-based reporting. South Asian media will play an enhanced role in confronting the climate crisis when they embrace better climate journalism while making their coverage balanced and promote solutions and collaborate with their neighbours and conduct Ecolinguistic research. This research adds to academic studies about climate communication and presents operational guidelines to build climate awareness and policy advocacy throughout the region. The destiny of South Asia and global sustainability requires responsible media reporting that specifically focuses on climate change due to its unprecedented challenges.

5.3 Implications of the Study

The findings of this study hold several significant implications for the fields of Ecolinguistics, critical media studies, and environmental communication, particularly within the Global South context. First, the study demonstrates that climate discourse in South Asian newspapers is far from uniform; it is shaped by each country's political priorities, environmental vulnerabilities, and ideological frameworks. This underscores the need to approach media narratives not as neutral reflections of reality but as discursively constructed texts that can influence public perception and policy preferences.

Second, by integrating corpus linguistics with eco-critical discourse analysis (ECDA), this research provides a replicable methodological model for future interdisciplinary studies in Ecolinguistics. It advances theoretical applications of Stibbe's (2015) discourse typologies and Fairclough's (1995) CDA framework, showing how these can be operationalized within large-scale media datasets.

Third, the study's comparative insights contribute to the global discourse on climate justice by highlighting how vulnerable regions like Bangladesh emphasize human suffering and urgency, while more economically assertive nations like India frame climate change through narratives of growth and innovation. These findings can inform both local journalism practices and international climate communication strategies by foregrounding the role of language in shaping ecological narratives.

5.4 Recommendations of the Study

Based on the study's findings, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. **For Media Practitioners:** South Asian news organizations should adopt ecologically responsible language practices by avoiding depoliticizing frames

and promoting inclusive, justice-based narratives. Editors and journalists should be trained in the principles of Ecolinguistics and environmental ethics.

2. **For Policy Makers:** Governments should recognize the strategic role media plays in constructing public understanding of climate issues. Collaborations between environmental ministries and media outlets can improve accuracy and urgency in coverage.
3. **For Academia and Research:** Researchers should expand the scope of Ecolinguistic inquiry to include multilingual and regional media across South Asia. There is also a need for longitudinal studies that examine how climate narratives evolve over time and respond to international policy shifts.
4. **For Curriculum Development:** Environmental communication, Ecolinguistics, and media literacy should be incorporated into journalism and communication studies curricula in South Asian universities to foster a new generation of ecologically conscious media professionals.

Future studies should look into how language shapes environmental discussions. The use of different media analysis within Ecolinguistic frameworks would result in a better understanding of how language influences climate-related perceptions and policy results. The implementation of these recommendations will assist media organizations in transforming their operations to inform citizens about climate change, as well as promoting public participation and policy reform initiatives throughout South Asia. Environmental discussion research needs further investigation on how language affects these types of conversations. Different media analyses carried out through an Ecolinguistic framework would offer better clarity about how linguistic elements affect climate-related perception

and policy outcomes. These recommendations will guide media companies to switch their operations so they properly inform people about climate change and support regional public involvement and policy transformation initiatives across South Asia.

CHAPTER # 06

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