REPRESENTATION OF BIODIVERSITY IN THE SERIES *THE AGE OF EXTINCTION* AND *COUNTRY DIARY* BY *THE GUARDIAN* : A CORPUS BASED POSITIVE DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

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Candidate of **Master of Philosophy** at the National University of Modern Languages declare that the thesis **Representation of Biodiversity in the Series *The Age of Extinction* and *Country Diary* by *The Guardian*: A Corpus Based Positive Discourse Analysis** 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.

I also understand that if evidence of plagiarism is found in my thesis at any stage, even after the award of the degree, the work may be canceled and the degree revoked.

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ABSTRACT

Title: Representation of Biodiversity in the series The Age of Extinction and Country Diary by The Guardian: A Corpus- Based Positive Discourse Analysis

This work talks about an underrepresented area of biodiversity within the ecological discourse by using Arran Stibbe (2015) Ecolinguistics framework. The story of salience is focused. A mixed method approach is used; the data was divided into three categories: Set A was made up of articles from *The Age of Extinction* series, Set B was made up of articles from the *Country Diary* and Set C consisted of articles from *The Age of Extinction* that talked about biodiversity conservation. Question one is divided into two parts a and b. Ant.Conc tool was used to determine which series is more salient. The second research question seeks to determine the ecosophical orientation of biodiversity conservation in *The Age of Extinction* series. The *Country Diary* is more positive discourse than *The of Extinction* series because there were 16 biodiversity related concrete words in Set A and 54 biodiversity related words in Set B and concordance analysis confirmed that Set B has more positive linguistic practices.The data reflected all those linguistic practices which are characteristic of positive discourse such as: individualization, history, similes, sense images, adjectives and description. Moreover, the researcher also found some other stylistic choices reflected in Set B of the data such as: use of narrative style of the writing, use of present and present progressive tense, rhetorical questions and use of sound words. In RQ2, the researcher found three themes in the ecosophical orientation of the data in Set C: humans as savior of nature, biodiversity protection based on the instrumental needs and biodiversity conservation based on intrinsic value of nature. The analysis carried at the lexical and clause level showed mixed adherence to all the said themes. This research is useful to promote protection of our ecology; one should move beyond human centric needs and cater to the cause of sixth mass extinction by realizing that nature has self worth.

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I would like to express my deep gratitude to my supervisor Prof. Dr. Jamil Asghar for his guidance and support during my dissertation. I would also like to thank my father whose vision regarding my potential and moral encouragement acted as an impetus for me to complete this work.

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to the great master Sheikh Mahyiddin Ibn e Arabi whose words I believe are the foundation of every critical inquiry that entails the phenomenon of language:

"All that is left to us by tradition is mere words. It is up to us to find out what they mean"

(The Tarjuman Al- Ashwaq)

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This study is an attempt to draw attention to a less explored issue of biodiversity loss in the environmental discourse. This attention is drawn by highlighting the salience of biodiversity through linguistic techniques like less abstraction created through individualization, use of adjectives, basic level lexis, foregrounding participants in the clauses, sense images and similes. The data is carefully chosen from the two series celebrating biodiversity: *The Age of Extinction* and the *Country Diary*. The data seems to reflect various salience patterns which is why these written articles are posited by the researcher as positive discourse. Stibbe (2017) in his article: *Positive Discourse Analysis: Re-thinking Human Ecological Relationships,* explains that Ecolinguistics has focused on the exposition of discourses which are harmful for the environment. The next step is to bring into limelight the discourses on which our language practices should be based i.e. alternate or positive stories. In this regard, Stibbe (2015) argues that it is not possible to change the deep structure of grammar to create a language free from practices destructive for the environment. However, it opens the exploration of languages other than English which have a positive world view of the environment. For instance, Stibbe (2015) presents that Aiwo is a language which has a nominal classifier category "nu" (p.4), which means nouns that need something else for their existence. So, if plants, animals and things which exist in the environment are called 'nu' then it would show the interconnectedness of life. Nevertheless, it is much harder to translate such an effect in English. Then what are some possibilities to create an environment friendly language? According to (Stibbe,2015) the following answer is suggested: "There have been speakers and writers who have managed to take up the English language, with all its imperfections, and put ordinary words together using standard grammar to inspire and make a real difference in the world" (p.5). For example, the work of Aldo Leopold categorized as imaginative naturalism is a positive discourse. It takes resources on lexical and grammatical level from the standard English but arranges it in a way that a reader is

stimulated to care for nature. In this sense my work will be a positive discourse because I will highlight salience patterns of language which celebrate biodiversity.

Another idea needs to be cleared which is delineated by Stibbe (2017) that a positive discourse analysis (PDA) is never the replacement of critical discourse analysis (CDA). James Martin introduced PDA in 1999 in his analysis of Nelson Mandala's autobiography. He defines his approach as: "A positive style of discourse analysis that focuses on hope and change, by way of complimenting the deconstructive exposé associated with critical discourse analysis" (Martin,1999, as cited in Stibbe,2017, p.5). So, PDA is not the replacement of CDA, rather it just extends its focus from oppressive, exploitative power relationships to positive discourses which give hope and encouragement.

Moreover, interdisciplinary studies are a challenge in terms of terminologies because they are drawn from various sources of knowledge. Ecolinguistics, which is the study of ecology and language (Goatly, 2024) consists of multiple strands. One issue is the consideration of Ecolinguistics as a separate discipline not just a branch of Critical Discourse Analysis with a special focus on environmental texts. Ponton (2022) considers both Ecolinguistics and Positive Discourse Analysis as separate disciplines that apply the notions (framing, metaphor analysis, presupposition etc) in the practical toolkit of CDA. This study holds Ponton's (2022) position in a partial way that Ecolinguistics is a separate discipline than CDA because it highlights some significant issues of our time like climate change and sixth mass extinction due to loss of biodiversity. Secondly, it represents a range of perspectives-from philosophy to art and literature, anthropology, ecology and so on- to understand the nature of relationships between language and its enterprise with more than the human world. However, the other part of his statement that mentions PDA as a separate discipline is not incorporated here. Alternatively, Positive Discourse Analysis holds the same merit in this work as Stibbe (2015) ascribed above that PDA is still a branch of CDA where the focus is on counter/hopeful discourses. So, PDA is incorporated as a method within the realm of CDA in this Ecolinguistic study of texts that seem to reflect ecologically positive linguistic practices.

1.1 The Problem Statement

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations (UN) in 2015 serve as a foundational document to call the countries of the world to ensure a better life on earth by 2030. It has a 17-points comprehensive agenda which invites all UN member states to introduce and institutionalize radical reforms in such areas: gender equality, poverty, peace, environment etc. In this regard, practitioners from all walks of life like engineering, law medicine etc. are invited to work within their fields to facilitate these reforms. If one examines the field of language, the somewhat nascent discipline, ecolinguistics aims at highlighting the linguistic behavior and conventions. Within ecolinguistics, much attention is being paid to climate change which is SDG 13. However, goal 14 and 15, which focuses on life under water and life on land, remains largely an uninvestigated area. In order to fill this gap, this research focuses on the biodiversity paradigm and seeks to promote non-human life on earth and under water through linguistic practices beneficial for non-human life on earth and under water. The scope of non-human life on earth and under water includes nature (trees, vegetation, plants), microorganisms, animals and marine life. To meet this goal, Stibbe's ecolinguistics Framework is utilized in which out of total 8 stories one story of salience is focused. This research would therefore contribute towards the adoption of language practices which would promote the environment particularly those related to biodiversity. It also seeks to draw attention to the insufficient representation of biodiversity narratives as compared to climate change narratives within the environmental discourse.

1.2. Research Objectives

1. (a) To compare the frequencies and clause content in the *Country Diary* and *The Age of Extinction* series from the *The Guardian* to determine which series is more salient.
2. (b) To find out the types of salience patterns highlighting biodiversity in the *Country Diary* and *The Age of Extinction* series.

3. To investigate the ecosophical orientation of *The Age of Extinction* series and compare it with the ecosophy of this research.

1.3. Research Questions

1. (a) What is the frequency of biodiversity related lexis and clause content in the *Country Diary* and *The Age of Extinction* series from *The Guardian?*
   (b) How does the series promote salience patterns of biodiversity through foregrounding participants in clauses and counter abstraction strategies?

2. What is the ecosophical orientation of the articles that claim to provide solutions to protect biodiversity in the *Age of Extinction* series?

1.4. Methodology

I made three categories of my data for research question (RQ) 1 and 2. *The Age of Extinction* series included articles which promoted ways to protect biodiversity and reported on species loss. This was Set A. Set B consisted of the *Country Diary*'s articles celebrating nature to answer RQ1 (b). For RQ2, I selected those articles from *The Age of Extinction* series which provided solutions to protect biodiversity and marked it as Set C.

This study is corpus based; so, I compiled a corpus based on the following considerations in the corpus methods:

1.4.1. Corpus Size

Researches in Corpus Linguistics conducted in the 90's era believed that larger corpus size is better (Sinclair,1966). However, Reppen (2010) argued that in highly specialized areas, a corpus of merely 40,000 words is enough, and it depends on the research question. In this regard, RQ1 is highly specific in nature. It seeks to identify biodiversity related lexis and clause content in the particular two series of *The Guardian* ; therefore, a corpus size of almost 40,000 words in both series was selected following Reppen (2010) argument. Also, for frequency lists, it is not necessary to

have a large number of texts in a corpus for reliable results (Biber,1990, as cited in, Reppen, 2010).

1.4.2. Corpus Construction

The corpus construction consideration check points are taken from Nelson (2010):

1. "What constitutes a text?" (p.60)

   The text in this research is taken from articles published in *The Guardian* series of *The Age of Extinction* and *Country Diary*.

2. "How are files named?" (p.61)

   Three TXT files were made for running the data in the corpus tool named as: *The Age of Extinction* articles and *Country Diary* articles and catastrophe of nature in *The Age of Extinction* series.

1.4.3. Data Collection

Texts are either available publicly or privately for corpus analysis (Nelson,2008). If texts are available publicly, then the issue of copyrights is not there. In this research, I used the online version of the series in *The Guardian* newspaper which is open for electronic access. So, the copyright issue is sorted here.

Data collection for clause analysis was based on the findings of RQ1 (a) through frequency lists and concordance analysis. Once it was confirmed that the *Country Diary* series is a salient text, 62 articles were read thoroughly to further identify positive discourse strategies in RQ1(b). In RQ2, clause analysis was based on those articles from *The Age of Extinction* series that were relevant to the theme of biodiversity conservation; the selected articles were thoroughly read from start to the end.

1.4.4. Data Entry

Data in electronic form is easiest to deal with (Nelson,2008, as cited in, Nelson, 2010). But the tools used in this research required the data in TXT files ; so, the

researcher first put the data in MS word files and then processed it through an online word to TXT file converter tool and saved it into three sets of TXT files. This type of method of data entry is used by Nelson (2008) where he downloaded the entire book of Gray's Anatomy, put it into word files and made 14 TXT files out of it.

1.4.5. Data Analysis

Corpus analysis techniques include two prominent methods: frequent words and concordance list. Frequency list was generated because it talks about the "aboutness" of the content (Baker, 2006, as cited in Gong, 2019). Later, words were analyzed at clause level through concordance tables ; since the sentences were quite long, file view option in Ant.Conc. was used to grasp the meaning of the sentence for qualitative analysis.

Phase 1: Ant.Conc 3.5 generated the frequency list of content words and grammatical categories from both series separately. Then biodiversity related lexis of the said series was mentioned separately through close examination of the wordlist along with respective frequencies of the words. Moreover, concordance list of first three most frequent basic level words in set A and B were qualitatively analyzed to further confirm more salient series from set A and B. RQ (a) was answered this way.

Phase 2: The quantitative frequency and analysis of words in the concordance list generated in RQ1 (a) gave an idea about less abstract series and then it was selected to find counter abstraction strategies through close reading of the text. And finally, it was explained through qualitative description. The rationale to select close reading and qualitative description is based on corpus approaches. This type of approach is used in discourse and register approach within corpus approaches where lexical findings help the researcher to give further qualitative attention to the text through various qualitative techniques such as close reading and qualitative description of the text based on researcher's interpretive skill (colostate.edu, n.d.). RQ1 (b) was answered this way.

Phase 3: This phase followed a qualitative pattern. A close examination of data category C revealed the ecosophical orientation of data. RQ3 was answered this way.

1.4.6. Research Design

The research follows a mixed method research design. One of its types is explanatory sequential in which the data is quantitatively analyzed then it is followed by a qualitative description of the data. In this way both the methods are integrated into one. For example, in this work, the research question 1 requires a frequency list generated quantitatively through Ant.Conc 3.5 corpus tool. In order to answer RQ1(b), concordance files of first three concrete level biodiversity related lexis from set A and B were analyzed to determine the most salient series at clause level. Finally, research question 3 is purely qualitative in nature. Articles from *The Age of Extinction* series were analyzed at lexical and clause level to find the ecosophical orientation of the data.

The researcher's decision to select this methodology is determined by the transformative worldview. Transformative worldview directs political and social action to the inequality faced by marginalized entities. For example, Schlitz et al. (2010) explained social consciousness as: "The level of explicit awareness a person has of being part of a larger whole" (p.21). So, if we are socially conscious of our role in this universe, which is the larger whole, we will think with empathy towards other objects of nature, not just man. Considering language, that directs human behavior, we can work to efface linguistic practices that destroy the environment; we can work to transform such practices or efface them completely to engender human behavior based on inclusion instead of marginalization of nature. Moreover, "transformative research provides a voice for these participants (marginalized entities), raising their consciousness or advancing an agenda for change to improve their lives" (Creswell &Creswell, 2018, p. 4). In this work, I am raising an agenda of change by enhancing consciousness about biodiversity through highlighting its salience; since, biodiversity is still a marginalized area in the environmental discourse, and I intend to spell out beneficial linguistic practices to promote and preserve biodiversity. Further,

Kingsnorth & Hine, 2009, as cited in Stibbe, 2015, argued that we are surrounded by stories "mental models" (p.3), which authenticate human exploitation of nature: "Most dangerous story that we live by is the story of human centrality, of a species destined to be lord of all it surveys, unconfined by the limits that apply to other, lesser creatures" (p.3). In the light of the said quote, it is true that we live in an anthropocentric world where nature is at the peripheral end of the man/nature binary. The work; therefore, voices the marginalized position of biodiversity in the environmental discourse by promoting its salience and it also discourages the story of human centrality in biodiversity protection measures based on biodiversity offset. Considering the discussion above, mixed method research design seems to be the right choice keeping in view the transformative agenda of this research.

1.4.7. Sampling Method

Size of the corpus is less important than the sampling technique (Smith 1976, as cited in Tonkin, 2016). It means that a sample should be representative of the data in a specialized corpus. In this regard there are three stages of sampling methods used in corpus:

1. "Define the target population
2. Specify sampling frame
3. Gather the data according to specified sampling technique" (Saloot et al. 2014, as cited in Tonkin, 2016, p.7)

According to the said criteria this research adheres to it in the following way:

1. Since the focus of the study is to highlight positive linguistic practices in the texts about biodiversity, two series in *The Guardian* that claim to represent biodiversity are selected
2. Considering the sampling frame, samples/articles from September, 2109-December 2022 were selected.
3. The sampling technique and its rationale is explained below:

Non-Probability sampling technique is used because-McCombes (2019) argued that non-probability sampling technique is used to investigate underrepresented areas which are located on peripheries. This research focuses on biodiversity which is an

underrepresented area within ecological discourse. To be more precise, this research draws upon purposive sampling in which "…the researcher using their expertise, selects a sample that is most useful to the purposes of the research" (McCombes, 2019, p.10). Further, within purposive sampling there is homogenous sampling technique in which "samples which are considered to be representative" (Tonkin,2016) are selected by the researcher. The data is thus following the said sampling technique because it aptly highlights the concerns raised in the research questions.

1.4.8. Corpus Tool

For the research question 1 (a) and (b), I will use Ant.Conc version 3.5 to generate a frequency list through its word list feature for *The Country Diary* and *The Age of Extinction* series. Ant.conc is a corpus toolkit for text analysis. It has many features like: n-grams, word list, concordance, collocation etc. I used the word list feature to generate frequencies. The result gave me some grammatical categories as most frequent words; however, my target was to focus on content words and then biodiversity related lexis. The frequency lists generated separately for the two series determined the series which promoted biodiversity related lexis more than the other. Data category A and B were utilized separately. Then three most frequent basic level words were taken from the frequency list for concordance analysis which means to see a single word in various contexts. This gave further evidence at clause level about more salient series in *The Guardian*.

The reason for targeting frequency in this research is: "If a word is used more frequently than another one by a user, it can reveal the user's intentions" (Baker, 2006 as cited in Gong, 2019, p. 5). In other words, the frequency list can display the content under analysis. In this way the text promoting biodiversity through its rich lexis rooted in basic level lexical representation was highlighted, as Stibbe (2015) argued that basic level words are highly salient; since, they evoke a vivid image.

Using corpus for linguistic analysis is either corpus driven or corpus based (Hardie & McEnery 2010, as cited in Mackiewicz & Thompson 2016). "The first method

involves searching for language patterns in your corpus without having any preconceived idea of what you might find" (Crawford & Csomay,2016, p.145). This is because "it utilizes tools to search the corpus for language features that you may not necessarily be aware of" (p.145). This research is corpus based because the researcher is aware of the possible linguistic techniques which the data might reflect. "This approach is used when previous corpus information determines the linguistic features used in the analysis" (Crawford & Csomay,2016, p.146).

1.5. Significance of the Study

The study is significant because it will help to adopt linguistic practices which are beneficial for biodiversity and ecology of the planet. The research aims at providing an important aspect of language studies by emphasizing the ecological embedding of human, animal, marine and plant life. Humans would be extremely ephemeral and short-lived creatures if their connectedness with the larger biosphere is severed. Besides, our language is always informed by the biological and physical world which encompasses it. From environmental legislation to awareness campaigns, positive discourse about the environment plays a critical role everywhere.

1.6. Delimitation of the Study

The data selected for analysis was taken from two environment related series titled *The Age of Extinction* and *Country Diaries;* it was published in *The Guardian* Newspaper from September 2019 to December 2022. *The Age of Extinction* series was launched in September,2019; however, *Country Diary* has been published earlier than 2019. As a researcher, I have delimited the data from *Country Diaries* published before 2019 to maintain balance between the two selected series.

The writers of *The Age of Extinction* series claim: "The Age of Extinction Series will report on our current catastrophic species loss and examine solutions to tackle the wildlife extinction crisis" (The Guardian, 2019). Similarly, *Country Diary* comprises nature related articles published daily. *The Guardian* claims that it is the oldest

column series about the environment. So, it is clear that the selected data focuses on biodiversity and nature more than climate crisis in the environmental debate.

1.7. Limitation of the Study

The study could not incorporate multimodal analysis which is a part of salience story in Stibbe's ecolinguistics framework (2015) because the study of multi-modals requires an in-depth understanding of Kress and Leeuwen's work on multimodality. Theoretically, it was not possible for the researcher to gain enough understanding of these concepts within the allocated time frame for this dissertation.

1.8. Organization of the Study

This work is divided into five chapters followed by a list of references. Chapter one is introduction, chapter two is literature review, chapter three is theoretical framework, chapter four is analysis and chapter five is conclusion. The analysis section answers two research questions where RQ1 is divided into two parts a and b. RQ 2 is qualitatively analyzed through close reading to identify ecosophical orientation of the data. The analysis of both questions follows a numerical order of the selected articles given by the researcher for convenience because the data was taken from *The Guardian*'s website and it was copied as word files. Then the data was numbered as Article 1, Article 2, Article 3… and names of the authors and date of publications were mentioned for retrieval convenience. Finally, the data was divided into three categories as set A, B and C. Chapter 5 consists of the conclusion of the research indicating findings,summing up the discussion, implications and future directions.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Definitions of Key Terms

2.1.1 Ecolinguistics

Stibbe (2015) calls ecolinguistics an area where language patterns are observed because they determine the treatment humans extend to the world they live in. For Stibbe, "Eco" (p.5) of "Ecolinguistics" (p.5) stands for relationships between humans, other organisms and the physical world in which they interact based on the principle of protection of systems on which life depends. "Linguistics" (p.10) of "Ecolinguistics" (p.10) means the linguistic techniques which can highlight the nature of relationship between the said entities. This includes a range of theories: critical discourse analysis, framing and transitivity analysis and cognitive linguistics.

Steffensen &Fill (2014), criticized Saussure and Chomsky's view of language which has put language in a state of "sensory deprivation" (p.7) and has disconnected language with its "external landmarks" (p.7). They argued that the field of ecolinguistics has emerged as a transitional point in the landscape of linguistics:

For the last few decades, ecological linguists have addressed this daunting task:

they have sought to re-orientate linguistics to "external landmarks" that could lead

the language wanderer from the structural wasteland into a fertile terrain of human

activity, saturated by language, interactivity and co-existence (p.7).

Considering that language is an important part of human activity, Alexender &Stibbe (2014) offer a definition of Ecolinguistics by arguing that "ecolinguistics combines ecology and linguistics" (p.1). They further argued that ecology and language appear disconnected only if "ecology, which is the study of interaction of organisms with their physical environment, fails to consider humans as 'organisms' "

(p1). Hence, an inclusive view would consider ecology as a relationship between humans, other organisms and their environment. Language then becomes an integral part of how humans relate to each other and other entities. Moreover, ecolinguistics does not focus on random linguistic connections in ecology and language interaction; it focuses on aspects that sustain life. Just like medical sciences, in which prevention of disease and sustainability of life is studied, ecology is also oriented towards connections which sustain life. So, it is not less scientific than medicine.

Historically, there are four strands in the discussion of language and environment: language in symbolic ecology, language in natural ecology, language in sociocultural ecology and language in cognitive ecology. Stibbe (2015) described them again in his book from which I have taken my theoretical framework. Thus, I have only mentioned the names of ecolinguistic strands above.

While Stibbe & Alexender (2014) attempted to give a definition of ecolinguistics, there are authors like Chen (2016) and Ponton (2022) who argued that considering the range of interaction of language with other sciences in ecolinguistics, a single coherent definition of ecolinguistics is not possible. However, one preliminary attempt to define this field was carried out by Einar Haugen (1972).

Einar Haugen, 1972, as cited in Kravchenko, 2015 in his book *Ecology of Language* says: language ecology is the interaction of language with its environment. Language exists in the mind of speakers; so, ecology has a psychological dimension in which languages interact in minds of multi or bi-lingual speakers. Ecology is also rooted in society in which a particular language is spoken.

2.1.2 Salience

According to Stibbe (2015) salience basically stands for a cognitive story that represents a particular area worthy of focus. Linguistically, it can be done through concrete descriptions.

2.1.3 Abstraction

Chen (2016) argued that Ecolinguistics is a diverse field. It is interdisciplinary in nature; therefore, I am seeking to define this concept abstraction as it is understood generally in academic practice. The linguistic orientation of abstraction used in this research is explained in the theoretical framework section as adopted by Stibbe (2015).

(Williams et al., 2017) explained the notion of abstraction in their article *On the Notion of Abstraction in Systemic Functional Linguistics*. They argue that abstraction has multiple meanings because this term is widely used in philosophy, arts, science and mathematics. For example, three meanings are highly useful considering this work (Saitta &Zucker (2013, as cited in Williams et al. ,2107):

1. "Abstraction is to take distance from the concrete world"
2. "Abstraction is information hiding"
3. "Abstraction is to keep relevant aspects and disregard the irrelevant ones" (p.2)

(Williams et al., 2017) further described this term from three perspectives that are used frequently in academic practices:

1. Abstraction as Omission: in the Western tradition the usage of this term can be traced in Aristotle's *Analytica Posteriora* and *Metaphysics*. In both of these works the meaning is "subtraction" (p.4). A Common theme in this type is explanation of one central aspect of a phenomenon and ignoring the rest and describing an object without concrete properties.
2. Abstraction and generalization: (Lewis, 1986, as cited in Williams et al., 2017) explains that abstraction means to form categories based on similarities after comparison of objects. For example, (Ferrari, 2003, as cited in Williams et al. ,2017) presents that a quadrilateral is more abstract than a square because it contains all types of a square including rhombus and rectangle. It ignores their difference; hence, generalize over it.

3. Abstraction and decontextualization: removing an object or an event from its immediate context. Detachment from concrete features that marked the beginning of an event or object description allows its association with many cases as compared to the less abstract events or objects.

2.1.4 Biodiversity

Biodiversity is elusive to define because this concept has "integrative power" (Toepfer, 2019) that is: it draws on the discourse from economics, law, biology, aesthetics and global justice. Toepfer further argues:

Just as "life", "time" or "world" the word is an "absolute metaphor" or

"non-concept" in the sense of Hans Blumenberg: it cannot have a fixed meaning

just because it mediates between various contexts and disciplines. Any attempt to

define "biodiversity" in general terms is thus futile and does not capture the role it

fulfills in contemporary discourse (p.341)

Another reason which makes this concept hard to define is: Biodiversity is just not the conservation of wildlife and nature; it includes those microbial species as well which are too intricate to be visualized-on which the survival of ecosystems depends. For example, microbes are not a part of biodiversity conservation agenda because there is a popular belief that microbes are not under threat from biodiversity loss (Bodelier, 2011). However, that is not true. Many microbial reactions are necessary to support man-made systems beneficial for society. The enzymes, catalyzed by microorganisms, are crucial for the function of water treatment plants and agricultural fields (Falkowski et al., 2008, as cited in Bodelier, 2011).

Despite the elusiveness in the attempt to define biodiversity and its scope, this work includes certain entities which the researcher considers a significant part of biodiversity like: nature (plants/all kinds of vegetation), microorganisms, marine life and animals.

2.2 Current Research Trends in Ecolinguistics

Chen (2016) provides a comprehensive overview of the trends in the field of Ecolinguistics. This field has seen a massive bloom since the year 2000 onwards. This field has an ecological orientation; so, a blend of linguistics with environmental studies, environmental communication and ecology is present in this discipline.. However, theoretical development in ecolinguistics is mainly written from an "insider perspective" (p.109) explaining the development within the field. There exists a pressing demand that the impact of ecolinguistics on other environmental fields should be highlighted. The result of quantitative content analysis of work published in the areas of ecolinguistics from 1990 to 2015 indicated that language policy and planning is the most worked on topic. Later studies have shown that integration of ecolinguistics and critical discourse analysis together with language teaching remained favored topics among researchers.

According to Verissimo et al. (2014): "Climate change has indeed been attracting greater attention in recent years" (p.4). Further, the funding from World bank and National Science Foundation has overlooked the issue of biodiversity, and climate change is given greater prominence. Following this trend, climate change has become a much researched topic within ecolinguistics as well.

Norton& Hulme (2019) conducted a study on the representation of climate change narrative in editorials of four UK newspapers utilizing the ecolinguistic framework. They found four dominant stories among which the 'Ecomordinist' story received the most salience during 2015. The Ecomodernist philosophy promotes technological and energy innovation-based solutions to climate change.

Zhang (2021) has given a snapshot of narratives/stories published within ecolinguistics that are considered generative for new research trends. In tracing the history of the field, he has presented that there are two strands of the field: Haugen's idea of language ecology that is the study of any language with its environment and Halliday's idea of transformative role of language in dealing with the environmental issues by critically examining the grammar of a language. However, today

ecolinguistics is so diverse that it often takes conflicting positions. The following research took the Hallidayan strand into consideration and examined the data at clause level and promoted linguistic practices which are beneficial for the environment. Major methodologies followed in the Hallidayan tradition are: Critical Discourse Analysis, Multimodal- Discourse Analysis and Positive Discourse Analysis. The most updated methodological trend is ecosystemic discourse analysis. This method solely studied language from the perspective of Eco ideologies and political/religious ideologies become less important in this type of discourse analysis. Climate change, mass media news, the impact of COVID 19 on ecological values, animal rights and representation of nature remained the most researched topic in this field in the year 2021.

Penz & Fill (2022) summed up the history, present and future trends in ecolinguistics. They have argued that the last 50 years have entirely changed the landscape of ecolinguistics. It has emerged as a field which has two fold relevance: In the world of language, it has occupied a central position and it is relevant to the most significant issue of today that is environmental degradation. Currently, the themes explored in ecolinguistics include: climate action, genetic engineering, war and weapons. In terms of method, Positive Discourse Analysis is a recognized approach which highlights alternative discourses.

Moreover, Corpus assisted discourse analysis is a new method which combines qualitative and quantitative approaches. Most importantly, the above-mentioned authors state that in ecolinguistic analysis, lexicon holds prime importance because there is a shortcoming between what words are and what they represent. For example, word like 'development' has connotations that favor exploitation. The above article is relevant for this research because it strengthens the choice of methodology that combines positive discourse analysis with corpus technique at word level because Ant. Conc software is used to find the frequency of biodiversity related words. However, the article did not mention the field of biodiversity which according to SDGs is goal 14 and 15. This gives an idea about the research gap present within the field of ecolinguistics. Inquiry in the field of language entailing the theme of

biodiversity is highly relevant as according to the United Nations reports humans are at the verge of 6th Mass Extinction due to biodiversity loss.

2.3 Positive Discourse

According to Stibbe (2017), apart from critiquing the forms of language which are destructive for the environment, ecolinguistics searches stories that are positive for the environment. Kress (1996) emphasized that Critical Discourse Analysis should move beyond critiquing destructive forms of language in an attempt to catapult its theoretical foundation based on deconstruction solely. It should highlight alternative forms of language (pp.15-16). Martin (2004) recognized this need and introduced a new branch of CDA called positive discourse analysis (PDA) in which focus was shifted to the message of hope and encouragement instead of exposing non beneficial power relationships.

Macgilchrist (2007) delineated strategies in his study that can propel counter discourses in mainstream media based on the analysis on Russian-Cheechan war frame analysis. This was a useful application of PDA. She argued that media reporting tends to report in an identical fashion; however, there are some texts in media that use a counter strategy to question a dominant message. Researcher's interest in this work was focused on micro lexicogrammar strategies that counter discourses in media. In this regard, Macgilchrist notes that extrematization, scare quotes, parody, nominalisations are some of the strategies used in counter reports which pitch the article as something interesting. Surprisingly, contrary to the view of the author, Alexender (2017) argued that nominalization is a strategy that is least regarded within the ecolinguistic paradigm. It creates abstraction in a text thus hampering the identification of human responsibility in destroying the environment (p.201).

Goatly (2017) compared the representation of nature in Edward Thomas and William Wordsworth poetry with Sayers poetry. My interest was in lexicogrammatical strategies used in the work of later two poets because Goatly argued that they (poets) represent nature through activated clauses in which nature is not an uncommunicative,

marginalized or a passive entity through personification. This representation blurs human nature binary. For example, "the sun has stolen out" (p.245). "The air triumphs with its two voices" (p.245). Moreover, there is activation of experiences. Natural phenomenon, which are meant to be experienced through senses, occupy a doer position. For example, in Wordsworth's words: "oh there is blessing in this gentle breeze/a visitant that while it fans my cheeks", the poet activates a sense of touch with the word 'fans'. Lastly, nature, animals and birds and water appear as communicators and experience causing agents instead of an affected entity. Thomas and Wordsworth convey the idea that nature can speak to us as a:

> Sayer or affect us as an Experience. Being receptive to nature's messages as
>
> Receivers or Experiencers gives us a different direction for our scientific and
>
> technological advances, perhaps a more positive one than using technology to
>
> enhance our material power as Actors over an affected nature (p.243)

Hughes (2018) attempted to establish positive discourse analysis (PDA) as a design originating from Critical Discourse Studies (CDS). The author argued that although CDA focuses on resistance and deconstruction of hegemonic texts, scholarly texts in CDS have predominantly focused on exposing oppressive texts. According to the author, it exposed dominant and oppressive socio cognitive structures but it hampered revolutionary aim of CDS that is twofold in nature: Deconstruction and resistance. In other words, critique in CDS exposed factors which stop human functioning but analyzing resistance discourse is a matter of studying design because it has the potential to reflect on ourselves. It established a fact that meaning making is remaking of signs and this branch of knowledge is transformative in nature. The author used the term 'progressive' instead of 'positive' that focused on healing the world. This is because of its emancipatory dimension. PDA not only involves resistance discourses but it is a design that helps to visualize and imagine a progressive reality. It is related to an action agenda.

Bhattacherjee and Sinha (2021) analyzed Jataka stories from Buddhist culture as a beneficial discourse. One of these stories revealed that a lion is made the king of the jungle because he is "great" (p.6) (notice the use of adjectives for animals to highlight its qualities). He is great because he cares for his fellow creatures just like a king in the human world thinking about his public. In this way the animal world is shown as a place where animals care for each other.

Perrins (2019) endeavored to find alternate eco-stories in the religious discourse of Christianity. He attempted to find out what influences religious perspective has on the language of these texts. Further, he defined three dimensions of positive discourse: discourse that makes us reflect on the impact of human lifestyle on earth, discourse that offers a different vision of being in this world respecting the existence of other species and discourses that outline similarities with other species to divulge that all forms of life are necessary for a sustainable living on earth. His analysis revealed the presence of non-hierarchical lexical choices like inclusivity created through words "all and we" (p.34). Appraisal of text revealed lexical items which put current lifestyle practices by humans into question and demand a change. For example, "examine, confront, resist structural powers" (p.34). Appraisal of the text is a tool used by Martin and Rose to identify the attitude of the author towards something. His analysis suggested that positive appraisal of attitude towards more than human world is embedded in lexical choices and it can be used to comment on the intrinsic value of nature. Moreover, the problem-solution frame was there in which statements begin in a negative way showing destruction of the environment but the next part analyzed the human role in this destruction and thereby suggested a positive solution. This is a negative evaluation followed by a positive description. Besides, salience patterns followed conceptualization of the non-human world through grammatical structures indicated by using transitivity structures of activation of nature related agents in the clause. Further, description of natural objects and their position as agents in the clause and personhood creation was present. For example, "We humans have felt the land's pain and sadness' (p.58). Here, land is personified by giving it emotions. However, there are some tendencies in the text which go against the ecosophy of the author but

as an analyst he revealed it. Objectification of nature is one such tendency in religious text. This is created through lexical choices like presenting nature as a 'thing' (p.43) and calling nature as 'fruits' and 'gifts' for humans (p.43).

Ponton (2022) analyzed discourse of UK's leading naturalist Chris Skinner based on his talk on BBC Radio in a program called *The Country Hour*. Since it was a radio show, pragmatic features were also analyzed in his data. However, my focus was to see how the author has dealt with linguistic features carrying positive themes about the environment. It was found that agency of more than human world was a significant feature of the speaker's talk that reflected his positive ideology. For example, they were anthropomorphized (possessed human grammar) in sentences like: birds 'do things', 'come and investigate'. And they also possess cognition because birds are not attracted to nest boxes because they are human artifacts and do not contain natural elements.

Bartlett (2021) wrote that ecological destruction has led to a path of openness about protection strategies other than technologies. It is based on fields like feminism, psychology and political science. In this regard, language has also contributed to identify practices which are not good for the species. Halliday called linguistically destructive methods as 'syndrome of grammatical features': like grammatically, countable and uncountable nouns difference, nominalization and transitivity construction are features of destructive discourse for the environment. The author argued that ecolinguistics is traditionally based on a critical perspective that identifies destructive linguistic practices. It needs to work on alternative models. Kress (1996) argued that a move from CDA to alternative modals is called 'design'. So, an eco-discourse is about 'greening' of language, according to Goatly (1996). This means language practices which enhance values and aesthetic sensibility in a language about the environment. According to Stibbe (2018) a positive discourse analysis is about finding out clusters of linguistic features that promote healing of nature. Further Martin (2005) argued that PDA involves exposition of both destructive and constructive linguistic practices. So, my work is a reflection of the said idea because the corpus software identified the set of data that has beneficial linguistic

practices and then that text was manually analyzed to explain linguistic practices beneficial for the environment. The aim of the author is to find out political actions that disturb the destructive discourses. The author used corpus to fulfill this aim and found tags such as: "becoming wealthier, powering our homes, fueling our vehicles" (p.17). Moreover, use of modal assumptive verbs like: "will become, will require, will buy" (p.19). This suggested that energy demand would grow and modality established facticity. In terms of framing patterns ,'security' frames are used to enhance trust of people so they support the company's energy exploration ventures.

2.4 Human/Animal Relation

Zhdanava et al. (2021) in their study conducted a multimodal and linguistic analysis of vegan campaigns in search of positive stories. Vegan campaign is called a positive story by them because it promoted protection of animals. Animals are considered beings with emotions; so, they investigated whether vegan campaigns stay true to the notion stated above. 27 posters from the campaign 'Go Vegan World' were analyzed utilizing Stibbe's ecolinguistics perspective with particular focus on multimodality. For multimodality, they employed Kress and Leeuwen's Grammar of Visual Designs. They defined their ecosophy as a personal philosophy to view human and non-human relationships where animals should be treated as sentient beings. The findings indicated that stories of salience (animals have feelings, they have a life where they grow as a family), conviction (animals are as important as humans) and ideologies promoting biocentric attitude were most prominent in this campaign. For example, at linguistic level, there was anthropomorphization: It means to see humans in non-human subjects. Animals were activated as subjects of clauses. For example, "They love" (p.10) and "they want" (p.10).   Thus, considering the ecosophy of this work they concluded that 'Go Vegan' is a beneficial discourse for the environment. This work only focused on one aspect of biodiversity that is animal representation. Other elements of nature like plants and fish particularly are not highlighted in terms of representation. This gap in representation is filled by this research.

Cook and Sealey (2017) explained that urbanization has changed the nature of the relationship between humans and animals. Previously they were closely associated with human life but now they hold the marginal position. In humans' perception they are a source of food and service providers. Humans hold a position called: human exceptionalism in which humans hold a qualitative superiority over other non-human entities. Considering the said philosophical position, discourses reflected a range of adherence to it. For example, discourse about animal rights advocated use of language that reduced the binary of human/ animal. Like: Use of pronoun 'it' did not indicate animal gender and issue of identifying animals as 'something' not 'someone' also suggested reduced position of animals. These linguistic features mark them as inanimate objects. Further, their study was based on a corpus of texts where words literally represented animals but metaphorically, they defined human attributes. For example, cow is used for an unpleasant woman, chicken for a coward, swine for an unkind person. In addition, animals which serve humans practically have extensive naming systems. Like, chicken thigh, breast etc. To conclude, there are fewer studies offering a detailed analysis of human animal relationships. In this regard, Stibbe's work (2012) *Animal Erased* is a detailed study on this topic. The authors contend on the following note: "deceptive, biased words sustain injustice toward nonhuman animals' (p.339) and this pattern is being exercised in most of the discursive text under study.

Stibbe (2005) in his article *Counter-Discourses and the Relationship between Humans and other Animals* initiated an investigation on counter discourses which promote wellbeing of animals and ecology to find whether the said discourses really promote human/non-human relation based on harmony. He concluded that the counter discourses shared some features and assumptions of discourses they criticize. Moreover, he argued that relationships among humans are driven by language. Similarly, relations between humans and animals are partially driven by language. For example, people command pets in speech, humans frequently use animal names for insult (pig, snake etc).

He added that there are a number of studies which identify linguistic features in grammar, metaphors and pronoun usage which depict animals in oppressed color. However, there are discourses which revisit this power-based relation between animals and humans and try to depict a relation based on harmony such as the discourse of deep ecology, ecological economics, wildlife conservation discourse, animals' rights, animal liberation. The conclusion is really interesting. Stibbe mentioned that oppressive discourses have resilience shown through their clause structure to display that it is the only truth. To dismantle this resilience, counter discourses too adopt an authoritarian tone because it is more successful. The problem is when counter discourses become popular, they too become resilient. Hence, it becomes difficult to challenge their shortcomings. For example, one counter discourse advocates animal rights in this way: "What's wrong - fundamentally wrong - isn't the details that vary from case to case…what's wrong isn't the pain, the suffering…These compound what's wrong… The fundamental wrong is the system that allows us to view animals as our resources" (p.14). Here the use of 'the' with 'fundamental wrong' removes any possibility of future discourse that will have potential to disclose wrongs in the said 'the fundamental wrong' discourses. It provides a background for identifying any assumptions in the selected data (which is a positive discourse) seems to resist.

2.5 Human/Nature Relation

Kordjazi et al. (2017) argued that the use of emotive language is one of the strategies to crystallize psychological, emotional and sensory experiences of a lyricist. In this regard they examined 4 nature books of lyrical nature written from the ecolinguistic perspective. The framework they employed was appraisal analysis given by Martin and White in 2005. The study revealed that 'insecurity' is a dominant emotion in nature writings of contemporary writers and 'happiness' emotion dominated the nature writings of pioneer nature lyricists. Further, moral sentiments and aesthetic emotions remained an inevitable part of old and new nature writings. Unlike the discourses on nature which explore human/non-human relations in terms

of importance through salience, this work identified how writers have shaped their response towards nature with time. Moreover, they argued that emotions directly stimulate cognition. So, if a contemporary writer is insecure, it means that human and nature relationship is not positive. This work is important for assessing nature from the perspective of an author, since they can act as a precursor of the emotional reaction of general people towards nature.

Wenjuan (2017) wrote an argumentative work in which his standpoint mentioned that science alone cannot solve the ecological deterioration. It can only provide technical assistance. Saving ecology and nature in general, demands ethical and value-based insights from other fields of knowledge. In this regard, ecolinguistics has provided a window in which ecological concerns are dealt with an integrated approach of language, mind and the living world around humans. However, the framework in ecolinguistics needs to integrate wider philosophical orientation to improve its value-based insights. He added that the Chinese worldview can help to strengthen the ethical concerns of ecolinguistics towards the environment. Chinese ecolinguistics provides harmony in both methodological and ecosophical grounds which is better than European ecolinguistics. European ecolinguistics is nor harmonious because it separates language and the world. For example, Cowley (2014) says that Halliday and Hugen see language operational in societal dimension only rooted in macro discussion of the language. This attitude segregates the impact of language from the behavior engendered as the result of linguistic practices. Thus, it neglects bio-ecology and focuses on life and the world solely. On the other hand, the Chinese worldview is based on the unity of humans with the society they live in. Unity, in the Chinese sense, is metaphysical and moral which means that humans are connected with heavens and morality guides the relationship of humans with other human/non-human entities. This unity is the source of harmony between human and the natural world unlike the European conceptual disharmony-based on dichotomies. This work is significant because it highlights the potential in the ecolinguistic Framework by Stibbe, that encourages its adaption for languages other than English to

highlight languages around the globe, which can be better precedents of environmental protection.

2.6 Biodiversity Conservation

Elliott (2020) has engendered a conceptual analysis regarding the fact that biodiversity as a scientific topic has not gathered much attention in the environmental debate. Biodiversity is a great problem but efforts to conserve it do not seem to target the stem of the issue. One possible reason is biodiversity framing on a conceptual and linguistic level: it was not potent enough to attract attention as compared to other environmental concepts. An analysis in this direction is crucial; since, it influenced policy making and consequently it will determine solutions to tackle biodiversity conservation. In this regard, one should evaluate language critically and can help to achieve social and scientific goals, which in this case, is to prompt people to conserve biodiversity. Another important point in this article was that biodiversity is a value laden concept; so, another reason for less potential to seek attention could be that people adhere to varied value systems. One may need to analyze those values along with language to comment on the overall working of biodiversity framing. He began his argument with the idea that scientists should give prominence to some problems through their choice of terms.

For example: when scientists use words form human context and apply it on to biological context, it can stir an ethical debate rooted in value laden concepts. Like the use of word 'rape' (Dupre, 2007, as cited in Elliott, 2020, p.6) for environmental degradation. He contends that the current biodiversity concept is more likely to attract those people who place value in nature for its intrinsic value. However, the said concept is limited in a sense that it only outlines the entities included under biodiversity and it is inherent value in those entities which drives this concept. But this does not make explicit the relation of those entities to human beings. This concept is less likely to attract people who have an anthropocentric approach to biodiversity. They see it through the instrumental lens of economic growth. There is a third approach within environmental ethics working in tandem with biodiversity concept:

Relational value. This concept transcends the said approaches ,and as its name suggests it focuses on the relationship between humans and nature. It can stem from the idea: how do humans feel when they are in nature? Emotions of awe, wonder, love and spirituality are some of the emotions that humans feel in nature. According to this view, nature is not a source to be exploited neither can one view nature independent of its relation with humans. The author has outlined five alternate ways to shape a reader's response to the concept of biodiversity because according to him the term biodiversity conservation is problematic and that is why not much attention is being paid to this concept. Instead of biodiversity conservation, alternatives such as: care for nature, sustainable living, environmental justice, food security, life support systems should be used to stir public attention.

2.7 Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Corpus Techniques

Myers (2003) has argued that if one considers science texts as discourse and popularization as genre then transmission of scientific information to a lay man requires a lot of recontextualization and this framing resorts to some particular choice of stylistic features such as narrative style of reports and simpler arguments. This article is significant because the researcher found narrative presentation of articles in the *Country Diary* series. This helped in shedding light on such articles at the conclusion section of this work.

Wild and McCarthy (2010) conducted a study based on both already existing and specialized corpus namely: UK WaC and specialized corpus made from government websites, newspaper, NGO websites and blogs with help of Sketch Engine tool that gave profile of words and their grammatical relationships. An interesting finding is that word collocation in both types of corpora were different. For example, climate change, rainforests and forests were recurrent ideas in newspapers. Similarly, salient collocates like 'conservation concern' occur more in government websites than newspapers. Besides, positive association of words made nature a selling point like: environmentally friendly, cultural diversity etc. In addition, the concept of nature as an asset or a commodity is frequent on government websites. Further, there was a lack

of agency construction even in the language of environmentalists. For example: 'ecosystems are being degraded 'instead of 'people are degrading ecosystems'. This study is useful because it highlights the trend regarding language usage within newspaper reports.

Alexender (2017) conducted a study to expose environmentally destructive ideologies using corpus techniques. He argued that Eco linguists agree that discourse played a crucial role in understanding and constructing the world around people and it is often distorted by the intervention of bodies which are translating specific scientific text for lay people such as the media, big corporations and political figures. In addition, environmental discourse is embedded within the economical frame of neoclassical economics. His study is an endeavor to divulge ideologies constructed by multinational companies regarding environmental issues because they shape people's opinion. These companies on the surface seemed to highlight environmental causes through internet material and ads; however, they are responsible for eco destruction. Language's role is crucial here and the responsibility of an ecologist is even higher as they can 'untwist' the 'knot' (p. 197) of destructive environmental discourse. "The discourse shaped by these multinational organizations even controls political imagination" (p.198). For example, nature conservation is very popular in the West. In this regard Flora and Fauna International joined hands with Cargill which is one of the largest agribusiness companies. A critical analysis of their website revealed the existence of purr words (positively associated words) in which orangutan conservation and palm oil plantation in Indonesia held a positive relation. In this way neoliberal discourse is shaping environmental conservation discourse. Moreover, nominalization is another technique that naturalizes the use of destructive language for the rich. For example, Halliday pointed to the agentless construction of military messages. According to Fairclough, nominalization hides 'agency', 'causality' and attribution of 'responsibility' (p.201). The effect of such structures made these grammatical terms showcase that no particular individual created it. Alexender illustrates a case study in which Coca Cola partnered with WWF for climate and water conservation in 2008. Text of their commitment contained purr words like

'achieve', solve', 'imperative' and the agent less constructions like: 'resource constrained world' (p.203). Here 'who is constraining?' is hidden. The document, which was downloaded from their website, was analyzed through Ant.Conc. Its starting point is frequency list which tells about the content. Then euphemism was present using the word 'embedded' instead of 'consumed'. Nominalizations which obscure the idea that who was doing a particular process remains a consistent feature of this text. Another feature was future oriented text, intention declaration instead of description of present situation. To conclude, the author contended that corporations treated water as a commodity. This research is significant as it would strengthen the findings regarding biodiversity conservation using corpus tool. It helped the researcher to comment whether the results of Alexender's study are consistent in newspaper reports or not.

Katarzyna Molek-Kozakowska (2017) conducted a study on scientific texts written for magazines and concluded that scientific information is too complex to be understood by a lay man so this type of discourse is hybrid in nature in a sense that scientists, editors and writers worked together to produce a text that is comprehensible for public. In doing so, they resort to some linguistic patterns that make the information interesting through lexico grammatical techniques to narrative style of writing. In this article two things are important, the author indicated that use of adjectives, comparatives, quantifiers, qualifiers and verbs of change are used in reports which have superlative nature. For example, 'Africa's **biggest** wind farm', 'death rate **rose**', '**percentages** attributed to pollution were **highest** in Westminster'. Second, timelessness is another feature seen in magazine articles indicated through use of present progressive tense like: 'Ethopia's green economy is blooming', 'climate change is causing the North Pole's location to shift'. Moreover, the use of present tense combined with present progressive is also common. According to the author this choice conveyed 'sense of urgency, immediacy of coverage and project temporal link between situation of information production and its timely reception' (p.10). Both features are an integral part of *Country Diary* articles.

Gong (2019) analyzed annual environmental reports of a Chinese organization called China Three Gorges corporation (CTGC). This company was building China's biggest dam. The author argued that dam technology is not always great from an ecological perspective because biodiversity under water is compromised. This article has two-fold significance for the current research. First, methodologically it used corpus to analyze all 8 stories in Stibbe's framework. However, the researcher focused salience only. Second, thematically it was in line with the researcher's ecosophy based on discouraging the use of more than the human world as a resource. The author concluded that the word 'fish' was qualitatively and quantitatively most salient which is a positive or beneficial usage. However, usage of highly scientific names to refer to fish is not apt because it is too vague for the audience to generate a concrete image; hence, this usage is discouraged.

Burroughs (2022) analyzed Wildlife Action Plan documents that serve as guiding principles for the US biodiversity conservation policy. He argued that biodiversity is declining; therefore, current conservation strategies are not working. He did CDA of the said policies and found three human centric themes in conservation practices: Centrality of Economy, Animals as resource and centrality of economy. These ideologies hindered effective environmental policies because of their anthropocentric nature. Alternatively, he suggested discourse to build stories to aid policy makers based on transformative conservation to build new vision of biodiversity conservation. He then analyzed discourse based on environmental philosophies, biodiversity conservation leaders, and indigenous knowledge on conservation to propose conservation practices. His vision stated that decentralized economic view, intrinsical value of nature and human nature relations are equal entities to fight biodiversity loss. In this study the analysis carried by Burroughs (2022) is important because it communicated linguistic practices which represent biodiversity conservation strategy which is an important strand in the study. For example, he found that sentence structures that place humans first in the problem/solution frame of conservation suggest a subordinate position of human world and it is human centric in nature. Moreover, use of possessive pronouns: 'we', 'our' suggest human ownership

of nature hence its exploitation becomes legitimate. Alternatively, the stories which promoted intrinsic worth of more than human world framed biodiversity related entities as affected making it ecocentric. Furthermore, a new type of story celebrated ordinary aspects of nature instead of highlighting 'spectacle of nature' informing of parks as conservation projects. It lessened human nature duality.

Drury et al. (2022) analyzed the discourse of UN summit 2020 regarding biodiversity utilizing CDA, Ecolinguistics and Cognitive Linguistics. They contended that humans are driving biodiversity loss causing complete erasure of species and thereby placing humans amid the 6th major mass extinction event. They argued that humans and ecosystems were indispensable for each other; since, their survival is interdependent. They suggested transformative measures to avert this situation. This transformation can only exist if mental models are changed, consequently, changing the behavior of people. This point was significant as it reinforced researcher's selection of ecosophy that demands from humans to consider intrinsic value in nature. Only then we can change attitudes of humans towards nature (Stibbe, 2015). They found that linguistic structures like nominalization and passivization should be changed as they obscure the agent responsible for destruction (Hodge and Kress 1993, as cited in Drury et al., 2022). In this regard Dijk (2008), argued that such "stylistic choices" (p.1) represent underlying ideology. Moving forward, the authors of the article introduced the concept of conceptual blending of business systems and natural systems that resulted in metaphors like: natural capital. This simply means: natural entities are economic capital (Missemer, 2018, p.95). This metaphor has human centered ideologies and "disabuses" (p.3) nature's intrinsic value. These kinds of terms are present in both policy making and business-related discourse. Further, the authors explored the impact of this ideology on the discourse of world leaders and current discourse around nature. They examined frames and micro linguistic techniques to review the underpinning ideologies. The findings indicate that 22% of sentences taken from 13 UN speeches used nature only lexis, 2% business only and 46% indicated a blend. For example, "more than half the world's GDP which is 44 trillion US $ is dependent on nature" (p.10). Here, nature is related to GDP. In the

sentence: "As we tackle the nature emergency together, the economy is key" (p.11). 'Nature emergency' is part of the subordinate clause while 'the economy is key' is the main clause; it suggests the central position of economic concerns while dealing with nature's destruction. Further, at phrase level, economic nature blend was identified. For example, 'nature-based solutions', 'biodiversity framework'. Verbs like 'invest', 'account', 'recharge' were also common to talk about nature. His study revealed that discourse around nature erupts in three dimensions: actions being taken to preserve nature, stating nature's services so that humans may be motivated to protect it and lamenting nature's destruction. Concerning the last theme, nominalization was most common. It removed agency from humans, particularly governmental organizations. In addition, humans were presented in an observer capacity not a part of any destruction. For example, 'biodiversity loss is happening before our eyes'. Further, simple present tense combined with low modality is a grammatical structure that erases human responsibility of environment destruction. Like, 'such impacts of biodiversity loss and degradation are already being seen around the world'.

Takala et al. (2022) conducted a critical discourse analysis of surveys and interviews taken from landowners of forests in Finland to find out the impact of biodiversity conservation discourses on biodiversity conservation practices. Quoting Fairclough (2010), the authors argued that discourses are either hegemonic or subordinate. Stylistically, hegemonic discourses do not refer to alternative truths. On the other hand, subordinate discourses raise problems associated with hegemonic discourses to present that their truth is better. Moreover, the authors combined it with cognitive dissonance theory from social psychology to suggest that people select discourses to avoid cognitive dissonance and achieve cognitive clarity. It is a strategy. My interest in this article is due to its adherence to goal No.15 of 'life on land' postulate of UN sustainable development framework. Its results strengthened my analysis on biodiversity conservation articles by *The Guardian*. The results indicated that the forest conservation approach of the landowners is not primarily based on intrinsic values. It was driven by economic incentives. For example, content analysis of discourses revealed that harmonizing discourse does protect biodiversity as a part

of its multiple objectives' framework based on money. Therefore, voluntary conservation of biodiversity is not a hopeful case because motivation to stop biodiversity loss does not spring out of an intrinsic moral value system.

Gong&Liu (2018) conducted a transitivity analysis on a story taken from the UN website. The story is called: *Our Way of Life is Piling Pressure on Ecosystem*. Total word count was 560 words. The result of the transitivity analysis indicated that 80% of the clauses represent material processes. It is a process that indicates action. So, nature entities in the text were affected by human action. The study revealed that more than the human world lies in a passive position. More than human world does carry out natural survival actions like eating and maintaing the relational value of the ecosystem but what they eat is not a healthier option (like plastic bags) and they are left with no choice. So, transitivity analysis can reveal activation and passivation of more than the human world. Moreover, this article also suggested that a positive discourse is not limited to more number of activated clauses where more than human world performs major action but a positive discourse can be a story that has more number of activated clauses where humans perform a dominant action but the impact of the action decides whether human action has beneficial or destructive consequences. In this story there are a greater number of material processes where humans are main agents and more than human world is passive but still it is a positive discourse because the impact of human action is destructive. Therefore, the selected text is a positive discourse.

Valvason (2021) conducted a study on political and news corpus to find what the word 'sustainable development' connotes. The author used semantics by collocation method to study the meaning of the lexeme. Sustainable development is divided into goals and it can only be achieved through those targets. The study of the corpus revealed that this term has established the economic dimension more strongly than the social and environmental dimension. Political and news discourse has erased social and environmental lexemes and economic lexemes are more prominent.

Jaworska &Kinloch (2018) argued that methods of triangulation that are a blend of quantitative and qualitative techniques dates back to Descartes who proclaimed that: "it is only by the way of comparison that we know the truth precisely" (p.9). So, comparison of data sets allows more precision which is enhanced by corpus techniques. This argument is supportive for this research because there are two sets of data involved and their comparison was done to decide which data set has environmentally sound linguistic practices.

Ma and Stibbe (2021) published an article summarizing ten lectures of Arran Stibbe at Beijing. Ellis (2017, as cited in Ma and Stibbe, (2021) defines salience from psycholinguistics perspective. It means to stand out so that it becomes a part of cognitive learning. In linguistic terms it is the process of making an item prominent as an attempt to capture the reader's attention to stimulate people to care for nature. For example, in Macfarlane and Morris' The Lost Word includes illustration as well as a poem filled with linguistic patterns that stimulate senses. Like colors are made prominent in this stanza of poem Kingfisher: 'Ink-black bill, orange throat and a quick blue, black gleaming feather-stream'

Yuniawan et al. (2023) have written an article about mass media coverage of conservation news in Indonesia. Their discussion about selection of data from newspapers is relevant for this research because data in this work also comprises newspaper reports. They state quoting Yniawan (2019) that texts in mass media did not only reflect linguistic structures but they also performed cognitive functions leading to action. Therefore, newspapers are a good outlet for interdisciplinary study. This point is the heart of Stibbs's (2015) theory that words and texts can influence behavior towards the environment. Moreover, texts have three functions: ideological, social and biological according to Lindø & Bundsgaard (2000). So, newspaper texts are created to form a social reality about the environment to stimulate readers to conserve the environment. In this study the biological dimension of the text directly correlates to the second and third research question. According to the authors the eco lexicon that reflects interaction, interrelation and interdependence with the environment would be considered beneficial for nature. In the study of the authors eco

lexicon that is related to the biological domain is positively reinforced. In both question two and three of my research, my aim is to find out the said relationships at clause and lexical level to decide whether my selected data is a positive discourse or not.

Goshylyk (2017) presented a philosophically intense article on conceptual metaphors about sustainable development in the English mass media. The author utilized Stibbe (2015) ecolinguistics framework of appraisal terms of good/bad and big/small where good is always connected with something big hence holding positive connotation. She took the term 'growth' and associated it with human experience in which it means something big and therefore good. This idea of growth is present in human consciousness as Mulhesier (2003) suggested that children believe that being grown up is equal to being powerful. At the same time, plants were seen as most useful when they are grown up in size. So, the word 'growth' has taken its meaning from human societies. Opposed to this idea is 'small is beautiful' presented by Schumacher (1973). As an economist, he was the first one to criticize that growth does not need to be big because it leads to mass production. The idea should be to use minimum resources that ensure maximum wellbeing. The author then tries to dig out the conceptual meaning of the word 'sustainable' that has become a major part of discourse in the 21st century. The data consisted of 53 articles taken from the Guardian's environmental section in 2015. The author found that the 'Good is Up' metaphor coexists with the 'Less is Good' and 'Less is Up' metaphor. Both metaphors are powerful as societal constructs as they shape environmental discourse.

Serrano (2019) explored the wisdom of local women in preserving biodiversity. According to the author biodiversity conservation and sustainable development has remained an important theme of environmental discourse especially after the UN 2030 sustainable goals 17 points agenda. Environmental discourses that are utilized by science and technology is nature's utilitarian purpose that can benefit economic development. One end of the author's discussion was rooted in gender. As women are marginalized entities, possessing knowledge about the environment that is not tinted with economic exploitation of nature, their interaction is more organic. The author

studied a local community in Northern Philippines. The land has several wildlife species and it is rich in biodiversity. But the community relies on agriculture so biodiversity loss is there. The author examines women's constructs of biodiversity preservation and sustainable development. Discourse analysis is used in this study both as method and theoretical underpinning. The author finds that women have dominant roles in agriculture such as clearing the land for sowing and post-harvest activities especially in non-developed countries. In the practice of conserving land, community led practices are often encouraged. For example, bayanihan is the tradition where one member is helped by the other in case of illness without any cost during harvest. Women upheld values for their families and work land as it was a sense of pride for them. The author concludes that sustainable goals by international organizations should incorporate plans which are deeply rooted in family tradition and a value system where women have positive and dominant participation.

Cummings et al. (2017) has written that it was a historic moment when the UN agreed on the 2030 sustainable goals agenda that gave direction in the economic, social and environmental realm. However, the author argued that SDGs are flawed when it comes to realization of local realities because developed countries believe that developing countries need ideas and wisdom to harness SDGs. In other words, the developed powers believed in transfer of knowledge modal. To examine this argument, the author critically analyzed the final text approved by the UN titled as: *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.* It is important to note that knowledge societies are not new concepts. It has been used by Fairclough in 2012 under the title of 'nodal discourses' because they comprise various discourses from science and technology to economic and communication. Several researchers including Fairclough and Hornidge believe that the term knowledge societies emerged as an academic concept but now it is used by governments to declare their future economic and technological advancement dream.

Owing to the economic value of knowledge societies, it reflected instrumental use of knowledge that involved economic hegemony and exploitation. The authors concluded that at visionary level, the UN discourse is inclusive and ideal; however,

when it comes to implementation, the text is techno-scientific-economic discourse. It means it has characteristics of discourses which are based on neoliberalism. In which history, time and people occupy limited positions. It means that discourse of the UN reflects policies of the developed countries that have placed developing countries at the periphery in two ways: first, they don't have advanced technology to carry out SDGs and second, they lack their voice in UN policies of SDGs. The authors therefore conclude that there exists conflict between vision and implementation strategy of the UN text. At the visionary level it accepts local knowledge as a part of transformative strategy but on a strategic level it totally ignores it. From the point of view of this research, the data in *The Age of Extinction* series show mixed approaches towards biodiversity conservation. On one end, there are opinions on biodiversity conservation which are highly techno-scientific-economic in nature but on the other end, there were articles which promoted love and care for nature without involving any monetary benefit.

Appleby and Pennycook (2017) argued that the Anthropocene era has finally terminated the binary concept that is a pivot point in the Western philosophy about distinction of human and nature. The humanists have argued that nature is an external phenomenon. In post-human ecolinguistics, this idea is eliminated and nature is seen with agency. Further, ecological concerns are seen as important as race and gender issues in the Anthropocene era. Post-humanists were able to bridge this gap of binary construction because it draws on a range of social theories like feminism and post-colonialism. The authors used ecolinguistics framework to identify masculine construction of language that identified sharks as deadly creatures and encounters with them in a sort of combat. While in reality, sharks do not swim in areas where there is a human majority. Theoretically, this work is important for the current research because it informs that future researchers in ecolinguistics need to include marginal texts like postcolonial and feminist texts along with local texts to suggest forms of language beneficial for the environment.

F. Norman and I. Norman (2018) argued that CDA is primarily concerned with political discourse or any text that has political orientation. It is directed towards

action which can bring change by speaking the truth to the powers. This tendency encloses the scope of discourse to a predetermined standpoint which has barred genuine political inquiry. The authors therefore, opt for a methodological design that is impartial in nature and name is Ethical Discourse Analysis. This approach allows comparison of various arguments. In an attempt to define CDA the authors argued that is a common everyday practice. People select discourses, change them or eliminate them. The only discourse that is worthy of action or implementation is the one that has withstood criticism. Ethical critique is important for CDA on three levels: it evaluates the value system of politicians; it investigates the value system of CDA critics; the position of perspectives from which they are evaluating politicians and it evaluates the position of other critics including CDA critics. For this research, this argument holds importance: it analyses the data that has political orientation (newspaper articles); the framework adopted here allows an ethical inquiry of value system of the authors or the organization (The Guardian newspaper agency) by formulating an ecosophy deeply rooted in biodiversity conservation; it aims to bring change through adopting linguistic practices which are beneficial for nature. It therefore justifies that this research is transformative in nature.

P. Jain and P. Jain (2020) have written that the world has recently understood that development through solely economic consideration is disastrous. Nature has registered its protest through famine, drought, climate change and loss of biodiversity. This has put into question the sustainability of economic growth and this context gave impetus to the UN declaration of Sustainable Goals in 2015 which ensures economic development and at the same time suggests measures for rejuvenating mother earth. The authors proposed that paradoxically humans have failed to achieve any sustainable goal since the proposal was first initiated back in 1987 and the world has fallen into the pit of unsustainability even further. It is worth questioning: are sustainable goals really sustainable? To seek an answer to this question the authors measured human development index and ecological footprints. Ecological footprint means human demand on nature that includes land, forest and marine life. The results reveal that 76-79% of nations have shown very high and high human development but

they are running extremely low in bio reservoirs. It means that SDGs and EF are negatively related to each other because high development is taking place at the cost of earth resources. The demand for natural capital has not lessened, it has increased. It is a consensual understanding that nature and culture are not independent entities but still this realization could not be translated into practice and policies are guided by economic concerns.

CHAPTER 3

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The theoretical framework in this research is taken from Arran Stibbe's book *Ecolinguistics: Language, Ecology and Stories We Live By* published in 2015. I have divided the theoretical framework in two sections: section one introduces Stibbe's overall stance and his approach towards the ecolinguistics framework in this book under the heading called Theoretical Insights of Ecolinguistics. The Second section introduces the story of salience in detail and this part is the focus of the study. The linguistic terms operational in study to identify salience patterns are all defined from Stibbe's theoretical perspective.

3.1. Theoretical Insights of Ecolinguistics

Stibbe's theory is rooted in the Whorfian tradition that language has an impact on how individuals behave.

According to Stibbe the field of ecolinguistics has potential to expose mental models which exist at the core of environmental problems that humanity is facing. "There are certain key stories about economic growth, about technological progress, about nature as an object to be used or conquered, about profit and success, that have profound implications for how we treat the systems that life depends on" (p.2). These stories influence how people think about the world and changing them can greatly impact human behavior towards the environment. The role of linguistics in exposing such stories is significant because it provides "tools" (p.2) to "reveal" (p.2) the hidden stories. Stibbe claims that the aim of his work is to combine various linguistic tools and then operationalize them to explore different texts to reveal their destructive or constructive orientation towards the environment.

3.1.1 Story

Stibbe argued that the catastrophic environmental situations have stimulated humans' concern to tackle environmental problems beyond technical solutions and dive deeper into "Social and cultural causes of the problems" (p.3). Moreover, he defines that these stories are not novels, instead these are texts that need to be read between the lines. They are not immediately recognizable; thus, they need to be explored. For instance, "the advertisements promising us that we will be better people if we purchase the unnecessary goods they are promoting" (p.3). To challenge the environmental damaging practices, one needs to "explore" (p.5). And "reconsider" (p.5) the stories we live by. He defines a story in technical term as:

1. "Stories are cognitive structures in the minds of individuals which influence how they perceive the world.
2. Stories-we-live-by are stories in the minds of multiple individuals across a culture" (P.6)

It is important to remember that stories are cognitive structures that exist in the minds of people. Stibbe is interested in examining cultural models about the environment because it influences how people act. Models exist in mind hence; they can be analyzed through clues like language. For example, "a model of the world where humans are separate from and superior to other animals, or a model where humans are surrounded by an environment" (p.6).

3.1.2. Story of Salience

Stibbe (2015) describes eight types of stories (indicated in the table). Each story is analyzed through a set of linguistic features like transitivity, multimodality, syntax, lexis etc. This research focuses only on the story of Salience described in detail after this table.

TABLE 1

Eight forms that stories take, and their linguistic manifestations

Chapter	Form of Story (Cognitive, i.e.. In people's mind)	Manifestation in Language
2	Ideology A story of how the world is and should be which is shared by members of a group	discourses, i.e. clusters of linguistic features characteristically used by the group
3	Framing a story that uses a frame (a packet of knowledge about an area of life) to structure another area of life	trigger words which bring a frame to mind
4	Metaphor (a type of framing a story that uses a frame to structure a distinct and clearly different area of life	trigger words which bring a specific and distinct frame to mind
5	Evaluation a story about whether an area of life is good or bad	appraisal patterns, i.e. patterns of language which represent an area of life positively or negatively
6	Identity a story about what it means to be a particular kind of person	forms of language which define the characteristics of certain kinds of people
7	Conviction a story about whether a particular description of the world is true, uncertain or false	facticity patterns, i.e. patterns of linguistic features which represent descriptions of the world as true, uncertain or false

8	Erasure a story that an area of life is unimportant or unworthy of consideration	patterns of language which fail to represent a particular area of life at all, or which background or distort it
9	Salience a story that an area of life is important and worthy of consideration	patterns of language which give prominence to an area of life

3.1.3. Reminding

"We can be ethical only in relation to something we can see, feel, understand, love, or otherwise have faith in" (Leopold, 1979 as cited in Stibbe, 2015).

The idea of "place" and "dwelling" (p.161) is very significant in environmental writing because it provides wellbeing by spending time in local communities away from the false promises of consumerism; observation of local communities fulfilling their needs in eco-friendly manner; "a direct understanding of natural systems" (p.161). All these reasons stimulate humans to care for the environment. However, Plumwood observes that there are "Shadow lands" (p.161) which are erased from the discourse of places. "A justice perspective and being able to recognize the shadow places, not just the ones we love, admire or find nice to look at" (Plumwood,2008 as cited in Stibbe, 2105, p.161). Stibbe argues that Plumwood is "reminding" (p.162) that an important subject of "not so nice places" (p.162) is erased.

3.1.4. Salience

The method of highlighting the erased places is described in a documentary that explains the horrible cost of obtaining leather. Blue water is shown coming out of a tannery in Bangladesh creating severe health risks for the local communities. Later, local people delineate health problems caused by chemicals in the form of lesions on a woman's skin. In the documentary, the makers highlighted clear images of suffering

which create a pattern in the mind of viewers. If such images are frequently produced, people are less likely to ignore them.

3.1.5. Definitions of Salience

1. "Re-minding – explicitly calling attention to the erasure of an important area of life in a particular text or discourse and demanding that it be brought back into consideration.

2. Salience – a story in people's minds that an area of life is important or worthy of attention.

3. Salience patterns – a linguistic or visual representation of an area of life as worthy of attention through concrete, specific and vivid depictions" (p.162)

3.2. 'Eco' of 'Ecolinguistics'

The term ecolinguistics was first used by Fill and Mühlhäusler (2001). There are four interpretations of ecology (Steffensen and Fill, 2014, as cited in, Stibbe, 2015)

1. Language as symbolic ecology: "different languages interact with each other in a given location" (p.8)

2. Language as a sociocultural ecology: here language shapes societies and cultures

3. Cognitive Ecology: "how the cognitive capacity of organisms affects how they adapt to their environment" (p.8)

4. Natural Ecology: "the relationship of language to its biological and physical environment" (p.8)

Stibbe, however, defines ecology in his theory as 'Human Ecology'. He defines it as: "the interaction of humans with other humans, other organisms and the physical environment" (p.8). He argues that this term is comprehensive because it encompasses the need to see ecology in divided terms as pointed above. The term natural ecology suggests as if humans are not a part of the natural world and symbolic ecology views language interaction akin to organisms interacting in any given

environment. Cognitive and sociocultural ecology are treated as factors impacting human behavior in his theory. Thus, "Eco" of Stibbe's theory is defined as: relationship of humans with other humans and other species on which they survive including the physical environment they inhabit and naturally incline towards protecting it.

3.3.'Linguistics' of 'Ecolinguistics'

Stibbe mentions the manifestation of this term right in the beginning: "the 'linguistics' of ecolinguistics means the use of linguistic techniques to reveal the stories and open them for interpretation" (p.10). In this regard, theories like Critical Discourse Analysis by Fairclough, Frame theory by Lakoff, Metaphor theory by Muller etc can be used to examine language to read between the lines. All these theories use different terminologies to describe ways they analyze any given language. Stibbe's theory analyzes language through the basic level of a 'story' (p.10). For example, the word 'progress' is a cognitive story that undermines the struggle of survival in this brutal industrial world and presents technological advancements as promising. The impact of such stories can be seen in the form of consumerism. People would agree to buy a new technology or sell a green area for construction thinking that it is development.

3.4. Linguistic Tools

According to Stibbe, linguistic patterns such as focus, vitality, level of abstraction, transitivity and metaphor can help to identify salience patterns which represent an area of life vividly. In this work my focus is on: abstraction, abstraction counter strategies like use of basic level lexis, adjectives, similes, sense image and foregrounding participants at clause level through activation only.

3.5. Ecosophy

According to Stibbe (2015), Ecosophy is the set of values believed by the researcher. It is the "ethical vision of the analyst" (p.10). Further, Stibbe states that "The ecosophy of the analyst will determine what areas of life should be made more

salient" (p.163). In this research, biodiversity is the area that should be more salient within the environmental discourse. This is because many scholars (Legagneux et al.,2018, Verissimo et al., 2014) agree that climate change is given more coverage than biodiversity simply because climate change's impact is clearly visible around us in the form of temperature rise, floods, drought and wildfire. However, the magnitude of impact of biodiversity loss on humans' life is not directly visible, but it is happening slowly and gradually. Therefore, it is high time that biodiversity should find its coverage in media discourse as equally as climate change. Ecosophy of this work is derived from the philosophy of deep ecology discussed below:

Deep ecology (Drengson and Inoue, 1995) considered that humans, animals, rivers, plants and forests are valuable beyond their services for humans. This kind of thinking pattern based on intrinsic worth promotes protection of all forms of life on earth including human life. Recognizing the intrinsic worth of humans, plants, animals, forests and rivers, means to value them beyond direct, short-term use for humans.

Naess (2008) defined deep ecology as "rejection of man-in-environment image" (p.2) in favor of 'total field image' (p.2). This means that organisms in a biosphere are "knots" (p.2) which hold "intrinsic" or "relational value" (p.2). By intrinsic value he means that entity A and B are connected with each other through their basic constituents.

Spanne (2021) summed up two basic principles of deep ecology as: a form of philosophy that sees inherent value in ecology apart from their utility. And it sees humans as part of nature rather than an entity that is above nature.

Further, Vilkka (2021) defined the term intrinsic worth based on the argument that this term is elusive to define because it has broad dimensions. This difficulty is increased because any definition that cannot be put into practice for environmental policy is not suitable. She defined intrinsic worth as something which is significant because of its own sake and not its utility. In order to decide the thought process as anthropocentric or based on intrinsic worth, she engaged the reader in a thought

experiment. She asked her readers to imagine that all humans on earth have died due to an atomic bomb and all plants have survived. Will the last human cut the last tree? The answer to this question depends on the strand of thinking taken by the reader. For anthropocentric, killing of humans was nor right and for people who value nature intrinsically the act of cutting the tree is wrong.

In the light of the above-mentioned discussion on deep ecology, nature has an inherent value beyond its utilitarian purpose. And humans have interconnected relationships with nature. But the problem arises when organizations like United Nations down play inherent value in nature conservation and up hold biodiversity offset -an idea which forms a significant underpinning of UN sustainable goals development agenda and defined by Stibbe (2015) as: "Attempts to compensate for the destruction of nature in one area by building new nature sites in another area" (p.167).

So, in the ecosophy of this work, biodiversity should be valued and protected not because it provides services to humans but rather it is irreplaceable. It cannot be destroyed at one place and built at another (as conservation based on biodiversity offset claims). It is against its historical importance. Moreover, biodiversity should be protected because it provides benefits to all forms of life on earth including humans. Further, humans have no superior position in the environment rather they are a part of it (total field image).

The data I have selected is predominately a positive discourse (this claim is discussed in the data collection section). It does highlight biodiversity preservation. But as a researcher, I have to see the ecosophical dimension of the selected articles which provide solutions to conserve biodiversity. The analysis will reveal whether the protection measures they offer value nature for its intrinsic value or suggest biodiversity offset.

I will discourage any preservation of biodiversity practice that treats nature as a commodity. This approach is strongly anthropocentric in nature; therefore, it is subject to criticism according to the ecosophy of this work.

3.6. Abstraction through Homegenization

Abstraction is an idea in which homogenization of identity of more than the human world takes place. According to Stibbe (2015), it mitigates the unique individuality of beings. In this regard, Charles Einstein's book *Sacred Economics* identifies the tendency to see everything through the lens of its functional value "rather than having value in themselves" (p.167). Moreover, Einstein uses the word "sacred" (p.168) to suggest uniqueness in objects as well as living beings. He argues that if humans are not able to see that uniqueness in more than the human world, they are less likely to protect and care for it.

Stibbe presents many linguistic strategies to alter homogenization. For example,

1. Individualization creates salient patterns through language. Like texts which promote biodiversity offset have low individuality patterns. Stibbe quotes

Monbiot's argument that we can take as an example: "It does not have a name, it is just '60,000 trees', with each tree being a 'sapling' rather than a specific species of tree, and the place being the generic 'beside a slip road', which could be anywhere in the country" (p.168). High individuality patterns would consider giving specific names to the ancient woodland (Smithy Wood). It would mention the type of trees present in the wood (oak trees). It has a history (owned by monks). All these features show that Smithy Wood is nor replaceable and it has intrinsic value.

Further, "there is the concrete and specific lexical set drawn from nature: 'leaves', 'branches', 'deer', The specificity of the neck muscles of a deer and the ant dragging a scavenged rice-grain create vivid images which counter the abstractions of environmental discourse 'fauna', 'biomass', 'ecosystem components" (p.163-164). So, nature's description with concrete lexical choices create salience patterns to counter the homogenization created by abstraction

In addition, abstraction can be countered with the help of metonymy which turns "characteristic parts of animals into adjectives and use them to represent whole classes of   animals" (p.164). For example, "massive animals and small animals,

hoofed ones and clawed ones, antlered and quilled and bright-feathered ones, finned and tentacled and barnacled ones, all steadily dwindling down to a few members before they dissolve entirely into the fever dreams of memory" (Abram, 2010, as cited in Stibbe, 2015).

Words like "antler", "hoofs", "claws" (p.164) trigger particular frames of animals which cannot be stimulated through the use of abstract words like species. Greater the abstraction less salient would be the object of description.

According to Stibbe (2015) the highest level of salience is created through "basic level" (p.165) lexis. For example, words like "orangutan evokes a clear salient image" (p.165) which cannot be achieved through the use of the word "mammal" (p.165).

3.7. Salience through Foregrounding

Leeuwen, 2008, as cited in Stibbe, 2015 explains that salient patterns can be created by "forgrounding participants in a clause" (p.168) through the process of activation. activation takes place when an entity is actively involved in a phenomenon and show dynamic functions. In passivation, the entities receive the action. Further, linguistically activation can be seen in transitivity structures where an activated entity is behavior in behavioral process, sayer in verbal process, actor in material process and assigner in relational process.

For example, in the poultry industry chicken is represented as an entity on which action is performed; hence, they have low activation. They are represented in passive voice in Agri business handbooks. "Chickens are hung upside down", "are exposed to steam", "are showered with water" (p.168).

Alternate texts; however, treat animals as actors in clauses. For example, Stibbe quotes a text from an animal rights organization where animals are placed at the subject position of clauses. They are actors of the material process such as "taking", "roosting", "lying" (p.169). They are also represented as entities with mental abilities highlighted through adjectives such as "inquisitive", "intelligent" (p.169). See the sample story below:

> Chickens are inquisitive, interesting animals who are as intelligent as mammals such as cats, dogs, and even some primates. They are very social and like to spend their days together, scratching for food, taking dust baths, roosting in trees, and lying in the sun (p.169).

Another example which explicates that animals are placed at the doer position of various processes operational in a clause.

> (Chickens) would naturally spend their day foraging for food, scratching the ground looking for insects and seeds. When a cockerel finds food, he may call the hens to eat it by clucking in a high pitch and picking up and dropping the food this behavior can also be seen in mother hens, calling their chicks (p.169).

Here, chickens are placed in agent positions. Like,

> They are Sensers of the mental process 'looking', and Sayers of the verbal processes 'clucking' and 'calling'. This representation makes chicken an active participant of cognitive story and makes them worthy of attention in the mind of humans (p.169).

3.8. Sense Images

According to Stibbe nature writing contains another technique to give prominence to nature called sense images. It can be defined as:

> A description of how an external entity impacts the senses. It is a subjective description of what is seen, heard, smelled, touched or tasted rather than an objective description of what, or who, is there. Sense images encourage the reader to imagine being in the scene described by the author and viewing for themselves what the author is viewing, leading to strong prominence for what is being described. (p.177)

For example, Stibbe quotes the nature writing of Kathleen Jamie who creates a sense image with pronoun 'you' and verb 'see' placing the reader in an observable position to watch falcons fly.

"(of a pair of peregrines) She is bigger, and more brown. His back was the color

of slate roofs after rain. What you see when they swivel their heads round is the

white of their cheeks" (p.178)

Apart from the technique where direct use of sense verbs (look, see), nature writings can use lexical set of verbs associated with some natural phenomenon which in the following examples is light.

1. "At the far side of the lake the trees were reflected in sooty green"

2. "Six Canada geese flew over us towards Fort Prince of Wales, their black necks, white chin straps and pale rumps showing clearly against the empty sky"

3. "He (a peregrine) flew in an easy loop, and when the sunlight glanced at his undersides they were pale and banded like rippled sycamore". (p.178)

Verbs like "reflected", "showing", "sunlight glanced" (p.178) engage a sense of vision to view the said scenes.

3.9. Similes

Similes are widely used in nature writing. See the following examples for reference:

1. "Three wading birds moved forwards together in a line, swinging their beaks from

    side to side in arcs as they advanced, like a team of metal detectors" (p.179)

2. "Two young crows … began to circle each other playfully, each keeping a

    steady distance from the other, like opposing magnets, or kings on a

      chessboard" (p.179)

These similes about more than the human world draw upon images from everyday life; thus, making more than human world salient in ways which is not possible otherwise. Stibbe argues that describing more than the human world with examples from the human world would draw attention to the human more than nature. It is a kind of erasure. However, describing nature through similes from nature has a more potent impact than the former practice. For example,

1. "The mountain stretches like a waking wolf, bares its long, blue shoulder" (p.180)
2. "The day as laden with warmth as a bee bowed down with the burden of pollen" (p.180)

CHAPTER 4

ANALYSIS

Question No. 1 (a) states: What is the frequency of biodiversity related lexis and clause content in the Country Diary and The Age of Extinction series from The Guardian?

To answer question no. 1(a), the researcher divided the data into two sets. Set A consisted of articles from *The Age of Extinction* series. Its word count was 40,565 words. Set B consisted of articles from the *Country Diary* series. Its word count was 40,162 words. So, the total number of words was approximately 80,000. Then text files were made through an online word to text converter application. Both sets were processed through Ant.Conc version 3.5 to find out most frequent biodiversity related content words through its word list feature. The list was manually searched for the said purpose. Cutoff frequency limit is 21 for both sets. Then the concordance lists of first three concrete biodiversity related tokens/lexis were generated and analyzed at clause level because in Stibbe's framework concrete words are highly salient. Attempting RQ1 this way is the demand of objective 1 of this research. The said objective attempts to locate salient features of language in the given sets of the data.

Corpus techniques like frequency lists and concordance analysis makes this attempt of locating salient aspects of biodiversity related language patterns objective in nature. It quantifies the data through frequently occurring words and the occurrence of same words in their various contexts which helped the researcher to identify a better outlet to further look for positive language practices in RQ1 (b). The frequency of occurrence of an entity carries a significant message of aboutness in any given text. So, if some words are used frequently, which are biodiversity related words in this research, the text is confirmed to exist as a salient content about biodiversity.

Table2

Frequent Biodiversity Related Content Words in Set A

Serial No.	Word	Frequency
1	Forest	80
2	Trees	67
3	Water	64
4	Birds	61
5	Plants	52
6	Elephants	31
7	Animals	28
8	Huemul	25
9	Reptiles	19
10	Oaks	18
11	Savanna	17
12	Insects	16
13	Lynx	15
14	Seals	13
15	Deer, frog, rainforest, whales	12
16	Raptors	11
17	Alpine, arboretum, flowers	10
18	Amphibians, pups	9
19	Bison, livestock, desert	8
20	Mussels, rhinos	7
21	Mountains, oysters	6

Homogenized biodiversity related words: Forests, trees, plants, birds, water, animals, reptiles, insects, flowers, mountains, amphibians, livestock, desert, whales

Word Count=14

Concrete biodiversity related lexis: Huemul, oak, savanna, lynx, seals, deer, frog, raptors, alpine, arboretum, pups, bison, mussels, rhinos, aloe, oysters

Word Count=16

Table 3

Frequent Biodiversity related Content Words in Set B

Serial No.	Word	Frequency
1	Trees	87
2	Birds	74
3	Wood	66
4	Leaves	56
5	Wings	38
6	Grass, woods	26
7	Deer	25
8	River, Soil	23
9	Wasps	15
10	Bark, dog, branch, oak, owls, roots, sea, ivy, thrushes	14
11	Foliage, fungus, starlings	12
12	Beetle, hills, gulls, lake	11
13	Acorn, horse, fieldfare, pheasant, roe	10
14	Berries, buzzard, earthworm, fruit, kite, larvae, raven	9
15	Birch, blackbirds, chestnut, cattle, hawthorn, sparrows, rowan, violets, woodpecker	8

16	Aphid, beavers, spider	7
17	Caterpillar, fox, geese, grasshopper, mammals, pigeons, pine, warbler	6
18	Catkin, Kestrel, rabbits	5
19	Chafers, choughs, doves, Grub, hawks, hedgehogs, honeybee, jackdaw, magpies, mushrooms, pipits	4
20	Bear, celandines, muzzle	3
21	Bullfinch, buttercups, calluna flower, calves	1

Homogenized biodiversity related words: trees, birds, wood, leaves, grass, woods, deer, wasps, dog, owl, roots, river, soil, beetle, lake. Horse, fruit, cattle, spider, mammals, pigeons, bear, sparrow, fox

Total Word Count= 24

Concrete biodiversity related lexis: wings, bark, branch, oak, ivy, thrushes, foliage, fungus, starlings, gulls, acorn, fieldfare, pheasant, roe, berries, buzzard, earthworm, kite, raven, larvae, birch, blackbirds, chestnuts, hawthorn, rowan, violet, woodpecker, aphid, beaver, caterpillar, geese, grasshopper, pine, warbler, rabbits, catkin, kestrel, chafer, doves, choughs, grubs, hawks, hedgehogs, honeybee, jackdaw, magpies, mushrooms, pipits, celandines, muzzle, bullfinch, buttercup, calluna flower, calves

Total word Count=54

Table 4

Concordance of Token: Huemul (Deer) in Set A

The (protection)	huemul	an almost unknown animal, was chosen for
Saucedo describes	huemul	as 'sentinel species, providing intelligence on how a damaged ecosystem is recovering
Chile is also working to protect	huemul	by buying areas of wilderness

In this table sentence 1 is passivized. Huemul is the animal that was 'chosen' to be 'protected'. Agency of the animal is compromised and the theme of humans as saviors is depicted. In sentence 2 individualization through naming is done by calling 'huemul' as 'sentinel species' who are recovering the ecosystem through their 'intelligence'. Sentence 3 underscores the theme of humans as saviors of nature where the agentive faculty of nature is passivized. Nature is presented as a passive entity that can be first destroyed and then built by buying lands.

Table 5

Concordance of Token: 'Oak' (Tree) in Set A

The Great Park today is King Offa's	Oak	after the 8th century Mercian king.
Wyndham's	Oak	in Dorset is also called the Silton Oak.
The leaf stalks of sessile	Oak	are 1-2 cm long.

In sentence 1 individualization is present; the oak tree is given a specific name "King Ofa's Oak" ; it reflects the history of the tree as well. The rest of the two sentences also depict individualization through name: "Silton Oak' and description of leaf stalks.

Table 6

Concordance of Token: 'Savanna' (Elephant) in Set A

Forest elephant is under studies with the	savanna	elephant dominating
red list assessment of the African	savanna	elephant – has found that both
falling by 86% in the past 31 years and	Savanna	elephants by about 60% in the

Linguistically, there is no positive language technique used in the above sentences. The sentences above serve an informative purpose and thematically it suggests call for action against declining elephants' species.

Table7

Concordance of Token: 'Wings' in Set B

The birds struggle to keep cool, panting and flapping their		wings.	
It (grasshopper warbler closes its		wings	often flying all the way from Africa.
	Their	wings	and beaks sharpened in frost and ice.

All the instances above, derived from the concordance list show positive use of language for the environment. In the first two sentences, agency of birds is highlighted with verbs: "struggle", "panting", "flying", "closes" where birds occupy the agent position. In sentence 3 there is salience through description of wings and beaks.

Table 8

Concordance of Token: 'Barks' in Set B

Branches gnawed to expose the white inner	bark; a lodge fully burrowed under brambles.	
The ice has vanished, leaving only wood, damp from the thaw, clear of	bark	and moss
I look at and see the	bark	and see a clue I do recognize.

In sentence 1, salience is generated through the adjective "white inner" for the bark. Sentence 2 describes a natural scene where "bark" is a component. In sentence 3, the sense image is created through verbs: "look" and "see".

Table 9

Concordance of Token: 'Branch' in Set B

We noticed the fungus in the	branch.	
A	branch	blown from a silver birch, the shape of a tuning fork.
I find a little	branch	blown from a silver birch.

Sentence 1 does not denote any salience; it's neutral. Sentences 1 and 2 involve description through color "silver" and shape "tuning fork".

According to Stibbe (2015) concrete level lexis is the highest form of salience. So, positive discourses use concrete lexis more frequently than discourses that have consumer-oriented tendencies. In this regard, the frequency list generated above clearly demonstrates that Set A contains less concrete biodiversity related lexis than Set B. That is, the former list has 16 biodiversity related words, and the later list has 54 biodiversity related concrete words. Therefore, *Country Diary* series is a more positive discourse than *The Age of Extinction* series.

Further, from the above concordance tables of set A and set B followed by the description of sentences in the tables, it becomes clear that set B contains a greater

number of positive linguistic practices at clause level according to Stibbe's framework. That is in table 3 for set A destructive linguistic practices are used highlighting passivization of biodiversity. In table 4 of set A individualization is present which is a positive linguistic practice. And in table 5 of set A no beneficial linguistic practice is present; although, the identified clauses highlighted conservation practices of elephants.

On the other hand, in table 6,7,8 of set B there are many characteristics of positive discourse like: description of nature, agency of more than human world through verbs and sense images. Another important thing that surfaced through concordance tables is the range of subject matter in set A and B. *The Age of Extinction* series caters both destructive and beneficial linguistic practices along with the theme of conservation of nature, while the *Country Diary* articles purely celebrate nature. This distinction was mentioned by the researcher at the outset of the study and it is confirmed by the concordance list analysis as well.

Question No. 1 (b) states: How does the series promote salience patterns of biodiversity through foregrounding participants in clauses and counter abstraction strategies?

This part of the question was answered by looking at the frequency list and concordance analysis of first three most frequent concrete biodiversity related lexis generated in research question 1 (a). It indicated that the *Country Diary* has more biodiversity related lexis and positive linguistic practices at clause level; therefore, it is a richer outlet than *The Age of Extinction* series to find foregrounding of participants in the clauses and other counter abstraction strategies. To find this, the researcher read the following articles and identified positive linguistic features where biodiversity related entities were present as agents, foregrounding of participants was present, individualization, personification, basic level lexis, similes and sense images. All of the said strategies are counter abstraction strategies identified in Stibbe's (2015) ecolinguistics framework. This part of the research question used close examination to find beneficial linguistic techniques in set B because the concordance tables indicated

that there are long sentences in the *Country Diary* articles which require proper exploitation of the context from start to end that cannot be understood by viewing just words in the concordance list and concordance file view feature of Ant.Conc 3.5 software. A graphic representation of all the identified strategies are given below:
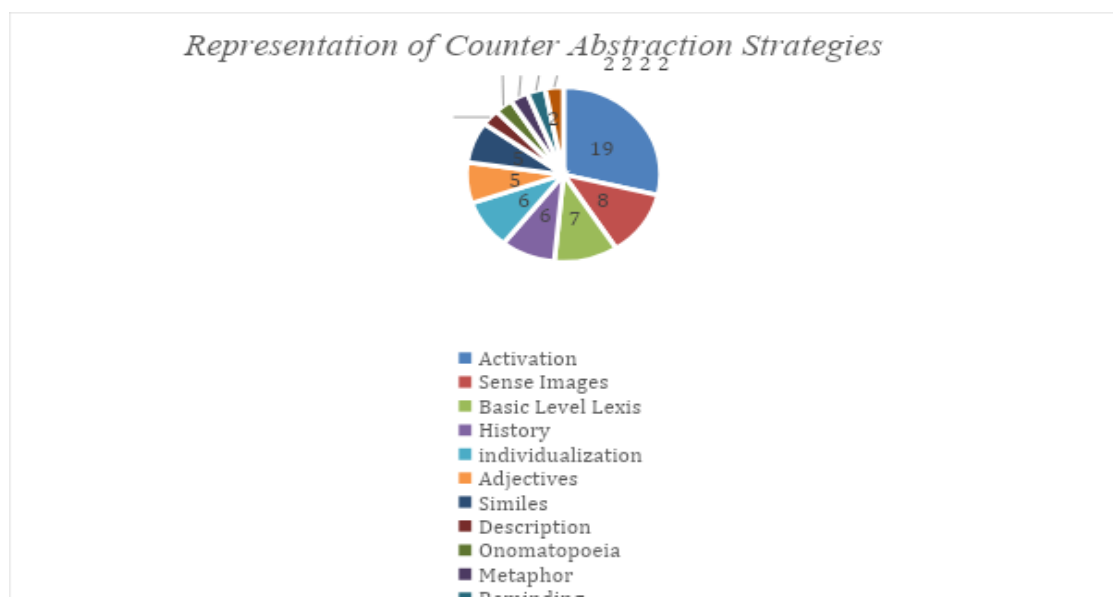
Article 1

Sense Image

The article explains hunting practice of a kite in the form of a narrative incorporating sense images. For example, it opens with sentences: "it's a grisly sight" and "I heard high pitched meowing calls". 'Sight' and 'heard' suggest involvement of vision and hearing. Further, verbs like "to see", "glazed", "glimpsed" and "watched" trigger the sense of vision.

Adjectives

The author frequently uses descriptive adjectives to emphasize the physical appearance of kites: '**forked tail** silhouettes of two **red kites**', '**long angled wings**'.

Basic Level Lexis

'Jackdaw' is a basic level lexis for gray headed crow.

Onomatopoeia

One instance of onomatopoeia is used to explain the fineness of their hunt: 'The red kite's kill falls with a **thud** in front of me'.

Article 2

The article is about walking in the moorland and observing nature and birds. It opens with a sense image in which personification (P) and alliteration(A) is used: 'horizon wobbles(P) in the heat haze (A)'.

Activation

Birds in the third paragraph are all activated entities. Their actions are further enriched by the description through verbs. For example, see the following descriptions of birds: 'dive **bombing** lapwings' and '**circling scolding** curlews' are possessors of the adjective 'anxious' which highlights maternal instinct in birds as the object of this verb is 'fledgling' (tiny baby bird protected by parent birds).

The author incorporates basic level lexis to name the flower and they will 'flood the landscape with purple'. Here, flowers are activated through denominalization of noun 'flood' because they are in action capacity and a sense image is created by mention of color because it is pertaining to the sense of vision. Similarly, 'the moor will hum' is also an activated clause in which 'the moor' is anthropomorphized. Likewise, sense imaging continues where the author incorporates the verb 'see' to invite the reader to look at 'emerald green tiger beetles'.

Article 3

Reminding

Salience is created through reminding as the author acknowledges that 'Hoary Mullein' is an overlooked plant because it is found in unattractive places.

Salience through Historical Reference

It is created through a book published in 1746 about plant histories. According to this book the plant was found in 1745 in a ditch. Personal and nature's history is connected as the author is from Norfolk where the plant is found in abundance. It is also emphasized through the etymology of 'hoary' which means 'whitish-grey'.

Metaphor

The author compares the plant with 'wasteland' poem and 'murder-drama' because it is found in derelict places.

Simile

'Like a forensic pathologist and Hoary Mullein, she sounds like a bawdy character in the medieval play'. In the said example, the similes are taken from the human world, so they are less salient as compared to similes derived from objects of nature according to Stibbe.

Article 4

Sense image

The article draws on multiple sense images depicted through description that engages auditory perception in a variety of ways. For example, the verb 'chat' is a reference to dove and pigeon sounds. For the author, the sounds are 'chat' which means it is meaningful. This attribution is also an agentive faculty because birds are depicted as talking entities. The author goes on to explain that birds' song can be

divided into syllables to differentiate its normal sound from a troubled sound. This further gives salience because the birds are in the agent position of the clauses, and they impact the author. For example, see the following phrase and sentences: 'luring a mate', 'cuckoo sang on' and 'he lulled me to sleep' establish the bird as an entity performing an action and the bird is referred to with the pronoun 'he' which gives individualization to the bird.

Onomatopoeia

Words like 'ku-ku', 'coo-coo', 'clank' and 'woo-woo-woo' of the wing sound accentuate auditory perception.

Article 5

Rhetorical Question

Importance of wasps is highlighted by presenting them as a harmless species because they are often detested by humans. In this regard the author argues that even if they are harmful, they do it in self-defense and supports it with an anecdote. The use of the verb 'administered' is important because it establishes instinctive leadership quality in wasps, particularly when someone comes near their nest as the author was near the nest. Further, the carefully chosen said verb finds an appropriate close in the last sentence where the author invites the reader to imagine a world led by wasps. This clause dethrones human centrality in human/nature dichotomy and exposes the destruction humans are causing to the planet. **'If wasps inherit the earth, can they do worse than humanity?'**. Moreover, appraisal words such as 'magnificent' and 'beautiful' also establish a positive outlook of wasps.

Article 7

Adjectives

Salience is maintained with help of description filled with zoomed in technique to capture birds' movement in the sky. Use of adjectives is the key in this text. For

example, for a kite, following adjectives are used in these phrases: 'long winged', 'russet plumage bright'

Activation

Clause activation is present denoted by verb 'playing' and the subjects are 'red kite', 'peregrine' and 'buzzard'.

Article 8

Activation

'The fox **lifted** his muzzle, **snuffed** the breeze, **glared** at my tent with eyes glinting like pearls, and was gone'. In this sentence, activation is achieved with verbs 'lifted', 'snuffed' and 'glared' which place the fox as an agent. Further, simile is also present derived from nature hence it is salient in the later part of the sentence. Moreover, the alliteration 'willow warblers' means shrubs with soft brush like branches hanging down, singing trilling songs like birds. Activation here is not presented as a nature entity performing a human-like function, instead the action is derived from nature. It is highly salient.

History

The author talks about camping around the lake and connects it with poet Robert Graves who loved the path to the lake before World War 1. The flower 'wood anemone' is found in abundance with a 'foxy scent'. Here, basic level lexis is indicated through the name of flower and individualization is further increased by explaining the odor it emits.

Article 9

Sense Image

Throughout the article the author uses present tense to explain the encounter with muntjac. Stylistically, it allows the reader to immerse him/herself in the perspective of the narrator (in this case the author). It is another way to aggrandize sense images because in sense images, the reader is invited to view with the author according to Stibbe. In addition, there are many sense verbs used in the article such as in the sentence: 'I can still picture'; the author denominalizes the noun 'picture' to suggest the view in his memory and articulates it in present tense to create a sense of

immediacy. It is evoking the sense of vision retrieved from the memory. Later, the verb 'gaze' in the last paragraph evokes the sense of sight.

Activation

'For a long moment we gaze at each other with curiosity, then he moves'. The mentioned line treats the muntjac like a human. Human/animal dichotomy is breached with the usage of the pronoun 'we' in which one entity is the author and the other subject is the deer both performing the same action 'gaze' and possess the same mental process of 'curiosity'. Later, the pronoun 'he' individualizes the personality of deer. Moreover, the verbs such as: 'raises', 'drops' and 'carries' place the muntjac in the doer position so all such clauses are examples of activation of the biodiversity related entity.

Article 12

Individualization

Personality is attributed to the oak trees by the association of mental attributes such as 'wisdom' and 'ability to survive' in the first sentence of the article. Oak trees, in this way, become agents. Use of the adjective such as 'middle aged oaks' also stimulates a sense of personality in the trees. However, oak trees are presented as subjects with advanced techniques of survival than humans that are based on interconnectedness of species. Like it grows its own species of fungi around it. It is the trees' 'wisdom' to protect it from pathogens. Interestingly, the article talks about the size of tree's trunk and debunks the relationship humans have with nature. He writes that it is large enough to make 'a floor in the duke's house' It is therefore, a relation based on services. While the tree encourages the growth of fungi around it for protection or benefit, humans destroy nature to benefit themselves.

History

The oak trees possessed a unique history. The author mentions it by connecting the trees' age with Queen Mary of Scotland that she might have seen them during her detention there. The width of its trunk was 7 meters which means they were already mature personalities when the queen saw them.

Article 13

Individualization

This article is about a nest box that becomes one with the tree with the passage of time. Linguistically, Ted Hughes's metaphor creates individualization that is revealed later in the article in the form of concrete level lexis. 'Words are the birds of everything', Ted Hughes has written. Birds and trees are shown as having a relationship with words which is ecolinguitically significant because these are words which later determine one's attitude towards biodiversity. In this regard the author has used concrete lexis to refer to birds: 'brambling, jackdaw, redwing, greenfinch' are just three of them. This pattern creates individuality because it promotes uniqueness.

History

Attention towards the history of the nest box is accentuated in the form of rhetorical questions. Like: 'How many generations fledged from here? What kinds of birds? Where did they go?'. The importance of this bird box is that it has become one with the lime tree. In this way the author highlights that if a material object is closer to nature one day it becomes a part of it. Hence, human existence near nature is necessary to emulate empathy and kindness towards nature that it displays intrinsically.

Article 14

Adjectives

The article is about a field maple tree; it has fallen leaves around it during winters but its personality is still actively depicted through adjectives where the maple tree is possessor of the qualities such as: 'enigmatic, magnetic and sheltering'. Its age and wisdom are emphasized with adjectives like in this phrase: '**monastic** past or earlier'.

Metaphor

The tree has a large system of roots accentuated with the help of a metaphor in which the author compares it with 'Medusa's petrified snakes' supporting one large trunk.

Basic Level Lexis

Many basic level words are used in the text like: '*Acer campestre', 'redwings', 'jackdaws'.*

Article 15

The article celebrates fieldfare through various strategies like the use of:

Adjectives

'gregarious', 'exuberant'

Activation

'Highly mobile chatterers' makes fieldfare a talkative bird. Here, the verb is chat and the bird does the talking so it is the 'chatterer'. Later, they (fieldfare) 'hedge-hopped down the lane'. Fieldfares are the doer of the verb hop. And they also impact humans and thus hold a position of power depicted in the sentence: 'their excitable cries had me racing to keep up'. To put it simply, the author started racing for fun due to their cries.

Article 18

Activation

Importance of leaves even when they are no longer alive is shown in this text. This highlights the interconnectedness of entities existing on earth. For example, activation of biodiversity related entities (leaves) provide 'shelter' to the larvae of elephant hawk moths and they even enter into their new state of development under the warmth of a heavy layer of fallen leaves. Activation is further enhanced by mentioning the microscopic details of the process of leaves' color change. It is seen in the verb 'feed'. The subject for this verb is 'chloroplast' -a component in leaves that helps chlorophyll break down. So, chloroplasts 'feed' the tree is an instance of clause activation

Sense Images

Sense image is created through a unique way. The mention of colors indirectly prompts the sense of vision which is beautified through literary references. For example, Robert Frost wrote 'nothing gold can stay' but the trees are holding 'sweet chestnut' and 'lemon yellow' colored leaves which shine in the sunlight.

Article 19

The article is about noon flies whose lifecycle is an important part of agriculture. This text once again highlights interconnectedness of more than the human world.

Activation

'Basking' and 'sharing' are verbs attributed to flies.

Simile

Simile is used to highlight the beautiful details of this fly. For example, 'Wings like rippled glass, decorated with bright orange patches'. This is quite in contrast with the place where they spend their life as a grub- at cow's excrement.

Article 22

Description

The author created vivid descriptions of fungus through Edgar Allan Poe's style of writing. See the following paragraph:

> Miniature hands of slender, spongy fingers attached to skeletal wrists, reaching up from the shallow grave of a decaying sycamore branch. This species has an explosive method for finding new hosts, shooting spores from microscopic flasks clustered in pits on its surface: fungal artillery, silent, unseen, performing its seasonal bombardment.

Article 23

Reminding

Stibbe (2015) argues that one aspect of salience is reminding- that an area of life is worthy of attention. This text is a reminding attempt because it talks about the role of corvids in the growth of rowan trees. For example, 'blackbirds were the chief consumers and propagators of rowans in their Hertfordshire study area'. Crows are often overlooked while talking about their role in sustaining ecosystems. It can be seen in the last lines of this text: 'I'm now putting my money on crows as the truer custodians of this landscape'. Salience is created through use of the adjective 'truer custodian' for crows.

Article 25

Salience is created by highlighting the ecological role played by the rich biodiversity landscape in a local meadow to halt urbanization at this place. Linguistically, use of basic level lexis for flowers is used to show floral abundance at this place like: 'buttercups, red clover, common knapweed, meadow thistle, great burnet and pyramidal orchids. Presence of flowers attracts more birds and mammals'.

Article 26

Activation

Salience is created through clause activation. Hawk moth larvae are depicted as subjects of verbs such as 'loves', 'sways', 'consumes', 'feeding', 'pupate'. Moreover, aspen tree also occupies the doer position in verbs like: 'shivers' and 'whispers. Its leaves are depicted to possess movement as a freely moving object in the environment through a list of three verbs 'colliding, chafing, rustling'.

Simile

Aspen tree creates sounds compared with water movement in the following simile: 'I can hear the sound of the aspen, like fast-flowing water rippling over a gravelly stream bed'. When a simile is derived from nature its salience is more as compared to comparisons derived from the human world alone. For example, in the second last paragraph, caterpillar is compared with a 'heavy pendulum' to say that wind moves its own body on the foliage like the said comparison.

Sense image

In the second last paragraph the image is created through use of present tense. The author uses it instead of verbs like see or hear as Stibbe quotes in his analysis to invite the reader to view the scene with him. For example, there is personification created through the verb 'shimmies' and it is attributed to the leaves. Later, a sense of vision is stimulated to witness the movement of the caterpillar that sways with the wind through the choice of lexis like: 'caterpillar's dangling body'.

Article 27

Sense image is created through use of present tense in the second paragraph. The author evokes a sense of sound through sound words like: 'susurrous **rustle** of crisping oak leaves in the wind; the **rattle-cackle** of fieldfares'.

History

Salience is created by mentioning the history of beech trees. They are 30 meters tall. Analogies derived from the human world are created to depict the huge space its branches and trunk occupies. For example, a comparison with a cathedral's canopy is created. And the trunk is so huge that it can allow the movement of buses through it. Moreover, it has 'gothic grandeur'. In addition, the author evokes responsibility by mentioning the past of beech forest when the ground was covered in foliage, it was the mess created by large animals whose' activity caused fallen wood pieces on the ground which in turn sheltered biodiversity. The author uses oxymoron to hint at the beneficial side of this destruction. He calls it 'creative destruction'. He argues that humans need to familiarize themselves with the mess in natural spaces because that is necessary for biodiversity.

Article 28

The article is about a field scabious plant that is notorious for its name because it reminds of scabies in humans. However, the author creates salience by mentioning the history of its name and describing its appearance which lies in contrast to the name the flower possesses. Linguistically, the contrastive use of lexis in the following sentence highlights the contrast: 'The **prettiest** of flowers with the **ugliest** of appellations'.

Activation

Flowers are shown to possess agentive faculty because they instigate the action in the following clause through verbs like 'agree' and 'show': 'No two plants are alike for they cannot agree on a color – will they show blue, pink or lilac?' Furthermore, insects are 'dancing' and 'riding' to collect the nectar. They are shown to be actively doing something through personification. This plant is shown as a nurturing entity through the verb 'give'. It has 'so much to give' to the flies. It has perennial quality of showing its beauty depicted through the verb 'to claim' to refer to the quick blooming capacity after some of its petals have fallen with even more vibrant colors. The author denominalizes nouns pink and purple to create agency. He calls it 'pinking' and 'purpling'

Basic level Lexis

Basic names of flies are separately mentioned to create individualization as opposed to homogenization: 'bumblebees, hoverflies, small skippers and peacock butterflies'.

Article 29

This article talks about strength in trees even when it is dying. It is a home for birds and when the branches are dead it serves as a 'perch' for birds and its long trunk is a home for animals. Linguistically, the analogy of life and death is used to suggest perseverance. See the following sentence: 'I stared and marvelled at how the tree could balance both life and death, yet still look so beautiful and serene.' Choice of lexis suggests a tranquil impact of nature on human senses. In Stibbe's analysis (2015) sense of dwelling is important because it takes humans closer to nature and improves understanding. The author creates salience through the said strategy and choice of words is important in this regard. For example, 'this dying tree is still full of life'. The word 'still' suggests the unbroken nature of trees in face of its decay. Further, 'rain-dampened grass' and 'soothing melodies of the birds' evoke serenity. Moreover, Nature can stimulate perceptions. Verbs like 'filled' and 'made' suggest that the author was filled with happiness and made to think. Activation of the clause through personification is present: 'the warm hug of the sun'.

Article 30

The text is a reminding attempt because it talks about the miniature creatures like centipedes and amoebas which are hidden from human attention.

Rhetorical Question

Salience is attempted through rhetorical questions at the end of the essay to instigate wonder like: 'Do you know how herbivorous millipedes are different from carnivorous centipedes, or how ants tolerate woodlice because they are nature's cleaners? How springtails jump, how amoebas are slime molds and slime molds amoebas? How miniature mobs move as one?' If one ever knows this then an obvious response would be 'respect' for the 'universes' 'under our feet'.

Article 31

Simile

The text talks about slugs. Salience is reflected through a simile to show various colors of this creature. 'There are slugs in all directions, scattered by the dozen across the damp ground like wine gums – lemon yellow, apricot orange, pale pear, glossy blackcurrant'.

Article 33

Sense Image

Sense images are created throughout the text with use of verbs like: 'see', 'watching', 'seen'. The author invites the reader to 'see' the amazing world of aphids where they milk the invertebrates by stroking their bodies until they release a liquid. Aphids coexist with ants, and all this is happening in a rose garden. So, it's a garden and underneath is a farm-most special combination the author has ever 'seen'.

Basic level lexis

Plant names are present to represent individuality such as: 'acacia-like hawthorn bushes, blackthorns (like whitebeam, only in certain spots) but also agrimony, creeping cinquefoil'

Article 36

Activation

Clause activation is present suggested through use of verbs: 'woven', 'crouching', 'sits', 'defending', 'standing'. A web spider is depicted to protect her spiderlings. She is 'preoccupied with motherhood'. So, if she is 'crouching, and danger is detected she has 'woven' a web around them.

Article 37

This magnifies the hunting skill possessed by the owls. Its presence makes him wonder that he 'sees' so little. He argues that humans know so little about more than the human world and yet they ask questions like what nature can do for them.

Description

Adjectives create salience that define physical features of owl: 'long eared', 'flame-coloured eyes', 'rotating head through 270 degrees'.

Simile

Its hunting capacity is compared with 'telescope on its mount'. It is insufficient because it cannot capture the 'sight beams' with which it locates its prey.

Activation

The owl is represented as actively involved in detecting its prey through verbs like: 'scans', 'probes', 'recoil'. Once the prey is detected, 'capture is mere formality'.

Article 38

Individualization

Common and scientific name of the butterfly is present that creates individualization: 'Lady of the Woods', '*Anthocharis cardamines*'.

Activation

Orange tip butterfly is known for orange markings on its wings. It's famous for its significance in dream interpretation as mentioned in folklore. However, the author grants capacity to the butterfly to 'describe the world for herself'. She does it by hiding her orange tips to 'reject' male attention. Use of the verb 'reject' creates agency so she can lay eggs in peace. Moreover, verbs like 'aware' and 'show' depict that the butterfly has a perception that can translate the 'world beyond human perception'. Further, little seedlings are shown to occupy doer position for verbs 'climbing' and 'flattening' in the following phrase: 'apical buds climbing skyward, cotyledons flattening against the wind'.

Article 40

Activation

In myriad articles under consideration from the *Country Diary* series talk about the nurturing power of plants even when they are dead. So, the clauses revolve around verbs which show this effect. For example: 'the fallen timber provides a breeding site for countless beautiful beetles'. In addition, the sun has agency so it 'warmed up the woodland and brought the insects to life'. 'Luxuriating' is another verb whose subject is a woodland beetle: '*Rhagium mordax*'. Writing scientific names is an attempt to create individualization. In a nutshell, they are 'unpleasant'. However, the author

creates a contrast by highlighting its contribution in sustaining the ecosystem through the following strategies.

Article 41

The article is about earthworms who play an important part in transforming ecosystems. However, they remain 'unappreciated' because they are 'damned' in a sense that they are caught by birds as a food, serve as a hook to catch fish and children often cut them into two believing that it can grow itself again which is a myth basically.

Individualization

Salience is created by ascribing professions to accentuate skills possessed by earthworms like: 'waste managers', 'ecosystem engineers'.

Activation

Verbs like 'fertilize' and 'irrigate' take earthworms at subject position hence agency is created and activation of clauses exists.

Article 44

The article is about jackdaws who build their nest with much skill and consideration. The selection of sticks follows a standard which means that these blackbirds have their own knowledge system. Like the sticks should be '50 cm long'. They make their nests in chimneys which is the next best selection of places to build a nest other than a tree hole.

Individualization

Individualization pattern is interesting here. The author uses the noun 'address' to show that these birds have a well-built house and since they live in a chimney, the author and birds 'share the same address'. As if the house is not just a humans' dwelling place, it is a home for birds too. Just like nature is coinhabited by birds and humans, human spaces welcome birds too.

Article 45

The text talks about antlers while walking on a pavement. And when he looked closely, it seemed that he was being 'transported' into another world.

Activation

'Less impressed with me than I was with him, he turned tail and cantered away'. In the quoted sentence, the writer gives agency to antler with verbs 'impressed', 'turned' and 'cantered' whose subject is the pronoun 'he', 'him' referring to the animal.

Basic level lexis

Names of various birds that are a part of the scene described by the author create salience. 'buzzard', 'woodpeckers', 'treecreepers', 'nuthatches'.

Article 51

Sense image

The author activates a sense image with the help of sound words of a redwing bird. '*tseep*' refers to the delicate sound produced by the bird. '*tsee-bada-tsee-bada-tsee-bada-scabba-diddle-oo'* referes to the sounds made by other birds in the garden.

Activation

The bird is personified to show agency. Like the author expects the birds to 'say goodbye' as if he is seeing human-like qualities in them and articulates 'see you in October'. Verbs like 'responded', 'looked up' and 'disguised' are used to show the activity done by the bird.

Basic level lexis

Concrete names of plants are as follows: 'pert pink', 'narcissi', 'black thorn', 'Mongolian bud'.

Article 55

The author describes a management project around a fence and introduces nature's constructionists known as beavers and then creates salience through the following strategies.

Activation

The following clauses show the work managed by beavers. Beavers are the principal doers of the activity denoted by verbs.

1. '(beavers)manage the environment with their traditional tools of tooth and claw'.

2. 'beavers patrol their perimeter after dark'

Article 57

The author mourns over the cutting of a tree that has gone dead. The tree had become a safety concern. The author calls it a devastating decision and apathy to call it dead when this tree is 'living' because it 'feeds' creatures in the garden. The clause: 'progress "shows the deep concern of the writer who goes far to call this cutting an 'assault on nature'. The tree is an 'individual' and one can actually 'feel its strength' while holding its trunk. Activation of tree takes place through verb 'feeds' and tree being a possessor of 'strength'

Article 62

The writer talks about a micro animal tardigrade. It is a specie that can survive in temperature from -200 C-150 C. So, it can be found in water and space. Although, the author used negative connotation of a 'monster' to refer to this animal, salience is created through reminding that an overlooked creature (due to its appearance) is also worthy of attention through following linguistic ways:

Activation

Several clauses are activated in the text. For instance, verbs such as: 'thrive', 'form', 'endure' and 'vitrify' all take tardigrade in doer position.

Adjectives

Use of adjectives is there to help the reader materialize the organism in their imagination. For example, 'super-sized', 'translucent bodied', 'resilient organism', 'space travelling'.

Individualization

Naming of the creature is present: 'little water bears', 'moss piglets'

Second research question states: What is the ecosophical orientation of the articles that claim to provide solutions to protect biodiversity in the 'Age of Extinction' series?

The research question is answered by qualitatively analyzing the data at clause and lexical level to dig out its resonance with the researcher's ecosophy. Ecospohy for this research is based on deep ecology's postulate of intrinsic value in nature. Nature

should be protected because it is irreplaceable and more than the human world depends on it for its survival. Thus, humans should start caring for species other than themselves and protect it due to their inherent values not instrumental needs.

The analysis reveals that there exists polarity in conservation methods of biodiversity. On one end, the researcher found practices which were deeply embedded in the said ecosophy . On the other end, there were practices which promote anthropocentric approach and biodiversity offset. Elliott (2020) argues that biodiversity conservation could not gain popularity because the concept relies heavily on worldviews formed at conceptual and linguistic level. And people possess varied world views. For example, a person who values nature for its intrinsic value would be triggered by the use of word 'rape' for nature. However, a person who holds an anthropocentric worldview will consider biodiversity conservation important only when connections between humans and services provided by nature are reflected in some discourse. Therefore, the said point could be taken as an answer to the polar practices of biodiversity conservation reflected in the discourse which cater both anthropocentric and inherent value in nature viewpoints; since, newspaper articles are written for varied audiences. The fact that newspaper is read by various readers such as policy makers, scientists and general public is also asserted by (Yuniawan, et al., 2023)

Humans as Saviors of Biodiversity

A significant theme which was reflected at linguistic level was the presentation of humans as saviors of nature. The agency is shifted on to humans reducing biodiversity related entities to marginal position. This approach is anthropocentric and harbingers duality of the human/non-human world; thus, it does not promote the ecosophy of the researcher. In this regard, the study by Cook and Sealey (2017) suggests that positive discourses which use language that tends to reduce human/ non-human binary are not reflected in the following clauses because there are some clauses in the selected

articles which highlight this binary instead of reducing it. Consider the following clauses:

1. "In a situation where, as a civilisation, **we** are dying from climate change and biodiversity loss, we should not be spending money on making the situation worse".

The clause is taken from article 16 that talks about scientific studies which stimulate biodiversity conservation particularly land conservation. Land conservation is placed at a secondary position in the above remarks of the policy makers, who are only realizing that ecosystems need to be protected because it is a threat to human survival. Use of the pronoun 'we' triggers dichotomy of man/nature and it promotes speciesism.

2. "But the approach **we**'ve now taken is to say, well actually you have a duty to your investors and they will be let down if you do this because you'll end up with a stranded asset or you'll be sued."

3. '**We**'ve made that narrative for climate and **we**'re currently looking at how those sorts of cases could be applied for biodiversity.'

4. "One way to address the crisis of perception is to foster reconnection with the web of life that sustains **us**".

Clauses 2, 3 and 4 are taken from article 2. The article talks about litigation against human activities that cause biodiversity loss. The author acknowledges that biodiversity lawsuits are less filed as compared to climate change because there is less understanding of its process. This preservation method is deeply rooted in the presentation of humans as saviors of nature thus placing them on the pedestal of agents and reducing nature to a subservient position The subordinate clause at the beginning of clause 2 contains 'we' that refer to biodiversity campaigners. Use of 'we' in the compound sentence 3 is indicative of human/non human binary. And the second part of the 2 clause has 'you' that refers to corporations destroying biodiversity. Thus, the use of pronouns 'we' and 'you' establishes dichotomies on two levels. It separates humans from more than human world and it separates biodiversity

protection workers from the entities that destroy it. Similarly, in clause 4 use of the pronoun 'us' maintains human/nature dichotomy. So, improving understanding of biodiversity and 'web of life' only to 'sustains' humans will not make them respect it intrinsically.

Article 22 is about the concept of rewilding defined as: places where nature can function. It means introduction of wild creatures to the places where they once existed and now removed due to human activity. Councils in England have set up plans to rewild nature. This method comes under biodiversity offset where nature is destroyed to re-built it again. Consider the following clauses which place humans as agents thus reducing nature as something which they can build again after destroying it.

5. "We have got to find large sites of at least 250 acres where we can move significantly up the rewilding spectrum".

6. "Last year, Derby announced the largest urban rewilding project in the UK, at Allestree Park, under which 130 hectares (320 acres) in the city – including parts of a former golf course – will be converted into a mosaic habitat of woodland, scrub and wildflower meadows, with the reintroduction of red kites and dormice".

7. "In East Renfrewshire, a stretch of industrialized river channel on the Levern Water is being reconnected to its natural floodplain and two 18th century weirs are being modified to allow salmon to travel upstream for the first time since the Victorian period".

All these clauses reflect human effort to restore nature. For example, in clause 5 use of the pronoun 'we' signals efforts by humans to restore bison and elk. Clause 6 uses metonymy 'Derby' to refer to the council people who worked to preserve nature. Clause 7 uses the verb 'allow' that takes 'salmon' as an object (entity on which work is being done) so, nature entity is passivized here.

Clauses 8 and 9 are taken from article 23 which presents humans as saviors of nature in their effort to bring back some extinct species and nature is reduced to a subservient position through the expression of gratitude. See the following clauses:

8. "Thanks to work led by Citizen Zoo, in partnership with the Wildlife Trusts and Natural England" (Beavers reintroduction)

9. "The dwarf pansy has returned to an uninhabited island in the Isles of Scilly thanks to long-term habitat restoration work"

Article 36 is about recovery of eagles, wolves and bears in Europe. There are clauses which place humans in the autonomous position whether its destruction or rewilding of nature and animals. This does not adhere to the researcher's ecosophy because humans appear as saviors of biodiversity which they destroyed themselves. See the following clauses and phrase at point 3:

1. "The vast majority have recovered thanks to human effort".

2. "The grey wolf has been the fastest to return among carnivores. For centuries they were killed by humans".

3. "Thanks to legal protection and the banning of damaging pesticides".

In clause 1 'thanks to humans' phrase places human and more than human world in a dichotomy frame. In 2ⁿᵈ clause verb "killed" gives agency to humans as superior species that can destroy biodiversity and phrase 3 again places humans in agent position as doer of activities like 'legal protection' and "banning of damaging pesticides".

Throughout the passage words such as "legislation" and "funding" indicate that biodiversity conservation is something that can be restored with laws and money and the ultimate provider of it is human. So, the power to restore nature lies ultimately in the hands of humans and it denies the rejuvenation ability in nature to maintain its healthy survival therefore, intrinsic worth postulate is not fulfilled.

Article 39 reflects upon saving biodiversity through raising funds, ban on deforestation and dairy usage. There are various trigger words that evoke an economic frame and reduce biodiversity to a passive entity that cannot rejuvenate itself and therefore lack agency: "financing", "economic incentives", "commodities", "businesses". All of these words are mentioned in relation to biodiversity where the author stresses that deforestation can be stopped for example by putting a ban on commodities that require forest products like cocoa, palm oil and soya or eliminating

economic incentives linked with deforestation. This is evidence that humans have been using nature at an exploitative rate. Economic and business frame is further enhanced when preservation of forests is reduced to quantification of spending on conservation and getting required results in terms of conserved land and trees. Moreover, human agency as exploitative and caregiver is accentuated simultaneously. Words such as "funds" and nature "philanthropy" reinforce that nature is something that can be restored through money and it lacks the power to heal itself that is making biodiversity a lifeless and passive entity. Thus, this article does not adhere to the researcher's ecosophy that focuses on protection of more than human life because of deep intrinsic value.

Article 41 talks about wildlife translocation which involves placing animals in places where the species has been extinct. It has various purposes like breeding or strengthening the already existent population. Overall, it is a rebuilding effort to restore the ecosystem that has been destroyed in the past. According to the author, there are several hazards involved in the process including safety of both animals and humans. For instance, conservation of hippos remained a matter of concern because it resulted into a deadly encounter and caused death of the locals. Translocation is a "challenging", "expensive", "dangerous" process according to the authorities as some locals were also killed by the elephants. On the other hand, there is risk of animal killing and their survival is difficult in the new habitat. Back in 2018 6 out 4 rhinos were killed when they were moved from South Africa because new plants in Zakouma were nutrient deficient. Thematically, this conservation method involves treatment of animals as passive creatures who lead lives based on fate decided by humans. First humans destroy their existence and when it has reached a critical level, they start working on restoring it and appear as saviors. In the words of Sebastian Di Martino, rewilding manager in Argentina: "nature has lost its ability to recover on its own". This sentence suggests that nature lacks agentive faculty. So, this does not adhere to the author's ecosophy that believes that nature is an active entity and its protection requires care and compassion not offsetting conservation practices.

Article 42 states that the US is the only country that has not signed a 30 years convention on biodiversity. The Joe Biden administration however, did represent a commitment to conserve 30% of the land and marine life. In this regard, the US put a ban on the trade of shark fins. Generally, it was illegal before but 73 million sharks were fined every year. Linguistically, this article reflects humans as agents and controllers of marine life. For example, words like "hunting", "overfishing" and "extinction" show human exploitation patterns which lead to the disappearance of sharks. Moreover, the wording of the US law uses verbs that portray human control over marine resources: 'to possess', (to)'buy', (to) 'sell' and (to) 'transport' are such verbs'. Although these actions are declared illegal still it explains human hegemony and consumer behavior towards marine resources.

Biodiversity Conservation Based on Instrumental Needs

Nature conservation practice mentioned in article 16 is based on a scientific study that is purely instrumental in nature. Since, nature provides food; therefore, it is crucial that forests and biodiversity should be protected. Consider the following clause by the UN:

1. "Our planet will need to feed almost 10 billion people".

Use of the word 'need' makes '(to)feed' an obligatory requirement that the "planet" must fulfill. It is a service for humans. After this, scientists have suggested that 'the world must also reforest on a huge scale'. Use of the modal verb "must" with adverb "also" suggests a conservation practice that primarily protects human interest. Another example reinforcing the same idea is pronounced by Helen Ding an environmental economist:

2. "We have to restore ecosystems to be able to feed more people, not just for biodiversity".

Use of possessive pronouns "we" and "our" suggests human centric efforts that revolve around feeding people and it appears that protection of biodiversity is a byproduct of the said prime motive of feeding people.

Further, the model method suggested by the author is of Costa Rica where the government has managed to strike a balance between agriculture and nature

conservation. It is springing from incentives based on money. Words such as "paid" and "payments" suggest a transactional frame between landowners and government.

However, the article does a service in disguise. It promotes awareness against pesticides that ruin the soil quality of earth. And it explicitly mentions humans in the agent position of the clause that declares them drivers of mass extinction on earth:

1. "The human-driven sixth mass extinction of life on Earth continues to be subsidised with public money".

The article exposes human centered priorities of political leaders. UN biodiversity summit COP 15 officials expressed that leaders are more concerned about the football world cup than biodiversity conservation. The Chief of biodiversity summit exclaimed:

2. "If they go to Qatar, then they should leave behind appropriate instructions"

Use of the modal verb 'should' suggests the responsibility of leaders. Use of conditional indicates action that holds greater probability like going to Qatar to watch a football match. Moreover, the world leaders are disinterested in attending a summit that is important for the planet but entertainment holds their interest. The statements by the UN chief Maruma Mrema frequently used words like "lack of engagement", governments not being "ambitious" not generating enough 'money' grants to fill the targets. All these words trigger the frame of disinterest of political leadership in biodiversity conservation.

Article 30 is a tricky text in a sense that it makes the reader believe that conserving land through motivating local communities involves less instrumentalism. However, a close reading reveals that land conservation based on discussion with the local communities to utilize their wisdom is ultimately leading to more fish or animal production only to benefit human interest of food and economy and entertainment. In one way, conservation of land through plantation of vision in people or giving them incentives is a strategy to popularize biodiversity conservation-a problem indicated by Elliott (2020). It helps to materialize ideas about conservation that are conceptual, and theory driven because a common man has no interest in nature protection unless it is about him. It underscores an anthropocentric approach. In this kind of conservation

practice there is a blend of business systems and natural systems (Durry, et al.,2022). Consider the following clauses which reflect the approach of managers driving conservation projects.

1. "Conservation is a huge part of anybody who's serious about fishing and shooting, or a deerstalker".

2. "Planting trees beside rivers creates a better habitat for young fish and a more nutrient-rich river that can support bigger fish, which would be better for angling businesses".

3. "There are a lot of ways we can use land better and increase what it can offer"

Lexical choices such as: "fishing", "shooting" and "angling business" all suggest human centered activities. Use of phrase "what it can offer" (in clause 3) about services nature can give to humans is a clear indication of conservation concern based on human needs.

In later paragraphs lexical choices in clauses suggesting nature conservation clearly drive business frame through trigger words: "jobs", "tourism", "funding".

Article 37 is about recognition of nature's value. Mere economic growth taken from nature's resources is not a sustainable practice and has led to devastating results. Policy makers have to take into account spiritual and cultural benefits nature can "provide". For example, the Canadian Nuclear Waste Management authority integrated local perspectives in their waste management policy and attended ceremonies to develop a similar outlook about 'experiencing' land. In the clause below, lexical choices such as 'market based', "profits", 'economic growth' and "people's wellbeing" bracket nature exploitation for human needs. Even if the cultural and spiritual value of nature is recognized, it is still for human benefit. This does not fulfill the researcher's ecosophy because biodiversity and nature does not belong to humans alone it is a home for other species too. Thus, nature conservation that only keeps into account spiritual and cultural benefits for humans alone and not more than the human world is not conservation based on intrinsic worth of nature.

A market-based focus on short-term profits and economic growth means the wider benefits of nature have been ignored, which has led to bad decisions that have reduced people's wellbeing and contributed to climate and nature crises, according to a UN report. Integral to the training model is using real, already dead kiwi, some of their pungent faeces, and feathers from their nests to pique the dogs' interest

Biodiversity Conservation Based on Intrinsic Value of Nature

Article 11 talks about conservation of trees in Kenya by indigenous people thereby highlighting the importance of native communities' commitment to protect nature because nature is a part of their lifestyle. The author underscores a point that intrinsic motivation to conserve nature begins with shunning the duality between human and nature. Destruction of this dichotomy that is arranged in hierarchy where humans occupy the central position leads to environmental protection schemes that meet only the instrumental needs for humans and is one of the leading causes of over consumption. This would be explained in the subsequent part of the analysis.

To begin with, the spirit of the said words is highlighted in the following clause: Notice that clause 2 below has base level lexis based on individual tree names which is a technique used in texts promoting nature's salience. Clause 3 highlights the interconnected web of human and more than human life is as follows:

2. "The disappearance of indigenous trees such as African wild olive, cedar, red stinkwood and nandi flame, was not just a blow to biodiversity but also to the Kipsigis way of life".

3. "It (forest) is also a source of streams that recharge the Mara River and, owing to its proximity to the Maasai Mara national reserve, a refuge for wildlife".

Further, human role in destroying native species of trees is suggested in phrases such as plantation of 'exotic trees for commercial purposes' which appeared as a threat to 'indigenous species'. So, the article is explicit about human role and no concealment strategy such as passivization of clause is used.

One of the major themes that resonated with the ecosophy of valuing nature for its intrinsic worth lies in nature's irreplacilibility; it is reflected by highlighting the

connection of species with other elements of biodiversity. See the following clauses taken from article 23:

1. "Native oysters create nursery habitats for fish, improve water quality, remove nitrogen from the water and sequester carbon".

2. "These large mammals create dynamic habitats in woodlands by knocking down trees, stripping off bark, nibbling vegetation and making dust baths. Ranger Donovan Wright described them as 'gentle giants' which are like 'jet fuel for biodiversity".

3. "Sphagnum mosses are being reintroduced at sites across Manchester to help capture carbon and support other bog-loving species, such as sundews, invertebrates and fungi. These important peatland species create the conditions in which other plants can thrive".

4. "Beavers are often called "ecosystem engineers" for their ability to benefit other species, help reduce flooding, increase water retention and reduce silting".

Moreover, the intrinsic worth is highlighted by using superlative degrees of adjectives such as: Bison is the "largest land mammal", north frog is the "rarest amphibian" , in England. It is also reinforced by comparison such as: 'smaller than the tip of a pencil this little flower (dwarf pancy) is found nowhere apart from Scilly'.

Further, the article mentions the human role in destruction of biodiversity. However, the explicit role of humans in destroying biodiversity is effaced through passivization of clauses. See following clauses:

1. "Bison, which are Europe's largest land mammal, were driven out of the UK 6,000 years ago by hunting and habitat loss". (Who did hunt and destroy habitat?)

2. "After the second world war, the abandonment of grazing, as well as the disappearance of rabbits from the island, made life difficult for the pansy, which thrives on well-grazed, regularly disturbed grassland" (who caused the 2nd world war in the first place? Who caused the dislocation of rabbits?).

Overall, the article adheres to the ecosophy of the researcher as interconnectedness is promoted, salience techniques are used like use of superlative degree.

Article 18 brackets an indigenous idea of biodiversity protection where plants are treated at a hospital. The hospital team comprises experts such as botanists, gardeners and tree surgeons who provide services to protect biodiversity of the city. Linguistically, the analogy of a hospital by the maker of the service is significant. Hospital is a place where lives are saved and where critical conditions are treated. In this regard the analogy holds good as in Rohit Mehra's hospital plants are saved and treated. In addition, the treatment received by the plants is prepared by organic means. It is like 'for the plants by the plants. Linguistically, it is indicated by use of basic level plant-based lexis that has choices from local language too:

We use herbs like neem, cinnamon bark, ashwagandha (Indian ginseng), moringa (drumstick powder), as well as fruit and vegetable peels to make our medicines. Neem oil mixed with water in a 70-30 ratio makes for an excellent insecticide, as well as a tonic for plants.

The article adheres to the ecosophy because there is no instrumental benefit derived from this method of protection. It involves the idea of care that is deeply rooted in the culture and sentiments of people. For example, "Sahib Singh" protects a neem tree because his father planted it. And remedies to treat plants are often derived from ancient religious texts.

Article 19 promotes intrinsic value of animals and trees and whales. It does so by highlighting the interconnectedness of species in more than human world. Consider the following clause:

"They (whales) eat other marine creatures, including krill, and in the process take nutrients from deeper water to be released via their faeces into the ocean, where they fertilise blooms of planktonic algae."

Here, whales are presented to occupy subject position. Verb "eat" indicates it. This activity later "fertilise" planktonic algae in the ocean. This alga performs a lot of

activities that sustain marine life by keeping carbon dioxide levels under control. Verbs like 'grow', 'extract', 'release' all take planktonic algae in the doer position.

Overall, article 28 follows the ecosophy of the researcher because it accentuates protection of a woodland that has history attached to it and it goes back to Suffragettes. Rose Yates and Annie Kenney planted Batheaston Black Pine back in 1909. However, it was abolished to build a housing scheme in 60's. a woman named Mary who lived in Bath since that time came infront of bulldozers to protect the trees. Later, it got destroyed and only one survived and that one tree is now being transformed into a woodland for the cause of climate justice. Women gathered and found that seeds of that one tree were releasing seeds. Women from Art, Feminism and Environmentalism pledged to transform it into a woodland by 2028. This kind of protective measure springs from valuing trees for their iconic past not just instrumental needs because it has inspired many environmental campaigns like: "The Walking Forest".

The following clauses places tree in the agent position through verb 'see', 'hold' and 'wield'

1. "The tree **has seen** enormous political and social change over its 100-year lifespan'
2. 'Yates' black pine continues **to wield** a metaphorical and physical power'
3. 'Trees **hold** cultural memory"

There are some clauses that are passivized shifting the agency onto humans but indicating human destruction extended to the forest. It is realized through verbs like: 'bulldozed', 'disregarded' and 'destroyed'. Further, there are clauses which indicate rewilding of the woodland by humans, and it puts the power in human hands. It is indicated through verbs: 'we make', 'looking after'. Destruction of nature and its rebuilding both lies in humans' hands creating a binary construction within homosapiens as destructors/builders of nature.

Article 31 is about conservation through protection of diversity in animals because just like humans they learn social skills for survival through culture; so, it adheres to the researcher's ecosophy of protection of biodiversity for intrinsic worth. For

instance, whales started wiping out due to massive whaling from the marine landscape of the North Atlantic region. They carried a cultural memory of 'feeding grounds' that is the knowledge of hunting techniques and location of food. Now, on those hunting grounds there are lesser whales and the reason is that the knowledge of this location was present in the cultural memory of whales and it has been removed due to hunting. Linguistically, use of verbs ' (to)learn', ' (to) create' and phrase 'highly cultural' give agentive and attributive significance to whales and other entities of nature.

1. "Birds, bees, naked mole-rats, fish and even fruit flies are among those that have been found to learn socially and create cultures".

2. "Whales are among the many animals known to be highly cultural".

In addition, knowledge of species is also significant in conservation because diversity within species displays different behavior. For example, plain caribou and mountain caribou have different behavioral patterns but limited human knowledge that tends to homogenize identities sees both species as one. Moreover, researchers suggest that plain caribou have better survival chances than mountain caribou. But if humans are negligent about mountain caribou conservation because they homogenize them, then the ecology of mountain tops would alter too. This sort of discussion strengthen the significance of Stibbe's (2015) argument that highest level of salience is created with basic level lexis because through concrete naming, individuality is accentuated, which will ultimately help in better understanding of biodiversity conservation.

Article 35 is about a tree that was conserved by the local Arab community. Its conservation adheres to the ecosophy of the researcher because it is not based on instrumental needs. It is based on its uniqueness that it cannot be found anywhere in the world like these trees are hundreds of years old. Their age could not be calculated because there are no rings on the trunk.

Hence, the postulate of biodiversity protection based on intrinsic worth is fulfilled. Linguistically, it is realized in several clauses explained below:

Several names of the tree are mentioned which create an individuality pattern like: 'Dragon Blood' and in Arabic '*Dam al-Akhawain*' meaning blood of the two brothers who drove each other to death. And some hold that there was a fight between a

dragon and an elephant and the tree rose from it. Another general name of the tree is: 'umbrella species' that springs from the inherent value the tree possesses. It nourishes the species around it 'from snakes to flowering plants.

However, the clauses which indicate the depletion of the dragon tree do not explicitly mention the agent behind this destruction. Such kind of discourse is discussed by Durry, et al., (2022) who argue that discourse that laments nature removes agency from humans through process nouns. For example, in the text:

Two major factors are driving the dragon's blood tree to the brink... The **climate crisis** is one…**dwindling rainy seasons** have caused prolonged and severe droughts, which means less moisture in the soil, leaving saplings struggling to survive. **Extreme and unpredictable weather systems**, …**Overgrazing** is also a key factor in the trees' decline.

In the above quoted text, the text in bold indicates all those processes which have caused extinction of the trees instead of explicitly mentioning the human agent behind it.

Article 33 follows the ecosophy of the researcher because it highlights the value in more than the human world that humans are imitating to make their lives better. Hence, agency is shifted onto other creatures, and it is realized through the following clauses:

1. "nature has worked out solutions to many problems"
2. "the idea for robotic arms came from the motion and gripping ability of elephant trunks, and the front of Japan's bullet trains were redesigned to mimic a kingfisher's streamlined beak, reducing the sonic boom they made exiting tunnels"

In clause 1 "nature" occupies the subject position of verb "worked out" and in 2nd clause 'gripping ability' of the elephant's trunk inspired the making of a robotic arm and bullet trains follow "streamlined beak" of the kingfisher.

Article 38 is about ants and their importance as 'ecosystem engineers'. Over all this text adheres to the ecosophy of the researcher because it highlights the

interdependence of living creatures on earth. It is realized in the following clause by professor Corrie Moreau from Cornell University: "Nature is this intricate woven tapestry and if you pull one thread, you'll never know which is the critical thread that makes the whole thing fall apart".

The author begins by suggesting common human view of ants as 'annoying', 'small', 'uninteresting' creatures however, ants play a huge role in balancing the ecosystem and their study can inspire human experiments about robots that locate missing people since ants are adept at finding food and navigate successfully back to their habitats if lost somewhere. The clauses which suggest dependence of plants and butterflies on ants are as follows:

1. "Butterflies that rely on ants to tend to their caterpillars could disappear if those ants are wiped out"

2. "plants developed specialist structures to keep the ants there, including sugar-water fountains and domatia [hollow chambers in the plant where ant colonies can live]."

Moreover, there are clauses which show ants in the agent/active position. Verbs such as 'block', 'learn', and 'use' are used by the author to show their intelligence.

3. "ant …**can use** the position of the sun as a compass cue, and **learn** to use visual landmarks like we do to navigate".

4. "Soldiers (ants) **block** their nest entrance with their giant dish-plate heads and only move to the side when another individual from their nest is available to take over".

Article 40 is based on experiences of a documentary maker Bruce Perry who spent considerable time with Kombai people in New Guinea. He is focusing on putting knowledge learned from local communities to action to put a stop to the environmental crisis. He believes that the environmental crisis can be tackled only if it is led by behavioral change. He argues that 'we are hypocrites' and a nomadic lifestyle is the only viable solution to cater to the natural crisis. For example, reliance on nature for consumption is reduced as consuming coffee is replaced by yoga and dance for waking up. Furthermore, he has created 'Primal gatherings'- an idea he

originally got from Portugal. People gather to connect with the land on 'emotional' and 'spiritual level' by planting trees and mushrooms. Also, this community includes people who have lost trust in organizations, political actions and governments; so, it is an attempt at creating communities that care for nature. The festival includes activities that grant agency to nature such as there is singing for the oak trees which portrays trees as a perceptive entity. Reliance on nature to derive benefit exists moving away from consumption ideas like eating mushrooms for increased concentration. Moreover, local names are used to address more than the human world like the 500 years old tree is called 'grandmother tree' and 'lion mane' for mushrooms. Further, there are 'tree identification' walks. People who participated in such festivals registered change and transformation in their behavior. People care for nature because they were motivated through loss and grief for loved ones. This means that identification with more than the human world in terms of emotions is vital to create a response that has spiritual significance. Yamin, a nature lawyer, rightly argues that now economies should be based on 'care , compassion and kindness' instead of 'production and extraction'. The said article is therefore based on conservation practices rooted in inherent value of nature and it is a positive discourse because it discourages exploitation and consumption of nature.

Article 43 reports an event that started in 2016 between Los Angeles and San Francisco that captures flora and fauna across the states. It has become a global event now held in all countries. Participants upload their nature pictures on iNaturalist app and then observations are counted for positions. Like last year Bolivia came first and second was South Africa. The organizers claim that there are several benefits for such events as people gain 'knowledge' about wildlife and plants. Further, they get to 'understand' their environment better and this initiative is in line with CoP15 Montreal agreement which pledges to give access to green spaces in the urban areas. Moreover, many species that were thought to be extinct got rediscovered through the app. Linguistically, use of nouns such as 'knowledge' and 'understand' refer to the deeper understanding by humans about their environment so thematically, this article

adheres to the ecosophy as there are no consumer driven protection of biodiversity instinct.

Article 45 adheres to the researcher's ecosophy because it promotes the value of nature based on care and compassion and involves spending time in nature to gain knowledge about plant types. It is based on conservation of wild flowers through plantation. Conservationists suggest that wild flower growth should be local. In order to find which type of flowers best suit a particular area, planters should go out themselves and then use this local wisdom to plant native species of plants. Swedish researchers suggest growing local varieties of wild flowers is like food. Unless people know where it grows, people cannot make correct choices. One step that can be taken to ensure that sellers sell only native varieties of plants is to label the origin of each plant on a seeds' packet. In the UK regional diversity of plants is affected because seeds are being sold as mixed species and they are not suitable for a particular land. In addition, some pollinators do not visit some plants. For example, bumble bees pollinate red clover only. Another way to conserve wild flowers according to the author is to leave the grass un mowed and see what species of plants emerge.

CHAPTER 5
CONCLUSION

5.1. Findings

The analysis of research question 1 (a and b) and 2 revealed that the selected data is a positive discourse predominantly; since, beneficial linguistic practices identified in Stibbe (2015) framework of story of salience are reflected in the *Country Diary* series. The gap of the study was to address the underrepresentation of biodiversity related content within the environmental discourse. It is successfully addressed as the data reflected positive linguistic practices considering biodiversity more than climate change (see the analysis of research question 1 (b) particularly).

Research Question 1(a)

Through Research question 1 (a) the series of articles was identified at word and clause level (through Ant.Conc 3.5-word list feature and concordance tables) which had less abstract text. And it was the *Country Diary* series. The scope of this question was limited to the objective identification only.

Research Question 1 (b)

Research question two was answered by highlighting beneficial linguistic practices such as individualization, sense images, activation of clauses, similes, description of nature, use of adjectives, basic level lexis and history of places. This was in line with Stibbe's theoretical framework.

However, there are some observations made by the researcher which go beyond Stibbe's (2015) framework for the story of salience and these observations reflect previous research. See the following points:

Stibbe (2015) framework suggests that sense images are created when an external entity impacts senses (p.177). He further elucidates: "Sense images encourage the reader to imagine being in the scene described by the author and viewing for themselves what the author is viewing, leading to strong prominence for what is being described" (p.177). Further, new nature writings depict the natural scenes as the natural world unfolds before the author and the author is placed in the observer

position. Stibbe (2015) suggests that in the observer position, the authors produce the impact by using verbs like 'see' and pronoun 'you' to invite the reader to imagine the scene with them. In the analysis of the text, it was observed that use of onomatopoeia by the authors of the *Country Diary* create auditory impact. So, not only sense images are created through verbs like: see and look; it is generated through sounds as well and stylistically many authors in the *Country Diary* series used onomatopoeia as sense image strategy. Goatly (2017) also puts this argument that positive discourse presents nature as an impact causing entity. For example, article 4 and 51 of question no.2 uses sound words such as : 'ku-ku', 'coo-coo' for the bird sound, 'woo-woo-woo' for the movement of wings, '*tseep*' for the sound of redwing bird and the entire phrase tsee-bada-tsee-bada-tsee-bada-scabba-diddle-oo' suggests bird sounds in the garden. Narrative style articles are frequent in the *Country Diary* series and according to Myers (2003) positive discourses have this feature.

Considering the narrative style in the *Country Diary* articles, it is important to note that environmental journalism is borrowing from literature. It is confirmed by the study on the relationship of literary works as cultural products and biodiversity representation in texts conducted by Langer et al. (2023). They argue that authors who write about nature develop a "unique fingerprint" in style that is based on several factors such as age, gender and place of residence.

Another strategy to help the reader imagine the scene with the author is the use of present tense and present progressive tense in the Country Diary series. Since, there are narrative style articles in this series, the selection of this tense makes sense. The researcher calls it a strategy of creating a sense image because according to Stibbe (2015) any strategy that registers the impact of nature on senses and helps the reader to imagine the scene with the author is a sense image. In this regard, choice of present and present progressive tense creates urgency and immediacy that creates a temporal link between the production of information and its timely reception (Katarzyna et al., 2017). For example, article 27 begins like this, describing the walk in the forest and inviting the reader to imagine the scene with the author through stimulation of auditory perception by use of sound words:

> **I**t's a bright and blustery October day, and I walk up the Chevin escarpment
> through an autumn soundscape: the dry, susurrous **rustle of crisping oak
> leaves** in the wind; the **rattle-cackle of fieldfares** as they raid a hawthorn for
> its red bounty; the delicate **chatter** of a flock of linnets, newly banded together
> for the   months ahead

As far as salience through basic level lexis is concerned, Gong (2019) suggests that highly scientific names are not salient because they are not understood by a common reader. Highly scientific names were observed in the analysis like: article 14 of the analysis depicts the scientific name of maple tree *Acer campestre.* Such instances are rare but they do exist in the data. However, lexical richness increases biodiversity sensitivity (Langer et al. 2023). So, rich biodiversity related vocabulary and highly scientific biodiversity related vocabulary are two different ideas the former creates salience and later enhances abstractness.

Research Question 2

The ecosophical orientation of *The Age of Extinction* series confirmed the ecosophy of the researcher based on the intrinsic value of biodiversity, but there were themes of human centrality which portrayed humans as saviors of nature and advanced the instrumental importance of nature. The said themes of human centrality and instrumental importance of nature are in line with Cook & Sealey (2017) who argue that destructive texts have the idea of qualitative superiority of humans over other species called exceptionalism.

Moreover, one linguistic feature in the said two themes was the use of possessive pronouns: 'we' and 'our' (for example see clause 1, 2 and 3 under the heading of Humans as Savior of Nature and Clause 1 and 2 under the heading highlighting instrumental importance of nature in the analysis section of question 3). According to Burroughs (2022) use of possessive pronouns suggest human ownership of nature which is destructive for nature.

This theme of human centrality is causing great setbacks to biodiversity conservation. Wenjuan (2017) suggested that the cause is rooted in the European

philosophical worldview that separates language and the world; thus, ignoring the impact of language on behavior. To overcome this shortcoming, he suggested incorporating wider philosophical orientations within ecolinguistics frameworks like Chinese philosophy. In Chinese philosophy, society and nature are operated as one unit therefore it offers linguistic practices deeply rooted in concerns for nature. This research strengthens this view point on thematic and linguistic level. For example, biodiversity conservation based on intrinsic value of nature catered articles where native solutions were highlighted to protect biodiversity moving away from technoscientific conservation practices offered by the Western world. In Kenya nature is a part of the Kenyan lifestyle; so, they don't see nature as a separately existing entity. Throughout the article basic level lexis were used which suggested that a blow to biodiversity is a blow to Kenyan Lifestyle. In addition, passivation techniques were not used in the text to conceal human role in biodiversity destruction.

The research also confirms the division of positive discourse into three types by Perrins (2019): discourse which offers a different vision of being, respecting other species on earth and similarities with other species to reveal importance of all forms of life on earth. For example, a different vision of being is offered in the analysis of article 18 where analogy of a hospital is utilized to establish a hospital for the plants where organic treatments are offered. Similarities between humans and other species is highlighted in article 31 where whales are discussed as an example of species who transmit their culture like humans. Respect for all forms of life is accentuated in article 23 where interconnectedness of more than human life is discussed.

5.2. Summing up the Discussion

Research question one (a) states: What is the frequency of biodiversity related lexis and clause content in the *Country Diary* and *The Age of Extinction* series from *The Guardian?* It was answered by processing two sets of data A and B separately from *The Age of Extinction* and *Country Diary* series respectively through Ant. Conc version 3.5. Set A consisted of 40,565 words and Set B was made up of 40,162 words. The result suggested that there were 16 concrete level biodiversity related lexis in set A and 54 concrete level biodiversity related lexis in set B. Also, the qualitative

analysis through concordance list gave an idea that at clause level Set B is rich in positive linguistic practices. Hence, *Country Diary* is more positive discourse than *The Age of Extinction* series. And a better outlet to find beneficial linguistic practices for the environment.

Research question one (b) states: How does the series promote salience patterns of biodiversity through foregrounding participants in clauses and counter abstraction strategies? This was answered by closely reading the selected article and positive linguistic practices in line with Stibbe (2015) Ecolinguistic framework were identified such as: Individualization, basic level lexis, history, similes, sense images, use of adjectives and description. However, there were some observations regarding the stylistic pattern of the Country Diary series that go beyond Stibbe's framework. Such as: use of sound words, narrative style of articles incorporating present and present progressive tense to create the sense of immediacy; thus, inviting the reading to imagine the scene with the author and highly scientific names of biodiversity related entities, which according to Gong (2019) is not salient. Overall, the *Country Diary* series is a positive discourse.

Research question two states: What is the ecosophical orientation of the articles that claim to provide solutions to protect biodiversity in the *Age of Extinction* series?. This was answered by closely reading those articles in *The Age of Extinction* series at clause and lexical level which suggest biodiversity conservation because this is where the researcher could find the hidden agenda of the newspaper agency. The results showed three themes: Humans as saviors of biodiversity, Biodiversity conservation based on instrumental needs and Biodiversity conservation based on intrinsic value of nature. There is polarity in the said themes. The first two themes are human centric; however, the last theme matches the ecosophy of the researcher which reflects deep ecology's postulate of intrinsic value in nature. Intrinsic worth of nature means: Nature should be protected because it is irreplaceable and more than the human world depends on it for its survival. Thus, humans should start caring for species other than themselves and protect it due to their inherent values not instrumental needs.

In the end, this work successfully fulfills the aim of the research based on highlighting beneficial linguistic practices for biodiversity and it also brings into limelight an underrepresented area within the ecological discourse which is biodiversity.

5.3 Implications

Earth is facing the 6th mass extinction according to the reports by the UN. In this regard this work not only addresses the issue of biodiversity conservation through careful language practices, it also exposes underlying harmful linguistic practices in journalistic writing that camouflage anthropocentric agendas. Since newspapers are consumed by the general public, this work is significant to create awareness in people about language strategies that may carry implicit messages of environmental destruction.

This work has implications in the field of Ecolinguistics. Interdisciplinary fields carry the challenge of terminologies because the nature of such disciplines is rhizomatic. To some extent, this work attempts to solve this confusion by addressing a working concept of biodiversity in terms of its scope, defining Ecolinguistics as a separate discipline of linguistic studies not just a branch of Critical Discourse Analysis , and incorporation of Positive Discourse Analysis as a method combining it with corpus techniques of frequency lists and concordance analysis.

Environment friendly texts as identified in the *Country Diary* series can serve as support material in the English language lessons to promote healthy interaction with nature through carefully crafted language about nature.

5.4. Future Directions/Recommendations

Researchers working in the discipline of Ecolinguistics can work to expose implicit anthropocentric agendas by doing policy analysis of Sustainable Development Goals from a linguistic perspective. The evidence comes from the

thematic analysis done at the clause level in RQ2, revealing that conservation of biodiversity from the perspective of ecological well being is not the center of many UN policies and their prime motive is non-negotiable economic development as the research demonstrated themes like instrumental importance of nature and humans as savior of nature in the data. The idea that sustainable goals are not sustainable in nature is further verified by research carried out by Prerna and Pragati (2020). The authors conclude that at policy level sustainable goals hold discrepancy between what is envisioned and what is achieved because SDGs have an inherent economic agenda which is greenwashed apparently.

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