

**REPRESENTATION OF COVID-19
NARRATIVES IN PAKISTANI ENGLISH
NEWSPAPERS: AN ECOLINGUISTICS
PERSPECTIVE**

BY

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Representation of Covid-19 Narratives in Pakistani English Newspapers: An Ecolinguistics Perspective

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Candidate of **Master of Philosophy** at the National University of Modern Languages do hereby declare that the thesis **Representation of Covid-19 Narratives in Pakistani English Newspapers: An Ecolinguistic Perspective** submitted by me in partial fulfillment of MPhil degree, is my original work, and has not been submitted or published earlier. I also solemnly declare that it shall not, in future, be submitted by me for obtaining any other degree from this or any other university or institution.

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ABSTRACT

Title: Representation of Covid-19 Narratives in Pakistani English Newspapers: An Ecolinguistic Perspective

This study explores role of print media in spreading information about pandemic and environmental changes during pandemic. As environmental issues, climate change and such pandemics are common problems of the planet and connected to health of ecosystem. Therefore, media especially print media is central in disseminating information regarding such disasters. All such disasters and crisis are connected somewhere in background. Therefore, there is need of proper way and medium to spread information in such crucial time and encourage people to play vital role in sustainability of ecosystem. As language plays central role in promoting such ecological narratives that save or destroy our environment and hence our ecosystem. This study aims to investigate the strategies employed in the construction of four stories such as erasure, salience, conviction and evaluation in English newspaper's articles and highlights how different linguistics features makes the text natural and persuasive. The researcher selects total thirty articles from three English newspapers such as Dawn, The Express Tribune and the News. Authors often employ these strategies to erase, foreground important aspects. Stibbe (2015) has been used as theoretical framework to analyze the strategies in the construction of erasure, salience, evaluation and conviction in Covid-19 related newspapers' articles. The findings of study suggests that different strategies are employed in the construction of these four stories in environmental discourses such as appraisal patterns, modality, facticity patterns, euphemism, foregrounding, activation, personification, metaphors, co-hyponymy, passive constructions, nominalisation, abstraction and hyponym etc. Moreover, the study concludes that salience has been given to improved environment during pandemic however selfish humans are blamed for creating situation for covid-19 by destroying nature. Through analysis of these stories' researcher investigates the connection between environment and covid-19. The study emphasizes demand for encouraging the beneficial stories and resisting destructive stories by spreading awareness among people regarding harmful aspects of destructive stories.

Keywords: *Print media, pandemic, environmental discourse, ecolinguistics, evaluation, conviction, erasure, salience*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter	Page
THESIS AND DEFENSE APPROVAL FORM.....	ii
AUTHOR’S DECLARATION	iii
ABSTRACT.....	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vii
DEDICATION.....	viii
1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Study Ecolinguistics and Environmental Issues	2
1.2 COVID-19, Ecological and Environmental Issues	5
1.3 Statement of the Problem	7
1.4 Research Objectives	8
1.5 Research Questions	8
1.6 Significance of the Study	8
1.7 Delimitation	8
1.8 Structure and Organisation of Study	9
2. LITERATURE REVIEW	10
2.1 Emergence and Causes of COVID-19	10
2.2 COVID-19 Pandemic: An Overview of Pakistani Print Media	12
2.3 Pandemic, Environment and Sustainability	13
2.4 Relationship of Environmental Discourse and Media	14
2.5 Ecolinguistic Stories	16
2.5.1 Ideology	16
2.5.2 Framing	17
2.5.3 Metaphor	17
2.5.4 Evaluation.....	17
2.5.5 Identity.....	17
2.5.6 Conviction	18
2.5.7 Erasure.....	18
2.5.8 Saliience	19

2.6	Historical Background of Ecolinguistics	19
2.6.1	Theoretical Paradigms	21
2.6.2	Erasure	22
2.6.3	Erasure in Ecolinguistics.....	22
2.6.4	Saliency	23
2.6.5	Conviction.....	24
2.6.6	Evaluation	25
2.7	Previous Studies	26
2.8	Gap in Existing Literature.....	29
3.	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.....	30
3.1	Research Method	30
3.2	Rationale for Selection of Qualitative Research Method	30
3.3	Sample.....	31
3.4	Data Collection Method	33
3.5	Restating the Research Questions	34
3.6	Theoretical Framework.....	34
3.7	Erasure	35
3.7.1	The Void.....	35
3.7.2	The Trace.....	36
3.7.3	The Mask.....	36
3.8	Saliency	36
3.9	Evaluation	37
3.10	Conviction.....	37
4.	DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS.....	39
4.1	Introduction.....	39
4.2	Evaluation	39
4.3	Conviction.....	50
4.4	Saliency	61
4.5	Erasure	72
5.	CONCLUSION.....	81
5.1	Findings and Discussion	81

5.1.1 Findings	81
5.1.2 Discussion	83
5.2 Conclusion	86
5.3 Recommendations	87
5.4 Suggestions	87
REFERENCES.....	89

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my entire family, parents and siblings, whose endless support and encouragement motivated me to complete this research.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

The COVID-19 pandemic in the 21st century is a lethal disease caused by Coronavirus, identified in Wuhan city of China in December, 2019. It ruined not only the economic system of the entire world but also affected the environment of the planet in several ways (Ankit et al., 2021). Therefore, it has caused serious health crises all over the world and became a threat to the survival of the ecosystem. Consequently, the transmission of this virus has not only affected people but has threatened their senses (Robson, 2020). Moreover, it has badly ruined the earth's peaceful environment by accentuating fear among people. Although it brought serious health crises across the world it created some positive effects on the environment as well, e.g. it reduced noise pollution, and greenhouse gases and improved water quality due to a reduction in human activities that are primary sources to aggravate environmental issues (Garcia et al., 2020). It minimized the environmental issue sometime but did not eradicate them. Therefore, the increase in the usage of pesticides, soaps, detergents, sanitizers, single-use plastic, etc. has increased manifold in the past few months and is taking a heavy toll on the environment (Monserrate.Z et al., 2020). Thus, keeping in view the environmental and ecological consequences of COVID-19, the issues pertaining to environmental issues should be addressed influentially and awareness needs to be inculcated among people towards their role in the safety of the ecosystem. COVID-19 has increased environmental issues like pollution and caused serious threats to lives on the planet. Hence, the pandemic received more coverage in Pakistani English newspapers than other environmental issues and crises that are continuous threats to the survival of humankind.

On the other hand, environmental issues and problems have become major challenges for the whole world many developed and developing countries show serious concerns over the public awareness of a need for action in addressing environmental problems (Lester & Hutchins, 2009). For past few decades climate change, pandemic, pollution etc. has been remained major issues of entire world. Therefore, the media is the best source to spread awareness regarding environmental

and ecological issues. Likewise, during the pandemic environmental issues did not receive much coverage. At present, human beings are facing severe health crises such as pandemic ecological crises, species extinction and endangerment, air pollution, plastic pollution in the oceans, and climate change, many of them happening along with human development. Hence, there is a need to properly address the environmental issues and spread awareness regarding these issues to save the ecosystem of the planet (Mliless & Larouz, 2020). Therefore, the perception of human beings about the world can be influenced by language, either it encourages human beings to protect or destroy the ecosystem that their life depends upon (Stibbe, 2012). Media especially, newspaper plays a vital role in disseminating information among the masses regarding environmental issues. Therefore, of the world created by media is almost always a powerful one (Prima, 2014). By the late 1960s, the environment has become a primary issue of political and public concern that is attracting mainstream media's attention by negotiating access and shaping meanings (Das et al., 2009).

Environmental issues should be studied in relation to media and communication to decipher current problematic situation. Environmental issues are having trouble to take place in media outlets therefore a respectable number of problems are not recognized in the public although they require a detailed attention on them. The best way to find solutions for environmental problems will be possible by drawing attention on them via media. Sometimes even a problem that has a vital consequence can fade away over time due to lack of attention in public spheres. Hansen mentions that communication is necessary for recognition of environmental issues in public. Media is considered to be playing a key role to raise awareness of the public about specific issues. Existing environmental issues have begun to rise since the industrial progress, even though media had constantly ignored the phenomena. Similarly, during pandemic environment had started improving, there the role of media was crucial in spreading information regarding positive environmental effects.

1.2 Ecolinguistics and Environmental Issues

Environmental issues are serious threats to the ecosystem therefore, these issues need proper coverage in daily life so people could realize their role toward the environment. Furthermore, Leudecke and Boykoff, (2017) claimed that media

interventions, which aspire to develop an understanding of complex and dynamic human–environment interactions often oppose journalistic rules and values like personalization and novelty, which are considered essential. As a result, implicit and decontextualized reporting confuses rather than clarifies understanding and engagement in environmental crises. Therefore, the role of linguists in ecological issues is needed. Furthermore, in this regard, Halliday (1990; 199) said that “classism, growthism, destruction of livings, pollution and the similarity are not just the issues to be solved by the biologist, physicist, and scientist, in fact, it is also a problem for the linguists or the linguistic community”.

Ecolinguistics, a newly emerged paradigm begins to find solutions to environmental issues from the perspective of language use in environmental discourse. One typical discourse can be the print media discourse. It is defined as a new branch of linguistics that explores how language is used to represent the ecosystem, ecology, and ecological problems from the ecological perspectives (Song & Tang, 2020). Nowadays exploring the language of environmental discourses from the perspective of ecolinguistics has become an essential need because exploring the language of a discourse depicts the ideology of a text whether the ideology encourages people to save the environment or nature or destroy it. Ecolinguistics has emerged as the field of linguistics in 1990s; however, the idea appeared already in 1972 in the work of Haugen, “The Ecology of Language”. Eco linguistics is defined as a new branch of linguistics that focuses the use of language that is used to represent ecosystem, various ecological phenomenon from sustainability perspective (Song & Tang, 2020).

It investigates the way in which language is used to represent environment, environmental problems and living and non-living things in written and spoken forms. Therefore, the role of linguists is required to represent these environmental problems. Halliday (1990) said, “Classism, growthism, destruction of livings, pollution and the similarity are not just the issue to be solved by the biologist, physicist, and scientist, in fact it is also the problem for the linguist or the linguistic community.” Hence, the job of linguist is to promote the way in which language is used to encourage people towards their role in saving ecosystem. Stibbe (2015) defines ecolinguistics as an analysis of the language of the stories we live by, judge it in accordance with ecosophy and contributes to dredge up new the new stories that

we live by. Ecolinguistics plays a major role in solving ecological problems by challenging as well as unveiling these stories in order to build a peaceful society.

Ecolinguistics judge the ideology of discourses against their ideologies (Stibbe, 2015). Therefore, the investigation of ideologies is examined through the linguistic patterns, linguistic strategies, and linguistic features that run throughout the discourse. Human beings live in a continuously changing environment that makes them aware of the environment and the negative influence they have on it (Al Thekrallah, 2019). Dash said that ecolinguistics fulfills the need for linguistics that can protect ecology through language and language through ecological sustainability by “harnessing, developing, and promoting both language and ecology” (Dash, 2019).

Ecolinguistics actually questions the stories that lead to ecological destruction and undermines linguistic diversity and offers positive stories. It mainly emphasizes the exploration of stories we live by through vocabulary, linguistic patterns, and strategies in order to open up the way ideas are presented, and the way the ideas affect the environment. Additionally, language can lead to desertification of forests or afforestation of deserts, killing or saving of animals, birds, or species. Therefore, Eco linguistics is the best approach to analyze COVID-19-related discourses from an ecological perspective. This study has examined the ways English newspapers represented Covid-19 and the most important environmental issues and underlying stories in selected texts related to environmental issues and COVID-19 during a pandemic.

The present study has analyzed the linguistic features that are used in the construction of these environmental discourses according to the framework of Stibbe, Language, Ecology, and the stories we live by (Stibbe, 2015). Alwin Fill (2001) defines Eco linguistics as a new branch of linguistics that ‘investigates the role of language in the development and possible solutions of ecological and environmental problems (Dash, 2019). This research has analyzed the articles related to environmental issues and COVID-19 published by three selected English newspapers during a pandemic. Specifically, this study has analyzed the environmental stories and COVID-19 from the ecological perspective covered by selected newspapers in order to determine whether they encourage people to protect or destroy the ecosystem.

If they are beneficial they need to be promoted and if they are destructive then they need to be resisted” (Stibbe, 2015). In the book *Eco linguistics language, Ecology and Stories we live by* Arran Stibbe claims that Eco linguistics analyses the language to reveal the stories we live by, judges those stories from ecological perspectives, unfolds the linguistic features and strategies used to construct those stories, resist destructive and dangerous stories, promotes positive and beneficial environment stories, and contributes to the search for new stories to live by. This study has analyzed the role of newspapers in the coverage of Covid- 19 and environmental issues during pandemic, when environment was recovering. There is need to spread information regarding environment during disasters so people cannot lose their focus This study has highlighted how the linguistic choices of Pakistani English newspapers disseminate information regarding pandemic and the environment during pandemic.

1.3 COVID-19, Ecological and Environmental Issues

COVID-19 has become the hottest and most debated topic all over the world due to the intensity of infection and its impact on lives, the environment, and socio-economic conditions. COVID-19 spread to all most all countries of the world rapidly in no time (Ali & Alharbi, 2020). In the initial stages, it spread rapidly and infected millions of people within a very short span of time. It infected people of all ages whether children, young or old people (Schwartz, et al.2020). The new coronavirus has caused unprecedented impacts at a medical, economic, social, and environmental level in every corner of the world. However, it has impacted the entire world negatively and positively. Although, positive impacts are short-term and reduced environmental issues related to air pollution. Thus, it has impacted the environment in a positive way.

Muhammad et al. (2020) highlighted that due to lockdown about 30% reduction in air pollution has been observed. Along with the positive effects of COVID-19, it also impacted the environment in a negative way. Mehmod et al. (2021) pointed out that mass disinfection and excessive usage of sanitizers containing chemicals like isopropanol and alcohol are a threat to the environment. Due to excessive usage of face masks, and protective kits the level of plastic waste rose which aggravated the level of pollutants in the environment. According to Yueh and Tukey, (2016) antibacterial soaps and hand wash contain very dangerous chemicals such as triclosan. Geet et al. (2008) concluded that triclosan is responsible for causing

neurological disorders and liver cancer because it gives rise to anti-biotic resistant strains for bacteria. Hence, these protective soaps and hand wash are also responsible for increasing the threat to people by increasing the pollution.

Moreover, the level of plastic waste also upsurged all over the world due to increased usage of protective kits, hand sanitizers and hand wash products and face masks. Silva et al. (2020) highlighted that level of plastic pollution increased during COVID-19 throughout the World. Prate et al. (2020) pointed out that the demand of plastic for packaging and medical uses has increased during the pandemic. Consequently, masks are thrown across roads, parks, and other public places after usage which may pose a serious threat to marine life in case if they reach to ocean. Although, gloves that are used for safety are made up of rubber and does not consider ecofriendly.

Environment has currently become a significant notion in humanity-oriented and political concerns. Since 1960s, it increasingly turned into an everyday topic. It has become prior issue to discuss among governments and scientists. Media is one of the leading reasons of why environmental issues have become important and turned into phenomena since 1960s. Scholars utter that the natural environment will be facing the extinction if current biological trends continue and maintain destructing the environment in the 21st century. Environment will most likely be the key factor in shaping the future. Noam Chomsky, (2010) argues that ignoring the current environment-oriented problem may cause to catastrophic disasters in the near future. Covid-19 has exposed if human wants to improve environment, they can do it with serious efforts. Instead of forcing the countries for environmental regulations, countries themselves should volunteer to take legal and social actions. However, drastic measures do not show up instinctively. Noticeable effects environmental problems should be unfolded through media and people should be informed about what they are going to face and deal with in the near future.

Furthermore, Kumar et al. (2020) highlighted the chemicals that are used in the production of such protective products are not environmentally safe and disposal of such wastewater is also a problem. The elements of the ecosystem are intricately connected with each other but due to an increase in hand washing disinfectants, antibacterial soaps and production of plastics there is an increase in negative impacts on soil and water quality. Mahmood et al. (2020) concluded that products containing

alcohol are dangerous to aquatic fauna when spill into water and also pollute groundwater when spill into soil. Hence, COVID-19 creates both positive and negative changes in environment. Therefore, role of media becomes more important in grasping people's attention towards these environmental aspects of pandemic. This study highlights the role of newspapers in awareness of environmental issues during pandemic.

1.4 Statement of Problem

COVID-19 emerged as a huge health crisis across the world which has been highlighted with different strategies in the print media. This pandemic has remained a major disaster in past times. The core purpose of such discourses related to the environment and its outcome has been presented in both positive and negative ways. On the other hand, this pandemic affected the environmental issues, such as pollution which has been reduced significantly. In past few decades, such problems related to the environment seems to be increased in Pakistan due to the human activities. To address these issues, print media have done an incredible job to disseminate information among people. In contrast, when environmental problems have been declining or improving, media have lost sight of environmental coverage and creating awareness among the public. Therefore, there seems a little coverage regarding the environment in the print media. Although, newspapers have devoted considerable efforts to show facts related to COVID-19 and its spread. Likewise, pollution either plastic pollution or waste management issues have increased significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, responsibility needs to be fixed at the end of the print media to increase awareness among people regarding COVID-19 and environmental issues collectively. This pandemic has drawn attention towards major issues and also shown ways to eradicate these problems in order to save ecosystem. Therefore, there is dire need to disseminate such information and highlights paths shown by pandemic for promoting eco-friendly narratives. Thus, this study investigates the use of linguistic features in the Pakistani English newspapers highlighting environmental issues. This study is an attempt to show how newspapers spread information about pandemic and environmental issues appropriately/inappropriately.

1.5 Research Objectives

1. To explore linguistic strategies that are employed in the construction of ecologically beneficial or destructive stories in the selected newspapers.
2. To highlight the representation of Covid-19 and ecological issues during pandemic to protect and improve environment.

1.6 Research Questions

1. What linguistic strategies are employed in the construction of ecologically beneficial or destructive stories in the selected newspapers?
2. How do the selected newspapers depict Covid-19 and ecological issues during pandemic to protect and improve environment?

1.7 Significance of the Study

This study is significant in several ways. Firstly, this study has explored COVID-19-related discourses in newspapers from an ecological perspective and highlighted how COVID-19 is portrayed from an environmental perspective. Ecological and environmental aspects of COVID-19 are explored by researcher and highlighted which aspects have given salience and which aspects have been erased? Secondly, this study has highlighted the coverage of environmental issues and environmental problems during pandemics in selected newspapers. Pakistan is one of those countries that are facing these environmental problems for the past few decades, therefore, in such a crucial time period media and especially print media is responsible to raise awareness among the masses to motivate them and sensitize them towards their role in saving the ecosystem. Thirdly, this study has used Arran Stibbe's (2015) model as a theoretical framework to highlight the underlying stories in selected text and also highlighted linguistic features used by writers to construct those stories in people's minds. Moreover, this study promotes positive and eco-friendly discourses and resists ecologically destructive discourses.

1.8 Delimitation

This study is delimited only to the analysis of three selected newspapers and only focused the discourses related to COVID-19 and environmental issues. Secondly, this study only analyzed text related to environmental issues and pandemic.

1.9 Structure and Organisation of Study

The chapter breakdown for this study will be as follows:

- **Chapter 1: Introduction**

The first chapter for this study is of introduction, which deals with the explanation and introduction of research topic, explain all key terms related to the topic, and gives brief description of research. It has elaborated the statement of problem which is the center of this study. Furthermore, it has highlighted the research questions, delimitations, significance of the study. In short it also gave a bird eye view of this study. This chapter gives the summary of this entire study.

- **Chapter 2: Literature Review**

This chapter has incorporated the literature review of this study. It has explained several related approaches, theories and previous studies related to this research topic. It has mentioned the work already done related to this study. It has particularly mentioned the studies related to this topic and also niche in the existing literature. This chapter has given detail information about the existing studies related to this research study.

- **Chapter 3: Research Methodology**

Chapter three of this study is related to research methodology. This is basically related to the research design and strategy which has illustrated stages and phases of this study. This chapter has explained theoretical framework for this study. Further, it has elaborated research method, sample, sampling technique of this study. In short, this chapter has given detail information about the research strategy of this study.

- **Chapter 4: Data Analysis**

Chapter four of this study is data analysis. This chapter has explained detail analysis of selected data in the support of theoretical framework.

- **Chapter 5: Recommendations and Conclusion**

The last chapter of this study has explained conclusion and results in the light of data analysis. It has given a brief summary of the whole study. It has highlighted recommendations, suggestions and findings of this research study.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter is specified to highlight the emergence and causes of Covid-19, secondly, COVID-19 An overview of Pakistani newspapers, thirdly historical backgrounds of Eco linguistics along with theoretical paradigms. Furthermore, this chapter focused Eco linguistics: COVID-19 narratives with subheadings, representation of COVID-19 narratives in media and relevance of environmental discourse and media. In the end this chapter give detail summary of previous studies and gap in the existing literature.

2.1 Emergence and Causes of COVID-19

In recent years, the whole world has faced a war against a chronic, deadly, unseen and merciless enemy. The pandemic has not only threatened lives and health but also has “society dissolving effects”. A pandemic is a large-scale epidemic that spread throughout the world (Taylor, 2019). COVID-19, a lethal viral disease emerged in December, 2019 in a famous city of China, Wuhan. This lethal viral infection has caused health crisis in almost entire world and increased the toll of mortality. In previous times, in 1918, similar viral spread infection killed fifty million people, and in 2020 again this COVID-19 retells us that in mundane, the greatest threats stay (Horby, 2018). This viral outbreak hit the city of China and then expanded to almost 210 countries. Although, a lot of reports exposed that this lethal virus is transmitted from bats to humans. There were various claims about the spread of COVID-19. One article that was published in Journal of Medical Virology claimed that snakes are the host of this virus. Later on, several reports revealed that pangolins and bats might be the possible host of corona virus. Moreover, it ruined not only the economic system of entire world but it also effected environment of the planet. Therefore, there is a dire need to spread awareness among people regarding environmental effects of such lethal pandemic. This outbreak not only posed a great threat to human life and health but also ruined social stability and economic development. Therefore, it is recognized as one of the serious environmental issues that brought worldwide health crises. Later on, its different variants came and among them omicron was lethal which again raised the toll of mortality. With its emergence it brought serious health crisis all over the world and

became threat to the survival of the ecosystem. The transmission of this virus has affected people and has threatened the senses of people (Robson,2020).Although it brought serious health crisis across the world but it creates some positive effects on environment.e.g.it reduced noise pollution, greenhouse gases, improved water quality due to reduction in human activities that are primary sources to worsen environmental issues(Garcia, Helm & Hernandez ,2020).It minimized the environmental issues but does not eradicate these issues completely. Thus, environmental and ecological consequences of Covid 19 must need proper attention. Therefore, this study will highlight the role of media, particularly the role of Pakistani Newspapers in dissemination of information regarding pandemic and environmental issues during the outbreak of this lethal virus.

Since its first appearance in December 2019 in China, Novel Coronavirus within a few times has spread all over the World via human-to-human interactions and exposed surfaces. World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID- 19 epidemic as a worldwide pandemic in March, 2020. Pakistan is a fastest developing country among south Asian region with a population of approximately 220 million. The confirmed cases in Pakistan during august 2020 were and 686 critical cases were reported. In Pakistan the first case of this lethal infection was reported on 28th of February 2020. Government of Pakistan took quick and immediate steps in order to minimize and control the spread of this pandemic. Countries like Pakistan are already surrounded by several challenges like climate change, poverty, socio- economic crisis etc. therefore, in order to cope such pandemic during such a critical situation was difficult for developing countries like Pakistan. This pandemic has been known as a biological calamity causing extensive human, social, and economic damage. In previous times, particularly in 20th Century, the planet experienced many more such events like, Plague, Malaria, Swine Flu, Cholera, SARS and Dengue. Along with these incidences, the healthcare system of these world has passed through gradual challenges and broader socio- economic consequences have occurred, both in the short and long run. Climate change, alteration in biodiversity, lifestyle shifts, and other associated environmental circumstances could influence any pandemic outbreak negatively and expedite to induce new epidemics frequently.

2.2 COVID-19 Pandemic: An Overview of Pakistani Print Media

COVID-19, a devastated pandemic caused unprecedented challenges in many countries, in terms of immediate response to the spread and its effects on societies and global resilience (Sohal et al., 2021). During this crucial time media played a vital role in dissemination of information regarding pandemic. Pakistan, is a country with the population of 220 million people where COVID-19 has produced its major impact and where lockdown measure has been harshest. Due to such a crucial time when mobility has been decreased and lock down was imposed by government media played a central role in the spread of information. After the first wave of coronavirus media coverage of the pandemic has decreased and despite this reduction in the coverage of covid-19, public attention remains high towards COVID-19 as compared to other issues like climate change or other environmental issues. Media plays a vital role in portraying an important connection between science and society because people turn to media for information and shaping of their behaviors, attitude and opinions. Moreover, media functions as an interpreter from formal spaces to the informal spaces of everyday life. Media stories about this viral outbreak have been found to have substantial effects on peoples' beliefs and its origin.

Media is a public space where politics, sports economy and environmental issues are reported (Boykoff & Luedecke, 2016, p.1). In Pakistan there are thousands of print publications in national and multiple languages consisting of different newspapers, magazines and many more. Due to facility of internet during the time of lockdown online website of different newspapers updated masses regarding pandemic in their stories, front pages, editorials and articles. Virus has no borders and is the common enemy of mankind, who lives in a global village where harmony and coexistence are the best policy. Facing the COVID-19 all human should go hand in hand and cooperate with each other to fight against it. This is the only way every individual becomes part of the strategy and fight with this lethal virus. Moreover, the use of language in newspapers during pandemic seems to be stressful and caused socio-economic unrest among people. Rajandran (2020) highlighted that the metaphor 'war' depicted a war like situation of pandemic in order to sensitize people. The role of media is central and significant in disseminating information among people. Siddiqua et al. (2020) conducted research on media framing of pandemic and explored the dominant frames used in the representation of COVID-19 by Pakistani e-papers. This study

concluded that mostly these papers educated the readers about current issues. Moreover, recommendations were emphasized in e-papers in order to revive the social and economic activity.

2.3 Pandemic, Environment and Sustainability

Covid-19 has already had an impact on the world, and this is not only due to the disease itself. In order to avoid repeating hard won lessons in future pandemic in future pandemic preparation research, research must be conducted freely and publicly. It means that reducing COVID-19 transmission while also having a positive impact on the environment and sustainable productions, society, and worldwide prevention measures are the key objectives of future work. Moreover, to meet the challenge of the growing population, urbanization and industrial development have grown and the consequences have proven to be detrimental to the global environment. In addition, environmental concerns include water pollution, air pollution, ozone depletion, global warming, climate change are the major issues. However, during the recent and ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, there are positive structural effects and alterations of the environment and remarkable changes in climate, resilience, and energy consumption due to lockdown in all over the world. In meantime in order to restrict the spread of SARS-CoV-2 by limiting movement have had remarkable ecological effect, such as how the industry lockdown and nonfunctioning machines has brought about lower levels of waste emissions, carbon emissions, water consumption and air pollution. On the other hand, there were far fewer vehicles on the roads, resulting in almost zero emission of greenhouse gases other toxic materials in the environment. Thus, due to pandemic, the demand for energy in industries and the use of fossil fuels or conventional energy sources has been drastically reduced, and as a result, the emission of carbon dioxide and the ozone layer are balanced to some extent. The pollutants level in tourism destinations, such as forests, marine beaches, mountainous areas, etc. has also decreased considerably, as the pandemic has shown different consequences on human civilization and has had a significant beneficial influence on the global environment.

The pandemic not only impacted the environment but also disrupted the socio-economy and physiological nature. Especially poor communities and daily wagers are affected more due to low levels of hygiene and less education during the recent of

malady of Covid-19. Forests constitutes of 30% of land. Due to unlimited growth in the human population has led to deforestation for reserves, production, and land for farming and cropping. As a result, average disasters are becoming more common, affecting not only the global land and ecology but also human health care. Deforestation has also been connected to a variety of disease spread by birds, such as bat- borne viral epidemics. Moreover, overpopulation is directly responsible for degrading the environment in urban rather than rural areas, and Covid-19 is one of the infectious diseases that spreads from human to human. The steps taken to limit the spread of virus air pollution levels have decreased all over the world to a significant level. Therefore, by reducing carbon emission, pollutants and other human activities pandemic has shown lessons for sustainable and pollution free World.

2.4 Relationship of Environmental Discourse and Media

Environmental issues are actually problems with the planet's system or components of the ecosystem that have developed as a result of human interference and mistreatment of the planet. Now several environmental problems are affecting the whole world. Some of the environmental problems are water pollution, air pollution, climate change, waste, global warming deforestation, etc. Environmental news became visible in the media since 1960s. Therefore, there is a need to spread awareness among the masses in order to encourage them to behave positively in order to save the planet. In order to meet the environmental challenges of the recent time period, successful environmental communication is paramount for responsible actions by the community. The role of media in environmental education is important because it is through newspapers, magazines, radio, and television that people gain awareness. The basic aim of environmental education is to enable people to understand the complexities of the environment and the need for nations to adapt and pursue their activities and development in ways that are harmonious with the environment. Environmental education also gives people a deeper understanding of the environment, inspiring them to take personal responsibility for its conservation and restoration (Mukharji, 2001). In this aspect, media is playing a significant role to make people aware of environmental issues. Environmental issues covered by media facilitate people to understand the basic concepts that shape their thoughts and perspectives.

Media plays a central role in building the perception or views of the public related to environmental issues. In this regard, the media portray environmental issues by framing reality. Often journalists and media professionals cover the general stories and write on environmental issues as well. Environmental news is influenced by advertising pressure, editorial policy and ownership, news cultures and the limitations of time and space (Anderson, 1997). Thus, media plays a fundamental role in spreading awareness among people regarding environmental issues, environmental degradation in order to sensitize them towards their role in the safety of the environment. Francis, (2014) performed a content analysis of four newspapers in Kerala and found that the coverage of crime stories is more than the agricultural stories. Role of media is always ambiguous in the portrayal of environmental issues. Christos and Demetrios, (2008) conducted research and found that in the local newspaper most of the environmental issues just concern events of regional significance, such as forest fires, water shortage etc. There is no regularity of publications in environmental articles. Therefore, role of media is very much crucial in disseminating information among people to protect natural resources of climatic disorder in the interest of future generation. The real stability of our earth rests in the sustainability of earth environment. Thus, role of media is critical in raising awareness among people and motivate them to change their attitudes (Yadav & Rani, 2011). In order to minimize the environmental issues, there is dire need to construct social understanding of the natural risks such as its causes, results and solution.

Media plays a dynamic role in negotiating information of a risk, issue as well as the principal source of information for the public to gain knowledge of risk (Beck, 1992). Riaz, (2018) claimed in his study that media can play a significant role in sensitization of people regarding the issue of climate change. Media coverage on environment and its impacts on human beings are necessary because it affects human life. Sharif et al. (2018) conducted research on news reporting on environment and climate change in Pakistan. It was qualitative study based on interviews collected from reports and environmental journalists and it highlighted that socio culture, economic, cultural and political, technological forms have power over the news coverage of climate change problem.

Media visibility of environment is undeniably crucial. In order to portray environmental issues to public, media coverage is necessary. The way a news is

reported on an environmental problem can transform the issue into either a hoax or a problem. Media framing examines the way media select to report specific issues. It aims to explain the origins of the knowledge and how media chose to present it to us. Framing is defined as the conceptual structure of framing explains the notion clearly. Hence, environmental news became visible in the media since 1960s. Hansen states that the environment has become one of the main concerns of public in the last three to four decades. Visual and print media and new digital communication tools were able to present environmental issues to public. However, humans tend to react only when they face catastrophic disaster considering the previous events about environment. Due to most environmental problems' prolonged effects and low visibility, it is underestimated by the governments and public spheres. Hansen & Cox, (2015) argues that raising the awareness of the public on this matter did not happen-still not happening- quickly enough.

2.5 Ecolinguistic Stories

Stibbe (2015) presented eight different ecological stories to analyze different discourses. These stories are employed in different text with the help of various linguistics strategies. These stories are named as: ideology, framing, metaphor, evaluation, identity, conviction, erasure and salience. This study only focused four stories in Pakistani English Newspapers.

2.5.1 Ideology

Ideology refers to the belief of people about the world. These ideologies are represented in various discourses with the help of linguistic features to shape people's view regarding world. Authors incorporate various strategies in a manipulative way that only one ideology is foregrounded and all other narratives are obscured. Stibbe (2015) defines it as "a story about how the world was, is and should be, in the minds of members of a group". Clusters of linguistic features are employed in various texts to construct a particular ideology in minds. It cannot analyze whether an ideology is beneficial or destructive but can be judged by ecolinguists against their own ecosophies. Ecosophy is the blend of both ecology and philosophy. When a linguist analyzes a text, he/she analyzes the philosophy behind the text with their own beliefs.

2.5.2 Framing

Framing is the second story proposed by Stibbe (2015). Framing deals with the construction of different areas in different frames. Mostly, one area of life is used to construct another area of life. In this regard various frames are used to represent certain areas of life. Stibbe (2015) defines it as story in people mind constructed with the help of source frame. Simply, one aspect is framed in another aspect. In this regard linguists mostly analyzed the trigger words to find out different frames within text. Sometimes, small frames are used to construct a target domain. For Example, source frames like ‘security threats’, ‘violence’ are used to frame the issue of Climate Change.

2.5.3 Metaphor

Metaphors refers to the use of certain vocabulary to represent something else. Stibbe (2015) defines it as, “a story that uses a frame to structure a distinct and clearly different area of life”. For this purpose, authors incorporate specific trigger words to represent particular area of life in their writings. Lakoff and Johnson (1999) define metaphor as a mapping from source domain to target domain. Here source domain means small packets of knowledge. The source domain is the word or vocabulary used to represent a target domain while target domain that is emphasized within a text.

2.5.4 Evaluation

Evaluation is the important story in the context of this study. Evaluation is the story in people’s mind about an area of life is good or bad. A linguist looks for positive or negative appraisal patterns within text in order to analyze story of evaluation. Appraisal patterns are significant in developing perception of people regarding certain area. There are also explicit appraisal patterns that evaluate something as good or bad clearly. Moreover, implicit appraisal patterns involve use of various connotations in order to evaluate certain area of life as good or bad. Various trigger words are incorporated in different writings in order to develop the story of evaluation.

2.5.5 Identity

Identity refers to the values of an individual as these values make up his/her identity Stibbe (2015) defines it as, “a story in people’s minds about what it means to be a particular kind of person”. Basically, identities are stories narratives of people that make them valuable and considerate. Giddens (1991) explains that individual’s identity

is not clear through his actions but through narratives that he holds. A change in environment and safety of ecosystem is possible by bringing change to the values, narratives and identity of individuals. Such discourses should be discouraged that promotes ecologically destructive narratives and encourage ecologically beneficial discourses. A change in individual's narratives can only bring change to their behavior as well as environment.

2.5.6 Conviction

Conviction is the story in people's mind about truthfulness and falseness of certain areas or aspects of life. In order to incorporate conviction in various writings authors employ various linguistic strategies. Moreover, facticity patterns are used to construct convictions regarding certain area of life. Modal verbs are used to represent low facticity or high facticity of certain statements within discourses. Sometimes, a statement does not mark the use of modal verb in order to represent high facticity of a statement. Similarly, in order to increase the facticity of certain descriptions empirical data are used by authors. Mention of an organization or expert authority also increases the facticity of certain descriptions.

2.5.7 Erasure

Erasure refers to the omission of important aspects or area of life from texts. The participants or events are marginalized in various discourses in order to divert the attention. Various linguistic strategies are employed in order to incorporate erasure in text such as ; passivization, nominalization, hyponymy, co hyponymy etc. Furthermore, erasure is constructed on three different levels. Sometime, entities or participants are completely removed, sometimes they are represented in distorted version and sometimes, they are partially presented. All these types divert the attention from important and significant area of life thus encourages destructive behavior of humans and hence destruction to ecosystem. Passivization is important strategy to build the story of erasure in order to hide the agent in texts. For example, human role in aggravating environmental issues is obscured in order to hide human. Erasure of important areas in certain text makes the discourse destructive.

2.5.8 Saliency

Saliency is story in people minds about important areas and aspects of life in various discourses saliency is incorporated with the help of foregrounding, activation and use of concrete vocabulary. This story is beneficial in nature as it highlights the role of human in destruction of environment and hence ecosystem. This story is important in the context of this study as this study emphasized the analysis of saliency in articles selected from three English newspapers.

2.6 Historical Background of Ecolinguistics

Ecolinguistics emerged as a new field in the history of linguistics from past few decades. The basic concept of Eco linguistics was first introduced by a famous Einar Haugen linguist. He connected ecology with language and explained interrelation between these two concepts explicitly as “the study of interactions between any given language and its environment” (Haugen 1972:325). Environment of language is the society where it is used. Later on, several linguists, Muhlhausler, Couto and Zhou, defined the interaction between language and environment in their works which strengthen the notion of Eco linguistics given by Haugen. Moreover, these linguists elucidated interconnection between language and environment. Hence, a new perspective was developed in the field of linguistics about 50 years ago. One of the famous linguists, Edward Sapir further revealed the impact of social and physical environment on language in his famous report in American Anthropological Association in 1911. Sapir divided the environment into two broader categories; physical environment and social environment. Social environment includes society, religion, political organizations etc. and physical environment involves geographic features such as plants, climate, birds etc. Moreover, he added that the environment of language is clearly visible in the vocabulary of a language. After Sapir, Claude Hagege relates the concept of Eco linguistics with the interaction between physical environment and ecology of language. These linguists explained the basic ideas related to Eco linguistics such as environment and its relation to language and its influence on language.

Michael Halliday, a famous pioneer of the linguistics further broadens the perspective of ecolinguistics by innovative idea that language play a vital role in solving environmental problems such as classicism, growthism and other environmental issues

by showing relationship between environment and language. He emphasized that it is the job of an ecolinguist to make people aware of their role towards environment and its sustainability. He said, "we are using up the capital resources- not just the fossil fuels and mineral ones, which we could [...] do without, but the freshwater supplies and the agricultural soils, which we can't live without. And at the same time as we are consuming, we are also destroying. We are destroying many of the other species who form part of the planet's life cycle; and we are destroying planet itself, through global warming and general poisoning with carbon dioxide and methane; through ozone depletion; through acid rain; and most of all by increasing our population at a rate of almost a hundred million new people a year [...]. (Halliday 2001[1990]:192). Moreover, Trampe a famous linguist viewed Eco linguistics from the perspective of language world system by suggesting that Eco linguistics should be used in dealing with the constant environmental crisis. Mufewene done a remarkable job in showing language evolution from ecological perspective. In his work he mostly elucidates the development of creoles. Several ecolinguists linked the linguistic diversity to the biological diversity. Muhlhausler recognized a relation between linguistic and biological diversity by focusing a concept that loss of language and loss of species are interconnected.

The International Ecolinguistics Association clarified the notion of Eco linguistics as "Ecolinguistics emphasizes the role of language in the life sustaining interactions of humans, other species and the physical environment. The first aim is to develop linguistic theories which see humans not only as part of society, but also as part of the larger ecosystems that life depends on. The second aim is to show how linguistics can be used to address key ecological issues, from climate change and biodiversity loss to environmental justice". Hence, Eco linguistics is concerned with the connection of language and environment. Therefore, "eco" of Eco linguistics refers to the physical environment such as animals, plants and climate etc. Furthermore, Eco linguistics includes two main areas of interest; Ecological Analysis of language and Language Diversity. This is the brief historical overview of Eco linguistics and its development which elucidate the logical connection between environments.

2.6.1 Theoretical Paradigms

Ecolinguistics emerged as a new paradigm in the field of Eco linguistics in late 19's. the notion of Eco linguistics was introduced by Einar Haugen, in 1970. Later it was elaborated by famous linguist Michael Halliday in 1990. He focused the relationship between language and environment by relation it with growthism, classism and speciesism and focused e role of applied linguist towards sustainability of environment through language. These linguists gave two approaches to Eco linguistics: ecology is understood metaphorically and transferred to language in an environment, ecology is understood in its biological sense; the role of language in solving and aggravating environmental issues like global warming and climate change etc. and its investigation. In the present times of growthism, globalization, ecology must control the worldview and ecological perspective has become essential in view of increasing threat of extinction to ecosystems, the planet Earth and languages. Ecolinguistics shows the connection between nature, human and culture to promote sustainability. Linguistics is a study of language by using several tools, techniques and methods from a different perspective. Similarly, Elwin fill defines Eco linguistics as “It investigates the role of language in the development and possible solution of ecological and environmental problems”(Fill, 1993). Therefore, Eco linguistics promote biodiversity as well as linguistic diversity and strongly condemn the narratives and discourses that are destructive for the sustainability of nature, environment and the whole ecosystem.

Arran Stibbe, one of the remarkable and famous pioneers of Eco linguistics elucidates the harmony between language and environment. His work in the field of Eco linguistics is considered outstanding and effective and is used as a framework to analyze discourses. In his famous work, *Language, Ecology and stories we live by*, he introduced eight different stories in order to analyze texts. Furthermore, he differentiates three types of discourses such as beneficial discourse, ambivalent discourse and destructive discourse. Stories introduced by Stibbe are; Ideology, Framing, Metaphor, Evaluation, Identity, Conviction, Erasure and Saliency. Moreover, these stories are used as an analytical framework to analyze texts carefully in order to promote beneficial texts and critique the destructive texts. However, this research study will analyze only four stories; Evaluation, Conviction, Erasure and Saliency in the selected newspaper articles published during pandemic.

2.6.2 Erasure

The deletion or removal of objects, participants, events from discourses is known as erasure. Basically, it demonstrates the absence of important events or objects in texts. Stibbe (2015) defines erasure as “a story in people’s minds that something is unimportant and unworthy of consideration”. There are certain patterns or linguistic features that are used in the construction of erasure like, passivization, nominalization transitivity, hypernyms etc. Most of the times these linguistic patterns are used deliberately to divert attention from important things. Fairclough (2003) elaborates that through the use of abstract language, participants or events are removed or covered, thus hiding important information (2003). Erasure covers the terms “suppression, backgrounding, exclusion, abstraction...” (Stibbe, 2015). When something is erased from text or is backgrounded from text, it is called erasure. It is analyzed with the help of particular linguistic patterns that occurs in a discourse.

Erasure is used in several ways in Eco linguistics. It has further three types void, mask and trace. Furthermore, different strategies are used to build erasure in texts. Schleppegrell (1997) elucidated how by the technique of nominalization human agents have been deleted from discourses. Similarly, Stibbe (2015) draws attention towards the use of hypernyms in order to suppress the ecosystem. He analyzed different reports on ecosystem and highlighted those different terms such as amphibians, mammals etc. are used to background the name of particular animals. Original names have been replaced by categories or the features species, such information divert attention from original animals to their categories and features. Durham and Merskin (2009) highlighted that in most of discourses animals are made abstract by treating them as part or entity thus erased from text. This is how erasure is present in discourses.

2.6.3 Erasure in Ecolinguistics

Ecolinguistics emphasizes the connection between language and environment. Stibbe declares in Eco linguistics language is investigated from the perspective of stories we live by, “the mental models that influence behavior and lie at the heart of ecological challenges” (Stibbe, 2015). In the in-depth analysis of discourses linguists not only focus the prominent and salient participants but also focus on the things that are hidden or in the background. In most of the environment related writing important aspects are backgrounds which result in the incomplete dissemination of information

among masses regarding environmental issues. So, Ecolinguistics provides a way to analyze the text carefully and bring suppressed elements of discourses into light.

Erasure is a technique that often occurs in discourses with the help of particular lexis hence, metaphorically representing certain aspects, participants and events. Therefore, Eco linguistic analysis investigates certain kind of linguistic devices in a text that creates or builds a particular kind of story in people's minds. Erasure is one of the stories that we live by and often occurs in text related to environment, climate change nature writings etc. Erasure is used to eradicate or remove participants or organisms from discourse by employing semantic roles. Schleppegrell (1997) highlighted that nominalization in a text often exert as non- human agents. Nominalization is a process of modifying verbs into nouns or processes into entities. Thus, by the use of particular linguistic features, strategies and particular vocabulary erasure is created in descriptions to background unimportant things.

Moving to, Kingsnorth and Hince (2009) talk about the concept of anthropocentrism, generally idea of human supremacy in various discourses often textbooks is considered devastated. Furthermore, Stibbe (2015) proposed three types of erasure such as void, mask and traces. Void is a type of erasure when something important is completely removed from text, mask is a type which presents reality or something in distorted or modified form whereas traces is a type of erasure which indicates weak presence of something or represents faded version of things. Hence, in this way with the use of void, mask and traces erasure is created in different forms within a text. In this vein, Stibbes (2015) provides different linguistic devices and strategies often used in a text to construct erasure. These linguistic strategies are nominalization, transitivity, hyponymy, cohyponym, passivisation, metonymy, metaphors etc.

2.6.4 Salience

As compared to erasure, salience is totally opposite side of coin. The presence and prominence of participants, events and organisms in text is called salience. Stibbe (2015) explains "salience is a story in people's mind that something is important and worthy of consideration". As compared to erasure, it makes the events and participants prominent. There are certain linguistic patterns that are in texts make objects and events salient. When salience patterns are rich in a text then that area of life is made salient in

the people's minds (Stibbe,2015). Furthermore, he declares that Eco linguistics is in itself a form of reminding as it draws attention to ecosystem and its erasure from discourses. In visual analysis salience is quite apparent as it can be analyzed by size, tonal values its colour etc. but in discourses it is analyzed with the help of linguistic features including focus, vitality, level of abstraction, transitivity and metaphor.

Moving to, Van Leeuwen (2008) highlighted that people can be foregrounded in language by activation. Activation in a text is represented when participants are involved in doing, thinking or feeling something. This technique is used to make participants, events and entities prominent and important by directly drawing attention towards them.

Moreover, Stibbe (2015) analyzed salience in New Nature writing, where animals and plants are made prominent by specific linguistic features. The use of pronouns such as 'he', 'she', 'his' and 'her' for animals gives them salience and make them prominent instead of using 'it'.

2.6.5 Conviction

Conviction is one of the stories introduced by pioneer of Eco linguistics, Arran Stibbe. He defines conviction as "a story in people's minds about whether a particular description is true, certain, uncertain or false". In order to represent something as true, false certain or uncertain, several linguistic devices are used and are known as facticity patterns. When something is investigated as true or false, it is analyzed by the use of facticity patterns in the specific text. Facticity patterns are the linguistic devices which proves something as true or false.

Moreover, Potter (1996) states that in a text facticity can be managed within repertoire of empiricism. It means the text is supported with empirical data. It actually refers to the facts and logic-based information in a text.

Stibbe (2015) provides the linguistics features that build facticity within a text. Modal verbs such as might, may, must etc. represents the probability of a statement.

- Mention of expert authority within a text (E.g., the mention of the ministry of climate change in a statement about global warming strengthen the description.)

- Use of quantifiers in a text supports the facticity of a statement (E.g., A few, many, less etc.)
- Presuppositions, which shows that this information is already accepted.
- Use of hedges such as ‘A thinks’- it represents that this information is based on opinion not on empirical data.

In environmental discourses, climate change discourses facticity patterns are abundantly used in order to increase the facticity of text. Environmentalists increase the facticity of their descriptions by mentioning expert authority and use of modal verbs etc. Thus, creates convictions in people minds by implying facticity patterns in discourses which affect their attitude towards dealing the environmental issue.

2.6.6 Evaluation

Evaluation is one of the stories that is in people minds regarding any aspect of life that is considered good or bad. As Stibbe (2015) defined this story in his book as “stories in people’s mind about whether an area of life is good or bad. Likewise, erasure, salience and conviction, evaluation is also created in text with the help of linguistic patterns named as appraisal patterns. Appraisal patterns (AP) are defined as “the linguistic that are employed in discourses to portray something as good or bad (Stibbe, 2015). These patterns are considered important in Eco linguistics as they are potential in creating positive or negative image of certain area of life. Ecolinguistics plays a central role in the critical analysis of linguistic strategies, devices and lexis that can spread the underlying evaluation.

According to Martin and White (2005) certain kind of lexis is used to portray something as positive and negative. Hence, there are two types of appraisal patterns negative appraisal pattern and positive appraisal pattern. For instance, in weather reports or weather forecast positive appraisal patterns are abundantly used to show improvement in weather conditions. On the other hand, negative appraisal patterns are also used to represent negative weather conditions. Furthermore, explicit appraisal patterns portray something as good or bad clearly while implicit appraisal patterns present something positive or negative in a metaphorical manner. Thus, evaluation is a story in people’s mind through which they considered an area of life good or bad, pleasant or unpleasant.

2.7 Previous Studies

There are many different studies and researches that have explored the Eco linguistics analysis in different socio-cultural settings. Actually, Eco linguistics explores the relationship between language and environment in several ways. As Trew, (2018) examined the news reports of the English national daily press containing the same events. He highlighted the linguistic patterns giving rise to the ideological process and the ideological conflict, predominantly in the news discourses. The findings of the study suggested that the responses to the events were more diverse than the headlines suggest. The results of the study highlighted the aspect that the divergent treatment of two different newspapers on the carnival event is the most vivid and clear due to their different political niche and notion. The relationship of language and environment is significant and proved by researchers in a lot of work. Another related work by Isti'anah, (2019) explored the language in the websites of tourism to grasp the attention of tourists using Stibbe's theory (2015) on Eco linguistics and Halliday's SFL theory (1970) on functions of language as well as Martin and White's theory (2005) on language evaluation. The researcher took sample data of highlighted areas from the official website of the Indonesian government. The findings of the research highlighted how language play central role in attracting people towards particular area. The study has shown that the beauty of Raja Ampat is highlighted by particular linguistic choices in order to attract tourists and make the text more appealing and catching. The findings of the study showed that on websites government is using the fauna as a source of attraction in Raja Ampat through the use of language. Furthermore, the representation of climate change issues in the newspaper has been studied from various perspectives. However, most of this research has belonged to different disciplines such as sociology, communication studies, and journalism studies rather than linguistics.

In this vein, Mbete, (2002) conducted research on 'Verbal Expression in Lio and Its Functions in Preserving the Environment. In this study the researcher focused on the form, meaning, and function contained in verbal expressions relating to environmental preservation. The findings of this research suggested that verbal expressions function in the preservation of the environment. This research has emphasized form analysis and the meaning of linguistic elements. This research is used in the form of fragmented texts of Indonesian language conservation news in mass media. Another study related to Ecolinguistics is by Kesuma, (2015) '*The vulnerability*

of the Ekoagraris Leksikon in Angkola/ Mandailing Language: Eco linguistic Studies'. The study mainly focused on the description of the existence of the eco-vagrant lexis that is still used by the community. Ali (2019) analyzed an article on Climate change in Egypt. He explored the article in order to highlight how climate change issues in Egypt are conveyed through SFL theory. He concluded climate change as a big danger to the whole world. The findings of the articles revealed that climate change negatively affects agriculture and industries. Hence, the study of Eco linguistics has become influential and necessary in order to protect the ecology. Keulartz, (2007) conducted a study on the use of metaphors related to the environment and nature conservation. This research highlighted the types of expression in the conservation news texts in the mass media.

Moreover, in this regard, Laili, (2012) conducted a study on *'Euphemism and Dysphemism on Environmental Discourse: A Critical Eco linguistics Study in /Mass Media in Indonesia*'. The research analyzed language problems contained in the environmental discourse in the mass media in Indonesia which is about euphemism and dysphemism. Abi Kamran, (2013) conducted a study on the Lebanese print media and suggested that the environmental issues covered by the printed press were superficial and demonstrated no sufficient in-depth analysis. The Lebanese print media is very far from acquiring investigative environmental journalism according to this study. Assalin, (2020) examined the major symbolic themes of French media during the COVID-19 pandemic, and highlighted that most of the reports are related to the spread of the virus, and the number of deaths due to a pandemic. Kasraoui, (2020) in the research indicated the portrayal of events related to the COVID -19 pandemic in chronological order. In this way these research studies has clarified that in critical situation media plays central role in disseminating important information. Therefore, narratives of Covid-19 needs serious attention in order to highlight the role of print media.

Moving to, Gul (2021) conducted an ecolinguistic analysis of Metafunctions of Language in Pakistani advertorials and suggested that COVID-19-related advertorials are exploited to heighten and spread xenophobia and fear in the ecosystem through different lexical choices. Mliless and Larouz (2020) conducted a study on print media coverage of environmental issues in the COVID-19 pandemic and highlighted that coverage of environmental issues by selected newspapers was feeble. All this research focuses on Eco lexicon, verbal expressions, forms, and their meanings in media

discourses. However, analysis of stories in the representation of COVID-19 and environmental issues in Pakistani newspapers during the pandemic is the niche that need to be filled. Newell and Dale (2020) performed a comprehensive research study on COVID-19 and climate change and highlighted that COVID19 and environment are interconnected and COVID-19 provided some lessons to society. All issues related to climate change, environment or community can be handled better with appropriate planning and strategy. Fuentes (2020) conducted research on COVID-19 and climate change: a tale of two global problems and highlighted that COVID-19 crisis provides a way to deal with global problems such as climate change by highlighting those global problems demands multiple forms of international cooperation and prevention is best to control such crisis in future. Conticini et al. (2020) highlighted that there is relation between air pollution and Covid-19 mortality ratio in Northern Italy.

Mahato (2020) studied the imposed lockdown and its impact on the air quality in India and highlighted that finding revealed improvement in air quality during lockdown. During pandemic a significant drop has been observed in level of air pollutants. In addition to it, Dey et al. (2023) investigated the plastic waste another challenge posed by Covid-19. A large number of PPE such as face masks, gloves, sanitizer bottles produced additional waste during pandemic. These studies have highlighted different perspective of pandemic explored by researchers. Similarly, strategies in the construction of narratives related to pandemic demands serious attention and research. Therefore, such research is influential in terms of spreading information regarding ecologically beneficial/destructive stories. Hence, in future people play positive role in saving ecosystem from environmental problems and such disasters. The present study is unique in terms of analyzing newspaper to investigate narratives presented in newspaper from ecological perspective during Covid-19. Moreover, this study particularly has followed Arran Stibbe's model as analytical framework. Even though the environment has become global preoccupation in the Covid era, its coverage seems very limited in print media. No one can deny the role of media in communicating Covid-19 information despite of fear and tough conditions. However, media reporting related to environmental issues in country was not proper during pandemic. This study specifically focused the Covid narratives related to environment.

2.8 Gap in Existing Literature

There is an observed gap in the existing literature that needs to be filled when it comes to the study of COVID-19 narratives and environmental issues during the pandemic in newspapers. This study has analyzed the representation of environmental issues and COVID 19 health crises coverage in newspapers from an ecolinguistic perspective in order to highlight the interest of environmental concerns in three Pakistani English newspapers during the pandemic as well as underlying stories in selected articles related to the pandemic and other issues using Stibbe (2015) Eco linguistics, Language, ecology and stories we live by as framework. This study is significant in promoting eco-beneficial stories and resisting ecologically destructive stories in order to save the environment of the ecosystem from degradation and destruction. Eco linguistics allows this study to investigate media discourse and explore those which encourage ecologically destructive behavior and look for those which encourage relationships of respect and care for the natural world (Stibbe, 2014)

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this chapter the researcher has shed light on the research method, rationale for the selection of qualitative method, restating the research questions, theoretical framework, data collection method and sample of the study

3.1 Research Method

There are different types of research methods such as qualitative method, quantitative method and mixed method used to analyze different types of data. Different methods concern different things like quantitative method concerns about quantity, qualitative method concerns about quality and mixed method concern about both quantity and quality in data analysis. Quantitative method is used in order to analyze the data statistically and numerically but qualitative method is used to describe qualities and characteristics of data. Similarly, mixed method is the combination of both qualitative and quantitative method and is used when both (qualitative and quantitative) analysis of data is required. For present study the researcher has chosen qualitative research method to analyze the selected newspaper articles. Therefore, qualitative method is used in this research study in order to understand the linguistic features employed in the newspaper's articles. Qualitative method is best choice for studies where the purpose is to analyze the characteristics, attitudes, concepts, opinions and behaviors. Hence qualitative research method explores the real- world problems and provides deep insight into it. The researcher has selected the qualitative research method to deeply investigate the linguistic features used in newspaper's articles to highlight the role of print media towards environmental issues COVID-19 during pandemic.

3.2 Rationale for Selection of Qualitative Research Method

Generally, mixed method is used but this research study is benefited from qualitative research paradigm due to its qualitative nature. The researcher has used a qualitative method to analyze the linguistic features employed in selected newspaper's articles to construct salience, erasure, conviction and evaluation. Usually, mixed method is used only when both types of analysis is required, here only qualitative

approach is used because the purpose is to explore the linguistic strategies in selected text. This approach provides deep insight into the language of data therefore the researcher has selected this approach to explore the underlying stories in selected articles from newspapers. As this study is determined to explore the linguistic strategies used in newspapers' articles to construct erasure, salience, conviction and evaluation therefore, qualitative method complement this study to analyze the text deeply and explores the language of newspapers' articles.

According to Creswell (2012), qualitative research is a means for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social human problem. Similarly, this study is focused to provide deep analysis of language of articles published in selected English newspapers during pandemic related to COVID-19 and environmental issues. Basically, this study aims to provide deep insight into linkage between pandemic and environmental issues and role of media in disseminating information among masses regarding pandemic and its effect on environment. Hence, in this regard qualitative method facilitated this study more appropriately and effectively.

3.3 Sample

The researcher has selected sample through purposive sampling. According to Acharya (2013), "in this method, every individual has an equal chance of being selected in the sample from the population. The researcher has selected total 30 articles from three newspapers according to the requirement of the study. Articles related to COVID-19 and environment are focused. Moreover, only English newspapers are explored. The researcher has chosen ten articles from each newspaper as qualitative analysis is in-depth analysis so thirty articles is the best sample size for analysis. The sample of this study and the names of articles taken from Dawn newspaper for analysis are given below

1. Clean the air by Zofeen T. Ebrahim
2. Climate and Covid-19 by Ali Tauqeer Sheikh
3. Covid, Climate and Pakistan by Ashraf Jehangir Qazi
4. Combating pollution by Shakib Sherani

5. Climate lockdown? by Sara Hayat
6. Climate-smart stimulus by Ali Tauqeer Sheikh
7. Managing Covid-19 by Palitha Mahipala
8. Covid-19: how are we doing? by Samia Altaf
9. Road to Climate justice by Ali Tauqeer Sheikh
10. Earth Day thoughts by Zofeen T. Ebrahim

The researcher has used purposive sampling technique to select articles from newspapers which are more suitable and fulfill the criteria of this study. The names of articles from The News newspaper are:

1. Dealing with Covid-19 in Pakistan by Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri
2. Covid-19: nature's revenge by Sanaullah Baloch
3. Covid-19 and Vultures by Amir Hussain
4. Covid-19: challenges and opportunities by Dr Farzana Bari
5. Neoliberal economics and health by Khalid Bhatti
6. South Asia and Covid-19 by Zunaia Inam
7. Lessons from Covid by Beelam Ramzan
8. Can smog be far behind? By Ahmed Ahsan
9. Only the paranoid survive by Nadeem ul Haque and Malik Ahmed Jalal
10. The globalization of Covid-19 by Dr Nadeem Malik

The names of articles from The Express Tribune are given below

1. Coronavirus, lockdowns, and air quality by Muhammad Zaheer and Adnan Yousaf
2. More masks than fish by Eric Shahzar
3. Covid-19 and climate change by Syed Muhammad Ali
4. Climate stress reinforcing inequalities by Eric Shahzar

5. Green Covid recovery by Marriyum Hasany
6. Downgraded climate change ministry by Eric Shahzar
7. Climate justice: Is the world ready to compensate Pakistan? By Annie Shabbir
8. Climate change: everyone's concern by Fiza Farhan
9. Climate change as national interest by Syed Muhammad Ali
10. Smoggy Lahore and Brain Fog by Muhammad Wajahat Sultan

After the selection of related articles, examples for each story have been selected from thirty articles for analysis. Furthermore, five instances are selected from each newspaper for each story separately. Hence, fifteen extracts are selected for evaluation, fifteen examples for conviction, fifteen for salience and fifteen for erasure from Dawn, The Express Tribune and the News. Total sixty examples are selected from three newspaper

3.4 Data Collection Method

This study has adopted qualitative approach for data analysis. Data for present study has been collected from online repositories of three selected English newspapers. The researcher has collected data from pandemic time period through purposive sampling. The researcher has selected articles related to COVID-19 and environmental issues published during pandemic from March 2020 to March 2022. This time period involved emergence, peak and end of coronavirus.

Newspaper articles has been selected through the search and select process. Data collection involve four steps. First step in data collection was to search the online websites of The News, The Tribune Express and Dawn. Second step was to open the archive section and then search articles by entering words like COVID-19, pollution, air pollution, environment, pandemic, Covid and climate change, pandemic in Pakistan, health crisis, environmental conditions of Pakistan, lockdown and Climate etc. Thirdly, the researcher selected and downloaded most suitable articles through random purposive sampling. Fourth step was the in-depth analysis of these articles in order to answer the research questions of this study. Specifically, this study has explored the COVID- 19 and environmental stories from ecological perspective to highlight whether

they encourage to protect or destroy the ecosystem that life depends on. Moreover, this study has explored linguistic strategies like passivation, metonymy, hyponymy, nominalization, noun phrases, modality, activation, massification etc. that are employed in the construction of stories in selected text. As Stibbe (2015) says in this regard that destructive stories need to be resisted and beneficial stories need to be promoted. Similarly, this study promoted beneficial stories and resisted destructive stories.

3.5 Restating the Research Questions

This study focused the linguistics strategies employed in the construction of ecologically beneficial and destructive stories in the selected newspapers during pandemic. Moreover, this study has provided in-depth analysis of linguistic patterns that highlight positive and negative perspective. In addition to this, secondly this study highlighted the representation of COVID-19 and ecological issues during pandemic in order to protect and improve environment.

3.6 Theoretical Framework

This research study analyzed the linguistic strategies, devices and features in order to find out ecologically beneficial and destructive stories in newspaper articles published at the time of pandemic. Similarly, for this purpose this study is supported with the Eco linguistics model proposed by Stibbe (2015) in his book “Ecolinguistics, Language, Ecology and stories we live by” as a theoretical framework. In this book he proposed eight different types of stories in order to analyze the ecologically beneficial and destructive stories in different types of discourses. Hence, this study promoted the ecologically beneficial stories and resisted the ecologically destructive stories. Moreover, he gave idea about different types of discourses like beneficial discourse, ambivalent discourse and destructive discourse. However, in this research the researcher only focused the elements involved in the construction of four stories such as salience, erasure, conviction and evaluation. Similarly, this study has used this model as a lens to explore only erasure, salience, conviction and evaluation in newspapers’ articles published during pandemic in order to investigate role of print media in grasping attention of people towards this lethal viral outbreak and also the environmental issues.

The in-depth analysis of these four stories explicitly explained the way by which newspapers disseminate information among people regarding all aspects of COVID-19 related to its emergence and environmental issues. As this study focused the analysis of articles from Eco linguistics perspective therefore, the model by Arran Stibbe is benefited for this study. Therefore, the researcher has explored all aspects of erasure such as void, mask and trace. Along with erasure, salience, conviction and evaluation have been explored through the linguistic elements employed in their construction in order to attract the attention of masses towards environmental issues and their role towards sustainability of environment. The selected stories and their aspects are discussed in this section. Only four stories are focused in this study due to time and space constraint. Moreover, these four stories are important from the perspective of pandemic.

3.7 Erasure

As it is evident from the name of the story that it is related to the deletion or removal of something important from the text. Stibbe (2015) argues that erasure is the story in people's mind about something unimportant and unworthy of consideration. Furthermore, within text it is observed in various forms such as void, mask and the trace. In order to construct erasure in texts there are certain linguistic devices that are incorporated within that text. Stibbe(2015) categorize these linguistic strategies as nominalization, metonymy, hyponymy, co- hyponymy, passivization, massification and the construction of noun phrases, metaphors. These strategies are employed to construct the story of erasure in certain text. Furthermore, there are three types of erasure such as the void, the mask and the trace. The researcher has analyzed all three forms of erasure in selected articles.

3.7.1 The Void

The void is one of the three types of erasure. The Void is actually the complete deletion and omission of object, agent and entity. Thus, completely exclude something important from the text. It is strong form of erasure as it removes whole thing from the text. The linguistic devices that are used to completely remove the entity are passive voice and nominalisation.

3.7.2 The Trace

The trace is another kind of erasure. It refers to the omission of something partially from the text. As the name suggests that it refers to the partial erasure of an entity from the text, only traces are present. The linguistic strategies that are used to construct trace within text are hyponymy, backgrounding and massification. Massification is the conversion of count noun to a mass noun. Stibbe (2015) states that the trace is the partial deletion of an entity and retaining only traces of it within a text.

3.7.3 The Mask

The third form of erasure is the mask. The mask is strategy that hides the reality by masking it in another version within text. This form of erasure is used to mask the reality within discourse. Stibbe (2015) states that it represents the distorted version of an entity within text. Moreover, the mask is used to represent the living things as object. The linguistic features that are used in the construction of this type of erasure are metaphors, construction of noun phrases, metonymy and co-hyponymy.

3.8 Salience

This is a story that considers something as important and worthy within a discourse. Stibbe (2015) argues that salience is the story in people's mind about something important and worthy of consideration. Salience is about highlighting something as important by employing specific salience patterns in a text. However, certain linguistic patterns are used to depict something as important by making it real, prominent and specific. Stibbe (2015) defines that salience patterns are linguistic devices that are used to make things important and worthy of consideration by making them specific, vivid and concrete.

Salience and erasure are two opposite sides of coins. Former is the prominence and highlighting of entity while later is the removal and omission of an entity from the text. Stibbe (2015) explains when certain linguistic patterns come together, they form salience patterns which results in the prominence of things in a text. Salience patterns involve activation, personalization, simile and sense images. It is the story that makes certain things prominent and worthy to grasp the attention of readers.

3.9 Evaluation

Stibbe (2015) defines evaluation as “a story in people’s minds about whether an area of life is good or bad.” In a text it is analyzed with the help of certain linguistic items known as appraisal items (AP). These items are used in text to evaluate a particular area of life as good or bad. Appraisal items can be classified as positive or negative appraisal items. Vocabulary like good, clear, right, bright are AP as they evaluate something as positive. On the contrary, lexical items that are used to appraise something as negative are called negative appraisal items. Negative AP in text can be unsatisfied, unhappy etc. Euphemism is used in positive AP while dysphemism is used in negative AP. Similarly, these appraisal items run throughout the text to mark something as good or bad. The frequent use of understatements and overstatements within text manipulate the readers to understand things in a certain way. Most of the time metaphors are also used to construct the story of evaluation in a particular discourse. Sometimes, contrasting clauses are used to construct positive or negative appraisals. Hence, evaluation is achieved by using negative and positive appraisal items in a text frequently. Following appraisal patterns are used to analyse story of evaluation in a text

- Explicit and implicit appraisal patterns
- Positive and negative appraisal patterns

3.10 Conviction

Conviction is a story in people’s mind about whether a particular description is true, false, certain or uncertain. It is clearly based on facts and figures. Conviction is employed in a text with the help of certain lexical items, known as facticity patterns. Facticity patterns are the linguistic patterns that are used frequently in a text to make certain statements true, false, certain or uncertain. Higher facticity makes the statement true, clear and free of doubt while lower facticity patterns make the statement false, doubtful and confused. Therefore, various linguistic strategies are used to construct facticity in a text. These linguistic strategies are modal verbs, quantifiers, presupposition, hedges and expert authority. Mention of an expert authority in a text make the statement clear and true. Presupposition is a relation in which one proposition takes for granted the truth of another proposition. Use of hedges also increase the

facticity of a particular statement. Hence conviction is about truthfulness and falseness of particular descriptions in a discourse. Stibbe (2015) gave the framework to analyze high facticity in a text on the basis of following:

- Mention of expert authority
- Use of hedges
- Presupposition
- Quantifiers
- Use of modal

CHAPTER 4

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter is specified to discuss the analysis of data with the help of qualitative approach. The data has been explored through the lens of Arran Stibbe model proposed in his book *Ecolinguistics: Language, ecology and the stories we live by* (2015). This section has dealt with the textual analysis of selected newspaper's articles. It consists of analysis of four selected stories evaluation, conviction, salience and erasure. Conviction has been analyzed on the basis of facticity patterns used in text according to the framework of Stibbe (2015). Similarly, evaluation and salience has been analyzed on the basis of appraisal items(AP) and concreteness, personalization, noun phrases and activation respectively that are frequently used in selected text in order to make certain aspects good or bad, clear and prominent in people's perception according to the framework given by Stibbe (2015). Erasure has been analyzed in three different forms: the void (complete omission), the trace (obscured), the mask (distorted version) according to the framework of erasure by Stibbe (2015). All these four stories have been analyzed by using Stibbe (2015) model as an analytical model.

4.2 Evaluation

Evaluation, as the name suggest is something that is concerned with positivity or negativity of certain things. Stibbe defines it as, "story in people's mind about whether an area of life is good or bad." (Stibbe, 2015,). In a text different linguistic patterns are used to construct the positive or negative image of certain areas in people's mind, these patterns are called appraisal items (AP). These appraisal patterns involve certain vocabulary that can explicitly call something good or bad, right or wrong. Explicit appraisal patterns give clear concept about goodness or badness or certain things in text. On the contrary, implicit appraisal patterns are not clear in the text. They evaluate something as good or bad indirectly and by using connotations. The researcher has analyzed the selected newspaper articles deeply and found that explicit vocabulary, positive and negative appraisal patterns, euphemism, dysphemism and

contrast have been employed to create evaluations in people mind regarding covid-19 and its impact.

Example 1

Covid-19 has elbowed out the demand for climate justice and, for now, upended climate activism that brings people out onto the streets. While this may present a challenge, it is also an opportunity for human beings to reassess their relationship with each other as well as with the planet.

In example three taken from article published in Dawn newspaper by Zofeen T. Ibrahim, the writer has clarified the link between Covid-19 and environment. The clause “Covid-19 has elbowed out the demand for climate justice” reveals that Covid-19 has improved the environment and shown that human actions can destroy or save environment. Although, the disease “Covid-19” has destroyed human lives across globe but here it is portrayed in positive context. The word “opportunity” has clearly shown positivity for improved environment and “reassess” explicitly point towards human action and attitude towards nature destruction. Hence, this example explicitly describes the role of COVID-19 in improving climate and environment. Sometimes some words have positive connotations that reveal about positivity of phenomenon. These words are called positive appraisal items. This example evaluates the fact that “Covid-19” has brought attention towards climate justice and human’s anthropogenic attitude towards planet. Human actions can save or destroy the environment, the above-mentioned extract highlighted the role of human beings in saving or destroying ecosystem.

Example 2

The arc of human presumption is bending towards human extinction.

This extract has been taken from article Covid, climate and Pakistan published in Dawn newspaper on April 11, 2020. In the above-mentioned example dysphemistic expressions are used to draw the attention of readers towards human actions responsible for human extinction. The phrases “human presumption” and “human extinction” directly point out the human voracity for more corporate capitalism for natural sources and thus exposing themselves to more viral and bacterial infection. Here “presumption” is negatively connotating the human greed for more production and profit by using natural resources and thus causing “extinction” of human. Humans

were making progress in corporate world. Meanwhile, nature set conditions to take revenge in result of excessive damage caused to it by selfish humans.

In environment related discourse most of the time writers use explicit linguistic patterns to explain goodness or badness of an area clearly so, people could understand that particular area. Human greed is responsible for human extinction. Humans are trying to be successful in corporate world at the cost of natural resources which in turn open ways to spread diseases.

Example 3

The pandemic has significantly reduced carbon emissions released into the atmosphere. Ironically it has cut emissions faster than 25 years of global climate negotiation.

The above-mentioned example is taken from article Climate and Covid-19 published in Dawn newspaper on March 30, 2020, in which writer clearly mentions the positive effects of pandemic. Pandemic is a negative term that represents destruction on larger scale but here “pandemic” is used in its positive connotation due to its effect on environment. Moreover, the word “reduced” is depicting improved environmental conditions as positive aspects of pandemic. Sometimes the writers use such strategies deliberately to grasp the attention of readers that make certain phenomenon positive or negative with the choice of lexis. In this extract writer attracts the attention of people by particularly referring to pandemic times when their efforts cured nature from injuries caused by them. This story is beneficial in terms of realizing humans of their role in safety of ecosystem. Climate change has been remained a major issue of entire world since long time and despite of a lot of efforts to overcome this issue humans failed in this effort. Now corona has turned the tables and being nature healer controlled all corrupt activities by causing huge damage to human lives. Most of the time certain patterns are used that directly explains the harsh reality to make readers attentive.

Example 4

The virus has helped lay bare just how much human activity affects our environment. As industrial activity and traffic is reduced, pollution has plummeted. People have been posting photos of birds and wild animals, of blue skies and far-off mountain peaks that can be seen due to a reduction in air pollution.

This example has been selected from article Earth day thoughts published in Dawn newspaper on April 22, 2020. The lexical patterns like “helped,” “reduced,” “plummeted” are showing explicitly positive effects of pandemic. All these phrases are depicting positive effects on environment during lockdown. These appraisal patterns are showing Covid-19 positively as human activity and industrial activity were restricted in pandemic thus directly effecting an environment. In the above-mentioned extract, virus is presented as an active agent that “helped” in reassessing human attitude towards nature and environment. Furthermore, vocabulary like “birds”, “wild animals”, “blue skies” and “mountain peaks” presents the view during pandemic time when the nature was healing. All these expressions connotatively represents the positive effects on environment due to decline in human activity during pandemic. On the other hand, it reveals anthropogenic activity and human role towards environment.

Example 5

The pandemic has made a bad situation worse, but has also provided a rare opportunity to make some hard decisions.

This extract has been taken from article Climate and Covid-19 published in Dawn newspaper. Stibbe (2015) states that some linguistic patterns evaluate certain area as good or bad explicitly like good/bad, wrong/right. Similarly, in above mentioned example the word “bad” clearly refers to the pre-Covid situations and “worse” refers to the situation created by Covid. The word “pandemic” itself is negative as it explicitly evaluates something very bad and devastated. In this example contrast has been created between Covid and post-Covid situation with the help of conjunction “but”. Contrast is one of the strategies that is used to build evaluations in a text. In the first clause pandemic has been declared as something bad but in the next clause contrast is created and represent positivity due to Covid. The word “opportunity” is often associated with positivity. In this example the “bad situation worse” refers to pre-Covid days when country was under severe climate change and amid such worst time pandemic appears and deepens the situation. In later part of this extract “but” has described the opposite side of coin that highlights the opportunity to heal nature. Already environmental issues such as climate change is present in country and this pandemic has increased issues at economic level. Moreover, it has highlighted the ways to improve environment. The word “pandemic” itself is negative as it

explicitly evaluates something very bad and devastated. In this example contrast has been created between Covid and post Covid situation with the help of conjunction “but”. Contrast is one of the strategies that is used to build evaluations in a text. In the first clause pandemic has been declared as something bad but in the next clause contrast is created and represent positivity due to Covid. The word “opportunity” is often associated with positivity. In this example the “bad situation worse” refers to pre-covid days when country was under severe climate change and amid such worst time pandemic appears and deepens the situation. In later part of this extract “but” has described the opposite side of coin that highlights the opportunity to heal nature.

Metaphor is another strategy that is employed in the construction of evaluation in environment related discourses. As Stibbe (2015) claimed metaphors are helpful in achieving evaluation. Metaphors can appraise things in both negative and positive ways. As given in below example Covid-19 is metaphorically represented as “black swan”.

Example 6

The spread of Covid-19 or the coronavirus is yet another black swan event.

This example is taken from newspaper article “Dealing with Covid-19 in Pakistan” published in The News on March 16, 2020. This extract marked the use of metaphor “black swan”. Here Covid-19 is called black swan due to its impossible nature, black swan usually represents impossibility and here it explains the impossibility to handle Covid-19. This extract evaluates the unpredictable event Covid-19 that has severe impacts on planet. In another context, “black swan” represents events that comes as a surprise just like coronavirus. Moreover, the word “another” draws attention towards other environmental issues and economic problems that are destroying both human lives and planet year after year. The use of metaphor grasp attention towards the severity of coronavirus. Hence, in this above-mentioned example evaluation has been incorporated with the technique of metaphor. Stibbe (2015) presented metaphor as a strategy used in the construction of evaluation in different environmental perspective. In this technological era poor human beings are helpless in front of nature’s revenge. Here, this description evaluates the Nature’s Reaction is the result of exploitation of Natural resources.

Example 7

The unintended benefits of the novel coronavirus outbreak are already quite visible. The lockdown around the world with less cars on the road, less planes in the sky and slowing down of industrial activities have given a chance to the planet to breathe some fresh air and slowly heal. A significant improvement in the air quality and ozone layers' recovery is being reported by scientists.

This statement has been selected from article “Covid-19: challenges and opportunities” written by Dr. Farzana Bari in The News newspaper. In this example phrases like “less cars on road”, “less planes in the sky”, “slowing down of industrial activities” have shown positive impacts on environment. Here, “less” is used as positive appraisal pattern which evaluates less vehicular activity as good for environment. In later part phrases like “fresh air” appraise air quality explicitly as good environment due to lockdown. The phrases like “significant improvement” and “ozone layers’ recovery” reveals positive aspects of Covid. Here writer draws attention towards how less human activity saves planet. Thus, discourages negative human attitudes that are responsible for destroying or saving environment. The positive appraisal patterns has potential to shapes human thoughts. No doubt Covid has affected the planet earth terribly but it also has improved the environment in many ways. The above-mentioned example has depicted the clear picture of lockdown period with implication of positive appraisal patterns like “improvement”, “air quality”, and “recovery to evaluate impact of Covid-19 on environmental aspects. These words mark the positive impacts of pandemic on society. Here, the narrative of healthy and safe environment is conveyed in order to encourage people to make efforts to improve environment/air and decrease the rate of climate related disasters.

Example 8

The improvement caused by the horrific pandemic in our environment and eco-systems will now save millions of lives in the post-corona world. According to World Health Organization, we were seeing 4.2 million premature deaths due to air pollution and 600,000 children died in 2016 from acute lower respiratory infections attributed to air pollution.

This extract has been chosen from article published in March 2020, in The News newspaper. In this example the writer has appraised the corona as a positive

thing that brings improvement. Moreover, the word “improvement” shows positivity of corona and triggers positive concepts. Although, “horrific” and “pandemic” are negative terms that also highlight the devastation of pandemic. The word “save” draws attention towards good aspects of pandemic to represent the long-term changes of pandemic in post-corona time. Here, writer assumes about better environment in post- corona world. As pandemic has decreased air pollution significantly. Therefore, the rate of death due to air pollution will also decrease. The importance has been given to serious environmental issues such as air pollution. Every year the air pollution increased the toll of death in country and now nature has shown ways to improve air as well as ecosystem. The writer has conveyed positive story of eradicating air pollution from environment. Moreover, some terms like “environment” and “eco-system” are considered positive patterns that explicitly evaluates positivity created by pandemic.

Example 9

The coronavirus is a reflection of our irresponsible behavior. We have been carelessly polluting our lakes, rivers, streams, groundwater, and eventually oceans by dumping and pumping massive pieces of garbage and invisible chemicals into these water bodies.

In this example words “irresponsible” and “carelessly” have highlighted negative and non- serious attitude of human being which explicitly discouraged such behaviors. In this example triggered words like “irresponsible” represents human’s attitudes as negative and destructive. This extract involved the usage of negative appraisal items to evaluate corrupt nature of human by blaming them for coronavirus outbreak. Here, with the help of word “reflection” writer has hinted about corrupt and selfish relation of human with nature. Humans are exploiting natural resources to survive in corporate world but they don’t know they are opening ways for disasters like Covid-19. The negative appraisal patterns in this example are resisting the negligence of humans regarding environment. Land pollution is caused by humans and due to mismanagement of waste. These issues needs attention and proper management in order to decrease pollution and hence severe climatic changes and future pandemics. The vocabulary like “dumping”, and “pumping massive pieces of garbage” explicitly evaluates human selfish nature of destroying under water life as bad action. Hence, the narrative of

nature's revenge in return of human corrupt behavior is incorporated by directing attention towards Covid-19.

Example 10

It seems the human propensity to rob planet earth of its purity is being deterred with vengeance and our tormentor Covid-19 is out to restrict us from being the tormentors of nature.

This example has been taken from article “Covid-19 and the Vultures” published in The News. The word “rob” has highlighted negative attitude of human beings towards environment. Here dysphemistic patterns have been used to bring attention towards selfish attitude of human towards environment. For example, “rob”, “deterred” and “vengeance” are dysphemistic expressions that strictly highlighted the nature's revenge in return of destruction caused by human to planet earth. Vengeance is synonymous to punishment so here corona virus has been represented as nature's punishment. Here the writer evaluates humans are exploiting nature and evaluates it as negative term “rob” in order to raise awareness about their selfish behavior. The term “tormentors of nature” represents human as the enemy of nature. Here, dysphemism is used to strictly condemn human behavior towards nature. Thus, with the help of negative appraisal patterns resistance is developed against such destructive behavior. Evaluation of corrupt and irresponsible human behavior towards nature is represented by justifying Covid-19 as punishment of nature. This extract clearly supports the fact that nature has its own way to recover. Dysphemism is one of the techniques that is used to employ evaluation in texts to directly depict negative aspects and explicitly call out negative aspects.

Example 11

However, the pandemic is also harming our planet in a very surprising manner — through a relentless rise in ocean pollution. As the production and demand for face masks and gloves quadrupled, Covid19 waste is ending up in our oceans and threatening the marine life's ecosystem, which has already been struggling to cope with pre-existing plastic waste. If no urgent action is taken, we will soon have more face masks than fish in our oceans.

This example has been extracted from article “More Masks than Fish” published in The Express Tribune on July 03, 2021. In this example negative effects of Covid-

19 have been highlighted by using word “harming” which alarms about something bad. Furthermore, the phrase “relentless rise” reveals the intensity of ocean pollution here, the word “rise” triggers negative concept in minds which is accompanied by adjective “relentless” that intensifies the rise in ocean pollution. Here words “ending up” and “threatening” triggers negative behavior of people in waste management and its effect on marine ecosystem. Moreover, presupposition has been used to visualize the extreme water pollution in near future. It implied about the urgency of improved waste management as well as improved infrastructure. These destructive stories were resisted by writer in order to realize people to work for the sustainability of ecosystem. On one hand, where positive aspects of pandemic are highlighted on the other hand negative aspects like improper waste management and increased water pollution has been highlighted and discouraged. The narrative of protection of marine life is highlighted in this text. The above-mentioned example clearly highlights the careless attitude of human beings in terms of dumping massive garbage into water and earth.

Example 12

In Pakistan too, our sea’s misery has now been exacerbated with an unprecedented scale of Covid- 19 waste, face masks, gloves and empty sanitizer bottles. All eyes and attention right now is on containing the spread of the pandemic but we should not let the ocean’s misery go unnoticed. Even though our beaches have been in better shape since the lockdown has been imposed, the new wave of Covid-19 is adding fuel to fire.

This text has been extracted from article published in The Express Tribune. In above mentioned example the writer has put light on increased water pollution during covid-19. The vocabulary like “exacerbated” and “unprecedented” are telling some negative about pandemic. Again, in this example attention has been drawn towards ocean water pollution due to in appropriate waste management. In amid of this pandemic writer is trying to convince people to take care of environment as well. Such information encourages people to save environment from pollution just like trying to save themselves from chronic Covid-19. In this extract anthropogenic activity like rise in waste during pandemic has been evaluated as negative. Thus, resist the destructive stories. Sometimes positive appraisal patterns are used in negative connotations as mentioned in this extract like “exacerbated” and “unprecedented”. These words have positive meaning but here they are incorporated to demonstrate negative aspect of Covid waste. The vocabulary “better shapes” highlights about something positive

happened in such bad times. Moreover, the better shape of beeches has been linked to lockdown thus, evaluating those human activities are responsible for all environmental problems.

Example 13

Air quality remained good (less than 50) during April through September 2020 in Karachi and Islamabad.

Here air quality has been appraised well explicitly. In this example, air quality is evaluated as “good” during pandemic times. It directly and clearly encourages the improvement happened during Covid times. Here, representing positive aspects of pandemic force human to reassess their relation with nature and environment. Furthermore, mention of months reveals pandemic time period that clarifies improvement in air pollution during pandemic. Thus, in this example the use of evaluation in order to make people reconsider their attitude towards environment is observed. Here, positive story of good air quality motivates human to play their role in safety of ecosystem.

Example 14

The future generations are at a much higher risk of illness from death or disasters. The Covid-19 pandemic is the latest warning that humanity needs to reset its relationship with nature.

This extract has been taken from article published in “The Express Tribune” by Fiza Farhan in July 29, 2021. Firstly, this example has presupposition that in future there will be more natural disaster. The writer is alarming about the upcoming situation due to ignorant behavior human. Covid-19 is a warning from nature for human beings to reconsider and ponder their attitudes and give love and care to nature that it deserves. Here, the word “needs” indicates presupposition that human’s relationship with nature is not desirable and something important is missing. As in lockdown due to decreased human activities nature heal similarly, if human take care of nature and environment in same manner, chances of climate change and such chronic diseases can be decreased. Moreover, the vocabulary like “illness”, “death” and “disaster” depicts bad effects of pandemic. The word “warning” directly hints about something bad and force human to reassess about their role and relation with nature. Here, there is evaluation that Covid destroyed human but save environment in

response of human exploitation of nature. There is conviction that human is responsible for all disasters because Covid-19 is a warning for exploiting natural resources. The narrative of respecting nature is incorporated with the help of presupposition. Such stories encourage people to reconsider their attitudes with nature and environment in order to enhance the sustainability of ecosystem.

Example 15

A growing body of research has uncovered links between exposure to air pollution and the risk of Covid-19 recovery. Simply put, poor air quality diminishes immunity, increases risk of exposure to coronavirus, and may result in severe symptoms which can tip the scale away from recovery.

In this example phrases like “poor air quality”, “increase risk”, “away from” are explicitly depicting worst effects of air pollution on covid conditions. No doubt air pollution has been remaining the major issue in Pakistan since long time. It also has caused serious damage to human life. Here in this example evaluation is incorporated with the help of explicit appraisal patterns to clearly explain the role of pollution on immunity and thus open ways for coronavirus. Moreover, the fact that poor air quality decrease human immunity and increase the chance of covid-19 and ultimately leads to death force human to understand the environment and work for its safety. In this way evaluations have been constructed in articles during pandemic. The attention has been drawn towards severe environmental issue poor air quality. This example highlights the use of explicit appraisal patterns to highlight the air quality.

Evaluations are stories in people minds about an area of life that is good or bad. In the above-mentioned extracts explicit appraisal patterns has been found by researcher that marks air quality as clean, good and fresh to raise awareness among people about pandemic impacts on environment. As Stibbe (2015) explains when something is presented as good or bad in order to make people think about it in positive or negative way that is the story of evaluation. Ecolinguistics plays important role in analyzing positive and negative evaluations from ecological perspective. Negative evaluations are destructive from ecological perspective and are resisted by specific language. Similarly, positive evaluations are beneficial from ecological perspective and are encouraged by using positive appraisal patterns. Martin and rose (2003) states grammar and language plays vital role in the creation of appraisals. Similarly, positive

aspects of covid-19 are presented as good through explicit and positive appraisal patterns and negative appraisal patterns are evaluated as bad and negative appraisal items, which in turn promote the positive side of pandemic and resist negative aspects. As Halliday (2001) mentioned that things are represented as good or bad for instance it is represented as grow, more, large are better than their opposites like small, shrink, less etc. without realization that in search of more growth, more resources, humans are exploiting environment and nature for their own leisure and greed.

In all the selected extracts from newspaper articles evaluation is extensively incorporated with the help of positive and negative appraisal patterns, explicit and implicit appraisal patterns. In addition, metaphoric expressions like black swan are used to construct evaluation regarding pandemic. Dysphemism is observed in employing the narrative of human corrupt nature, selfish human beings, exploitation of nature and irresponsible and careless attitude of human towards nature. These stories are resisted in texts. Positive aspects of pandemic on environment are highlighted in order to spread awareness among people how human activities affect environment. Evaluation basically declares certain aspects as good or bad. Negative appraisal terms like “poor”, “carelessly”, “threatening”, “harming” etc. are used in order to condemn negative human behavior with nature and environment. Such terms trigger the process of realization and awareness among masses in damaging environment. Negative terms resist and discourage the destructive human nature towards environment. On the contrary, positive appraisal items like “good air quality”, “fresh air”, “less cars” etc. depicts the benefits of Covid-19 on environment specifically on-air pollution. Positive expressions initiate a sense of responsibility among people in saving environment and planet earth.

4.3 Conviction

The second story that has been explored in newspaper article is conviction. Stibbe (2015) defines it as “a story in people’s mind about whether a particular description is true, certain, uncertain or false”. It has been explored in present research study with the help of facticity patterns. Facticity patterns refers to the use of such vocabulary or linguistic patterns that depicts whether a particular description is true, false, certain or uncertain. Actually, it refers to the information based on facts and logics. Ecolinguistics aims to analyze text in such a way that reveals how it build up or weaken the key information. In this regard clusters of linguistic patterns run

throughout the text to make it true or false. These facticity patterns are analyzed on the basis of strategies that are used in text to build facticity of description. These patterns could be use of modal verbs, mention of expert authority, use of hedges, use of presupposition and use of quantifiers. Modality is one of the important strategies that is used to build convictions. It shows high facticity or less facticity of a particular description. Mostly the information that comes from empirical data is considered high in facticity. For example, modal verbs like might mark low facticity of a statement while should, would mark high facticity of a statement. Similarly, in this research study the researcher has explored facticity patterns that are employed in the construction of convictions in covid related discourse.

Conviction is story about truthfulness and falseness of certain descriptions. It involves the usage of different linguistic strategies. One of the most important strategy is mention of “expert authority” in order to make statements true.

Example 1

According to the New York Times, the reduction of emissions in China since January has surpassed the total emissions of New York City for a year. NASA’s monitoring satellites have shown a dramatic fall in nitrous oxide, a pollutant emitted from fossil fuels. This abrupt reduction has an illustrative value of what the world would need to do to stabilize global temperatures at less than 2°C.

In this example the author Ali Tauqeer Sheikh has mentioned an expert authority in order to build strong facticity. This article has been taken from Dawn. The phrase “according to New York Times” reveals that the information in next clause is true and have high facticity. Furthermore, mention of another authority “NASA” adds in the facticity of this statement. Presence of expert authority like “NASA” indicates the truthfulness of information and shows that information comes from authentic source. Therefore, the above-mentioned statement awareness about reduction in emission of harmful gases during lockdown with high facticity. Moreover, the word “need” suggests that there is need to stabilize the world temperature as happened in Covid times. In this example it is proven strongly by authorities that during pandemic reduction has been observed in emission of dangerous pollutants. Less human and industrial activities decreased the air pollution during pandemic and gave time to nature to heal. Conviction about decreased air pollution is employed with help of

expert authority thus increasing the facticity of description. Such stories encourage people to put efforts to save the environment and nature. The positive story of improved air quality has been employed to convince people towards their role in safety of environment.

Example 2

Regrettably, it is people of colour and migrant communities- that have emerged as front -line communities-who are getting infected in disproportionately higher numbers in the US,UK and Europe. Their counterparts in Pakistan are living katchi abadis and unplanned settlements. Those who are most likely to die from Covid-19 are the same as those who are most likely to lose their lives to polluted water or toxic air.

This example has been selected from article Climate- smart stimulus published in Dawn newspaper on May 9, 2020. Here there is strong conviction that people living in polluted areas have greater chance of being infected by coronavirus. Here “most likely” employed high modality. In this extract high facticity is incorporated about certainty of death of poor people. Awareness is spread among people that people with poor lifestyle have greater chance to get infection. The phrase “most likely” marks the certainty of statement. As toxic air diminishes the immunity in human thus making them more vulnerable to Covid-19. People with less access to health care and have polluted living areas have greater chance to die from Covid. There is a strong conviction here that poor people were the prey of this pandemic due to poor settlements and lack of access to healthy lifestyle. This also highlighted the progress of government in these remote areas. This pandemic has highlighted the sufferings of poor class before and during corona. This story highlighted the flaws of poor infrastructure by government that leads towards exposing poor class to such lethal diseases.

Example 3

According to some media reports, amid the coronavirus outbreak, due to the shutting down of production houses of mass production and due to the diminishing consumption, a hole in the ozone layer is in recovery.

In the above-mentioned example there is strong conviction about improved atmosphere is employed with the help of high facticity by mentioning expert authority “media reports”. Media reports always conveys information based on facts and logic.

Stibbe (2015) presented that mention of expert authority increase the facticity of certain description. Moreover, “shutting down” and “diminishing” evaluates less consumption and production positively. This example has fact that global warming is caused by human activity. Here there is strong conviction that due to lockdown gas emission has been reduced and air pollution has been decreased. This conviction is incorporated in text with the help of expert authority. Thus, able to convince human that human activity is directly linked with the health of eco system. Less consumption and production has improved environment and atmosphere during pandemic. Similarly, enables people to realize their important role in sustainability of earth.

Example 4

Covid-19 and climate change may appear to have contrary impacts on the environment. The pandemic could lead to economic and industrial collapse, thereby drastically reducing carbon emissions, which would temporarily allow global environment to slowly recover from its current trends towards irreversible disaster.

This extract has been selected from article Covid, climate and Pakistan published in Dawn newspaper. In this example facticity is low as “may” has been used which decreased the facticity of this conviction that climate change and Covid -19 have affected environment differently. Low facticity indicates uncertainty of statement that Covid-19 and climate change impacts environment oppositely. Although both are destructive and horrific in nature but Covid-19 has also impacted environment positively. On the other hand, climate change only cause destruction. Thus, despite of having similarities both are different in nature. During pandemic due to low human activity fresh air and healthy environment has been observed. Thus, Covid-19 became a cause of reduction in air pollution. However, climate change does not benefit eco system in such way. Here author is drawing attention towards economic crises due to pandemic in coming years. No doubt, covid has improved environment but has reduced industrial activities that will aggravate the economic crisis. The use of modality in this example increases the facticity of this notion that climate change and Covid-19 both disasters have affected environment oppositely. The pandemic has taken a lot of lives but heal the nature, on the other hand, climate change has not affected environment in this way.

Example 5

Vijay Kolinjivadi, of the University of Antwerp, says both Covid-19 and climate emergencies “have their roots in the world’s current economic model — that of the pursuit of infinite economic growth at the expense of the environment”. According to him: “the insatiable greed of corporate capitalism for natural resources has forced humans to encroach on various natural habitats and expose themselves to yet unknown pathogens”.

This extract has been chosen from article published in Dawn in April 11, 2020. This example has conviction that pandemic and climate change emerged due to economic growth and huge production. This statement has greater facticity as it has expert authority “Vijay Kolinjivadi”. This reveals that this information is claimed by particular authority and quotation marks reveal that these are exact words of “Vijay Kolinjivadi”. Stibbe (2015) argues that statement by expert authority is factual and logical. This also established trust and high facticity of this description. Moreover, Vijay Kolinjivadi is subject in verbal process as it “says” something which also contributes towards facticity. Furthermore, the phrase “University of Antwerp” contributes towards authenticity of information. These strategies like name of expert authority with further description make the statement truer and more authentic. These factors increase the facticity of certain descriptions. As in above example these strategies support the fact that both pandemic and climate issues are results of economic growth, where human exploit the natural resources for corporate purposes thus exposing the planet earth to such disasters. Here economic growth is depicted as causing damage to the environment and ecosystem. Excessive growth involves exploitation of natural resources and thus providing suitable conditions for diseases to spread. The facticity of statement describes that human greed is responsible for human destruction. Pandemic and other disasters are results of excessive exploitation of natural resources for corporate purposes. This story resists the selfish and greedy attitude of human towards nature and its beauty. In this example destructive story of economic growth is resisted by elaborating its impact on environment.

Example 6

The World Bank has estimated that almost 70-100 million could be forced into extreme poverty by this pandemic and its aftereffects. Considering the case of South Asia, early

estimates are that the economic activity could shrink by almost 2.7 percent in 2020. This will be in large part due to the restrictions, lockdowns, and uncertainties and will most certainly lead to a decline in private investments.

This example has been taken from article “South Asia and Covid-19” published in June 24, 2020. In this example there is a strong conviction about economic pressure due to Covid situation. The vocabulary like “estimated” shows that this information comes from analysis and is higher in facticity. Moreover, the noun phrase “World Bank” strengthens this description as it is expert authority. Then mention of “70- 100 million” makes it more reliable and factual as it shows exact number and that it comes from research. Later the phrase “most certainly” makes this description certain that lockdown and restrictions will affect economic conditions. All these linguistic terms support this conviction that this pandemic will impact the economic growth and increase the poverty. Lockdown and less human activity builds pressure on economic level and leads towards extreme poverty. In this example author has described another problem related to economy in result of Covid-19. Already economic issues are at peak and this pandemic has posed serious challenge to World economy by reducing industrial activities. This is how nature cause injuries to its tormentors. The information mention in this example marks high facticity due to mention of expert authority, empirical data and certainty.

Example 7

According to New Scientist, a hole in the ozone layer above Antarctica has continued to recover, leading to changes in atmospheric circulation. The ongoing recovery has, according to Science Alert, stopped many dangerous changes in the Southern Hemisphere’s atmosphere.

This example has been selected from article “The Globalization of Covid-19” published on April 2020 in “The News”. In the above -mentioned example there is a conviction about ozone layer recovery during pandemic. The mention of expert authority “New Scientist” and “Science Alert” mark that description is true as it comes from authentic source. Moreover, it has high facticity due to mention of expert authority “New Scientist” as it makes the statement more reliable and truer. This statement strengthens the conviction that reduced human activities during lockdown has improved environment and atmosphere. Furthermore, the word “recovery”

explicitly hints about something positive happening in environment. Here information is directly supported with report that comes from scientist and make the conviction that less human activity affect the environment in a positive way and decrease the chances of future disasters to some extent. Pandemic has affected human beings negatively by causing death but has healed the nature.

Example 8

The improvement caused by the horrific pandemic in our environment and eco-systems will now save millions of lives in the post-corona world. According to the World Health Organization, we were seeing 4.2 million premature deaths due to air pollution and 600,000 children died in 2016 from acute lower respiratory infections attributed to air pollution.

This extract has been taken from “The News” newspaper article written by Dr..Farzana Bari on April 27, 2020. In this example there is a conviction that air pollution has caused huge damage to human lives but now post- Covid days will have improved air quality. As pandemic reduces the industrial activities and human activities, improves environment and save human from air pollution. Furthermore, in this regard “World Health Organization” and mention of numbers “600000 and 4.2 million” increased the facticity of this whole statement. In this statement mention of “numerical data” reveals the exact information about received from specific reports thus increase the facticity of particular statement. The modal verb “will” show certainty about positive effects of pandemic on environment, sustainability of ecosystem and human safety after pandemic. These linguist terms give the horrible picture of air pollution. Here there is strong conviction that improvements caused by pandemic will affect human lives after pandemic. All situations related to pandemic such as lockdowns, less human activities, closed industries will be proven worthy in post Covid world. Every year thousands of people died due to respiratory diseases resulted from air pollution but Covid-19 has benefited human beings by decreasing air pollution to a significant ratio.

Example 9

So, what lessons do we learn? The first lesson is that we live on a finite planet with limited ecological and natural resources that ought to be preserved for sustainability purposes.

This extract has been taken from article written by Dr. Nadeem Malik in “The News” newspaper. In this example there is a conviction about using natural resources safely in order to make the environment more sustainable. In this regard facticity has been employed by modal “ought to be” that has indicated that there are limited natural resources that need to be used safely to enhance sustainability. So here writer has motivated people towards sustainability of earth and resources by developing high facticity. Exploitation of natural resources and causing continuous damage to planet earth is not a good sign. This can reduce ecological and natural resources and reduce sustainability but human need to re consider their attitude in safety of ecosystem and save such resources. Pandemic has shown how excessive damage to nature cause damage to human lives in return. Nature can punish for excessive destruction and damage to it.

Example 10

Nature may take the longer course to react but once it reacts it can inflict irreparable damage as a chain reaction.

This example has been selected from article Covid-19 and Vultures published in “The News” newspaper on March 28, 2020. This example marks strong conviction about nature’s revenge. It has been analyzed that initially the facticity is low as “may” has been used in terms of nature reaction but in later part of a sentence “can” has been employed to show strong probability and certainty about devastation caused by natural disasters. Here nature’s reaction as a result of exploitation of ecological resources, huge damage to nature and excessive industrial activities is mentioned. When someone damages environment then nature has its own way to recover as shown in the case of pandemic. Here, writer alerts people to reconsider their relationship with nature after this health crisis. Nature is not cruel but when damages and injuries exceeds then definitely nature will heal on its own. Covid-19 is the great example of nature’s revenge, despite of development and technologies humans failed to treat corona virus. This description is supported with help of certainty in order to increase its facticity. There is a strong conviction about nature’s horrific reaction in result of carelessness of human beings.

Example 11

While conducting a litter exercise in France's Cote d'Azur coast, Operation Mer Propre, a French non-profit organization, found numerous gloves, masks and bottles of hand sanitizers in the Mediterranean along with the usual litter of plastic waste.

This example has been chosen from article "More Masks than Fish" published by Eric Shahzar in April, 2020 in The Express Tribune. This example has conviction that due to mismanagement of plastic disposal; water pollution has been increased during pandemic. Again, human are increasing pollution and do not reassess their relation with nature. This statement has high facticity because it was claimed by an expert authority "Operation Mer Propre" as a result of survey. Information coming from expert authority is considered authentic. Here this information is conveyed as a result of survey conducted in France, that's why it is considered authentic and accurate. This brings attention towards Covid-19 waste and irresponsibility of society. Here, the conviction of increased pollution due to masks and sanitizers bottles has been employed with the help of research and observation. Therefore, it has strong facticity. Moreover, gloves, masks and bottles of hand sanitizers add concreteness to the observation by vividly presenting the view of Covid times. No doubt covid-19 has decreased air pollution, recover Ozone layer but increased plastic waste, which is also harmful.

Example 12

However, the global response to Covid-19 has barely made a dent in the causes of climate change, according to a new UN report. The United in Science report brings together experts from international organisations to provide a snapshot of the state of global climate today.

This example has been taken from Covid-19 and Climate change published in "The Express Tribune" published in September 17, 2020. This example has mentioned an expert authority "according to UN report" that tells that the information is true and has come from proper survey. This has conviction that human behavior has reduced climate change issues. Due to lockdown, less industrial activities and less automobiles on roads gives golden chance to atmosphere to recover. This decreases the climate change in return. The vocabulary like "global response" refers to the human behavior in collective and increase facticity by conveying a sense of responsibility in human to

work for sustainability of ecosystem. Moreover, it highlights that collective efforts contribute towards improvement of environment and reduction in climate change. Here, writer has supported the idea that global response can change the climate related issues if humans can try. As Covid has shown how humans work together to save environment similarly, this behavior must be continued after Covid times. As climate change is considered global issues that needs serious attention. It is proved fact that Covid-19 has benefited environment in many ways directly or indirectly.

Example 13

More than anyone else, the civil society must play a pivotal role in eliminating Covid-19 waste. Citizens must become responsible in disposing off single-use PPE.

This extract has been selected from article “more masks than fish” published in “The express Tribune” in July 2020. The above example shows that a strong facticity is used to motivate people to eradicate the Covid-19 waste and role of common people is important in this regard. These lines have high facticity due to use of “must” that shows urgency of civil society response. This indicated that actions taken individually have potential to bring changes at big level. This example has conviction that people must have self-realization and sense of responsibility in order to bring changes at global level. Negligence and irresponsibility cause huge damage to environment and at the end human beings face the disasters induced by themselves. A positive story of individual efforts to save the ecosystem has been conveyed here.

Example 14

If we neglect, nature will take its corrective measures taking the lives of thousands around the world. Pakistan needs to invest in climate change infrastructure to not only ensure that there is an economic safeguard in place in the face of extreme weather events but also to reduce the inequalities faced by the people.

This extract has been chosen from article Green Covid Recovery published in “The Express Tribune” on December 21, 2021. In this example there is strong conviction about better infrastructure to tackle all climate related issues. For this Pakistan has to made investments to improve climate related policies and their implementations. In fact, in case of disasters and severe lose due to climate change government have to ensure financial security to poor and affected people. In the above-mentioned example the terminology “needs” indicates that something

important is missing that needs to be incorporated in order to improve climate change infrastructure. Pakistan has been among those countries who are continuously facing climate related issues every year. In order to handle such conditions economic and financial plans are effective in terms of developing safety systems.

Example 15

If the current absurdity we face due to the coronavirus does not lead us to find new meanings of human life and nature, pandemics of the same sort will keep reappearing.

This extract has been taken from article written by Dr. Nadeem Malik, published in “The News” newspaper. Here in this extract certainty about future pandemic has been conveyed. In this example their counter, factual presupposition is used to spread awareness among people regarding pandemic and its adverse effects. Here it is conveyed that human needs to reconsider and re assess their relation with nature and environment. The pandemic has raised a lot of question on human behavior towards nature and people need to ponder and work on their responsibilities towards sustainability of ecosystem. Human beings need to change their attitude and approach to nature otherwise same disasters in future are guaranteed. There is assumption that nature’ recovery is the only thing that can stop climate change. If humans work for its recovery, then disasters and climate related issues will be less in future. If humans do not change their behavior towards nature and does not take this Covid-19 seriously, they will face same pandemic in future.

All of these instances have been taken form Dawn, The Express Tribune and The News articles. The researcher has analyzed that expert authority, presuppositions, hedges have been used to construct strong facticity in readers’ minds about Covid-19 situation. Mentioning an expert authority in text increases the facticity of statement. Theo Van Leeuwen (2008) explains that expert authority may be explicitly mentioned in text marks the high facticity of statement but when expert is well known in the text it may be taken for- granted. By mentioning the words as it is by expert authority by placing them in quotation marks also increases the facticity of description. For example, “according to New York Times”, “according to New Scientists” increased the facticity of statement and represents the conviction that during Covid -19 environment has been improved due to lockdown. Mostly, expert authority, numerical data and survey reports are used to incorporate the story of conviction in these

newspaper articles. Similarly, presupposition has been employed in the construction of conviction. Presupposition in the above-mentioned example have illustrated that lockdown has improved air quality during pandemic similarly, global response is required to mitigate climate related disasters.

In these selected examples modality has been observed by researcher in the construction of conviction. With the help of modals “must”, and “ought to” narrative of human responsibility and needs for future planning are incorporated in order to curtail the climate change. Similarly, “will” is used in this text to show high certainty about future disasters due carelessness. Narrative of nature’s revenge is incorporated with the help of modality in the text. Moreover, presupposition is also present in these texts to highlight the results of negligence. Facts are conveyed with help of expert authorities as information from particular resources adds to the facticity of certain descriptions. In addition, people are suggested to realize their role and responsibility in safety of eco system and work on it otherwise horrible disasters can happen in future due to carelessness. All these techniques increase the facticity of certain description and convey the story of conviction to motivate society.

4.4 Saliency

Saliency is the third story that has been explored by researcher in this research. According to Stibbe (2015) saliency is the story in people’s mind about an area of life is important or worthy of consideration. Saliency is the process of highlighting important aspects, things or phenomena within text in order to gain the attention of people towards it. In order to make an area of life important in people’s mind writer incorporates different linguistic patterns in a text. These linguistic patterns are called saliency patterns as they run throughout the text to highlight a particular thing or area. Stibbe (2015) states “a linguistic or visual representation of an area of life as worthy of attention through concrete, vivid and specific depiction.” Hence, the words or vocabulary that are employed by writers and authors in a text to make an area of life specific, clear and concrete are called saliency pattern.

Stibbe (2015) states that saliency is given to an object, area or participant with the help of metaphor, foregrounding, activation etc. to represent an area of life vividly, specifically. Prominence is given to participants by the process of activation or foregrounding. Theo Van Leeuwen (2008) mentions that attention can be given to

objects by activation which refers to foregrounding them within sentences or clauses in order to highlight them. For example, in most of the text human are highlighted to blame them for their greedy and evil nature towards natural resources. Salience is also achieved in text through vivid and concrete use of vocabulary in text in order to create image of particular entity in reader's mind. For example, vocabulary like green, leaves, branches, grass etc. make clear and concrete image of nature in our minds rather than words like, environment, flora and fauna, bio diversity, biomass that make the idea more abstract. Personification is also used to employ the story of salience in text. It also highlighted important aspects or entities by given human like attributes to them. For example, covid-19 has killed, threatens, hit, taught etc. represents Covid as living organism that kills, teaches hit etc. hence, prominence is also achieved by making non-human entities as behaving just like human.

Salience is mostly considered as beneficial story as it brings attention to corrupt human nature and important area of life to encourage and motivate people to save natural resources, save ecosystem to achieve sustainability. In text activation is employed by giving prominence to participants and entities, as doers or agents of an action. Stibbe (2015) elucidates participants are activated when they are actively involved in some sort of activity, when writer represents them as doing, saying or feeling something within clause. In this study, salience has foregrounded Covid -19, human's participation, by placing them as agent performing action, thereby creating resistance of destructive stories and promoting beneficial stories for sustainability. Prominence is given to objects and participants in clauses and sentences in order to make them salient and worthy of consideration. For example, salience is also given to destructive or negative aspects in order to make people aware of nature exploitation. Similarly, in this study salience is given to covid-19 and its effects on planet earth and human lives to highlight the beneficial stories and resist the destructive content. For example, Covid-19 itself is reminding of improved infrastructure, human behavior, unity, climate resilience and healthy environment to mitigate climate related issues as well as pandemic. In this study the researcher has explored different linguistic strategies employed by writers in their articles to give salience to different aspects, areas, entities and participants to motivate people towards saving nature and human lives from pandemics like covid-19 and climate change. The researcher has explored and analyzed salience in the extracts taken from selected newspaper's articles.

Example 1

Human activity affects our environment. As industrial activity and traffic is reduced, pollution has plummeted. People have been posting photos of birds and wild animals, of blue skies and far-off mountain peaks that can be seen due to a reduction in air pollution.

This extract has been taken from Earth Day Thoughts published in Dawn newspaper in April, 2020. In this example “human activity” has been foregrounded due to its effects on environment. Humans are shown as exploiter of environment. Only human activity is blamed and mentioned for destroying environment. Furthermore, “industrial activity” and “traffic” are specifically mentioned for increasing air pollution. Salience is also incorporated with the help of specifically mentioning areas, events and things. Moreover, vocabulary like “birds”, “animals”, “blue skies”, “mountain peaks” enable readers to clearly visualize the abstract idea of environment. This vivid description explicitly presents the picture of healthy and fresh environment. Here “humans” are made salient due to their positive response during lockdown. As human actions has changed due to pandemic, man’s impact on nature and the environment changes too in that pollution’s level has shown major reduction Hence Covid-19 has given salience to how human activity is connected with environment of ecosystem.

Example 2

Delivering the Nelson Mandela Annual Lecture 2020, Antonio Guterres, the UN secretary general, said that inequality defines our time of globally growing extreme inequalities, the world system is at a breaking point. Covid-19 has exposed the world like an X-ray, revealing fractures in the fragile skeleton of societies that we have built. It has also exposed our falsehoods. And this is why the world needs not just climate action, but also climate justice — based on a just transition.

This article has been chosen from article Road to Climate Justice published in “Dawn” newspaper in 2020. In this example writer has given salience to injustice of government. Covid-19 has highlighted areas that lack access to basic facilities of lives. Corrupt and incompetent administrations have been highlighted. Pandemic is a disaster but has shown inequalities of facilities. Covid-19 has hit hard those areas that are dirty and not properly developed. Climate actions are important to handle all climate related issues but climate justice is also required to ensure equality in societies. Moreover, this

inequality is not country specific issue rather it is global issue that needs attention to solve it.

Example 3

Humans are primarily responsible for global greenhouse gas emissions, and that this in turn causes global warming.

This example has been taken from Climate Lockdown published in Dawn newspaper in March 2020. The above-mentioned extract has been taken from Dawn newspaper. It has been analyzed that “humans” are agents in this extract as they are responsible for global warming. Salience has been given to “human”, “greenhouse gas emission” and “global warming” which are considered important and worthy of consideration. Humans are directly highlighted for playing central role in raising the temperature of planet earth. Moreover, the problem of greenhouse gas emissions is specified in this extract and pointed as important issue behind global warming. Most of climate change issues are due to global warming which in turn cause horrible affects to whole world. Salience is used to highlight important issues in environmental discourses in order to grab the attention of people towards root cause of environmental and climate changes.

Example 4

There is no end to the manmade disasters; we produce millions of tons of pharmaceutical drugs to save lives but are in return causing serious damage to the environment. Drug pollution is causing frightening water pollution, metabolites, which reach the aquatic environment – rivers, groundwater, lakes and oceans.

This example has been selected from article written by Sanaullah Baloch published in May 2020. In the above-mentioned example “we” specify human role in destruction of environment. Here salience is given to human by blaming them for water pollution. The phrase “manmade disasters” specifically blaming human for exploiting nature. Moreover, “drug pollution and water pollution” specify the type of pollution increased during pandemic and areas being affected by human activities. The vocabulary like “rivers, groundwater, lakes and oceans” give image of aquatic environment. Areas adversely affected by human activities are highlighted in order to resist and discourage such harmful story. In this extract human are highlighted as main agent behind disasters. Their selfishness for production and economic growth affects

atmosphere and aquatic lives. The term “millions of tons of pharmaceutical drugs” highlights the excessive production drugs and in response cause chemical pollution on earth.

Example 5

Covid-19 has not only exposed the institutional inabilities of weak and fragile states but also uncovered the inhumane policies of ‘powerful’ governments, which have been robbing their nation’s wealth, depriving them of education, health, food, nutrition, hygiene and clean drinking water, and investing all their national earnings on adventurous war machines.

This extract has been selected from article Covid-19: nature revenge published in May, 2020. Here in this example Covid-19 has been highlighted as an agent that “exposed” institutional inabilities by highlighting the powerful government as “robbing” nation. Here government has been personified as human. Furthermore, vocabulary like “depriving them of education, health, food nutrition, hygiene, clean drinking water” highlights the specific areas. Here salience is given to Covid as it brings attention to corrupt government. In this example important aspect of “war machines” is highlighted as wrong act of government. Here, weak aspects of incompetent and corrupt government have been highlighted. Investments are mostly for machines not for public purpose like food, education, health, hygiene which in response weakens the environment. Incompetency of government is highlighted in this extract to bring focus to areas that requires attention. All these flaws of government are exposed by pandemic.

Example 6

We humans have intruded into the habitat of other creatures of earth and have destroyed them to pursue our capitalistic goals of money and opulence.

This example has been selected from article covid-19 and the vultures published in The News in March, 2020. In this extract humans are blamed as doing something bad to earth. Salience has been given to human selfish nature for exploiting natural resources. The pronoun “we” along with “humans” emphasized human as intruders and tormentors of nature. The selfish behavior of human is responsible for destroying spaces of wild animals for economic purposes. Materialistic nature of humans is highlighted to let them know how cruel they are to other creatures and living

organisms. In the beginning of this example a pronoun “we” and “humans” both are used simultaneously to stress the oppressors. Destroying forests and other places of animals for the sake of productivity and corporate purposes is bad. Apparently, humans are doing bad to other animals and living organisms but actually they are creating environment to grow pollution and thus infectious air borne diseases. Humans are highlighted as selfish in this example.

Example 7

While cities are locked down and human beings practice collective quarantine, nature is recuperating from long-inflicted injuries. Deserted by people, polluted cities look cleaner now, rivers have less toxicity and turbidity, beaches are free of filth, the air is fresh and skies shine with brightening stars.

This example has been taken from article written by Amir Hussain in The News newspaper. In this example the vivid and clear picture of environment has been depicted through words like “rivers”, “cities”, “rivers”, “beaches”, “fresh”, “air”, “skies shine” and “brightening stars”. These words create a clear image of an abstract thing “nature” and visualize it. These words are represented clear and visual picture of environment from lockdown period. Sense imagery is used in this example. Moreover, these lexical items add to the concreteness of environment. Visual representation through linguistic items is another strategy that has been employed to give salience to neat and clean environment during Covid days. Nature is shown as healer of itself by causing damage to humans in turn of their selfish nature. Salience is given to nature and its components by mentioning them specifically Here story of improved environment is conveyed with more appealing and positive appraisal patterns like “cleaner”, “fresh”, “shine” etc.

Example 8

The Covid-19 pandemic has severely impacted the daily economic, social, cultural and routine life of people.

This article has been taken from article “Neoliberal economics and health” published in “the News” newspaper. Covid 19 has given salience and worthy of consideration due to its impact on the lives of people. Here Covid has been shown as doing something to the economy and social lives of people. People are here “object” that receive some sort of affects from Covid -19. So here, the covid19 has been made

salient due to its consequences on human lives. Areas that are affected by pandemic are highlighted to divert attention of people towards upcoming crisis. Nature has shown reaction by restricting people to homes for destroying it. In this example areas that are severely affected by pandemic are specifically highlighted.

Example 9

Nearly 50 percent of our urban population lives in slums where they lack basic facilities such as clean drinking water, sanitation, electricity etc. Covid-19 has brought the focus on kachi abadis as it is logistically unfeasible to ask people living in kachi abadis to maintain physical distance when a family of seven to ten people lives in one or two rooms.

This extract has been taken from article Covid-19: Challenges and Opportunities published in “The News” in April,2020. Here population of slums has been highlighted as it has been considered important of consideration because they suffered the most during Covid due to lack of basic facilities. Moreover, “water”, “electricity”, “rooms” are considered concrete. Saliency has been given to “kachi abadis” as they faced more difficulty during pandemic due to lack of space and basic facilities. Covid-19 has highlighted the “kachi abadis” by infected them. The inabilities of government are also highlighted in terms of low facilities areas. This terminology “kachi abadis” is specifically referring to particular class of the country. Moreover, this pandemic has particularly affected poor class as compared to high and middle class. This on other hand shows the injustice and corrupt behavior of government and administration. This pandemic has exposed the corrupt and unsatisfactory role of government towards poor people and bring attention towards ignorant population. In addition to this writer has highlighted the facilities to which poor class have no access. People living in slums have no access to health and other basic facilities that’s why major Covid patients are poor people. Saliency has been given to poor class and the lack of access to basic health and life facilities.

Example 10

Like vultures your drones and jet fighters may have the advantage of an ariel view of the world to devour the dead corpses of humanity but on the ground you are losing to the novel hyena of nature – Covid-19.

This example has been taken from article Covid-19 and Vultures published in “The News” newspaper in March 28, 2020. Here salience has been given to covid-19 by using metaphor of “hyena”. Covid -19 has been made salient by calling it “hyena of nature” as it caused huge destruction to economic and social lives of people. Here “you” refers to human beings, as they have faced the brunt of covid-19. Hyenas are known for their cunning and resourcefulness, which could be a metaphor for how the Covid 19 has adapted and evolve our time and how individuals were helpless. Metaphoric expressions are often used in text to make the particular aspect clearer and more prominent. Moreover, in this extract writer has been pointed out the helplessness of human beings despite of a lot of development. When human beings mess with nature, nature sets its own corrective measures to heal injuries on its own. Here “Covid-19” is represented as “hyena” as it fought back in response of excessive exploitation of natural resources in order to get benefit at economic level. Humans are helpless in front of this lethal disease. Positive story of sustainability has been promoted by writer in this selected text. Particular attention is given to nature and its reaction.

Example 11

Today, we see face masks lying on the streets, stuck on trees and inevitably ending up in our vulnerable oceans. We are endangering the lives of our marine world in attempts to save our own.

This extract has been selected from “The Express Tribune” from article written by Eric Shahzar. Another important side effect of water pollution during covid-19 has been highlighted by writer in above-mentioned extract. The pronoun “we” place “humans” as sensor because of seeing the conditions. Moreover, the vocabulary of concrete objects “face masks”, “streets”, “stuck on trees” visualize the human irresponsible behavior towards waste disposal during pandemic. In later part of this extract a pronoun “we” has been used to highlight humans as agent of destroying the marine life. Humans are portrayed as selfish beings in terms of damaging aquatic lives for their own protection. Plastic safety kits were disposed into water during pandemic and as a result aquatic animals were threatened. Sense imagery is used in this extract to clearly depict the picture of Covid-19 wastes on road. This technique is effective in creating mental picture of pandemic times so people could imagine roads and streets filled with masks. Particular salience has been assigned to pollution due to masks so

people will not show such irresponsibility in future. Particularly water pollution is highlighted to depict human's selfish and corrupt nature.

Example 12

Humans have influenced the climate to a significant extent. Without this kind of impact, such an event would have been 150 times less likely. The temperatures have had deadly consequences for people, with spikes in sudden deaths and inflated hospitalization figures. More than one billion marine animals along Canada's Pacific coast have suffered as well. Mussels, clams, and other shellfish that live on the beaches have reportedly died following the heat wave.

This example has been taken from article Climate change: everyone's concern in "The Express Tribune" in July 29, 2021. Here "humans" are highlighted as agents of influencing climate. Humans are considered important and worthy of consideration in terms of affecting natural resources and climate. Salience has been given to sudden death as caused by humans themselves. Moreover, "Canada's Pacific coast" has been highlighted as an area being suffered from heatwave. The vocabulary like "mussels, clams, shellfish, and beaches" added to the concreteness and specificity and highlighted aquatic animals. Covid-19 emerged as a result of human's irresponsible behavior towards environment. Similarly, global warming as in result of deforestation, consumption, transportation etc. cause damages to humans in return. Particularly, phenomena of global warming have been emphasized by giving example of particular animals that had suffered due to human ignorance and cruelty. Covid-19 has made one thing crystal clear that if human try, they can save ecosystem, environment and nature. This is how positive story of encouraging behavior of human with nature is prescribed. In later part of this extract marine life is highlighted that is affected by global warming.

Example 13

A global planting programme will eliminate two-thirds of all the emissions from human activities that are present in the atmosphere today, scientists have described this figure as "mind-blowing".

This extract has been chosen from article written by Fiza Farhan in "The Express Tribune". In the above-mentioned example a noun phrase "A global planting programme" is highlighted by foregrounding and demands attention towards important phenomena that is considered important to eradicate carbon emission.

Again “human activities” are highlighted directly for carbon emission. This extract has given salience to planting programme in order to eradicate gas emission from atmosphere. Here salience is given to the story of afforestation in order to eliminate all poison gases from air. The phrase “atmosphere today” highlighted the time period of covid-19 to bring back the attention of people towards improving environment. Humans’ role towards saving or destroying environment is considered crucial. Previous global plating has improved the air quality to some extent and similarly, in future such programs will be proved effective in order to improve environment. More plants mean clean, pure and healthy air. Such positive stories encourage humans to improve themselves. In this extract the drop in carbon emission due to decrease in human activities is highlighted and evaluated as “mind bowing”. This shows human can save ecosystem if they try.

Example 14

Change begins on an individual level, which means that everyone needs to play their part. Go ahead and plant five trees in your home and take the first step.

This extract has been selected from “The Express Tribune” in July 29, 2020. In this example prominence is given to individuality. So here, covid-19 has brought salience to individuality. Moreover, vocabulary like “trees”, “home” is concrete. Here story of salience is about making individual efforts to mitigate environmental issues. This is beneficial discourse as it encourages people towards their individual role in safety of earth. There is message of individual role and self-realization in this extract in terms of improving environment. More trees generate more oxygen and detoxify the environment from pollutants. Here emphasis has been given to individual role of humans in safety of ecosystem. This type of text is considered beneficial in terms of promoting positive stories. Positive story of think green has been promoted by writer in this text in order to convince people towards the sustainability of ecosystem. People are convinced in this example to take initiative of planting tree on their own and everyone should do this in order to purify the air quality.

Example 15

The destructive wars that poisoned oceans, destroyed forests and disrupted food chains have jeopardized the survival of humanity at large.

Here salience is given to destructions caused by humans to nature and now Covid-19 hits back as a reaction of these destructions. These phrases “destructive wars”, “poisoned oceans”, “destroyed forests” and “disrupted food chains” highlights the destroyed parts of nature and now survival of humanity is challenged by Covid-19. Here, the destructive stories are resisted in order to make people aware of their contribution in destroying nature and its parts and in turn caused problem for themselves. Humans are unaware of their selfish attitude with nature and how this attitude affects them in reaction. Cutting of trees increase air pollution, increased industrial activities pollute water, wars cause damage to air, water and land etc. Such irresponsible behaviors of humans are not only causing damage to nature but also threatening human lives and their survival. Negative behaviors are highlighted in order to grasp attention of people towards them. Negative behaviors are discouraged in this text.

The above-mentioned extracts have been analyzed to highlight the story of salience. Writers have incorporated salience through personification, metaphors, foregrounding, activation etc. Covid-19 has been highlighted by activation as an agent, as entity performing some action such as posing threat like an enemy. For example, phrases like Covid-19 threatens, Covid-19 hit, Covid-19 has taught etc. highlighted Covid-19 as active agent performing some actions. Covid-19 has been presented as active force which has brought changes. Later on, it has been analyzed metaphors have been incorporated to make Covid-19 salient in order to beg the attention of people towards this havoc. For instance, Covid-19 have been named as “hyena of nature”, “covid as mirror” all these examples have revealed that although covid-19 itself is a disaster but it has brought salience to many important positive aspects. Salience has been assigned to humans by blaming them as agents responsible for destruction of natural resources, named as culprits for exploiting nature for their own purposes thus giving rise to pandemic and other environmental issue. By placing the pronoun “we” as both subject and agent in the clause maximum is achieved. Through such constructions humans are responsible clearly to creating the condition for Covid-19 to spread. Hence in this way human role is made salient in covid-19 outbreak.

Another important technique that created salience within text is sense image (Stibbe, 2015). For example, covid-19 has been highlighted due to its positive impacts on nature such as “clear blue skies”, “fresh air” etc. gave clear image of healthy

environment from lockdown days. However, salient description of covid-19 as silent killer, as an enemy, that has been eradicated effectively and urgently not only by governments, environmentalists and policymakers but also by civil society as it affects everyone without discrimination is a beneficial discourse according to ecosophy. Covid-19 itself highlights the urge of effective infrastructure, environment resilience and climate justice to tackle such future pandemics and climate issues. It has highlighted that individual can play better role in saving the planet earth from such global crises. Such beneficial discourses are effective to motivate people to play their role towards safety of ecosystem.

4.5 Erasure

Erasure is another important story proposed by Arran Stibbe in his book *Ecolinguistic: Language, Ecology and Stories we live by*. Erasure refers to the removal of important object, participant or phenomena from text. Stibbe (2021) states that a linguist should analyze text critically to anticipate the participants that are obscured, backgrounded or masked along with explicitly mentioned participants in a text. An object or participant are obscured, omitted or suppressed by erasure in order to divert the attention of readers. Stibbe (2015) claims that erasure is achieved in a text through implication of hyponymy, metonymy, passive constructions nominalization. Erasure is not of a single type, it may have different forms; sometime participants or objects are completely absent as agents, sometimes they are masked or present in distorted version, sometimes they are present partially in order to make then less prominent and worthy of consideration. For example, in this example “forests are burned” an agent is completely removed to divert attention. In this section the researcher has analyzed erasure in different extracts from selected newspaper articles to highlight the erasure of important phenomena and entity from environmental and Covid-related discourses.

Different strategies are employed by authors to suppress the presence of an agent or actor responsible for some actions. In this vein, nominalization is used by writer to omit participants from texts. This is achieved by using verb as a noun e.g., “disruption” instead of “to disrupt” which can mark the presence of agent but nominalization completely removes agent. Andrew Goatly (2017) says that nominalization removes an agent from text thus, signifying a self-generated process by making it agentless. In this research nominalization has been detected to omit humans as agent of ecological disruption. Moreover, other strategies like passive

voice, metonymies, co-hyponymy etc. have been analyzed while careful examination of sample articles.

Example 1

Covid-19 waste is ending up in our oceans and threatening the marine life's ecosystem.

This example has been chosen from article More Masks than Fish published in "The express Tribune" newspaper. In the above-mentioned extract covid-19 impacts are limited to marine life ecosystem. This type of strategy is referred as hyponym. The "marine life ecosystem" is a hyponym of ecosystem. There is partial erasure of the ecosystem, as only one ecosystem was influenced by covid-19. Furthermore, ocean is a hyponym of marine ecosystem. Thus, only one aspect is focused and the rest is erased. Covid has infected the entire world but only one part of nature is depicted here as affected part. Hyponyms are used to construct erasure within texts. Here, marine life ecosystem gives abstractness as it does not specify the organisms.

Example 2

Forests are cut down during the wet season (December through April) and are burned during the dry season (between May and October). Fires in the Amazon rainforest do not occur naturally.

This example has been chosen from article Climate Change: everyone's concern published in Tribune Newspaper. Passive constructions are mostly used to background the agent of an action. In this extract the actions of "cut down" and "burned" have some agent but here participant is completely omitted from text by using passive construction like "are cut" and "are burned. This shows the erasure of "humans" as agent responsible for ecological destruction. Hence agents are suppressed and suggest a self-generated process and give an idea of natural process. This type of language spread unawareness about harmful actions and behaviors towards ecosystem and is destructive kind of discourse. Passivization is mostly used in order to hide the agent of action. Such type of text veiled the agent in order background the authority. In this extract specific reference to Amazon fires has been given but agency behind fire has been hidden. Therefore, this sort of information is considered insufficient and destructive as it does not spread information about selfish act of human beings. Hence, this type of text does not convey proper information to people so they get aware of

their role. Humans are responsible for creating excessive damage to nature and ecosystem so they should be aware of their selfish nature.

Example 3

The climate change ministry has been downgraded to a whole new level. Policy makers must understand that ecological disruption is already building a destructive potential and will cause damage at unprecedented scale.

This extract has been taken from article downgraded Climate Change Ministry published in “The Express Tribune”. In this example again passive construction obscured the presence of any agent who is responsible for downgrading. The passive construction “has been downgraded” makes the text agentless and suppresses the presence of an agent. This makes people unaware of “covid- 19” negative impacts on infrastructure and economy. Here, there is removal of agent that is responsible for declining climate change ministry. The incompetency of government and policy makers has been removed by suggestion. Moreover, the irresponsible and poor management of government has been erased by using the technique of passivisation. Moreover, nominalization has been employed to convey the idea that disruption occurs on its own and it has nothing to do with human behaviors. This in turn make the text destructive. Moreover, in this text human role in destroying land, air and water has been ignored only policy makers has been addressed to control environmental stress. Policies are important but implementation and human cooperation is central in reducing environmental problems. Most often, this type of strategy is used to erase a participant from clause, sentence or text by making it more abstract.

Example 4

However, a new crisis is already on its way and will soon be the world’s next calamity. Ecological disruption is a challenge we are clearly not ready for.

This example has been selected from article written by Eric Shahzar published in February 09, 2021 in “The Express Tribune”. Here in this example participant presence is suppressed by using strategy of nominalisation. Nominalisation is the change of verb into noun in order to hide an agent. The noun phrase “Ecological Disruption” indicates as it is happening on its own. The disruption is evolved from verb “disrupt” which have agent but “disruption” makes it noun and obscure the agent behind “ecological disruption”. Environmental disturbance and stress have an agent

behind it but in this text the presence of an agent has been made vague. Such kind of texts are often considered vague and implicit in meanings as failed to convey complete meanings. Moreover, writer has hinted about future disaster and not clearly defined the type of disaster. Therefore, such kind of texts fail in creating sense of responsibility in people. On the other hand, there is dire to spread positive stories in order to highlight the idea of sustainability and healthy environment. The terminology “Ecological Disruption” conveys the process of disruption as spontaneous and natural process. In reality environmental stress is caused by humans by corrupt, selfish and greedy nature. Therefore, this kind of text is considered destructive as it does not convey complete information regarding issues.

Example 5

However, the pandemic is also harming our planet in a very surprising manner — through a relentless rise in ocean pollution.

This extract has been selected from article written by Eric Shahzar and published in “the Express Tribune”. Another way of constructing erasure within text is transitivity which emphasized how meanings are created in a text. Transitivity explains a clause has three components; the process, the participants and the circumstances. In the above-mentioned example “planet” is placed in the place of an effected and “pandemic” is placed in the position of actor that is doing something to the “planet”. So here instead of blaming human’s “pandemic” has been shown as doing something to planet.

Example 6

The progression of warfare from chemical weapons to nuclear weapons has increasingly created a stress on ecosystems and the overall.

This article has been selected from article “Covid-19: nature’s revenge” published in “The News”. In this example the agent is obscured by using nominalisation “progression” instead of verb “to progress” which requires an agent that someone progresses but agent is erased by changing verb in to nouns. By doing so “progression” has been shown as inevitable and natural process. In result this removes the fact that human are responsible for actions. In this regard humans are not blamed.

Example 7

For them there is no nature beyond their bellies

This extract has been selected from article Covid-19 and Vultures published in The News newspaper. This extract is taken from sample articles and mark the presence of metonymic expressions instead of participants, organism or entity. The term “bellies” is metonym for human beings. Here it masks the human beings thus making the reality less harsh. During pandemic human beings or capitalists made more money and profits despite the cruelty and sensitivity of covid19. They consider themselves as owner of nature and its resources. Metonymy is often marked with the use of part of human, animals, objects etc. Thus, most often, used by authors to mask the reality in distorted version. Here “bellies” instead of “humans” refer to human body part.

Example 8

Millions of human deaths are due to environmental degradation. Our right to health was already under attack before the onslaught of Covid-19.

This extract has been selected from article written by Dr. Farzana Bari and published in “The News” newspaper on April 27, 2020. The phenomena of death have been highlighted that is caused by environmental degradation. Nominalization has been employed to represent the cruel attitude of human with environment. Moreover, degradation is not a spontaneous action it has someone behind it. Human role in destruction has been masked in environmental degradation. This type of text is not able to arise the sense of self-realization in masses. Humans are responsible for all environmental stress and disturbance but in this extract human agency has been masked by employing the technique of nominalization.

Example 9

A significant improvement in the air quality and ozone layers’ recovery is being reported by scientists.

This extract has been chosen from article Covid-19: challenges and opportunities published in “The News” newspaper on April 27, 2020. Here a co-hyponym of atmosphere “ozone” is used to focus only one area being affected by Covid-19 and other areas are backgrounded. Such information is considered

ambiguous and destructive as does not convey full information and represent with component. Here, proper areas have not been highlighted that have been recovered during pandemic. Ozone layer has been recovered but other issues have been resolved such as noise pollution, air pollution, land pollution etc. only one component of atmosphere has been used to highlight the improvements caused by lockdown. A beneficial text always convey proper, effective and deep information in order to convince masses to play effective role in saving ecosystem.

Example 10

The long-term effects of a disaster are ignored.

In this example passive construction is used to omit the agent of the clause. The “human” agent is removed from text with the help of passive form “are ignored” in order to hide their irresponsible behavior during crucial times. Here “disaster” refers to covid-19. The void is used here to completely remove a participant. Erasure is used in most text to erase important aspects. This will not let people know about their behavior.

Example 11

Isolation, even in homes in Pakistan is difficult given that information about the disease is poorly communicated, and there is no monitoring or follow-up system.

This extract has been taken from article Covid-19: how are we doing? Published in Dawn newspaper. Here nominalisation is employed to obscure both agent and patient of the sentence. The use of word “isolation” instead of “to isolate” the agent and patient. Isolation is recommended to infected people to prevent spread of covid-19 but this extract gives an idea that isolation is natural process. So, isolation is done on infected people and covid -19 recommends to isolate. Here, isolation is described as agentless process that happens on its own.

Furthermore, environmental degradation, nature exploitation, deforestation and environmental devastation are described in articles as natural processes that do not require an agent and happen on their own. Such type of discourses is destructive as they do not resist or discourage human corrupt and selfish behavior thus, indirectly give rise to more destructive and harmful behaviors.

Example 12

Factories have been bolted, international and national sports and entertainment events have been postponed, and travel has been curtailed.

This extract has been selected from article “Climate Lockdown” published in “Dawn” newspaper. Here the presence of agent has been removed through passive verbs “have been bolted”, “have been postponed”, “has been curtailed”. It seems that these actions happen spontaneously without any agent. Passive construction is used in the above-mentioned extract in order to change focus from agent to actions. Lockdown has restricted human movement that affects environment positively. Lockdown of factories, industrial activities and transport has reduced air pollution to a significant level. Due to restriction on travel activities reduction in carbon emission has been observed. Here, human agency has been erased. In order to convince people to save ecosystem human must be highlighted. Human role in improving environment has been veiled. Thus, completely erasing an agent indicates erasure of something important and worthy. The event and participants responsible for such actions are erased.

Example 13

Unfortunately, behavior change in the case of the pandemic has been triggered mainly by people’s immediate fear that the virus can kill them or their loved ones.

In this example metonymy is used to represent Covid-19 as virus is the part of Covid-19 in order to mask the reality. Both coronavirus and virus are substitute of each other thus, belong to same category and shares similarities. The metonym represents the infectious disease and its effect on humans. The term “virus” is more abstract term than “Covid-19”. Only fear of death due to pandemic has been focused.

Example 14

A reduction in NO₂ levels was observed during the lockdown period.

Here the reality of air pollution is masked in another version where it specifies the presence of particular gas in atmosphere. But it veiled the reality of air pollution in “NO₂ levels”. This example illustrates the important and worthy phenomena of decrease in air pollution but through distorted version. Where air pollution is represented only through “NO₂” completely neglecting other important gases in atmosphere. Such language does not clarify the reality. Erasure has been used in order

to mask the decrease in air pollution. Only one particular compound has been mentioned, which in turn mask the reality of reduction in air pollution. Instead of mentioning whole scenario, only particular type of pollution is mentioned. Such text does not convey whole reality, which in turn reduce the interest level of people in text. Such type of text is destructive as it conveys insufficient information and that version that is not known to people.

Example 15

In summary, Pakistan has a serious pollution problem. With rapid urbanization as well as motorisation, its poor air quality is deteriorating further, posing very significant health risks for its population as well as its economic trajectory.

This example has been taken from article Combating Pollution published in “The Dawn” newspaper. Nominalization has been used in order to mask the reality. Here, “urbanisation” and “motorisation” are portrayed as natural phenomena and shows that these actions do not have an agent. Here, reality of human involvement is masked in another aspect. Obviously, urbanization happen due to human and also motorisation happen due human. But here such terminology has been used by writer in this extract to mask the reality and hide human involvement. In texts when author hides the presence of an agent it makes the text less impressive and less persuasive. Such type of text is often considered destructive as not properly convey real information. Therefore, such discourses fail in sensitizing people towards environment and nature.

Erasure has been explored by researcher to analyze the areas that received less attention and are backgrounded during pandemic. Mostly, void is abundantly incorporated in three newspapers with the help of nominalization and passive construction. Halliday and Martin (1993) claimed that in nominalization action receives more attention than agent and agent is backgrounded. In nominalization verb is modified into noun just to remove attention from agent towards action or phenomena. For example, “degradation” instead of “to degrade”. Similarly, passivization is also the loss of agency. It has been analyzed that in selected articles passive construction are largely incorporated to hide human agency. Moreover, co-hyponyms are also incorporated in construction of mask. For example, nitrous oxide, carbon emission are used as co-hyponym of air pollution and represents its distorted version. In this way all forms of erasure are present in these

articles. Actually, presence of erasure marks a discourse as destructive because it conveys destructive stories as removing human agency from important processes thus hiding human. Environmental text with erasure makes it less impressive in terms of convincing people towards their role in the safety of ecosystem, natural resources and environment. In above mentioned extracts authors have incorporated different kinds of erasure in order to remove blame from humans. Use of passive constructions instead of active make the text improper and less persuasive. In most of extracts entities/ realities have been masked in other aspects which divert attention from original aspect.

CHAPTER 5

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

This section will discuss the findings, discussion of the findings and recommendations for future research.

5.1 Findings and Discussion

The findings of this research study obtained after the analysis of newspapers' articles are mentioned below. These findings highlight the answers of research questions.

5.1.1 Findings

1. The researcher has analyzed that all four stories erasure, salience, evaluation and conviction are presented in selected articles.
2. The researcher has found activation, foregrounding, personification, metaphor, passivation, cohyponym, nominalisation, abstraction, modality, presupposition, hedges and appraisal patterns are the strategies employed in the construction of stories of erasure, conviction, evaluations, salience and convictions.
3. Evaluation has been constructed in the selected newspapers' articles through explicit, implicit, positive, negative appraisal patterns and metaphors. Moreover, dysphemism has also been employed by authors to discourage human selfish and greedy behavior.
4. Convictions has been constructed in the articles with the help of facticity patterns. Strategies that are employed to develop facticity of particular statement are modal verbs, hedges, mention of expert authority and presupposition. The researcher has found most often in articles convictions are constructed by mentioning expert authority or professional expert.
5. Salience has been explored by researcher in articles in terms of Covid-19 impacts over environment. The strategies that are employed in the construction of salience are foregrounding, personification, activation, concrete vocabulary to make particular area prominent. Salience is the story that is beneficial story

as it draws attention towards salient aspects by clearly mention in text. For example, “human destroys nature” clearly blame human.

6. The researcher has analyzed the fourth story of erasure in newspaper’s articles. It has been analyzed that erasure has been constructed in terms of erasing human agency as responsible for important actions. The strategies that are employed in articles are passive constructions, nominalization, hyponyms, co-hyponyms and transitivity. It has been analyzed those passive constructions are abundant in removal of important aspects thus lacks in raising awareness about destructive behaviors of human. Three types of erasure have been analyzed void, mask and trace. In selected articles void has been found pervasively as compared to mask and trace.
7. The selected newspapers represented Covid-19 narratives by exploring these strategies employed in the construction of these four stories. Thus, encouraging positive behaviors and resisting negative attitude and discourses. A narrative of improved environment by Covid-19 has been strongly portrayed in these articles. Moreover, a narrative of Covid-19 as “nature revenge” has been portrayed, humans are portrayed as tormentor of nature, Covid-19 has been highlighted as punishment of nature, individual behavior is highlighted for sustainability of planet, human greed and excessive exploitation created pandemic, Covid-19 has been highlighted as reviving human relation with nature. Climate change and Covid-19 have connection as both effect environment.
8. The articles are analyzed from both pandemic and climate change perspective because of their interconnectedness. It has been analyzed that response to pandemic was more effective as compared to climate related issues. Authors have raised awareness regarding global warming, deforestation, and nature exploitation during pandemic time. It has been analyzed those destructive constructions are also present in articles which highlights “economic recession” due to Covid-19 and accentuate fear of poverty among people more than fear of Covid-19.

5.1.2 Discussion

This section will explain the above-mentioned findings of this study. The basic findings are the strategies used in the construction of four selected stories in articles of Dawn, The Express Tribune, and The News. The researcher has analyzed these strategies to unveil destructive and beneficial stories conveyed at the time of pandemic. Stibbe (2015) frame work is used a lens to analyze four stories in articles. These stories are analyzed with the help of strategies proposed by Stibbe. Then stories are categorized as destructive or beneficial on the type of discourse that they promote. First research question focused the strategies employed in the construction of erasure, salience, conviction and evaluation in three selected articles. Salience is constructed with the help of foregrounding, prominence, activation, metaphor and concrete vocabulary. Erasure is constructed in three forms; void, mask and trace. Void is constructed with the help of passive construction and nominalization, mask is constructed with transitivity and cohyponym, trace is constructed with hyponym.

Evaluation is constructed with the help of explicit, positive and negative appraisal items. These patterns are examined to know how authors evaluates covid-19 pandemic and climate change. The appraisal items that are employed in articles to evaluate covid-19 are negative appraisal items such as risk, harming, threatening, horrific pandemic etc. by using negative items covid-19 is evaluated as negative. But in some articles covid-19 is evaluated positive for example, “the pandemic has significantly reduced”, “benefits of coronavirus”, “significant improvement in air quality” etc. This evaluates covid-19 as positive in context of improves air quality. Moreover, human behavior towards nature is appraised negatively by using words like “irresponsible”, “carelessly”, “rob” to raise awareness about their harmful act.

As media is one of important medium of raising awareness during sensitive and emergency situation like Covid-19. Ruiu (2020) claimed that there is difference between responses towards both climate and pandemic and highlighted that there is need for individual response in order to mitigate climate change as shown by public during Covid- 19. The story of evaluation has highlighted Covid-19 as improving environment by highlighting less human activity. For example, less car on roads, less planes on sky evaluates and promotes the story of “small is beautiful” by using positive appraisal “less”. Furthermore, it evaluates the improve air quality during pandemic as “good”. The story of human impact on environment is promoted

positively in context of pandemic. Moreover, it has been constructed by using different connotations.

Conviction is the second story that is analyzed by researcher in selected articles. Conviction is a story in people's mind about an area of life whether it is true, false, certain or uncertain. Mostly modality, mention of expert authority, presupposition, empirical data, and hedges are the strategies found in the construction of conviction in research articles.

High facticity is seen regarding "Covid-19 impacts environment", "during Covid-19 ozone layer has been recovered", "Covid-19 and climate change can be tackled through collective as well as individual effort", "Covid-19 and climate change originate from economic growth". The story certainly promotes that environment has been improved during pandemic due to reduction in carbon emission thus, saving of human from air pollution is beneficial. Mostly, the professional and expert facticity is employed to construct this conviction. Evidences from authentic sources recognize the phenomena of air pollution was reduced during Covid-19. Moreover, it promotes the improvement in infrastructure, individual behavior and respect for nature in order to prevent from such natural disasters. Such discourse is beneficial as it encourages people towards to play individual role in safety and sustainability of ecosystem.

Erasure is explored in this research to investigate the erasure of important areas from articles. In this regard different strategies are explored that established the story of erasure in selected newspapers' articles. These strategies are nominalisation, passive construction, hyponyms, transitivity etc. The erasure of human and covid-19 from important text has been observed which hides their agency. For example, ecological disruption, deforestation, environmental degradation, progression of warfare clearly represents these processes as natural, spontaneous and inevitable process and suppresses the fact of any agent involve in it. These are destructive discourses that hide human agents from entire process thus obscuring their involvement and making them unaware of their pathetic and selfish behavior. Moreover, in context of Covid-19 the use of more general terms like virus, pathogens, SARS-CoV2 instead of coronavirus mask it as agent and represents the distorted version of Covid-19. Passive construction in covid-19 related articles also obscure human involvement for example, the long -term effects of pandemic are

ignored reveals background the presence of humans and hide human irresponsibility. Moreover, the constructions like “covid-19 waste is ending up in oceans” represents that “ending up” as spontaneous process and does not have any agent thus omitting human role in polluting oceans. Similarly, the phrase “reduction in NO₂” represents the process of reduction as spontaneous and hides the Covid-19 involvement in it. In most articles it is represented as a natural process. Moreover, replacing air pollution with co hyponyms “NO₂”, “carbon emission” mask the original phenomena in distorted version. Air pollution is represented with its components rather than itself. Moreover, “isolation” is represented in terms of natural process eliminating agent and patient from text. The involvement of “government” and “human” has been obscured. Moreover, in climate change related text passive construction are used which obscure human beings as agent for example, “forests are cut” and “forests are burned” it seems no one is involved in this destruction. Such discourses hide the presence of human thus making discourse more destructive and ambiguous. Schleppegrell (1997) highlighted that abstract language is used in text to hide agent responsible for environmental problem.

Saliency is investigated in the articles of Dawn, The Express Tribune and The News. As the research focuses the articles from covid-19 time period so only covid-19 and environment related content is analyzed. Saliency is analyzed with the help of activation, foregrounding, prominence, metaphor, personification and concrete vocabulary. The covid19 has been analyzed as active agent in most of the articles responsible for changing environment. Obviously, Covid-19 did not happen overnight, it was a result of human exploitation, destruction and disrespecting nature. The role of human is highlighted by directly blaming human with the use of pronoun “we”, “humans are responsible” etc. Hence, humans are responsible for Covid-19 pandemic. Similarly, Covid-19 is given saliency through personification it as doing things as active agent. For Example, Covid-19 threatens, the virus can kill etc., give saliency to Covid-19 as actively involved in something. Similarly, human corrupt behaviors receive saliency during Covid-19. For example, “we are endangering” directly blaming humans for creating aquatic pollution thus endangering marine life. The sentence “human activity affects our environment” foregrounds “human activity” in order to make humans salient. Metaphor of “hyena” is used for Covid-19 to give saliency to Covid-19. Saliency is observed as beneficial

story as it draws attention towards important aspects such as environment, nature respect, nature revenge etc.

Ecolinguistics offers an opportunity to analyze text and anticipate destructive and beneficial stories in a wide range of discourses in order to raise awareness among masses. Important stories that are beneficial are promoted while destructive stories are resisted. Destructive stories mostly erase important aspects from consideration thus making it less informative and ambiguous. While beneficial stories are promoted to motivate people towards sustainability of eco system. Similarly, in this research people are motivated for individual role to save ecosystem during pandemic and afterwards to minimize environmental issues. Ecolinguistic raise awareness related to environment and its relation with human. Arran Stibbe model (2015) serves as a lens for the analysis of data to analyze destructive and beneficial stories. This study has highlighted that media has emphasized environmental perspective of Covid-19 during pandemic in order to motivate and guide people regarding their role in the safety of ecosystem. It has been concluded that during pandemic media has played a significant role in the coverage of pandemic to spread awareness among people.

5.2 Conclusion

The researcher has analyzed the articles from newspapers to investigate story of salience, erasure, evaluation and conviction in terms of destructive and beneficial story. The researcher has analyzed the positive linguistic patterns that promotes the beneficial text and problematic and negative language is responsible for destructive stories. The findings reveals that all the four stories are incorporated in articles and reveals the destructive as well as beneficial discourse text. As the media's role is crucial in the dissemination of information related to sensitive issues. In this vein some aspects are made salient by using concrete language and some aspects do not receive much attention. This research explores the way in which newspapers represent Covid-19 issue and its impact on environment from ecological perspective. In newspapers several stories are represented that highlights Covid-19 impacts on environment as well as reshaping human behavior and consciences. All the three newspapers have incorporated environmental theme in selected articles. Although, Dawn and Tribune are more focused towards economic perspective along with pandemic. Positive stories encourage people to eradicate environmental issues just

in the same manner as they fight Covid-19. So, media plays vital role in motivating people to make individual effort to fight pandemic and climate change.

5.3 Recommendations

The present study has analyzed newspaper articles and editorials from ecological perspective and distinguished between ecologically beneficial /destructive stories. Positive stories are promoted in order to motivate people to enhance the sustainability of planet and negative stories are resisted. The in-depth analysis of linguistic strategies provide understanding about implied meaning and create sensitivity among people. Furthermore, the text has been analyzed within the framework of Eco linguistics and it suggested that pandemics, environmental issues and problems are results of human greed and selfishness that needs to be stopped, otherwise it will make planet earth vulnerable to such diseases and pandemics. In addition to it, present study may aid media in realizing that to what extent their language can influence and shape thoughts. Therefore, media should be aware of linguistic choices and strategies that are crucial in motivating and creating sense of responsibility in people. No doubt, media has played incredible role in disseminating information regarding coronavirus during pandemic i.e., important aspects are highlighted clearly but some aspects are masked and erased in text. Media should mention all positive and negative behaviors of human beings in order to convey facts properly. Surely, the Pakistani print media is trying to devote much space to the coverage of environment and pandemic. Still, the road to better improvement of this shortcoming is far from being reached. Therefore, print media needs to write insightful and impactful articles related to environment and other environment related issues. Hence, media's role is central in disseminating information during such crucial times in order to encourage people through positive stories.

5.4 Suggestions

This study only focuses on the newspaper articles related to Covid-19 and environment. Further studies can be conducted on following topics:

- Comparative analysis of coverage of Covid- 19 and environmental issue in main stream media.
- Representation of Covid-19 in newspapers with larger sample.
- Representation of Covid-19 on social media.

Further studies can be conducted on topics related to contemporary issues like polio, dengue etc., and their coverage in Newspapers.

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APPENDIX

Covid-19: challenges and opportunities

By Dr. Farzana Bari

April 27, 2020

The conversation around the Covid-19 pandemic is dominated by challenges posed to human lives and global economies. As death tolls, stories of injustice and suffering exponentially rise, the established wisdom that every disaster entails opportunities is fading away from our imagination.

The unintended benefits of the novel coronavirus outbreak are already quite visible. The lockdown around the world with less cars on the road, less planes in the sky and slowing down of industrial activities have given a chance to the planet to breathe some fresh air and slowly heal. A significant improvement in the air quality and ozone layers' recovery is being reported by scientists. Now a post Covid-19 world will be able to meet the goals set in the Paris Climate Accord.

The improvement caused by the horrific pandemic in our environment and eco-systems will now save millions of lives in the post-corona world. According to the World Health Organization, we were seeing 4.2 million premature deaths due to air pollution and 600,000 children died in 2016 from acute lower respiratory infections attributed to air pollution.

Our flawed economic system based on excessive exploitation of nature was ignoring critically important life-support systems. Loss of biodiversity, soil degradation, deforestation, use of pesticides, toxic waste in water sources, burning of fossil fuel, toxic air pollutants were already playing havoc with life on earth. Millions of human deaths are due to environmental degradation. Our right to health was already under attack in any case before the onslaught of Covid-19.

It is ironic that it took a coronavirus pandemic to make public health the top priority of the world today. The healthcare rights of the people as the fundamental responsibility of the state had been ignored for far too long. The pandemic has forced the realization amongst power-holders and policymakers that health is a public good. Their primary concern with the health of the economy is completely dependent on the health of people

and not vice versa. Now when the coronavirus is at our doorstep, injection of massive financial resources into the health system cannot make up for the neglect of the health sector which has been shown to be ill-equipped globally to deal with such pandemics.

There is so much haste to go back to the 'normal' way of life. The novel coronavirus gives us the opportunity to deconstruct the 'normal', which is riddled with abnormalities. We can certainly make different choices. The opportunities created by the coronavirus have unfortunately escaped the attention of our government and the political class.

The following decisions are a case in point where our government could have made different choices.

The Ehsaas Programme could have used the income support initiative because of the health emergency created by the coronavirus as an opportunity to expand and authenticate its poverty data. The haphazard rolling out of a disbursement plan of Rs12000 not only endangered the lives of women by exposing them to the contagion by gathering them in crowded places and in long queues all day long, but it also invited strong criticism from provincial governments and political parties for lack of transparency and politicization of the relief package. The relief packages should have been distributed through the local governments instead of through party cadre or inexperienced youth in the 'Coronavirus Tiger Force'.

Each union council/town should have asked to form a ward-level corona-relief committee consisting of members representing diversity in the local communities. These are the people who can verify the financial status of people within their communities, instead of the district commissioners who are made responsible for the verification, despite not knowing these people directly. The data provided by local committees could have been cross-checked with the Ehsaas Program data set and new entries could have been made. If the information furnished by the local communities doesn't include those households that are already registered in the Ehsaas Kafalat programmes, their credentials should be checked later in the post-corona phase for the authenticity of poverty data. The government can still adopt this mechanism for the next round of support if they wish.

Similarly, Pakistan has the fastest pace of urbanization (three percent annually) in the region. Internal migratory flow is from rural to urban centers. Population pressure in

mega cities has stressed urban infrastructure to the extent that it is at the verge of collapse. According to the Labor Force Survey 2017-2018, we have 8.5 million migrant workers in the country; 65 percent are living in 15 districts across Pakistan. After the countrywide lockdown, migrant workers are moving back to their homes in rural areas, releasing immense pressure on the urban infrastructure and services.

The backward migration from urban to rural areas provides an opportunity to the government to correct the rural-urban imbalance through development of the agriculture sector. Fixing support prices for essential food items such as wheat and rice; creation of requisite infrastructure; promotion of agro-industry in rural areas is the trajectory to rural development. Livelihood support opportunities can retain these workers in rural areas. The agriculture sector must assume its due importance in the development planning now. The Covid-19 crisis could have a direct impact on agriculture and food shortages so making the agricultural sector more robust, thereby ensuring livelihoods and sustenance, should take top priority.

There is a looming threat of the spread of Covid-19 in kachi abadis. Rapid and unplanned urban expansion has given birth to mushrooming kachi abadis. Nearly 50 percent of our urban population lives in slums where they lack basic facilities such as clean drinking water, sanitation, electricity etc. Covid-19 has brought the focus on kachi abadis as it is logistically unfeasible to ask people living in kachi abadis to maintain physical distance when a family of seven to ten people lives in one or two rooms. It is high time for our state to deliver on its constitutional obligation to provide shelter to its citizens.

The incentive package offered to construction should have been driven by concerns of homelessness and low-income groups. Unfortunately, it simply protects the interests of powerful builders, developers and politicians. Pakistan has a deficit of 10 million house units with the demand of 0.7 million new units growing annually. This was a golden chance for the PTI government to fulfil its promise of constructing 50,000,00 houses for the poor.

In the relief package to the construction industry, the government should have incentivised only those projects that benefit the poor and vulnerable such as low-cost houses given on lease to people living in kachi abadis; purpose-buildings for panahgahs and shelter homes for women; granary stores for the government as lack of warehouse

and storage capacity is the key hurdle faced by the food department to procure enough wheat and rice which compromise food security in the country. These are the necessary construction projects that should have been undertaken through public-private partnership where builders and developers could be offered public land for the construction of these people-centric projects.

Lastly, the coronavirus gave enormous opportunity to the government to establish its writ vis-a-vis the religio-political lobby in the country. Instead of becoming hostage to their blackmailing, the government should have dealt with their defiance with an iron hand in the name of protecting public health. Clerics who are defying the government's call for social distancing should be arrested, and those on government payrolls should be de-notified. Covid-19 gives the government a chance to resist and end the blackmailing practised by religious-political groups and establish a new order where citizens' lives and well-being is the utmost priority.

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Clean the air first

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IF there is one thing that Covid-19 has shown us, it is that there is no getting away from it. It is here to stay and we will have to look at ways to protect ourselves. The crisis has also highlighted the extent to which our health is linked to the health of the ecosystem. If we want to live healthy lives, we need to conserve the planet and use natural resources in a sustainable manner.

While governments are busy battling the pandemic, experts from the scientific community are studying patterns of Covid-19 fatalities. Though still preliminary, their investigations show a link between air pollution and coronavirus deaths. Hence, cleaning up the air we breathe is the right place to begin the journey towards improved public health.

What does it mean for Pakistan? As the government mulls over a slew of stimulus packages to revive the economy, while ensuring that easing the lockdown is safe, the authorities would do well to review its investments in coal energy. More than 95 per cent of Pakistan's installed coal-based electricity generation capacity (5,090

megawatts) was commissioned during the past three years and the plants are at various stages of development. All this is happening at a time when around the world the same are being scrapped — not only because of the high levels of air pollution they generate but also because they are economically unviable.

Take the example of the nine proposed coal power plants with a total capacity of 3,700 MW in Tharparkar, which has the worst human development indicators in Sindh. A recent study titled Air quality, health and toxic impacts of the proposed coal mining and power cluster in Thar, Pakistan, carried out by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), paints a horrific picture.

The government should review its investments in coal energy.

It projects 29,000 deaths related to air pollution over an operating life of 30 years, 19,900 new cases of asthma among children and 32,000 preterm births. With quality of life compromised due to breathing polluted air, most Tharis would be living with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and diabetes, and be at risk of stroke.

Terming Tharparkar one of South Asia's largest "hotspots for mercury and carbon dioxide", the study calculated that of the 1,400 kilograms of mercury emitted annually, one-fifth will settle in water or on land. The independent research centre could only review three environmental impact assessments that were available publicly and found "errors and omissions" thereby "misleading public through data maneuvering" noted lead author Lauri Myllyvirta, with concern. There was one EIA report that had calculated mercury content in coal but its calculations about emissions were inaccurate. The study also held those carrying out these assessments to be "misreporting". At the same time, it questioned the role of the Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (Sepa) and the "level of regulatory oversight". Had the EIAs been reviewed seriously, the "elementary" errors caught by CREA could certainly have been caught by the regulator. According to CREA spokesperson, while there are affordable techniques whereby mercury emissions can be reduced by more than two-thirds, there were no emission limits in Pakistan that would require any mercury controls. With the result, plant developers can continue to completely neglect the issue. And so, it must be emphasised to Sepa how crucial it is to carry out studies to evaluate the health risks of mercury emissions since lignite coal plants are very large sources of the element.

However, for the sake of public health, perhaps the best decision — one requiring courage — would be to cancel those coal-based plants that are still in the early stages of development and not follow the route of China and the US, which is slowly pivoting

towards fossil fuels. As they come up with economic recovery packages, there are reports that China wants to set up new coal plants and the US wants to use the pandemic as an excuse to relax environmental rules and impact reviews.

The pandemic has made it crystal clear that our future economic plans must be climate-smart. The 10 billion tree tsunami project has earned the government much applause. At present, it provides jobs to nearly 65,000 people and plans are underway to provide three times more employment by the end of this year. But instead of resting on its reforestation laurels, perhaps the government can direct some of its attention towards renewable energy projects that are much cheaper than mammoth toxic-spewing coal plants.

Civil society movements and environmental activists must come together and put pressure on the government to tread a greener, more sustainable path towards economic recovery, and use the opportunity provided by the pandemic to course-correct with even more stringent environmental laws and regulations, and rectify past mistakes.

Covid-19 and climate change

Poor are expected to bear the brunt of climate change, which will exacerbate already glaring global inequalities.

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Covid-19 has caused unprecedented upheaval globally, impacting all facets of life, and its consequences will be felt for several years to come. The global threat posed by the pandemic is by no means over, yet another major crisis is brewing which deserves urgent attention of policymakers around the world as well.

In a recent blog, Bill Gates again warned that “As awful as this pandemic is, climate change could be worse.” While Gates places much faith in the power of technology and global elites to address the impact of global challenges, he does aptly point out that the impending threat of climate change can unleash impacts more varied and long-lasting than those of Covid-19.

Governments in poorer countries like ours are already experiencing pressures to contend with severer floods and droughts, which are becoming more frequent due to climate change. As the situation worsens, already struggling governments will have little choice but to spend more of their scant resources dealing with the effects of climate change.

Social media was abuzz with images of the pollution clearing up as the global economy came to a grinding halt due to worldwide lockdowns due to Covid-19. However, the global response to Covid-19 has barely made a dent in the causes of climate change, according to a new UN report. The United in Science report brings together experts from international organisations to provide a snapshot of the state of global climate today. It notes that despite CO₂ emissions plummeting during a few months of Covid-19 lockdown, emission concentrations continue to rise. The past five years are the warmest on record.

Scientists are warning that global warming can also create more opportunities for pathogens to thrive and spread. Climate change caused by deforestation, urban crowding and wet markets for wild game create enabling conditions for future pandemics.

There are evident lessons to be learnt from Covid-19. Inequality can be evidently exacerbated by pandemics. Covid-19 forced lockdowns which have hurt the poor disproportionately, who have been more susceptible to the virus due to their cramped living and working conditions, and also had less opportunities to seek adequate treatment. The poor are expected to bear the brunt of worsening climate change too, which will exacerbate already glaring global inequalities.

Delaying climate change mitigation will prove to be costly. We should learn from the devastation caused by Covid-19, which could have been significantly curbed had there been more transparency around its initial spread, and less lethargy in government responses.

Some, like the EU, have been wise to opt for green stimulus measures to overcome the Covid-19 crisis. In the US, the Covid-19 response has been a disaster, and if President Trump secures another term, the situation could be bleak not only for contending with pandemics and environmental challenges within the US, but for multilateral efforts for which US financial support remains vital.

Unfortunately, many governments tried to use diversionary tactics rather than addressing their own incompetence to deal with the Covid-19 crisis. As the virus wreaks

havoc in India, its government has ramped up its populist messages and used Covid-19 as an opportunity to clamp down on dissent. Other countries ranging from Turkey to Venezuela have employed similar strategies.

Pakistan is in a self-congratulatory mode, as it has been relatively spared by Covid-19 thus far. But we are not adequately prepared for future pandemics nor the varied threats of climate change. Pakistan does not have a share in the global economy to make a drastic impact on global warming, but we are not doing enough to contend with its consequences or curb local causes of pollution. Flood mitigation and contending with drought are not getting the attention they deserve. We are set to proceed full speed ahead with investing in a coal dependent energy portfolio. No long-lasting measures have been implemented to lessen air pollution, which bring large parts of the country to its knees every smog season.

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