

Ideological Framing of the Palestine-Israel Conflict: A Corpus-Based Eco-Linguistic Analysis of Western and Middle Eastern Media Editorials

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Abstract

The current study explores the newly surfacing area of ecolinguistics as a form of critical discourse analysis with respect to the ongoing feud between Palestine and Israel. The aim of the researchers is to trace out the ecological words and linguistic patterns in the specific conflict-related editorials of the Middle Eastern and Western newspapers, Al-Ahram and The Guardian, published during the period of October 2023 to January 2025. Much has been written on the cities destroyed, civilians killed, and infrastructure turned into heaps of rubble because of this catastrophic situation, but nothing significant has been done using Stibbe's normative framework of ecolinguistics. This involves corpus-based linguistic analysis of the corpora of editorials using Sketch Engine software, highlighting the ecological word keywords, concordance, and collocations. The findings reveal how language encodes the stories we live by and defines our relationship with other species and the earth. Stibbe's ecolinguistics approach with embedded cognitive stories has enough potential for future researchers to help people in the reinvention of societies along more ecological lines by making them aware of destructive human actions causing harm to all that sustain life on our planet.

Keywords: Corpus, ecolinguistics, ecology, media discourse, Palestine-Israel conflict

1. Introduction

Ecolinguistics is an emerging field of research; it is an interdisciplinary field that investigates the relationship between language and environment. Ecolinguistics discourse analysis (EDA) is actually a new way of analyzing discourses and judging them within a normative framework that considers both humans and their embedding within a bigger circle of life. (Stibbe, 2015). Ecolinguistics is considered an innovative term in the field of critical discourse analysis. A Norwegian-American linguist, Haugen (1972), originated this field by defining language ecologically in his book "The Ecology of Language" as the study of the interactions between any given language and its environment. The French sociolinguist Marcellesi (1975) used the term ecolinguistics. Later, Halliday (1990) expanded it in one of his lectures entitled "New Ways of Meaning: The Challenge to Applied Linguistics," where he brought to light a theme that was hardly touched upon in a linguistic context. Within a microsecond of historical time, the human race has turned from net creditor to net borrower, taking out of the earth more than we put in, and we are using up these resources very fast. (Halliday 2001).

The ecosophy, or the purpose of ecolinguistics, is to increase awareness that we have reached the age of environmental limits. It is high time that the consequences of human actions are damaging the planet's basic life resources. According to Stibbe (2014), with the development in consciousness of the ecological embedding of humans and human societies, there has been an ecological turn in humanities and social science subjects. According to Alexander and Stibbe (2014), ecolinguistics encompasses the effect of language on the life-sustaining associations among humans, other organisms, and the physical environment.

Corpus-based studies involve the investigation of corpora, i.e., collections of (pieces of) texts that have been gathered according to specific criteria and are generally analyzed automatically. Corpus, in the simplest term, is defined as the compilation of texts that has been gathered for a specific reason (Cheng, 2011). Corpus linguistics is simply defined as a methodology for studying immense quantities of language data using computer software (McEnery & Hardie 2011). For this particular study, corpus-assisted EDA applies corpus linguistic techniques to study ecological issues. Alexander (2018) used corpus linguistics in combination with CDA to unveil the damaging practices of multinational companies. Poole (2022) applies various corpus techniques to show how environmental dilapidation has been normalized in popular environmental discourses, which affects ecological well-being.

Media discourse revolves around the media, newspapers, magazines, television, and radio. Media writers basically generate their content from such spheres of geographical settings as politics, religion, education, and so on (Udoh, 2024). Media can be defined as a socially deep-rooted platform with the incontestable power to circulate social schemas and shape people's views and practices (Alalwan, 2018). Van Dijk believes that news should be studied primarily as a form of public discourse (Vank, 1984). Global media networks are creating versions of events that will keep viewers attracted to their content as lethal violence kills ordinary people in Palestine and Israel; the report on war is the most gripping of all (Farrukh, 2023).

The Israel-Palestine conflict is a complicated and long-rooted geopolitical and cultural struggle centered on the land historically known as Palestine, present-day Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip (Said, 1992). The conflict traces back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries with the emergence of the national Jewish Movement Zionism and Arab nationalism seeking independence from colonial powers (Gelvin, 2021). The Israeli-Palestinian conflict began with the Balfour Declaration of 1917, which stated that Palestine would be the new homeland for the Jewish people. Since then, it has produced multiple wars, two intifadas, and the deaths of millions of people (Vandanam, 2010). Before World War I, Palestine remained under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. At the time, most of the population in Palestine was Muslim, with smaller communities of Jews and Christians (Elaraky Hossam, 2024).

After World War I, Palestine, which was then part of the Ottoman Empire and under British control, saw increased immigration of Jews fleeing maltreatment in Europe, chiefly during the Nazi era, which led to mounting strains between Jewish and Arab communities. The United Nations proposed a partition plan in 1947 to solve the conflict, dividing the land into separate Jewish and Arab states. The Jewish leadership accepted the plan, but the Arab leaders rejected it, leading to the outbreak of the 1948 Arab-Israeli War following the declaration of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948 (Simon and Schuster, 2024). Palestine is divided into two territories: the Gaza Strip, governed by Hamas, and the West Bank, ruled by Israel (Gelvin, 2014). The decades following 1948 saw several wars between Israel and its Arab neighbors (1956, 1967, 1973). The conflict between Hamas and Israel, which started on October 7th, 2023, serves as a stark reminder of the unending tensions in the region. Hamas militants launched a barrage of gunfire and rockets

from Gaza into Israeli settlements, resulting in the deaths of more than 1100 Israelis, and Hamas took about 250 hostages. In response, Israel declared war on Hamas, releasing reciprocal airstrikes that inflicted further fatalities. Tragically, the cycle of violence claimed the lives of at least 35,000 Gazans (Hossam, 2024).

1.1. Statement of the problem

The role of media discourse to portray the war's havoc is laudable. It is noted that the researchers have done massive work on the Palestine-Israel war through CDA (Falki & Asrar, 2024; Jackson, 2023; Bhandare Kamat, 2024; Nour Shreim, 2014; Shehzad, 2023; Ozohu-Suleiman, 2014). The current study endeavors to highlight the ecological damage being done in the war through corpus-based ecolinguistics analysis of Western and Eastern newspaper editorials on the Palestine-Israel conflict. The focus of the study is to analyze the editorials of Al-Ahram and The Guardian. The aim is to examine linguistic features to expose ideology, metaphors, conviction, and erasure stories as proposed by Stibbe's theory (2015) of ecolinguistics discourse.

1.2. Research Objectives

- To identify keywords, concordance and trigger words that reflect ideological stance
- To analyze the facticity pattern in the editorials whether it supports specific ideological positions
- To examine instances where certain ecological narratives are omitted

1.3. Research Questions

1. What do keywords, concordance, and triggered words in the editorials of The Guardian and Al-Ahram reflect ideological stance of both newspapers?
2. How does the facticity pattern of the editorials support specific ideological positions?
3. How are the ecological narratives marginalized or omitted in the selected editorials?

2. Literature Review

Hagen (1972), in his book "The Ecology of Language," firstly gave the idea of studying language interaction with its surroundings. Halliday (1990), later on, expanded its scope by using the word ecolinguistics for the first time. Because of Halliday's contribution to the functional approach to language research, ecolinguistics has gained widespread acceptance. According to Alexander and Stibbe (2014), Halliday also introduced Ecological Discourse Analysis (EDA), which evaluates any type of discourse with an ecological framework. The researchers often use it to analyze environmental discourse. However, it is not limited to the study of discourse about the environment only. Ecolinguistics scrutinizes language to expose the stories human beings live by, judges those stories from an ecological viewpoint, battles destructive stories, and contributes to the search for new stories to live by (Stibbe, 2015).

The power of media is dynamic and undeniable in the present era; it has a strong impact on public opinion. Media discourses are molded to inform people by transmitting various types of political, economic, and social reports. It is the process by which a person, group of people, or large organization generates a message and conveys it through some type of medium to a vast, diverse audience. Newspaper is one of the traditional industries of mass media, and it influences the formation of readers' opinions on many issues. The language of newspapers has a distinctiveness that makes it different from speech. The newspaper has various segments to attract readers' attention. The information in the newspaper is systematized in such a way that the message is conveyed, compressed, and to have the intended influence on the readers. This study explores editorials from famous newspapers with the lens of the ecolinguistics framework. Editorials are a distinctive format and are the only place in a newspaper where the opinions of a paper as an

organization are explicitly represented. Newspapers and the journalists who write editorials play a powerful role in constructing political debate in the public sphere.

The Palestinian-Israeli conflict is a subject of major concern and a cause of unrest around the world and among political circles. The root cause of this conflict goes back to the history of 1947, two distinct movements, Jewish Zionism and Palestinian Nationalism, claiming the same territory. Israel has launched four protracted military assaults in Gaza in 2012 and 2021. Israelis killed thousands of Palestinians, including children. The infrastructure had been damaged. Israel declared war once again on 14 October 2023 on the Gaza Strip after an unprecedented attack by Hamas (7 October 2023) on Israel, which resulted in over 1200 Israeli deaths, mostly civilians. In retaliation, Israel's military actions in Gaza have caused over 43,600 casualties, primarily civilians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

Up till now, January 2025, this war has killed tens of thousands of people and displaced even more. Israel has used siege and starve tactics as well as scorched earth bombardments, making it no less than a genocide and "ethnic cleansing." Water and food are scarce, essential supplies like fuel and electricity are scant, while the threat of disease and bombardment continues, and lifesaving health care is increasingly inaccessible. (<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2025/country-chapters/israel-and-palestine>)

Recently Bhandare Kamat (2024) investigated how cartoons communicate individual and collective experiences during the conflict. It also explores if the Israel–Palestine conflict phenomenon can be creatively integrated in a participatory arts-based methodology through in-depth interviews with internationally established cartoonists along with representative images by means of purposive sampling. Ozohu-Suleiman (2014) adopted the peace journalism model to examine how Al Jazeera English and Press TV have responded to the Israel-Palestinian conflict compared to BBC and CNN International. Findings reveal that similar patterns of war journalism are produced in the alternative perspective with counter-demonizing language and disagreements on the study of terrorism.

Jackson's (2023) study provides large-scale proof of historical prejudice against Palestine in a newspaper of international importance—The New York Times (NYT)—during the First and Second Palestinian Intifadas. The study uses state-of-the-art natural language processing toolkits as well as a regression model with over 90 percent accuracy. The researcher analyzes over 33,000 NYT articles for their use of active/passive voice, the objectivity, and the tone of the language. Shehzad (2023) also researched the framing of the Palestine-Israel conflict in the leading broadcast media on British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Cable News Network (CNN), Russia Today (RT), and Al-Jazeera during the period 2019 to 2022. The findings of this study show that the media reports on BBC and CNN are biased toward Palestinians and portray them as the cause of the problem, and Israeli attacks are shown as self-defense. However, RT and Al-Jazeera covered human elements. The coverage patterns of the selected TV channels reveal that the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is aligned with foreign policy.

Nour Shreim (2014) analyzed the human cost of the Gaza Conflict of 2008–2009 by using a multi-modal approach with Critical Discourse Analysis. The study examined how the English and Arabic language services of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and Al-Jazeera reported the conflict. The findings of the study exposed that all the channels recognized that the deaths of civilians are deplorable and catastrophic but varied in their evaluations about whether the attacks were intentionally targeting civilians or were the collateral consequences of steering severe military action in highly populated urban environments. Falki and Asrar (2024) investigated the necessity of statehood for preserving Palestinian identity amid globalization. The focus of the study was on the role of major global powers in the Palestine-Israel conflict and examining the

involvement of key international actors, including the Palestinian diaspora, in advocating for Palestinian rights against Israeli policies and the Zionist agenda. The research reveals the varied approaches of the United States, Russia, and China, highlighting past American policies, Russia's multifaceted strategy, and China's cautious diplomacy.

Overall, the reviewed literature demonstrates that although the researchers (Falki & Asrar, 2024; Jackson, 2023; Kamat, 2024; Shreim, 2014; Shehzad, 2023; Suleiman, 2014) have investigated the Palestine-Israel conflict by employing various theoretical frameworks, fewer research studies have been conducted by combining ecolinguistics and corpus analysis techniques. Poole (2022) also highlights the pertinence of such study by arguing that the scope of corpus-assisted ecolinguistics should be expanded. Hence, the current study aims to explore the linguistic elements in the corpora of leading Eastern and Western newspaper editorials by using an ecolinguistics lens.

3. Methodology

The study employed a mixed-method research design to realize the objectives of the study. The study design is appropriate, as the researchers' aim was to draw linguistic patterns as well as gain deeper insights. The blend of quantitative corpus linguistic methods with critical discourse analysis can help give deeper insights. (Alexander, 2018).

3.1. Theoretical Framework

This present study is based on Arron Stibbe's (2015) model of analysis, which is essentially a cognitive framework. In his book "Ecolinguistics: Language, Ecology, and the Stories We Live by," Stibbe encouraged ecolinguists to promote those discourses/stories that contribute to environmental sustainability and reject those that are detrimental to it. This theory is mainly concerned with how humans treat the ecological systems that sustain life and how they could help in constructing "sustainable societies," which protect their ecological foundations (Stibbe, 2017, 2017,497 p). This research is carried out through an ecolinguistics analysis of four techniques/stories chosen out of a total of eight stories: ideology, evaluation, erasure, salience, identity, conviction, framing, and metaphor.

The analysts have described the ecological imagery in the news editorials in the viewpoint of Stibbe's stories. Through systematic content analysis, the researchers identified and categorized the words that show ideological approach and trigger words that bring frames to mind. They also checked the concordance to identify the language patterns that portray the things positively or negatively.

Table 1. Stibbe's classification of stories

Story	Definition	Manifestation source
Ideology	A story of how the world is and should be which is shared by members of a group	Discourses, i.e. clusters of linguistic features characteristically used by the group
Erasure	A story that an area in life is unimportant or unworthy of consideration	Patterns of language which fail to recognize a particular area of life at all, or which background or distort it
Metaphor	A story that uses a frame to structure a distinct and clearly different area of life	Trigger words which bring a specific and distinct frame to mind
Conviction	A story in people's minds about whether a particular description is true, certain, uncertain or false.	facticity patterns, i.e., patterns of language which represent a description as true, uncertain or false

3.2. Sampling and population

The study utilized a purposive sampling technique to collect data from 30 editorials from two famous newspapers, The Guardian and Al-Ahram. The newspapers were selected because of their international esteem and for having inclusive readers across the globe. The criterion for the selection of the data was the news editorials published from October 2023 to January 2025 on the Palestine-Israel conflict. Such editorials were selected as having Palestine-Israel conflict-related words such as ‘genocide,’ ‘ethnic cleansing,’ ‘dehumanization,’ etc. The study comprised a corpus of 30 editorials in total and extracts 15 from each of the two prominent newspapers, one Western and the other Middle Eastern, namely, The Guardian and The Al Ahram News, respectively.

3.3. Data collection

The researchers selected 15 editorials spread across the time frame of October 2023 to January 2025 because the period manifested an intense rift between Israel and Palestine. The researchers downloaded the selected editorials from the official websites of the newspapers <https://www.theguardian.com/international> and <https://english.ahram.org.eg/>. They collected the data manually. They built the corpus by converting the text into plain text. Later on, they uploaded the file on Sketch Engine to examine the linguistic patterns. The software reported that the text had 22,967 tokens.

4. Data Analysis and Discussions

In order to realize the first objective of the study, i.e., to identify keywords, concordance, and trigger words that reflect ideological stance, the data were analyzed through two stories of Stibbe’s (2015) framework, namely, ideology and metaphor. The data analysis of keywords and concordance is as follows:

Table 2. Word frequency and concordance of The Guardian editorials

Words	Frequency	Example concordance	Ideological stance
Hostage	35	U.S failed to Secure a ceasefire or hostage deal in Gaza	Hostage deal is the most significant, U.S is the power dynamic but failed to settle this matter
Attacks	18	The intensification of attacks may be intended to put pressure on Hamas to reach a political deal	Hamas is rigid Intense attacks are justified
Military	16	Israel's military offensive in response to the Hamas atrocities on 7 October,	Military is retaliating in response
Release	16	The priorities must be a ceasefire and the release of hostages, International diplomacy favors an Israel-Hamas ceasefire and the release of Israeli hostages,	release of hostage is top priority geopolitical power dynamics have diplomatic approach to this war
Conflict	14	a deeper investigation of the conflict _ignited by Hamas's 7 October attack last year	Framing Hamas

Genocide	10	International court of justice found there was a plausible genocide in Gaza	Genocide is occurring but the culprit is unchecked
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Table 2 shows that The Guardian newspaper editorials have a high frequency of the words *hostages* (35 hits), *military* (16 hits), and *release* (16 hits). The concordance of these words reveals that Western media is framing Hamas and justifying Israel's actions as legitimate responses. It exposes that The Guardian's prevailing narrative focuses on Israel's war strategies as state security, terrorism, and proportional responses. Israel is frequently depicted as *defending itself*, fostering an ideology that normalizes military retaliation and legitimizes state violence. The modal words like *must*, *should*, and *can* are used with the *release of the hostages* and Israel's statements on war, which highlight the authoritative and obligatory tone. On the other hand, the word *genocide* is described with the words *alleging*, *accusation*, and *investigation*, which reveal the doubtful and least sympathetic attitude towards the sufferings of Palestinians.

Table 3. Word frequency and concordance of Al Haram editorials

Words	Frequency	Concordance example	Ideological stance
War	100	Isreal launching its genocidal war against Palestinian people Or Netanyahu clearly chose to escalate the war in Lebanon and start a ground invasion in early October	Highlights Palestinian victimhood accuses Israel of extreme actions with moral and legal severity
Ceasefire	50	Without a fully respected ceasefire , any talk of increasing or speeding up humanitarian aid to Gaza remains wishful thinking.	Skeptical of performative diplomacy
Extremist	29	The current extremist government in Israel is likely to continue airing illusory goals such as the total destruction of Hamas in an attempt to safeguard its own existence while facing growing public anger	Critical of Israeli policy and leadership
Occupation	22	killing and subjugation to one of the worst racist occupations in modern world history	Anger
Massacre	8	The entire world is fed up with the daily massacres committed by Israel against Palestinian civilians.	Framing the conflict in terms of perpetrator vs victim
Children	5	the death of more than 43,000 people, two thirds of whom are women and children –	Humanitarian stance

Table 3 shows that the Palestinians are portrayed as victims of systemic oppression with words like *resistance* and *children*, while Israeli actions are labeled with terms like *massacre*, *genocide*, *extremist*, or *occupation*. The statements are mostly declarative and explicit with regard to the stance. These narrative positions Palestinian resistance as morally justified and frame Israel as a settler-colonial aggressor. The researchers also looked for the trigger words frequently used in the corpus to trace the metaphorical linguistic patterns. The data analysis of trigger words is as follows:

Table 4. Trigger words from The Guardian editorials

Words	Source Domain	Target Domain	Examples	Conceptual Metaphors
Violence	War	Abduction of people	Israel, which lost 1400 people in a single day of horrific Hamas violence	Violence is a ferocious beast
Massacre	Hate	Helpless people	Hamas massacred 1,200 of its citizens and took 253 others hostage	Massacre is heartless killing
Atrocities	Oppression	Unresisting public	In retaliation for the Hamas atrocities of 7 October, the suffering has not ended.	Atrocities call for ruthless retaliation
Conflagration	War	Middle Easten region	reviving fears of a wider regional conflagration	Conflagration in war-zone is inevitable
Traumatized	Fear	War-stricken civilians	this is a hungry, exhausted, grieving and traumatized population,	Trauma haunts survivors

Table 4 reveals that The Guardian used emotionally charged words in a metaphorical way to frame Hamas as a *ruthless, fierce group of militants* who ignited this unstoppable war. Words like *atrocities*, *violence*, and *massacre* are frequently used with Hamas to create this perception in readers' minds that the intense warfare of Israel in Palestine is an act of retaliation. Another highly emotionally triggered word is *conflagration*, which is used frequently with region. It shows that the Palestine-Israel war is going to spread like wildfire in the Middle East region. The emotionally charged word *traumatized* is used to highlight the pitiable plight of the war-ravaged families in Gaza.

Table 5. Trigger words from Al-Ahram editorials

Words	Source Domain	Target Domain	Examples	Conceptual Metaphor
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Massacre	Atrocity	Killing unarmed civilians	of	The daily, barbaric massacres that Israeli occupation troops have been committing	Deliberate political violence
Ethnic cleansing	Mass killing of a religious or ethnic group	The whole Palestinian race		the more recent horrific ethnic cleansing of northern Gaza amid an obvious plan	Killing people is like cleaning dirt
Region on fire	Fire that causes destruction	Palestinian lands		Netanyahu's efforts to seek revenge for the 7 October attacks and his repeated failures from setting the entire region on fire	Destruction of life and land on a vast scale
Existential threat	Defense policy for protection	Israel's proclamation for damaging the environment		Facing the failure of his fallacy over the "existential threat "	Positions Israel as defensive
Prisoner exchange deal	Commodities are exchanged	Treatment of humans as things		Palestinian and Israeli prisoners are exchanged , starting with non-combatants	Dehumanizing the enemy

Table 5 reflects that the word *massacre* doesn't just report a fact; rather, it constructs a moral accusation and creates emotional framing through metaphor. It brings connotations of butchery, helpless victims, and illegitimate violence, shaping the reader's perception emotionally and ethically. *Ethnic cleansing* functions to sanitize violence and present military operations as clean and necessary actions. *Region on fire* evokes tragedy and mass loss as well as builds sympathy for Palestinian civilians. *Existential threat* here appears to justify the violence to counter violence. Moreover, *prisoner exchange deals* legitimize extreme force by dehumanizing the enemy. All these metaphors do carry with them ethical consequences that affect how readers view the conflict.

In order to realize the second objective, i.e., to analyze the facticity pattern in the editorials to see whether it supports specific ideological positions, Stibbe's (2015) story conviction is utilized. The analyzed data are as follows:

Table 6. Facticity pattern of The Guardian newspaper editorials

Statistical Data	Linguistic expression	Facticity Pattern	Ideological Approach
the families of 50 women and children of Israeli and	Passive and declarative, agency	Numerical fact against Hamas	Framing Hamas

other nationalities, held hostage by Hamas				
4000 children are thought to be under rubble and 17,000 are unaccompanied	Passive with which assured	sentence statistics are not	Numerical evidences are not estimated declared as final	Diplomatic approach not condemning the authority responsible for this
More than 36,700 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, says its health ministry	Passive describing killers	while the	Hide subjectivity and agency	Not stating the fact directly, tactful reporting
The staggering death toll in Gaza – an estimated 44,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children	Emphasis on death scale again without straight claim		Quantification but expression is based on approximation	Using approximation to create uncertainty
Israel ordered 100,000 in the city to flee	Imperative without vague expression		Numerical fact to describe the living	Showing Israel as the real authority

The statistical data in Table 6 shows that the death rate in Gaza is clearly higher than the death rate in Israel. The reporters have used passive and indirect expressions to make it less certain or to weaken the emotional impact. Words like *thought to be* and *estimation* are used, but the sentences are passive without any subject who is responsible for havoc. On the other hand, the number of the families of Israeli hostages, which is 50, is stated with certainty. The actions of Hamas are condemned openly in clear words, whereas the horrific war strategies of Israel are being justified as a kind of self-defense. The ideological leanings of the newspaper are quite clear from this facticity pattern.

Table 7. Facticity pattern of Al-Ahram newspaper editorials

Statistical Data	Linguistic Expression	Facticity Pattern	Ideological Approach
Since he (Netanyahu) took office in late 2022, what has been shocking and sickening is his disregard for the lives of the 32,000 Palestinians killed on his orders since the beginning of this war	Emphasizing scale and horror with temporal anchoring.	Historical framing and time reference is given to strengthen the claim	Pro-Palestinian approach. A clear-cut accusation
At least 8000 more are feared to be buried under the rubble, and nearly 75,000 people have been wounded.	speculative estimate suggests the number might be higher. Passive construction	The number is rounded to show the high facticity	Implied condemnation of the perpetrator without naming
The number of those killed surpassing the unimaginable 40,000 mark this week, not to mention 100,000 wounded	Stative expressing and horror	Mention of the current week in the editorial suggesting the ever-increasing number of killing n wounded.	Sympathy for the victim

The brutal killing of 274 Palestinians in the course of the so-called rescue operation, mostly women and children like other casualties of the past eight months.	Emotive language and skepticism	An exact precise number of the victims with demographic details	Rejection of the justifications of Israeli military operations
The norm was that Israeli occupation troops would kill an average of 70 to 100 Palestinians a day without much world attention.	Conveying a systematic violence	Subjective, political interpretation	Condemnation of international indifference and wake up call for the world

Table 7 clearly shows the number of Palestinian casualties is ever increasing in the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine. There is also a suggestion of systematic and repeated violence. The phrase like *so-called rescue operations* suggests the distrust that the operations are a mere cover to do more harm and commit violence. Moreover, the phrase *the norm* also paints not only the human loss but also global desensitization. The mention of *lack of world attention* is also a plea for global mercy and a bitter critique of global media silence. Even if some of the details are uncertain, the blend of high and medium facticity presents the mass sufferings as real, and the passive constructions evoke a sense of helplessness and fear.

In order to realize the third objective of the study, i.e., to examine how the ecological narratives are marginalized or omitted in the selected editorials of the newspapers through Stibbe's (2015) erasure story. The analyzed data are as follow:

Table 8. Marginalized ecological words from The Guardian editorials

Words	Frequency	Percentage	Normalized Frequency (e.g., per million words)
Famine	7	0.068%	684.73
Territory	6	0.059%	586.91
Food	6	0.059%	586.91
Water	5	0.049%	489.09
Objects	2	0.02%	195.64
Endangering	2	0.02%	195.64
Animal	1	0.0098%	97.82
Natural	1	0.0098%	97.82

Table 8 reflects the marginalized areas of The Guardian editorials. The lowest frequency words, like *animal* and *nature*, are used in the corpus with 97.82% of the whole 10,223 tokens. The words are used in the ecological context to reveal the starving population of Gaza. The focus is on

humanitarian suffering and completely ignoring other species, which are a significant part of ecology. The words like *famine* (0.068%), *territory* (0.059%), *food* (0.059%), and *water* (0.049%) are also used to depict the miserable plight of the war-ravaged families of Gaza. The people of Gaza are drinking dirty water, they are facing a human-made famine with a severe shortage of food, and the war is for the occupation of territory—the territory that is home to many species. The words like *habitat*, *vegetation*, *climate*, and *ecology* are entirely absent from the editorials. It reveals how such concepts are ignored and marginalized in this conflict.

Table 9. Marginalized ecological words from The Al-Ahram editorials

Words	Frequency	percentage	Normalized Frequency (e.g., per million words)
Starvation	7	0.04558%	455.85
famine	5	0.03256%	325.61
fuel	5	0.02605%	0.02605
food	5	0.02605%	0.02605
fire	4	0.01302%	130.24
infrastructure	4	0.01302%	130.24
disease	2	0.01954%	195.36
health	2	0.01954%	195.36
water	1	0.006512%	65.12

Table 8 reflects the marginalized areas of The Al Haram editorials. The less mentioned words, such as *food*, *fuel*, *infrastructure*, *disease*, *starvation*, etc., tell the other side of the story that's not being highlighted. These less frequently used words depict how certain topics and voices are underrepresented or absent from the narrative of ongoing catastrophic destruction of infrastructure along with humans, which is hard to miss. The shortage of food and water supplies is causing starvation and adding to the miseries of civilians in the region.

5. Conclusion

The current study is a corpus-based ecolinguistics analysis of editorials of Western and Middle Eastern newspapers, namely The Guardian and Al-Ahram. The researchers employed the ecolinguistics theoretical framework of Stibbe (2015) for the analysis of the editorials. The study used Sketch Engine to trace the linguistic patterns. The study identified keywords, concordance, and triggered words to see the ideological stance of the newspapers. The study also explored the facticity patterns of the newspapers while depicting war havoc. Moreover, the downplayed ecological narratives are noticed in the editorials. All the linguistic patterns revealed the ideological leanings of the newspapers, power dynamics involved in this conflict, and, above all, ecological damages caused by this feud in Gaza Land in Palestine. Findings reveal the pro-Palestinian approach of the Eastern media that highlights the war-ravaged Gaza, and the Western

media has an Israeli-aligned stance by calling the whole war a response or retaliation. However, both newspapers acknowledged the fact that Israel has gone too far in its war strategies and the war crimes must be checked. The war explosives have damaged the environment of the whole region. The downplayed or omitted ecological damages in the editorials shouldn't be ignored. Not only human beings are in catastrophic condition in Gaza, but also the non-human life is facing misery. 'In the web of life metaphor, humans are one part of a wider ecological system and have the responsibility to understand their impact on... the broader system' (Raymond et al. 2013). The Palestinians are facing human-made famine, and contagious diseases are the result of a contaminated environment. The ecological damage is making the earth less hospitable for all living beings.

6. Implications

This study offers potential for further investigation into environmental discourse with larger corpora. The future researchers might delve into details of how ecological issues are cognitively structured through Stibbe's (2015) all eight stories of ideology, erasure, metaphor, evaluation, framing, identity conviction, and salience.

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