A Cross-linguistic Study of Metadiscourse in English and Urdu Newspaper Editorials

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Abstract

Metadiscourse markers are linguistic expressions which help the writers to organize their discourses. The original impetus for the research study came from the need to explore similarities and differences among the use and distribution of metadiscourse markers between two different languages, English and Urdu, within a single genre. To this end, the study as cross-linguistic research scrutinized a corpus of 100 newspaper editorials (50 taken from English newspapers and 50 from Urdu newspapers) written in Pakistan. Editorials were culled electronically from 5 English newspaper websites and 5 Urdu newspaper websites. To mitigate the diachronic effects on the selected sample, only editorials published in the first four months of 2020 (January, February, March, and April) were included in the corpora. Based on the model of metadiscourse markers given by Hyland (2005), both interactive and interactional categories of the model were analyzed. Frequencies of metadiscourse markers in both English and Urdu were counted through AntConc 3.5.7. They were compared and contrasted quantitatively and manually. The results disclosed that there were worth-pointing differences between the two groups. Two different languages showed variations among different subcategories of interactive and interactional metadiscourse resources. On the whole, findings suggested that the use of interactional metadiscourse was a predominant category and attitude marker was a predominant feature in both the groups. Analysis of differences that meta-discourse tools can encounter in the process of translating from English to Urdu or even other languages maybe another and very interesting field of inquiry.

Keywords: cross-linguistic, editorial, interactional metadiscourse, interactive metadiscourse, newspaper

1. Introduction

A newspaper is a vehicle of thought. It propagates ideas, ideologies, and philosophies in the minds of people. It is a powerful organ to public opinion. Abdollahzadeh (2007) believes that the newspaper is some kind of socio-cultural practice through which the author describes an event of great interest to the public. The language of newspaper discourse is quite interesting since the writers try to convince anonymous readers who may share the writer's point of view or who may not. It is the primary objective of the newspapers to present the news of the day by informing its reader about their opinion on specific news (Hough, 2006). In short, a newspaper creates a discourse which constructs knowledge and belief of the people (Fairclough, 1992).

Editorials are one of the most important parts of any newspaper. They are important in designing the opinion of an anonymous reader who is sitting in a farfetched area and reading the newspaper. They contain the newspaper editorialists' opinion about a specific event by representing their media group. Editorialists, who write editorials on behalf of the newspaper, are the ones who are the real propagators of political and cultural ideologies (Ansary&Babaii, 2009). They try to propagate the political and ideological agenda of different political parties in the minds of their readers. For this, editors try to unearth the hidden aspect of the news for their readers. They try to highlight information in a way which they believe can support their opinions (Shafique, Anwar & Shahbaz, 2019).

Editorialists utilize metadiscourse to organize their texts to achieve their ulterior purposes, the purposes for which they are working (Kuhi&Mojood, 2014; Abdollahzadeh, 2007). Writers design the position and ideology of their readers through the style and organization of their texts (Gee, 2014). An editorialist may persuade, motivate, change, and even manipulate others. For this purpose, editorialists use metadiscourse as a strategy of manipulation and persuasion. Authors use a meta-discourse to guide their audience and present an acceptable competent individual to inform their audience, because, according to Hyland (1998a), meta-discourse is an essential part of convincing writing (Hyland, 1998a). Thus, cogent writings should also be considered as a key subject of inquiry for meta-discourse analysis.

Moreover, it is generally accepted that language is a part of society constructed culturally (Moreno, 1997). Society is inextricably linked to a culture which means that a piece of writing is a reflection of culture (Kaplan, 1966). The result of such a cultural phenomenon is that every society has its language and rhetorical norms and traditions (Connor, 1996). Therefore, it can be pointed out that the usage of metadiscourse may vary across different cultures, languages, and communities. In that respect, Ansary and Babaii (2009) point out that newspaper editorials seem to be an essential and interesting genre for the investigation of linguistic variations among different cultures because editorials are indicative of native customs and dogmatic tendencies.

In brief, there are variations in the linguistic forms of the two same articles, published in two distinct languages (Kuhi&Mojood, 2014). This suggests that the methods persuading audiences vary across different languages and genres, as Hyland (2005) claims that editorials distinctly utilize meta-discourse to convince and inform their readers. It also follows that there might be some clear rules and traditions in terms of the usage and dissemination of meta-discourses corresponding to the field of editorials. From the other side, it can be suggested, due to the findings of contrastive and cross-linguistic studies, that the usages of meta-discourse differ among different editorials published in different languages. Consequently, a cross-linguistic study on the organization of metadiscourse markers would yield interesting results in newspapers' editorials.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Theoretical Background

The notion of metadiscourse was first commenced by ZellingHariss in 1959 (as cited in Hyland, 2005). However, during the 60s and 70s, it was neglected. In the 80s metadiscourse got the attention of some scholars and became the subject of their investigation. According to Hyland (2010), metadiscourse appeared for the correction of previous versions of the language in which language was regarded as an expository and propositional mode of representing ideas and notions. Now, there are numerous ways in which metadiscourse can be realized. That is why various scholars have classified meta-discourse in many ways and employed in different ways in different fields of studies (e.g. Adel, 2006; Hyland &Tse, 2004; Dafouze, 2003; Hyland, 1998a; Crismore, Markkanen & Steffensen, 1993).

Table 1: Interactive category of the Model

Subcategory	Function	Example
Transition	It tells about the relation in main clauses.	Thus, And, In addition to, But
Frame Markers	Frame markers refer to act, sequence, and stages in the text.	Finally, To conclude, In the end, etc.
Endophoric Markers	These markers tell us about the information present in the different parts of the text.	See section 2, Noted above, See Figure 1, etc.
Evidentials	They tell us about the information from other texts.	According to A, B states/points out, As cited in.
Code glosses	They explain the prepositional meanings of a text.	In more simple words, Such as, In other words, etc.

Source: (Hyland, 2004, 2005; Hyland & Tse, 2004)

Table 2: Interactional category of the Model

Subcategory	Function	Example
Hedges	Hedges point out commitment and open dialogue.	Might, Perhaps, Possible, etc.
Boosters	They point out certainty and close dialogue.	Definitely, In fact, It is clear.
Attitude Marker	It expresses the writer's opinion and attitude to the proposition.	I agree, Unfortunately, Surprisingly, etc.
Self-mentions	It points out the writer's reference.	I, We, My, Me, Our, etc.
Engagement Markers	They point out the engagement of the writer with his/her readers.	As you can see, Consider, Note, etc.

Source: (Hyland, 2004, 2005; Hyland & Tse, 2004)

Researchers generally deemed two major aspects of meta-discourse, which include textual as well as interpersonal. The researchers, related to this approach, were influenced by the Systemic

Functional Approach (SFG) of language (Halliday's approach, 1994). However, Hyland and Tse rejected this approach of strict duality in 2004.

They came up with their metadiscourse model, known as the Interpersonal model. Hyland Model is split into two interactional and interactive categories. The interactive group directs the reader through the document whereas the interactional division directs the user through the content (Hyland, 2005). Interactive and interactional are tabulated in Table 1 and Table 2 respectively.

2.2. Previous Studies in the Field

Studying metadiscourse is a well-established research field. Many researchers have conducted research using the interpersonal metadiscourse model. Different markers of metadiscourse have been identified and examined in many ways by researches in several circumstances, together with science popularizations, books (reviews) (Bal-Gezegina, 2016; Hyland, 1999; Crismore, 1984), student writing (Crismore, Markkanen & Steffensen, 1993), research articles (Uba, 2020; Rashidi & Alihosseini, 2012; Mauranen, 1993; Valero, 1996; Moreno, 1997; Hyland, 1998b, 2000; Mur-Duenas, 2011; Gillaerts & Velde, 2010), and advertisement (Olivera et. al., 2001). Surprisingly, however, little consideration has been devoted to the genre of newspaper opinions and editorials, except for a few studies. Some of them are discussed here briefly.

Hassan and Said (2020) researched evaluation hedges in American political editorials. They tried to investigate the pragmatic role of hedges and their formal realization in American newspaper editorials. They selected 25 editorials for their investigation of hedges based on the model of Hayland (1998), Aertsalaer and Bunce (2011), and Malaskova (2014). After the analysis of the data, they came up with results that hedges play an important role by shaping the truth of the information for the readers. The study concluded that using hedges paves the way for the writers by investing a certain degree of commitment into the truth.

Hassan, Gulnaz, Shafique, and Adrees (2019) researched the use of metadiscourse markers in Pakistani English newspapers. They investigated the difference between male and female writers from the use of the interactional category of the Hyland (2005) model. A mixed-method approach was used for the analysis of the data. AntConc software was used as a research tool. The study revealed that male writers used more directives and shared knowledge. It showed that female writings were well mannered.

Tayyiba and Amana (2019) investigated the functions of metadiscourse markers in *The News* newspaper opinion to determine MMs role in Pakistani English. It was a corpus-based study which was consisted of 20,000 words of data. For the analysis of the data, a mixed-method, consisting of both qualitative and quantitative, was used. The results of the study revealed that metadiscourse markers were used as coherence devices. It also revealed that textural metadiscourse markers were very frequent in the data.

Shafique, Anwar, and Shahbaz (2019) investigated the role of hedges and boosters in Urdu newspapers editorials. For this purpose, they collected a corpus of 01 million words. The data were analyzed by using Hyland (2005) model. The study by using the theoretical framework of the

model analyzed the role of hedges and boosters in Urdu newspapers. The findings of the study showed that Urdu newspapers used hedges more frequently by showing the uncertainty in their writings. The study concluded that uncertainty is a key feature of the Urdu newspaper discourse.

In the same way, Siddique, Mahmood, and Iqbal (2018) evaluated the role of metadiscourse markers (MMs) in Pakistani English newspaper editorials. For this, they developed a corpus of 1000 editorials which were taken from 04 Pakistani English newspapers (Dawn News, The Frontier, The Express Tribune, and The News). Two hundred and fifty editorials were taken from each newspaper. A comprehensive model on Interpersonal metadiscourse has been proposed and it has been categorized into interactive and interactional markers. The findings of the study revealed that the ration of interactive metadiscourse markers was more than interactional metadiscourse markers. On the base of the findings, the study concluded that MMs are used by the writers of newspaper editorials for the organization of their discourses which help them to express their point of view to their readers.

Contrastive studies are more important than a normal investigation of metadiscourse because they analyze two fields and by comparing the fields give results. They are of more importance to the understanding of cultural and linguistic variations (Mina & Biria, 2017). Bhatia and Genre (1993) pointed out that there are a lot of genres within one newspaper such as sports reports, opinions, editorials, news reports, and headlines, etc. which make the language of a newspaper attractive. In such a wide variety of genres, the newspapers, especially the editorials are the most significant and appropriate for the analysis of metadiscourse because editorials hold writers' opinions about political and public issues (Mina & Biria, 2017).

Abdullah, Rahmat, and Zawawi (2020) studied the genre of newspapers article from the metadiscourse markers' perspective. The study aimed to identify interactional metadiscourse makers which were used by Malaysian and South Korean authors in their online newspaper articles during COVID-19. For this purpose, the study adopted Hyland (2005) model as its theoretical framework. The findings of the study revealed that self-mentions were absent in both articles. However, there was a considerable portion of hedges, boosters, engagement markers, and attitude markers in both sets of data. The study revealed that South Korean author used more interactional resources as compared to the Malaysian authors.

Mashhady (2015) conducted contrastive research for the evaluation of functions of metadiscourse markers in English and Persian newspaper editorials. The study was mainly concerned about the differences between English and Persian newspaper editorials in the use of different markers. Data were collected in the form of newspaper editorials from 44 randomly selected editorials. Analysis of data through Chi-Square showed that culture plays an important role in the use of metadiscourse markers. Hedges were used more frequently in English newspaper editorials than Persian newspapers editorials. On the whole, the study concluded that there were some major differences in both types of editorials which might be because of cultural differences.

Mojood and Kuhi (2014) published a comparative analysis of Persian and English editorials based on Hyland's model (2005). The findings indicated that Persian and English editorials varied from one another owing to their linguistic and cultural variations. The study pointed out that attitude markers and interactional markers were very prominent in newspaper

editorials. On the whole, the results of the research commended that metadiscourse has a conclusive role in the organization of persuasive techniques in newspaper commentaries.

Dafouz-Milne (2008) conducted contrastive research on two elite newspapers *The Time* (British) and *El Paı´s* (Spanish) for the evaluation of the role of metadiscourse markers. The study aimed to investigate the use of metadiscourse markers in two distinct cultures. For this purpose, a total of 40 newspaper opinion columns (20 written in English and 20 written in Spanish) were selected. Findings of the study revealed that interpersonal metadiscourse markers and textual metadiscourse markers both were present in the data. The study also revealed that there were certain variations in the use of textual categories. Regarding the persuasive effect of metadiscourse, informants agreed that a balanced number of both textual and interpersonal markers were necessary to render the text persuasive and reader-oriented

Although, many types of research were conducted in the past by the different researchers in different genres, unfortunately, there appears to be a shortage of work on meta-discourse in newspaper editorials in general and cross-linguistic work on meta-discourse throughout this genre in particular. To fill this gap, the present study was sought to assess metadiscourse markers in Urdu and English newspaper editorials or to analyze the possible similarities and/or discrepancies between the usages of metadiscourse markers in two different texts within the same genre. As such, the research is one of the few studies which explore interactional and interactive metadiscourse indicators in two different languages within the same genre. The research was designed to address the following research questions:

1. How are interactive metadiscourse markers used in English newspaper editorials different from those employed in the Urdu newspaper editorials?
2. How are interactional metadiscourse markers used in English newspaper editorials different from those employed in the Urdu newspaper editorials?
3. What are the predominant categories and features of metadiscourse used in the newspaper editorial genre and what do they indicate in relation to how ideas and opinions are presented in both corpora?

3. Research Methodology

3.1. Corpus Development and Its Size

Two different corpora were built based on the selection of 100 editorials (50 transcribed in Urdu and 50 transcribed in English) taken from English newspapers and Urdu newspapers. In the case of comparative and contrastive studies, the comparability of the two research corpora is quite significant. The topic of a manuscript plays a critical part in the form and volume of meta-discourses used in a given text (Dafouz, 2003; Thompson, 2001; Hayland, 1999). Editorials across both groups have therefore been chosen from a broad array of topics, complementing the two different languages in terms of subject matter and trying to meet this demand. Another requirement that was kept in mind for the selection of editorials was of diachronic effects on the sample. To meet this requirement, editorials were culled from the first four months of 2020 (January, February, March, and April).

3.2. Procurement and Retrieval of the Corpus

The data collection procedure for the research was based on retrieving the data from the electronic version of English and Urdu newspapers in Pakistan through the internet. Newspapers from both languages, selected for this study, have been chosen very carefully by keeping in mind the criteria suggested by Nwogu (1997). All the selected newspapers, belonging to both languages, are representative, well-reputed, and easily accessible through the internet. Circulation of the newspapers was also kept in mind for the selection of newspapers. The compiled corpus meets all four criteria. Keeping in mind all the above-said criteria, 10 newspapers were selected for the study (5 in English and 5 in Urdu). The retrieval process of data was based on the following four stages. In the first stage, English and Urdu newspapers editorials were retrieved from their respective websites through the internet. Secondly, two metadata files were created which contained the following categories: number of words, name of newspaper, date, and title. After these preliminaries, data belonging to both languages were converted into two different.*txt* files. In the final stage, both files were made readable and acceptable for the software, especially the Urdu data file, by changing their coded languages. The encoding of the Urdu file was altered from ASCII to UTF-8 to make Urdu script readable for software as AntConc 3.5.7 (2018) is not compatible with Urdu files in standard settings.

3.3. AntConc 3.5.7

Hyland's model (2005) was used as an instrument for the analysis of corpora. AntConc 3.5.7 (2018) is a corpus tool which is used for the analysis of data related to corpus linguistics. It is used for the analysis of different texts collected in the notepad file. The tool is designed by Laurence Anthony. It can also be used for the Urdu language, the way it is used in this research study, but Urdu language should be made acceptable and readable by changing its coded language.

3.4. Size and Distribution of the Corpus

Table 3: A summary of corporasize and distribution

Sr. No	Name of Newspaper	Language	No of Editorials	Words
01	Dawn		10	12780
02	The News International		10	10171
03	Pakistan Observer		10	14837
04	The Nation	**English**	10	12339
05	Express Tribune		10	13018
	Total		**50**	**63674**
06	Daily Express		10	12482
07	Daily Jang		10	9011
08	Nawaiwaqat	**Urdu**	10	14527
09	Khabrain		10	11506
10	Daily Ausaf		10	14486
Total			**50**	**62044**
Grand Total			**100**	**125718**

Five English and Five Urdu newspapers, which were of national reputation, were selected. A total of one hundred editorials (50 from English newspapers and 50 from Urdu newspapers) related to politics (national/international), health, gender issues, governance, and Kashmir issue were selected. Corpus of the English language consisted of 63674 words (Tokens), while the corpus of the Urdu language consisted of 62044 words (Tokens). Table 3 throws further light on the size and distribution of data taken from English and Urdu newspapers editorials.

3.5. Process of Corpus Analysis

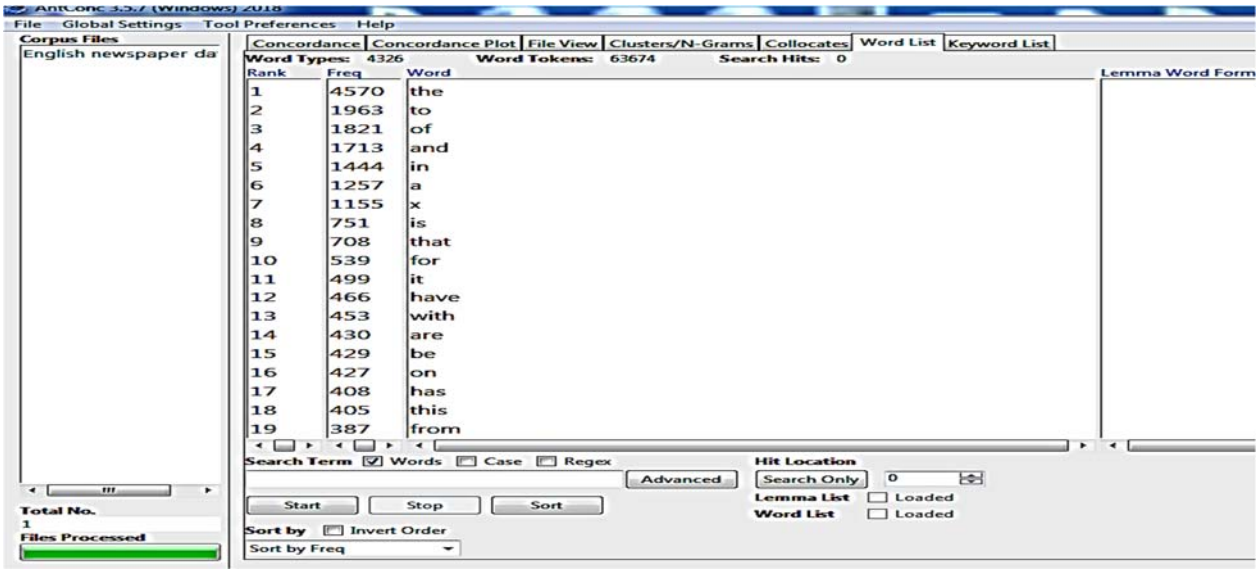

Figure 1: Analysis of English newspaper data

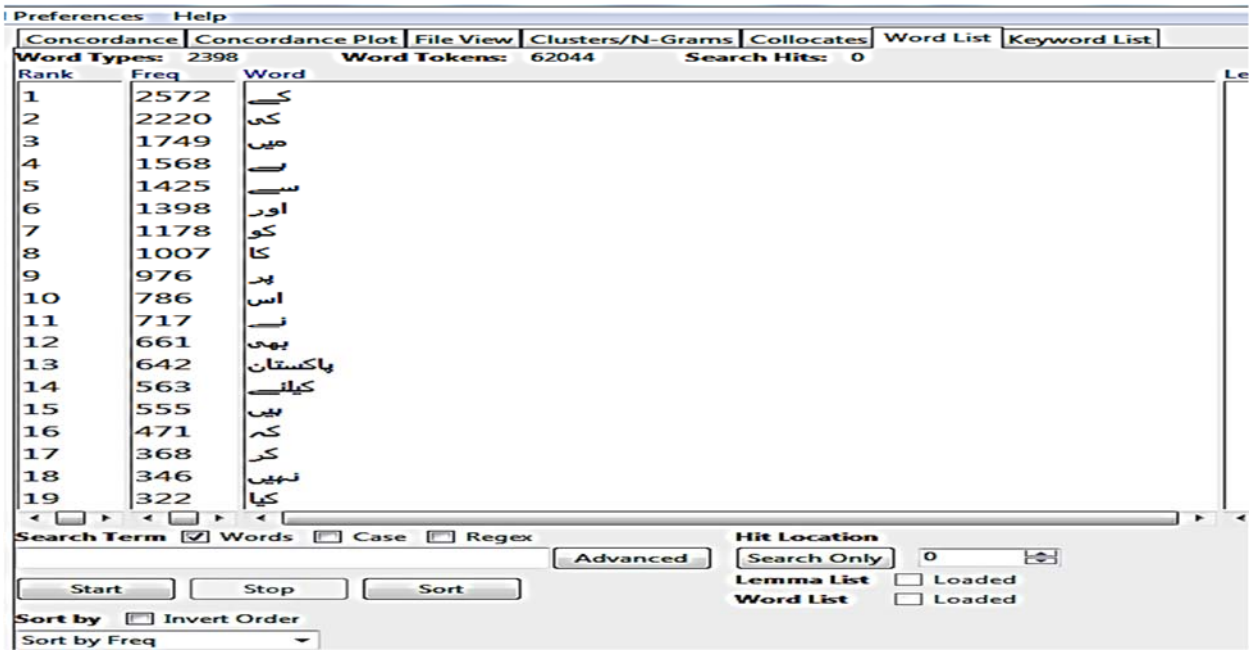

Figure 2: Analysis of Urdu newspaper data

The data were culled from the websites of the newspapers in *HTML* format and then was converted into *.txt* file to make it readable for the software. In the case of Urdu newspapers editorials, the encoding of the file is altered from ASCII to UTF-8 to make Urdu script readable for the software, as AntConc is not compatible with Urdu files in standard settings. The lists of interactive and interactional metadiscourse markers of the Urdu language are given in Appendix A.

After the preliminaries, frequencies of both groups were calculated through the software and investigated manually to find out their true role in the text. Figures 1 and 2 throw light on the analysis process in a more tangible way.

After making both corpora readable for the software and counting their frequencies according to the above-said model, a quantitative review was performed to assess the prevalence of various forms of metadiscourse groups and to make comparisons of the two types of data. Surprisingly, both the corpora were of almost the same length, so there was no need for standardizing the data by using the 1000-word method.

4. Results

The evaluation of the data indicated that the instances of interactional metadiscourse markers and interactive metadiscourse markers remain nearly identical in two groups. Quantitative findings indicated that interactional metadiscourse indicators were higher than interactive metadiscourse indicators. Clearly stated, both Urdu and English newspaper editorials featured more interactional content, 3908 and 2761 respectively, unlike interactive ones, 839 and 1031. Interestingly, there was not much disparity between the two languages in utilizing metadiscourse resources. For more detail about the analysis and results of the interactive categories, appendices could be consulted which are given at the end of the study (See Appendices G, H, I, and J).

Table 4**:** Frequencies and percentages of Interactive metadiscourse markers in corpus

Interactive Category	**English**		**Urdu**	
	Frequency	**Percentage**	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Transition (TS)	462	55.06	699	67.79
Frame Markers (FMs)	15	1.78	82	7.95
Endophoric Markers (EMs)	00	0.00	06	0.58
Evidentials (EDs)	153	18.23	129	12.51
Code Glosses (CGs)	209	24.91	115	11.15
Total	**839**	**100**	**1031**	**100**

Source: Authors' calculations

As it is shown in table 2, transition, a subcategory of interactive metadiscourse makers, was the most commonly used indicator in both editorial language groups. In the case of English newspaper editorials, TS with the frequency of 462 are followed by the CGs with the rate of recurrence of 209, EDs with 153, and FMs with the frequency of 15 appear in the fourth position. On the other hand, in the case of Urdu newspaper editorials, TS with a frequency of 699 appear in the first position, followed by EDs with a frequency of 129, CGs with a frequency of 115, FMs

with 82, and EMs with 06. EMs were absent in English newspaper editorials. For more details about the analysis and results of the interactional categories of metadiscourse markers, appendices could be consulted at end of the study (See Appendices B, C, D, E, and F).

Table 5**:** Frequencies and percentages of interactional metadiscourse markers in the corpus

Interactional Category	**English**		**Urdu**	
	Frequency	**Percentage**	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Hedges (HDs)	951	24.33	450	16.29
Boosters (BS)	434	11.10	379	13.72
Attitude Marker (AMs)	1684	43.09	1265	45.88
Self-mentions (SMs)	26	0.66	47	1.70
Engagement Markers (EngM)	813	20.80	620	22.44
Total	**3908**	**100**	**2761**	**100**

Source: Authors' calculations

Concerning the interactional category, Table 5 uncovered that AMs which is a subgroup of the interactional group appeared at the top of the list in both English and Urdu newspapers editorials. Urdu newspapers editorials used these makers slightly more than their English counterparts, 45.88%, and 43.09% respectively. However, English and Urdu editorials differed very much in terms of other subcategories of the interactional category. English editorials exploited 951 resources of HDs which were more than their Urdu counterpart (Frequency=450), followed by EngMs (Frequency=813), and BS with a frequency of 434. On the other hand, in Urdu newspapers editorials, EngMs appeared in the second position with a frequency of 620, followed by HDs (Frequency=450) and BS (Frequency=379). Self-mention was the least subcategory used in both groups (26 English and 47 in Urdu). Figure 3throws further light on this in a more tangible way.

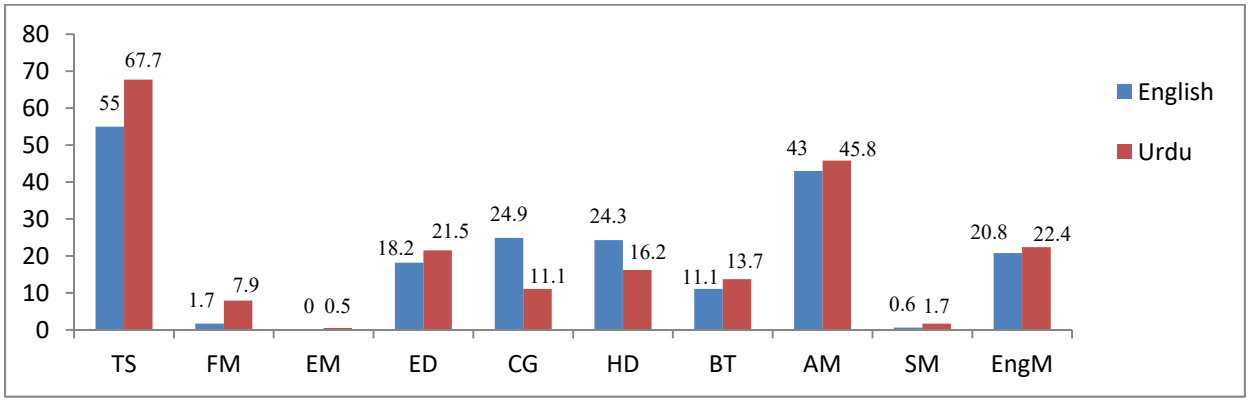

Figure 3: Percentages of metadiscourse markers in Urdu and English editorials

To draw a clear analysis of the usage of metadiscourse markers between Urdu and English newspaper editorials and to concentrate more on the research questions of the study, a rank of comparison of all the metadiscourse markers used in both groups is indispensable. The average rated comparison of the occurrence of meta-discourse resources in two classes of editorials, irrespective of their key categories, are presented in table 6.

Table 6: Rated frequency of interactive and interactional markers

Rank	English Newspapers Editorials	Rank	Urdu Newspapers Editorials
1	Attitude Markers (AMs) = 1684	1	Attitude Markers (AMs) = 1265
2	Hedges (HDs) = 951	2	Transitions (TS) = 699
3	Engagement Markers (EngM) = 813	3	Engagement Markers (EngM)= 620
4	Transitions (TS) = 462	4	Hedges (HDs) = 450
5	Boosters (BSs) = 434	5	Boosters (BS) = 379
6	Code Glosses (CGs) = 209	6	Evidentials (EDs) = 129
7	Evidentials (EDs) = 153	7	Code Glosses (CGs) = 115
8	Self Mentions (SMs) = 26	8	Frame Markers (FMs) = 82
9	Frame Markers (FMs) = 15	9	Self Mentions (SMs) = 47
10	Endophoric Markers (EMs) = 00	10	Endophoric Markers (EMs) = 06

Source: Authors' calculations

The findings reported in Table 6 are presented by their total distribution of the metadiscourse indicators of both corpora. The table revealed that the AMs stood first in the table. It means that the Urdu and English newspaper editorialists were the most frequent in the use of AMs. Two groups of data were different according to rank 2 of the table. In English editorials, editorialists used HDs 951 times by putting them in the second position, while in Urdu editorialists used TS 699 times by putting them in the second position. EngM, a subcategory of interactional metadiscourse markers, are in the third rank in both groups with the representation of 813 and 620, respectively. These two sides varied in the usage of the fourth most common subclass of meta-discourse tools. In the English language editorialists group, this position is occupied by TS (462), followed by BS (434) and CG (209) while in the Urdu language editorialists' group, this place is apportioned to HDs (450), followed by BS (379) and EDs (129). Two groups differ again at the 7^{th} rank of the given table. In the English corpus, this rank is assigned to EDs, followed by SMs and FMs while in the Urdu corpus it is assigned to CGs, followed by FMs and SMs.Two classes hit a common point for the first time; which can be seen through Table 6, the 10th place of the graded frequency table belongs to the EMs in both English and Urdu editorial corpora. They are ranked 10th because they are the dual lowest frequent metadiscourse indicators identified across both editorial categories. The English language editorialists did not use any markers belonging to EMs while Urdu editorialists used them for just 06 times.

5. Discussion

On the whole, findings of the study revealed that the editorialists of both languages, English and Urdu, utilize all subcategories of metadiscourse markers in their editorials. This initial finding shows that both Urdu and English writers of editorials utilize interactional metadiscourse indicators in their editorials which show that they were conscious of the momentous part of metadiscourse markers in persuasion and manipulation (Hyland, 2005). Editorialists used engagement markers, endophoric markers, and frame markers to organize and construct their writings, as it is very much visible by their percentages in the evaluated texts.

The interactive category, which indicates the relationship between thoughts and the arrangement of a document, has been used less than that of the interactional type, which is perceived to be crucial elements for reader understanding by the generation of a relationship between reader and writer (Abdollahzadeh, 2007). Moreover, both groups used subcategories of interactive metadiscourse with almost the same frequency and percentage in both groups of data. It means that for both groups of editorialists the relationship between the reader and writer was more important than the organization of the text, and it might be called the specific trait of newspaper editorials genre. The underuse of interactive metadiscourse markers than interactional metadiscourse markers can also be because of the same culture, Pakistani culture, and same topics, related to politics, health, gender issues, governance, etc. In a nutshell, the results of the study suggest that interaction is more critical for audiences than a content organization for editorialists. This preliminary finding of the study is in line with Kuhi and Mojood (2014).

This interactional metadiscourse is a resource of logical, persuasive, and manipulative varieties (Hyland, 2005) so, it can be found very frequently and commonly in the newspaper editorials. Dafouz (2003) while pointing out the persuasive and manipulative nature of interpersonal metadiscourse (interactional in Hyland's model) stated that interpersonal metadiscourse is very significant in the building of a manuscript which appears attractive, logical, and convincing to the reader. Hence, the findings suggest that both groups of editorialists, English editorialists, and Urdu editorialists, utilize interactional metadiscourse indicators more frequently to make their writings more convincing and more appealing.

Findings of this research disclosed that TS, a subcategory of interactive metadiscourse indicators, was the most frequent subcategory among all the subcategories of interactive resources in both English and Urdu editorials. Interactive metadiscourse markers have a guiding and facilitating function in the text (Kuhi&Mojood, 2014) so far transitions satisfy this criterion by signaling inclusion, distinction yet contrasts (Kuhi&Behnam, 2011). That is why the presence of TS in the current study showed that evaluated corpora have had a well-organized and well-structured text to guide their readers in reading the texts. Few examples which have been found in English and Urdu editorials are discussed below. Urdu editorials examples are given in the Urdu script, and literal translations are given for them.

- *During the same period, Pakistan **also** reported its highest single-day total of Covid-19 fatalities with 17 deaths. (Dawn, 04 April 2020)*
- ***But** in the last decades of the previous century, they were abandoned as a relic of the past. (The News, 15 February 2020)*

(پ) فیصلہ حکومت کیلئے مشکل تھا **لیکن** حالات دیکھتے ہوئے کیا گیا۔ *(روزنامہ ایکسپریس، 23 مارچ 2020)*

(ج) **لیکن** پچاس سال بعد 1967 میں اسے خواتین کی عالمی تحریک میں بدل دیا گیا۔ *(روزنامہ جنگ، 10 مارچ2020)*

From the interactional category of metadiscourse, findings of the analysis showed that AM is a separate category of interactional metadiscourse indicators, stood the most frequent category employed by the editorialists of both groups, English and Urdu. However, according to Hyland (2005), the AMs provide an incentive to authors to indicate the expectation of mutual beliefs, principles, and responses through the text, thereby voicing their viewpoint and drawing viewers into a web of consensus such that it can always be impossible to interfere with these viewpoints. Therefore, their higher frequency in the corpora confirms that editorials belonging to English and

Urdu were appealing and persuasive. The examples cited are some indications of such indicators throughout the corpus of the research.

- ***Unfortunately**, it does ring somewhat empty when the PM continues to blame the corruption and plundering of previous government rather than focusing on his own team's member. (Express Tribune, 23 April 2020)*

[ب]- بہ بات بھی خالی از **دلچسپی** نہیں کہ ٹرانسپرنسی انٹرنیشنل برلن کی رپورٹ میں نیب یا اسکے چیئرمین کی تعریف کی بات شامل نہیں۔ *(روزنامہ اوصاف، 25 جنوری2020)*

[پ]- دنیا بھر کے ترقی یافتہ ممالک نے **تسلیم کر لیا** کہ اگر اس وبائی مرض سے چھٹکارا حاصل کرنا ہے تو حضرت محمّد ﷺ کی ہدایات پر عمل کرنا ہو گا۔ (*روزنامہ خبریں، ۲۳ اپریل 2020*)

The results of the study, therefore, indicate that both groups of editorialists gave primary importance to metadiscourse markers which show that English and Urdu editorialists were aware of the significant importance of the persuading power of metadiscourse resources. The almost similar distribution of AMs in both Urdu and English languages displays that AMs portrayed a convincing and pivotal role in the text regardless of their linguistic background. To conclude, frequent use of AMs is an inherent characteristic of editorials.

An interesting difference was found between groups, English editorial, and Urdu editorials, from a cross-linguistic angle. The findings of the study revealed that Urdu editorials contained almost 50% less HDs than English editorials. According to Hyland (1994), hedges play a significant role in promoting the identity of the author and establishing audience-writer connections. The following are several good examples of such services in the corpus analyzed are given under:

- *The findings of the annual report **must be** an eye-opener for many in the rest of the world and even India, but here in Pakistan, none of this is a revelation. (The Nation, 30 April 2020)*
- *The world especially the UN and important capital **must** act fast. (Pakistan Observer 31 March 2020)*

[پ]-اس معاہدے کی کامیابی سے افغانستان میں امن کا راستہ نکل **سکتا** ہے۔ (*روزنامہ نوائے وقت، 16 فروری 2020*)

The English editorialists excessively use HDs in contrast to their Urdu newspaper editorialists. It may be because of rhetorical conventions that are used by two sets of writers. In a nutshell, the results of the research found that English language editorials had a more reader-writer relationship than Urdu language editorials.

As regards the third research question of the study, both the newspaper editorialists have used attitude markers quite frequently with the frequency of 1684 and 1265, respectively. The highest frequency of the attitude markers in editorialists showed editorialists' attitude towards specific topics of the editorials and in this way by using AMs they tried to organize their readers' opinions. Engagement markers have the 3rd highest frequency in both corpora which showed that the editorialists tried to engage their readers in their text and in this way they made the genre of newspaper editorials more convincing.

6. Conclusion

As regards the very first question of the study, the results showed that both groups of editorialists differed in terms of the use of interactive metadiscourse resources. The study found that English language editorialists used more interactive metadiscourse indicators than Urdu newspaper editorialists. Overall, the results showed that metadiscourse indicators played a significant role in the organization of editorials. Editorialists made their writing more engaging and influential by using booster, evidential, and transition markers which are quite visible from their percentages in both corpora.

To cope with the second research question, it could be claimed that interactional metadiscourse markers were also quite frequent in the corpus. Findings further uncovered that English editorials have had more interactional markers than Urdu editorials. These help them in creating a strong link between them and their readers. The study also indicated that interactional markers played an important role in maintaining the link between reader and writer as it is indicated through attitude markers in both varieties. To deal with the third research question it is argued that the interactional metadiscourse category was predominant in the editorials genre and the predominant metadiscourse feature was attitude marker (AM) which is a subcategory of interactional metadiscourse.

The present study as contrastive research took a step towards the cross-linguistic analysis of two languages, English and Urdu, in the same genre. It is hoped that it would be beneficial for the learners of language to analyze and identify linguistic variation in both languages. There is considerable potential in this area for future research. Analysis and determination of metadiscourse markers in the Urdu language were one of the difficulties of the study because Hyland's model (2005) was originally formulated in the English language. Another fact which made the analysis of the Urdu newspaper difficult and time taking activity was the lack of study available in the field. There are very few studies available that deals with the Urdu language. The software AntConc 3.5.7 also gave a tough time to research. Assuming that linguistic instruments are being used differently around languages and societies, it often suggests that the analysis of differences that meta-discourse tools can encounter in the process of translating from English to Urdu or even other languages maybe another and very interesting field of inquiry.

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Appendix A

Interactional metadiscourse markers of Urdu language

Hedges	وسیع	بڑا	مجبوری سے	قاری
مجموعی	بھرپور	بڑی	مجبور	کے متعلق
معمول	شدید	پورا	شوق سے	اضافہ کرنا
امکانات	یقیناً	بڑے	ضروری	ویسے ہی
ممکنہ	ٹھیک	تمام	لازم و ملزوم	موازنہ
متنازعہ	بھاری	بہت	یقینی طور پر	کرنا
فقط	بلکل	اعلی	یقینا	ترتیب سے
کئی	انتہا	**Attitude Markers**	ترجیح دینا	بیان کرنا
متوقع	بلاشبہ	حیران کن	خوش ہونا	غور سے
تقریباً	تیز	حیران کن طور پر	**Self-mention**	گھورنا
اندازہ	خوب	مضحکہ خیز	میں	مشاہدہ کرنا
متعدد	وسیع	خوش قسمت	آپ	آپ
ذرا	لازمی	خوش قسمتی سے	ہم	آپ کا
چند	لازم	حیرت انگیز	ہمارا	ایک جیسا
کچھ	حقیقی	حیرت انگیز طور پر	ہمیں	کے متعلق سوچنا
عموما	سنگین	حیرانی	مجھے	چاہیے
شائد	لاتعداد	متفق	میرا	سوچو
دیگر	بخوبی	اتفاق سے	مصنف	دھیان سے
گزشتہ	ٹھوس	مایوسی	راقم	جیسا کہ
بیشتر	بڑا	مایوس	موصوف	آؤ چلتے ہیں
غالبا	دراصل	لازمی	میری	میری طرف دیکھو
بظاہر	سارا	لازم	ہماری	اس طرف
مبینہ	نمایاں	توقع کے مطابق	**Engagement Markers**	آگے
بعض	مکمل	غیریقینی طور پر	قاری	پیچھے
اکثر	پوری	اہم	کے متعلق	آؤ
Boosters	پورے	مایوسی	اضافہ کرنا	چلتے ہیں
انتہائی	بہتری	یقینا	ویسے ہی	آپکے

Interactive metadiscourse markers of the Urdu language

Code Glasses	**Endophoric Markers**	یہاں تک	بعد ازاں
مثال کے طور پر	دیکھیے	وہاں تک	اسی کے مطابق
دوسرے الفاظ میں	(کتاب کے فلاں باب میں)	جب	شروع میں
در حقیقت	کسی چیز کے فلاں حصّے میں	کافی حد تک	بعد ازاں
حقیقت میں	مثال فلاں کے مطابق	کسی حد تک	
جیسا کہ	جیسا کہ پہلے بیان کیا گیا	الغرض	
اس کا مطلب ہے	اس حصّے میں	قصہ مختصر	
خاص طور پر	اس باب میں	خلاصہ	
عام طور پر	جیسا کہ اوپر بیان کیا گیا	کل	
جس کا مطلب ہے	بعد میں	اس نقطہ پر	
بیان کیا جاتا ہے	(فلاں) سے پہلے	تمام	
سادہ الفاظ میں	(فلاں) کے بعد	**Transitions**	
یعنی	(فلاں) ٹیبل کے مطابق	اور	
یعنی کہ	(فلاں) شکل کے مطابق	لیکن	
کہا جاتا ہے	جیسا کہ نیچے بیان کیا جا رہا ہے	چنا نچہ	
کہ	بعد میں	اس طرح	
Evidentials	**Frame Markers**	یوں	
اسلم) کے مطابق	آخر میں	یہاں تک	
اس کے مطابق	یہاں پر	اس لئے	
(22 مارچ 2020) کے مطابق	وہاں پر	اتنا	
(عمران خان کے فلاں) بیان کے مطابق	مختصر	اگر	
قانون کے (فلاں) آرٹیکل کے مطابق	مختصرا	مگر	
(کسی کا حوالہ دینا)	اب	بلکہ	
کسی بات کا ثابت کرنا	پھر	ورنہ	
تحقیق کے مطابق	مجموعی طور پر	بعد میں	
کوئی تجویز دینا	نچوڑ	بعد ازاں	

Appendix B

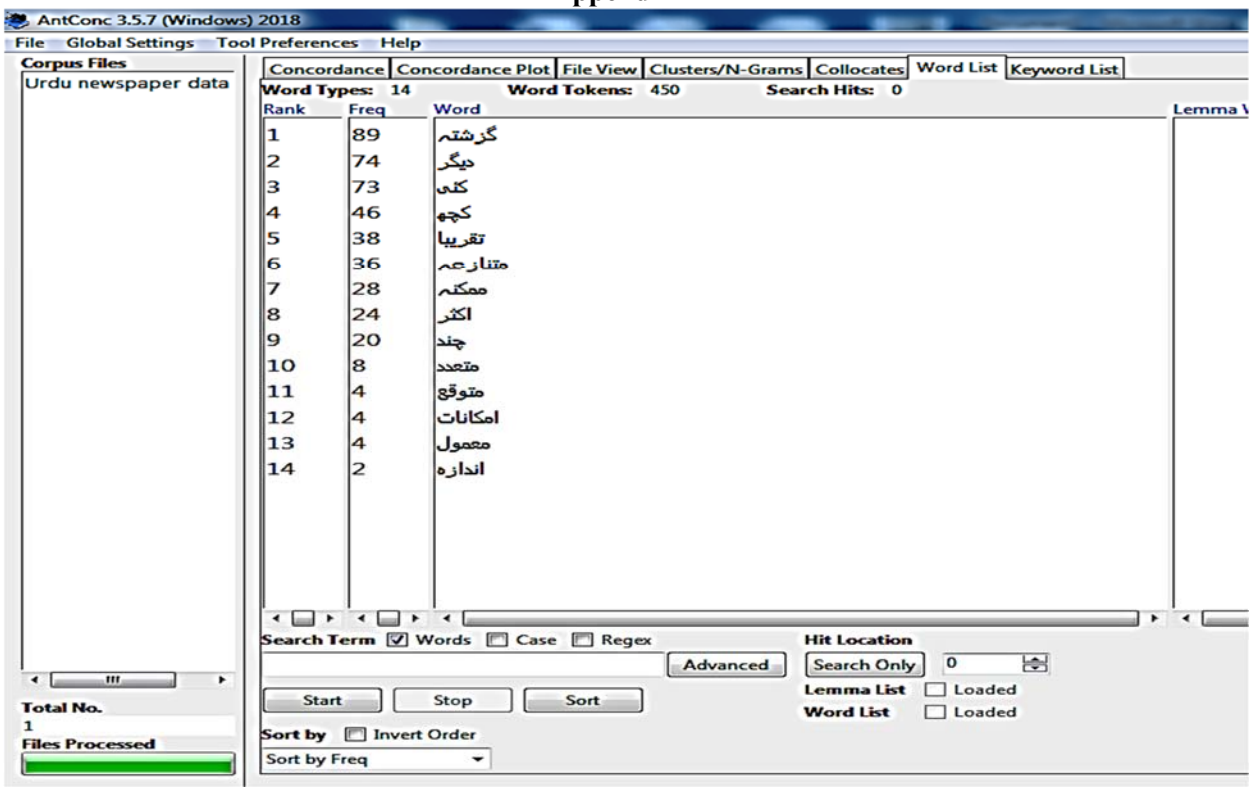

Figure 4

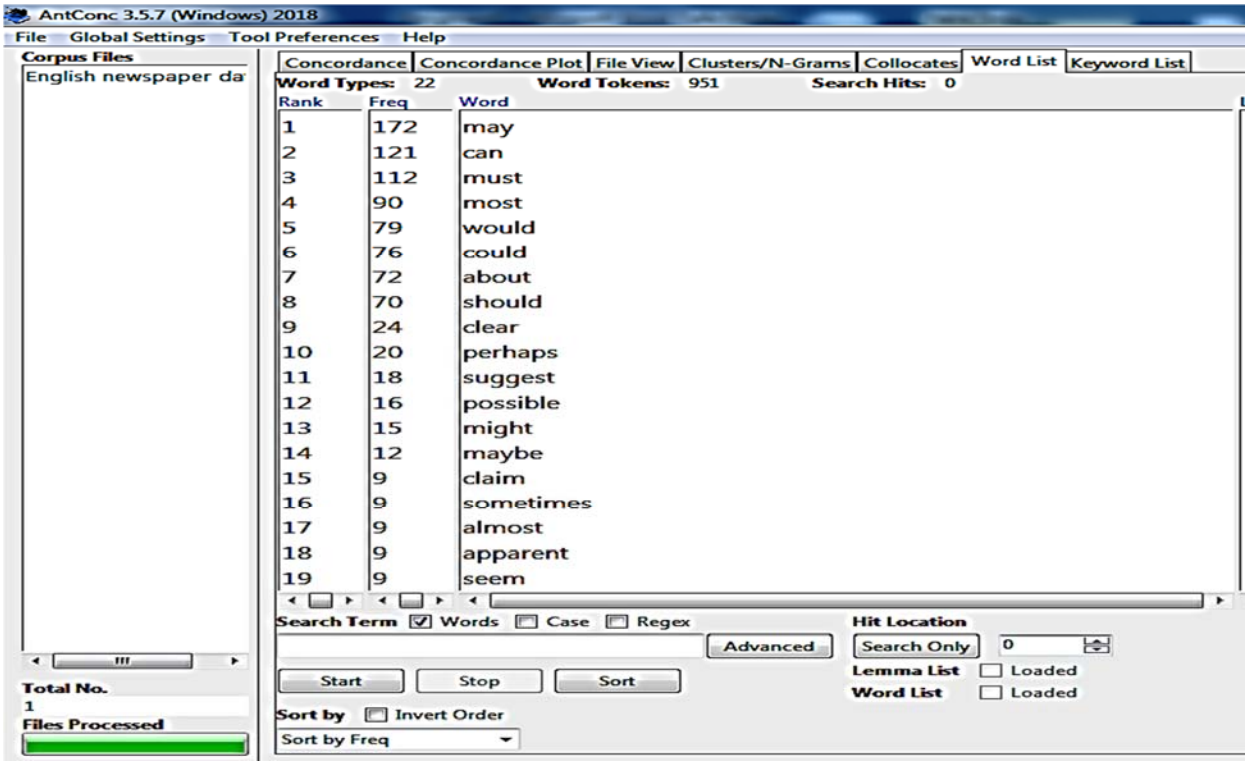

Figure 5

Appendix C

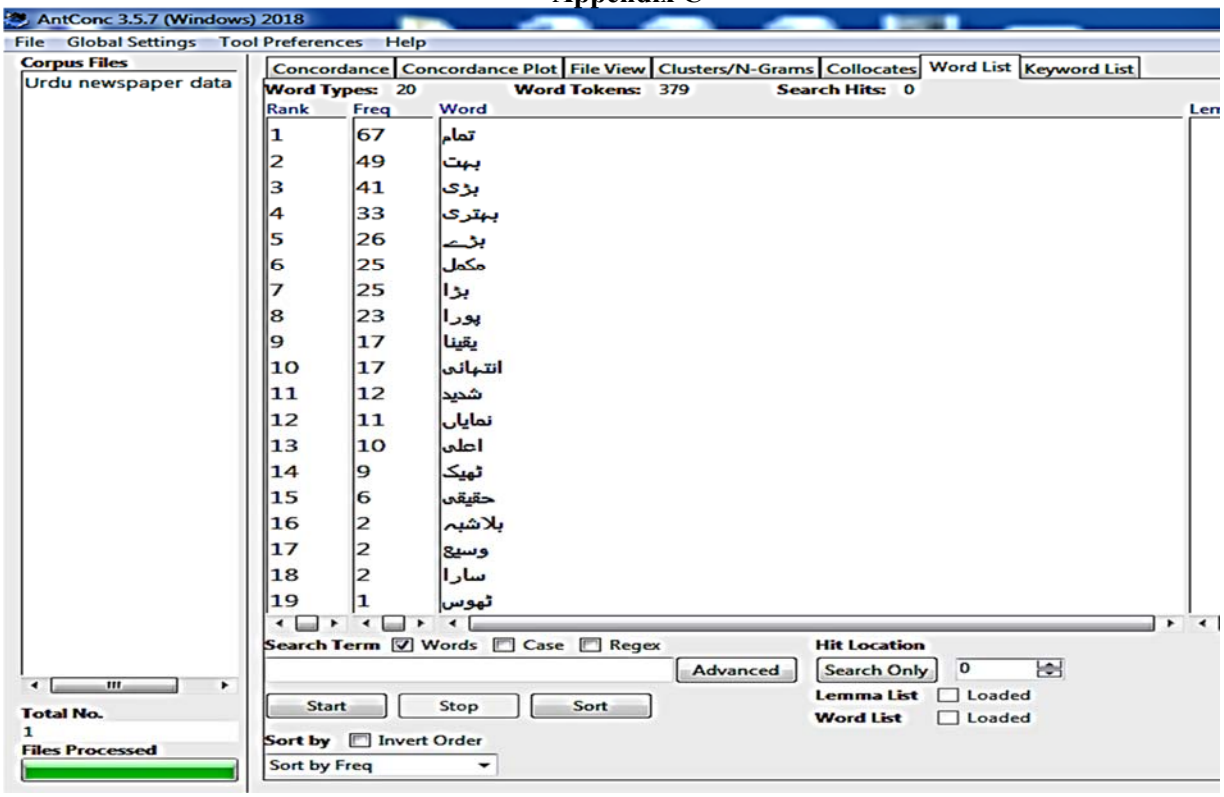

Figure 6

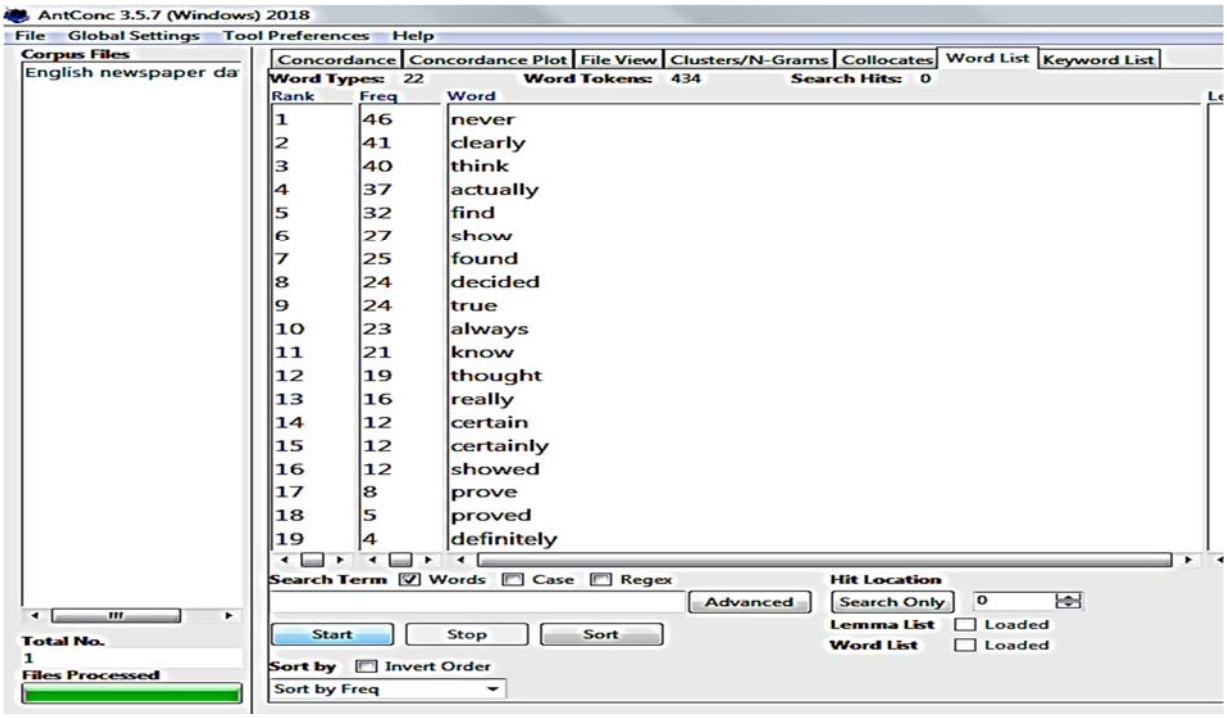

Figure 7

Appendix D

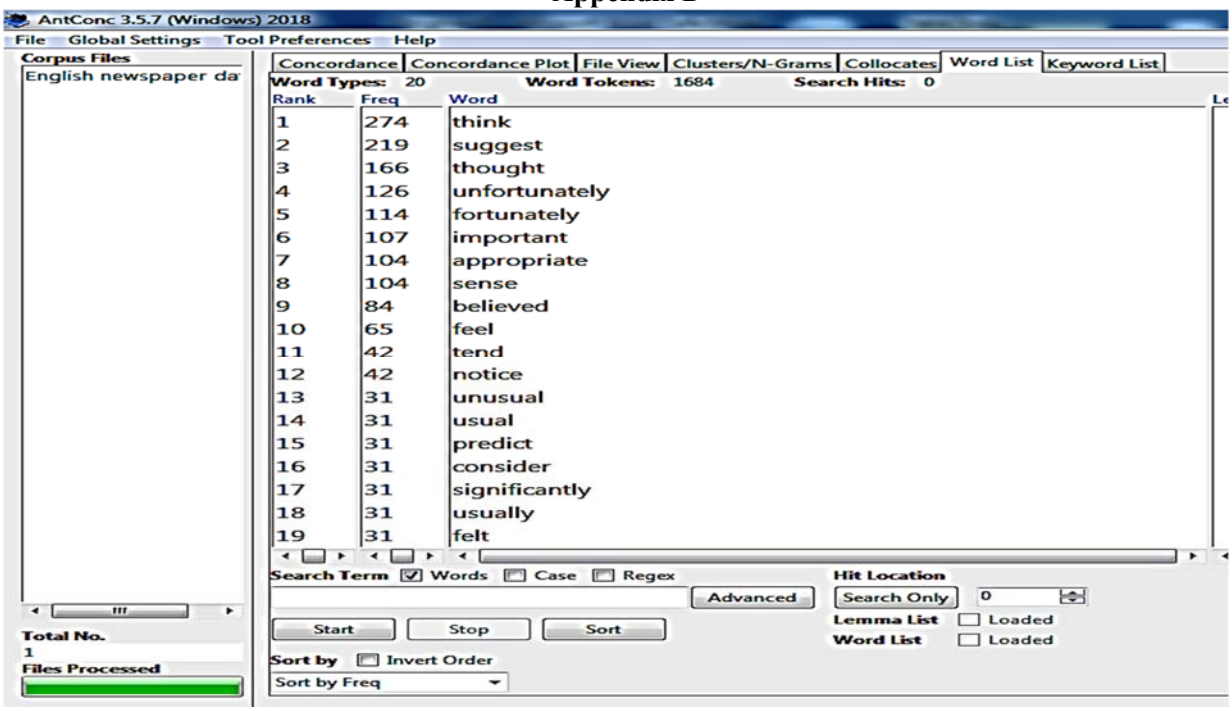

Figure 8

Appendix E

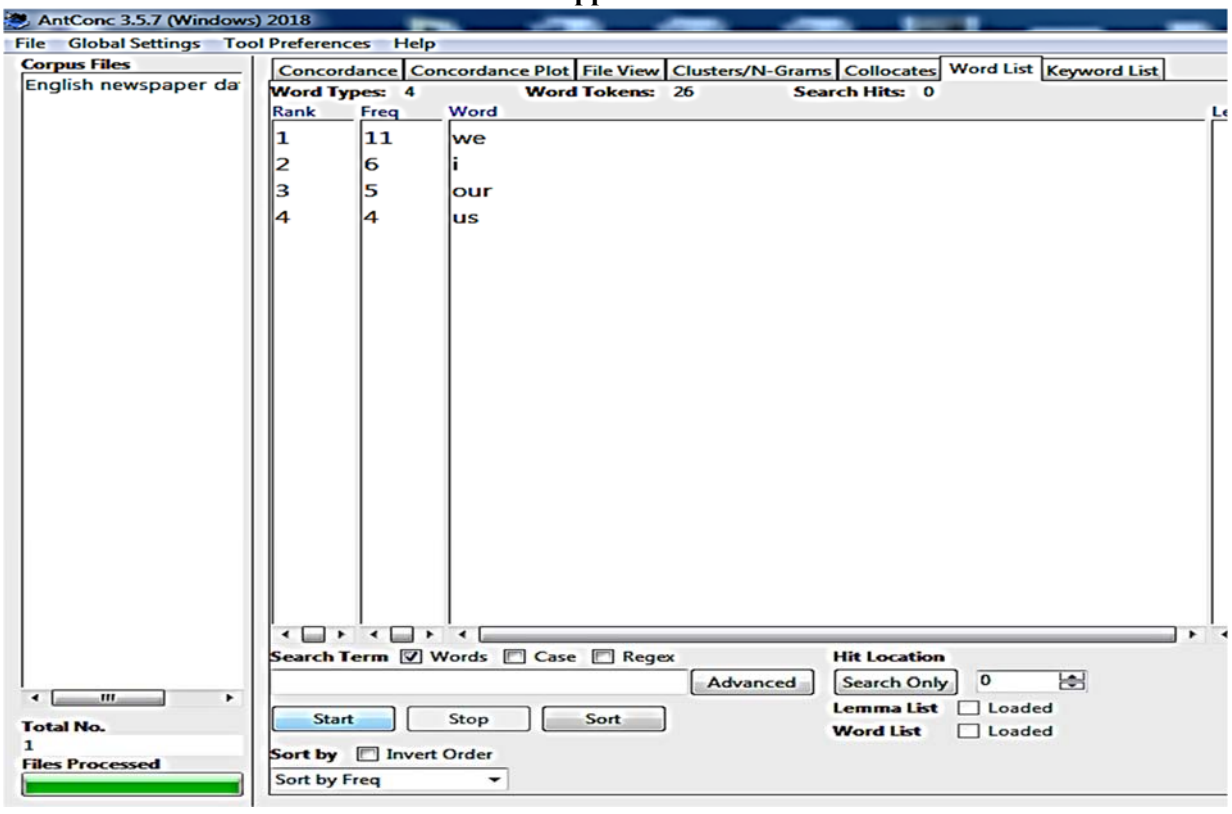

Figure 9

Appendix F

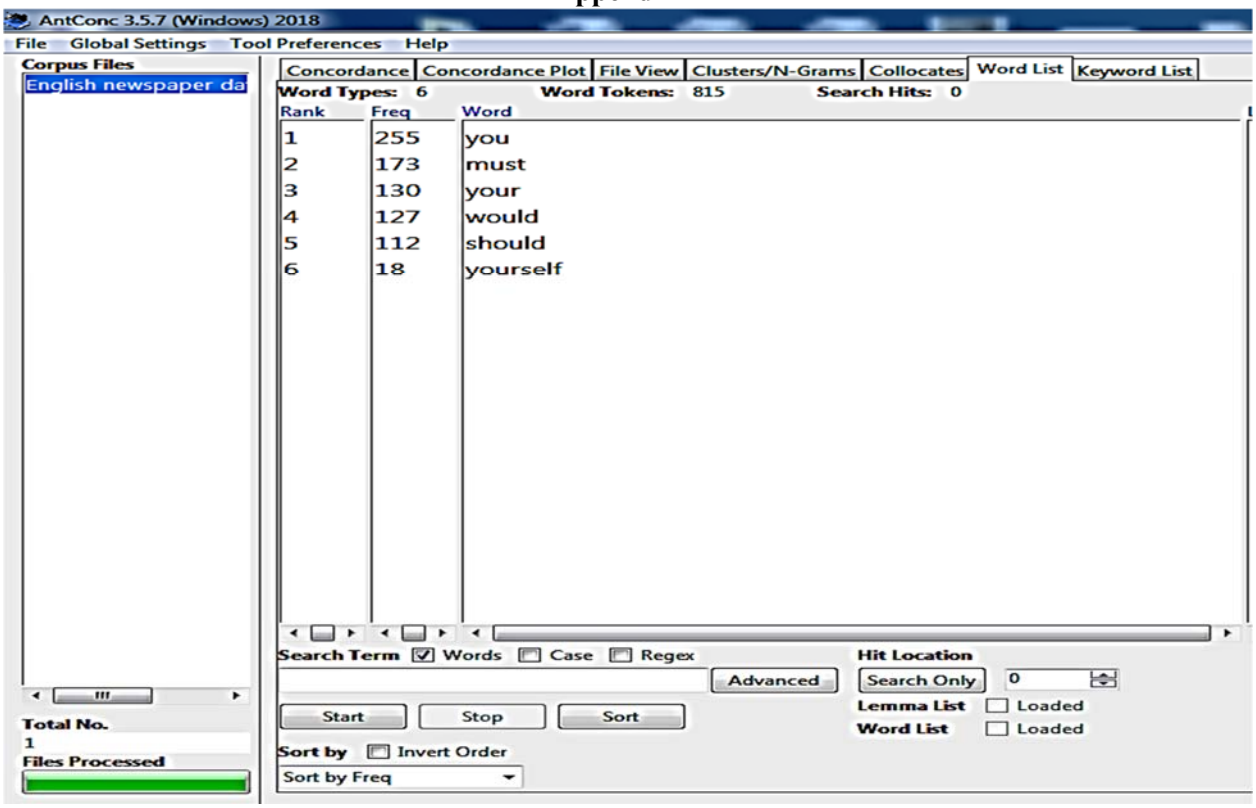

Figure 10

Appendix G

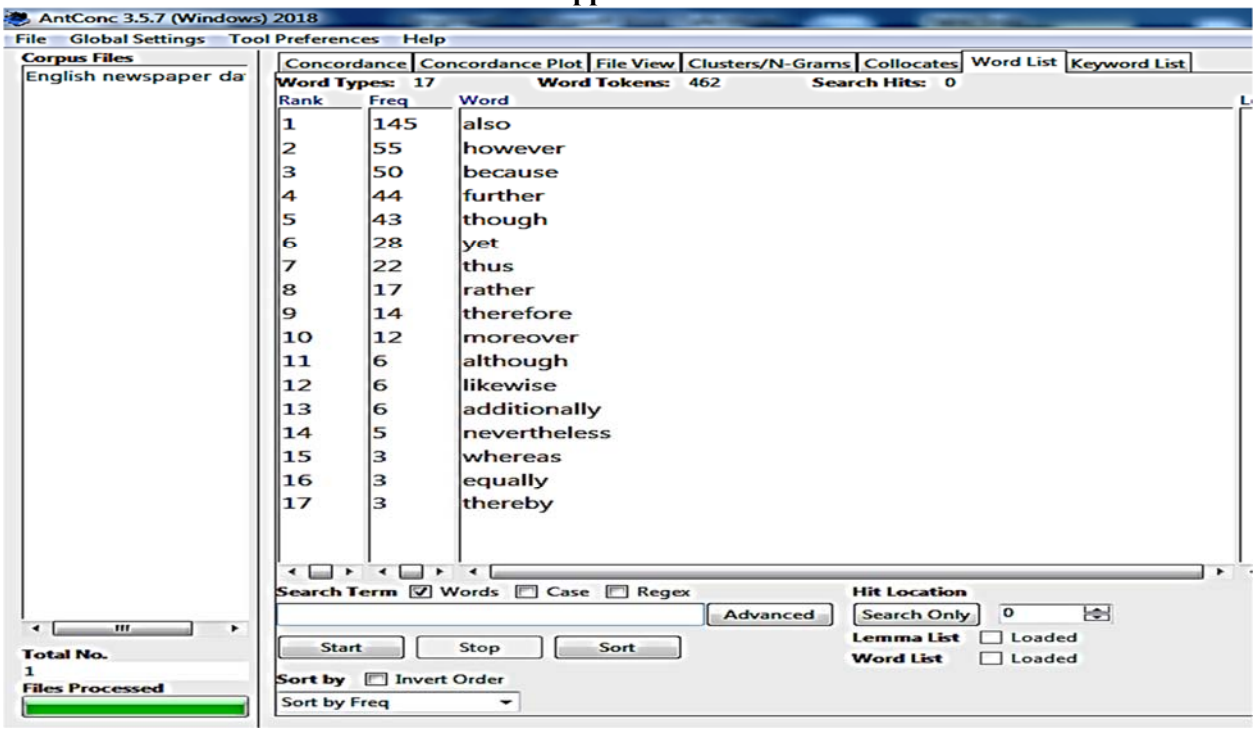

Figure 11

Appendix H

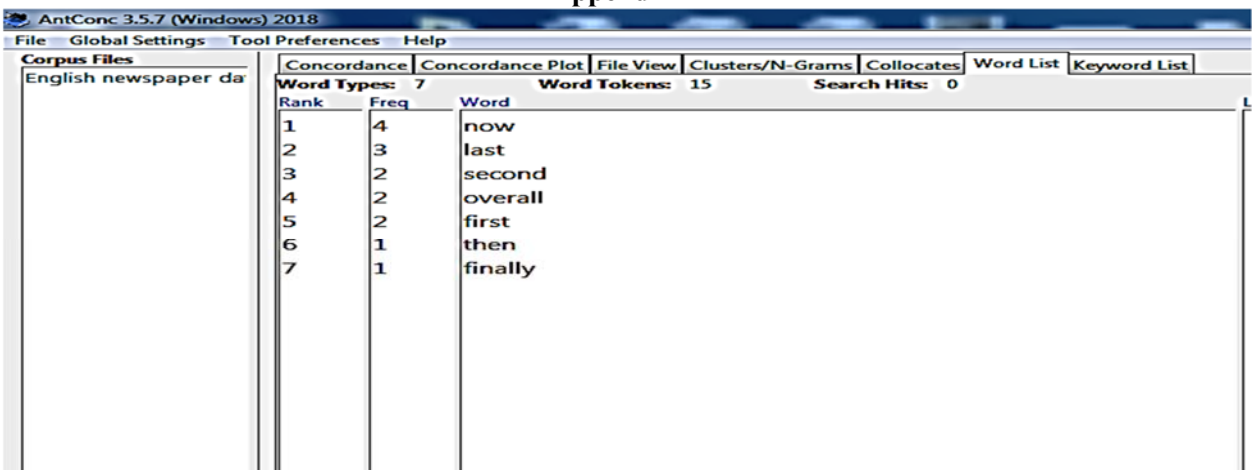

Figure 12

Appendix I

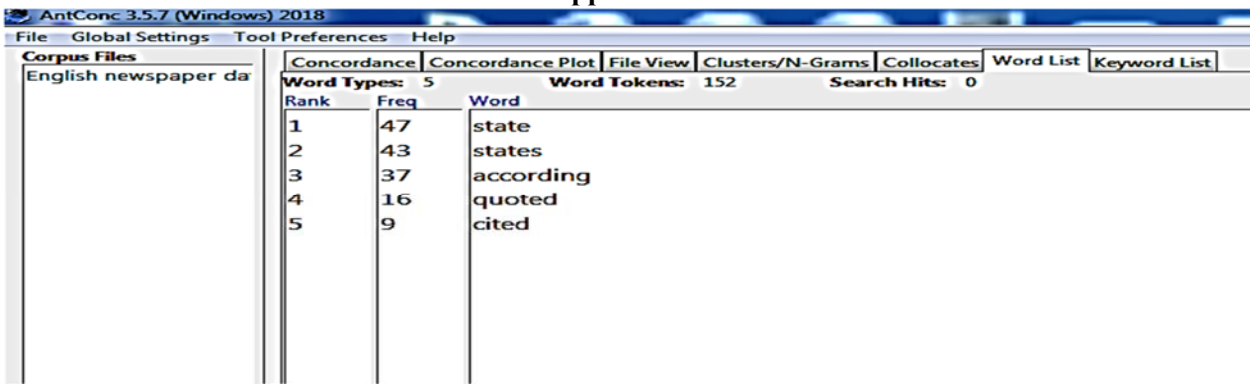

Figure 13

Appendix J

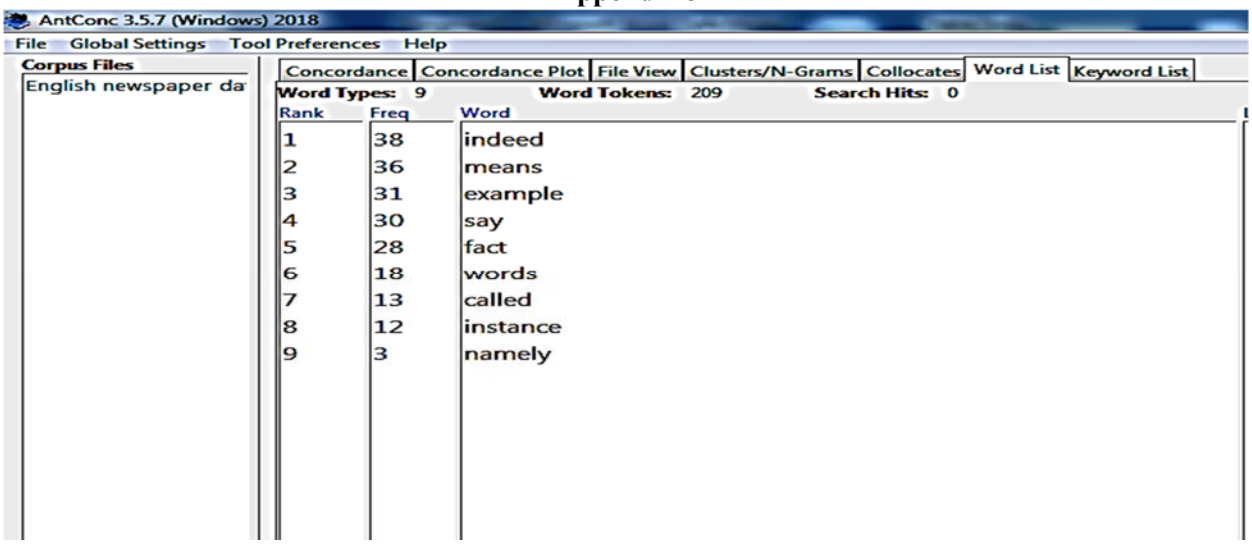

Figure 14