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Portraying Disaster in Pakistani Urdu and English Newspapers: A Comparative Corpus-Assisted Critical Discourse Study

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the portrayal of disasters in Pakistani English and Urdu newspapers through Corpus-Assisted Critical Discourse Analysis (Baker, 2008; Fillmore, 1982). For this study, 50 articles containing the term *disaster* were collected from the official website of Dawn and 50 articles mentioning آفات were collected from the official website of Daily Pakistan. To determine the ideology portrayed by the term *disaster* and آفات in the Dawn and Daily Pakistan, certain ideological indicators such as, adjectives, pronouns, and modal verbs associated with them were identified through Frame Semantics (Fillmore, 1982), Van Dijk's Ideological Polarization, and Dichotomy of Modal Verbs by Quirk and Greenbaum (2000) respectively using Sketch Engine software (Sketch Engine, n.d.). The findings of the study have unveiled that both corpora frame the same social issue as a tragedy: revealing biases. Moreover, the frequent use of modal verbs: can, must, and should, reflects the urgency of acting, showing severity. Furthermore, the use of pronouns formulates us, and them form an in-group and an out-group. Overall, the tragedy is portrayed as a progressive ideology in both corpora.

1. Introduction

This study aims to highlight the ideology that Pakistani English and Urdu newspapers create with the term *disaster* through Corpus-Assisted Critical Discourse Analysis (Baker, 2008; Fillmore, 1982). According to Cambridge Dictionary (n.d.), a *disaster* is *an event that results in great harm, damage, or death, or serious difficulty*. A significant number of Pakistani English and Urdu newspapers dedicate coverage to the term *disaster*. Due to this reason, it has become an essential area of concern in formulating ideological and linguistic patterns in newspapers. Hence, it is important to analyze the language in newspapers associated with this term to get a deeper understanding of print media discourse. For this purpose, the study utilizes Sketch Engine software (Sketch Engine, n.d.). This research study analyzes the term *disaster* and آفات in Pakistani English and Urdu newspapers through Frame Semantics (Fillmore, 1982), Van Dijk's Ideological Polarisation, and Dichotomy of Modal Verbs (Quirk & Greenbaum, 2000) to find the ideology and language patterns it portrays.

2. Literature Review

According to Cambridge Dictionary (n.d.), a disaster is *an event that results in great harm, damage, or death, or serious difficulty*. Consistently, there are mainly two types of disasters, i.e., natural disasters and man-made disasters (Mayner et al. 2015; Singh, 2018; Tsultrim, 2012). Following this, Singh (2018) suggested that the term man-made disaster refers to the disasters resulting from man-made hazards; whereas the term natural disasters refers to the disasters that are triggered because of natural

phenomena. Since natural phenomena such as earthquakes, cyclones, floods, or tsunami trigger natural disasters, they disrupt suddenly without giving any warning beforehand and lead to detrimental consequences. In line with it, a related research study by Tsultrim (2012) informed that deadly earthquakes in Gujrat and Chile in January 2001 and March 2010 resulted in the deaths of around 20,000 and 600 people, respectively. Similarly, Sawada et al. (2011) asserted that natural disasters in the form of tsunami, hurricanes, and earthquakes in the different regions of Asia and North America have resulted in the extinction of a significant portion of the population on Earth. Thus, these research studies assert that natural disasters cause a lot of damage. However, these studies only focus on a particular type of natural disaster: earthquakes, leaving a void for studies on other disasters.

Building on the previous discussion on the extinction of the population due to natural disasters, this section turns to the role of the media during natural disasters. Significantly, media platforms try to portray accurate information regarding natural disasters to aware people, consequently, lessening the harm. Liu, Fraustino, and Jin (2016) note that social media plays a critical role in disasters by enabling rapid information sharing, public engagement, and real-time crisis communication. Similarly, ministerial crisis speeches also employ strategic linguistic patterns to manage public response (Omar et al., 2024). Henceforth, the media plays a vital role in framing social issues.

Expanding on the notion of media framing social issues, there are mainly two types of media: print media and social media. Firstly, social media refers to websites and computer programs that allow people to communicate and share information, opinions, pictures, videos, etc. on the internet, especially social networking websites (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.). Print media refers to the printed forms of communication that provide information or entertainment, such as newspapers, magazines, and books. This study focuses on newspapers as they are one of the most important and effective print media of mass communication (Albarran et al., 2018). Aligning with this notion, Khalid (2014) asserted that newspapers are the main source of disseminating information. Moreover, newspapers not only offer information but also provide analysis for readers to make efficient and impactful decisions in this modern society. Not only this, but the language of newspapers is also media-regulated, rendering balanced and accurate information. All in all, newspapers offer information about every activity happening around the world. Persistently, in the contemporary landscape of social media, Albarran et al. (2018) and Turi et al. (2022) implied that many people still read newspapers as they are perceived as all-in-all by the readers and refrain them from distraction. Furthermore, nowadays, it is significant to note that news can be accessed through different media, such as the internet and television etc.

It is essential to note that when newspapers frame issues and provide analysis, they try to convince the public about the constructed reality with the help of language being employed. Adhering to this claim, Fer (2018) asserted that the language employed in the presentation of news affects everyone. Therefore, the language of newspaper reporting is vital for our nation (Reah, 2002). Henceforth, the media holds significant power in influencing the opinions and notions of the public on different aspects.

As this study particularly focuses on the Pakistani English and Urdu newspapers, research by Buriro (2023), in accordance with it, informs that Pakistani English newspapers' syntactic structure involves a significant inclination towards plural uncountable nouns, unconventional use of adverbs and the definite article, and the inconsistent use of tag questions, reflecting the linguistic variability. Moreover, it has been claimed that the syntactic patterns of Pakistani English newspapers reflect the heavy impact of the Urdu language (Anwar, 2020). Furthermore, Bukhari (2015) reported some differences between the English and Urdu newspapers, recognizing that the headlines of the Urdu newspapers are meticulous than the English ones; Urdu newspapers elicit more response from the audience, and are more explicit and extensive. All this discussion asserts that the media integrates certain linguistic choices to influence the notions of people (Kong, 2022).

In a nutshell, this research study focuses on the comparison of the ideologies and linguistic patterns between Pakistani English and Urdu language newspapers on the term disaster.

2.1 Research Objectives

1. To explicate the framing of disaster in the Dawn and Daily Pakistan newspapers
2. To elucidate the ideology constructed by the disaster with different linguistic choices in the Dawn and Daily Pakistan newspapers

2.2 Research Questions

1. How is disaster framed in the Dawn and Daily Pakistan newspapers?
2. Which linguistic choices are used to portray the ideology constructed by disasters in the Dawn and Daily Pakistan newspapers?

3. Research Methodology

3.1 Corpus Design

The researcher has compiled a corpus of 100 articles, comprising 50 articles from the official websites of the Dawn and 50 articles from the official website of Daily Pakistan. For the selection criteria of the corpora, the researcher has used search terms such as *disaster* and *آفات/ آفت* and selected the top 50 articles from Dawn and Daily Pakistan. After collecting the news articles from the newspapers mentioned, the researcher copied every article separately by excluding the irrelevant information and pasted it manually into Microsoft Word and saved every article by its publishing date. Moreover, the researcher categorized the articles from the same newspapers in a designated folder named after the newspaper and saved all the folders on the Desktop.

3.2 Corpus Information

This study utilized Dawn and Daily Pakistan as they are the longest-running and most reputed English and Urdu language newspapers, respectively, read across Pakistan. Furthermore, both newspapers are the most circulated, rendering a portrayal of sufficient and trustworthy information. On top of that, the websites of Dawn and Daily Pakistan are reliable and easily accessible by the researcher.

3.3 Corpus Analysis

After uploading the collected corpora on the Sketch Engine software (Sketch Engine, n.d.), the researcher has focused on features such as keywords, their concordances, their collocates, and WordSketch.

3.4 Theoretical Framework

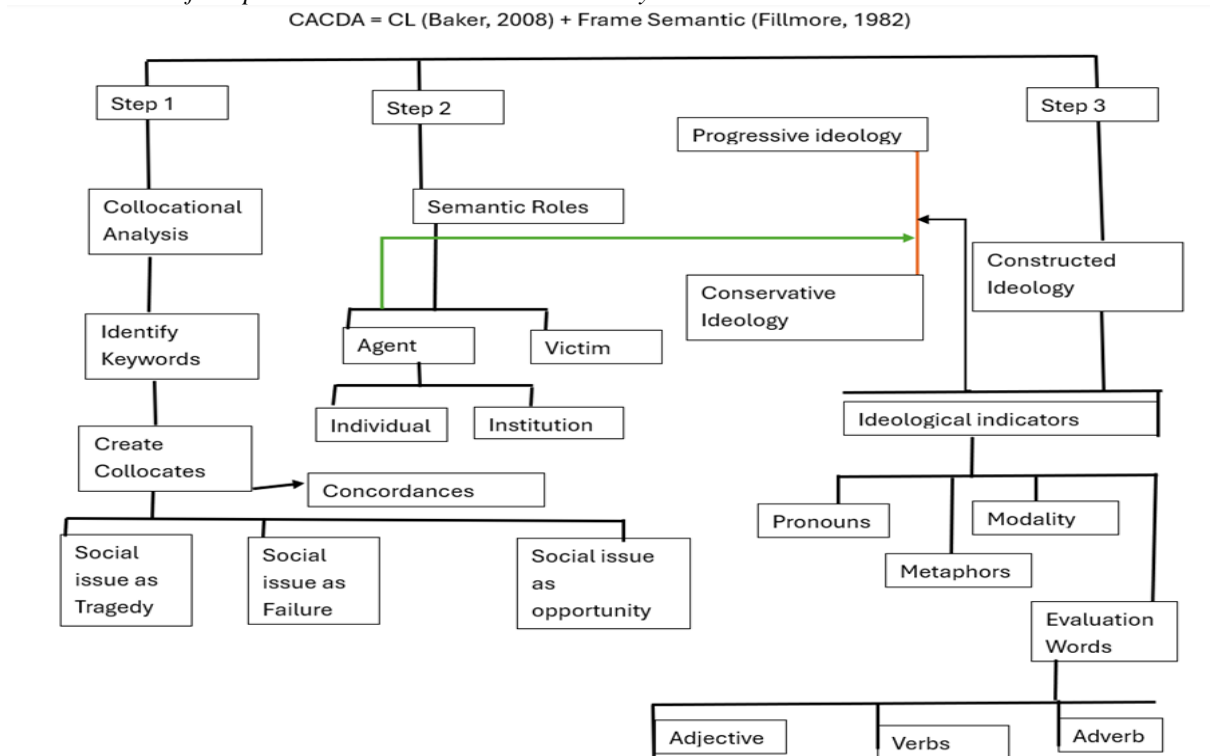
The researcher employed Corpus-Assisted Critical Discourse Analysis (Baker, 2008; Fillmore, 1982) as the framework for this study, which consists of three steps.

The first step is collocational analysis, which involves identifying a keyword and examining its collocates by employing corpus tools, such as concordance lines and WordSketch, to explore which frame the collocates align with, i.e., social issues as a tragedy, social issue as a failure, or social issue as an opportunity. The frame of social issues as a tragedy shows the unrest among the public; moreover, the frame of social issues as a failure blames the government as well as the public for the social issue; furthermore, the frame of social issues as an opportunity provides a positive or some successive strategy for the public or government.

In the second step of the framework, semantic roles are analyzed. For analyzing it, the agent, the victim, and the solution of the social issue must be mentioned and explained. The agent is the entity inflicting the social issue, the victim is the entity being inflicted by the social issue, and the solution is the treatment recommended for exclusion of the social issue. Moreover, while analyzing the agent of the social issue, it is necessary to mention whether the agent is an individual or an institution.

The last step of the framework explores the ideology being constructed by analyzing the ideological indicators. The ideological indicators are pronouns, metaphors, modality, and the evaluation words: verbs, adverbs, and adjectives. Once the ideological indicators are mentioned, the constructed ideology must be mentioned. The constructed ideology can be either conservative (an individual is an agent) or progressive (an institution is an agent).

Figure 1
Theoretical Framework of Corpus-Assisted Critical Discourse Analysis

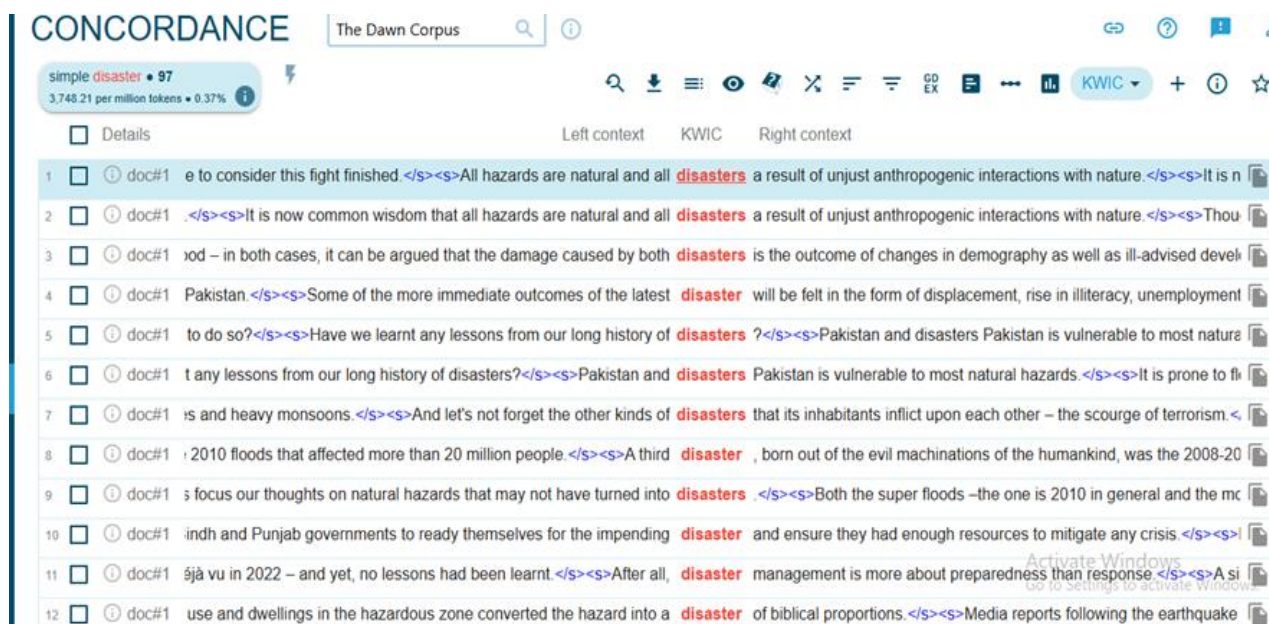


4. Data Analysis and Results

4.1 Step 1: Collocation Analysis

4.1.1 The Dawn Corpus

Figure 2
Concordance for the Lemma Disaster in the Dawn Corpus



The figure shows the concordance for the search word *disaster* in the Dawn corpus with a frequency of 97. The most frequent theme among these concordance lines is natural disasters.

Figure 3

Second Concordance Line for the Lemma Disaster in the Dawn Corpus

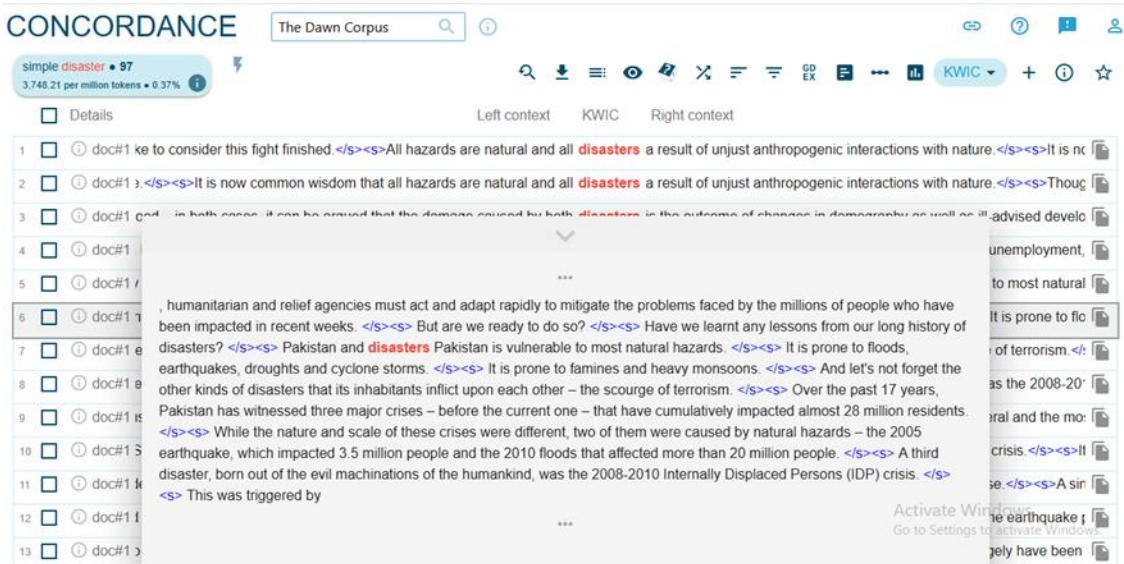
The Key Word in Context (KWIC) in the second concordance line of the Dawn corpus is asserting the theme of the occurrence of disasters due to unjust anthropogenic interaction with nature, recognizing that unjust human interaction with nature influences different types of disasters, such as COVID-19. According to Corpus-assisted Critical Discourse Analysis, this ideology is a tragedy and a failure as well. It is a failure as the public's unjust interaction with nature results in the occurrence of natural disasters, or the public contributes to the occurrence of natural disasters. Moreover, it is a tragedy as the occurrence of natural disasters creates unrest among the public.

Figure 4

Fifth Concordance Line for the Lemma Disaster in the Dawn corpus

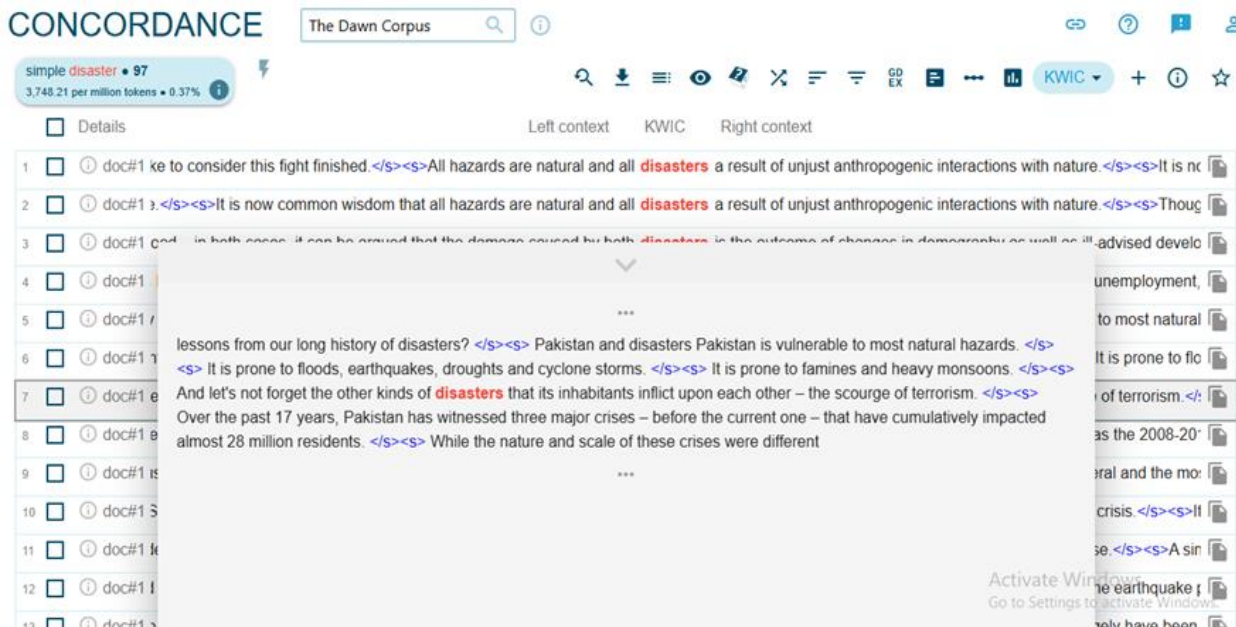
The KWIC in the fifth concordance line of the Dawn corpus is asserting the theme of learning a lesson from history, recognizing that, as Pakistan has a long history of disasters (different types), the public must learn a lesson from it and implement strategies accordingly for mitigating the disasters of different types. According to Corpus-assisted Critical Discourse Analysis, this ideology is an opportunity as it is a gain for the public to learn some lessons in mitigating disasters from the past.

Figure 5
Sixth Concordance Line for the Lemma Disaster in the Dawn Corpus



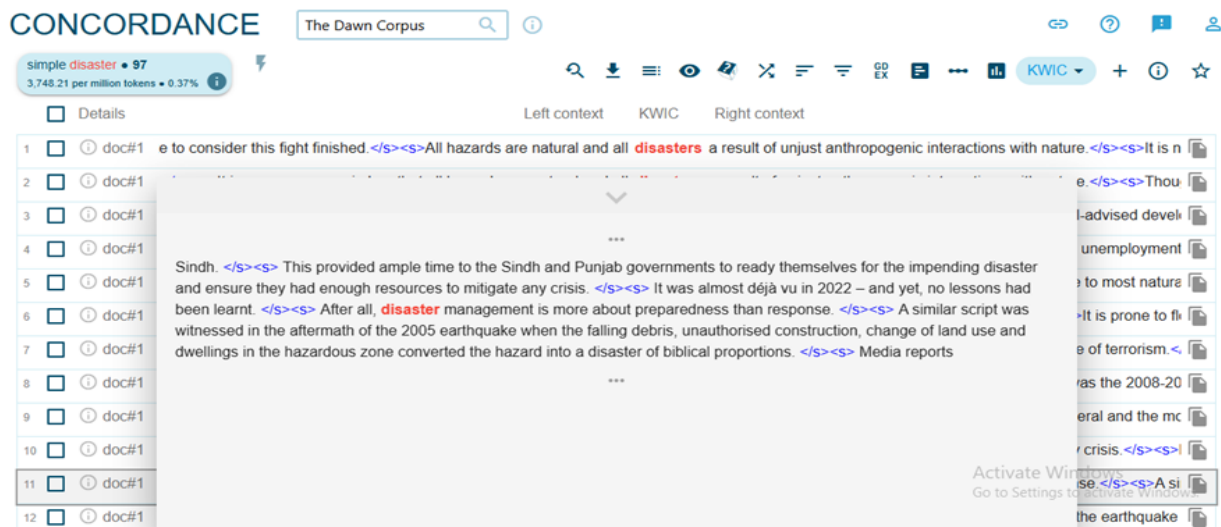
The KWIC in the multiple concordance lines of the Dawn corpus asserts that different types of natural disasters, i.e., floods, famine, heat waves, droughts, hurricanes, storms, and earthquakes, cause great damage to the public and the environment. According to Corpus-assisted Critical Discourse Analysis, this ideology is a tragedy because natural disasters create unrest among the public by inflicting misery on them.

Figure 6
Seventh Concordance Line for the Lemma Disaster in the Dawn Corpus



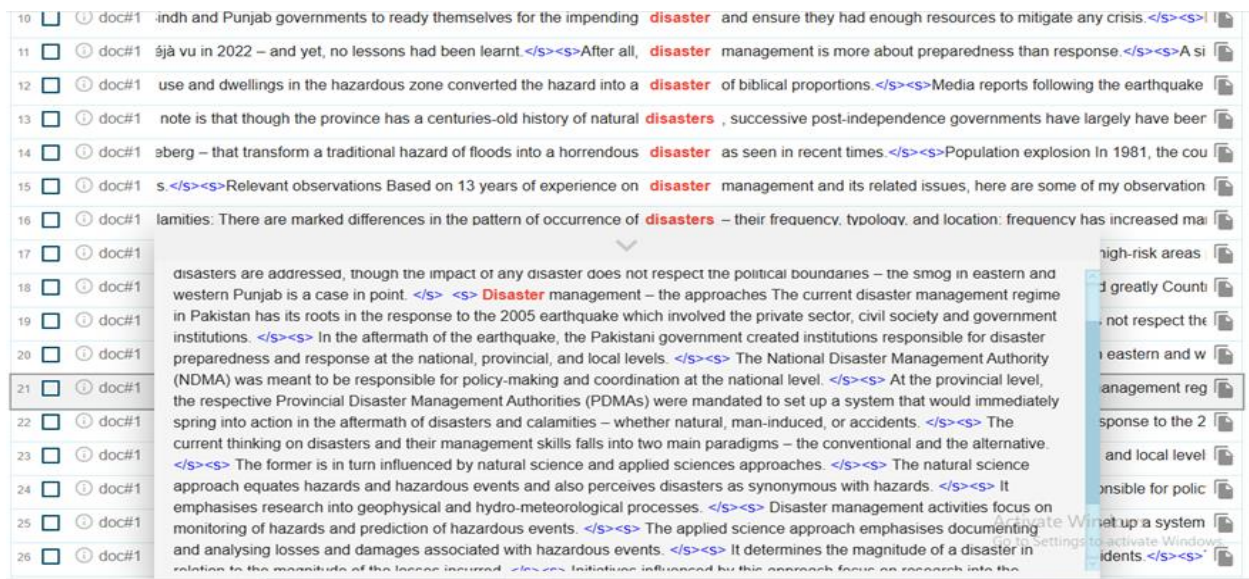
The KWIC in the seventh concordance lines of the Dawn corpus is asserting the theme of another type of disaster- terrorism, recognizing that it is one of the major man-made disasters faced by Pakistanis. According to the Corpus-assisted Critical Discourse Analysis, this ideology is a tragedy because terrorism creates unrest among the public by inflicting fear of death on them.

Figure 7
Eleventh Concordance Line for the Lemma Disaster in the Dawn Corpus



The KWIC in the multiple concordance lines of the Dawn corpus is asserting the theme of disaster management, recognizing that there should be enough preparation for the management of disasters (climate change and other natural disasters). According to the Corpus-assisted Critical Discourse Analysis, this ideology is an opportunity because the government is working on strategies for developing sustainable management to cope with disasters’ impacts, i.e. integrating the use of AI and technology, hosting conferences, and training youth.

Figure 8
Twenty-first Concordance Line for the Lemma Disaster in the Dawn Corpus



The KWIC in the *twenty-first* concordance lines of the Dawn corpus is asserting the theme of disaster management approaches in Pakistan, recognizing that NDMA and PDMA are working at their respective levels to manage and mitigate different types of disasters. According to Corpus-assisted Critical Discourse Analysis, this ideology is an opportunity as it provides a benefit to the public in coping with the aftermath of disasters.

Figure 9

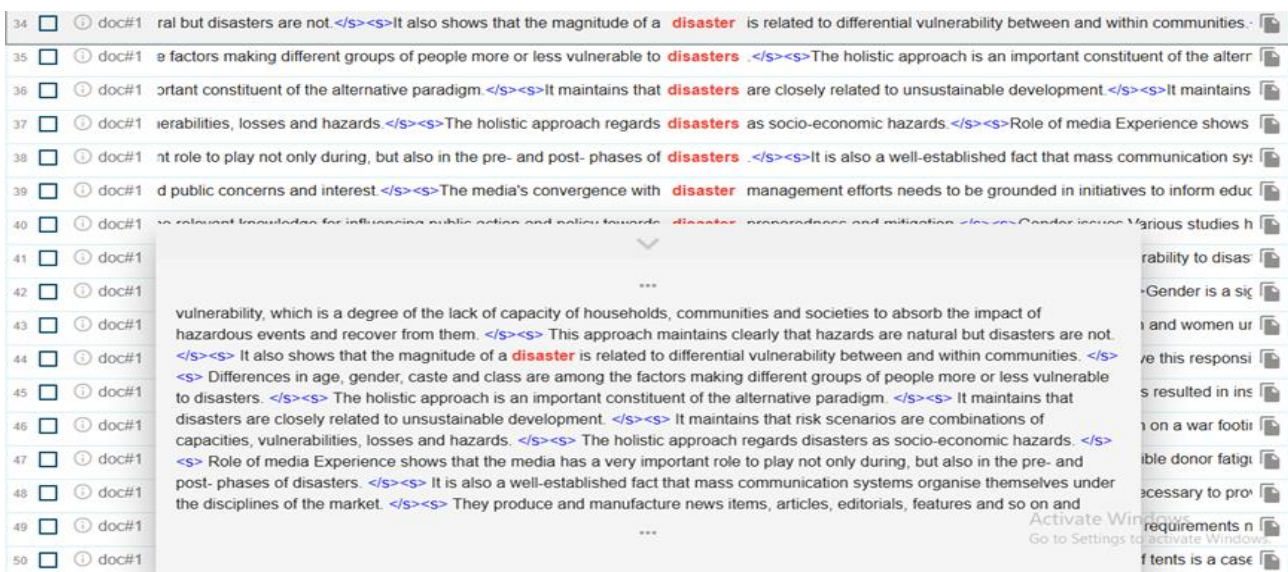
Twenty-Seventh Concordance Line for the Lemma Disaster in the Dawn Corpus



The KWIC in the twenty-seventh concordance line of the Dawn corpus is asserting the theme of disaster and their management skills: conventional and alternative, recognizing that the conventional deals with the natural science and applied science approaches, such as integrating geophysical and hydro-meteorological processes, and documenting and analyzing losses and damage. Whereas the alternative deals with the social science approach, such as integrating strong discourse to aware people for disaster management. According to Corpus-assisted Critical Discourse Analysis, this ideology is an opportunity as it provides a benefit to the public in coping with the aftermath of disasters (different types).

Figure 10

Thirty-Fourth Concordance Line for the Lemma Disaster in the Dawn Corpus



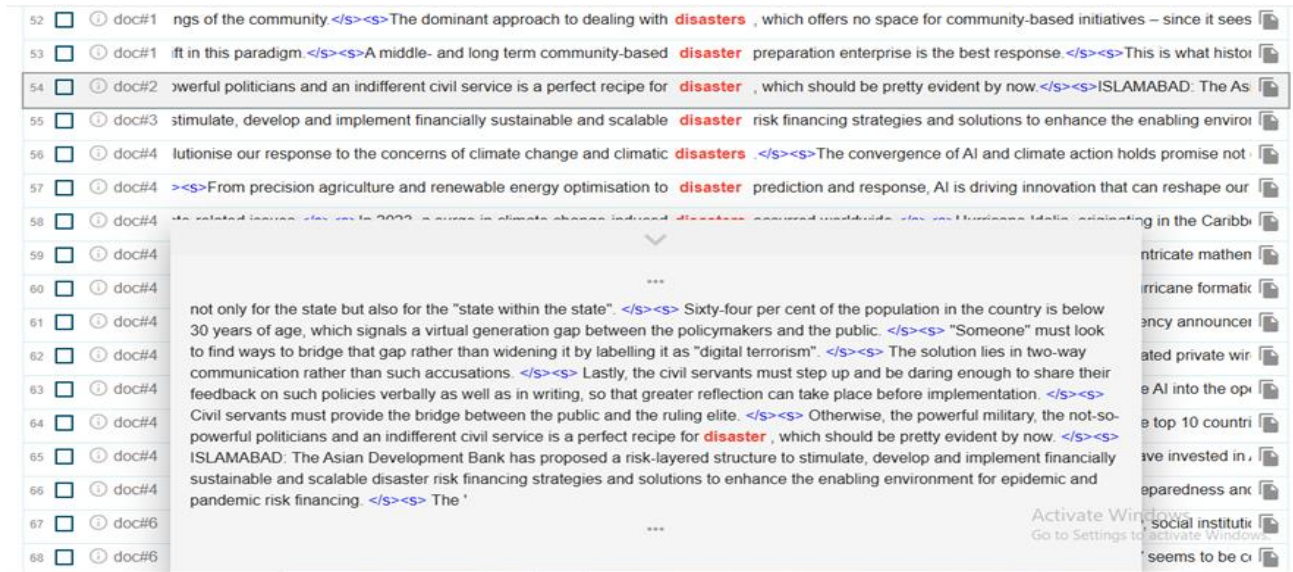
The KWIC in the thirty-fourth concordance line of the Dawn corpus is asserting the theme of the relation of the size of a disaster with vulnerability, recognizing that different demographic features, such as age, gender, caste, and class, respond differently to disasters. According to Corpus-assisted Critical Discourse Analysis, this ideology is a tragedy, as no matter which demographic group is being discussed, the disasters being inflicted upon them cause damage.

Figure 11
 Forty-Fifth Concordance Line for the Lemma Disaster in the Dawn Corpus



The KWIC in the forty-fifth concordance line of the Dawn corpus is asserting the theme of disaster management and gender differences, i.e., the disaster relief operations often bypass women’s needs and prove to be ineffective as they ignore women’s needs. According to the Corpus-assisted Critical Discourse Analysis, this ideology is a tragedy as women face unrest and failure, as the government does not consider the needs of women.

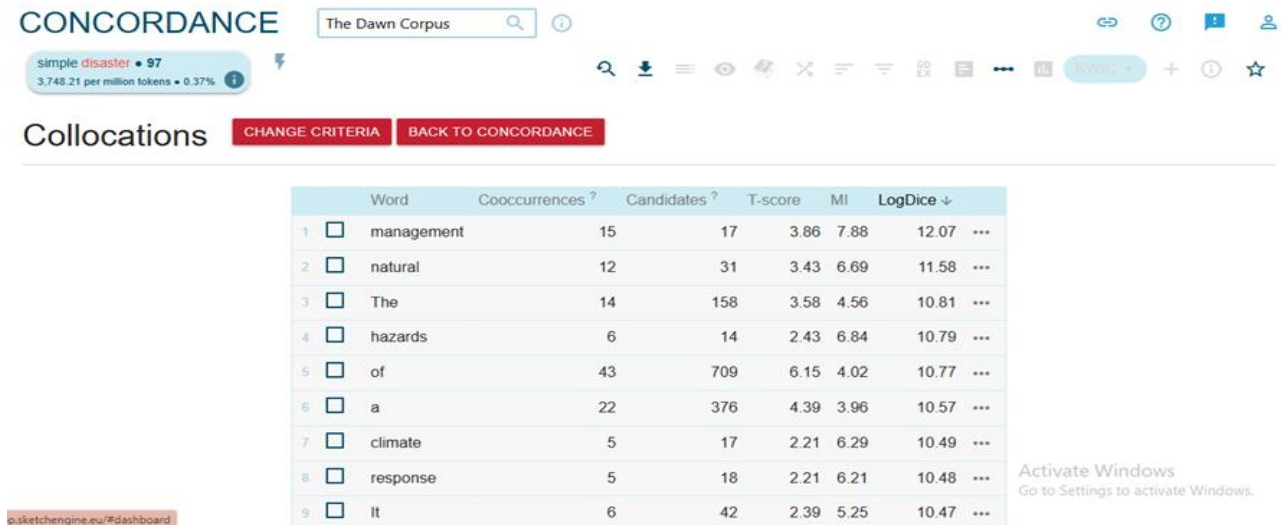
Figure 12
 Fifty-Fourth Concordance Line for the Lemma Disaster in the Dawn Corpus



The KWIC in the fifty-fourth concordance line of the Dawn corpus is asserting the theme of the role of young civil servants in warding off political disaster, recognizing that young civil servants with their innovative strategies can bridge the gap between the elite and the ruling class. According to Corpus-assisted Critical Discourse Analysis, this ideology is an opportunity as it persuades the young civil servants to bridge the gap between the ruling elite and the public, making it a gain for the public.

Figure 13

Collocates of the Lemma Disaster in the Dawn Corpus



The above figure shows the collocates of the search word disaster with management and natural as the most frequent ones, recognizing that natural disasters inflict unrest among the public, and they should be managed by following certain strategies.

Figure 14

Word Sketch of the Lemma Disaster in the Dawn Corpus



This Word Sketch shows the grammatical relationships of the search word with its collocates. In the figure, management, natural, and event are the most frequent collocates seen with the lemma disaster.

4.1.2 Daily Pakistan

Figure 15
Concordance for the Lemma آفت in the Daily Pakistan Corpus



The figure shows the concordance for the search word آفت in the Daily Pakistan corpus with a frequency of 52. The most frequent theme among these concordance lines is natural disasters. The theme discusses the different types of natural disasters, their consequences, and the management strategies that are required to be made to lessen the impacts of detrimental natural disasters.

Figure 16
First Concordance Line for the Search Word آفت in the Daily Pakistan Corpus



The KWIC in the first concordance line of the Daily Pakistan corpus is asserting the theme of natural disaster and the role of technology. It means that technology plays a pivotal role in mitigating or alerting the public before a disaster occurs by playing a siren, etc. According to the Corpus-assisted Critical Discourse Analysis, this ideology is an opportunity as the public receives help from technology to avoid natural disasters.

Figure 17

Second concordance line for the search word *آفت* in the Daily Pakistan corpus



The KWIC in the multiple concordances of the Daily Pakistan corpus asserts that breakouts of fires in Los Angeles, floods, hurricanes in America, storms, and heavy rain in China caused detrimental consequences on the public and surroundings. According to Corpus-assisted Critical Discourse Analysis, this ideology is a tragedy because natural disasters create unrest among the public by inflicting misery on them.

Figure 18

First Concordance Line for the Search Word *آفت* in the Daily Pakistan Corpus



The KWIC in the multiple concordance lines of the Daily Pakistan corpus is asserting the theme of international aid to the victim countries of natural disasters. According to Corpus-assisted Critical Discourse Analysis, this ideology is an opportunity for the public to receive help from it.

4.2 Step 2: Semantic Roles

Table 1

Semantic Roles Table of the English Corpus

| Agent | Victim | Solution |
|--------|--------|---------------------|
| Nature | Public | Disaster Management |

The above table shows the semantic roles of the most recurrent theme in the English corpus, i.e. natural disasters. The semantic roles imply the way in which the social issue is being executed in society. In other words, it shows which entity is inflicting the social issue, which is being oppressed by the social issue, and lastly, if there is any solution suggested for the social issue. In simple words, the researcher analyzed the subject and object of the social issue.

While unmarking the semantic roles in the Dawn corpora, the researcher saw that the agent of the social issue, natural disaster, is nature, as the natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, drought, famine, and landslides are caused by nature. Moreover, this is an institution, as nature includes not just an individual force, but certain elements in nature that lead towards the occurrence of natural disasters.

Moreover, the victim of the social issue is the public, as it is oppressed by the infliction in certain ways. Such as famine in Dutch led to the death of between eighteen thousand and twenty-two thousand. Moreover, due to famine, the children and fetus faced starvation which led to a weak immune system. Furthermore, famines in Zimbabwe have scarred the bodies and minds of the youngest.

Secondly, two major storms – Tropical Storm Megi in April and Tropical Nalgae in October – came in the year 2022 in the Philippines, affecting millions of people and causing three hundred and forty-six deaths. These hurricanes were the costliest disaster event with an economic loss of \$100bn. Thirdly, drought in Uganda caused 2465 deaths, making it the second deadliest disaster. Moreover, the drought in China affected 6.1 million people. Furthermore, the US and Brazil had an economic cost of \$22bn and \$4bn, respectively, due to drought. Fourthly, earthquakes caused tremendous deaths in Afghanistan and Indonesia, coming up as one of the deadliest disasters. Fifthly, floods in Pakistan in 2010 affected more than twenty million people. Floods affected people by displacing them, leading them to health crises and a scarcity of food. Lastly, landslides in the Hunza Lake of Pakistan in 2010 caused twenty deaths. In a nutshell, natural disasters not only affect the health of the public but also their finances.

Lastly, the solution recommended for natural disasters is disaster management, which can be done by implementing certain strategies. Such as the role of media in informing or providing awareness to the public about natural disasters. Secondly, the development of disaster risk financing strategies. Thirdly, the use of Artificial Intelligence or technology in climate change helps revolutionize the public response to natural disasters and its use in weather forecasts. Fourthly, the initiation of workshops in providing training for disaster risk management. Lastly, the development of the District Disaster Management Authority and the National Institute of Disaster Management in implementing disaster management activities.

Table 2

Semantic Roles Table of the Urdu Corpora

| Agent | Victim |
|------------|--------|
| Government | Public |

While unmarking the semantic roles in the Daily corpora, the researcher saw that the agent of the social issue, natural disaster, is nature, as the breakout of fires, floods, hurricanes, storms, and heavy rain caused detrimental consequences on the public and surroundings.

Moreover, the victim of the social issue is the public, as it is oppressed by the infliction in certain ways. Such as, breakout of fires in Los Angeles, famine led to the death of people. Secondly, hurricanes in Africa are predicted to cause deaths. Thirdly, floods in different countries of the world wipe out the signs of life and disturb the living patterns of the public.

Lastly, the solution recommended for natural disasters is disaster management, which can be done by implementing certain strategies. Such as the use of Artificial Intelligence or technology in climate change helps revolutionize the public response to natural disasters and its use in weather forecasts.

4.3 Step 3: Constructed Ideology

4.3.1 The Dawn Corpus

Table 3

Pronouns of the Dawn Corpus

| Pronouns | |
|----------|------|
| Us | Them |

The pronoun ‘us’ in most of the selected concordance lines of the Dawn corpus refers to the public. Whereas the pronoun ‘them’ refers to natural disasters, i.e. earthquakes, floods, and wildfires. Both pronouns are used separately in their own context,

pressing the ‘us vs. them’ ideology. This ideology asserts that the public is an in-group as the feelings of sympathy are indulged with it; on the other hand, natural disasters are the out-group as they are perceived negatively, inflicting destruction on the public; for instance, displacement, unemployment, health crises, water and food scarcity, and loss of human lives.

Table 4*Modal Verbs of the Dawn Corpus*

| Modality | | |
|----------|--------|-----|
| Must | Should | Can |

Firstly, the modal verb must refer to the government’s obligation to come up with some long-term solutions to reduce the intensity of floods and climate-related natural disasters, and the need for the World Health Organization WHO in providing humanitarian aid to the victims of natural disasters to relieve their misery. Moreover, the modal verb should imply that Pakistan, like many other countries, should integrate some climate disaster mitigation technology to lessen the impacts of natural disasters. Lastly, the modal verb can imply that AI and technology can reshape our approach to climate-related issues.

Table 5*Adjectives of the Dawn Corpus*

| Adjectives | | |
|------------|-------|---------|
| More | Other | Natural |

The three most frequent adjectives in the Dawn corpus are more, more, and more natural. The use of more, in the negative context, informs that natural disasters caused more deaths, creating an ideology of fear, e.g. more deaths, more than 20M people affected, and more cases. Whereas, in the positive context, it asserts that more recoveries of people are being made, creating an ideology of content, e.g. more recoveries and more people have fared equally well.

The adjective other, when it is used with jargon like diseases and cities, asserting that natural disasters impact other countries or cities and give birth to many other diseases in the public, creates a negative connotation. Secondly, it creates a positive connotation when used with the jargon supplies, asserting the notion of the provision of aid and supplies by the WHO to the victims of natural disasters.

Lastly, natural disasters have been used often with the lexicon, informing that the disasters mentioned are mostly natural, for instance, floods and earthquakes.

Table 6*Metaphors of the Dawn Corpus*

| Metaphor | |
|----------|------|
| Fuel | Fire |

The word fuel in this context refers to the man-made tragedy or the public’s negligence. Moreover, fire here is a metaphor for natural disasters, i.e. floods. The metaphor conveys that the public’s ignorance has escalated the impacts of natural disasters, resulting in the displacement of 50,000 families.

4.3.2 Daily Pakistan Corpus**Table 7***Pronoun of Daily Pakistan Corpus*

| Pronoun |
|---------|
| ہم |

The pronoun ہم refers to us (the public), who create or befall different disasters (including natural) upon ourselves due to our own deeds. In other words, we people commit different sins, and divineness sends disasters upon us as punishment.

Table 8*Modal Verbs of Daily Pakistan Corpus*

| Modality | |
|----------|------|
| چاہیے | سکتا |

The modal verb سکتا refers to can which implies the possibility of saving human life and material things by considering or following certain plans or tactics, i.e. taking lessons from the past or controlling climate risk.

Moreover, the modal verb چاہیے refers to should which implies the expectation or necessity of enhancing the disaster management skills after watching people suffering from them. In other words, disaster management skills must be practised to lessen the suffering of the public.

Table 9*Adjectives of Daily Pakistan Corpus*

| Adjectives | |
|------------|-------|
| قدرتی | عالمی |

The adjective قدرتی refers to natural, which asserts that the world is suffering a lot due to natural disasters, e.g. earthquakes, hurricanes, and floods. Moreover, the adjective عالمی refers to the international, which asserts that international organizations should provide aid to the countries which have been victimized by natural disasters.

Table 10*Metaphor in Daily Pakistan Corpus*

| Metaphor |
|----------|
| ٹوٹ پڑی |

The ٹوٹ پڑی here refers to the breakout of a natural disaster, i.e. hurricanes upon people. To make the text emotionally loaded, the metaphor has been used to sympathize people (readers) with the Americans who have been afflicted by the hurricanes.

5. Discussion

The results show that both corpora similarly frame the same social issue. In the Dawn corpus, *natural* appears frequently with the lemma *disaster*, and the Daily Pakistan corpus also shows its Urdu equivalent قدرتی in regular use. This suggests that both newspapers mainly treat disasters as natural events. Although natural disasters can take many forms—such as floods, droughts, heat waves, storms, and earthquakes- the constant use of *natural* disasters shifts responsibility away from human or institutional factors and places the cause entirely on nature. This framing implies that the unrest faced by the public is an unavoidable outcome of natural forces rather than something linked to governance, planning, or infrastructure.

This ideological stance appears in the linguistic indicators as well. The pronouns in both corpora create an “us vs. them” idea, where *we/us/ہم* refer to the public as victims, and the disasters are represented as the external force harming them. This shows how the texts build sympathy for the public and portray the disasters as an opposing group. The modal verbs *can/سکتا*, *should/چاہیے*, and *must/ضروری* highlight different degrees of responsibility. They are used to suggesting what actions are possible, recommended, or necessary in response to the disasters. This again shows that the focus is on managing the outcomes rather than questioning the reasons behind vulnerability.

The adjectives attached to the lemma also contribute to the framing. In the Dawn corpus, *more*, *other*, and *natural* appear frequently. Words like *more* and *others* suggest comparison and continuity, indicating that disasters are part of an ongoing cycle. The adjective *natural* again reinforces the idea that these events are not linked to human decisions. Metaphors in both corpora help communicate the seriousness of the situation. English metaphors, such as *fuel the fire* show how human actions can intensify a crisis, while the Urdu expression ٹوٹ پڑی presents the disaster as suddenly striking the people. These metaphors make the events seem forceful and urgent. In short, both corpora present disaster as a tragedy mainly caused by natural forces, and the linguistic choices support this overall ideology.

6. Conclusion

The study explored the portrayal of disaster in Pakistani Urdu and English newspapers. Regarding these newspapers, the results show both corpora frame the same progressive ideology through different linguistic choices, i.e. natural disasters as a tragedy. However, the study analyzed the linguistic patterns of only two newspapers: Dawn and Daily Pakistan, leaving space for other discourses, such as editorials and visual representations. Furthermore, future researchers can build on this study by incorporating more media outlets and languages.

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