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**Sustainability Concerns and Government Stance: A Corpus-Based Genre Analysis of the Selected Three Pakistani Newspapers' Articles**

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**Abstract**

Media discourse has become a major source of influencing and reinforcing opinionsof public as readers. One of its key pillars is the news articles which attempt to present, highlight, and manipulate news and information. This study attempts to examine the narrative built around government stance on air pollution and smog in Lahore city. To gain comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon, a mixed-method approach was employed. It integrates both qualitative and quantitative methods. Data was collected from the three renowned English newspapers i.e., *Dawn*, *The Nation*, and *The News International* ranging from January to March 2023. Adopting a qualitative approach, the moves and strategies employed by the reporters in the selected textual corpus were focused. More specifically, the study follows Bhatia (1993) model to explore the process through which the case in subject is stepwise identified, elaborated through relating background events and leading to the statement of thesis in the text. The findings provide nuanced understanding of recurrent pattern, moves, and language used as an institutionalized genre guided by controlled conventions specific to the news genre, highlighting proactive voice of government regarding smog in Lahore, Pakistan. This study contributes to understanding the journalist language which shall be of significant help to learners of English for Specific Purposes (ESP).

**Keywords:** Government Stance, Genre, Newspapers' Articles, Move Analysis

**Introduction**

Genre studies emerge as an important field in linguistic research with particular implications in applied linguistics, mass communication, and learning pedagogies (Bhatia, 2002). Genre analysis comes under the umbrella of discourse analysis (Evans & John, 1998). It is related to communicative events and their purposes (Swales, 1990) and typified rhetorical action and goal-oriented social processes (Bhatia, 1997). Newspaper articles, a sub-genre of newspapers employ various rhetorical strategies to shape public opinion, conveying particular stance about any social and political matter. Duyile (1990) states that an editorial in newspapers are opinion bases and written for better understanding of the targeted audience, guiding readers in adopting their stance for making better decisions and forming their opinion about the issues being covered. He further argues that editorials provide support to information such as specific policy, action, or any concept. It may work as persuasive tool by creating logical connection with the purpose of persuading.

Bhatia (1993) argues that opinion and stance of newspapers are published in editorials page, with

discussion, opinions and stance on the prevailing issues of the time. Research in this direction mainly focuses language use, functions of text-patterning, structural interpretation of text genre, rhetorical and structural analysis. Studies have shown that these strategies can differ across cultures and newspapers. The Daily Graphic in Ghana tends to express worry and propose solutions, while the New York Times often questions and criticizes issues (Wornyo, 2022). Headlines in editorials also play a crucial role in directing readers' attention and propagating ideologies, with differences observed between English and Persian newspapers (Bonyadi & Samuel, 2013). Rhetorical strategies in articles often involve the interplay of realis and irrealis meanings to disaffiliate readers from certain political parties (Liu & Hood, 2019). Linguistics strategies like hedges and boosters varies across newspapers. Reporters of New York Times use more boosters in expressing its stance as compared with New Straits Times (Zarza, 2018). It highlights the significance of rhetorical strategies in news editorials.

The purpose of this study is to explore the similarities and differences of genre in English news articles pertaining to the stance of government about low air quality in Lahore due to smog reported in Dawn, *The Nations*, and *The News International* newspaper. It also seeks to identify the common move structures in the selected newspapers articles.

### **Research Objectives**

- 1) To analyze the common move structure in the selected English newspapers articles presenting government stance on air pollution in Lahore, Pakistan.
- 2) To explore communicative purposes and its effect on Air Quality Index in Lahore.

### **Research Question**

- 1) What is the common move structure of hard news editorials in the selected English newspapers, representing government stance to low air quality in Lahore?
- 2) What are the communicative purposes in the move structures of genre in those English news articles, and how it address and improve Air Quality Index in Lahore, Pakistan?

### **Literature Review**

Genre analysis emerged in the 1980s as a niche in the area of applied linguistics. It then became a central framework in the 1990s for understanding structured communication within particular contexts. In this field, John Swales' (1990) prominent work defines genres as communicative events characterized by shared purposes within discourse community. Swales (1990) emphasized the role of discourse communities and groups with common goals and practices in shaping the genre conventions, including content, style, and structure. He proposed "move analysis," an approach to studying the rhetorical composition of genres, highlighting how each move in a genre is designed to have a unique purpose that has general communicative function.

Swales' model provided a foundation for genre analysis as a dynamic process, rooted in cultural and social context. Following Swales, Vijay Bhatia (1993) presented a subtle view of genres as a structured communicative event that is socially identified, as well as constrained by conventions. According to him, expert genre encoders employ such conventions creatively with the purpose to adhere to their audience's expectations. Bhatia's work made a significant impact in the field of English for Specific Purposes (ESP), because Genre analysis was used for academic and professional writing. By analyzing rhetorical devices and structural patterns, Bhatia highlighted the practical value of genre analysis in promoting successful communication in specialized contexts.

The Rhetorical Genre Theory by Carolyn Miller's (1984) is another worthy contribution in the field of genre analysis. Miller shifted the structural features of genres to the social actions. According to her, genres stand as responses to the prevailing situations, which are shaped by cultural, social and rhetorical conditions. Her views highlight the need for adaptability in genres, which demands change

over time according to the requirements of the changing society. This perspective widens the scope of genre analysis by underlining its dynamic and functional aspects with a focus on the practicalities of communication in different social and cultural context. Tony Dudley-Evans (2000) contributed to the genre approach by focusing its construction within professional contexts. He stressed the mutual relationship between the use of genres and professional practices, illustrating how genres are shaped by their organizational context. This approach is closely related to Fairclough's critical discourse analysis (CDA) (1978). Though not exclusively genre-focused, CDA however delves into the reproduction and reflection of social hierarchies and power relations in discourse practices. Fairclough's work emphasizes on the ideological aspect of genres and their capability of maintaining or challenging societal structures.

The theory of "speech genres" by Bakhtin's (2010) further enriched genre analysis. He introduced layer of complexity to genre analysis that differentiates between primary genres (everyday casual talk), and secondary genres (scholarly or literary writings). Bakhtin's highlighted the interactional aspect of genres with a focus on their role in mediating communication and meaning within societal context that added to the understanding of the functions of communication genres in different settings and contexts. Media discourse provides enough room for investigation from genres analysis perspective, by considering the dimensions of ideological foundation, cultural influences and rhetorical strategies. The aspects of different social realities surrounding the news discourse and rhetorical devices shaping readers' views are particularly given importance by scholars like Van Dijk (1988) and Fairclough (1995). Moreover, research in this direction focuses editorials for the use of metaphors, presuppositions and hyperbole as effective devices that shape readers' perspectives. Studies dealing with these aspects reveal the role played by media genres and its power to construct public opinion about societal issues through effective framing. Media discourse is now also central to cultural studies. Bonyadi & Samuel (2013) analyzed editorial headlines of Persian and American press for the use of selected rhetorical devices and strategies. They found the reflection of the cultural and ideological differences in the headlines dealing with different social issues in the two respective cultures they examined. Farrokhi & Nazemi (2015) extended the same line of research by identifying peculiar use of rhetorical strategies with respect to different cultures. They conclude that these strategies, conventions and functions of media genres are the representative of cultural contexts.

Media is a powerful tool of shaping and reshaping ideologies and reflecting cultural context. researchers with a global concerns focus on sustainability on media from 1990 to 2008, covering almost 20,500,000 articles in 340,000 newspaper in 39 nations. It suggests increasing public interest in these matters. The use of word 'sustainability' and 'sustainable development' has increased in mainstream newspapers with their usage in articles from about 10% in the 1990s to approximately 50% by the end of 2008 (Barkemeyer et al.,2024). In China, discourse analysis of news article on pressing issue of air pollution published from 2008 through 2015 indicates the increasing interest of the Chinese government to combat air pollution over the last eight-year period from 2008 to 2015. This determination of government is portrayed in the media, indicating a positive approach towards implementing measures to control air pollution (Wang, 2018).

In Pakistan, print media also has a distinctive role to play with the involvement of many stakeholders including policy makers, Government, NGO's and the public on broader level. Comparative analysis of leading newspapers i.e., Daily Dawn, Daily Jang, and Daily Kawish unveil that the environmental issues are ignored on national level. The findings indicate that these newspapers do not adequately address the severity and complexity of environmental challenges facing Pakistan. There is a need for improved editorial policies that could prioritize environmental journalism and provide deeper insights into the ongoing environmental crises in Pakistan (Chhachhar et al., 2020). Although genre analysis and media discourse have been extensively explored in academic and professional contexts, there is a noticeable gap in examining the government's stance on environmental issues, particularly on sustainability and smog in Pakistan generally and in Lahore specifically within the English-language

press of Pakistan. While previous studies have addressed the rhetorical and ideological functions of media discourse (e.g., Van Dijk, Fairclough, Richardson), and others have explored environmental reporting globally and locally (e.g., Barkemeyer et al., 2024; Chhachhar et al., 2020), limited attention has been paid to how Pakistani English newspapers construct and communicate the government's position on such pressing concerns. Furthermore, despite the increasing use of move analysis in various genres, its application to the environmental discourse of national English newspapers in Pakistan remains under-researched. This study seeks to investigate government stance sustainability issues by conducting a corpus-based genre analysis of selected newspaper articles, with a specific focus on the rhetorical structure (moves).

### **Methodology**

This study employs mixed method design of research. The data is interpreted and moves are explored as the qualitative part, while the frequencies of moves is analyzed by using AntConc <https://www.laurenceanthony.net/software/antconc/>, as the quantitative part. This research broadly follows Swales' (1990) concept of genre, exploring communicative purposes and rhetorical patterns in newspaper articles. More specifically, it employs Bhatia (1993) genre analysis, exploring consistency of communicative purposes and identifying the structure. Bhatia (1993) applied this model to analyze typical academic essays. Following him, it can also be employed to professional genre and problem-solving situation. It has four moves: presenting the case, offering the argument, reaching the verdict, and recommending action. This model is used as a model in naming common moves of this research.

### **Data Collection**

The focus of this study is the stance of government about sustainability concerns in the context of Pakistan. For this purpose, the three leading English newspapers i.e., Dawn, The Nation, and The News International were selected as sources of primary data. These newspapers are considered because of their highest coverage of all social issues, and particularly air pollution in Pakistan. This sampling is quite purposive in nature, rich in data and emphasizes closely to synthesis objective (Ames et al., 2019). Other English newspapers that are also reflecting government stance were not included because of their limited coverage of the social issues. Moreover, other sources like books, magazines and research articles were not utilized because they may not provide real-time or up-to-date information concerning the issues of smog in Lahore, Pakistan.

### **Corpus Development**

This research has developed a corpus from the major newspapers: *Dawn*, *The Nations*, & *The News International*. The data was collected manually and corpus was developed by cleaning it and converting it in to text files. It contains seventy-five full length news articles. The collection of articles was confined to the month of November, 2024, which was a significant time period because Air Quality Index was found to be the most polluted, ranking Lahore is second worst city in world for poor air quality. List of specific words is created manually, representing specific move in news articles. It is created manually, considering most frequent occurrences of words in introduction, body paragraphs and conclusion of articles in corpus.

### **Genre Analysis**

Bhatia (1993) suggests that newspapers offer rich sources for linguistic analysis across English for General Purposes (EGP), English for Academic Purposes (EAP), and English for Specific Purposes (ESP). This analysis specifically focuses on the structural pattern of written discourse in professional setting, particularly within ESP. To explore the move structures of English editorials addressing

gender disparities, a social issue in *The Nations* newspapers, this study utilizes the move analysis frameworks developed by Swales (1990) and Bhatia (1993). Swales (1990) defines a “move” as a semantic unit linked to the writer's intent and its role within the article’s overall purpose, while a “step” is seen as a smaller unit within the move. Additionally, Bhatia’s (1993) model for academic texts, which includes lead articles and articles, is employed to identify and categorize rhetorical moves. Bhatia (1993) identifies four primary moves: 1) presenting the case, 2) offering the argument, 3) reaching the verdict, and 4) recommending action. Elucidating Case, move 5 is also considered for the analysis of news editorials (Tongsibsong, 2012).

## Results and Discussion

**Table 1: Move 1: Presenting the case**

Words	Dawn	The Nation	The News International	Total Frequency
Declared	7	4	3	14
Reported	15	12	10	37
Stated	6	5	5	21
Announced	9	13	11	23

These are the list of words that are tagged with move one, presenting the case, pertaining to government stance on alarming condition of smog in city Lahore, Pakistan. The identified words are declared, reported, stated, and announced, which were extracted from the introduction of the all research articles. Their frequencies vary in all selected newspapers. Word “reported” has 15 hits in *Dawn*, 12 hits in *The Nation*, and 10 hits in *The News International*, making the total of 37. Words “Announced” has 9 hits in *Dawn*, 13 hits in *The Nation*, and 11 hits in *The News International* and total frequency is 23 in all news articles. Another word “stated” has 6 occurrence in *Dawn*, 5 occurrence in *The Nation*, and 5 occurrence in *The News International*, making total 21 occurrences collectively. Lastly, “declared” has 7 hits in *Dawn*, 4 hits in *The Nation* and 3 hits in *The News International*, collectively there are 14 hit in corpus.

**Figure 1: Specific word “declared” Presenting the case**

Target Corpus

Name: my\_corpus

Files: 1

Tokens: 30516

data....docx

KWIC

Plot

File View

Cluster

N-Gram

Collocate

Word

Keyword

Wordcloud

ChatAI

Total Hits: 14

Page Size 100 hits

1 to 14 of 14 hits

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1 data....docx	lahore-multan-amid-severe-smog-crisis The Punjab government has	declared	a health emergency in Lahore and Multan to tackle
2 data....docx	across the border in India. Senior Punjab Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb	declared	a health emergency in Lahore and Multan, labeling the
3 data....docx	in Lahore. In response to the crisis, the local authorities	declared	a health emergency in Lahore and Multan, with schools
4 data....docx	considered "hazardous". A day earlier, senior Punjab Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb	declared	a health emergency in Lahore and Multan, saying that
5 data....docx	action to tackle the ongoing pollution crisis. Punjab government had	declared	a health emergency in Lahore and Multan due to
6 data....docx	placed on three-month compulsory leave LAHORE: The Punjab government	declared	smog a calamity on Thursday, as the provincial administration
7 data....docx	first day. The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has now	declared	smog a calamity under Section 3 of the Punjab National
8 data....docx	first day. The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has now	declared	smog a calamity under Section 3 of the Punjab National
9 data....docx	the quality of ambient air." Last week, the Punjab government	declared	smog a calamity, and the provincial administration notified a
10 data....docx	lockdown" in designated smog hot spots across Lahore and also	declared	smog a "calamity" in the province. Despite poor air
11 data....docx	trial in Jhelum, Gujar Khan LAHORE: The Punjab government has	declared	an emergency in Lahore and Multan, where a "complete
12 data....docx	time in 12 days, the index showed. The Punjab government has	declared	an emergency in Lahore and Multan, where a "complete
13 data....docx	Dawn.com — said that following a meeting, a provincial committee	declared	a "critical air pollution event" in Lahore due to
14 data....docx	October to February, for many years. The Punjab government has	declared	green lockdown to address the issue, he added. He

Search Query Words Case Regex Results Set All hits Context Size 10 token(s)

declared

Start Adv Search

Sort Options Sort to right Sort 1 1R Sort 2 2R Sort 3 3R Order by freq

Progress 100%

Figure 1 represents the hits of identified word “declared” in whole corpus, contributing for presenting the case, move one, representing how government present their stance regarding devastating situation of air pollution and smog in city Lahore, Pakistan. Different collocates such as “government declared,” “officials declared,” “senior minister Mariam Aurangzeb declared” highlight how institutional voices introduce and legitimize the social problem being addressed, which aligns with Bhatia’s (1993) first rhetorical move in professional communication (Presenting the Case).

The Punjab government **declared** smog a calamity on Thursday, as the provincial administration notified a host of measures, such as vacations for differently-abled children and a ban on all activities “causing or leading to smog formation” to improve the hazardous air quality across the province, particularly in Lahore. (*Dawn, 1<sup>st</sup> Nov, 2024*)

The above extract from the developed corpus figures out stance of the Punjab Government stance on the issue of smog. The focus word “declared” as hit stands for move one. It presents the case as per Bhatia (1993). The calamity of smog and hazardous air quality is declared by the Punjab government in Lahore city. This hit “declared” here not only functions as a reporting verb, but performs discursive trigger that appropriately sets for the tone of the editorial. The phenomenon of smog as a critical public health emergency is also framed by the word “declared”.

**Figure 2: Specific word Presenting the case with lexical choice “reported”**

Specific word: Reporting the case with relevant source

Target Corpus

Name: my\_corpus

Files: 1

Tokens: 30516

data....docx

KWIC

Plot

File View

Cluster

N-Gram

Collocate

Word

Keyword

Wordcloud

ChatAI

Total Hits: 37

Page Size

100 hits

1 to 37 of 37 hits

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	data....docx	11 million children under five. The organization	reported	a surge in hospitalizations, including among you
2	data....docx	provincial Environmental Protection Agency has	reported	a surge in respiratory ailments, eye infections, an
3	data....docx	is. Sources from major hospitals in the city have	reported	a rising number of patients suffering from dry co
4	data....docx	1,194 this week. The Punjab Health Department	reported	a significant rise in pollution-related health issue
5	data....docx	ered a stroke, and 701 conjunctivitis cases were	reported	across Punjab during the last 24 hours. In Lahore
6	data....docx	ding breathing issues and chest infections, were	reported	across Punjab. Of these cases, 6,236 were report
7	data....docx	on Thursday showed that 19,34,030 cases were	reported	across the province, with 126,230 in Lahore. Betw
8	data....docx	rk outdoors. Citizens toiling in polluted air have	reported	breathing difficulties, coughing and burning eye
9	data....docx	rk outdoors. Citizens toiling in polluted air have	reported	breathing difficulties, coughing and burning eye
10	data....docx	rk outdoors. Citizens toiling in polluted air have	reported	breathing difficulties, coughing and burning eye
11	data....docx	ore smog crisis worsens, over 15,000 infections	reported	in a day https://www.nation.com.pk/13-Nov-202
12	data....docx	es and asthma. Over 35,000 patients have been	reported	in just one week across five major government h
13	data....docx	on public health. Over 5,000 asthma cases were	reported	in Lahore hospitals last week, alongside a signifi
14	data....docx	okes-punjab Health dept data show 1.93m	reported	cases of respiratory disease in 20 days around 6

Search Query ☒ Words ☐ Case ☐ Regex Results Set All hits

Context Size 10 token(s)

reported

Start

☐ Adv Search

Sort Options

Sort to right

Sort 1 1R

Sort 2 2R

Sort 3 3R

Order by freq

Progress 100%

The smog crisis in Lahore has reached alarming levels, with over 15,000 cases of respiratory and viral infections **reported** within 24 hours. City hospitals are struggling to cope with the surge in patients suffering from dry cough, breathing issues, pneumonia, and chest infections. (*The Nation, 13Nov, 2024*)

The Lexus “reported” is also frequently used one in news articles. It introduces the case as a move (Bhatia, 1993). As a rhetorical strategy, the writer presents the social problem before the readers. It performs the discursive function of legitimization, ensures the readers that the information is not based on speculation, rather supported by authentic sources like official documents or agencies like health departments or hospitals. The use of the word “reported” adds to the objectivity and points towards the seriousness of the issue. It also makes the statement as appropriate with writer’s purposes

of declaring urgency and contributes to the relevance in the initial move.

Furthermore, “reported” is typically associated with numerical data e.g., “15,000 cases” and collocated with clinical terminologies such as “respiratory and viral infections”. This strategic use of the word “reported” offers quantitative evidence, as well as, strengthens the scientific and factual tone required in editorials’ concerns. The strategic use of this language sets the context, justifies the focus of the editorial, and prepares the ground for subsequent moves of evaluation or building the argument.

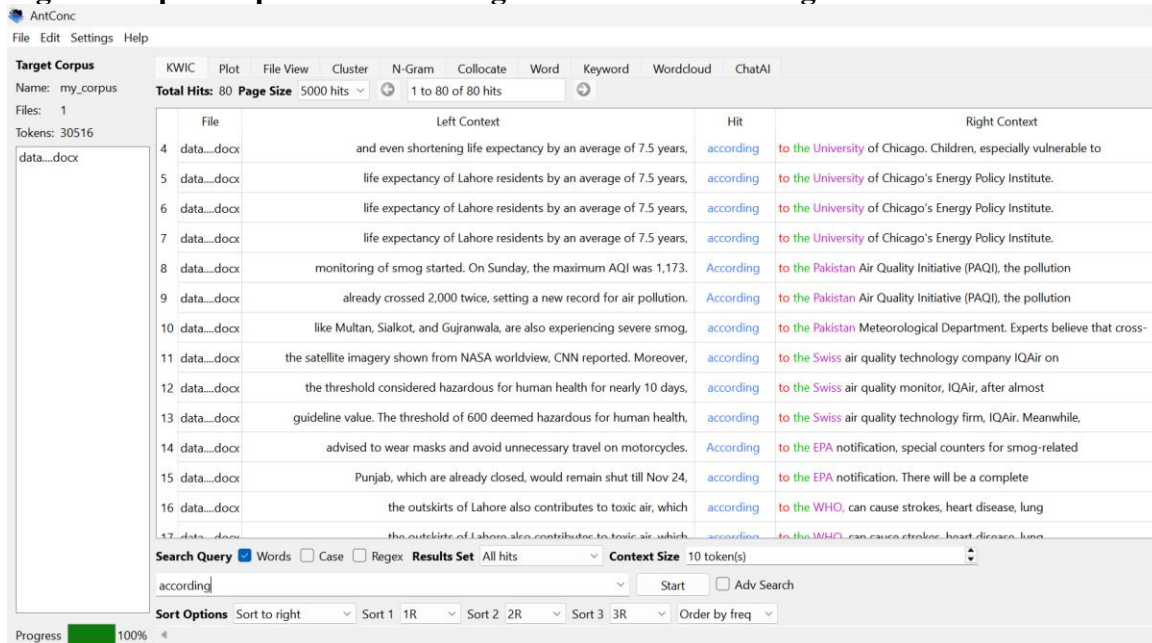
Pertaining to move structure, the word “reported” is indicative of fact-based grounding, which is a common strategy in Move 1. Here, the problem is presented through narrative with a factual impact. It enhances the rhetorical authenticity of the editorial.

**Table 2: Move 2: Elucidating the case**

Words	Dawn	The Nation	The News International	Total Frequency
According to	33	22	25	80
Such as	4	2	3	14
Including	15	12	10	37

In developed corpus “*According to*” is the **most common phrase**, which is used **80 times in total**. This highest frequency shows its significance in **quoting authoritative voices** to explain or support claims made in the articles. Dawn employs this phrase most frequently (**33 times**), indicating a stronger editorial emphasis on basic claims in reported facts. Though there are 62 total frequency of this word “*including*”, 37 out of these highlight the background of the case. It comes in the category of elucidating the case that assists writers to add **specific examples** and expand general claims in the first move. “**Such as**” is used less frequently in the whole corpus and has **14 hits**,. It provides a background to the claim made by the writer. All three newspapers employs these markers consistently, though in **varying degrees**. It supports the idea that **Move 2 is a common rhetorical strategy** in editorial writing in various newspapers

**Figure 3: Specific phrase “according to” that is Elucidating the case**

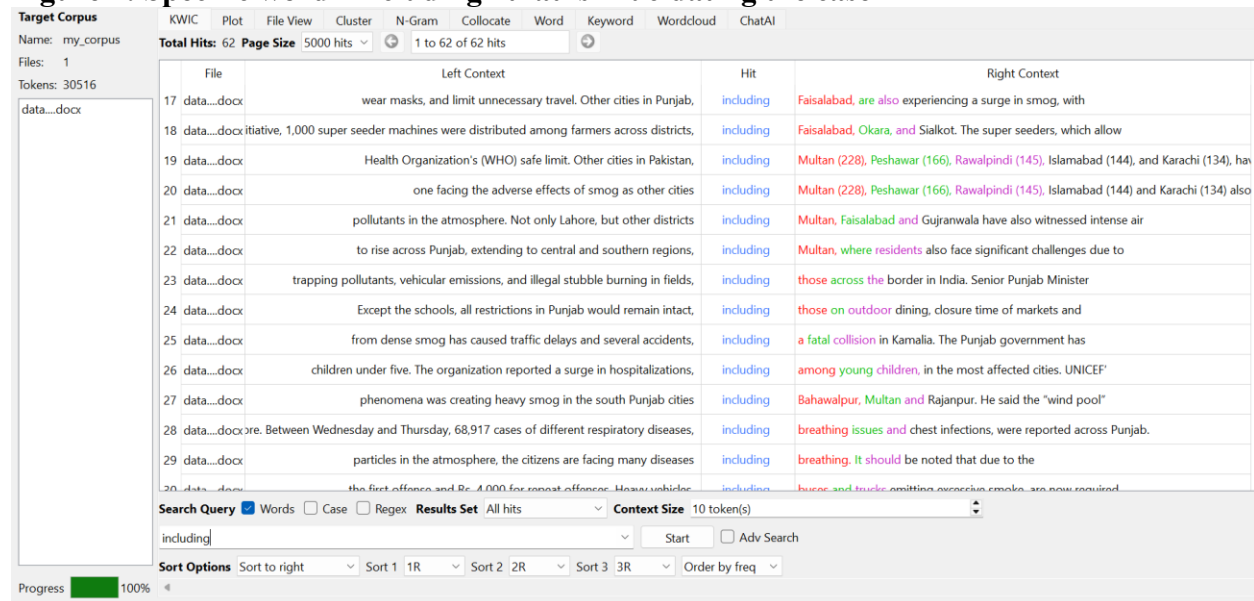




**According to** the IQAir, Lahore’s air quality was the worst in the world, with the air quality index (AQI) at a “hazardous” 470, followed by Delhi at 302 and Karachi at 204 ( *Dawn, 17Nov,2024*).

The term “**According to**” is one of the most frequent discourse marker used to introduce **external evidence, information, or authority**, and it plays an essential role in **elucidating** or explaining a case with factual basis. Here, it introduces **IQAir**, an internationally recognized organization that tracks air quality, provides credibility and specificity. It **offers concrete, data-driven information** regarding the context of Lahore’s air pollution. It supports the case that is presented in Move 1 regarding smog and air pollution as a serious concern. The representation of **precise AQI scores** (470 for Lahore, 302 for Delhi, 204 for Karachi) further **elaborates the seriousness of the issue** by comparing Lahore to other major polluted cities. This comparative data provides overall situation and background of environmental crisis.

**Figure 4: Specific word “including” that is Elucidating the case**



Not only Lahore, but other districts, **including** Multan, Faisalabad and Gujranwala also suffered intense air pollution, which led to the complete closure of schools and ban on all outdoor activities till November 17 (*The News International, 13Nov,2024*).

In this statement, the word “including” represent specific examples of other badly affected cities like Multan, Faisalabad, and Gujranwala. This helps the reader for broader visualization of the issue and understanding of the problem- not limited to Lahore. It rhetorically frames Lahore’s condition as serious, as well as, it invites the audience to perceive smog as a national-level emergency. It has specific communicative function to inform the public about the scale of the issue, justifying government measures like school closures, and reinforcing the urgency and legitimacy of actions taken.

### Move 3: Offering the argument

Words	Dawn	The Nation	The News International	Total Frequency
However	9	12	8	29
Despite	13	8	6	27

This table presents the frequency of specific words: “however” and “despite” used in three major English newspapers in Pakistan: Dawn, The Nation, and The News International. These markers are



typically employed to introduce contrast or unexpected outcomes, aligning with rhetorical strategies used in Move 3: presenting case in genre analysis. Here “however” has 9 hits in *Dawn*, 12 in *The Nation*, and 8 in *The News International*. Total there are 29 occurrences in all corpus. The word “despite” has 13 occurrences in *Dawn*, 8 in *The Nation*, 6 in *The News International*, and total it has 27 occurrences. This representation suggests that all three newspapers frequently utilize these markers to highlight argument, alternative perspectives, particularly when discussing environmental concerns or government stance on these issues. Dawn has a slightly higher tendency to use “despite,” which represents a possible preference for concessive framing in its articles.

**Figure 4: Specific word “However” that is Offering the argument**

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1 data....docx	times higher than the World Health Organisation's (WHO) guidelines.	However,	the city is not the only one facing the
2 data....docx	while the AQI slightly improved to 702 later in the day.	However,	the city remained the most polluted globally, with experts
3 data....docx	Index (AQI) dropping to 295, moving out of the "hazardous" range.	However,	the city remains in the "very unhealthy" category, ranking
4 data....docx	and playtime to keep the citizens safe from severe smog.	However,	the measures appear ineffective in mitigating the impact of
5 data....docx	department is continuing crackdown on the vehicles causing environmental pollution.	However,	the measures appear ineffective in mitigating the impact of
6 data....docx	zero in the megapolis following the rise in smog levels.	However,	the AQI later improved to 702 by 10:30am but Lahore
7 data....docx	excluding bakeries and pharmacies, with the curfew extended to weekends.	However,	the government has eased restrictions on parks, zoos, playgrounds,
8 data....docx	index today, Lahore has experienced "hazardous" air quality since November 5.	However,	the index reported that the quality of air in
9 data....docx	be asked to avoid holding weddings from October to December.	However,	the judge suggested that the government could impose restrictions
10 data....docx	trade and commerce, and reducing them is no small matter.	However,	the reality is that, unless there is a significant
11 data....docx	that traps dust, smoke, and emissions, particularly from farm fires.	However,	the recent decline in smog levels allowed authorities in
12 data....docx	on the list of most polluted cities in the world.	However,	the residents still remain under the impact of stubborn
13 data....docx	exempted from shutdown at 8:00 PM and keep open until 10:00 PM.	However,	the shops and markets shutdown order will remain in
14 data....docx	work. It closed the schools across the province till Nov 24.	However,	the situation improved during the last three

*However*, the situation improved during the last three days in the province with the change in wind direction. Lahore’s air quality index (AQI) also showed a slight improvement as it dropped out of the hazardous category on Sunday for the first time in 12 days. The meteorologists predicted a further decrease in smog intensity in the coming days (*Dawn*, 19<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2024).

Here discourse marker ‘*however*’ indicates a specific move that offers argument in the news article. This argument is subsequently supported with particular evidence, including the evidence of AQI out of the dangerous category and meteorologists' predictions of further improvement. In combination, these components offer a specific position through quantifiable data. It performs the role of “offering the argument” by shifting argument from general difference to a clearly stated and evidence-based assertion.

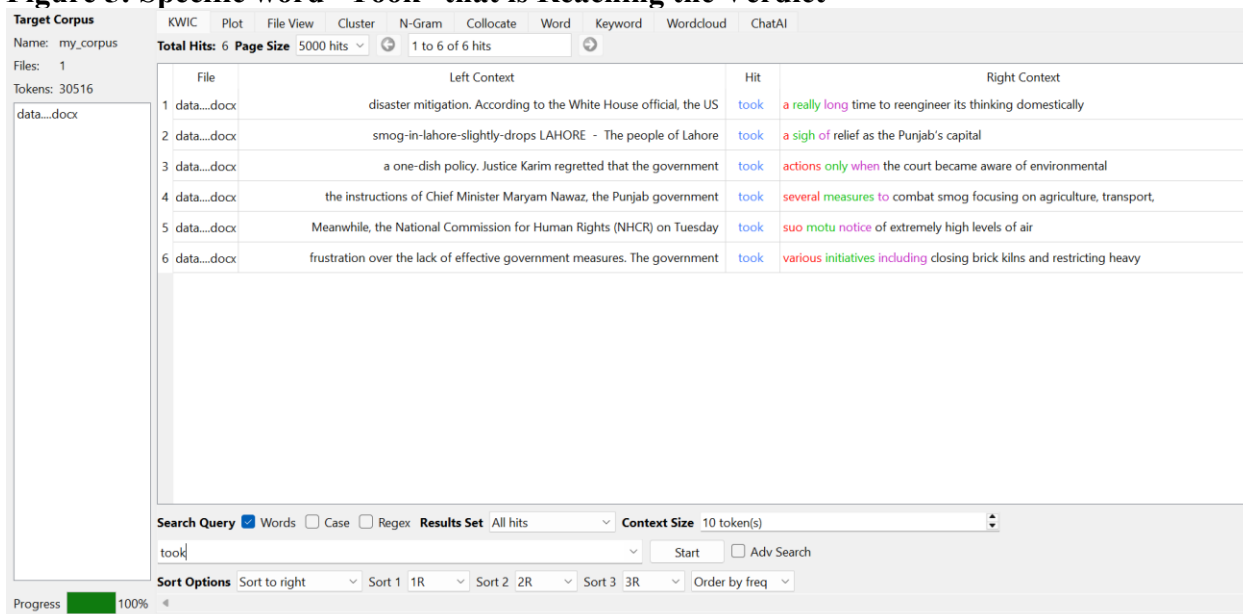
#### Move 4: Reaching the verdict

Words	Dawn	The Nation	The News International	Total Frequency
Took	3	1	2	6
observed	3	2	2	7

This table represents data presenting **Move 4: Reaching the Verdict**, which shows list of words that draw conclusions or making judgments based on the information presented. It lists two evaluative verbs: “**took**” and “**observed**”, along with their frequency in the three Pakistani English newspapers. The verb “**took**” appears totally 6 times: 3 times in **Dawn**, once in **The Nation**, and

twice in **The News International**. The verb “**observed**” occurs with slightly higher frequency, with a **total of 7 hits: 3 in Dawn, 2 in The Nation, and 2 in The News International**. Interestingly, there are only few articles that contain verdicts; majority of the articles don't have proper verdict.

**Figure 5: Specific word “Took” that is Reaching the Verdict**



### Move 5: Recommending action

Words	Dawn	The Nation	The News International	Total Frequency
To take	9	5	4	18
must	6	4	5	15
should	12	2	5	19
urged	4	5	8	17
Call for	4	2	4	10

This table shows the frequency of specific verbs and phrases associated with **Move 5: Recommending Action** in the three selected English newspapers. This move involves suggesting, advising, or calling for concrete steps in response to the critical situation of smog in Lahore city. The modal verb “**should**” is the most frequently used across all hits, and has total of **19 occurrences: 12 in Dawn, 2 in The Nation, and 5 in The News International**. It demonstrates a strong tendency, particularly in *Dawn*. Besides, there are **18 total instances of “To take”**, suggesting direct action, and is again most frequent in *Dawn* (9). The verb “**urged**”, which is used to convey a stronger call for action, appears **17 times in the whole corpus. It has its highest frequency in The News International with 8 hits**, which suggest possibly a more assertive tone in recommending responses. The modal verb “**must**”, which implies obligation or necessity, has **15 instances** in total. It is fairly distributed across the three newspapers. Lastly, the phrase “**call for**” is used **10 times**, suggesting a public or institutional demand for action. More importantly, the words representing move 5, recommending action have the highest frequency.

**Figure 6: Specific word “should” that is Recommending the Action**

Target Corpus

Name: my\_corpus

Files: 1

Tokens: 30516

data....docx

KWIC

Plot

File View

Cluster

N-Gram

Collocate

Word

Keyword

Wordcloud

ChatAI

Total Hits: 19Page Size100 hits1 to 19 of 19 hits

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1 data....docx	reassess the situation on November 9 to decide if the closure	should	be extended. For several days, Lahore has ranked as
2 data....docx	school closure. "This smog is very harmful for children. Masks	should	be mandatory in schools. We are keeping an eye
3 data....docx	atmosphere, the citizens are facing many diseases including breathing. It	should	be noted that due to the increasing in smog,
4 data....docx	unnecessarily coming out of their houses. The elderly and children	should	be particularly careful..." she said. The government plans to
5 data....docx	indoors with windows and doors closed. Any smoke-related issues	should	be reported to helpline 1373. Meanwhile, Punjab Police, in a
6 data....docx	vehicles causing pollution. This alone is not enough, and there	should	be steps to reduce the overall usage of cars,
7 data....docx	locations. He stressed that operations against high smoke emission vehicles	should	be strengthened through Safe City camera monitoring. IG Punjab
8 data....docx	to sustain its direction for at least next week... People	should	take care of themselves by avoiding unnecessarily coming out
9 data....docx	disposal mechanism due to which people burn trash. The government	should	take steps to properly dispose of this waste through
10 data....docx	Tuesday, Justice Shahid Karim remarked that the federal government	should	also be roped in to address the issue that
11 data....docx	levels. An environmental expert reiterated the advise that the citizens	should	avoid going out of their homes without masks, and
12 data....docx	Imran Hameed Sheikh on Sunday, all shopping malls in Punjab	should	install air purifiers, with commercial plazas across the province
13 data....docx	penalties for those that fail to comply. Additionally, the government	should	invest in more efficient public transport networks to further
14 data....docx	report. Police continue to monitor the situation. The government	should	make short, medium, and long-term policies to control

Search Query

☒ Words☐ Case☐ Regex

Results Set

All hits

Context Size

10 token(s)

should

Start

Adv Search

Sort Options

Sort to right

Sort 11R

Sort 22R

Sort 33R

Order by freq

Progress

100%

**Figure 7: Word Cluster of AQI**



Figure 7 is a **word cloud** centered around the **Air Quality Index (AQI)**. A word cloud visually represents the frequency of words in a given corpus: the larger the word, the more frequent it appears. Here, **AQI**, **air**, **quality**, **index** are with largest size. It implies that they are most frequent in the developed corpus. The words **Lahore**, **city**, **Punjab** are next largest in size. They show a geographical focus and indicate a city frequently mentioned in discussions about poor air quality. Other words are **polluted**, **hazardous**, **smog**, and **pollutants**, which reflect pathetic condition of pollution in Lahore city.

## Conclusion

The findings show that the three selected English newspapers i.e., *Dawn*, *The Nation*, and *The News*

*International* bear same use of rhetorical structure. All three newspapers follow the prototypical broadsheet move sequence, and frequently employs familiar environmental frames. Each newspaper often foregrounds **attribution of responsibility** and **public health** concerns when discussing air pollution. Many articles open by describing the severity of smog, then proceed to discuss who is to blame or what measures are being taken, and conclude with implicit or explicit calls for policy action. This pattern reports the facts, and includes government point of view pertaining to this issue.

Moreover, the selected newspapers show news language features on lexico-grammatical level, but with distinction. These newspapers focus on nouns and noun phrases while reflecting an informational style. However, *The Nation* tended to employ more attributive adjectives and nominalizations, giving a denser register, whereas *The News International* used somewhat more active reporting verbs and subordinate clauses, producing a slightly more direct style. The use of reporting verbs was found to be frequent in each of the three newspaper with clausal complements in the analysis of the sub-categorization of the aspect of verb. *The Nation* in particular more often employs explicit stance-verbs, while *Dawn* often exhibited official claims in longer clauses. Similarly, modal auxiliaries were used frequently in the three newspapers e.g., deontic modals will, should, must, and ability modals **can, could**). Patterns like these show cross-domain findings, which affirm that “will”, “will” and “**can**” are the mostly used modals in the environmental corpus. Further among these models, “can” and “Will” are used in higher frequency.

In the developed corpus analyzed in this study, neutral reporting or evaluative verbs are assigned to the government that carry implicit judgments. Clauses are linked through discourse markers that guide readers through presenting contrasts or revealing consequences in the arguments. This analysis can offer insights for the fields of policy communication and ESP education. For ESP learners of journalism and environmental science, knowledge and significance of such genre conventions can be highly beneficial in many respects. Mastering the various aspects of this genre such as the typical move structure, the use of models, evaluative and reporting verbs that encode stance can greatly enhance learners’ comprehension and writing skills in this domain.

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