

**EVIDENTIALITY AND EPISTEMIC
MODALITY IN POLITICAL DISCOURSE:
ANALYZING SPEAKERS' STANCE AND
IDEOLOGY THROUGH APPRAISAL THEORY**

BY

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**Evidentiality and Epistemic Modality in Political Discourse:
Analyzing Speakers' Stance and Ideology through Appraisal
Theory**

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ABSTRACT

Title: Evidentiality and Epistemic Modality in Political Discourse: Analyzing Speakers' Stance and Ideology through Appraisal Theory

This research study has attempted to investigate the comparison between the frequency and distribution of resources, types of evidentiality and values of epistemic modality; further, it investigates the function of evidential markers and epistemic modals as stance makers and ideology construction. Although, evidentiality and epistemic modality are the main subjects in wide range of studies, the two domains have not been discussed in Pakistani political context. Therefore, corpora containing 5 speeches of Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan and 5 speeches of American President Joe Biden have been compiled for the analysis. The study has adopted mixed-method approach. The data has been analyzed first via corpus-based methodology, where Antconc software has been used to locate the frequency and distribution of evidential markers and epistemic modals, while Appraisal Theory of Martin and White (2005) has been applied to analyze the pragmatic function of the linguistic markers through its resources of 'attitude' and 'engagement'. The findings indicate that both the speakers have made use of personal knowledge (PK) evidentials from inside source more frequently among the other categories. Imran Khan in his speeches has used 'I think' 'I believe' and 'unfortunately', whereas Biden has used 'I know' 'in my view' and 'it is clear' more frequently. In terms of epistemic values, both the speakers have used 'will' and 'must' of high epistemic value more frequently followed by other epistemic values. The study has suggested that while making claims the speakers have often taken personal responsibility and have shown their strong confidence towards the truth of proposition. Secondly, the uses of high epistemic values have often presented subjective stance and speaker's positive self-representation. Overall, there have been no significant differences in the results. This research study contributes to the field of corpus-linguistics and to the practice of discourse community with the analysis of linguistic expressions in the speeches.

Keywords: Evidentiality, Epistemic Modality, Appraisal Theory, Political Discourse Analysis, Corpus Linguistics

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapters	Page
THESIS AND DEFENSE APPROVAL FORM	ii
AUTHOR’S DECLARATION	iii
ABSTRACT.....	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS	v
LIST OF TABLES	ix
LIST OF FIGURES	x
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	xi
DEDICATION.....	xii
CHAPTER 1	
INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Background of the Study.....	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	4
1.3 Research Objectives	4
1.4 Research Questions	5
1.5 Rationale of the Study.....	5
1.6 Significance of the Study	5
1.7 Delimitations	6
1.8 Chapters Breakdown	6
CHAPTER 2	
LITERATURE REVIEW	8
2.1 An Introduction to Evidentiality	8
2.1.1 Defining Evidentiality	9
2.1.2 Types of Evidentiality	10
2.1.2.1 Direct Evidentiality.....	10
2.1.2.2 Indirect Evidentiality	11

2.1.3 The Classification of Evidentiality	13
2.1.4 The Importance of Evidentiality	17
2.2 An Overview of Modality	18
2.2.1 Epistemic Modality.....	20
2.3 Relationship between Evidentiality and Epistemic Modality	22
2.4 Political Discourse.....	23
2.4.1 Political Speeches as a Genre	24
2.4.2 Language and Politics.....	26
2.4.3 The Role of Evidentiality and Epistemic Modality in Political Discourse.....	26
2.4.3.1 Stance.....	26
2.4.3.2 Ideology	27
2.5 An Approach of Corpus Linguistics.....	28
2.6 Previous Works Done.....	30
2.7 Conclusion.....	33

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	35
3.1 Research Design.....	35
3.1.1. A Corpus Methodology.....	36
3.1.1.1 Corpus Design and Compilation of the Corpus.....	37
3.1.1.2 Population and Sampling.....	37
3.1.1.3 Data Description	38
3.1.1.4 Size of the Corpus.....	41
3.1.2 Theoretical Framework	42
3.1.2.1 Appraisal Theory	42
3.2 Analytical Tool of the Study	48
3.2.1 AntConc.....	48
3.2.2 Significance Test Calculator.....	49
3.3 Research Method.....	50
3.3.1 Selection of Markers.....	50
3.3.2 Data Retrieval	50

3.3.3 Data Codification.....	51
3.3.4. Data Analysis.....	52

CHAPTER 4

DATA ANALYSIS	53
4.1 Evidentiality in Political Discourse.....	53
4.1.1 Quantitative Analysis	54
4.1.1.1 Sources of Evidentiality.....	54
4.1.1.2 Types of Evidentiality.....	56
4.1.1.3 List of Frequently used Evidential Markers.....	59
4.1.1.4 Concluding Remarks.....	61
4.1.2 Qualitative Analysis: Function of Evidentiality	62
4.1.2.1 Evidentiality as Marking Stance and Reflecting Ideology	63
4.1.2.2 Concluding Remarks.....	69
4.2 Epistemic Modality in Political Discourse.....	70
4.2.1 Quantitative Analysis	71
4.2.1.1 Values of Epistemic Modality	71
4.2.1.2 List of Frequently used Epistemic Modals	74
4.2.1.3 Concluding Remarks.....	75
4.2.2 Qualitative Analysis of Epistemic Modality	75
4.2.2.1 Epistemic Modality as Marking Stance and Reflecting Ideology	76
4.2.2.2 Concluding Remarks	79
4.3 The Co-existence of Evidentiality and Epistemic Modality in Political Discourse	80
4.3.1 Quantitative Analysis	81
4.3.1.1 Concluding Remarks.....	84
4.3.2 Qualitative Analysis	84
4.3.2.1 Concluding Remarks.....	86

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION	87
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5.1 Summary	87
5.2 Answers of the Questions.....	88
5.2.1 Question 1.....	88
5.2.2 Question 2.....	89
5.2.3 Question 3.....	90
5.3 Limitations faced.....	91
5.4 Recommendations	91
REFERENCES.....	92
APPENDIX.....	97

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1: Evidential Markers in English	14
Table 2.2: An Integrated Framework for Evidential Markers	17
Table 2.3: Epistemic Modal Markers and Values.	21
Table 3.1: Speeches of Mr. Imran Khan	39
Table 3.2: Speeches of Mr. Joe Biden	40
Table 3.3: Size of Corpus.....	41
Table 3.4: Options for Analyzing Affect	43
Table 3.5: Options for Analyzing Judgment.....	44
Table 3.6: Options for Analyzing appreciation.....	45
Table 3.7: Resources for Realizing Inter-Subjective Stance	47
Table 3.8: Abbreviations of Evidential Markers.....	50
Table 3.9: Abbreviations of Values of Epistemic Modality	52
Table 4.1: Sources of Evidentiality in Corpora.	54
Table 4.2: Result of Evidential Sources in Corpora	55
Table 4.3: Types of Evidentiality in Corpora.	56
Table 4.4: Result of Evidential Types in Corpora.	57
Table 4.5: List of Evidential Markers in Corpora.....	58
Table 4.6: List of Selected Evidentials Markers in Corpora.....	60
Table 4.7: Values of Epistemic Modality in Corpora.....	71
Table 4.8: Result of Values of Epistemic Modality.....	72
Table 4.9: Comparison of Epistemic Modals in Corpora	73
Table 4.10: List of Frequently used Epistemic Modals	74
Table 4.11: The Co-existence of Evidential Sources and Epistemic Modality	81
Table 4.12: The Results of Evidential Sources Co-exist with Epistemic Modality.....	81
Table 4.13: Evidential Types Co-exist with Epistemic Modals	82
Table 4.14: The Results of Evidential Types Co-exist with Epistemic Modals	83

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Model of Typology of Evidentiality by Willett (1998)	15
Figure 2: Screenshot of AntConc Concordances	49

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DEDICATION

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is the major source of conveying information and knowledge, which can be expressed in a variety of ways. Every language has means for saying how one knows about certain things, what one is talking about, and what one thinks. Neither are two languages entirely different, nor are they the same as Franz Boas (1938) stated that languages do not vary in what one can say but differ in the type of information one has to express. In linguistics, evidentiality is a grammatical category that marks a source of information and indicates a kind of justification that one claims. Marking a source of information means how one knows about something and to what extent. The sources and types of information on which statements can be based may come from direct access to evidence or from indirect access through observations or inferences, and evidences or unspecified evidences.

Evidentiality in this study is defined as a linguistic mark, a source of information used to persuade others, so its classification encompasses both first-hand evidential markers such as perception (visual or sensory) evidence as well as non-first-hand evidentials such as inferred evidence and hearsay evidence. Aikhenvald (2004) has proposed the classification of evidentiality:

- I. Visual evidence that covers through seeing.
- II. Sensory evidence that covers through hearing.
- III. The inference is based on evidence from results.
- IV. Assumption covers evidence from observations or unspecified evidences.
- V. Reported is about the information with no reference to whom it was reported by.

The concept of evidentiality is approached from a general perspective by Chafe (1986), who categorizes evidentiality from three different dimensions, i.e., a source of knowledge, a mode of knowing, and knowledge matched against verbal resources or expectations. Additionally, Squaritini (2008) has argued that the mode of knowing differs

according to whether the source of information comes from an “outside source”, a “shared source”, or an “inside source”. The distinction between the outside source and the inside source lies in whether the information is external or internal concerning the speaker. Likewise, the shared source refers to the information known to both the speaker and his/her addressees. Using sources of information and modes of knowing, Zhong (2015) proposed a framework in his research on English evidentiality. He divided evidential markers into six types:

- (1) Personal perceptual evidentials: *I saw, I heard, I feel*_
- (2) Inferential evidentials from personal knowledge: *I know, I believe, I realize, I am convinced, I think*_
- (3) Shared perceptual evidentials: *we have seen/ heard, clearly, obviously, it seems*_
- (4) Inferential evidentials from shared knowledge: *in fact, we know, we believe*_
- (5) Inferential evidentials from results: *X show, X report that, results/ figures show that*_
- (6) Hearsay evidentials: *it is said, X believe/ think that*

Language is capable of expressing knowledge and language users through different methods and devices encode their attitudes and mode of acquisition towards their knowledge about the world around them. One of these methods is linguistic modality. Modality describes possibilities/probabilities and necessities and expresses the speaker’s knowledge about a specific situation. Modality is divided into different categories and these different categories often show differences in the way they can be used. Modal verbs, in any language, depend upon the expression of contexts. Moreover, the meanings of these modal verbs arise through the evaluation of the text. One of these types of modalities is an epistemic modality which shows the status of the speaker’s knowledge. The semantic meaning of epistemic modals is context dependent that includes both the information about the world and the change in information when shared. It enables the speakers to convey their claims to explicitly represent their degree of commitment and certainty to the truth of proposition. Epistemic modality functions to comment on and evaluates an interpretation of reality in carrying out speech functions. In short, it exhibits the speaker’s attitude towards information and an erratic degree of possibility and certainty towards proposition. Some of the modal verbs are *must, will, shall, would, can, may, should, might, could* -- the category of which are based on their pragmatic function in a specific context.

Political discourse is a 'purposeful communication about political affairs'. It is identified by its actors and participants and commonly includes the text and talk of politicians, presidents, prime ministers and the other members of parliament. Political actions can only be conceived through language, and therefore, language plays an important role in realizing different political wills and interests. According to Chilton and Schaffner (2002), "the doing of politics is predominantly constituted in language" (p.3). Political language typically involves persuasion, manipulation and negotiation strategies, and hence has widely gained the attention of political scientist and linguists/researchers.

Every discourse reflects ideology and speaker/writer's stance which has some strengths and weaknesses. The structure of discourse and the use of linguistic choice is the ideology of language. Fairclough (1989) has claimed that ideology is most effective in sustaining dominant positions, either explicit or implicit and that is why political discourse plays a crucial role in formulating ideologies. Similarly, political discourse shaped the stance of speakers towards different opinions or point of view. Political figures through their speeches communicate their ideologies and represent their self-image to the audience.

Political discourse solely functions in the speaker's persuasion, judgment, commitment and coercion. Similarly, the area of evidentiality has a complex relationship between language and discourse as it indicates things such as assumptions, inferences, beliefs and physical experiences. Speakers make judgments and obligations on the basis of these evidential markers. The reason for choosing epistemic modality and evidentiality in the study is that they contribute to establishing the speaker's stances, commitments and commands. Palmer (2001) has also claimed that evidentiality and epistemic modality are two main types of propositional modality, which are concerned with 'the speaker's attitude to the truth-value or factual status of the proposition" (p. 24). They reflect the speaker's beliefs and ideologies by presenting a source of information.

Schafer (2017) believed that the sentence structures of political speeches are simple and easy to understand, covering different rhetorical devices that construct images for the public. Therefore, the present study focuses on different types of evidential markers and epistemic modal verbs and their function in political discourse. The study indicates how the concerned devices reflect the speaker's stance and ideology in the

particular context. These evidential markers and epistemic modals specify the validity and un/reliability of the proposition. Thus, it is interesting to know how the speakers through their discourse and linguistic expressions influence and manipulate their public. For that, the speeches of two different leaders -- Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan and the US President Joe Biden have been selected for the analysis. Both leaders have gained much admiration through their impassioned speeches covering different subjects and world issues such as war, pandemics, climate change, foreign policy, etc. These topics are of universal interest and provide a rich context for analyzing the use of evidential markers and epistemic modals. Joe Biden, as the president of the United States, represents a western political context. Imran Khan, as the former Prime Minister of Pakistan, provides a contrasting perspective from a South Asian political context. This diversity allows for a comparative analysis of how different political cultures influence the use of evidential and epistemic modals.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Language is closely related to ideology and what needs to be understood is how language in a particular discourse reproduces ideologies and stances. Since the ideological beliefs and speaker's stances are vague and inexplicit in nature, sometimes language cannot easily interpret them. These are rigid, subjective and imposing; therefore, the study attempts to decode the hidden ideologies and stances through linguistic features such as evidentiality and epistemic modality. Evidentiality marks a statement through evidence and its possibility of being a fact rather than mere fiction. Epistemic modals show the capabilities that may provide us with conclusive remarks when studied concerning evidentiality. These remarks will be analytical and linguistic in nature, which may help us in understanding some important discourses. Hence, the study will tend to answer how these linguistic devices function as a stance marker and ideology construction within the context.

1.3 Research Objectives

1. To identify different kinds of evidential markers and epistemic modal verbs in the speeches of two selected political speakers.
2. To examine the frequency and distribution of evidential markers and epistemic modal

verbs in the selected speeches.

3. To find out how the framework through different resources help in analyzing the function of evidentiality and epistemic modality in political discourse as a stance marker and ideology construction.

1.4 Research Questions

The study tends to answer the following research questions.

1. What types of evidential markers and epistemic modal verbs are used by the two selected speakers in their political speeches?
2. What is the frequency and distribution of both evidential markers and epistemic modal verbs in the selected speeches of Imran Khan and Biden?
3. How does the framework through different resources help in analyzing the function of evidentiality and epistemic modality in political discourse as a stance marker and ideology construction?

1.5 Rationale of the Study

Evidentiality and its typology are highly neglected in the field of research by Pakistani scholars despite the fact that modality markers have been studied from various aspects; epistemic modal verbs along with evidential markers have not been empirically examined in Pakistan even though both are the important areas of research in various respects. Secondly, a study on the pragmatic function of evidentiality and epistemic modality in Pakistani and American political discourse has not been conducted. Such kind of explicit studies have largely been ignored by the Pakistani researchers in their context and that is the case the researcher felt a need to carry out a study.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The study is believed to be significant in several ways. Firstly, the study is a corpus based research which can make momentous contribution to the field of corpus linguistics and political discourse. Secondly, the study is significant as it covers all the delineation and pragmatic meaning of evidentiality, its sources and types of epistemic modality. It applies appraisal theory for understanding the function of linguistic expressions in the political text of Imran Khan and Joe Biden.

It is believed that the current study will provide a guide to English language users on how to use evidential markers and epistemic modals in their daily communication. English language students can enhance their ability to understand and interpret the use of linguistic strategies in a particular discourse. Thirdly, the study is significant for English teachers as they can integrate this study into their curriculum to demonstrate to students how language shapes public opinion and influences a particular discourse. It help teachers in teaching students to express their own opinions effectively, by using appropriate linguistic marker. Lastly, the study is helpful in presenting and discussing the world issues that are addressed by two different statesmen in their speeches. It can also provide an essential reference to more targeted ways of conducting a study on using the linguistic devices.

1.7 Delimitations

The study is delimited to the linguistic devices of evidentiality and epistemic modality and their role in expressing the speakers' stance and construction of ideologies within political discourse. It includes total of 10 speeches: five speeches by Pakistan's Former Prime Minister Imran Khan, and five by USA's President Joe Biden, addressing themes such as a pandemic, climate change, war and foreign policy. Further, the study is delineated to some of the aspects of appraisal theory. For data analysis, the researcher is confined to ten most frequently used evidential markers and will analyze and compare those within the selected speeches.

1.8 Chapters Breakdown

The study is organized and divided into five chapters. Chapter one is an introduction to the background of the research. It first introduces the topic of the study and continues with explaining the need and motivation for the study. Following this, the outline of the research questions, research objectives, a statement of the problem, its delimitation, and the significance and rationale of the study are being discussed.

The second chapter presents a review of the literature concerning evidentiality and epistemic modality in the political discourse. It has explained the review of the existing studies regarding modality and evidentiality with respect to its definitions, types

and perspectives in linguistics in general and pragmatics in particular. That being done, the chapter discusses Political Discourse Analysis (PDA) and the role of evidential markers and epistemic modal verbs in political discourse. The thesis has adopted a corpus linguistic approach, the introduction and importance of which is explained in this chapter. Lastly, some previous studies have been reviewed.

Chapter three has described the methodology of the research which is a mixed-method approach. It has defined a quantitative and qualitative approach and has explained its advantages and importance in the study. It provides theoretical analysis adopted for the study and describes the compilation of research corpora, data sampling, research tools and steps taken for the analysis of the data.

Chapter four is divided into three sections: The first section deals with the analysis of evidentiality from the perspective of its sources, types and ten frequently used evidential markers in the corpora. The second section tends to present the analysis of epistemic modality and its values while the third section discusses the co-existence of evidentiality and epistemic modality in the corpora. Every section first begins with the quantitative analysis that focuses on the comparison of the frequency and distribution of the linguistic devices in the two cases. It is then followed by qualitative analysis that includes the function of evidentiality and epistemic modality towards the speaker's stance and ideology construction by applying theoretical framework proposed in chapter three. Lastly, each section presents discussion and concluding remarks of the results.

Chapter five is the final chapter of the thesis that summarizes answers of the research questions. It briefly explains all the findings of the study, along with the idiosyncratic features of both linguistic devices, their relationships with each other, and the similarities and differences between the Pakistani premier and American president in terms of the use of evidential markers and epistemic modals. Finally, some suggestions and recommendations are given for further research study.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

Evidentiality and epistemic modality are two interrelated phenomena, explored by many researchers throughout the world and that is why in this section, the researcher intends to review the existing literature related to the present research. To draw a clear picture of the study, the texts have been reviewed in a systematized way that also helped in tracing out the gap in the study. First, the chapter has introduced evidentiality and modality with respect to its definitions, types and perspectives in linguistics in general and pragmatics in particular. Second, the chapter has discussed Political Discourse Analysis (PDA) and the role and relation of evidentiality and epistemic modality in political discourse. Finally, it gives an inclusive account of previous works done with special references concerning the present study.

2.1 An Introduction to Evidentiality

About fifty years ago, Jacobson (1986) introduced the term evidentiality into linguistics, following the grammar of Kwakiutl by Franz Boas (1947, p. 6) that describes “suffixes expressing the source of knowledge”. In 1981 in Berkeley, a conference under the title “evidentiality in variety of languages” was organized. Eventually, the minutes were distributed entitled “*Evidentiality: The linguistic coding of epistemology*” (Chafe and Nicholas, 1986). Since then, the concept of evidentiality was introduced and has been rooted widely in the field of linguistics and become a topic under the study of different linguists and researchers.

The semantic-pragmatic domain of evidentiality has been studied extensively, which is associated with the mode of information specified for each statement and what is known about that mode. It covers a range of different meanings in different languages but not every language has evidentiality as a grammatical category. In English, evidentiality is a verbal category that encodes the nature of evidence and provides information about different events, happenings and situations, while some other languages use morphemes, enclitics, suffixes or adverbs to specify the evidential meaning of a statement.

2.1.1 Defining Evidentiality

Evidentiality in linguistics is a grammatical category, the meaning of which is varied from “evidence” in common dialect. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the definition of “evidence” is a body of facts, proofs or testimonials drawn from a document indicating whether a statement is true or false. Linguistic evidentiality does not provide verifications or facts in support of a proposition but it talks about the source and mode of knowledge and in what ways that source is acquired. Yet, this is the primary feature that is reflected in almost all the definitions of evidentiality by different linguists and scholars. The following are some of the basic illustrations:

Evidentials are the linguistic markers that express the alleged source of information about the narrated event (Jacobson, 1957, p. 4).

Evidentials are the kinds of evidence used by a person for making factual claims (Anderson, 1986, p. 273).

Evidentials specify the way the speaker acquired knowledge on which he can base his assertion (Willet, 1998, p. 55).

Boye and Harder (2009) have defined evidentiality as a functional-conceptual domain specifying the speaker’s cognitive and communicative justification for a judgment.

Chafe (1986), who approached the basic concept of evidentiality from a general perspective, has categorized evidentiality from three different dimensions, i.e., a source of information, way of knowing and information matched against verbal resources. Correspondingly, Aikhenvald (2004) is recognized as the main proponent of linguistic evidentiality, whose recent works “*The Oxford Handbook of Evidentiality*” and “*Evidentiality in Cross-Linguistic Perspective*” provide an up-to-date study regarding evidentiality. Great enthusiasm has been shown in her works in order to explain whether evidentiality is a grammatical category or a semantic one. The studies have clarified that Aikhenvald strictly opposed the grammatical system of evidentiality. Due to the lack of evidentiality in European languages, she has considered evidentiality as a universal semantics and not an actual grammatical one. Some scholars also have a functional

approach towards evidentiality because it has a tendency to extend the concept to cover any kind of expression about knowledge and we cannot confine it to the grammatical markings. Irrespective of contrasting views, the scholars have agreed that the concept of grammatical and non-grammatical lexes both can lead to the notion of evidentiality.

2.1.2 Types of Evidentiality

Generally, evidentiality across languages is divided into two broader categories: direct evidentiality and indirect evidentiality. In languages, evidentiality is recognized through the proper morpho-syntactic structure. By contrast, the English language does not require grammatical affixes for evidential markers but is realized through verbs, adjectives, adverbs, etc. The English language has a range of lexical items to present evidential markers and its type.

2.1.2.1 Direct Evidentiality

Direct evidentiality usually deals with the information learned through the senses. It uses perception verbs for showing direct sensory evidence such as seeing, hearing, touching, etc. The evidence is first-hand, and is acquired directly by the speaker. Based on personal physical evidence, direct evidentiality is distributed into visual and non-visual evidence.

Visual Evidentials:

Visual evidentials are related to events or actions that have been witnessed by the speaker directly through their visual senses.

(2.1) 'I saw him stealing the fish.'

In the above sentence, the speaker observed the event personally by seeing another person doing robbery. Therefore, we can say the part of visual evidential is fully used. Visual evidentials may not only cover events seen by the speaker personally, but also presents situations like 'observable facts'.

(2.2) 'This is my son in the picture.'

Here, the person has presented his/her visual evidence by observing the photo. In the sentence, a visual evidential marker is specified by pointing out the things present before the speaker.

Non-Visual Evidentials:

Non-visual evidentials denote any kind of sensual evidential other than sight, which means that it covers information derived from the speaker's personal experiences of hearing, thinking, feeling, touching and smelling.

(2.3) 'I heard someone talking to her.'

In the above example, the evidence is acquired through hearing. The speaker of the sentence could not see the person; therefore, he/she claimed his/her statement by using non-visual evidential. Similarly, in the sentence (2.4) below, the speaker has shown non-visual evidential via thoughts and feelings.

(2.4) 'I believe they would accept our offer.'

The speaker in the sentence cannot see but can feel the trust by claiming that they would accept their offer.

(2.5) 'I like ice cream.'

In the sentence, the verb 'like' is non-visual evidential used to express the speaker's internal feelings. This is the pragmatic implication of evidentiality that encodes the basic meaning behind every evidential marker. Moreover, languages cannot differentiate the types of direct evidential at all and use sensory evidential instead.

2.1.2.2 Indirect Evidentiality

Indirect evidentiality is commonly related to events or actions that are not personally experienced by the speaker but are inferred or reported by someone else. It is in contrast to direct evidentials, unfolding the speaker's personal experience whereas the state of indirect evidentiality is a bit more complex. There are two sub-types of indirect evidentiality: inferred evidential and reported evidential.

Inferred Evidentials

Inferred evidentiality is typically concerned with the happenings that are not witnessed directly but are inferred based on the speaker's knowledge and experiences. De Hann (2005) holds a view that inferential evidential is a hybrid direct/indirect evidential

type because the speaker knows the evidence for the action. Such kind of evidence covers interpretation based on visual and non-visual evidential, reasoning, knowledge and on assumptions. For example, the sentence 2.6 below has shown visual evidence covering inferential evidence.

(2.6) 'I saw a wrecked plane.'

In the sentence, the speaker saw a plane that was damaged before he saw it. The remains of the wrecked plane were visual evidence, based on which inferential evidential was used. However, the evidence can also come from other sensual sources other than sight. For example,

(2.7) 'Someone is playing piano.'

The speaker in the sentence has not seen anyone playing a piano; he/she heard a voice and assumes that someone must be playing the piano. Hence an inferential evidential is used via non-visual evidence.

(2.8) 'It rained, so he must have gone home.'

The statement is showing that the speaker has inferred about a person going home as it rained, so he/she might perceive it from the wet ground or a sudden change in the weather but the speaker was not sure about the person going home. Hence, we can say that an inferential evidential is used.

Reported Evidential

Reported evidentials typically imply that the information about any event or action present in a sentence has been reported by someone else, and was obtained first-hand via direct evidentials. According to Aikhenvald (2004), the information obtained through reportive evidential is of two kinds: hearsay evidential and quotative evidential. Hearsay evidential indicates a type of reportive evidence that may or may not be accurate, whereas quotative evidential denotes the exact source of information.

(2.9) 'It is said that seven people died in a road accident.'

The reported information in the above sentence comes from hearsay where the exact source or authorship is not mentioned.

(2.10) Jack said, 'I want time for my work'.

The above statement has clearly cited the author of the original statement. Hence, the sentence is a reported evidential by using quotative marker to specify from where the information exactly come from.

2.1.3 The Classification of Evidentiality

Linguistic typologists have classified evidentiality into two broader categories: direct evidentiality and indirect evidentiality. Direct evidentiality indicates the evidence, witnessed by the speaker directly via his/her perceptions (seeing or hearing) while indirect evidentiality shows that the speaker has not observed the act or event directly but rather inferred it or was reported by someone else. The kind of information that is inferred is called inferential markers while when the incidents or events are reported is called hearsay or report(at)ive markers. According to Aikhenvald (2004), in many languages, one has to identify the source of knowledge depending on whether the speaker saw an incident happened or heard it, has made an inference based on general knowledge and experiences, or was reported by someone else. This is the actual essence of evidentiality.

Traditionally, evidentiality is divided into four sub-categories but that doesn't mean that every language may also have these four evidential markers. It is common to have variations in the categories of evidentiality and every language has its own way of referring to the source of knowledge. Chafe (1986) has adopted a model of evidential markers in the English language.

Table 2.1:*Evidential Markers in English*

Reliability	certainly, undoubtedly, surely, by definition, exactly, invariably, basically, essentially, literally, particularly, specifically, may be, probably, might, may, possibly, perhaps, in some ways.
Modes of knowing: Belief, Induction, Hearsay, Deduction	- I think, believe, suppose
- Markers of belief	-must, obvious, seem
- Markers of induction	-people say, I have been told,
- Markers of hearsay	X said that, X told.
Markers of deduction	-should, can could, would
Source of knowledge: markers of sensory evidence.	See, hear, feel, look like, feel, like
Matching Knowledge against verbal resource.	Kind of, about
Matching knowledge against expectations.	Of course, in fact, actually, only, at least, even, however

Note: From "Evidentiality: The Linguistic Coding of Epistemology" by Chafe, W and Nicholas, J, 1986.

Willett (1998) proposed a model for evidentiality that classify direct and indirect evidential into further categories.

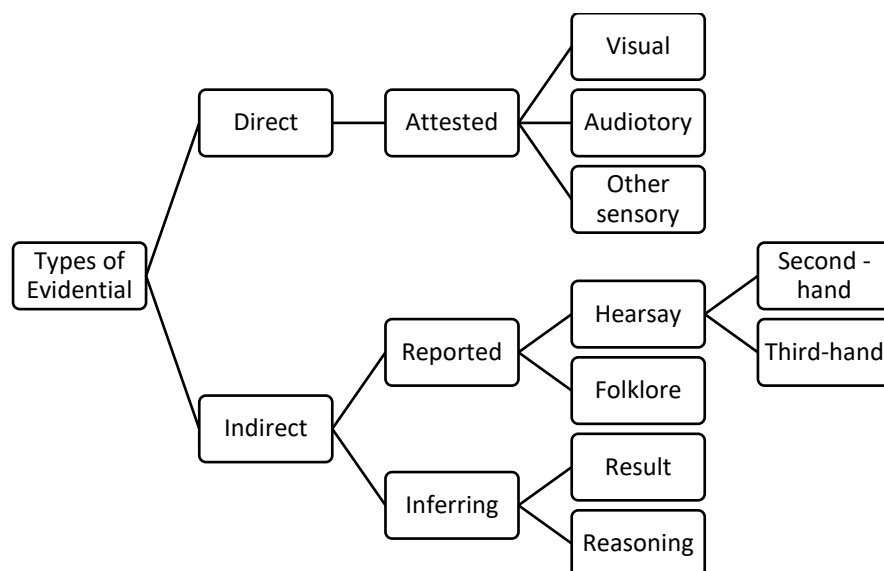


Figure 1: Model of typology of evidentiality by Willett (1998)

Palmer (2001) categorizes evidentiality into two main kinds: sensory and reported evidentiality, where sensory evidential refers to the direct evidentials while reported comes under the category of indirect evidentiality (including, inferred, deductive and assumptive). Similarly, Aikhenvald (2004) presented the semantic domain of an evidential system that can be applied across languages. The classification includes:

- VI. Visual: covers evidence learned through seeing.
- VII. Sensory: covers evidence through hearing.
- VIII. Inferential: The inference is based on visible or tangible evidence or result.
- IX. Assumption: based on reasoning, experiences and general knowledge other than visible results.
- X. Hearsay: covers the reported information with no reference.
- XI. Quotative: covers reported information from a quoted source.

Moreover, Aikhenvald (2003) has proposed “evidential strategies” which is a vast term covering a range of semantic characteristics. For instance, evidentiality in a language may differentiate between firsthand and non-firsthand where the former refers to the source of knowledge acquired via senses, while the latter covers inferential or reported meaning and is not the subcategory of any one of these evidential.

Nuyts (2001) and Cornillie (2007) have proposed the difference between source-evidentiality and inter-subjectivity, where source-evidentiality suggests the source of information involved in providing evidence, and the latter clarifies the shared status of evidence and the proposition. Further, Marin Arrese (2011) in her studies has classified evidentiality into two categories: personal evidentiality and mediated evidentiality, though she has reflected evidentiality as part of epistemic stance. Likewise, Hart's work on evidentiality (2011) has treated evidentials as a part of the epistemic modals that are classified in terms of reliability and degree of subjectivity, but in the previous works, the relation of modality with evidentiality is left unresolved, especially in political discourses.

Based on the prior knowledge of the classification of evidentiality, Zhong (2015) proposed a framework in his research study on English evidentiality. He claimed that evidentiality in political discourse can be treated as a tool of manipulation and persuasion strategies; therefore, its classification encompasses both typical evidential markers, such as perception and hearsay evidence, as well as marginal evidentials, such as inferred evidence from knowledge. According to Squaritini (2008), sources of knowledge are divided into three categories depending on whether the source has come from an "outside source", a "shared source", or an "inside source". The difference between the outside source and the inside source lies in whether the information is external based on common knowledge or results, or internal concerning the speaker's inner thoughts and experiences. Likewise, shared sources deal with the information known to both the speaker and his addressee. Following Squaritini's classification (2008) and other typologies of evidentiality (see e.g. Chafe 1986, Willett 1998, Palmer 2001, and Aikhenvald 2004), Zhong (2015) in his framework integrates both sources of knowledge and mode of knowing. He has divided evidential markers into six types including Inferential Evidentials from Results (I.R.), Hearsay Evidentials (H.E.), Shared Perceptual Evidentials (S.P.), and Inferential Evidentials from Shared Knowledge (S.K.), Personal Perceptual Evidentials (P.P.), and Inferential Evidentials from Personal Knowledge (P.K).

Table 2.2:*An Integrated Framework for Evidential Markers*

Outside Source	<p>1. Inferential Evidentials from Results (I.R.) (e.g. some reports indicate, the result shows; the figure reveals)</p> <p>2. Hearsay Evidentials (H.E.) (e.g. some say; it is said that; some people think)</p>
Shared Source	<p>3. Shared Perceptual Evidentials (S.P.) (1) sensory perception (e.g. we've seen; you've heard) (2) mental perception or inference (e.g. clearly, obviously, it seems, apparently)</p> <p>4. Inferential Evidentials from Shared Knowledge (S.K.) (e.g. in fact; actually; it is evident that; undoubtedly; we know, you know, everyone knows)</p>
Inside Source	<p>5. Personal Perceptual Evidentials (P.P.) (e.g. I saw; I heard; I feel)</p> <p>6. Inferential Evidentials from Personal Knowledge (P.K.) (e.g. I know; I am convinced; I've learned; I realize; I believe; I think)</p>

Note: From “Modality and Evidentiality in Political Discourse: A Cognitive-Functional Account” by Xu, 2015.

The classifications of evidentiality often include the source of evidence and mode of knowing; thus, the researcher decided to choose the integrated framework of Zhong (2015) which the researcher believes is helpful in identifying both the information source and the mode of knowing. Moreover, no other researcher has chosen the integrated framework of evidentiality for their research study.

2.1.4 The Importance of Evidentiality

As stated above, evidentiality is divided into two categories: direct and indirect evidentiality. For direct evidential, the speaker is a first-hand witness of an event described, which shows that he has taken himself into a reference point. As De Haan

(2001) said that acquiring information through sensual or first-hand sources implies a greater degree of responsibility and reliability. On the other hand, indirect evidence that takes away the responsibility from the speaker has two consequences. Firstly, admitting that the report is from an external source, shows the speaker's degree of uncertainty or he can deny responsibility for the claim he is not sure of. Secondly, in order to make a statement more valuable and convincing, the speaker may assign an authority (experts in a related field) to it. For example, speakers/writers while referring to audience/readers may make big claims and assertions specifically in political and academic discourse, and it is suitable to raise a question about how one has learned a particular piece of information or whether there exists any evidence for it. Linguistic evidentiality has made it easy for such speakers/writers to provide an answer to the following questions by using reportive and inferential evidential markers.

2.2 An Overview of Modality

The notion of modality has caught much attention in previous linguistic studies. It has been considered a semantic category rather than considering grammatical and syntactic one because grammatical and syntactic structures vary from language to language whereas meanings can be shared across cultures, languages and people. Modality is not simply defined as tense and aspect but there are numerous ways of defining modality; there is no single correct way. Hence, it is very difficult to give a clear definition of modality covering all the dimensions. Generally, modality is defined as a linguistic category that deals with the expressions of possibilities and necessities. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (1999), modality in semantics is a rich category that intervenes in speakers' view in the discourse: it talks about their judgments of what is right and wrong, their valuations about possibility and probability, and of what is the stance of other people in this respect. Fowler (1991), on the other hand, has stated that modality is a part of interpersonal elements that can be regarded as the speaker's attitude and observation of the world.

Political discourse analysts have defined modality differently from other linguists, thereby have linked modality to the power, judgment, commitment, and speaker's attitude. However, in PDA the notion of modality has been taken from the perspective of

pragmatics rather than semantics. For instance, Fairclough (1995) has argued that modality is all about the speaker's degree of commitment and obligation. Kress and Hodge hold the view that "modality expresses speaker's level of authority with regard to an utterance." (1979, p. 122). In linguistics, modality is an essential tool for recognizing different social and political roles between the speaker and listener. In political discourse, politicians are in the business of selling their policies and point of view, they show a high degree of confidence and commitment, and manipulate and persuade their audiences by the use of modal verbs. Modality protects politicians from formulating vague, ambiguous, and unclear thoughts, as the listeners might interpret more than one meaning from the utterance.

Modality is often realized through modal auxiliary verbs that are distributed into three groups based on their primary meanings such as:

1. "can, could, may, might": permission, ability, possibility.
 - "Can I have a cup of tea? Indicates permission.
 - "We can fight", shows ability.
 - "He might do it better than him", shows possibility.
2. "must, should": necessity, obligation.
 - "You must be careful in filing a case", indicates obligation.
 - "You must leave earlier" shows necessity.
3. "will, would, shall": prediction.
 - "Climate change will have an adverse impact on our country", shows prediction.

As it is clear from the above classification that each modal verb has a different semantic function to perform depending upon the context it is used in; therefore, Palmer (1986) has put forward three basic dimensions of modality in terms of epistemic, deontic, and dynamic modality, where epistemic modality is concerned with the 'understanding' and 'knowledge' of the speaker. It talks about possibility and certainty with a necessity for the truth of the propositions. For example, "John must be in his studio" in this sentence 'must' is an epistemic modal that indicates the uncertainty of the speaker and he can also make a firm judgment based on evidence. Dynamic modality is related to the

speaker's ability, willingness and violation. Similarly, Deontic modality refers to the level of understanding regarding certain customs, rules, beliefs, and needs of the speaker.

Halliday (1994) has proposed that modality is ordered according to the degree or value based on the speaker's judgment. The values that further illustrate the degree of modality are discussed in term of high, median and low value.

High Value: The event or action that is most likely to happen positively or to the yes poles.

Median Value. The event is most likely to occur between high or low values or between positive and negative poles.

Low Value: The event that is most likely not to happen and closest to the negative poles.

2.2.1 Epistemic Modality

Epistemic is a term derived from the Greek word *epistēmē* means 'knowledge'. Epistemic modality is concerned with the status of the speaker's knowledge that is based on the assessment and judgment with respect to the degree of confidence of the knowledge on a proposition. According to Lyon (1977, p. 44), "epistemic modality specifies the matter of knowledge and also the beliefs of the speaker". Coates (1983) once said that out of many other types of modality recognized by theorists, epistemic modality most clearly presents the use of normal language. As stated by Bailey (1981), "epistemic uses are logical uses of modals" (p.182). It is a semantic domain that indicates the speaker's epistemic stance, including possibility, capability and certainty in a statement.

Based on the speaker's evidence, judgment and belief, the domain of epistemic modality is categorized into the degree of certainty, possibility and probability.

Epistemic Certainty: It specifies the highest degree of confidence of the proposition.

Epistemic Probability: It shows the intermediate degree of confidence in the proposition.

Epistemic Possibility: It expresses the lowest degree of confidence based on the speaker's knowledge of the proposition.

Table 2.3:

Epistemic Modal Markers and Values.

		High Value	Median Value	Low Value
Epistemic Modality (certainty, possibility, predictions)	Positive	must, will, shall	would, can, may, should	could, might,
	Negative	must not, will not, shall not	would not, may not, cannot	could not, might not

The status of epistemic modality varies with the characteristics of the context in which it is made. One of the basic features of epistemic modality is that by using epistemic modals as main operators in the sentences, they make epistemic claims that impute the status of modal verbs, either possibility or necessity, to a proposition. The examples below clearly illustrate the use of epistemic modals.

(1a). It will rain tomorrow.

(b). It may rain tomorrow.

In the sentences, epistemic modals have shown the status of epistemic claims. Sentence (1a) epistemic modal 'will' indicates the possibility of happening with the highest degree of confidence to a proposition, whereas (b) modal verb 'may' attributes epistemic possibility with average confidence.

The significance of epistemic modality has been studied widely and has gained much recognition in the field of political discourse. The main purpose of any political discourse is to instigate, persuade and inform the listeners about every possible action. In such cases, epistemic modality is an attempt to express the level of confidence, convictions, or obligations of a proposition. This is due to the fact that epistemic modal

markers have two main functions to perform: “content-oriented caution” and “addressee-oriented caution” (White, 2003). The former is related to the speaker’s uncertainty of his/her statements while the latter shows the speaker’s assertions for pragmatic motives.

2.3 Relationship between Evidentiality and Epistemic Modality

The conceptual overlap between evidentiality and epistemic modality is approached from three different perspectives. Firstly, some theorists have considered evidentiality as the sub-category of epistemic modality. Others think that evidentiality itself is a self-determining category. Meanwhile, a third view emerges that gives an independent status to both evidentiality and epistemic modality, but it does not mean that both the forms have no link with each other. The pragmatic interpretation of epistemic modal verbs is possible when a suitable context with a type of information source is mentioned though they are different depending on the ways they influence. In earlier studies on European languages before the 1990s, evidential functions were major topics under study that were presented as subordinate to epistemic forms. Conversely, Plungian (2001) reported that epistemic judgment always entails some sort of knowledge but the evidential form needs not to involve epistemic assessments. Due to this treatment, the relationship becomes transposed by making epistemic modals reliant on evidential forms.

Palmer (2001) proposed a model for the classification of modality and has divided modality into propositional modality and event modality. On the basis of this classification, he then put epistemic modality and evidentiality under the category of propositional modality. He claims that both epistemic modality and evidentiality are related to the speaker’s attitude to the ‘factual status of the proposition’. The main difference between the two is that epistemic modality makes judgments according to the speaker’s understanding and knowledge while evidentiality presents evidence for it. Therefore, it is important to admit the fact that evidentiality is not a kind of epistemic modality but both are completely distinct under the category of propositional modality and the concepts may overlap.

Other scholars like McCready and Ogata (1986) have also claimed that evidentials can be best explained with epistemic modals and the meanings are often overlapping because they are integrally connected. However, the most prevalent

interpretation is that evidentiality is a separate grammatical category in its own right and not a sub-type of epistemic modality. Aikhenvald (2004, p. 4) argued that the evidential function is not to identify some sort of ‘truth’ or ‘morality’ but to indicate ‘a source of knowledge for a proposition’. Similarly, Nuyts (1999) holds a view that ‘the level of evidentiality is higher than that of modality’. Mushin (2001), on the other hand, has said that in linguistic expressions, evidential forms are the most effective at expressing the speaker’s relation to their knowledge.

In sum, the researcher agrees with the last viewpoint that evidentiality and epistemic modality are two distinct linguistic expressions sharing common ground dealing with the speaker’s attitude to the truth conditions. They are like the two sides of one page separate yet interconnected semantically and pragmatically. Inspiration for the thesis study has come from Palmer’s classification model of modality based on which the researcher through her study has found out how epistemic modality and evidentiality function in political discourse.

2.4 Political Discourse

People use a variety of languages in different styles for different purposes in order to recognize and build different identities in different settings. Such kind of language that occurs in a specific context is called discourse. According to Foucault, discourse is determined by society, which is termed as social practice. It indicates the language beyond the level of the sentence. Discourse analysis basically examines the pattern of language, and set the rules which make the text fascist. It ponders over the relationship between text and the diverse social and political contexts in which it is exercised. As discourse analysis focuses on political, social and everyday life formations, the present study is triggered by tracing ideologies and stances made by political speakers by choosing different linguistic expressions such as evidentiality and epistemic modality.

Politics is embedded in the roots of Western political thoughts; in fact, there is a view that language and politics are interlinked at a primary level. According to Aristotle (1991), man by nature is a political animal and that ‘speech tends to specify the perception of humans regarding what is good, and what is evil, just and unjust’. What exactly is political discourse?’ is the main issue that has been identified by different

linguists and scholars. One of the most widespread views is that political discourse is shaped by actors who are engaged in policy making, statesmen, as well as are members of organizations involved in political processes at regional, federal and universal levels (Van Dijk 1997). Chilton and Schaffner (1997) have claimed that ‘politics cannot be shaped without language’.

Another important view is that the recognition of political discourse is typically determined via its context and purpose. As Chilton and Schaffner (2002, p. 71) suggest that ‘politics differ based on circumstances and objectives and what we call political discourse is truly obvious by the context in which it is exercised’. As a result, the content, goal, subject, and participants distinguish it from other types of discourse. It is a discourse that possesses the capability of holding society together and crumbling it. John Wilson (1990), on the other hand, criticized Gies’s work (1987) on ‘Political Journalism’ and claims that the explanation of political discourse should be pegged down to only what politicians utter and what politicians and journalists say are distinct in nature. This is true because journalists represent their stance by looking into political events and their discourses from multiple perspectives. Liebes & Ribak (1991) have also described political discourse as a purposeful interaction, contributors of which tend to show reality, power, conflict, domination, and persuade/manipulate others. It may include formal discussions, speeches, interviews, trials and informal talks on policies between the members of a community. In other terms, political discourse can be defined as a manipulative linguistic strategy that serves concrete (ideological) goals.

From the above discussion, it is clear that political discourse is all about actors, context, and purpose, and as political speeches are clear examples of political discourse, that is why the researcher has chosen this genre as research data for the thesis.

2.4.1 Political Speeches as a Genre

The identification of political discourse is not by “topic and style, but rather by actors speaking to whom, in what circumstances and with what goals” (van Dijk, 1997, 2002, p. 225). If we consider an occasion where a politician addresses his audience overtly intending to influence them via his justifications and commitments then this falls under political discourse and we can entitle it as ‘political speech’. According to

V.K.Bhatia (1993), genre refers to the “recognizable communicative events characterized by a set of communicative purposes, identified and mutually understood by the members of a professional and academic community in which it regularly occurs” (p.13). Similarly, Martin and Rose (2003, p. 18) have mentioned that ‘every type of text is goal-oriented, and these different kinds of text, when used to enact various social contexts, are known as genre’. In terms of political speeches as a genre, it is believed that the main purpose of communicative acts lies in persuasion, establishing an active relationship between speakers and listeners to instruct and inform them, and to reflect their ideologies and beliefs.

Politicians for their speeches often rely heavily on reasoning and argumentation which is considered one of the major genre characteristics. However, van Dijk also leans more towards manipulative argumentation other than persuasion. In this light, political speeches as a genre have their own certain linguistic patterns which further offer an opportunity to examine how politicians and statesmen manipulate and persuade their viewers by choosing evidential markers and particular modals in their discourse.

One of the other major features of political discourse as a genre is the speaker’s stance. Rather than simply delivering information, political speeches express the speaker’s stance which aims to convince the listeners through the speaker’s physical experiences, background knowledge, appreciation, and power. Modality, as a linguistic category explains stance-taking in political speeches, especially epistemic modality, which expresses the speaker’s stance based on their knowledge and experience. Another main feature of political discourse as a genre is expressing the speaker’s beliefs and ideology. Different ideologies in politics play an essential role in policy development. Political language contains postulates -- beliefs, presumptions, and point of view etc. are part of ideologies.

Thus, in the present study, political speeches as a genre represent political discourse with its main features as persuasion, reasoning, expressing stance and beliefs. In this regard, evidentiality and epistemic modality is an attempt to explore the linguistic choices made by political speakers in order to manipulate and persuade their audiences.

2.4.2 Language and Politics

Fairclough (1989, p. 90) once said that ‘politics is not just conducted through language but politics itself is a language’. It is certainly true that politics cannot function without language and that language is an influential tool that tends to shape political beliefs and actions. Language of politics assigns different roles to the user, determines where a person stands in a social hierarchy, and who has the power and authority to change the world. The study of language, known as Applied Linguistics, is an approach that directly considers political dimensions.

The functioning of language in political discourse is central to understanding and interpreting the basic meaning of what is being communicated. The analysis of politics, certainly involves the analysis of language in use. This includes the role of people, their politics, and words involved in an interaction, and their way of selecting different linguistic strategies. These strategies are often used to influence public thought. According to Dallmayr (1984), political experts should focus on how to maintain and regulate political communities and systems by use of linguistic communication.

2.4.3 The Role of Evidentiality and Epistemic Modality in Political Discourse

As the definition and typological studies of modality and evidentiality have been discussed earlier, it is still crucial to know the functions of evidentiality and epistemic modality in a particular context. The authors of earlier studies of political discourse have generally accepted that the function of epistemic modality is related to the speaker’s cognitive themes, for instance ‘stance’ and ‘ideology’ though the function of evidentiality in relation to the epistemic modality has not been examined so far. Therefore, the researcher aims to review the literature regarding the function of evidentiality and epistemic modality as stance-taking and ideology construction.

2.4.3.1 Stance

As stance is multifaceted in nature, the notion of stance has been explained in relation to the concepts like evaluations, inter/subjectivity, and positioning. A stance is a particular form of social action, speakers and writers are asked to express their beliefs and opinions, assessment of events as well as commitments to the propositions being communicated either explicitly or implicitly. It is a linguistic phenomenon, expressing the

textual voice of the speakers, their self-representation, and involvement in an argument or stepping back and hiding their attitudinal positions.

Alexandra Jaffe (2009) has shown the concept of stance in her book “*Stance: Sociolinguistic Perspective*” (p.7). She has argued that we have different kinds of stance, some of which are directly associated with evidentiality, for example, beliefs and knowledge, and commitment to propositional content are called ‘epistemic stance’ while claims, authority, and responsibility are known as assessment. The linguistic expressions that present these speakers’ stance include modal verbs and evidential markers, some form of tense-aspect-mood, and assessment and attitudinal expressions. As stance and evidentiality are related to each other, epistemic modality and evidentiality are assumed to overlap in this. Marín-Arrese (2011) has discussed the difference between effective and epistemic stance in her studies. She placed other types of modality under the taxonomy of effective stance and has treated epistemic modality and evidentiality as a category of epistemic stance markers.

Several researchers have proposed a study concerning speakers’ stance and their illustration through linguistic resources. These studies have claimed that among other linguistic strategies, modality is an essential tool for expressing a speaker’s stance in discourse studies but failed to link evidentiality and epistemic modality in revealing stance. However, the current study will treat the relationship of evidentiality and epistemic modality and its function as stance-markers because barely a study has been found considering evidentiality and epistemic modality as stance-taking strategies in political discourse.

2.4.3.2 Ideology

Ideology can be defined as a set of ideas and beliefs that affect the social interaction of humans in every domain of life. According to Kress and Hodge (1979), ideology can be defined as a “system of ideas that represent a specific perspective, which organizes reality analytically” (p.15). Ideology is a cognitive and social phenomenon; cognitive in a way that people have it in their heads while social in the sense that it represents language and thought that is shared with society. Many theorists have linked

the notion of ideology with power. For instance, Fairclough (2003) said that power and language are closely associated with ideologies.

Ideologies are produced in and through languages. They are neither performed in a vacuum to penetrate people's life nor are they just cognitive illustrations but they are representation tags of various discourses, instead. Gruber (1990) declared that ideology itself is manifested linguistically and is made possible and created via language. The analysis of political discourse often helps in scrutinizing the traces of ideologies in the text. It is often said that political parties and even individuals act according to their own ideologies, which govern their behavior and modes of expression and reflect the circumstances under which people live. One of the views is that organizing or maintaining social relations is the major function of ideologies, which could be achieved through their epistemic and evaluative content. In this light, modality as a linguistic category plays an important role in decoding the speaker's ideology.

However, a little work has been done concerning the relationship between epistemic modality and ideology. For example, Fowler (1991) has shown the traces of ideologies in political discourse through different linguistic devices, and even he differentiates kinds of modality with respect to making comments but failed to explain how epistemic modality functions in decoding ideology. Similarly, Dunmire (2005) has done a comparative study in modality by discussing the ideology of the future in political discourse but has not discussed the relationship between epistemic modality and ideology. In contrast, evidentiality has never been examined concerning ideology; however, in this study, the focus would be to find out how evidentiality along with epistemic modality reveals the ideology of the political speakers because ideologies are all about 'common sense' while evidentiality is concerned with 'speaker's common knowledge'.

2.5 An Approach of Corpus Linguistics

Corpus Linguistics is the study of language that deals with the analysis of a large collection of naturally occurring languages (known as '*corpora*', singular '*corpus*'), sharing similar contextual and situational characteristics. It empirically analyzes the languages in use, stored on a computer database. Renouf (1987) has stated that the term

'corpus' denotes the collection of written and spoken text, stored and processed on a computer to retrieve linguistic items for language research. The language of corpora can be comprised of textbooks, speeches, fiction, non-fiction, research papers, newspaper, daily life conversation, talk shows, lectures, classroom talk and much more. Some of the basic corpora present are; the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA), British National Corpus (BNC), American National Corpus (ANC), and The Lancaster Oslo/Bergen Corpus (LOB), etc.

Corpus linguistics is not able to give answer to the question of 'why' and 'how', does not provide false evidence, and cannot run all possible languages at a time. It only provides the frequency of words and phrases, which part of speech has been used by the speaker, and the difference between spoken and written language.

An approach of Corpus Linguistics has gained much recognition in the works of PDA. The reason why it has been considered an important resource for a political research study is that -- first, it provides empirical data, based on which researchers can make objective statements. It detains the mental abilities of an individual from making subjective statements. Second, Corpus Linguistics examines the textual facts and linguistics features in naturally occurring languages. Third, it provides 'frequency, concordance and collocation' that make evident the linguistic choices made by speakers and writers.

When it comes to corpus research, Corpus Linguistics has been approached from two different perspectives: corpus-based approach and corpus-driven approach. The distinction between the two was introduced by Elena Tognini-Bonelli (2001). A corpus-based approach uses 'corpus' as reference data in order to compare and examine the lexical frequencies or collocations within a smaller set of data. Its main objective is to explore a theory within existing literature. Conversely, in a corpus-driven approach 'corpus' itself is data that symbolizes its theory of language.

However, in terms of the present study, the researcher has adopted a corpus-based approach that is based on two small corpora (as data) consisting of political speeches for retrieving and comparing linguistic expressions such as epistemic modality and evidentiality.

2.6 Previous Works Done

As far as linguistic terminologies (such as evidentiality and epistemic modality) are concerned, a number of studies have been conducted in different contexts for different purposes across languages though many aspects are still waiting to be explored. This section, therefore, deals with the review of related works already done to generate a gap for the present study. The following are some of the prominent works carried out by various researchers.

Kareem (2008) offers a research study on linguistic and extralinguistic markers of evidentiality in English by choosing text from Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* as data. The text is analyzed from the semantic and pragmatic aspect of evidentiality that indicates that in English distinct expressions of evidentials are expressed through modal auxiliaries, adverbial types, and various phrases. Moreover, it reveals that evidentiality includes both means of information source and speaker's commitment and that in English it is the mixture of linguistic and extra-linguistic markers rather than considering its grammatical and lexical category.

Yang (2014) carried out a study on English research articles on Applied Linguistics, having evidentiality as a main subject from the perspective of metadiscourse. In order to find how evidentiality and its types can function as various metadiscourse, the author first presented his own classification of evidentiality. A corpus of 100 research articles is used; the analysis of which is further based on Hyland's metadiscourse model (2005). The result of the study has indicated that different types of evidentiality have performed a different interpersonal function as metadiscourse devices in research articles and that they contribute to the coherent and more conclusive text.

Xu (2015) proposed a study in political discourse by studying the relationship between evidentiality and modality from a cognitive-functional account. He examines the function of evidentiality and its relation to modality in the selected speeches of Blair, Obama and Ahmadinejad. The author for the analysis of the data offers a new classification of evidentiality based on its source and mode of knowing. He stresses that the function of evidentiality and modality both leads to expressing the speaker's stance, ideology and de/legitimizing the statements with different types, values and resources.

Cuenca (2015) examines the use of evidential markings and epistemic expressions in the Catalan parliament debate. The study has shown that the meanings of evidential markers are bound to epistemic expressions and therefore, both are essential functional categories including interpersonal markers. Additionally, the study indicates that evidentiality and epistemic modals can be differentiated on a theoretical level, but they often mingled in a discourse. Besides, inferential evidentials are found to frequently occur in the debate of Catalan parliamentarians.

Marta Carretero & others (2017) investigate twelve adverbs as evidentials in English and Spanish spoken and newspaper discourse. The study comparatively analyzes six evidential adverbs in each language extracted from two corpora -- the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) and the Corpus de Referencia del Español Actual (CREA). The main focus of the thesis is to examine the function of evidential adverbs and their pragmatic interpersonal uses, qualitatively and to find out the frequency and the phrasal occurrences of evidential types quantitatively. The findings revealed that there are various differences between English evidential adverbs and their Spanish associates. Though, it is noted that almost all the selected adverbs express inferential and reportive evidentials. In spoken discourse, the English adverb ‘obviously’ and Spanish ‘evidentemente’ is ranked first in frequency due to pragmatic implications. The results also uncover that the phrasal position of each evidential adverb in English is most likely to occur in the medial position, while in Spanish it tends to be found more in the parenthetical position.

Jafarigohar and Kheiri (2017) conducted a study on evidentiality by focusing on adverbial types and epistemic modality in discussion sections of ELT research papers of Iranian (non-native) and English (native) authors. The researcher made a small corpus of online papers and used Ifantidou’s model (2001) as an analytical framework. The finding suggests that adverbial types of evidentiality are most frequently used while epistemic modality is ranked fourth; however, other types of evidentiality like “inferring”, “reported”, and “propositional attitude” are not the topics under study.

Ivana (2018) presents a comparative study of evidential markers on a corpus sample of political interviews in English and Serbian. Through this study, the author

intends to find the classification of evidential markers in languages, the relative frequencies, and the similarities and differences that occur in the patterning of these evidential strategies used for making social implications in political discourse. The study indicates that the frequency of use of evidential markers in both English and Serbian political interviews seem to be quite balanced in their uses. Furthermore, in both the corpora the use of sensory evidential (i.e. mental state) turned out to be the participants' most frequent choice while making factual claims and presenting their degree of certainty and probability. Lastly, the study makes it confirmed that there is an overlap between two linguistic expressions, which are evidentiality and epistemic modality because the evidential markers used by the speakers reliably qualified the epistemic stance towards the information presented by the participants in the interviews.

Guo (2019) focuses on evidentiality; the study compares and contrasts the abstract section of English and Chinese MA thesis of different disciplines. The author's main objective is to examine the frequency of evidential types, the discourse features of using evidentials, their similarities and differences, and factors resulting in their differences. The results of the study show that the frequencies of evidential types in both the corpora are unbalanced, adopting knowledge mainly through reporting and inferential evidential. Second, the lexical realization of these evidential types is also unstable. Third, evidentiality is reflected as a discourse strategy for carrying out interpersonal functions and lastly, the study made it clear that the native speakers are more inclined towards the use of evidential types.

Erika (2020) investigates gender preferences for evidential markers and the function of evidentiality in spoken British English. The study emphasizes the frequently used evidential markers in the conversation of men and women selected from the spoken portion of two corpora; British National Corpus and Corpus of Present-Day Spoken English. The findings revealed that evidentiality is a versatile linguistic category that has relational functions to perform. It acts as evidence for or against a proposition, allows speaker to express or negotiate their authority, and shows the speaker's position in relation to the information provided in a proposition. Further, the study highlights that in

comparison to men, women are found to be frequently used evidential markers in their daily conversation.

Yildi and Turan (2021) offer a comparative study with an investigation on evidentiality in the selected PhD dissertations of a native speaker and two non-native speaker groups. The author uses Chafe's taxonomy (1986) reviewed by Ifantidou (2001) as a framework for data analysis. The study shows that evidential markers are more frequently used by native authors than non-native authors and in terms of the use of evidentiality, huge difference can be seen in both the interlanguage texts.

2.7 Conclusion

This chapter has presented a short summary and explanation of evidentiality and epistemic modality in political discourse. The researcher through this chapter, first reviewed prior studies related to definitions, types, and classification of evidentiality. Then, she discussed modality and types of modality, particularly epistemic modality. As it is clear from the preceding discussion that several authors have linked the concept of evidentiality to epistemic modality, the relationship between them is not surprising. Thus, keeping in mind its relationship (i.e. Palmer, 2001), the researcher decided to choose evidentiality and epistemic modality for her study. After that, a general overview of political discourse is explained, mainly political speeches as a genre, and finally, an approach of Corpus Linguistic and its importance to the study is discussed.

The last section of the chapter comprises the foregoing works, from which some gaps emerge. First, it has been stated in several works that there is an overlap between evidentiality and epistemic modality but studies on the relationship of these concepts particularly in political discourse (and political speeches as a genre) are scarcely found. Second, if there is a relationship between evidentiality and epistemic modality then how they function as stance markers and ideology construction in political discourse. Xu's work (2015) acts as an inspiration for the current research study, but the researcher is curious to find out the same objectives by studying evidentiality and epistemic modality in different political contexts and by applying Appraisal Theory (White and Martin, 2005) which was never adopted by any other researcher for the study. Thus, the current study

sets out to fill these gaps by analyzing evidentiality and epistemic modality, its function as a stance marker and ideology construction, and the applicability of Appraisal Theory.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The chapter is basically structured to provide a comprehensive overview of a methodological framework that underpins the research endeavor. The chapter begins with the research design opted for the study and the rationale behind its selection. Following this, it introduces the corpus approach and the methods employed for compiling a corpus, data collection and data sampling, and theoretical framework adopted for analyzing evidentiality and epistemic modality in political discourse. Lastly, the chapter ends by briefly explaining the tools and steps taken for the analysis of the data.

3.1 Research Design

As previously mentioned, this study aims to conduct an in-depth investigation of *evidentiality and epistemic* modality in the political discourse. For this purpose, a mixed-method research approach has been employed integrating both qualitative and quantitative method for the analysis. Specifically, the explanatory sequential design is utilized, which involves quantitative analysis, followed up by qualitative analysis. In the quantitative phase, the frequency and distribution of evidential markers and epistemic modals within the corpus of political discourse are systematically identified (involving first two objectives of the study). This section provides a broad overview of how often and in what contexts these linguistic features appear. The qualitative section delves deeper into the function and significance of these markers in political discourse (taking last objective into account). The mixed-method approach is chosen for its ability to combine the strengths of both methodologies: quantitative analysis offers generalizable, statistical insights, while qualitative analysis provides rich, contextual understanding. The comprehensive approach not only validates the results but also provides a detailed picture of the rhetorical strategies employed within the political discourse.

Early views concerning mixed method formulate an idea that every research method has some weaknesses but qualitative and quantitative approach together neutralized the weaknesses of each form of data. There are some advantages of

quantitative research methods to the studies. It involves a larger sample of data, which benefits us by generalizing our whole population (Hammersley, 1992). It uses statistical software that consumes less time in data analysis. Further, it makes the finding more accurate and efficient. Similarly, qualitative method also has some advantages to research studies. Firstly, in a qualitative method the approaches to the amount of data are not bound by the limitations. Second, it enables the researchers to examine and comprehend multiple contexts under study, specifically in discourse analysis. Third, a qualitative method provides a detailed explanation of the feelings, opinions and participants' experiences, and understands several meanings of their actions (Bachman, 1998). Lastly, it figures out how the inner thoughts of participants are shaped through or in culture (Corbin and Strauss, 2008). Combining these two types of methods in a study means the researcher benefits from specific, more generalized quantitative data and contextualized insights of qualitative data and objectives.

3.1.1. A Corpus Methodology

In the current study, quantitative analysis is an initial phase to support the investigation and comparison between evidentiality and epistemic modality in a political context. The purpose of the study is to find out the most frequent evidential markers and epistemic modals utilized by the political speakers in their discourse and for this, quantitative method is used to calculate the distributions and frequencies of various evidential markers and epistemic modals in each case through corpus linguistic approach.

“Corpus linguistics refers to the computer-assisted compilation of a large body of text gathered for a particular purpose” (Bennett, 2010, p. 24). In this manner, the researcher has adopted a corpus-based method, treating a small corpus to generate a gap by exploring the linguistic expressions in a particular genre and providing accurate data for comparison with findings. Corpus-based approach has recently been proposed to the field of discourse. It enables the scholars to identify empirical evidence of naturally occurring language in use and decode the meaning hidden in lexical choices. One of the features of corpus-based study is that it prefers empirical (real) data and analyzes the texts that are collected systematically.

3.1.1.1 Corpus Design and Compilation of the Corpus

Before the collection of actual data, a corpus is designed for a purpose that a corpus is going to serve. Commonly, for studying a genre or any particular natural language, a specialized corpus is built. The specialized corpus can be smaller in size that is built for personal use to answer specific questions. One of the main objectives of the current study is to find out the distribution and frequency of linguistic expressions such as evidentiality and epistemic modality. For this purpose, a specialized corpus has been made that consists of naturally occurring political text.

The compilation of the corpus followed several phases. In the first phase, the researcher searched for an appropriate material on the internet concerning the study objectives. The material contains the transcripts of two political leaders: Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan and the American president Joe Biden. The data have been sourced from various reputable online websites. Imran Khan's speeches are collected from Aljazeera, Business Recorder, Ary News, and DND. In contrast, Joe Biden's speeches are obtained from the New York Times and Rev. The transcripts are then downloaded and run through JustText Demo. This tool cleaned the text from extra information including navigation links, headers, HTML codes, images, etc. In the next phase, the filtered texts are saved as MS document files. The transcripts are thoroughly checked and revised twice by the investigator. The third phase includes the conversion of saved data to plain text format using a PDF converter that brings the files into machine-readable format. The data are then saved as two different text files that needed to be included in a corpus developed on account of the basic requirements of the questions under investigation.

Likewise, for study analysis, two corpora had been compiled comprising speeches of two different politicians, i.e., Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan and the US President Joe Biden.

3.1.1.2 Population and Sampling

The main question that arises in the mind of any corpus compiler is the set of data he/she has to deal with. Any kind of corpus is representative of any particular language; the present study intends to examine some political texts that are included in a corpus,

representing that specific genre being investigated. These political texts are selected from the speeches of Mr. Imran Khan and Mr. Joe Biden from the year 2018-2021. These representative corpora are the selected samples that are drawn from the population of all the political speeches delivered during the participant's life span. According to Arikunto (2002), the population is the totality of all subjects and objects to which the findings of the research can be applied. On the other hand, Waito (1992) stated that the sample is a part of the population taken to be representative of the population, and it is the real data source of the study. Sampling in a study can be carried out through different methods; however, the data selected for the construction of the corpora follows the purposive sampling technique (intentional selection of any subject or object). To meet the study's interest, only those speeches are selected that are based on the themes of the study and that can be easily accessed by the researcher.

3.1.1.3 Data Description

The researcher has chosen some authentic political speeches of Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan and the President of the United States Joe Biden. The speeches were collected from the official websites between the years (2018-2021), the themes of which range to various topics like climate change, COVID-19, war, economy, and foreign policy.

Imran Khan

Mr. Imran Khan, the chairman of Pakistan Tahreek-e-Insaf (PTI) won the general elections of 2018 and became the Pakistan's Prime Minister. Thus, from that era, he has been recognized as the most prominent leader not only in Pakistan but also in the foreign countries. He struggled to wipe out the economic disaster and corruption and tried to build an independent foreign policy for Pakistan. Imran Khan is renowned for his leadership qualities, probity and for his decisiveness. He throughout his tenure has become an excellent orator who not only raises his voice for his country but also speaks for the world on an international platform. He knew how to exploit language and delivered the message persuasively and convincingly through speeches across the world.

Table 3.1:*Speeches of Mr. Imran Khan*

No.	Time	Place	Themes	Listeners	No. of words	Analysis
1.	26/07/2018	Islamabad	Foreign Policy,	People of Pakistan	1486	Focus on domestic and regional issues, addressing local audiences.
2.	19/09/2019	U.N, New York	Climate change	Participants of 74 th U.N General Assembly	2577	Emphasize global issues, aiming to influence international policies.
3.	15/09/2020	U.N, New York	COVID-19, War	Participants of 75 th U.N General Assembly	2761	Address global crisis, fostering international cooperation
4.	7/09/2021	Islamabad	COVID-19, Climate Change, afghan war,	Participants of SCO	1736	Highlight regional concerns, engaging with regional organizations.
5.	25/09/2021	U.N, New York	COVID-19, Climate Change, Afghan War	Participants of 76 th U.N General Assembly	2560	Discuss multiple global challenges, engaging with international community.
Total Number of Words					11,120	

Joe Biden

Mr. Joe Biden is the current president of the United States of America. He won the general elections of 2020 as the 46th U.S president. He became a leader at a time when his nation and the world were facing some important challenges like Covid-19, the Afghan crisis and the threat of Climate Change. As America has been considered the

most powerful state in the world, the president of the country also holds prevailing position across the world.

Table 3.2:

Speeches of Mr. Joe Biden

No.	Time	Place	Themes	Listeners	No. of words	Analysis
1.	12/03/2020	White House, Washington D.C	COVID-19 Pandemic	People of America	2593	Addressing national crisis from the presidential platforms.
2.	04/02/2021	Washington D.C	Foreign policy	People of America	2459	Highlighting national policy concerns
3.	16/08/2021	White House, Washington D.C	Afghanistan War	People of America	2353	Focusing on significant foreign policy issues.
4.	21/09/2021	U.N, New York	COVID-19, Climate Agenda	Participants of the U.N General Assembly	4323	Engaging in global discussions, addressing international issues.
5.	01/11/2021	COP26 Climate Summit, Glasgow	Climate Change	Participants of the Climate Change Summit	1679	Showing commitment to global climate change action, influencing international policy
Total Number of Words					13,407	

Rationale for Selecting Mr. Imran Khan and Mr. Joe Biden as a Subject

Analyzing the speeches of Mr. Imran Khan and Mr. Joe Biden in the context of evidentiality and epistemic modality in political discourse offers a valuable comparative framework for valuable reasons:

1. Imran Khan, as the former prime minister of Pakistan, and Joe Biden as the president of United States, are the leaders of two different states, holding prevailing power to run a government. They share different value systems and interests, offer various perceptions on the global issues.
2. The respected global issues have not only significance at national level but also have profound implications at global level. The selected speakers have addressed these topics in their speeches by providing insights into how evidentiality and epistemic modality are used to convey their stance and ideologies on these issues. Analyzing their speeches can reveal how they have presented the evidence and assessed the situation, and expressed their certainty and uncertainty, throwing light on their ideologies and leadership styles.
3. Comparing American context with that of Pakistani context can provide valuable intuitions into how linguistic features are influenced providing a profound understanding of political discourse across context.
4. The availability of data is another former reason why the speeches of Mr. Imran Khan and Mr. Joe Biden have been the subject of the thesis.

3.1.1.4 Size of the Corpus

The corpus that has been constructed in light of the requirement of this study, comprise ten speeches of Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan and the US President, Joe Biden. This corpus is divided into two corpora, named Imran Khan and Joe Biden's speeches. Both the corpora consist of 5 speeches in total to balance the study. The corpus of Imran Khan's speeches comprised 11,120 words in total, whereas the corpus of Joe Biden is a bit bigger consisting of 13,407 words. The speeches are arranged in chronological order based on the year it covers (2018-2021).

Table 3.3:*Size of Corpus*

Types of Corpus	Total Number of Speeches	Total Word (Tokens)
Imran Khan corpus	05	11,120
Joe Biden corpus	05	13,407

3.1.2 Theoretical Framework

This section proposes the analytical framework adopted for studying evidentiality and epistemic modality.

3.1.2.1 Appraisal Theory

The Appraisal Theory is a sub-category of Halliday's SFL, proposed by Martin and White (2005), which can be viewed as an enlargement and broadening out of the interpersonal domain. The proponents of Appraisal Theory have comprehensively used the framework for analyzing evaluations in discourse. They are of the view that the theory helps in decoding the speaker's intention behind lexical choices. Hence, Appraisal Theory is about linguistic features by using which texts/speakers come to expose, negotiate and adopt certain intersubjective and ultimately ideological positions. It is a model that enlightens the methods in which language interprets different attitudes and allows speakers/writers to position themselves as evaluative with respect to respondents' viewpoints. Appraisal theory can be realized due to three interactive elements: 'attitude', 'engagement' and 'graduation'. However, the research study is only restricted to the 'attitude' and 'engagement' systems of the framework.

- **Attitude**

Attitude is a framework that intends to specify the emotions of a speaker inclined towards a subject, its comparison with social norms and values, and its impact on

the speaker to form appearance and aesthetics. According to Painter (2003, p. 40), ‘attitude refers to the linguistic expression of positive and negative attitudes.’ Martin and White have further labeled attitude into three sub-categories: affect, judgment, and appreciation which fit very well with the demands and allow the data to be analyzed efficiently. *Affect* has been considered a resource for interpreting emotional responses and can be realized via positive or negative and direct or indirect emotions. For example, ‘the body is happy’ and ‘the boy is laughing’ both give us the same sense of positive and direct expression. In understanding effect, further, sub-division has been made by Martin and White (2005): un/happiness, in/security and dis/satisfaction. Un/happiness is concerned with feelings either positive or negative. In/security reflects the speaker’s sensation of peace and discomfort zone while dis/satisfaction is related to feelings of attainment and frustration with respect to roles and activities in which the speaker is engaged.

Table 3.4:

Options for Analyzing Affect

Affective Typology		Examples
Happiness	(positive)	Laugh, joyful, cheerful, glad, delighted, pleasure.
Unhappiness	(negative)	Sad, depressed, frustrated, discontent, hate, abuse, grief, sorrow.
Security	(positive)	Confident, trust, protected, invulnerable, proclaim.
Insecurity	(negative)	Dangerous, frail, risky, uneasy, anxious.
Satisfaction	(positive)	Comfort, compliment, attentive, engaged, impressed.
Dissatisfaction	(negative)	Disappointment, caution, bored with, angry.

Judgment is the second part of an attitude that is concerned with human behavior and evaluates human character either positively or negatively. It is further divided into social esteem and social sanction respectively. Social esteem is associated with three variables: normality, which specifies how acquainted or unfamiliar someone is; capacity, which shows how capable a person is, and tenacity, which indicates how dependable a person is. On the other hand, social sanction includes veracity, which shows how honest someone is; and propriety, which indicates how ethical a speaker/writer is.

Table 3.5:

Options for Analyzing Judgment

Judgment	Positive	Negative
Social Esteem:		
Normality	Remarkable, lucky	Unfortunate, unusual
Capacity	Skilled, ability, powerful	Incapable, powerless, ineffective
Tenacity	Curious, resolute	Apathetic, cowardly, uninterested.
Social Sanction:		
Veracity	Honest, authentic, credible	Fake, deceitful, lying.
Propriety	Kind, generous, moral	Corrupt, cruel, brutal.

Appreciation, the third sub-category of attitude, refers to the aesthetic evaluation of entities, events, processes and phenomena. It is used to judge what a speaker thinks about a certain product and his/her overall reaction towards it. The framework for analyzing appreciation can be due to three different variables: reaction, composition and valuation. The reaction indicates the impact of a product to the degree which captures the speaker's attention. Composition is related to the speaker's understanding and feelings regarding the complexity and physical aspect of an object while valuation is concerned with the social significance and worth attributed to an entity or event.

Table 3.6:*Options for Analyzing Appreciation*

Appreciation	Positive	Negative
Reaction	Arresting, fascinating	Tedious, boring
Composition	Splendid, unified	Revolting, horrible, contorted
Valuation	Original, profound	Insignificant, shallow

White and Martin (2005) have argued that to some extent, all the above sub-branches of affect, judgment and appreciation are related to some kind of emotional response that can be either positive or negative. Speakers/writers with their lexical choices inspire their audience/readers with different sensations with specific affective qualities. These linguistic features then specify the kinds of attitudes that reflect the speaker's ideology. For instance,

1. I am happy about his success (Emotional response).
2. He was so incompetent at his work. (Judgement evaluation).
3. It was an authentic portrait (Recognizing appreciation).

- **Engagement**

The second category of Appraisal Theory used for data analysis is *engagement*. Engagement deals with recognizing the sources by which speakers adopt stances and show their ideological positions expressed interpersonally under the linguistic category of modality, evidentiality and hedging. By following Bakhtin and Voloshinov's view of verbal communication, Martin and White (2005) have proposed two distinct notions, i.e. *dialogism and heteroglossia*. All verbal communication, whether spoken or written, come under the concept of 'dialogic' which always explored the meaning of something. According to Bakhtin's definition of *dialogism* (1986) "any utterance, whether spoken or written, that people use in daily communication with each other is internally dialogic (p.72) whereas heteroglossia is present in a language in the form of different points of view and multiple voices. Bakhtin (1986) stated that *heteroglossia* is a linguistic type that includes the presence and co-existence of multiple viewpoints in a

language or other artistic works. Such formulations, to some extent, show the degree of personal investment of speakers/writers. For instance, the linguistic term, that Chafe (1986) called ‘evidentiality’, holds that dialogic meanings are best understood where the authorial voice position itself concerning a different point of view. Similarly, epistemic models are not only considered as a degree of communicative necessity and authorial certainty but also open up dialogic space for diverse perspectives.

Consequently, the framework through such models directs us towards the speaker/writer’s interpersonal style and makes us identify what sort of alternative perspectives have been constructed by the speaker/writer for their engagement towards discourse.

The resources for Realizing an Inter/Subjective Stance

Martin and White (2005) have claimed that the ‘Appraisal Theory’ identifies the level of engagement of speakers/writers with their readers and listeners, and it can be realized with respect to different resources. The resources include attribution, entertain, disclaim and proclaim. In contrast to these categories, Entertain and Attribution, open up the space for alternative positions and includes typical markers of speech representation or reporting speech, in which the distinction between direct vs. indirect speech and internal vs external source can also be interpreted. Martin and White (2005, p. 42) view *Entertain* as “the dialogistic expansiveness of modality and evidentiality” as it accounts for those expressions that have traditionally been analyzed as markers of modality and evidentiality (p. 104).

Table 3.7:*Resources for realizing inter-subjective stance*

Engagement Resources	Markers
Attribution: Acknowledge	Say, believe, declare, in X's views, according to X, announce.
Distance	X claimed, it rumored. X supposed that, some say, it is said that, some people think, etc.
Entertain	Perhaps, probably, maybe, it seems that, may/will/must, I suspect, I hear that, it is certain, I believe, I think, I suppose, etc.

Evidential and epistemic markers and ideology is intricately connected through the way language constructs and conveys attitudes, judgments and values within discourse. By choosing specific evidential markers, speakers can align themselves with certain ideological perspectives, presenting themselves as informed, authoritative or aligned with particular groups or beliefs. Evidential markers can frame information in ways that support the speaker's ideology. For instance, using phrase like, "*it seems that*" suggests an agreement that might influence the audiences' perception and align it with the speaker's viewpoint. Another example is, "*I have seen the positive impact of this policy firsthand.*" In the statement, evidential marker emphasizes personal experience, conveying emotional engagement and credibility. It reflects ideology that values personal involvement and firsthand knowledge as a basis for policy evaluation.

Epistemic modality allows speakers to indicate their level of certainty about a statement. Using strong epistemic modals like "will" and "must" convey a high degree of confidence and align with an ideology that values assertiveness and authority. The use of epistemic modals can also reflect attitudes towards the reliability and credibility of information. For instance, "it must be true" not only shows degree of certainty but also

shows different evaluative stances, aligning with ideologies that either strongly affirm or carefully approach truth claims.

3.2 Analytical Tool of the Study

This section deals with data analytical tools adopted for the analysis of the study. Quantitative analysis in the present study deals with statistical data and a corpus has been compiled to find out more generalized reports; therefore, AntConc software is used to evaluate the data more efficiently.

3.2.1 AntConc

AntConc is freeware corpus analysis software that was first introduced by Laurence Anthony in 2002. This toolkit enables language users to work with language through a graphical user interface, allowing them to carry out linguistic analysis, search and generate a number of lexical items in corpora and find out the frequency and distributions of words used in corpora. Major tools that AntConc provides are: concordance, concordance plot, file view, word list, keyword list, clusters/N Gram, and collocates. Some of the functions that these tools offer are:

Concordance: It provides specific words that exist in a corpus.

Concordance Plot: It shows the exact set of plots where the keyword appears in a corpus.

File View: It shows full-text file with all the searched words.

Word List: It simply presents a full list of words along with their frequency.

Keyword List. It allows the user to compare two corpora.

Clusters/N Grams: It allows the user to search for a group of words.

Collocates: It provide the list of words that mostly occurred with the keyword in a corpus.

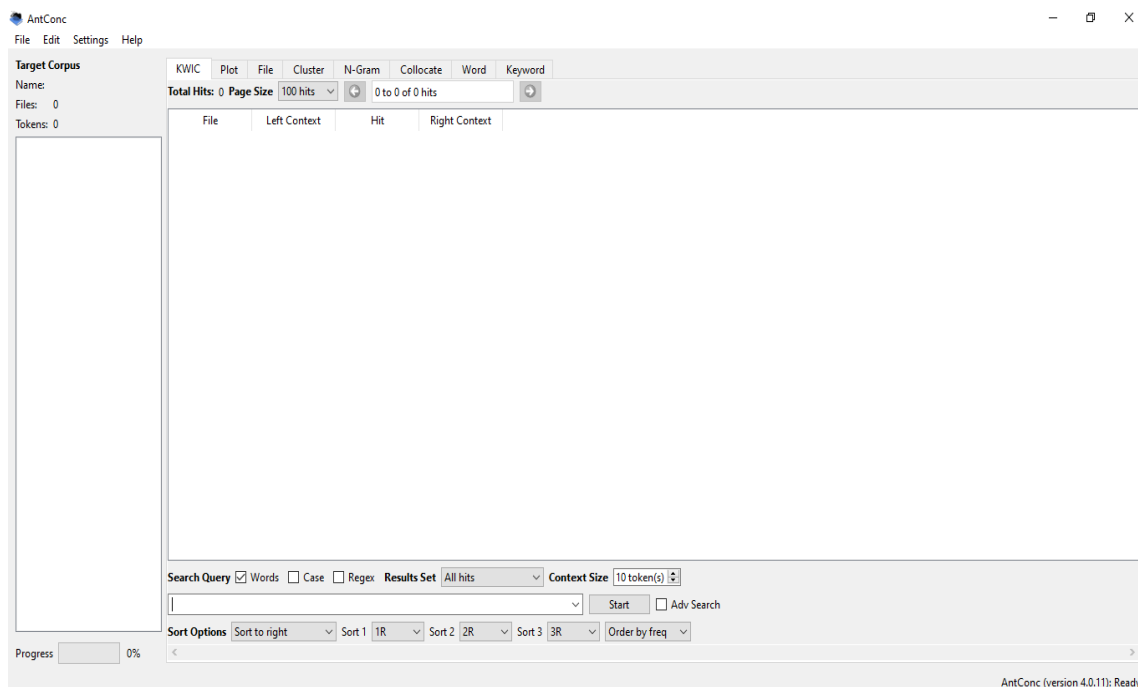


Figure 2: Screenshot of AntConc Concordances

AntConc is used as a corpus tool that helps to evaluate and compare frequencies, distribution and concordance of different evidential markers and epistemic modals within the selected data. At the time of data analysis, AntConc 4.2.0 was the latest version released on Dec 25, 2022. The use of software as a corpus tool is supportive looking into the relationship between linguistic devices and their contexts. Since AntConc can only provide the context in which a specific word exists; therefore, scrutinizing the linguistic devices in their respective contexts can be helped in expressing the speaker's stance and discovering their ideologies encoded in the text in terms of evidentiality and epistemic modality.

3.2.2 Significance Test Calculator

A significance test online calculator has been proposed by University of Lancaster to facilitate the corpus analyzers in their statistical calculation. It uses Log-likelihood value that compares the frequency of words in two corpora. It is said that if the value of LL is above 3.8 than the difference in the results is significant.

In the existing study, a statistical online calculator is used in quantitative analysis in order to prove that the results are not compared on the basis of observations but due to the significance test.

3.3 Research Method

The determination behind the existing study is to investigate and compare the frequency and distribution of evidentiality (markers) and epistemic modality and their function as stance markers and ideology construction in the speeches of two political leaders: Mr. Imran Khan and Mr. Joe Biden. For this purpose, a procedure has been followed for the analysis of the corpus data. It briefly discusses the selection of markers, how the data has been retrieved and steps taken in codification and evaluation of the data.

3.3.1 Selection of Markers

The first step that has been taken is the selection of evidential and epistemic markers for investigation. For this purpose, AntConc software has been used to generate a list of lexical items along with their frequency of occurrences in the two corpora. A comparison between words has been made through keyword list (KL). For the study, the ten most frequent evidential markers have been selected with epistemic modal verbs. This is essential to do since the study aims to analyze these markers by employing quantitative and qualitative analysis.

3.3.2 Data Retrieval

The second step includes the retrieval of lines of selected evidential markers and the form of modal verbs that is achieved through the concordance tool in AntConc software. Commonly, there are ten modal verbs ('must', 'can', 'could', 'will', 'would', 'may', 'might', 'shall', 'should', and 'ought (to)) and three main semantic categories (such as epistemic modality, deontic modality and dynamic modality) denoting three different values including (high, intermediate, and low). All these modal verbs fall into different categories due to which epistemic modal verbs are retrieved by thoroughly reading the whole text of the two corpora. These epistemic modal verbs are also divided into positive and negative forms indicating different values. Since all evidential markers fall only in one category, it is, therefore, easy to retrieve them in the corpus. However, due to the limitations of the AntConc software in handling pragmatics, the researcher was

unable to retrieve all the necessary data. Consequently, the researcher read the text thoroughly and manually selected certain lines, such as those containing the word “unfortunately”.

In the study, evidential markers and epistemic modals taken into account are restricted to specific numbers because it is impossible to count them as they can be found everywhere. The AntConc software can provide a file name and a word number for each concord line that can be considered an ease of reference while citing examples.

3.3.3 Data Codification

The third step deals with codification of the data. After the retrieval of evidential markers and epistemic modals, the data needed to be codified that further evaluate the selected linguistic markers. The codification of data has been done by carefully reading the particular lines to identify the evidential and epistemic markers with their relevant types, sources and values. A coding frame has been built in MS Word Document in which all the markers are organized according to the category they fit in. Abbreviated labels are assigned to the coded data throughout the study.

Table 3.8:

Abbreviations of Evidential Markers

	Sources	Types
Evidentiality	Inside Source (Inside)	P.P.
		P.K.
	Shared Source (Shared)	S.P.
		S.K.
	Outside Source (Outside)	I.R.
		H.E.

Table 3.9:*Abbreviations of Values of Epistemic Modality*

Epistemic Modality (E.M.)		
High Value (High.)	Intermediate Vale (Inter.)	Low Value (Low.)

3.2.4. Data Analysis Procedures

The existing study is directed by three research questions which are stated in the chapter 1.

The first two questions involve quantitative analysis as it is concerned with examining the frequency, distribution of markers, and the type of markers used by the speakers. For this step of analysis, the study makes use of AntConc software. The section on qualitative analysis attempts to answer the last query for which the data has been retrieved in the form of clauses and sentences that explored the function of evidentiality and epistemic modality as a stance marker and ideology construction by acclimatizing the resources of Appraisal Theory of Martin and White (2005).

After carrying out the quantitative analysis, qualitative thematic analysis has been employed for the data analysis.

CHAPTER 4

DATA ANALYSIS

This chapter analyses the corpora by investigating the frequency and distribution of evidential markers and epistemic modals and its function as stance markers and ideology construction in political discourse. The chapter is organized in different sections that tend to provide the analysis, description and interpretation of the data. The investigation in each section first begins with the quantitative analysis and then qualitative analysis. The first analysis uses corpus methodology that indicates the types, sources and values of the linguistic markers used by speakers and can provide empirical data of the frequency and distribution of evidential marker and epistemic modals in political discourse. The second analysis is based on the interpretation of the function of evidential markers and epistemic modal verbs by using manually coded data from analysis 1.

4.1 Evidentiality in Political Discourse

According to Cornillie (2009), “*evidentiality* is the reasoning processes that leads to a proposition” (p. 47). It presents the source and modes of information that a speaker has for making assertions. Evidentiality is the linguistic marking category indicating whether information is obtained from an ‘outside source’, ‘inside source’, or ‘shared source’. Certain classification is drawn from *Squartini’s locus of information (2008)*, further categorizing each resource into different evidential markers (cf. Chafe, 1986; Willett, 1988; Aikhenvald, 2007; Squaritini, 2008; Zhongyi, 2015). In the study, evidentiality is treated as persuasive marker that speakers tend to use to induce their audiences. Evidential markers hereby offer an evidence for the speaker’s claims in ideology-coding and stance taking.

As evidentiality is the main subject under investigation, it has been analyzed from two different perspectives -- quantitatively and qualitatively. First, through corpus approach the study aims to examine the resource and types of evidentiality adopted by two different speakers in their political discourse. The analysis in the study is based on

three resources and six types of evidentials. Second, the frequency and distribution of these evidential markers have been calculated and compared in both the cases. Lastly, the pragmatic functions of the selected evidential markers have been explored in the political context through Appraisal Theory (Martin and White, 2005).

4.1.1 Quantitative Analysis

This section contains the quantitative analysis of source and types of evidentiality in the speeches of two different speakers, i.e. Imran Khan and Joe Biden. The results are presented in numbers (No.), percentage (P), and frequency per thousand words (ptw) for both the speakers. The distributions and comparison of the results are displayed through graphs and figures that show the differences between the speakers in their use of evidentiality. The significance test of the results is presented through log-likelihood value. (If the value of LL is less than 3.84, then the difference in the results is significant).

4.1.1.1 Sources of Evidentiality

With reference to the use of evidentials and its sources, it can be seen in Table 4.1 that Imran Khan ranks first in terms of total use of source of evidentials. In both the cases, there can be seen a slight difference between the use of sources of evidentials. Both the speakers have used more inside source of evidentials in their speeches. In general, the differences between the total uses of evidential sources among the two speakers are significant.

Table 4.1:

Sources of Evidentiality in Corpora.

Sources of Evidentials	Speakers			
	Imran Khan		Joe Biden	
	No.	P	No.	P
Inside Source	35	47.29%	38	58.46%
Shared Source	22	29.72%	24	36.9%
Outside Source	17	22.97%	03	4.61%
Total	74	100%	65	100%

As illustrated, the total use of evidential sources is substantially higher in the case of Imran Khan. Based on the overall percentage, it can be clearly seen that the inside source comes first with the total percentage of (47.29%). On the other hand, the occurrence of shared source (27.72%) is also higher than that of outside source (22.97%). In the case of Biden, least outside evidentials (4.61%) are used, while a clear and more preference is shown for the inside and shared source, at 58.46% and 36.9% respectively. The statistical analysis further indicates the differences in the results of use of evidential sources in corpora.

Table 4.2:

Result of Evidential Sources in Corpora

Sources of Evidentials	Speakers				LL
	Imran Khan		Joe Biden		
	No.	ptw	No.	ptw	
Inside Source	35	3.14	38	2.8	0.20
Shared Source	22	1.9	24	1.8	0.11
Outside Source	17	1.5	03	0.22	13.61
Total	74	6.6	65	4.8	3.48

Note: (If the value of LL is less than 3.84, then the difference is significant)

Table 4.2 shows a comparison between the total distributions of evidential sources in the two cases. The statistical analysis demonstrates that Imran Khan preferred to use more evidential sources with 74 counts in total. On the other hand, Biden uses least evidential sources with total 65 counts. Overall, Biden's use of evidential sources is less than that of Imran Khan. There is no significant difference between the use of inside and shared source but evidentials from outside source shows a difference of (13.61 LL value) with total 17 counts by Imran Khan and 03 counts by Biden, respectively. However, it is important to say that both the speakers relied basically on the use of evidential sources while making claims that mostly involve self-beliefs, general assumptions, inferences and attributions. In sum, the findings indicate that there is no significant difference between the results of Imran Khan and Biden in their use of sources of evidentiality.

4.1.1.2 Types of Evidentiality

Table4.3:

Types of Evidentiality in Corpora.

Types of Evidentials		Speakers			
		Imran Khan		Joe Biden	
		No.	P	No.	P
Inside Source	P.P	06	8.1 %	0	0%
	P.K	29	39.1%	38	58.46%
Shared Source	S.P	09	12.1 %	13	20%
	S.K	13	17.5%	11	16.9%
Outside Source	I.R	06	8.1%	01	1.5%
	H.E	11	14.8%	02	3.07%
Total		74	100%	65	100%

In Table 4.3 it can be seen that in case of Imran Khan inferential evidentials from (personal knowledge) P.K takes up the first position (39.1%) in all the other categories.

Biden also uses more evidentials of P.K (58.46%) followed by S.P and S.K and other categories. Similarly, Imran Khan used other evidentials from S.P, S.K, I.R, and H.E, taking up 12.1%, 17.5%, 8.1%, and 14.8% respectively. He also makes use of P.P (personal perceptual) evidentials with 8.1% in his speeches; however, Biden does not use any evidentials of this type.

Table 4.4:

Result of Evidential Types in Corpora.

Types of Evidentials		Speakers				LL
		Imran Khan		Joe Biden		
		No.	ptw	No.	ptw	
Inside Source	P.P	06	0.5	0	0	9.5
	P.K	29	2.6	38	2.8	0.11
Shared Source	S.P	09	0.8	13	0.96	0.18
	S.K	13	1.2	11	0.8	0.75
Outside Source	I.R	06	0.5	01	0.07	4.96
	H.E	11	1.0	02	0.1	8.66
Total		74	6.6	65	4.8	3.48

Note: (If the value of LL is less than 3.84 then the difference is significant)

The findings in Table 4.4 demonstrate that Biden ranks first in the use of evidentials of P.K (personal knowledge) and S.P (shared perceptual) in terms of frequencies. On the other hand, Imran Khan used less P.K and S.P evidentials as compared to Biden but he adopts other evidential types including P.P, S.K, I.R, and H.E with higher frequency than the other speaker. In general, the statistical analysis indicates that the difference in the results of evidential types between Imran Khan and Biden is significant in terms of P.P, I.R and H.E; however, the result is not significant in the use of P.K, S.P, and S.K. (see Appendix for more clear illustration of the quantitative data.)

Table 4.5:*List of Evidential Markers in Corpora.*

Words	Imran Khan		Biden		Log
	No.	Ptw	No.	Ptw	Likelihood (LL)
I/we saw	3	0.26	0	0	4.75
I /we/you have seen	6	0.5	2	0.14	2.91
I/we/you think	9	0.8	1	0.07	8.94
I/we/you know	10	1.0	16	1.26	0.76
I/we/you believe	6	0.5	7	0.5	0.00
I feel/felt	3	0.26	1	0.07	1.46
I/we hear	2	0.17	2	0.14	0.03
Say	10	1.0	1	0.07	10.33
I announced	3	0.26	6	0.37	0.20
unfortunately	5	0.35	2	0.14	1.11
I/you/ they said	2	0.17	3	0.22	0.06
I argued	1	0.08	0	0	1.58
according to	3	0.26	0	0	4.75
I propose	2	0.17	0	0	3.16
in my view	0	0	6	0.44	7.25
Obviously	0	0	1	0.07	1.21
in fact	0	0	1	0.07	1.21
Actually	1	0.08	1	0.07	0.02
I tell/told	1	0.08	4	0.29	1.41
I spoke	1	0.08	1	0.07	0.02
I realized	2	0.17	0	0	3.16
I have learned	0	0	1	0.07	1.21

Words	Imran Khan		Biden		Log
	No.	Ptw	No.	Ptw	Likelihood (LL)
There is no doubt	1	0.08	1	0.07	0.02
I am/it is clear	3	0.26	7	0.5	0.98
Claim	1	0.08	1	0.07	0.02

Note: (if LL value is above 3.84 than the difference in the results is significant).

Table 4.5 specifies the list of evidential makers in terms of its frequency in the two cases. The result shows that both the speakers have shown their own preference while using different evidential markers. For instance, Imran Khan used ‘I/you/we think’ with total 9 counts but in case of Biden, the frequency is much lower with only 1 count. Similarly, Imran Khan takes up first place in using ‘I say’ with total 10 counts but the position is reversed for the other speaker with only 1 count. Conversely, Biden used ‘I/you/we know’, ‘in my view’ and ‘it is clear’ with higher frequency (total 17, 6 and 7 counts), while the occurrences of these evidential markers are much lower in case of Imran Khan, with (10, 0 and 3 counts) respectively. Besides, it is interesting to see that both the speakers have shown little or no inclination towards evidential markers like ‘I have learned’, ‘obviously’, ‘in fact’, ‘I saw’ ‘according to’, and ‘I argued or claimed’ etc.

4.1.1.3 List of Frequently used Evidential Markers

Table 4.6:*List of Selected Evidentials Markers in Corpora.*

S. No	Speakers					
	Imran Khan			Joe Biden		
	Evidentials	No.	E.T	Evidentials	No.	E.T
1.	I say	8	P.K	we have seen/seeing	8	S.P
2.	I know	7	P.K	we/you know	7	S.K
3.	Unfortunately	5	P.K	I believe	6	P.K
4.	we believe	4	S.K	I announced	6	P.K
5.	I have seen /saw	4	P.P	I am clear	6	P.K
6.	I think	4	P.K	in my view	5	P.K
7.	we have/it is seen	4	S.P	I know	5	P.K
8.	according to	3	H.E	I tell/told	4	P.K
9.	Reports	3	I.R	I said/saying	3	P.K
10.	I realize	2	P.K	unfortunately	2	P.K

Table 4.6 illustrates the most frequently used evidentials in the speeches of Imran Khan and Biden. The result shows that both the speakers have adopted quite similar evidential markers but the difference lies in terms of its occurrences. For example, Imran Khan used ‘I say’ with total 8 counts but in Biden’s case, the same evidential marker takes up the second last position with only 3 counts. Similarly, ‘we have seen’ rank first in Biden’s list with total 8 counts while Imran Khan used the same evidential marker with 4 counts only. Interestingly, it can be seen that there are some evidential markers in both the cases that are not used by the opposite speaker such as ‘according to’, ‘I realize’, ‘in my view’ etc. In particular, Imran Khan used ‘I say’ (8 counts), ‘I know’ (7 counts), and

unfortunately (5 counts) more frequently, while Biden used ‘we have seen’ (8 counts), ‘we/you know’ (7 counts), and ‘I believe’ (6 counts), correspondingly. Further, it can be said that Imran Khan has frequently used evidential markers revealing various types of evidential sources; conversely, Biden commonly chose evidential markers of shared knowledge (S.K) and personal knowledge (P.K).

The above evidentials markers are selected on the basis of their frequency, the function and expression of which are further examined and discussed in the two cases.

4.1.1.4 Concluding Remarks

To conclude the quantitative analysis, it can be said that in terms of distribution and frequency of sources and types of evidentiality, quite a similar pattern has been presented among the two cases. Overall, there can be seen no significant difference between the results. Some of the concluding remarks are summarized as follows:

- The results of the total use of evidentials of Imran Khan and Biden show the difference of (6.4%) in total, which means both the speakers have employed fairly similar number of evidential sources in their speeches (with 74 and 65 counts). The LL-value (3.48) of the result shows that the difference among the speakers is not significant.
- In term of sources of evidentiality, inside source comes first in both the cases (Imran Khan 35 and Biden 38 counts, respectively) followed by shared source. Additionally, Imran Khan used outside source with (17 counts), while in case of Biden they are the least adopted evidentials (with 03 counts) in total. The statistical results indicate that in term of inside and shared source, the difference is not significant apart from outside source.
- Further analysis exhibits that with respect to evidential types, personal knowledge (P.K) of inside source are the most commonly used evidentials by both the speakers. In case of Imran Khan, the use of other categories like P.P, H.E, and I.R is more as compared to the other speaker, and Biden uses evidentials of shared source more frequently.

- The findings from the statistical analysis indicate that in terms of P.P, I.R and H.E, the difference among the speakers is significant; however, the difference is not significant in terms of P.K, S.P and S.K.
- Evidentials from personal knowledge (P.K) often expresses the highest degree of commitment and reliability to the truth of proposition. Therefore, Imran Khan and Biden use evidentials from this category to foreground the validity of information and to manipulate their audiences as this evidential type indicate speaker's personal experiences and knowledge.
- Lastly, the finding has revealed the speakers' preference towards evidential markers. For instance, Imran Khan has used evidential markers such as 'I say', 'I know' and 'unfortunately' more frequently than the other evidential markers. Conversely, Biden has commonly used 'we have seen', 'we/you know' and 'I believe' in his speeches.

4.1.2 Qualitative Analysis: Function of Evidentiality

This section focuses on exploring the function of evidentiality, investigating the way it marks the speakers' stance and reflects ideology in the political discourse. In general, this section discusses how evidential markers act as persuasive strategies in the two cases and for that the most frequently used evidential markers have been retrieved through previous analysis.

For analyzing the evidential markers in their respective context, an appraisal framework has been used that assist in explaining the way speakers adopt stance, manage interpersonal positions relating to their ideologies, beliefs and obligations. As discussed, appraisal has two main categories: '*Attitude*' that shows speakers' feelings and judgment towards something while '*Engagement*' can be treated as the origin or source of attitude mainly focuses on authoritative voice. Based on the given system, the data is analyzed by firstly mentioning the sources of language, then discussing the stance taken by speakers to show their degree of confidence and reliability to the proposition and finally revealing the hidden ideologies through attitude.

4.1.2.1 Evidentiality as Marking Stance and Reflecting Ideology

Evidentiality plays a pivotal role in marking a stance, inter/subjectivity and reflecting speakers' ideology, concerning what the facts are, what beliefs are, what common knowledge is, and what and who the sources and strengths of information are. It is to note that not all evidential markers reflect speakers' ideology except inferential evidentials from Personal Knowledge (P.K), Shared Knowledge (S.K) and Hearsay Evidentials (H.E). Some of the examples are mentioned below:

Inferential Evidentials from Personal Knowledge (P.K)

The adoption of this type of evidentials from inside source indicates one's strong belief and knowledge from his/her experiences and thoughts. Some of the commonly used evidential markers of these types are: 'I know', 'I believe', 'I think', 'in my view', etc.

[1] *I know (Inside-P.K) that India keeps saying we have militant organizations but I invite UN observers to come and see for themselves. (Imran Khan, 28-09-2019)*

[2] *I know (Inside-P.K) this; as we look ahead, we will lead. We will lead on all the greatest challenges of our time, from COVID to climate, peace and security, human dignity and human rights, but we will not go it alone. (Biden, 21-09-2022)*

In example 1 and 2 evidential 'I know' is used from inside source that shows speaker's first-hand knowledge. A positive engagement has been made by the speakers in order to present their stance more reliable and subjective. The evidential marker 'I know' belongs to the category 'Entertain' that indicates that the speakers are taking personal responsibility for the information and thus showing their highest degree of confidence. In the first example speaker has used the resource of 'Capacity' (invite) under 'Judgment' that shows his attention on the abilities of world leader (UN observers) who are able to claim what is right and wrong. Further, it is clear from the statement that the issue of Pakistan and India's clash has been raised. This reflects his ideology of attempting to persuade or convince the listeners, strengthening his assertion's credibility. In the second example, the speaker has used "greatest challenges" *Cap <Judg* that shows him focusing on the future course of action. His language style indicates a sense of responsibility by

framing the future in terms of action and leadership. The statement actually reflects his ideology of knowledgeable, proactive and assertive leader.

The subject matter of both the speakers is totally different, hence positively portrayed and revealed through speakers' personal knowledge.

[3] ***I think (Inside-P.K)*** *it will be very good for all of us if we have good relations with India. (Imran Khan, 26-07-2018)*

[4] *Our security, our prosperity, and our very freedoms are interconnected in my view (Inside-P.K) as never before. And so, I believe (Inside-P.K) we must work together as never before. (Biden, 21-09-2022)*

In the 3rd example, Imran Khan makes use of evidential “*I think*” that indicates his lack of certainty for the proposition. It can be seen that he is using “good relations” resource of “*Propriety*” and passing a positive judgment in order to invite the audience for their remarkable achievement. The assertion implies his belief in prioritizing peace, stability, and positive diplomatic ties between the two regions.

In the next example, Biden has used two evidentials of inside source, “*in my view*” and “*I believe*” that clearly indicates speaker's own belief from his first-hand knowledge. The term “interconnected” is showing speaker's positive appreciation reflecting the interdependence of fundamental aspects of society, while “work together” is the resource of “capacity” and showing the speaker's positive judgment by motivating the skills and abilities of his citizens. His language style implies unity, collaboration, and his belief in the power of collective effort to achieve common goals.

In general, the evidential marker like ‘I know’ has shown the speakers' knowledge that is based on their experiences, opinions and facts. The use of these markers shows the stance of speakers with respect to their mental perception and knowledge; thus, making it more subjective and less reliable. These markers are used in the statements to show strong confidence, judgment or lack of confidence. It can also be stated that Imran Khan has used two different evidential markers from same source to talk about the same issue for manipulating process while Biden used three different

evidential markers and discussed two different matters in order to present his opinion as a fact.

From the above statement, we can see a difference between the ideologies with respect to evidential markers of two leaders. Imran Khan's evidential marker often reflects a defensive and cautiously optimistic ideology. His use of personal knowledge shows a commitment to transparency and openness to international scrutiny. His tentative statement about improving relations reflects an ideology of peace and regional stability but with a cautious approach. In contrast, Biden's evidential markers indicate a confident and inclusive ideology. His assertive statements reflect a strong belief in interconnectedness and collective action. His use of personal markers shows an ideology of assertive leadership and responsibility in addressing global challenges.

Inferential Evidentials from Shared Knowledge (S.K)

This type of evidentials adopted from shared source indicates common ground shared and known by both the speaker and the audience. People with different background and value system often have different perspective (ideology) towards different things; therefore, this type of evidentials can also be treated as powerful tool of encoding ideologies and beliefs in the context of political discourse. Consider the following examples:

[5] *We believe (Shared-S.K) the positive engagement of the international community with Afghanistan is extremely important..... (Imran Khan, 07-09-2019).*

[6] *This disease could impact every nation..... You all do know (Shared-S.K) the American people have the capacity to meet this moment (Biden, 12-03-2020).*

The evidential marker 'we believe' in example (5) indicates a common knowledge shared by both the speaker and his listeners. The marker is used in a sense that position of attribution can be neutralized. Therefore, we can say that the stance taken by speaker is inter-subjective. All the international community is aware of the fact (war in Afghanistan); thereby the speaker used the marker to persuade them that their constructive steps would be encouraged in resolving the issue. Imran Khan used

‘engagement’ a resource of ‘Satisfaction under Affect’ in order to influence the powerful world leaders for their positive involvement and underscores the urgency and significance attached to the issue of Afghanistan. His use of evidential marker indicates a collective and inclusive approach, emphasizing the importance of international cooperation and engagement. His ideology focuses on the need for global unity and support for regional stability.

In example (6) evidential marker *‘you all do know’* shows that whatever the speaker said is common information shared by his listeners. The speaker has positioned himself towards the shared stance that also reveals the high degree of certainty and reliability. In the statement, it can be seen that the speaker is talking about the world pandemic that have badly affected every nation and he is motivating his listeners by focusing on the capabilities of American people. Biden has used the resource of ‘Capacity’ passing a positive judgment and making the nation believe that they are able to fight against the disease (COVID-19). By using evidential marker “you all do know”, Biden aligns himself with the audience, fostering a sense of unity and collective strength. This reflects ideology that values solidarity and mutual confidence in facing challenges.

From the above statements, it is stated that evidential markers like ‘we believe’ and ‘we/you know’ can be treated as persuasive tools and used to make a difference between what is fact and what is not.

Hearsay Evidentials (H.E)

The adoption of this type of evidentials often shows evidences reported by outside sources or anonymous people. It can be seen from the retrieved data that this kind of evidentiality is the least adopted evidential in the two cases. Also, the evidence of this type is sometime treated as unreliable as the origin or source is unclear or sometimes hidden for several reasons. Consider the following example:

[7] *According to the UN (Outside-H.E)* half the people of Afghanistan are already vulnerable, and by next year almost 90% of the people in Afghanistan will go below the poverty line. **(Imran Khan, 25-09-2021)**

The evidential marker '*according to*' in example (7) shows that the following statement is attributed to an external source and the speaker is presenting his stance by acknowledging the fact given by United Nations. Therefore, we can say that the information is reliable. The source has used the term 'vulnerable' explaining the position of people of Afghanistan, emphasizing the humanitarian crisis unfolding in the country. It comes in the resource of 'Capacity (negative)' under 'Judgment' which means that the people of Afghanistan are negatively portrayed calling them weak and defenseless people.

His ideology infers a sense of concern and responsibility for the well-being of people and the elevation of economic solidity and development in the country. The use of evidential marker indicates an ideology that aligns with global perspectives and concerns, particularly on humanitarian issues. By referencing the UN, the speaker has positioned himself as a leader who acknowledges and addresses global challenges.

Shared Perceptual Evidential (S.P)

This type of evidentials adopted from shared source indicates information supported by shared perceptions particularly 'visual and auditory perceptions'. Such types of evidences are acquired directly often making them more reliable. Some of the examples are as follows:

[8] *It seemed* (Shared-S.P) like India feared everything bad would happen if Imran Khan came into power (Imran Khan, 26-07-2018).

[9] The events *we're seeing now* (Shared-S.P) are sadly proof that no amount of military force would ever deliver a stable, united, secure Afghanistan, as known in history as the graveyard of empires (Biden, 16-08-2021).

In the above example (8), '*it seemed*' indicates a common knowledge particularly acquired through mental perception. By adopting this marker, the speaker has positioned himself towards shared stance, presenting the information involving shared responsibility or more inter-subjective position. The statement indicates that the speaker is considering himself a capable and powerful man who can actually tackle the conflict between Pak-

India while the evidential marker indicates the speaker is presupposing the proposition as a fact, making his viewpoint more acceptable for the listeners.

In the next example (9), ‘we are seeing’ is a type of evidential that is acquired through sensory (visual) perception; it is also more direct and reliable than the former one. The speaker has positioned himself towards a common ground, presenting the proposition more explicitly. The statement depicts the negative feelings of a speaker towards the instability and insecurity of Afghanistan. These evidentials from shared source are the markers of shared commitment involving shared responsibility; therefore, it can be said that the speaker assumes the information is shared by his listeners. Biden’s ideology of the statement implies a futility of military engagement in Afghanistan and challenges their efficacy in achieving long-term security in the region. He metaphorically conveys a sense of realism in his approach to foreign policy and the need for more diplomatic approach to meet these geopolitical challenges.

Personal Perceptual Evidentials (P.P)

The adoption of this type of evidentials from inside source indicates the evidences acquired directly through the speaker’s perceptions (visual or auditory perception). These types of evidentials are considered more reliable and subjective than the other evidential categories. However, it can be seen that evidential markers of this category are the least adopted markers in the speeches of Imran Khan, while Biden does not use any evidential marker of this type.

[10] First let me talk about climate change; *I have seen* (P.P-Inside Source) a lot of leaders talk about this. But *I don’t see* world leaders, an idea without funding is mere hallucination (Imran Khan, 28-09-2019).

From example (10), it can be said that Imran Khan used ‘*I have seen*’ a visual perceptual evidential to take personal responsibility for his stance. By using evidential from visual perception the stance becomes more reliable and explicit as the speaker himself is the authorial voice that represents the proposition. Further, it can be seen that among the two speakers only Imran Khan positioned himself to discuss the issues of climate change. The speaker through evidential marker ‘*I have seen*’ is claiming that he

has seen powerful leaders discussing the climate change issue; besides, he presented his weak stance by using '*I don't see*' that implies the need for greater awareness and action on this critical issue. His ideology merely indicates a gap between rhetoric and action among world leaders. The usage of such evidential markers is thus the tools of persuasion and manipulation that political speakers use in a particular context.

4.1.2.2 Concluding Remarks

The above section has explored the role of selected evidential markers in stance making and construction of ideologies through various resources of appraisal in the political context. In sum, the analysis of the data has shown differences in the use of the evidential markers in the corpus. The results are summarized as follows:

- From the frequency list of evidential markers, we can see that Imran Khan has shown his inclination to multiple evidential markers belonging to inside, outside and shared source. The most frequently used evidential markers are from personal knowledge (P.K-inside) following by other categories. Similarly, Biden also used more evidential markers from personal knowledge (P.K); however, his frequency list does not show any other evidential category except S.P and S.K.
- The speakers' preference to various evidential sources depicts the consistency and reliability of their stance. It shows their willingness to make obligations to their stances.
- The evidences acquired via inside source depict the speaker's highest degree of confidence and sole responsibility to the truth of proposition. The stances presented by speakers through inside evidentials are considered as more reliable and subjective. This can be a reason why both the speakers have adopted more evidentials from inside source.
- It is observed from the analysis that Imran Khan commonly discussed his nation's policy regarding Pak-India conflict and Afghan war while Biden has presented his viewpoint on multiple subjects like COVID-19, nation's policy and Afghan War.
- The analysis suggests that while presenting the Pak-India conflict Imran Khan usually passed a positive judgment taking self-responsibility for the proposition or sometimes neutralized the attribution through shared stance, whereas he distances

himself making the stance less reliable when he foregrounded the issue of Afghanistan. Conversely, Biden takes personal and sometimes shared responsibility for the information. It shows his strong confidence and highest degree of confidence towards his stance-taking acts.

- The language style of Imran Khan's statement highlights the importance of collective engagement and urgent action towards various global issues. He reinforces the need for greater awareness and positive engagement by the international community on grounding in shaping the geopolitical challenges in Afghanistan and constructive step taken towards climate change.
- Biden's ideological stance emphasizes the interconnectedness of nation and the need of collective effort in combating the corona virus and climate change. He highlights the effectiveness of military forces in achieving long-term stability in Afghanistan and evidence based decision-making in addressing global issues.
- The adoption of various evidential sources and markers has often reflected the speakers' ideology as they encrypt their assumptions, facts, self-belief or common knowledge.
- It is clear from the analysis that the evidential markers are often used as persuasive tools to manipulate and influence the audiences to the truth of proposition.

4.2 Epistemic Modality in Political Discourse

Epistemic modality is considered as a semantic category that express speaker's epistemic stance, including probability, certainty and capability in a statement. Epistemic stance can be objective or subjective based on the speaker's position with respect to knowledge and validity of information. Epistemic modality is categorized into three different values: high, median and low values, while the degree of certainty and possibility lies between positive and negative poles. The higher the value of certainty to the truth of proposition, the lower will be the speaker's distance from certainty and vice versa.

This section is analyzed to illustrate the distribution and frequency of epistemic modality among the speakers quantitatively and to analyze its function in a particular context qualitatively.

4.2.1 Quantitative Analysis

This section contains the quantitative analysis of values of epistemic modality in the speeches of two different speakers, i.e. Imran Khan and Joe Biden. The distributions and frequencies are compared and the results of which are presented in numbers (No.), percentage (P), and frequency per thousand words (ptw). The significance test of the results is shown through log-likelihood value. (If the value of LL is less than 3.84, then the difference in the result is significant).

4.2.1.1 Values of Epistemic Modality

It is evident from Table 4.7 that quite a similar pattern has been presented in terms of distribution of values of epistemic modality in both the cases. The overall percentage of high value is greater in Biden's speeches followed by median and low value. Similarly, in Imran Khan's case the percentage of high value is also greater than that of median and low value. However, the total use of low epistemic modals is far fewer than that of other values in the corpora.

Table 4.7:

Values of Epistemic Modality in Corpora

Values of E.M	Speakers			
	Imran Khan		Joe Biden	
	No.	P	No.	P
High Value	136	63%	160	62%
Median Value	72	33.5%	91	35%
Low Value	07	3.3%	08	3%
Total	215	100%	259	100%

As far as the distributions of values of epistemic modals are concerned, it is observed from Table 4.7 that Imran Khan and Biden have used fairly equal number of values of epistemic modals in their speeches. Both the speakers have made the use of high and median epistemic values (63% and 33.5% for Imran Khan and 62% and 35% for Biden, on average). However, the percentage of low epistemic is 7% in Imran Khan's corpus and 8% in Biden's corpus that clearly presents a huge difference among the values of epistemic modals in the corpora. Stronger the epistemic value, higher is the degree of confidence and commitment to the truth of utterances and vice versa. This can be a reason the speakers have shown more preference to high and median epistemic values to influence and manipulate their listeners.

Table 4.8:

Result of Values of Epistemic Modality

Values of E.M	Speakers				LL
	Imran Khan		Joe Biden		
	No.	ptw	No.	Ptw	
High Value	136	12	160	12	0.04
Median Value	72	6.4	91	6.8	0.09
Low Value	07	0.6	08	0.6	0.01
Total	215	19.3	259	19.31	0.0

Note: (If the value of LL is > 3.84 , then the difference is significant)

Table 4.8 has illustrated the comparison between the values of epistemic modals among the two speakers. It can be clearly seen that Biden's use of values of epistemic modals is greater than that of Imran Khan. He uses high value (with 169 counts) and median and low value (with 91 and 8 counts, respectively). Conversely, Imran Khan uses fewer epistemic values than Biden with (high 136, median 72 and low 7 counts, in total).

In general, there can be seen no significant difference in terms of use of epistemic modal values in the two cases.

(Note: see Appendix for more clear illustration of the quantitative data.)

Table 4.9:

Comparison of Epistemic Modals in Corpora

Values of E.M	E.M	Speakers				LL	
		Imran Khan		Joe Biden			
		No.	ptw	No.	ptw		
High Value	Positive Value	Will	94	8.4	108	8.05	0.12
		Must	39	3.5	37	2.7	1.09
		Shall	0	0	0	0	0
	Negative Value	will not	02	0.17	14	1.04	8.02
		must not	01	0.08	01	0.07	0.02
		shall not	0	0	0	0	0
Median Value	Positive Value	Can	14	1.25	29	2.16	2.91
		Should	23	2.06	29	2.16	0.03
		Would	24	2.15	14	1.04	4.86
	Negative Value	May	0	0	6	0.44	7.25
		cannot	05	0.44	10	0.74	0.89
		would not should not	05 01	0.44 0.08	01 02	0.07 0.14	3.71 0.18
Low Value	Positive Value	may not	0	0	0	0	0
		Could	04	0.35	06	0.44	0.12
	Negative Value	might	01	0.08	0	0	1.58
		could not might not	02 0	0.17 0	02 0	0.14 0	0.03 0
Total		215	19.33	259	19.31	0.0	

Note: (If the value of LL is > 3.84, then the difference is significant)

4.2.1.2 List of Frequently used Epistemic Modals

Table 4.10:

List of Frequently used Epistemic Modals

S. No	Speakers					
	Imran Khan			Joe Biden		
	E.M	No.	Values	E.M	No.	values
1.	Will	94	H.V	Will	108	H.V
2.	Must	39	H.V	Must	37	H.V
3.	Would	24	M.V	Should	29	M.V
4.	Should	23	M.V	Can	29	M.V
5.	Can	14	M.V	Would	14	M.V
6.	Cannot	5	M.V	will not	14	H.V
7.	would not	5	M.V	Cannot	10	M.V
8.	Could	4	L.V	May	6	M.V
9.	will not	2	H.V	Could	6	L.V
10.	could not	2	L.V	should not	2	M.V

Table 4.10 above demonstrates that in both the cases epistemic modals of high value such as ‘will’ and ‘must’ takes up the first position. They are the frequently used epistemic markers (with 94 counts for Imran Khan and 108 counts for Biden) followed by other epistemic markers of median value. Imran Khan gives his second preference to ‘would’, ‘should’, and ‘can’ (with 24, 23 and 14 counts, respectively). Likewise, Biden’s second preference is given to median epistemic marker ‘should’ (with 29 counts) followed by ‘can’ (29 counts) and ‘would’ (14 counts, on average). However, both the speakers also make use of negative epistemic values in their corpus. For instance, Biden

adopts ‘will not’ and ‘cannot’ far more (with 14 and 10 counts) than that of Imran Khan (2 and 5 counts, in total).

4.2.1.3 Concluding Remarks

The section above has explained and compared the distributions and frequencies of values of epistemic modality in corpora. The results of the data manifest that both the speakers have shared far more similarities than disparities. Overall, quite a parallel pattern has been presented with respect to the values of epistemic modals. Some of the concluding remarks are as follows:

- In terms of values of epistemic modality, Biden ranks first both in total and in all the categories. However, both the speakers have shared equal distribution of epistemic modal values. Thus, it is evident that there is no significant difference in the use of epistemic values in both the corpora.
- The speakers have shown their inclination towards high epistemic values that led to the identification of speaker’s high confidence and strong probability to the truth of proposition.
- In the corpora, the pattern of ‘will’, ‘must’ ‘should’ and ‘would’ have more or less an equal distribution followed by other epistemic values. These epistemic markers are the most frequently used markers by both the speakers. It is because of the fact that each epistemic modal expresses different semantic meaning, which creates an opportunity for the speakers to either disguise their real objectives or show positive responsibility to the argumentation.

One of the main objectives of the thesis is to analyze the function of epistemic modality in a particular context; therefore, it is also necessary to see the purpose they have been chosen to serve. For this reason, epistemic markers are selected on the basis of its frequency, the pragmatic function of which has been analyzed and discussed under different circumstances qualitatively.

4.2.2 Qualitative Analysis of Epistemic Modality

As discussed (see chapter 2) earlier, epistemic modality has been treated as an effective tool to present the knowledge-based stance and to decode the factual and ideological knowledge. Epistemic stance is related to the speaker’s position with respect

to their knowledge concerning their realization of validity of proposition or their judgment concerning the possibility of a particular situation; however, the speaker may also distance himself from a particular state of affairs. The epistemic markers can be adopted to express speaker's opinion, feelings, judgments and commitments to the truth of proposition.

Thus, in presenting the pragmatic function of epistemic modality, this section examines its role as a stance-marker and in reflecting ideologies in the political context of Imran Khan and Joe Biden.

4.2.2.1 Epistemic Modality as Marking Stance and Reflecting Ideology

Epistemic markers are classified into three levels: high, median and low. The higher the value of epistemic markers, the stronger will be the level of certainty to the truth of proposition and vice versa. It is, therefore, interesting to see how the speakers have conveyed their ideologies and beliefs through different level of epistemic expression.

High Value

The adoption of high epistemic values indicates the close certainty of a speaker towards a status of knowledge. The most frequently used epistemic markers in the two cases are 'will' and 'must'. Consider the following examples:

[11] If there is peace in Afghanistan, there *will* (E.M-P/High) be peace in Pakistan. We *will* (E.M-High) make every effort to achieve peace there. (Imran Khan, 26-07-2018)

[12] Peace and stability in Afghanistan *will* (E.M-P/High) open new opportunities for development and regional connectivity. (Imran Khan, 07-09-2021)

[13] We *will* (E.M-P/High) end America's longest war after 20 long years of bloodshed. (Biden, 16-08-2021)

[14] It *will* (E.M-P/High) infect Republicans, independents and Democrats alike and *will not* (E.M-N/High) discriminate based on national origin, race, gender or zip code. (Biden, 12-03-2020)

In the examples given above, it can be clearly seen that Imran Khan and Biden both have shown their strong epistemic stance by using high epistemic modal ‘*will*’. In example (1 & 2), Imran Khan has used epistemic marker ‘*will*’ to show his strong epistemic judgment and feelings towards peace in the two regions: Afghanistan and Pakistan. In short, he meant to say that Afghanistan is held responsible for the disharmony going on in Pakistan and he is taking personal responsibility for the information.

In example (3), the use of ‘*will*’ indicates strong commitment to the truth of proposition. However, the speaker has positioned himself to shared stance taking shared responsibility to make firm assertions. The adoption of ‘*we will*’ can be used in a sense to either include the audience or exclude them from the situation presented, or it may refer to some other interactants who made a strong promise to protect America and seize the 20-year longest war. In the example (4), the use of ‘*will*’ indicates the speaker’s strong certainty regarding the impact of particular situation. He also uses ‘*will not*’ negative epistemic marker to strongly deny the possibility that the spreading of disease will only be based on race, color, gender or region.

From the examples given above, it can be seen that both the speakers have adopted epistemic marker ‘*will*’, but the semantic and pragmatic function is different depending on the context it is used in. In the first example, it has shown the speaker’s strong epistemic judgment and feelings, while third and last example indicates the speaker’s strong commitments and certainty to the truth of proposition. Typically, the examples with strong epistemic markers are more subjective and implicit, showing a sole responsibility of the speakers for the information.

[15] We *must* (E.M-P/High) come together to prevent such a catastrophe. (Imran Khan, 25-09-2020)

[16] America *must* (E.M-P/High) lead in the face of this existential threat, and just as with the pandemic, it requires global cooperation. Biden

In the examples (15 & 16) given above, the epistemic modal ‘*must*’ shows a ‘sense of epistemic necessity’ that is conveyed by the speakers inter-subjectively to show

solidarity between themselves and their listeners. Imran Khan and Biden have used a strong epistemic modal '*must*' in their statements to clearly state their confident conclusion about a particular situation. The confident conclusion here means the only possible conclusion that is worldwide cooperation against pandemic (COVID-19). However, both the speakers have positioned themselves towards shared stance because of the facts or common knowledge known to them.

Median Value

The adoption of epistemic modals with median value presents an intermediate possibility that means the assertion is farther from the center of certainty. Following are some of the examples:

[17] We *can* (**E.M-P-Median**) build better global preparedness to counter COVID-19 as well as detect and prevent future pandemics. (**Imran Khan, 25-09-2020**)

[18] I *would* (**E.M-P-Median**) bring America's military involvement in Afghanistan to an end. **Biden**

[19] American troops **cannot** (**E.M-N-Median**) and *should not* (**E.M-N-Median**) be fighting in a war and dying in a war that Afghan forces are not willing to fight for themselves. (**Biden, 04-02-2021**)

From the example (17), it can be said that epistemic modal '*can*' represents an intermediate epistemic stance towards the situation presented. Imran Khan uses '*can*' that indicates the meaning of 'ability' and 'probability'. In a statement, Imran Khan claimed that the world has the ability to take action against COVID-19 and there can be a possibility of impending pandemic for which the world has to be prepared. It can be said that the speaker has shown negative feelings (insecurity) and is concerned about the safety of the people and the world. That can be a reason why the speaker has positioned himself towards shared instance to involve his listeners in the designated action presented.

In example (18), the epistemic modal '*will*' conveys the meaning of 'intermediate possibility'. In short that means that the claim made by the speaker (end of

American's military involvement in Afghanistan) is farther from the center of certainty. The speaker has taken personal responsibility for the action presented, and thus making the stance more subjective.

In example (19), the negative form of epistemic modal 'can' and 'should' is used. Biden has used both 'cannot' and 'should not' at once to strongly deny the possibility of American troops fighting for Afghanistan. On the other hand, the speaker has passed a negative judgment concerning Afghanistan's interest in fighting a war for themselves. His language style depicts a belief in the principle of self-determination and responsibility in addressing security challenges. From the example, it can also be said that the stance presented is much more objective than subjective since the speaker himself is not the subject of the matter.

Low Value

The adoption of epistemic modals with low value often indicates speaker's uncertainty about the status of affairs. Consider the following examples:

[20] If a conventional war starts between two countries, nuclear countries, anything *could* (E.M-P-Low) happen. (Imran Khan, 25-09-2019)

[21] This disease *could* (E.M-P-Low) impact every nation and any person on the planet. (Biden, 12-03-2020)

In the examples (20 & 21) given above, the epistemic modal 'could' expresses 'low possibility' and weak epistemic stance. That means that the assertions made are the farthest from center of certainty and weak in realizing the truth of the proposition. In the statements an epistemic modal 'could' expresses the speakers' belief regarding an unwelcomed or uncomplimentary situation. It also shows their understanding of the impending consequences of a conventional war and a pandemic.

4.2.2.2 Concluding Remarks

In this section, the functions of epistemic modal verbs have been scrutinized through different annotated examples from the corpora. It has been observed that the epistemic modality is used to serve different functions and purposes in different contexts.

In general, epistemic verb with high value means that the assertions made are closer to the center of certainty, and thus presenting a stronger epistemic stance and higher possibility of designated action and vice versa. Following are some of the highlighted results:

- In terms of values of epistemic modality, both the speakers have shown their preference towards high epistemic modals ‘will’ and ‘must’. These modals manifest the speaker’s realization, feelings, and strong confidence regarding the status of affairs.
- Epistemic modal verbs have reflected the speakers’ ideology and knowledge with respect to four levels: close-certainty, probability, possibility and low possibility.
- In terms of stance-taking acts, high epistemic stance is often used in presenting subjective stance and the speaker’s positive self-representation, whereas a weak epistemic stance is adopted in negative others-representation.
- The speakers’ choice of epistemic modals with different values has often reflected in their different style of manipulation and persuasion with respect to different stance-taking acts towards knowledge.
- The ideological stance of Imran Khan and Biden’s assertions merely reflects their understanding regarding future outcomes, highlighting self-determination and unity in confronting global challenges.

4.3 The Co-existence of Evidentiality and Epistemic Modality in Political Discourse

According to the Palmer’s classification of modality (2001), evidentiality and epistemic modality fall under the category of propositional modality. Previous studies have considered evidentiality as closely related to epistemic modality both in linguistic and discourse studies (Marin Arrese, 2011; Hart, 2010 & van Dijk, 2011). While some studies have considered evidentiality as a separate category in its own, the semantic and pragmatic meaning of these domains may overlap.

Based on the last viewpoint, this section focuses on examining the relationship between evidentiality and epistemic modality in the political discourse of Imran Khan and Biden.

4.3.1 Quantitative Analysis

This section aims to explore the relationship of evidentiality and epistemic modality via quantitative analysis. The distribution and frequency of both the domains have been carried out with respect to evidential sources and epistemic modals.

Table 4.11:

The Co-existence of Evidential Sources and Epistemic Modality

Evidential Source and E.M	Speakers			
	Imran Khan		Joe Biden	
	No.	P	No.	P
I.S + E.M	06	40%	16	88.9%
S.S +E.M	06	40%	02	11.1%
O.S + E.M	03	20%	0	0%
Total	15	100%	18	100%

Table 4.11 has illustrated that in terms of evidentiality's co-existence with epistemic modality, Biden ranks first among the speakers. He uses more evidentials of inside source with epistemic modals (at 88%, on average). On the other hand, the percentage of inside and shared source of evidentials co-exist with epistemic modals and is also higher in case of Imran Khan followed by outside source.

Table 4.12:

The Results of Evidential Sources Co-exist with Epistemic Modality

Evidential Source and E.M	Speakers				LL
	Imran Khan		Joe Biden		
	No.	Ptw	No.	Ptw	
I.S + E.M	06	0.53	16	1.19	3.04
S.S +E.M	06	0.53	02	0.14	2.91
O.S + E.M	03	0.26	0	0	4.75
Total	15	1.34	18	1.34	0.00

It is evident from Table 4.12 that Imran Khan and Biden share quite a similar pattern in terms of the co-existence of evidential sources and epistemic modals. Overall, there can be seen no significant difference in the results.

Table 4.13:

Evidential Types Co-exist with Epistemic Modals

Evidential Types and Epistemic Modals	Speakers			
	Imran Khan		Joe Biden	
	No.	P	No.	P
P.P + E.M	0	0 %	0	0%
P.K + E.M	06	40%	16	89%
S.P + E.M	01	6.6 %	01	5.5%
S.K + E.M	05	33.3%	01	5.5%
I.R + E.M	02	13%	0	0%
H.E + E.M	01	6.6%	0	0%
Total	15	100%	18	100%

Table 4.13 shows that evidentials from personal knowledge (P.K) frequently occurred with epistemic modals. In both the cases, evidentials from this type take up the first position among the other categories. Evidentials from shared knowledge (S.K) and inferential knowledge (I.E) rank in the second and third position in Imran Khan's case (with 5 and 2 counts, in total), while the number of evidentials other than P.K is much lower in Biden's corpus.

Table 4.14:

The Results of Evidential Types Co-exist with Epistemic Modals

Evidential Types and Epistemic Modals	Speakers				LL
	Imran Khan		Joe Biden		
	No.	ptw	No.	P	
P.P + E.M	0	0	0	0	0
P.K + E.M	06	0.53	16	1.19	3.04
S.P + E.M	01	0.08	01	0.07	0.02
S.K + E.M	05	0.44	01	0.07	3.71
I.R + E.M	02	0.17	0	0	3.16
H.E + E.M	01	0.08	0	0	1.58
Total	15	1.34	18	1.34	0.00

From Table 4.14 above, it can be seen that quite a similar pattern has been presented with the co-existence of evidential types and epistemic modals. It is interesting to see that the total frequency of evidential types co-exist with epistemic modals is almost equal in the corpora. In Biden's corpus, the occurrence of P.K with epistemic modals is higher than that of Imran Khan (16 counts, on average). However, Imran Khan ranks first in terms of other categories such as S.K, I.R, and H.E co-occurred with epistemic modals. Overall, there is no significant difference in the co-existence of evidential types and

epistemic modals in the corpora. (Note: The quantitative analysis of the respected data has also been presented through graphs and pie charts in the Appendix section)

4.3.1.1 Concluding Remarks

The quantitative analysis of the data makes it obvious that evidentiality and epistemic modality are considered to be two distinct categories (grammatical categories) as the total number of co-existence between the two is much lower. In the corpora, the existence of epistemic modals is frequently found with inside evidentials from personal knowledge (P.K) (at 40%; Imran Khan and 88%; Biden, on average). In general, there is no significant difference in the results.

As stated above, there is no closer relationship between evidentiality and epistemic modality; however, the pragmatic function and the meaning may overlap. Therefore, it is essential to analyze their interaction in terms of meaning and function in the context of political discourse.

4.3.2 Qualitative Analysis

Previous studies have claimed that evidentiality and epistemic modality are two independent grammatical categories, sharing common ground. The difference occurs in essence as the former indicate the reliability, source and the strength of evidence, while the latter presents the speaker's stance towards evidence. Therefore, this section analyses how the co-existence of evidentiality and epistemic modality leads to stance-taking acts and ideology decoding in the context of political discourse. Consider some of the following examples from the corpora.

[22] *I know* (P.K-Inside) this;We *will* (E.M-High) lead on all the greatest challenges of our time. (Biden, 21-09-2022)

[23] *We believe* (S.K-Shared) science *should* (E.M-Median) continue to guide the world's efforts as it combats the pandemic. (Imran Khan, 07-09-2021)

From example (22) above, it can be seen that evidential marker '*I know*' provides an inside source of evidence to the strong epistemic stance expressed by '*will*'. It means that the speaker is solely subjective in presenting strong confidence to the epistemic

stance. The speaker uses evidential marker from his personal knowledge and high epistemic modal; Biden engages the audience by sharing a belief ‘he is confident’, they will accept, thus reinforcing trust. It conveys a strong judgment and commitment, emphasizing a forward-looking and assertive approach. That means the speaker believes that his listeners need to take action and fight against all the challenges (COVID-19) of their time.

Example (23) shows evidential marker ‘*we believe*’ that provides evidence of shared source to the epistemic stance expressed by ‘*should*’. The stance expressed is inter-subjective as the assumption made is from common knowledge. The evidential marker engages the audience by fostering a sense of shared values and collective understanding while the modal verb reinforces a sense of duty and responsibility towards scientific guidance. The ideology reveals that assertion is known to everyone that science can fight against world pandemic and the involvement of science is certainly helpful.

[24] The *IMF has estimated* (H.E-Outside) that developing countries *will* (E.M-HIGH) need over US\$ 2.5 trillion to respond and recover from the crisis. (Imran Khan, 25-09-2020)

[25] We *must* (E.M-High) *know* (S.K-Shared) the true extent of this outbreak so we *can* (E.M-Median) map it, trace it and contain it. (Biden, 12-03-2020)

In example (24), the speaker uses high epistemic modal ‘*will*’ and evidential marker ‘*estimated that*’ from an external source. As the source of an evidential marker is weak, it also weakens the strength of an epistemic stance as it is only estimated here. The speaker has distanced himself from the truth of proposition as the evidence is attributed to an external source making the stance more inter-subjective and less reliable. His ideology merely implies international support and assistance during the times of crisis. He emphasizes the need for greater attention towards vulnerable population on the global stage.

In the final example (25), it can be seen that the use of high epistemic modal ‘*must*’ reinforces the strength of shared knowledge ‘*we know*’. The speaker has used two epistemic modals ‘*must*’ and ‘*can*’, where the former shows a strong necessity of

knowing the impact of world pandemic, while the latter indicates the ability of proposing a plan for controlling it. The ideology exposes the speaker's intention of making the listeners believe that whatever he presupposes is a fact as it is a common knowledge.

4.3.2.1 Concluding Remarks

From the qualitative analysis of the co-existence of evidentiality and epistemic modality, it has been stated that evidential markers work as a source of epistemic stance. Due to the epistemic modals, the speakers have evaluated their level of certainty and reliability of the evidential sources. There is a close relationship between evidentiality and epistemic modality when they occur in the same sentence, whereas sometimes evidentiality does not express the source of evidence for epistemic stance when they occur in different clauses. That is the case they are considered as two distinct grammatical categories, but they reinforce the pragmatic meaning of each other when co-exist in the same sentence.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

This chapter summarizes the existing study and all the findings of the data analysis based on the interpretation of research questions put forward in chapter one. It is then followed by limitations in the study and research suggestions and recommendations for further studies.

5.1 Summary

The main objective of the study has been to analyze the use of evidentiality and epistemic modality and its pragmatic function in political discourse. Particularly, the study served two broad purposes: the comparison between the frequency and distribution of sources and types of evidentiality and values of epistemic modality; moreover, it analyzes the function of evidential markers and epistemic modals as stance makers and ideology construction in the speeches of Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan and American president Joe Biden. The analysis used corpora of 10 speeches comprising 24,527 words in total. A mixed-method of quantitative and qualitative approaches has been applied to the data analysis. AntConc software has been used to trace the linguistic markers in the corpora. Corpus-based analyses enable the researcher to locate the frequency and distribution of evidential markers and epistemic modals in the context, whereas the theoretical framework of Martin and White (2005) assist to analyze the pragmatic function of the linguistic markers through its resources of 'attitude' and 'engagement'.

This study contributes to the practice of Corpus Linguistics and discourse community with the analysis of the selected linguistic devices as no study has been conducted on evidentiality and epistemic modality between Pakistani and American political discourse. It has been observed from the findings that both the speakers share quite a similar pattern in their use of evidential markers and epistemic modals; however, differences still exist with respect to evidential sources and types. In general, there can be seen no significant difference in the results of evidentiality and epistemic modality. It has

been stated that both the speakers are more positive-oriented and reliable while discussing the world issues like COVID-19, climate change, war, etc.

5.2 Answers of the Questions

This section provides answers to the research questions (see chapter 1).

5.2.1 Question 1

What types of evidential markers and epistemic modal verbs are used by the two selected speakers in their political speeches?

The answer of this question fulfills first objective of the study, and the kind of evidential markers and epistemic modal verbs used in corpora. The answer is divided into two parts according to the steps taken during analysis in chapter four.

Different evidential markers from various sources and types are used in the corpus of Imran Khan and Biden. Inside source of evidentials rank first in both the corpus followed by shared source. Imran Khan adopted more outside evidentials, while Biden employed two third of his total count. The statistical analysis shows that the difference in the result is not significant other than the use of outside source. The findings suggest that while making assertions and claims Imran Khan does not stick to his personal experiences and knowledge, but he also positioned himself towards common knowledge and external source which the researcher believes is an ingenious method to manipulate and influence the listeners. While Biden only relied on evidential markers from personal knowledge and shared knowledge, it can enhance the credibility of his statements. It emphasizes common knowledge or beliefs, promoting a sense of collective understanding and agreement. In the corpora, evidential markers are commonly employed from personal knowledge (P.K) followed by shared knowledge (S.K) and shared perception (S.P). It is because evidentials from these sources express the highest degree of commitment and reliability to the truth of proposition. With respect to evidential markers Imran Khan tend to use more ‘I say’, ‘I know’, ‘I think’, ‘I believe’, and ‘unfortunately’, while Biden uses ‘I believe’, ‘we have seen’, ‘I/we know’, and ‘in my view’ more frequently.

Epistemic modal verbs are categorized into three values: high, median and low. In the corpora, the epistemic modal verbs from high value are commonly employed

followed by median and low value. The pattern of ‘will’ ‘must’ ‘should’ and ‘would’ have more or less an equal distribution followed by other epistemic values. These modal verbs with high value are believed to be the markers of speaker’s high confidence and possibility to the truth of proposition.

5.2.2 Question 2

What is the frequency and distribution of both evidential markers and epistemic modal verbs in the selected speeches?

In the first section of chapter 4, the distribution and frequency of evidential sources and types have been carried out among the two corpora. The results of the analysis exhibit that Imran Khan and Biden share quite a similar pattern in terms of the use of evidentiality. Among the speakers, Imran Khan ranks first in the total use of evidentiality with (74 counts), while Biden’s total use is (65 counts). The speakers have used inside source with higher percentage of (47.29% and 58.46%) than the other two sources. Imran Khan uses outside source with (17 counts), whereas in Biden’s corpus they are the least adopted evidentials (with only 03 counts). In terms of evidential types, the speakers adopted more evidentials from personal knowledge (P.K) (Imran Khan 29 and Biden 38 counts, respectively). The use of inside and shared evidentials is higher in Biden’s speeches. Imran Khan adopts evidential types including P.P, S.K, I.R, and H.E with higher frequency than the other speaker. In Biden’s corpus evidential markers such as ‘I/you/we know’ ‘in my view’ and ‘it is clear’ are used more frequently (with total 17, 6 and 7 counts) among the other evidential markers, while the occurrences of these evidential markers are much lower in case of Imran Khan with (10, 0 and 3 counts). Similarly, Imran Khan uses ‘‘I/we think, believe, say, and unfortunately’ more frequently in the speeches.

The second section includes the analysis of epistemic modality; the results of which indicate that Imran Khan and Biden have used high epistemic value in their speeches with more counts of (136 and 160 in total). The total use of epistemic modality is higher in Biden’s corpus (total 259 counts) than the other speaker (215 counts). The speakers have used ‘will’ and ‘must’ more times among the other epistemic verbs; however, a preference is also shown towards ‘can’ ‘would’ and ‘should’. In terms of co-

existence of evidentiality and epistemic modality, epistemic modals are frequently found with inside evidentials from personal knowledge (P.K) (at 40%; Imran Khan and 89%; Biden, on average).

5.2.3 Question 3

How does the framework through different resources help in analyzing the function of evidentiality and epistemic modality in political discourse as a stance marker and ideology construction?

Every section of chapter 4 has discussed the function of evidentiality and epistemic modality as a stance marker and ideology construction. Evidential markers express resources of speakers' knowledge pertaining to the ideology they have. They either take self-responsibility for the commitment they make or positioned themselves towards shared stance or other authorial voices. As stated, Biden and Imran Khan have used personal knowledge (P.K) evidentials more frequently because it depicts the speakers' highest degree of confidence, reliability and sole responsibility to the truth of proposition. The resources like 'capacity' and 'judgment' indicate that the speakers have mainly passed positive judgment and discussed the ability of the people concerning issues like COVID-19, climate change, war, etc. By showing their confidence level and certainty their ideologies merely highlight, mobilize support, collective effort of the nation, self-determination, capabilities, and positive engagement for combating various global challenges.

Epistemic modality functions as expressing knowledge-based stance and ideology concerning realization of the event. It involves the positioning of speakers' knowledge with respect to necessity, certainty, possibility and low possibility. The uses of high epistemic values have often presented subjective stance and the speaker's positive self-representation. Through the positive and high level of certainty and reliability, the ideological stance of Imran Khan and Biden's assertions merely reflect their understanding regarding future outcomes, highlighting self-determination and unity in confronting global challenges.

5.3 Limitations of the Study

Some of the limitations faced by the researchers in the existing study are as follows:

The first limitation lies in the size of corpora. It is a small scale specialized corpora where the researcher put a plenty of efforts in generating a list of examples related to the selected themes. It could be a larger set of data that can provide more in-depth and pertinent examples. Such kind of efforts had also required a plenty of time. The second limitation lies in representativeness. Every corpus is the representative of any language and every corpus compiler compiled a set of data with only limited type of language. Similarly, the researcher chose political speeches as a genre for the study but the results could be more interesting if the data was compiled on Pakistani and American newspaper articles. It would be fascinating to know the usage of evidential markers and epistemic modals by different authors in different contexts. However, this study provides a base for further research studies on evidentiality and modality other than epistemic modality.

5.4 Recommendations

- Future researchers should expand the sample size by including speeches of additional political figures from different context to examine cross-culture differences in political systems.
- Future research studies can be proposed on newspaper articles, formal writing of L2 learners, and academic writings.
- As the current study has taken epistemic modal verbs into account, other forms of epistemic modality (such as semi modals, modal adjectives and modal adverbs) can also be recommended for the future study.
- It is suggested to analyze the speaker's identity and positive or negative self-image as modality also contributes to the establishment of speaker's identity. According to Fairclough (2003), "what people commit themselves to in texts is an important part of how they identify themselves, the texturing of identities" (p.164).

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APPENDIX

1. Screenshot of Concordance 'Know'

The screenshot shows the AntConc interface with a search for the word 'know'. The search results are displayed in a table with columns for File, Left Context, Hit, and Right Context. The search query is 'know' and the context size is 10 tokens. The results show 27 hits across 17 files.

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1 imran corpus.txt	to seek revenge. But not just that. The world must	know	that in Pakistan there were 480 drone attacks conducted by
2 imran corpus.txt	this was a decision taken by all political parties. I	know	that India keeps saying we have militant organisations but
3 imran corpus.txt	augur well for the future of India as we all	know	that marginalization of human beings leads to their radicalization.
4 Biden corpus.txt	wall its all -- wall itself off from borderless threats, we	know	that none of us can escape the worse that'
5 imran corpus.txt	were 480 drone attacks conducted by the US. And we all	know	that the drone attacks are not that precise. They
6 Biden corpus.txt	the American people, now and in difficult days ahead. I	know	that this country will some of the spirit, the
7 Biden corpus.txt	going to aggressively manage here at home. You all do	know,	the American people have the capacity to meet this
8 Biden corpus.txt	regions of the world, or in our own backyard. We	know	the bitter string of terrorism. The bitter sting of
9 imran corpus.txt	in Europe. 7 From this platform, I want them all to	know,	the country that suffered the most, apart from Afghanistan,
10 Biden corpus.txt	should stop at nothing to make that happen. We must	know	the true extent of this outbreak so we can
11 imran corpus.txt	this Islamophobia, I've played cricket in the West & I	know	how the western mind works. One of the reasons
12 Biden corpus.txt	in our ability to repel them and to respond. We	know	how to build effective partnerships to dismantle terrorist networks
13 Biden corpus.txt	seen in every part of the world, and you all	know	it and feel it represent what the Secretary General
14 Biden corpus.txt	but hopefully leading by the power of our example. I	know	it hasn't been the case, and that's
15 Biden corpus.txt	billion last week to fight the virus. We need to	know	exactly what that money is going to be used
16 Biden corpus.txt	building and our embassies and councils around the world to	know	I value your expertise and I respect you and
17 Biden corpus.txt	collective lifetimes. The existential threat to human existence as we	know	it. And every day we delay, the cost of

2. Screenshot of Concordance 'Believe'

The screenshot shows the AntConc interface with a search for the word 'believe'. The search results are displayed in a table with columns for File, Left Context, Hit, and Right Context. The search query is 'believe' and the context size is 10 tokens. The results show 13 hits across 13 files.

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1 imran corpus.txt	We must come together to prevent such a catastrophe. We	believe	that the driving force in international relations must be
2 imran corpus.txt	of Hindus. It was hatred for the Muslims & Christians. They	believe	that the golden age of Hinduism halted b/c
3 Biden corpus.txt	an independent Jewish state is unequivocal, but I continue to	believe	that a two-state solution is the best way
4 imran corpus.txt	Muslims and to a lesser extent towards the Christians. They	believe	that India is exclusively for Hindus and others are
5 Biden corpus.txt	our allies and partners, in cooperation with all those who	believe	as we do, that this is within our power
6 imran corpus.txt	peace and security is a vital interest for SCO. We	believe	faithfully implementing UN Security Council resolutions for peaceful settlement
7 Biden corpus.txt	regular briefings here at State and at the Pentagon. We	believe	free press isn't an adversary, rather it's
8 Biden corpus.txt	president 10 months from now, but for the leadership that I	believe	is needed and required at this very moment. President
9 imran corpus.txt	a relatively short time is a miracle of science. We	believe	science should continue to guide the world's efforts
10 imran corpus.txt	the provision and facilitation of humanitarian relief. Going forward, we	believe	the positive engagement of the international community with Afghanistan
11 Biden corpus.txt	moment. But, ladies and gentlemen, within the growing catastrophe, I	believe	there's an incredible opportunity, not just for the
12 Biden corpus.txt	ground would have made any difference. Here's what I	believe	to my core: It is wrong to order American
13 Biden corpus.txt	interconnected in my view as never before. And so, I	believe	we must work together as never before. Over the

3. Screenshot of Concordance ‘Think’

The screenshot shows the AntConc interface with a search query for 'think'. The results are displayed in a table with columns for File, Left Context, Hit, and Right Context. The search options are set to 'Sort to right' and 'Order by freq'.

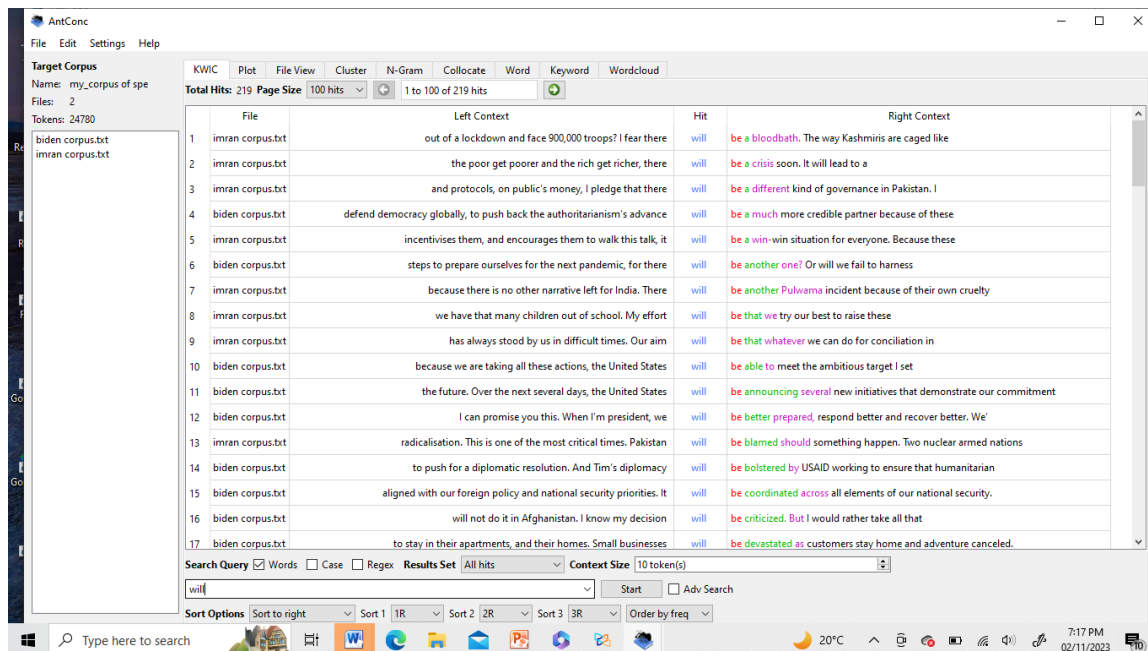
File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1 imran corpus.txt	PM Modi and BJP. This racial superiority; what does he	think	is going to happen when he lifts the curfew?
2 imran corpus.txt	India, I have been all over th at country. I	think	it will be very good for all of us
3 imran corpus.txt	is going to happen when he lifts the curfew? You	think	Kashmiris will accept a new status quo under revocation
4 imran corpus.txt	focused on human development. I want the whole country to	think	like this. No country can prosper when there is
5 imran corpus.txt	uplift the labourers" #ElectionPakistan2018pic.twitter.com/Js8HneBcvd I	think	our greatest asset is our overseas Pakistanis ... we will
6 imran corpus.txt	one of the best intelligence agencies in the world, I	think	Pakistan would have gone down. So, when we hear
7 imran corpus.txt	us and try to bomb us again. Don't you	think	that 180 Million Muslims will be radicalised in India as
8 imran corpus.txt	anyone who was against us, who voted against us, I	think	the kind of personal attacks that I have seen,
9 Biden corpus.txt	or disagreements. We must choose to do more than we	think	we can do alone, so that we accomplish what
10 imran corpus.txt	of Pakistan. Mr. President, Now the whole international community should	think	what is the way ahead. There are two paths

4. Screenshot of Concordance ‘Unfortunately’

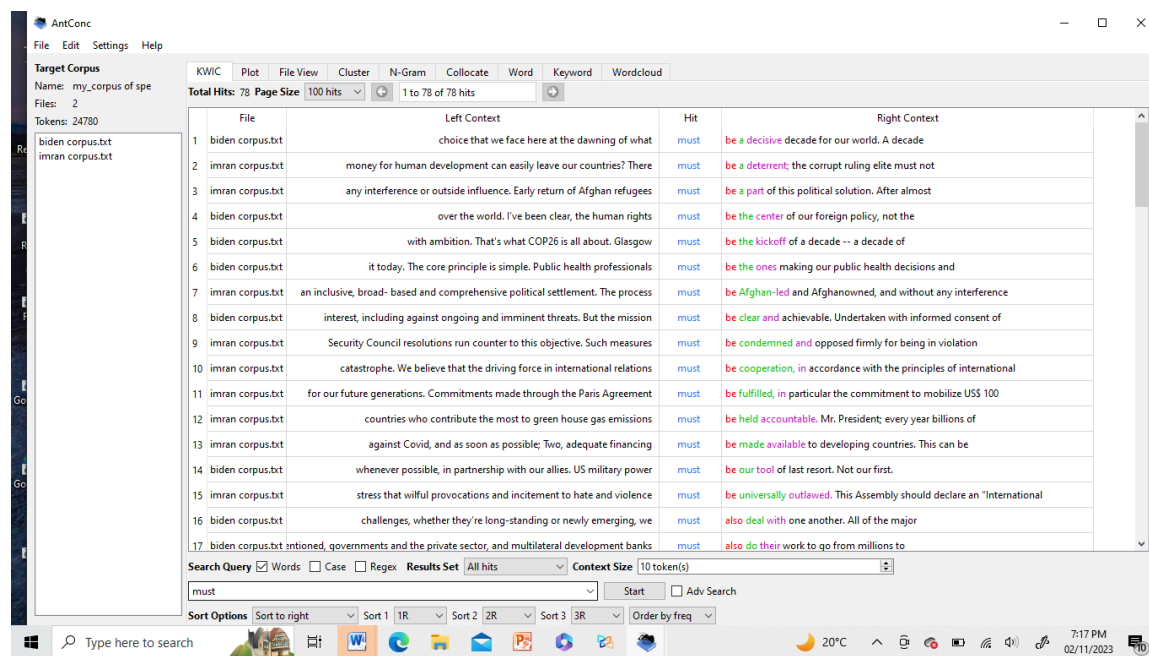
The screenshot shows the AntConc interface with a search query for 'Unfortunately'. The results are displayed in a table with columns for File, Left Context, Hit, and Right Context. The search options are set to 'Sort to right' and 'Order by freq'.

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1 Biden corpus.txt	people is the most important job of any president. And	unfortunately	this virus laid bear the severe shortcomings of the
2 Biden corpus.txt	and help our economy rebound. Let me be very clear.	Unfortunately,	this will just be a start. We must prepare
3 imran corpus.txt	settlement was the way forward. No one understood then. And	unfortunately,	in trying to force a military solution is where
4 imran corpus.txt	President, The pandemic was an opportunity to bring humanity together.	Unfortunately,	It has instead fanned nationalism, increased global tensions, and
5 imran corpus.txt	is India. The reason behind this is RSS ideology that	unfortunately	rules India today. This extremist ideology was founded in 1920
6 imran corpus.txt	but the basis of ALL religion is compassion and justice.	Unfortunately	the Muslim leaders were unable explain. We failed as

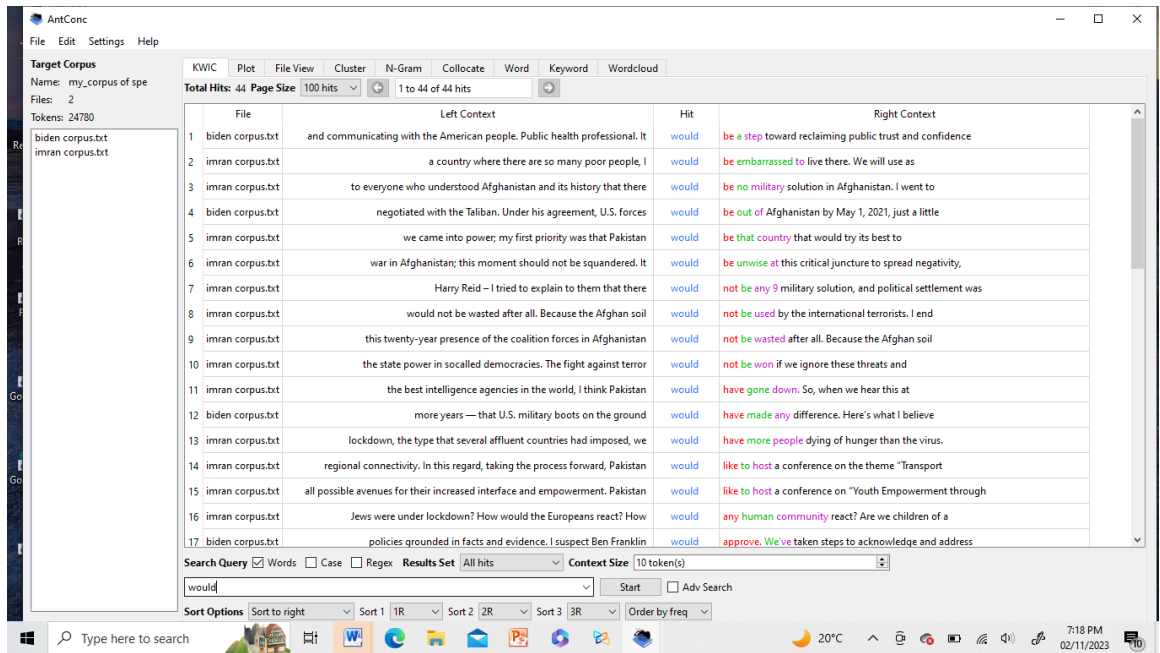
5. Screenshot of Concordance ‘Will’



6. Screenshot of Concordance 'Must'



7. Screenshot of Concordance 'Would'



Quantitative Analysis of Evidentiality:

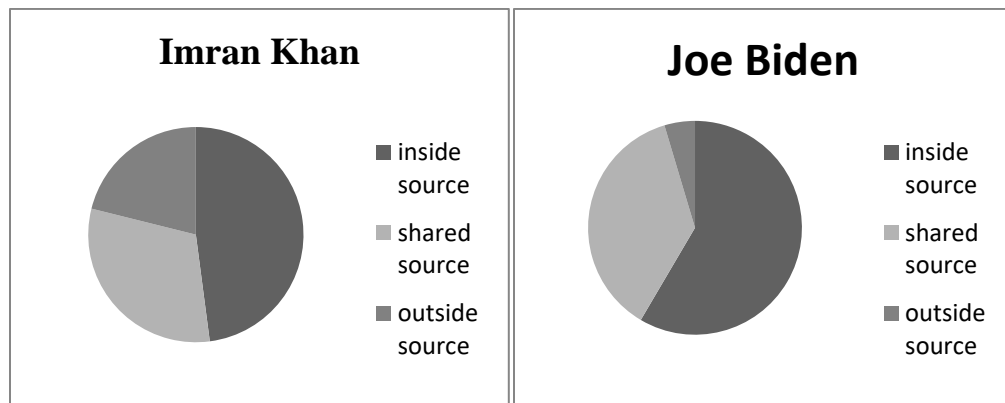


Figure 1: Distribution of evidential sources

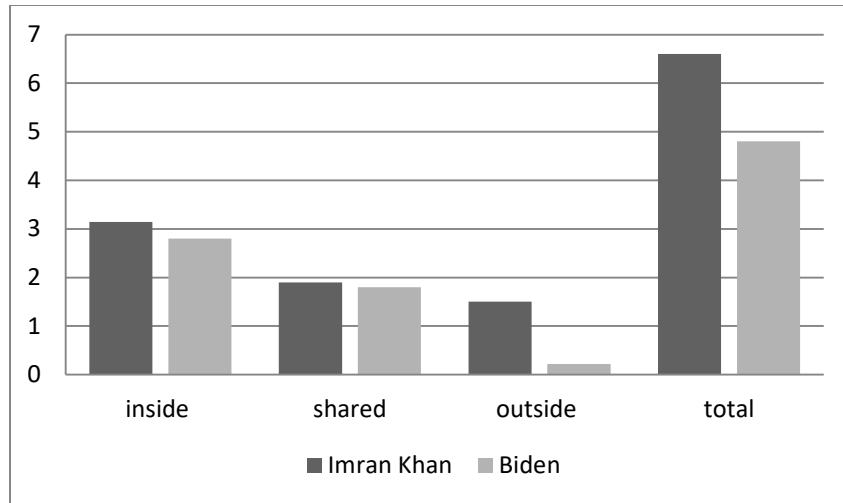


Figure 2: Comparison of Evidential Sources in Two Cases

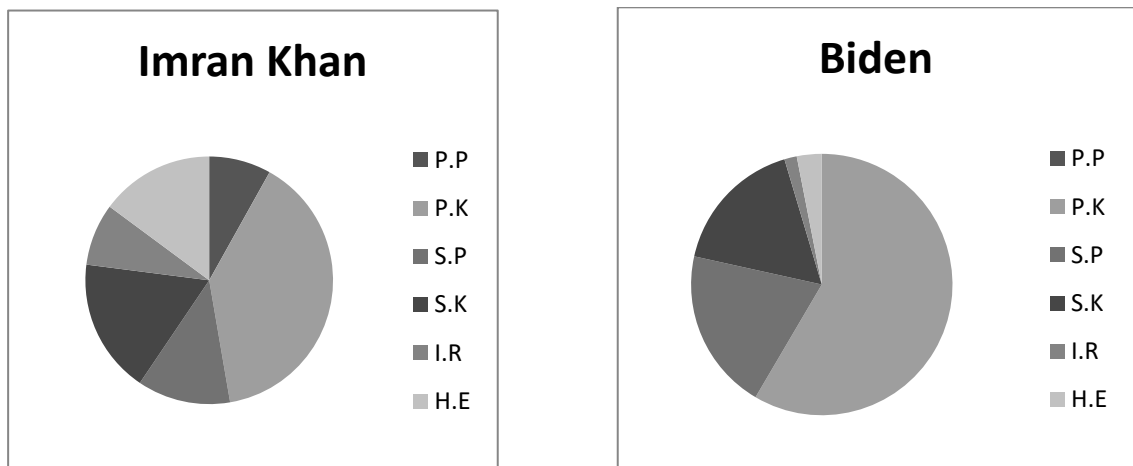


Figure 3: Distribution of Types of Evidentiality

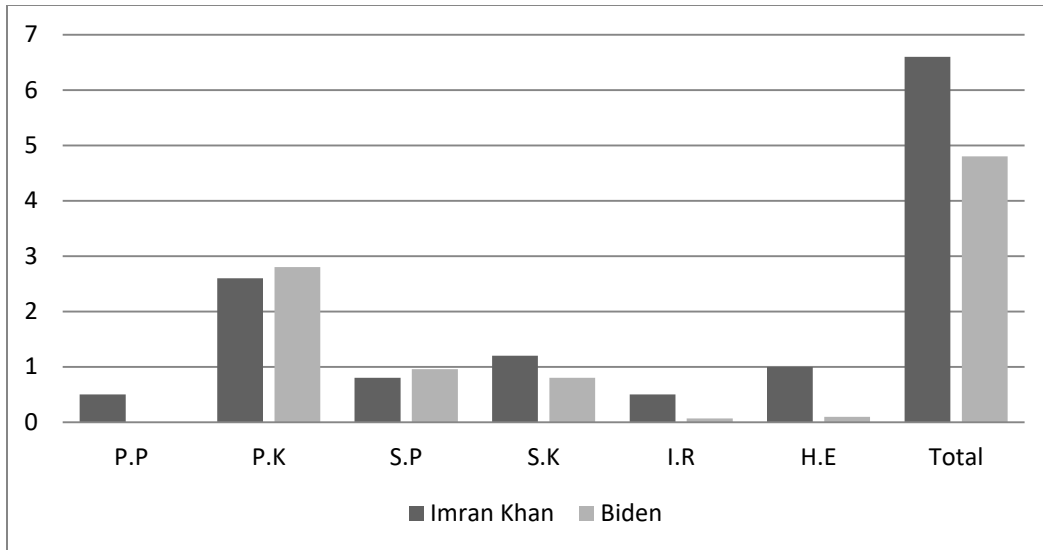


Figure 4: Comparison of Types of Evidentiality

Quantitative Analysis of Epistemic Modals:

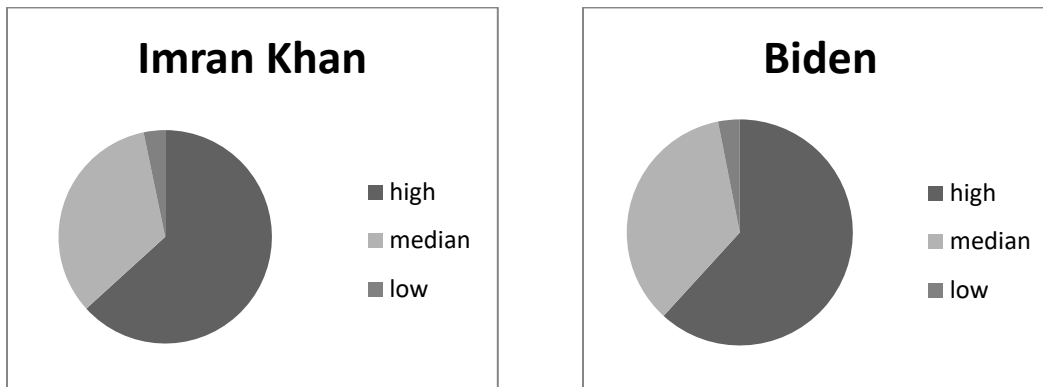


Figure 5: Distribution of Values of Epistemic Modals.

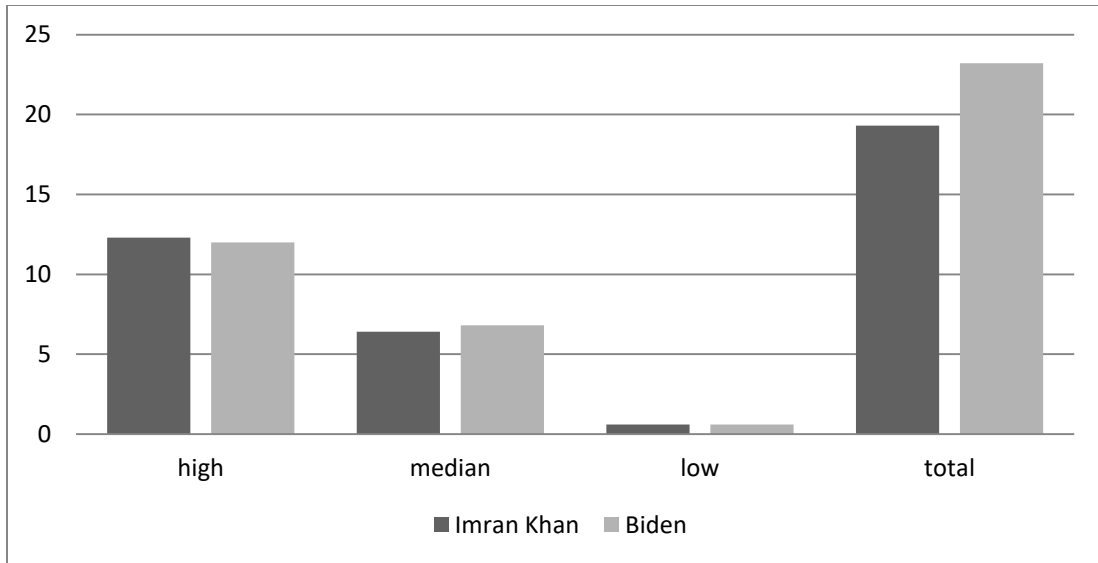


Figure 6: Comparison of Values of Epistemic Modals.

The Co-existence of Evidentiality and Epistemic Modality: Quantitative Analysis

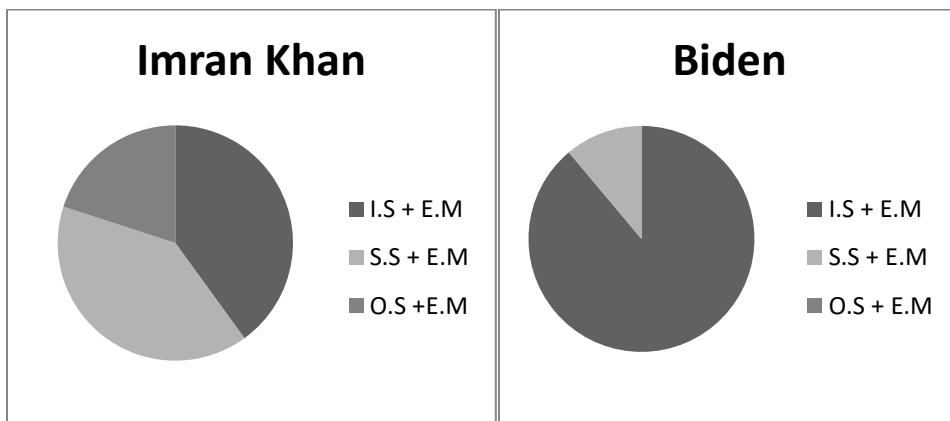


Figure 7: Distribution of Evidentiality and Epistemic Modality in the Two Cases

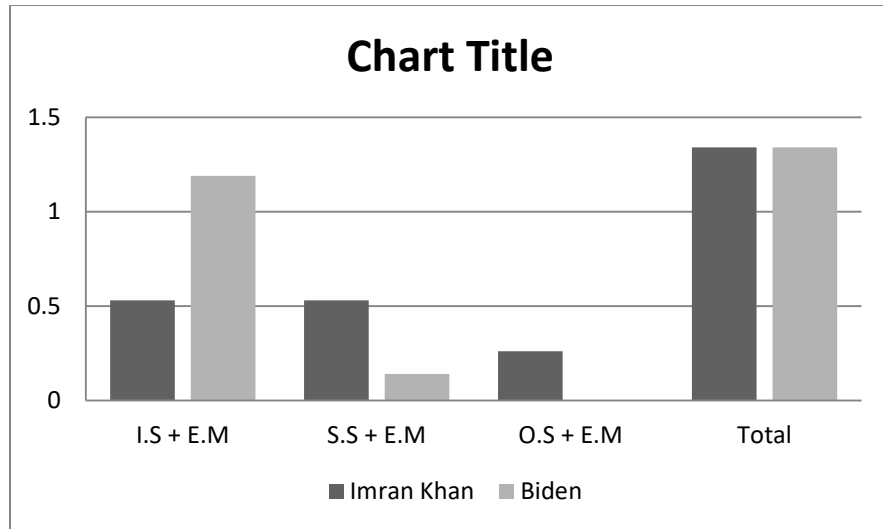


Figure 8: The Comparison of Evidential Sources Co-exist with Epistemic Modality

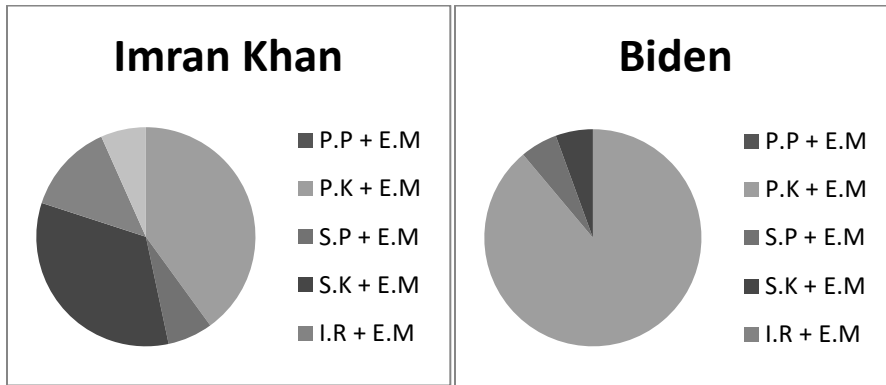


Figure 9: The Distribution of Evidential Types Co-exist with Epistemic Modals

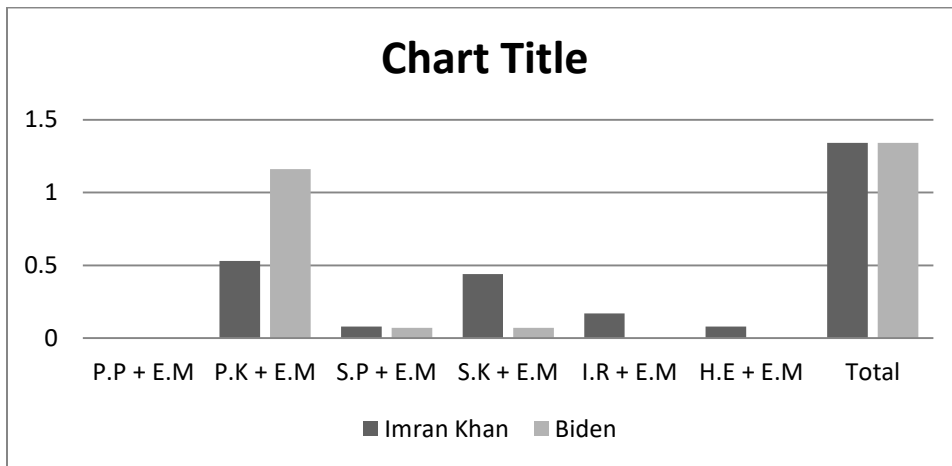


Figure 12: The Comparison of Evidential Types Co-exist with Epistemic Modals

