

## Corpus-Based Critical Discourse Analysis of Political Themes in Pakistani English Print Media

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### Abstract

This study investigates the complex relationship between language, media, and politics through a comprehensive corpus-based critical discourse analysis of political themes in the Pakistani English newspaper *Dawn* from 2018 to 2020. The research uses James Paul Gee's discourse analysis framework and corpus linguistics tool AntConc to explore how governance, justice, opposition, and public issues are linguistically constructed and framed. The compiled corpus of 275 articles, encompassing over 200,000 words, was analyzed for collocations, concordance patterns, and thematic structures to uncover how specific linguistic choices reflect and reinforce socio-political ideologies and power relations. Key findings reveal the media's strategic use of language to shape public narratives, emphasizing governance and accountability while reflecting contentious political dynamics. Gee's tools, including the Situated Meaning and Big "D" Discourse, were pivotal in identifying how language operates within social contexts to construct broader narratives that resonate with public opinion and influence political discourse. This study addresses significant gaps in discourse analysis by integrating qualitative and quantitative methodologies to provide a nuanced understanding of the media's role in shaping political realities in Pakistan. The research contributes to media studies, political communication, and discourse analysis by offering empirical insights into how language functions as a descriptive and constitutive force. This work lays the foundation for future research to extend these methodologies to other media outlets and linguistic contexts, further illuminating the interplay between language, media, and politics.

**Keywords:** Discourse analysis, political discourse, Media studies, James Paul Gee's Model, political themes, Pakistan

## **Introduction**

Academic research has focused heavily on the connection between language, politics, and the media because media organizations are essential in forming public opinion and affecting sociopolitical reality. By generating narratives and highlighting specific themes, the media actively creates social and political realities rather than just circulating information (Fairclough, 1989). This framing power is essential in places like Pakistan where public discourse is influenced by political instability, economic hardship, and changing democratic rules. The study of language in media discourse reveals the Language's constitutive significance in forming ideologies, public perceptions, and governing practices (Foucault, 1980; Van Dijk, 1993). This study explores the construction of political discourse in Dawn, one of Pakistan's top English-language newspapers, highlighting the linguistic strategies employed to frame stories about accountability, justice, and governance.

In media texts, language works constitutively and descriptively, creating meanings that support or contradict prevailing ideologies (Gee, 2011). According to Fairclough (1995), media discourse discreetly legitimizes some points of view while marginalizing others, reflecting societal power systems. Gee's approach, especially his Big "D" Discourse and Situated Meaning tools, enables the investigation of how language functions in certain social circumstances to create more comprehensive narratives. According to McEnery and Hardie (2012), these observations are consistent with corpus linguistics, which adds a quantitative element to speech analysis by identifying patterns and trends in massive datasets that qualitative methods could miss. One way to see how political actors and ideas are framed over time is to look at the collocations of terms like "opposition" and "Justice".

Discourse analysis improves the empirical rigor because corpus linguistics allows for extensive text analysis. Researchers can discover recurrent linguistic patterns and their contextual implications by using tools like concordance analysis and collocation analysis (Sinclair, 1991; Baker et al., 2008). These approaches have been used to identify thematic structures and biases in media studies. In their analysis of media portrayals of Muslims in the UK, for instance, Gabrielatos and Baker (2008) showed how some phrases, such as "radical" and "terrorist," co-occur with religious identifiers, furthering prejudices. Partington (2010) also drew attention to the differences between political speech in American and British publications by

analyzing linguistic patterns and framing techniques. Applying these techniques to Pakistani media can help us better understand how media outlets like Dawn shape public opinion by revealing how they tell stories about accountability and governance.

The field of media discourse research has expanded broadly, but academic investigations dealing with Pakistani media remain scarce, especially in corpus-based and computational approaches. Most studies about news coverage focus on political and ideological influence. Yet, they show limited incorporation of corpus linguistics or computational tools, even though critical discourse analysis (CDA) remains their qualitative method of choice (Hassan, 2018). The Pakistani application of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to media narratives has been poorly investigated, especially when studying language in multilingual settings. The sociopolitical environment of Pakistan represents a vital reason for addressing this research gap since the media constructs both linguistic and ideological frames in this complicated context. These drawbacks receive attention from recent academic research. Sohail et al. (2024) applied CDA to Pakistani news bulletins about the 2022 change of command for the Chief of Army Staff to expose ideological constructs in media reporting. The research by Shah and Islam (2024) examined social media advertisements in Pakistan to understand how language features work together with visual elements for behavioral modification in consumers. Research using CDA in Pakistani media continues to grow, but a system for automated analysis of linguistic patterns in various media environments remains necessary. This research unites qualitative discourse analysis methods with corpus-based linguistic approaches to create an assessment of linguistic structures between Pakistani and American electronic media utilizing Lingualyzer as a computational linguistic instrument.

The significance of this study is in its ability to reveal the media's dual function as a public opinion shaper and informer. According to Entman (1993), media frames have an impact on people's thoughts as well as their thoughts. This impact also extends to how political issues are framed, where the careful use of metaphors, collocations, and narrative frameworks can either support or contradict former power systems (Chilton, 2004). For example, media representations of "accountability" in Pakistani discourse frequently mirror more extensive political discussions about governance and corruption, presenting these topics in ways that support or contradict the governing power structures. Analyzing such portrayals, we can better

understand how language intervenes in political realities. The results of this study will advance political communication, media studies, and discourse analysis by shedding light on the linguistic techniques used in Pakistani media.

Additionally, it emphasizes the value of critical thinking and media literacy, promoting informed citizenship and open government. The study spans qualitative and quantitative dimensions by combining corpus-based approaches with theoretical frameworks from Gee (2011) and Fairclough (1995), thoroughly examining the political conversation in Dawn. Its goal is to show how language, media, and power influence Pakistan's political realities.

### **Research Questions**

1. What political themes appear in different periods of selected news discourse?
2. How does language use contribute to thematic development and power dynamics in the selected discourse?

### **Literature Review**

To comprehend the function of language in society, it is essential to explore how the media affects public opinion and perception. People frequently view media discourse, especially political discourse, as vital in shaping reality and affecting social norms. Because language reflects and creates societal beliefs and power relations, its role in media goes beyond mere communication. This section examines essential discourse analysis research emphasizing the relationship between language, power, and media representations in political contexts. It covers the development of discourse analysis, the function of critical discourse analysis (CDA), and the use of corpus linguistics techniques in studying media texts. The review also points out gaps in the literature, specifically concerning the use of computational tools for political discourse analysis and the application of discourse analysis to Pakistani media.

Discourse analysis has become an essential tool for studying how language reflects and creates societal power dynamics. According to Van Dijk (1985), the study of rhetoric, which concentrated on persuasion in speech and communication, is where discourse analysis first emerged. Discourse analysis evolved from emphasizing formal grammatical structures to a broader perspective considering language's social, cognitive, and cultural aspects. With the

development of structural analysis and systemic functional linguistics, which highlighted language's role in forming social structures, this change took place in the middle of the 20th century, especially in the 1960s. Halliday's systemic grammar highlighted the relationship between language and society and offered a basis for comprehending how linguistic decisions influence the process of meaning-making. By the 1970s, discourse analysis had become a separate field that included ideas from sociolinguistics, psychology, and anthropology, among other fields, to provide a more complex understanding of how language functions in social interaction and power relations (Van Dijk, 1985).

Discourse analysis has made the powerful relationship between discourse and society a significant focus. Discourse is "a form of social practice," according to Fairclough (1995), highlighting the mutual influence of language and social norms. In this way, discourse reflects social reality and actively contributes to its creation and reproduction. This viewpoint is incredibly relatable in political debate since language is essential to creating political realities and influencing public opinion. By presenting issues in ways that reflect particular ideologies, political speech frequently works to uphold or undermine preexisting power systems, according to Fairclough's (1995) analysis. In this situation, the media becomes a potent instrument for spreading political ideas and influencing how the public views occasions, problems, and political figures. How the public perceives and interacts with political issues is influenced by how the media portrays political events, uses particular words or phrases, and organizes their stories.

One of the most significant contributions to discourse analysis has been the creation of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). This methodological approach looks at how language reinforces inequality and power relations. According to academics such as Fairclough (1995) and Wodak (2001), CDA seeks to expose the covert ideologies and power dynamics present in speech. According to CDA, Language is not neutral. Instead, it possesses social power to influence people's attitudes, behaviors, and beliefs. By using a critical approach to discourse analysis, scholars can investigate the underlying ideologies and social forces that influence writings in addition to their apparent content. In media studies, where the media frequently have a significant influence on how politics are shaped, this is especially crucial. CDA provides important insights into how media discourse upholds or subverts power structures by examining how language shapes political beliefs.

Mumtaz et al. (2023) exemplify the role of CDA in uncovering hidden ideologies and power dynamics through their study on President Barack Obama's Cairo speech. The study uses Fairclough's three-dimensional model to reveal how Obama employed rhetorical strategies and lexical choices to bridge misunderstandings with the Muslim community while confirming U.S. global leadership. Their research highlights the strategic use of language in fostering diplomatic ties and shaping perceptions of power. This approach aligns with the broader emphasis of CDA on understanding how language reinforces or challenges societal power structures, particularly in political discourse.

Finding patterns in media discourse and analyzing massive amounts of data has become easier by combining corpus linguistics and discourse analysis. Through the systematic examination of language use across various genres and circumstances, corpus linguistics offers tools that enable researchers to spot linguistic structures, trends, and collocations that might not be immediately obvious in more limited qualitative analyses. In media studies, corpus-based discourse analysis (CBDA) has become popular because it provides a more thorough and impartial language analysis. Baker (2006) describes several techniques for examining linguistic trends in massive datasets in his work on using corpora in discourse analysis. Researchers can discover how specific language elements, like important phrases, collocations, and grammatical structures, aid in forming meaning in media discourse by using these techniques in media texts.

The framing of political issues in the media has been examined using corpus-based methodologies in the context of political discourse. For instance, to frame political events in a way that supports specific ideologies, studies have examined the use of specific words or phrases. With an emphasis on how people and groups are portrayed in the media, Van Leeuwen (2008) provides a framework for examining how social actors are represented in discourse. Political actors' portrayals significantly impact how the public views their justice and power. Hence, this is especially crucial in political debate. Researchers can identify the ideological biases ingrained in the language used to portray political players and events by examining the frequency and collocation of phrases in media texts.

Many studies have examined how the media shapes political perspectives, concentrating on how various media platforms—such as social media, television, and newspapers—create

political narratives. According to research, public opinion is shaped, and media discourse broadly frames political issues (Entman, 1993). Media sources strategically employ language to emphasize some aspects of a problem while restraining others, as shown by studies on how political topics are framed. This affects how the public views the problem. For instance, news coverage of political events frequently highlights specific topics that support specific political beliefs, such as national security, political corruption, or economic instability. This selective framing of political issues influences how the public interprets and reacts to political developments.

Political discourse analysis in Pakistan has increasingly examined the role of media in shaping public opinion and advancing political agendas. Recent studies highlight how news channels frame political events to align with ideological narratives. A critical discourse analysis of Pakistani news headlines revealed how the same political statement was framed differently across various media outlets, influencing public perception (Rubbani et al., 2024). Similarly, research on the media coverage of the 2022 regime change operation in Pakistan demonstrated how local media framed the event as a nationalist struggle against foreign interference, while international media emphasized democratic procedures and governance (Ashraf et al., 2024). These studies underscore the evolving role of media in constructing political narratives and reinforcing ideological divisions in Pakistan. However, research integrating corpus-based techniques into analyzing political discourse in Pakistani media remains significantly lacking. Most studies rely on qualitative evaluations of limited datasets, restricting the generalizability of their findings. A more comprehensive approach employing corpus-based methodologies is needed to analyze large-scale media texts systematically, uncovering patterns in language use and ideological framing within Pakistani political discourse.

More research is required on the language tactics employed to generate political realities in media texts, as well as the lack of corpus-based studies. Preexisting research has emphasized the significance of framing in media discourse; however, little is known about how certain language elements, such as syntactic structures, collocations, and concordances, influence the formation of political narratives. By examining how language creates political realities, researchers can better grasp how media discourse affects public views of political events and

issues. This is especially crucial in Pakistani media, where complicated power relationships and political beliefs frequently impact how political actors and events are portrayed.

James Paul Gee's discourse analysis model's limited application to media texts represents another void in the field. Gee's (2011) framework for analyzing "situated meaning" and "Discourse with a Big D" provides valuable tools for investigating how language shapes power dynamics and social identities. Examining political discourse in the media has not extensively used Gee's model despite its widespread use in sociolinguistic and pedagogical contexts. Researchers can learn more about how language impacts public views of political players and events and creates political identities by applying Gee's approach to media texts. Additionally, Gee's approach enables a more structured comprehension of how media discourse serves as a vehicle for distributing social goods like legitimacy, respect, and status.

In conclusion, the literature review highlights language's critical role in shaping public perceptions of political issues and personalities, particularly about media discourse. Discourse analysis, particularly critical discourse analysis, offers practical tools for revealing media texts' ideologies and power dynamics. The combination of discourse analysis and corpus linguistics has made it easier for researchers to analyze large volumes of media data, allowing them to identify patterns and structures contributing to forming political realities. However, the research has several gaps, particularly in applying corpus-based methodologies to Pakistani media and using Gee's model for political discourse analysis. If these gaps are filled, we can better understand media discourse, particularly in non-Western nations.

## **Research Design and Methodology**

This research uses a corpus-based discourse analysis approach, integrating qualitative and quantitative methods within James Paul Gee's (2011) discourse analysis framework. The study portrays political topics in news articles from Dawn, a leading English-language newspaper in Pakistan. The methodology involves several steps to develop and analyze the corpus, combining corpus-based and thematic discourse analysis to systematically examine how news articles represent various themes and discursive elements.



## Analytical Framework

James Paul Gee is a distinguished figure in sociolinguistics and discourse analysis, known for his exploration of language use in social contexts and its impact on cultural identity. His sociolinguistic model emphasizes the significance of language comprehension as a potent tool in social and communicative contexts. Gee (2011) conveys that his approach is an amalgamation of various theories and methods, focusing on the nature of language in use, which encompasses saying, doing, and being things with language, where meaning is derived from enacted practices.

Gee (2011) asserts that all discourse analysis (DA) should be inherently critical, given that language itself is political and distributes "social goods" (p. 5), which he defines as anything valued in a society. The distribution of these social goods entails power dynamics, making any language description inherently political and critical. Gee's toolkit of 27 tools offers methods for understanding complex relationships between power, society, and language. However, this research employs only the Situated Meaning Tool and the Big "D" Discourse Tool.

### a) Situated Meaning Tool

The Situated Meaning Tool distinguishes between a word's general meaning (utterance type meaning) and the specific meaning it acquires in context (utterance token meaning) (Gee, 2014, p. 159). Situated meaning refers to the specific meaning a word or phrase gains from its use context, recognizing that language forms can take on different meanings in different settings.

### b) Big "D" Discourse Tool

The Big "D" Discourse in Gee's model refers to the combination of language with other social practices that construct and are constructed by specific social identities and activities. It encompasses words, actions, interactions, values, beliefs, symbols, objects, tools, ways of thinking, and being associated with particular social groups or institutions. Big "D" Discourse examines how language functions within larger contexts to create and maintain social realities and power structures.

In addition to Gee's framework, **Thematic Analysis** (Braun & Clarke, 2006) was also used as an analytic tool to explore the recurring themes and patterns in political discourse. Thematic Analysis allows for identifying and interpreting key themes across the corpus, offering

insights into how language constructs meaning in the context of political issues. Braun and Clarke's (2006) framework provides a systematic approach to coding and theme development, making it suitable for analyzing large datasets such as the one used in this study. This method complements Gee's framework by providing a deeper understanding of how political discourse is structured and the themes that emerge from it.

### Corpus Development

A corpus was compiled from news articles published between August 2018 to December 2020. Articles were selected based on their significance to political issues such as corruption, political opposition, economic challenges, and government policies. These articles were sourced using specific keywords, including "corruption," "political rivalry," "economic crisis," "inflation," "policy reforms," and "governance," from the online archives of *Dawn* Newspaper.

**Table 1**

#### *Descriptive Data of the Corpus*

Topic	Word count	Source	Words Types	Words Tokens	Total no. of files
Political Discourse	201165	Dawn newspaper	10810	203886	275

Dawn newspaper's corpus on political discourse contains 201,165 words across 275 files, with 10,810-word types and 203,886-word tokens. The analysis utilized AntConc 3.2.4, a concordance software developed by Anthony (2022), to identify frequency patterns of nouns, pronouns, adjectives, and verbs related to political themes. The software facilitated the extraction of high frequency words, collocates, and concordance lines from the corpus, enabling a detailed examination of language use in news articles. Both manual and automated coding techniques were employed to identify key themes within the corpus. Initially, a subset of articles underwent manual review to develop a coding scheme, which was then applied to the entire corpus using automated techniques. The primary themes identified included government policies and laws, economic challenges, political opposition, and corruption and accountability.

## **Data Analysis**

Corpus analysis has gained popularity due to its broad methodological scope. Researchers have expanded their theoretical grounding, and studies (Leedham, Lillis & Twiner, 2021) have observed several open-access and hard-to-access texts. Jamal and Zahra (2022) observed print media in the context of cultural representation, whereas Jalal (2004) focused on the Asian perspective of language policy. Though previous research has provided grounding for the current investigation, thematic analysis of political discourse is yet to be explored from the perspective of Gee (2011). The data analysis in this study involved a comprehensive examination of political language themes within selected news reports from the Dawn newspaper. The process began by compiling a corpus from news articles published between August 2018 and December 2020. Using AntConc 3.2.4, a detailed wordlist was generated to identify high-frequency words, providing an initial overview of the most used terms in the corpus. Following this, concordance analysis was conducted to examine the context in which these high-frequency words appeared, allowing for a deeper understanding of their usage and meaning within specific articles.

Collocation analysis was then employed to explore the relationships between words and identify patterns of word associations. This step was crucial in uncovering how specific terms co-occurred and contributed to constructing political themes. Thematic analysis was subsequently performed to categorize and interpret the identified patterns. This involved manual and automated coding systematically identify key themes such as governance, justice, opposition, and public issues. The manual review of a subset of articles informed the development of a coding scheme, which was then applied to the entire corpus using automated techniques. Gee's (2011) framework provided a theoretical foundation for the analysis. This framework, particularly the Situated Meaning Tool and the Social Language Tool, facilitated an in-depth examination of how specific words and phrases acquired meaning within the context of the news articles and how different varieties of social language were used to frame and communicate these themes. This multi-faceted approach to data analysis ensured a robust and comprehensive understanding of the political language themes in Dawn newspaper.

## Wordlist Analysis

Word frequency is based on discourse analysis at the vocabulary level, which is one of the basic applications of corpus analysis technology. News reports can leave a deep impression on the reader by using high-frequency words and repeatedly mentioning a word or concept, euphemistically expressing the author's tendencies and ideologies. So, starting with high-frequency words and analyzing the lexical characteristics of discourse helps us to grasp the salient characteristics of discourse. Based on the corpus software, the self-built corpus is sorted by high-frequency words, and some words with no practical meaning are removed to obtain the first 15 high-frequency words. The results are shown below in Figure 1 and Table 2.

**Figure 1**

*AntConc Window of Wordlist with News Articles' Files Uploaded*

	Type	Rank	Freq	Range
1	the	1	17225	275
2	of	2	6499	275
3	to	3	5604	275
4	and	4	4909	275
5	in	5	4260	275
6	a	6	3133	275
7	that	7	2564	267
8	said	8	2201	258
9	he	9	2112	251
10	on	10	2048	274
11	had	11	1887	266
12	for	12	1872	268
13	was	13	1693	263
14	minister	14	1654	238
15	s	15	1531	258
16	by	16	1358	268
17	pakistan	17	1224	254
18	government	18	1210	210

Figure 1 shows the AntConc window of the wordlist tab when all the plain text files are uploaded to the software.

**Table 2***Frequency Wordlist of Selected Words for Analysis*

<b>Sr. no</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Word</b>
1	14	1654	Minister
2	18	1210	Government
3	34	636	Court
4	39	562	Opposition
5	64	369	People
6	72	340	Justice
7	113	215	Accountability
8	125	203	Media
9	120	207	Political
10	134	183	Law
11	140	172	Issue
12	151	158	Parliament
13	168	146	Economic
14	172	143	Public
15	232	108	Corruption

From the above table, it becomes apparent that the most frequent in the corpus are content words. The researchers of the current study do not talk about some word categories, such as pronouns, determiners, conjunctions, and prepositions in this research. This research only analyzes the content words (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs).

**Collocation Analysis of the Selected Words**

Collocation analysis investigates the frequent and meaningful co-occurrence of words within a text corpus. This analysis helps uncover relationships and contextual meanings that individual word frequencies cannot reveal. By examining the collocates of specific target words, we gain insights into the thematic concerns, discourse patterns, and underlying sentiments present in the text. The following tables present the collocation analysis for selected words, highlighting the terms that frequently appear alongside these target words, their frequency, range, and the strength of their association.

**Table 3***Selected Collocates Frequency Distribution of the Word “Minister”*

Collocate	Rank	Freq(Scaled)	FreqL	FreqR	Effect
Prime	1	8080	804	18	3.654
Imran	2	3860	18	207	2.851
Khan	3	8600	45	266	2.162
Information	4	2340	139	19	3.063
Former	5	3490	158	15	2.617
Chief	6	5280	176	24	2.229
Said	7	22010	101	296	1.159
Fawad	8	1170	10	68	3.045
Foreign	9	2890	101	16	2.325
Finance	10	1090	71	4	3.09
Chaudhry	11	2610	14	68	1.959
Shah	12	1500	7	52	2.283
Mehmood	13	660	5	34	2.871
Punjab	14	3030	62	22	1.779
Qureshi	15	1460	9	47	2.247

Table 3 highlights the collocates of the word "minister." Prominent collocates include "prime" (rank 1, freq 8080), and "information" (rank 4, freq 2340). These collocates suggest discussions about key governmental figures and their roles within the cabinet. Other significant collocates such as "finance," "foreign," and "interior" indicate the various ministerial positions and their respective domains. The table provides insights into the governmental structure and the roles of different ministers.

**Table 4***Selected Collocate Frequency Distribution of the Word “Government”*

Collocate	Rank	Freq(Scaled)	FreqL	FreqR	Range	Effect
The	1	172250	1183	434	201	0.669
Pti	2	5540	114	11	72	1.934
Previous	3	1010	42	1	28	2.85
Local	4	690	31	1	14	2.973
Said	5	22010	172	64	102	0.861
Federal	6	2070	41	6	27	1.943
Led	7	720	27	0	20	2.667
Insaf	8	1260	34	1	35	2.234
Tehreek	9	1390	32	2	34	2.05

Had	10	18870	23	162	95	0.731
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Table 4 displays the collocates of the word Government. The three main collocates of Government are The for rank 1 with a frequency of 172250, accompanied by PTI for rank 2 at a frequency of 5540, and Previous for rank 3 at a frequency of 1010. The terms shown here demonstrate that the government stands at the core of discourse relations yet maintains political affiliations. Governance shares associations with Federal, Led, and Tehreek, highlighting administrative features while pointing out organizational leadership elements of political authority. The analyzed text demonstrates both structural components and political elements in its government institutions through this table.

**Table 5**

*Selected Collocates Frequency Distribution of the Selected Word “Opposition”*

Collocate	Rank	Freq(Scaled)	FreqL	FreqR	Range	Effect
Parties	1	2200	2	119	50	4.336
Leader	2	2450	46	48	53	3.817
The	3	172250	550	253	98	0.776
Members	4	2440	6	46	27	2.968
Alliance	5	560	3	19	14	3.851
Assembly	6	2800	4	35	33	2.355
Shahbaz	7	2670	5	30	31	2.267
Benches	8	170	1	10	9	4.571
Main	9	420	14	0	11	3.614
Walkout	10	160	0	9	6	4.369
Unity	11	120	5	3	6	4.614
National	12	4210	3	34	33	1.69
Leaders	13	1820	9	13	19	2.15
Protest	14	630	2	11	7	2.922
Staged	15	130	0	7	6	4.306
Other	16	3090	23	5	19	1.735
Grand	17	140	6	1	5	4.199
Demand	18	320	2	7	8	3.369
Criticism	19	240	2	6	6	3.614
Candidate	20	1330	9	7	7	2.143
Boycott	21	130	1	5	5	4.083
Consulted	34	70	2	2	3	4.391

Table 5 displays the collocates of the word "opposition." Key collocates include "parties" (rank 1, freq 2200), "leader" (rank 2, freq 2450), and "the" (rank 3, freq 172250). These terms underscore the organizational and leadership aspects of political opposition. Other significant collocates like "members," "alliance," and "assembly" emphasize the collaborative nature of political opposition. The table illustrates the analyzed text's collective and hierarchical dimensions of political opposition.

**Table 6**

*Selected Collocates Frequency Distribution of the Word "People"*

Collocate	Rank	Freq(Scaled)	FreqL	FreqR	Effect
Of	1	64990	95	120	0.88
Are	2	3590	4	27	2.264
Gb	3	360	7	5	4.213
Kashmir	4	1420	3	16	2.896
Welfare	5	200	6	1	4.283
The	6	172250	262	136	0.362
Were	7	6570	5	27	1.438
These	8	1540	11	3	2.338
Problems	9	320	3	4	3.605
Lives	10	130	2	3	4.419
Stand	11	160	4	1	4.12
Prosperity	11	160	5	0	4.12
Rights	13	580	7	1	2.94
To	14	56040	84	62	0.535
Provided	15	460	6	1	3.082
Crying	16	40	0	3	5.383
Poverty	17	210	2	3	3.727

Table 6 displays the collocates of the word People. The most prominent collocates about People Are Of (rank 1, freq 64,990), Are (rank 2, freq 3,590), and GB (rank 3, freq 360). The chosen terms reference communities, geographic sections, and environmental situations impacting human beings. Welfare appears jointly with rights and poverty to focus on matters of social well-being in the analyzed text. This table shows the social and political factors and economic conditions connected to people within the research document.



**Table 7***Selected Collocates Frequency Distribution of the Word "Corruption"*

Collocate	Rank	Freq(Scaled)	FreqL	FreqR	Effect
Against	1	4620	6	23	3.587
Cases	2	1180	0	12	4.283
Reference	3	1160	1	9	4.045
Allegations	4	430	4	3	4.962
Proved	5	120	1	4	6.318
References	6	420	0	6	4.773
Involvement	7	130	4	0	5.88
Penny	8	40	1	2	7.166
Anti	9	490	5	0	4.288
Hudaibya	10	80	3	0	6.166
Probe	11	520	5	0	4.202
About	12	3460	8	2	2.468
Evidence	13	410	4	0	4.223

Table 7 displays the collocates of the word "Corruption." The term typically appears with the collocates Against (rank 1, freq 4,620), Cases (rank 2, freq 1,180), and Reference (rank 3, freq 1,160). The described terms emphasize both legal procedures and investigative elements regarding corruption. The terms Allegations, Probe, and Evidence highlight the context's evaluative aspect and accountability measures. The examined text shows two main components of corruption through its judicial and political aspects.

### Concordance Analysis of the Selected Words

*KWIC (Keywords in Context)* refers to a method where a subject word is entered to retrieve phrases and sentences containing that word, facilitating further analysis (Wang Shuzhen, 2011). In research studies, the term "Keyword" refers to a word under examination, which can be any term of interest to the researcher (Baker, 2006, p. 71). Baker (2006) also emphasizes that KWIC helps researchers analyze word usage by providing context within large datasets. The following tables present the concordance analysis of the 17 selected words.

**Figure 2***Concordance Analysis of the Word “Minister”*

We value and appreciate the positive statement made by Prime	Minister	Imran Khan on China-Pakistan relations and the CPEC
Akbar made PM's special assistant on accountability ISLAMABAD: Prime	Minister	Imran Khan on Monday appointed NAB's former deputy
Akbar made PM's special assistant on accountability ISLAMABAD: Prime	Minister	Imran Khan on Monday appointed NAB's former deputy
PPI ISLAMABAD: Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar called on Prime	Minister	Imran Khan on Tuesday and discussed with him formation
In his first tweet on a foreign policy matter, Prime	Minister	Imran Khan on Tuesday invited India for a dialogue
after India denied the statement. PM visits FO Meanwhile, Prime	Minister	Imran Khan on Friday paid his first visit to
announced to join the PTI following a meeting with Prime	Minister	Imran Khan on Saturday. They reposed confidence in the
All international agreements to be reviewed: PM ISLAMABAD: Prime	Minister	Imran Khan on Friday said his government would review
drive to plant 10bn trees in five years HARIPUR: Prime	Minister	Imran Khan on Sunday launched a countrywide drive to
PM forms three task forces ISLAMABAD: Prime	Minister	Imran Khan on Thursday formally formed three task forces
Newspaper's Staff Reporter Published September 13, 2018 8 ISLAMABAD: Prime	Minister	Imran Khan on Wednesday visited the headquarters of the
No decision yet on refugees citizenship: Imran ISLAMABAD: Prime	Minister	Imran Khan on Tuesday justified his remarks about giving
sk's business community to help implement growth agenda ISLAMABAD: Prime	Minister	Imran Khan on Sunday held a marathon meeting with
ISLAMABAD: Declaring the opposition as a "gang of criminals", Prime	Minister	Imran Khan on Saturday accused Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (
ISLAMABAD: The High Power Selection Board (HPSB) headed by Prime	Minister	Imran Khan on Monday considered senior bureaucrats for the

Figure 2 shows that the word "minister" frequently appears in contexts related to political statements, decisions, and actions. The term is often accompanied by specific titles such as "Prime Minister" and "information minister," indicating the roles of key government officials. Collocates include references to various ministers' statements (e.g., "the minister said"), appointments (e.g., "Prime Minister Imran Khan appointed"), and actions (e.g., "the minister's announcement"). The contexts often pertain to significant national issues like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), government debt, media regulation, and political opposition, reflecting the ministers' influential roles in shaping and communicating government policy and actions. For example, phrases like "the minister said the government had reached its decision" and "the information minister's briefing" highlight the authoritative voice of ministers in the political discourse.

**Figure 3***Concordance Analysis of the Word “Government”*

the role model for the entire cabinet.” He said the	government	had decided to launch two new channels of PTV,
PTI Senator Azam Swati told a press conference that the	government	had decided to launch an inquiry into alleged manipulation
was a major plank of the PTI's manifesto, the	government	had decided to relax the visa regime for foreign
several mega projects purely on political grounds, therefore, the present	government	had decided to review all such projects as well
rulers stopped gas supply to the factories. He said the	government	had decided to continue to provide gas to the
gas prices. He also refuted a report stating that the	government	had decided to withdraw the relief in the income
any mini-budget in the meeting. Mr Chaudhry said the	government	had decided to convert four helicopters into air ambulances
crises in the country. The finance minister announced that the	government	had decided to reduce the regulatory duty on import
Ishaq Dar “illegally” and, therefore, the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf	government	had decided to remove them. “They are top-level
of the CCP. Government properties The information minister said the	government	had decided to get vacated 2,467 state properties in Khyber
news conference, the minister said the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf	government	had decided to carry out an audit of all
at a cost of Rs17 per unit. He said the	government	had decided to carry out an audit of the
the print media. Visa on arrival Mr Chaudhry said the	government	had decided to relax the visa rules for 60 countries
a member of the government's negotiating team, said the	government	had decided to allow the opposition to hold the
Baltistan Ali Amin Gandapur on Saturday announced that the federal	government	had decided to elevate the status of Gilgit-Baltistan

The concordance lines for the word "government" reveal its recurrent use in contexts discussing decisions and actions taken by various Pakistani governments, particularly the PTI (Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf) government. These include decisions to launch new initiatives, such as new PTV channels, inquiries into unproven manipulation, and relaxing visa regimes. The text also references past governments, highlighting differences in policy approaches, such as the PML-N's handling of gas prices and land acquisition for the Diamer-Bhasha dam. The government's engagement with international entities, like the IMF, and efforts to address local issues, like tax campaigns and regional schemes, are also prominent. These examples illustrate the government's multifaceted role in administrative, economic, and social areas.

**Figure 4**

*Concordance Analysis of the Word "Opposition"*

four-hour-long Murree talks on Saturday, leaders of the	opposition	parties had announced that they had agreed to field
JUI-F confirmed that during the Murree talks, all the	opposition	parties had expressed their reservations over the PPP's
Senior PPP leader Chaudhry Manzoor Ahmed confirmed that since the	opposition	parties had failed to break the deadlock despite several
became a candidate." Chaudhry Manzoor dispelled the impression that the	opposition	parties had formed any formal alliance. "It was not
was given to the opposition leader. Moreover, he said other	opposition	parties had nominated him for the office for which
the case," Mr Kaira said. He said none of the	opposition	parties had raised any objection over Mr Ahsan's
said Shahbaz Sharif, Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and other leaders of	opposition	parties had suggested that force should not be used
opposition. Besides, the sources said, the PML-N and other	opposition	parties had told the PPP during the Murree talks
to include expats' votes in final count; both ruling and	opposition	parties have improved their numbers ECP spokesman Chaudhry Nadeem
allies will continue to retain majority. Both the treasury and	opposition	parties have improved their numbers in the National Assembly,
the capability to run the affairs of the state. The	opposition	parties have also been criticising the government for its
budget) for the remaining 10 months of the fiscal. However, the	opposition	parties have asked the government to constitute a parliamentary
significance because of the tense political situation in Pakistan where 11	opposition	parties have been running an anti-government campaign from
Shah Mehmood Qureshi to handle the situation. The two main	opposition	parties have nominated their focal persons to have a
directed the party's parliamentary group to establish contact with	opposition	parties in coming days to have them onboard for

The concordance lines of "opposition" illustrate how the term is associated with political negotiations, such as when opposition parties engage in talks and express their reservations. It also highlights the dynamic between opposition demands and government responses, showing how the ruling party, Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI), considers and responds to these demands. Additionally, the table captures the opposition's role in protests and parliamentary actions, reflecting their efforts to hold the government accountable through noisy protests and influence on parliamentary decisions. Furthermore, it details the formation of alliances and public campaigns, such as the activities of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), which organizes anti-government events and seeks media support. Overall, the table provides a comprehensive view of the opposition's strategic maneuvers, their interactions with the government, and their efforts to mobilize public support and influence political outcomes.

**Figure 5***Concordance Analysis of the Word “People”*

to face the truth would reinforce the perception that the	people	of Pakistan had been “defrauded, their mandate stolen and
and strengthening democracy was collective responsibility of all parties. The	people	of Pakistan had great expectations from the parliament, he
the election, Mr Abbasi in his victory speech said the	people	of Pakistan had started rejecting PTI chief Imran Khan
on ‘starting point’ for anti-government movement He said the	people	of Pakistan had no need to have any expectations
and without fear of intimidation, and so ensure that the	people	of Pakistan have access to a plurality of news,”
his paymaster”, had become more loyal than the king. “The	people	of Pakistan have not forgotten the Chaudhry’s conflicting
of the world”. Prime Minister Khan said the government and	people	of Pakistan firmly stood behind their armed forces and
said. FM Qureshi highlighted the unmatched hospitality extended by the	people	of Pakistan for their Afghan brothers and sisters and
reiterated and reaffirmed “the principles of democracy, empowerment of the	people	of Pakistan through the provincial autonomy as enforced through
and resulted in price hike inflicting a bombshell on the	people	of Pakistan throwing not only the have-nots but
long march will be announced on Feb 1. We ask the	people	of Pakistan to start preparations for the long march
in corruption. Bilawal terms the verdict ‘relief’ to Sharifs “The	people	of Pakistan want that their looted wealth brought back
previous judgements. He said the government as well as the	people	of Pakistan wanted action against all those involved in
the fresh affidavit that was yet to be filed. The	people	of Pakistan were entitled to know about the public
Sharif is arrested against the law and due procedure, the	people	of Pakistan will arrest Imran Khan from Banigala,” she

The word "people" in the provided contexts describes various groups and their concerns, often concerning governance and socio-political issues in Pakistan. It emphasizes citizens' collective experiences and expectations, such as the "people of Pakistan" feeling deceived or having high expectations from the parliament. It also highlights regional issues, such as the struggles faced by the "people of Balochistan" and "people of Sindh," and broader geopolitical concerns involving the "people of Kashmir" and the "people of Gaza." The term underscores a sense of community and the impact of political actions on different demographics within and beyond Pakistan.

**Figure 6***Concordance Analysis of the Word “Corruption”*

on Wednesday the government had dug out new evidence of	corruption	and money laundering against the Sharif family members and
federal and provincial governments’ institutions had collected solid evidence of	corruption	and money laundering against the Sharifs and cases would
line with Mr Khan’s vision of reforming governance, eliminating	corruption	and alleviating poverty while carrying support of the treasury
government,” he said. “If the PTI does not speak about	corruption	and catch big fish, it will be betraying its
based on cogent and tangible evidence, thus, the offence of	corruption	and corrupt practices stood proved. Meanwhile, the same SC
under him. Expressing support to the NAB chairman over expediting	corruption	and fraud cases, Mr Khan said the PTI government
prime minister at the outset of the meeting spoke about	corruption	and how the Sharif family members, including Hamza Shahbaz,
these institutions. He said more steps would be taken against	corruption	and more arrests would be made in the coming
undignified language by the minister while criticising them for alleged	corruption	and nepotism during the eras of their governments. The
strike any deal with the opposition over the issue of	corruption	and no corrupt person would be spared. “A lot
Pakhtunkhwa Ehtesab Commission for five years to hide their “massive	corruption”	and now they were doing everything to lock down
the Punjab chief minister’s secretariat, Mr Khan said fighting	corruption	and recovering looted wealth were a long-term solution
to put its house in order by improving governance, blocking	corruption	and restructuring state institutions like Pakistan Steel, PIA, Pakistan
said, adding that the PTI government was there to end	corruption	and stop flow of money abroad. “Over Rs1,000 billion
any person other than Shahbaz Sharif as he was facing	corruption	cases and being investigated by NAB, but it did

The concordance analysis of the word "corruption" reveals a prominent focus on efforts to combat and address corrupt practices within Pakistani governance and society. The excerpts highlight discussions surrounding the collection of evidence, prosecution of cases, and statements from political figures emphasizing the importance of tackling corruption. References to institutions like the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ehtesab Commission underscore the role of regulatory bodies in investigating and prosecuting corruption cases. Additionally, there are mentions of specific individuals facing allegations of corruption, signaling ongoing efforts to hold accountable those implicated in corrupt activities. The excerpts reflect a broader narrative of political discourse centered around anti-corruption efforts and the pursuit of accountability as essential components of governance reform in Pakistan.

### **Thematic Analysis**

Thematic analysis is a qualitative research method that can be enriched by incorporating tools such as wordlist, concordance, and collocate analysis. Wordlists provide a frequency count of words in a dataset, highlighting the most common terms that may indicate key themes (Scott, 2020). Concordance analysis offers insights into how specific words are used in context, enabling researchers to explore patterns of meaning and usage that contribute to thematic development (Baker, 2006). The collocate-based analysis further enhances this process by identifying frequently occurring words near each other, revealing associations and underlying themes within the data (Sinclair, 1991). By combining these techniques, researchers can systematically uncover and validate themes, ensuring a vigorous and comprehensive thematic analysis.

### **Thematic Analysis of the Selected Words**

The table below offers a detailed thematic analysis of the most frequent words in a corpus of political news articles from the Dawn newspaper. Each word is examined through four key aspects: frequency, collocates, themes, and concordance context. Frequency indicates the number of times each word appears in the analyzed texts, while collocates frequently occur near the selected word, revealing its common associations and contextual usage. Themes are derived from analyzing these collocates and concordance lines, providing a broader understanding of the

discussions surrounding each word. Finally, the concordance context gives specific examples of how each word is used in the articles, illustrating the identified themes in real textual scenarios.

### Application of Gee's Model on Identified Themes

Gee's (2011) discourse analysis framework was applied to the identified themes—governance, justice, opposition, and public issues—to examine how specific words and phrases acquire meaning within the context of news articles and to identify the varieties of social language used in the reports.

**Table 8**

*Thematic Analysis of selected Word "Minister"*

Sr.no	Theme	Collocates	Concordance Context
1	Government Leadership and Authority Issues	Prime, Chief, Former	"We value and appreciate the positive statement made by Prime Minister Imran Khan on China-Pakistan relations and the CPEC"
2	Policy and Administrative Appointments	Information, Finance, Federal	"Akbar made PM's special assistant on accountability ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday appointed NAB's former deputy"
3	Foreign Relations and Diplomacy	Foreign, Affairs, Qureshi	"In his first tweet on a foreign policy matter Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday invited India for a dialogue"
4	Political Strategy and Party Leadership	Imran, Khan, PTI	"announced to join the PTI following a meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday. They reposed confidence in the"
5	National Security and Defence	Defence, ISLAMABAD	"ISLAMABAD: The High Power Selection Board (HPSB) headed by Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday considered senior bureaucrats for the"
6	Economic Development and Policy Initiatives	Planning, Budget, Growth	"asks business community to help implement growth agenda ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday held a marathon meeting with"
7	Environmental Policies and Initiatives	Trees, Climate	"drive to plant 10bn trees in five years HARIPUR: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday launched a countrywide drive to"
8	Social Development and Youth Engagement	Youth, Support	"PM approves ambitious youth support programme ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday approved in principle an ambitious"

### **Gee's Model Application on the Identified Themes of the Selected Word "Minister"**

Gee's (2011) discourse analysis model involves tools for examining how language is used within social practices.

#### ***Situated Meaning***

The term "Minister" within the thematic analysis of Dawn newspaper is contextually adapted to reflect a broad spectrum of responsibilities and roles. From issues of government leadership to policy and administrative appointments and foreign relations to national security, the term is a central figure in governance and public service. Each theme, whether it pertains to economic development, environmental initiatives, or social engagement, highlights the minister's active participation and decision-making capacity in various domains. This situated meaning captures the multifaceted nature of the ministerial role, emphasizing its importance in shaping and implementing policies that impact diverse aspects of society.

#### ***The Big D Discourse***

Applying the Big "D" Discourse Tool, the themes collectively contribute to a larger narrative of governmental leadership and public accountability. The discourse surrounding the term "Minister" portrays ministers as pivotal actors in policymaking and governance. This includes their strategic influence on economic growth, national security, environmental policies, and social welfare. The language used in the reports aligns ministers with leadership and responsiveness, reflecting commitment to domestic priorities and international diplomacy. The themes encapsulate a discourse of active and responsible governance, where ministers are seen as integral to the execution and success of government agendas and initiatives.

**Table 9***Thematic Analysis of Selected Word “Government”*

Sr no.	Theme	Collocates	Sample Concordance
1	Government Actions and Policy Making	"said," "had," "decided," "policies," "plan," "introduce."	"the government had decided to launch two new channels of PTV," "the government had launched a campaign against non-filers and tax."
2	Federal and Provincial Governance	deral," "local," "sindh."	"the federal government had not released the province's due share in," "the PPP government had introduced to devolve power to the provinces."
3	Economic and Social Governance	"policies," "plan," "priorities," "advertisements."	"the government had not made any fresh deal with the International," "the government had adopted a three-pronged strategy to overcome the."
4	Public and Political Accountability	"criticised," "dislodge," "remove."	"the government had apparently succumbed to the pressure generated by calling," "the government had agreed to the opposition's demand as it."

**Gee's Model Application on the Identified Themes of the Selected Word “Government”**

Gee's (2011) discourse analysis model involves tools for examining how language is used within social practices.

***Situated Meaning***

The term "Government" in Dawn newspaper's thematic analysis is contextually adapted to reflect the multifaceted nature of governance. It encompasses policy-making, federal and provincial dynamics, economic and social strategies, and accountability measures. Each theme situates the government as a central authority responsible for various activities and decisions that impact society. The situated meaning emphasizes the government's role in initiating new policies, managing intergovernmental relationships, addressing economic challenges, and maintaining public trust through transparency and accountability.

***The Big D Discourse***

Using the Big “D” Discourse Tool, the themes collectively create a discourse on effective governance and public administration. The term "Government" is framed within a



narrative highlighting proactive policymaking, strategic economic and social planning, and a commitment to transparency and accountability. This discourse underscores the importance of a responsive and responsible government that addresses the needs and concerns of its citizens. It portrays the government as a dynamic and integral part of the nation's development and stability, reflecting the essential role of leadership in achieving national goals.

**Table 10**

*Thematic Analysis of Selected Word "Opposition"*

Sr.no	Theme	Collocates	Concordance Context
1	Legal Proceedings and Judgments	ruling, decision, case	"the court ruling was in favor of the plaintiffs in the high-profile case" "the decision of the court has set a new precedent in the legal system"
2	Judiciary and Legal Framework	judiciary, judge, legal	"the independence of the judiciary is crucial for a fair legal system" "judges play a critical role in upholding the law"
3	Court Operations and Administration	hearing, trial, session	"the court hearing was scheduled for next month" "during the trial, new evidence was presented"
4	Public Perception and Media Coverage	media, public, perception	"the court's decision was widely covered by the media" "public perception of the court has improved following recent reforms"

### **Gee's Model Application on the Identified Themes of the Selected Word "Opposition"**

Gee's (2011) model of discourse analysis involves tools for examining how language is used within social practices.

#### ***Situated Meaning***

The term "Opposition" in Dawn newspaper's thematic analysis is contextually adapted to reflect opposing parties' political dynamics and strategies. It includes political rivalry, legislative activities, public protests, and media interactions. Each theme situates the opposition as a crucial element in the democratic process, actively participating in political contests and representing public discontent. The situated meaning highlights the opposition's role in challenging the government, engaging in legislative debates, and mobilizing public support.

## The Big D Discourse

Using the Big “D” Discourse Tool, the themes collectively create a discourse on political pluralism and democratic engagement. The term "Opposition" is framed within a narrative that emphasizes its role in maintaining a balance of power, ensuring accountability, and fostering democratic debates. This discourse underscores the importance of vibrant opposition in a healthy democracy, reflecting its contribution to legislative processes and public discourse. These themes highlight the opposition's influence on political strategies, public opinion, and governance, portraying it as an essential component of the political landscape.

**Table 11**

*Thematic Analysis of Selected Word “People”*

Sr.no	Theme	Collocates	Concordance Context
1	Public Opinion and Sentiment	opinion, sentiment, view	"public opinion on the new policy is divided" "the sentiment among the people is one of dissatisfaction with the current government"
2	Social and Community Issues	community, social, welfare	"community leaders have expressed concerns over social welfare programs" "people are demanding better social services"
3	Political and Civic Engagement	participation, engagement, voting	"civic engagement initiatives have encouraged more people to participate in local governance" "voter turnout among young people has increased"
4	Demographic and Population Studies	demographic, population, survey	"the latest demographic survey provides insights into the changing population dynamics" "population growth trends show an increase in urban areas"

## Gee’s Model Application on the Identified Themes of the Selected Word “People”

Gee's (2011) model of discourse analysis involves tools for examining how language is used within social practices.

### *Situated Meaning*

The term "People" in Dawn newspaper's thematic analysis is contextually adapted to signify the population's diverse views and societal roles. The analysis includes public opinion,

social issues, civic engagement, and demographic studies. Each theme situates people as active societal participants, reflecting their influence on public sentiment, social justice, and democratic processes. The situated meaning emphasizes the importance of understanding and addressing the needs and concerns of the population in various domains.

### The Big D Discourse

Applying the Big “D” Discourse Tool, the themes collectively contribute to a more extensive civic engagement and social responsibility discourse. The term "People" is framed within a narrative that highlights the role of citizens in shaping democratic governance, community welfare, and public policy. This discourse underscores the significance of public participation and the diverse perspectives contributing to societal development. The themes portray people as central to the democratic process, emphasizing their influence on social and political outcomes.

**Table 12**

*Thematic Analysis of Selected Word “Corruption”*

Sr.no.	Theme	Collocates	Concordance Context
1	Political Corruption and Accountability	Allegations, References, Involvement	"federal and provincial governments' institutions had collected solid evidence of corruption and money laundering against the Sharifs."
2	Anti-Corruption Initiatives and Reforms	"anti," "proved," and "probe"	"line with Mr Khan's vision of reforming governance eliminating corruption and alleviating poverty."
3	Judicial and Legal Processes	Cases, Evidence, Probe	"the offence of corruption and corrupt practices stood proved." "Mr Khan said fighting corruption and recovering looted wealth were a long-term solution."
4	Public and Political Discourse on Corruption	about, against, cases	"criticizing them for alleged corruption and nepotism during the eras of their governments." "The PPP chairman lashed out at the economic and foreign policies of the government."

### Gee's Model Application on the Identified Themes of the Selected Word “Corruption”

Gee's (2011) model of discourse analysis involves tools for examining how language is used within social practices.

### ***Situated Meaning***

The term "Corruption" in Dawn newspaper's thematic analysis is contextually adapted to signify unethical practices and the need for accountability. The analysis includes political corruption, anti-corruption measures, legal accountability, and public perception. Each theme situates corruption as a critical challenge in governance, emphasizing the importance of transparency, legal frameworks, and public trust in combating corrupt practices.

### **The Big D Discourse**

Applying the Big "D" Discourse Tool, the themes collectively contribute to a larger discourse on ethical governance and anti-corruption efforts. The term "Corruption" is framed within a narrative highlighting the challenges of unethical practices, the importance of transparency, and the role of legal accountability in addressing corruption. This discourse underscores the necessity of robust anti-corruption measures and ethical governance to maintain public trust and integrity. The themes reflect the critical need for transparency and accountability in combating corruption, highlighting the importance of legal and institutional frameworks in ensuring ethical practices.

## **Discussion**

The analysis produces relevant knowledge about how the Dawn newspaper represents political content. The quantitative and qualitative testing methods unify to display the active role of media outlets in fostering public thinking through their control of dominant words, semantic patterns, and topic distributions. The media performs its accountability and transparency function by giving prominent attention to governance and justice subjects. Zahra et al. (2023) and Zahra et al. (2024) presented findings about corpus exploitation for discourse analysis. The continuous media coverage of opposition reveals how Pakistani political dynamics are highly contentious and how media outlets function as spaces for political diversity. Through its public issue coverage, the media serves as a keeper of information that matters to the collective interests of society.

In answer to the first research question, the investigation discovered four essential news-related factors, including governance, justice, opposition, and public issues, throughout the 2018

to 2020 period. The main themes relate to the PTI administration's policies, court activities, opposition activities, and public economic difficulties experienced by citizens. These significant themes appeared with different intensity throughout the period because major political events and developments altered their prominence.

In response to the second research question, the findings show that social language manipulates meaning construction by employing terminology, rhetorical elements, and contextual organization. The narrative uses high-frequency political terms "minister," "government," and "court" to emphasize which specific political figures and institutions have primary roles. A thorough investigation of term usage determined which expressions establish particular discursive positions while drawing attention to specific areas within the text. Ministers emerge mainly in authoritative settings where they underline governmental decision-making power, while the Court appears in legal contexts to emphasize judicial authority in upholding justice. According to the thematic analysis, Inner social words shape how people interpret governance matters and justice concepts alongside opposition elements and public issues.

Research data shows that the media. Language selection leads people to form their opinions about government control and justice. The study brings into focus biased media frames that carry political biases and media descriptions. The research findings demonstrate the importance of balancing news coverage because this practice sustains power structures within responsible journalism. The study presents potential applications of Gee's framework that future discourse studies can use and could help develop training programs for journalism and university education. Through establishing this approach, it becomes possible to intensify research regarding media representations in the linguistic landscape.

## **Conclusion**

This research demonstrates that language is essential in developing political realities inside media discourse. The Dawn newspaper used four main themes to explain its editorial focus from 2018 to 2020. These themes included governance, justice, opposition, and public issues. The research themes align with the significant social and political dimensions that shaped Pakistan from 2018 to 2020, which involved legislative actions of authorities, court proceedings, organized opposition movements, and economic matters relevant to the public. According to

Gee, the research demonstrates how situated meaning and big "D" discourse function to show that language creates frameworks of interpretation that influence public political perspectives and engagement. Allocations of words such as "minister," "government," and "court" combined with their groupings indicate how discourse methods stress governance and accountability.

The research shows how power structure legitimation and challenge functions through rhetorical selection within the media, which enables narrative construction via lexical and thematic elements. Terms linked to "corruption" commonly appear with judicial and political institutions because public discussions about governance and accountability persist. Opposition themes serve to support democratic pluralism through their creation of critical perspectives on governance and the introduction of alternative viewpoints. Other relevant aspects of public life that the media needs to present encompass economic matters and the disparities between different geographic areas. The research implements quantitative and qualitative approaches to establish an original analysis of political discussion patterns in Pakistani media. This study contributes new analytical methods to critical discourse analysis, corpus linguistics, and media studies for handling big data sets. Media literacy education is a vital requirement to develop well-informed citizens because people must learn to analyze media content to promote democratic values effectively. Research expansion should employ this method across different outlets and various linguistic domains to better analyze how power dynamics through language create public consciousness.

This research incorporates qualitative and quantitative methods, which provide future discourse analysis studies with new dimensions to examine various news outlets and political environments across Pakistan. Linguistic choices in media discourse transform public narratives and political discourse, leading readers to acquire new understandings about governance, justice, and opposition.

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