DEPICTION OF AFGHAN PEACE PROCESS THROUGH SEMANTIC PROSODY: A CORPUS-BASED CRITICAL STUDY OF PRINT MEDIA DISCOURSE

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Candidate of **Master of Philosophy** at the National University of Modern Languages do hereby declare that the thesis: **Depiction of Afghan Peace Process through Semantic Prosody: A Corpus-Based Critical Study of Print Media Discourse** submitted by me in partial fulfillment of MPhil degree, is my original work, and has not been submitted or published earlier. I also solemnly declare that it shall not, in future, be submitted by me for obtaining any other degree from this or any other university or institution.

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ABSTRACT

Title: Depiction of Afghan Peace Process through Semantic Prosody: A Corpus-Based Critical Study of Print Media Discourse

After over 20 years of an unsuccessful attempt to dislodge the Taliban from Afghanistan, the US administration was finally ready to sign a peace treaty with them on February 9, 2020. The linguistic portrayal of this historical event has received massive coverage in print media worldwide concerning their national interests and their engagement with the Afghan peace process. The current study is conducted to linguistically investigate the Afghan peace process covered in English newspapers by combining two methodological perspectives; corpus linguistics (CL) and critical discourse analysis (CDA). This study identified the construction of the Afghan peace process in the corpora compiled from the six selected English newspapers, such as The Dawn, The Express Tribune, The Afghanistan Times, The Kabul Times, The Washington Post, and The New York Times, published from February 29, 2020, to August 31, 2021, in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the USA respectively. The researcher selected only two text categories from the selected newspapers, including opinion articles and editorials. Moreover, the researcher employed three corpus tools, i.e., keyword lists, collocation, and concordance, through the lexical software AntConc 4.2.0 to achieve the objectives of the study. Furthermore, the linguistic patterns in concordance lines in each corpus were examined using Stubbs' (1996) model of discourse prosody to examine the viewpoint of each newspaper. The findings of this study reveal that the newspapers of the selected countries depicted the same issue differently based on their interests and liabilities. More specifically, the same discourse patterns have been portrayed differently (negatively or positively) by each country's media. This study emphasises the need to investigate the language and discursive practices used in media discourse to extract public opinion on a certain political issue.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BBC   British Broadcasting Corporation

SP   Semantic Prosody

COCA   Corpus of Contemporary American English

BNC   British National Corpus

NATO   North Atlantic Treaty Organization

USA   United States of America

KWIC   Key Word in Context

UK   United Kingdom

BoE   Bank of England

CACDA   Corpus Assisted Critical Discourse Analysis

GSP   Generalized System of Preference

CL   Corpus Linguistics

CDA   Critical Discourse Analysis

CADS   Corpus linguistics and Discourse Analysis

CNN   Cable News Network

LIST OF CONCORDANCES

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated with utmost sincerity

to my loving parents and teachers.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This part of the study introduces the background of the study. It provides an overview and orientation of the conceptual background of the study. This section introduces the study's background, providing an overview and orientation to the conceptual framework. First, it narrows the discussion from the general to the main focus. This section includes the statement of the problem, the study's objectives, and the research questions. Additionally, it discusses the significance of the present study and its delimitations. Finally, it elaborates on the organization and structure of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a social phenomenon that plays an integral part in our society. People use language to express and share information, ideas, and thoughts, as well as to carry out their actions. Bayram (2010) points out that many of our actions are controlled and influenced by language. Furthermore, language is closely linked to identity formation and plays a crucial role in building power relationships in our society. It also plays a significant role in shaping the opinions and thoughts of many people.

In some cases, it influences and encourages behaviour in one way or another (Bayram, 2010). Language plays a substantial role during war and conflict when the opposing parties involved tend to depict themselves in different aspects, either positively or negatively. Similarly, language is one of the most crucial strategies for influencing the behaviour and attitudes of protesters during large-scale demonstrations (Filali-Ansary, 2012).

Language takes into account both external and internal experiences of the world. It seeks to uncover the hidden ideologies embedded in verbal and written expressions. Serving multiple purposes, language encompasses various categories, including phenomena, procedures, linguistic events, and actions, as well as objects, classes of people, and organizations.

Language fulfils numerous functions across all cultures, with two main types: transactional and interactional functions. The transactional function involves sharing information, whether propositional or factual. This type is primarily used for constructing cultural ideas, laws, literature, etc. On the other hand, the interactional function focuses on building and maintaining social relationships. Language is foundational to human socialization, revealing and establishing social processes and communication, as noted by Wodak and Ludwig (1999).

The elites and authorities utilize the media as one of their most effective tools to manipulate the masses and shape their opinions (Dijk, 1995, p. 10). It is pertinent for a country's media to disseminate and convey the news according to state actors' instructions to various audiences. These state actors may include governments, state institutions, private and public media organizations, and channels seeking to control media outlets in any country. These actors might involve the state, government, private institutions, or organizations interested in influencing media output. Undoubtedly, media discourse is often one-sided, aiming for a lasting impact and control over a large audience. However, it remains unclear who exerts power to control the masses by producing discourse of their own choice. It could be the journalist/anchor, the newspaper editor, or the newspaper itself acting as an institution.

It's noteworthy that the media transmits someone else's agenda and ideas to the masses, with someone else holding power. According to Fairclough (1989, p. 248), "Media interviews and reports only the opinions and perspectives of those who are powerful, such as government ministers, industrial managers, trade union officials, and business tycoons. These are the actual media discourse producers that exercise power over the audience through the channels of media technologies." Media discourse functions as a mediator between the dominant bloc and the general public. The dominant group shapes discourse about events, manipulating actions and occurrences according to their interests and preferences. Public opinions are thus constructed and shaped based on the discourse disseminated by powerful groups in society. According to Van Dijk (1995, p. 12), "The implicit way of exercising power is done through the language media use, which embeds ideologies. News media discourse is produced for consumers by dominant groups such as the elite group or institutions like the state or government to control the

minds of the public and shape their opinions.

Mass media, especially television and newspapers, are crucial sources of information for readers and audiences. The statement 'Media is a key platform for following political events, and there is a close connection between media and politics' emphasizes the significant role of media in political coverage (Wolfsfeld, 2011, p. 164). It is essential to recognize that reporting on politics does not occur in a vacuum.

As Wolfsfeld (2011) suggests, politics plays a significant role in shaping media discourse. In this study, newspapers, as part of mass media, are specifically chosen due to their integral role in shaping and forming the world around us. Pasha (2011, p. 67) highlights that newspapers, as strong institutions, empower their owners or those in positions of authority to enforce an exclusionary policy by regulating what is shown or kept hidden.

Newspapers are structured to determine the importance of one event over another. The extent and frequency of coverage for any event are influenced by the newspaper's political stance. According to Fowler (2013) that the process of selection and representation empowers newspapers to choose, emphasize, or even reject the discussion or presentation of certain topics, events, and individuals. Newspapers play a significant role in producing and reproducing discourses, moulding and influencing the ideas of their readers.

However, readers are not passive; they are discerning and may choose not to purchase a particular newspaper if they disagree with the language and discourse it employs (Cooper, 2008). Consequently, within the same newspaper, articles are written by journalists with varying political views (Lasorsa, 1991).

Furthermore, readers are not static or passive when engaging with a newspaper. McIlvenny (1996) argues that the interaction between the text and its reader creates meaning instantly. Various print media groups cover and broadcast the same event or issue from different perspectives, employing diverse semiotic modes and structures to represent the event. As a result, no two media groups portray and present the same event exactly alike because they do not share similar worldviews. Instead, they offer different opinions and dimensions in their interpretation of events (Van Dijk, 1995).

Hence, an extensive study of newspapers from different countries is necessary to comprehend the ideological stances on any issue. For example, the Afghan peace process has been spotlighted by the print media of various countries in alignment with their national interests or their involvement with Afghanistan and other related concerns. The diverse political and ideological positions presented by different newspapers worldwide on various aspects of the Afghan peace process create challenges in achieving peace and stability in Afghanistan. This is particularly worrisome for the entire region, with peace in Afghanistan being crucial for stability in Pakistan. Conversely, political turmoil and ideological conflicts in Afghanistan have a significant impact on Pakistan and the broader region.

Therefore, the present study attempts to find out the lexical choices employed in the English newspapers of three different countries and explore how semantic prosody helps as a media discourse to express the subjective position of the newspapers of each country and their ideological views regarding the Afghan peace process. For this research study, two newspapers from each country—Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the USA are selected. These newspapers included: The Dawn, The Express Tribune, The Afghanistan Times, The Kabul Times, The Washington Post, and The New York Times. For the present study, the researcher selected only two sections of the selected newspapers, i.e., editorials and opinion articles, for corpus compilation. Editorials manifest the newspapers' explicit voice in terms of the selection of topic, lexical choices and the use of language. According to García Orosa, López García, & Gallur Santorum (2013), editorials are powerful tools in the dissemination and embodiment of ideology that orient and manipulate readers. There are three key features of editorials that most researchers often mention: it propagates and represents an institutional opinion on a topic, it is selected based on importance and time relevancy as the topic of the day, and it is an authorized article reflecting the voices of newspapers on the given topic. Opinion articles are written by journalists who work for the newspapers, and they follow the agenda of the respective newspapers. Therefore, editorials and columns represent the viewpoint of newspapers as an institution on matters of national and international interest. They play an important role in synthesizing and shaping public opinion about an issue. This study focuses on the coverage of Afghan peace process in the corpora made of editorials and

opinion articles from the selected six English newspapers. Three specialized corpora were compiled from these newspapers naming corpus of Pakistani newspapers, corpus of Afghanistan newspapers, and corpus of American newspapers separately. This study aims to explore how these newspapers portray the Afghan peace process linguistically using Stubbs's (1996) discourse prosody as a theoretical framework with the help of Baker's (2006) corpus-assisted critical discourse analysis as a method of analysis. Moreover, it also investigates differences in the lexical choices made in the selected newspapers in portraying the Afghan peace process negatively or positively. Additionally, this study aims to explore the subjective positions of each country's newspapers regarding the Afghan peace process through comparative analysis utilizing corpus linguistics tools.

1.1.1 Afghan Peace Process: Historical Background

Afghanistan, an Islamic country situated in Central Asia, holds historical and geographical significance and has endured prolonged political and ideological turmoil. The global impact of the 9/11 attacks on the United States was profound, affecting not only the U.S. but also Afghanistan and Pakistan. Following the attacks, the U.S. accused Al-Qaeda of masterminding the events, considering the Taliban, in power in Afghanistan at the time, as the protectors of Al-Qaeda.

This accusation ignited tensions between the Taliban and the U.S., leading to 'Operation Enduring Freedom,' launched on October 7, 2001. The operation successfully ousted the Taliban from power, and a new government was established with U.S. support. Over the next two decades, the U.S. and its allies alongside the Afghan government waged war against Al-Qaeda and the Taliban, causing significant damage to Afghanistan and the wider region, particularly Pakistan.

The conflict persisted for almost two decades without evident improvement, prompting the U.S. to seek dialogue with the Taliban for peace and stability. Consequently, the U.S. and the Afghan Taliban signed a peace agreement on February 29, 2020, marking a positive step toward stability. The first peace dialogue involving the Taliban, the Afghan government, and the U.S. occurred in Doha, Qatar, in September 2020, aiming to end the longstanding war and move toward stability.

As part of the peace agreement, the U.S. committed to withdrawing forces by

August 30, 2021, and the Taliban agreed to engage directly with the Afghan government, with a commitment not to violate the ceasefire. The signing of the peace agreement prompted global media to report on the Taliban, constructing their image and representing them through various discursive strategies. International newspapers published reports on the Taliban, emphasizing their role in achieving peace and stability in Afghanistan, recognizing the broader implications for prosperity and stability in the region, particularly in Pakistan.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The Afghan Peace Process has emerged as a highly contentious and extensively discussed topic in recent years, drawing significant attention from global media outlets. Print and electronic media channels across the world have dedicated considerable coverage to this subject matter, primarily driven by their respective national interests and involvement in the Afghan peace process. While the surface-level interpretation of media portrayals is apparent, the underlying motives and intentions remain ambiguous. Varying political and ideological perspectives regarding different aspects of the Afghan peace process can be found among diverse newspapers worldwide. Consequently, these divergent stances adopted by newspapers from different countries present diverse views. Therefore, convergent and unified efforts to establish peace in Afghanistan become a difficult task. The implications of such a situation are particularly concerning for the entire region, with a specific emphasis on Pakistan, as peace in Afghanistan is intrinsically linked to stability in Pakistan. Conversely, political unrest and ideological conflicts within Afghanistan do exert an impact on Pakistan. Given the gravity of this issue, a linguistic examination of the Afghan peace process and its depiction in print media, especially English newspapers, becomes imperative. Therefore, the primary objective of the present study is to investigate and analyse the linguistic choices and their contextual patterns employed in selected newspapers to portray the Afghan peace process, utilizing Stubbs's discourse prosody (1996) as a theoretical framework supported by corpus linguistics tools. This study aims to shed light on how semantic prosody functions as a media discourse to articulate the subjective position of each country's newspapers in their portrayal of the Afghan peace process within their publications.

1.3 Objectives of the study

- To find the lexical items in their co-textual patterns employed in the selected newspapers of each country.
- To explore how semantic Prosody contributes to depicting the Afghan peace process in the selected newspapers of the said countries.
- To investigate how the Afghan peace process is depicted with the use of various lexical choices in the selected newspapers
- To disclose how the lexical choices reflect the ideology of the selected newspapers

1.4 Research Questions

1. What lexical choices in co-textual pattern have been employed in the selected newspapers to depict the Afghan Peace Process?
2. How does the semantic prosody used in the selected newspapers contribute as a media discourse to express the subjective positions of each country's newspaper?
3. How does semantic prosody contribute in the portrayal of the Afghan peace process in the selected newspapers?
4. How do the lexical choices reflect the ideology of the selected newspapers?

1.5 Significance and Rationale of the study

The current study holds significance across several disciplines, including discourse studies, corpus linguistics, mass communication, and politics. Its primary focus is on analysing the discourse in printed media regarding the Afghan peace process and the language employed in representing it. Therefore, students of linguistics can benefit from understanding the linguistic choices made by print media, especially English newspapers, in constructing narratives about the Afghan peace process.

Additionally, this study contributes to the academic field of linguistics by demonstrating how the combination of Corpus Linguistics (CL) and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) techniques can be both helpful and productive. The significance lies in the exploration of an untouched area — a corpus-based critical discourse study of how the Afghan peace process is portrayed in English newspapers. While print media, especially English newspapers, have been subjects of study in various contexts, this

specific combination of Stubbs' Discourse Prosody (1996) and Baker's (2006) corpus-assisted critical discourse analysis is a novel approach.

By utilizing Stubbs's Discourse Prosody (1996), this study delves into an unexplored area, opening new avenues for linguistic exploration. It provides a unique perspective on the portrayal of the Afghan peace process in English newspapers, adding valuable insights to the existing body of literature.

1.6 Delimitation

Given the extensive global coverage of the Afghan Peace Agreement across various media, including print and electronic formats such as news channels, talk shows, magazines, books, articles, pamphlets, and newspapers, this study focuses specifically on six English newspapers. The selection is limited to two newspapers from each of three countries: Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the USA. The chosen newspapers—The Dawn and The Express Tribune (Pakistan), Afghanistan Times and The Kabul Times (Afghanistan), The Washington Post and The New York Times (USA)—are selected based on their wide readerships, large circulation, influence, and persuasive impact in their respective countries. Despite potential ideological differences, these newspapers are regarded as influential paradigms shaping national perspectives.

Due to time constraints, the study's sample size is delimited to the time span from the signing of the peace agreement between the United States and the Taliban on February 29, 2020, to the withdrawal of all American and NATO forces from Afghanistan by August 30, 2021, and the subsequent Taliban takeover of the entire country (Junaid, A., & Mustafa, 2021). Additionally, considering the varied content within newspapers, the study specifically focuses on two text categories: opinion articles and editorials.

Methodologically, the study employs corpus-assisted critical discourse analysis, utilizing Stubbs's discourse prosody (1996). The researcher analysed the compiled corpus of the selected newspapers using various corpus tools, including Keyword List, collocates, and concordance, based on Stubbs's model. The analysis was conducted using the AntConc 4.2.0 software by Lawrence Anthony on February 19, 2019.

1.7 Structure of the Study

The present study on the coverage of the Afghan peace process in English newspapers is organized into five chapters. The first chapter introduces the background of the study, statement of the problem, research objectives, research questions, significance and rationale of the study, delimitation, and chapter breakdown. In the second chapter, the study delves into the 'Literature Review,' where the researcher reviews previous studies related to the present study. It also explores 'Semantic Prosody' and its features, origin, and perspectives, discussing discourse analysis, corpus linguistics, and corpus-based critical discourse analysis. Additionally, it sheds light on relevant studies conducted on the corpus-based study of semantic prosody worldwide.

Chapter three presents the 'Research Methodology,' covering areas such as the study's design, research method, population, theoretical framework, method of analysis, compilation of corpora from selected newspapers, and a description of corpus tools for specialized corpus analysis. Chapter four focuses on 'Data Analysis,' where the data is examined and presented. The final chapter comprises two important parts: findings and conclusions. The study's research questions are addressed in the 'Findings' section. Additionally, recommendations, and suggestions for further studies are presented at the conclusion of the study.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

The purpose of this section is to clarify important concepts, provide justification for the selected methodologies in this research, and offer the most recent and relevant literature on the topic. This chapter is therefore divided into two parts. The first part addresses the theoretical and methodological foundations of the thesis, which is semantic prosody. It discusses some features of semantic prosody, its origin, and perspective. The second section addresses corpus linguistics and emphasizes the importance of corpus analysis in determining semantic prosody. It also explores Corpus-Based Linguistic Approaches to Critical Discourse Analysis.

2.1. Semantic Prosody

Semantic prosody refers to the attitudinal and pragmatic associations and connotations evoked by a specific lexical item within a given context. It encompasses the various dimensions of meaning that can be attributed to a word or phrase, considering its overall effect on the speaker's attitude, the listener's interpretation, and the broader communicative context. The concept of semantic prosody has been examined and analyzed by different researchers, employing various methodologies and perspectives such as those proposed by Louw (1993), Stubbs (1995; 2001), Sinclair (2004), Whitsitt (2005), Hunston (2007), Stewart (2010), and Partington (1998; 2004; 2014).

However, due to its relatively recent emergence in linguistics, there is no consensus among scholars regarding its precise definition. The lack of agreement on the definition of semantic prosody reflects its complex nature and the multifaceted aspects involved in its characterization. The understanding and exploration of semantic prosody have evolved over time, as evidenced by the chronological progression of linguistic scholars' contributions to this linguistic feature (Stewart, 2010).

2.1.1 A Chronological Review of Semantic Prosody

Semantic Prosody is a fundamental topic in Linguistics and has captured the attention of corpus linguists for the past fifteen to twenty years. It is mainly the focus of Corpus

Linguistics. Sinclair is the pioneer of the idea. He presented the idea in 1987. Sinclair (1987) alluded to "good/positive" and "bad/negative" semantic profiles when characterizing a word form that would almost certainly be accompanied by anything favourable or unfavourable. Sinclair, for instance, identified a particular lexicog-grammatical environment, or "semantic environment" (1987, p. 112), of the phrasal verb *set in* using a corpus of 7.3 million words, noting that the subjects of this phrasal verb always referred to undesirable states of affairs, such as prejudice, infection, decay, bitterness, sadness, disillusion, resentment, fester, decadence, vicious, anarchy, etc. and thus set in is characterized as having a negative semantic description (pp. 155–6). A negative default value was generated by the co-occurrence of the frequent collocates and *set* in, which indicated the point of view of speakers towards language use and the semantic relation of lexical items.

Bill Louw (1993) was the one who first popularised the phrase "semantic prosody" 1993. As he compared semantic prosody to Firth's (1957) phonological prosody owing to a procedure of "phonological colouring," Louw (1993, p. 157) appropriated this notion from Firth (1957), who observed this occurrence and labelled it "semantic prosody". Louw (1993 p. 157), defines semantic prosody as a "consistent aura of meaning with which a form is imbued by its collocations". By this definition the implication of meaning transfers from its habitual co-text to a given word. The instances from his work include the terms *symptomatic of, utterly, and bent on* being followed by the words like *depression, destructive, ruining clinical,* and *several sins* were infused with unfavourable connotations owing to a meaning transmission from their recurring co-text, according to Louw's (1993, p.157) definition of semantic prosody which regard it as "consistent aura of meaning with which a form is imbued by its collocates". Semantic prosodies were seen as "reflections of either pejorative or ameliorative [semantic] modifications [through time] cantered on prevalent forms that "may bifurcate into 'good' and 'bad'" (p. 171). Louw (1993) likewise emphasized the diachronic aspect of semantic prosodies, noting that semantic prosodies were "the result of a protracted period of refining via historical change" (p. 164). Semantic prosodies were defined as "reflections of either pejorative or ameliorative [semantic] changes [through time]" (p. 169) based on common patterns that "may bifurcate into 'good' and 'bad'" (p. 171). Louw (1993)

emphasized the diachronic aspect of semantic prosodies, stating that they were the outcome of a protracted period of refining via historical development. Louw's hypothesis of collocations is based on the principle of the diachronic hypothesis- the process of form being filled by collocates that occur at a considerable time. The author offers several vivid analogies to diachronic notions, stating, and "Prosodies are undoubtedly the product of a long period of refinement through historical change".

Louw's article in 1993 gave rise to semantic prosody. He put semantic prosody on the map, which largely influenced the subsequent authors and practitioners in the very field. One of the main decadents and practitioners is Bublitz (1996). Similar to Louw's (1993) "aura of meaning," Bublitz (1996) remarked that "Words can have a distinctive halo or profile, which can be positive, pleasant, and nice, or negative, unpleasant, and awful and that semantic prosody relates to the negative or positive semantic shading of node and collocate (Bublitz, 1996, p. 9).

The author also pays attention to the crossing of the segmental boundaries and "stretches over several units". According to Bublitz (1996), meaning is comprised of many words, not a single one. He selected the following lexical terms for semantic prosody; *prevail, commit, happen, somewhat* and c*ause.* However, the researcher is likely interested in pointing out that prosody may vary according to the meaning of given words. Sinclair (1987) pointed out unpleasant semantic prosody in connection with the word *happen,* but this may not apply to certain meanings of verbs, which is termed by Bublitz (1993) as "by-chance-meaning" (e.g., 'I happen to know his work'). Similarly, the word commit has co-occurrence with unpleasant entities when it has a meaning of executing: the corpora collected by Bublitz's co-occurrences include outrage, adultery, crime, suicide, death in life, offense, acts of vandalism, murder. sacrilege, sin, and theft. However, when the word *commit* carries some different meaning, for instance, commit someone or something; the unpleasant prosody is eliminated. In such cases, co-occurrence may include something productive, modernization, and the construction of new plants.

In particular, Bublitz's (1996) explanation of semantic prosody is note-worthy. He lays more emphasis on diachronic assumptions than in previous accounts: "we know

from lexical semantics that constantly using a word in the same kind of context can eventually lead to a shift in its meaning: the word adopts semantic features from an adjacent item" (ibid.11).

A synchronic and contrasting approach seems particularly promising. That is an accurate investigation of the causes and their collocations in the previous and current texts. This should indicate whether the number of negative collocations has increased over the decades, at least in written discourse. In this case, we can safely talk about development, which tends to be associated only with negatively tagged words.

Moreover, Michael Stubbs played a substantial role by making numerous contributions to semantic prosody as an area of research and brought a sheer number of lexical items to light that is characterized through semantic prosodies. Stubbs (1995) investigated the semantic prosody of a huge quantity of words. These lexical items include, *commit, amid, backdrop, amusement, care, untold, standard, cause, accost, undergo, community, lavish, somewhat, commit, distinctly, heritage, deadlock, heritage, amid, deadlock, loiter, proper, lurk, heritage, proper, lavish,* and changed the term "semantic prosody" to "discourse prosody" to produce a more accurate description of discourse and pragmatic features of semantic prosody. Semantic prosody was attributed to collocation by Stubbs (1995). According to Stubbs (1996, p.176), semantic prosody is "a particular collocational phenomenon" while he defines collocation as "the habitual occurrence of two or more words" (Stubbs, 1996, p.176). He emphasizes that the semantic prosody of a lexical item can be determined through collocates it carries and while identifying those collocates, he suggests that a researcher should adopt a quantitative approach. For example, the term "provide" always collocates with words like opportunities, assistance, funds, and relief in the semantic fields of *money, food,* and *care,* which creates positive prosody. According to Stubbs (1995), semantic prosody is an intricate collocation. Stubbs (1995) asserts that semantic prosody is not a simple collocation. Though, he makes it clear that semantic prosody can be realized on the lexico-grammatical level, while semantic prosody can be identified through its pragmatic level. In addition, he categorizes semantic prosody into three types: positive, negative, and neutral that also provides the foundation of the theoretical framework for the present study.

The father of semantic prosody, John Sinclair (1996) explains semantic prosody from the pragmatics point of view and also pinpoints the rationale for choosing particular linguistic elements over others. Sinclair (1996, p.86) defines semantic prosody as "The primary choice of semantic prosody is the functional choice which links a meaning to its purpose; all subsequent preferences within the lexical item connect back to the prosody". This definition of semantic prosody by Sinclair points out the three key and defining aspects of semantic prosody namely:

1. Functionality

2. Linguistics Choice

3. Communicative Purpose

Sinclair (1996) claimed that to make a sensible sentence, besides grammatical and lexical rules the speaker/writer must take into consideration semantic preference and semantic prosody which are the essential features pointing to the function. Here, Sinclair (1996) claims that the primary semantic decision is always made at the stage of semantic prosody's functionality.

The second aspect of semantic prosody is a linguistic choice. This feature of semantic prosody means that the combination of each collocation within a sentence is never random or arbitrary. According to (Zhang, 2010), all lexical items used in a sentence are always mutually related. The third feature is the communicative purpose of semantic prosody. According to Sinclair (1996, p.87), semantic prosodies are "attitudinal and also on the pragmatic side of the semantic-pragmatic continuum". The appropriate SP is typically constrained and required to reflect the writer or speaker's goal and purpose with explicitness and harmony.

For example, the usage of correct vocabulary and syntax structures is required by the speaker to select words to construct reasonable sentences. However, semantic prosody must be considered because it indicates the features, and since preliminary meaning decision occurs on the functional stage of the semantic prosody. Moreover, Sinclair (1996) argues that configurations of collocations generally adhere to a reciprocal selection relationship and are therefore not random. Sinclair (1996) concludes that the

appropriate semantic prosody must communicate the speaker or writer's view of point and intent with harmony and clarity.

Sinclair (1996) developed the concept of "semantic prosody" in a model of five categories of co-collection of lexical items or semantic units. This model includes semantic preference (association of formal patterns with semantic field), collocation (lexical choices), colligation (grammatical choice), and semantic prosody that has evaluative and pragmatic functions and which is crucial to the present study because the pragmatic functions always explore the speaker or writer's intended meaning and the reason for the selection of certain lexical items.

Sinclair (1996) defines "semantic prosody as follows:

On the semantic/pragmatic continuum, semantic prosody is attitudinal and on the pragmatic side. Consequently, it possesses a vast array of implementation possibilities. This is because, in pragmatics expression, the typical semantic meanings of words are rarely applicable. The significance of semantic prosody in the incorporation of a lexical item with its current context is readily apparent if one observes the varied expressions. Semantic prosody indicates anything related to an item's purpose. It specifies how the remainder of the item is to be processed functionally.

Since prosody controls the choice of the items and the entire aim of expressing meaning in this way is to pre-evaluate the acts, which otherwise would have been favourably rated by the reader and listener, semantic prosody has grown to be viewed as the most important of all. (Sinclair, 2004)

According to the speaker or author's perspective, the textual construction of a lexical item was classified into the following:

1. Initially, the speaker or author chooses the semantic prosody of x given a semantic preference of y.
2. In consequence, semantic choice governs collocational and colligational trends.
3. The (invariable) core is the outcome of the lexical item.

Accordingly, Sinclair (2004) stated that the initial choice in semantic prosody is the operational decision that links meaning to intent; all subsequent alternatives inside the

lexical item then refer to the prosody. For instance, the "textual sequence" of Sinclair's (1991, 2004) *"the naked eye"* as a lexical item is described as follows:

The speaker or writer opts for challenging prosody that is used in conjunction with a semantic predilection for visibility. The semantic preference, which is divided into verbs like "see", and adjectives like usually "visible", influences collocational and colligational tendencies. There is a close relationship between the preposition with and the verbs see, etc., and modals—particularly can and could in the displaying challenges. The pattern of collocation with terms like visible, etc., is predominantly with degree adverbs and the pejorative morpheme in; the subsequent preposition is to. The final element of the item is the core, the almost invariable phrase of the naked eye. (Sinclair, 2004, p. 34)

Partington (2004) described semantic prosody as a type of evaluative meaning dispersed across a linguistic unit that ultimately extends much further than the individual textual word and is far less noticeable. Word is defined by Coffin, Hewings, and O'Halloran (2004) as the mechanism by which ostensibly fair phrases evolve positive or negative meanings as a result of being often used in particular settings described by the term.

Words and word patterns were primed for "pragmatic association" in Hoey's (2005) study on "lexical priming" (pp. 26-9); for example, the attribute of "vagueness" was connected with "sixty," which co-occurred with *almost, getting on for, around, up to*, and *about* (pp. 26–7). Semantic prosody is defined by Baker, Hardie, and McEnery (2006) as how lexical items may be set side by side with a comparable collection of terms or phrases in the corpus, frequently indicating (concealed) views.

2.1.2 Features of Semantic Prosody

Hunston (2007,p.250) recognizes some "points of contention" concerning semantic prosody's attributes, namely (a) "whether semantic prosody should be considered as an asset of a word/expression or an extended unit of meaning"; (b) "whether semantic prosody's attributional meaning is better expressed as a binary distinction (positive vs. negative, favourable vs. unfavourable) or whether its characterization should ideally be conceptually more explicit"; (C) "If semantic prosody "carries over" from one context to

another"; and (d) If the semantic prosody is a type of meaning, a type of semantic process, or a form of pragmatic process.

Drawing from Sinclair's (2004) and Louw's (200) culture, Stewart provides his summary of semantic prosody features.

The table below summarizes the characteristics of Sinclair's and Louw's cultures.

Sinclair's culture	Louw's culture
It is fundamental to the meaning unit and one of the two required components	It is transmitted or connected meaning.
Viewed through the lens of a synchronic framework	Analysed amongst both a diachronic and a synchronic frame
A trait of a greater unit than a single word/expression.	A characteristic of the term.
Not limited to lexical elements that are semantically 'neutral'.	Frequently connected with more semantically 'neutral' lexical elements.
Not confined to 'excellent' or 'poor' descriptors	Commonly represented as a binary contrast using the basic terms 'good' and 'bad'.

Stewart contends that Sinclair's view of "semantic prosody" can be titled "discourse prosody" to more accurately represent its purpose in the discourse, while Louw's version should continue to be called "semantic prosody" (2010, p. 161). Stewart (2010) argues, therefore, that the idea of "semantic prosody" be profitably separated into two concepts, despite their intersection. (p. 163).

Stewart (2010, p.163) examines the semantic prosody features, which are: (a) efforts from researchers on the notion since 1987, with an emphasis on its interpretative feature and concealed quality; (b) synchronic and diachronic concerns; (c) the prospective limitations of visualizing semantic prosody as relating to the word or part of a longer series of words; and (d) problems pertaining inferring semantic prosody from

corpus data concordances. Some of the aspects (Hunston, 2007; Stewart, 2010) will be discussed more below.

2.1.3 Evaluative or Attitudinal Function of Semantic Prosody

According to Stewart (2010), certain semantic prosody instances in literary works do not convey any attitudinal purpose, such as explaining anything as noticeable or undetectable without an instrument that could be mentioned as a factual statement rather than an assessment or perception. Furthermore, semantic prosodies are viewed as context- and register-dependent. For instance, when a *load* is accompanied by *rubbish, nonsense*, etc. (Louw, 2000), the phrase implies a negative assessment. However "Another Load of Crystal Candy and Cadbury's Chocolate Being Delivered" printed on delivery vehicles, does not give the same negative assessment or --- (Stewart, 2010, p. 23).

Similarly, the verb 'cause' which usually is associated with a negative connotation, does not imply the same meaning when used in scientific contexts (Hunston, 2007, p. 263). Although, such cases are more often is the exception than the rules. According to Stewart interpretative role of semantic prosody is occasionally associated with connotation, which demonstrates "second-order or peripheral meanings" (Stubbs, 1993, p. 35). Whereas, according to Sinclair's view semantic prosody plays a crucial role in the unit of meaning (Stewart, 2010, p. 40).

2.1.4. Hidden Quality and Semantic Neutrality

The hidden, subliminal, covert, veiled, and subconscious nature of semantic prosody is a characteristic that is frequently mentioned in the literature (Stewart, 2010). Stewart notes that prosody is typically ascribed to semantically more "neutral" things (p. 32) because terms with intrinsic semantic neutrality lend themselves more conveniently to investigations of any concealed shades of meaning (pp. 32–3). "happen," "cause," "commit," "undergo," "provide," "somewhat," "utterly," "absolutely," and phrasal verbs including "set in," "break out," "sit through," "come about," "bring about," and "fork out" are examples of semantically neutral terms (p. 32). In contrast, "semantic prosodies characterizing more positive or negative things... are relatively infrequent" (p. 33), except for "rife," (Partington, 1998, p. 67) "reckless," (Stubbs, 2001, p. 85), and "fickle" (Tognini-Bonelli, 2001, pp. 19–21).

2.1.5 Diachronic and Synchronic Process

Another debate surrounding this linguistic phenomenon is whether it is a characteristic of a single word or a component of a longer series of a word (Hunston, 2007; Stewart, 2010). Whereas, in terms of the diachronic and synchronic processes of semantic prosody, semantic prosodies are frequently viewed as metaphorical meanings that can be connected, carried, acquired, passed, or retained; they can *imbue, colour, taint, rub off, be mirrored, or spill over*; furthermore, prosodic meaning is an *aura, a halo, a colour, or a hue*, and is the outcome of infection or epidemic (Stewart, 2010, p. 43). In this manner, semantic prosody is interpreted diachronically, as the emphasis appears to be on the mechanisms of semantic change; for instance, "set in," "utterly," and so forth were semantically impartial in the past but have since been frequently co-occurring with semantically, in most situations, negative words, and so have obtained negative semantic interpretative meaning.

However, as Stewart (2010) points out, until now, investigations of semantic prosody have been conducted synchronically; employing synchronic rather than diachronic corpora (p. 47) or without addressing the roots of word meaning (p. 48). Instead of perceiving semantic prosody diachronically as "transfers of meaning" which took place over a while (p. 51), Stewart proposes viewing semantic prosody synchronically as "distributed over, or better, characterizing or belonging[ing] to a unit of meaning/language/discourse" (p. 51). The synchronic framework is best evidenced by Sinclair's (1996, p. 54) description of semantic prosody as "primary and central to the unit of meaning, and [able to] represent the reason for making the meaning of a word."

This synchronic perspective on semantic prosody includes both 'node' and 'co-text', or the full unit of meaning that is chosen by the speaker or the writer even based on its worldwide meaning (Stewart, 2010, p. 60). In other terms, semantic prosody does not belong to the node and can be linked back to the co-text, nor has the meaning passed from the co-text to the node through time (p. 60).

2.1.6. Property of a Word or a Longer Unit of Meaning

Another disagreement is whether semantic prosody is a property of only a word or a word's co-text, (the larger context) (Stewart, 2010, p. 57). 'Affect', for example, has

decidedly negative prosody (Stubbs, 1995, p. 45), and another term with unfavourable semantic prosody is the adjective 'rife' (Partington, 1998, p. 67). The second substitute is exemplified by Sinclair's "true feelings" (1996, p. 90), where the representation is the focus of a compound lexical item with the following inherent elements: semantic prosody of refusal, a semantic choice of expression, a colligating possessive adjective, and the core. According to Sinclair (1996, pp. 87–8), semantic prosody is crucial in the integration of an item with its environment. Sinclair (2003, pp. 17–21) classifies "changes" in the concordance line as changes if his twenty-*year-old regime is to survive* in his study of "regime." *This month marks as good*, with the explanation that changes must be done, which means that the regime is terrible (p. 19), and hence adjustments are required to ameliorate the poor regime. This demonstrates that reference is made to a particular co-text or context, as opposed to just examining whether modifications were usually beneficial or detrimental (Stewart, 2010, p. 98).

2.1.7 Inferring Semantic Prosody from Concordances

Stewart (2010, p.160) raises concerns about "the traditionally tight link between semantic prosody and corpus data". To elaborate, he cites an example that, semantic prosody can be evidenced just by searching at a large number of occurrences of a word or phrase because it tends to rely on the traditional usage of a word or phrase adding that the study of semantic prosody has only become possible through large data of corpus and suitable software. Stewart (2010) contends that semantic prosody, as a form of meaning, cannot be "observed," and that the 'exposure' of data in concordance may provide the idea that meaning can be viewed and observed. In reality, the environment of the lexical item is "exposed," and then the analyst derives inferences from the environment regarding the existence or disappearance of prosody (p. 81). Stewart is most concerned with the notion (e.g. Baker et al., 2006) that semantic prosody is exclusively about "words in a corpus" and can be discovered "only" by computational techniques (Stewart, 2010, p. 58). Stewart (2010) contends that semantic prosody may be deduced through non-computational approaches, i.e., elicitation and introspection, with similar efficacy. Identifying semantic prosody from corpus data requires two macro-steps: selecting a relevant and acceptable query, screening the corpus data returned to detect collocations and semantic inclinations, and then "translating" these into prosody, to transform data into evidence (pp. 83–5). The

second step, however, is highly interpretative and subjectively evaluates text fragments (p. 85), due not just to the viewpoints of individual researchers but also to their perspective on the system of linkages and interactions occurring between the many elements of any particular concordance. These types of interpretive techniques for determining semantic prosody may be subordinate to introspection because, in addition to differing analysts' explanations, commonly quick classifications such as 'pleasant' and 'unpleasant' are the result of personal and possibly arbitrary viewpoints; the magnitude of the textual portions analysed may vary, and the pertinent meaning of words showing up near the keyword in a concordance may not be clearly explained (p. 103). Despite the benefit of uncovering patterns of usage and meanings, inferring semantic prosody from a corpus is a complicated and highly subjective procedure (Stewart, 2010, pp. 120–1). This is due to the way concordances are often presented (Stubbs, 2007, p. 155). Stewart explores the ramifications of the different methods for finding semantic prosody (2010, pp. 107–18). First, limiting the examination of semantic prosody to the five or six words to the right and left of the node in the concordance might result in assumptions about the larger textual surroundings and does not give enough co-text and context for conversation and pragmatic examination (pp. 107–8). Koller and Mautner (2004) suggest a span of 25 words to the right and left of the node. Secondly, the concordance creates the appearance of group cohesiveness and literary unity, which may result in apparent and widespread semantic uniformity (Stewart, 2010, pp. 108–13). Thirdly, the consistency and primacy of the node (keyword) outlined in the concordance may lead the observer to cease suppositions about the meaning of the keyword and let the co-text take over, rather than concentrating on how words (the node and its co-text) constantly interact and affect one another (p. 114). Fourth, visually the node in concordance is physically isolated from its textual context, which illustrates why, in the research, the word is perceived as expressing basic meaning and semantic prosody is provided by the co-text (pp. 115–16).

Semantic prosody is a linguistic phenomenon that involves the consistent connotation or emotional colouring associated with specific words or phrases within a given context or domain of language use. It refers to the inherent tendency of certain linguistic units to evoke positive or negative associations, regardless of their literal meaning. To define semantic prosody operationally, several criteria must be considered.

Firstly, the affective colouring should be consistently present across a range of contexts or language samples, establishing its consistency. Secondly, the association between the affective colouring and the word or phrase should be independent of its denotative meaning and have a noticeable impact on the interpretation or emotional response of the reader or listener. The specific context or domain of language use may also influence the semantic prosody, highlighting its contextual dependency. Moreover, the strength and presence of the semantic prosody can be quantitatively measured or analysed using empirical methods such as corpus analysis or sentiment analysis, ensuring its quantitative ability. Lastly, the affective colouring should be evaluated based on its impact on the overall meaning, tone, or emotional response within a text or discourse, enabling a deeper understanding of its interpretative impact. By adhering to these operational criteria, researchers can systematically study and comprehend the nature and significance of semantic prosody in different linguistic contexts.

2.1.8. Relevant Studies of Semantic Prosody

Baker (2008) conducted a study to carry out the semantic prosody of two lexical items in the British National Corpus (BNC). These two terms are "bachelor and "spinster." Normally, we believe that the word "bachelor" is used for an unmarried man and "spinster" is used for an unmarried woman. While analysing BNC, Baker investigated and came across various meanings of the two terms. He came to know that the term "bachelor" carries many collocate like science, degree, arts, and education. These different collocates are used for a man with a bachelor's degree, not for a man who is not married. On the contrary to this, Baker found that the term "spinster" had collocates like widows, three, elderly, sisters, frustrated, repressed and love-starved, etc. Therefore, while examining the discourse prosody of a linguistics item, a researcher needs to investigate how a particular stance is constructed and manipulated discursively within a corpus.

Checa and Arjona (2011) conducted a study to demonstrate the negative attitude of the Spanish media toward immigrants from a social point of view, wherein migration is deemed dangerous and an annexation that incites dread and animosity. Nonetheless, this negative viewpoint has received scant linguistic scrutiny. This study intends to

investigate the semantic prosody of the Spanish lexical terms *inmigración* and *inmigrante* in written media. A corpus of news articles on the subject of immigration has been created for this purpose. El Mundo and El Pas, two national newspapers with opposing political ideologies, contributed news articles between 2003 and 2013. WordSmith, the corpus analysis software, was used to analyse the news to observe the co-occurrences of the terms immigrant and immigration. The results indicate that the majority of terms co-occurring with immigrant and immigration have negative connotations. These findings corroborate those of sociological research that discovered disapproval of the phenomena of immigration. Consequently, our findings demonstrate that this unfavourable sentiment is also reflected in the media discourse.

In addition, Su, Y. (2017) performed a *corpus-based comparative examination of the intensifiers pretty, quite, rather, and fairly.* In this study, he conducted a comparative analysis of four general intensifiers, such as *quite, pretty, rather, and fairly,* in the British National Corpus, the Written English Corpus of Chinese Learner, and the Chinese Learner English Corpus, making comparisons between the practical utilization and also the semantic prosody of the four intensifiers among native speakers and English learners. He discovered that native speakers and English learners have different usage preferences and conceptualizations of the four intensifiers.

Using a one-million-word corpus of both spoken and written Business English, Nelson (2006) explored the semantic relationships of terms found in the business lexical context. The most important approach to evaluation is semantic prosody or semantic association; the idea that words correlate with collocates that are themselves connected, frequently negatively or favourably, or about a certain semantic group. Thus, the article demonstrates how words in the Business English context interact semantically.

Purwitarini, D. (2020) further conducted a corpus-based study of semantic prosody in covid-19 corpora. In his investigation, the researcher examines the frequency of the words 'suspect' and 'patient' in the COVID-19 corpus and explains whether the major collocates have a positive or negative connotation based on the frequency score. The two terms were chosen because they are synonyms that were often used during the COVID-19 epidemic. This study employed the qualitative technique with the COVID-19

data instrument utilizing a sketch engine and a corpus-based methodology. The findings of the study describe the word tokens from the synonym 'suspect' and 'patient' in the context of COVID-19 data. This analysis reveals that the term 'suspect' in the COVID-19 corpus displays collocation with 14,505 (51.66 per million) hits and the word 'patient' with 518,618 results (1,847.18 per million). The term 'patient' is more prevalent than the 'suspect' in scientific studies on the issue of COVID-19. According to the semantic prosody, the words that precede "suspect" have negative connotations. In contrast, adjectives that follow 'patient' tend to have a favourable connotation.

GAMPAENGGAEW, M. S. (2016) conducted a study on the semantic prosody of the adverbial intensifiers, *certainly,* and *clearly* by analysing their adjective and verb collocations when used and by monitoring the accurate information of concordance lines from the Corpus of Contemporary American English, a language corpus (COCA). Each target word's one thousand concordance lines were evaluated by classifying its adjective and verb collocations. The results demonstrated that these three adverbial intensifiers have a greater positive semantic prosody than negative prosody since they are commonly used to emphasize positive terms, particularly those linked to mental states, general appraisal, and description. Also, it was discovered that each AI tended to co-occur with a distinct collection of adverbs and verbs. Therefore, English learners "Dawn" hardly mentions the attackers as Taliban but often terms them as militants.

2.2. Corpus Linguistics

Corpus linguistics is a subfield or technique of linguistics that focuses on a collection of methods and procedures for examining and analysing languages (McEnery & Hardie, 2012). Corpus linguistics is considered a qualitative and empirical method manipulated to study the natural use of languages for linguistics analysis. The corpus-based study uses corpora as a primary data, collected in machine-readable form. It aims to investigate and discover complete evidence from the specialized corpus. It analytically explores linguist items, their trends, collocation, patterns, co-textual pattern, and co-occurrence, and finally generalizes a language phenomenon. Some corpus linguistics techniques which are commonly used are; keywords, frequency, cluster, N-Grams, collocation, and concordance. For the present study, the researcher used only three corpus linguistics

tools, i.e., keywords list, collocation, and concordance, which are considered more suitable and helpful for the present study. Since this study is part of the CDA domain, corpus linguistic techniques are believed to be useful in applying CDA studies.

Corpus linguistics is a multifaceted field. It incorporates all varieties of language usage across all realms of connection, conversation, and comprehension. The incorporation of the corpus into language research and application has given linguistics a new dimension. In theory, Corpus Linguistics is a methodology that tries to investigate language and all of its features by analysing a massive collection of text samples.

For centuries, this technique has been employed in a variety of research domains, ranging from descriptive language studies to language instruction and lexicography. It often refers to the comprehensive examination of a considerable quantity of genuine, spoken, and/or written text specimens. It comprises collections of both literary and non-literary text samples to comment on the synchronic and diachronic characteristics of a language. Corpus linguistics is distinguished by its use of the latest computer technology in the selection of language input, techniques for accessing language databases, methods for linguistic data and information retrieval, and techniques for applying these to all types of linguistic study and development. The electronic (digital) linguistic corpus is a novel concept. It roughly has a half-century history. As a result, we have yet to reach an agreement on what constitutes corpus and how it should be built, developed, categorized, processed, and utilized. The fundamental concept underlying corpus linguistics is divided into two parts: (a) the cognitive urge to understand how people use language in their everyday communication, and (b) whether it is feasible to construct expert machines that can effectively communicate with humans. With this encouragement, software engineers and linguists have collaborated to create language corpora that can be employed to design intelligent systems (e.g., machine translation systems, textual examination and recognizing systems, computer-assisted guidance systems, language processing systems, etc.) for the advantage of the speech community as a whole. Insights gained from corpus analysis can aid all fields of linguistics and language technology. Thus, the description and analysis of linguistic features gathered from a corpus become critical in all domains of human understanding and application.

2.2.1 What is Corpus?

Corpus is a Latin term that means "body" (plural corpora). Corpus is a collection of a large body of text materials and must be available in machine-readable form. It is a compilation of a significant variety of machine-readable texts. It is a collection of writings that cannot be manually analysed. As a result, the corpus is saved and converted to machine-readable format so that lexical software tools can utilize it. Compiled in either mode (written or spoken), the corpus must be machine-readable. Some corpora, such as The Bank of English (BoE) and the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCAE) are also accessible online. A video corpus of paralinguistic elements, as well as a corpus of sign language, has also been generated (Knight, et al. 2009).

Elena Tognini- Bonelli (2001) proposed two techniques to examine languages in corpus linguistics: corpus-based and corpus-driven. A corpus-based technique to language study is a theory- or hypothesis-based approach to language study. It is employed in a language to investigate a theory, prove or reject a hypothesis, or modify or invalidate a theory. As a technique, this approach promotes corpus linguistics. The study in hand is a corpus-based study. This study is described as a corpus-based study because it relies on corpus linguistics methodology to analyse a large collection of texts, or a corpus, in order to gain insights into the linguistic patterns and discursive strategies used in the coverage of the Afghan peace process in English newspapers.

On contrary, the corpus-driven model rejects corpus linguistics as a method, instead asserting that the corpus itself incorporates language theory. Both of these methodologies establish dichotomies and binary distinctions within which research is undertaken. When performing corpus linguistics research, there are two major data-gathering methods from which to choose (Sinclair, 1991). However, it must be remembered that the data must correspond with the specified research questions. It indicates that data should be picked based on the study topics. The monitor corpus approach and the balanced corpus approach are the two techniques. In the Monitor corpus approach, the size of the corpus increases with the gradual addition of more text, whereas the balanced or sample corpus conveys the language at a particular point in time. Both of these strategies for data collection in corpus linguistics are comparable to the diachronic

and synchronic examinations of a language.

Furthermore, lexical software is used to analyse the compiled corpus of a language. Wiechmann and Fuhs (2006) provide a list of the most frequently used lexical software in corpus linguistics. Search engine, AntConc by Laurence Antony, Concordance by R. J. C. Watt, Wordsmith Tools, MonoConc Pro, etc. are some of these applications. The majority of linguistic software has the following functions, which are recognized as corpus tools or methods. These instruments are performed to examine corpus data. These include word or frequency lists, keywords, concordance, collocation, and clusters.

According to Baker (2010), frequency is foundational to corpus linguistics. He characterizes frequency as the number of occurrences of a word in the corpus. A word's recurrence can be discovered in both ascending and descending order. One can infer the significance of a word based on how often it appears in a text. Concordance is another essential corpus analytical technique. Sinclair (1991) describes concordance as the examination of a lexical feature in the context of its text. In other words, concordance is an illustration of a word's immediate context. A concordance typically provides additional data on the nature and attitudes of words in the immediate surroundings. This entire concordance procedure is abbreviated as KWIC (keyword in context). The searched linguistic item is spotlighted with colour and positioned in the middle of every line during the KWIC process. Additional space is provided on both sides of the item being investigated. The number of words that surround the central word can be determined by the researcher. Besides concordance and frequency word lists, collocation is an essential corpus linguistics tool. Collocation is a linguistic term coined in 1957 by firth, who stated, "you shall know a word by the company it keeps" (p.179). Collocation has been statistically defined by Stubbs (2001). According to him, collocation refers to terms that regularly occur together and communicate meaning nearby. Lexical software is utilized to determine the frequency with which the word x is associated with the word y.

2.2.2. The Role of Corpus Analysis in Identifying Semantic Prosody

As stated previously, various researchers assume that the sophistication of analysing semantic prosody in a corpus requires the utilization of computational analysis due to the

substantial amount of data that must be considered. Hunston (2002) asserts that semantic prosody "can be observed ONLY by examining a large number of instances of a word or phrase because it depends on the typical use of such a word or phrase"; consequently, Louw (1993) contends that semantic prosody is a concept that is only possible to be revealed computationally and whose scope and advancement can only be appropriately mapped by computational techniques". Recognition of semantic prosody, therefore, is a critical part of its analysis; Stewart (2010) asserts that while identifying semantic prosody in a corpus, intuition plays a vital role. This is consistent with McEnery and Wilson's (2001) assertion that corpus-based and intuition-based approaches are complementary for identifying semantic prosody in corpus data. Consequently, semantic prosodies add meaning to the meaning already conveyed by word semantics, necessitating a closer examination of contexts and meaning elements that may not be discovered around the core word (Sorli, 2013). In so far as corpus texts enable the restoration of recurrent patterns without permitting assessment of the context of the conversation, recognition is made possible which is essential for the interpretation. Despite the assertion that semantic prosodies are not simply connotations, identifying and describing semantic prosodies from corpus data analysis is often challenging. These challenges in precisely and eloquently describing semantic prosodies in corpus data compel the majority of experts to refer to positive and negative prosodies in a general sense as opposed to attempting to express the prosodies in greater detail (Phillips, 2009). Partington (1998), Louw (2000), and Xiao and McEnery (2006) concur that semantic prosody expands the meaning of a word or phrase far beyond the limits of a single word and that its purpose is to articulate the speaker's or writer's perception or assessment. Partington's (2004) positive (favourable), negative (unfavourable), and neutral prosodies are considered in this study by assessing each case in context to determine the sentence's positive or negative emotional meaning.

2.2.3. Theoretical Issues of Corpus Linguistics

During the period of the construction of the Brown Corpus, the field of linguistics was overwhelmingly governed by 'generative grammar'. The hard work of W. Nelson Francis and Henry Kucera was not recognized by the language society's leading members. Noam Chomsky, a significant figure in the linguistic field, has opposed corpus linguistics. He

claimed that the ultimate source of grammatical information is the speaker's perception, which cannot be discovered through the corpus. For him, the production of the Brown corpus was "a worthless and foolish effort" (Meyer, 2004, p.1). However, some linguists even now hold this faith, but many linguists now employ corpora for both descriptive and theoretical purposes.

Chomsky's opposition to corpus linguistics may be traced back to his theories. Since then, he has focused less on empirical observation and more reliance on speaker perception, because corpus linguistics is an empirical approach to understanding language that was not crucial to Chomskyian ideas. He contended that the organization of language is the only source of understanding about language and that the extrinsic factors or linguistic use of language are merely a portrayal of the internal network. These two approaches were dubbed competence and performance by him. He was more concerned with competence than with performance, which is why he turned down corpus linguistics. This was acknowledged that corpus is based on performance, which can be influenced by variables such as negative feelings of the speaker (stress, anxiety, etc.), and thus may not accurately reflect the inner language system.

Notwithstanding the condemnation from one perspective linguist, corpus linguistics matured and turned into more adequate and developed during the age of technology (Sinclair, 1991). Today, the computer, which itself is regarded as the core of corpus linguistics, retains millions of words to be processed by lexical software. Nowadays computers, which themselves are regarded as the 'core of corpus linguistic', retain millions of words that can be processed and analysed by lexical software.

2.2.4. Methodological Issues of Corpus Linguistics

There were considerable obstacles to establishing corpus linguistics as a branch or area of language studies. Among the hurdles it faced was deciding to either call it a theory or a methodology. To comprehend the ambiguity of corpus linguistics as a theory or methodology, we should first realize the perspectives of two different schools of thought upon that. Both schools introduced their perspectives on this matter, as shown below.

2.2.4.1. Corpus-Based Versus Corpus-Driven Approaches

One school of thought recognized corpus linguistics as a method and addressed corpus data for analysis using a theory. This method was dubbed the corpus-based method. Using this strategy to corpus data, the researchers utilized a certain theory to confirm or refute, improve or reinterpret it. As a result, this technique lends credence to corpus linguistics as a methodology.

The school of thought that rejected corpus linguistics as a technique, on the other side, proposed a corpus-driven approach to corpus data. This method backs up the notion that the corpus inherently comprises language theory. In other terms, a corpus-driven technique does not require the use of a theory for evaluation because the corpus is the primary source of beliefs about language (Elewa, 2004; Tognini-Bonelli, 2001).

2.2.4.2. Corpus Compilation and Sampling

Compilation of a corpus is not a simple operation. It includes the process of selecting texts that correspond to previously formalized research questions. The compilation of a corpus is not random; rather, it requires a deliberate and organized accumulation of materials. Before the corpus is constructed for a project, the researcher is required to determine the type of text that will be included. She/he must determine beforehand the corpus era, text type, and size of the sample (McEnery & Wilson, 2001; Meyer, 2004; Sinclair, 1991).

Once all requirements for the construction of a corpus have been determined, the researcher should gather a sample of the chosen texts and compile it into a corpus. Taking a sample in corpus linguistics also requires much thought. From the text being selected, a sample should be taken that is typical of the entire population and from which we may extrapolate the results to the selected group (Elewa, 2004; Kennedy, 1998; Sinclair, 1991).

Furthermore, any corpus constructed in corpus linguistics is referred to as an example corpus. This sample corpus ought to be representative and balanced. To achieve balance in our corpus sample, we must choose the text classifications or genres that are representative of the population. Similarly, the representativeness of a corpus is vital. A

corpus is representative when it reflects the diversity of a community or language. When both of these requirements are fulfilled for a corpus compilation, the results can be generalized to the whole population (McEnery, Xiao, & Tono, 2006).

2.2.5. Sample Size and the Issue of Representativeness and Balance

Representativeness is one of the basic principles in building a corpus of the selected population. A corpus is a sample collected from the population in corpus linguistics. The researcher is bound to inculcate all sorts of variability to make a corpus representative of the society (Biber, 1993). Leech (1991) believes that if the results taken from the sample are generalizable to the related population, then the corpus may be considered representative. Biber (1993) claims that representativeness is subject to balancedness which is more important for producing a general corpus than a specialized corpus. Balanced corpus encompasses a range of text categories reflected in the population. With its balances and representation, the good corpus will generate generalizable results for the whole population. The researcher in this study has used corpora which consist of different categories, i.e., editorials and columns. So the compiled corpora have both balanced and representative nature.

In corpus linguistics, the size of corpora is another issue that needs to be considered. The size of the corpora varies for corpus linguists. To know the size of the corpora, we need to seek an expert opinion on the issue. As per the current study, the focus is specialized corpora. So the study is delimited to only specialized corpora. Baker (2008) points out that a small amount of corpora is sufficient for discourse analysis. The example in favour of the argument has been taken from the study conducted by Stubbs in 1996 (as cited in Baker, 2008). Stubbs's study includes a comparative analysis of two short letters by Lord Baden Powell. The corpus consisted of only 330 to 550 words each. He could analyse key differences between the two letters in such a small corpus.

Moreover, Shalom (cited in Baker, 2008) conducted a study to analyse personal advertisements from London-based magazines by making a corpus. Her corpus comprised 766 ads with a word limit of 15000 to 20000. She could differentiate between grammatical and lexical items in the compiles corpus. As per Baker, the size of corpora is not important in specialized corpora. For instance, a person conducts a study on the

discourse related to the discourse of unmarried mothers. He/she may take two corpora from different newspapers. One corpus may have twenty million words and have the subject repeated 40 times. While on the other hand, the corpus may have only 50 thousand words, and the subject occurrences are 500 times. The latter, however, contains the subject of unmarried mothers often and may be utilized as the main corpus for research on that particular area of study. At the same time, the former may be used as a reference corpus. As a result, we ought to be more careful when creating specialized corpora for a specific subject. In creating specialized corpora, quality takes precedence over quantity.

As far as the present study is concerned, three specialized corpora have been designed to carry out CDA. They are in lakhs rather than a million words. The specialized corpora for the present study consist of 816,483 words. The corpora for the present study contain all those articles, including columns and editorials, which were published in the selected newspapers from February 29, 2020, to August 31, 2021.

2.3. Corpus Analysis using Lexical Software/Programs

The ability and utilization of lexical software or programs perform a key role in corpus analysis. Without lexical software or a program, a researcher finds it difficult to evaluate a large corpus (Mason, 2008). In addition, to analyse a corpus sample, it is necessary to select the appropriate software and corpus techniques. All of these pre-corpus analysis tasks rely on the type of study being conducted.

Corpus linguistics researchers employ a variety of online-accessible programs for corpus analysis. A few of the programs referenced by Wiechmann and Fuhs (2006) can be utilized in corpus linguistics in particular. This consists of Monoconc Pro, WordSmith tools, Concordance by R.J.C. Watt, AntConc, Aconcorde by Andrew Roberts, and TextSTAT by Matthias Hünebeck. An analyst should focus on his or her research questions to determine an appropriate program for a specific study. Because not just the choice of the program but also the tools a program possesses are essential (Antony, 2013).

The design of corpus analysis programs is based on specific corpus tools, such as the possibility to annotate corpus, which is not accessible in every program. Therefore, to

annotate a corpus we use suitable software for it such as UAM tools, CLAW, TagAnt, etc. The most prevalent corpus linguistic research tools are explained below.

2.4. Corpus Analysis Tools

Language data is usually referred to as corpora. To examine this data, software tools are required. These software tools assist researchers with a variety of functions, such as the corpus linguistics analysis techniques they employ (Antony, 2013). Corpus tools are recognized as the most crucial component of corpus linguistics. These are the instruments used to detect any linguistic pattern.

According to Sinclair (1991), the corpus is monitored indirectly using corpus tools like concordance, collocates, word frequency, parsers, aligners, and so forth. Moreover, corpus technologies are utilized to investigate corpus data in both quantitative and qualitative ways. Statistically measuring corpus data requires the use of tools such as the world list and keyword list. To qualitatively describe or understand the corpus, concordances and collocates assist offer the text's context. Important corpus tools for this study are explained in the section that follows.

o **Word list**

The world list, which determines the frequency of the words in a text, is the most frequently used corpus linguistics tool. It indicates the frequency with which a term appears in a certain corpus. Baker (2008) identifies a global list or frequency as the primary method of study. In reality, such a tool is what distinguishes corpus linguistics as a quantitative technique. The world list tool extracts not just the frequency of particular words but also their forms and lemmas. The frequency list of words may be retrieved in ascending and descending order, as well as alphabetical sequence. After obtaining the word frequency list, we analyse it to determine why a specific word occurs more frequently in the corpus than the rest. Nonetheless, one may deduce from the frequency list which word categories dominate a corpus and also what the corpus is all about.

o **Keyword list**

A keyword list is a tool that enables researchers to determine the lexical focus of a corpus (Baker, 2008). This tool explores the words in a corpus that transmit the corpus' primary concepts, or, in other terms, it isolates the words upon which the corpus is founded. To

discover the keywords in any corpora, the researcher must compare the source corpus to a reference corpus (Baker, 2008; Aluthman, 2018; Gabrielatos and Baker, 2008).

A reference corpus is often a large corpus that reflects the maximum variation of a language and contains the majority of text classifications. As a reference corpus, BNC (British National corpus), BE06, Brown corpus, etc. might be utilized. This tool's primary goal is to identify keywords from the corpus that express the corpus's common topics and themes. This technique of determining the list of keywords is known as the keyness of the corpus. In other words, it is considered the corpus's aboutness because the entire corpus debate centres on these keywords.

o **Collocation**

Originally, the linguistics term "Collocation" was first used by Firth (1957, who says that "You shall know a word by its company it keeps". Collocation is a type of lexical linkage in linguistics. This relationship gives lexical terms a meaning. Words have no significance until they are employed in conjunction with other words. Collocation refers to words that regularly co-occur with other words (Baker, 2008). Additionally, he notes that a word that most often appears close to another word in a particular text and is statistically determined to a larger degree than other terms can be assumed to be frequently used in natural language.

Moreover, Firthian terminology better describes collocation. According to this, attitudes toward words are determined by the relationship they keep with other words (Firth, 1957). To comprehend the meaning of a word, we must examine the words that are used nearby in a linguistic structure. This context is known as co-text in linguistics. This collocation technique for determining the meaning of a given word in a text contradicts the dictionary definition. As a result, it is emphasized that while looking for contextual significance in a text, words positioned close to other words must necessarily be evaluated.

Collocation performs a major function in discourse analysis for propagating ideas and imposing a particular structure on text (Haider, 2016). The use of collocation in CDA studies not just derives the meaning of discourse-driven words but also reveals the underlying meaning behind the employment of particular collocates in a specific

conversation (Forest, 2007). Furthermore, the link that producers construct between collocation and speech is context-dependent. The employment of collocates with particular words in a particular discourse creates the meanings of those words in that context. Thus, the employment of collocates with other terms reveals the ideology and views of the producers about a certain incident, item, or circumstance.

○ **Concordance**

Baker (2008) defines concordance as the list of all terms that appear in the immediate context of the searched word or the phrase under study. In the concordance line, the search term is flanked on the right and left by specific terms. Generally, the searched word is placed in the middle of the concordance line. All of the key terms in the concordance software are listed in alphabetical order. A concordance is sometimes referred to as a KWIC (keyword in context). The primary goal of this corpus tool is to provide the immediate context of an attitude of the searched word. This instrument classifies corpus linguistics as a qualitative method of linguistic research.

Regarding CDA, concordance is the in-depth contextual investigation of the search item (Baker, 2010). He suggests employing the concordance technique in computer-assisted discourse analysis and research for two main reasons. Firstly, it aids the researcher in decoding the explanations for particular prosodies and preferences. Secondly, the researcher would be held accountable for making false assumptions about the corpus's topic without considering prosodies and preferences. Concordance analysis is subject to discourse prosody. According to Stubbs (2001), discourse prosody is subject to pragmatics. An attitude of the producer toward a specific phenomenon can be deduced from the discourse prosody, which is demonstrated at the lexical level by co-occurrences.

2.5. Critical Discourse Analysis

The field of linguistics known as critical discourse analysis (CDA) has expanded too rapidly during the last decade of the 20th century. It is essentially a progression of the 1970s-era critical linguistics. Therefore, it is recognized as a rapidly expanding subfield of language studies in which speech is considered "a type of social activity" (Fairclough & Wodak, 1997, p. 258). CDA introduces the relationship between variables such as language, identity, society, and power, emphasizing primarily the function of context in

the discourse (Wodak, 2001). CDA's role in discourse is mainly to disclose concealed social power abuse, domination, inequalities, and prejudice (Van Dijk, 1985). Once these behaviours are uncovered and comprehended, they are questioned, altered, and reformed in writing and speech.

As a rapidly emerging field of language research, CDA has become the focus of criticism and the subject of intense scholarly discussion. Fowler critiques CDA for relying solely on the examination of text fragments as opposed to the entire text. Widdowson challenges the analysis's inherent prejudice and bias (Breeze, 2011). While Stubbs notes the absence of representativeness and generalizability of the study's findings (Cheng, 2012). These methodological flaws in linguistics have prepared to move to its breadth and future, but scholars in the field have proposed the following new techniques to address the issue.

2.6. Corpus-Based Linguistic Approaches to Critical Discourse Analysis

Numerous theoretical frameworks and methodological techniques have been utilized in language and communication research including corpus linguistics (CL), critical discourse analysis (CDA), and a unique combination of CL and CDA (Baker et al., 2008). CL is an empirical approach to language analysis and description that begins with corpora as its primary data source. It incorporates the complete corpus information and analyses it intending to discover "probabilities, trends, and patterns, co-occurrences of components, characteristics, or groups of features" (Teubert & Krishnamurthy, 2007, p. 6) to arrive at generalizations about language phenomena. Basic CL research approaches include the production and examination of word lists, keywords, collocations, and concordances, supported by statistical significance measures.CL is essentially quantitative and concerned with the local context of the scenario, specifically the study of concordance, which is "a collection of the occurrences of a word-form, each in its textual setting" (Sinclair, 1991, p.32). Corpus linguistic methods have been employed to investigate discourse-level phenomena, including "characteristics associated with the use of a language feature," "realizations of a particular function," "characterizing a variety of language," and "mapping the occurrences of a feature across entire texts" (Conrad, 2002, p. 75). Additionally, CL has been utilized in CDA research.

Fairclough (2001, p. 21) characterizes CDA as "language as discourse and as social practice" and examines the connection between language and ideology (e.g., van Dijk, 1997; Fairclough, 2001; Wodak, 2001). Following Halliday's (1985) approach, which views "language as firmly anchored in its sociolinguistic environment" (Orpin, 2005, p. 37), CDA is divided into three stages: text description, text analysis, and explanation of the link between interaction and social context (Fairclough, 2001, pp. 21–2). Due to its qualitative research approach to linguistic analysis, CDA has been questioned for its methodological shortcoming, which resulted in "fragmentary and exemplification" text forms (Fowler, 1996, p. 8). Others, such as Widdowson (1996, 2000a), critique CDA for its lack of academic thoroughness, especially because data analysis tends to confirm the analyst's subjective assumptions (Orpin, 2005, p. 38). Stubbs's (1997) critiques of CDA focus primarily on its lack of representativeness in brief or partial texts and randomly chosen data, as well as its inability to generalize the outcomes of CDA research since linguistic traits are seldom compared with language norms (Orpin, 2005, p. 38).

In reaction to this critique, Stubbs (1997) proposes using CL methodology to strengthen CDA, particularly utilizing random sampling, analysing a large collection of text, and contrasting the language features under study with a system of rules recorded in a corpus to basic guidelines generalizations about proper language usages. Stubbs (2001) responds to Widdowson's (2000b) position paper, "On the Limitations of Linguistics Applied," noting that while Widdowson continues to raise key matters about textual analysis, his premise is flawed because "he does not discuss the inherently quantitative, variable, and comparative nature of corpus data, he cannot directly discuss the relations between textual, cognitive, and social phenomena" (p. 149). The task of combining the qualitative methods of CDA, which investigate grammatical or lexical selections used to convey social practices and social phenomena, and the quantitative CL methodology, which is primarily used for studying the lexico-grammatical and collocational patterns of lexical items (Sinclair, 1996), is to determine "which aspects of the CDA approach can be best served by corpus analysis" and "to find a point or points of entry into the data" (Orpin, 2005, pp. 38–9).

2.7. Advantages of Using Corpus Techniques in CDA

Since CDA's qualitative approach to data analysis has already received a great deal of methodological criticism, influential thinkers in the field of linguistics have highlighted its primary flaws and weaknesses. Fowler critiques it for examining fragmented and exemplification text forms (Caldas-Coulthard & Coulthard, 2013). Because researchers choose a specific approach for non-randomly picked lexical elements or grammatical features that they know would produce a result in line with their intuition, Widdowson criticizes CDA for lacking objectivity and academic standards (Breeze, 2011). According to Widdowson's critique, data analysis is carried out according to the analyst's subjective preconception. Stubbs points out its extrapolation of the findings and the need for generalisations in the fragmented texts (Cheng, 2013).

To strengthen CDA's shortcomings, In order to make accurate generalisations about language use, Stubbs (1997) suggests applying corpus linguistic methodology to CDA. This methodology helps use random sampling, analysing many texts, and—most importantly—comparing the study's focus on lexical patterns with language norms expressed in a corpus. CDA is a qualitative strategy that looks up a word pattern in a social, cultural, and political context. In contrast, CL is a quantitative approach that analyses and quantifies the lexical elements in the corpus. This combination is completed by Partington (2003), who lists three benefits of using corpus linguistic methods to conduct CDA research. In the beginning, corpus linguistic methods contribute to the discovery of language phenomena that have previously been discovered. After that, it reveals some previously unnoticed linguistic patterns. Along with these two, it serves the purpose of confirming the researchers' hypotheses by showing how much their suspension contributed to the outcomes. In light of these benefits, it is vital to note that combining the two methodologies yields outcomes that preserve a more significant gap between the researcher's intuition and the facts.

2.8. Media Discourse/Politics

The mainstream media, particularly the print media, function as vital sources of information and effective means of communication. The news media has evolved into a highly strong weapon for creating debate around the globe since it regulates a large

portion of what people learn about everyday global events. An event's impact can be diminished if it is not portrayed dramatically by the news media, even if the event itself is of high intensity. In contrast, if a little event is portrayed as having a large scale and negative consequences, it can have a significant impact on the public's perception of the event. According to Scheufele (1999, p. 103), media impacts nowadays can be described as "social constructionism." The media generate new social realities and radically alter the collective consciousness.

The newspaper, according to Cissel (2012), is an indispensable source of printed information and its impact cannot be overstated. According to Razi (2014), the media can alter public perception by equipping the masses with information and knowledge. According to Hall (1975), the media can significantly influence the world, alter perspectives, establish societal conceptions, and construct ideologies. Yousafzai (2007) is of the viewpoint that all media objections are crucial and that the media should perform all of its functions virtuously, such as providing information, training, and amusement, because these functions impact the masses. Moreover, the press is usually regarded to be the most reliable and credible of the mass communication media and is even regarded as more credible as compared to other mainstream media, such as the electronic, due to its crucial role in outlining domestic and international critical or urgent concerns (Hassan et al., 2013). The structure of the reports consists of three sections. First, there comes the situation's description. The second section provides a summary of the problem and an analysis of the entire scenario, and the final section provides plausible, rational, and practical findings, recommendations, and guidelines (Van Dijk, 1992). The editorials of a newspaper contribute to the formation and influence of readers' ideologies and perceptions, and their primary function is to articulate and convince through the communication of viewpoints (Van Dijk, 1996).

Henry and Tator (2002) argue that editorials represent the most significant ideological stance of newspaper shareholders and editors. Reath (2002) contends that editorials allow newspapers to interact with their readers by posting comments on different issues. Editorials compel readers to recognize that the suggested solutions must be carefully considered and implemented practically because they are so effective. According to Sheb (2008), several unidentified editorial authors compose the editorials,

and these editorials reflect consistent perspectives on each matter. Thus, they convey to readers the newspaper's stance on any given subject. Matter of fact, readers has limited opportunities to witness occurrences because they rely on the media for information. Consequently, the job of media in this respect becomes vital in supplying them with media framing in terms of what to show to the public and what to conceal from them to satisfy their demands and aspirations for knowledge of society's problems beyond the range of human sight. (Jan, et al) 2013 think that after cable TV was introduced, newspapers established competition with the TV to retain and attract readers, and embraced television's belligerent and bold appearance without paying attention to the ethical benchmarks and code of conduct, thereby disregarding the previous notion of moral and objective methods. This inevitably leads to the adversarial, fragile, and popular manner of portrayal, in which the media rather than using objective techniques to convey events employs subjective methods, hence rendering news biased and subjective.

Evaluation of media discourse is an accepted field of study. Using the methods of discourse analysis, a researcher can determine the ideology underlying everything articulated, written, and displayed. Newspapers are an extremely impactful and extensively read type of discourse, expressing societal, cultural, political, and financial viewpoints on certain occurrences and shaping public sentiment in particular ways. It is vital to emphasize that the persons, events, and parts of events that are often reported by newspapers are not essentially unbiased, (Fowler, 1991), and that ideology primarily manifests in the linguistic choices that newspapers carefully adopt.

2.9. Existing Studies on the Combination of Corpus Linguistics and CDA

Newspapers are an extremely effective and globally read form of discourse that represents an event from a sociological, cultural, political, and economic perspective and influences popular sentiment in a certain way. The individuals, events, and aspects of events that newspapers disclose to the public are not ideologically impartial (Fowler, 1991), and ideology is only evidenced in the intensive language selection made by newspapers. Events that are organically newsworthy themselves are not merely selected by the media. Rather, the selection of events and topics is a complicated and accurate

method that takes into account the socioeconomic and political context of the nation. When the opinion regarding the inclusion or exclusion of an occurrence has been made, (Fairclough, 1995) it is necessary to determine how the event will be portrayed and what choices need to be made. This research focuses on news articles, editorials, and columns as the perspectives and opinions of newspaper agencies. These news articles are impactful and thoroughly created regarding word patterns, clauses, and sentence structure since they are the first news stories on the main page that readers generally read. Likewise, articles (editorials) reveal the newspaper's perspective in terms of topic selection, lexical selection, and linguistic style. According to GarcaOrosa, LópezGarca, and Gallur Santorum (2013), editorials are potent instruments for the spread and manifestation of ideology. The vast majority of scholars have pointed to these three essential aspects of editorials on many occasions. It is an unofficial article that expresses the opinions of newspapers on a specific issue, and it propagates and expresses an institutional perspective on a topic. The selection of the topic of the day is based on significance and temporal relevance.

Review of earlier studies on how events are portrayed in newspaper discourse to determine how events are depicted. Using two Arabic newspapers, Ashraw Al- Awsat and Al- Khaleej, Haider (2016) conducted a corpus-assisted critical discourse analysis to examine how Qaddafi (a former president of Libya) was portrayed in the corpus of newspaper stories from 2009 to 2013. To determine which terms collocate with Qaddafi, he used the corpus technique of collocation. The results of his study revealed that newspapers portrayed Qaddafi favourably during the pre-uprising period of 2009 to 2010, but negatively during the Libyan post-uprising period of 2012 to 2013. It demonstrates how the language of newspapers shifts over time following their ideologies of how similar events, individuals, or circumstances are represented.

White (2017) utilized the corpus-assisted CDA approach while researching the article corpus of Indonesian and Malay newspapers. Her objectives were to investigate Islamic issues and ascertain how these two newspapers from various nations responded to the Islamic fundamentalist trend. The corpus of articles was assembled over six months, from August 2015 to February 2016. She used concordance and collocation as corpus tools to analyse the corpus, applying them to specific keywords like Islam and other

relevant topics. Her study's findings demonstrated that whereas Indonesian newspapers depict Islam as having deep ties to the community, residents, and society but fewer ties to the nation and government, Malay newspapers represent Islam as possessing strong links to the government and the state. This investigation revealed that Indonesia is a predominantly Muslim nation, while Malaysia is an Islamic nation. Therefore, it is essential to recognize that groups have various agendas, which influence how people see events differently. As Van Dijk (2013) asserts, the ideologies of two social groupings, group A and group B, cannot be the same because their perspectives on the world are distinct.

An investigation of two newspapers with opposing ideologies revealed the same domestic occurrence was portrayed from different angles. Henley et al. (2002) conducted a comparative investigation of the Washington Post and the San Francisco Chronicle, both American newspapers, to assess how anti-gay offenses were portrayed. Both newspapers' news articles were selected for an examination of the incidence and uniqueness of assault toward LGBT persons. The investigation revealed that the ideology of the two newspapers is distinct, with the Washington Post seeming to be conservative and hence, less than the San Francisco Chronicle. Gupta (2013) researched how the Times newspaper portrayed the women's suffrage campaign from 1908 to 1914. She compiled two corpora, one consisting of editorials and news stories and the other of letters to the editor. The objective was to determine the choice of words and article organization utilized by the newspaper to represent the suffrage movement. The corpus-assisted CDA paradigm proposed by Baker was implemented, and corpus techniques such as concordance were used to identify keywords' language context, collocation, and patterns. The corpus was examined using the terms 'suffrage(s)', 'suffragist(s)', 'suffragette(s)', and some of the movement's prominent figures (Ibid) She demonstrated via her research that newspapers portrayed the campaign as a direct intervention with potentially harmful outcomes. It was also shown that multiple suffrage personas, such as suffragist constitutional campaigners and suffragette militant campaigners, were confused inside the movement.

In addition, Kinloch (2018) examined the discourses around infertility in the setting of the United Kingdom in three distinct media categories, including UK blogs,

news stories, and clinic webpages. She applied Baker's (2008) suggested approach, CADS, to the cataloged corpora and modified WordSmith software version 5's corpus tools, such as the keyword list, patterns tool, and concordance tool, to ascertain the key topics transmitted by the corpora, the evolving lexical trends of the lexical items, and the discourses surrounding the care of infertility. In her research, she described the four dominant discourses on infertility. They pertained to altering infertility, medicalized infertility, commercializing infertility, and the significance of parenting. These discourses have been examined across corpora. It was discovered that the news corpus depicted infertility as a societal issue, the clinic corpus handled the matter of infertility as a short-term condition that can be treated, and the blog corpus handled infertility as a disturbance of life similar to other disruptions of life.

Another comparable research employing a corpus-based CDA technique was performed to evaluate the language of the mainstream media's portrayal of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (Kandil, 2009). CNN from the United States, BBC from the United Kingdom, and Al-Jazeera English from Arab were the three news media outlets that the researcher analysed. The internet archives of the three specified news sites were accessed to obtain data. Only certain articles germane to the topic that was published between October 2003 and December 2005 were evaluated. For the utilization of data, corpus tools such as keywords were utilized to identify key subjects in the corpora, collocation has been employed to identify language forms, and the concordance program was used to visualize these trends in context. The ideological square model created by Van Dijk was adopted to evaluate the concordance lines. From the keyword analysis, the study identifies four essential issues. The first two subjects were identified as occupation and settlements, followed by terrorism and the Israeli disengagement strategy. After identifying these significant concepts, they were subjected to additional scrutiny using collocation and concordance tools. For instance, the issue of terrorism was examined across all three corporations to determine its treatment. According to the investigator, CNN and BBC were more likely to identify the word terrorism with the Palestinian group's forms of brutality than with those of the Israeli group, although Al-Jazeera opposed labelling the Palestinian organization's actions as terroristic. Al-Jazeera news stressed the issue of occupation more frequently than CNN, which deemed it less

significant, although BBC gave it more attention than CNN. Settlement in the concordance lines was discussed regarding the growth of the West Bank, the withdrawal plans of both parties, and their peaceful resolution. It also happened at sites where several occurrences occurred. This comparative analysis of the three corpora revealed that the three news platforms represented the very same incident using a distinct discursive method.

Ballmann (2017) conducted a study on the depiction of Brexit in international media. He contrasted Deutsche Welle, France 24, and Al-Jazeera English newspapers. Framing and CDA analysis were performed on chosen stories from each of the three newspapers published following the vote and up until the end of 2016. Despite some changes, the depiction of Brexit in the three newspapers was fairly comparable, according to the findings. Muhammad (2018) investigated that post-Brexit referendum reporting in British media was different. He did a comparative analysis of the publications Telegraph and Guardian. From 30 September 2016 to 31 October 2017, articles comprising editorials, news items, views, and analyses were collected from both publications. A qualitative approach to the sample articles was conducted, and the social responsibility theory was also utilized. According to the data, the Guardian provided extensive coverage of the Brexit event, while the Telegraph's broadcast was even far less than the social obligation.

Another corpus-based study was conducted by Aziz (2021) comparing three Pakistani English newspapers, The Dawn, The News International, and The Express Tribune, and a CDA analysis was conducted on the Brexit-related opinions and editorials of the newspaper articles. His research seeks to analyse the coverage of Brexit in Pakistani print media from a linguistic standpoint. This research also integrates different methodological approaches, namely Corpus Linguistics (CL) and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), to determine the construction of the Brexit event in corpora assembled from three selected Pakistani English newspapers, namely the Dawn, the News International, and the Express Tribune, within a specified timeframe (23rd June 2016 to 29th March 2019). To achieve the objectives of his research, the lexical software AntConc was primarily utilized to access three corpus tools: keyword list collocates, and concordance. The keyword list was altered to determine the "aboutness" of the assembled

corpus. Collocates were used to identify repetitive collocate trends surrounding a target word, and concordance was important and efficient for a critical study of a collocate pattern in the frame of reference. Furthermore, Stubbs' discourse prosody was used to perceive collocate patterns in concordance to locate the vested policy of each newspaper. The outcomes of the research indicate that the studied newspapers consistently portrayed Brexit as a bad occurrence and as a global problem, particularly in terms of its effects on Pakistan and the EU member states. Nonetheless, newspapers portrayed Brexit as a global trade of freedom for Britain in a far less favourable manner.

The above-discussed research studies show that analysing newspapers' discourse through corpus-assisted critical discourse analysis is a suitable methodological approach for examining data. Although the Afghan peace process, as a political event covered by the world media, has received attention, it has not been linguistically analysed using Stubbs's (1996) discourse prosody. Moreover, as a recent international event, the Afghan peace process has not been the primary focus of research in countries such as Pakistan. However, there is no single study available that has examined or presented a print media perspective on the current issue using Stubbs's semantic prosody (1996) as a theoretical framework.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DESCRIPTION OF CORPORA

This chapter deals with the nature and design of the study. The methodological aspects of the study are discussed in this chapter. First, it describes the study's design, which provides a roadmap of all the techniques used to carry out this research. Subsequently, it offers a thorough and detailed description of the study's theoretical framework for conducting the analysis. Furthermore, it encompasses the method of data analysis, details regarding the population and sampling, procedures for data collection, and a description of the corpora used. Additionally, there is an explanation of the AntConc 4.2.0 software utilized in this study. Finally, the chapter provides a brief overview of the rationale behind the corpus analysis tools employed for the present study.

3.1 Design of the Study

This study employed a mixed-method (qualitative and quantitative) approach. Both quantitative and qualitative methods have their strengths and limitations. The strengths and weaknesses of each research method have been compensated accordingly. When used with compiled corpora, corpus tools like word frequency, collocates, and keyword word lists generate quantitative data. In contrast, the concordance tools will generate a qualitative analysis of the complied corpora that prepares the way for critical discourse analysis. Creswell (2003) defines a mixed research approach as a kind of research method including; collecting, mixing, explaining, and interpreting both qualitative and quantitative data. The present study has incorporated a mixed method approach so that the researcher might get more objective, accurate and generalizable results.

Moreover, a judgmental or purposeful sampling approach has been used for the present study to get newspapers data. Three specialized corpora were collected from six English newspapers of three countries, i.e., Pakistan, the USA, and Afghanistan, for the comparative analysis. These newspapers constitute The Dawn, The Express Tribune, Afghanistan Times, The Kabul Times, The Washington Post, and The New York Times. Only two sections of the chosen newspapers were selected, i.e., editorials and opinion

articles. The researcher has created three specialized corpora, which are given specific names separately. These corpora are Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers, Corpus of American Newspapers, and Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers.

These three corpora have been compiled from two text categories: editorials and opinion articles of the selected newspapers from February 29, 2020, to August 31, 2021, which is almost 18 months (1 1/2 years). The date mentioned above is important because, on February 29, 2020, a peace agreement was signed between the Taliban and The United States of America. On August 31, 2021, all American and NATO forces left Afghanistan, and the Taliban took control of Afghanistan.

After selecting editorials and opinions, it was saved into word files. Three separate files of the collected corpus of each country were created. After storing the collected data in MS word files, it was converted into plain text format because AntConc does not process MS word files. Hence, to process the compiled corpus through AntConc, the file must be converted into plain text format. In addition, before running the file in AntConc, all unwanted materials have been cleaned. So, all the irrelevant and unwanted text materials like images, names of editors and columnists, references, tables, titles, and publishing dates were removed. The repetitions have also been considered. The researcher also used sketch engine clean the corpora more authentically. After doing all these processes, final versions of all three corpora were created and were ready to run into AntConc software. Finding concordance, collocation, and keywords in the corpora was done using AntConc software version 4.2.0.The data was then analysed using Baker's (2008) Corpus-Assisted Critical Discourse Analysis as a method of analysis and Stubbs's (1996) model of discourse prosody as a theoretical framework.

3.2 Theoretical Framework

The present study used Stubbs's (1996) model of discourse prosody as a theoretical framework. The researcher followed Stubbs's (1996) categories of discourse prosody as a theoretical lens for interpreting concordance lines. After finding out the emerging lexical patterns of linguistic items in the given corpora through concordance lines, the researcher followed Stubbs's discourse prosody categories for interpreting concordance lines. The analysis of concordance lines contributes to finding out the contextual meaning of the

linguistic items under investigation in their immediate contextual environment like socio-cultural, economic, and political context. For the said purpose, the researcher utilized Stubbs's discourse prosody (1996) categories to interpret and analyse lexical items within the concordance lines of each corpus.

Corpus Linguistics has greatly facilitated the description of semantic prosody. To carry out the CDA analysis of a small set of representative corpora, e.g., concordance of specific linguistics items, Stubbs's Model of Discourse Prosody (1996) is a suitable tool. There are three strands of this model. These three strands are:

1. Positive Prosody

The first type is positive prosody, also termed favourable or pleasant. Stubbs (1996) suggests that specific lexical items generally possess positive prosody. In positive discourse prosody, every lexical item surrounding the node or the word under investigation contributes to a pleasant meaning, creating a positive semantic atmosphere. For instance, Stubbs (1996) found that the word 'provide' collocates with favourable lexical items such as funds, relief, assistance, opportunities, etc., establishing a positive semantic prosody.

2. Negative Prosody

The second type is negative prosody, also referred to as unfavourable or unpleasant. In negative discourse prosody, the words around the node word create an unpleasant semantic atmosphere. Specifically, the lexical items surrounding the word under investigation consistently convey unpleasant meanings. For instance, Sinclair (1991) analysed the semantic prosody of the phrase "Set in" and found that the term "Set in" typically collocates with negative words such as prejudice, ill-will, decay, rot, infection, and decadence. Similarly, Stubbs (1995) conducted a study indicating that the verb "happen" carries unfavourable meanings. His research revealed that over 90% of the collocates of the word "happen" are negative, including terms like cancer, delay, crisis, accident, damage, death, trouble, etc.

3. Neutral Prosody

The third type is known as neutral prosody. In neutral prosody, the linguistic items

around node words do not convey any specific effective meaning. In neutral semantic prosody, collocates of the node word exhibit no bias toward any particular affective meaning.

3.2.1. Method of Data Analysis

This study employed Baker's et al (2008) "Corpus- Assisted Critical Discourse Analysis" as a method for the collection of data, compilation and interpretation of the selected newspapers corpora. They offer some possible sequential stages through which analysis is carried out. The first stage is to create research questions for the study under investigation. To accomplish the study's goal, the second step is to choose appropriate data and compile a corpus for analysis to fulfil the study's aim.

In the same manner, the third step is to choose suitable CL tool(s) for analysis. For this study, the researcher has chosen three corpus tools to analyse the data. These are keyword list, collocation, and concordance. The fourth stage is to find the emerging lexical patterns via CL tools, such as keywords extraction, frequency of keywords, and collocation. This stage is crucial because it identifies the corpus's most common themes and frequent emerging patterns.

On the other hand, the keyword list, as a corpus tool, helps to identify the keyness of the corpus with respect to its reference corpus. The determination of the keyness helps the researcher to find the most common themes and topics in the corpus. Primarily, the keyness reveals the "aboutness" of the corpus. Moreover, the keyword list is always based on the frequency of a particular pattern which has been used frequently. It means that if a word shows higher frequency, it means that a specific word has a higher degree of keyness and is the central element of the corpus. Collocations comes next to it, this tool actually assists the research to find the semantics of words and their recurrent patterns. It is used due to the reason that individual words do not convey a specific meaning until it is grouped with other word (s). As Firth (1957) says that a word is known by the company it keeps. The fifth stage is the qualitative analysis of the chosen themes through concordance lines. With the help of it, each collocates of the searched word were examined in concordance, that is, KWIC (keyword in context). The last stage is to draw the implementations by revising the questions raised in the first step. This

whole framework has been precisely described in the following steps.

Step 1: Formulate research question (s) for the topic under investigation

Step 2: Decide the data and compilation of appropriate corpus

Step 3: Selection of appropriate corpus tools for the study

Step 4: Find out the frequency of keywords and keyness by comparing the specialized corpus with the reference corpus.

Step 5: Carrying out concordance (qualitative) analysis or KWIC (keyword in context)

Step 6: Recall the research question(s) raised in the first step to validate the study and indicate possible Implications.

To carry out the corpus-based analysis of the present study, the researcher used the above-discussed steps suggested by Baker et al. (2008) as a method for data compilation and corpus analysis. Moreover, the researcher has chosen three corpus tools to analyse selected corpora for the present study. The selected corpus tools are keyword list, collocates and concordance. For carrying out the analysis of the selected corpora, the present study follows a specific pattern, e.g., keyword lists are made separately for the specialized corpora. As a corpus tool, it helps to find out the keyness of the complied corpus by bringing it to the reference corpus. This corpus tool reveals the frequencies of words occurring in the selected corpus. Besides this, the keywords list depends on the frequencies of a word occurring in the corpus. For example, if a word in the corpus has higher frequencies than any other word in the same corpus, it means that the word having higher frequency is the central element and has a high degree of Keyness.

Secondly, the selected keywords (node) are checked for their collocations to inquire what kind of semantic prosody they bear. This corpus tool helps to know the co-textual pattern and semantics of words. Lastly, each collocate of the investigated keywords is checked in their concordance lines to examine their co-textual pattern. Furthermore, concordances have been interpreted in the light of Stubbs's (1996) model of discourse prosody

3.3 Construction of Corpora

Constructing corpora is widely regarded as one of the most challenging tasks in corpus linguistics research. Given that it demands a significant investment of time, energy, and resources, researchers must adhere to a set of guidelines. The first crucial step is establishing the corpus design, addressing issues such as population, mode, sample, and corpus selection. Subsequent steps involve specifying the period of corpus compilation, including details on when it was collected, the method used to render it in machine-readable form, and the selection of software and corpus tools for electronic file analysis. The process of corpus building comes with certain limitations, which are further discussed below

3.3.1 Corpus Design

The purpose of the corpus must be established prior to corpus building, as the design of the corpus becomes clearer once the purpose is defined. Various corpora, including reference corpora (also known as general corpora) and specialized corpora, are developed for distinct purposes.

Reference corpora are substantial collections designed for making generalizations about the entire language. They are often used for comparative analyses of languages (Paltridge, 2012). On the other hand, specialized corpora are created to analyse specific types or genres of language, often for specific aims within a particular period. According to Reppen, Fitzmaurice, and Biber (2002), specialized corpora constitute large collections of texts from a specific genre of language or literature, such as speeches, novels, newspapers, essays, reports, research articles, etc. Consequently, for research in corpus linguistics, specialized corpora are restricted in terms of period, mode (spoken or written), genre, place, or situation. It's important to note that the findings from specialized corpora are applicable only to that specific genre and not to the entire language.

In the present study, three specialized corpora have been constructed from six English newspapers in three countries (Pakistan, the USA, and Afghanistan). These specialized corpora include only two sections of the selected newspapers covering the Afghan peace process—from the signing of the peace agreement between the United States and the Taliban on February 29, 2020, until the withdrawal of all American and NATO forces

from Afghanistan by August 30, 2021, and the subsequent Taliban takeover of the entire country.

3.3.2 Population of the study

Selecting a population for a research study is a meticulous and well-planned process, especially when dealing with the limitation of not being able to include the entire universe in data collection. In quantitative research, the careful selection of the study population is crucial for accurate generalization of results to the broader population.

According to Kohari (2004), researchers should choose a population that aligns with their research questions to effectively and comprehensively derive answers from the collected data. In the context of the present study, three specialized corpora—named Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers, Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers, and Corpus of American Newspapers—were designed for corpus analysis.

For this study, the researcher incorporated all opinion articles and editorials published in the selected newspapers during the peace talks between the Taliban, the Afghan government, and the US. The focus was on gathering data specifically related to the issue of the Afghan peace process. Opinion articles and editorials constitute the population of this study, providing a targeted and relevant dataset for analysis.

3.3.3   Research Sampling

A non-probability sampling technique known as judgmental sampling, also referred to as purposive or authoritative sampling, involves the exclusive selection of sample participants based on the researcher's expertise and judgment. This technique relies on the researcher's knowledge to construct a sample, resulting in highly accurate results with minimal room for error. The researcher's judgment guides the investigation using judgmental or non-probability sampling procedures.

In this study, a judgmental or purposive sampling approach was employed to gather data for corpus analysis from three specialized corpora: the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers, the Corpus of American Newspapers, and the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers. The study sample includes all editorials and opinion articles published in the selected newspapers from February 29, 2020, to August 31, 2021. Data collection was

facilitated by using keywords such as Afghan deal, Afghan peace process, the Afghan war, United States deal with Taliban, and NATO deal with Taliban. The total number of opinion articles and editorials selected from the chosen newspapers is 1003.

3.4 Collection of Corpora

The researcher conducted the collection and compilation of three corpora from the selected newspapers for the present study, namely the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers, Corpus of American Newspapers, and Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers. These corpora were obtained from the archives of the respective newspapers, a common and convenient method for accessing news data for corpus linguistics and critical discourse analysis research.

During the initial stages of data collection, the researcher encountered difficulties in obtaining online access to some newspapers, particularly American ones, which were not available free of cost. To overcome this obstacle, the researcher paid for access using a debit card. The process involved several stages, including gaining access to the data, compiling the corpora, cleansing the collected data, and finally, describing the compiled corpora.

3.4.1 Data Collection

The researcher generated specialized corpora for the current study from selected newspapers. The selection criteria included newspapers featuring columns and editorials exclusively, covering the Afghan peace process from the signing of the agreement between the Taliban and the USA on February 29, 2020, until the withdrawal of all American and NATO forces from Afghanistan by August 31, 2021, and the subsequent Taliban takeover of the entire country.

These corpora were gathered from the archives of each newspaper, accessed through their respective websites. The researcher compiled data by collecting all editorials and opinion articles related to the Afghanistan peace process within the specified period, storing them in MS Word files. The collected data from all selected newspapers were saved in MS Word files for compilation. The resulting corpora were named Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers, Corpus of American Newspapers, and Corpus of

Afghanistan Newspapers, with separate files created for each country's newspapers.

However, the data collection process for the present study proved to be the most time-consuming, lengthy, and challenging task. The entire process, from data collection to the creation of the final corpora, took approximately three months.

3.4.2 Compilation of Corpora

After collecting the data from the selected newspapers, it was saved in MS Word files, and specific names were assigned to all three corpora. The next step involved converting the Word files into plain text for compatibility with the AntConc software. Additionally, before being processed by the software, all corpora files needed to be cleansed. Cleansing the corpora required the removal of unwanted text, such as titles, subheadings, images, links, tables, references, names of columnists, editors, and reporters. Moreover, any text that repeated twice needed to be addressed by retaining only one occurrence and deleting the duplicate. The three corpora underwent this cleansing process, removing redundant elements. Subsequently, the files were converted into plain text to prepare them for processing by the AntConc software.

3.4   Reference Corpus

A reference corpus, also known as a general corpus, is a crucial tool in corpus linguistics, particularly in corpus-based critical discourse studies (Baker, 2008). It comprises a large collection of texts, often amounting to millions or billions of words, representing a specific variety of a language. The reference corpus includes a diverse array of text categories, providing a balanced and reliable representation of the language variety, and its results can be generalized. Baker (2008) recommends the use of a reference corpus to unveil the underlying and hidden themes of a particular discourse.

Furthermore, a reference corpus helps capture the ordinariness and normality in a language variety by serving as a benchmark for comparison with specialized corpora. Several reference corpora are available online, including the British National Corpus (100-Million Words), The Brown Family of Corpus, and the Corpus of Contemporary American English (One-Billion Words).

In the present study, the researcher employed AmE06 as a reference corpus,

which consists of 101,787,791 words, with over 1 million words added by Laurence Anthony using AntConc version 4.2.0 (Anthony, 2022). The choice of AmE06 as a reference corpus was motivated by its reflection of an updated and more modern version of the English language compared to other reference corpora, such as BNC, which is the oldest version and includes texts from 1991. The researcher created three specialized corpora: Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers, Corpus of American Newspapers, and Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers. The comparison of specialized corpora to the reference aimed to identify keywords and their keyness in the specialized corpora.

3.6 Description of AntConc 4.2.0 Software

Various software programs have been introduced in corpus linguistics, including AntConc, WordSmith, and Search Engine, all of which are used for corpus analysis. Each software program comes with different features and corpus tools designed for specific purposes. Depending on the nature of the study, researchers select specific software for processing and analyzing corpus data. For the current study, the latest version of AntConc, namely 4.2.0, has been chosen for corpus processing and analysis. This software was selected because it is easily accessible and downloadable, and it is user-friendly for researchers.

AntConc software was developed by Lawrence Anthony in 2002, who is currently affiliated with Waseda University in Japan. Different versions of AntConc have been updated by Laurence Anthony, incorporating new features and tools widely used in corpus linguistic research. These versions are available on his website, which he has created himself (https://www.laurenceanthony.net/software.html). A screenshot of the latest version, AntConc 4.2.0, is provided below.

Figure 3.2

A Screenshot of AntConc Version 4.2.0
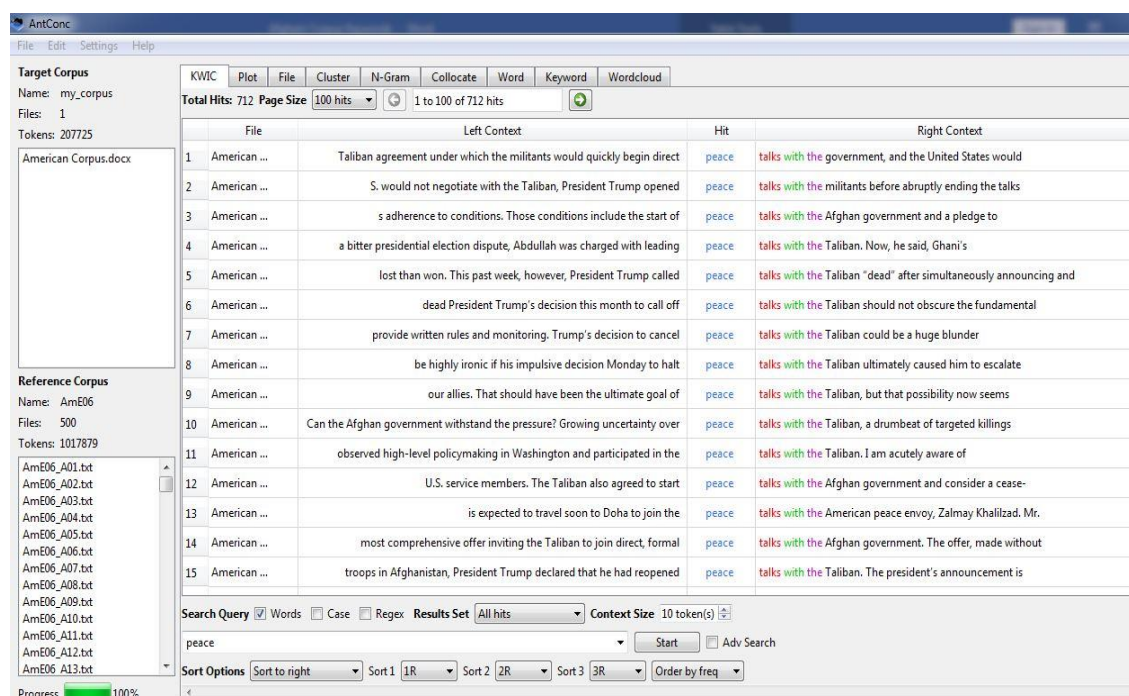
The screenshot demonstrates the seven corpus analysis tools included in AntConc version 4.2.0. Each tool can be operated by simply clicking on its tab above in the toolbar or tapping one of the function keys from F1 to F7. In corpus analysis, several tools perform various functions. Here is a quick explanation of each corpus tool.

- **Concordance Tool**

  This is also called KWIC (Keywords in Context). The primary purpose of this tool is to provide the surrounding context of the keyword under investigation. It includes the list of all the terms that are used in the context of the word under study. It establishes the intended results in KWIC (keyword in context). The ultimate purpose of this corpus tool is to understand how words and phrases are used in the immediate context of the given corpus.

- **Concordance Plot**

  Results from this tool are displayed in barcode format. This only points out where the search results are located inside the corpus.

- **File View Tool**

This tool allows us to observe and see the text of each file. It requires us to examine in depth the results given by the other tools.

- **N-Gram/ Cluster**

This tool displays search term clusters. In other words, its job is to search the entire corpus for chunks or clusters. Clusters can consist of two or more words. The purpose of this tool is to display the most frequently used expressions in the corpus.

- **Collocates**

This tool extracts all possible collocates of the item under consideration. It compels us to investigate non-sequential patterns in the corpus.

- **Word List**

This tool determines how many times a specific word appears in the corpus. It extracts the frequencies of all words in a hierarchical order. It returns a list of the most frequently occurring words in the corpus.

- **Keyword List**

This tool extracts a list of terms with extremely high frequency from the specialized corpus and compares it to the reference corpus. It is utilized to identify keywords in the corpus under study that serve as the foundation for the whole corpus.

3.7 Rationale of Corpora Analysis Tools

The researcher has chosen three specific corpus tools for the current study, namely keyword lists, collocates, and concordance. These tools were selected to follow a specific pattern for the analysis of corpora. The process involves creating keyword lists for all three corpus tools, followed by an investigation of the selected keywords for their collocation to discern the actual meaning they convey. Subsequently, the contextual meaning of keywords is specifically examined in their concordance. Furthermore, the collocations of keywords in concordance are analysed using Stubbs' (1996) model of discourse prosody. This approach provides a structured framework for understanding the semantic prosody and discourse patterns associated with the selected keywords. The

following sections provide a detailed description and analysis of each of the three selected corpus tools.

3.7.1 Keywords List

A keywords list refers to the unusual frequency of words obtained by comparing a specialized kind of smaller corpus to a larger corpus called a reference corpus. To produce a corpus, frequencies in specialized and reference corpus are usually compared with each other. Words with more frequencies are termed keywords. However, it is worth mentioning that a wordlist cannot be generated unless the reference corpus is compared against a specialized corpus. Using reference corpus to generate keyword lists is crucial in discourse analysis (Baker, 2008). Selecting an appropriate reference corpus is crucial in various natural language processing (NLP) and linguistic research tasks, as it serves as the foundation for linguistic analysis, language modelling, and other applications. The criteria for selecting a reference corpus typically depend on the specific research goals, but there are some common criteria for selecting the reference corpus. These criteria must be taken into consideration. Some of these considerations are:

Firstly, a reference corpus should be representative of the language or domain under investigation. It should reflect the diversity of language use, including different registers (e.g., formal and informal language), genres (e.g., news articles, fiction, and scientific texts), dialects, and time periods. The goal is to capture the linguistic variation that is relevant to the research.

Secondly, the size of the corpus matters. A larger corpus generally provides better statistical accuracy and can capture a broader range of linguistic phenomena. However, the corpus size should be balanced with available resources and research goals.

Thirdly, it is important to strike a balance between different types of texts and linguistic features. A balanced corpus includes a mix of text genres, sources, and text types, so it's not skewed towards any particular domain or style. This helps ensure that the corpus is representative of the language as a whole.

Fourthly, the quality of the corpus is paramount. It should be free from errors, such as OCR (Optical Character Recognition) mistakes in scanned texts or transcription errors in

spoken language corpora. High-quality annotations, if required for the research, are also important.

Fifthly, depending on the research goals, you may choose between annotated and unannotated corpora. Annotated corpora have linguistic annotations like part-of-speech tagging, syntactic parsing, or named entity recognition, which can be valuable for various NLP tasks. Unannotated corpora are suitable for tasks where we want to extract linguistic patterns without relying on pre-existing annotations.

Moreover, for some research, the temporal coverage is important. Researchers might want a corpus that spans a wide range of time periods to study language change or diachronic analysis.

Besides this, we must consider the specific domain or topic we are interested in. If our research is focused on a particular field, like medical or legal texts, we may need a domain-specific corpus that includes relevant documents.

In addition, we must ensure that our reference corpus complies with copyright laws and ethical guidelines. We may need permission to use copyrighted texts, and it's important to respect data usage agreements and privacy concerns.

Next, access to a suitable reference corpus is a practical concern. Some high-quality, specialized corpora may be expensive or difficult to obtain. We need to balance the availability of suitable corpora with our research budget and timeline.

Lastly, languages and language use evolve over time. Depending on our research objectives, we might need to consider whether the reference corpus should be periodically updated to reflect current language trends. In a nutshell, the choice of a reference corpus should align with the specific research goals, ensuring representativeness, quality, size, and relevance to the domain of interest. Researchers should carefully consider these criteria to select the most appropriate corpus for their linguistic analysis.

Reference corpus is compared with specialized corpus to investigate the words that occur more frequently in our corpus than in the reference corpus. The acquisition of a list of lexical items via such a technique is a fruitful step in investigating the discourse under

examination. In producing a keyword, the size of both the reference and specialized corpus is considered to identify the frequencies of each word in respective corpora. Each word in a keyword list goes under a specific statistical process. For instance, some tests like chi-square and log-likelihood tests are undertaken to identify the probability value of each word (p-value). The p-value between 0 and 1 shows a word as a key by chance. However, if the p-value is going down in descending order, a word is counted as the key because of the author's intended use. The current study seeks to take words with a p-value (0.05) 95% or maybe less, for it is the default option in AntConc. It shows that words occur not by chance but by the author's choice.

Further, the current study has selected Danning's log-likelihood for analyzing keywords' frequencies. O'Keeffe and McCarthy (2010) state that log-likelihood analyzes the frequencies of both grammatical and lexical items to be keywords. However, the study deals with lexical items with higher frequencies to be included in the keywords list. Therefore, in order to extract keywords under the consideration of keyness, this study opted for log- likelihood test for statistical analysis.

Determination of frequency is one of the main elements in DA (Baker, 2008). Language is not a matter of choosing random words, but its users adopt conscious methods to prefer one choice of words over others. A thousand patterns are available in a language, where one pattern is repeated, and others are not in a particular context. Stubbs (1996) believes that none of the lexical items are neutral; all the lexical choices have ideological agendas. So the position of an item in a particular context holds great importance in CDA.

The keyword list concerns an exhibition of "aboutness" in the corpus. Central themes and other related topics are dealt with in the corpus. The keyword list revolves around print media discourse regarding the Afghan peace process, especially Doha Accord. It is worth noting that keyword lists for three corpora were achieved and then cross-checked for their validity. The purpose of obtaining their keyness was to find out what was more important and what was discussed in one list may not affect the other.

Moreover, important keywords from the three corpora have been the focus of the study for analysis. The researcher has employed collocation and concordance analysis to

analyse the implicit agenda in the selected newspapers regarding Afghan Peace Process. For in-depth analysis, the researcher has chosen fifteen keywords from keyword lists due to the brevity of time and space. The analysis has been done so logically that each step leads to another step automatically, like keyword list-collocate-concordance. First, the researcher attempted to find keywords from the list; then, for further analysis, the researcher examined the selected keywords in concordance to check the contextual meaning of these keywords.

3.7.2 Collocation

Words derive explicit meaning not in isolation but through their co-occurrence with other words. This regular co-occurrence is statistically measured, with the combination termed as collocate, and the overall phenomenon referred to as collocation. Firth (1957) emphasized that words are known by the company they keep in a particular context, and a word without specific company bears no meaning.

The researcher has extended the keyword analysis to include collocation analysis, following specific procedures to identify keywords. The period (+5 -5) was employed for the collocation of specific keywords, utilizing the frequencies of search words to identify their collocates. Stronger collocates were considered those with higher frequencies.

Additionally, a statistical test, Mutual Information (MI), was conducted to measure the frequency of collocates. Unlike the log-likelihood test, which focuses on grammatical words only, the MI test in this study emphasizes lexical items. In corpus linguistics, the MI score quantifies the strength of association between words in a text corpus, indicating how much the occurrence of one word is related to the occurrence of another. It helps identify word pairs that co-occur more often than expected by chance alone, revealing potential collocations or associations.

For instance, if analysing a corpus reveals that the words "climate" and "change" often appear together, the MI score quantifies the strength of this association. A higher MI score for a word pair indicates a stronger collocational relationship. The researcher can generate collocation lists and conduct various analyses to explore relationships between words within the corpus. This approach helps highlight specific patterns around the keywords and indicates the type of discourse prosody taking place around them.

3.7.3. Concordance

Until now, the study has focused on determining the specific frequencies of lexical items through keyword lists and collocates, treating the data quantitatively. While quantitative analysis in corpus linguistics can reveal hidden discourse or ideology, it becomes more trustworthy and meaningful with the inclusion of context. Context plays a crucial role in providing meaning to a lexical item by associating it with other words (Van Dijk, 2001). To closely examine keywords and their collocates, the researcher has employed the concordance tool, a corpus linguistics tool that reveals occurrences of words in their contextual environment. This adds a qualitative dimension to corpus linguistics, emphasizing the importance of both qualitative and quantitative analyses in corpus linguistics as a research methodology.

Concordance is defined as a list of all possible items and their occurrences in a specific context of text files (Baker, 2008; McEnery & Hardie, 2012; Sinclair, 1991). It provides a way to analyse the contextual meaning of a selected item by examining the words on both sides of it. Concordance is often used as an alternative to KWIC (Keyword in Context), where any word of interest to the researcher is considered. The tool helps identify patterns of language use from a discourse perspective, revealing repeated discourse in a text that may indicate a hidden agenda.

Concordance is instrumental in highlighting both syntagmatic and paradigmatic discourse prosody. Discourse prosody, also known as semantic prosody, is a collocation phenomenon where the meaning of a selected lexical item depends on the words occurring on the right and left side of it. Collocates play a significant role in determining the meaning of the selected item, whether positive or negative, based on the positivity and negativity of the surrounding collocates. Despite the concordance software showing a large number of lines, the researcher has selected a small portion of them for Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) analysis. Concordance lines have also been investigated under chosen categories, in addition to Stubbs's (1996) discourse prosody.

CHAPTER 4

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter examines three corpora related to the Afghanistan peace process, compiled from six English newspapers across three countries. To facilitate the linguistic analysis of these three corpora, the researcher utilized three corpus tools in AntConc 4.2.0. These tools include keyword lists, collocation, and concordance. First, the researcher extracted keywords from the target corpus, choosing the top 100 keywords based on their frequency. These 100 keywords were then arranged in descending order of frequency. Fifteen keywords were selected for in-depth corpus analysis from this list. The chosen keywords and their collocations in each corpus were linguistically investigated. Next, concordances for each keyword were examined and analysed using Stubbs's (1996) model of discourse prosody.

This chapter has been divided into five sections. Section (4.1) discusses the description of compiled corpora and its sub-sections, including keyword extraction, reference corpus explanation, and keywords for in-depth analysis and rationale. Section (4.2) presents the concordance analysis of keywords in the Corpus Pakistan Newspapers. Section (4.3) focuses on the concordance analysis of keywords in the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers. Additionally, Section (4.4) discusses the concordance analysis of keywords in the Corpus of American Newspapers. In Sections 4.2, 4.3, and 4.4, the selected keywords and their collocations are analysed in their co-textual patterns within the corpus of selected newspapers. It was examined how print media in the said countries portrayed the selected keywords in their co-textual patterns. These selected keywords and all possible collocations have been examined in their concordance lines using Anthony's (2022) AntConc software. Lastly, Section 4.5 provides an interpretation and discussion of the study.

4.1 Statistical Description of Complied Corpora

Three corpora from the selected newspapers were compiled for this study. The Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers, Corpus of American Newspapers, and Corpus of Afghanistan

Newspapers were the names of the first, second, and third corpora, respectively. The table below provides a statistical breakdown of the three corpora.

Corpus Name	Newspaper Name	Number of Articles	Number of Token	Normalized Frequency	Word Type	Period
Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers	The Dawn	155	118,530	7,621	9,034	**Feb 29,2020 --- August 31,2021**
	The Express Tribune	197	177,335	6,529	11,579	**-**
Corpus of American Newspapers	The Washington Post	87	91,411	7,484	6,842	**-**
	The New York Times	102	122,494	7,639	9,358	**-**
Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers	Afghanistan Times	257	138,723	6,214	8,624	**-**
	The Kabul Times	205	167,990	5,793	9,732	**-**

Total	6	1003	816,483		55,169	

Table 4.1

Statistical Description of Corpora
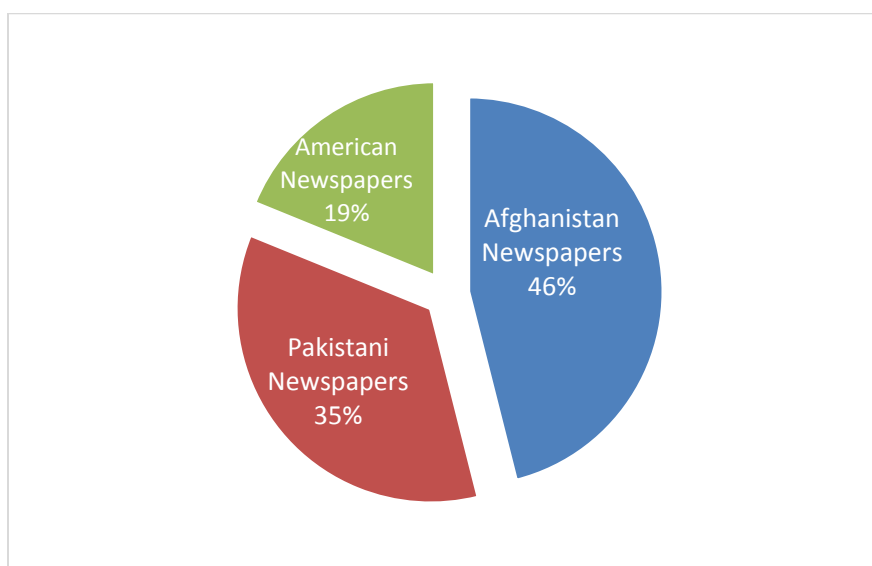
Figure 4.1 *Graphic Representations of Corpora*

The researcher collected 1003 opinion articles and editorials from selected newspapers. It has been observed from the above statistical account that the Afghan peace process received more attention in Afghanistan newspapers from February 29, 2020, to August 31, 2021, as the number of articles indicates that Afghan newspapers published more editorials and opinion articles compared to other newspapers regarding the Afghanistan peace process. As observed from the number of articles, Afghan newspapers have published 462 opinion articles and editorials about the Afghanistan peace process, whereas Pakistani newspapers have covered 352 articles, and American newspapers have published 189 articles. Therefore, the word count of the Corpus of Afghanistan newspapers is the highest, while the Corpus of Pakistani newspapers is second, and the Corpus of American newspapers is less than both. In addition, by providing statistical data about the coverage of the Afghanistan peace process in the selected newspapers, this type of analysis reveals that the corpora are not all the same size. Moreover, the description of the coverage of the Afghan peace process event has

been shown in the graph.

Mean of Frequency of the Three Corporsa (816,483)
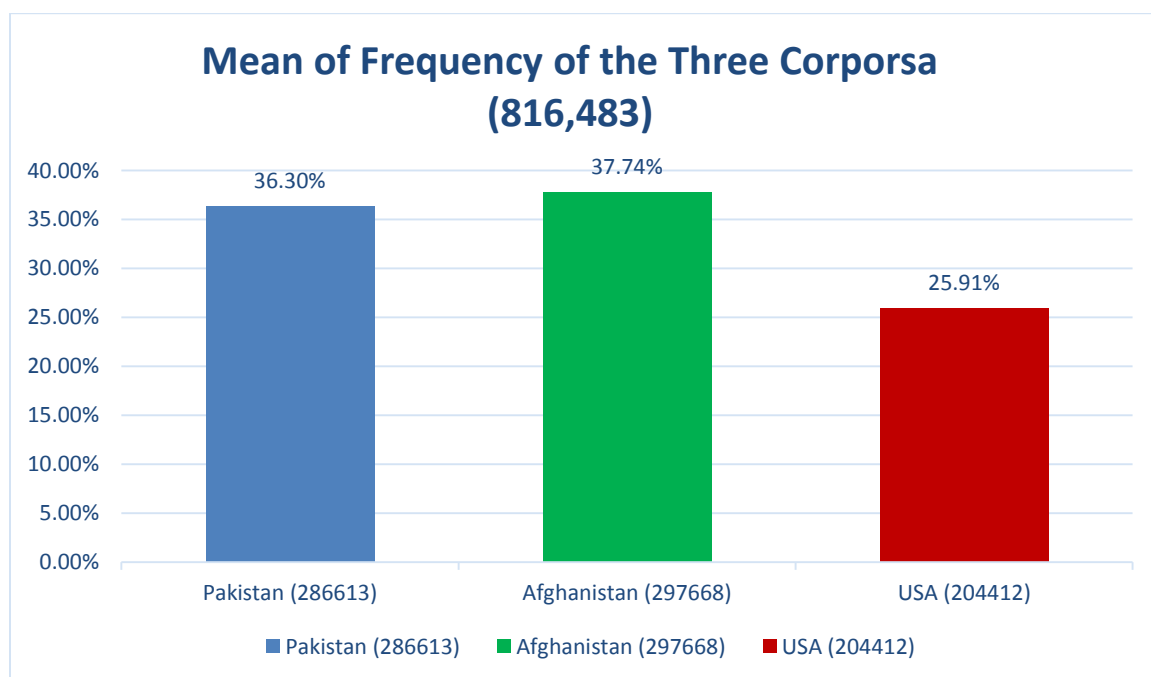
Figure 4.2

The Three Corpora' Mean Frequency

Note: *Mean is calculated by multiplying the frequency of each country's corpora by 100 and dividing it by total frequency.*

The average proportion across the three corpora is shown in Figure 4.1. Compared to the Pakistani and American corpora, the data reveals that the corpus of Afghanistan newspapers has the greatest percentage, at 37.74%. Additionally, the American corpus has 25.91%, whereas the corpus of Pakistani newspapers has a mean of 36.30%.

4.1.1   Keywords Extractions

First and foremost, the 'gateway' to data manipulation for this study is keyword extraction. In each compiled corpus file related to the Afghan peace process, Baker (2008) suggests that extracting keywords enables the identification of relevant topics. Concordance and collocation analysis also consider the keywords for a comprehensive examination. Furthermore, comparing the keywords in the three corpus files makes it feasible to identify differences, lexical gaps, and similarities. Depending on their presence or absence, these differences reflect distinct discourses regarding the Afghan

peace process.

4.1.2 Explanation of Reference Corpus

Using AntConc version 4.2.0, the three specialized corpora files were compared to AmE06 as a reference corpus with 101 78791 words—more than 1 million of which were contributed by Laurence Anthony (Anthony, 2022). According to Baker (2008), the corpus tool or keyword tool must have the reference corpus because it is only utilised for keyword extraction. The software does not allow analysts to produce a keyword list without a reference corpus. Afterward, the target and reference corpora were automatically compared to obtain the keyword lists. First, the researcher combined all three corpora into one, named the target corpus, and compared it to AmE06, the American reference corpus. This comparison was necessary for this study because, according to Partington (2010), it would be desirable to compare a corpus with a more extensive corpus, in this case, the American corpus AmE06 generated in AntConc 4.2.0, in order to identify the traits or aspects of a specific discourse type. This study elaborated on the complete keyword extraction process using the five steps Scott and Tribble (2006) suggested as the method. In their investigation, Paquot and Bestgen (2009) suggested and used the same methods for keyword extraction. We must keep in mind that the keyword tool might be manipulated when comparing one corpus to another. The steps are described after this.

1. First, wordlists will be created for the reference corpus as well as the corpus under study. The study utilised the AntConc software because it can generate a keyword list by automatically comparing the target corpus file with the reference corpus. This approach is used in this study while using wordlist tools.

2. Secondly, the researched corpus's least frequency threshold for a term is selected. Therefore, a word should be considered a keyword if it appears at the chosen threshold and not less.

3. Thirdly, a statistical test is used to compare the word frequencies in the two corpora. This is normally done using the log-likelihood test, which is what this study opted to do.

4. The filtration method eliminates words that do not repeat at least as frequently as the

chosen frequency threshold but are statistically more significant to the reference corpus.

5. In the last stage, the keywords in the corpus under investigation are organised hierarchically according to their keyness value.

The researcher employed AntConc version 4.2.0 and followed the earlier processes for extracting keywords. In order to extract keywords, this software offers a variety of possibilities from which the best one must be chosen. First, the researcher opted for the log-likelihood test rather than the chi-square test when determining the most critical terms. According to Paquot and Bestgen (2009), two tests are utilized for extracting keyword lists: Pearson's chi-square and the less popular Dunning's log-likelihood. Baker (2008) also suggests the log-likelihood test as a standard test for extracting a keyword list. Similarly, Paquot and Bestgen (2009) compared the three tests for measuring keywords and discovered that log-likelihood is a favourable alternative to other tests. In corpus linguistics, log-likelihood is used to compare the expected frequency of a particular word collocation in a corpus with its observed frequency. It helps determine whether the observed frequency is significantly different from what would be expected based on the overall frequencies of the individual words. Log-likelihood helps identify significant deviations from expected word co-occurrence patterns. A higher log-likelihood score suggests that the observed co-occurrence is more significant and not likely to have occurred randomly. This measure is often used in corpus analysis to highlight meaningful word associations that might indicate linguistic or semantic relationships. In addition to the experiments mentioned above, most other studies used the log-likelihood test to extract keywords (Kinloch, 2018; Haider, 2016; Kandil, 2009). In order to extract keywords while taking keyness into account, this study chose the log-likelihood test.

According to Scott and Tribble (2006), keyness is the importance of words in a text, which make up the text as a whole and reflect its features. The statistical threshold, also known as the setting of the probability value, was set after the log-likelihood test. In corpus linguistics, the p-value is used to determine the statistical significance of observed word co-occurrences or patterns. For example, if you're investigating whether a certain word tends to appear more frequently with another word, you might calculate the p-value

to assess whether this co-occurrence is statistically significant or likely to have occurred by chance.

In this context, you would set up null and alternative hypotheses related to word co-occurrences. The p-value tells you the probability of observing the co-occurrence pattern under the assumption that there's no real association between the words (null hypothesis). If the p-value is below a certain significance level (e.g., 0.05), you might consider the co-occurrence statistically significant, suggesting that there's a meaningful relationship between the words beyond chance .As this is AntConc's default setting, the probability value was set to p0.05. A second probability value of this kind indicates that the producers of the text did not use the words in the text by accident (Baker, 2008). To explain it, p 0.05 indicates that 95% of the words were employed knowingly. Additionally, Anthony's recommendation to use the dice coefficient test, AntConc's default option, was considered when determining the effect size of the keywords (2022). It determines how much weight a word has inside a corpus and, in particular, ranks all keywords according to their keyness values.

After everything was set up, keywords were extracted by comparing the target corpora and the American reference corpus (AmE06). Once the reference corpus was added and the target corpus was uploaded, the keyword generation process began. It generated 100 keywords for this study, out of which the researcher chose only 15 keywords that were noteworthy and closely related to Afghanistan peace process. Since there are so many keywords, it is hard to examine them all, as stated by Gibraltos and Marchi (2011). As a result, the researcher chose those keywords that were significant to the Afghan peace process and were arranged by keyness value in descending order. The extracted keyword lists contained various words, including proper nouns, lexical words, and structural words (prepositions, conjunctions, articles, pronouns, determiners, and auxiliary verbs). Because structural words merely indicate relationships between words and lack any semantic value. As a result, the researcher removed them which are marked as a stoplist by Scott (2009). It is essentially a list of words that is ignored because it is irrelevant to our investigation. Nevertheless, they will be treated as necessary in the concordance's lexical word pattern analysis.

In addition to excluding the stop list, 100 keywords from the target corpus were created and compared to the reference corpus. They contained lexical items, referred to as the "real transmitters of meaning" by Biber, Johansson, Leech, Conrad, and Finegan (1999). These terms were chosen as keywords because of their high importance and significant relevance to the Afghan peace process. In reality, the prominence of the keywords in the keyword list denotes the importance of the entire corpus, or, to put it another way, it indicates the "aboutness" of the text (Baker, 2008; Aluthman, 2018). As a result, terms were excluded based on their highest keyness value and relevance to the Afghan peace process. A total of 100 keywords were chosen because they were deemed sufficient for this investigation and adequate for generalizing how the Afghan peace process was covered in particular newspapers. Moreover, this list of keywords is also considered significant because it facilitates further analysis in the first place and provides an analyst with language patterns to understand in order to respond to posed research questions. The top 100 keywords from the corpus are shown here, along with their keyness scores.

Keywords	Rank	Frequency in Target Corpus	Frequency in Reference Corpus	Keyness (Likelihood)	Keyness (Effect)
Taliban	1	10132	10	16584.399	0.025
Afghanistan	2	8120	39	12947.484	0.020
Afghan	3	6790	9	11069.563	0.017
Peace	4	4724	103	6905.232	0.012
Pakistan	5	2867	14	4558.729	0.007
Government	6	3478	359	3756.991	0.009
US	7	3918	743	3220.609	0.010
Country	8	2854	317	3003.081	0.007
Talks	9	1814	25	2749.189	0.005
Kabul	10	1587	9	2510.335	0.004
Afghans	11	1514	2	2462.692	0.004
Forces	13	1832	114	2278.173	0.005
War	14	2891	637	2162.838	0.007
Biden	15	1216	1	1985.311	0.003
Withdrawal	16	1279	13	1973.647	0.003
Violence	17	1369	74	1754.014	0.003
Troops	18	1308	67	1693.710	0.003
Ghani	19	967	1	1575.986	0.002
Agreement	20	1127	60	1448.188	0.003

Trump	21	937	12	1426.356	0.002
Deal	22	1319	152	1367.938	0.003
Doha	24	724	0	1190.754	0.002
Security	25	1391	261	1148.645	0.003
Process	27	1369	251	1145.456	0.003
Military	29	1413	285	1117.694	0.004
United	30	1566	428	997.490	0.004
Political	31	1473	375	992.704	0.004
Countries	32	984	131	963.085	0.002
Negotiations	33	752	46	938.232	0.002
Intra	34	564	1	914.026	0.001
Foreign	35	991	157	895.511	0.002
Regional	36	749	59	877.762	0.002
Attacks	37	740	56	876.635	0.002
States	38	1611	526	873.714	0.004
International	39	1091	224	853.351	0.003
President	40	1519	485	842.003	0.004
Conflict	41	703	64	789.857	0.002
Their	42	4276	2847	744.048	0.011
Ceasefire	43	433	0	712.062	0.001
China	44	683	79	707.102	0.002
India	45	551	41	655.579	0.001
Islamic	46	615	67	650.856	0.002
Pakistani	47	410	3	642.177	0.001
Sides	48	580	61	621.490	0.001
NATO	50	476	27	603.577	0.001
Administration	51	837	196	599.701	0.002
Support	52	1002	300	589.671	0.003
Region	53	607	92	560.296	0.002
Khalilzad	54	367	5	556.269	0.001
Ashraf	55	331	1	531.851	0.001
Power	56	1021	350	526.713	0.003
Leaders	57	702	154	525.985	0.002
Terrorist	58	525	68	519.668	0.001
Civilians	59	361	10	513.215	0.001
Qaeda	60	486	55	507.215	0.001
Abdullah	61	336	5	506.161	0.001
Settlement	62	393	21	504.445	0.001
Situation	63	598	113	491.560	0.001
Fighters	65	335	8	484.195	0.001
Rights	66	659	153	474.976	0.002
Allies	67	392	29	467.069	0.001
Officials	68	609	135	453.101	0.002
Prisoners	69	359	22	447.635	0.001
Group	70	956	360	444.634	0.002

Groups	71	739	218	440.647	0.002
Islamabad	72	260	0	427.534	0.001
Decades	73	529	105	422.330	0.001
Militants	74	292	7	421.865	0.001
American	75	1295	635	419.693	0.003
Turkey	76	307	12	416.451	0.001
Continue	77	515	103	409.255	0.001
Negotiating	80	283	9	395.426	0.001
Qatar	81	230	0	378.199	0.001
End	82	929	392	375.060	0.002
Withdraw	83	244	3	372.267	0.001
Civil	85	498	116	358.071	0.001
Stability	87	324	35	343.873	0.001
Future	88	651	219	342.356	0.002
Iran	89	376	62	332.868	0.001
Russia	89	376	62	332.868	0.001
Media	91	434	93	330.187	0.001
People	92	1706	1093	326.165	0.004
Interests	93	383	70	320.835	0.001
Reconciliation	94	245	12	319.787	0.001
Refugees	95	235	9	319.777	0.001
Towards	96	281	25	317.875	0.001
Presence	98	403	83	314.466	0.001
Fighting	99	395	79	313.871	0.001
Signed	100	310	41	304.139	0.001

Table 4.2

Top 100 Keywords from all Three Corpora

Note: Fre- Frequency, Targ- Target, Ref- Reference

The above table has two types of words: Proper nouns and lexical words. Proper nouns are the names of various countries, representatives of different countries, and organizations and institutions. There are five columns in the above table. The keywords rankings are displayed in the first column. The target frequency is shown in the third column, while the second shows the original keywords or types taken from the corpus. The reference frequency taken from the AmE06 (American) corpus is given in the fourth column. Additionally, it shows how frequently a term appears in the reference corpus compared to the target corpus; the fifth column just below displays the keyness (Likelihood) values for each keyword, and the sixth one is about the keyness effect. The three corpora are about the Afghan peace process, which is further evidenced by

observing all the terms mentioned above. This political-historical conflict dates back to the first days America was attacked on September 9, 2001, but before that, when Afghanistan was liberated from the USSR in 1988. In general, if we carefully examine the fifteen keywords in the corpus's keyword lists—Taliban, peace, Afghanistan, deal, Afghans, Pakistan, US, China, India, war, withdrawal, refugees, terrorists, NATO, and stability. —we may quickly determine what the corpora are about. The fifteen keywords are at the top of the lists with consecutive positions, which is unusual. Even if we suppose to ignore the other words, they nevertheless provide us with the entire "aboutness" of the corpus. The significance of the top fifteen keywords might be inferred from their absence from the corpora. Without these fifteen keywords, it would therefore be considerably more challenging to establish the "aboutness" of the corpus.

4.1.3. Keywords for Corpus Analysis

The justification for the choice of these keywords is primarily rooted in the thematic dimensions of the Afghan peace process. The researcher has identified three thematic dimensions that are relevant to the Afghan peace process. The selection of keywords for corpus analysis was guided by these thematic dimensions, and subsequently, the keywords were manually categorized into distinct thematically related groups. This analytical approach allows for exploration beyond surface-level lexical analysis, facilitating the identification of emerging themes within the corpora. The categorization of keywords holds significant value as it enables analysts to discern the various discourse types present in the corpora (Baker, 2008). The identified thematic dimensions of the Afghan peace process are as follows:

1. The Afghan peace process holds significant political relevance, as it has been a long-standing issue involving multiple political actors. It has remained a prominent concern among various stakeholders for over two decades. Hence, the researcher has labelled the Afghan peace process as a political issue. In accordance with this thematic category, the researcher has deliberately chosen lexical items that contribute to the understanding of the Afghan peace process as a political matter. Specifically, five keywords have been selected from the extracted list, namely Taliban, deal, withdrawal, Afghans, and NATO. These keywords, present in the three corpora, collectively signify the Afghan peace

process as a political issue.

2. Apart from that, the Afghan peace process has many social aspects. Keywords related to the social aspects of the Afghan peace process include peace, war, refugees, stability, and terrorists.

3. Moreover, the Afghan peace war also represents a complex and multifaceted international and globalized phenomenon, exerting far-reaching implications not only at the national level within Afghanistan but also significantly impacting numerous other countries. The process of attaining peace in Afghanistan entails intricate economic and social interconnections with various nations. The ramifications of the internal conflict in Afghanistan extend beyond its borders, adversely affecting the entire region. Diverse international actors play pivotal roles in the Afghan peace process, assuming responsibility for fostering tranquillity and stability in Afghanistan. Within this domain, the researcher has judiciously identified the countries directly involved in the Afghan peace process, namely Pakistan, the United States, China, India, and Afghanistan itself.

Subsequently, the researcher has carefully selected a set of keywords for each thematic category, which will be subject to meticulous analysis. These keywords have been chosen based on their relevance and significance to the research questions at hand. It is important to note that the selection of these fifteen keywords has been necessitated by the constraints of research limitations and time restrictions, underscoring the need for a focused approach in the investigation.

	Keywords	Frequency in Pakistan Corpus	Frequency in Afghanistan Corpus	Frequency in American Corpus
1	Taliban	3701	3827	2604
2	Peace	1186	2826	712
3	Afghanistan	2884	3408	1828
4	Deal	433	422	464
5	Afghan	2516	3641	1742
6	Pakistan	1610	946	311
7	US	2196	1532	190
8	China	341	242	100
9	India	323	183	45
10	War	823	1359	709
11	Withdrawal	423	424	425
12	Refugees	167	59	47

13	Terrorists	214	300	214
14	NATO	176	220	80
15	Stability	104	188	32

Table 4.3

Frequency of Selected Keywords in all three corpora

The aforementioned keywords were selected based on their salience in all three corpora of the chosen newspapers. These keywords were chosen not only because they could effectively address the research questions but also because they played a central role in the Afghan peace process, as portrayed in the selected newspapers. The subsequent sections of this chapter, which constitute the following steps of analysis after keyword extraction, were written based on the examination of these keywords.

In sections 4.2, 4.3, and 4.4, the selected keywords were thoroughly examined within their collocation and concordance contexts. This analysis aimed to identify the patterns followed by the lexical words, understand the meanings conveyed by these words, and ascertain how concordances contribute to the identification of thematic aspects of the Afghan peace process. The following steps of analysis in this chapter were, therefore, informed by the findings obtained from analysing these keywords. To analyse the patterns of the keywords and their co-textual patterns, Stubbs's (1996) model of discourse prosody, which encompasses three principles, was employed. This model provides a framework for analysing the patterns exhibited by the keywords as well as their concordance lines within their respective co-textual patterns.

SECTION 4.2

4.2 CONCORDANCE ANALYSIS OF KEYWORDS IN THE CORPUS

OF PAKISTANI NEWSPAPERS

4.2.1 The Keyword 'Taliban' in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

The representation of the Afghan Peace Process through the keyword Taliban, which appeared 3701 times in the Corpus of Pakistani newspapers, plays a significant role in the analysis of the present study. Mainly, this keyword "Taliban" is represented through particular power relations collocates such as Afghan, which appears 530 times, government turns up 303 times, Afghanistan 239 times, deal 112 times, control mentioned 87 times, leadership repeated 73 times, prisoners appear 69 times, release 56 times, war 44 times, regime 49 times, fighters 36 times, takeover 34 times, offensive 27 times, etc. Further, a thorough analysis of these collocates has been done with the help of concordance lines by connecting collocations with the textual surroundings of the keyword "Taliban".

Concordance 4.2.1

Keyword "*Taliban*" in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	tricky. Take, for example, the prisoner swap mechanism between the	Taliban	and the Afghan government. It had been decided in
2	Corpus of ...	hold, as there were no reports of clashes between the	Taliban	and the Afghan forces. The truce had followed the
3	Corpus of ...	almost non-stop instability dating back to the 1970s. The	Taliban	and the Afghan government must now take full advantage
4	Corpus of ...	have been more directly affected by the fighting between the	Taliban	and the Afghan army, and are more likely to
5	Corpus of ...	complete withdrawal of residual forces to an agreement between the	Taliban	and the Afghan government on a political set-up.
6	Corpus of ...	be effectively countered without the end of hostilities between the	Taliban	and the Afghan government forces. It is indeed encouraging
7	Corpus of ...	itself in Afghanistan, but for this all factions, especially the	Taliban	and the Afghan government, will have to make compromises
8	Corpus of ...	report, IS, after a battering at the hands of the	Taliban	and the Afghan and US forces in Kunar and
9	Corpus of ...	have toughened their stance. Last month, a meeting between the	Taliban	and the Afghan republic delegation in Doha ended in
10	Corpus of ...	Troika extremely important. The members are expected to urge both	Taliban	and the Afghan to agree on an immediate reduction

31	Corpus of ...	Sure enough, even though a deal was signed between the	Taliban	and the US in Doha at the end of
32	Corpus of ...	at a signing agreement ceremony between members of Afghanistan's	Taliban	and the US in Doha, Qatar February 29, 2020. PHOTO: REUTERS
33	Corpus of ...	permission and his positions are irrelevant. That is why the	Taliban	and the US sidelined his government from the talks.
34	Corpus of ...	in the fruition of the peace agreement signed between the	Taliban	and the US on February 29. Its insistence to have
35	Corpus of ...	all the more important for India to respond to the	Taliban	and the US overture. The US is desperate to
61	Corpus of ...	between the two sides. The Feb 29 peace accord between the	Taliban	and the United States had pledged to release 5,000 insurgent
62	Corpus of ...	nearly two years of off-and-on negotiations between the	Taliban	and the United States. The American contingent for the
63	Corpus of ...	delay the execution of the peace agreement signed between the	Taliban	and the United States in February. It is quite
64	Corpus of ...	were supposed to follow the script written jointly by the	Taliban	and the United States that was signed on February 29, 2020.
65	Corpus of ...	Doha, where parleys have been continuing since September. While the	Taliban	and the Americans had signed a peace deal in

AntConc revealed 15 concordance lines, providing contextual insight into the keyword "Taliban." All phrases linked to this keyword illuminate the invasion of the already war-torn nation of "Afghanistan" by US-NATO troops. The second line underscores the negative stance of Ashraf Ghani's government towards the Taliban, depicting a clash between Ghani's negotiating team and the Taliban. The co-texts surrounding 'Taliban' play a crucial role in unveiling the discourse patterns of newspapers and the policies endorsed by the Afghan Government. There are a total of 9 right co-text patterns, including the Afghan government, the Afghan army, the Afghan forces, the Afghan and US troops, the Afghan republic, the Afghan to agree, and the US, all receiving positive prosody. Both left and right concordances of the keyword 'Taliban' project positive prosody, exemplified by diplomatic exchanges between Pakistan, the Taliban, and the Afghan government, talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government, and agreements between the Taliban and the Afghan government. Positive prosody in the concordance of the Pakistani corpus is effectively conveyed through the analysis of the keyword. Some concordance lines portray negative prosody associated with the keyword 'Taliban.' Nevertheless, positive narration is consistently reported in all concordance lines. A stage is set for a confrontation between the Taliban and the Afghan army. The term 'confrontation' carries a positive semantic meaning, as Pakistani media optimistically represented the peace deal process. A total of 13 concordance lines from the left side utilize the article "The" with the keyword "Taliban" to convey positive semantic prosody. Furthermore, the right side of the concordance exhibits a unanimous pattern with the conjunction 'and' across all 100 lines. In summary, the analysis suggests that the keyword 'Taliban' carries a positive semantic prosody in the corpus of Pakistani newspapers.

4.2.2 The Keyword 'Peace' in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

The keyword 'peace' assumes a significant and crucial role in the present study, appearing 1186 times and ranking as the sixth most frequently occurring term in the Pakistani newspaper corpus. Among the top ten frequently occurring collocations with the keyword "peace," the following are notable: "process" appears 234 times, "Afghan" 219 times, "Afghanistan" 175 times, "deal" 143 times, "agreement" 69 times, "stability" 41 times, "signed" 36 times, "efforts" 23 times, "lasting" 18 times, and "sustainable" 14 times. The examination of these frequently occurring collocations is facilitated through concordance lines.

The most robust collocate of the keyword "peace" is "process," manifesting 234 times in the Pakistani newspaper corpus. This pairing accentuates the entirety of the peace process associated with the Doha Agreement between the Taliban and the US. Notably, in the Pakistani newspaper corpus, the term "deal" surfaces 143 times in conjunction with the keyword "peace," imbuing it with a positive semantic prosody. This confluence of agreement and peace serves to underscore the prevailing state of the US-Taliban Doha Agreement.

Concordance 4.2.2

Keyword '*Peace*' in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	either. With Pakistan's deep engagement in the uncertain Afghan	peace	process and the expedited schedule of withdrawal by American
2	Corpus of ...	when he tweeted, "Those perpetuating violence seek to undermine the	peace	process and the country's future. They do not
3	Corpus of ...	is also reflected by its continued opposition to the Afghan	peace	process and the efforts being made by the international
4	Corpus of ...	US. All these countries have high stakes in the Afghan	peace	process and an agreement among them on a joint
5	Corpus of ...	Afghan nightmare, or they can choose to participate in the	peace	process and arrive at a compromise with their rivals
6	Corpus of ...	multi-stakeholder approach will give an impetus to the Afghan	peace	process and how can one expect Afghans to manage
7	Corpus of ...	He spent more than a year to keep derailing the	peace	process and killing the peace agreement that the Americans
8	Corpus of ...	prevail over Taliban for their serious involvement in the Afghan	peace	process and non-use of force in the post-
9	Corpus of ...	among the stakeholders. Here we would discuss fine-tuning the	peace	process and overcoming probable hiccups — if and when the
10	Corpus of ...	drag on. There are many spoilers wanting to derail the	peace	process and prolong the status quo. Such forces could
11	Corpus of ...	it would further dampen the trust of civilians in the	peace	process and push Afghanistan into unrest. The greater responsibility
12	Corpus of ...	of Pakistan-India tensions would contribute to facilitating the Afghan	peace	process and reduce incidents of violence on the Pak-
13	Corpus of ...	stay, the Taliban will have an excuse to abandon the	peace	process and return to the battlefield. The available options
14	Corpus of ...	merely an attempt by Kabul to create hurdles in the	peace	process and stoke international concerns. The latest impasse has
15	Corpus of ...	reconciliation process. "Unfortunately, India is among the spoilers of the	peace	process and this Indian thinking is also reflected by

Positive semantic prosody is evident in all the collocates of the keyword "peace." For instance, the collocate "process" appears 234 times in conjunction with the keyword "peace" in the corpus of Pakistani newspapers. The co-occurrence of "peace" with "process" specifically signifies the Afghan peace process formalized in the Doha agreement. Throughout the concordance lines, the attitude of Pakistani newspapers and the role of Pakistan in advancing the Afghan peace process are consistently depicted in a positive light. Pakistan is consistently portrayed as a significant facilitator in the entire peace process. The positive role played by Pakistan is evident in all 100 instances, illustrating how Pakistan has been instrumental in fostering the Afghan peace process to achieve an inclusive intra-Afghan political settlement. The portrayal underscores the constructive and supportive stance of Pakistan in contributing to the success of the Afghan peace initiative.

4.2.3 The Keyword 'Afghanistan' in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

The keyword 'Afghanistan,' one of the most significant terms, emerges 2884 times in the corpus of Pakistani newspapers. Afghanistan, as a pivotal linguistic element, underscores its importance in the "Taliban and US" peace deal. Over the past 40 years of conflict in Afghanistan, thousands of men, women, children, and soldiers have lost their lives. Initiating peace dialogues is portrayed as a crucial step towards bringing prosperity to Afghanistan, a nation deeply scarred by prolonged conflict, and achieving lasting peace. A statistical examination of the keyword 'Afghanistan' reveals its frequent co-occurrence with related terms in the corpus. Notably, it appears alongside "Taliban" 239 times, "Pakistan" 230 times, "peace" 175 times, "war" 129 times, "withdrawal" 117 times, "American" 87 times, "situation" 82 times, "troops" 80 times, and "violence" 70 times. The collocations of the keyword "Afghanistan" are explored in the concordances below, predominantly receiving positive prosody based on the immediate contextual discourse within the corpus of Pakistani newspapers.

Concordance 4.2.3

Keyword *"Afghanistan"* in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

The concordance lines of the keyword "Afghanistan" in the corpus of Pakistani newspapers predominantly align with support for the US-Taliban peace deal, advocating for the withdrawal of American troops after four decades of war and violence in Afghanistan. The collocation "peace" appears a total of 175 times with "Afghanistan," underscoring the significance of dialogue in bringing about peace in the region. An analysis of all instances in the concordance lines indicates that the pairing of 'peace and stability' receives positive semantic prosody in connection with the keyword 'Afghanistan.' Additionally, the repeated appearance of the collocate 'stable' with Afghanistan, occurring 27 times, also conveys positive semantic prosody in the co-textual pattern.

Similarly, the collocate 'Pakistan' is associated 230 times with the keyword 'Afghanistan.' Linguistically, the role of Pakistan in the peace and stability process in Afghanistan is emphasized. The narrative also highlights the severe impact of the on-going Afghan war on Pakistan's development. Pakistan is portrayed as a responsible country that played a vital role in facilitating the Afghan peace process by bringing all

stakeholders to the negotiating table. The co-textual pattern of 'Pakistan and Afghanistan' receives positive semantic prosody, contributing to a positive image of Pakistan in the context of the Afghan peace process.

Numerous other lexical terms, such as prosperous, stable, entered, representative, republic, neighbours, special, reconstruction, withdrawal, troops, peaceful, reconciliation, mission, affairs, stability, presence, future, neighbouring, withdrawal, peace, Taliban, Afghans, deal, ceasefire, prisoners, etc., are also used with the keyword 'Afghanistan' in the corpus of Pakistani newspapers. This reflects that the Pakistani print media employs positive discourse in portraying the Afghan peace process linguistically.

4.2.4 The Keyword 'Deal' in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

Concordance 4.2.4

Keyword *'Deal'* in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	then the US intervened and stopped Karzai from making any	deal	with the Taliban leadership. America's desire for revenge
2	Corpus of ...	Kandahar and had just been nominated as interim president. A	deal	with the Taliban leadership would have ended the war
3	Corpus of ...	stages, the US intervened and stopped Karzai from making any	deal	with the Taliban leadership. The Bush administration rejected any
4	Corpus of ...	states must also act in accordance with ground realities and	deal	with the Taliban for the stability of Afghanistan. Currently,
5	Corpus of ...	states must also act in accordance with ground realities and	deal	with the Taliban for the stability of Afghanistan. Currently,
6	Corpus of ...	industry in the coming decades. That is why signing a	deal	with the Taliban has been so painful for the
7	Corpus of ...	magazine has termed it as President Trump's disgraceful peace	deal	with the Taliban and called it a full retreat.
8	Corpus of ...	Pakistan hopes to resolve now that the US has a	deal	with the Taliban is to secure its removal from
9	Corpus of ...	a breakout scenario. The Iran nuclear deal and the peace	deal	with the Taliban are good examples of an imperialist
10	Corpus of ...	American troops from Ghani's country and doing a governance	deal	with the Taliban with the help of the country'
11	Corpus of ...	in the White House some had hoped that America's	deal	with the Taliban to withdraw from Afghanistan would lead
12	Corpus of ...	EU and the UK — major aid donors — are reluctant to	deal	with the Taliban, though in the same breath they
13	Corpus of ...	EU and the UK — major aid donors — are reluctant to	deal	with the Taliban, though in the same breath they
14	Corpus of ...	Americans have kept their promise and, as per the peace	deal	with the Taliban, have reduced troops to 8,600 in 135 days
15	Corpus of ...	in not only convincing the US to sign a peace	deal	with the Taliban, but for facilitating the peace negotiation

The keyword "deal" is mentioned 433 times in a Pakistani newspaper corpus. In the first seventeen concordance lines, it is consistently paired with the co-text lexical item "with the Taliban" on the right side of the concordance. On the left context side, various lexical items are observed, including signing, peace, American, any, reluctant, and unravelling. The context "with the Taliban" consistently conveys a negative semantic prosody. The negativity is apparent from the very first line, expressing the opinion that signing a deal

with the Taliban has been a painful experience for the US. The second line further reinforces this sentiment, describing it as a disgraceful peace deal. Overall, the concordance lines associated with the keyword "deal" predominantly portray a negative prosody in Pakistani media.

The EU and the UK, being major aid donors, are depicted as reluctant to engage in deals with the Taliban, as highlighted in the 12th line: "currently, both the EU and the UK — major aid donors — are reluctant to deal with the Taliban." This representation also carries a negative semantic prosody. Furthermore, a comparative analysis reveals that collocates such as peace (repeated 143 times) and signed (50 times) are associated with positive prosody, whereas collocates such as Taliban (111 times), nuclear (8 times), struck (5 times), and ripped (3 times) bear a negative semantic prosody..

4.2.5 The Keyword 'Afghan' in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

Concordance 4.2.5

Keyword *'Afghan'* in the Corpus Pakistani Newspapers

The keyword "Afghan" holds significant prominence in the corpus of Pakistani newspapers, being utilized 2516 times. This keyword sheds light on the reluctance of the Afghan government to engage in talks with the Taliban, despite encouragement from the USA to initiate dialogue. A statistical analysis reveals the top ten collocates of the keyword "Afghan," including Taliban (531 times), government (396 times), forces (169

times), Afghanistan (132 times), talks (115 times), process (112 times), dialogue (110 times), security (96 times), and soil (59 times). Notably, the concordance list predominantly features one right context, 'government and the Taliban,' with the keyword 'Afghan,' occurring 100 times.

The left context in the co-text varies from the right side, with each line presenting distinct elements such as talks between, the announcement that the political factions under the umbrella of the representative of the, and sooner, among others. Each line in the concordance reflects a positive and optimistic narrative surrounding the keyword 'Afghan.' The initial line suggests that negotiations between the Taliban and the Afghan government were set to commence, emphasizing hope for a resolution after the release of prisoners. The second line announces a meeting between the two rival factions, portraying a positive attitude. These concordance lines collectively project the anticipation of peace prevailing in Afghanistan. This hopeful outlook materialized in August 2021 when the dream of peace became a reality.

4.2.6 The Keyword 'Pakistan' in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

Concordance 4.2.6

Keyword *'Pakistan'* in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Pakistani ...	harbouring militant groups engaged in cross-border terror attacks. While	Pakistan'	s influence over the Taliban cannot be overestimated, it
2	Pakistani ...	would try to understand their position. The reality is that	Pakistan'	s influence over the Taliban has limits. The group
3	Pakistani ...	its geographical proximity with Afghanistan and influence over the Taliban.	Pakistan'	s influence over the Afghan Taliban may not be
4	Pakistani ...	However, recent developments and some independent commentaries show that	Pakistan'	s influence over the Taliban is not as comprehensive
5	Pakistani ...	have further boosted their morale. Their growing power will decrease	Pakistan'	s influence over them, and Pakistan will have to
6	Pakistani ...	bypassing the negotiating table. Moreover, as some observers have noted,	Pakistan'	s influence over the group appears exaggerated, as the
7	Pakistani ...	gambit. She has suggested an alliance with Iran to countercheck	Pakistan'	s influence in Afghanistan. The recent visit of Indian
8	Pakistani ...	America's main concern at this juncture is to use	Pakistan'	s influence with the Afghan Taliban to ensure an
9	Pakistani ...	a spillover into Pakistan, clearly posing an imminent threat to	Pakistan'	s security and stability as well. The domino effect
10	Pakistani ...	bloodshed in Afghanistan, which will have serious adverse implications for	Pakistan'	s security and economic well-being and for regional
11	Pakistani ...	A civil war next door would pose serious threats to	Pakistan'	s security and multidimensional challenges. A surge in violence
12	Pakistani ...	US. For as long as Indian presence was in Afghanistan,	Pakistan'	s security calculus did not allow it to provide
13	Pakistani ...	allowed to make decisions according to local requirements. Some in	Pakistan'	s security elite thought that US talks with the
14	Pakistani ...	from where will Taliban find their food and fodder? Is	Pakistan'	s security establishment ready to hand over Pakistan's
15	Pakistani ...	outcome would be the "worst-case scenario for the country".	Pakistan'	s security is inextricably tied to Afghanistan. Prolonged strife

The keyword "Pakistan" appears 1610 times in Pakistani newspapers, often collocating with terms such as Afghanistan (230 times), Taliban (145 times), China (98 times), India

(95 times), Iran (67 times), Russia (52 times), border (51 times), influence (29 times), neighbours (16 times), refugees (40 times), strategic (23 times), regional (25 times), bases (14 times), influx (14 times), Saudi (14 times), forces (14 times), fallout (12 times), banned (8 times), scrutiny (5 times), and more.

Three noteworthy co-textual patterns — influence, security, and military — highlight Pakistan's significant role in shaping the deal between the US and the Taliban. The term 'influence' is particularly remarkable, appearing eight times and emphasizing Pakistan's contribution to the peace deal in Afghanistan. Despite terms like influence, security, and military carrying potential negative connotations, the co-textual patterns with Pakistan consistently convey positive semantic prosody. These instances underscore the positive narrative surrounding Pakistan in the media discourse. Lines 1 and 2 of the concordance explicitly articulate this positive prosody, stating that Pakistan's influence over the Taliban should not be underestimated; it demonstrated the ability to bring the Taliban to the negotiating table with the US. Despite potential negative connotations associated with terms like influence, security, and military, the co-textual patterns involving Pakistan carry a positive semantic prosody. These instances contextualize the favourable portrayal of Pakistan in the media discourse, emphasizing America's reliance on Pakistan's influence with the Taliban for a smooth withdrawal of NATO forces from Afghanistan. Pakistan has played a pivotal role as a central facilitator in the Afghan peace process, and this positive role has been consistently depicted by the Pakistani print media.

4.2.7 The Keyword 'US' in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

Concordance 4.2.7

Keyword '*US'* in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	deal WITH the signing of the peace deal between the	US	and the Afghan Taliban in Doha yesterday, America's
2	Corpus of ...	of success that the peace deal recently signed between the	US	and the Afghan Taliban in Doha has. Pessimists see
3	Corpus of ...	extra effort to make the deal work. Towards peace THE	US	and the Afghan Taliban on Feb 29 signed a peace
4	Corpus of ...	deal signed at the end of last month between the	US	and the Afghan Taliban provided some hope that the
5	Corpus of ...	endorsement earlier this month of the Doha agreement between the	US	and the Afghan Taliban. On March 10 the UN Security
6	Corpus of ...	and appear more concerned about their political future. Since the	US	and the Afghan Taliban signed a peace deal on
7	Corpus of ...	begin on March 10 under the Feb 29 Doha agreement between the	US	and the Afghan Taliban. It has also underlined the
8	Corpus of ...	entail variations to the plan. The second agreement between the	US	and the Afghan government was inked by Secretary of
9	Corpus of ...	entail variations to the plan. The second agreement between the	US	and the Afghan government was inked by Secretary of
10	Corpus of ...	among the three points on the agenda upon which the	US	and the Afghan Taliban have agreed to end the
11	Corpus of ...	in violence after the historic Doha peace accord between the	US	and the Taliban in February last year that has
12	Corpus of ...	did at the end of the Afghan 'jihad'. While the	US	and the Taliban had signed a peace accord in
13	Corpus of ...	and political setup in the hands of the Taliban The	US	and the Taliban may have reached a peace agreement
14	Corpus of ...	spoilers present in and outside Afghanistan. On February 29, when the	US	and the Taliban signed a historic deal in Doha,
15	Corpus of ...	to become the leader of the tribe. Ever since the	US	and the Taliban signed the peace deal, Ghani has

The keyword "US" holds significant prominence in the study, appearing 2196 times in the corpus of Pakistani newspapers. The entire Afghan peace process hinges on the deal between the Taliban and the USA. The collocates of the keyword include Afghanistan (296 times), forces (161 times), withdrawal (146 times), military (102 times), troops (93 times), deal (80 times), agreement (68 times), allies (66 times), and more. The only context, "the Afghan," appears with this keyword on the right side of the concordance.

Line 4 explicitly states, "America's long war in Afghanistan came to an end with the peace deal between the US and the Afghan Taliban in Doha yesterday." Similarly, all fifteen concordance lines underscore the peace agreement and the withdrawal of military troops from Afghanistan. Throughout these lines, almost all co-texts carry positive semantic prosody, creating a favourable contextual environment for the keyword "US" in the Pakistani newspaper corpus. The overall representation in the concordance lines portrays a positive narrative surrounding the role of the United States in the Afghan peace process, as reported in the Pakistani media.

4.2.8 The Keyword 'China' in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

The keyword 'China' appears 341 times in the corpus of Pakistani newspapers. Pakistani newspapers have positively portrayed China in their media discourse. China is considered a key stakeholder that can play a crucial role in bringing peace and prosperity to the region. The frequent collocates, such as Pakistan 98 times, Russia 98 times, Iran 47 times, India 27 times, Taliban 17 times, central 12 times, play 10 times, neighbours 09 times, concerns 8 times, corridor 7 times, rising 6 times, etc., co-appeared with the keyword 'China'. These collocations have been examined in the following concordance lines:

Concordance 4.2.8

Keyword '*China*' in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad when he visited Pakistan last week.	China and Russia	have to be consulted, but they should
2	Corpus of ...	general conclusion drawn by analysts and experts is that Pakistan,	China and Russia	have consolidated their positions in the region
3	Corpus of ...	not rushing in to recognise the Talban regime in Afghanistan, "	China and Russia	have already cozied up to the Taliban,
4	Corpus of ...	not rushing in to recognise the Talban regime in Afghanistan, "	China and Russia	have already cozied up to the Taliban,
5	Corpus of ...	e contest about? The current US National Security Strategy describes	China and Russia	as the revisionist powers and identifies a
6	Corpus of ...	and the country begins to inch towards the global mainstream; (5)	China and Russia	as the two largest regional powers enhance
7	Corpus of ...	only Pakistan but Qatar, Iran, India, the Saudis, the UAE,	China and Russia	as well as American and European countries.
8	Corpus of ...	sign of the divide on how to handle the Taliban,	China and Russia	abstained from a UN Security Council resolution
9	Corpus of ...	would also have an impact on the US confrontation against	China and Russia	and possibly contribute towards stabilising the new
10	Corpus of ...	emerge from the Moscow conclave is that Pakistan, the US,	China and Russia	appear to have a common view of
11	Corpus of ...	card' as it did against the Soviet Union since now	China and Russia	are strategic partners aligned against the US.
12	Corpus of ...	US. But, instead of recognising the need for cooperating with	China and Russia	for a stable international order, successive American
13	Corpus of ...	as far as governance is concerned, the US accuses both	China and Russia	of being repressive powers that execute human
14	Corpus of ...	difficult position as it tries to balance its ties with	China and Russia	on one end, and the US on
15	Corpus of ...	organisation have to come from outside. Many countries are eager,	China and Russia	particularly. This implies complicated geopolitics and much

The collocation of Russia and Pakistan with China occurs 98 times, and the co-textual pattern of Russia, Pakistan, and China consistently carries positive semantic prosody in all concordance lines. In the first line, it is noted that the US is prepared to acknowledge the constructive role of these countries as key stakeholders in the Afghan peace process. Similarly, the second line reports that Russia, Pakistan, and China are in alignment and share the same perspectives regarding the Afghan peace process. The fifth

line describes Russia and China as revisionist powers capable of playing a constructive role in the Afghan peace process. Overall, all the collocations found in the immediate environment of the linguistic item 'China' receive positive semantic prosody in the Pakistani newspaper corpus. The consistent portrayal of Russia, Pakistan, and China in a positive light underscores their constructive contributions and shared perspectives in the context of the Afghan peace process, as depicted in the Pakistani media.

4.2.9 The Keyword 'India' in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

Concordance 4.2.9

Keyword '*India*' in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	turbulence and ethnic conflicts it has managed to outpace both	India	and Pakistan to become the regional leader in per
2	Corpus of ...	subject I had outlined factors which would intrinsically encourage both	India	and Pakistan to ease things between them from the
3	Corpus of ...	meeting of the five regional nations including Russia, Iran, China,	India	and Pakistan to assume responsibility as a group to
4	Corpus of ...	on the western front. There will be consequences for both	India	and Pakistan as their respective approach to deal with
5	Corpus of ...	cooperation. The TAPI pipeline is an energy project that Afghanistan,	India	and Pakistan can still see eye-to eye on,
6	Corpus of ...	should think of Afghanistan as a buffer state. While Afghanistan,	India	and Pakistan continue to blame each other for using
7	Corpus of ...	it may be. Finding peace in and around Afghanistan Both	India	and Pakistan have had roles to play in this 40-
8	Corpus of ...	geous for both countries — also keeping the strategic equilibrium between	India	and Pakistan intact — it could be of concern to
9	Corpus of ...	understood that perpetuating strife helps Ghani hold onto power. Both	India	and Pakistan make the region in which Afghanistan exists
10	Corpus of ...	Bihari Vajpayee's closest adviser Sudheendra Kulkarni's advice that	India	and Pakistan should come together to work with the
11	Corpus of ...	subsumes what has been a lingering conflict-in-waiting between	India	and Pakistan so much the better. Perhaps the two
12	Corpus of ...	conference of foreign ministers from Russia, China, the US, Iran,	India	and Pakistan tentatively scheduled for next week — achieve very
13	Corpus of ...	a gloomy past, the hope is that the leadership of	India	and Pakistan will take a hard look at the
14	Corpus of ...	partition of the Sub-continent was that the people of	India	and Pakistan would live in peace and harmony and
15	Corpus of ...	of foreign ministers and envoys from Russia, China, Pakistan, Iran,	India	and the US. All these countries have high stakes

The keyword 'India' appears 323 times in the corpus of Pakistani newspapers and is associated with collocations such as Pakistan (85 times), Iran (30 times), China (27 times), Russia (19 times), and Taliban (09 times), wins (07 times), etc. This keyword only receives two co-texts, "India and Pakistan" and "India and the US," on the right side of the concordance figure. The fifteen concordance lines portray positivity towards the keyword 'India.' The co-text on the left side of the concordance is; to encourage both India and Pakistan to play a constructive role in bringing stability in the region as instability in the region may affect both countries. The conjunction 'and' shows that the proper noun 'Pakistan' appears with its opponent "India". Mainly, the Pakistani

newspapers divert from the main agenda of the Afghan peace process and opine on keeping good relations. The very first line states that in one of my earlier pieces on the subject, I had outlined factors that would encourage both India and Pakistan to ease things between them from the near-war hype driving their relations. The second line discusses the Tony Blinken proposal to convene a meeting to take responsibility for overseeing the peace process in Afghanistan by involving the five regional countries. The seventh line discusses a pro-positive version of the Indian contribution towards the peace process in Afghanistan, which mentions that both nations have a significant role in ending the 40-year Afghan war. The concordance lines of the keyword 'India' have no single lexical item that portrays negative semantic prosody.

4.2.10. The Keyword 'War' in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

The keyword 'war' appears 823 times in Pakistani newspapers corpus. It is widely used to highlight the deadliest sufferings from the last 40 years of Afghan war since the American invasion in 2001. The USA's invasion was with the intention of fighting against terrorism, security issues, violence, uncertainty, and economic and political instability. The word 'war' was associated with collocations such as civil appeared 145 times, Afghanistan 89 times, country 74 times, long 48 times, America 43 times, longest 35 times, torn 32 times, cold 30 times, decades 24 times, ravaged 22 times, terror 22 times, crimes 21 times, cost 17 times, win 14 times, forever 13 times, proxy 11 times, protracted 08 times, blown 08 times, bloody 8 times, unnecessary 07 times, unwinnable 05 times, outbreak 05 times, disrupted 04, and so on. The co-occurrence of these collocations with 'Afghanistan' is examined in the following concordance.

Concordance 4.2.10

Keyword *'War'* in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	Since the 1980s, when a stream of people fled the	war	in Afghanistan and settled in Pakistan, the political and
2	Corpus of ...	out Afghan policy US is desperate to shut down the	war	in Afghanistan and will broker no hurdle. On the
3	Corpus of ...	US overture. The US is desperate to shut down the	war	in Afghanistan and will broker no hurdle. The last
4	Corpus of ...	fail in tackling the pandemic. Americans hardly think about the	war	in Afghanistan and the reason why the country was
5	Corpus of ...	infamously revealed in July 2019: "If we wanted to fight a	war	in Afghanistan and win it, I could win that
6	Corpus of ...	processes fail, there is a strong likelihood that the 'forever	war'	in Afghanistan will continue. While outsiders have played a
7	Corpus of ...	the Russians were out of the Afghan game. "Our long	war	in Afghanistan will have an enduring end only if
8	Corpus of ...	negatively affecting the behaviour of an average American today. This	war	in Afghanistan will be over with the evacuation of
9	Corpus of ...	the very large refugee presence in the country. A civil	war	in Afghanistan could have a spillover effect and regenerate
10	Corpus of ...	system and government". For Russia and China, a wider civil	war	in Afghanistan could mean destabilisation of their Eurasian Economic
11	Corpus of ...	may implicitly benefit if peace indeed comes to Afghanistan. A	war	in Afghanistan extends its malfeasance to Pakistan's border
12	Corpus of ...	may implicitly benefit if peace indeed comes to Afghanistan. A	war	in Afghanistan extends its malfeasance to Pakistan's border
13	Corpus of ...	and the Afghan Taliban in Doha yesterday, America's long	war	in Afghanistan may be coming to a close. America'
14	Corpus of ...	Afghan Taliban provided some hope that the long and brutal	war	in Afghanistan may be coming to a close, events
15	Corpus of ...	With the falling of the twin towers, followed by a	war	in Afghanistan against Al Qaeda and consequently its host,
27	Corpus of ...	across the border and the very real danger of civil	war	in Afghanistan presents a serious threat to Pakistan's
30	Corpus of ...	ambiguities give birth to the possibility of another prolonged, bloody	war	in Afghanistan while threats of a civil war also

The concordance lines reveal that all collocations of the linguistic item "war" in the corpus of Pakistani newspapers carry negative semantic prosody. The investigation into the depiction of the Afghan war in Pakistani newspapers, as expanded in the concordance lines for the keyword "war," highlights the potential consequences of the Afghan war and its impact on Pakistan, particularly in the 11th concordance line. Throughout the lines, the war is consistently described as brutal, a real danger, and a bloody conflict in lines 14, 27, and 30. Pakistani print media portrays it as a bloody war, a proxy war, an unwinnable war, the longest disrupted war, and more, with all these co-textual patterns carrying a negative semantic prosody. The inherent negativity associated with the word 'war' itself contributes to the overall negative connotation.

Pakistani print media consistently emphasizes the serious and detrimental consequences of war and advocates for peace in Afghanistan. Pakistan's stance is underscored by its continuous support for efforts aimed at bringing peace and stability to Afghanistan. The prevailing belief is that the peace and prosperity of the region hinge on achieving a stable and peaceful Afghanistan.

4.2.11. The Keyword 'Withdrawal' in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

The keyword 'withdrawal' appears 422 times in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers and is frequently found with the top strongest co-textual collocates such as forces, American, troops, complete, Afghanistan, foreign, deadline, hasty, abrupt, military, full, NATO, irresponsible, orderly, Taliban, final, announcement, etc. These words in the co-textual environment of 'withdrawal' have been closely examined in the concordance lines. In the Pakistani newspapers corpus, the utmost collocate of withdrawal is Afghanistan, co-occurring 117 times. This combination refers to the withdrawal of American and NATO forces from Afghanistan. Pakistani newspapers often held mixed views on the American and NATO withdrawal from Afghanistan..

Concordance 4.2.11

Keyword *'Withdrawal'* in the Corpus Pakistani Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Pakistani …	the Taliban". As a qualifying proviso, the deal makes the	withdrawal	of US forces contingent upon intra-Afghan negotiations which
2	Pakistani …	on the agreement was that whilst it agreed to the	withdrawal	of US forces from Afghanistan within 14 months, release of 5,000
3	Pakistani …	ugh mounting strikes in Afghanistan. Showing reservations over a complete	withdrawal	of US forces in Afghanistan by December, experts suggest
4	Pakistani …	else's land by force. He also said, "A rapid	withdrawal	of US forces from Afghanistan now would hurt our
5	Pakistani …	community of defence contractors, they argue that a near complete	withdrawal	of US forces would precipitate NATO forces to also
6	Pakistani …	a foreign policy veteran, would attach certain conditions to the	withdrawal	of US forces from Afghanistan. Some, even in the
7	Pakistani …	conspiracy theorists and historians for quite a while. The hasty	withdrawal	of US forces and the collapse of the Afghan
8	Pakistani …	to claim by way of any foreign policy success. The	withdrawal	of US forces as envisaged under the Feb 29 US-
9	Pakistani …	a last-ditch effort to delay or slow down the	withdrawal	of US forces from Afghanistan on the grounds of
10	Pakistani …	much. With the Aug 31 deadline for the completion of the	withdrawal	of US forces approaching, the prospects for a reduction
11	Pakistani …	that was the Doha Agreement signed just for the safe	withdrawal	of US troops and peace for US and Europe
12	Pakistani …	insurgents every single day." However, after Obama ordered a partial	withdrawal	of US troops in 2011, these claims were debunked when
13	Pakistani …	principles and ideals. The major focus was on the safe	withdrawal	of US troops and the undertaking of not to
14	Pakistani …	by the Doha agreement that set the stage for the	withdrawal	of US troops from the country after almost two
15	Pakistani …	McKenzie, had warned that he would not recommend a full	withdrawal	of US troops from Afghanistan unless the Taliban demonstrated
16	Pakistani …	by November leaving less than 5,000 in Afghanistan. But the complete	withdrawal	of US troops is linked to an intra-Afghan
17	Pakistani …	peace plan implemented before a May 1 deadline for the final	withdrawal	of US troops from Afghanistan. It has been over

The keyword 'withdrawal' appears 430 times in the Pakistani newspaper corpus and has two co-texts, "US forces" and "of US troops," on the right side of the concordance for the keyword. The left-side co-text lexical items include agreed to, complete, rapid, hasty, safe, partial, full, and final, providing a more detailed and comprehensive concordance for the keyword. The withdrawal of US forces is portrayed through the lens of intra-

Afghan negotiations in Pakistani newspapers.

The second line highlights that the negotiating parties agreed on a US withdrawal within 14 months. The 7th concordance line discusses the anarchy resulting from the hasty withdrawal of US troops in Afghanistan, stating, 'the hasty withdrawal of NATO forces and the Afghan army's collapse has been a serious obstruction to US credibility.' Line eleven notes that a safe withdrawal for US troops and the EU was guaranteed in the Doha peace agreement.

The keyword 'withdrawal' is associated with 38 collocations of positive semantic prosody, including troops (60 times), final (06 times), orderly (05 times), forces (100 times), hasty (09 times), rapid, complete (38 times), Soviet (25 times), deadline, abrupt, military (30 times), etc. A comparative analysis of these 38 collocates indicates that some, such as complete, Soviet, final, and orderly, receive positive semantic prosody, while others, such as forces, troops, military, hasty, etc., are considered negative in nature and receive an unpleasant semantic prosody.

4.2.12 The Keyword 'refugees' in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

Pakistan has been hosting one of the largest populations of refugees in the world, with the majority coming from neighbouring Afghanistan. Pakistan was greatly affected by these refugees. After 9/11 tragedy and the American invasion of Afghanistan resulted massive migration of Afghan refugees, which broke out disastrous economic, social, political, and environmental impacts on Pakistan. Pakistani newspapers have given massive coverage to these refugees and highlighted how the withdrawal of refugees will help maintain peace and stability in the host state. Therefore, the keyword "refugees" is going to be examined through the lens of the Afghan peace process through collocation and concordance techniques.

The keyword "Refugees" appears 167 times in the corpus of Pakistani newspapers. It is found with the topmost collocates such as influx, million, Pakistan, Afghan, flow, millions, hosting, hosts, restricts, Taliban, US, camps, and crises. The utmost collocate of refugees is Pakistan. It occurs 40 times with the keyword refugees. Their combination highlights that Pakistan is the only country that has hosted and sheltered many Afghan refugees and the complications Pakistan faces during the Afghan

war. This combination can be examined in the following concordance lines:

Concordance 4.2.12

Keyword *'Refugee'* in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspaperss

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	educated Afghan women who worked to bring facilities to Afghan	refugees	in the Islamabad/Rawalpindi area. The women, who represent
2	Corpus of ...	omen. It has neither solved the problem, nor helped the	refugees	in the long run. It has rather destabilised the
3	Corpus of ...	has been recognised for opening up its borders to Afghan	refugees	in the past three decades, which is highly admirable,
4	Corpus of ...	policy in the neighbourhood to prevent the further influx of	refugees	in the region. Baghlan massacre FEARS that Afghanistan will
5	Corpus of ...	province of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa revealed that participation of Afghan	refugees	in the total crimes committed was just 1.3%. The influx
6	Corpus of ...	dedicated staff for camps; and ensuring registration of off-camp	refugees.	In this context realising the magnitude of the global
7	Corpus of ...	states must cooperate to house, feed and care for Afghan	refugees.	In this regard, Pakistan's position is fair: after
8	Corpus of ...	war. Apparently, as in the past, Iran would keep the	refugees	in camps close to the border. President Ghani's
9	Corpus of ...	by the kindness that Pakistan continues to show towards Afghan	refugees,	in globally one of the longest hosting. And such
10	Corpus of ...	he million internally-displaced refugees. About 2.6 million Afghans were	refugees	in more than 70 countries, with Pakistan having 1.5 million people
11	Corpus of ...	exorbitant amounts. I had a chance to interact with Pakistani	refugees	in northern France where they often camp for months
12	Corpus of ...	appeal for the Afghanistan situation — including operations for Afghan	refugees	in Pakistan and Iran — remains acutely underfunded, at only 43%
13	Corpus of ...	Millions of Afghans are rendered homeless and ended up as	refugees	in Pakistan, Iran and other countries. Three generations of
14	Corpus of ...	community should play its due role in aiding states hosting	refugees.	In particular, those states that have played a part
15	Corpus of ...	inication and understanding for early return and resettlement of Afghan	refugees	in their homeland. The spokesperson rejected the criticism of

The appearance of Pakistan as a collocate of the keyword "refugees" has been examined in all concordance instances in the corpus of Pakistani newspapers. It is observed in the concordance lines that Pakistan, acting as a responsible neighbour, played a brotherhood role in hosting a massive flood of Afghan refugees during the Afghan war. Almost all collocates that co-occur with the keyword "refugees" bear positive semantic prosody, reflecting positive attitudes of Pakistan towards Afghan refugees.

For instance, collocates such as facilities, help, opening its border, states must cooperate to house, feed and care for Afghan refugees, kindness, longest holding, safer places, carry positive semantic prosody in the contextual environment of the keyword "refugees." This positive language indicates the supportive and humanitarian role of Pakistan in providing assistance and refuge to Afghan refugees.

Moreover, for the purpose of the safe return of Afghan refugees to their homeland, the government of Pakistan has consistently supported the Afghan Peace process. This reflects Pakistan's commitment to contributing to regional stability and fostering positive relations with its neighbours.

4.2.13 The Keyword 'Terrorist' in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

Concordance 4.2.13

Keyword *'Terrorist'* in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	will Islamabad react? If the Taliban fail to prevent international	terrorist	groups like al Qaeda and IS from using the
2	Corpus of ...	chaos, creating more misery for the Afghan people, and giving	terrorist	groups like IS a chance to exploit the situation. 5
3	Corpus of ...	a large number of Afghans to sneak into Pakistan? Transnational	terrorist	groups like Islamic State and Al-Qaeda may also
4	Corpus of ...	also threatening Pakistan's border and internal security. Anti-Pakistan	terrorist	groups like the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)
5	Corpus of ...	purportedly unleash. A Taliban regime in Kabul will encourage Pakistani	terrorist	groups to become more active as before 2017. Thus, its
6	Corpus of ...	assure the international community that they will not allow any	terrorist	groups to operate from the Afghan territory against any
7	Corpus of ...	keep their argument alive; that Afghanistan was still ripe for	terrorist	groups to regroup and execute attacks against the West.
8	Corpus of ...	not allow territory under their control to be used by	terrorist	groups against any other state in the vicinity or
9	Corpus of ...	not allow territory under their control to be used by	terrorist	groups against any other state in the vicinity or
10	Corpus of ...	exchange for Taliban guarantees to prevent Al Qaeda and other	terrorist	groups from operating in Afghanistan. Firm answers to these
11	Corpus of ...	proof of their commitment to the US to prevent foreign	terrorist	groups from using Afghan soil. It appears that both
12	Corpus of ...	also be on trial for taking action to eliminate various	terrorist	groups in Afghanistan which threaten neighbouring countries as well
13	Corpus of ...	not attacking those outgoing foreign troops, and not allowing foreign	terrorist	groups in Afghanistan, constitute the deal. Everything else is
14	Corpus of ...	plays. The situation in Afghanistan is changing the character of	terrorist	groups sheltering there. For instance, TTP chief Noor Wali
15	Corpus of ...	circles. The situation in Afghanistan is changing the character of	terrorist	groups sheltering there. If real, this transformation indicates another

The keyword 'terrorist' was mentioned 154 times in the Pakistani newspaper corpus. After the American invasion of Afghanistan, the entire region, especially Pakistan, was badly affected by terrorist militants. The top collocates co-appearing with the keyword 'terrorist' are attacks (30 times), group (15 times), transnational (11 times), activities (10 times), attack (09 times), Al-Qaeda (07 times), networks (05 times), organizations (05 times), ties (05 times), launch (04 times), outfits (03 times), movements (03 times), hotbed (02 times), badge (02 times), endangers (02 times), etc.

The keyword "terrorists" is negatively portrayed in Pakistani newspapers. The terrorist organization Al Qaeda is highlighted in the very first line. In the second concordance line, terrorist organizations are considered responsible for insurgency and violations inside Pakistan and across the border. Due to these insecurities, collocates appearing in the contextual environment of the keyword "terrorist" receive negative semantic prosody.

4.2.14 The Keyword 'NATO' in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

Concordance 4.2.14

Keyword *'NATO'* in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	security situation in Afghanistan. While the ongoing withdrawal of US/	Nato	forces from Afghanistan is set to create security vacuum
2	Corpus of ...	UN Security Council. This time around, the withdrawal of US/	Nato	forces from Afghanistan is all set to cause security
3	Corpus of ...	back of an exemplary coordination during withdrawal of the US/	NATO	forces from Afghanistan. The US government may also subscribe
4	Corpus of ...	Taliban narrative based on a complete withdrawal of US and	NATO	forces from the Afghan soil. The US was simply
5	Corpus of ...	m March 2016 to September 2018, was the longest serving commander of	NATO	forces in Afghanistan. He was the first to sound
6	Corpus of ...	route for the supply of men and equipment to the	NATO	forces in Afghanistan. The Russians were now providing money
7	Corpus of ...	Khalilzad and Gen Austin Miller who commands the US and	Nato	forces in Afghanistan, visited Islamabad and held talks with
8	Corpus of ...	as they firmly believe that after the withdrawal of US/	Nato	forces in coming weeks, they will be in a
9	Corpus of ...	Afghanistan: the graveyard of empires The reason the US and	Nato	forces are facing a dilemma is that they don'
10	Corpus of ...	after the two-day meeting. The reason the US and	Nato	forces are facing a dilemma is that they don'
11	Corpus of ...	rather than the September deadline announced by President Joe Biden.	Nato	forces are also said to be working on a
12	Corpus of ...	But what is true as well is that when the	NATO	forces had decided that there was no military solution,
13	Corpus of ...	similar situation in 2014 when a majority of the US-led	Nato	forces had departed the country. A massive cut in
14	Corpus of ...	military solution, unfortunately, the bargaining power of the American or	NATO	forces had dissipated. Once they had reduced the troops
15	Corpus of ...	that a near complete withdrawal of US forces would precipitate	NATO	forces to also leave, besides sharp reduction in the

The keyword "NATO" appeared 176 times in the Pakistani newspapers corpus. There are 16 collocates of this keyword, such as US repeated 97 times, and 89 times, forces 47 times, withdrawal 15 times, allies 14 times, military 13 times, led 07 times, September 05 times, defence 05 times, member 5 times, minister 04 times, pride 03 times, and subsequently 03 times. The sole co-text "forces" was pointed out in the concordance line. The terminology of "NATO" gains a negative prosody since its co-text has a negative connotation. The left-side collocations of the keyword are: withdrawal of the US, the longest-serving commander of the US, US-led, American, precipitate. The very first line describes that the NATO withdrawal will create a security vacuum in Afghanistan. The second line reports that NATO forces are committed to their withdrawal deadline. NATO also agreed to leave Afghanistan, along with the US forces, by the end of August. 'NATO' receives a neutral prosody because most concordance lines treat it as neutral, irrespective of its invasion of Afghanistan for over two decades.

4.2.15 The Keyword 'Stability' in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

Concordance 4.2.15

Keyword *'stability'* in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	political pluralism, nothing can be done to establish peace and	stability	in the country. If the Afghan National Army (ANA),
2	Corpus of ...	Afghans. He failed to barter personal eminence for ease and	stability	in the life of his people. He has failed
3	Corpus of ...	manoeuvre. Pakistan has emerged as a pivot of peace and	stability	in the region and the so called AfPak is
4	Corpus of ...	jeopardising the whole peace initiative and a desire for lasting	stability	in the region. The sociology of intra-Afghan peace
5	Corpus of ...	for there to be a political process for peace and	stability	in the region." Outside observers with good understanding of
6	Corpus of ...	if foreign troops left Afghanistan without defeating the Taliban decisively,	stability	in the war-torn country would not be possible,
7	Corpus of ...	most because of the continued war in its backyard. The	stability	in Afghanistan allows China to extend its BRI to
8	Corpus of ...	leaving behind a void. But Trump never considered peace and	stability	in Afghanistan as a factor. His priority was always
9	Corpus of ...	Iran and Pakistan vie for various degrees of peace and	stability	in Afghanistan for known political, geo-strategic and commercial
10	Corpus of ...	federal ministers do not help in removing that impression. Surely	stability	in Afghanistan is extremely important for Pakistan's national
11	Corpus of ...	in offering protection to the needy while promoting peace and	stability	in Afghanistan would be key to alleviating the refugee
12	Corpus of ...	to violence reduction and a successful discussion for peace and	stability	in Afghanistan. Conversely, the Trump administration must keep the
13	Corpus of ...	therefore any improvement in ties is linked to peace and	stability	in Afghanistan. Mr Khan's meetings with Afghan President
14	Corpus of ...	for the first time in 40 years, there is peace and	stability	in Afghanistan. Such a situation would immensely benefit the
15	Corpus of ...	decent soul in the world looks forward to peace and	stability	in Afghanistan. That said, one cannot but wonder if

The keyword "stability" appears 104 times in the corpus of Pakistani newspapers. There are 10 lexical collocates of the keyword, such as peace repeated 41 times, Afghanistan 31 times, regional 10 times, security 09 times, economic 07 times, bring 07 times, bringing 04 times, prosperity 03 times, and lasting 03 times. The right co-text contains terminologies such as in the country, in life, in the region, in the war, in Afghanistan, and in the country. "Afghanistan" as a lexical item has been used nine times with the keyword to highlight the need for stability in the country. Moreover, the left co-text identifies that 'peace and stability" are used 11 times in the concordance lines. No negative representation of the keywords was noticed. The tenth concordance line points out that stability in Afghanistan is crucial for Pakistan's peace. The twelfth concordance line opines that the Taliban should reduce the violence and commit to a successful Afghan peace process dialogue. The 14th line describes the positivity of the keyword in the Pakistani media. All of the concordance lines of the keyword "stability" bear positive semantic prosody in the Pakistani newspaper corpus.

SECTION 4.3

4.3 CONCORDANCE ANALYSIS OF KEYWORDS IN THE CORPUS OF AFGHANISTAN NEWSPAPERS

4.3.1 The Keyword 'Taliban' in the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers

The keyword "Taliban" plays a pivotal role in understanding the root cause of the Afghan peace process, as they are key stakeholders in the conflict. Originating in the 1990s during Afghanistan's civil war and gaining prominence after the US invasion, the Taliban assumed control over Afghanistan following the Doha Agreement, surpassing their influence in the 1990s. Within the Afghan newspaper corpus, the keyword "Taliban" appeared 3,827 times. Statistically, the top collocates of the term "Taliban" include: government (343 times), Afghanistan (242 times), talks (212 times), violence (163 times), deal (134 times), agreement (118 times), country (94 times), leaders (93 times), prisoners (66 times), fighters (63 times), signed (53 times), militants (58 times), release (49 times), control (46 times), representatives (39 times), negotiators (32 times), troops (27 times), and takeover (22 times). These words within the co-textual environment of the term "Taliban" have been examined in the following concordance lines:

Concordance 4.3.1

Keyword 'Taliban' in the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
9	Corpus of ...	countries, including Pakistan, China, India and the US has welcomed	Taliban'	s recent stance, asking the group to further show
10	Corpus of ...	countries, including Pakistan, China, India and the US has welcomed	Taliban'	s recent stance, asking the group to further show
11	Corpus of ...	for lasting peace and stability in the war-torn country.	Taliban'	s recent bloodshed across the country, martyring only Afghan
12	Corpus of ...	in a long term. Many countries have explicitly condemned the	Taliban'	s recent gains in Afghanistan's larger cities, including
13	Corpus of ...	then that will not be acceptable for the Afghan people.	Taliban'	s recent insisting of including their deal with US
14	Corpus of ...	vital infrastructures in their held territories. Despite of territorial gains,	Taliban'	s recent moves have been national and internationally condemned,
15	Corpus of ...	impacted the fate of peace and stability in the country.	Taliban'	s recent show of force has disappointed Afghan masses
16	Corpus of ...	e regional and international levels. Taliban speak violence, bloodshed	Taliban'	s recent violence and bloodshed campaign has already impacted
17	Corpus of ...	the Pakistani policy, the country is neither in favor of	Taliban'	s return to the power nor their full reintegration
18	Corpus of ...	wealth due to the war will finally end with the	Taliban'	s return to power, and with terrorist groups, which
19	Corpus of ...	the rise in violence and the likelihood of pro-Pakistan	Taliban'	s return to Kabul, the country is yet to
20	Corpus of ...	the Pakistani policy, the country is neither in favor of	Taliban'	s return to the power nor their full reintegration
21	Corpus of ...	the Taliban. But what will be the impact of the	Taliban'	s return to power in Afghanistan? It all depends.
22	Corpus of ...	less able to focus on its dispute with Pakistan. The	Taliban'	s return to power, then, will certainly not be
23	Corpus of ...	if the Taliban once again support Al Qaeda. But the	Taliban'	s return to power will probably be a lot

The term "government" emerges as the most frequent collocate with the keyword "Taliban" occurring 343 times in the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers. Following closely is the collocate "Afghanistan," appearing 242 times. Other notable collocates that frequently accompany the keyword "Taliban" include "violence" (163 times), "deal" (134 times), "fighters" (63 times), "militants" (58 times), and "control" (46 times), among others. The most recurring lexical items that collocate with the keyword "Taliban" include: bloodshed, condemned, disappointed, terrorist, fighting, destruction, military failures, crimes, deconstruction, sadness, violation, insurgency, darkest period, refusal, aggressive, suppressive, brutal, killing, militancy, and miscalculation. These lexical items in the co-textual environment carry a negative semantic prosody. The argument posits that Afghan English newspapers portray the Taliban and their government negatively. A detailed analysis of the concordance lines reveals a lack of support from the Afghan government for signing a peace agreement with the Taliban. The portrayal suggests that the Taliban's presence is associated with an era marked by bloodshed, violence, insurgency, and instability.

4.3.2 The Keyword 'Peace' in the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers

Concordance 4.3.2

Keyword *'Peace'* in the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	anistan. Although the Taliban leaders occasionally harp on about security,	peace	and stability in the country, but we still witnessed
2	Corpus of ...	which is possible through its due role in restoration of	peace	and stability in the region. And without a peaceful
3	Corpus of ...	Alvi reaffirmed stance for a positive role in return of	peace	and stability in Afghanistan. Khan may be is honest
4	Corpus of ...	is combined with joint economic efforts in order to guarantee	peace	and stability in the broader region. A failure of
5	Corpus of ...	Countries can play an effective role through their support from	peace	and stability in Afghanistan. Last-Eid was an obvious
6	Corpus of ...	to Afghanistan. Pakistan, on one hand, verbally lends weight to	peace	and stability in Afghanistan but, on the other, avails
7	Corpus of ...	take threats seriously but continue their rightful endeavors for sustainable	peace	and stability in the country. Lamentably, spoilers and antagonists
8	Corpus of ...	of its evil neighbors. They give proper lip service to	peace	and stability in Afghanistan and falsely promise cooperation in
9	Corpus of ...	the purpose of throwing a spanner in the works of	peace	and stability in Afghanistan. This is indeed something the
10	Corpus of ...	Taliban in the best manner in a bid to restore	peace	and stability in the war-hit country. Where do
11	Corpus of ...	point for intra-Afghan talks to reach common platform of	peace	and stability in the war-hit country. Quiet progress
12	Corpus of ...	Taliban, and hopefully it is one that will ensure lasting	peace	and stability in Afghanistan. they time and gain made
13	Corpus of ...	means that "hidden" hands are unhappy with the restoration of	peace	and stability in the country. Such "hidden hands" are
14	Corpus of ...	all afghan sides to make everyone committed to a permanent	peace	and stability in Afghanistan, but there was no any
15	Corpus of ...	Kashmir with Afghanistan, meaning, if the international community wants	peace	and stability in Afghanistan, they had to fix the

The most significant keyword in the present study is 'peace''. Following the

disruptive events of 9/11, peace in Afghanistan and the broader region faced challenges. The dialogue initiated between the US government and the Taliban aimed at restoring peace in Afghanistan. The term 'Peace' appeared approximately 2,826 times on average, often accompanied by the co-text 'stability,' underscoring the Afghan media's deep concerns for both aspects.

Various left co-texts, including "maintaining," "fruition of," "restoring," "the necessity of," "establishing," and "supporting," consistently emerge, conveying a shared narrative. However, two notable negative co-texts, "security" and "Taliban," identified in concordance lines 30 and 35, reveal a connection to potential challenges within the peace process.

The top keyness collocates of the keyword 'peace: processes' include terms like 'Afghan,' 'talks,' 'Afghanistan,' 'deals,' 'stability,' 'agreement,' 'negotiations,' 'lasting,' 'efforts,' 'sustainable,' 'signed,' and 'durable.' These collocates collectively project a positive semantic prosody, emphasizing constructive processes, diplomatic efforts, and enduring agreements for peace.

The provided context further supports the positive portrayal, as seen in the first sentence's vivid description. It illustrates the pivotal role a country can play in fostering cooperation between Afghanistan and Pakistan, crucial for maintaining peace and stability in Afghanistan. Upon examination, all concordance lines consistently depict the keyword 'peace' with a positive prosody, showcasing an optimistic perspective on the various aspects of the peace process in the Afghan media

4.3.3 The Keyword 'Afghanistan' in the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers

The keyword "Afghanistan" has been repeated 3408 times in the Corpus of Afghanistan newspapers. This essential keyword refers to the Afghan peace process. Since the US invasion in 2001, the Afghan people have suffered greatly due to the war on terror, security concerns, and political and economic uncertainty in the country. It is statistically examined that "Afghanistan" collocates with terminologies such as peace 418 times, Taliban appearance 242 times, troops 167 times, withdrawal 113 times, Afghan 89 times, Islamic 69 times, peaceful 58 times, stability 58 times, stability 58 times, neighbors 31 times, deal 20 times, reconstruction 17 times, prosperous 17 times, ceasefire 8 times, etc.

These collocations pertaining to Afghan peace dialogues have been examined in the following concordances:

Concordance 4.3.3

The Keyword *'Afghanistan'* in the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers

"Taliban" appears 242 times with the keyword 'Afghanistan' in the Afghan newspaper corpus. The Taliban and their role in Afghanistan are negatively portrayed in Afghan media. The rapprochement of the Taliban and their entry into mainstream politics has been associated with bloodshed, terrorism, instability, and political turmoil in the country once again. Most of the instances highlight the deadlock between the Taliban and the Afghan government.

Furthermore, "Pakistan" appears 162 times with the keyword "Afghanistan" in the Afghan newspapers corpus. The analysis of Pakistan's appearance in Afghanistan

demonstrates the negative portrayal of Pakistan. Pakistan was blamed for terrorist activities inside Afghanistan and was also accused of supporting the Taliban's arrival in the country. The use of discourse in the concordance lines shows that the role of Pakistan has been negatively portrayed, and it was accused of providing a safe haven to the Taliban and allowing them to use its soil against Afghanistan. Therefore, most collocates that co-occur with the keyword 'Afghanistan' receive negative semantic prosody.

4.3.4 The Keyword 'Deal' in the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers

Concordance 4.3.4

Keyword *'Deal'* in the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	at all. If the U.S. had reached a peace	deal	with the Taliban that could also secure the past
2	Corpus of ...	President Ashraf Ghani last year, after the U.S. signed	deal	with the Taliban that also laid out troop withdrawal
3	Corpus of ...	stability and peace. Without doubt, the US has signed a	deal	with the Taliban from a position of weakness, but
4	Corpus of ...	led by President Joe Biden. Though the review of the	deal	with the Taliban did not conclude, the US already
5	Corpus of ...	up by the U.S. administration that forged a peace	deal	with the Taliban last year, opening a window for
6	Corpus of ...	er Joe Biden Administration announced it would review Washington's 2020	deal	with the Taliban group. But it doesn't mean
7	Corpus of ...	people of Afghanistan want as the main part of their	deal	with the Taliban militants and that's now the
8	Corpus of ...	including withdrawal of its troops. Finally, the US signed a	deal	with the Taliban that sets the stage to end
9	Corpus of ...	utterly on the shoulder of the US who signed a	deal	with the Taliban to bring them on the right
10	Corpus of ...	peace delegation failed to iron out differences to reach a	deal	with the Taliban negotiating members, the US troops would
11	Corpus of ...	talks failure. Some may accuse the US of a wrong	deal	with the Taliban that pat Afghanistan in a very
12	Corpus of ...	drivers of war in Afghanistan. The US has made a	deal	with the Taliban for its own interests as the
13	Corpus of ...	Sunday. Prisoner releases are a key part of the US	deal	with the Taliban because they facilitate the conducive conditions
14	Corpus of ...	to Kabul asked the bickering Afghan leaders to reach a	deal	with the Taliban or all US troops would be
15	Corpus of ...	said there would be no 100 percent peace even after peace	deal	with the Taliban as Daesh threat is at large.

The keyword "deal" appears 422 times in the corpus of Afghan newspapers. The collocates of this keyword are; peace turned up 171 times, Taliban appeared 134 times, signed 38 times, Afghanistan 20 times, and administration 13 times. There is just one right side co-text, "with the Taliban". The discourse associated with the phrase "deal" shows that Afghan media is not in favour of the peace deal between the Taliban and the USA. Some of the left co-text lexical items are: peace, signed, under a., reach a., wrong, made, and a. The very first concordance line; *Trump took to Twitter and cancelled the peace deal with the Taliban as well as what would have been a secret meeting with them,* reveals the negative news of the cancellation of the deal. The Afghan print media praised Trump's cancellation of the peace deal. The sixteenth concordance line denoted that the

"US-Taliban peace deal was wrong and put Afghanistan in danger. The collocations of the keyword, such as signed, peace, reached, Doha, landmark, sharing, etc., are positive in nature, but the contextual background of these collocations in the concordance lines receives negative prosody.

4.3.5 The Keyword 'Afghan' in the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers

Concordance 4.3.5

Keyword *'Afghan'* in the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers

The keyword "Afghan" is a significant term in the Afghan newspapers corpus, appearing 2895 times. The co-texts associated with "Afghan" in the concordance are exclusively "Taliban." The left context includes lexical items like "both," "between," "sacrifice," "American troops," etc. The top collocates, determined by keyness, include "government" (691 times), "peace" (495 times), "talks" (344 times), "forces" (289 times), "people" (281 times), "security" (198 times), "Afghanistan" (89 times), "masses" (73 times), "owned" (67 times), and more.

Among the top ten collocates, only two lexical items, "force" and "security," exhibit negative semantic prosody, while the rest convey positive prosody. The first concordance line emphasizes the importance of peace talks, stating, "Both the Taliban and Afghan government have to hold direct talks to resolve their issues before it is too late." This suggests recognition of the necessity for direct dialogue between the Taliban and the

Afghan government to address on-going issues. The tenth concordance line highlights significant events, mentioning the U.S. and Taliban signing an agreement to withdraw American troops and the initiation of direct peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban in Doha. This reflects the coverage of the US-Afghan peace agreement in the media. Notably, despite selecting the keyword "Afghan" to represent the people of Afghanistan, the study did not find specific representations of the Afghan people in the Afghan corpora analysed.

4.3.6 The Keyword 'Pakistan' in the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers

The keyword 'Pakistan' is prominent in the Corpus of Afghanistan newspapers, appearing 946 times. It is collocated with key terms such as Afghanistan, China, support, India, Iran, Russia, cooperation, neighbouring, army, relations, border, policy, supported, close, ISI, ally, people, and proxy. The primary collocate of Pakistan is Afghanistan, occurring 162 times with the keyword Pakistan. This combination underscores the crucial role of Pakistan in the on-going Afghan peace process.

The relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan is emphasized, as they share a long border, ethnic ties, and a significant geographical relationship. Pakistan, being the most affected neighbour due to the prolonged Afghan war, has a vested interest in a peaceful resolution. A stable Afghanistan is considered essential for bringing stability to the entire region. The dynamics of this combination are explored further through concordance lines, shedding light on the importance of Pakistan's involvement in the Afghan peace process. The concordance lines likely elaborate on how Pakistan's cooperation and support are viewed in the context of fostering peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Concordance 4.3.6

Keyword *'Pakistan'* in the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	Chief of the Army Staff Gen. Qamar Bajwa stated that	Pakistan'	s support for the Afghan reconciliation process is proof
2	Corpus of ...	article underlined that the time for "neglect or equivocation" over	Pakistan'	s support for Islamist terrorism and its "reckless" pursuit
3	Corpus of ...	Afghan peace process to come to its logical conclusion. Extending	Pakistan'	s support for a peaceful, stable, united, sovereign and
4	Corpus of ...	over the Taliban. Kabul has complained bitterly for years about	Pakistan'	s support of the Taliban, and seen few signs
5	Corpus of ...	the organization's independence and makes it less reliant on	Pakistan'	s support or demands. "Establishing ties with Afghanistan's
6	Corpus of ...	n side continuously provided their international partners with evidence of	Pakistan'	s support to the Taliban in Afghanistan. Osama bin
7	Corpus of ...	the guise of reduction in violence. In an opinion piece,	Pakistan'	s Prime Minister urged the Afghan parties into conflict
8	Corpus of ...	experts at the European Foundation for South Asian Studies (EFSAS).	Pakistan'	s Prime Minister Imran Khan, recently in an interview
9	Corpus of ...	must be included in any government for it to succeed,"	Pakistan'	s Prime Minister Imran Khan wrote in a recent
10	Corpus of ...	war-hit nation. Afghan-led peace talks crucial for success	Pakistan'	s Prime Minister Imran Khan warned the world against "
11	Corpus of ...	its support to the insurgent group. Khalilzad trip begins after	Pakistan'	s Prime Minister, Imran Khan has received a letter
12	Corpus of ...	People of Afghanistan are residing across the border in Pakistan.	Pakistan'	s decision of hosting Moscow like session has made
13	Corpus of ...	the people of Afghanistan. All Afghans have not only commended	Pakistan'	s decision of opening its borders whenever former Soviet
14	Corpus of ...	targets the Taliban but other terrorist groups – the timing of	Pakistan'	s decision is worrisome and potentially problematic. The curb
15	Corpus of ...	office holders didn't make decisions whether to attend. But	Pakistan'	s decision while the US special envoy is engaged

In the Afghan newspaper corpus, the keyword 'Pakistan' is predominantly depicted in a negative light, particularly when associated with the lexical item 'Afghanistan.' The concordance lines reveal a critical portrayal of Pakistan's role, emphasizing allegations made by Afghanistan. Afghan newspapers accuse Pakistan of providing safe havens to the Taliban and other militant groups involved in insurgency and terrorist activities within Afghanistan. This alleged support is portrayed as a significant factor contributing to the on-going instability in Afghanistan.

A closer examination of the concordance lines indicates that all collocates appearing in the immediate context of the keyword 'Pakistan' carry an unfavourable semantic prosody. Terms such as destabilizers, supporting, the safest place, involved, terrorism, unimaginable, harbouring militants, release, training terrorists, fooled, and providing safe heavens all receive negative semantic prosody when collocating with Pakistan.

The criticism extends to Pakistan's perceived failure to prevent cross-border attacks and its purported insufficient efforts to curb the activities of militant groups. Afghanistan's accusations go further, suggesting that Pakistan is meddling in its internal affairs by supporting specific political factions or attempting to influence domestic politics. Consequently, Afghan newspapers tend to blame Pakistan for destabilizing the

Afghan government and undermining the country's sovereignty.

4.3.7 The Keyword 'US' in the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers

Concordance 4.3.7

Keyword *'US'* in the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers

The keyword "US" is mentioned 1532 times in the Afghan newspapers corpus, often accompanied by co-texts such as "and the Taliban" on the right side and co-texts like negotiation, both the violence, between on the left side. The keyword 'US' is associated with a mix of positive, negative, and neutral connotations in its collocations. The collocate list for the keyword "US" includes terms such as deal, troops, withdrawal, NATO, agreement, signed, special, envoy, allies, etc. Among these, collocations like deal, withdrawal, special, and agreement carry positive connotations, while the term "troops" has a negative prosody. Collocations such as allies, NATO, and envoys are considered neutral in their prosody.

Despite the negative connotation of the term "violence" in a specific context (as seen in the 10th concordance line), the overall semantic prosody of the keyword "US" in the Afghan corpus tends to be positive. This positivity is attributed to the contextual meaning, such as both parties agreeing to stop violence and signing an agreement on February 29. The Afghan corpus, despite acknowledging the significant contribution of the US to the war, seems to use the term "US" in a positive light in the context of the

peace process.

4.3.8 The Keyword 'China' in the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers

Concordance 4.3.8

Keyword *'China'* in the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	if it were not a major source of regional instability.	China'	s Xinjiang province shares a border with Afghanistan's
2	Corpus of ...	if it were not a major source of regional instability.	China'	s Xinjiang province shares a border with Afghanistan's
3	Corpus of ...	if it were not a major source of regional instability.	China'	s Xinjiang province shares a border with Afghanistan's
4	Corpus of ...	foreign terrorist fighters from Central Asia, the North Caucasus and	China'	s Xinjiang in Afghanistan. Although the majority are affiliated
5	Corpus of ...	This is clear evidence of the US motives to destabilize	China'	s Xinjiang province. The Pakistani intelligence official suggests that
6	Corpus of ...	withdrawal will offer key clues as to the future of	China'	s role in Afghanistan. A new chapter in the
7	Corpus of ...	withdrawal will offer key clues as to the future of	China'	s role in Afghanistan. A new chapter in the
8	Corpus of ...	withdrawal will offer key clues as to the future of	China'	s role in Afghanistan. A new chapter in the
9	Corpus of ...	not be succeeded sans US-China's strong cooperation. Indeed,	China'	s role is key in strengthening regional consensus for
10	Corpus of ...	the region and shore up China's energy security. Here,	China'	s abiding interest is in an end to the
11	Corpus of ...	the region and shore up China's energy security. Here,	China'	s abiding interest is in an end to the
12	Corpus of ...	the region and shore up China's energy security. Here,	China'	s abiding interest is in an end to the
13	Corpus of ...	are also closely tied to the intelligence services of Pakistan,	China'	s close ally. What's more, can either network
14	Corpus of ...	are also closely tied to the intelligence services of Pakistan,	China'	s close ally. What's more, can either network
15	Corpus of ...	are also closely tied to the intelligence services of Pakistan,	China'	s close ally. What's more, can either network

The keyword "China" is mentioned 242 times in the Afghan newspapers corpus, and it is associated with a variety of co-texts that convey a mixture of neutrality and negativity. The right-side co-texts include phrases such as "among other things," "the region of Xinjiang," "its participation in Afghanistan," "a steadfast interest," and "a close ally." On the left side, co-texts include terms like "instability," "destabilization," "Pakistan's future," etc. These co-texts create a nuanced discourse with both neutral and negative prosodies.

The collocates of the keyword 'China' provide additional insights, with terms like Russia, Pakistan, US, Iran, India, Xinjiang, interest, energy, and peace. The first concordance line highlights the negative aspect, suggesting that China's Xinjiang province sharing a border with Afghanistan's Wakhan Corridor creates opportunities for cross-border smuggling, portraying China in a potentially negative light in the development of Afghanistan.

However, the sixth line indicates a more positive perspective, suggesting China's constructive role in Afghanistan's development post the US withdrawal, and how China has met its interests in the region. This dual portrayal in the concordance lines reflects the complexity of Afghanistan's relationship with China, where both positive and negative aspects are acknowledged in the Afghan media discourse

4.3.9 The Keyword 'India' in the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers

Concordance 4.3.9

Keyword *'India'* in the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	for an inclusive Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process.	India'	s External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar also highlighted
2	Corpus of ...	with the Taliban. Addressing the intra-Afghan talks last year,	India'	s External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar reiterated his country'
3	Corpus of ...	in Qatar. Khalilzad's visit comes a few days after	India'	s External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar addressed the opening
4	Corpus of ...	are perceived as being "nationalist", wrote the paper. Last week,	India'	s foreign affairs minister S. Jainshankar stopped over in
5	Corpus of ...	for the top spot in global affairs. The Failure of	India'	s Foreign Policy For India, Afghanistan has been a
6	Corpus of ...	ending the Afghan regime, Afghans, and fundamental democratic values.	India'	s foreign policy was short-sighted, failing to take
7	Corpus of ...	to return to power in one form or another, and	India'	s engagement with the Taliban can ultimately serve the
8	Corpus of ...	Taliban will welcome rapprochement with India for three reasons. First,	India'	s engagement with the Taliban offers the group greater
9	Corpus of ...	Afghan government, its regional and international allies in recent years,	India'	s role has been considered key to achieving such
10	Corpus of ...	olitical settlement by involving different influential partners in the process.	India'	s role key to sustainable peace in Afghanistan Afghanistan
11	Corpus of ...	the aforementioned competitors In Afghanistan. Pakistan considers all of	India'	s actions in Afghanistan as threat to itself, even
12	Corpus of ...	following the withdrawal of NATO troops; it will easily overcome	India'	s and the United States' investments and establish influence
13	Corpus of ...	it is by far a biggest and notable shift from	India'	s choice of not engaging with the Taliban and,
14	Corpus of ...	India's actions in Afghanistan as threat to itself, even	India'	s educational scholarships to Afghans. It uses India's
15	Corpus of ...	and Pakistan's machinations. Both will relish the moment at	India'	s expense. Meanwhile, the message to India will be

The keyword "India" is referenced 183 times in the Afghanistan newspapers corpus. When examining its collocates, it is found to be associated with terms such as Afghanistan (42 times), Pakistan (38 times), China (28 times), Russia (13 times), Iran (8 times), and powers (5 times). The right-side co-texts include terms like external, engagement, foreign, role, Modi, actions, choice, and more. On the left side, co-texts involve terms such as process, last year, a few days after, first, last week, values, failure of, overcome, etc. The Afghan newspapers present the keyword "India" in a neutral prosody, as most of its collocates are neutral, including China, Pakistan, Russia, Iran, etc. The first concordance line quotes the External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, indicating that India favours an inclusive and all-faction acceptable government in Afghanistan.

Moreover, in the fourth concordance line, Afghan media calls on India to align its policy towards the Taliban forces with Washington's stance, suggesting that engagement with the Taliban could ultimately serve the interests of the United States. Overall, the Afghan media portrays the keyword "India" with a neutral prosody in the corpus, emphasizing India's involvement in Afghan affairs as beneficial for the future of Afghans.

4.3.10 The Keyword 'War' in the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers

Concordance 4.3.10

Keyword *'War'* in the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	stem from public opinion in Afghanistan that either Pakistan began	war	and violence in Afghanistan or keeps aflame it and
2	Corpus of ...	Taliban to take steps toward peace and ceasefire rather than	war	and violence in the country. In her remarks, Deborah
3	Corpus of ...	there are many rational solutions to reducing and preventing extreme	war	and violence in Afghanistan that only UNSC can take
4	Corpus of ...	Afghanistan and the regional countries suffered incalculable losses due to	war	and violence in Afghanistan. Further continuation and escalation of
5	Corpus of ...	killing of the innocent people are questionable. Although continuation of	war	and violence in recent years showed that Taliban can'
6	Corpus of ...	insurgents to disrupt the peace talks. The recent intensification of	war	and violence in Afghanistan has not only concerned the
7	Corpus of ...	violence, Taliban must be under heavy pressures to give up	war	and violence and enter constructive talks with the Afghan
8	Corpus of ...	with the Afghan government and the Taliban is to shun	war	and violence and resolve their differences through peaceful political
9	Corpus of ...	with the spirit of peace and reconciliation. Taliban must stop	war	and violence and agree on the establishment of a
10	Corpus of ...	no change in their actions and thought, do not stop	war	and violence and don't enter peace talks sincerely,
11	Corpus of ...	release all their prisoners, as Afghans are highly frustrated with	war	and violence and will support any decisions, which ensure
12	Corpus of ...	no tangible steps taken in this regard, the flame of	war	and violence would reach the regional and even beyond
13	Corpus of ...	positive outcome. If Taliban does not change their military strategy,	war	and violence would be not ended and there would
14	Corpus of ...	negotiation and reach a real peace. Any move to continue	war	and violence would only harm ordinary people, depriving children
15	Corpus of ...	in violence, as a matter of fact, if anything, the	war	and violence have only increased. It means that war

The keyword "war" is mentioned 1,359 times in the Afghan newspaper corpus. Its collocates include terms like end (147 times), torn (55 times), decades (52 times), terror (34 times), longest (34 times), bloodshed (31 times), solution (24 times), deadly (20 times), imposed (19 times), crimes (13 times), suffered (13 times), and more. The negative semantic prosody associated with these collocates reflects the Afghan media's dissatisfaction with the peace deal and the subsequent evacuation of NATO soldiers from Afghanistan.

The left-side co-texts, including phrases like "Pakistan began a ceasefire," "to shun," "must stop," and "the flame of strategy," contribute to the negative portrayal of war in Afghanistan. These lexical items in the context of the keyword 'war' reveal the

devastating impact of the conflict on Afghanistan.

The first concordance line emphasizes the public opinion in Afghanistan, blaming Pakistan for initiating or perpetuating war and violence in the country. The sentence suggests that groups like the Taliban are considered proxy forces of Pakistan in the on-going conflict in Afghanistan. This depiction in the Afghan media contributes to the negative semantic prosody associated with the keyword "war" in the Corpus of Afghanistan newspapers.

4.3.11 The Keyword 'Withdrawal' in the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers

Concordance 4.3.11

Keyword *'Withdrawal'* in the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	meeting in Moscow, the Taliban still insisted on the complete	withdrawal	of foreign troops from Afghanistan, before even thinking about
2	Corpus of ...	ghan government. Russia's foreign minister, Lavrov, who requested the	withdrawal	of foreign troops from Afghanistan, supported this demand. Another
3	Corpus of ...	a chance to succeed. The Taliban insisted on the full	withdrawal	of foreign troops as mentioned in the US-Taliban
4	Corpus of ...	It seems that agreement with the US, especially the full	withdrawal	of foreign troops has increasingly emboldened the Taliban who
5	Corpus of ...	and opinions have never been accepted by Taliban. While the	withdrawal	of foreign troops has not been ended from Afghanistan,
6	Corpus of ...	in one hand and way would be paved to full	withdrawal	of foreign troops from Afghanistan on the other. Meanwhile
7	Corpus of ...	9/11- style attacks cannot emanate from Afghan territory and complete	withdrawal	of foreign troops from Afghanistan (The US currently has 14,000
8	Corpus of ...	Taliban's main demand. Taliban are more concerned about the	withdrawal	of foreign troops from the country, and after the
9	Corpus of ...	to ensure peace and settle the long-lasting war. The	withdrawal	of foreign troops from Afghanistan and the simultaneous start
10	Corpus of ...	met via video conference on Thursday and agreed that the	withdrawal	of foreign troops from Afghanistan should be carried out
11	Corpus of ...	the ground that they broke the 2020 agreement for a complete	withdrawal	of foreign troops by May 1. At this point, there
12	Corpus of ...	conditional peace agreement with the Taliban, which calls for the	withdrawal	of foreign troops in 14 months if the Taliban uphold
13	Corpus of ...	overnment. Some people with their baseless analysis thought that upon	withdrawal	of foreign troops from Afghanistan everything will return to
14	Corpus of ...	and external supporters believed more than others that with the	withdrawal	of foreign troops from Afghanistan, they can grab political
15	Corpus of ...	of reliable and permanent stability. Therefore those who are waiting	withdrawal	of foreign troops from Afghanistan and think that upon

The keyword "withdrawal" is mentioned 424 times in the Afghan newspapers corpus. It has one right-side co-text, "of foreign troops," and left-side co-texts such as complete, full, and waiting. The concordance lines in the Afghan corpus provide insights into the discussions surrounding the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan.

The first concordance line highlights the dual agendas for dialogue, including stopping terrorist attacks and completing the withdrawal of US troops. The second line reflects the Taliban's concerns about the withdrawal of foreign troops, and the seventh line mentions the difficulty the Taliban faced in holding ground despite the withdrawal.

The negative connotations associated with the 41 collocates, including terms like troops, forces, foreign, quick, Soviet, NATO, hasty, irresponsible, and counterterrorism, suggest a prevailing negative prosody in the discussions around the withdrawal. These collocates indicate dissatisfaction and reservations, particularly from the Afghan government, regarding the complete withdrawal of all NATO forces from Afghanistan. The Afghan media's portrayal emphasizes the challenges and complexities surrounding the withdrawal process, contributing to an overall negative sentiment associated with the keyword "withdrawal" in the context of foreign troops in Afghanistan.

4.3.12 The Keyword 'refugees' in the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers

Concordance 4.3.12

Keyword *'Refugees'* in the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	in Jordan build resilience by creating jobs and education for	refugees	and host communities alike. They offer an important model
2	Corpus of ...	tional community and donors must properly plan together to relocate	refugees	and provide services for internally displaced people. Peace, security,
3	Corpus of ...	according to the data obtained by the Afghan Ministry of	Refugees	and Repatriation. Therefore, nobody can ensure that the Taliban
4	Corpus of ...	number of civilian casualties and a flow of both internal	refugees	and those that have fled to neighbouring countries, Iran,
5	Corpus of ...	Iran and Pakistan host the vast majority. Millions of Afghan	refugees	have returned home since 2001, including almost 860,000 last year as
6	Corpus of ...	since March 2020 and the spread of COVID -19 in the country, 549,769	refugees	have returned to the country from Iran and Pakistan (
7	Corpus of ...	ran – have created somewhat problems for the host communities, the	refugees	have also played a great role in the economic
8	Corpus of ...	the economic development of these countries. It's because our	refugees	have established huge businesses which directly contribute to the
9	Corpus of ...	decades-long solidarity; however, if the high presence of Afghan	refugees	in our neighboring countries – whether Pakistan or Iran – have
10	Corpus of ...	need to surge support to neighboring countries that host Afghan	refugees.	In return, donors should seek better treatment and conditions
11	Corpus of ...	High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on the status of Afghan	refugees	in the country as a timely reminder to donor
12	Corpus of ...	the ranks of internally displaced people and the flow of	refugees	to the outside world are daunting for a country
13	Corpus of ...	the ranks of internally displaced people and the flow of	refugees	to the outside world are daunting for a country
14	Corpus of ...	negotiate with regional partners to establish safe zones for Afghan	refugees	to evade the reach of the Taliban. And it
15	Corpus of ...	peace and stability in the war-hit country. Where do	refugees	fit in the peace process? The Afghans have suffered

The keyword "refugees" appeared only 38 times in the corpus of Afghan newspapers. The Afghan media shows little interest in the refugees crisis, despite the fact that they are dispersed all over the world and suffering from the crises. The right-side co-texts are: population, diaspora, admission, camp, communities, crisis, exodus, flows, influxes, etc. The left co-texts are: the second largest, legal, in Pakistan, living, Afghan, massive, and increase, etc. The left side of the concordance raised the issue of Afghan refugees by using lexical items like most, enormous, massive, and increase because these words portray the real hardships faced by refugees. The keyword 'refugees' is presented by

Afghan media with a negative connotation because all the co-texts are associated with the hardships faced by Afghan refugees worldwide. The 4th concordance line; *'But that victory, unfortunately, was another transition into a dark era of the civil war among Mujahideen factions that cost lives of thousands and made Afghans the largest refugees Diaspora in the world* depicts that media expresses its reservations by relating peace deal with the Taliban's government in 1992.

4.3.13 The Keyword 'Terrorist' in the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers

Concordance 4.3.13

Keyword *'Terrorist'* in the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	region."If we leave, with 20-odd of the most dangerous	terrorist	groups in the world centered in that region, we
2	Corpus of ...	issues such as stubborn political position of Taliban, presence forgn	terrorist	groups in the country, the linkage of Taliban commanders
3	Corpus of ...	In current circumstances and in consideration to increasing activities of	terrorist	groups in the region and world, Afghanistan is located
4	Corpus of ...	U.S. airstrikes would only target Al Qaeda and other	terrorist	groups in the country, not the Taliban. It's
5	Corpus of ...	adopted new tactics to publicly deny the presence of transnational	terrorist	groups in the country and their ties to them.
6	Corpus of ...	ties with Al Qaeda, Central Asian jihadists, and other transnational	terrorist	groups in the country. But as long as the
7	Corpus of ...	in 2001. If Washington had put real efforts to eliminate the	terrorist	groups in Pakistan, the Taliban and other militant groups-
8	Corpus of ...	of increased suicide bombings of the kind carried out by	terrorist	groups in Pulwama, Kashmir region in India. These facts
9	Corpus of ...	and more oppressor. The actions that were practiced by ISIS	terrorist	groups in recent years in Syria and Iraq, now
10	Corpus of ...	oring countries of Afghanistan will soon witness increasing activities of	terrorist	groups in their cities; therefore, Afghanistan is in top
11	Corpus of ...	The Taliban must bear in mind that there are around 20	terrorist	groups and if they did not agree for political
12	Corpus of ...	The Taliban must bear in mind that there are around 20	terrorist	groups and if they did not agree for political
13	Corpus of ...	US and its allies came to Afghanistan to fight the	terrorist	groups and bring stability to Afghanistan. Today the situation
14	Corpus of ...	by supporting the Afghans in post-peace situation to eradicate	terrorist	groups and Daesh or so-called IS – a group
15	Corpus of ...	only concerned with commitments made by the Taliban to combat	terrorist	groups and ensure Afghanistan is not used as a

This keyword appears 222 times in Afghan newspapers corpus. The term "group" co-appeared with the keyword "Terrorist" in the right co-text of all concordance lines except one. The left-side co-texts mention lexical words such as ISIS, combat, transnational, perilous, Al Qaeda, and other organisations. The collocations also coincide with the keyword 'terrorist' because all its collocates are negative. The collocates of the keyword 'terrorist; in the Afghan corpus are: groups 102 times, Al Qaeda 19 times, attacks 18 times, activities 15 times, organisations 11times, Daesh 10 times, outfits 8 times, threats 7 times, networks 4 times, extremist 4 times, mastermind 2 times, etc., which according to Stubbs' (1996) discourse prosody receive negative prosody. The first line context is similar to the negative prosody of the keyword 'terrorist.' The line reveals the increasing

activities of terrorist groups in the region and around the world. In the seventh line, the media writers blamed Pakistan for terrorist activities in Afghanistan and asked the US to eliminate the terrorism to promote peace and stability, which also receives a negative semantic prosody.

4.3.14 The Keyword 'NATO' in the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers

Concordance 4.3.14

Keyword *'NATO'* in the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	Reconciliation in the country? My Hope for the United States,	NATO,	and the European Union: In the past twenty years,
2	Corpus of ...	nd individuals worldwide, friends and supporters of Afghanistan urged	NATO	and the European Union that as U.S. and
3	Corpus of ...	Afghan peace accord. In order to do this, the US-	NATO	and the United Nations should separately meet with these
4	Corpus of ...	Taliban still believe their own narrative that they have defeated	NATO	and the United States, and the group leaders did
5	Corpus of ...	foreign troops and they would leave without ifs and buts.	NATO	and the US might stay longer as conditions are
6	Corpus of ...	of the joint declaration between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan,	NATO	and the US should also be accepted as applicable.
7	Corpus of ...	to the country. Turkey being the only Muslim country in	NATO	and the close ties it has with the Afghan
8	Corpus of ...	to strongly stand by our Afghan partners." The letter urges	NATO	and the EU to continue the financial support to
9	Corpus of ...	the next ten years. This means that the United States,	NATO,	and the rest of the international community continue to
10	Corpus of ...	further. But like the previous Cold War, when tensions between	NATO	and the Warsaw Pact kept Europe polarized–and the
11	Corpus of ...	can fight the battles without economic dilemmas. Moreover, the US,	NATO	and their allies must reinforce the Afghan soldiers and
12	Corpus of ...	Five- Year Aid Peace Package for Afghanistan. The United States,	NATO	and their counterparts have made enormous contributions in the
13	Corpus of ...	avors. Continuing Political Support for Afghanistan. The United States,	NATO	and their international counterparts should support the hopes and
14	Corpus of ...	step up. Biden should use his upcoming participation in the	NATO	and EU summits to mobilize European support. A good
15	Corpus of ...	Mohammad Noor, former Balkh Governor, and five women. The US,	NATO,	and EU welcomed the Afghan government's negotiating team
16	Corpus of ...	he Taliban. An additional 6,500 military personnel in Afghanistan from	NATO	and other allies would also probably depart. Among Afghan

The keyword "NATO" is used 220 times in the corpus of Afghan newspapers. The linguistic items used on the right side of the co-text are: the European, the US, the Warsaw, the close, the rest, and their allies, etc. The left-side co-texts are: United States, urged, Afghanistan, ifs and buts, defeated, between, etc. All the co-texts associated with NATO' are neutral except defeated because this lexical item has a negative connotation. Three collocates out of 29 are negative, while the rest maintain neutral prosody. The collocates, such as US appears 65 times, troops 39 times, forces 40 times, withdrawal 13 times, allies 11 times, Turkey 12 times, Taliban 6 times, partners 6 times, etc., clearly project that the keyword 'NATO' gains neutral prosody to give some face-saving hope that it may bring peace and prosperity to Afghanistan. The text of the third concordance line, *'Meanwhile the Afghan delegation says that the terms of the US-Taliban agreement*

could be accepted as underlying the talks; however, the terms of the joint declaration between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, NATO, and the US should also be accepted as applicable, declares the Afghan government delegation's point of view towards the US, NATO, and Taliban and receives a positive semantic prosody.

4.3.15 The Keyword 'Stability' in the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers

Figure 4.3.15

Keyword *'Stability'* in the Corpus of Afghanistan Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of …	ously but continue their rightful endeavors for sustainable peace and	stability	in the country. Lamentably, spoilers and antagonists of peace –
2	Corpus of …	hidden" hands are unhappy with the restoration of peace and	stability	in the country. Such "hidden hands" are active from
3	Corpus of …	already suffered for 40 years and now they want peace and	stability	in the country. They want to experience war-free
4	Corpus of …	political group, whereas they have no intension for peace and	stability	in the country. As far as the Afghans know
5	Corpus of …	bloodshed campaign has already impacted the fate of peace and	stability	in the country. Taliban's recent show of force
6	Corpus of …	government, especially the country's president regarding peace and	stability	in the country. The president has initiated many genuine
7	Corpus of …	but they have never showed their sincere will for the	stability	in the country. Taliban's militancy has already provided
8	Corpus of …	as showed the true will of Taliban for peace and	stability	in the country. Meanwhile Afghan masses expressed mix reactions
9	Corpus of …	join hands and support government's plan for peace and	stability	in the country. the politicians should have the capacity
10	Corpus of …	the PEACE Principles that stand for Peace Restoration and Political	Stability	in the country. They must avoid any conflict that
11	Corpus of …	the best manner in a bid to restore peace and	stability	in the war-hit country. Where do refugees fit
12	Corpus of …	intra-Afghan talks to reach common platform of peace and	stability	in the war-hit country. Quiet progress towards peace
13	Corpus of …	terror groups and pave the way for lasting peace and	stability	in the war-torn country. Meanwhile, if the Taliban
14	Corpus of …	have not taken any steps for restoration of peace and	stability	in the war-torn country, but hosting Taliban in
15	Corpus of …	should utilize the opportunity in Doha for lasting peace and	stability	in the war-torn country. Taliban's recent bloodshed
16	Corpus of …	the regional instability and tensions badly affecting the peace and	stability	in the war-torn country. Answering an India media

The recurrent use of the keyword "stability" in the Afghanistan media discourse, as demonstrated by its appearance 188 times, underscores its significance in discussions related to the peace process between the United States and the Afghan Taliban. The co-textual analysis reveals predominantly positive semantic prosody associated with this keyword, aligning with the broader narrative of seeking positive outcomes from the peace process.

The two right-side co-texts, "in the country" and "in the war-torn country," suggest a focus on achieving stability within the nation, especially in the aftermath of prolonged conflict. The left-side co-texts, namely 'peace and stability' and 'political stability,' further emphasize positive attributes associated with stability. The usage of terms like 'restoration,' 'bring,' 'region,' and 'prosperity' in conjunction with the keyword

'stability' contributes to an optimistic and constructive discourse.

Concordance lines such as "The people of Afghanistan have already suffered for 40 years, and now they want peace and stability in the country" convey a strong desire for a positive transformation and the end of prolonged suffering. The mention of peace and prosperity in line 10 reinforces the idea that stability is interconnected with broader positive outcomes for the nation. Overall, the co-text patterns and collocates of the keyword 'stability' within the concordance lines consistently project a positive discourse prosody, reflecting the aspirations of the Afghan media for a stable and prosperous future in the post-conflict era.

SECTION 4.4

4.4. CONCORDANCE ANALYSIS OF KEYWORDS IN THE CORPUS OF AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS

4.4.1 The Keyword 'Taliban' in the Corpus of American Newspapers

Concordance 4.4.1

Keyword *'Taliban'* in the Corpus of American Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	with the insurgents unless they lowered the profile of the	Taliban'	s political office in Doha, Qatar, which opened on
2	Corpus of ...	fire followed by elections and changes to the constitution. The	Taliban'	s political office has largely maintained unified public messaging
3	Corpus of ...	the interim notion outright. Mohammad Naeem, the spokesman for the	Taliban'	s political office in Doha, said the group had
4	Corpus of ...	of the change in administrations. Mohammad Naeem, spokesman for the	Taliban'	s political office in Doha, said the United States
5	Corpus of ...	pursue their own personal interests and hold over power," the	Taliban'	s political office said. Last week, negotiating teams at
6	Corpus of ...	States never works," said Mohammad Naeem, the spokesman for the	Taliban'	s political office. "We know this because they have
7	Corpus of ...	States never works," said Mohammad Naeem, the spokesman for the	Taliban'	s political office. "We know this because they have
8	Corpus of ...	airstrikes and Afghan military operations, as well as the Afghan	Taliban'	s political and military onslaught, diminished ISIS-K. It
9	Corpus of ...	hdrawal agreement, but "a peace agreement that enables withdrawal." The	Taliban'	s willingness to enter negotiations with other Afghans, including
10	Corpus of ...	Taliban dictatorship. The Trump administration is right to test the	Taliban'	s willingness to stop fighting, break with al-Qaeda
11	Corpus of ...	Taliban dictatorship. The Trump administration is right to test the	Taliban'	s willingness to stop fighting, break with al-Qaeda
12	Corpus of ...	Taliban dictatorship. The Trump administration is right to test the	Taliban'	s willingness to stop fighting, break with al-Qaeda
13	Corpus of ...	Zawahiri's death, officials said they were reviewing how the	Taliban'	s willingness to host him would affect issues including
14	Corpus of ...	Zawahiri's death, officials said they were reviewing how the	Taliban'	s willingness to host him would affect issues including
15	Corpus of ...	Zawahiri's death, officials said they were reviewing how the	Taliban'	s willingness to host him would affect issues including

The keyword 'Taliban' is referenced 2604 times in the corpus of American newspapers, portraying them as a major opponent in the 20-year conflict in Afghanistan. The term 'Taliban' is consistently paired with the right-side co-texts "political office" and "willingness" in all fifteen concordance lines, indicating a neutral projection. Statistical analysis reveals prominent collocates such as government (188 times), deal (161 times), Afghanistan (137 times), talks (109 times), leaders (96 times), and others, with a mix of neutral and negative associations. Among the selected 12 collocates, three have negative lexical items, while the rest maintain a neutral semantic prosody. The concordance lines focus on the Taliban's political office in Doha, Qatar, where dialogues with the American and Afghan governments have commenced. For instance, the first line describes the Taliban's political office maintaining unified public messaging during negotiations with the Afghan government, displaying a neutral narrative. The eighth line highlights a joint operation against ISIS-K, weakening the terrorist organization. Additionally, the ninth

line presents different perspectives on the same story, noting that President Trump tested the Taliban's willingness to sever ties with Al-Qaida.

Furthermore, the keyword 'Taliban' is negatively portrayed 58 times when coupled with 'fighters' in American newspapers. In these instances, words such as unrest and brutality are associated with the term 'fighters,' imparting a negative connotation and eliciting negative discourse prosody.

4.4.2 The Keyword 'Peace' in the Corpus of American Newspapers

Concordance 4.4.2

Keyword *'Peace'* in the Corpus of American Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	is expected to travel soon to Doha to join the	peace	talks with the American peace envoy, Zalmay Khalilzad. Mr.
2	Corpus of ...	most comprehensive offer inviting the Taliban to join direct, formal	peace	talks with the Afghan government. The offer, made without
3	Corpus of ...	troops in Afghanistan, President Trump declared that he had reopened	peace	talks with the Taliban. The president's announcement is
4	Corpus of ...	President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan to invite them for direct	peace	talks with the government. In an unsigned commentary published
5	Corpus of ...	President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan to invite them for direct	peace	talks with the government. In an unsigned commentary published
6	Corpus of ...	Taliban agreement under which the militants would quickly begin direct	peace	talks with the government, and the United States would
7	Corpus of ...	S. would not negotiate with the Taliban, President Trump opened	peace	talks with the militants before abruptly ending the talks
8	Corpus of ...	s adherence to conditions. Those conditions include the start of	peace	talks with Afghan government and a pledge to
9	Corpus of ...	a bitter presidential election dispute, Abdullah was charged with leading	peace	talks with the Taliban. Now, he said, Ghani's
10	Corpus of ...	lost than won. This past week, however, President Trump called	peace	talks with the Taliban "dead" after simultaneously announcing and
11	Corpus of ...	dead President Trump's decision this month to call off	peace	talks with the Taliban should not obscure the fundamental
12	Corpus of ...	provide written rules and monitoring. Trump's decision to cancel	peace	talks with the Taliban could be a huge blunder
13	Corpus of ...	be highly ironic if his impulsive decision Monday to halt	peace	talks with the Taliban ultimately caused him to escalate
14	Corpus of ...	our allies. That should have been the ultimate goal of	peace	talks with the Taliban, but that possibility now seems
15	Corpus of ...	e Afghan government withstand the pressure? Growing uncertainty over	peace	talks with the Taliban, a drumbeat of targeted killings

The keyword 'peace' holds significant importance in the corpus of American newspapers, reflecting the central aim of negotiations between the Taliban and the United States to establish peace and stability in Afghanistan. This keyword is utilized 712 times, with a positive connotation. Its top collocates, including 'talks' (137 times), 'deal' (109 times), 'process' (108 times), 'Afghanistan,' and 'agreement' (48 times), convey positive semantic prosody. Other collocates such as 'negotiations' (33 times), 'Doha' (18 times), 'sustainable' (11 times), 'stability' (10 times), 'inclusive' (9 times), 'durable' (8 times), 'draft' (7 times), 'prospects' (6 times), 'faltering' (5 times), 'Biden,' 'troops' (3 times each), and 'dividend' (3 times) also maintain positive associations. 'Military' is the only collocate with a neutral connotation.

The concordance lines in Antconc, with 100 lines displayed, feature 89 lines discussing 'peace talks' and 11 lines focusing on 'peace deals.' The left co-text side includes terms such as 'direct,' 'opened,' 'the start of,' 'leading,' 'called off,' 'cancelled,' 'to halt,' 'the goal of,' and 'over,' indicating various stages and aspects of peace-related activities.

The first concordance line specifically mentions a deal with the Taliban, outlining plans for a reduction followed by the signing of a U.S.-Taliban agreement, initiating direct peace talks with the government and the withdrawal of U.S. troops. Lines 6, 7, and 8 delve into President Trump's cancellation of peace talks with the Taliban, providing insights into specific events. The remaining concordance lines explore different phases and aspects of peace talks between the U.S. and the Taliban, collectively portraying the American newspapers' positive presentation of the Afghan peace process.

4.4.3 The Keyword 'Afghanistan' in the Corpus of American Newspapers

The keyword 'Afghanistan' appears 1828 times in the corpus of American newspapers. Since the US invasion in 2001, the Afghan people have suffered greatly due to the war on terror, security concerns, and political and economic uncertainty. America remained a key stakeholder throughout the Afghan peace process, signing a peace agreement with the Taliban. The American print media gave extensive coverage to the Afghan peace process. The keyword 'Afghanistan' has been repeated 1828 times in the American newspapers' corpus. The linguistic item Afghanistan co-appears with the top ten collocates, such as Taliban repeated 137 times, troops comes up 124 times, war 110 times, government 43 times, Afghan 30 times, neighbours 25 times, abandoning 11 times, reconstruction 9 times, post-war 7 times, agreement 7 times, stabilising 6 times, etc. These words in the textual atmosphere of Afghanistan have been closely examined in the concordance lines below;

Concordance 4.4.3 (i)

i.   Keyword *'Afghanistan'* in the Corpus of American Newspapers

The co-texts associated with the keyword 'Afghanistan,' including terms like government, religious minorities, social complicity, Pakistan, destructive role, genocide, violence, threats of escalating, bloody terrorist groups, military collapse, chaos, Taliban-led violence in Afghanistan, disaster, tragic and chaotic end, sustained conflict, etc., consistently carry a negative semantic prosody. This combination sheds light on the controversies surrounding Afghanistan post the US withdrawal, painting a bleak image of the Taliban's takeover.

The concordance lines that follow reveal a co-textual pattern related to the US withdrawal. This pattern likely encompasses discussions and descriptions of the aftermath of the withdrawal, emphasizing the challenges, conflicts, and negative consequences associated with the geopolitical shift in Afghanistan

Concordance 4.4.3 (ii)

i.   Keyword *'Afghanistan'* in the Corpus of American Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	past two decades have taught us that a U.S.	withdrawal from Afghanistan	is also an acknowledgment that fixing Afghan
2	Corpus of ...	inured to it. Mr. Biden most likely knows a May 1	withdrawal from Afghanistan	is not premature but long overdue. Seeking
3	Corpus of ...	nistan gets wrong It appears that President Biden's announced	withdrawal from Afghanistan	is proceeding ahead of schedule, with all
4	Corpus of ...	administration find the political courage to do so. Biden's	withdrawal from Afghanistan	is a terrible risk On Sept. 11, 2021, President
5	Corpus of ...	ld a better future. Executing a responsible and comprehensive	withdrawal from Afghanistan	is an essential first step toward Biden
6	Corpus of ...	its victory in the Persian Gulf war of 1991. An abrupt	withdrawal from Afghanistan	could conceivably provide a new symbol of
7	Corpus of ...	summer of pain. The confusion of a rushed U.S.	withdrawal from Afghanistan	could lead to disaster Mishandling of the
8	Corpus of ...	easy to despair over the idea that the U.S.	withdrawal from Afghanistan	has forever doomed American credibility. Undeniably, the
9	Corpus of ...	for distance from his Taliban deal The chaotic U.S.	withdrawal from Afghanistan	is, by most accounts, the least-proud
10	Corpus of ...	year after the fall of Kabul, the Biden administration's	withdrawal from Afghanistan	looks better as a pragmatic decision to
11	Corpus of ...	that tests whether those risks were worth taking. U.S.	withdrawal from Afghanistan	makes strategic sense if it allows us
12	Corpus of ...	Afghanistan could lead to disaster Mishandling of the U.S	withdrawal from Afghanistan	risks crippling the allies being left behind.
13	Corpus of ...	the United States "will not undertake a hasty or disorderly	withdrawal from Afghanistan	that puts [its] forces or the alliance'
14	Corpus of ...	suckers. Trump's deal with the Taliban, explained With the	withdrawal from Afghanistan	turning deadly for U.S. troops, President
15	Corpus of ...	decades-long enabling of the Taliban. An abrupt U.S.	withdrawal from Afghanistan	undermines the fragile peace Over the past

The collocate "withdrawal" appears 32 times with the keyword 'Afghanistan' in the American newspaper corpus. It is clear from these instances that the pairing of the keyword 'Afghanistan' with the collocate 'withdrawal' carries a negative semantic prosody. American newspapers have portrayed the US withdrawal in a negative light, often criticizing the decisions made by the US administration. Collocates such as "premature," "terrible risk," "disaster," "chaotic," "hasty," "disorderly," "deadly," "unwise," etc., consistently convey an unfavourable discourse prosody. This suggests a prevalent and critical tone in the coverage of the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, highlighting concerns and negative consequences associated with the decision.

4.4.4 The Keyword 'Deal' in the Corpus of American Newspapers

Concordance 4.4.4

Keyword *'Deal'* in the Corpus of American Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	ar Without Winners Winds Down Feb. 29, 2020 The Trump administration's	deal	with the Taliban recognizes the limits of American power.
2	Corpus of ...	many obstacles remain. DOHA, Qatar — The United States signed a	deal	with the Taliban on Saturday that sets the stage
3	Corpus of ...	newsroom. Why is the Trump administration keeping parts of its	deal	with the Taliban secret from the public? There's
4	Corpus of ...	toward a U.S. exit. In February, it struck a	deal	with the Taliban to withdraw American forces from the
5	Corpus of ...	a defining foreign policy decision: The United States signed a	deal	with the Taliban last year in Doha, Qatar, offering
6	Corpus of ...	surged their levels instead. President Donald Trump signed a peace	deal	with the Taliban in 2020 for a complete withdrawal by
7	Corpus of ...	ighting force. First, former President Donald Trump's February 2020 peace	deal	with the Taliban in Doha doomed us. It put
8	Corpus of ...	Trump's "historic peace agreement." Really, the Trump administration's	deal	with the Taliban deserves opprobrium even greater than what
9	Corpus of ...	President Biden announced on April 14 that he would honor a	deal	with the Taliban signed by the Trump Administration to
10	Corpus of ...	public. Why is the Trump administration keeping parts of its	deal	with the Taliban secret from the public? There's
11	Corpus of ...	toward a U.S. exit. In February, it struck a	deal	with the Taliban to withdraw American forces from the
12	Corpus of ...	attacks against the United States and its allies. A peace	deal	with the Taliban has been a critical foreign policy
13	Corpus of ...	United States is on the verge of sealing a landmark	deal	with the Taliban in hopes of ending America's
14	Corpus of ...	Trump's Afghanistan policy is a "travesty," and that his	deal	with the Taliban constitutes appeasement similar to Europe's
15	Corpus of ...	There are signs for those of understanding. Trump's peace	deal	with the Taliban is a sham. Here are two

The keyword "deal" has been mentioned 464 times in American newspapers, and its collocations include "Taliban turns up" (162 times), "peace" (109 times), "Trump" (39 times), "signed" (35 times), "signing" (18 times), and "struck" (9 times). These collocations are similar to those found in Pakistani and Afghan corpora, all of which convey positive sentiments. The shared right co-text, "with the Taliban," across the three corpora suggests a collaborative effort toward achieving peace in Afghanistan. Linguistic items such as "peace," "landmark," "US," "emerging Trump," and "tentative" appear on the left co-text side.

The first concordance line underscores President Trump's designation of a peace deal as a critical foreign policy goal, emphasizing a positive perspective on diplomatic efforts. However, the third concordance line raises a critical tone, questioning the Trump administration's decision to keep parts of its deal with the Taliban secret from the public. The line draws a comparison to Adolf Hitler's appeasement policy in Europe, suggesting a negative view of Trump's approach towards the Taliban.

This contrast in perspectives within the concordance lines reflects the diversity of opinions and debates present in American newspapers regarding the dealings with the

Taliban and the pursuit of peace in Afghanistan.

4.4.5 The Keyword 'Afghan' in the Corpus of American Newspapers

Concordance 4.4.5

Keyword *'Afghan'* in the Corpus of American Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	future. In the near term, that means negotiations between the	Afghan	government and the Taliban that could eventually lead to
2	Corpus of ...	Qatar, in October to report on the negotiations between the	Afghan	government and the Taliban. Like many Afghans, I was
3	Corpus of ...	of devastation. On both sides of the negotiations between the	Afghan	government and the Taliban are nearly a dozen children
4	Corpus of ...	show a civilian face. Nurturing Afghan Peace Talks July 10, 2015 The	Afghan	government and the Taliban held their first official meeting
5	Corpus of ...	for Afghan Peace Talks The talks between representatives of the	Afghan	government and the Taliban in Qatar over the weekend
6	Corpus of ...	a Nobel Peace Prize — rather than undertaken directly by the	Afghan	government and the Taliban. Those who attended emphasized that
7	Corpus of ...	the first formal negotiations between Kabul and the insurgents. The	Afghan	government and the American forces abided by the agreement.
8	Corpus of ...	If these talks are going to deliver peace, both the	Afghan	government and the Taliban urgently need to think more
9	Corpus of ...	South Asia strategy, which earmarked political reconciliation between the	Afghan	government and the Taliban as our principal objective. At
10	Corpus of ...	in talks and a continuing lack of trust between the	Afghan	government and the Taliban. The Taliban refused to open
11	Corpus of ...	within days to the initiation of direct meetings between the	Afghan	government and the Taliban. Specific agreed-upon conditions would
12	Corpus of ...	stumbling block: the Taliban's reluctance to speak to the	Afghan	government and the United States' unwillingness to recognize itself
13	Corpus of ...	administration is now attempting to broker peace talks between the	Afghan	government and the Taliban. That effort should not come
14	Corpus of ...	real concerns that removing U.S. troops will force the	Afghan	government and the Taliban to face the prospect of
15	Corpus of ...	to set the stage for eventual peace talks between the	Afghan	government and the insurgency sometime after their departure. President

The keyword 'Afghan' appears 1379 times in the American newspapers corpus, and its collocates include "government" (388 times), "Taliban" (239 times), "forces" (134 times), "talks" (97 times), "security" (73 times), "negotiations" (53 times), "support" (39 times), "army" (37 times), and "Afghanistan" (30 times). The consistent appearance of "government" as the only right co-text across all concordance lines suggests a pivotal role for the Afghan government in the context of the US-Afghan peace dialogues.

Left-side co-texts such as "a delegation from the," "both the," "between them," "including the present," etc., provide context to the 40 years of war and depict the suffering of the Afghan people. The collocates of the keyword "Afghan" include "government" (388 times), "forces" (134 times), "talks" (97 times), "people" (82 times), "security" (73 times), "negotiations" (53 times), "women" (52 times), "intra" (42 times), "army" (37 times), "Afghanistan" (30 times), etc. Among the top ten highest collocates, three are negative, two are positive, and four are neutral lexical items.

The critical backdrop is evident from the first concordance line, which highlights the Afghan government and Taliban meeting in Doha on September 12 to initiate discussions for a peaceful resolution of the Afghan situation. Line 5 underscores the Afghan government's inconsistent attitudes, as they believed the next US government might reverse the deal and leave some troops in Afghanistan. Additionally, Afghan officials in the fifth line express concerns about the new U.S. administration's potential critical stance on the Afghan government and the Taliban's peace dialogues. Some hoped that President Joe Biden would address militant groups more effectively and be more willing to maintain a small U.S. counterterrorism force in the country

4.4.6 The Keyword 'Pakistan' in the Corpus of American Newspapers

Concordance 4.4.6

Keyword *'Pakistan'* in the Corpus of American Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of …	outsourced to Pakistan. Also unclear is whether the officers in	Pakistan'	s military and intelligence apparatus will follow their leader'
2	Corpus of …	inated approach. Desperate for global relevance and domestic legitimacy,	Pakistan'	s military dictator Pervez Musharraf agreed to every American
3	Corpus of …	will affect the broader region remains to be seen, but	Pakistan'	s military has reached out to Indian military and
4	Corpus of …	nship with the cantankerous president of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai, than	Pakistan'	s military leaders have achieved because of years of
5	Corpus of …	considerable control over the country's direction. The Taliban and	Pakistan'	s military that backs them see this as their
6	Corpus of …	No strategy, even with more troops, will succeed without reducing	Pakistan'	s support for the Afghan Taliban and the affiliated
7	Corpus of …	for facilitating rather than hindering Mr. Khalilzad's mission. Whether	Pakistan'	s support for the peace process is a strategic
8	Corpus of …	restart talks on the disputed territory of Kashmir. Apart from	Pakistan'	s support for Mr. Khalilzad's mission, the stature
9	Corpus of …	there is a change in Pakistan's attitude toward Afghanistan.	Pakistan'	s support for the Taliban, giving it a haven
10	Corpus of …	defining Pakistani choices. An approach that links efforts to enlist	Pakistan'	s support in Afghanistan to a strategy aimed at
11	Corpus of …	ignores the Taliban's evolution away from Pakistani control, and	Pakistan'	s own difficult experience with militancy over the past 20
12	Corpus of …	they will not move if they see this as ignoring	Pakistan'	s own security needs. This new, more strategic approach
13	Corpus of …	in the 1990s: It could end a dangerous conflict along	Pakistan'	s own unstable borders. And that is why a
14	Corpus of …	a decade and lead to the emergence of the Taliban.	Pakistan'	s Army has managed the country's policy on
15	Corpus of …	Taliban interlocutors. It shouldn't take long to see if	Pakistan'	s Army is serious. The 2014 presidential election is critical
23	Corpus of …	described the Taliban simply as a political party. It is	Pakistan'	s assessment, they say, that the Taliban struck a
40	Corpus of …	nctioned my country, leaving behind over 4 million Afghan refugees in	Pakistan	and a bloody civil war in Afghanistan. From this
	Corpus of …	Afghanistan that is at peace with itself and its neighbors.	Pakistan believes	that peace negotiations should not be conducted under
40	Corpus of …	pliable neighbor that Pakistan can influence long into the future.	Pakistan'	s political and military establishment has long hoped for
93	Corpus of …	be the real winner. Pakistani soldiers at the Afghan border.	Pakistan	has long hoped for an end to the violence

The keyword 'Pakistan' is mentioned 311 times in the American newspaper corpus, and it plays a significant role in the Afghan peace dialogues. The right-side co-texts of the keyword "Pakistan" include terms like military, support, own, army, reflecting its substantial involvement in the context of the US-Taliban peace deal in Doha. American newspapers have generally portrayed Pakistan's role positively in the US-Afghan dialogues, with repeated appreciation from America and NATO for its contributions. For instance, line 93 highlights Pakistan's support for ending the war and withdrawing US troops from Afghanistan. In the 40th line, the co-occurrence of 'Pakistan' with 'military' and 'political' further supports the positive portrayal of Pakistan's foreign diplomacy.

The highest collocate of the keyword 'Pakistan' is 'China,' appearing 28 times in the American newspaper corpus. The combination of Pakistan and China in the American media reflects a negative stance on their diplomatic relationships. The American media expresses dissatisfaction with the ties between Pakistan and China and opposes China's influence in Afghanistan. Left-side co-texts of the keyword 'China' include terms like officers, legitimacy, Afghanistan, reducing, ignoring, and Taliban.

Collocates associated with the keyword 'Pakistan' include 'China' (28 times), 'India' (19 times), 'Iran' (24 times), 'Russia' (20 times), 'Islamabad' (6 times), 'regional' (8 times), 'havens' (4 times), 'safe' (7 times), etc. The first concordance line raises reservations about Pakistan's political and military leaders having a significant rift in policymaking, indicating uncertainty about their approach.

Despite the overall positive portrayal of Pakistan's role, some instances in the American corpus negatively depict Pakistan. It is blamed for providing a safe haven and financial assistance to the Taliban. The collocation of the keyword 'Pakistan' with 'safe haven' (15 times) carries a negative semantic prosody in its contextual environment. However, the American print media also acknowledges Pakistan's support for Afghan peace dealings, as mentioned in the line: "It is also noteworthy that Pakistan, which has long provided the Taliban safe haven and assistance, now seems to be supporting the peace process."

4.4.7 The Keyword 'US' in the Corpus of American Newspapers

Concordance 4.4.7

Keyword *'US'* in the Corpus of American Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	no willingness to preserve the democratic political system. That brings	us	to the agreement's biggest weakness: a lack of
2	Corpus of ...	no willingness to preserve the democratic political system. That brings	us	to the agreement's biggest weakness: a lack of
3	Corpus of ...	no willingness to preserve the democratic political system. That brings	us	to the agreement's biggest weakness: a lack of
4	Corpus of ...	Michael Walzer argues, "When we leave, we must bring with	us	to the U.S. all the men and women,
5	Corpus of ...	some of these shadowy figures that had been impossible for	us	to access for so long, to get a sense
6	Corpus of ...	public spaces, including universities and offices. They want to reduce	us	to bearing children. The wars that men started and
7	Corpus of ...	again, barred women and girls from most jobs and forbade	us	to continue our education at schools and colleges, turning
8	Corpus of ...	but rather to put them in a context that allows	us	to create sound policy. Afghanistan in 2009 is not Afghanistan
9	Corpus of ...	those presidents and members of Congress to mislead and mismanage	us	to defeat. This national shame is a millstone around
10	Corpus of ...	by the US." Yet the United States continued to ask	us	to do more for the war in Afghanistan. A
11	Corpus of ...	I grew up hearing the phrase "nothing about us without	us."	To Eastern Europeans, the vow is a painful reminder
12	Corpus of ...	out for himself. It was like [the United States] left	us	to fail. The negotiated surrenders to the Taliban slowly
13	Corpus of ...	fear brutal reprisals from the Taliban and cannot count on	us	to get them to safety. Refugees have traded one
14	Corpus of ...	a transition period with the Taliban that would have enabled	us	to hold the city and help manage evacuations. Instead,
15	Corpus of ...	t demonstrate long-term commitment in Afghanistan, nobody will trust	us	to make a long-term commitment in Iraq. . . . The

The term "US" appears 190 times in conjunction with right-side co-texts such as "to access," "to bring," "to generate," "to retain," "to make," "to practice," etc. The left-side lexical items associated with the keyword 'US' include terms like brings, impossible, reduces, forbade, allows, mismanages, asks, leaves, enables, etc. While the collocates may not be extensively discussed here, it's important to note that they typically represent content words. Among the seven collocates mentioned, two are considered meaningful.

The collocations and co-texts collectively portray the keyword 'US' with a positive prosody. In the fifteenth line, the statement "It will require the US to practice patience, make compromises, and pay further attention to peace" suggests a positive expectation that the US must exhibit patience, make compromises, and pay attention to foster peace in Afghanistan. This media representation implies a constructive role for the United States in the peace process.

One notable aspect is the uniqueness of the keyword 'US.' The software recognizes 'US' as a proper noun representing the United States and also as 'us,' the objective pronoun. This duality in interpretation highlights the versatility of the term, capturing both the identity of the nation and the inclusive pronoun 'us' in certain contexts.

4.4.8 The Keyword 'China' in the Corpus of American Newspapers

Concordance 4.4.8

Keyword *'China'* in the Corpus of American Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	table," they write. "That would mean the United States, Russia,	China	and other members of the council coming together to
2	Corpus of ...	the negotiating table. That would mean the United States, Russia,	China	and other members of the council coming together to
3	Corpus of ...	However, the Taliban may be able to obtain both from	China	and other autocratic nations without tempering the harshness of
4	Corpus of ...	a strategy guided more by economic and cybersecurity competition with	China	and Russia and focused on countering threats with military
5	Corpus of ...	each demanding expensive naval commitments, at a time when both	China	and Russia are also spending heavily on projecting power
6	Corpus of ...	the borders of Europe. U.S. rivals such as Iran,	China	and Russia could draw the conclusion that Mr. Biden
7	Corpus of ...	ese highly profitable revenue sources and with neighboring countries, like	China	and Pakistan, willing to do business, the Taliban are
8	Corpus of ...	ese highly profitable revenue sources and with neighboring countries, like	China	and Pakistan, willing to do business, the Taliban are
9	Corpus of ...	e defines as increasing economic competitiveness, countering an assertive	China	and defeating the pandemic. But drawing the eyes of
10	Corpus of ...	keep its promises by formally bringing neighboring powers such as	China	and Iran into the discussions. (Yes, one of the
11	Corpus of ...	partners in such an approach — your editorial mentions Iran, Russia,	China	and Pakistan specifically — share America's vision that, above
12	Corpus of ...	Beijing and Washington to work together for a stable Afghanistan.	China	and the United States, despite their differences, have enjoyed
13	Corpus of ...	U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan because it referred to	China'	s Belt and Road Initiative. And the Trump administration'
14	Corpus of ...	U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan because it referred to	China'	s Belt and Road Initiative. And the Trump administration'
15	Corpus of ...	Regional states have started infrastructure projects that could do so.	China'	s Belt and Road Initiative will link western China

China is one of the key stakeholders that played a key role in the Afghan peace dialogues. The keyword 'China' turns up 100 times in the American newspapers corpus. This keyword receives collocations such as Russia appearing 32 times, Pakistan 28 times, Iran 25 times, India 13 times, economic 5 times, and neighbouring 4 times. The right-side co-texts with this keyword are: Russia and others, Pakistan and Iran, defeating and the United States, belt and Road, etc. The left co-text side associated with the keyword 'China' is competition with Iran, like Russia, assertive, Afghanistan, referred, do so, etc. Co-texts on both sides indicate the same story about the keyword 'China' in the American corpus.

Mostly name of various countries have co- occurred with the keyword 'China' which do not bears semantic prosody. The American media says in the first line that the U.S. cannot compete with China and Russia's cyber security and fight against terrorists without large troops. The third line expressed more insecurity from neighbouring countries like Iran, China, and Russia. The text of the line says, "US rivals such as Iran, China, and Russia concluded that Mr. Biden lacks the stomach to stand up for embattled U.S. allies such as Iraq, Taiwan, and Ukraine". The media further says that China and Pakistan got some projects to construct infrastructure, a profitable business with the

Taliban in Afghanistan. The 8th line discusses another narrative: that there are differences between China and Pakistan, but they still enjoy some cooperation in some areas.

4.4.9 The Keyword 'India' in the Corpus of American Newspapers

Concordance 4.4.9

Keyword *'India'* in the Corpus of American Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	is a country in a region with China, Russia, Iran,	India	and Pakistan — four nuclear powers," he said. "They all
2	Corpus of ...	is a country in a region with China, Russia, Iran,	India	and Pakistan — four nuclear powers," he said. "They all
3	Corpus of ...	locking it into a foreign policy defined by hostility toward	India	and dependence on China," wrote Husain Haqqani, a former
4	Corpus of ...	takeover. That possibility, they say, could lead regional powers like	India	and Iran to support their favored groups with money
5	Corpus of ...	on the coast around Chabahar. President Trump could cooperate with	India	and Japan, but additional sanctions on Tehran could hinder
6	Corpus of ...	orist movement from Pakistan across the border dropped dramatically, and	India	and Pakistan got extremely close to signing a deal
7	Corpus of ...	dy group suggests that Afghanistan's neighbors, including Pakistan, Russia,	India	and perhaps Iran, could be enlisted to pressure the
8	Corpus of ...	progress in aligning the international community (China, Russia, Pakistan,	India	and the European Union) behind a strategy to end
9	Corpus of ...	aimed at improving India-Pakistan ties could change this. Better	India-	Pakistan relations are necessary to reduce Pakistan's apprehensions
10	Corpus of ...	dialogue after a dangerous nuclear standoff in 2002. Within three years,	India-	Pakistan relations had made unprecedented progress. Terrorist movement f
11	Corpus of ...	India. To achieve this, the United States should facilitate an	India-	Pakistan dialogue on the full range of economic and
12	Corpus of ...	s support in Afghanistan to a strategy aimed at improving	India-	Pakistan ties could change this. Better India-Pakistan relations
13	Corpus of ...	and reassert Afghan claims on Pakistani territory. While most of	India'	s aid to Afghanistan has been economic, India has
14	Corpus of ...	goals of ensuring a friendly government in Kabul and undercutting	India'	s increasing influence in Afghanistan. It is in Beijing'
15	Corpus of ...	Middle East. A new route through Kabul would also make	India'	s resistance to joining the Belt-and-Road less

The keyword "India" appears 45 times in the American newspaper corpus, with collocations such as "Pakistan" turning up 19 times, "Russia" 14 times, "Iran" 14 times, "China" 13 times, "powers" 4 times, and "ties" 3 times. The right-side co-texts include terms like dependence, perhaps the European, Pakistan, aid, increasing resistance, etc. On the left side, co-texts such as Iran, Pakistan, and Russia, along with better, improving, undercutting, making, etc., receive a neutral semantic prosody. The top collocate that frequently co-occurs with the keyword "India" is "Pakistan," which appears 19 times.

Upon close examination of the keyword "India" in the Corpus of American newspapers, it is evident that the focus of concern is on the relationship between Pakistan and India. The American media seems to prioritize the reduction of tension between these two nations for the sake of bringing lasting peace and stability to Afghanistan. There is consistent emphasis on dialogue between Pakistan and India in American newspapers.

Furthermore, American newspapers highlight India's role inside Afghanistan, and the collocation of the keyword 'India' with other countries like China, Russia, and Iran underscores the significant role of regional powers within Afghanistan. Interestingly, the collocates that appear in the co-textual environment of 'India' bear no discernible semantic prosody, indicating a neutral tone in the portrayal of India's involvement in the context of Afghanistan.

4.4.10. The Keyword 'War' in the Corpus of American Newspapers

Concordance 4.4.10

Keyword *'War'* in the Corpus of American Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	being kept from the public, the secrecy is underhanded. The	war	in Afghanistan has cost the United States far too
2	Corpus of ...	its brutal continuation for a decade. The U.S.-led	war	in Afghanistan has now lasted twice as long. President
3	Corpus of ...	being kept from the public, the secrecy is underhanded. The	war	in Afghanistan has cost the United States far too
4	Corpus of ...	power and influence in new regions.Despite the costs, the	war	in Afghanistan has mostly remained in the back of
5	Corpus of ...	called the deal "a powerful path forward to end the	war	in Afghanistan and bring our troops home" in a
6	Corpus of ...	it would offer a better chance of settling the 19-year	war	in Afghanistan and ending the relentless bloodshed, given that
7	Corpus of ...	and hope. Now these arguments belong to the past. The	war	in Afghanistan isn't just over. It's lost.
8	Corpus of ...	and hope. Now these arguments belong to the past. The	war	in Afghanistan isn't just over. It's lost.
9	Corpus of ...	taken. The media has raised the question about whether the	war	in Afghanistan was winnable. I believe the United States
10	Corpus of ...	not for those who instigate or perpetuate them. Initially, the	war	in Afghanistan was as broadly supported and bipartisan as
11	Corpus of ...	Anderson and Milla Jovovich: A Marriage Built on Monsters The	war	in Afghanistan began in response by the United States
12	Corpus of ...	ensure a lasting political settlement. Those who oppose ending the	war	in Afghanistan continue to claim that a better outcome
13	Corpus of ...	He would end up being a "culpable leader," and the	war	in Afghanistan could outlast his presidency. The president should
14	Corpus of ...	in charge of U.S. forces during the withdrawal. The	war	in Afghanistan from the beginning was a story of
15	Corpus of ...	conflict, foreign entanglements and an incubator of terrorist plots. The	war	in Afghanistan in some ways echoes the American experience

The keyword "war" is mentioned 709 times in the Corpus of American newspapers, and it is associated with collocations such as "Afghanistan" (112 times), "end" (84 times), "civil" (77 times), "Taliban" (42 times), "longest" (31 times), "America" (26 times), "won" (15 times), "terror" (7 times), "bloody" (7 times), and "endless" (6 times). The most frequent collocate with 'war' is 'Afghanistan,' indicating a strong association between the keyword and the conflict in Afghanistan. A closer examination of the concordance lines suggests a negative portrayal of the American war inside Afghanistan in the American print media. The emphasis is on urging the American government to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan.

In line 1, there is a critical assessment of the 18-year Afghan war, highlighting its high cost in terms of innocent lives and the deaths of thousands of NATO forces. American newspapers are seen to negatively portray the war in Afghanistan, emphasizing its detrimental consequences. Line 5 places great importance on the US-Taliban peace agreement as a better chance to end the war in Afghanistan and bring peace and stability to the region. This reflects a positive perspective on the Afghan peace process in American media, indicating a preference for ending the American war in Afghanistan.

In the 8th line, the media acknowledges that the Afghanistan war is not over, and line nine raises the question of whether the war is winnable. The fourteenth line represents a realization of the failure of the war plan by American and NATO forces, attributing blame to the government and its Afghan partners for the false narrative of controlling the Taliban. The media characterizes the war in Afghanistan as a story of overly optimistic assumptions about the ability to control the Taliban.

Overall, the concordance lines and statistical observations suggest a nuanced narrative in the American print media, with a negative portrayal of the ongoing war in Afghanistan and a positive outlook on the potential for peace through the US-Taliban peace agreement.

4.4.11 The Keyword 'Withdrawal' in the Corpus of American Newspapers

Concordance 4.4.11

Keyword *'Withdrawal'* in the Corpus of American Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	to connect the issue of possible Russian payoffs with the	withdrawal	of U.S. troops. The administration ought to provide
2	Corpus of ...	former President Barack Obama, a predecessor he loathes. "A rapid	withdrawal	of U.S. forces from Afghanistan now would hurt
3	Corpus of ...	versus personal freedom. William Ruger's argument for a precipitous	withdrawal	of U.S. troops from Afghanistan works only if
4	Corpus of ...	the time President Biden and NATO announced in April the	withdrawal	of U.S. and coalition forces by Sept. 11, the
5	Corpus of ...	egan monitoring these casualties in 2009. Mr. Biden, in announcing the	withdrawal	of U.S. troops, initially gave Sept. 11 as the
6	Corpus of ...	specially calamitous. Since April, when President Biden announced the	withdrawal	of U.S. forces from the country, violence has
7	Corpus of ...	that has cost tens of thousands of lives. The complete	withdrawal	of U.S. and coalition troops is contingent on
8	Corpus of ...	for excluding them from talks with the Taliban. Any significant	withdrawal	of U.S. forces from the country is expected
9	Corpus of ...	with the Taliban last year. Without a peace agreement, the	withdrawal	of U.S. forces from Afghanistan could allow the
10	Corpus of ...	for a peace deal is intended to avoid a disorderly	withdrawal	of U.S. forces from Afghanistan. That tight timeline
11	Corpus of ...	give what the Taliban most wants from a negotiation: the	withdrawal	of U.S. and coalition forces from Afghan soil.
12	Corpus of ...	and control. The Trump administration's focus was on the	withdrawal	of U.S. forces from Afghanistan. The Biden team
13	Corpus of ...	owing indications that the United States is considering postponing the	withdrawal	of U.S. troops — a move aimed at pressuring
14	Corpus of ...	apply more pressure on the Taliban before committing to the	withdrawal	of U.S. forces. "They were hoping for a
15	Corpus of ...	of linkage between an Afghan political settlement and the final	withdrawal	of U.S. troops. An annex reportedly describes the

The American media has employed the keyword "withdrawal" 425 times in the corpus, with a consistent co-textual pattern on the right side, which is "of US troops or forces." The left-side co-texts in the concordance, including complete, full, disorderly, forcing, and postponing, are also consistent. This indicates a uniform intent in the use of the keyword across different contexts, maintaining a focus on the withdrawal of US troops.

The third concordance line highlights a potential consequence: the Taliban gaining considerable territory in the event of disapproval of the US-Taliban agreement. Lines 7 and 11 express a desire for the Afghan government and some US organizations to halt the deal, but this wish was not fulfilled, as observed in the media.

The Trump administration's focus on withdrawing US troops from Afghanistan is evident in various statements. Some emphasize the complete withdrawal, and there is a mention of efforts to stop the deal. The media coverage suggests a mixed sentiment, with certain segments expressing dissatisfaction with the complete withdrawal of NATO forces from Afghanistan. The negative nature of the collocations, such as "troops," "forces," "full," "complete," "Soviet," "hasty," "deadline," "timetable," reflects the media's discontent with the withdrawal, particularly the complete withdrawal of NATO

forces. The media appears critical of this move, using terms like "hasty" and emphasizing the negative consequences associated with a quick and full withdrawal.

Despite this negative portrayal, the narrative also acknowledges Trump's steadfast commitment to his promise of withdrawal, standing against criticism and absorbing the negative discourse from certain quarters in the media. This suggests a complex and nuanced discussion within the American media regarding the withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan.

4.4.12. The Keyword 'refugees' in the Corpus of American Newspapers

Concordance 4.4.12

Keyword *'refugees'* in the Corpus of American Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	and it's always a guide, we will see many	refugees	from Afghanistan resettle in our country in the coming
2	Corpus of ...	In the aftermath of American intervention in Cuba and Vietnam,	refugees	from both countries were granted refuge; the same should
3	Corpus of ...	fidgeted with his old Nokia phone and constantly made calls.	Refugees	from other provinces, fleeing the last stretch of intense
4	Corpus of ...	American president who believes "Islam hates us" and bars Muslim	refugees	from our shores? In March 2011, when Terry Jones, a
5	Corpus of ...	would be in the best American tradition of welcoming political	refugees	from places like Hungary, Cuba, Vietnam, the Soviet Union
6	Corpus of ...	for the benefit of the thousands of Taliban fighters, and	refugees	and returnees, who will need to be immediately reintegrated
7	Corpus of ...	of Kabul, the repression of women, the destabilizing flow of	refugees	and the systematic murder of Afghans who sided with
8	Corpus of ...	seek refuge." Some on the right, however, have cast Afghan	refugees	as a demographic threat. "If history is any guide,
9	Corpus of ...	neighboring Tajikistan, which said it was prepared to host around 100,000	refugees,	as well as in Iran, Pakistan and Turkey. Among
10	Corpus of ...	wear out its welcome as the Trump administration bars Muslim	refugees.	Any moves to send new prisoners to Guantánamo, torture
11	Corpus of ...	al-Qaeda could reestablish bases in the country. Waves of	refugees	are likely to pour out, destabilizing neighbors such as
12	Corpus of ...	don't want the political backlash that comes from actual	refugees	arriving in America in any sort of large numbers,"
13	Corpus of ...	elections, especially if Republicans effectively inflame fears about Afghan	refugees	being resettled in this country. The United States has
14	Corpus of ...	from liberals for ending the Trump cruelty to immigrants and	refugees	but they also don't want the political backlash
15	Corpus of ...	United States, has pledged to in take more than 20,000 Afghan	refugees,	Goldberg says "180,000 should be the absolute floor" for the

The keyword 'refugees' is mentioned 28 times in American newspapers and is associated with six collocations: "Afghan" (repeated 9 times), "Muslim" (2 times), "Cuba" (2 times), "zones" (2 times), "bars" (2 times), and "waves" (2 times). The right-side co-texts include terms such as Afghanistan, countries, provinces, shores, demographics, Pakistan, resettled, etc.

The context surrounding the keyword 'refugees' is marked by the two decades of war in Afghanistan, resulting in millions of Afghans becoming refugees. The American media appears to advocate for the establishment of camps for Afghan refugees, with both President Biden and President Trump mentioned in the concordance lines. President

Trump is noted for openly suggesting the creation of a camp for refugees.

A point of controversy regarding the Biden administration is highlighted in the concordance lines, indicating that they only welcomed refugees affiliated with the United States who had worked for them. This selective approach receives attention and possibly criticism in the media.

The overall tone of the concordance lines reflects the sufferings of the refugees, emphasizing the challenges faced by those displaced by the two decades of conflict in Afghanistan. Additionally, the media points out that many countries have imposed strict regulations against welcoming refugees, portraying this stance with a negative prosody. This suggests a critical view of the policies and restrictions imposed by certain countries in response to the refugee crisis.

4.4.13 The Keyword 'Terrorist' in the Corpus of American Newspapers

Concordance 4.4.13

Keyword *'Terrorist'* in the Corpus of American Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	raised ISIS-K's status as one of the foremost	terrorist	groups in the region. It is also unlikely to
2	Corpus of ...	peace deal in which the Taliban promise not to host	terrorist	groups in the future and to help the United
3	Corpus of ...	crumble, and Afghanistan could again become a safe haven for	terrorist	groups in the region. Furthermore, Afghanistan's implosion would
4	Corpus of ...	false assurances." "A full-scale U.S. withdrawal" would "allow	terrorist	groups in Afghanistan to grow stronger and establish safe
5	Corpus of ...	massive humanitarian crisis. At the same time, concerns about global	terrorist	groups in Afghanistan are growing. In a withdrawal deal
6	Corpus of ...	Taliban deal, the militants would launch their own operations against	terrorist	groups in Afghanistan. In addition to the Americans, smaller
7	Corpus of ...	time, the Taliban is to renounce al-Qaeda and other	terrorist	groups and open negotiations with an Afghan committee, including
8	Corpus of ...	time, the Taliban is to renounce al-Qaeda and other	terrorist	groups and open negotiations with an Afghan committee, including
9	Corpus of ...	time, the Taliban is to renounce al-Qaeda and other	terrorist	groups and open negotiations with an Afghan committee, including
10	Corpus of ...	country. Or it could reignite the Afghan civil war, emboldening	terrorist	groups and plunging the nation into another decade of
11	Corpus of ...	new civil war, inviting the reconstitution of anti-U.S.	terrorist	groups and providing them with a narrative of victory
12	Corpus of ...	obstacles for years, including its severance of ties with international	terrorist	groups such as Al Qaeda. The agreement also hinges
13	Corpus of ...	Taliban's funding, training, resources and relationships with Pakistan and	terrorist	groups such as al-Qaeda. Pakistan says it cannot
14	Corpus of ...	the peace deal, the Taliban made several commitments to fight	terrorist	groups such as the Islamic State in exchange for
15	Corpus of ...	gray area in the Taliban's commitment not to allow	terrorist	groups to use Afghan soil to plan and launch

The keyword 'terrorist' appears 149 times in the American newspapers corpus, and it is consistently associated with the right-side co-text "groups." This co-text implies that violence in Afghanistan is orchestrated systematically by well-trained groups rather than

individuals. On the left side, co-texts such as "haven," "foremost," "host," "allow," "embolden," "anti-US," "fight," "international," etc., mostly bear positive semantic prosody. While the keyword 'terrorist' inherently carries a negative connotation, the top keyness of the lexical items in the collocates may seem negative because the keyword itself has a negative prosody.

The first concordance line emphasizes the American media's concern that Afghanistan has become a haven for terrorist groups. The fifth line also expresses worry about the presence and activities of terrorist groups in Afghanistan. In the 10th concordance line, there is elaboration on the potential consequences of terrorist activities, stating that it could reignite the Afghan civil war, embolden terrorist groups, and lead the nation into another decade of turmoil. This could, in turn, force the United States to return to the battlefield in large numbers.

The American media's focus on the Taliban's terrorist operations in Afghanistan is highlighted. There is a greater concern expressed about the impact of terrorist groups, particularly the Taliban, than on the Afghan people. This indicates a perspective that emphasizes the security and stability threats posed by terrorist activities in the region, framing the discourse in a manner that suggests the potential consequences for both Afghanistan and the United States.

4.4.14. The Keyword 'NATO' in the Corpus of American Newspapers

Concordance 4.4.14

Keyword *'NATO'* in the Corpus of American Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	U.S. troops set to depart by mid-July, and	NATO	and allied forces keeping to that schedule as well.
2	Corpus of ...	American involvement in Afghanistan. It is unclear if the remaining	NATO	and allied troops in Afghanistan — about 7,000 people who primarily
3	Corpus of ...	said the U.S. withdrawal would be fully coordinated with	NATO	and other coalition partners. Citing NATO's "in together,
4	Corpus of ...	presence. The administration has said it is fully consulting with	NATO	and other partners. The United States, Blinken wrote, has
5	Corpus of ...	specters who turned the ground in front of U.S.,	NATO	and Afghan troops into a mine-laden hell. Each
6	Corpus of ...	mention. A choice two: frequent threats to pull out of	NATO	and an impulsive decision to withdraw from Syria (that
7	Corpus of ...	be possible without the continued support of the United States,	NATO	and our partners in the region. In addition to
8	Corpus of ...	countries and international organizations — including the United Nations,	NATO	and the European Union — gather and deliberate in Kabul.
9	Corpus of ...	troops level significantly shrink within months of the deal, with	NATO	forces also proportionately reduced. But it is uncertain what
10	Corpus of ...	militants. For nearly 20 years, with the backing of American and	NATO	forces and airstrikes, Afghan government forces had been able
11	Corpus of ...	served shoulder to shoulder with the United States and other	NATO	forces as interpreters, and in other essential functions. They
12	Corpus of ...	S. Gen. Austin "Scott" Miller, commander of U.S. and	NATO	forces in Afghanistan, has already said he can carry
13	Corpus of ...	a full peace settlement, a withdrawal of U.S. and	NATO	forces would leave the Afghan government deeply vulnerable. As
14	Corpus of ...	happened on the battlefield? Despite the presence of American and	NATO	troops and air power, the Taliban rebuilt their fighting
15	Corpus of ...	a tightly secured hotel popular among foreigners. As American and	NATO	troops began withdrawing in May, Afghan security forces swiftly

The word "NATO" appears 80 times in the American newspapers corpus, often accompanied by right-side co-texts like "forces," "troops," and left-side co-texts such as "remaining," "collaborating with," "consulting with," "the U.S.," "dropping out of the United States," "the United Nations," "negotiating with Americans," etc. The collocates of the keyword NATO include terms like "united" (18 times), "troops" (16 times), "forces" (12 times), "partners" (7 times), "secretary" (6 times), "allies" (6 times), "general" (5 times), "Stoltenberg" (5 times), "coalition" (5 times), "nations" (4 times), "Stefano" (2 times), all describing a neutral prosody.

The first concordance line reports on the withdrawal of forces and NATO allies from Afghanistan, stating that President Biden's announcement is moving ahead of schedule, with all U.S. forces set to leave by mid-July, and NATO and allied forces are adhering to that timeline. In the 5th line, there is a historical reference highlighting the challenges faced by U.S., NATO, and Afghan forces due to the Taliban's actions, describing the Taliban as shadows in an adjacent tree line, unseen spectres who turned the ground into a mine-laden hell. The 13th concordance line expresses concern in the American media about the potential ease with which the Taliban could take over

Afghanistan after the U.S. withdrawal. This indicates a level of apprehension regarding the security situation in Afghanistan post-withdrawal.

Overall, the discourse around NATO in the American corpus reflects a neutral prosody, detailing aspects of collaboration, withdrawal, historical challenges, and potential future scenarios involving U.S., NATO, and Afghan forces. The concern about the Taliban's resurgence and the security situation after the withdrawal is evident in the media coverage.

4.4.15. The Keyword 'Stability' in the Corpus of American Newspapers

Concordance 4.4.15

Keyword *'Stability'* in the Corpus of American Newspapers

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of …	are at peace. We also learned that peace and political	stability	in Afghanistan could not be imposed from the outside
2	Corpus of …	of America's war in Afghanistan — yet. Achieving peace and	stability	in Afghanistan has always been a Sisyphean task, and
3	Corpus of …	Thus Pakistan's leaders may well support reconciliation, deciding that	stability	in Afghanistan is more important than angling for the
4	Corpus of …	position to shift our focus to enforcing peace and greater	stability	in Afghanistan. Now is indeed the time to bring
5	Corpus of …	increasing problem in Russia. It cannot be stemmed without greater	stability	in Afghanistan. Tehran may delight in America's struggles
6	Corpus of …	do what is necessary to secure our objectives of assuring	stability	in a critical region and retaining the security, governance
7	Corpus of …	in South Korea in a decades-long effort to ensure	stability	in the region. Despite episodic violence and metaphorical saber
8	Corpus of …	in the northern province of Balkh, once a showcase of	stability	and economic development. On Sunday, there were 44 insurgent attacks
9	Corpus of …	in the northern province of Balkh, once a showcase of	stability	and economic development. On Sunday, there were 44 insurgent attacks
10	Corpus of …	terrorism emanating from Afghanistan by trying to nurture it to	stability	and prosperity through the promotion of gender pluralism, religious
11	Corpus of …	terrorism emanating from Afghanistan by trying to nurture it to	stability	and prosperity through the promotion of gender pluralism, religious
12	Corpus of …	to make sure the new Afghanistan is a bastion of	stability	and that nobody feels threatened on our soil. We
13	Corpus of …	arian crises, to support international organizations and to preserve regional	stability.	And they have given presidents permission to ignore the
14	Corpus of …	have urged international engagement. "Everyone with a stake in the	stability	of Afghanistan needs to come together," Saad Mohseni, an
15	Corpus of …	harmful to China. The key to Afghanistan's peace and	stability,	of course, also lies partly in Pakistan. Despite their

The keyword 'stability' is mentioned 32 times in the American corpus of the study. The right-side co-texts associated with the keyword, such as "in Afghanistan," "in a critical way," "in the region," "economically," "prosperity," and "nobody, of course, of our country," show a positive semantic prosody in the American corpus. The left co-texts, such as "peace" and "politics," also contribute to a positive prosody. All the lexical components in the co-texts are positive and support the concept of stability.

The collocates associated with the keyword 'stability' are particularly intriguing, with six positive, one negative, and five neutral lexical elements among the 12 collocates.

Collocates include terms like "peace" (10 times), "Balkh" (2 times), "showcase" (2 times), "nurture" (2 times), "greater" (3 times), "prosperity" (2 times), "promotion" (2 times), "invaders" (2 times), "stake" (2 times), "regional" (3 times), and "Afghanistan" (repeated 11 times).

The first concordance line emphasizes that only internal peace and stability, without external imposition, could be acceptable to Afghans. The American media acknowledges that political stability and peace in Afghanistan cannot be achieved through the use of force. The line suggests that enduring peace in Afghanistan requires a reconciliation process that is accepted by the Afghan people. In contrast, the 14th line places blame on Pakistan for being partially responsible for Afghanistan's peace and stability issues. Despite this blame, the term "Pakistan" generally receives a positive semantic prosody in the American corpora of the study.

Overall, the discussion around 'stability' in the American corpus reflects a positive outlook, emphasizing the importance of internal peace and political reconciliation for enduring stability in Afghanistan. The blame on Pakistan introduces a nuanced perspective but does not significantly alter the overall positive semantic prosody.

SECTION 4.5

Discussion and Interpretation

The significance of peace in Afghanistan extends beyond regional borders, affecting Asia and the global community. Since the peace agreement between the United States and the Taliban on February 29, 2020, in Doha, notable regional and global developments have unfolded. The active involvement of key nations, namely the United States of America, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, underscores the importance of the peace process. This study investigates how the media in these countries have portrayed the Afghan peace process. Notably, the USA and Afghanistan were deeply engaged in the conflict, with Pakistan contributing as a neighbouring nation. Employing a judgmental sample methodology, data were collected from newspapers in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the USA. The massive corpus amassed a total of 816,483 words from six newspapers across the three countries. The contribution of Afghan newspapers was substantial, comprising 306,713 words, the highest percentage at 37.74% of the total corpus. Pakistani newspapers followed closely, contributing 295,865 words, representing 36.30% of the total. The American corpus, with 213,905 words, covered 25.91% of the total percentage (refer to Table 4.1 and Figure 4.1). Beyond the frequency of the three corpora, keywords were extracted using AntConc (4.2.0). Additionally, a keyword list from each of the three chosen corpora was obtained using an American reference corpus (AmE06).

The top 100 keywords were selected and arranged in descending order based on keyness values. Subsequently, fifteen of these 100 keywords were chosen for corpus analysis. Each selected keyword underwent individual linguistic exploration within each corpus. The researcher then employed the collocation tool to generate a list of collocations for the chosen keywords in each corpus separately. These collocations for each keyword were subjected to statistical analysis using the concordance tool. Furthermore, the concordances of each keyword were examined and analysed through the lens of Stubbs's (1996) model of discourse prosody. The 15 keywords were further aligned with the three principles of Stubbs's (1996) model of discourse prosody: positive, negative, and neutral prosody. These keywords were meticulously analysed in each of the three corpora for every country separately.

The selected fifteen keywords for corpus analysis are: Taliban, peace, Afghanistan, deal, Afghan, Pakistan, US, China, India, war, withdrawal, refugees, terrorists, NATO, and stability. Each keyword underwent linguistic examination within the co-textual pattern, exploring all possible collocations.

Within the Afghan corpus, these keywords exhibited the highest frequency. The Afghan media attributed violence in Afghanistan to the Pakistani government, branding them as facilitators of the Taliban and accusing them of illegal terrorist infiltration. Curiously, the keyword 'Afghan' was presented with positive prosody, suggesting that the Afghan government is devoted to the Afghan people, aiming to liberate them from international tyranny. However, the concordance figures for this keyword consistently included the term "government," an unusual pattern. Despite using the term "Afghan" to represent the people, the Afghan media did not provide any evidence suggesting deliberate representation of the people's concerns.

Conversely, the Afghan media applied positive prosody to the keywords "peace" and "stability," emphasizing their belief that the Taliban, not America, plotted to destabilize Afghanistan. Notably, the keyword 'US' exhibited negative collocates in Afghan media, contrasting with positive collocates in the other two corpora. This suggests a disagreement between the US, Pakistan, and Afghanistan regarding responsibility for events in Afghanistan. Similarly, the Afghan media treated the keyword 'Pakistan' similarly to 'US,' projecting Pakistan as a terrorist facilitator supporting the Afghan Taliban in destabilizing Afghanistan, despite the overall positive prosody assigned to the 'Pakistan' keyword in the total corpora. While the remaining keywords did not display such differences, it's important to note that keywords like "terrorist" and "violence" carried negative prosody, contextualized negatively in the media, and attributed to Pakistan for the same reasons.

Simultaneously, the dynamics and keyword preferences of Pakistani media differ from those of Afghan media. In the Pakistani media storyline, certain keywords such as India, Pakistan, the United States, and the Taliban were handled differently. Unlike Afghan media, the term 'Taliban' in Pakistani media, coupled with 'Pakistan,' conveyed positive prosody, indicating Pakistan's efforts to align the Taliban and the Afghan

government for the better future of the Afghan people. Concerning the term 'Afghan,' Pakistani media also associated it with the government, aligning somewhat with Afghan media. Pakistani media labelled this keyword with favourable prosody, suggesting a positive outlook.

Moreover, 'peace' and 'stability' were regarded as positive prosodies in Pakistani newspapers, implying Pakistan's desire for peace and stability in Afghanistan for its own benefit and that of Afghanistan. Pakistani media strongly supported the peace plan, as did the government of Pakistan, contrasting with the Afghan media's lack of optimism. Another point of contention was the term 'India.' Pakistani media criticized India's involvement in Afghan politics, considering it a spoiler in the peace process. Consequently, they assigned 'India' a negative prosody in the discourse prosody, asserting that India is involved in destabilizing the region. Keywords like 'terrorist' and 'violence' had a unanimous negative prosody in Pakistani media, while 'China' was perceived as neutral, having played no active role in the peace process.

In contrast, American media, like Pakistani media, played a significant role in the Afghan peace agreement between the Taliban and the United States. However, the media and the US administration did not share identical priorities. They expressed reservations about the accord reached by President Trump and the Taliban, attributing it to a rushed peace agreement and a swift military departure. In this context, both Afghan and American media agreed that Afghanistan needs some soldiers to maintain peace and stability. However, the Taliban and the US government focused on the forces to be withdrawn from Afghanistan after the peace deal, casting the keywords 'Taliban' and 'Pakistan' in negative prosody, similar to the stance of Afghan media. Regarding 'terrorists' and 'violence,' they maintained negative prosody but assigned blame to Pakistan and the Taliban, alleging that violence and terrorist activities resulted from the Pakistan proxy war, falsely asserting Pakistani border areas as havens for terrorists.

After the peace talks commenced, the corpora shifted focus to the three elements of Stubbs' (1996) model—positive prosody, negative prosody, and neutral prosody—in the context of the Afghanistan war. As discussed earlier, newspaper articles from all three states outlined their positions and sought to refute opposition claims. Pakistani media

blamed America and Afghanistan for impeding the peace deal, with India acting as a spoiler. The Pakistani media demonstrated balance and neutrality in their reporting, accurately describing the peace deal as a solution to the Afghanistan conflict. The resolution to conflicts lies in a peace deal among all parties, emphasizing the United Nations' responsibility to compel member countries to resolve differences through peace and negotiations, akin to the Afghan and US peace deal on February 29, 2020.

CHAPTER 5

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

This chapter deals with the findings and conclusion of the study. It has been divided into three sections: findings of the study, conclusion, and finally recommendations of the study.

5.1 Findings of the Study

The current study aimed to uncover the linguistic choices employed by selected newspapers and the use of semantic prosody in media discourse to represent the subjective perspectives of each country's newspapers and their ideological views on the Afghan Peace Process. Two newspapers from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the USA were chosen for this research study: Dawn, The Express Tribune, The Daily Outlook Afghanistan, The Kabul Times, The Washington Post, and The New York Times. The study delves into the portrayal of the Afghan peace process, employing Stubbs's semantic prosody and Baker's (2006) corpus-assisted critical discourse analysis as the analytical method. Additionally, it investigates the linguistic choices made in the selected newspapers to represent the Afghan peace process either negatively or positively.

In conclusion, it is evident that the media consistently serves to manipulate the reality of the Afghanistan peace process, garnering varied degrees of global attention. Each country has established its own ideology rooted in its interests, and the language chosen to represent the Afghan peace process reflects these worldviews. The selected newspapers utilized diverse modes and structures to depict the Afghan peace process, showcasing distinct opinions rather than a uniform representation of the same event. These differences in portrayal can be attributed to various factors such as political agendas, national interests, and public sentiment. Media coverage varies across newspapers and can evolve based on unfolding events and geopolitical dynamics. The in-depth analysis of keywords using AntConc 4.2.0 yielded the following findings:

This study revealed that the Afghanistan corpus was the most extensive among the corpora, comprising 816,483 words. The corpus of Pakistan was the second-largest, totaling 295,865 words. Additionally, the American corpus was identified as the least

dense among the three, consisting of 213,905 words (refer to Table 4.1 for further details)

According to Stubbs' (1996) model of discourse prosody, the keyword 'Taliban' in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers carries a positive semantic prosody due to the positive discourse patterns associated with the US-Taliban peace process. However, some of its collocates, such as prisoners, fighters, and offensive, receive negative semantic prosody.

On the contrary, Afghanistan's media has portrayed the keyword 'Taliban' negatively in the corpus of Afghan newspapers. The co-text and collocations depict the "Taliban" as a group of miscreants responsible for bringing insurgency to Afghanistan. Through an in-depth analysis of concordance lines, it has been observed that the Afghan peace process was covered in terms of its harmful impacts on Afghanistan, causing instability, and creating turmoil in the region during the Taliban's first reign.

Furthermore, in the Corpus of American newspapers, collocates that co-appeared with the keyword 'Taliban' do not carry any specific semantic prosody.

The findings of the study reveal that newspapers from all three countries showed uniformity in the analysis of the keyword 'peace'. In all three corpora, almost all the co-textual patterns around the keyword 'peace' carry a positive semantic prosody. For example, the keyword 'peace' was frequently found with patterns of collocates that have positive semantic prosody, such as stability, lasting, sustainable, agreement, negotiations, efforts, durable, dignified, quest, owned, opportunity, consensus, want, on-going, achieving, lead, reconciliation, bringing, progress, success, hope, possible, must ensure, prosperity, restoration, establishing, enduring, and fragile. This pattern suggests that the peace deal between the Taliban and the United States of America might bring peace and stability to the country.

Baker's (2006) corpus-assisted critical discourse analysis of the keyword "deal" found that most of the collocate patterns around this keyword carry positive semantic prosody, and this observation was consistent across the three corpora. The media in the respective countries used positive connotations with the lexical item "deal." This indicates a shared positive stance among all deal partners, reflecting favourability toward the Afghan peace deal and the prosperity of Afghanistan.

The study's findings indicate that the Pakistani media portrayed the keyword "Afghan" positively and consistently favoured the peace agreement between the Taliban and the American government. However, when the collocation of "government" with "Afghan" was considered, it acquired negative semantic prosody. In the Afghanistan newspapers corpus, the keyword 'Afghan' also received positive semantic prosody, but with the collocates 'force' and 'security,' it gained negative discourse prosody. Similarly, the concordance analysis of the keyword 'Afghan' in the American corpus revealed a mixed semantic prosody with three negatives, two positives, and four neutral lexical items among the top ten highest collocates. The American media presented a diverse range of semantic prosodies for the keyword "Afghan" in the American Newspapers Corpus.

This study has found that the keyword 'Pakistan' receives positive prosody in the Pakistani corpus. Being a responsible neighbour, Pakistan has always played a pivotal role in facilitating the Afghan peace process. Moreover, the co-texts and collocations of the keyword 'Pakistan' in the Afghan corpus receive negative semantic prosody because Afghan media accuses Pakistan of supporting Taliban militants. Afghan media negatively portrayed Pakistan and mischaracterized Pakistan's role in Afghanistan. Furthermore, American media also use mixed semantic discourse in the collocations of the keyword 'Pakistan.' It gains positive semantic prosody because of its vital contribution to the US-Taliban peace deal, while it gains negative representation when it appears with the Pakistan-China partnership.

This study finds that the keyword 'US' captures positive semantic prosody in all concordance lines of the Pakistani corpus. Pakistani newspapers depicted the peace deal between the US and the Taliban positively; using collocates in the immediate context of the US that receive positive semantic prosody, such as a reduction in violence, etc. Moreover, the 'US' keyword had only one co-text, i.e., Afghan, indicating that the deal would primarily benefit these two countries. On the other hand, Afghanistan's media used positive, negative, and neutral collocations with the keyword 'US.' However, the contextual environment of the keyword 'US' in the concordance lines receives pleasant semantic prosody. It is found that collocations like troops and violence are also used in a positive context in concordance lines. Furthermore, American media found this keyword

in positive prosody, along with positive collocations and co-texts. It shows that American media favoured the government's point of view about the peace deal and stability in Afghanistan.

The collocations and co-texts of the keyword 'China' mainly indicate positive semantic prosody in Pakistani media. China's constructive role has been highlighted in the Pakistani corpus with reference to other key stakeholders in the Afghan peace process. Similarly, Afghanistan's media showed a mixed approach towards China, depicting neutral collocations but also receiving negative prosody like 'instability and destabilize.' On the other hand, America is an economic and political rival of China. However, almost all the collocates that co-appeared in the contextual environment of the keyword 'China' bear no semantic prosody. Despite their differences, American newspapers greatly highlight the role of China in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan, and according to American media, consider China's monopoly in Afghanistan a significant threat to the United States.

Although India and Pakistan are great political opponents in the region, the analysis of the keyword 'India' reveals that almost all linguistic items that frequently co-occurred with this keyword bear no semantic prosody in the Pakistani newspaper corpus concerning the Afghan peace process. Afghanistan's media also showed positivity and neutrality towards 'India' in their corpus. Most collocations and co-texts associated with 'India' receive no semantic prosody. On the other hand, the American media describes India and Iran as spoilers of the Afghan peace deal. Nevertheless, co-texts and collocations indicated that overall, it received a neutral semantic prosody.

The study found that the keyword 'withdrawal' has a mixture of positive and negative prosody. The co-texts and collocations, such as 'hasty,' 'troops,' 'forces,' etc., were negative, while 'orderly,' 'final,' and 'complete' collocations bear positive semantic prosody (see Section 4.2.9). Interestingly, the keyword 'withdrawal' in the corpus of Afghan newspapers receives unpleasant semantic prosody. The collocation in the co-text of the keyword 'withdrawal' showed a negative portrayal of American withdrawal from Afghanistan. However, contradictory collocations of the keyword 'withdrawal' in the American corpus showed negative prosody because the media was against the hasty and

complete withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan.

The study found agreement among the three countries' media on the keywords 'terrorist' and 'war' as these keywords receive negative prosody. The media in these countries depicted that terrorism and war had destabilized the country, and only a peace deal could bring peace and stability to Afghanistan. One notable difference was the soft corner towards the Taliban in the Pakistani print media. While American and Afghan newspapers called them terrorists, insurgents, and militants, overall, the depiction of the keywords 'terrorism' and 'war' was negatively portrayed (see sections 4.2.10, 4.2.12, 4.3.10, 4.3.12, 4.4.10, and figure 4.4.12).

Similarly, most collocate patterns co-occurring with the keyword 'stability' exhibit favourable semantic prosody consistently across all the corpora of the respective countries. All newspapers in these countries emphasized that sustainable peace in Afghanistan is beneficial for all.

The study found that the keyword 'refugees' has multiple depictions in the media discourse of the mentioned countries. According to the collocations and co-texts, Pakistani media depicted it with negative prosody due to its impact on Pakistan. However, concordance lines show that a contextual background welcoming refugees has positive connotations. In Afghan media, it received neutral prosody. The American media treated the 'refugees' keyword differently, categorizing them as good and bad refugees. The Biden administration welcomed only the good and their affiliated ones. The American media depicted this keyword both positively and negatively, similar to the portrayal in Pakistani media.

It was found that due to the military alliance, the keyword 'NATO' receives a neutral semantic prosody in Pakistani newspaper corpora (see Section 4.2.13). Similarly, the Afghanistan corpus also describes this keyword with a neutral prosody, maintained through two negative collocations attached to it (see Section 4.3.13). American news writers also portray the 'NATO' keyword with neutral prosody, supported by neutral associations in collocations and co-texts. The concordance of this keyword consistently depicts a neutral prosody. In all three corpora, 'NATO' received a neutral prosody, regardless of its operations and the impact on hundreds of people, whether terrorists or

innocents.

The details provided above address the first research question regarding the types of lexical choices in the co-textual patterns of the selected keywords used in the selected newspapers to depict the Afghan Peace Process.

The comparative analysis of the three corpora reveals extensive media coverage of the Afghan peace process in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and America. Primarily, the Afghan peace deal is portrayed positively in the Pakistani newspapers corpus, negatively in the Afghanistan newspapers corpus, and neutrally in the American newspapers corpus. Pakistani media emphasizes its crucial role in the positive development of the Afghan peace process, while Afghan media expresses concerns about the outcomes of the US-Taliban deal. In contrast, American media maintains a neutral stance, considering other key stakeholders and highlighting their roles in the peace process.

Furthermore, this study stands as a linguistically significant contribution to discourse studies, corpus linguistics, mass communication, and political studies. By delving into the print media discourse through the compilation of a corpus focused on the political landscape of the Afghan peace process, the analysis unveils distinct discursive patterns employed by each media outlet in the respective countries. These outlets depict the events surrounding the Afghan peace deal in alignment with their national agendas, utilizing culturally and socially affiliated collocations and co-texts associated with specific keywords to convey their perspectives. The lexical choices of each medium serve as reflections of the social ideology embedded in the newspapers. As evidenced by the findings, the mediation of lexical choices, collocations, connotations, and co-texts through cultural and social ideologies, values, and beliefs underscores the culturally and socially influenced semantic prosody attributed to each keyword within the realm of subjective discourse.

5.2 Conclusion

As reiterated in previous sections, this study is designed to uncover the lexical choices employed in selected newspapers and to examine how semantic prosody serves as a medium of discourse to convey the subjective perspectives and ideological views of each country's newspapers on the Afghan Peace Process. Two newspapers from each of the

selected countries – Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the USA – were chosen for this research study: Dawn and The News International from Pakistan, The Daily Outlook Afghanistan and The Kabul Times from Afghanistan, and The Washington Post and The New York Times from the USA. The study utilizes Stubbs's semantic prosody along with Baker's (2006) corpus-assisted critical discourse analysis as the chosen method of analysis. Additionally, it delves into the lexical choices made by these newspapers, aiming to understand how the Afghan peace process is portrayed, whether negatively or positively, in the selected media outlets.

The study reviewed earlier works and analysed the massive data which enabled it to gain insight from them, yet the major focus was on seeking answers to the follwoing four main research questions:

1. What lexical choices in co-textual patterns have been employed in the selected newspapers to depict the Afghan Peace Process?

2. How does the semantic prosody used in the selected newspapers contribute as a media discourse to express the subjective positions of each country's newspaper?

3. How does semantic prosody contribute in the portrayal of the Afghan peace process in the selected newspapers?

4. How do the lexical choices reflect the ideology of the selected newspapers?

This study critically examined the lexical choices embedded in co-textual patterns within selected newspapers, aiming to depict the nuanced landscape of the Afghan Peace Process. Through a comprehensive analysis, it investigated how the semantic prosody, intricately woven into the fabric of media discourse, serves as a powerful tool for expressing the subjective positions of newspapers from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the USA. Furthermore, the research delved into the specific contribution of semantic prosody in shaping the portrayal of the Afghan peace process within these newspapers. Ultimately, the study sought to unravel the ideological underpinnings reflected in the lexical choices of these newspapers, providing valuable insights into their distinct perspectives on this pivotal geopolitical event.

The research identified a distinctive set of lexical choices, encompassing words with significant co-textual patterns, to effectively capture and represent the nuances of the Afghan peace process. The utilization of Antconc version 4.2.0, particularly through the extraction of default keywords, facilitated the selection of lexical items characterized by high keyness, co-text richness, and meaningful collocations. The chosen lexical items—Taliban, peace, Afghanistan, deal, Afghans, Pakistan, US, China, India, war, withdrawal, refugees, terrorists, NATO, and stability—were pivotal in shedding light on the multifaceted dimensions of the Afghan peace process.

By employing these carefully selected keywords, the research achieved a nuanced and comprehensive understanding of how the Afghan peace process was portrayed in the selected media from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the USA. Each lexical item, with its specific co-texts and collocations, served as a lens through which the diverse perspectives and positions of the three nations' media on this critical issue could be examined and analysed.

The exploration of semantic prosody, as addressed in the second and fourth research questions, aimed to unravel the subjective perspectives and ideologies embedded in each country's newspaper discourse regarding the Afghan peace process. Through the meticulous analysis of the semantic prosody associated with selected keywords, a nuanced understanding of each nation's stance emerged.

Taking the keyword 'Taliban' as an illustrative example, Pakistani media painted a positive semantic prosody, aligning with their national interest and governmental policy. Conversely, Afghan media adopted a negative stance, reflecting their concerns and viewpoints. American media, in contrast, maintained a neutral semantic prosody, showcasing a distinct perspective.

This divergence in semantic prosody across the three countries underscored the unique angles and ideological underpinnings embedded in their media representations of the Afghan peace process. The semantic prosody, intricately linked to each keyword, became a powerful tool for conveying and understanding the nuanced positions and ideologies of the selected newspapers in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the USA.

The comprehensive analysis of keywords such as 'war,' 'terrorist,' 'withdrawal,' 'peace,' 'stability,' 'Pakistan,' 'India,' and their associated semantic prosody reveals a consistent pattern of divergence and alignment in the subjective positions of Pakistani, Afghan, and American media outlets regarding the Afghan peace process. The unanimity in projecting 'war' and 'terrorist' with negative prosody across all three countries' media suggests a shared perspective on the adverse impacts of conflict and terrorism on Afghanistan. However, the nuanced analysis brings forth interesting dynamics, as seen in the case of the 'withdrawal' keyword. While Pakistani and American media displayed a positive context in their concordance, Afghanistan's media took a negative stance, reflecting the differing sentiments regarding the withdrawal of NATO and US troops.

Keywords such as 'peace' and 'stability' emerged as common ground, receiving positive prosody in all three countries' media. This alignment in semantic prosody indicates a shared aspiration for peace and stability in Afghanistan. The subjective positions regarding 'Pakistan' and 'India' unveil a divergence, with Pakistani media depicting 'India' negatively and Afghan media portraying Pakistan's role negatively. This reflects the geopolitical complexities and regional rivalries influencing media representations.

In essence, the subjective positions of each country, as portrayed through their media discourse on the Afghan peace process, are shaped by foreign policy considerations and national interests. Despite shared concerns, the differences in portrayals underscore the intricate geopolitical landscape and the multifaceted nature of the Afghan peace process.

The semantic prosody analysis of the keyword 'Taliban' in the media discourse of Pakistan and Afghanistan provides insights into how these countries perceive and portray this term in the context of the Afghan peace process.

In the Pakistani media, the frequent use of the term 'Taliban' is accompanied by collocations and co-texts that contribute to an overall positive semantic prosody. The association with terms like 'Government,' 'Afghan,' 'control,' 'prisoners,' and 'leadership' suggests a positive portrayal, depicting the Taliban as a force capable of governing and negotiating. The uses of terms like 'war,' 'offensive,' and 'India' introduces some negative

and neutral connotations, but the overall semantic prosody remains positive. The co-texts related to the word 'Taliban' further reinforce a positive stance, emphasizing their role as freedom fighters against occupiers.

On the contrary, in the Afghan media, the keyword 'Taliban' is associated with collocations such as 'fighters,' 'prisoners,' 'militants,' and 'regime.' The co-texts reflect a more complex and critical perspective, with references to recent bloodshed, gains, moves, and insisting. Despite some positive collocations, the overall semantic prosody leans toward negativity, indicating a critical stance towards the Taliban. The Afghan media opposes the Taliban's takeover and their role in the country, reflecting a divergent view from the portrayal in Pakistani media.

These semantic prosody variations highlight the nuanced and divergent perspectives within the region regarding the Taliban and their role in the Afghan peace process. The media discourse becomes a reflection of the complex geopolitical dynamics and differing national interests among the involved countries.

The analysis of the keyword 'peace' in the three countries' media provides insights into how each nation perceives and portrays the concept within the context of the Afghan peace process. In the Pakistani media, the term 'peace' is used 1186 times, and its collocations include positive connotations like 'stability,' 'lasting,' 'sustainable,' 'agreement,' 'negotiations,' 'efforts,' 'durable,' 'dignified,' 'prosperity,' and 'restoration.' The co-texts surrounding the word 'peace' contribute to an overall positive semantic prosody, emphasizing the desire for enduring peace and stability in Afghanistan. This reflects Pakistan's support for a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

Similarly, in the Afghan media, the keyword 'peace' appears 2826 times, and its collocations include positive terms such as 'reconciliation,' 'progress,' 'success,' 'hope,' 'possible,' 'must ensure,' 'lead,' and 'achieving.' The co-texts convey a positive semantic prosody, indicating a strong emphasis on the potential benefits of achieving peace in Afghanistan. The Afghan media supports the idea that peace is achievable and desirable.

In the American media, the term 'peace' is used 712 times, and its collocations include positive connotations such as 'agreement,' 'negotiations,' 'progress,' 'restoration,' 'enduring,' and 'fragile.' The co-texts surrounding 'peace' contribute to a positive semantic

prosody, suggesting that the American media views the peace process as a viable and delicate endeavour.

Overall, despite differences in the frequency of use, the three countries' media converge in presenting the concept of 'peace' with a positive semantic prosody in the context of the Afghan peace process. This alignment may signify a shared understanding of the importance of achieving lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan

The present research study aligns with the interdisciplinary domain of corpus linguistics and discourse studies. Meyer (2004), McEnery and Wilson (2001), and Sinclair (1991) emphasize that constructing a corpus is a meticulous process that requires a clear rationale, consideration of text types, and determination of a representative sample size. In the current study, the corpus compilation is guided by the research problems, questions, and the overarching rationale of investigating the discourse on the Afghan peace process in three distinct countries' newspapers.

Following Biber's (1993) criteria for representativeness in a corpus, the current study ensures that the corpus is reflective of the study population. The findings derived from the corpus are deemed relevant to the broader population under scrutiny. This approach underscores the methodological robustness of the study, as it systematically collects and analyses data representative of the linguistic choices and discourse patterns surrounding the Afghan peace process in the selected newspapers.

Baker (2008) supports the compilation of shorter corpora. Stubbs (1996) comparatively analysed the key differences in Lord Baden Powell's short letters, consisting of 880 words. However, the present study compiles a specialized corpus of newspaper articles, including opinion articles and editorials, published in six English newspapers in three countries: Pakistan, the USA, and Afghanistan, from February 29, 2020, to August 31, 2021. This corpus is compiled to investigate the discourse patterns in the news editorials on the agenda of the Afghan peace deal between the United States and the Afghan Taliban. Fairclough (2001) divides discourse into three stages: text description, text analysis, and explanation of the context. Similarly, the present research study follows the same discourse patterns to describe, analyse, and explain the contextual background associated with the keyword.

The present study investigated the coverage of the Afghanistan peace dialogues in selected English newspapers from three countries: Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the United States. Corpora were created from the chosen newspapers between February 29, 2021, and August 31, 2022. The analysis of the compiled corpora has been conducted by following Baker's (2008) 'Corpus-Assisted Critical Discourse Analysis' as a method of analysis and Stubbs's (1996) model of discourse prosody as a theoretical lens. Hunston (2002) argues that semantic prosody can only be explored in a large corpus to understand the typical use of a particular item. The present research study also compiles secondary corpora by collecting 816,483 words from 1003 articles in Pakistani, Afghan, and American newspapers.

Sinclair (1987) characterized a corpus of 7.3 million words based on the chronological order of semantic prosody with a semantic profile of "good or bad" and "positive or negative" prosody based on favourable or unfavourable situations. The present research study has also employed this technique but with the semantic profile of negative, positive, or semantic prosody based on the connotation, collocation, and left and right co-texts of the particular keyword.

Sinclair (1987) identified a specific lexico-grammatical environment, or "semantic environment," in the corpus by investigating phrasal verbs. However, the present study only deals with the semantic environment by examining the specific collocations and co-texts of the keyword being searched. This study found multiple positive, negative, and neutral connotations attached to the keywords. The present study also supports Bublitz's (1996) claim that words have profiles, which can be positive or unpleasant based on collocation, connotation, and co-texts associated with them. The researcher also demonstrated that prosody varies according to the meaning of the associated words. Secondly, it has been concluded that even the prosody of the keyword can vary from collocation to collocation and from left to right co-texts of the same keyword. It has been noticed that the same keyword receives positive prosody on the left co-text side but negative or neutral prosody on the right co-text, and the same goes for the concordance lines too.

Stubbs (1996) investigated the pragmatic description of discourse by changing the

term "semantic prosody" to "discourse prosody," referring to it as frequently occurring words together in discourse. Stubbs (1996) also suggests investigating semantic or discourse prosody quantitatively, but the present study explores it using a mixed-methods research design to examine the frequencies and nature of collocations in the selected corpora of the study. Additionally, the present study is linguistically focused on both lexical items and the pragmatic connotations of the inquired-about item.

The current research pragmatically investigated the collocates and co-texts of the keywords, as proposed by John Sinclair (1996). The present study examined all selected keywords based on their functionality, linguistic choices, and communicative purpose in the media discourse-driven corpora of the study.

Hall (1975) argued that the media alters narratives by employing culturally specific affiliated discourse to construct ideology and influence the world. Yousafzai (2007) asserts that the media should positively play a key role by providing information, training, and amusement. The current research study also concluded that media from different countries portrayed a single piece of information differently by subjectively collocating keywords. The information portrayed in newspapers was primarily culturally influenced, based on national and personal interests.

Similarly, Van Dijk (1992) investigated media discourse and concluded that newspaper editorials influence readers' minds by persuading them through cultural ideologies. The present research study also found that the media in the three countries mediated their discourse by subjectively using co-texts and collocations to meet their national-level interests in the Afghan peace deal. Additionally, Van Dijk's (1996) socio-cognitive approach asserts that the media narrates the story of an event by associating it with sociocultural values, beliefs, and ideologies.

Similarly, readers perceive the already mediated and influenced narrative as it is delivered to them due to their cultural and social affiliations. The present research study also highlights that the collocations and co-texts associated with particular keywords are already manipulated or culturally influenced. This suggests that the semantic prosody received by each keyword is culturally and socially influenced, reflecting the newspapers' ideological choices. The study concludes that the semantic prosody used in media

discourse expresses the subjective positions of each country's newspaper.

In conclusion, it is evident that the media has consistently been used to manipulate the reality of the Afghanistan peace process, receiving varying degrees of publicity worldwide. Each country establishes its ideology based on its own interests, and the language chosen to represent the Afghan peace process establishes their worldview. The selected newspapers used varied modes and structures to depict the Afghan peace process; they did not portray the same event in the same way because these newspapers had distinct opinions and different views and perceptions of the Afghan peace process.

5.3 Recommendation for Future Research

In this study, the researcher employed corpus-assisted critical discourse analysis to investigate the portrayal of the Afghan peace process in three distinct English-language newspapers (Pakistan, Afghanistan, and America). Future research on the Afghan peace process is encouraged to explore a range of media texts, including tweets, blogs, television shows, Facebook posts, debates, videos, and publications, to enhance the applicability and validation of findings.

Additionally, the results and findings of this study can be corroborated and tested by conducting a similar analysis using the same corpora collected from six English newspapers in three different countries covering the Afghan peace process. This coverage should span from the signing of the peace agreement between the USA and the Taliban on February 29, 2020, to the withdrawal of all American and NATO forces from Afghanistan by August 30, 2021. Furthermore, the compiled corpora may be expanded to encompass the pre-peace agreement and post-peace agreement coverage of the Afghan peace process, allowing for a comparative analysis of print media discourse.

Moreover, future researchers are encouraged to utilize the compiled corpora from this study to test the findings or explore other aspects of the Afghanistan peace process. This could include examining how the identities of Afghans were constructed, investigating the reporting on social actors such as political parties, human agents, institutions, groups, and organizations, and delving into Pakistan's interests and participation in the Afghanistan peace process.

This study was conducted synchronously with the primary goal of examining how the English-language newspapers of the listed nations reported on the Afghan peace process at a specific moment. A diachronic examination of how the entire peace process has been portrayed by Pakistani or global print media would be particularly intriguing. The researcher recommends that other scholars use corpus linguistics as a tool to explore how the Afghanistan peace process is linguistically represented in print media from various perspectives and to analyze how specific media groups promote their social and political beliefs.

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