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Media Portrayals of Terrorism: A Comparative Corpus-Assisted Critical Discourse Analysis of Pakistani Newspaper

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ABSTRACT

The study demonstrates how English newspapers employ polarized pronominal framing (*us vs them*) to create a sharp divide between the nation-state and the terrorist. Urdu newspapers use similar terms, ہم and انہیں, but often with a less rigid, more lenient tone. Analysis of modal expressions (English: must, should, can; Urdu: چاہئے، ضروری ہے، کر سکتے ہیں) reveals that the languages of both media groups emphasize necessity and possibility in confronting terrorism. The Corpus-Assisted Critical Discourse Analysis (CACDA) approach has been applied with the help of the Sketch Engine corpus tool to systematically examine collocation patterns, semantic roles and ideologies across both corpora. Crucially, the languages of both media reinforce conservative ideology by consistently positioning the state and military as protectors and terrorists as alien outsiders. The research concludes that media language is instrumental in shaping public opinion and fostering national consensus through the state-centric, conservative lens.

1. Introduction

Terrorism involves the deliberate use of violence or intimidation by people or groups to increase fear and force in the furtherance of specific political, religious, and ideological goals. Terrorism often targets non-combatants and tries to influence governments or populations through harm and fear. (Schmid, 2011). Pakistan has suffered disproportionality from this phenomenon, with around 83,000 recorded deaths and financial losses of over \$50 billion since the start of 2001. These radical groups pressured civilians and state entities to fulfill demands based on some political or religious motives that massively upset security in the nation and hindered economic progress. The state reacted by initiating large-scale counterterrorism operations, including Zarb-e-Azb and Raad-ul-Fasad (Nizami et al., 2014). Given the far-reaching societal consequences of terrorism, it becomes imperative to effectively frame the media issue in a way that promotes policy acceptance. International Studies have often applied corpus-based critical discourse analysis (CACDA) to examine how media constructions are created. For example, the western media has consistently framed terrorism as a US vs. them narrative, placing a pejorative emphasis on religion using negative diction to reinforce national dominance and justify military action, thus potentially fostering Islamophobia (Zeller, 2012). Quantitative and qualitative analyses confirm the significant role of newspaper discourse in shaping public opinion and political ideology. Surveys also revealed a need for broader, more balanced journalism to raise awareness and counter extremism effectively (Shahzad & Rahim, 2017). Divergent reporting styles whereas English newspaper, for example, Dawn have analytical and critical reporting about state level policy failures and gaps in strategy, such as the state has failed to progress an operative counter terrorism approach (Farooq et al., 2023) Urdu newspaper, such as dawn Urdu, have focused more on the direct human and social losses of attack in region like and Balochistan, while reporting the administrative and military responses against counter-extremism (Soomro & Rehman, 2018).

Various comparative studies have indicated that the Urdu press is often more critical or oppositional towards government policies (Paracha, 2019) and uses more emotive or war-oriented language (Ahsan et al., 2021). In contrast, the English press tends

to reflect a more measured, Palestinian perspective, at times with a more pro-Western posture. Call and response narratives on the occasion when Pakistani newspapers report on the causes of terrorism, changes in foreign policy towards Afghanistan and military operations against militants are often highlighted as the most important reasons. Still, little dialogue is ever suggested (Soomro & Rehman, 2018). Moreover, the coverage of post-2014 attacks reflected a very positive attitude toward military procedures and the national action plan for both language groups (Ali et al., 2022). These Analyses, conducted using different content analysis and discourse frameworks, include investigations of political comics by Jabeen et al. (2020) and of betrayal conflict by Badshah et al. (2023). These studies have shown that ideological construction is independent of a newspaper's language, ownership, or target audience. Extensive research confirms that attitude and framing strategies are different in Pakistani English and Urdu newspapers toward terrorism, for example, critical versus supportive, war-oriented versus peace-oriented. However, fewer studies have carried out a large-scale, comparative micro linguistic investigation of the specific textual mechanism, namely the pronoun used and the modality that systematically encodes these ideological differences. Existing discourse analysis often relies on selected texts or limited samples (Feyyaz, 2016). A CACDA offers the necessary methodological rigour to systematically identify and compare hidden, recurring linguistic patterns that construct the "us" and "them" narrative across these distinct linguistic media. Therefore, this study aims to answer the following question: how do Pakistani English and Urdu newspapers linguistically signify terrorism, specifically through differential use of pronouns and modal expressions, to expose concealed ideological stances in their respective discourses.

1.1 Research Objectives

1. To inspect the procedure of pronouns and modality in English and Urdu newspapers to realize how language outlines the awareness of terrorism and national distinctiveness.
2. To identify and analyze the ideology portrayed by terrorism in Pakistani English and newspapers.

1.2 Research Questions

1. How do Pakistani English and Urdu newspapers use pronouns and modality to build the ideological division between the nations and terrorists?
2. What ideology is portrayed by terrorism in Pakistani English and Urdu newspapers?

2. Research Methodology

2.1 Corpus Design

The corpora have been retrieved from the official website of The Dawn Newspaper and The Ausaf Newspaper. The word terrorism (گردي دہشت) has been used as the search term to retrieve or add all the articles from the newspaper mentioned. A total of 50 articles from the website of Dawn and 44 from the Ausaf. The copy-paste method has been employed to retrieve the text from the newspaper website. Each article was saved with its publication date and the newspaper's name, The Dawn and The Ausaf Newspapers, in a new folder after the headline had been copied, followed by the body of the text and the Microsoft document.

2.2 Corpus Analysis

Three features of the sketch engine have been applied to corpora: keywords, concordance, word sketch, and collocates.

2.3 Flow of Theoretical Framework

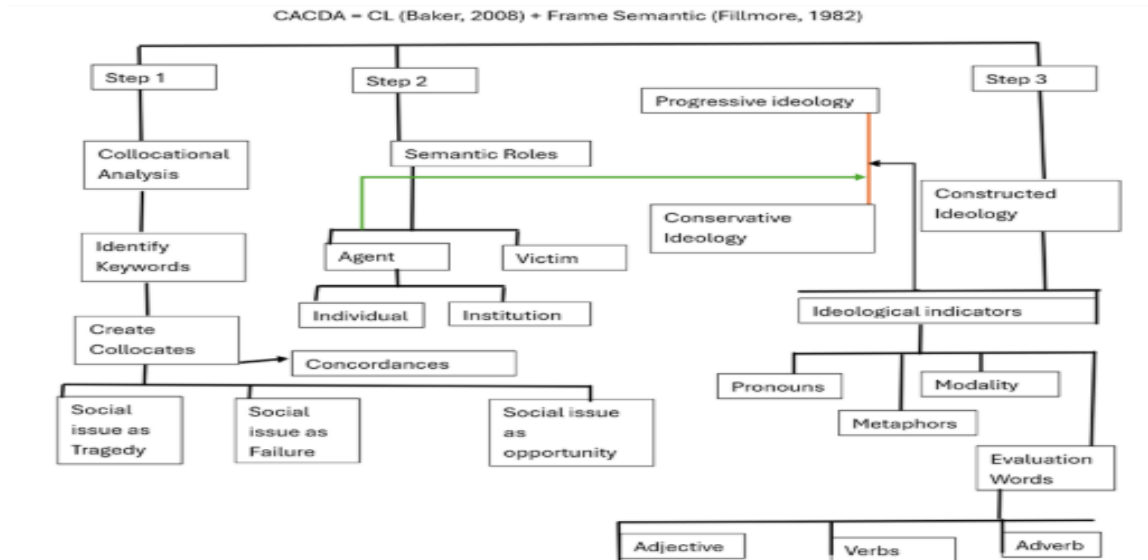
The Corpus-Assisted Critical Discourse Analysis (CACDA) approach has been applied, which is associated with Corpus Linguistics. The study is carried out in three leading steps. First, the data is passed into the software, and a set of keywords is generated. These keywords are selected based on frequent themes or thoughts that appear in the manuscript. This helps narrow the focus and identify the most appropriate portions of the data for in-depth analysis. In the second step, the keywords are analyzed semantically. This involves recognizing who performs engagements (agents) and who is exploited by them (victims), and observing how language clearly reflects ideologies. Specific aspects of the language are examined, including pronouns, modality (words expressing certainty or obligation), metaphors, evaluative words, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, and sentence structures (such as the passive voice). Emotions and sentiments in the script are also prominent.

Furthermore, arrangements of transitivity are discovered to see how engagements and contributors are signified. In the third

step, the focus is on how thoughtful ideologies are assembled in the text. This consists of examining how individuals and institutions are signified, which social issues are emphasised, and which words repeatedly co-occur (collocate). The goal is to recognize whether the text endorses a specific worldview, such as a conventional or enlightened stance. This method helps reveal the original meanings and ideologies in the script, showing how language forms our understanding of social and political issues. The flow of the theoretical framework is illustrated in the figure below.

Figure 1

Flow of Theoretical Framework



3. Data Analysis

3.1 Step 1

3.1.1 Dawn Newspaper

Figure 2

Concordance Line for the Search Word Terrorism

The screenshot shows a concordance search interface for the word "terrorism" in "Dawn newspaper 1". The search results are displayed in a table with 13 rows, each showing a document ID, a snippet of text with "terrorism" highlighted in red, and a document icon. The interface includes a search bar, a filter for "KWIC", and various tool icons.

Doc ID	Text Snippet
doc#0	<s>Army chief General Asim Munir sees foreign hand in 'digital terrorism' . In address at Kakul, Gen Munir says Constitution guarantees free s
doc#0	Asim Munir on Tuesday blamed foreign powers for a wave of 'digital terrorism', which he said aimed to create a gulf between state institutions and tr
doc#0	false information targeting the armed forces. </s></s>The term 'digital terrorism' is increasingly being used by the military to describe the use of online
doc#0	activists, have also been detained and face charges related to 'digital terrorism'. </s></s>On Tuesday, while quoting a verse from Surah Al Hujurat, Ge
doc#1	:>He stressed that the state would take all measures required to curb terrorism such as ramping up the capacity of law enforcement agencies. </s></s>
doc#1	nish the perpetrators. </s></s>President Asif Ali Zardari condemned the terrorism incidents in "Razmik Bazaar, North Waziristan and Kalat. </s></s>Conv
doc#1	ident vowed in a statement to continue efforts to "completely eradicate terrorism". </s></s>He prayed for the deceased and their families, as well as wis
doc#1	sts, but also show solidarity with those whose loved ones fell victim to terrorism in Balochistan today," he wrote on X. Similar past attacks This is the se
doc#2	/s></s>The victims belonged to Sindh and Punjab. </s></s>No room for terrorism in Kashmir's struggle for freedom, says AJK PM WASHINGTON: Prime
doc#2	\JK will not allow India to link the Kashmiri movement for freedom with terrorism. </s></s>"We will stay alert to ensure that India does not succeed in do
doc#2	at the Pakistan Embassy in Washington. </s></s>"There's no room for terrorism in our peaceful struggle." </s></s>At a recent briefing, a senior US offici
doc#2	re important that Pakistan demonstrate its resolve to halt cross-border terrorism," the official said. </s></s>Mr Haider, who is currently visiting Washing
doc#3	/s></s>Islamabad ATC sends PTI's Raof Hasan on judicial remand in terrorism case An Islamabad anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Saturday sent PTI inf

Figure 2 shows the concordance results for the word terrorism, which appears 239 times in this corpus, with a frequency of 5,097.25 per million tokens.

Figure 3
Concordance Line for the Search Word Terrorism

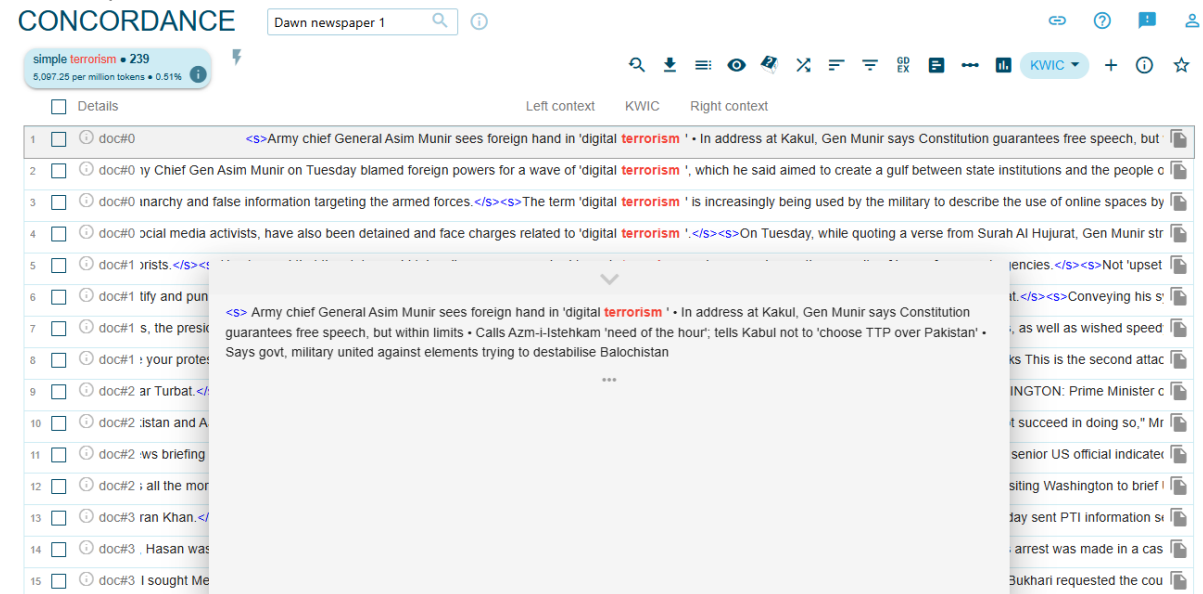
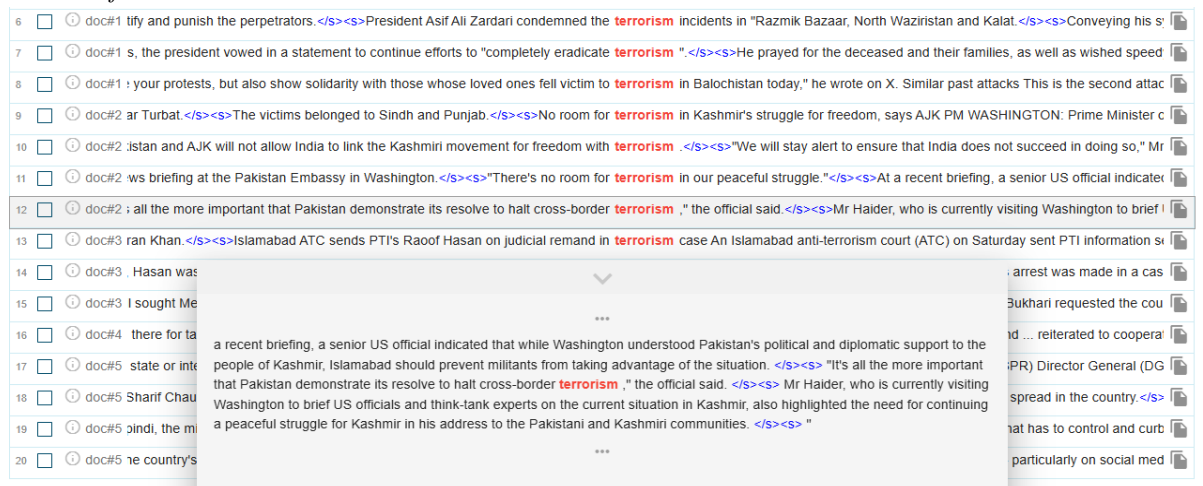


Figure 3 shows the concordance lines since the Dawn newspaper corpus in an instrument like Sketch Engine, in which the word *terrorism* is analyzed in its real-world stage.

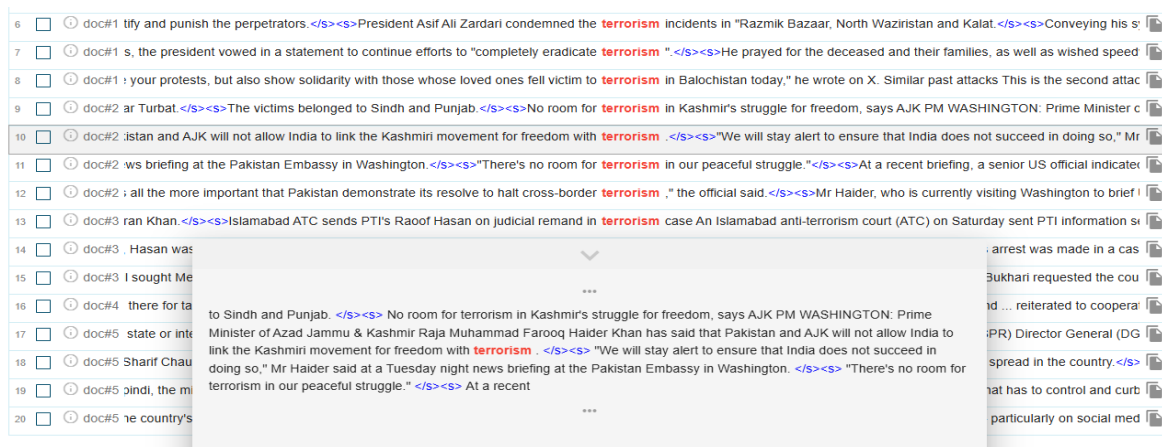
The KWIC (Keyword in context) view aids scholars in recognising the typical perspective and associations of the term terrorism by displaying the word's many occurrences along with its contiguous nouns. The statement climaxes unity, patriotism and public safety. They also specify deeper problems about personal independence and local struggles. Critics debate that such dialogues often draw a dim line between repressive control and countrywide interest.

Figure 4
Concordance Line for the Search Word Terrorism



In this consultation, a senior U.S. official familiar with Pakistan’s diplomatic and political backing for the Kashmiri foundation emphasized that Islamabad must avoid militants from deploying the state to fuel cross-border terrorism, as shown in Figure 4. This specifies a dual policy from Washington by accepting Pakistan’s viewpoint on Kashmir while at the same time applying weight to act inflexibly against militant parties. The call for Pakistan to specify its seriousness in opposing terrorism proposes an evolving international statement for stability and responsibility in the area. Instantaneously, Mr Haider’s support for a peaceful scuffle strengthens an effort to stabilise the soundness of the Kashmiri movement and distance it from radicalism. Overall, the statement highlights a broader global strategic concern.

Figure 5
Concordance Line for the Search Word Terrorism



In Figure 5, the Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Raja Farooq Haider Khan, strongly failed to associate the Kashmir liberty association with terrorism. He highlights that the free-for-all for Kashmir is calming and that both Pakistan and AJK will not allow India to operate it as passionately. His statements reflect a clear effort to maintain the strength of the Kashmiri cause on the global stage, particularly in challenging the media in Washington. At the same time, his resolution on staying vigilant against such explanations shows a self-protective position and exposes the constant heaviness between Pakistan and India over the Kashmir issue. The message emphasizes Pakistan's position of ethical and political provision for Kashmir, while also trying to detach the movement from revolutionary groups.

Figure 6
Collocations from the Concordance Output

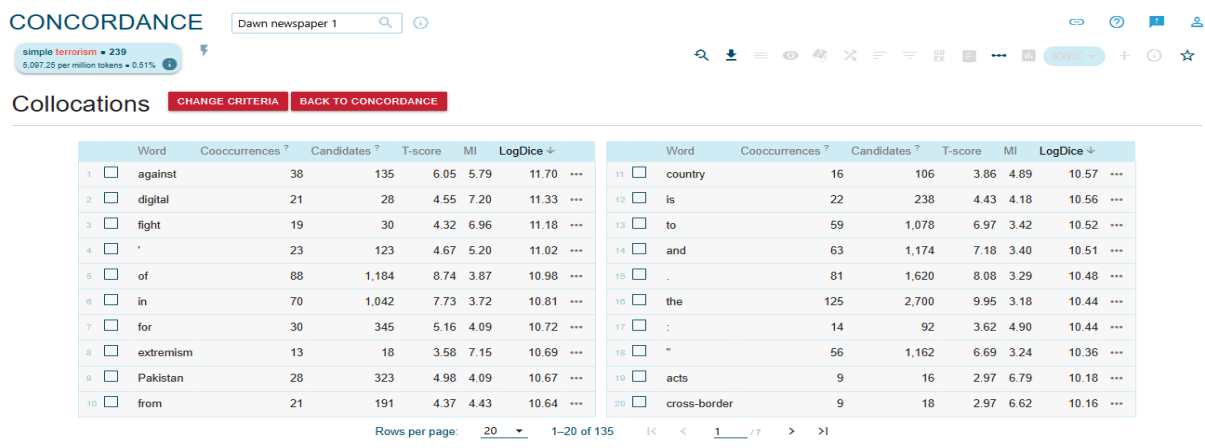


Figure 6 shows that the most frequently occurring collocates around the node-word terrorism, along with their frequencies, are against, digital, fight, Pakistan, country, extremism, and cross-border, which are highlighted in this corpus. The same data is classified in Table 1 below.

Table 1
Table of Collocations

Words	Co occurrences	MI
Against	38	5.79
Digital	21	7.20
Fight	19	6.96
Extremism	13	7.15
Pakistan	28	4.09
Country	16	4.89
Cross-border	9	6.62

Terrorism is defined as a tragedy. There are two types of terrorism: digital and cross-border. Basically, terrorism is a complex and multifaceted issue that can be defined as a tragedy for many reasons, such as social and cultural divisions, loss of human life, etc. It is a tragedy because it violates human rights. Considering terrorism as a tragedy can help us develop or refine a more effective approach to addressing this challenging problem.

3.1.2 Ausaf Newspaper

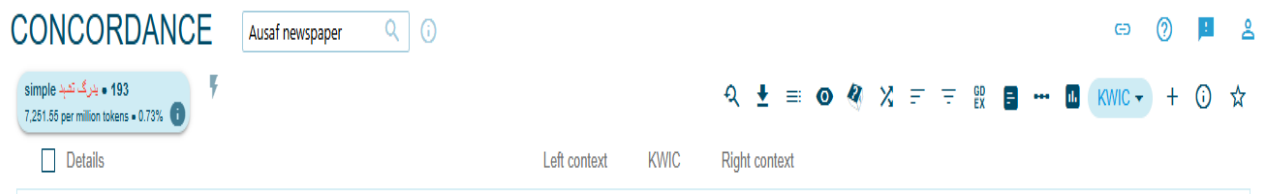
Figure 7

Concordance of Lemma گری دہشت



Figure 8

Per million tokens



In the above figures 7 and 8, the word گری دہشت appears 193 times, with a frequency of 7,251.55 per million.

Figure 9

Concordance of Lemma گری دہشت



Figure 9 shows the concordance lines from the Ausaf Newspaper corpus in Sketch Engine. The metaphor **آگ کی گردی دہشت** refers to the devastating and extensive effect of it. It signifies how **گردی دہشت** spreads quickly, harming communities and nations and undermining their peace. It emphasized the Taliban's **منافقت** evidently. While they assert to be the protectors of **اسلام**, their leader **بینتالہاخنزرا** delivers fatwas that clearly identify **گردی دہشت** evolving Afghan cities into zones of anarchy. This conflict is highlighted by the example of Khost province, where leaders like Hamid'ullah (aka Khalid), who indulged in prominent devastation during his time in Pakistan, are seen as products of this militant ideology. The piece highlights the harmful outcomes of such double norms and the tragic effect on the Afghan community.

Figure10
Concordance of Lemma گردی دہشت

4	doc#2	گروہی تعصبات اور احقاق	گردی دہشت	گروہی تعصبات اور احقاق
5	doc#2	تصبات اور احقاقہ پالیسیوں کی وجہ سے پاکستان گزشتہ دو سال سے ایک بار پھر دہشت گردی کے عفریت کا شکار ہے۔	گردی دہشت	تصبات اور احقاقہ پالیسیوں کی وجہ سے پاکستان گزشتہ دو سال سے ایک بار پھر دہشت گردی کے عفریت کا شکار ہے۔
6	doc#2	صحافی جو ہمیشہ پاکستان دشمن عناصر کا سہولت کار بننے کو ترجیح دیتے ہیں، دہشت گردی کے اس پھیلاؤ کو سہولت کار ہیں۔	گردی دہشت	صحافی جو ہمیشہ پاکستان دشمن عناصر کا سہولت کار بننے کو ترجیح دیتے ہیں، دہشت گردی کے اس پھیلاؤ کو سہولت کار ہیں۔
7	doc#2	م کی پرواہ کیے بغیر کٹرہ میں لایا جاتا، دار پہ کھینچا جاتا، نشان عبرت بنایا جاتا، دہشت گردی کی معاونت پر ان کے خلاف دہشت گردی کے مقدمات چلائے جاتے، سزائیں دی جاتی ہیں۔	گردی دہشت	م کی پرواہ کیے بغیر کٹرہ میں لایا جاتا، دار پہ کھینچا جاتا، نشان عبرت بنایا جاتا، دہشت گردی کی معاونت پر ان کے خلاف دہشت گردی کے مقدمات چلائے جاتے، سزائیں دی جاتی ہیں۔
8	doc#2	ار پہ کھینچا جاتا، نشان عبرت بنایا جاتا، دہشت گردی کی معاونت پر ان کے خلاف دہشت گردی کے مقدمات چلائے جاتے، سزائیں دی جاتی ہیں۔	گردی دہشت	ار پہ کھینچا جاتا، نشان عبرت بنایا جاتا، دہشت گردی کی معاونت پر ان کے خلاف دہشت گردی کے مقدمات چلائے جاتے، سزائیں دی جاتی ہیں۔
9	doc#2	ی کرتے ہوئے افغانستان میں نام نہاد جہاد کا قریب دے کر غریب افغان شہریوں کو دہشت گردی کی آگ میں جھونکتے ہیں، جہاں ان کی دنیا ہی نہیں آخرت بھی تباہ ہو کر رہ جاتی۔	گردی دہشت	ی کرتے ہوئے افغانستان میں نام نہاد جہاد کا قریب دے کر غریب افغان شہریوں کو دہشت گردی کی آگ میں جھونکتے ہیں، جہاں ان کی دنیا ہی نہیں آخرت بھی تباہ ہو کر رہ جاتی۔
10	doc#3	انڈیا نے پاکستان میں 20 لوگوں کے قتل کے احکامات دیئے، برطانوی اخبار نے بھارتی دہشت گردی کا بھانڈا پھوڑ دیا لندن (نیورڈیسک)برطانوی اخبار دی گارڈین نے کہا ہے کہ انڈین حک	گردی دہشت	انڈیا نے پاکستان میں 20 لوگوں کے قتل کے احکامات دیئے، برطانوی اخبار نے بھارتی دہشت گردی کا بھانڈا پھوڑ دیا لندن (نیورڈیسک)برطانوی اخبار دی گارڈین نے کہا ہے کہ انڈین حک
11	doc#3	تغ الزامات ایسے افراد کے قتل کے حوالے سے ہیں جن پر پرتشدد شدت پسندی اور دہشت گردی کے الزامات ہے تاہم امریکہ اور کینیڈا نے انڈیا پر کھلے عام الزام لگایا ہے کہ وہ اختلافی	گردی دہشت	تغ الزامات ایسے افراد کے قتل کے حوالے سے ہیں جن پر پرتشدد شدت پسندی اور دہشت گردی کے الزامات ہے تاہم امریکہ اور کینیڈا نے انڈیا پر کھلے عام الزام لگایا ہے کہ وہ اختلافی
12	doc#4	ایجنسی موساد اور روسی ایجنسی کے جی بی سے متاثر ہو کر شروع کیے۔	گردی دہشت	ایجنسی موساد اور روسی ایجنسی کے جی بی سے متاثر ہو کر شروع کیے۔
13	doc#4	اقدام کیا جائے گا، مریم نواز لاہور (ویڈیوسک)وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز نے کہا ہے کہ دہشت گردی کی سرکوبی کیلئے ہر ممکن اقدامات کیے جائیں گے، پنجاب میں نیشنل ایکشن پلان	گردی دہشت	اقدام کیا جائے گا، مریم نواز لاہور (ویڈیوسک)وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز نے کہا ہے کہ دہشت گردی کی سرکوبی کیلئے ہر ممکن اقدامات کیے جائیں گے، پنجاب میں نیشنل ایکشن پلان
14	doc#4	گردی کے خاتمے کے لیے	گردی دہشت	گردی کے خاتمے کے لیے
15	doc#4	کہنا تھا کہ دہشت گرد	گردی دہشت	کہنا تھا کہ دہشت گرد
16	doc#4	لواحقین کا جذبہ دہ	گردی دہشت	لواحقین کا جذبہ دہ
17	doc#4	وزیر اعلیٰ	گردی دہشت	وزیر اعلیٰ
18	doc#5	لکی مروٹ (ویب ڈیسٹ	گردی دہشت	لکی مروٹ (ویب ڈیسٹ
19	doc#5	بروی میں پاکستان اور	گردی دہشت	بروی میں پاکستان اور
20	doc#5	ی کی بنیاد پر صرف ام	گردی دہشت	ی کی بنیاد پر صرف ام

Figure 10 describes the critical and sharp remarks on the enhanced threat of **گردی دہشت** in Pakistan, depicting it not just as a domestic concern but as one driven by **بیرونی طاقتیں**, specifically India. The exposure of terrorism refers to the act of exposing the secret activities of **گردی دہشت**, such as detecting networks, secret plans, or a single person engaging in **دہشتگردی**. It indicates how frequent attacks, like the murder of 20 people in Baluchistan, have elevated serious matters about international and regional contributions to Pakistan's internal disorder. The writer supports the claim that Pakistan is now working to remove the **عناصر گرد** **دہشت**, but also raises concerns that other nations, rather than helping, may be **حمایتی خاموش** of disorder. The pitch of the paragraph is both concerning and challenging by encouraging action not only internal action but also international responsibility. It highlights that without **اقدامات** (serious action), such conflict will continue to destroy safety, peace, and trust within and beyond the region.

Figure 11
Concordance of Lemma گردی دہشت

1	doc#5	پر داخلہ رانا تاں اللہ بے عید العطر کی نماز ادا کرتے بے بعد میڈیا سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ دہشت گردی کا واحد حل اپریشن ہے، دہشت گرد بھارت اور راے ایجنٹ ہیں یہ ٹوٹ ٹوٹجھانک دو پاکستان	گردی دہشت	پر داخلہ رانا تاں اللہ بے عید العطر کی نماز ادا کرتے بے بعد میڈیا سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ دہشت گردی کا واحد حل اپریشن ہے، دہشت گرد بھارت اور راے ایجنٹ ہیں یہ ٹوٹ ٹوٹجھانک دو پاکستان
2	doc#1	ب سے اس سال مکمل ہوئے، میٹرو آئی ٹی، سٹی جلد مکمل ہونگے۔	گردی دہشت	ب سے اس سال مکمل ہوئے، میٹرو آئی ٹی، سٹی جلد مکمل ہونگے۔
3	doc#1	کوشش کرنی چاہیے تاکہ پاکستان اور سماج زندہ رہ سکیں۔	گردی دہشت	کوشش کرنی چاہیے تاکہ پاکستان اور سماج زندہ رہ سکیں۔
4	doc#2	گروہی تعصبات اور احقاقہ پالیسیوں کی وجہ سے پاکستان گزشتہ دو سال سے ایک بار پھر دہشت گردی کے عفریت کا شکار ہے۔	گردی دہشت	گروہی تعصبات اور احقاقہ پالیسیوں کی وجہ سے پاکستان گزشتہ دو سال سے ایک بار پھر دہشت گردی کے عفریت کا شکار ہے۔
5	doc#2	ام نہاد صحافی جو ہمیشہ پاکستان دشمن عناصر کا سہولت کار بننے کو ترجیح دیتے ہیں، دہشت گردی کے اس پھیلاؤ کو سہولت کار ہیں۔	گردی دہشت	ام نہاد صحافی جو ہمیشہ پاکستان دشمن عناصر کا سہولت کار بننے کو ترجیح دیتے ہیں، دہشت گردی کے اس پھیلاؤ کو سہولت کار ہیں۔
6	doc#2	اور مقام کی پرواہ کیے بغیر کٹرہ میں لایا جاتا، دار پہ کھینچا جاتا، نشان عبرت بنایا جاتا، دہشت گردی کی معاونت پر ان کے خلاف دہشت گردی کے مقدمات چلائے جاتے، سزائیں دی جاتی ہیں۔	گردی دہشت	اور مقام کی پرواہ کیے بغیر کٹرہ میں لایا جاتا، دار پہ کھینچا جاتا، نشان عبرت بنایا جاتا، دہشت گردی کی معاونت پر ان کے خلاف دہشت گردی کے مقدمات چلائے جاتے، سزائیں دی جاتی ہیں۔
7	doc#2	یا جاتا، دار پہ کھینچا جاتا، نشان عبرت بنایا جاتا، دہشت گردی کی معاونت پر ان کے خلاف دہشت گردی کے مقدمات چلائے جاتے، سزائیں دی جاتی ہیں۔	گردی دہشت	یا جاتا، دار پہ کھینچا جاتا، نشان عبرت بنایا جاتا، دہشت گردی کی معاونت پر ان کے خلاف دہشت گردی کے مقدمات چلائے جاتے، سزائیں دی جاتی ہیں۔
8	doc#2	ف وزری کرتے ہوئے افغانستان میں نام نہاد جہاد کا قریب دے کر غریب افغان شہریوں کو دہشت گردی کی آگ میں جھونکتے ہیں، جہاں ان کی دنیا ہی نہیں آخرت بھی تباہ ہو کر رہ جاتی ہے۔	گردی دہشت	ف وزری کرتے ہوئے افغانستان میں نام نہاد جہاد کا قریب دے کر غریب افغان شہریوں کو دہشت گردی کی آگ میں جھونکتے ہیں، جہاں ان کی دنیا ہی نہیں آخرت بھی تباہ ہو کر رہ جاتی ہے۔
9	doc#3	س/ انڈیا نے پاکستان میں 20 لوگوں کے قتل کے احکامات دیئے، برطانوی اخبار نے بھارتی دہشت گردی کا بھانڈا پھوڑ دیا لندن (نیورڈیسک)برطانوی اخبار دی گارڈین نے کہا ہے کہ انڈین حکومت	گردی دہشت	س/ انڈیا نے پاکستان میں 20 لوگوں کے قتل کے احکامات دیئے، برطانوی اخبار نے بھارتی دہشت گردی کا بھانڈا پھوڑ دیا لندن (نیورڈیسک)برطانوی اخبار دی گارڈین نے کہا ہے کہ انڈین حکومت
10	doc#3	کوگہ نئے الزامات ایسے افراد کے قتل کے حوالے سے ہیں جن پر پرتشدد شدت پسندی اور دہشت گردی کے الزامات ہے تاہم امریکہ اور کینیڈا نے انڈیا پر کھلے عام الزام لگایا ہے کہ وہ اختلافی	گردی دہشت	کوگہ نئے الزامات ایسے افراد کے قتل کے حوالے سے ہیں جن پر پرتشدد شدت پسندی اور دہشت گردی کے الزامات ہے تاہم امریکہ اور کینیڈا نے انڈیا پر کھلے عام الزام لگایا ہے کہ وہ اختلافی
11	doc#4	یجنس ایجنسی موساد اور روسی ایجنسی کے جی بی سے متاثر ہو کر شروع کیے۔	گردی دہشت	یجنس ایجنسی موساد اور روسی ایجنسی کے جی بی سے متاثر ہو کر شروع کیے۔
12	doc#4	ممکن اقدام کیا جائے گا، مریم نواز لاہور (ویڈیوسک)وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز نے کہا ہے کہ دہشت گردی کی سرکوبی کیلئے ہر ممکن اقدامات کیے جائیں گے، پنجاب میں نیشنل ایکشن پلان کو از	گردی دہشت	ممکن اقدام کیا جائے گا، مریم نواز لاہور (ویڈیوسک)وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز نے کہا ہے کہ دہشت گردی کی سرکوبی کیلئے ہر ممکن اقدامات کیے جائیں گے، پنجاب میں نیشنل ایکشن پلان کو از
13	doc#4	گردی کے خاتمے کے لیے	گردی دہشت	گردی کے خاتمے کے لیے
14	doc#4	کہنا تھا کہ دہشت گرد	گردی دہشت	کہنا تھا کہ دہشت گرد
15	doc#4	لواحقین کا جذبہ دیکھ کر	گردی دہشت	لواحقین کا جذبہ دیکھ کر
16	doc#4	وزیر اعلیٰ کا کہنا	گردی دہشت	وزیر اعلیٰ کا کہنا
17	doc#5	لکی مروٹ (ویب ڈیسٹ)مج	گردی دہشت	لکی مروٹ (ویب ڈیسٹ)مج
18	doc#5	بروی میں پاکستان اور قبائل	گردی دہشت	بروی میں پاکستان اور قبائل
19	doc#5	ی کی بنیاد پر صرف امریکا	گردی دہشت	ی کی بنیاد پر صرف امریکا

Figure 11 analytically questions the validity of participatory systems built on exploitation by emphasizing that such governments do not truly represent the people's voice. **گردی دہشت** is not restricted to physical battle but also engages social, ideological and economic actions to confront the root causes of **گردی دہشت**. It condemns the Western, specifically American, model of confronting **گردی دہشت**, asserting that instead of removing **گردی دہشت**, it generates and sustains it. The writer urges leading powers to stop imitating America's failed counter-terrorism strategies and calls for a united, sincere worldwide effort to address the root causes of **گردی دہشت** rather than conducting fake wars that serve political interests.

Figure 12

Collocations of Lemma **واقعات, خاتمہ, ملک, بلوچستان, انسداد, خلاف**

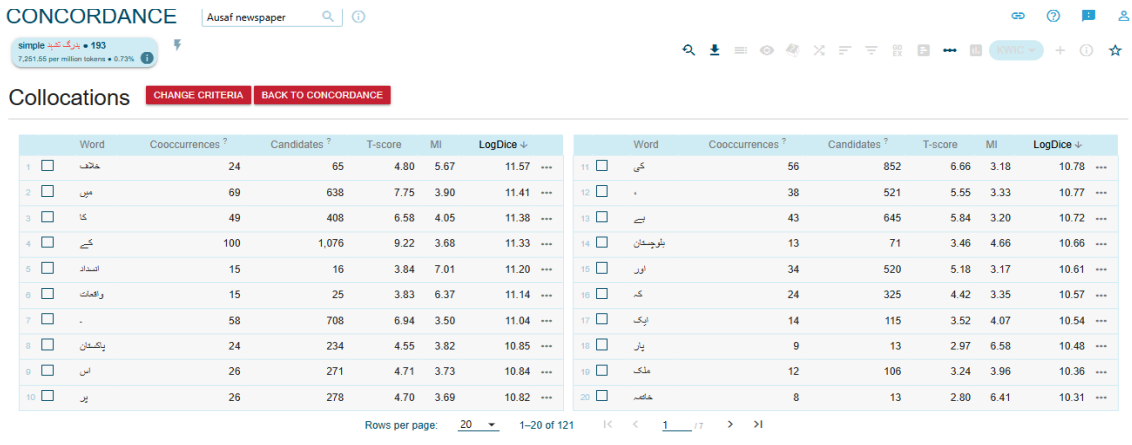


Figure 12 depicts the most frequently occurring collocates around the node-word **دہشت گردی**, along with the frequencies are **خلاف, انسداد, بلوچستان, واقعات, خاتمہ, ملک**, which are highlighted words in this corpus.

Table 2

Collocations of Ausaf-Newspaper

Words	Co occurrences	MI
خلاف	24	5.67
انسداد	15	7.01
پاکستان	24	3.82
بلوچستان	13	4.66
ملک	12	3.96
خاتمہ	8	6.41
واقعات	15	6.37

As demonstrated in Table 2, the word **دہشت گردی** appears 193 times. It has been linked with various things, such as Pakistan's internal law and order situation, which has been damaged again over the past two years, and is re-emerging in Pakistan. **دہشت گردی** has claimed the lives of numerous civilians and members of the military. The way *Ausaf Newspaper* and other publications portray it, Pakistan seems to be facing a highly critical situation. The fear of **دہشت گردی** has impacted societies. It fosters a constant state of unease between people, and this fear not only damages mental well-being but also affects financial development and social harmony.

3.2 Step 2

3.2.1 Semantic Roles in the Dawn newspaper

Table 3

Description of Agent, Victim and Solution

Agent	Victim	Solution
Terrorist organization	Public	Counter-terrorism

The semantic roles have been analysed using the CACDA approach. An observer that terrorists have been assigned the role of Agent, while the public of Pakistan has been assigned the role of Victim and while the Solution that the newspaper has provided is counterterrorism. The Dawn newspaper has portrayed terrorism as a tragedy in Pakistan, as terrorist organizations are killing many people. It is creating unrest among the public, and they are being affected by terrorism; therefore, it is a tragedy. In this step, the main analysis focused on the social issue, namely terrorism, and its semantic roles, with the Agent being a terrorist organization that commits acts of terror and creates unrest among people. The organization engages in aggressive acts to spread fear and disrupt society. These groups use various techniques like attacks, threats, or shootings to make people feel insecure and worried. Their main goal is to make the government look helpless and raise awareness for their cause. Just like an agent source something to

arise, terrorist organizations are the ones who start the issue and fear in a country or society. They are responsible for transforming calm places into areas filled with stress and fear.

Victims are public as they are targeted by the terrorist institution and killed by terrorists. Terrorists often attack places like schools, markets, buses, and public events. They do this to hurt innocent or ordinary people and create fear in society. The aim is to make everyone feel terrified and at risk, even if they have nothing to do with the clash or conflict. So, ordinary people become the main target and suffer the most, which is why we call them the victims of terrorism.

Lastly, the Solution suggested in the corpus is counterterrorism, which means that we need to take firm or serious action to end terrorism and keep citizens safe. Counter-terrorism involves everything police, safety and government forces do to find, stop and respond to terrorism. It includes capturing terrorists before they can attack, collecting information about the plans or ideas of terrorists and raising awareness to prevent people from joining terrorist organizations. So, counterterrorism is like a protection system. It is the solution because it helps ease fear, keep communities safe, and restore calm to areas impacted by aggression. Without counterterrorism, terrorist groups may continue to rise and destroy more innocent people.

3.2.2 Themes

- Pakistan's continued conflict against extremism, both within its dividing lines and through cross-border dangers, with a key area like Baluchistan and Afghanistan.
- It highlights the essential role of national and international forces, consisting of public authorities, ISPR, and worldwide partners like the US, in defeating terrorist tasks, blocking financial support, and securing political stability.

Figure 13

Semantic Roles in the Ausaf Newspaper

وفاق اور بلوچستان کے درمیان سیاسی یا انتظامی سطح پر موجود تنازعات یا اختلافات سے جڑے ہیں، جن کی وجہ سے مختلف واقعات رونما ہوتے ہیں

Figure 13 depicts the political and administrative conflicts or disagreements that exist between the federal government and Baluchistan, which have led to various incidents happening.

Table 4

Description of Agent, Victim and Solution

Agent	Victim	Solution
وفاقی حکومت (Federal government)	بلوچستان کے عوام (The people of Baluchistan)	باہمی مذاکرات (Mutual negotiations)

Table 4 reveals that Baluchistan and the government have many political differences. These concerns make people feel overlooked and treated unlawfully. Consequently, there is annoyance, disputes, and disturbances in the province, creating obstacles to peace.

Figure 14

Semantic Roles in the Ausaf Newspaper

بلوچستان کے احساس محرومی، شناخت کے بحران، اور بعض اوقات پاکستان کے وجود کے حوالے سے علیحدگی پسند نظریات کو ظاہر کرتی ہے، جو ملک کے اتحاد کے لیے خطرہ بن سکتے ہیں۔

Figure 14 depicts a sense of deficiency, an identity crisis, and a lack of trust on both sides in Baluchistan, which at times gives rise to independence aspirations that pose a risk to the country's unity.

Table 5

Description of Agent, Victim and Solution

Agent	Victim	Solution
ریاستی غفلت (State negligence)	بلوچستان کی نئی نسل (The new generation of Baluchistan)	عوامی شمولیت (Public participation)

Table 5 shows that Baluchistan feels unnoticed and left out, leading to an identity crisis and nationalist ideas. This erodes people's faith in the government and leaves them feeling cut off from the rest of the country, which can threaten Pakistan's unity.

Figure 15

Semantic Roles in the Ausaf Newspaper

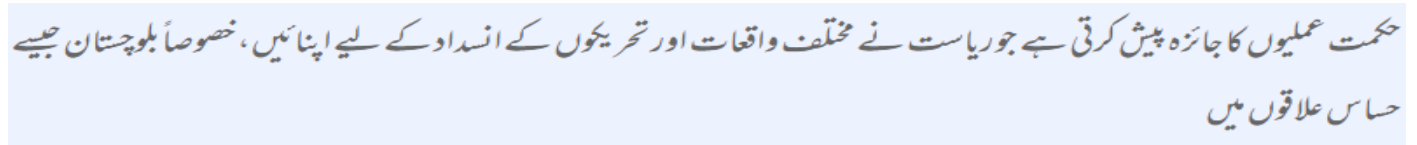


Figure 15 presents an analysis of the state's strategy in response to various events and movements, especially in sensitive regions such as Baluchistan.

Table 6

Description of Agent, Victim and Solution

Agent	Victim	Solution
فوج (Army)	مقامی آبادی / بے گناہ شہری (Innocent citizen)	شفاف تحقیقات، (Transparent investigation)

Table 6 reveals that the government deploys security forces to govern unrest in Baluchistan. Sometimes, these activities affect innocent people and create distress. This leaves local people more disappointed and widens the gap between them and the state. A better approach, grounded in justice and care, is needed.

3.3 Step 3

3.3.1 Dawn Newspaper

Table 7

Pronouns for the Lemma Terrorism

Pronouns	
Us	Them

In the Dawn corpus, the Pronoun *them* mostly refers to the terrorist group that commits violence in public and refers to Tehreek e Taliban, which is known as a terrorist group in Pakistan, or attackers, either as those performing violence or as those being targeted by counterterrorism. The Pronoun changes direct terms like '*militants*' or '*terrorists*' to make the sentence flow more smoothly and gracefully. Whereas in the Pronoun, *us*, *Terrorists want to divide us*. They attacked us to spread fear; the word '*us*' does not refer to a specific group of individuals, but rather to the edge community, the nation, or even kindness at large. It creates a sense of spirit and shared individuality among people influenced by or opposed to acts of terrorism. This use of '*us*' helps emotionally engage the audience and highlights that terrorism targets not just governments or organizations, but all of us as average citizens.

Table 8

Modality for the Lemma Terrorism

Modality		
Must	Should	Can

In the Dawn newspaper corpus, the Modality *should* be used to offer advice or suggestions, or to indicate what is anticipated or essential. Writers should use '*should*' to make statements more lenient and well-mannered. *Should* is used to express what the government, the army, or the people are expected to do. At the same time, the Modality *must* show strong obligation, need, or purpose. Writers must use '*must*' to express something essential. *Must* is used to refer to what the government, the military, or the people **must** implement. It makes the statement secure and thoughtful, presenting that accomplishment is desirable straightaway or highly recommended. At the same time, the Modality *can* be used to express ability, possibility, or permission. Writer's use *can* to state what is achievable or acceptable, building statements straight and perfect. *Can* is frequently used to indicate what the government, army, or people are proficient at or acceptable to do.

Table 9

Adjectives for the Lemma Terrorism

Adjectives		
Terrorist	Military	Political

The term *terrorist* is often used in the Dawn newspaper to define individuals or groups in elaborate, passionate acts against the state or public. It often appears in military and political contexts, highlighting threats to national security and the necessity of counter-terrorism measures. The term *military* is involved in safety operations, counter-terrorism efforts, and maintaining strength. They also play a role in national security and addressing internal and external pressures. The term '*Political*' often revolves around national security, foreign policy, and addressing various social issues. It involves considerations among political leadership, government officials, and the community to shape strategies and exercise dominance.

3.3.2 Ausaf Newspaper

Table 10

Pronouns for the Lemma دہشت گ رمی

Pronouns	
ہم	انہیں

The term ہم likely refers to *human* or *humanity*. These products propose an investigation of text concentrating on features associated with human understanding, society, or performance. The term (انہیں) refers to a cluster of people or things. The concordance appearances show its procedure in numerous circumstances, representing its part in linking actions and declarations to their topics.

Table 11

Modality for the Lemma دہشت گ رمی

Modality		
ضروری	کر سکتے	چاہیے

The term ضروری ہے provides concordance lines for its best use across various circumstances, highlighting the critical nature of the activities or ideas it conveys. The term کر سکتے ہیں, in its concordance, reveals its use to convey competency or potential in several actions and circumstances. The term چاہیے concordance validates its use in conveying necessity, obligation, or craving across diverse testimonials.

Table 12

Adjective for the lemma دہشت گ رمی

Adjective
انتہیلی

The term انتہیلی is often used in relation to Pakistani intelligence assistance, which exerts effort both internally and externally to meet the requirements of national security.

4. Results and Discussion

The comparative analysis of language in Pakistani English Dawn and Urdu newspapers effectively demonstrates how ideology is linguistically embedded in the discourse on terrorism. A primary finding is the construction of a polarized narrative through the phenomenon-framing in the English press; the consistent use of the pronoun *them* refers to terrorists, establishing an immediate sense of otherness and abnormality, while *us* is employed to represent the state or public, fostering united victimhood. This stark *Us-versus-them* binary is the most important pattern, shaping Jacqueline's national identity in opposition to terrorism. Similar distinctions are evident in Urdu, where ہم (we/us) denotes a supportive Pakistani identity, and انہیں (them) refers to the perpetrators. The Urdu register, while drawing the same line, presents this distinction with an overtly hostile or strictly unyielding tone than the English text. Furthermore, modality is instrumental in reinforcing institutional trust and action. In English, model words like *must*, *should*, and *can* are employed to assert responsibility, need and capability, as exemplified by calls for the government to take action. This pattern is mirrored in Urdu through terms like ضروری ہے (necessary), کر سکتے ہیں (can), (should), چاہیے. These model structures universally establish the state or military response as necessary and expected, thereby encouraging public confidence in their engagements. Overall, the most significant pattern across both languages is the support for a conservative ideology. Both the English and Urdu media consistently frame the state and military as guardians and defenders, while simultaneously constructing terrorists as alien enemies, thereby promoting national consensus under a state-centric view.

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