

Print Media Coverage of Smog: A Corpus-Assisted Ecolinguistics Study of Pakistani English Newspapers in Dawn and The Nation

Sadia Rauf ¹, Saqlain Hassan ², Ibrar Ahmad ³

¹ MPhil Scholar, Department of English Linguistics and Literature, Riphah International University, Islamabad

² Assistant Professor, Department of English Linguistics and Literature, Riphah International University, Malakand

³ PhD Scholar, Department of English Linguistics and Literature, Riphah International University, Islamabad

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Abstract: This study examined how smog is portrayed in English-language newspapers in Pakistan, using a corpus-assisted ecolinguistic approach. The research analyzed a collection of 154 news articles, with 77 pieces each from Dawn and The Nation, published between October 2024 and September 2026. Using Sketch Engine, the data was examined for normalized frequency, keywords, collocations, Word Sketch patterns, and concordance lines related to smog. The themes that the analysis revolved around included framing, erasure, and the ecosophical ideals of well-being, ecological justice, and sustainability. The findings indicate that both newspapers represent smog as a severe and measurable air-quality problem, a common epidemic of health, and a concern, which requires government and social response. Such adjectives as Hazardous, severe, toxic, dense, and heavy, as well as verbs, combat, control, curb, and tackle, form a story with a lot of danger, urgency, and necessity to act. Both of the publications also emphasize the noteworthy human-induced sources such as vehicle emissions, industrial activities, brick kilns, agricultural burning, and waste incineration though some of the grammar construction of the texts will down-play the agents initiating the factors. Dawn is more focused on monitoring and institutional processes, whereas The Nation is more focused on crisis and enforcement. This discussion is rather ambivalent, and it is more concerned with numerous positive elements that foster health consciousness and responsibility, yet it does not offer more consistent coverage to ecological justice and sustainability.

Keywords: Smog, ecolinguistics, corpus-assisted analysis, framing, erasure, Sketch Engine.

1. INTRODUCTION

Smog is commonly considered to be a combination of smoke and fog in the air. It defines a condition of very high air pollution, which is suspended in damp air (Allaby, 2014). Smog in the atmosphere is as a result of anthropogenic activity as well as meteorological factors. Some of the human activities that have led to the formation of smog include the combustion of industrial coal, automobile emissions, burning of agricultural waste, construction, fireworks as well as those generated by brick kilns. All these activities

contribute to the emission of pollutants and particulate matter into the atmosphere (Wang et al., 2016). The automobile and industrial emissions of pollutants worldwide are outstanding causes of air pollution and thus contribute hugely to smog formation (Lodhi et al., 2009). Primary sources of classical smog include coal combustion, smoke, sulfur dioxide and moisture whereas photochemical smog occurs when nitrogen oxide reacts with volatile organic compounds in the environment with the help of sunlight to give birth to dangerous gases (ground level ozone, peroxyacyl

nitrites, acids and aerosols) (Gaffney et al., 2009). These materials lower visibility and result in damages to human beings, vegetation, crop farms, structures as well as ecosystems. Smog is not only a mixture of smoke and fog; it is a complicated chemical process of pollution that is mainly caused by the human activity. Environmental degradation has taken a center stage on the world scene. Air pollution has been termed one of the biggest challenges our present time is facing. One of the most dangerous of the various forms of air pollution among others, smog, or poisonous cocktail of smoke and fog have influenced the lives of many people negatively with respect to their health, the environment, and the economy. Smog has developed to be a long term crisis in the country, and more particularly in Punjab. The worst air quality indices in the world have always been recorded in the city of Lahore (Jahan et al., 2019; Lodhi et al., 2009). This establishes a precondition on the industrial emissions, car emissions and farmlands, contaminating millions of people, among whom it offers serious threat to the children and the aged. Ecolinguistics is the discipline that examines the linguistic trends that either perpetuate or compare nature-relevant concepts and practices (Stibbe, 2015). The techniques facilitated by corpora assist in identifying such patterns in large textual corpora in a systematic way relying on frequencies, keywords, collocates, and concordances (Poole, 2022).

Further, the media texts on smog in Dawn and The Nation has gotten analyzed in the current paper with the help of a corpus-based comparative ecolinguistics approach. The study analyzes the way the media creates the reasons for smog, its impacts, people who are guilty, the ones who suffer from it, and the potential ways to resolve the issue. By so doing, the study will be in a position to determine whether the media discourse conceals or exposes the accountability towards the environment.

The proposed study is aimed at conducting a corpus-assisted ecolinguistics analysis of the coverage of smog in Dawn and The Nation. It uses both the quantitative and qualitative approaches. The research uses frequency, key word and collocation analysis with the view of exposing recurrent linguistic features in both corpora in the quantitative part and a combination of the concordance analysis and close reading with a view

of studying framing, agency, responsibility, evaluation, erasure, semantic preference, and discourse prosody in the qualitative part. In addition, it reveals the motives of the two newspapers abstracting the reasons and consequences of smog, the responsible and affected sides, and reasons behind some solutions. These discourses are then evaluated based on an ecosophy which is built around bitterness of human and ecological health, environmental justice and environmental responsibility, interconnectedness, and ecological sufficiency.

Although this issue of smog is common in Pakistan, and information on the causes and effects of smog, policy concerns and arguments on the discursive performances of media coverage of this ecological catastrophe is in abundance, academic literature has not been keen to reflect on common language patterns through which individual English newspapers in Pakistan would encapsulate this ecological disaster. Although the above media studies have applied the content analysis or Framing analysis method in establishing common themes such as public health, disaster, responsibility and response to the crisis, it may not allow the discovery of statistically significant vocabulary, collocations, agency, evaluation, and even the process of responsibility shifting. In particular, there is a lack of mixed-methods approach of corpus-assisted ecolinguistics study of smog discourse in Dawn and The Nation newspapers. Thus, it remains unknown whether there occur similarities and/or differences in how these newspapers address the smog problems in terms of relation and effects, who is to blame, who is affected, and what to do but there are differences in the discourses applied that may either impede or facilitate ecological well-being, environmental justice, accountability and sustainability.

The research is led by the following questions:

1. How does the Pakistani print media in Dawn and The Nation illustrate smog related issues?
2. What are the linguistic patterns constituting smog representation? What keywords and collocational patterns characterize the representation of smog in Dawn and The Nation?
3. To what extent do the smog narratives in Dawn and The Nation promote or undermine the ecosophical values of well-being, justice and sustainability?

By examining the discourse of smog in a setting that has little research, such as Pakistan, the current research contributes to corpus-assisted ecolinguistics. It contributes to the comprehension of how Dawn and The Nation introduce the causes, impact, liabilities, and solutions of the smog through the lenses of linguistic aspects. These findings can be used by media practitioners as well as policymakers to determine the discourses of avoidance of responsibility or normalization of pollution.

2. Literature Review

One such multidisciplinary approach to the study of language, where one can study the interconnection of language, society and the ecosystems without which no life would have its existence is ecolinguistics. It stems from Haugen's (1972) concept of "language ecology" and has subsequently been broadened to incorporate the critical analysis of the ways in which discourse sustains or undermines ideologies and practices that have environmental significance. Interpreted in the latter sense, language is not just a reflection of ecological reality but in fact, constructions of the perception of environmental problems, actors and responses. Probably one of the most helpful notions which are elaborated by Stribbe (2015) is the concept of the stories we live by due to how it emphasizes recurrent frames, judgments, metaphors, saliences and erasures to express ecological relationships.

Another indication that critical ecolinguistics is growing in concern is the interest in the ideological value of language as a tool of creating meaning in connection with the environment. The linguistic representations can either support or subvert specific social-natural environmental relationship according to Fill and Mühlhäusler (2001). Besides this, Alexander and Stibbe (2014) distinguish the analysis of environmental discourse and ecological analysis of any discourse in which the linguistic representation turns into an object of study in terms of its ecological consequences. In this respect, therefore, a description of smog may be evaluated not only with respect to its content but also to its presumptions concerning the responsibility and vulnerability problems, the economic priorities and resolutions. The principle of framing is of special importance to environmental language due to the presence of numerous aspects of ecological issues that can be perceived in different ways. According to

Entman (1993), framing entails the selection and emphasis of certain aspects of reality which determine the issue, its causes, evaluations and solutions. Thus, smog may be regarded as a health, a seasonal, a governance issue, or an ecological issue. Erasure is as well important within the environmental discourse due to the inclination of omitting in environmental discourse some of the actors and entities, which include responsible, vulnerable, and non-human. Stibbe (2015) speculates that omission of specific elements in the environmental discourse might support some anthropocentric views.

2.1. Corpus Assisted Ecolinguistics

Corpus-assisted ecolinguistics is a synthesis between quantitative methods of the corpora and the qualitative methods of the ecolinguistics. Such quantitative techniques include frequency, keywords, collocations, concordances, semantic-preferences, and discourse prosody analyses which provide for the identification of recurring linguistic patterns in collections of texts instead of using one-off examples (Baker, 2006; Poole, 2022). The concordance analysis in its turn enables us to examine these patterns within a context and we can examine the role of particular words and syntactic structures in the narration of the ecological stories. These techniques have been used in various fields of environmental communication ranging from sustainability to forest/wilderness discourse, non-human animals, environmental organizations, and climate-change journalism (Almaghlouth, 2022; Poole & Micalay-Hurtado, 2022; Reghunath & Zafar, 2023). Such a study shows that even seemingly neutral lexical patterns can indicate ideologies like anthropocentrism, commoditization, growth economy approach, and hiding of ecological responsibility. Corpus-based ecolinguistics can therefore be used because it creates a linking between the repeating linguistic phenomena and ecological evaluation relying on the idea of ecosophy (Poole and Shen, 2026; Stibbe, 2015). The use of corpus-based ecolinguistics in the field of tourism and related discourse and tourism in the context of the environment can also be supported by contemporary research works which indicate that nature can be framed in terms of human usefulness or ecological contested discourses (Isti'anah et al., 2024; Suhandano et al., 2025).

2.2. Smog as an Environmental and Media Issue

Smog is typically formed due to the interplay of atmospheric variables and pollutants, which are formed through the process of burning fossil fuels, industry pollution, transport and agro activities (World Health Organization [WHO], 2021). Apart from reducing visibility, smog causes negative effects in terms of illnesses and diseases (respiratory and cardiovascular), economic issues, agriculture damage and ecological problems. However, how the society perceives smog can be influenced by how the media presents the causes and effects of the same. Research conducted abroad has found out that there is significant diversity in media representation of smog. To understand what frames are employed by China in discussing the issue of smog, one can note that the frames of health and socioeconomic outcomes, the role of the government and individuals, natural causes and policy implications could be discussed as the frames applied to talk about the issue of smog (Zhang, 2017). Additionally, studies have found that even the evaluative tone of news coverage of media could affect emotions and behavior in relation to air pollution (Li et al., 2022). In India, discourse on smog is largely concentrated around issues related to the health and economic aspects of smog, especially its impact on vulnerable groups, such as children and senior citizens, while other aspects, such as poor regulation and inefficient urban management, are less discussed (Kumar & Gupta, 2022). Regarding Saudi Arabia, pollution is related to national sustainability initiatives and modernization of the environment (Almaghlouth, 2022). It can be concluded from the analysis that there is no unified discourse of smog in the world.

2.3. Smog and Environmental communication in Pakistan

The situation in Pakistan is even more peculiar as severe air pollution has become the order of the day in the urban cities of the country, particularly Lahore. The causes of air pollution may include industrial emission, vehicular emission, agricultural burning, use of fossil fuel among others (PIDE, 2022; UNICEF, 2024; Khan and Mustafa, 2023). These have dire health consequences, especially for children, elderly, and those with respiratory disorders, while at the same time causing other social, economic, and agriculture impacts (WHO, 2021). Lahore has shown that urban air pollution has critically correlated with diseases like respiratory and

cardiovascular disease (Krishnan et al., 2019). There is another research study, which focuses on the effects of air pollution on human health, visibility, environment and economic activity in Pakistan (Naureen et al., 2022; Landrigan et al., 2015; Xu et al., 2014; Ali et al., 2019). Research conducted on Pakistani media indicates that environmental journalism is not a continuous phenomenon but it limps about more especially during crisis situations. Specifically, when analyzing environmental editorials Javed et al. (2023) discovered that smog and other environmental issues have been given little coverage compared to the fact that there were some solution-based coverage. The importance of communication and awareness regarding environmental problems has been underlined by Mushtaq et al. (2024). It was more recently observed by Qusien (2026) that the frames of responsibility attribution, disaster, disaster response and public health were the most prevalent in Pakistani smog journalism. Such a literature contends the significance of framing but does not contain details of the repetitive lexical and structural formations in drafting these frames.

The significance of responsibility and consequence framing may be highlighted with the help of the Pakistani climate communication research as well. In particular, according to Shahid and Zahra (2025), the frames of responsibility and economic impact were identified as the frames of coverage of Dawn and The Nation, whereas conflict and human interest were spread more in print journalism than in official communication. The same Fuzaffar et al. (2024) revealed to see how the coverage of the 2022 Sindh floods depicted an environmental disaster in terms of the identified actors, outcomes, and government responses. However, as compared to other climate catastrophes, smog is local, seasonal, recurrent, and through the struggle over pollution sources.

The literature has four conclusions. First, the anthropogenic aspect of the smog issue in Pakistan will have numerous health-related, environmental, and economic consequences (Iram et al., 2025; Jahan et al., 2019; Razzaq et al., 2024). Secondly, the smog issue requires collective multi-sector action efforts, which last over time, but the media can accuse the individual, the farmer, the climate/weather or other countries (Rafiq-Uz-Zaman et al., 2024). Thirdly, there are

consequences of environmental media framing on who or what is the cause of the problem, who the victim is, and what is the solution to be proposed (Entman, 1993; Zhang, 2017). Fourthly, it is possible to tie the frequent linguistic expressions to the ecology evaluation with the help of corpus-assisted ecolinguistics (Poole, 2022; Poole and Shen, 2026; Stibbe, 2015). However, a certain gap still exists. The health, policy, awareness, and media framing perspectives of smog have been researched in Pakistan, but the literature on the matter is deficient in terms of the studies connected with the analysis of recurrent vocabulary, collocations and grammar, agency, framing, and erasure whereby the individual English-language newspapers tackle the issue. The present study seeks to fill in this blank by providing a comparative study of two English-language newspapers viz., Dawn and The Nation, in the form of corpus-aided ecolinguistics by gauging their smog discourse in the yardstick of ecosophical values.

2.4. Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework in this study is based on the ecolinguistic framework of Stibbe (2021). Moreover, the ecolinguistic method by Poole (2022) describes how the recurrent patterns in language could be analyzed with the help of the corpus. The key-words, collocational-grammatical patterns, Word Sketch findings, and concordance lines are determined in the process of exploring the coverage of the smog issue in the Dawn and The Nation. In addition, the use of Stibbe concepts of framing and erasure, examined how different items, such as causes, consequences, responsible parties, impacted communities, and how actions are either brought into focus or played down. The stories which appear are evaluated by the ecosophy of the study where well being, ecological justice and sustainability are prioritized, and seen as positive, ambivalent, or detrimental according to

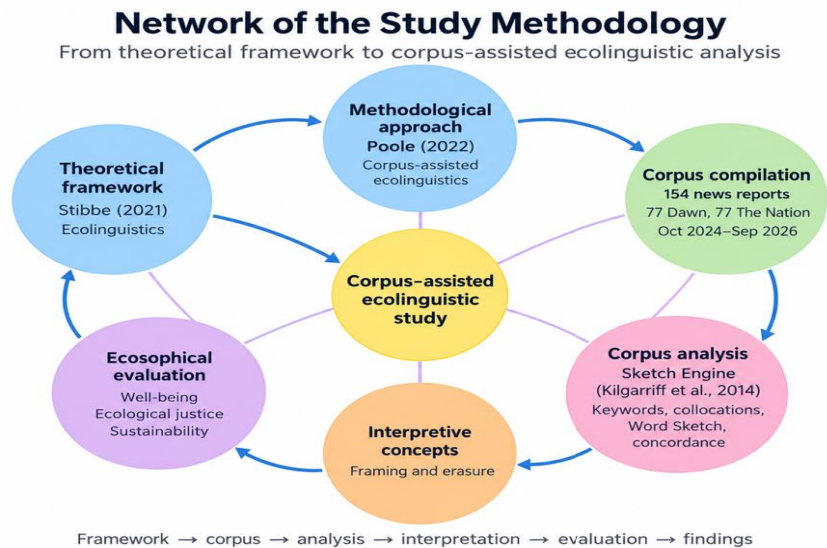
whether the story aligns with or violates the ecological ideals.

3. Methods and Materials

The present study used a mixed method approach of corpus-assisted ecolinguistics to explore the portrayal of smog in Dawn and The Nation. There were 154 news reports in a corpus developed based on the online media of October 2024 to September 2026, comprising of 77 news articles each within the two newspapers. The collected corpus was made up of 61234 words and 71572 tokens. News reports only were used as inclusion criteria and other webpages, duplications, advertisements and letters, photo galleries, accidental cases, hyperlinks, web menus, biographies of authors and other extraneous content were not. A Sketch Engine (Kilgarriff et al., 2014) was used to input the cleaned texts into two subcorpora, one after another. Normalized frequencies were determined due to different sizes of the subcorpora. The analysis entailed lemma frequency, one or more key word extraction, collocation search, Word Sketch patterns and concordances constructed in Sketch Engine (Kilgarriff et al., 2014). Word Sketch has been used to identify smog modifiers, nouns that are smog modifiers and verbs that had occurred as the object of smog or as a subject to find out the grammatical relationship and meaning in context. Recurring patterns were selected according to Poole methodology for corpus-assisted ecolinguistic research (2022) based on frequency, statistical salience, and contextuality as well as the relevance to the research questions. Stibbe's (2021) notions of framing and erasure were applied to discuss how causes, consequences, perpetrators, victims and solutions to the issue were either foregrounded or erased. The chosen stories were criticized regarding their adherence to the principles of ecosophical well-being, ecological justice and sustainability.

Figure 1

Theoretical framework and its Application



4. Results and Analysis

The analysis shifted to considering collocations, Word Sketch relations, and concordance evidence using the conventional methodology of analyzing the overall frequency and keyword patterns. The quantitative regularities were further explained in terms of the concepts of ecosophical values such as well-being, ecological justice, and sustainability as well as interpreted by means of the ideas of framing and erasure spread by Stibbe (2021).

4.1. Frequency and Distribution of Smog

They analyzed 154 news reports, half of which

belonged to each newspaper. Dawn subcorpus encountered 38, 059 words and 44, 668 tokens, and The Nation encountered 23, 175 words and 26, 904 tokens. The word smog in Dawn was used 413 times and 282 times in The Nation. Although there were more occurrences of Dawn; however, the normal frequency was obtained by Sketch Engine, that is, 9, 245.99 times in Dawn against 10, 481.71 in The Nation. This implies that in terms of the volume of the corpus, smog was a little more commonly observed in The Nation. The word also appeared in both corpora and implying that smog was not something new instead of being a unusual word.

Table 1
Corpus Size and Frequency of lemma Smog in Dawn and The Nation

Measure	Dawn	The Nation
News reports	77	77
Words	38,059	23,175
Tokens	44,668	26,904
Raw frequency of smog	413	282
Frequency per million tokens	9,245.99	10,481.71
Percentage of corpus	0.9246%	1.048%

The importance of the concept of normalization can be observed due to this difference. In the former, the comparison based on frequency demonstrates that Dawn indicates more frequency of usage of smog whereas in the latter, it is evident that The Nation is typified by quite high lexical density as far as smog is concerned. We can also say based on the frequency distribution charts that smog is not only limited to a handful of documents.

4.2. Lexical Features of Smog Representation

4.2.1. Keywords Patterns in Dawn and The Nation

Two lexical fields of keywords The lexical field of keywords (keywords) shared by the two newspapers suggests that these publications were similar about air pollution, measuring, causes, effects on human health, and governmental response. There are such common lexical words as smog, AQI, air quality, pollution, polluted, kiln, emission, and anti-smog. Other keywords that comprise of more than three words are Air Quality Index, smog season, pollution level, crop

residue, brick kiln, as well as the literary works of governmental organizations and environmental control.

This indicates a demonstration that both newspapers have created smog as the identical ecological issue of air pollution. Both articles have a lexical focus on air pollution, including such keywords as smog, AQI, Lahore, Punjab, anti-smog, polluted, pollution, and kiln. This proves the point that smog is perceived by both Dawn and The Nation as a problem with the air quality of Punjab that has been induced by pollution in a

measurably significant manner. The keyword search shows that the sources of such pollution such as brick kilns, crop residue burning, industrial pollution, and vehicle emissions are apparent and indicate that there is no full refusal of the problem and its sources even on the lexical level. But there is a variation in the emphasis on some words in that Dawn emphasizes more on air-quality measurement and The Nation emphasizes the enforcement by using terms like strict action, zero-tolerance policy, anti-smog squad, and anti-smog operation.

Figure 2

Single/Multi-word Keywords from Dawn and The Nation

		Frequency ²	Frequency million ³	per million ⁴	Score ¹
lemma	Focus	reference	Focus	reference	Score ¹
1 smog	413	73.385	9,245.99	1.19	4,219.3
2 aqi	140	13.219	3,134.23	0.21	2,581.2
3 lahore	348	170.803	7,790.81	2.77	2,064.9
4 anti-smog	59	356	1,320.86	<0.01	1,314.3
5 aurangzeb	56	12.843	1,253.69	0.21	1,038.2
6 pollution	55	16.778	1,231.31	0.27	968.5
7 punjab	230	378.452	5,149.10	6.15	720.8
8 marriyam	31	254	694.01	<0.01	692.2
9 faisalabad	29	13.850	649.23	0.22	530.9
10 smoke-emitting	74	514.91	<0.01	515.3	

		Frequency ²	Frequency per million ³	Score ¹	
term	Focus	reference	Focus	reference	Score ¹
1 brick kiln	46	6,840	1,029.82	0.11	927.8
2 Punjab government	44	14,154	965.05	0.23	801.8
3 polluted city	35	4,771	763.56	0.08	728.2
4 Air Quality Index	34	4,366	761.17	0.07	711.7
5 air quality	139	251,393	3,111.85	4.08	612.5
6 smoke-emitting vehicle	20	0	447.75	0.00	448.7
7 crop residue	24	14,201	537.30	0.23	437.4
8 air pollution	82	215,228	1,835.77	3.49	408.6
9 stubble burning	18	3,146	402.97	0.05	384.3
10 pollution level	22	17,916	402.52	0.29	382.3

		Frequency ²	Frequency per million ³	Score ¹	
lemma	Focus	reference	Focus	reference	Score ¹
1 smog	282	73.385	10,481.71	1.19	4,783.2
2 aqi	69	13.219	2,564.67	0.21	2,112.3
3 lahore	170	170.803	6,318.76	2.77	1,674.8
4 anti-smog	44	356	1,635.44	<0.01	1,627.0
5 punjab	232	378.452	8,623.25	6.15	1,207.0
6 aurangzeb	37	12.843	1,375.26	0.21	1,138.8
7 marriyam	29	254	1,077.91	<0.01	1,074.5
8 faisalabad	28	13.850	1,040.74	0.22	850.5
9 marriyam	34	33,063	1,263.75	0.54	822.9
10 awaz	32	44,352	1,189.41	0.72	692.0

		Frequency ²	Frequency per million ³	Score ¹	
term	Focus	reference	Focus	reference	Score ¹
1 Air Quality Index	31	4,366	1,152.25	0.07	1,076.9
2 pollution level	33	17,916	1,226.58	0.29	950.9
3 Punjab government	30	14,154	1,115.08	0.23	907.5
4 brick kiln	25	6,840	929.23	0.11	837.2
5 air pollution	79	215,228	2,996.37	3.49	653.5
6 air quality	87	251,393	3,233.72	4.08	636.5
7 crop residue	20	14,201	743.38	0.23	604.9
8 polluted city	17	4,771	631.88	0.08	587.4
9 emitting excessive smoke	15	0	557.54	0.00	558.5
10 excessive smoke	15	716	557.54	0.01	552.1

Table 2

Selected Environmentally Relevant Multi-Word Keywords

Semantic Domain	Dawn	The Nation
Air quality/ measurement	Air Quality Index; poor air quality; hazardous air quality; air quality monitoring	Air Quality Index; air quality; pollution level; quality index; smog level
Source/causes	brick kiln; crop residue; stubble burning; vehicular emission; industrial emission	brick kiln; crop residue; crop residue burning; emitting excessive smoke; industrial unit
Smog severity/ status	smog season; smog situation; deteriorating air quality	smog season; smog crisis; severe smog; worsening smog; toxic air
Institutional response	Punjab government; Environmental Protection Agency; green lockdown; anti-smog campaign	Punjab government; Environment Department; strict action; zero-tolerance policy; anti-smog squad
Health/ effects	effects of smog; harmful effects of smog; respiratory illness	effect of smog; impact of smog; respiratory condition; eye irritation; protective mask

It is the semantic stability of these adjectives, rather than the frequency of each adjective, that is important. Collectively they define smog using the intensities, densities and harmfulness on the ground. The collocations thick smog and dense smog put an accent on the density of the smog in the atmosphere, and the words hazardous and toxic highlight the smog as

dangerous.

This means that there is proof of a danger/health-risk frame. Although the lexicons are different in these two newspapers, each of them considers smog negatively. This confirms that the findings of the research on Pakistani media are valid - the representations of public health/crisis in the context of reporting about smog is

prevalent.

4.2.2. Collocation Patterns

The outputs of the collocations analysis proved the fixed combination of smog with the lexemes that indicate the intervention, danger, and severity. The collocations were more common in both newspapers, namely: combat, curb, and control, which implies that smog is taken as an idea of a problem that needs to be tackled with conscious activities. The conflict semantic pattern was additionally confirmed as the collocation

combat appeared to be especially evident in both corpora.

The other difference between the two newspapers with respect to the evaluative collocations was also found. The collocations severe, worsening, dense, thick, and toxic were found in The Nation but the colloquialisms heavy, hazardous and worsening were used in the newspaper Dawn along with the mitigation-related collocations in the form of mitigate and prevent.

Figure 3

Smog Collocates in Dawn and The Nation

Word	Cooccurrences ²	Candidates ²	T-score	MI	LogDice ⁴
1 of	64	935	6.92	2.89	10.60
2 combat	15	28	3.81	5.86	10.12
3 on	14	345	2.89	2.13	9.24
4 the	42	1,948	3.70	1.22	9.19
5 against	8	69	2.60	3.65	9.09
6 mitigate	7	11	2.61	6.10	9.08
7 The	12	387	2.43	1.75	8.94
8 peak	6	13	2.40	5.64	8.85
9 heavy	6	29	2.34	4.48	8.80
10 to	21	1,156	2.25	0.97	8.78
11 that	10	382	2.05	1.50	8.69
12 curb	5	12	2.19	5.49	8.59
13 in	13	726	1.74	0.95	8.55
14 current	4	11	1.95	5.30	8.27
15 declared	4	14	1.94	4.95	8.26

Word	Cooccurrences ²	Candidates ²	T-score	MI	LogDice ⁴
1 of	51	589	6.28	3.05	10.91
2 combat	13	24	3.54	5.69	10.44
3 the	31	1,091	3.51	1.44	9.53
4 severe	6	23	2.35	4.64	9.33
5 worsening	5	19	2.15	4.65	9.09
6 control	5	39	2.05	3.61	9.00
7 to	16	760	2.01	1.01	8.97
8 against	5	65	1.93	2.88	8.88
9 The	7	211	1.81	1.66	8.86
10 curb	4	17	1.91	4.49	8.78
11 that	6	237	1.44	1.27	8.57
12 by	4	89	1.53	2.10	8.46
13 dense	3	5	1.70	5.84	8.42
14 thick	3	6	1.70	5.58	8.42
15 increasing	3	9	1.68	4.99	8.40

4.2.3. Evaluative Lexis Modifiers

Smog was termed with further negative words, which only affected the evaluation negatively. Commonly-occurring premodifiers became heavy, dense, hazardous and severe in Dawn. Equally, in the Nation frequent modifiers were thick, severe, toxic and thick.

These adjectives belong to two groups of semantics: density and danger. Density-related descriptions such as heavy, dense, thick show smog as an observable atmospheric phenomenon while hazardous, severe and toxic are negative evaluations of the same. These recurrent lexemes add to the frame of health hazard/danger in both publications.

Table 3

Semantic Categories of Smog Modifiers in Dawn and The Nation

Semantic Category	Modifiers Visible in <i>Dawn</i>	Modifiers Visible in <i>The Nation</i>
Intensity / physical density	heavy, dense	dense, thick, overwhelming
Danger / toxicity	hazardous, severe	toxic, hazardous, severe
Duration / recurrence	ongoing, worsening	persistent, seasonal, pervasive
Seasonality/temporal reference	winter	winter/seasonal
Spatial/transboundary character	Cross border, transboundary	Cross border
Crisis/ exceptional severity	Emergency level, hazardous level and record-breaking	Overwhelming

The manner in which both newspapers explain smog brings out a common interest on the degrees of the smog, its riskiness, and the frequency in which it takes place. The use of words such as heavy, dense, hazardous, severe and worsening in Dawn only underlines how dire and depreciating the smog situation is. The Nation, on the other hand, chooses

such words as dense, thick, overwhelming, toxic, persistent, seasonal and pervasive. Although describes a slightly wider variety of descriptive words The Nation, both articles nevertheless depict smog as a severe, detrimental, and consistent environmental problem.

4.2.4. Recurrent Lexical Semantic Patterns

A number of repeated noun phrases contributed to the

lexicon of smog as well. Smog season, smog level, smog situation, smog crisis were the most frequently used. These terms define smog in different ways.

The term smog level relates smog to measurements and monitoring.

The issue of smog crisis demonstrates the necessity of urgency and danger.

The smog condition introduces smog as something which should be controlled, and develops over time.

Lastly, the smog season makes smog a regular

occurrence and something to foresee.

But the concurrent presence of the crisis language and seasonal language is worth special consideration. To the severity of the situation as far as crisis language attracts the attention to the urgency of the situation, seasonal language can contribute to the tobacco of smog being an element of yearly event. This fact is essential to the future ecosophical evaluation of the phenomenon since it is mostly anthropogenic in nature.

Table 4

Semantic preference around Smog

Semantic preference	Typical linguistic evidence	Discursive implication
Danger/severity	hazardous, toxic, severe, dense, heavy	smog as threat
Measurement	AQI, level, air quality, pollution level	smog as measurable environmental condition
Crisis/recurrence	crisis, season, situation, emergency	urgency alongside normalization
Intervention/control	combat, curb, tackle, control, mitigate	smog as adversary/problem requiring action
Causation	vehicles, industry, brick kilns, crop burning	anthropogenic responsibility
Health impact	respiratory illness, harmful effects, eye irritation	smog as threat to well-being
Government response	EPA, Punjab government, anti-smog operation, monitoring	institutional responsibility

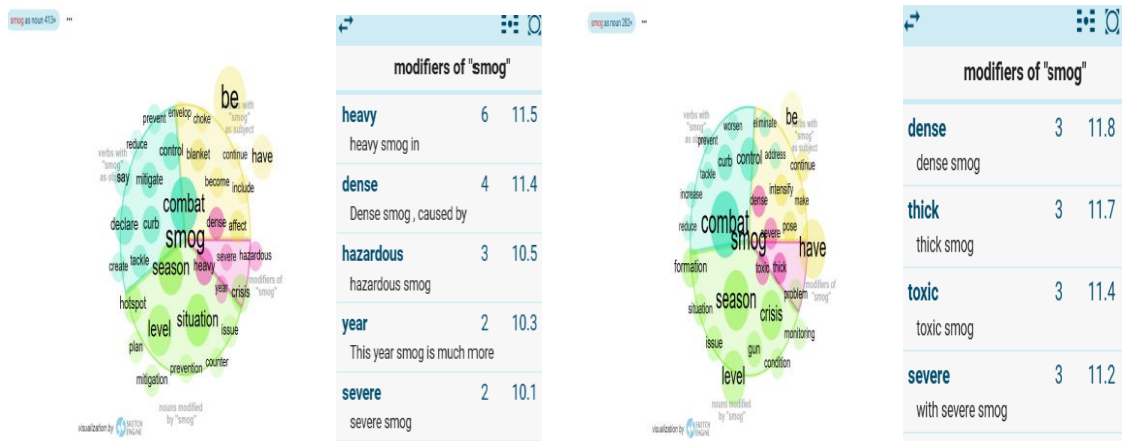
4.3. Word Sketch Modifiers of Smog Patterns

These similarities and differences revealed in the lexical and grammatical contexts of smog in Dawn and The Nation were represented in the word sketch. It was compared based on four primary grammatical relationships: smog modifies, smog is modified, verbs with smog as a complement, and smog as a subject. The contexts were first compared between the two subcorpora and then analyzed using concordances to find out the meaning of the contexts. Variation is much greater where smog itself plays the role of the grammatical subject. In Dawn, blanket, affect, envelope, and choke are some of the verbs which constitute this pattern. The entity of smog is given an

active form by the verbs, accentuating the physical dispersion and impact of smog. In The Nation, there are two prominent verbs that include intensify and pose, and the verb pose is used in constructions relating to risks posed by smog. With reference to the idea of erasure suggested by Stibbe (2021) in mind, there is a need to examine such constructions since the concept of the industry to focus on the smog instead of the people, who produce air pollution, obscures the destructive process and undermines the role of people in the process of creating air pollution. The occurrence of mentioning causal agents in the adjacent context was examined through the application of concordance analysis.

Figure 4

Word Sketch Modifiers for Smog in Dawn and The Nation



In Word Sketch, the validation of grammatically correct results was done by using concordance checking. To illustrate, the year was mentioned as a modifier in Dawn but after concordance checking, it became clear that, year had been mentioned in the context of the temporal phrase this year smog...].

Modifiers of smog in the two newspaper corpora are mostly negative and evaluative. Dense and severe is found in both of the sub-corpora, and this is somewhat the same situation with the construction of smog as being physically intensive and serious. As Dawn employs heavy and hazardous to smog, The Nation employs thick and toxic so as to do the same thing. Although the wording varies, however, smog in both newscast corpora so to speak symbolises itself as a physically dense and threatening process of the environment. The grammatical accuracy of the Word Sketch output was checked by using concordance checking. An example Year, reviewed as a modifier in Dawns Word Sketch, however, on concordance check it was part of the time expression this year smog, rather than a descriptive modifier to smog. So the item did not feature in the semantic analysis of the modifier.

The comparison made in the Word Sketch indicates that there are significant similarities in the lexical depiction of smog in Dawn and The Nation newspapers. Smog, in both Dawn and The Nation newspapers, is a

symbol of an environmental problem that requires some intervention and control. In both papers, the issue of smog is associated with bad effects and conditions. But using normalized frequencies it is possible to observe that even there it has some discrepancies in the rays. The Nation newspaper focuses on the use of constructs like combating smog, smog crisis, smog season, effects of smog and how smog relate to pollution, but Dawn focuses on smog situation and active uses of smog.

4.3.1. Verbs with Smog as Object

In both newspapers, Word Sketch revealed that smog was used by both as the object of action verbs. Dawn employed the use of action verbs such as combat, control, curb, mitigate, tackle, prevent and reduce whereas Nation had combat, control, curb, eliminate, tackle, address and reduce as numbers of action verbs. These verbs form a trend through which smog is introduced in a way that can be acted on, managed or combated. The intervention or conflict structure that is presented by the use of action verbs such as combat and fight is the pretense that smog is an enemy. The findings of concordance shows unequivocally that such verbs appeared in those reports about the government activities, collaboration of citizens and punitive and restrictive measures in pollution matters.

Figure 5

Smog as Object in Dawn and The Nation

verbs with "smog" as object		
combat	18	12.3
to combat smog		
declare	7	11.0
has now declared smog a calamity under		
curb	6	10.9
to curb smog		
control	6	10.8
in controlling smog and		
mitigate	5	10.6
to control and mitigate smog		
tackle	4	10.3
tackling smog		
create	3	9.9
smog was created		
say	6	9.8
She said smog		
prevent	3	9.8
government's measures to prevent smog . He vowed		
reduce	3	9.4
reduce smog		
manage	2	9.4
smog was managed		
overcome	2	9.4
to try to overcome the smog , and this		
call	2	9.4
calling smog		
observe	2	9.4
that one could observe smog around Lahore ev		
worsen	2	9.2
smog worsened across		

verbs with "smog" as object		
combat	15	12.6
to combat smog and		
control	6	11.2
to control smog		
curb	4	10.8
to curb smog . The Punjab		
eliminate	2	10.1
to eliminate smog		
tackle	2	9.9
tackle smog		
increase	2	9.9
due to increasing smog		
address	2	9.9
address smog		
prevent	2	9.8
actively working to prevent smog and protect the		
worsen	2	9.8
worsening smog		
reduce	2	9.5
reducing SMOG		

The verbs in both articles are such as combat, control, curb, tackle, prevent, and reduce. These kind of verbs creates smog as something that has to be combated or curbed in some way. Some significance can be attributed to the repetitive use of such verbs as combat, tackle in some ecolinguistic view as it may possibly imply means of intervention in the nature through a discourse that is difficult to accept where smog is the opponent that must be combated. Using Poole's (2022) corpus-assisted ecolinguistics framework, the pattern of grammar was considered in terms of concordance analysis, as opposed to being analyzed based on individual lexical items. Here, the theme of the verbs such as combat, control and tackle is examined in order to figure out who in various groups of people has been perceived to be addressing smog. Combat, curb, control and tackle are used repeatedly to create a smog of a problem against which a kind of action must be taken. This construct is especially evident when considered along with the constructs war on smog, fight against smog and battle against smog.

The evidence in concordance indicates that these are not chance words. Mentioned are government departments, administrative agencies and citizens as entities who must be in the battle to combat, control and/or prevent smog. For instance, Dawn makes mention of efforts to "control and mitigate" smog as well as a "war on smog." The Nation also refers to activities to deal with smog, fight smog and combat smog. These recurring word options are a

manifestation of intervention or construct of conflict. Smog is perceived as a foe whereas the government bodies and citizens, are perceived as protectors or suppressors. Ecolinguistics claims that this is an ambivalent structure. To start with, it establishes a feeling of emergency and justifies action to counter the negative impact of pollution. But on the flip side the frame may be used to draw attention towards combating the visual system of pollution known as smog but without altering the infrastructure systems that contribute to the formation of smog. The ecological value of the framework, then, is determined by the extent to which the discourse associated with the same acknowledges material reasons and structural corrections.

4.3.2. Verbs with Smog as Subject

But when smog is grammatical subject there is another picture which is created. In Dawn, smog is depicted as something that envelops, affects, strangulates and smothers. According to The Nation, smog is associated with the verbs such as intensifies, poses, persists, compels and disrupts.

This construction lends agency to smog acting as a grammatical object. This highlights that aspect of threat by the depiction of smog as an actor that has adverse effects on humans and their environment. Nevertheless, simultaneously, such grammatical form can result in the consequences of deemphasizing the human activity leading to pollution. There is why the building is pertinent to the concept of erasure offered

by Stibbe.

Figure 6

Smog as Subject in Dawn and The Nation

verbs with "smog" as subject		
blanket smog blanketed the	4	10.7
affect affected by smog	4	10.5
be smog is	27	10.1
become smog has become	3	10.0
include smog including	3	9.8
envelop smog enveloping	2	9.7
choke smog choked	2	9.7
have smog has	10	9.7
continue smog continues to	2	9.4

verbs with "smog" as subject		
intensify smog had intensified	3	10.8
pose risks posed by smog	3	10.7
continue smog continued	3	10.6
have smog has	12	10.4
make the severity of smog has made life harar for	2	10.2
be Smog is	9	9.0

Convergence can be observed with interesting examples in terms of verbs to describe the action taken on smog. Verbs such as combat, control, curb, tackle, prevent and reduce are used in both newspaper articles. These verbs make it possible to develop an object or a phenomenon, a smog, which needs some action to be undertaken against it. This extensive application of verbs such as combat and tackle might bear some linguistic meaning, at least in terms of ecolinguistics, since they may be used to refer to environmental activism through a discourse of conflict. These types of constructions grammatically attribute agency to nature as such. Representatively, Dawn symbolizes smog as something that blankets Punjab decreasing visibility and as something that chokes people, whereas The Nation symbolizes smog as something that poses threats and can impact cities and health. This applies particularly in the regard to the erasure concept as proposed by Stibbe. When smog as such recursively takes the grammatical role of actor,

there is a risk of relegating to the background people, industries, infrastructures and practices that produce polluted air. But the evidence of the corpus does not lend to a theory of an erasure of that character. Both newspapers have concordance and keyword data indicating that the sources of pollution are also explicitly identified in both newspapers. Thus the question of relative foregrounding/backgrounding, rather than absolute omission, is the question at stake.

4.3.3. Nouns Modified by Smog

The noun phrases also demonstrate how smog has been defined in the discourses. Both the newspapers refer to smog season, smog level, smog crisis, and smog situation. Although The Nation is more concerned with smog crisis, Dawn addresses smog situation at a higher rate.

This indicates that there is a relative emphasis in both the discourses; The Nation focuses on crisis whereas Dawn depicts smog as a situation.

Figure 7

Nouns Modified by Smog in Dawn and The Nation

nouns modified by "smog"		
season during the smog season	15	11.6
situation the smog situation	14	11.6
level in smog levels	14	10.8
hotspot in designated smog hotspots across Lahore	6	10.4
crisis The smog crisis , primarily fueled	6	10.4
mitigation Punjab Smog Mitigation and Response Initiative	4	9.9
plan of the smog mitigation plan	4	9.6
issue the smog issue	4	9.6
prevention smog prevention	3	9.5
counter smog counters	3	9.5
emergency adding that a smog emergency was in place	3	9.4
gun smog guns	3	9.3
dossier smog dossier	2	8.9
formation or leading to smog formation	2	8.9
sop violations of smog SOPs	2	8.9
alert issued a smog alert	2	8.9
episode smog episodes	2	8.9
eye biggest city , smog stings eyes and burns throats	2	8.9
control smog control	2	8.9
problem smog problem	2	8.8
hour during peak smog hours	2	8.7

nouns modified by "smog"		
season the smog season	12	11.6
crisis smog crisis	8	11.0
formation contribute to smog formation	5	10.6
level in smog levels	10	10.5
gun smog guns	4	10.0
issue the smog issue	4	9.9
situation the smog situation	3	9.9
problem to the SMOG problem	3	9.7
monitoring Smog Monitoring and	3	9.5
condition smog conditions	3	9.5
alert smog alert	2	9.3
intensity smog intensity	2	9.3
rule smog rules	2	9.3
campaign Smog Awareness Campaign	2	8.8

The words that can be modified with the term smog have a certain overlap in the words that can be described as nouns. In both newspapers, such indicators as smog season, smog crisis, smog level, smog issue, smog situation, smog problem, and smog alert are used regularly. These trends indicate that most people tend to regard smog as a seasonal event, a quantifiable environmental phenomenon, a social challenge, and a crisis which must be managed. However, there are certain differences that may be pointed out. Dawn has a tendency of employing a wider range of words that pertain to the mitigation and institutional responses like smog mitigation, smog plan, smog prevention, smog emergency and smog control. Conversely, The Nation is inclined to such terms as smog monitoring, smog intensity, smog rules and smog awareness campaign.

4.4. Concordance-Based Interpretation

The above patterns of lexical and grammatical patterns were validated using the contextual meaning of the words. This technique revealed that both newspapers clearly point out the main sources of smog pollution, including vehicular emissions, industries, brick kilns, crop residue burning, burning of garbage, as well as, in some cases, cross border pollution. So, accountability is not completely eliminated. Nevertheless, varying extents of attribution of responsibility are possible. The definite causes and agents are indicated in certain situations. Nonetheless, when abstract notions, like pollution, emissions, or creation of smog are used in other discourses this weakens the role of responsible human agents. Last but not least, grammatical subject is smog. Concordance analysis showed that adjectives with negative connotation such as dense, severe, thick and toxic were frequently used alongside smog. Other contextual smog examples were hazardous, pervasive,

overwhelming, persistent and seasonal. The adjectives that most frequently identify smog as a phenomenon are those that describe it in terms of intensity, danger, time, and frequency. Stress intensity, visibility of smog are thick and dense, whereas its dangerous qualities are emphasized by toxic and hazardous. Smog on the other hand is persistent and seasonal which shows a repetitive process. Concordance revealed that smog is a term that can be described several times by such negative appraisal words as dense, severe, thick and toxic. Other types are pervasive, overwhelming, hazardous, persistent and seasonal. This group of adjectives fundamentally defines smog as far as its intensity, hazard, duration and frequency is concerned. Adjectives, such as dense and thick are therefore used to refer to the physical density and visibility of smog, whilst toxic and hazardous to the damage that it causes.

Concordance analysis helps to realize that both Dawn and The Nation describe smog with the help of similar but differentiated perspectives, concentrating on the themes of crisis, community health, intervention and accountability. The whole concept of smog is presented in Dawn as some very burning environmental problem to be addressed by active steps, and the sentences such as prevent smog, combat smog, and war against environmental pollution are stressed to emphasize it. Description of smog emergency, crisis and assertion of smog as a calamity enhances the urgency. Accountability is stressed with references to cars, stubble burning, and other actions that cause smog, assuming that it is not a natural phenomenon. Moreover, mentions about the Punjabs and climate diplomacy contribute to the regional background which links local pollution to the international challenges. However, The Nation also presents smog as an important and controllable negative environmental risk however it is much more oriented on the health effects of the people alongside regulatory enforcement measures. It applies a direct relationship between smog and respiratory, cardiac, eye, and skin problems, noting the most susceptible populations such as children, the elderly, pregnant women, and individuals

with respiratory problems in the first place. The newspaper seeks out the causes of smog (like traffic sources, glue kilns and rubbish burning), the remedies (like anti-smog teams, fines, smog laws, community education, and other remedies like super seeders). In sum, the concordance evidence shows that in both newspapers, smog is discussed as a threat, a man-made crisis that requires governmental and communal response, and Dawn is much more specific in addressing the crisis, causation, and a regional responsibility, whereas The Nation is much more specific in addressing the topic of health protection, enforcement, and the practical mitigation measures.

4.5. Framing of Smog

The corpus indicates that smog was represented in four intertwined modes which are discussed in Dawn and The Nation: public health, crisis, conflict/control, and responsibility. Public health frame is adapted with the use of the words dangerous, poisonous and extreme and the constant references made to respiratory illness, eye problems and the susceptible such as children and the elderly. The Nation clearly connects smog with such issues as respiratory, heart-related, eye, and skin problems, whereas Dawn puts the focus on respiratory infections and hospital reactions towards the populations that are vulnerable. Terms such as crisis, emergency and calamity lead to the development of crisis frame that characterizes smog as an urgent problem that requires immediate action. At the same time, action-driven verbs, such as combat, fight, control, tackle, curb, and eliminate, and such phrases as war on smog and fight against smog develop a conflict/ control frame in which smog is seen as an enemy to be controlled or beaten. Finally, the responsibility frame is evident because both newspapers are persistent in pointing out human activities, which include emissions of transport, industrial activities, that of brick kilns and agricultural burning, as well as waste burning. Although the concept of responsibility exists in both publications, the scope of specification of certain actors and institutions is different.

Table 5

Comparative Frames in Dawn and The Nation

Frame	Dawn	The Nation	Overall Comparison
Measurement/pollution	Strong	Strong	Shared
Health risk	Strong	Strong	Shared
Intervention/conflict	Strong	Strong with relatively high prominence of combat	Shared with lexical differences
Crisis/seasonality	Season and situation prominent	Season and crisis especially prominent	Shared differing emphasis
Institutional response	Monitoring and government action	Enforcement action particularly salient	Partial difference
Responsibility	Multiple domestic causes explicitly identified	Multiple domestic causes explicitly identified	Responsibility visible in both

The results were eventually evaluated in the context of such ecosophical values as well-being, ecological justice, and sustainability. Both newspapers are full of positive discourse when it comes to well-being, as they elucidate significant health hazards, including the situation of dire need to protect the communities in question. The prioritization of children, the elderly, and respiratory people also illuminates the inequalities of vulnerability in society. The image of ecological justice is somewhat more complicated though. Although the articles are not silent with regard to vulnerable groups and pollution sources, they are more inclined to ignore the social inequalities in power, socioeconomic status, as well as the different capabilities of individuals to avoid polluted regions. The responsibility is tend to be generalized on the citizens instead of the governments, industries, transportation, and the key polluters having the same degree of responsibility or ability to take action. The same case is with sustainability. The articles cite the long-term plans such as containing the emissions, controlling, clean transportation and precautionary actions that are organized with sustainable operations. Nevertheless, much attention is given to short-time measures like lockdowns, masks, fines, emergency restrictions, and technological interventions too. Although they can help alleviate the short-term damage they do not address the root causes

of contamination that result in pollution. To draw a conclusion, smog stories in Dawn and The Nation are rather ambivalent but there are a lot of positive details. Both publications demonstrate seriousness of smog and identify key causes by humans. The internalization of the seasonal smog, the environment-reading-in-betweenness of responsibility, and the realization of quick fixes, however, prevent an ecological attitude which would be fully beneficial.

4.6. Ecosophical Evaluation

The findings were juxtaposed against well being, ecological justice and sustainability. Both newspapers place a strong focus on well-being as reflected in the repeated themes of health threat, pollution, and the vulnerable populations. It is possible to note only partial representation of ecological justice. Children, aged people, and individuals with respiratory diseases are mentioned, and other elements of exposure and the protection are highly neglected.

In the case of sustainability, this can be observed as being ambivalent. It reflects such aspects as long-term monitoring, emissions, clean transportation, and legislation, but, at the same time, lockdowns, masks, fines and emergencies are also highly pronounced. In this manner, it is possible to describe the stories under consideration as friendly mostly ambivalent with considerable positive sides to them.

Table 6

Ecosophical Evaluation in Dawn and The Nation

Ecosophical value	Evidence	Evaluation
Well-being	strong health-risk reporting; vulnerable groups; protective advice	Mainly beneficial
Accountability	multiple anthropogenic causes identified; government visible	Beneficial but incomplete

Environmental justice	some visibility of children, elderly and ill populations; limited structural inequality	Ambivalent
Interdependence	cross-border pollution and regional cooperation sometimes recognized	Potentially beneficial
Sustainability	long-term policy appears alongside emergency measures and technological fixes	Ambivalent

Both corpora share their most powerful positive aspect: the realization that smog endangers people and needs action to be taken against it. Another positive aspect of both corpora is the realization that smog originates from anthropogenic activities like transport, industry, agriculture, and others, thus promoting ecological responsibility. On the other hand, there are somewhat less obvious aspects of the discourse. Normalization of the situation in the sense that a normal smog season preconditions the existence of anthropogenic factors, but it resorts to normalizing the situation to make them appear natural, is called seasonalizing smog. One more feature of discursive representation of smog is the focus on the immediate actions such as anti-smog guns and other temporary measures. The fact that the air with its polluting substances is a threat to the well-being of people, and it requires certain measures is one of the most positive positive sides of these two corpora. Among the ambivalent features, it is worth mentioning such seasonal normalizations, independent abstraction of causality, and preference towards emergency solutions in the short run. To talk about the smog season is to suggest repetition and on the one hand, it can render man-made disaster to appear as ordinary. Likewise, anti-smog guns, lockdowns, masks and temporary bans could potentially save the lives of people, without even doubting the fact that pollution is produced at all.

4.7. Discussion

The study shows that both Dawn and The Nation present smog through the similar range of linguistic and ecological discourses, but exhibit variations in the conspicuousness level of some words and grammatical forms. Smog, both in these sources, is framed as a frightening and measurable environmental problem, a long-standing national health emergency, and a problem that requires the government and social intervention. The use of such phrases as Air Quality Index, level of pollution, smog crisis, and air quality season, as well as action verbs, such as combat, control,

curb and tackle contribute to understanding that smog is framed in terms of measurement, danger, repetition, and response. This is consistent with prior studies in Pakistan which identified a theme of accountability, response to disasters, and people in smog studies (Qusien, 2026). Nonetheless, this paper goes a step further to show how these themes are built up on by using similar patterns of lexical and grammatical construction. Among the best patterns that are evident is the presentation of public health with regard to smog. Both newspapers attribute it to breathing problems, optical irritation, hazardous air quality, vulnerable groups, and interference of everyday life. The word hazardous, toxic, severe, dense, and heavy are used all the way through creating an overall negative mood. This is similar to previous studies pointing out that smog coverage in Pakistan often increases during a crisis situation, which emphasizes health hazards of smog (Javed et al., 2023). Interestingly, the priority given to the human health effects as compared to the ecological damage to the non-human beings or ecosystems is an indication that there is a discourse and is environmentally sensitive but is in most cases focused on human interests. Another common theme that is characterised in the findings is that of intervention and war. Smog has commonly been addressed in the same sentence containing action-related verbs, such as combat, control, curb, tackle, prevent and reduce and such expressions as war on smog and fight against smog put it in a perspective of a foe. These repeated usage of a word in the frames of a problem can provide an interpretation of the problem and decide what kind of response should be offered (Entman, 1993). This framing may be adjustable to create a sense of urgency and to motivate action, but has an ecological ambivalence, with attention drawn not to the economic processes, regulatory failures, and infrastructural issues that result in polluted air. Being responsible does not always involve lower or higher visibility, it can be both a question of shadow and light.

The two newspapers highlight the perpetrators of pollution such as vehicle emissions, industrial waste, brick kiln and even the burning of agricultural waste, and even cross border pollution. But, unusually, the language tends to attribute some agency to smog itself, speaking of smog blankets, smog affects, smog chokes, smog intensifies, and smog poses dangers. The use of words clearly emphasizes on the environmental problem but considers the human participants who are involved less. This is in line with what Stibbe says that we must question ecological discourse in what it emphasizes and what it conveniently avoids (Stibbe, 2015). Thus, the results indicate that responsibility is not totally blind, but it differs based on a situation. The convergence of crisis framing and seasonal normalization is yet another interesting trend to note. The words such as smog crisis, smog emergency and smog calamity suggest urgency, and the words such as smog season and other seasonal words tell the viewers that smog is a normal occurrence. Neither of these methods of characterizing the situation is necessarily incompatible, but they do have different ecological connotations. Although the seasonal language could be true to depict the repetition of the weather, its repetitiveness can turn a nearly entirely man-made crisis into a normal or even inevitable event as a routine. This is why corpus-assisted ecolinguistics becomes essential that aids in revealing the current discourse patterns that may not be noticeable when considering a single text (Poole, 2022). The comparison notes that although there might be similar ecological stories in the newspapers, the newspapers indeed lay stress on different areas. Dawn, as an example, is more inclined to concentrating on such terms as smog situation, institutional processes, and air-quality monitoring. The Nation on the other hand is more in favor of emphasizing the smog crisis with more enforcement types of language and a wording such as combat smog. This is consistent with the existing studies in the area of environmental communication in Pakistan that suggest that responsibility and consequences could be perceived in different ways by various news channels (Shahid and Zahra, 2025). Overall, these two newspapers are geared towards creating a healthy society through exposing the dangers of poor health and the necessity of protection. They somewhat preach the concept of ecological

justice as well, indicating vulnerable demographics and sources of pollution. Nonetheless, their approach to sustainability is somewhat ambivalent, as they are striking a balance between long-term control and reducing emissions and responding to emergency actions. Altogether, it is possible to say that the discourse is rather ambivalent, with strong positive moments, as it illuminates the issue of environmental damage and partial responsibility, although it does not always discuss the structural factors, disproportional vulnerability or the necessity of a long-term ecological transformation.

5. Conclusion

This paper took a fine-grained overview of how Dawn and The Nation describe smog through a corpus-based ecolinguistic analysis. It discovered that newspapers represent smog as a severe, quantitative, and continuous popular health crisis, which is highly mediated by the activities of people, and which requires governmental and societal response. The repetition of words such as dangerous, serious, toxic, dense, heavy, and verbs to perform actions such as fight, contain, arrest, stop, avert and cut, make the urgency and danger significant. This adversarial perception is also accentuated by such expressions as the fight against smog and war on smog. Although in both papers, much attention is paid to the major human sources of smog such as the pollution by vehicles, by industries, by a sheer brick kiln or by an agricultural burning, a waste burning and, in some cases, even by across-border pollution, the grammatical structure employed in the two papers can provoke a shift of the responsibility to those who are the actual culprits, which are the smog. On the whole, the two newspapers are rather similar; however, Dawn is much more concerned with keeping an eye, whereas The Nation uses crisis and enforcement as the priorities. The ecosophical perspective on this discussion is rather ambivalent, with a few positive sides to it: it can bring well-being by focusing on health awareness and protective strategies, and it fails to target ecological justice, structural responsibility, or sustainability overtime. The results indicate that smog reporting has to go beyond episodic and seasonal reporting, clarify accountability, point out the disproportionate exposure, distinguish between weather and sources of pollution, and be more

concerned with long-term structural solution. Further studies might expand the discussion to other Urdu-language newspapers, extended time, other journalistic formulations, reader response, non-human ecological impacts, and other corpus methods.

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