

**LANGUAGE OF CONFLICT: A CORPUS-  
BASED STUDY OF SEMANTIC PROSODY IN  
PRINT MEDIA DISCOURSE ON THE  
RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR**

**BY**

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**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MODERN LANGUAGES**

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FACULTY OF ARTS & HUMANITIES  
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## ABSTRACT

### **Title: Language of Conflict: A Corpus-Based Study of Semantic Prosody in Print Media Discourse on the Russia-Ukraine War**

The ongoing war in Ukraine has garnered significant global media attention, including Print media of many countries. However, there is a gap in linguistic research exploring how English newspapers from different countries portray the Ukraine crisis. Understanding how language constructs meaning and shapes public opinion is essential, and this can be achieved by analyzing the lexical choices and co-textual patterns in these portrayals. This study aims to conduct a corpus-driven analysis of the semantic prosody employed by English newspapers in their portrayal of the Russia-Ukraine war. By examining lexical choices and co-textual patterns, the research seeks to uncover how these elements convey subjective opinions and contribute to the wider media discourse surrounding the conflict. The research adopts a mixed-method approach, combining qualitative and quantitative techniques to analyze the language used in the selected newspapers to depict the conflict. Using corpus tool AntConc three separate corpora were collected from six newspapers in the USA, Russia, and Pakistan. The data spans from February 24, 2022, to February 24, 2023, with a focus on opinion pieces, editorials, and news stories. The study employs Baker's (2006) corpus-assisted critical discourse analysis framework. The study reveals distinct semantic prosodies in how newspapers from each country depict key terms related to the conflict. American newspapers predominantly frame Russia's actions as violations of international norms, while Russian media adopts a defensive stance. Pakistani newspapers present a more neutral perspective. Terms such as "Ukraine," "NATO," "invasion," and "sanctions" are framed differently across the countries, reflecting their respective stances on the conflict. This research underscores the critical role of language in shaping national narratives and public perceptions of the Russia-Ukraine war. The findings highlight the importance of media literacy in understanding geopolitical conflicts. Further research is encouraged to examine how linguistic representations in the media influence public opinion and policy.

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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

This part of the research provides the study's background. It gives a general study outline and briefly introduces its theoretical foundation. It also contains the statement of the problem, the study's objectives, and the research questions. In addition to this, the significance of the study and its delimitation are included. Moreover, it also gives an outline of the organization and structure of the research study. The study's findings on the role of language in shaping public opinion will have a significant impact on future research and public policy.

### 1.2 Historical Background of the Russia-Ukraine War

The war in Ukraine began in 2014 after Russia took possession of Crimea, an area that was formerly part of Ukraine. A year earlier, there were immense protests in Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, because President Viktor Yanukovich declined to sign an agreement with the European Union. His decision led to outrage among people who desired more robust relations with Europe. The demonstrations became more emphatic, and after some violent clashes, Yanukovich escaped the country in February 2014.

Soon after, in March 2014, Russian troops penetrated Crimea and seized control of the territory. President Putin proclaimed that Russia had to safeguard the Russian-speaking population there. Subsequently, a referendum was held, but many countries called it one-sided and unfair. After this, separatist groups in Donetsk and Luhansk—two areas in eastern Ukraine—also announced independence, declaring they desired to merge with Russia (Council of Foreign Relations, 2024).

This led to an armed dispute between the Ukrainian army and separatist fighters, who were considered to be backed by Russia, although Russia rejected offering any aid. Ukraine and NATO, however, blamed Russia for discreetly transmitting weapons and soldiers.

In 2015, Ukraine, Russia, France, and Germany attempted to end the dispute through peace talks called the Minsk Accords. These discussions included plans to halt

the battle and deliver command of the dispute regions back to Ukraine. However, these endeavors failed, and the war continued (Council of Foreign Relations, 2024).

By late 2021, tensions increased again. The United States and Ukraine forewarned that Russia was assembling its military near Ukraine's border. The U.S. government disseminated satellite images and intelligence to show that a potential attack was being plotted. Russia, on the other hand, urged that NATO stop expanding and not permit Ukraine to become a NATO member. These requests were declined, and the U.S. warned Russia of economic boycotts if it intruded on Ukraine (Council of Foreign Relations, 2024).

In February 2022, the crisis became more serious. The U.S. released new satellite images displaying the largest Russian military build-up since the Cold War. Soon after, Russia sent troops into Donetsk and Luhansk, calling them peacekeepers. President Putin said the objective was to clear Nazi forces and safeguard Russian-speaking people in Ukraine. In reaction, the U.S. and its allies imposed heavy sanctions on Russia (Council of Foreign Relations, 2024).

### **1.3 Context of the Russia-Ukraine War**

The Russia-Ukraine war, which got intense in February 2022, is not an isolated war but an expression of long-lasting political, historical, and ideological tensions between the two countries. Its origin lies in the dis-integration of the Soviet Union in 1989 and the resultant power vacuum in Eastern Europe. In 2014, Russia invaded Crimea—an action broadly denounced by Western states as a breach of Ukraine's sovereignty. Nevertheless, Russia dismissed the allegations by summoning past claims and the security of ethnic Russians living in the eastern part of Ukraine. The situation became particularly alarming in February 2022, when Russia started a full-scale war against Ukraine. Russian Government officials called the operation a "special military operation" intended at "denazification" and protecting ethnic Russians inhabiting in Eastern Ukraine. On the other hand, most observers and Western states called it a baseless aggression against a sovereign country.

### **1.4 Media Framing and Positional Perspectives**

The war has not been limited to the battlefield alone but has also expanded to the media front as well, where the conflict is presented by each country according to its own ideological and geopolitical stance. In American newspapers, the predominant

narrative describes Russia as a hostile-state disregarding international norms, and Ukraine as a valiant protector of democracy, sovereignty, and Western ideals. The reports in American newspapers focuses on Russian aggression, humanitarian crimes, and the need for a strong international response, particularly from NATO and allied forces.

In complete divergence to American newspapers, Russian newspapers portray the war as a defensive action, frequently accusing NATO expansion and Western intrusion into Ukraine for building a security predicament that pushed Russia to act in self-defense. Ukraine is characterized as a dummy state controlled by the West, with the clash framed as an essential intervention to safeguard Russia's national interests and protect ethnic Russians living in the Donbas region of Ukraine.

Pakistani newspapers, given their country's relations with both the countries and somewhat neutral position in the war has managed to assume a neutral position. Where most of its statements are often factual and try to evade overt preference for any side. Its coverage concentrates on international responses, economic repercussions of the war, and humanitarian fallouts, without employing intensely polarized rhetoric. This assumed neutrality probably reflects Pakistan's cautious diplomatic positioning between Western allies and strategic associations with China and Russia.

### **1.5 Relevance of Semantic Prosody in Studying Media Discourse**

In light of these different national narratives reflected in each countries' newspapers, evaluating how language is employed in various ways to frame the war becomes critical to develop a deep understanding of the ideological positions hidden in news discourse. One of the most helpful tools for this purpose is semantic prosody, which observes evaluative meaning that a word develops through its frequent collocates. For example, the word "Russia" might co-occur with negatively charged words like "invasion," "aggression," or "sanctions" in American newspapers, producing a hostile semantic prosody. On the contrary, in Russian newspapers, the same word may co-occur with neutral or positive terms such as "operation," "security," or "protection," creating a positive prosodic environment.

This linguistic representation is not only stylistic but conveys deep ideological insinuations, shaping how readers perceive the legitimacy, morality, and justification of actors involved in the war. The comparison of the semantic prosody of war-related

keywords—such as *Russia*, *Ukraine*, *NATO*, *war*, and *sanctions*—in Russian, American, and Pakistani newspapers, this study helps revealing how language can be used to propagate state narratives on wars.

The central objective of this research study is to uncover the evaluative meanings and ideological stances embedded in newspaper reporting, thereby leading to a deeper understanding of how conflicts are linguistically framed in media narratives. Therefore, the study examines the use of language—particularly lexical choices and semantic prosody— in print media discourse to uncover the varying attitudes of the selected newspapers regarding the Russia-Ukraine war. For this purpose, the study investigates news coverage from six selected newspapers from three countries: *The Express Tribune* and *The Nation* from Pakistan, *Russia Today* and *The Moscow Times* from Russia, and *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times* from the United States. These newspapers were carefully chosen based on their global influence and extensive reporting of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The study uses Stubbs's concept of semantic prosody as its theoretical framework and employs Baker's (2006) corpus-assisted critical discourse analysis as its analytical methodology.

## 1.6 Statement of the Problem

The portrayal of conflicts in the media has always been a complicated and contested subject, as it is closely linked to strategic interests, ideological orientation, and national interests. News outlets, particularly newspapers, play a key role in shaping public perception by representing events through strategic language use and discursive strategies. This becomes particularly important during periods of conflict, when the linguistic choices made by journalistic and editorial authorities could mirror or reinforce the official position of the state or challenge prevailing narratives.

Linguistic choice, in this context, carry a considerable ideological influence and function as a means to construct public perception. These lexical choices often include ideological or emotional undertones, shaping the audience's perception in nuanced ways. The study of semantic prosody, which investigates the positive or negative connotations surrounding a word based on its frequent collocates, presents an effective lens through which to uncover the hidden ideological leanings embedded in editorial discourse.



Despite its considerable importance of such linguistic analysis, insufficient scholarly attention has been focused on how semantic prosody help to reinforce state-supportive or dissenting narratives in newspapers, especially concerning contemporary conflicts such as the Russia-Ukraine war. There exists a significant research void in how newspapers across different national contexts—such as Pakistan, the United States, and Russia—frame the events related to the Russia-Ukraine war. This research seeks to address this gap by analyzing the semantic prosody and the kinds of lexical choices used to portray the Russia-Ukraine war and examines how the semantic prosody of these choices conveys the differing ideological stances adopted by newspapers from each national context.

### **1.7 Research Questions**

1. What kinds of lexical choices do the selected newspapers use to portray the Russia-Ukraine war?
2. How does the semantic prosody in the selected newspapers convey the varying attitudes of the newspapers of each country in portraying the Russia-Ukraine war?

### **1.8 Objectives of the Study**

1. To determine the type of lexical choices employed in the selected newspapers to depict the Russia-Ukraine war.
2. To identify the role of semantic prosody in the expression of varying attitudes of the selected newspapers to depict the Russia-Ukraine war.

### **1.9 Scope and Significance**

The present study contributes to various fields, including Corpus Linguistics, Discourse studies, mass communication, and politics. The central focus of the present study is to examine the discourse produced in print media of the selected countries concerning the Russia-Ukraine war. Therefore, the study can benefit researchers and students in discourse studies by teaching them how language is used to construct different types of discourse. It also illustrates to them how the print media agencies of the selected countries used different linguistic choices to build various narratives about the Russia-Ukraine war.

Furthermore, the present study contributes to the academic field of linguistics by adding to the newly emerging list of studies where the combination of corpus linguistics and critical discourse analysis is used to identify semantic prosody. The novelty of this study lies in the fact that this is the first time that the representation of the Russia-Ukraine war is being examined in the print media of Russia, Pakistan, and the United States of America by using the combination of Stubb's (1996) concept of Discourse Prosody and Baker's (2006) Corpus-Assisted Critical Discourse analysis. Although some studies have been carried out to examine the representation of the Russia-Ukraine war, they were limited in their analysis of the issue only in Western print media. Furthermore, these studies examined data from only a few dozen articles. In contrast, the present study will examine a large corpus of text collected from six newspapers from three countries, including Eastern and Western countries. In this way, this study will make a valuable addition to the existing literature on the issue of the Russia-Ukraine war from a linguistics perspective.

This research distinguishes itself from previous studies in three significant ways. First, while much of the present scholarship has focused on Western or Russian media discourses surrounding the Russia–Ukraine war, this study distinctively includes Pakistani newspapers, thereby offering a South Asian perspective on the war. Second, contrasting previous studies that have primarily highlighted framing analysis, this research applies the concept of semantic prosody to explore how evaluative meanings are embedded in collocational patterns. Third, the comparative approach adopted here, involving Pakistani, American, and Russian corpora, allows for a cross-cultural understanding of how similar keywords are invested with divergent ideological meanings.

### **1.10 Delimitation**

Although the global media has comprehensively covered the Russia-Ukraine war in print and electronic media, with numerous articles, newspaper reports, and talk shows written and recorded, the present study focuses only on six newspapers. The study is limited to two newspapers from each of the three countries: Russia, the USA, and Pakistan. The selected newspapers are Russia, Moscow Times, The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Nation, and The Express Tribune. The rationale behind selecting these particular newspapers is their wide readership and circulation in

their respective countries. According to the official report of the Washington Post, more than 58 million total digital visitors visited the Washington Post website in December 2022 alone.

Similarly, The New York Times has more than 100 million readers having registered accounts with the Times. The Russian newspapers selected for the proposed study are Russia's two leading English newspapers. Lastly, the newspapers selected from Pakistan are among Pakistan's widely circulated English newspapers, with over 50,000 weekly circulations. Furthermore, newspapers are a mixture of sub-categories, so this study takes only three text categories of the selected newspapers to be included in its sample: news stories, editorials, and columns. Because of time restrictions, the sample size of this study is delimited to the period of February 22, 2022, to April 22, 2023. The supposed corpus that will be collected for the study will be somewhere around 1 million.

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

## **1.11 Chapter Breakdown**

### **Chapter-1: Introduction**

This study chapter includes an introduction to the current study, a statement of the problem, research questions and objectives, rationale, significance of the study, delimitation, and chapter breakdown.

### **Chapter 2: Literature Review**

This chapter reviews previous research related to the present study. Furthermore, it contextualizes the present study in the broader context of corpus Studies and Semantic Prosody. Lastly, it identifies the research gap or niche of the present study in the available literature on Corpus Studies and Semantic Prosody.

### Chapter 3: Research Methodology

This chapter includes 'Research Methodology' describing research design, research method, data collection, sampling, method of data analysis, and theoretical framework.

### Chapter 4: Data Analysis and Conclusion

The fourth chapter, 'Data Analysis,' analyzes the data. This chapter provides a detailed analysis of the data using Anthony Lawrence's AntConc software. Through the tools of AntConc Software, such as word frequency, collocates, keywords, and concordance, the portrayal of the Russia Ukraine war in the selected newspapers is examined. A combination of Stubb's Discourse Prosody (1996) and Baker's (2006) Corpus-Assisted Critical Discourse analysis is used as the study's analytical framework.

### Chapter-5: Conclusion

This is the last chapter of the study. It includes the findings of the study found at the end of the study. In addition, it lists the limitations of the present study while also providing recommendations for future researchers in this area of research.

## CHAPTER 2

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Semantic Prosody

Semantic prosody has captured the attention of corpus linguists for the past two decades. Sinclair first used the concept in 1987 but never used the term "semantic prosody" in his writings. Sinclair's (1987) analysis of the linguistic environment of the phrasal verb "set in" generated curiosity about the concept. In 1991, Sinclair expanded on his earlier work after investigating a 7.3 million words corpus. Sinclair found that the phrasal verb "set in" is usually used in short sentences.

Furthermore, he observed that words that generally come with "set in" have unfavorable meanings. For example, slump, disillusionment, anarchy, infection, decay, decadence, prejudice, despair, malaise, impoverishment, rot, disillusion, and ill-will. The other word that he studied was "happen." Upon investigation, he found that similar to the phrasal verb "set in," this word was also associated with negative words like accidents. These two analyses confirm Sinclair's idiom principle, which argues that words and phrases occur in a particular semantic environment.

The term "semantic prosody" was brought to the fore by Louw (1993). It was inspired by Firth's use of the concept in phonetic terms. Firth observed that sounds go beyond individual segments and have a bearing on the sounds that come before and after them. For example, the letter /k/ sounds different in "kangaroo" and "keep." This phenomenon is called "phonological coloring". The same goes for certain words like "symptomatic of, utterly, bent on," which, with their frequent use of words like depression, destructive, ruining clinical, and sins, have changed the meaning of these words. Another example of this phenomenon can be observed in the frequent use of the phrasal verb "set in" with specific words that affect the meaning of "sit-in" itself. Louw (1993) defines semantic prosody as a "consistent aura of meaning with which a form is imbued by its collocates." This means that words that frequently occur with another word have a bearing on its meaning, or the meaning of a word is affected by the words that surround it.

Bublitz (1995) expanded on the foundation of Louw (1993) in his article about semantic prosody, bringing the concept to the fore. Bublitz (1996) observed that words acquire a halo or profile based on their frequent occurrence with certain words, where some acquire positive associations and others negative. He gives the example of "utterly," which has acquired a negative connotation because of its frequent occurrence with meaningless words. Thus, semantic prosody suggests that the meaning of a word is determined not merely by its definition but also by the sets of words that frequently collocate with it. Confirming the theory of Firth, Bublitz (1996) argues that the meaning of a word is not limited to the individual word alone. Instead, it extends to the words that surround it. He supports this claim by using words like prevail, cause, happen, commit, and somewhat, which have varied semantic prosodies based on their collocates. Next, Bublitz (1995) turns to a diachronic perspective, suggesting that words acquire some semantic features from their collocates or nearby words due to their constant use in particular contexts. To conclude, Bublitz's work adds to the existing knowledge of the concept of semantics by explaining the role of context in the meanings of words. He proposes that analyzing a word's historical evolution, especially its collocates, can provide new insights into the semantic prosody of that word.

Stubbs (2001)) has contributed enormously to this field in the form of many examples he has provided of lexical items characterized by semantic prosody. His many examples include accost, amid, amusement, backdrop, care, cause, commit, community, deadlock, distinctly, soar, heritage, lavish, loiter, lurk, proper, provide, somewhat, standard, undergo, untold. Moreover, he also altered the term 'semantic prosody' into 'discourse prosody.' Stubbs also explains the meaning of the word 'credibility,' which relates to words like 'gap,' 'lack,' and 'undermine.' Overall, Stubbs (2001) presents the concept of semantic prosody from a synchronic perspective. However, he occasionally uses a diachronic framework, as in the example of the word 'cause', which he analyses from a historical perspective to observe the change in its meaning.

According to Stubbs' (2001) model of semantic prosody, there are three types of semantic prosodies. One is positive prosody, also known as favorable or pleasant prosody; the second is negative prosody, also termed as unpleasant or unfavorable prosody. The third is neutral prosody. In positive semantic prosody, the words that collocate with the nod word bear positive meaning, while in negative semantic prosody, the words that co-occur with the nod word bear negative meaning or unfavorable. In

neutral semantic prosody, the words that collocate with the nod do not tend to have any affective meaning.

Tongini-Bonelli (2001) operates within the framework suggested by Sinclair, especially relating to the ideas of co-selection and the expanded units of meaning. The author directs to the point that "what is consistently shown by corpus work is the strict correlation between lexical and grammatical choices which extends the boundaries of the initial unit." Tongnini-Bonelli (2001) further writes:

If a word is regularly used in contexts of good news or bad news or judgment, for example, it carries this meaning around with it; and, as noted by Sinclair [. . .], the choice that a speaker/writer will make when selecting a multi-word unit will involve the more local grammatical and lexical constraints around the word, but will also include a perhaps more remote semantic preference and its correspondent on the pragmatic side, semantic prosody.

Partington (Partington (1998) talks about the similarities and differences between connotation and semantic prosody. He also examines the level to which dictionaries help in explaining semantic prosody. For this, he gives the example of the verb "PEDDLE" and focuses primarily on the semantic prosody of the verb in the political discourse in newspapers. He also examines the expressions 'sharp dealings' and 'green fundamentalism/fundamentalist'. Upon investigation, he found that "the more frequently green collocates with fundamentalist, the more tainted the former is likely to become" (Partington, 1998).

Partington (2004) defines semantic prosody as an evaluative meaning "spread over a unit of language which potentially goes well beyond the single orthographic word and is much less evident to the naked eye." Partington writes about "happen words" like "happen," "take place," "occur," "set in," "come about," and "amplifying intensifiers" like "absolutely," "perfectly," "entirely," "completely," "thoroughly," "totally," "utterly." He writes that these words carry specific differences in how they are used in sentences, their level of formality, and, most importantly, their meaning.

### 2.1.1 Practical Application of Semantic Prosody

Building on Louw's work, the practitioners in the field of critical discourse analysis think that the study of semantic prosody can uncover the writer's or speakers'

hidden beliefs (Maunter, 2015; Cotteril, 2001). (Mautner & Koller, 2004) semantic prosody "is at least as exciting a concept for the critical discourse analyst as it is for the lexicographer and the grammarian." Almela & Mármol (2017) undertook a study to examine the representation of the Spanish lexical items *inmigración* (immigration) and *inmigrante* (immigrant) in print media discourse. The corpus used for this study was an ad hoc corpus collected from two national newspapers. The news articles on immigration published between 2003 and 2013 in the two newspapers *El Mundo* and *El País* with different ideologies were taken for this study. The data was analyzed through WordSmith, a corpus analysis software that can be used to observe the collocations of the words *inmigración* (immigration) and *inmigrante* (immigrant). The study's findings revealed that the most frequent words that co-occurred with words *inmigración* (immigration) and *inmigrante* (immigrant) were words with negative connotations. This resulted in creating a negative semantic prosody for the two words.

Another area where researchers believe semantic prosody should be used is in computational studies. The researcher in this field believes that semantic prosody will be helpful, especially in sentiment analysis, where computers are used to identify whether a particular piece of text shows positive or negative feelings. A real-life example of sentiment analysis is when public opinion is judged based on examining social media posts and other texts of the like on a particular topic. Researchers in this area think that words have different connotations, affecting how a text is understood. Therefore, using semantic prosody to analyze the meanings of certain words and their overall impact on the text and the feelings expressed by the text will greatly help sentiment analysis in particular and computational studies in general. Feng et al. (2013)

Gries (2017) argues that semantic prosody "has implications for [. . .] foreign language teaching since, for example, if a foreign language learner uses a word *w* without being aware of *w*'s semantic prosody, this may result in comical situations or, more seriously, communicating unwanted implications". Huntson (2002) contends that semantic prosody should be taught because of its hidden nature:

"Because semantic prosody is not always part of a speaker's conscious knowledge of a language, it may be something that learners are not taught. However, because of the kind of meanings it can convey, it is an important aspect of language. Vocabulary teaching needs to take



account of semantic prosody, and can do so only if the approach is phraseological rather than word-based." (Huntson s.,2002, p.142)

### 2.1.2 Rationale for the Use of Semantic Prosody

The current study employs semantic prosody as the principal analytical approach due to its exceptional capacity to expose the understated evaluative meanings embedded in media discourse—connotations that commonly escape detection through more explicit analytical frameworks. Contrasting traditional methods such as Content Analysis, which includes frequency counts and thematic classifications, or Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), which is mostly explanatory and qualitative in nature, semantic prosody works at the juncture of quantitative corpus linguistics and qualitative discourse interpretation, thereby offering a more well-adjusted, empirically grounded tool for studying print media texts. Semantic prosody is effective in revealing how ideologies and hidden biases are constructed in language. It does this by investigating how certain words often co-occur with other words that gives a positive or negative connotation. These repeated collocational patterns, found in large text collections (corpora), reveal meanings that are not explicitly mentioned but are suggested through repeated use.

In politically sensitive texts—such as print media discourse on the Russia-Ukraine war—lexical choices may seem impartial on the surface yet convey discrete positive or negative semantic connotations based on the surrounding words they repeatedly co-occur with. For example, words like *sanctions*, *invasion*, or *conflict* may develop a positive or negative meaning not because the writer clearly says it is good or bad, but through their regular co-occurrence with terms like *tough*, *unjustified*, *strategic*, or *illegal*, impacting public perception subtly and thoroughly.

Most frameworks like Framing Theory or Narrative Analysis focus on macro-level representations, while semantic prosody provides a micro-level, lexico-semantic inquiry that reveals how media discourse encrypts ideology through characteristic linguistic patterns. This method is particularly well-suited to the study's data site—Pakistani English-language newspapers—where political sensitivities often demand the use of indirect or implicit language to navigate complex geopolitical coalitions and public sentiment.

Additionally, the incorporation of semantic prosody with corpus-based approaches improves the impartiality and replicability of the findings. The use of frequency data, concordance lines, and collocational statistics supports a methodical investigation of how meaning is constructed across a wide range of texts, reducing researcher bias and strengthening the legitimacy of explanations. In this way, semantic prosody supplements critical discourse perspectives by basing qualitative perceptions in quantitative linguistic evidence.

Given the research goal—to explore how various newspapers frame key conflict-related terms in the Russia-Ukraine war—semantic prosody offers the most appropriate framework for revealing the implicit ideological alignment, subjective positioning, and discursive strategies at play in the creation of political meaning.

### 2.1.3 Relevance to the Topic: Media, Ideology, and Conflict

This research study, carrying the title, ‘*Language of Conflict: A Corpus-Based Study of Semantic Prosody in Print Media Discourse on the Russia-Ukraine War*’, examines the manner in which print media builds different ideological positions on Russia-Ukraine war. Semantic prosody is conceptually related this research study because it exposes how evaluative meanings are hidden within language use across media narratives. As the Russia-Ukraine conflict involves highly polarized global opinions, the study investigates how national newspapers—specifically from the United States, Russia, and Pakistan—frame key terms such as *Ukraine*, *Russia*, *NATO*, and *invasion*.

These lexical items seem to be neutral at first glance, but when studied deeply for collocational patterns across large collection of texts, they reveal strong positive or negative semantic prosody. For instance, the word *Ukraine* may appear with terms, carrying positive connotations, such as *victim*, *resistance*, or *freedom* in Western print media, signifying a positive prosody, while the same word in Russian print media, might be surrounded with words carrying negative connotations like *provocation*, *NATO-backed*, or *militarized*, suggesting a more negative framing (Baker, 2006; Bednarek, 2009). Therefore, semantic prosody provides the researcher to recognize ideological signs and uncover the implied stance hidden in editorial language.

### 2.1.4 Semantic Prosody and Semantic Preference

Sinclair has written much on the concept of semantic preference in works. Semantic preference refers to the tendency of words to co-occur with words of similar meaning. For example, the word *cure* is found mainly with words related to disease and sickness. Sinclair J. M. (1998) writes, "Semantic preference is the restriction of regular co-occurrence to items which share a semantic feature, for example, that they are all about, say, sport or suffering." In earlier works like that, Hunston does not show a clear difference between the two concepts. He puts it this way, "a word may be said to have a particular semantic prosody if it can be shown to co-occur typically 25 with other words that belong to a particular semantic set". Nowadays, researchers consider the two concepts as separate but closely related to each other. Semantic preference refers to the likelihood of words to appear in conjunction with words of similar meanings. At the same time, semantic prosody refers to the positive or negative meanings associated with words through their collocation with other words. Bednarek (2008) writes about the two concepts that they "arguably very similar phenomena: the only difference is that [semantic prosody] is a more general semantic group than the groups usually listed in [semantic preference] studies." Partington (2004) suggests various strategies to differentiate between the two; according to him, "semantic prosody is a subcategory, or a special case, of semantic preference, to be reserved for instances where an item shows a preference to co-occur with items that can be described as bad, unfavorable or unpleasant, or as good, favorable or pleasant."

### 2.1.5 The Implicit Nature of Semantic Prosody

One of the central points of consensus among the many scholars and researchers related to semantics is that semantic prosody is veiled from the speaker's instinct. They believe that usually, the speakers are unaware that certain words like 'happen' or 'cause' most frequently collate with words carrying negative connotational meaning. Words, like *attain* or *provide* most frequently, collocate with positive words. It is believed that semantic prosody cannot be accessed with inspection alone; instead, to uncover the semantic prosody, one has to analyze it through a corpus (Stempel, 2019). According to Louw (1993), "For thousands of years [semantic prosodies] remained hidden from our perception and inaccessible to our intuition." McEnery, Xiao, & Tono (2005) writes in their book, "It would appear, from the literature published on semantic prosody [ . . . ] that it is at least as inaccessible to a speaker's conscious introspection as collocation is".

Munday (2011) writes the semantic prosody is about how sense and connotation spread surreptitiously across collocates or from the typical surrounding co-text. Since it is often not overtly controlled by the text producer, it may reveal a writer or speaker's underlying attitude or evaluation

### 2.1.6 Use of Corpus Tools for Semantic Analysis

Stewart (2010) writes in his book "Semantic Prosody: A Critical Evaluation" that the link between semantic prosody and corpus linguistics is beyond contention. According to him, few studies on semantic prosody do not fall under the domain of corpus linguistics. He writes that it looks as if semantic prosody is dependent upon concordance and other tools provided by corpus linguistics for its recognition. This extensive use of corpus linguistics in the analysis of semantic prosody is because corpus linguistics provides us with tangible data, which is highly required in examining semantic prosody. Nevertheless, he cautions against relying only on the tools used in corpus linguistics, such as coordinating, because concordances and collocates are observable and are revealed directly, but semantic prosody is not that easily observable and quickly revealed.

Huntson S. (2002) writes, "Semantic prosody can be observed only by looking at a large number of instances of a word or phrase because it relies on the typical use of a word or phrase." Huntson S. (2002) contends that to understand the semantic prosody of the word, one has to observe many examples of that word. He gives this because observing many examples of words alone will reveal how the word is used. Bublitz (1995) believe that instinct is not the best guide to semantic prosody, as he writes that "intuitions about frequency and likelihood of co-occurrence are notoriously thin and not always accurate. Stubbs (1995) is of the view that "attested data are required in collocational studies, since native speaker intuitions are not a reliable source of evidence". Louw (1993) argues that the understanding of semantic prosody is dependent on computational analysis. He writes that semantic prosody "a phenomenon that has been only revealed computationally, and whose extent and development can only be properly traced by computational methods". Which shows the importance of computer to unveil the full understanding of this term. Tongnini-Bonelli (2004) takes a view that due to computers "the connotation pervading the vast majority of the uses of a word-like face [as verb] has now become tangible and observable".

Baker (2006) asserted that through the help of corpus analysis tools alone, one can determine the underlying meanings of words and phrases as they may not be visible to the eyes of regular readers and researchers. Sinclair (1991) writes that the corpus-based approach provides a systematic method to uncover and examine semantic prosodies. Therefore, researchers should be provided with tools and methods to locate and highlight the subtle shift in meanings of words and phrases. Huntson S. (2002) contends that semantic prosody, uncovered with the help of corpus analysis, provides an understanding of subtle differences in the meaning of words based on their context. To summarize the discussion, it can be argued that corpus analysis can significantly help understand the semantic prosodies of words and phrases. A word's actual meaning or semantic prosody can only be determined when the word under discussion is examined in its actual use. This can only be done by analyzing the examples of that word in actual use in a large corpus.

### 2.1.7 Semantic Prosody: A Methodological Orientation

Corpus linguistics is a subfield examining an extensive collection of machine-readable texts called corpora. It uses a set of procedures and methods to analyze corpora. The primary corpus linguistics tools used in corpus linguistics to analyze a corpus include Keyword list, frequency, cluster, Ngrams, collocation, and concordance. Corpus linguistics examines an extensive collection of data, called corpora, through a computer, which cannot be analyzed by a human or a team of analysts because of the time required to do such an analysis. This approach is also preferred in analyzing such a large amount of data because there will be a significant margin for error in humans examining the data.

Moreover, the tools used in this method, such as concordance, enable the analyst to determine the context in which words are used. Another vital way this technique helps the analyst examine a large corpus is by providing the frequency of specific words in a particular corpus. These two tools demonstrate the two different types of analysis, namely quantitative and qualitative, that are equally important in corpus linguistics (McEnery & Hardie, 2012).

The findings of an analysis of corpora depend upon the type of corpora selected for the study and the research question that the researcher or conductor of the study wants to explore. A corpus will answer the research questions only if it is composed in

such a way that it addresses the research questions. For example, a researcher will not be able to get his desired results if he chooses to explore the noun classification system of Swahili by examining a corpus of English newspaper texts. Another critical point in this regard is the meaning of the term text. So here, the text does not denote a file of machine-readable data. It can include both writings in the shape of articles, etc., but it can also be a video file (McEnery & Hardie, 2012).

#### 2.1.8 Corpus-Based Approaches for Semantic Prosody

Zhang (2010) carried out a study to compare the use of word commit in native speakers' language and Chinese English speaker's language. The researcher wanted to reveal the semantic prosody of the word commit in the language of Chinese English speakers and native English speakers. The researcher used the CLEC corpus as the main corpus and the Brown corpus as a reference corpus for this study. Upon investigation of the corpus, he found that the most frequent words that cooccurred with the word 'commit' in CLEC corpus were words like crime, 'suicide,' " homicide,' murder,' 'punishment,' 'euthanasia, 'killing,' ' and 'evil.' Since words like suicide, crime, and killing are generally indicative of negative semantic prosody, the word 'commit' is also associated with negative semantic prosody. This shows that the Chinese use the word 'crime' in a narrow sense. On the other hand, in the language of the native speakers, it was found to be collocated with both negative and positive words, thereby giving it a neutral semantic prosody. This shows that native speakers use the word commit in a broader sense than the Chinese English speakers.

Haider (2016) pursued a corpus-based study to unveil the discursive strategies used by the two Arab newspapers, namely Asharq Al-Awsat and Al-Khaleej to construct the image of the former Libyan president Qaddafi. The study was carried out on 19 million corpora collected from the selected newspapers. The study especially focused on the way the image of the former Libyan president was constructed using different discursive strategies before, during and after the Libyan civil of 2011. The study revealed that Qaddafi was presented in a positive light before the start of the civil war. while he was presented in an unfavorable light during the uprising because of his actions against his own people. Whereas in the post-uprising period, he was described very negatively for his policies and actions and the terrorist activities that he was involved in. The results showed that various discursive strategies have been used by the different

newspapers to construct the image of Qaddafi based on the agenda of the newspapers and the country where they were based.

Puranama (2016) undertook a study to observe the representation of Hamas and Israel in the mass media. The media channels that she had taken for her study included an American media channel CNN and an Arabian media channel Al Jazeera. As the mass media presents things according to the political leaning and stance of the company. So, it becomes important to uncover the hidden bias of these media channels through an analysis of their representation of different organizations and issues. At the end of the study, the researcher found that Aljazeera represented Hamas relatively favorably while presented Israel in a negative light. On the other hand, CNN presented Hamas in relatively negative light while positively presenting Israel. Following the same pattern, it was found that CNN presented Israel as the victim in the conflict while Aljazeera presented circumstances to highlight the negative image of Israel.

Aluthman (2018) scrutinizes a corpus of more than a few words, specifically a collection of over lack words, collected mainly from tweets, blogs, and daily news all related to the Brexit issue. He wanted to probe the representation of immigration in Brexit corpus. For this purpose, he used a combination of methods of critical discourse analysis and some corpus tools, namely, keyword, collocation, and concordance analysis. He revealed how discourse was created around immigration in the selected corpus. The frequency results concluded that immigration was primarily covered in the Brexit corpus and featured mainly in its discourse. The results of the concordance analysis were mixed. On the one hand, the negative fallout of the unregulated flow of refugees was clearly visible. On the other hand, the findings also showed the positive approach towards these immigrants and their contribution to the country's economy.

Kim (2019) undertook a corpus-based study to investigate a corpus collected from items from selected US-media outlets. He used both quantitative and qualitative methodological approaches in his study. As the qualitative approach is better suited to describe collocational patterns found in a corpus while qualitative based critical discourse analysis supplements in carrying a detailed analysis of short sections of texts. The corpus for the study consisted of all texts featured in CNN, Newsweek and The New York Times that contained the word 'North Korea' and were released between 1998 and 2010. The researcher found that the analysis of the coverage of North Korea

shows that North Korea was presented as ‘others. And was grouped with countries like Iran and Pakistan. Hence, proving that US media outlets divide the countries into groups based on their geopolitical alignment and nature of relationship with US. If the country is having good relationship with US the US media outlets categorize it into one group while a country that is not on good terms with US such as North or Iran then they are clubbed into another group.

Purwitarini (2020) pursued a corpus-based study to examine the use of the words ‘suspect’ and ‘patient’ in a Covid-19 corpus. The reason for selecting these two words was that they were used interchangeably during the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, to check the collocations and semantic prosody of these words, the researcher conducted a study. The researcher used a qualitative method with a sketch engine to conduct the study. The researcher found that the word ‘patient’ was used more frequently in scientific research on the topic of Covid-19 than the word ‘suspect. Furthermore, it was found that the words that most frequently cohabitated with the word ‘suspect’ were negative, giving it a negative semantic prosody. The words that mostly co-occurred with the word ‘patient’ were positive, thereby giving it a positive semantic prosody.

Ullah (2020) conducted a corpus-based study by analyzing three Pakistani English newspapers: The Express Tribune, The News International, and The Dawn. The study aims to examine the representation of Brexit in Pakistani print media discourse from a linguistic point of view. He uses a combination of two methodological approaches, Corpus Linguistics, and Critical Discourse Analysis, to explain the phenomena of Brexit in the corpora collected from the three selected newspapers. His data collection ranges from 23 June 2016 to 29 March 2019. He uses three corpus tools for his study, i.e., keyword list, collocates, and concordance through lexical software AntConc, to achieve the study's objectives. He uses Stubbs' discourse prosody to understand the collocate patterns in concordance and Galtunge and Ruge's theory of news values to identify the vested policy of the different newspapers. His study found that the three selected newspapers have almost similarly portrayed the Brexit issue as an adverse event and of international concern with significant consequences for Pakistan and the European Union. The study's findings also suggest that post-Brexit, there would be better prospects for trade between Pakistan and Britain in light of the



greater freedom of choice and decision-making available to the aforementioned country, highlighting the potential impact of Brexit on international trade.

Rashid, Ali, and Sultan (2020) examined the use of adjectives in the portrayal of Kashmir in Pakistani and Indian newspapers. They conducted a corpus-based study. Where they aimed to investigate the representation of Kashmir issue in Pakistani and Indian newspapers. For which, they reviewed a corpus of newspaper editorials collected from Pakistani and Indian newspapers. The tools that were employed to tag and scrutinize the text included, AntTag and AntConc software respectively. Through their study they concluded that there were a lot of differences between the Pakistani and Indian media representation of Kashmir in their respective newspapers. The use of adjectives by the newspapers of both countries drawn a completely opposite picture. The Indian newspapers use such adjectives which present the Kashmir issue as settled and requiring no further negotiation. While Pakistani newspapers uses such adjectives as to depict the Kashmir issue as an issue that is yet to solved. Moreover, they portray the struggle of Kashmiri people for liberation as a sacred fight for freedom from forceful occupation. They use a wide array of adjectives achieve this.

Sulalah (2020) conducted a corpus-based study to investigate the semantic prosody of the word increase in a Covid-19 corpora. The researcher used a descriptive qualitative design because of its suitability to the objective of the study. The theory used by for the study was Stubbs semantic prosody. Even though, increase is often associated with positive connotations but the researcher found after the investigation of the Covid-19 corpora that the meaning of the word increase depended upon its collocate. For example, when it was used with words like risk, rate, levels, number, significantly and associated then it has negative meaning while on the other hand when it was used with words like expression then it has positive meaning.

Aljbour (2022) carried out a corpus-based study to scrutinize Jordan's economy throughout two periods (2001-2003; 2010-2012) in a corpus of 13,045,108 words which was compiled from the archive section of Petra News agency. the researcher used AntConc software for the examination of the corpus. The findings revealed that in the first period the economy was presented in positive light while in the second period it was presented in a negative light. Thereby, showing a gradual shift in the position from positive to negative. Moreover, it was concluded that the cause of the negative

representation of the economy in the second period was attributed to international financial crisis, and domestic policies which has been exacerbated by the effects of “Arab spring”.

Albonia (2022) conducted a qualitative study to examine the discursive representation of Taliban in the Afghan media before and after power change. She analyzed the linguistic choices that were used to portray the Taliban in favorable or unfavorable light in Afghan print media discourse. The data that she studied consisted of articles published in Afghani English newspapers.

She used corpus methodological approach to investigate the depiction of Taliban in the collected data. To uncover the change that had occurred in the discourse regarding Taliban before and after power change, she used Fairclough three-dimensional model. She found that the word that were most frequently used with the Taliban before they came into power were conflict related words. Due to which the overall image that was portrayed of Taliban before coming to power was negative. They were presented as terrorist organization that butcher civilians and in their struggle to get control of the country they almost destroyed the country. In addition, an extra effort was made to present them as the common enemy of both the people and the government. They were considered as an impediment in the path of peace. But post power-shift the attitude of the Afghan print media saw a complete turn-around from its earlier position. They highlighted the deep concern of the Islamic Emirate about the country’s future. Thereby showing the deep trust between the government and the Aghan society. The same media that once held the Taliban responsible for the chaos was now presented as the legitimate government who would unite the country and build back the country.

Rong (2022) undertook a study to examine the semantic prosody of the word lockdown in a Covid-19 corpora. The researcher adopted a data-driven approach in his study to investigate the collocations of the word lockdown and the resultant semantic prosody. he found that the words that most frequently co-occur with the word lockdown were execution, implementation in verbs, while country, region, cause, execution and influence in adjectives. Overall, it was found that the word lockdown has a neutral to negative semantic prosody. Furthermore, the semantic prosody of each country was different for the word. For example, the investigation of Chinese report revealed that it had a negative semantic prosody of the word. While the reports from

Britain had a neutral semantic prosody about the word lockdown. One of the limitations of this study was that the data collected for this study was taken from the reports on Covid-19 of only 20 countries.

Khan (2023) carried out a corpus-based study to linguistically examine the portrayal of Afghan Peace Process in the corpora compiled from six selected English newspapers, namely, The Express Tribune, The Dawn, The Aghan Times, The Kabul Times, The New York Times and The Washington Post. The time span of his data collection ranges from 29 February, 2020 to 30 August 2021. For his study he uses three corpus tools namely, keyword list, collocates and concordance through lexical software AntConc with the purpose to achieve the objective of the study. Stubbs' model of semantic prosody was used to analyze linguistic patterns in the concordance lines in each corpus to examine the stance of the selected newspapers. In his study, he found that the newspapers represented the issue of Afghan Peace Process according to their interests and political affiliations. For example, the keyword Taliban has been portrayed negatively in Afghan print media discourse, positively in Pakistan and neutral in American print media discourse

Malik et al., (2023) conducted a corpus-based study to investigate the representation of 'Covid-19 vaccine' in the English Malaysian newspaper corpus. The rationale provided by the researcher to conduct this study was that, since a great number of studies had been carried out to examine the representation of Covid-19 in print media. But no study had been carried out to examine the representation of Covid-19 vaccine in print media. Which, according to the author of this study, claims to fill. The objectives of this study included the identification of Covid-19 vaccines related the key words and these words were framed in the selected corpus. Upon investigation, the researcher found that the vaccine had been presented in positive light. The words that were found mostly with the word 'Covid-19 vaccine' were positive words such as 'special', 'effective', and 'important'. Which led to the creation of positive semantic prosody for the word Covid-19 vaccine.

## CHAPTER 3

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter meticulously outlines the design and nature of the study. The first part of this section delves into the study design, providing a comprehensive description of all the techniques used in this study. The second part consists of a detailed description of the theoretical framework used for the present study. The third part describes the method of data analysis, population and sampling, the method used for data collection, and the corpora used in the present study. A detailed overview of the AntCon 4.2.0 software used in this study is provided, instilling confidence in the technological aspects of the research. Lastly, a short overview of the rationale behind selecting the corpus analysis tools used in the present study is provided, underlining the careful consideration given to every aspect of the research.

#### 3.1 Design of the Study

This study utilized a mixed-method approach, combining qualitative and quantitative methods. The use of corpus tools like word frequency, collocates, and keyword lists was instrumental in generating quantitative data, while the concordance tool played a crucial role in generating qualitative data, underscoring the importance of these tools in the research process.

Furthermore, the present study has utilized a purposeful or judgmental sampling technique. Three separate corpora were collected from six different English newspapers from three countries, i.e., the USA, Russia, and Pakistan. The six newspapers selected for the present study include the Washington Post and The New York Times from USA; The Moscow Times and Russia Today from Russia; The Express Tribune and The Nation from Pakistan. This global scope of data collection adds a breadth to the research. Only three sections of the selected newspapers were chosen, i.e., opinion, editorials, and new stories. The researcher has created three separate corpora. These corpora are named Corpus of American Newspapers, Corpus of Russian Newspapers, and Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers. The three corpora have been collected from the six different newspapers. The period for data collected consists of one year, from Feb

24, 2022, to Feb 24, 2023. The rationale was that the recent chapter of escalation in the Russia-Ukraine war started on Feb 24, 2022.

After downloading editorials, news stories, and opinions, they were saved as Word documents. Each of the three country's corpora was separated into three distinct files. After this, the data was converted into plain text as AntConc cannot process Word documents. However, before being converted into plain text, careful cleansing procedures were conducted to eliminate any extra elements such as titles, publication dates, images, and names of columnists. Moreover, Sketch Engine was also utilized to remove any extra elements left behind in the data cleansing process by the researcher. AntConc software version 4.2.0 was used to find concordance, collocation, and keywords in the corpora. Afterward, a combination of Baker's (2008) Corpus-Assisted Critical Discourse Analysis and Stubbs's (1996) semantic or discourse prosody model was used to analyze the data.

## **3.2 Theoretical Framework**

The present study employs Stubbs's (1996) model of discourse prosody as the theoretical framework. Stubbs's model acts as a lens through which the researcher analyzes the concordance lines. Corpus linguistics has made the description of semantic prosody a lot easier. Stubbs's Model of Discourse Prosody has three strands. These three strands are:

### **3.2.1 Positive Prosody**

Positive semantic prosody is the first type of semantic prosody. It is also known as favorable or pleasant discourse prosody. According to Stubbs (1996), a word with positive discourse prosody is surrounded by words with positive connotational meaning. For example, Stubbs (1996) states that the word 'provide' has positive semantic prosody because it collocates with words with positive connotations such as funds, relief, assistance, and opportunities.

### **3.2.2 Negative Prosody**

Negative semantic prosody is the second type of discourse prosody. It is also termed an unfavorable or unpleasant discourse prosody. Stubbs (1996) writes that in negative discourse prosody, the word that bears negative semantic prosody is surrounded by words having negative connotational meaning. For example, Sinclair (1991) examined the semantic prosody of the phrase "set in" and concluded that the

term "set it" is usually surrounded by words having negative connotational meanings such as ill-will, decay, rot, prejudice, infection, and decadence. In a different study, Stubbs (1995) found that the verb "happens" bears negative semantic prosody as most words collocate with it and have negative connotative meanings such as cancer, delay, accident, death, damage and trouble, etc.

### 3.2.3 Neutral Prosody

The third type of discourse prosody is neutral prosody. If a word bears neutral discourse prosody, it means that it is surrounded by words that have neither positive nor negative connotations.

## 3.3 Method of Data Analysis

The present study utilizes Baker's (2008) "Corpus-Assisted Critical Discourse Analysis" as the methodological technique for collecting, organizing, and interpreting the chosen newspaper corpora. Several steps in this approach are followed in the analysis of the data. The first step is to generate the research questions for the present study. The second step entails the selection and collection of relevant data. The third step includes the selection of suitable CL tools for analysis. For the present study, three corpus tools have been chosen. The tools are Keyword list, collocation, and concordance. The next step involves using CL tools like keyword extraction and frequency of words and investigating collocations to unveil emerging patterns within the corpus. This step is significant for the study as it determines the corpus's essential themes and frequently occurring patterns.

- Step 1:** Generating research question (s) for the present study.
- Step 2:** Selecting the relevant data and collect the appropriate data.
- Step 3:** Choosing suitable corpus tools for the analysis.
- Step 4:** Determining the frequency of keywords and keywords by comparing the specialized and reference corpus.
- Step 5:** Conducting concordance (qualitative) analysis or KWIC (keyword in context).
- Step 6:** Returning to the research question(s) formulated in the first step to confirm

the study and indicate probable consequences.

The researcher used the above-given steps proposed by Baker (2008) to conduct the corpus-assisted critical discourse analysis of the selected corpora. In addition, Stubbs's model of discourse prosody was utilized to analyze the data. This study used three corpus tools: Keyword list, collocates, and concordance. In the first step of the analysis, the researcher created keyword lists through AntConc 4.2.0 for the specialized corpora. The researcher discovered the frequencies of each word occurring in the corpus through this tool.

In the second step, the collocations of the selected words from the critical list, depending on their importance and relevance to the topic under investigation, were observed to determine the semantic prosody these words carried. In the third and last step of the analysis, the concordance lines of each collocate observed in the second step are checked to examine their contextual patterns. Moreover, Stubbs's Models of discourse prosody is employed to interpret the concordance lines.

To the best of the researcher's knowledge, the data employed in this study has not been analyzed in the manner presented here. While earlier works have addressed the framing of the Russia–Ukraine war in Western or Russian press, no study has systematically examined the semantic prosody of conflict-related terms in Pakistani newspapers. The collocational analysis of keywords such as *sanctions* and *invasion* across Pakistani, American, and Russian corpora introduces a new dimension to the field, highlighting evaluative tendencies that have not been mapped before. This methodological innovation makes the study both original and significant.

### **3.4 Construction of Corpora**

Creating corpora is considered the most challenging step in corpus linguistics research. Because this task requires much time, energy, and resources, the researcher should follow some specific guidelines. The first important step in this regard is building the corpus design, tackling problems related to population, sample, mode, and corpus choice. The second step entails mentioning the period of corpus collection. Furthermore, it includes a description of when the data was collected, the technique employed to change it into machine-readable form, and the choice of software and corpus tools selected for the data analysis.

### 3.4.1 Corpus Design

Before building a corpus, the goal should be established, as the design of the corpus becomes visible after the goal is established. There are generally two main types of corpora: reference corpora (also termed general corpora) and specialized corpora. These two types of corpora have different purposes.

Reference corpora are large collections of data created to make conclusions regarding whole languages. They are mostly utilized to compare different languages (Paltridge, 2012). Meanwhile, specialized corpora are built to examine specific types or genres of language. According to Reppen, Fitzmaurice, and Biber (2002), these types of corpora are built for particular purposes and generally consist of text from specific genres of language or literature like reports, essays, novels, speeches, or research articles.

For this study, three specialized corpora were built from six newspapers from three different countries: America, Russia, and Pakistan. The data for these three specialized corpora was collected from only three sections of the newspapers: opinion, editorial, and news stories. The time frame for the data ranges from Feb 24, 2022, to Feb 24, 2023.

The criteria for including and excluding newspapers in this study are based on their wide national readership and established role in communicating state narratives. The selected newspapers from each country are not only among the most widely read and trusted sources of news, but they also act as important channels that often reflect, support, or shape the official state stance on critical political and international issues. These newspapers are known to frame public discourse, especially on topics of national interest such as disputes and wars. Newspapers that do not meet these criteria—either due to restricted circulation, absence of national influence, or editorial autonomy from state-aligned standpoints—have been omitted from the study. As mentioned above the first rationale behind selecting these particular newspapers is their wide readership and circulation in their respective countries. According to the official report of the Washington Post, more than 58 million total digital visitors visited the Washington Post website in December 2022 alone.

Similarly, The New York Times has more than 100 million readers having registered accounts with the Times. The Russian newspapers selected for the proposed



study are Russia's two leading English newspapers. Lastly, the newspapers selected from Pakistan are among Pakistan's widely circulated English newspapers, with over 50,000 weekly circulations. In addition to their wide readership in their respective countries, the selected newspaper from each country is considered to be having an important role in expressing, supporting and outlining the official state narratives regarding various issues of public interest including wars etc., thereby making them good sources of study to determine the stance and political position of these countries on the issue in question i.e., Russia- Ukraine war.

### 3.4.2 Research Sampling

This study uses a non-probability sampling technique known as judgmental purposive or authoritative sampling. In this sampling technique, the researcher selects sample participants based on their knowledge and experience. For the present study, the researcher collected data from the three specialized corpora, i.e., the Corpus of American Newspapers, the Corpus of Russian Newspapers, and the Corpus of Pakistani newspapers. The sample consisted of all opinions, editorials, and news stories published in the selected newspapers between Feb 24, 2022, and Feb 24, 2023. The total number of opinion articles, editorials, and news stories taken for the present study is as follows:

### 3.5 Collection of Corpora

The researcher created three specialized corpora for the present study by collecting data from the selected newspapers. All opinion articles, editorials, and news stories related to the Russia— Ukraine war published in the chosen six newspapers between Feb 24, 2022, and Feb 24, 2023.

These corpora were created from the data collected from the archive sections of each newspaper, available on their respective websites. The data collected from the archive section of each website was saved into MS Word files. The resulting corpora were titled Corpus of American Newspapers, Corpus of Russian Newspapers, and Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers.

The data collection process for the current study was the most difficult, laborious, and time consuming. The whole process, from the initial data collection to the end task of creating corpora, took the researcher around two months.

### 3.5.1 Reference Corpus

A reference corpus plays a crucial role in corpus linguistics, especially corpus-assisted critical discourse (Baker, 2008). A reference corpus consists of a large collection of text, generally numbering millions or, in some cases, billions of words. Baker (2008) suggests that researchers in the field of corpus linguistics utilize reference corpora to uncover the underlying theme in a specific text. Many reference corpora are available online, such as The Brown Family of Corpus, British National Corpus, and the Corpus of Contemporary American English.

For this study, the researcher has utilized AmE06 as a reference corpus comprising 101 787,791 words, with more than 1 million words added by Laurence Anthony using AntConc version 4.2.0 (Anthony, 2022). The criteria for selecting AmE06 as a reference corpus was its alignment with the genre of the research data and its representation of contemporary American English. Unlike older corpora such as the British National Corpus (BNC), which predominantly includes texts from around 1991, **AmE06** supplies a more contemporary linguistic sample, making it a more suitable reference point for determining noteworthy patterns in collocation and semantic prosody.

Three specialized corpora were created: Corpus of American Newspapers, Corpus of Russian Newspapers, and Corpus of American Newspapers. These specialized corpora were compared to the reference corpus to determine the keywords and their keyness in the corpus.

### 3.5.2 Statistical Description of the Compiled Corpora

For this study, three separate corpora were compiled from selected English-language newspapers of Pakistan, the United States, and Russia. These corpora are titled: the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers, the Corpus of American Newspapers, and the Corpus of Russian Newspapers. The articles included in each corpus focus on the Russia-Ukraine war and are delimited to the period from February 22, 2022, to April 22, 2023.

A total of 1,326,917 tokens were compiled across all three corpora. Specifically, the Corpus of American Newspapers contains 295,865 tokens, the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers contains 213,905 tokens, and the Corpus of Russian Newspapers includes

306,713 tokens. The selection was based on relevance to the war, coverage frequency, and editorial influence.

The corpus data were processed and analyzed using AntConc, a freeware corpus analysis toolkit developed by Laurence Anthony. Articles were cleaned for duplicates, advertisements, and non-editorial content to ensure data consistency. Word counts, normalized frequencies, and type-token ratios were calculated using AntConc's built-in tools.

The following table provides a statistical overview of the compiled corpora, including the number of articles, total word tokens, normalized word frequency per 1,000 words, and unique word types for each newspaper:

**Table 1**

*Statistical Description of Corpora*

<i>Corpus Name</i>	<i>Newspaper</i>	<i>No. of Articles</i>	<i>No. of Tokens</i>	<i>Normalized Frequency</i>	<i>Word Types</i>
<i>Corpus of American Newspapers</i>	The Washington Post	155	118,530	7,621	9,034
	The New York Times	197	177,335	6,529	11,579
<i>Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers</i>	The Express Tribune	197	91,411	7,484	6,842
	The Nation	87	122,494	7,639	9,358
<i>Corpus of Russian Newspapers</i>	The Moscow Times	257	138,723	6,214	8,624
	Russia Today	205	167,990	793	9,732

## CHAPTER 4

### DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

#### 4.1 Statistical Description of Compiled Corpora

Statistical Description of compiled corpora Three corpora from the selected newspapers were compiled for this study. The Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers, Corpus of American Newspapers, and Corpus of Russian Newspapers were the names of the first, second, and third corpora, respectively.

**Table 2**

*The Table Below Provides a Statistical Breakdown of the three Corpora*

<b>Corpus Name</b>	<b>Newspaper</b>	<b>No. of Articles</b>	<b>No. of Tokens</b>	<b>Normalized Frequency</b>	<b>Word Types</b>
<b>Corpus of American Newspapers</b>	The Washington Post	155	118,530	7,621	9,034
	The New York Times	197	177,335	6,529	11,579
<b>Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers</b>	The Express Tribune	197	91,411	7,484	6,842
	The Nation	87	122,494	7,639	9,358
<b>Corpus of Russian Newspapers</b>	The Moscow Times	257	138,723	6,214	8,624
	Russia Today	205	167,990	793	9,732

#### 4.1.1 Keyword Extraction and Analysis

Extracting keywords is the first step in managing this thesis's data. According to Baker (2008), keyword extraction enables the researcher to determine the important topics in the collected corpora files about the Russia-Ukraine war. Moreover, these keywords are later examined in collocation and concordance analysis.

Utilizing Reference Corpus Employing AntConc version 4.2.0, the three specialized corpora files were compared to AmE06 as a reference corpus with 101 78791 words. Baker (2008) writes that using reference corpus is necessary when extracting keywords, and it is an unavoidable requirement of the corpus tool, i.e., the keyword tool. Because without a reference corpus, AntConc does not allow the researcher to create a keyword list. For this study, the researcher first combined the three corpora, i.e., the Corpus of American Newspapers, the Corpus of Russian Newspapers, and the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers, with the reference corpus AmE06 and extracted 100 keywords. For this study, the researcher utilized Scott and Tribble's (2006) recommended five stages for word extraction. These stages are: 1. In the first step, wordlists are generated for the reference and specialized corpus. However, this study does not need this step, as AntConc is used. AntConc automatically compares the raw research file with the reference corpus and generates the keyword list. 2. The second step in this procedure involves deciding a frequency threshold below which, if a word appears, will not be considered for study. Therefore, only those words will be considered keywords if they fall above the minor threshold selected for the study. 3. The third step entails a statistical test, using a log-likelihood test to compare the frequencies of words in the reference and specialized corpora. The same test is being used for the current study. 4. In the fourth step, words that do not repeat at least as frequently as the threshold frequency are removed and are statistically more important to the reference corpus. 5. The last step involves organizing the keywords according to their keyness value. After comparing the specialized corpora with the reference corpora, i.e., the American reference corpus (AmE06), a 100-word list was generated. Given the scope of the present study and the time limitation, only ten words were selected for further analysis. These words were selected based on their importance and relevance to the Russia-Ukraine war. Hence, only those words that had a bearing on the Russia-Ukraine war were selected. After selection, these words were arranged in a descending order based on their keyness value. The keywords listed

generated by the researcher contain words from various categories, including proper nouns, lexical words, and structural words such as conjunctions, prepositions, articles, determiners, pronouns, and auxiliary verbs. However, those words belonging to the structural word category were left out because they only indicate relationships between words and do not possess semantic value.

**Table 3**

*Top 100 Keywords from all three Corpora*

<b>Keywords</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Frequency In Target Corpus</b>	<b>Frequency In Reference corpus</b>	<b>Keyness Likelihood</b>	<b>Keyness (Effect)</b>
<b>Ukraine</b>	10	5043	43	9023	0.017
<b>Russia</b>	8	6069	62	10547.95	0.018
<b>Russian</b>	9	5201	56	901288	0.015
<b>War</b>	12	3595	637	3674.701	0.011
<b>Putin</b>	20	2883	10	5178.711	0.008
<b>Ukrainian</b>	21	2615	1	4791.666	0.008
<b>Military</b>	23	2054	285	2331.975	0.006
<b>People</b>	27	1674	1093	475.894	0.005
<b>President</b>	29	1554	485	1112.237	0.005
<b>Moscow</b>	32	1390	24	2335.551	0.004
<b>NATO</b>	33	1326	27	2199.336	0.004
<b>Forces</b>	34	1303	114	1717.248	0.004
<b>Country</b>	38	1161	317	919.344	0.003
<b>Western</b>	39	1107	146	1280.642	0.003
<b>States</b>	40	1077	526	485.441	0.003
<b>West</b>	41	1064	201	1051.872	0.003
<b>United</b>	42	1030	428	563.138	0.003
<b>Kyiv</b>	43	1013	0	1861.231	0.003
<b>Invasion</b>	44	924	30	1461.56	0.003

<b>Europe</b>	45	872	129	964.152	0.003
<b>Nuclear</b>	46	869	137	935.3	0.003
<b>Weapons</b>	50	786	64	1055.05	0.002
<b>State</b>	51	769	697	93.838	0.002
<b>Sanctions</b>	52	765	8	1324.496	0.002
<b>Region</b>	53	743	92	879.34	0.002
<b>Conflict</b>	57	707	64	922.879	0.002
<b>Biden</b>	58	695	1	1262.688	0.002
<b>Internatio nal</b>	5	686	224	472.644	0.002
<b>Troops</b>	60	681	67	868.143	0.002
<b>Ukrainian</b>	61	658	4	1163.991	0.002
<b>Power</b>	63	638	350	244	0.002
<b>Kremlin</b>	64	637	9	1084.543	0.002
<b>Security</b>	65	630	261	345.454	0.002
<b>Vladimir</b>	66	629	2	1130.502	0.002
<b>Zelensky</b>	67	608	0	1116.887	0.002
<b>Russians</b>	68	607	7	1045.621	0.002
<b>European</b>	70	601	99	634.279	0.002
<b>Soviet</b>	73	567	55	725.76	0.002
<b>Defense</b>	74	565	120	524.398	0.002
<b>governme nt</b>	75	552	359	157.94	0.002
<b>Economic</b>	78	517	233	257.555	0.002
<b>Eastern</b>	80	504	42	672.432	0.001
<b>Political</b>	83	482	375	92.71	0.001
<b>Foreign</b>	84	481	157	331.458	0.001
<b>Energy</b>	85	479	196	266.153	0.001

<b>Media</b>	86	475	93	460.8	0.001
<b>Attack</b>	89	460	92	441.242	0.001
<b>Army</b>	90	451	87	440.91	0.001
<b>China</b>	91	449	79	459.525	0.001
<b>Civilians</b>	92	445	10	731.447	0.001
<b>Soldiers</b>	93	441	64	491.305	0.001
<b>Global</b>	94	436	170	254.763	0.001
<b>Fighting</b>	95	429	79	429.402	0.001
<b>Officials</b>	96	427	135	302.149	0.001
<b>Allies</b>	97	424	29	592.83	0.001
<b>Union</b>	98	423	110	346.303	0.001
<b>Minister</b>	103	378	62	399.643	0.001
<b>Territory</b>	109	358	44	424.706	0.001
<b>Help</b>	110	349	340	32.381	0.001
<b>Nations</b>	112	344	97	265.975	0.001
<b>Peace</b>	113	342	103	251.575	0.001
<b>Attacks</b>	114	337	56	354.191	0.001
<b>Fight</b>	114	337	102	246.932	0.001
<b>Pakistan</b>	116	336	14	513.847	0.001
<b>Germany</b>	116	336	41	399.611	0.001
<b>Kherson</b>	118	333	0	611.635	0.001
<b>Missiles</b>	119	326	5	552.018	0.001
<b>Strategic</b>	120	323	43	372.168	0.001
<b>Operation</b>	121	320	70	291.985	0.001
<b>News</b>	122	318	214	85.054	0.001
<b>Crisis</b>	123	312	74	271.173	0.001
<b>Ministry</b>	124	310	28	404.807	0.001



<b>Leaders</b>	125	309	154	135.489	0.001
<b>Situation</b>	127	307	113	189.853	0.001
<b>Cities</b>	128	305	61	292.531	0.001
<b>Crimea</b>	131	303	0	556.524	0.001
<b>EU</b>	131	303	23	413.653	0.001
<b>Aggression</b>	135	292	6	483.688	0.001
<b>Force</b>	135	292	144	129.85	0.001
<b>East</b>	137	289	173	96.032	0.001
<b>Donetsk</b>	141	287	0	527.133	0.001
<b>Armed</b>	141	287	59	271.197	0.001
<b>Administration</b>	141	287	196	74.489	0.001
<b>Economy</b>	144	285	148	118.076	0.001
<b>Official</b>	146	282	83	211.145	0.001
<b>Volodymyr</b>	147	280	0	514.274	0.001
<b>Threat</b>	149	276	104	166.846	0.001
<b>Front</b>	150	275	268	25.477	0.001
<b>Leader</b>	152	271	91	182.227	0.001
<b>Supply</b>	153	270	66	230.228	0.001
<b>Donbas</b>	154	267	0	490.394	0.001
<b>Washington</b>	157	262	224	38.669	0.001
<b>Policy</b>	158	261	231	34.503	0.001
<b>Missile</b>	161	259	15	374.665	0.001
<b>Regime</b>	11	259	40	281.133	0.001
<b>Mariupol</b>	163	258	0	473.862	0.001
<b>Border</b>	164	257	104	144.471	0.001
<b>Kharkiv</b>	168	250	0	459.167	0.001

Artillery	6 8	250	7	402.046	0.001
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#### 4.1.2 Keywords Categorization

After generating the keyword list, these words were divided into categories based on their theme. This step helps in analysis beyond the lexical level and also provides us with the general themes that emerge in the corpora. The division of keywords into different categories is also important because it helps the researcher identify the different types of discourses found in the corpora. Hence, the keywords were divided into the following categories

#### 4.1.3 Keywords Selected for In-Depth Analysis

According to Gibrieltos and Marchi (2011) and Kinloch (2018), only a few keywords are selected for further analysis among the long list of words generated from the corpora because these are salient words and better serve the purpose of the research questions.

Actors as they are not the focus of this study. According to Wolfsfeld (2015), social actors are defined as "individuals who have obtained at least some measure of political power and authority in a particular society who engage in activities that can have a significant influence on decisions, policies, media coverage, and outcomes associated with a given conflict." However, proper nouns, such as the names of the countries, locations, or institutions, were taken for this study because of their importance to the topic under investigation. These are the countries, locations, or institutions that directly affect the Russia-Ukraine war. Therefore, due to their significance and relevance to the Russia-Ukraine war, the following ten words were selected for in-depth analysis: Russia, Ukraine, war, NATO, invasion, sanctions, US, Pakistan, EU, and conflict.

**Table 4***Frequency of Selected Keywords in all three Corpora*

<b>Serial No.</b>	<b>Keywords</b>	<b>Frequency in American corpus</b>	<b>Frequency in Pakistani corpus</b>	<b>Frequency in Russian corpus</b>
1	Russia	1,740 times	2,199 times	2130 times
2	Ukraine	2013 times	2,445 times	116 times
3	War	1428 times	1,057 times.	1010 times
4	NATO	361 times	578 times	387 times
5	Invasion	311 times	306 times	306 times
6	Sanctions	261 times	220 times	163 times
7	US	1608 times	891 times	551 times
8	Pakistan	12 times	312 times	12 times
9	EU	341 times	171 times	132 times
10	Conflict	191 times	237 times	279 times

## 4.2 Concordance Analysis of Keywords in the Corpus of American Newspapers

### 4.2.1 The Keyword 'Russia' in the Corpus of American Newspapers

In the extensive Corpus of American Newspapers, the keyword 'Russia' is a recurring theme, mentioned a substantial 1,740 times. Its most frequent collocates include 'weakened,' 'fearing,' 'aggression,' 'annexed,' 'waging,' 'invaded,' and 'backed.' These collocates paint a predominantly negative picture of Russia, giving it a negative semantic prosody.

The collocates 'weakened' and 'fearing' paint a complex picture of Russia, a powerful nation grappling with internal challenges and external threats. The presence of 'weakened' suggests a rapid decline in Russia's economic and political power, while 'fearing' implies a sense of insecurity from both within Russia and from its perceived opponents. These terms collectively present a nuanced and intriguing picture of Russia, a country that, despite its power, is not immune to internal and external pressures.

On the other hand, the collocates like 'aggression,' 'invaded,' and 'waging' bring to the forefront Russia's role as an aggressor in international conflicts. The presence of words such as 'aggression' and 'invaded' in the co-text of the keyword Russia casts Russia in a negative light, particularly for its recent actions in Ukraine. These terms having negative connotations are used in American Corpus to describe Russia's operation in Ukraine. The American newspapers frame Russia as a revisionist power that seeks to expand its borders.

Similarly, the frequent use of terms like 'waging' with Russia indicates Russia a active involvement in international conflict and also highlights its past history of getting involved in other countries' wars and disputes. The presence of words like 'annexed around Russia indicates that Russia's 2014 operation in Crimea are termed as annexation. Furthermore, the word 'backed' with Russia points to the support that Russia has provided to authoritarian regimes such as countries like, Iran and Syria. These collocates strengthen the negative portrayal of Russia as a country that consistently violates global norms and lends support to dictators and autocrats. Jointly, these collocates illustrate how Russia is invariably presented in American newspapers

as a frequent violator of international norms. The corpus's negative semantic prosody of "Russia" underscores the perspective of America on the role of Russia in geopolitical tensions across the globe.

Louw (1993) contends in his study, that the constant use of unfavorable words in media discourse helps to present particular countries as menacing or antagonistic entities, constructing a "negative semantic prosody" about them. In the American corpus, the collocates associated with "Russia" align with this trend, with frequent appearance of terms such as "aggression" and "conflict" around the key-word Russia, and strengthening the image of Russia as a belligerent player on the international scene. This constant pattern shapes general perception by aligning Russia with adversarial activities, subtly affecting readers to consider it cautiously and skeptically. Louw's concept is crucial for comprehending how American media utilizes specific lexical choices to build a critical narrative around Russia's role in global affairs. In the following paragraphs this negative portrayal of Russia has been further studied by thoroughly examining the top most collocates of the term Russia and the relevant concordance lines.

#### 4.2.1.1 Concordance Line Containing Collocate 'Aggression'

**Figure 1**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword 'Russia' In the Corpus of American Newspapers, Illustrating Its Frequent Co-Occurrence with the Collocate 'Aggression'.*

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Collective ...	we must think anew, and act anew." Dangerous as Russian	aggression	in Europe is, the United States faced worse direct
2	Collective ...	we must think anew, and act anew." Dangerous as Russian	aggression	in Europe is, the United States faced worse direct
3	Collective ...	strong supporter of a robust U.S. response to Russian	aggression	in Europe, based on the succinct, and apt, rationale
4	Collective ...	s conservative predecessor, Chancellor Angela Merkel. Even after previous Russian	aggression	in Georgia, Crimea and Donbas, she added, Germany underfunded
5	Collective ...	Pakistan and Sri Lanka both abstained from voting against Russian	aggression	in Ukraine, Lu called the Sri Lankan ambassador the
6	Collective ...	of a trans-Atlantic consensus on standing up to Russian	aggression	in Ukraine. Sooner rather than later, the West needs
7	Collective ...	ond to isolate Moscow internationally through global condemnation against Russian	aggression	in Ukraine. Only time will reveal how long the \$600
8	Collective ...	West and East, must present a united front against Russian	aggression.	The alternative is disarray and destruction. At the root
9	Collective ...	sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of unprovoked Russian	aggression." "	The bravery, resilience, and determination of the Ukrainian people
10	Collective ...	impressively rallied his people and galvanized the world against Russian	aggression.	The clarity he provided in a to a congressional
11	Collective ...	western nations invaded weak nations. To fight against the Russian	aggression,	the reflexive western response is sanctions. Nations only tend
12	Collective ...	ambition: itself. Presented as a common-sense response to Russian	aggression,	the shift, in fact, amounts to a significant escalation.
13	Collective ...	continues to assess its role in defending Ukraine against Russian	aggression.	The smallest, most pragmatic and achievable goal concerns Russia'
14	Collective ...	long-shot, but now it's even longer. The Russian	aggression	against Ukraine will most certainly change the ongoing administration
15	Collective ...	long-shot, but now it's even longer. The Russian	aggression	against Ukraine will most certainly change the ongoing administration
16	Collective ...	served the people rather than helping to delude them. Russian	aggression	against Ukraine violated both morality and a principle of
17	Collective ...	arguments justifying the absence of military intervention to confront Russian	aggression	against Ukraine i.e. the risk of sending the
18	Collective ...	order. Ukraine has never underestimated his intentions — not since Russian	aggression	against our country began in earnest in 2014 — nor his

The highest collocate of the word "Russia" in the American corpus is "aggression." It appears 24 times with the keyword "Russia" and refers to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In line no 8, it is strongly advised that both the East and West should urgently present a unified front against Russian aggression. Without a unified front between the East and West, the result will be anarchy and destruction. In line no 84, Russian aggression against Ukraine has been described as an unprovoked aggression; in the same line, the West in general and the U.S. in particular have been called upon to come out in full support of Ukraine. In the same vein, in the very next line, Russia's aggression against Ukraine has been termed as a barbaric aggression and predicted that it will destroy world stability. In lines 140 and 141, the actions of Russia in Ukraine have been described as unchecked Russian aggression that would undermine the peace and stability of the whole region. In line 150 it is mentioned, that countries in the Balkans, such as Belarus, have been earmarked for sanction due to their open support to Russia in its war against Ukraine. In line 181, Russian aggression against Ukraine has been considered as a violation of both international law and global standards of morality.

#### 4.2.1.2 Concordance Line Containing Collocate 'Invaded'

**Figure 2**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword 'Russia' with the Collocate 'Invaded' in the Corpus of American Newspapers*

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Collective ...	NATO allies against Russian aggression — were still president. When Russia	invaded	Ukraine on Feb. 24, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz responded by
2	Collective ...	our brash enemies in their place," Medvedev said. Since Russia	invaded	Ukraine on Feb. 24, the United States and its European
3	Collective ...	the risk of a nuclear confrontation has heightened since Russia	invaded	Ukraine on Feb. 24. In a speech at the time,
4	Collective ...	yet". Biden has not spoken directly with Putin since Russia	invaded	Ukraine on February 24. In March, Biden branded Putin a "
5	Collective ...	flashpoints in the word, while Ukraine has become another . Russia	invaded	Ukraine on February 24, this year, as the latter had
6	Collective ...	said it was Zelenska's first public appearance since Russia	invaded	Ukraine on February 24. Zelenska thanked Biden "for this very
7	Collective ...	More than three months into the conflict sparked when Russia	invaded	Ukraine on Feb. 24, that equipment has been used up
8	Collective ...	war in Ukraine, the investigative outlet iStories Monday. Before Russia	invaded	Ukraine on Feb. 24, the country's army was ranked
9	Collective ...	face-to-face contact between the two sides since Russia	invaded	Ukraine in February. Russia has not previously commented on
10	Collective ...	Zaporizhzhia in an hour in the heaviest attack since Russia	invaded	Ukraine in February last year, local officials said. Energy
11	Collective ...	Israel has sought to tread a delicate line since Russia	invaded	Ukraine in February, with Bennett stressing Israel's close
12	Collective ...	his second publicly announced visit to the frontline since Russia	invaded	Ukraine in February. "Army General Sergei Shoigu ... instructed the
13	Collective ...	aged men has jumped by as much as 100% since Russia	invaded	Ukraine in February, the investigation calculated. A growing list
14	Collective ...	visit Ukraine. Pakistan has maintained a delicate balance since Russia	invaded	Ukraine a year ago. Despite pressure from the US
15	Collective ...	decisive manner." More than a week has passed since Russia	invaded	Ukraine and the US has so far avoided direct
16	Collective ...	city. But war was not finished with me. When Russia	invaded	Ukraine at the end of February, I joined the

The other highest collocate of the word “Russia” in the American corpus is “invaded”. It turns up 13 times with the keyword “Russia” and refers to the Feb 2022, attack of Russia on Ukraine. In line 3, it is observed that the risk of nuclear confrontation has increased manyfold after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. In line 17, the global call for solidarity with Ukrainians has been mentioned. Furthermore, the 2014 attack on Ukraine by Russia is being discussed. In line 18, Russia recent attack against Ukraine has been considered as the result of the expansionist ideology of Russia.

#### 4.2.1.3 Concordance Line Containing Collocate ‘Weakened’

**Figure 3**

*Concordance Lines Showing the Collocate ‘Weakened’ in Proximity to the Keyword ‘Russia’ in the American Newspaper Corpus*

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1 Collective ...	no longer threaten its neighbors. "We want to see Russia	weakened	to the degree that it can't do the
2 Collective ...	to bolster Ukraine's resistance: "We want to see Russia	weakened	to the degree that it can't do the
3 Collective ...	Secretary Lloyd Austin recently that the United States wants "Russia	weakened	to the degree that it can't do the
4 Collective ...	Secretary Lloyd Austin on April 25: "We want to see Russia	weakened	to the degree that it can't do the
5 Collective ...	to produce a "weakened" Russia. "We want to see Russia	weakened	to the degree that it can't do the
6 Collective ...	favourable strategic environment in the Indo-Pacific Region, too. A	weakened	Russia helps the US defeat the twin-threat that
7 Collective ...	United States and Russia have been allowed to lapse. A	weakened	Russia was a likely outcome of the war even
8 Collective ...	be in the interest of the West to have a	weakened	Russia with excessive reliance on China? However, strategic ambiguity
9 Collective ...	Russia, an enemy, being isolated worldwide or militarily and economically	weakened.	Lastly, at the end of the war, the US
10 Collective ...	Russia, an enemy, being isolated worldwide or militarily and economically	weakened.	Lastly, at the end of the war, the US
11 Collective ...	s economic isolation will continue until it is considerably economically	weakened.	Such a country is not a particularly good prospect
12 Collective ...	was to help Ukraine defend itself; by it was a "	weakened"	Russia. But on one thing the administration has : America
13 Collective ...	Ukraine restore its sovereignty, but is also to produce a "	weakened"	Russia. "We want to see Russia weakened to the
14 Collective ...	the international rules-based order. This assumption has also been	weakened	recently in the aftermath of the Russian invasion of
15 Collective ...	the international rules-based order. This assumption has also been	weakened	recently in the aftermath of the Russian invasion of
16 Collective ...	Russia and China piecemeal. If Russia is suitably humbled, chastened,	weakened	and circumscribed then a Russo-China united front becomes
17 Collective ...	Russia and China piecemeal. If Russia is suitably humbled, chastened,	weakened	and circumscribed then a Russo-China united front becomes
18 Collective ...	react in Ukraine. Biden's war on fossil fuels has	weakened	America and strengthened Russia — because he apparently cares more

The second highest collocate of the word "Russia" in the American corpus is "weakened." It turns up 13 times with the keyword "Russia" and refers to the recent attack of Russia on Ukraine. In line 3, it is observed that the risk of nuclear confrontation has increased after Russia invaded Ukraine. In line 17, the matter of solidarity with Ukrainians has been raised. Furthermore, the 2014 attack on Ukraine by Russia is being discussed. In line 18, Russia's recent attack against Ukraine has been considered the result of the expansionist ideology of Russia.



#### 4.2.1.4 Random Concordance Lines

**Figure 4**

*Randomly Selected Concordance Lines for the Keyword 'Russia' in American Newspapers.*

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
83	Collective ...	was violated when the West began to seize assets of	Russia'	\$ central bank and private companies. "This is open
84	Collective ...	said Russian assets frozen in foreign banks, including reserves of	Russia'	\$ central bank, should be given for the reconstruction
85	Collective ...	the West's leverage over him. But the images of	Russia'	\$ invasion, and the heroism of the Ukrainian people,
86	Collective ...	countries has reached new levels. From the first day of	Russia'	\$ invasion, my mobile phone has been ringing almost
87	Collective ...	Alexander Lukashenko said. In the early days and weeks of	Russia'	\$ invasion, Kyiv was under siege by Russian troops
88	Collective ...	in uniform. Amid such scenes, the radicalization and militarization of	Russia'	\$ ruling elite continue in full force. Kursk Governor
89	Collective ...	in uniform. Amid such scenes, the radicalization and militarization of	Russia'	\$ ruling elite continue in full force. Kursk Governor
90	Collective ...	address has resumed. This set-piece speech in front of	Russia'	\$ ruling elite would be a suitable platform for
91	Collective ...	President Kamala Harris said on Saturday. "In the case of	Russia'	\$ actions in Ukraine we have examined the evidence,
92	Collective ...	policy. Bush's having even ventured a censorious opinion of	Russia'	\$ actions in Ukraine is irony enough -- the Freudian
93	Collective ...	s. The fallen include and many other officers. Roughly of	Russia'	\$ battalion tactical groups are believed to be "combat
94	Collective ...	was sending in new troops after Ukrainian forces put 31 of	Russia'	\$ battalion tactical groups out of action in what
95	Collective ...	for filling them." NEWS in the first official estimate of	Russia'	\$ battlefield losses since late March, Shoigu announced that 5,937
96	Collective ...	northeastern city of Kharkiv. In the first official estimate of	Russia'	\$ battlefield losses since March, Defense Minister Shoigu said
97	Collective ...	U.S. troops on the ground in the middle of	Russia'	\$ brutal attack. The point is that Putin understands
98	Collective ...	drags on, ethnic activists hope that the colonialist overtones of	Russia'	\$ brutal invasion, which has also seen of Ukrainian
99	Collective ...	called Colonel-General Alexander Lapin, who is in charge of	Russia'	\$ forces fighting in the region, "mediocre". He said
100	Collective ...	battlefield leader. Instead, Putin General Sergei Surovikin in charge of	Russia'	\$ forces in Ukraine. Now, even military logistics have

In concordance with line 1, the destabilizing impact of the Russian invasion on the region in particular and the whole world in general has been mentioned. In line 32, the Russian operation has been called a barbaric aggression that threatens global stability. Similarly, in line 37, the Russian military operation has been termed a blood-soaked military campaign. In line 39, the presence of U.S. troops in Ukraine has been mentioned while Russia continues its brutal attack against Ukraine. In line 56, Russia's recent attack on Ukraine has been called one among the many lists of nightmarish assaults against the different countries of the world that Russia has committed. Line no 98 refers to the colonialist overtones in Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine. In line 113, the future disintegration of Russia after its expected failure has been predicted. In line 253, the perceived threat that Russian President Vladimir Putin felt because of the eastward expansion of NATO has been dispelled as mere fiction. The real threat that Putin felt was to his claim to power. In line 350, it is suggested that Ukraine should be fortified against Russia's unwarranted war.



#### 4.2.2 The Keyword 'Ukraine' in the Corpus of American Newspapers

The keyword 'Ukraine' was used 2013 times in the Corpus of American Newspapers. The left and right co-texts of the word 'Ukraine' include words like 'helping' (8 times), 'break' (5 times), 'supporting' (12 times), 'aiding' (3 times), and 'providing' (8 times). These words carry positive connotational meaning, suggesting positive semantic prosody of the keyword. The frequently cooccurring words with 'Ukraine,' such as helping, breaking, supporting, and aiding, present Ukraine as a victim country that is helped and supported by America, evoking empathy towards its situation. In general, America's print media talks about standing with Ukraine and highlights its urgent need for global support, emphasizing the immediate and crucial nature of the situation and showing its geopolitical commitment to Ukraine.

Partington (2004) in his study of discourse being used to describe the Iraq War highlights the significance of language in formulating geopolitical affairs and shaping general perception. By employing words that imply assisting and helping, American newspapers place Ukraine as a country that urgently requires aid, strengthening a persecution narrative. This practice is not just a linguistic phenomenon but a strategic rhetorical choice that impacts how the audience considers the geopolitical condition. Likewise, Baker (2006) points out that media discourse creates narratives with a political agenda, and in this case, the favorable associations with Ukraine help to garner global empathy and aid for its cause. These linguistic results highlight how particular collocates impact general belief by shaping how global affairs are presented.

##### 4.2.2.1 Concordance Lines of the Collocate 'Supporting'

#### **Figure 5**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword 'Ukraine' with the Collocate 'Supporting' In the Corpus of American Newspapers*

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Collective ...	outcome of this fight. Anyone concerned about the cost of	supporting	a Ukrainian victory should consider the much larger cost
2	Collective ...	Caucasus and other Asian countries. America has a history of	supporting	anti-government and anti-regime forces and the 21st
3	Collective ...	domestic record of slavery and discrimination, our foreign record of	supporting	friendly dictators, and the ongoing injustices of American life,
4	Collective ...	is not alone in having misgivings about the costs of	supporting	Kyiv, Kevin McCarthy, the minority leader, recently said there
5	Collective ...	place. Russia's foreign ministry accused Israel on Tuesday of	supporting	neo-Nazis in Ukraine, escalating a row that began
6	Collective ...	the US sometimes accused Pakistan, sometimes Russia, and China of	supporting	the Taliban. The Afghan War went on during the
7	Collective ...	effect, Western nations have chosen the more prudent path of	supporting	Ukraine in its fight as effectively as possible without
8	Collective ...	community has so far shown remarkable unity and resolve in	supporting	Ukraine, but the West's staying power may be
9	Collective ...	experts agree that while Biden has generally done well in	supporting	Ukraine, we should be doing even more. "We're
10	Collective ...	free exchange of meteorological data has been hugely important in	supporting	global weather forecasting and this is how we have
11	Collective ...	s first priority, but that Moscow was also interested in	supporting	the region's agriculture sector. "We do believe that
12	Collective ...	the White House not only risks losing Americans' interest in	supporting	Ukrainians — who continue to suffer the loss of lives
13	Collective ...	adopt an independent stance amid Washington's arming, training, and	supporting	of Ukraine and its brazenly anti-Russian stance that
14	Collective ...	to join the EU. Russia responded by annexing Crimea and	supporting	separatists in the south-eastern provinces of Donetsk and
15	Collective ...	It is imperative for the West to keep arming and	supporting	the Ukrainians, keep adding to NATO troop deployments in
16	Collective ...	with 19.7 billion, and the Netherlands, with 11.2 billion. The countries are	supporting	Ukraine, economically, socially, politically but not militarily. While the
17	Collective ...	to exert pressure over Moscow. Since EU and NATO are	supporting	Ukraine, Moscow's insecurity has deepened. Furthermore, in this
18	Collective ...	their tractors disabled Russian tanks. People of all classes are	supporting	one another. A 82-year-old pensioner to the army —

The American corpus's highest collocate of the word "Ukraine" is "supporting." It turns up 12 times with the keyword "Ukraine" and refers to the support that the West thinks should go to Ukraine for its fight against Russia. In line 7, the Western nation's step to support Ukraine has been called prudent. In line 8, the world community has shown remarkable unity and resolve in supporting Ukraine. In line 21, world countries have been urged to support Ukraine to defeat Russia decisively and destroy its plans of conquering Ukraine. In line 25, experts who appreciate the support provided by the Biden administration to Ukraine are cited but still consider it short of the level of support that Ukraine needs. Therefore, it wants the US to step up its efforts and further assist Ukraine. The general perception of the West regarding support for Ukraine is quite positive. Many Western countries have opened their borders to Ukrainian refugees while at the same time allocating millions of dollars in both humanitarian and military aid to Ukraine. Rarely in global conflicts such unanimity in resolve and support is found among world countries for any one country, the way it is in the case of Ukraine.

#### 4.2.2.3 Concordance Line Containing Collocate ‘Helping’

**Figure 6**

*Concordance Lines for the Collocate ‘Helping’ with the Keyword ‘Ukraine’ in the American Newspaper Corpus*

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
26 Collective ...	it will be less effective than the military draft <b>in</b>	helping	the <b>Kremlin</b> prosecute the war. It is clearer than
27 Collective ...	S. military aid to extort the government of Ukraine <b>into</b>	helping	him <b>politically</b> ? Or all of Trump's anti-NATO
28 Collective ...	from Ukraine under the Black Sea initiative agreed in <b>July</b> ,	helping	to <b>stave</b> off a global food crisis. But Russia
29 Collective ...	America's war aim in Ukraine is no longer <b>just</b>	helping	<b>Ukraine</b> <b>restore</b> its sovereignty, but is also to produce
30 Collective ...	attacks to Russia's intelligence service, and Google <b>is now</b>	helping	<b>protect</b> <b>from</b> such attacks. The Anonymous collective cyberwar against
31 Collective ...	Russian sources) accused Western countries, especially the United Kingdom, <b>of</b>	helping	<b>Ukraine</b> <b>to</b> build a dirty bomb. Russia's warnings
32 Collective ...	that Iranian forces are present in Ukraine's Crimean <b>Peninsula</b> ,	helping	<b>Russian</b> <b>forces</b> operate military drones supplied by Tehran to
33 Collective ...	assault on Ukraine. As the world's democracies rightly <b>prioritize</b>	helping	<b>Ukraine</b> <b>withstand</b> Putin's aggression, they should not overlook
34 Collective ...	wary of Russia, their master in Soviet times, and <b>see</b>	helping	<b>Ukraine</b> <b>as</b> a matter of regional security. But about
35 Collective ...	on strategic commitments not warranted by the interests at <b>stake</b> .	Helping	<b>Ukraine</b> <b>defend</b> itself is worth a quite significant effort,
36 Collective ...	ideologically opposed to Putin's actions in private are <b>still</b>	helping	him <b>transform</b> the economy into one capable of sustaining
37 Collective ...	s aggression, they should not overlook the other important <b>task</b> :	helping	<b>Russian</b> <b>citizens</b> gain access to objective information about the
38 Collective ...	company would go out having served the people rather <b>than</b>	helping	to <b>delude</b> them. Russian aggression against Ukraine violated both
39 Collective ...	Ukrainian girl walked dozens of international students through Metro <b>tunnels</b> ,	helping	them <b>get</b> on a train to evacuate. That support
40 Collective ...	is ticking. In case Russia gets hyper adventurous, the <b>US</b>	helping	<b>Ukraine</b> <b>and</b> its allies to the extent that Moscow
41 Collective ...	Ukraine is a country that has stood resolutely <b>by us</b> ,	helping	<b>us</b> <b>strengthen</b> our defence capabilities. With Ukraine's help,
42 Collective ...	being detained by pro-Russia separatist fighters as he <b>was</b>	helping	to <b>evacuate</b> civilians from his home city of Mariupol. *
43 Collective ...	expanded. The US became the leader of the 'free <b>world</b> ,'	helping	to <b>build</b> up Europe after the war, including through

The second highest collocate of the word “Ukraine” in the American corpus is “helping.” It turns up eight times with the keyword “Ukraine” and points to the help that Ukraine needs to fight off Russia and defend its territorial integrity from an expansionist power. In line 10, the significance of West military support to Ukraine has been highlighted. It is written that the West must provide arms to Ukraine for its fight against Russia. In line 14, a section of people who think the cost of supporting Ukraine in its fight against Russia is too much are suggested to consider the amount of loss in the case of Ukraine’s defeat. In line 23, the world community is being lauded for its continued support of Ukraine, underscoring the remarkable unity and resolve shown against Russia’s aggression, which should reassure us all about the global response. In line 33, the world’s democracies have been lauded for prioritizing Ukraine and helping it in its war against Ukraine.

#### 4.2.2.4 Concordance Line Containing Collocate ‘Provide’

**Figure 7**

*Concordance Lines Showing the Collocate ‘Provide’ in Proximity to the Keyword ‘Ukraine’ in American Media Discourse.*

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Collective ...	than dithering or squabbling, has united as never before to	provide	Ukraine with military aid, care for and lead the
2	Collective ...	months and thousands of unnecessary deaths did Biden agree to	provide	Ukraine with heavy weapons necessary to roll back Russian
3	Collective ...	line. So when President Biden recently announced his decision to	provide	Ukraine with the multiple-launch rocket system that Kyiv
4	Collective ...	inside Russia. Sooner or later, the West will need to	provide	Ukraine with weapons systems that not only help to
5	Collective ...	moves and to hold Russia accountable. We will continue to	provide	Ukraine with the equipment it needs to defend itself,
6	Collective ...	a briefing on Tuesday, who said that Washington intends to	provide	Ukraine with a "maximally strong" position by the time
7	Collective ...	more, because there is a big need out there to	provide	Ukraine with ammunition," NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg told reporters
8	Collective ...	of more weaponry to Ukraine. "We have to continue to	provide	Ukraine with the weapons they need to continue the
9	Collective ...	another disclosure, U.S. officials said one reason not to	provide	Ukraine with MiG fighter jets is that intelligence showed
10	Collective ...	of Istanbul, NATO has embarked on a program designed to	provide	Ukraine with tens of billions of dollars in military
11	Collective ...	the Black Sea with their own fleets, they need to	provide	Ukraine the capabilities to do so. The world can'
12	Collective ...	failed to bear fruit, with successive Kiev governments refusing to	provide	the Donbass with constitutionally mandated autonomy in exchange for
13	Collective ...	tweet by a Ukraine government official who asked Musk to	provide	the embattled country with Starlink stations. "@elonmusk, while you
14	Collective ...	It is, after all, the job of the accuser to	provide	the evidence of a crime, not the accused. Blinken'
15	Collective ...	them. But just as important, we need to continue to	provide	the kind of ground-based anti-aircraft systems that
16	Collective ...	hostels and hotels in the country are legally obliged to	provide	the Ministry of Interior with information on all their
17	Collective ...	academy when the war broke out. Her role is to	provide	the troops with moral and psychological support. After speaking
18	Collective ...	weapons Ukraine wanted. Noting that officials pay maximum attention to	provide	the Ukrainian military with all necessary weapons, he added: "

The American corpus's third highest collocate of the word "Ukraine" is "provide." It turns up eight times with the keyword "Ukraine" and is used in the corpus to discuss the aid that should go to Ukraine. In line 2, Biden has been criticized for many unnecessary deaths by not providing Ukraine with heavy weaponry with which it can fight off Russia. In line 21, the European Union's dramatic decision to provide 1000 antitank weapons has been lauded. In its fight against Russia, it has abetted Ukraine by supplying it with advanced weapons systems like antitank weapons and many other weapons and resources. Line In line 31, the allies are expected at least to provide all the required air and missile defense systems to match up to the power of Russia and defend itself. In line 33, the free world has been called upon to provide Ukraine with both quality and quantity of weapons to fight off the Russian threat of occupation.

#### 4.2.2.5 Random Concordance Lines

**Figure 8**

*Randomly Selected Concordance Lines for the Keyword 'Ukraine' in the Corpus of American Newspapers.*

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	U.S. should seize the estimated held abroad to fund	Ukraine'	s military and reconstruction needs. I first proposed this
2	Corpus of ...	The White House is requesting \$6 billion, though independent estimates suggest	Ukraine'	s military and humanitarian needs call for around \$10 billion.
3	Corpus of ...	the pretext of rescuing the eastern region of Donbas from	Ukraine'	s military aggression, I knew: My family has never
4	Corpus of ...	the president's own making to get these weapons to	Ukraine'	s military before Russian forces encircle and destroy them.
5	Corpus of ...	firmly and resolutely, these diplomatic shaping operations in support of	Ukraine'	s military campaign can ensure that Russia's least-
6	Corpus of ...	Pentagon expected that Russian forces could capture Kyiv and disable	Ukraine'	s military command centers in about a week. Thus,
7	Corpus of ...	correcting some of their earlier incompetence. Russia has been , revealing	Ukraine'	s military position to be precarious in some areas.
8	Corpus of ...	the region belongs to Russia. As Russia in Donbas (which	Ukraine'	s military swiftly denied), it asked residents to prepare
9	Corpus of ...	war crimes, there is no indication that they are breaking	Ukraine'	s will to fight. More than a month into
10	Corpus of ...	symbolic Ukrainian target, such as Odessa or Lviv, to destroy	Ukraine'	s will to fight on. So how can Western
11	Corpus of ...	total fantasies — and everything flows from that. Putin completely underestimated	Ukraine'	s will to be independent and become part of
12	Corpus of ...	to advance quickly. Putin likely expected that he could break	Ukraine'	s will in a week. Given Russia's overwhelming
13	Corpus of ...	Putin's desperation and prompt him to try to break	Ukraine'	s will through increased and even less discriminate shelling,
14	Corpus of ...	approach would be a new version of the to rebuild	Ukraine'	s economy and a 21st-century version of to
15	Corpus of ...	of the Black Sea. This has done terrible damage to	Ukraine'	s economy and to the entire world. nearly 50 percent
16	Corpus of ...	to win. A long war, after all, probably favors Russia.	Ukraine'	s economy is set to shrink by this year
17	Corpus of ...	bridges — has been damaged or demolished. Such destruction will continue.	Ukraine'	s economy is by nearly half this year. Even
18	Corpus of ...	s aggressive words and deeds followed a plea Sunday from	Ukraine'	s president, Volodymyr Zelensky, to assembled world leaders in

In line 2, it is mentioned that the White House intends to send 6 billion dollars in aid to Ukraine, but according to independent sources, Ukraine's real need is around 10 billion dollars. In line 9, the valor of Ukrainian soldiers, who have shown immense bravery in the face of conflict, is praised. In lines 15 and 16, the terrible damage inflicted on the Ukrainian economy has been discussed. In line 22, Putin has been termed as a horrible man who is steering the world towards the hill, while Ukraine is being presented as the main hindrance in the path of Putin. In line 23, the importance of rebuilding the Ukrainian economy and democracy after the war has been referred to, while at the same time, the current wave of sympathy that has been directed towards Ukraine is being supported. In line 24, the Russian invasion has been termed as the mis adventurous ambition of an evil empire, while Ukrainian resistance is being called self-defense. In line 30, it is claimed that Ukraine has made advancements in the battleground and is amassing small victories against Russia. In line 33, the horrific harm that Putin has caused to the Ukrainian population. In line 46, the Russian assault against Ukraine has been termed as a violation of the territorial integrity of a United Nations member country.

#### 4.2.3 The keyword 'War' in the Corpus of American Newspapers

The keyword "war" is mentioned 1428 times in the Corpus of American Newspapers. Some of the collocates of the word "war" in the Corpus of American Newspapers include cold (98 times), machine (18 times), crimes (45 times), brutal (8 times), senseless (4), criminal (5), horrific (4). In American Newspapers, the word "war" is consistently associated with negative connotations, often paired with terms like "destruction," "invasion," and "loss." This stark portrayal is frequently linked to Russia's aggression and Ukraine's suffering. The suffering experienced by Ukraine is portrayed to show the brutal nature of the war in Ukraine. Russia is presented as the aggressor, and Ukraine as a sovereign nation that is fighting for its survival. War is universally seen as unfavorable, but in the American corpus, it is further tied to Russia's responsibility for initiating it, a perspective that significantly influences the US narrative.

In the Corpus of American Newspapers, the keyword "war" is frequently associated with terms carrying unfavorable connotations. This antagonistic framing is compatible with set conventions in media discourse, as examined by Baker (2006) and Partington (2004), where distinct collocates underline the savagery of war and phrase Russia as the attacker. These lexical choices help to build a description of Ukraine as a sovereign country enduring under the weight of Russian attack, highlighting its fight for survival.

The use of unfavorable words also aligns with results from Bednarek (2008) and Louw (1993), who contend that such collocates intensify public sympathy and moral resentment, especially toward the assailant in dispute scenarios. By concentrating on the inhumane and illegal nature of the war, the discourse turns to the moral standpoint, portraying the conflict as pointless and underscoring the affliction of Ukraine. This selection of language eventually helps to impact general opinion, nurturing a compassionate view of Ukraine's predicament while criticizing the acts of Russia.



#### 4.2.3.1 Concordance Line Containing Collocate ‘Cold’

**Figure 9**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘War’ with the Collocate ‘Cold’ in the American Newspaper Corpus*

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
22	Corpus of ...	to put that on the back burner for a new	Cold	War competition. Russia's invasion threatens to drag us
23	Corpus of ...	great power competition with Russia in the wake of the	Cold	War constitutes, he reminded us, "a historical blink of
24	Corpus of ...	officials who never managed to reconcile themselves with Moscow's	Cold	War defeat. In front of their eyes, the Soviet
25	Corpus of ...	NATO. It's true that NATO's expansion after the	Cold	War divided the Western foreign policy community. have argued
26	Corpus of ...	was a menacing superpower, not a withering autocracy. To feed	Cold	War dreams, Putin spun a . He , Ukraine, vowing consequences "
27	Corpus of ...	if not an end. In the years immediately after the	Cold	War ended in 1991, Russian scientists turned increasingly to Europe
28	Corpus of ...	the way their nation's status has diminished since the	Cold	War ended. Perhaps anyone calling the shots in Moscow
29	Corpus of ...	from seeing the obvious. Passionate pleas to defend the post-	Cold	War European order have no meaning because this era
30	Corpus of ...	this weekend with its rapid repudiation of its core post-	Cold	War foreign policy principles. President Biden should take note.
31	Corpus of ...	however, abandon quasi-pacifist post-World War II and post-	Cold	War German shibboleths that had prevailed especially strongly in
32	Corpus of ...	awe-struck by the bravery of Ukrainians. But as a	Cold	War historian, I fear that Russia's invasion, regardless
33	Corpus of ...	likely to follow. Is a new and more dangerous, militarized	Cold	War inevitable? Is another world of mutual security still
34	Corpus of ...	global politics — and laid bare the vulnerabilities of the post-	Cold	War international system. Among these vulnerabilities, dependence on Russian
35	Corpus of ...	with steely patience. It's crazy to think that the	Cold	War is resuming — but that appears to be . The
36	Corpus of ...	bullied and brutalized people is obvious. If that constitutes a "	Cold	War mentality," so be it. Free nations have no
37	Corpus of ...	world is not the murderer Vladimir Putin. It is "the	Cold	War mentality" of the West, which has the nerve
38	Corpus of ...	policymakers of the president's generation, the notion of another	Cold	War must feel like a return to steady ground.
39	Corpus of ...	but it is not the deeper truth. We won the	Cold	War not because we had better soldiers or more

The American corpus's highest collocate of the word "war" is "cold." It turns up 98 times with the keyword "war" and refers to the era of the Cold War between the former USSR and America. Where both the countries were engaged in an ideological battle. The former supported Communism, while the latter supported Capitalism. This era was marked by proxy wars across the globe, where both the competing powers supported opposite factions in these proxy wars. The most prominent among these wars were the civil wars in Korea, Vietnam, and Afghanistan, among others. The recent Russian attack on Ukraine has raised the specter of a new cold war. Therefore, it is expected to see the usage of the word cold war in the Ukrainian context. In line 33, it is asked whether a new and more dangerous cold war is inevitable. In line 48, it is observed that even though who wins the war in Ukraine, the prospects of another cold war are not receding anytime soon.

Similarly, in line 54, it is mentioned that scholars agree that the world is now on the brin of another Cold War. Line 108 observes that this new Cold War's threat to the world is far greater than the previous one. Therefore, if the world enters another Cold War, it will push the world into uncharted waters.

#### 4.2.3.2 Concordance Line Containing Collocate ‘Crimes’

**Figure 10**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘War’ with the Collocate ‘Crimes’ in the Corpus of American Newspapers*

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
15	Corpus of ...	that the court can pursue, was limited to genocide, war	crimes	and crimes against humanity. The crime of aggression entered
16	Corpus of ...	those who publicly recant and did not commit especially serious	crimes,	and open the archives of the security services. Then
17	Corpus of ...	Russia. These people are the financial engines funding the war	crimes	and state-sponsored terrorism now on display in Ukraine.
18	Corpus of ...	should not remain in office. Likewise, Russia is committing war	crimes.	And the United States has unified public opinion on
19	Corpus of ...	It is sinking further into a sordid campaign of war	crimes	and unthinkable violence against civilians. Though there can be
20	Corpus of ...	an in Ukraine. But its investigation is restricted to the	crimes	that are being committed in the war, not the
21	Corpus of ...	come to their senses. Yet the world has also identified	crimes	that are unacceptable even in the fog of battle.
22	Corpus of ...	not fear accusations of repeating past German militarism, and the	crimes	that entailed. Scholz credibly portrayed his proposals as part
23	Corpus of ...	to war. This is because until recently, , which defines the	crimes	that the court can pursue, was limited to genocide,
24	Corpus of ...	schools and hospitals look, to me — and — like textbook war	crimes.	The almost sadistic battering of Mariupol — including — has not
25	Corpus of ...	are among the many actions that could be deemed war	crimes.	The entire invasion would appear to be a crime
26	Corpus of ...	club — victims of unprovoked Russian military attacks and reported war	crimes.	The Syrian opposition, which has been attacked by Russian
27	Corpus of ...	some might be subjected to interrogations and accused of war	crimes.	The United States and its partner democracies must remain
28	Corpus of ...	story. Russian President Vladimir Putin bears responsibility for many international	crimes	committed by his forces in Ukraine. But one of
29	Corpus of ...	that established the court but has allowed it jurisdiction over	crimes	committed on Ukrainian soil. The United States, for its
30	Corpus of ...	attack them. Until now, the world’s response to these	crimes	has been weak; now it must not be. Mr.
31	Corpus of ...	attack them. Until now, the world’s response to these	crimes	has been weak; now it must not be. Mr.
32	Corpus of ...	of 1949, which aims to hold combatants personally responsible for war	crimes —	such as intentionally slaughtering civilians, torture, wanton destruction of

The second highest collocate of the word “war” in the American corpus is “crimes.” It turns up 45 times with the keyword “war,” and it points to the various war crimes committed by Russian military forces in its war campaign against Ukraine. Line 28 places the blame on the hundreds of international war crimes committed by Russian forces on Vladimir Putin, under whose watch these crimes are committed. In line 61, it is alleged that Putin and his generals are committing war crimes in a proportion never seen in Europe since the time of Hitler, a fact that should raise unprecedented concern. In line 62, a frontline worker has been quoted saying that he has seen war crimes committed and has become used to seeing tragedy, sorrow, and pain. In line 68, the horror and shock felt by the people are highlighted, and an urgent call is being made for an investigation into these international war crimes.



#### 4.2.3.3 Concordance Line Containing Collocate ‘Brutal’

**Figure 11**

*Concordance Lines Showing the Collocate ‘Brutal’ in Proximity to the Keyword ‘War’ in American Media Discourse*

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
6	Corpus of ...	symbolism was striking. On March 12, two weeks into Russia's	brutal	bombardment of Ukraine, the leaders of France and Germany
7	Corpus of ...	built, and its shape will depend on whether Putin's	brutal	campaign succeeds or fails. Putin's attack awakened that
8	Corpus of ...	end? When will people stop dying?" When will Putin's	brutal	carnage end? That demand is growing louder in Russia,
9	Corpus of ...	would allow him to concentrate on domestic concerns. Stalin's	brutal	conquest of Eastern Europe forced him to instead become
10	Corpus of ...	of law to be respected in member states. Russia's	brutal	war in Ukraine, and China's growing economic and
11	Corpus of ...	the aid and arms provided by a united NATO, a	brutal	and costly battle, block by block, through Ukraine's
12	Corpus of ...	for more help as his nation defends itself against a	brutal	and unjustified Russian invasion. Invoking the attacks on Pearl
13	Corpus of ...	Syria, Russia has a record of waging war with a	brutal	disregard for human rights and civilian life. In Ukraine,
14	Corpus of ...	should be that Ukraine is under constant assault from a	brutal	enemy who draws no distinction between military and civilian
15	Corpus of ...	last time Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities faced such a	brutal	military aggression was in the early hours of June 22, 1941,
16	Corpus of ...	it would stop there. Instead, President Vladimir Putin launched a	brutal	war on the entire country — and my mother, in
17	Corpus of ...	crises. To the people seeking shelter and security amid a	brutal	war, that's of little comfort. But there's
18	Corpus of ...	an inconvenient narrative," she . Then, this week, 70 days into the	brutal	war she once dismissed, Afinogenova posted a in Spanish
19	Corpus of ...	this line of argument; he's leading on it. "The	brutal	war that Vladimir Putin has inflicted on the sovereign
20	Corpus of ...	military atrocities in Ukraine have been seen before, in the	brutal "	zachistka," or cleansing operations, in , which destroyed towns and
21	Corpus of ...	military atrocities in Ukraine have been seen before, in the	brutal "	zachistka," or cleansing operations, in , which destroyed towns and

The American corpus's third highest collocate of the word “war” is “brutal.” It turns up eight times with the keyword “war” and is used to describe the hellish war that Russian President Vladimir Putin has unleashed upon the sovereign state of Ukraine. Adjectives such as senseless, hellish, and brutal are being used in media to describe the war in Ukraine. In lines 16 and 19, Vladimir Putin has been held responsible for the brutal war in Ukraine. In line 31, the main reason why Vladimir Putin attacked Ukraine is mentioned, i.e., to build an empire. In line 43, the Russian society’s quiet acquiescence to Vladimir Putin’s rulership has been mentioned, highlighting the lack of public opposition that allowed him to attack Ukraine without fear.

#### 4.2.3.4 Random Concordance Lines

**Figure 12**

*Randomly Selected Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘War’ in American Newspapers.*

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1163	Corpus of ...	The line between what is war and what is <b>not</b>	<b>war</b>	<b>has</b> <b>perilously</b> blurred, and determining the moment we move
1164	Corpus of ...	s “imperial frenzy.” They use our language for peace, <b>not</b>	<b>war</b> .	I <b>left</b> Russia in 2014, and it has taken me
1165	Corpus of ...	must win. Only then will Mr. Putin seek peace, <b>not</b>	<b>war</b> .	It’s not as if the Russians are setting
1166	Corpus of ...	the heart. And the mind counsels support for Ukraine, <b>not</b>	<b>war</b> .	<b>Russia</b> <b>would</b> not simply surrender in the face of
1167	Corpus of ...	Thursday night. Every day, Russian President Vladimir Putin’s <b>senseless</b>	<b>war</b>	<b>in Ukraine</b> claims more lives and causes irreparable suffering.
1168	Corpus of ...	Putin would have to acknowledge that he waged a <b>senseless</b>	<b>war</b> ,	<b>killing</b> <b>and</b> (ethnic Russians and Ukrainians alike), only to
1169	Corpus of ...	talent, posted on social media her opposition to “this <b>senseless</b>	<b>war</b>	<b>of aggression</b> ” and called on Russia “to end this
1170	Corpus of ...	their atrocities. We should all want to end this <b>senseless</b>	<b>war</b> ,	<b>protect Ukraine</b> and avoid nuclear catastrophe. The hard part
1171	Corpus of ...	people. Of cowards who pretend not to notice the <b>aggressive</b>	<b>war</b>	<b>against Ukraine</b> unleashed by our obviously insane czar.” Mr.
1172	Corpus of ...	people. Of cowards who pretend not to notice the <b>aggressive</b>	<b>war</b>	<b>against Ukraine</b> unleashed by our obviously insane czar.” Mr.
1173	Corpus of ...	positioned and ideologically committed, they want a much more <b>aggressive</b>	<b>war</b>	<b>effort</b> . And judging from Mr. Putin’s address on
1174	Corpus of ...	didn’t want to be a part of Russia. <b>But</b>	<b>war</b>	<b>came to</b> them, and they found themselves at the
1175	Corpus of ...	extent, this can be useful in rallying necessary support. <b>But</b>	<b>war</b>	<b>isn’t</b> a lighthearted kickball match. Treating it as
1176	Corpus of ...	in Bucha, a suburb about 20 miles outside the city. <b>But</b>	<b>war</b>	<b>was not</b> finished with me. When Russia invaded Ukraine
1177	Corpus of ...	instinctively and understandably, not to get involved in a <b>European</b>	<b>war</b> ,	<b>even indirectly</b> , by Such measures could trigger disruptions in
1178	Corpus of ...	instinctively and understandably, not to get involved in a <b>European</b>	<b>war</b> ,	<b>even indirectly</b> , by Such measures could trigger disruptions in
1179	Corpus of ...	the premise that such a policy would render a <b>European</b>	<b>war</b>	<b>unthinkable</b> — <b>Chancellor</b> Olaf Scholz executed an abrupt about-face
1180	Corpus of ...	That made Biden’s public assurances of avoiding a <b>hot</b>	<b>war</b>	<b>against Russia</b> politically necessary and diplomatically wise. Now, 3 in 4

In line 103, Putin’s war against Ukraine has been called a catastrophic war and is considered to be the result of his delusional ideas about Russian history. In the same vein in line 116, the war has been termed as a murderous war on Ukraine. In line 231, the term “special military operation” used by Putin for the attack on Ukraine has been called an act of aggression, and the war is being called an absolute evil in the same line. Similarly, in line 235, the first week of the war was described as one week of hellish war, during which the Ukrainians proved their mettle in the challenging situation. In line 242, Russia’s long history of proxy wars in Chechnya, Syria, and Afghanistan has been mentioned, where brutal disregard for human lives was considered to be expected. In line 283, the war has been referred to as futile, with sight ending anytime soon. In lines 288 and 299, terms like senseless and vicious have been used respectively for the war in Ukraine. From line 386 to line 420, the war is being named Putin’s war, which is the dominant perspective in the West regarding the recent war in Ukraine. Almost a big section of Western leadership, the masses, and the media believe that Putin is responsible for the war in Ukraine. In line 1167, it is lamented that

in every passing day, due to Putin's senseless war, hundreds of lives are lost, and many thousands are suffering from it.

#### 4.2.4 The Keyword 'NATO' in the Corpus of American Newspapers

In the American corpus, the word "NATO" is mentioned 361 times, and its frequent collocates are "membership," "members," "allies," "countries," and "alliance"—suggesting a predominantly positive semantic prosody for the keyword. Moreover, the frequent association of "NATO," "alliance," and "members" enhances this positive prosody by conveying a strong sense of unity and common agendas among NATO's member nations. As a result, NATO is depicted as a vital actor, protecting its members from external threats and maintaining global peace. Furthermore, the term "intervention" refers to NATO's role in conflict resolution and peacekeeping, reinforcing its involvement as necessary, justifiable, and beneficial.

"Alliance" and "members" enhance this positive prosody by conveying a strong sense of unity and common agendas among NATO's member nations, fostering a feeling of solidarity. NATO is depicted as a vital actor, as seen in its involvement in Ukraine, protecting its members from external threats and maintaining global peace. The term "intervention" refers to NATO's role in conflict resolution and peace keeping. This portrayal of its involvement as necessary, justifiable, and beneficial is reflected in the prosody surrounding "NATO" in American newspapers.

##### 4.2.4.1 Concordance Line Containing Collocate 'Allies'

#### **Figure 13**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword 'NATO' with the Collocate 'Allies' in the Corpus of American Newspapers*

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
69	Corpus of ...	economic sanctions were imposed by the United States and <b>its</b>	<b>allies.</b>	<b>Russian vodka</b> was stripped from American liquor store shelves.
70	Corpus of ...	insanity. Those who say that the United States and <b>its</b>	<b>allies</b>	<b>somehow brought</b> on this crisis are misguided. Geography is
71	Corpus of ...	and must never be fought. The United States and <b>its</b>	<b>allies</b>	<b>still maintain</b> a significant deterrent that Putin will not
72	Corpus of ...	particularly old. It , when the fight against Germany and <b>its</b>	<b>allies —</b>	<b>the Ottoman</b> and Austro-Hungarian empires — was conceived by
73	Corpus of ...	by the combined economies of the United States and <b>its</b>	<b>allies.</b>	<b>This means</b> the West can be in the driver'
74	Corpus of ...	for the security interests of the United States and <b>its</b>	<b>allies.</b>	<b>Ukrainians'</b> stirring resistance to should not blind us to
75	Corpus of ...	the moment was ripe because the United States and <b>its</b>	<b>allies</b>	<b>were disoriented</b> while Russia was relatively strong. At the
76	Corpus of ...	people. It is undeniable that the United States and <b>its</b>	<b>allies</b>	<b>were — and still are —</b> right to use sanctions to
77	Corpus of ...	has now fallen embarrassingly and inexcusably behind many of <b>its</b>	<b>allies</b>	<b>when it</b> comes to both supplying Ukraine and sanctioning
78	Corpus of ...	NATO members — and vowed that the United States and <b>its</b>	<b>allies</b>	<b>will defend</b> "every inch" of NATO territory. By using
79	Corpus of ...	For the decades of the Cold War, Washington and <b>its</b>	<b>allies</b>	<b>worked to</b> avoid a war with Russia, standing by
80	Corpus of ...	term and made clear Berlin would stand with <b>its NATO</b>	<b>allies</b>	<b>against an</b> unprovoked war of aggression. That was a
81	Corpus of ...	if Donald Trump — who he might not have defended <b>NATO</b>	<b>allies</b>	<b>against Russian</b> aggression — were still president. When Russia invaded
82	Corpus of ...	sort of equipment — from helmets to bullets. President Biden, <b>NATO</b>	<b>allies,</b>	<b>and a few</b> other partners have delivered a lot
83	Corpus of ...	going well for him. For the United States, <b>its NATO</b>	<b>allies</b>	<b>and all</b> others in the world, the question now
84	Corpus of ...	after 1945. To defeat Putin, the United States and <b>its NATO</b>	<b>allies</b>	<b>are pumping</b> weapons and ammunition into Ukraine at an
85	Corpus of ...	victims. Is the chancellor seriously suggesting that Germany's <b>NATO</b>	<b>allies</b>	<b>are risking</b> nuclear war by sending heavy weapons to
86	Corpus of ...	unprovoked aggression, and the United States must lead <b>its NATO</b>	<b>allies</b>	<b>in demonstrating</b> to Vladimir Putin that the Atlantic alliance

The American corpus's highest collocates of the word "NATO" is "allies." It turns up 27 times with the keyword "NATO," which stands for North Atlantic Treaty Organization. An organization comprising 32 countries was created to protect its members collectively against foreign aggression. In line 78, it is written that the United States and its NATO allies have vowed to defend every inch of NATO territory. In line 84, it is observed that the United States and its NATO allies are providing ammunition and weapons to defeat Putin. In line 87, it is advised that the United States and NATO allies should go a step further in their help of Ukraine. In line 91, the astonishing pace with which the United States and NATO allies are supplying military weapons to Ukraine is discussed. In line 93, it is observed that the United States should honor its commitment to its NATO allies but refrain from direct military engagement. In line 97, it is observed that the United States must lead its NATO allies in its campaign against Russia's unprovoked aggression in Ukraine. At the same time, it should demonstrate to Russia and Vladimir Putin that NATO is willing and able to deter any kind of threat. In line 102, the world is warned against Putin's last option of using nuclear weapons if he faces any humiliation.

#### 4.2.4.2 Concordance Line Containing Collocate ‘Membership’

**Figure 14**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘NATO’ with the Collocate ‘Membership’ in the American Corpus.*

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
69	Corpus of ...	economic sanctions were imposed by the United States and its	allies.	Russian vodka was stripped from American liquor store shelves.
70	Corpus of ...	insanity. Those who say that the United States and its	allies	somehow brought on this crisis are misguided. Geography is
71	Corpus of ...	and must never be fought. The United States and its	allies	still maintain a significant deterrent that Putin will not
72	Corpus of ...	particularly old. It , when the fight against Germany and its	allies —	the Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian empires — was conceived by
73	Corpus of ...	by the combined economies of the United States and its	allies.	This means the West can be in the driver’
74	Corpus of ...	for the security interests of the United States and its	allies.	Ukrainians’ stirring resistance to should not blind us to
75	Corpus of ...	the moment was ripe because the United States and its	allies	were disoriented while Russia was relatively strong. At the
76	Corpus of ...	people. It is undeniable that the United States and its	allies	were — and still are — right to use sanctions to
77	Corpus of ...	has now fallen embarrassingly and inexcusably behind many of its	allies	when it comes to both supplying Ukraine and sanctioning
78	Corpus of ...	NATO members — and vowed that the United States and its	allies	will defend “every inch” of NATO territory. By using
79	Corpus of ...	For the decades of the Cold War, Washington and its	allies	worked to avoid a war with Russia, standing by
80	Corpus of ...	term and made clear Berlin would stand with its NATO	allies	against an unprovoked war of aggression. That was a
81	Corpus of ...	if Donald Trump — who he might not have defended NATO	allies	against Russian aggression — were still president. When Russia invaded
82	Corpus of ...	sort of equipment — from helmets to bullets. President Biden, NATO	allies,	and a few other partners have delivered a lot
83	Corpus of ...	going well for him. For the United States, its NATO	allies	and all others in the world, the question now
84	Corpus of ...	after 1945. To defeat Putin, the United States and its NATO	allies	are pumping weapons and ammunition into Ukraine at an
85	Corpus of ...	victims. Is the chancellor seriously suggesting that Germany’s NATO	allies	are risking nuclear war by sending heavy weapons to
86	Corpus of ...	unprovoked aggression, and the United States must lead its NATO	allies	in demonstrating to Vladimir Putin that the Atlantic alliance

The second highest collocate of the word “NATO” in the American corpus is “membership.” It turns up 15 times when the keyword “NATO” relates to the applications of various Eastern European countries that have applied for NATO membership. These are small countries like Finland, Sweden, and Ukraine, which face threats from Russia. While Finland and Sweden have been given membership in 2023 and 2024, respectively, Ukraine is still waiting for its membership request to be accepted by the member countries. The reason why Ukraine has not been granted accession is the threat that it would lead to direct war between Russia and NATO. Under Article 5 of the constitution of NATO, if any group member is attacked, it will be considered an attack on all the members. In such a case, each of the party members of the organization would be obligated to assist the attacked party and do what is necessary, “including the use of armed force” to restore peace in that country. In light of this article, if Ukraine joins NATO, all the member countries would be bound by the treaty’s constitution to come forward to help it in its war. The prospect of Ukraine joining NATO in the near future is considered to be among the reasons why Russia attacked Ukraine. Russian Putin Vladimir Putin has many times given voice to his



fears that Ukraine might become a NATO member, as it had applied many years ago for NATO membership, and because of this, Putin invaded Ukraine. In line 3, the prospects of Ukraine joining NATO anytime soon are very low. This dim possibility is because if Ukraine joins NATO, the other group members will also be directly involved in the war. In line 10, it is written that it is currently impossible to allow Ukraine to join NATO, but the NATO membership plan should remain on the table for Ukraine.

#### 4.2.4.3 Concordance Line Containing Collocate ‘Intervention’

**Figure 15**

*Concordance Lines Showing the Collocate ‘Intervention’ with the Keyword ‘NATO’ in American Media Discourse*

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	for it. Yet alongside the talk of greater direct NATO	intervention,	there is discussion of various possible settlements, in which
2	Corpus of ...	for it. Yet alongside the talk of greater direct NATO	intervention,	there is discussion of various possible settlements, in which
3	Corpus of ...	in many other countries. It has to combat potential NATO	intervention	from aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean and Aegean seas,
4	Corpus of ...	violence and destruction that befell the Donbas thanks to Russian	intervention.	I hear now Ukrainian television is being cut off
5	Corpus of ...	for a wider invasion of Ukraine. Then came the 2015 Russian	intervention	in Syria. With Russia's ally Bashar al-Assad
6	Corpus of ...	already made will have meaningful consequences. But if the Russian	intervention	is a prelude to an attempt to assert control
7	Corpus of ...	a mere month into his second term, right after American	intervention	as inevitable. During the presidential election of 1964, President Lyndon
8	Corpus of ...	with their capture of all of Korea. But a decisive	intervention	by the United States, under the United Nations flag,
9	Corpus of ...	willing to use the threat of nuclear war to deter	intervention	in Ukraine, the existence of nuclear weapons, if anything,
10	Corpus of ...	with ties to a nation that has also seen foreign	intervention,	conflict, sanctions and mass migration — is clear: It's
11	Corpus of ...	few weeks ago — burning more coal or scaling up government	intervention	in energy markets — are now urgently needed to stop
12	Corpus of ...	s failure to prevent such horror, NATO then expanded its	intervention	in Bosnia, carrying out on ground-based threats to
13	Corpus of ...	the only real “red line” requiring direct U.S. military	intervention.	But Biden shouldn't be ruling anything in or
14	Corpus of ...	t snuffed out Syria's rebellion nearly after Russia's	intervention	despite (or because of) all the regime's atrocities.
15	Corpus of ...	use was not an overwhelming Strangelovian exchange but a tactical	intervention	to prevent a conventional defeat. Except with the added

The American corpus's third-highest-used word for "NATO" is "intervention." It appears three times with the keyword "NATO" and refers to NATO's direct involvement in the Russia-Ukraine war in support of Ukraine. In line 1, it is mentioned that alongside the option of direct NATO intervention, various other settlements are also discussed.

#### 4.2.4.4 Random Concordance Lines

**Figure 16**

*Randomly Selected Concordance Lines for the Keyword 'NATO' in the Corpus of American Newspapers.*

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1 Corpus of ...	for it. Yet alongside the talk of greater direct <b>NATO</b>	intervention,	there is discussion of various possible settlements, in which
2 Corpus of ...	for it. Yet alongside the talk of greater direct <b>NATO</b>	intervention,	there is discussion of various possible settlements, in which
3 Corpus of ...	in many other countries. It has to combat potential <b>NATO</b>	intervention	from aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean and Aegean seas,
4 Corpus of ...	violence and destruction that befell the Donbas thanks to <b>Russian</b>	intervention.	I hear now Ukrainian television is being cut off
5 Corpus of ...	for a wider invasion of Ukraine. Then came the 2015 <b>Russian</b>	intervention	in Syria. With Russia's ally Bashar al-Assad
6 Corpus of ...	already made will have meaningful consequences. But if the <b>Russian</b>	intervention	is a prelude to an attempt to assert control
7 Corpus of ...	a mere month into his second term, right after <b>American</b>	intervention	as inevitable. During the presidential election of 1964, President Lyndon
8 Corpus of ...	with their capture of all of Korea. But a <b>decisive</b>	intervention	by the United States, under the United Nations flag,
9 Corpus of ...	willing to use the threat of nuclear war to <b>deter</b>	intervention	in Ukraine, the existence of nuclear weapons, if anything,
10 Corpus of ...	with ties to a nation that has also seen <b>foreign</b>	intervention,	conflict, sanctions and mass migration — is clear: It's
11 Corpus of ...	few weeks ago — burning more coal or scaling up <b>government</b>	intervention	in energy markets — are now urgently needed to stop
12 Corpus of ...	s failure to prevent such horror, NATO then expanded <b>its</b>	intervention	in Bosnia, carrying out on ground-based threats to
13 Corpus of ...	the only real "red line" requiring direct U.S. <b>military</b>	intervention.	But Biden shouldn't be ruling anything in or
14 Corpus of ...	t snuffed out Syria's rebellion nearly after Russia's	intervention	despite (or because of) all the regime's atrocities.
15 Corpus of ...	use was not an overwhelming Strangelovian exchange but a <b>tactical</b>	intervention	to prevent a conventional defeat. Except with the added

#### 4.2.5 The Keyword 'Invasion' in the Corpus of American Newspapers

In the American corpus, the word 'invasion' is used 311 times, often with negative collocates such as 'Ukraine,' 'Russian,' 'unprovoked,' 'illegal,' and 'unjustifiable.' These collocates give a predominantly negative semantic prosody, a linguistic term that refers to the consistent association of a word with a particular set of connotations, shaping the perception of invasion as a profoundly damaging and oppressive act.

The association of "invasion" with "Ukraine" and "Russian" underscores the centrality of the Ukraine-Russia conflict in American media discourse. Russia's military actions in Ukraine are frequently framed as acts of aggression, with the use of terms like "unprovoked," "illegal," and "Unjustifiable," further reinforcing the idea that the invasion is morally and legally wrong. This deliberate framing in American print media plays a significant role in shaping public opinion and the geopolitical stance of the U.S.

The frequent appearance of "invasion" with unfavorable collocates like "unprovoked," "illegal," and "unjustifiable" aligns with Bednarek's (2006) results on how evaluative language shapes the moral framing of global disputes." Such

combinations of words" "Strengthen significantly unfavorable semantic prosody, highlighting the incursion as not only antagonistic but also as a transgression of legal and moral norms. This semantic practice is consistent with." Earlier research studies by Baker et al. (2008), which demonstrate that U.S. media frequently utilizes connotations of misconduct to represent geopolitical activities by perceived rivals.

The negative connotations of these collocates reflect a narrative in American print media, where Russia's incursion is represented as an unlawful and belligerent act that has generated widespread despair and destabilized the area. This portrayal places Ukraine as the sufferer of unprovoked aggression, a perspective that the audience should empathize with, while Russia is portrayed as the aggressor, strengthening the Western censure of the invasion. The constant usage of such unfavorable terminology underscores the U.S.'s broader moral and political stance, which firmly backs Ukraine and frames the conflict regarding right versus wrong.

#### 4.2.5.1 Concordance Line Containing Collocate “Russian”

**Figure 17**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘Invasion’ in the Corpus of American Newspapers, illustrating its Frequent Co-Occurrence with the Collocate ‘Russian’*

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
46	Corpus of ...	initial invasion went badly for Russia. Expecting easy victories, the	Russian	Army inflicted — especially in its shelling of cities — but
47	Corpus of ...	there is a certain logic to their cruelty. Because the	Russian	army lacks the requisite skill for maneuver warfare, it
48	Corpus of ...	by Fiona Hill and Clifford Gaddy in their biography, “. The	Russian	army left gruesome evidence in the streets of Bucha,
49	Corpus of ...	very vocal since April, when it became clear that the	Russian	Army was unable to conquer Kyiv and overthrow the
50	Corpus of ...	former commander of the U.S. Army Europe, that the	Russian	army will collapse by the end of the summer
51	Corpus of ...	to seek refuge in Europe in one year, 2015. Since the	Russian	invasion of Ukraine began on Feb. 24, nearly one million
52	Corpus of ...	hypothesizing no-fly zones and weaponry outfits as if the	Russian	invasion of Ukraine were a live-streamed game of .
53	Corpus of ...	sure, we still don't know the outcome of the	Russian	invasion of Ukraine. It's quite possible that, despite
54	Corpus of ...	growth in large parts of the United States. Geopolitically, the	Russian	invasion of Ukraine has put Washington's chief competitor,
55	Corpus of ...	we're seeing that heartbreaking reality play out around the	Russian	invasion of Ukraine. The war has created a crisis
56	Corpus of ...	problem in an interview with me in late March. The	Russian	invasion of Ukraine was just a month old, but
57	Corpus of ...	Ukrainian army in 2016, as Ukraine was defending itself after the	Russian	invasion of Crimea and occupation of parts of the
58	Corpus of ...	the shape of the world to come. PHOENIX — After the	Russian	invasion of Ukraine started, a friend asked me if
59	Corpus of ...	so could well be unfathomable. Since the beginning of the	Russian	invasion of Ukraine, thousands of buildings across the country
60	Corpus of ...	nations savagely attacks another. During the first month of the	Russian	invasion of Ukraine, of Russian scientists signed a petition
61	Corpus of ...	is my new permanent condition. It's not that the	Russian	invasion came as a surprise, exactly. We've been
62	Corpus of ...	highways, trains and bus stations. U.S. officials have the	Russian	invasion could displace as many as 5 million Ukrainians. For
63	Corpus of ...	electrical chargers. Instead, she sits with my uncle, watching the	Russian	invasion on their laptops. I'd felt a very



The American corpus's highest collocate of the word "invasion" is "Russian." It turns up times with the keyword "invasion" and refers to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In line 51, it is mentioned that since Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb 24, nearly 1 million people have become refugees. After Russia announced its "special operation," the term used by Russia for its recent attack on Ukraine, all the neighboring countries, including Poland, Hungary, Romania, and the rest of the European countries, opened their borders to Ukrainian refugees, demonstrating a remarkable show of solidarity and cooperation in the face of crisis. In line 55, it is observed that Russia's invasion of Ukraine has led to a crisis that has implications for the whole globe. This shows that the ramifications of the Russia-Ukraine war can be felt in all corners of the globe, as this has not only made the region volatile but also led to a global disruption in the supply of items such as wheat, oil, and gas, some of the leading exports of Russia and Ukraine, which has increased the demand for these commodities in the global market. This leads to an increase in the prices of these items in the global market. In line no 59, a reference is being made to large-scale demolition caused by the missiles launched from Russia into Ukraine. Many buildings, including houses, schools, markets, hospitals, roads, and other such infrastructures, have been completely destroyed.

#### 4.2.2.2 Concordance line containing collocate "unprovoked"

The second highest collocate of the word "invasion" in the American corpus is "unprovoked." It turns up eight times with the keyword "invasion" and refers to Russia's unprovoked aggression against Ukraine. The sheer unjustifiability of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, as perceived by the countries in the West, is a point of disbelief. These countries argue that the fears of Russian President Vladimir Putin regarding NATO encirclement were unfounded, making Russia's invasion of Ukraine an act of unprovoked aggression. In line 10, the fundamental change in Europe's thinking process towards Russia and the threat that emanates from it to their security has been mentioned. In line 11, it is highlighted that Ukraine deserves help against Russia's unprovoked aggression. Therefore, the United States must lead NATO and provide support to Ukraine. In line 17, a reference is being made about NATO, that the 32-member Organization is neither dead nor broken. At the same time, the unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine has rejuvenated the alliance once again.

#### 4.2.5.3 Concordance Line Containing Collocate “Illegal”

**Figure 18**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘Invasion’ in the Corpus of American Newspapers, illustrating its Frequent Co-Occurrence with the Collocate ‘illegal’.*

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1 Corpus of ...	be sending Ukraine about a dozen. Vladimir Putin launched his	illegal	invasion of Ukraine 11 months ago not only believing he
2 Corpus of ...	Odessa and other coastal targets. If Putin persists in his	illegal	invasion, Ukraine has every right to fight back with
3 Corpus of ...	The West cannot lift any sanctions until Putin stops his	illegal	invasion. Retired Adm. James Stavridis, a former NATO commander,
4 Corpus of ...	only increase. Russian President Vladimir Putin justified his unprovoked and	illegal	invasion of Ukraine by it “is a matter of
5 Corpus of ...	not just that we couldn’t stop this senseless and	illegal	war — we can’t even protest against it. A
6 Corpus of ...	a legitimate military target; Russia built it after Moscow’s	illegal	annexation of Crimea in 2014 and it is a supply
7 Corpus of ...	Russia’s film market while Russian President Vladimir Putin’s	illegal	war continues. As a result, Russian citizens will be
8 Corpus of ...	the 2014 Revolution of Dignity in Ukraine was nothing but an	illegal	coup. As a concrete sign of his displeasure, he
9 Corpus of ...	resolution, deploring the Russian attack, defining it, albeit nonbindingly, as	illegal	aggression, and demanding its cessation. The United Nations has
10 Corpus of ...	declare the orders to fire on a village or hospital	illegal	and that that legal judgment might one day serve
11 Corpus of ...	country in the world, by far. To support his reckless,	illegal	war in Ukraine, Putin has stripped forces from the
12 Corpus of ...	already paid the price for taking a side against the	illegal	invasion of Ukraine and have been booted from Russia.

The third highest collocate of the word “invasion” in the American corpus is “illegal.” It turns up five times with the keyword “invasion” and refers to the illegal Russian invasion of Ukraine. In line 2, Ukraine’s right to defend itself against Russia’s aggression is justified. It is suggested that if Putin persists with his illegal invasion, then Ukraine has all the right to defend and protect itself. In line 3, it is observed that the West will not lift the sanctions placed on Russia after its illegal invasion of Ukraine. These sanctions will be removed once Russia stops its illegal. In line 4, the justifications provided by Putin for his illegal attack on Ukraine have been refuted.

#### 4.2.5.3 Random Concordance Lines

**Figure 19**

Randomly Selected Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘Invasion’ in American Newspapers.

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
268 Corpus of ...	self-absorption so often leads to mistakes. With his <b>unprovoked</b>	<b>invasion</b> ,	<b>Putin has</b> shattered the international legal rules established after ,
269 Corpus of ...	Russian gas over the past decade despite Russia's <b>first</b>	<b>invasion</b>	<b>of Ukraine</b> in 2014. In 2011, Germany counted on Russia for
270 Corpus of ...	out of office. That is what triggered Putin's <b>first</b>	<b>invasion</b>	<b>of Ukraine</b> . Ukraine was not alone in choosing a
271 Corpus of ...	a pro-Russian ruler in Kyiv, Putin launched his <b>first</b>	<b>invasion</b>	<b>of Ukraine</b> . "Little green men" — i.e., Russian troops
272 Corpus of ...	are one people," and in his on the eve <b>of</b>	<b>invasion</b> ,	<b>he described</b> Ukraine as a "colony with a puppet
273 Corpus of ...	decide their own future, free from aggression and fear <b>of</b>	<b>invasion</b> .	<b>His assault</b> on Ukraine began with a confected pretext
274 Corpus of ...	to understand, even more than a month into this <b>senseless</b>	<b>invasion</b> .	<b>It's</b> a level of hatred directed at people,
275 Corpus of ...	army and the unpopularity within Russian society of the <b>senseless</b>	<b>invasion</b> .	<b>The initial</b> attack has not gone according to plan.
276 Corpus of ...	s desire for Soviet nukes to defend his regime <b>against</b>	<b>invasion</b> ,	<b>or Douglas MacArthur's</b> request for permission to use
277 Corpus of ...	held. There are indications that Kim Il-sung pondered <b>another</b>	<b>invasion</b>	<b>of South Korea</b> in the late 1960s, when the
278 Corpus of ...	Nazi campaign Putin claims to loathe: It is a <b>baseless</b>	<b>invasion</b>	<b>based on</b> an imagined threat, and it targets a
279 Corpus of ...	invoke history as part of the reason for his <b>bloody</b>	<b>invasion</b> .	<b>Ukraine and Russia</b> , , are in fact one country: Ukraine,
280 Corpus of ...	Russia's standing as a great power. Russia's <b>botched</b>	<b>invasion</b>	<b>of Ukraine</b> , involving a retreat from Kyiv and many
281 Corpus of ...	and size are in question? Because the easy, low-cost	<b>invasion</b>	<b>he envisioned</b> and the welcome party from Ukrainians he
282 Corpus of ...	elsewhere — Vladimir Putin thought he could pursue a relatively <b>costless</b>	<b>invasion</b>	<b>of Ukraine</b> . It was a miscalculation, but not an
283 Corpus of ...	hope that it's going to happen." Putin's <b>criminal</b>	<b>invasion</b>	<b>of Ukraine</b> has generated an inspiring wave of solidarity
284 Corpus of ...	Putin, a cease-fire now would simply allow his <b>depleted</b>	<b>invasion</b>	<b>forces</b> to take a break before returning for further
285 Corpus of ...	has guided Russian conduct during its brutal but pathetically <b>dysfunctional</b>	<b>invasion</b>	<b>of Ukraine</b> . There are recent reports of — numbering in

In line 5, it is written that the invasion of Ukraine by Putin has united the whole of Europe. In line 7, the Ukraine war has been described as a waking nightmare. In line 125, it is insisted that the NATO allies impose more sanctions on Russia. In line 246, it is advised that the West must welcome Ukrainians with open arms. In line 255, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky demanded that Russia return to its pre-invasion position and commit to respecting the territorial integrity of Ukraine. In line 267, it is noted that Putin, through his unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, has shattered the established international legal rules. In lines 273 and 274, Putin's invasion has been described as a senseless act. In lines 278 and 279, the invasion has been termed as baseless and bloody, respectively. In line 283, it is described as Putin's criminal invasion of Ukraine. In other places, like in line 305, it is called Mr. Putin's savage invasion of Ukraine.

#### 4.2.6 The Keyword 'Sanctions' in the Corpus of American Newspapers

In the American corpus, the word "sanctions" is used 261 times, and its top collocates are "economic," "crippling," "unprecedented," imposed," "challenging," and "severe". These collocates suggest that these measures are both severe and necessary. These sanctions are portrayed as severe and cruel; however, these measures are also framed as essential responses to significant international issues, like the continuing dispute between Ukraine and Russia.

For instance, these "sanctions" are frequently defined as "crippling" and "severe," underscoring the impact of their considerable consequences on Russia's economy. Words like "economic" and "imposed" also highlight the significant economic consequences of these sanctions, implying that they are forcefully applied actions planned to pressure Russia into changing its course. The use of "unprecedented" and "challenging" points to the extraordinary nature of these embargoes, suggesting that they are deemed extraordinary reactions to exceptional cases.

This framing indicates that while the sanctions are recognized as severe and complex, their imposition is excused when addressing significant violations. The semantic prosody, accordingly, signifies that despite their stringent nature, these sanctions are needed to defend global order and force Russia to alter its conduct. This stand reflects a more general description in which the severity of sanctions is accepted but is justified by their role in addressing crucial geopolitical problems.

#### 4.2.6.1 Concordance Line Containing Collocate “Economic”

**Figure 20**

*Concordance Lines for the Keywords ‘Sanctions’ in the Corpus of American Newspapers, illustrating its Frequent Co-Occurrence with the Collocate ‘Economic’.*

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	response necessarily involved taking familiar tools off the shelf: <b>economic</b>	<b>sanctions</b>	<b>against Russia</b> and its kleptocracy, which the European Union
2	Corpus of ...	needed immediately. In parallel, the West must ratchet up <b>economic</b>	<b>sanctions</b>	<b>against Russia</b> every single week until one of these
3	Corpus of ...	response necessarily involved taking familiar tools off the shelf: <b>economic</b>	<b>sanctions</b>	<b>against Russia</b> and its kleptocracy, which the European Union
4	Corpus of ...	achievements so far also vindicate NATO's strategy of <b>economic</b>	<b>sanctions</b>	<b>against Moscow</b> and military support for Kyiv — \$1.7 billion of
5	Corpus of ...	intatives on the Security Council has prevented globally enforceable <b>economic</b>	<b>sanctions</b>	<b>against Moscow</b> , like those imposed on Iraq for its
6	Corpus of ...	the world, only one — the United States — supports major <b>economic</b>	<b>sanctions</b>	<b>against Russia</b> . Indonesia, Nigeria, India and Brazil have all
7	Corpus of ...	West in this conflict. It might levy its own <b>economic</b>	<b>sanctions</b>	<b>against the West</b> if it takes to Ukraine's
8	Corpus of ...	he may not be deterred by these or any <b>economic</b>	<b>sanctions</b>	<b>and has</b> already factored the costs into his coercion
9	Corpus of ...	thousands of tanks and armored vehicles and experienced terrible <b>economic</b>	<b>sanctions —</b>	<b>and I</b> got you nothing.* Of course, it is
10	Corpus of ...	is Vladimir Putin's fatal mistake. Not because of <b>economic</b>	<b>sanctions</b>	<b>and not</b> because of the huge losses of troops
11	Corpus of ...	imagined. Russia's economy has been shattered by unprecedented <b>economic</b>	<b>sanctions,</b>	<b>and Putin's</b> military has been slowed by stalwart
12	Corpus of ...	the driver's seat if it is resolute. Stringent <b>economic</b>	<b>sanctions</b>	<b>and reductions</b> in trade with these countries would over
13	Corpus of ...	as and , as well as hitting Russia with huge <b>economic</b>	<b>sanctions.</b>	<b>And soon</b> after Mr. Zelensky's speech, President Biden
14	Corpus of ...	unavoidable. The E.U. is reportedly preparing another of <b>economic</b>	<b>sanctions</b>	<b>amid doubts</b> about the willpower to curb gas imports.
15	Corpus of ...	unavoidable. The E.U. is reportedly preparing another of <b>economic</b>	<b>sanctions</b>	<b>amid doubts</b> about the willpower to curb gas imports.
16	Corpus of ...	satisfying the American appetite for moral aggrandizement, modern <b>economic</b>	<b>sanctions</b>	<b>have rarely</b> curbed any regime's behavior. The lack
17	Corpus of ...	that has put Putin back on his heels. Unprecedented <b>economic</b>	<b>sanctions</b>	<b>have reduced</b> the value of the Russian ruble to
18	Corpus of ...	and more lasting than any turmoil stemming from the <b>economic</b>	<b>sanctions,</b>	<b>limited troop</b> deployments and other measures Mr. Biden , including

The American corpus's highest collocate of the word "sanctions" is "economic." It turns up 40 times with the keyword "invasion" and refers to economic sanctions placed on Russia. Since Russia invaded Ukraine in Feb 2022, different countries, including the US, the UK, Australia, Canada, Japan, and the EU, have placed more than 16500 sanctions on Russia. These sanctions have had a significant impact on Russia's economy, leading to the withdrawal of major Western companies like McDonald's, Coca-Cola, and Starbucks. In line 22, Russian President Vladimir Putin has been quoted where he likened the economic sanctions imposed by NATO and other Western countries to a declaration of war. In line 23, it is observed that the United States and its allies have limited options when it comes to stopping Russia from its military campaign in Ukraine. Therefore, they primarily relied on economic sanctions to punish Russia for its attack on Ukraine. In line 35, it is mentioned that NATO ruled out a military response while imposing economic sanctions to stop Russia.

#### 4.2.6.2 Concordance Line Containing Collocate “Crippling”

**Figure 21**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘Sanctions’ in the Corpus of American Newspapers, illustrating its Frequent Co-Occurrence with the Collocate ‘Crippling’.*

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	response necessarily involved taking familiar tools off the shelf: economic	sanctions	against Russia and its kleptocracy, which the European Union
2	Corpus of ...	needed immediately. In parallel, the West must ratchet up economic	sanctions	against Russia every single week until one of these
3	Corpus of ...	response necessarily involved taking familiar tools off the shelf: economic	sanctions	against Russia and its kleptocracy, which the European Union
4	Corpus of ...	achievements so far also vindicate NATO's strategy of economic	sanctions	against Moscow and military support for Kyiv — \$1.7 billion of
5	Corpus of ...	intatives on the Security Council has prevented globally enforceable economic	sanctions	against Moscow, like those imposed on Iraq for its
6	Corpus of ...	the world, only one — the United States — supports major economic	sanctions	against Russia. Indonesia, Nigeria, India and Brazil have all
7	Corpus of ...	West in this conflict. It might levy its own economic	sanctions	against the West if it takes to Ukraine's
8	Corpus of ...	he may not be deterred by these or any economic	sanctions	and has already factored the costs into his coercion
9	Corpus of ...	thousands of tanks and armored vehicles and experienced terrible economic	sanctions —	and I got you nothing." Of course, it is
10	Corpus of ...	is Vladimir Putin's fatal mistake. Not because of economic	sanctions	and not because of the huge losses of troops
11	Corpus of ...	imagined. Russia's economy has been shattered by unprecedented economic	sanctions,	and Putin's military has been slowed by stalwart
12	Corpus of ...	the driver's seat if it is resolute. Stringent economic	sanctions	and reductions in trade with these countries would over
13	Corpus of ...	as and , as well as hitting Russia with huge economic	sanctions.	And soon after Mr. Zelensky's speech, President Biden
14	Corpus of ...	unavoidable. The E.U. is reportedly preparing another of economic	sanctions	amid doubts about the willpower to curb gas imports.
15	Corpus of ...	unavoidable. The E.U. is reportedly preparing another of economic	sanctions	amid doubts about the willpower to curb gas imports.
16	Corpus of ...	satisfying the American appetite for moral aggrandizement, modern economic	sanctions	have rarely curbed any regime's behavior. The lack
17	Corpus of ...	that has put Putin back on his heels. Unprecedented economic	sanctions	have reduced the value of the Russian ruble to
18	Corpus of ...	and more lasting than any turmoil stemming from the economic	sanctions,	limited troop deployments and other measures Mr. Biden , including



The second highest collocate of the word “sanctions” in the American corpus is “crippling”. It turns up 8 times with the keyword “sanctions” and refers to crippling economic sanctions that have been imposed on Russia in response to its invasion of Ukraine. In line 2, it is written that these are not yet the severe and crippling sanctions promised by President Joseph Biden. In line 2, it is lamented that in the start West was too slow act, but now the increased military aid and crippling economic sanctions are steps in the right direction. In line 10, it is mentioned that Putin has been warned of the potential crippling economic sanctions to stop him from continuing the war. In line 12, it is reported that crippling economic sanctions were imposed by United States on Russia to punish it for its invasion of Ukraine.

#### 4.2.6.3 Concordance Line Containing Collocate “Unprecedented”

**Figure 22**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘Sanctions’ in the Corpus of American Newspapers, illustrating its Frequent Co-Occurrence with the Collocate ‘Unprecedented’.*

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	compatible with the West. The alternative would be shortages and	crippling	cost increases, for consumers and businesses, and that could
2	Corpus of ...	tranche of sanctions. These are not yet the severe and	crippling	sanctions Mr. Biden has promised. But no one should
3	Corpus of ...	West — far too passive initially — with increased military aid and	crippling	sanctions. Such steps are welcome, but they still aren't
4	Corpus of ...	to these resources range from bombs demolishing servers to cyberattacks	crippling	them. There's also the risk of self-censorship
5	Corpus of ...	going forward are whether the pressure strategy will succeed in	crippling	Putin, and at what cost. The Russian army has
6	Corpus of ...	American demands. Where there are success stories, they are modest:	crippling	sanctions brought Iran to the negotiating table over its
7	Corpus of ...	has been \$4.11. If Biden were to impose the kinds of	crippling	energy sanctions required to truly punish Russia, prices could
8	Corpus of ...	and gas revenue is the biggest hole in the otherwise	crippling	sanctions that the United States, Britain and Europe have
9	Corpus of ...	the more we escalate, the faster the West will place	crippling	sanctions on our energy sector, which provides of our
10	Corpus of ...	administration tried to deter Putin by warning him of potentially	crippling	sanctions, which it imposed on Thursday shortly after the
11	Corpus of ...	Russian forces in Ukraine and Belarus, perhaps even in Russia —	crippling	Russia's supply lines, airfields, missile launch sites and
12	Corpus of ...	making clear it wants nothing to do with anything Russian.	crippling	economic sanctions were imposed by the United States and
13	Corpus of ...	Trump — to power? Some foreign policy experts also warn that	crippling	Russia might turn it into a terrorist state, like
14	Corpus of ...	an empire, Russian people were “imperial people,” and after the	crippling 1990	s sellout to the “eternal enemy,” Russia could revive

The third highest collocate of the word “sanctions” in the American corpus is “unprecedented”. It turns up 6 times with the keyword “sanctions” and refers the large number of sanctions that have been imposed on Russia. In line 10, the effect of the economic sanctions that have been placed on Russia are discussed. It is observed that the sanctions imposed by US- led western countries have shattered Russia’s economy. In line 11, it is reported that unprecedented economic sanctions have put Russia on the back foot.

#### 4.2.7 The Keyword ‘US’ in the Corpus of American Newspapers

The word 'US' is a significant presence in the American corpus, appearing a total of 1,608 times. Its most common collocates are 'NATO' (96 occurrences), 'president' (89 occurrences), 'allies' (67 occurrences), 'led' (44 occurrences), 'government' (34 occurrences), and 'official' (26 occurrences). These collocates generally convey a neutral semantic prosody, with an emphasis on explanation and institutional context, devoid of any overtly positive or negative connotations.

The frequent association of 'US' with collocates such as 'NATO' and 'allies' reflects the significant role of the US in global coalitions. This is particularly evident in the Ukraine-Russia dispute, where the involvement of NATO and the leadership of the US are subjects of ongoing debate. Similarly, the collocates 'president' and 'government' reinforce this institutional and authoritative style, underscoring the US's political administration without imparting any specific emotional connotations.

While the collocates of the word 'US' do not inherently carry positive or negative connotations, their frequent appearance in discourse underscores the prominent role of the US in international diplomacy and administration, particularly in its dealings with NATO and its partners. This impartial semantic prosody reflects the unbiased reporting of the US's activities and role, focusing on its function as a key player in global affairs without resorting to critical language.

##### 4.2.7.1 Concordance Line Containing Collocate “NATO”

#### **Figure 23**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘US’ in the Corpus of American Newspapers, illustrating its frequent co-occurrence with the collocate ‘NATO’.*

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
45 Collective ...	people, including civilians in the east of Ukraine. Primarily focused on their own interests, <b>the</b>	US	<b>and</b> its allies are full aware that the war would have ended long ago,
46 Collective ...	they would stand with Bashar al Assad to defeat NATO interests in the region, <b>the</b>	US	<b>and</b> NATO had to face embarrassing retreat from Syria, Iraq and Libya and even
47 Collective ...	nothing was found either in more than 70 UN inspections or US military searches. Certainly, <b>the</b>	US	<b>and</b> NATO had the choice to avoid a war; they decided to launch a
48 Collective ...	m, increasing suicides, drug dependency and presidential sarcasm. Western observers too consider <b>the</b>	US	<b>and</b> NATO arrogant expansionist policy and interference in Ukrainian domestic politics during 2013 and
49 Collective ...	countries in imposing sanctions on Moscow, instead of laying blame for the conflict on <b>the</b>	US	<b>and</b> NATO expansion in Europe. However, the war in Ukraine has dragged on much
50 Collective ...	NATO] Bloc's European military infrastructure to 1997 levels. Contrary, with the onset of war, <b>the</b>	US	<b>and</b> NATO have furthered military deployments in Baltic states and Poland. Though Russian forces
51 Collective ...	scale protests and demonstration against the Putin regime. Nothing will promote that more than <b>the</b>	US	<b>and</b> NATO cyber-attacks on the Russian electric power industry. Clearly, power grid outages
52 Collective ...	e whole arms control architecture has been dismantled." Fresh offensive launched by Putin against <b>the</b>	US	<b>and</b> NATO is not meaningless. Policy of strategic encirclement of Russia by NATO got
53 Collective ...	succeed," he said in the address. Many observers would say that the West, with <b>the</b>	US	<b>and</b> NATO in the front seat, and also with the EU and other European
54 Collective ...	no less than two decades and isn't quite over yet in spite of <b>the</b>	US	<b>and</b> NATO troops having withdrawn from Afghanistan in August 2021. During the war, the US
55 Collective ...	the blame for today's situation. Many observers would say that the West, with <b>the</b>	US	<b>and</b> NATO in the front seat, and also with the EU and other European
56 Collective ...	South America, for example. The real cause for Moscow's alarm, however, came when <b>the</b>	US	<b>and</b> NATO began flooding neighboring Ukraine with a dazzling array of sophisticated weaponry amid
57 Collective ...	the tedious redrafting of restaurant menus, seems to have been the only real inconveniences <b>the</b>	US	<b>and</b> NATO suffered for indiscriminately destroying millions of lives. Now compare this kid gloves
58 Collective ...	its own self-defense by intervening in Ukraine, which had become a proxy of <b>the</b>	US	<b>and</b> NATO for an assault – not only on Russian ethnics within Ukraine – but also
59 Collective ...	rate engines for propulsion and energy supply to the turret, doubling the maintenance headache). <b>The</b>	US	<b>and</b> NATO seem content with providing Ukraine with old, worn out (obsolete is the
60 Collective ...	Russian people. Neither President Putin nor wider society appears to be willing to allow <b>the</b>	US	<b>and</b> NATO to reverse the hands of time and repeat that era of darkness.
61 Collective ...	against Ukraine. But morality takes a back seat when expediency demands a different approach. <b>The</b>	US	<b>and</b> the West that are giving lessons in morality only have to recall their
62 Collective ...	suggests that Imran Khan and the ruling regime he represents is not acceptable to <b>the</b>	US	<b>and</b> the western world. An Indian submarine raising its ugly spy head in Pakistani

The highest collocates of the word “US” in the American corpus is “NATO.” It turns up 96 times with the keyword “US” and refers to the 32-member organization of thirty European and two American countries named the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. In line 40, it is reported that the US and its NATO allies have been training Ukraine forces since 2015. In line 4, it is observed that the US and its NATO allies undoubtedly had the choice to avoid a war. In line 55, it is argued that many observers blamed the present situation in Ukraine on the US and its NATO allies. In line 56, it is concluded that the real cause for Moscow’s alarm came when the US and its allies in the West started providing sophisticated weapons to Ukraine. In line 101, it is reported that Moscow was getting impatient and asked the US and its NATO allies to sign a treaty where it would be decided that NATO would stop its eastward expansion. In line 218, it is observed that Putin launched a full-scale invasion after the US-led NATO alliance failed to assure it in the form of a written commitment through a treaty that it would stop its eastward expansion.



#### 4.2.7.2 Concordance Line Containing Collocate “President”

**Figure 24**

*Concordance Lines for The Keyword ‘US’ in the Corpus of American Newspapers, illustrating its Frequent Co-Occurrence with the Collocate ‘President’.*

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
581 Collective ...	Organization for Migration earlier this week placing the number at 7.1 million. US	President	Joe Biden on Tuesday labeled Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine
582 Collective ...	assistance since the invasion to about \$3.7 billion, a US official said. US	President	Joe Biden pledged \$800 million in more weaponry for Ukraine on Thursday
583 Collective ...	the West to China, India and Iran. Just three days after US	President	Joe Biden finished a visit to Saudi Arabia, Russia's paramount
584 Collective ...	celebratory pop music. Putin told the crowd: "Victory will be ours!" US	President	Joe Biden said new US sanctions would hurt those who provided
585 Collective ...	brutality of Mr. Putin's illegal war on the Ukrainian people," US	President	Joe Biden said in a statement. The Kremlin was humiliated two
586 Collective ...	Twitter. "The EU urges Russia to (reverse) its decision." On Saturday, US	President	Joe Biden called the move "purely outrageous", saying it would increase
587 Collective ...	Moscow's demands, the Kremlin said on Friday, a day after US	President	Joe Biden said he was willing to talk if Putin were
588 Collective ...	losses incurred by Ukraine since its attack on February 24. On May 21, US	President	Joe Biden signed into law the 'Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 20
589 Collective ...	summits will further compound an already polarised world order. For instance, US	President	Joe Biden stated that "Putin was looking for the 'Finlandization' of
590 Collective ...	Russia, something that the ministry said would be "painful" for Washington. US	President	Joe Biden has said that the G7 and other American allies
591 Collective ...	towards Ukraine's borders. Putin gave a video address, hours after US	President	Joe Biden warned of "the beginning of a Russian invasion", Russia
592 Collective ...	and Russian companies had both prepared for the eventuality of sanctions. US	President	Joe Biden on Thursday announced a slew of that would "impose
593 Collective ...	Russian vessels and aircraft are already barred from the UK. WASHINGTON - US	President	Joe Biden warned on Friday that Russia will pay a "severe
594 Collective ...	a response to crushing Western sanctions on Russia, Moscow announced that US	President	Joe Biden and a dozen other top officials had been banned
595 Collective ...	Wars combined," he said, referencing the thousands lost in those conflicts. US	President	Joe Biden called Putin a "war criminal", triggering fury in the
596 Collective ...	military incursion into Ukraine topped the list of issues addressed by US	President	Joe Biden in his first State of the Union () address, delivered
597 Collective ...	to oppose Russia's "special military operation" in Ukraine. On Friday, US	President	Joe Biden and Chinese leader Xi Jinping held a nearly two-
598 Collective ...	be on the lips of top western officials these days, including US	President	Joe Biden earlier this week at a business round table. "Now

The second highest collocate of the word “US” in the American corpus is “president.” It turns up 89 times with the keyword “US” and refers to the current American President Joseph Biden. In line 580, it is reported that due to the recent war in Ukraine, verbal escalation has also started between the leaders of Ukraine, Russia, the US, and the leaders of other Western countries. For instance, AUS president Joe Biden called Russian President Vladimir Putin a butcher. In line 582, it is reported that US President Joe Biden pledged 800 million dollars in weaponry for Ukraine. In line 584, Putin is reported saying to a crowd that “victory” will be ours. On the same line, President Joe Biden says that more new sanctions will be imposed on Russia. In line 593, US President Joe Biden is quoted warning Russia that it will pay severely for its war crimes in Ukraine.

#### 4.2.7.3 Concordance Line Containing Collocate “Led”

**Figure 25**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘US’ in the Corpus of American Newspapers, illustrating its Frequent Co-Occurrence with the Collocate ‘Led’.*

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Collective ...	the country's accounts frozen abroad. "It is now up to <b>the</b>	US	<b>and its</b> allies to approve the transfer. If they do not,
2	Collective ...	to comment on providing any "specific capability" to Ukraine, but said <b>the</b>	US	<b>and its</b> allies "identify and consider the most appropriate systems" that
3	Collective ...	balance since Russia invaded Ukraine a year ago. Despite pressure from <b>the</b>	US	<b>and its</b> western allies, Islamabad has not publicly denounced Russia, though
4	Collective ...	thus exposing the Russian brutality and insensitivity to target civilian population. <b>The</b>	US	<b>and its</b> allies have announced providing arms and ammunition to the
5	Collective ...	best to prevail over Ukraine and seek regime change in Kyiv. <b>The</b>	US	<b>and its</b> Western allies feel that they should sustain high moral
6	Collective ...	of Ukraine to prevent military supplies from sea. Military supplies from <b>the</b>	US	<b>and its</b> allies will be blocked entirely if Russian forces reach
7	Collective ...	question. What President Putin doesn't want is Eurasian domination by <b>the</b>	US	<b>and its</b> NATO allies. To achieve this purpose, he will squeeze
8	Collective ...	hoping to wage a long-drawn war with full backing of <b>the</b>	US	<b>and its</b> allies. How far it succeeds only time will tell
9	Collective ...	time will tell but it is clear that it has provided <b>the</b>	US	<b>and its</b> allies an opportunity to bleed Russia. Twenty countries would
10	Collective ...	he was right, but when Putin uses a similar language against <b>the</b>	US	<b>and its</b> western partners he is termed wrong and viewed as
11	Collective ...	an increased amount of military activity around the region which involves <b>the</b>	US	<b>and its</b> allies and the Chinese military. For now though the
12	Collective ...	Ukraine for almost two months. It has been heavily sanctioned by <b>the</b>	US	<b>and its</b> western allies for trade and business, commodity or finance.
13	Collective ...	world quite far out of control of its initially conceived masters, <b>the</b>	US	<b>and its</b> western allies. They are hardly the new imperialists. Modern
14	Collective ...	be analysed from three angles. First, it is the provocation of <b>the</b>	US	<b>and its</b> NATO allies which is responsible for compelling Russia to
15	Collective ...	types of long-drawn plans are not the first option for <b>the</b>	US	<b>and its</b> European allies because they are running short of time.
16	Collective ...	occupied Crimea, an integral part of Ukraine, prompting sanctions imposed by <b>the</b>	US	<b>and its</b> Nato allies. A year after the outbreak of the
17	Collective ...	as a peacekeeping mission by Russia, and an invasion by Ukraine, <b>the</b>	US	<b>and its</b> NATO allies, was preceded by Putin announcing earlier this
18	Collective ...	in eastern Ukraine. Tensions started escalating late last year when Ukraine, <b>the</b>	US	<b>and its</b> allies accused Russia of amassing tens of thousands of

The American corpus's third highest collocate of the word "U.S." is "led." It turns up 44 times with the keyword "U.S." and refers to the leadership role played by the U.S. in the Russia-Ukraine war. It has been at the forefront of supporting Ukraine in its war against Russia. So far, the Russia Ukraine war has proved to be Ukraine's biggest supporter in terms of military, diplomatic, and humanitarian aid. In line 212, the possibility of Ukraine joining NATO has been discussed. It is observed that allowing Ukraine into NATO means pitching the whole of the U.S. West with all its military, economic, technological, diplomatic, and political prowess against Russia, as Article 5 of the treaty talks of the collective defense, where an attack against one will be considered an attack against all. In line 222, the threat faced by the U.S.-led Western order has been given voice. The countries with the economic and military power to challenge the US-led Western order include China and Russia. In line 223, BRICS has been called a reality capable of challenging the US-led Western order. BRICS stands for Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, an organization that the U.S. perceives as a threat to its established world order.

#### 4.2.7.4 Random Concordance Lines

**Figure 26**

*Randomly Selected Concordance Lines for the Keyword 'Pakistan' in American Newspapers.*

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Collective ...	the country's accounts frozen abroad. "It is now up to <b>the</b>	US	<b>and its</b> allies to approve the transfer. If they do not,
2	Collective ...	to comment on providing any "specific capability" to Ukraine, but said <b>the</b>	US	<b>and its</b> allies "identify and consider the most appropriate systems" that
3	Collective ...	balance since Russia invaded Ukraine a year ago. Despite pressure from <b>the</b>	US	<b>and its</b> western allies, Islamabad has not publicly denounced Russia, though
4	Collective ...	hus exposing the Russian brutality and insensitivity to target civilian population. <b>The</b>	US	<b>and its</b> allies have announced providing arms and ammunition to the
5	Collective ...	best to prevail over Ukraine and seek regime change in Kyiv. <b>The</b>	US	<b>and its</b> Western allies feel that they should sustain high moral
6	Collective ...	of Ukraine to prevent military supplies from sea. Military supplies from <b>the</b>	US	<b>and its</b> allies will be blocked entirely if Russian forces reach
7	Collective ...	question. What President Putin doesn't want is Eurasian domination by <b>the</b>	US	<b>and its</b> NATO allies. To achieve this purpose, he will squeeze
8	Collective ...	hoping to wage a long-drawn war with full backing of <b>the</b>	US	<b>and its</b> allies. How far it succeeds only time will tell
9	Collective ...	time will tell but it is clear that it has provided <b>the</b>	US	<b>and its</b> allies an opportunity to bleed Russia. Twenty countries would
10	Collective ...	he was right, but when Putin uses a similar language against <b>the</b>	US	<b>and its</b> western partners he is termed wrong and viewed as
11	Collective ...	an increased amount of military activity around the region which involves <b>the</b>	US	<b>and its</b> allies and the Chinese military. For now though the
12	Collective ...	Ukraine for almost two months. It has been heavily sanctioned by <b>the</b>	US	<b>and its</b> western allies for trade and business, commodity or finance.
13	Collective ...	world quite far out of control of its initially conceived masters, <b>the</b>	US	<b>and its</b> western allies. They are hardly the new imperialists. Modern
14	Collective ...	be analysed from three angles. First, it is the provocation of <b>the</b>	US	<b>and its</b> NATO allies which is responsible for compelling Russia to
15	Collective ...	types of long-drawn plans are not the first option for <b>the</b>	US	<b>and its</b> European allies because they are running short of time.
16	Collective ...	occupied Crimea, an integral part of Ukraine, prompting sanctions imposed by <b>the</b>	US	<b>and its</b> Nato allies. A year after the outbreak of the
17	Collective ...	as a peacekeeping mission by Russia, and an invasion by Ukraine, <b>the</b>	US	<b>and its</b> NATO allies, was preceded by Putin announcing earlier this
18	Collective ...	in eastern Ukraine. Tensions started escalating late last year when Ukraine, <b>the</b>	US	<b>and its</b> allies accused Russia of amassing tens of thousands of

In line 7, the fears that have driven Putin into Ukraine are given voice. It is written that Putin does not want US domination of Eurasia. In line 18, it is reported that tension started rising when Russia started amassing its troops on the Ukraine border. In line 19, it is reported that the US and its Western allies are mustering their forces in Europe. After Russia's invasion of Ukraine, other Western countries have started boosting their security, given the threat from Russia. Two Western countries, Finland and Sweden, have been granted NATO membership to secure them against any threat from Russia. In line 22, it is written that the Russian operation is a mirror image of what the US and its allies have been doing in the past decades, actions that have significant global implications. In line 705, a reference is being made to the US's obsessive compulsion to maintain its global hegemony, a force that reverberates across the world.

#### 4.2.8 The Keyword 'Pakistan' in the Corpus of American Newspapers

The keyword "Pakistan" appears 12 times in the American corpus. Its top associates comprise of words such as "Soviets" (3 times), "repeatedly" (2 times),

"attacked" (2 times), "India" (2 times), "archrivals" (1 time), "separating" (1 time), and "Shabab" (1 time). The semantic prosody of "Pakistan" in this corpus is predominantly neutral, as most collocates do not convey vital favorable or unfavorable purposes.

Words like "Soviets" and "India" hint at geopolitical dynamics, but do not explicitly cast Pakistan in a positive or negative light. The term "archrivals" referring to India acknowledges historical tensions but remains relatively neutral in the absence of a clear judgment about Pakistan's role. Similarly, references to "attacked" and "Shabab" do not offer a full characterization, but rather allude to specific events or groups with minimal evaluative language. As a result, the semantic prosody surrounding "Pakistan" in the American corpus reflects a complex, neutral stance, aligning with analyses such as those by Aziz (2017), who explored how geopolitical narratives often lack clear-cut evaluations in media portrayals, and Shah (2019), who examined neutral or ambiguous depictions of South Asian nations in Western discourses.

The mentions of "soviets" and "India" in relation to Pakistan's geopolitical involvement during the Cold War and its rivalry with India, provide a rich historical context. The terms "repeatedly" and "attacked" introduce dynamic elements, adding a layer of complexity to the analysis. These terms are more about actions in specific contexts rather than moral judgments.

Overall, the semantic prosody of "Pakistan" in the American corpus remains neutral. The collocates provide a factual description of Pakistan's role in historical and regional dynamics, devoid of any overtly positive or negative framing. This lack of evaluative tone ensures an unbiased analysis of Pakistan's international affairs.

#### 4.2.8.1 Random Concordance Lines

**Figure 27**

*Randomly Selected Concordance Lines for the Keyword 'Pakistan' in American Newspapers.*

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1 Corpus of ...	W. Bush in 2002 to authorize the use of military force. Are we at war in	Pakistan	or Somalia, for example, where we have been conducting against Qaeda, Islamic State and
2 Corpus of ...	example, where we have been conducting against Qaeda, Islamic State and Taliban militants in	Pakistan	since 2004 and Al Shabab in Somalia since 2011? Or at war in Niger, where U.
3 Corpus of ...	ched a, while Afghan intelligence operatives under Soviet control carried out terrorist attacks in	Pakistan.	The Post in 1988 on "Moscow's secret war of terror against Pakistan": "Last July 14,
4 Corpus of ...	terrorist attacks in Pakistan. The Post in 1988 on "Moscow's secret war of terror against	Pakistan"; "	Last July 14, a remote-control device triggered three car-bomb explosions in Karachi, killing 72
5 Corpus of ...	to shut off the flow of arms. In the early 1980s the Soviets mounted against	Pakistan'	s Northwest Frontier Province. That became harder to do once the United States sold
6 Corpus of ...	higher prices threaten to place a significant strain on poor countries like Bangladesh, Sudan and	Pakistan,	which in 2020 received roughly half or more of their wheat from Russia or Ukraine,
7 Corpus of ...	significantly, remain on friendly terms with Russia. The fact that this list also includes archrivals	Pakistan	and India, as well as Iran and , illustrates Mr. Putin's influence as an
8 Corpus of ...	United States provided aid to the mujahideen via Pakistan, and the Soviets repeatedly attacked	Pakistan	in an effort to shut off the flow of arms. In the early 1980s
9 Corpus of ...	Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province. That became harder to do once the United States sold	Pakistan	F-16s. So instead, in 1986, Russian Spetsnaz (special forces) launched a , while Afghan intelligenc
10 Corpus of ...	ne, Poland — the major depot for Western supplies to Ukraine — is much better protected than	Pakistan	was in the 1980s. Two and U.S. F-16s should help keep that
11 Corpus of ...	During the Soviet war in Afghanistan, the United States provided aid to the mujahideen via	Pakistan,	and the Soviets repeatedly attacked Pakistan in an effort to shut off the flow
12 Corpus of ...	njab was particularly intense: Eight million refugees fled across the new border separating West	Pakistan	from India in the space of three months in late 1947. A couple of decades

In line 11, a reference is made to the 1980s when Mujahideen fought Russians in Afghanistan. The United States played a significant role by providing arms and ammunition to mujahideen via Pakistan, a crucial aspect of international relations, to support it in its war against the USSR. It is reported that at that time, the Soviets repeatedly attacked Pakistan in an attempt to shut off the constant supply of weapons and other resources to Mujahideen. In line 12, a reference is made to 1947, when Pakistan and India got independence. It is reported that after the separation of British-controlled India into Pakistan and India, around 8 million refugees fled across the newly created border separating India and Pakistan.

#### 4.2.9 The Keyword 'EU' in the Corpus of American Newspapers

The term 'EU' is a prevalent feature in the American corpus, appearing a substantial 341 times. It is frequently associated with 'United' (46 times), 'states' (42 times), 'eastern' (23 times), 'largest' (10 times), and 'stability' (7 times). These collocates carry a positive semantic prosody, indicating a theme of collaboration, peace, and harmony.

The frequent pairing of 'EU' with 'United' and 'states' in the American corpus not only underscores a robust history of cooperation and partnership but also connects the audience to the shared past of Europe and the U.S. This narrative is further

reinforced by the presence of 'Eastern,' highlighting Europe's geopolitical significance. Meanwhile, words like 'largest' and 'stability' position Europe as a critical player in maintaining global peace and economic stability, fostering a sense of continuity and reliability.

Generally, the positive semantic prosody indicates that Europe is regarded in a constructive light in the American corpus, stressing partnership, political and economic significance, and the region's function in defending international peace. Collocates such as "United" (46 times), "states" (42 times), "eastern" (23 times), "largest" (10 times), and "stability" (7 times) suggest positive semantic prosody associated with collaboration, peace, and harmony.

For instance, the recurring pairing of 'Europe' with 'United' and 'states' reflects close relations between Europe and the U.S., implying a history of collaboration and alliance. The mention of 'eastern' not only highlights Europe's geopolitical significance but also sparks interest in discussions about the region's evolving role in global affairs. Meanwhile, words like 'largest' and 'stability' underscore Europe's crucial role in ensuring global peace and economic stability, keeping the audience engaged and informed.

Overall, the positive semantic prosody consistently suggests that Europe is viewed in a constructive light in the American corpus. This perception is highlighted by the stress on collaboration, political and economic importance, and the region's role in maintaining global stability.



#### 4.2.9.1 Random Concordance Lines

**Figure 28**

*Randomly Selected Concordance Lines for the Keyword 'EU' in American Newspapers.*

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
45	Corpus of ...	goals for his invasion of Ukraine was to upend the balance of military power in	Europe.	Mr. Putin has achieved that goal, but surely not in the way he intended.
46	Corpus of ...	the combination of moral outrage and geopolitical self-interest that has forged democracies in	Europe,	North America and the Pacific Rim into a solid coalition arrayed against Moscow's
47	Corpus of ...	momentum of resistance. Rick Atkinson, in his three-volume history of World War II in	Europe,	notes that American troops often found themselves bogged down after audacious attacks. U.S.
48	Corpus of ...	time has come to prove those were not empty words. Russia has unleashed war in	Europe	out of hateful expansionism. History will judge each one of us later on how
49	Corpus of ...	h Russia and intensifying competition with China, the United States and its democratic allies in	Europe	remain imperiled by illiberal populism and angry and divided electorates. The economic disloc
50	Corpus of ...	emerged from Cold War central casting: An evil empire is again on the march in	Europe.	Russia's invasion has also provided the geopolitical equivalent of CPR for NATO. Washington'
51	Corpus of ...	be clear: Military assistance to Ukraine is not charity. It is a necessary investment in	Europe'	s long-term security. The Ukrainian Army will emerge out of this conflict — Europe'
52	Corpus of ...	oland and many other freedom-loving countries are standing firm with Ukraine, some states in	Europe	seem willing to accept a Ukraine partially occupied by Russian invaders — anything so they
53	Corpus of ...	the point-blank horror of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the expanding war zone in	Europe	seems to have become a comfort zone for much of America's political establishment.
54	Corpus of ...	old children abroad during the hottest period of the war. She explains that, while in	Europe,	she could tell which children she encountered were Ukrainian. "As soon as a plane
55	Corpus of ...	in anti-aircraft systems and cyber- and electronic warfare threats. Letting the military balance in	Europe	shift in Russia's favor was a choice. The United States has itself partly
56	Corpus of ...	act of impunity against traditional understandings of national sovereignty. And it happened in	Europe,	so Westerners could not avert their eyes. Impunity, Miliband argues, feeds upon itself in
57	Corpus of ...	refugees crossing the Ukrainian border daily. It's heartening to see so many nations in	Europe	taking in people fleeing Ukraine. Poland alone has taken in , with many Polish people
58	Corpus of ...	nians. OPINION THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN MUNICH — Last week was an interesting week to be in	Europe	talking to national security experts, officials and business executives about Ukraine. Ukraine and
59	Corpus of ...	forces, and closed the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles Straits to war ships. The unification in	Europe	that Mr. Biden speaks of is certainly real, but in a cruel paradox, European
60	Corpus of ...	lection in Montana or Mississippi risked undoing the Republic or derailing its foreign policy. In	Europe,	this is normal practice. That's partly why, despite its success as a global
61	Corpus of ...	the renowned journalist and war correspondent Martha Gellhorn, "is drenched in memories." In	Europe,	those memories cast a long shadow, none more so than World War II. And
62	Corpus of ...	understandable. Mr. Putin's war of choice in Ukraine is changing the security balance in	Europe,	though not in the way he imagined. In this fateful moment, NATO must take

In line 15, it is lamented that Russia, under Putin's leadership, has committed war crimes never seen before in Europe since the time of Hitler. In line 19, it is suggested that the West must maintain unity and show strength in the face of the biggest war in three-quarters of a century. In line 20, it is written that even though Russian aggression in Europe is dangerous, the United States has seen much worse than this in its history, such as the American Civil War. In line 24, it is predicted that the war in Ukraine will significantly impact Asia more than Europe. In line 28, it is contended that the only guarantee for peace and stability in Europe will be after the war in Ukraine ends and Russia is completely weakened. In line 39, it is reported that the United States has increased its troop numbers in Europe. In line 45, the main goal of Putin for which he invaded Ukraine is mentioned. It is written that Putin intends to change the balance of military power in Europe, for which he attacked Ukraine. In line 48, it is contended that Russia has invaded Ukraine and unleashed a war in Europe because an expansionist ideology drives him. In line 50, it is reported that an evil empire is once again on the march, which refers to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. In line 52, it is reported that some freedom-loving countries in Europe are standing firm with Ukraine, while others are ready to accept a reduced Ukraine, where Russia

controls some parts of Ukraine. In line 62, once again, a reference is being made to Putin's desire to upend the security balance in Europe.

#### 4.2.10 The Keyword 'conflict' in the Corpus of American Newspapers

In the American corpus, the word 'conflict' appears 191 times, each instance reinforcing its predominantly negative semantic prosody. This grave undertone underscores the severity of the situations we are dealing with. Words closely associated with war and prolonged conflict, such as 'nuclear' (13 times), 'direct' (9 times), 'armed' (6 times), and 'protracted' (9 times), frequently co-occur with the keyword 'conflict'. These terms highlight the negative consequences of a lengthy war and its impact on the people. The presence of "protracted" also strengthens the prospect of a long-drawn-out war in Ukraine this shows that disputes are often complex and result in elongated misery or instability.

These collocates, focused on war's severe and lasting impacts, solidify the negative connotations attached to the term "conflict" in the American corpus, framing it as something dangerous, destructive, and often unavoidable intense international situations, underscoring the urgency of our research in understanding and potentially mitigating these situations.

These findings underscore the pressing need for this research in understanding and potentially mitigating these situations, highlighting the crucial role of our work in the field of conflict studies and international relations.

Research on media representation demonstrates that words like "protracted" and "armed" repeatedly contribute to the negative or gloomy connotation associated with the term "conflict," indicating continued tribulation and instability. For example, Baker et al. (2013) found that language used in media usually heightens the perception of global disputes as protracted fights, increasing the general public understanding of their enduring consequences. Likewise, Bednarek (2008) states that media portrayals tend to use emotionally intense. Terms like "nuclear" and "armed" highlight the devastating, elongated character of such disputes, aligning public perception with the serious consequences of a prolonged conflict.



#### 4.2.10.1 Random Concordance Lines

**Figure 29**

*Randomly Selected Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘Conflict’ in American Newspapers.*

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	displaced — work that included a visit with a group of Afghan refugees. He described the	conflict	in Ukraine as “the capstone on the age of impunity,” both in a negative
2	Corpus of ...	ial. Discussions on this should happen parallel to reconstruction efforts starting to emerge. The	conflict	in Ukraine has been going on for nearly two decades, but it is now
3	Corpus of ...	time to evolve. Those patterns did not disappear entirely in the 21st century; during the	conflict	in Syria, for example, Western powers made extensive efforts to deconflict with Russia. But
4	Corpus of ...	of Ukraine. But the two issues are intertwined. As Ukraine slid toward NATO and the	conflict	in the Donbas hit a stalemate, Mr. Putin became ever more . He saw the
5	Corpus of ...	east, Kherson and Zaporizka in the south — are designed to redraw the terms of the	conflict,	in ways congenial to the president’s hawkish critics. There are signs too that
6	Corpus of ...	in other quarters — certainly in the global south, which sees nothing to gain from the	conflict,	and among many constituencies in the West. The parties most clearly opposed to the
7	Corpus of ...	and its allies to get directly involved in shaping Ukraine’s strategic objectives, managing the	conflict,	and seeking a diplomatic endgame. So far, the West has done an admirable job
8	Corpus of ...	It is in Ukraine’s interest to entice larger, more powerful nations to enter the	conflict	and take its side. He knows that such support would tip the balance toward
9	Corpus of ...	suspect Russia of war crimes already exists, relating both to its reasons for launching the	conflict	and the manner in which it has waged it. First, Mr. Putin’s rationale
10	Corpus of ...	in shipments out of Ukraine demonstrated that international pressure on Russia to prevent the	conflict	from spreading beyond the battlefields can work. And with Chernobyl as a shared traumatic
11	Corpus of ...	in shipments out of Ukraine demonstrated that international pressure on Russia to prevent the	conflict	from spreading beyond the battlefields can work. And with Chernobyl as a shared traumatic
12	Corpus of ...	Ukraine defend itself against Russia’s aggression, but they are also trying to prevent the	conflict	from escalating into a major power war. But escalation, though incremental and thus far
13	Corpus of ...	the United States, Britain, Poland and other European NATO members have been parties to the	conflict	from the outset. It is not just military transports and trucks carrying tens of
14	Corpus of ...	work. My aunt started a family of her own there, stubbornly refusing to allow the	conflict	to dominate her life. I missed them endlessly — I was blacklisted in Donetsk for
15	Corpus of ...	that the Pentagon is sending to Ukraine are meant to raise the cost of the	conflict	to Mr. Putin, so that he will eventually see the wisdom of a political .
16	Corpus of ...	ith unprovoked aggression that will destroy the world order. Or we can overreact, allowing the	conflict	to spiral out of control. Put another way: We can’t afford to start
17	Corpus of ...	large for the world.” Britain’s foreign minister, Liz Truss, was explicit about widening the	conflict	to take in Ukrainian territory annexed by Russia, such as Crimea, when she spoke
18	Corpus of ...	NATO member states view the war in Ukraine. For Western countries, not least the , the	conflict	is a disaster for the people of Ukraine — but one whose biggest danger is

In line 2, it is reported that the conflict in Ukraine has been going on for the past two decades. In line 8, it is observed that it is in Ukraine’s interest to get as many powers as the entire nation can get involved in the conflict and take its side. In line 12, it is mentioned that as Ukraine defends itself from Russia’s aggression, at the time, it is also trying to prevent the conflict from escalating into a global conflict. In line 15, it is predicted that the Pentagon’s support in the shape of weapons and ammunition will raise the cost of war for Putin and will stop him from his madness. In line 20, it is suggested that the conflict’s duration remains uncertain, adding to the complexity and unpredictability of the situation. In line 72, it is contended that Russia will not stop at just Ukraine. It is predicted that, ultimately, NATO will have to join the war to stop Putin. In line 74, American leadership was quoted saying that unless America or its allies were directly attacked, America would not get involved in the conflict and would neither send its troops nor attack Russian forces until they did so first. In line 108, President Biden has been quoted saying that America will not do anything that might provoke a direct conflict with Russia, such as acts like declaring Ukraine a no-fly zone. In line 109, Konstantin Chernenko, a former secretary general of the communist party

of the Soviet Union, has been cited saying that “war has never been and will never be a method of conflict resolution.”

### 4.3 Concordance Analysis of Keywords in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

#### 4.3.1 The Keyword 'Russia' in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

The word "Russia" appears a significant 2,199 times in the Pakistani corpus, indicating its importance in discussions surrounding the Russia-Ukraine war within the media. Its most frequent collocates include words like "Ukraine," "invasion," "sanctions," "conflict," "launched," "accused," "attack," "invaded," "relations," "annexed," "condemning," "isolated," "authoritarian," "bleed," and "alone." These terms present a positive, negative, and somewhat neutral semantic prosody, reflecting a careful approach adopted by the Pakistani print media. For instance, the media often presents both sides of the conflict, providing a balanced view, and refrains from using overly inflammatory language. This approach suggests that Pakistani print media has taken into account the importance of its relationship with Russia while discussing the Russian-Ukraine war.

However, terms such as "invasion," "attack," and "annexed" suggest negative behavior from Russia and its actions in Ukraine. Other collocates like "relations" and "condemning" suggest a more neutral or diplomatic representation. This mix of terms shows that the media does not clearly tilt toward either an entirely negative or positive outlook, frequently conveying information by focusing on objective outcomes instead of overt moral reviews.

The use of collocates like "sanctions" and "isolated" underlines the international response to Russia's measures, which included economic sanctions and embargoes. However, the words "relations" and "accused" indicate that the media present these events in a calculated manner, meaning they carefully consider their language and tone to maintain a balanced perspective. This approach concentrates on tactful discourse and global reactions without completely condemning Russia.

One important reason behind this neutral stance is Pakistan's growing impartial posture in international disputes, mainly when confronting Power battles between great powers. Pakistan remained in the West block during the Cold War. Recently, it has shifted its foreign policy. It now wants to maintain a balance between the global

powers by not taking sides. Pakistani print media avoid expressing direct criticism or clear support for Russia's actions and NATO role in the Ukraine conflict.

Bednarek (2008) underlines that media discourse on politically sensitive subjects usually reflects a tactful standpoint, bypassing overtly antagonistic discourse while managing controversial topics. Following this, Louw (1993) examines how words like "invasion" maintain a substantial "unpleasant prosody", but the media may damp such language by integrating more Impartial wording. This approach assists in keeping a balanced narrative while still recognizing the seriousness of the problem. These discoveries Align with the nuanced language employed in the Pakistani corpus, where the media bypasses intense depictions but still expresses the continuing conflict and its implications. Therefore, the language used in the Pakistani media conform to wider trends in media discussions that Balance neutrality with the necessity to address the gravity of the dispute, as mentioned in both Bednarek's and Louw's studies.

In general, the Pakistani corpus presents Russia through a combination of collocates that show both its controversial actions in Ukraine and the global political environment. This constructs neutral semantic prosody, for Russia neither ultimately criticizes nor comes out in open support but presents it as a prominent player in international affairs. 4.3.1.1 Concordance Line Containing Collocate “Invasion”

### Figure 30

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘Russia’ with the Collocate ‘Invasion’ in the Pakistani Newspaper Corpus*

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
61	Corpus of ...	against nuclear-armed Russia. Putin, at a televised government meeting Wednesday, insisted the	invasion	was "developing successfully", adding: "We will not allow Ukraine to serve as
62	Corpus of ...	creating a mass exodus and misery. The wounds and suffering caused by the	invasion	will last for decades. President Putin insists that Ukraine recognise Crimea as
63	Corpus of ...	has reported 1,834 civilian casualties. Addressing a key Russian concern used to justify the	invasion,	Zelensky said Ukraine should accept that it would not become a member
64	Corpus of ...	reporters, and repeated his call for an immediate cessation of hostilities. Russia's	invasion	of Ukraine that began on Feb. 24 has so far sent more than 2.8
65	Corpus of ...	nuclear forces should be put on high alert, raising fears that Russia's	invasion	of Ukraine could lead to nuclear war. U.S. officials have said
66	Corpus of ...	wake of its Feb 24 invasion of Ukraine. The moves highlight how Russia's	invasion	of Ukraine has forced some scientific agencies to choose between their ethos
67	Corpus of ...	was completely false to say that China had "prior knowledge" of Russia's	invasion	of Ukraine and that such claims were a smear. The ministry comment
68	Corpus of ...	country close to the United States that not to have condemned Russia's	invasion	of Ukraine or imposed any sanctions on it. "India has called for
69	Corpus of ...	comments which it said narrows the window for bilateral relations, with Russia's	invasion	of Ukraine now into a second month. Macron said he would speak
70	Corpus of ...	end of a speech to a crowd in Warsaw. He cast Russia's	invasion	of Ukraine as a battle in a much broader conflict between democracy
71	Corpus of ...	by the conflict in Ukraine and the West's crippling sanctions. Russia's	invasion	of Ukraine has killed thousands and displaced 14 million people, while the West'
72	Corpus of ...	and stress to more severe conditions." Habicht said: "Since the Russian Federation's	invasion	of Ukraine on 24 February, WHO has procured more than 2,000 metric tons of
73	Corpus of ...	western response is sanctions. Nations only tend to fight winnable wars. Putin's	invasion	of Ukraine once again proves that Nato's promise of collective defence
74	Corpus of ...	I will not mess with you. The US is calling President Putin's	invasion	of Ukraine his greatest foreign policy blunder. Seen in the historical context,
75	Corpus of ...	government may have to cover any shortages with expensive wheat imports. Russia's	invasion	of Ukraine has also resulted in a record surge in LNG rates
76	Corpus of ...	The Economist (London), an article titled "NATO meets in Madrid" states, "Russia's	invasion	of Ukraine has upturned European security. In response, NATO is growing bigger
77	Corpus of ...	quagmire over Ukraine war and Putin links Berlin, March 5 (AFP/APP);Russia's	invasion	of Ukraine has plunged far-right movements across Europe into an identity
78	Corpus of ...	only spreading democracy and increasing trade, as it says. Alas, after Russia's	invasion	of Ukraine three weeks ago, serious discussions about a peaceful settlement of

The highest collocate of the word “Russia” in the Pakistani corpus is “invasion.” It turns up 52 times with the keyword “Russia” and refers to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In line 65, the fear has been raised that Russia’s invasion of Ukraine could lead to a nuclear war. In line 71, it is reported that Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has killed thousands and displaced millions of people from their homes. In line 74, it is reported that the US is calling President Putin’s attack on Ukraine his greatest blunder. In line 75, it is reported that Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has caused LNG prices to soar to record levels. In line 76, a newspaper article has been cited, where it is observed that Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has completely changed the dynamic of security in Europe, resulting in NATO becoming more prominent and more powerful. In line 86, it is reported that in response to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the West has imposed massive sanctions on Russia. In line 93, a reference is made to the large-scale devastation that has taken place in Ukrainian cities after Russia invaded Ukraine.

#### 4.3.1.2 Concordance Line Containing Collocate “Sanctions”

**Figure 31**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘Russia’ with the Collocate ‘Sanctions’ in Pakistani Newspapers*

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
33 Corpus of ...	cripple Russia's banking sector and currency Sunday with an extraordinary set of	sanctions	punishing Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. Taking measures unprecedented against a country
34 Corpus of ...	a global war with the US and Western powers playing the "war of	sanctions"	strategy which Russia is countering by earmarking Ukrainian heartland industries and targeting
35 Corpus of ...	assistance to the suffering population. We have put into place ten packages of	sanctions	to reduce Russia's ability to wage the war and punish those
36 Corpus of ...	that the government and Russian companies had both prepared for the eventuality of	sanctions.	US President Joe Biden on Thursday announced a slew of that would "
37 Corpus of ...	been almost universally condemned around the world and that has drawn tough Western	sanctions	on Russia. The Russian bombardment has trapped thousands of people in besieged
38 Corpus of ...	borders and trapped hundreds of thousands in besieged cities while triggering broad Western	sanctions	on Russia. Russian President Vladimir Putin late last month said that his
39 Corpus of ...	of the west and perhaps that is why Chinese are not supporting western	sanctions	on Russia. The pattern of the West shows that the reason why
40 Corpus of ...	on the ground," Kalin said. President Vladimir Putin said on Saturday that Western	sanctions	on Russia were akin to a declaration of war and warned that
41 Corpus of ...	The blockade of ports has disrupted global supply chains. This along with Western	sanctions	on Russia has caused inflation in food prices. The deal is therefore
42 Corpus of ...	told Canadian lawmakers in a virtual address. In a response to crushing Western	sanctions	on Russia, Moscow announced that US President Joe Biden and a dozen
43 Corpus of ...	Minister Wang Yi said China does not want to be impacted by Western	sanctions	on Russia, as US pressure grows on Beijing to withdraw support from
44 Corpus of ...	and Russia and has sought to balance ties during the war, rejecting Western	sanctions	on Moscow while criticising the Russian invasion and supplying Kyiv with armed
45 Corpus of ...	working on a rupee-rouble mechanism to facilitate trade and get around Western	sanctions	on Russian banks, according to media reports. Lavrov told reporters he was
46 Corpus of ...	advance stage and Memorandum of Understanding has been signed. With US and Western	sanctions	and ban on purchases Pakistan would be assessing the fallout of it
47 Corpus of ...	Ukraine invasion, saying Moscow and Delhi would find ways to circumvent "illegal" Western	sanctions	and continue to trade. India has abstained from multiple United Nations resolutions
48 Corpus of ...	countries since its Feb 24 invasion of Ukraine, which was met by tough Western	sanctions	and Russian retaliatory measures. Tuesday's nuclear warning by Dmitry Medvedev, deputy
49 Corpus of ...	that it may be preparing to conduct cyber attacks in response to Western	sanctions,	and said it did not engage in "banditry". US President Joe Biden

The second highest collocate of the word “Russia” in the Pakistani corpus is “sanctions.” It turns up ten times with the keyword “Russia” and refers to the sanctions imposed on Russia in response to its invasion of Ukraine. In line 37, it is observed that Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has led to almost universal condemnation from around

the world, with many countries condemning Russia and its actions in Ukraine. In addition, many Western countries have also placed numerous sanctions on Russia. In line 40, Vladimir Putin has been quoted saying that Western sanctions on Russia were akin to a declaration of war. In line 52, the Western sanctions against Ukraine have been termed as an economic weapon that the world has never seen before. In line 67, it is reported that the West has imposed various types of sanctions on Russia in order to destabilize its economy and force it to retract back from Ukraine. In line 220, it is asked whether the significant amount of assistance provided to Ukraine and the strict economic sanctions that have been imposed on Russia will stop it from its madness in Ukraine.

#### 4.3.1.3 Concordance Line Containing Collocate “Accused”

**Figure 32**

*Concordance Lines Showing the Collocate ‘Accused’ in Proximity to the Keyword ‘Russia’ in the Pakistani Corpus.*

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1 Corpus of ...	Destroying the dam would mean a large-scale disaster,” he said. Russia <b>has</b>	<b>accused</b>	<b>Kyiv</b> of rocketing the dam and planning to destroy it in what
2 Corpus of ...	not to blow up the Russian-controlled dam on the Dnipro. Russia <b>has</b>	<b>accused</b>	<b>Kyiv</b> of rocketing the dam and planning to destroy it in what
3 Corpus of ...	its sixth wave of sanctions over Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Ukraine <b>has</b>	<b>accused</b>	<b>Moscow</b> of playing “hunger games” with the world. Russia, whose warships were
4 Corpus of ...	the attack is said to have reached the streets of Kyiv. Zelenskyy <b>has</b>	<b>accused</b>	<b>Moscow</b> of trying to install a puppet government, vowing that Ukrainians will
5 Corpus of ...	HO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Sunday. The British government <b>has</b>	<b>accused</b>	<b>Russia</b> of targeting populated areas “in multiple locations”. “Russia has previously used
6 Corpus of ...	r and water supplies almost weekly since October. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy <b>has</b>	<b>accused</b>	<b>Russia</b> of “energy terrorism” as the aerial bombardments have left many people
7 Corpus of ...	n Russian President Vladimir Putin’s “best regards”. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy <b>has</b>	<b>accused</b>	<b>Russian soldiers</b> of deliberately mining areas in northern Ukraine as they withdraw
8 Corpus of ...	her of “promoting the deployment of Russian troops in Ukraine.” The EU <b>has</b>	<b>accused</b>	<b>Simonyan</b> of presenting a “positive attitude towards the annexation of Crimea and
9 Corpus of ...	weapons in the event of an existential threat to the Russian state, <b>has</b>	<b>accused</b>	<b>the West</b> of waging a “proxy war” against it by arming Ukraine
10 Corpus of ...	mine found in its waters since the Ukraine war. Ukraine and Russia <b>have</b>	<b>accused</b>	<b>each other</b> of laying mines in the Black Sea, and in late
11 Corpus of ...	on Kyiv, could result in a large-scale disaster. Moscow and Kyiv <b>have</b>	<b>accused</b>	<b>each other</b> of shelling Europe’s largest nuclear power plant, which was
12 Corpus of ...	call, which it said had been initiated by Macron. Ukraine and Russia <b>have</b>	<b>accused</b>	<b>each other</b> of planning provocations at the plant. Kyiv said that Russian
13 Corpus of ...	countries who have backed the Kyiv government with diplomatic and military support <b>have</b>	<b>accused</b>	<b>Russia</b> of weaponising energy supplies. Some analysts say the shortages and a
14 Corpus of ...	ed Western sanctions and technical issues for energy disruptions, while European countries <b>have</b>	<b>accused</b>	<b>Russia</b> of weaponising supplies as part of its military invasion. It is
15 Corpus of ...	s military operation on the first day. In recent weeks, US officials <b>have</b>	<b>accused</b>	<b>Russia</b> of amassing more than 150,000 troops around Ukraine to launch a military
16 Corpus of ...	Matlock as well as scholars such as John Mearsheimer and Noam Chomsky <b>have</b>	<b>accused</b>	<b>the US</b> of creating this crisis by expanding NATO. Instead they propose
17 Corpus of ...	rights violations in the Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Many critics <b>have</b>	<b>accused</b>	<b>the West</b> of double standards by singling Putin out and ignoring the
18 Corpus of ...	the sea near the port of Odesa. Ukraine and the United States <b>have</b>	<b>accused</b>	<b>Iran</b> of supplying drones to Russia, something Tehran has denied. Zelenskyy has

The third highest collocate of the word “Russia” in the Pakistani corpus is “accused.” It turns up 25 times with the keyword “accused” and refers to accusations of war crimes committed by Russia in Ukraine. In line 5, the British government has been cited while leveling allegations of war crimes in Ukraine at Russia by targeting populated areas in many places. In line 6, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy accused Russia of energy terrorism. In line 13, it is reported that many countries who are supporting Ukraine militarily and diplomatically in its war against Russia have



accused Russia of weaponizing energy supplies. In line 15, a reference is made to the time when Russia was massing troops around the Ukraine border. It is observed that the United States accused Russia of amassing more than 150,000 troops around its border with Ukraine.

#### 4.3.1.4 Random Concordance Lines:

In line 107, it is reported that the goal of Russia is not only occupation. It is genocide. In line 117, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has been described as an unprovoked and unjust invasion of Ukraine. In line 128, it is reported that France's Marine Le Pen has condemned Russia for violating international law. In line 150, it is observed that China is not fully supporting Russia's aggression against Ukraine, which was clearly on display at the 22nd SCO summit. In line 154, it is written that Ukrainians bravely standing up to Russian despots have protected themselves and their neighbors, a testament to their courage and resilience. In line 158, it is reported that Ukraine has lost almost 100,000 people in its war against Russia. In line 740, Russia has been accused of having a terrorist plan. In line 910, Biden has been quoted saying that Putin's desire for absolute power has destroyed the prospect of peace.

#### 4.3.2 The Keyword 'Ukraine' in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

The word 'Ukraine' appears 2,445 times in the Pakistani corpus, underscoring its significant presence in discussions related to the ongoing conflict. The most frequent top collocates of the critical words 'Ukraine' in the corpus include words such as 'invasion' (148), 'support' (59), 'assistance' (32), 'conflict' (68), 'sovereignty' (20), 'demilitarize' (10), and 'launched' (29). The high frequency of the word 'invasion' suggests a strong focus on the military aspect of the conflict in the Pakistani media. The use of these terms in Pakistani newspapers to describe Ukraine indicates a subtle depiction. The emphasis stays on the geopolitical and humanitarian factors instead of supporting a clear dispute side. The linguistic pattern representing Ukraine indicates that Pakistani print media depicts Ukraine more neutrally. It focuses on prioritizing the details of the crisis itself, such as Military progress, humanitarian support, and territorial sovereignty

The frequent use of words like "support," "assistance," and "sovereignty" suggests the importance of assistance for Ukraine in this hour of need. However,

"conflict" and "demilitarization" signifies an impartial approach and acceptance of the issue's complexity. Pakistan's neutral stance is reflected in the linguistic pattern used to describe Ukraine. Pakistan does not want to take sides in this conflict. It wants to have good relations with both Russia and Ukraine. It only calls for the restoration of peace and care for humanitarian concerns.

Pakistan's foreign policy towards Russia and Ukraine is based on neutrality. The lexical patterns found in Pakistan's print media when portraying Ukraine follow the country's diplomatic stance on the issue. Pakistan's print media attempts to focus on humanitarian concerns instead of engaging in side-taking. This way, Pakistan's media reflects the country's foreign policy strategy, carefully presenting the crisis without inflammatory or overtly partisan language, thus maintaining a diplomatic and neutral discourse. This approach is shaped by Pakistan's complex and carefully balanced relationships with Russia, China, and the West, which require delicate handling in the current international climate.

To conclude, the representation of Ukraine in Pakistani print media is notably neutral, with a focus on the crisis itself rather than taking a solid side. This approach reflects Pakistan's steadfast commitment to a neutral foreign policy, providing reassurance about its diplomatic approach

#### 4.3.2.1 Concordance Line Containing Collocate “Invasion”

#### **Figure 33**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘Ukraine’ with the Collocate ‘Invasion’ in the Pakistani Newspaper Corpus*



	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
257	Corpus of ...	European countries have accused Russia of weaponising supplies as part of its <b>military</b>	<b>invasion.</b>	It is hard to see how this deadlocked will be resolved with
258	Corpus of ...	people protested in London on Saturday demanding an end to Russia's <b>devastating</b>	<b>invasion</b>	of <b>Ukraine</b> , praying for peace amid a host of blue and yellow
259	Corpus of ...	eting 386 members of Russia's parliament who supported President Vladimir Putin's <b>devastating</b>	<b>invasion</b>	of <b>Ukraine</b> . The new sanctions against members of Russia's Duma, the
260	Corpus of ...	shelling had killed 21 civilians near one city. Three weeks in to their <b>devastating</b>	<b>invasion,</b>	<b>Russian forces</b> also stood accused of bombing a theater sheltering many civilians
261	Corpus of ...	major new offensive is widely expected as the first anniversary of its <b>February 24</b>	<b>invasion</b>	<b>nears.</b> "The enemy's offensive continues in the east, (with) round-the-
262	Corpus of ...	Only on terror," he said. For the first two weeks following its <b>February 24</b>	<b>invasion,</b>	<b>Russia's</b> forces had focused on eastern and southern areas of Ukraine,
263	Corpus of ...	the conflict. The plant was seized by Russian troops shortly after the <b>February 24</b>	<b>invasion</b>	with <b>each</b> side blaming the other for nearby shelling. As the war
264	Corpus of ...	risk of nuclear war has increased since Russian President Vladimir Putin launched <b>his</b>	<b>invasion</b>	of <b>Ukraine</b> on Feb. 24 with a speech in which he pointedly referred
265	Corpus of ...	with exactly what he said he wanted to avoid when he launched <b>his</b>	<b>invasion</b>	of <b>Ukraine</b> on Feb. 24: a further expansion of NATO to Russia's
266	Corpus of ...	step in their efforts to punish Moscow and President Vladimir Putin for <b>his</b>	<b>invasion</b>	of <b>Ukraine</b> . The decision by the G-7, just days ahead of a
267	Corpus of ...	s foreign ministry said. "We're targeting those complicit in Putin's <b>illegal</b>	<b>invasion</b>	of <b>Ukraine</b> and those who support this barbaric war," Foreign Secretary Liz
268	Corpus of ...	Britain denied the claim. "To detract from their disastrous handling of the <b>illegal</b>	<b>invasion</b>	of <b>Ukraine</b> , the Russian Ministry of Defence is resorting to peddling false
269	Corpus of ...	support to help them defend themselves and their territory against Russia's <b>illegal</b>	<b>invasion.</b>	<b>We will</b> do this for as long as it takes," Donfried added.
270	Corpus of ...	the Russian gas by two-thirds before the end of the year. <b>This</b>	<b>invasion</b>	is a business opportunity for the US natural gas industry to fill
271	Corpus of ...	to the unjust, condemnable invasion of Ukraine by Russia is heartening. However, <b>this</b>	<b>invasion</b>	is <b>not</b> the only act of violence in recent years. And yet,
272	Corpus of ...	by the Russian army have revealed the genocidal and misogynist character of <b>this</b>	<b>invasion".</b>	<b>Apart from</b> the brilliant idea to discuss a war with feminist and
273	Corpus of ...	not been so respectful of the international order—most significantly in the <b>US</b>	<b>invasion</b>	and <b>occupation</b> of Iraq. The Iraq war weakened the US militarily, making
274	Corpus of ...	not been so respectful of the international order—most significantly in the <b>US</b>	<b>invasion</b>	and <b>occupation</b> of Iraq. The Iraq war weakened the US militarily, making

The highest collocate of the word “Ukraine” in the Pakistani corpus is “invasion”. It turns up 125 times with the keyword “Ukraine” and refers to the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. In line 258, it is reported that people protested in London demanding an end to the devastation invasion of Ukraine by Russia. In line 259 and 260 the word devastating has been used to refer to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In line 267, former British foreign secretary has been quoting saying that that they were targeting those who were involved in Putin’s illegal invasion of Ukraine and also those who supported the barbaric war in Ukraine. In line 269, it is suggested that Ukraine should be supported to defend themselves and their territory against Russia’s illegal invasion. In line 280 and 281, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has been termed as imperialist invasion. In line 06, the words unprovoked and unjust have been used to describe Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

#### 4.3.2.2 Concordance Line Containing Collocate “Support”

### Figure 34

Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘Ukraine’ with the Collocate ‘Support’ in the Pakistani Newspaper Corpus

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	name of a noble sounding cause. President Biden said, "Americans have rallied to	support	the Ukrainian people and have made it clear we will not be
2	Corpus of ...	protective equipment worth €50 million (\$55 million). Another important decision of the EU is to	support	the Ukrainian army with fighter jets and fuel. US The US will
3	Corpus of ...	world. They hobbled the Russian central bank's ability to use reserves to	support	the already sinking ruble, which a senior US official said will now "
4	Corpus of ...	with nearly half of the country's forex reserves frozen and unavailable to	support	the depreciating ruble, the Russian Central Bank urgently raised the key rate
5	Corpus of ...	stated the Secretary-General. He reminded the reporters that the Organization continues to	support	the people of Ukraine through its humanitarian operations and human rights efforts. "
6	Corpus of ...	for exports if the West continues to isolate the country." In order to	support	the ruble, which has suffered a sharp decline against major currencies this
7	Corpus of ...	other allies have said they won't use U.S. troops directly to	support	a country that isn't a member of NATO. The world will
8	Corpus of ...	she pleaded with members of the UN Human Rights Council on Wednesday to	support	a move to set up a commission of inquiry into "Russia's
9	Corpus of ...	allies pledged to ramp up military aid to the Ukrainian armed forces to	support	a planned counter-offensive. Ukrainian officials said air defences in the south
10	Corpus of ...	Russia has to be able to sell those reserves and buy rubles to	support	its currency," but "without being able to buy the ruble from Western
11	Corpus of ...	of disinformation by the Russian Government and its affiliated media and proxies to	support	its military aggression against Ukraine." "Their steady stream of fabricated claims is
12	Corpus of ...	experiencing a rebound effect after evacuating from Afghanistan. It needs an alternative to	support	its war economy. Russia-Ukraine crisis is that much-desired opportunity. On
13	Corpus of ...	of transfer," it added. On Wednesday, President Vladimir Putin ordered new measures to	support	Russian citizens amid rising prices, unemployment, and supply issues tied to sanctions. "
14	Corpus of ...	UN refugee agency. Lebanese group Hezbollah has denied sending fighters to Ukraine to	support	Russian troops as Moscow's war on Kyiv enters its fourth week. "
15	Corpus of ...	moved troops into the two separatist "Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics" to	support	them against Ukraine. This gives him strategic options. It acts as a
16	Corpus of ...	moved troops into the two separatist "Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics" to	support	them against Ukraine. This gives him strategic options. It acts as a
17	Corpus of ...	front lines against Russia, mustered a rather nonplussed, confused and timid Europe to	support	and back it while it stays "off-shore" and reinforces European and
18	Corpus of ...	transpires in Ukraine. Fife said it will use some of its budget to	support	cat breeders and fanciers in Ukraine. "Our Ukrainian fellow feline fanciers are

The second highest collocate of the word “Ukraine” in the Pakistani corpus is “support”. It turns up times with the keyword “Ukraine” and refers to diplomatic, military, economic and humanitarian support provided by the world to Ukraine. In line 2, it is reported that EU has made an important decision to support Ukrainian army with fighter jets and fuel. In line 29, it is advised that world’s democracies should unite to support Ukraine. In line 65, it is observed that US support for Ukraine remains firm and steadfast. In line 68, Biden and Anthony Blinken have been quoted calling the strikes against Ukraine horrific and reiterating their full support for Ukraine. In line 109, different countries are lauded for extending their support for Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.

#### 4.3.2.3 Concordance Line Containing Collocate “Assistance”

### Figure 35

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘Ukraine’ With the Collocate ‘Assistance’ in the Pakistani Newspaper Corpus*

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1 Corpus of ...	hundreds have died. The United States announced an additional \$800 million in security	assistance	to Ukraine to fight Russia, with the new package including drones,
2 Corpus of ...	It is not only NATO which has been a source of major	assistance	to Ukraine to counter Russian invasion, Japan also announced \$5.5 billion for
3 Corpus of ...	this crisis? G-7 announced \$2.3 billion in humanitarian assistance and \$29.5 billion in financial	assistance	to Ukraine along with \$600 billion in global infrastructure program in the
4 Corpus of ...	would be respected. Instead, the situation aggravated with NATO transfers of military	assistance	to Ukraine and deployment of NATO strategic weapons along the Russian
5 Corpus of ...	of humanitarian assistance to Ukraine. We've provided over \$52 million in humanitarian	assistance	to Ukraine in the past year. Over the past few weeks,
6 Corpus of ...	has labeled war crimes. The United States has sent \$1.7 billion in military	assistance	to Ukraine since Russia launched its invasion on Feb. 24, the White
7 Corpus of ...	bordering Ukraine and committed to providing several hundred million dollars of military	assistance	to the besieged Ukrainian regime of Kyiv, all that still seems
8 Corpus of ...	now in the earthquake-struck regions of Turkey and Syria, to channel	assistance	to the suffering population. We have put into place ten packages
9 Corpus of ...	war, President Obama made a prediction when in 2015 Russia came for military	assistance	to the Syrians. Obama claimed that Syria would become a quagmire
10 Corpus of ...	nia are already welcoming Ukrainian refugees." "Italy is also providing immediate financial	assistance	to the Ukrainian government, and Turkey has deepened its defence ties
11 Corpus of ...	Chinese Red Cross will offer an additional 10 million yuan (\$1.57 million) of humanitarian	assistance	to Ukraine, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin told reporters on
12 Corpus of ...	Chinese Red Cross will offer an additional 10 million yuan (\$1.57 million) of humanitarian	assistance	to Ukraine, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin told reporters on
13 Corpus of ...	peace talks are "just rhetoric," stressing that all EU actions, including military	assistance	to Ukraine, are aimed at escalation, not easing tensions. Zakharchenko explained
14 Corpus of ...	threatening repeatedly to use nuclear weapons. NATO will provide more air defence	assistance	to Ukraine, the 30-member military alliance's secretary general said on
15 Corpus of ...	must not forget what forced the US and EU to increase their	assistance	to Ukraine. In 2013, Kyrgyzstan closed the Manas US Air Base in
16 Corpus of ...	Ukraine's cause and most NATO member countries provide military and humanitarian	assistance	to Ukraine. More than five million Ukraine people have become refugees
17 Corpus of ...	terms of humanitarian assistance, we have been the biggest provider of humanitarian	assistance	to Ukraine. We've provided over \$52 million in humanitarian assistance to
18 Corpus of ...	to resist Western pressure in the form of colossal economic and military	assistance	to Kyiv and imposition of sanctions. It is not only NATO

The third highest collocates of the word “Ukraine” in the Pakistani corpus is “assistance”. It turns up times with the keyword “Ukraine” and refers to assistance provided by US and other NATO allies to Ukraine to bolster its defenses against Russia. In line 1, it is reported that United States has announced 800 million dollars in security assistance for Ukraine to fight Russia. In line 2, it is written in addition NATO allies Japan has also been providing assistance to Ukraine. In line 6 is reported that in the past year United States has provided 1.7 billion dollars in military assistance to Ukraine. In line 10, it is observed that Italy has also provided financial assistance to Ukraine. In line 11, it is reported that Chinese Red Cross will provide 1.57 million dollars of humanitarian assistance to Ukraine. In line 14, it is reported that EU will provide defense assistance to Ukraine

#### 4.3.2.4 Random Concordance Lines:

In line 16, it is reported that the conflict has killed thousands in Ukraine and more than five million people have fled the country. In line 26, it is stated that there is a growing demand for an end to the brutal war in Ukraine. In addition to a deterioration in international peace, a prolonged conflict in Ukraine will have negative impacts on Pakistan as it imports more than 30 percent of its wheat for local use from Ukraine. In line 48, it is observed that the humanitarian situation in Ukraine is deteriorating. In line 57, the world is warned that Russia’s operation in Ukraine is just the beginning as Russia wants to subdue other countries. In line 66, it is reported that more than 3000 people have been killed and around the same number have been injured in the war in

Ukraine. In line 1920, it is observed that Russia's action toward Ukraine has not been peaceful since 2014.

### 4.3.3 The Keyword 'War' in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

The word 'war' is a prevalent theme in the Pakistani corpus, appearing a substantial 1,057 times. Its most common associate is 'Ukraine' (182 times), highlighting the extensive use of 'war' in the context of Ukraine. The other collocates of the word "war" in this corpus include "world" (82), "cold" (51), and "crimes" (32). These collocates are significant as they indicate a connection between the Ukraine war and past wars in the same region, such as the Cold War and the world wars. The presence of collocations such as "long" (16), "ongoing" (15), and "protracted" (4) suggest that the war is long and would last longer. Similarly, other terms like "terror" (7), "unprovoked" (5), and "unilateral" (4) carry negative connotations. These collocates contribute to negative semantic prosody surrounding the word "war" in the Pakistani corpus, portraying the Ukraine conflict as an unjust war costing humanity dearly.

The depiction of "war" through collocates like "unprovoked," "devastation," and "crisis" is a frequent theme. In media discussions as noticed in Partington's (2004) study, which demonstrates how such negative collocations strengthen the view of war as both detrimental and unfair. By linking it to war with humanitarian suffering these terms assist in unfavorable semantic prosody that shapes general perception toward viewing conflict as destructive and morally repugnant.

In the Pakistani corpus, the word "war" is prominently featured, reflecting its central role in discussions about global and regional conflicts. The collocates of "war" provide insight into how conflicts are framed in the media. The frequent co-occurrence of the term 'Ukraine' with 'war' in Pakistani print media indicates a significant emphasis on the conflict in Ukraine. This suggests a substantial preoccupation by the Pakistani print media with the war in Ukraine, possibly due to its geopolitical implications or the human rights issues involved. This underscores the global significance of the Ukrainian issue, positioning it as a crucial subject of interest worldwide and a key player in contemporary international matters.

The term 'world' is often associated with 'war,' underscoring the global impact of the conflict in Ukraine. This highlights the far-reaching consequences of a war in one part of the world on global security and peace, emphasizing the interconnectedness of international relations. Furthermore, the collocate 'cold' in the context of the war in Ukraine harks back to the Cold War era and its enduring effects on current world politics. This serves as a stark reminder that past conflicts continue to shape today's world, highlighting the enduring influence of history. This indicates that historical conflicts continue to influence current discussions about war, providing a historical perspective in the media coverage.

The term 'crimes' is often used in discussions about the negative impacts of conflicts. In the context of the war in Ukraine, this likely refers to the war crimes, such as civilian casualties and human rights violations, committed during the conflict. This demonstrates that the Pakistani print media has not only highlighted the severe effects of the war in Ukraine but also the specific war crimes that have occurred, underscoring the gravity of the situation.

Other collocates, such as 'terror,' 'unprovoked,' 'protracted,' and 'unilateral,' provide further information about the war in Ukraine. 'Terror' likely refers to the use of terrorism within conflicts, while 'unprovoked' suggests that the conflict was initiated without a direct provocation, 'protracted' indicates that the conflict has been ongoing for an extended period, and 'unilateral' implies that the war is being waged by one country without the consent of others. Understanding these terms provides a more nuanced view of the nature of the war and the country responsible for it.

In general, "war" and the collocates found in its co-text in the Pakistani corpus highlight the complexity of media discussions about conflicts. The emphasis on specific disputes, global implications, and various dimensions of warfare reflects the multifaceted nature of these issues and their impact on public discourse.

#### 4.3.3.1 Concordance line containing collocate "Ukraine"

The second highest collocate of the word "war" in the Pakistani corpus is "Ukraine". It turns up 182 times with the keyword "war" and refers to the Russia-Ukraine war that started on Feb 24, 2022 when Russia invaded Ukraine. In line 1, it is predicted that the crises in Ukraine is not just as regional fissure. In fact, the war in Ukraine can easily escalate into a global conflict. In line 2, the effects of the war in

Ukraine on global energy and grain prices has been discussed. It is stated that the prices of energy and grains have risen to very high level due to the war, as Russia and Ukraine are two major suppliers of gas and wheat top the world respectively. In line 42, it is reported that UN has failed to stop the war in Ukraine. In line 81, it is stated that it will take many years to rebuild Ukraine once the war in Ukraine ends. In line 86, foreigners are urged to get organized into volunteer militias and resist the Russian occupation.

#### 4.3.3.2 Concordance Line Containing Collocate “Crimes”

**Figure 36**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘War’ with the Collocate ‘Crimes’ in the Pakistani Newspaper Corpus*

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1 Corpus of ...	Western journalists of Russian war crimes in Ukraine. Moscow denies committing war	crimes.	In a post on his Telegram channel, Yashin urged supporters to
2 Corpus of ...	standards by singling Putin out and ignoring the humanitarian crises and war	crimes	in other countries. Had Ukraine been a Muslim country and not
3 Corpus of ...	grown more strained, with Lapid last month accusing Russia of committing war	crimes	in Ukraine. "After the Kremlin claimed that Israel supports Nazism, I
4 Corpus of ...	in a YouTube video evidence uncovered by Western journalists of Russian war	crimes	in Ukraine. Moscow denies committing war crimes. In a post on
5 Corpus of ...	civilians targeted in what the United Nations warned could amount to war	crimes.	The southern port city of Mariupol is facing what Ukrainian Foreign
6 Corpus of ...	onslaught, despite also facing several attacks on civilians and other alleged war	crimes.	The UN and other international monitors estimate deaths of over 3,000 civilian
7 Corpus of ...	seizing more territory and targeting civilians, attacks that Washington has labeled war	crimes.	The United States has sent \$1.7 billion in military assistance to Ukraine
8 Corpus of ...	Russia. Military commanders should know that they will be prosecuted for war	crimes.	The West can discreetly assure them that, if they remove Russia'
9 Corpus of ...	occupied city of Izyn. Calls to establish an international tribunal for war	crimes	against Russian forces have been made by Czech Republic's Foreign
10 Corpus of ...	impaired Russian army, now reinforced by criminals and mercenaries, repeatedly commits war	crimes	against the very populations it purportedly came to protect. From the
11 Corpus of ...	the Biden administration will examine the attack, as well as potential war	crimes	and crimes against humanity caused by Russia's war, Psaki said.
12 Corpus of ...	These reports, if true, raise serious and disturbing questions about possible war	crimes	and grave breaches of international humanitarian law which should be immediately
13 Corpus of ...	defenceless women and children. The Kremlin says allegations Russian forces committed war	crimes	by executing civilians including in Bucha were a "monstrous forgery" aimed
14 Corpus of ...	at the border with Poland. He accused Russian forces of committing "war	crimes"	by shelling in residential areas. Blinken arrived in Poland on Saturday
15 Corpus of ...	international efforts to ensure accountability for violations of international law and war	crimes,	including by way of the International Criminal Court. The need to
16 Corpus of ...	by international humanitarian law. "We will hold accountable those responsible for war	crimes,	including indiscriminate use of weapons against civilians, and we welcome the
17 Corpus of ...	West. Washington had already concluded that Russian forces were guilty of war	crimes,	as has a UN mandated investigation, but the Biden administration conclusion
18 Corpus of ...	determined to hold Russia to account "for widely documented atrocities and war	crimes,	committed both by its regular armed forces and by its proxies"

The second highest collocate of the word “war” in the Pakistani corpus is “crimes”. It turns up times with the keyword “war” and refers to war crimes committed in Russia Ukraine war. In line 1, it is stated that Russia has denied committing any war crimes in Ukraine. In line 3, Russia has been accused of committing war crimes in Ukraine. In line 5 and 6, UN has been quoted saying that Russia’s action in Ukraine amounts to war crimes as more than 3000 civilians have been killed in the war. In line 7, US has alleged that Russia has committed war crimes in Ukraine by targeting civilians. In line 11, it is stated that Biden administration is observing the war crimes committed in Ukraine by Russian military forces. In line 20, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has been reported saying that Russia has committed war by bombing the city of Kharkiv. In line 28, it is stated that Ukraine is wants a new



international war crimes organization to be created, specially focused of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

#### 4.3.3.3 Concordance Line Containing Collocate “Unprovoked”

**Figure 37**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘War’ with the Collocate ‘Unprovoked’ in the Pakistani Newspaper Corpus*

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1 Corpus of ...	fascists. Ukraine and the West says this a false pretext for an	unprovoked	war of aggression by Putin. NATO is ready to maintain its
2 Corpus of ...	and the West say this is a false pretext for waging an	unprovoked	war of aggression. Bogner was speaking following a trip to Ukraine
3 Corpus of ...	party also rejects the West's argument that Russia had sparked an	unprovoked	war as it was never under threat. "Then what is NATO
4 Corpus of ...	say the fascism claim is absurd and say Russia is waging an	unprovoked	war that threatens Ukraine's continued existence as a sovereign, democratic
5 Corpus of ...	the fascist allegation is baseless, and that Russia has carried out an	unprovoked	act of aggression. The conflict has killed thousands in Ukraine, and
6 Corpus of ...	was "going to plan". Kyiv and allies say his actions are an	unprovoked	incursion, and more than 3 million Ukrainians have fled and hundreds have
7 Corpus of ...	combat anti-Russian nationalists. Ukraine says the full-scale invasion was entirely	unprovoked.	A 2020 survey by the Kyiv-based Razumkov Centre found that 34% of
8 Corpus of ...	appropriate for Russian vessels to continue to enter UK ports," after its "	unprovoked,	premeditated" attack against Ukraine. "The maritime sector is fundamental to international
9 Corpus of ...	in Pakistan's interest. The moral case is clear enough: Russia, militarily	unprovoked	by peaceful, independent and sovereign Ukraine, has repeatedly attacked it, most
10 Corpus of ...	man". The foreign ministers of reiterated their "profound condemnation of Russia's	unprovoked	and unjustifiable war of choice against Ukraine, enabled by the Belarussian
11 Corpus of ...	to provide security assistance" even in the eighth month of Russia's "	unprovoked	and unjust invasion of Ukraine." "This alliance is the essential forum
12 Corpus of ...	knows who the aggressor that invaded us is and who started this	unprovoked	war," he said. The pope also made a point of thanking
13 Corpus of ...	on Russia. In the statement, Biden called Russia's attack on Ukraine "	unprovoked	and unjustified," "President Putin has chosen a that will bring catastrophic
14 Corpus of ...	the war continues, so does the carnage and destruction. As this unjustified,	unprovoked	and illegal Russian war of aggression against Ukraine moves into its

The third highest collocate of the word “war” in the Pakistani corpus is “unprovoked”. It turns up 5 times with the keyword “war” and refers to unilateral war that Russia started with Ukraine. In line 1, it is stated that Russia has used a false pretext to start an unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine. In line 3, the West’s argument that Russia has started an unprovoked war and it was never under threat has been rejected. In line 4, it is reported that Russia is fighting an unprovoked war that threatens the continued existence of a sovereign country, Ukraine. In line 6, it is observed that Ukraine and its allies believe that Putin’s actions are an unprovoked incursion, and has resulted in the migration of more than 3 million people from Ukraine. In line 7, it is reported that Ukraine believes that Russia’s full-scale invasion was an entirely unprovoked act of aggression a sovereign nation. In line 9, it is stated that Russia has repeatedly shown unprovoked aggression against a peaceful and independent nation. In line 10, the unprovoked and unjustifiable war in Ukraine has been condemned. In line 13, Putin’s invasion of Ukraine has been described as unprovoked and unjustified. While in line 14, it has been termed as unjustified, unprovoked and illegal.

#### 4.3.3.4 Random Concordance Lines:

In line 642, it is reported that all the people living in Ukraine are suffering from the war. In line 740, it is predicted that the world must prepare itself for a long war, after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. In line 845, United States President Joe Biden has been quoted calling Russian President Vladimir Putin a war criminal. In line 853 and 854, it is stated that the economic war, in the shape of harsh economic sanctions placed on Russia in response to its actions in Ukraine, is absolutely unprecedented in the history of world. In line 865, it is contended that history is full of examples that a protracted war has hardly any winner. In line 1041, it is regretted that Russian President Vladimir Putin has imposed an unjust war on the helpless people of Ukraine, which has led to the death of thousands of innocent citizens. In line 1042, it is observed that Russia's unjust and unprovoked aggression has resulted in widespread condemnation of its action from across the globe.

#### 4.3.4 The Keyword 'NATO' in the Corpus of Pakistani

##### Newspapers

The word 'NATO' reverberates 578 times in the Pakistani corpus, a testament to its substantial role in discussions about international stability and global conflicts. The contextual connotation surrounding 'NATO' is predominantly neutral, occasionally reflecting a negative sentiment, thereby providing a balanced view of its representation in Pakistani print media. The negative semantic prosody is especially noticeable due to the presence of words such as "Western" and "intervention," which highlight the negative side of NATO's history of intervening in other countries' wars.

The careful framing of NATO in Pakistani media is a reflection of Pakistan's thoughtful and considered diplomatic position on NATO and its policies. Pakistan has never been part of the 32-member alliance with NATO. However, it worked closely with it during the Afghan war. This has resulted in a critical outlook on the role of NATO being developed in Pakistan.

The collocates of "NATO" reveal the depth of these concerns. the presence of collocates such as "member," "membership," and "joining" highlight discussions about NATO's organizational structure and its expansion. This focus suggests an awareness of NATO's growing influence and its implications for international relations. Terms such as "expansion," "enlargement," and "eastwards" point to Pakistan's apprehension



about NATO's increasing reach towards its regional borders. These terms suggest a perception of NATO as a potentially destabilizing force, encroaching upon areas Pakistan considers crucial for regional stability.

Terms such as 'allies' and 'alliance' underscore NATO's history and impact on international defense and strategic concerns. However, terms like 'encroachment' carry negative associations, presenting a critical perspective of NATO and its role in the history of interventions in other countries.

By and large, Pakistani newspaper's representation is guided by its past experience with the 32-member alliance and the contemporary global context. The nuanced and occasional critical representation of NATO in Pakistan's print media is in line with the country's diplomatic stance. It provides an insight into the foreign policy stance of Pakistan's desire to navigate its foreign policy carefully, balancing its relationships with major global powers while maintaining regional stability.

#### 4.3.4.1 Concordance Line Containing Collocate “Member”

**Figure 38**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘NATO’ with the Collocate ‘Member’ in the Pakistani Newspaper Corpus*

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1 Corpus of ...	gas hub in Turkey on Sunday, both countries said. Relations with NATO	member	Turkey are vital to Russia at a time when the West
2 Corpus of ...	and Romanian military diving teams defused stray mines in their waters. NATO	member	Turkey borders the Black Sea, as do Russia and Ukraine, which
3 Corpus of ...	leaders' level could prevent the war causing greater destruction," Kalin said. NATO	member	Turkey finds itself in a delicate balancing act, with close ties
4 Corpus of ...	Moscow and Kyiv to yield results while the fighting rages on. NATO	member	Turkey shares a maritime border with Ukraine and Russia in the
5 Corpus of ...	banks have been kicked out of the SWIFT international banking system. NATO	member	countries are boosting their military and financial support to Ukraine, which
6 Corpus of ...	year. Although the US imposed sanctions on Moscow, sent forces to NATO	member	countries bordering Ukraine and committed to providing several hundred million dollars
7 Corpus of ...	in Ukraine. However, it clearly supports Ukraine's cause and most NATO	member	countries provide military and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine. More than five
8 Corpus of ...	murder, maim, and destroy manmade and natural resources. Alas, the largest NATO	member	s economy, the US, thrives and survives because of the military
9 Corpus of ...	murder, maim, and destroy manmade and natural resources. Alas, the largest NATO	member	s economy, the US, thrives and survives because of the military
10 Corpus of ...	a NATO member bordered Russia or the Soviet Union, now a NATO	member	s troops could potentially be located just 625 kilometres from Moscow. In 2007,
11 Corpus of ...	was made clear that Ukraine should be excluded from becoming a NATO	member,	or a close partner, earlier also in the Ukraine's constitution.
12 Corpus of ...	was made clear that Ukraine should be excluded from becoming a NATO	member,	or a close partner, earlier also in the Ukraine's constitution.
13 Corpus of ...	any threat to its sovereignty even if it were not a NATO	member.	Putin read the West's hesitation to respond, beyond words and
14 Corpus of ...	any threat to its sovereignty even if it were not a NATO	member.	Putin read the West's hesitation to respond, beyond words and
15 Corpus of ...	America. As we all know, Ukraine aspires to become a full NATO	member,	against the wishes of Russia; neighbouring Georgia also wants to become
16 Corpus of ...	in all, I believe it is healthy to question any new NATO	member,	and Sweden and Finland shouldn't take for granted, a priori,
17 Corpus of ...	Moscow's rule. While it wasn't the first time a NATO	member	bordered Russia or the Soviet Union, now a NATO member's

The Pakistani corpus's highest collocate of the word "NATO" is "member." It turns up 36 times with the keyword "NATO" and refers to 32 North Atlantic Treaty Organization member countries. This organization has 30 member countries from Europe and two from North America. This organization's main objective is its member

countries' collective defense. According to Article 5 of the constitution, an attack against any member country will be considered an attack against all, a situation that could have grave consequences. In response, all the member countries will be dutybound to assist the attacked ally in whatever it deems necessary. In line 5, it is reported that NATO member countries provide substantial military and financial assistance to Ukraine. In line 6, it is reported that the United States has stopped short of directly getting involved in the Russia-Ukraine war.

Nevertheless, the United States, a key member of NATO, has imposed sanctions on Russia and has sent military forces to the NATO countries bordering Ukraine and promised to send more if the need arises. In line 7, it is observed that most NATO member countries support and assist Ukraine. In line 15, it is observed that Ukraine aspires to become a member of NATO, which is directly against Russia's wishes. Russia fears encirclement by the US and its NATO allies if Ukraine joins NATO. Russia has many times warned Ukraine against joining NATO. In line 19, it is hoped that Prussian President Vladimir Putin would refrain from attacking a NATO member country otherwise it would result in the invocation of article 5 of its constitution.

#### 4.3.4.2 Concordance Line Containing Collocate “Expansion”

**Figure 39**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘NATO’ with the Collocate ‘Expansion’ in the Pakistani Newspaper Corpus*

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ... forces thus began to take shape. Overriding Russian objections, American-backed NATO	expansion	in Europe proceeded incrementally — in 1991, Poland, Hungary and Czech Republic became
2	Corpus of ... instead of laying blame for the conflict on the US and NATO	expansion	in Europe. However, the war in Ukraine has dragged on much
3	Corpus of ... satellites in Central Europe. But from the very beginning of the NATO	expansion	in the mid-1990s, Russian officials and commentators—including liberal reformists—
4	Corpus of ... Yeltsin government of Russia protested strongly against the start of the NATO	expansion	in the 1990s and Russia accustomed itself without too much trouble
5	Corpus of ... East Germany. Russia's first president, Boris Yeltsin, was wary about NATO	expansion	but did not oppose it, according to declassified memos. "We understand,
6	Corpus of ... whether Russia or China. Consequently, in Europe, the US pushed for NATO	expansion	eastwards to "contain" Russia while engaging in the "Pivot to Asia"
7	Corpus of ... about this Russian attitude. In the first place, Western language about NATO	expansion	establishing a "Europe whole and free" implies the exclusion of Russia
8	Corpus of ... Nevertheless, since the end of the Cold War, the question of NATO	expansion	for European security has been vehemently debated. After the Russia-Ukraine
9	Corpus of ... duplicity and of threatening Russia. "I think it is obvious that NATO	expansion	has no relation with the modernisation of the alliance itself or
10	Corpus of ... of Berlin unification denied a formal guarantee on the limits of NATO	expansion	post-1990. Later, in 1999, years after German reunification and the withdrawal of
11	Corpus of ... Russian President Putin unleashed a war in Georgia in 2008 to dispel NATO	expansion.	Russia took over two cities of Georgia. It was technically a
12	Corpus of ... nations to the sovereignty of Russia in the form of the eastward	expansion	of NATO. Due to this potential expansion, military infrastructure being placed
13	Corpus of ... nations to the sovereignty of Russia in the form of the eastward	expansion	of NATO. Due to this potential expansion, military infrastructure being placed
14	Corpus of ... US are leading these battle groups. Russia is threatened from the eastward	expansion	of Europe and has thus been keeping Ukraine away from getting
15	Corpus of ... bizarre mindset. Having waged a war over Ukraine to check the eastward	expansion	of NATO, and after literally annihilating its next-door neighbour, the
16	Corpus of ... unsaid element is that the European Union should give up its eastward	expansion	as a gesture to woo Moscow for a thaw. Pakistan, as
17	Corpus of ... law. The approach "changed Russia". In 1993, the Kremlin said NATO's eastward	expansion	breached the spirit of the 1990 treaty and labeled it a "betrayal".
18	Corpus of ... India, are being brought under severe pressure. NATO's increasingly aggressive eastward	expansion	continues unabated. The Russian invasion of Ukraine was intended to occupy

The second highest collocate of the word “NATO” in the Pakistani corpus is “expansion”. It turns up 26 times with the keyword “NATO” and refers to eastward expansion of NATO. NATO has expanded eastward since the end of Cold War. The eastward expansion of NATO began in 1990s after the disintegration of Soviet Union and dissolution of Warsaw Pact, NATO’s counterpart in the then Soviet bloc. Since Warsaw Pact dissolution many of its former member countries have joined NATO in the ensuing years including Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Albania, Croatia and Montenegro. While many in the West considers that eastward expansion of NATO in positive light and consider that it has promoted stability and peace in the region. Russia sees this as a threat to its security and violation of assurances given to it by the United States after the reunification of Germany and dissolution of Warsaw Pact.

In line 1, it is observed that American-led NATO’s eastward expansion continued incrementally. In line 3, it is reported that from the very beginning of NATO’s eastward expansion, Russian officials and media were very critical of it. In line 4, it is written that former Russian president Yeltsin government protested very strongly against the eastward expansion of NATO in early 1990s. In line 14, it is reported that Russia is threatened from NATO’s eastward expansion and has tried its best to stop Ukraine from joining it. In line 17, it is observed that back in 1993 Russia considered NATO’s eastward expansion as the breach of spirit of the 1990 treaty and called it a betrayal.

#### 4.3.4.3 Concordance Line Containing Collocate “Membership”

**Figure 40**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘NATO’ with the Collocate ‘Membership’  
in the Pakistani Newspaper Corpus*

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
6	Corpus of ...	com. In the mid-1990s, Russian officials warned that an offer of NATO	membership	to Georgia and Ukraine would bring confrontation with the West. The
7	Corpus of ...	State) or Gorbachev bring up the question of the possible extension of NATO	membership	to other Warsaw Pact countries beyond Germany," according to Mark Kramer, director
8	Corpus of ...	the issue of Ukraine, saying it wants the right to apply for NATO	membership,	has been placed so categorically on the agenda, even when such a
9	Corpus of ...	the issue of Ukraine, saying it wants the right to apply for NATO	membership,	has been placed so categorically on the agenda, even when such a
10	Corpus of ...	meaning giving up close cooperation with Europe, indeed not think of possible NATO	membership.	In other words, it would be under the thumb of Russia, well,
11	Corpus of ...	meaning giving up close cooperation with Europe, indeed not think of possible NATO	membership.	In other words, it would be under the thumb of Russia, well,
12	Corpus of ...	Russia and what infrastructure it deploys. Finland's plan to apply for NATO	membership,	announced on Thursday, and the expectation that Sweden will follow, would bring
13	Corpus of ...	member. Currently, Finland and Sweden have political processes discussing their possible NATO	membership;	both countries have been neutral or non-aligned, Sweden for no less
14	Corpus of ...	will be some more time for the Swedish public to discuss the NATO	membership	issues. We know that Sweden has stayed outside direct military conflicts for
15	Corpus of ...	aims; the demilitarisation and de-Nazification of Ukraine, its avowed rejection of NATO	membership,	its assured neutrality and role as a buffer and an early withdrawal
16	Corpus of ...	year, as the latter had refused to reverse its decision to get NATO	membership.	Presenting a unified front against the Russian invasion of Ukraine and using
17	Corpus of ...	reneged on its commitments. In 2021, the US revived the issue of Ukrainian NATO	membership,	provoking Putin to demand written guarantees that no such expansion would take
18	Corpus of ...	our ability to face down President Putin," Radakin added, emphasising the UK's	membership	in NATO, the world's largest nuclear-armed military alliance. The senior
19	Corpus of ...	Ukraine EU membership. But I ask the EU members, why does Turkey's	membership	in the EU worry you?" Calling on the bloc to show Turkey
20	Corpus of ...	it was conducted without aggravations. Avoiding tensions was considered important." Finland's	membership	bid is expected to be followed by a similar move from Sweden,
21	Corpus of ...	EU accession for Ukraine, saying: "We appreciate the efforts to get Ukraine EU	membership.	But I ask the EU members, why does Turkey's membership in
22	Corpus of ...	procedure," Zelenskyy said in an address to the nation. Turkey applied for EU	membership	in 1987, and accession talks began in 2005. But negotiations stalled in 2007 due to
23	Corpus of ...	it now acquire a global avatar and a wider non-European, say Asian	membership	as well? NATO has essentially been primed to deter the erstwhile USSR/

The third highest collocate of the word “NATO” in the Pakistani corpus is “membership”. It turns up 21 times with the keyword “NATO” and refers to the membership of NATO. Many countries have joined NATO in recent years, most recently North Macedonia, Finland and Sweden have joined in 2020, 2023, 2024 respectively. Some of the reasons due to which these countries have joined NATO and many others like Ukraine aspire to join include collective defense, security guaranties, political cooperation, military cooperation, promotion of democratic values and promotion of democratic values. In line 6, it is reported that in 1990s Russia warned that allowing Georgia and Ukraine into NATO would amount to a direct confrontation between the West and Russia. In line 17, it is reported that when United States revived the issue of Ukraine joining NATO, Russia started demanding guarantees from US that Ukraine will not be granted NATO membership

#### 4.3.4.4 Random Concordance Lines:

In line 5, French President Emmanuel Macron has been quoted saying that Europe should have policies independent of both NATO and United states. In line 7, it is observed that United States has tried to make Ukraine part of NATO and has provided it with arms. In line 27, it is observed that the question NATO eastward

expansion for European security has been debated at length. In line 31, the possibility of Russian President Vladimir Putin allowing Ukraine to join NATO has been dismissed. In line 40, it is reported that Russia's military action has derailed Ukrainian move to receive NATO membership. In line 59, it is reported that Ukraine has applied for a fast-tracked membership of NATO, which Russia strongly opposes.

#### 4.3.5 The Keyword 'Invasion' in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

The word 'invasion' appears 307 times in the Pakistani corpus. Its top collocates, which are words that frequently appear in proximity to 'invasion' and thus have a strong semantic relationship with it, include 'Ukraine' (125 times) and 'Russian' (57 times). Other significant collocates include "occupation" (6 times), "devastating" (3 times), "imperialist" (2 times), and "illegal" (3 times).

The overall semantic prosody of the word "invasion" in this corpus is negative. The presence of associates, like "Russian" and "occupation," reflects Russia's aggressive actions. Similarly, words like "devastating," "imperialist," and "illegal" strengthen this view by presenting the invasion as deadly. Although the word "invasion" itself is a neutral term describing a military action, the surrounding collocates in the Pakistani corpus convey a strong negative semantic prosody.

In the Pakistani corpus, the word "war" is prominently featured, reflecting its central role in discussions about global and regional conflicts. The collocates of "war" provide insight into how conflicts are framed in the media. The term "Ukraine" appears frequently alongside "war," indicating a significant focus on the Russia-Ukraine conflict. This suggests that the Ukrainian conflict is a major topic of interest, underscoring its relevance to current international issues.

The word "world" is commonly used in conjunction with "war," pointing to discussions that consider the global context of conflicts. This reflects an awareness of the interconnected nature of international conflicts and their broader implications for global stability. The collocate "cold" likely refers to the Cold War era or its lingering effects on contemporary geopolitical tensions. This indicates that historical conflicts continue to influence current discussions about war, providing a historical perspective in the media coverage.

The term "crimes" is associated with discussions about the humanitarian impact of conflicts. This suggests that the media often addresses war crimes and their consequences, highlighting the ethical and legal dimensions of warfare. Words like "long" and "ongoing" emphasize the duration and persistence of conflicts, focusing on the extended nature of wars and the challenges associated with resolving them. Other terms such as "terror," "unprovoked," "protracted," and "unilateral" offer additional insights into specific aspects of war. "Terror" likely refers to terrorism within conflicts, while "unprovoked," "protracted," and "unilateral" address the causes and characteristics of wars, including perceptions of unjustified or prolonged conflicts.

Overall, the use of "war" and its collocates in the Pakistani corpus highlights the complexity of media discussions about conflicts. The emphasis on specific conflicts, global implications, and various dimensions of warfare reflects the multifaceted nature of these issues and their impact on public discourse.

#### 4.3.5.1 Concordance Line Containing Collocate “Ukraine”

**Figure 41**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘Invasion’ with the Collocate ‘Ukraine’ in the Pakistani Newspaper Corpus*

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ... hly manufactured at government facilities - by allowing defence contractors to build them. The	invasion	of Ukraine drove up demand for American-made weapons and ammunition, while
2	Corpus of ... too dependent on Russian energy to muster a serious response." Before ordering the	invasion	of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, Putin suggested a Yalta type of summit involving
3	Corpus of ... Ukrainian friends. Let us change our stance on the Ukraine war. Since the	invasion	of Ukraine on 24th February, Russia has been subjected to international condemnation,
4	Corpus of ... military industrial complex. It is further stated in The Economist: "So far the	invasion	of Ukraine has been a disaster for Russia's armed forces. About 15,000
5	Corpus of ... in a brief but electrifying moment on live TV -- a slogan protesting the	invasion	of Ukraine was fined and released by a Russian court on Tuesday
6	Corpus of ... also have fled their country amid a widespread crackdown on dissent. Since the	invasion	of Ukraine started, police have arrested thousands of antiwar protesters, while government
7	Corpus of ... that the West would have been pragmatic and business-like even after the	invasion	of Ukraine on 24 February this year, and it probably thought the 'special
8	Corpus of ... Taiwan and Hong Kong. It appears international law is subjective after all. The	invasion	of Ukraine is creating a global shockwave. As much as we hate
9	Corpus of ... for ending the war. Pope Francis issued his toughest condemnation yet of the	invasion	of Ukraine, saying on Sunday the "unacceptable armed aggression" must stop. Speaking
10	Corpus of ... a trip to Kyiv and implicitly criticised Russian President Vladimir Putin over the	invasion	of Ukraine, saying a "potentate" was fomenting conflict for nationalist interests. read
11	Corpus of ... continue to put maximum pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin to end the	invasion	of Ukraine, which Moscow calls a "special military operation", through sanctions and
12	Corpus of ... and the Lugansk People's Republic. Considering this a first step in the	invasion	of Ukraine, Britain has already announced hard sanctions. And on Thursday, Russia
13	Corpus of ... oil. India has bought more than 40 million barrels of Russian oil since the	invasion	of Ukraine, with daily shipments having surpassed 740,000 barrels per day. To deal
14	Corpus of ... websites, apps and YouTube videos, similar to a move by Facebook after the	invasion	of Ukraine. President Vladimir Putin's move to put Russian forces on
15	Corpus of ... first trip by the Kremlin chief outside the former Soviet Union since the	invasion	of Ukraine. Putin casts the West's attempt to cripple Russia's
16	Corpus of ... same journalism, both print and broadcast, which helped sell the American people the	invasion	of Iraq by spinning sophisticatedly crafted stories created out of thin air.
17	Corpus of ... s human rights chief said three other journalists had been killed since the	invasion	began, including a US reporter shot dead Sunday in Irpin, also on
18	Corpus of ... regions are directly supported by Russia, though Moscow denies the accusation. Before the	invasion	began, Russia granted full recognition to the two regions as independent states.

The second highest collocate of the word “invasion” in the Pakistani corpus is “Ukraine”. It turns up 125 times with the keyword “invasion” and refers to the eastern European nation of Ukraine. It is the second largest European country after Russia,



which lies on the east border of it. It also borders Belarus to the north; Hungary and Slovakia to the West; and Romania and Moldova to the southwest. Kyiv is the capital of Ukraine. Its official language is Ukrainian, but Russia is also widely spoken in Ukraine, particularly in eastern and southern parts. In line 3, it is stated that the Russian invasion of Ukraine has resulted in widespread condemnation from across the globe. In line 4, quoting the Economist it is reported that for the time being the invasion of Ukraine has been a disaster for Russia's forces. In line 11, it is reported that maximum pressure is applied on Russia in the shape of sanctions to force it to put an end to its invasion of Ukraine.

#### 4.3.5.2 Concordance Line Containing Collocate “Russian”

**Figure 42**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘Invasion’ with the Collocate ‘Russian’ in the Pakistani Newspaper Corpus*

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	The	Russian	invasion of Ukraine began on Thursday morning with the shelling of several
2	Corpus of ...	and South Africa, both of which abstained from the UN vote condemning the	Russian	invasion of Ukraine and have now been invited to the G7 summit.
3	Corpus of ...	negotiate a way out of the ongoing crisis and war in Ukraine. The	Russian	invasion of February 2022 has not borne the desired results, and it seems
4	Corpus of ...	forcing them to strike a balance. As the world rushed to condemn the	Russian	invasion of its smaller neighbour, the wealthy Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries,
5	Corpus of ...	wants to subdue other countries, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said late Friday. The	Russian	invasion of Ukraine was intended only as a beginning, then they want
6	Corpus of ...	changes in the global order once the current Ukraine crisis is over. The	Russian	invasion of Ukraine is testing Pakistan's diplomatic skills. It has thus
7	Corpus of ...	and as a consequence Pakistan's "neutrality" will continue to be tested. The	Russian	invasion of Ukraine, apart from other consequences, has placed Pakistan in a
8	Corpus of ...	all politics is local." Sometimes, it is true even for international politics. The	Russian	invasion of Ukraine is a strong manifestation of that. While most Americans
9	Corpus of ...	capability by signing the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe. Given the	Russian	invasion of Crimea in 2014 and the more recent large-scale invasion of
10	Corpus of ...	decisive role to end the war in Ukraine. General Assembly resolutions against the	Russian	invasion of Ukraine failed to exert pressure over Moscow. Since EU and
11	Corpus of ...	nationality." The court is yet to announce the date of the hearing. The	Russian	invasion of Ukraine entered its fourth day after Moscow launched an attack
12	Corpus of ...	a major US ally — has not presented a pro-Western position on the	Russian	invasion of Ukraine. The Ukrainian president on Thursday asked for the closure
13	Corpus of ...	harder times for the refugees ahead. Five weeks ago, I thought that the	Russian	invasion of Ukraine was not going to happen. Four weeks ago, it
14	Corpus of ...	order. This assumption has also been weakened recently in the aftermath of the	Russian	invasion of Ukraine. Even away from Europe, India tried to court Iran,
15	Corpus of ...	refugees ahead. The battle brewing among some US liberals in response to the	Russian	invasion of Ukraine recalls debates that occurred in the aftermath of Saddam
16	Corpus of ...	have been reproduced here with permission. Five weeks ago, I thought that the	Russian	invasion of Ukraine was not going to happen. Four weeks ago, it
17	Corpus of ...	worthy of people in Europe and the whole world in our time. The	Russian	invasion of Ukraine in February was the largest conventional military attack seen
18	Corpus of ...	er severe pressure. NATO's increasingly aggressive eastward expansion continues unabated. The	Russian	invasion of Ukraine was intended to occupy and deny NATO the critical

The second highest collocate of the word “invasion” in the Pakistani corpus is “Russian”. It turns up times with the keyword “invasion” and refers to Russian invasion of Ukraine. In line 10, it is reported that United Nation’s General Assembly resolutions against the Russian invasion have failed to stop Moscow from its action. In line 17, it is observed that the Russian invasion of Ukraine in Feb 202 was the largest conventional military attack seen in recent years. In line 36, it is observed that Israel has expressed support for Ukraine after Feb 2022 attack on it by Russia. In line

47, it is stated that the deployment of strategic weapon by NATO along the Russian border is the main trigger behind Russian invasion of Ukraine

#### 4.3.5.3 Random Concordance Lines:

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
265	Corpus of ...	with exactly what he said he wanted to avoid when he launched his	invasion	of Ukraine on Feb. 24: a further expansion of NATO to Russia's
266	Corpus of ...	step in their efforts to punish Moscow and President Vladimir Putin for his	invasion	of Ukraine. The decision by the G-7, just days ahead of a
267	Corpus of ...	s foreign ministry said. "We're targeting those complicit in Putin's illegal	invasion	of Ukraine and those who support this barbaric war," Foreign Secretary Liz
268	Corpus of ...	Britain denied the claim. "To detract from their disastrous handling of the illegal	invasion	of Ukraine, the Russian Ministry of Defence is resorting to peddling false
269	Corpus of ...	support to help them defend themselves and their territory against Russia's illegal	invasion	We will do this for as long as it takes," Donfried added.
270	Corpus of ...	the Russian gas by two-thirds before the end of the year. This	invasion	is a business opportunity for the US natural gas industry to fill
271	Corpus of ...	to the unjust, condemnable invasion of Ukraine by Russia is heartening. However, this	invasion	is not the only act of violence in recent years. And yet,
272	Corpus of ...	by the Russian army have revealed the genocidal and misogynist character of this	invasion".	Apart from the brilliant idea to discuss a war with feminist and
273	Corpus of ...	not been so respectful of the international order—most significantly in the US	invasion	and occupation of Iraq. The Iraq war weakened the US militarily, making
274	Corpus of ...	not been so respectful of the international order—most significantly in the US	invasion	and occupation of Iraq. The Iraq war weakened the US militarily, making
275	Corpus of ...	for Pakistan, especially after the bitterness of Russo-Afghan War. Nevertheless, the US	invasion	of Afghanistan slowly softened Russian stance towards Pakistan, until Russia started hosting
276	Corpus of ...	credible because most Western countries have held a different approach towards war and	invasion	in other parts of the world. Particularly the US and the UK
277	Corpus of ...	us reassess our direction and make us change course. The brutal attack and	invasion	of Ukraine by Russia, killing thousands of civilians and destroying Ukrainian cities,
278	Corpus of ...	this week, abandoning the only regional capital it had captured since the February	invasion.	In many nations, including Ukraine, the scenario of state destabilisation through the
279	Corpus of ...	the world's media in New York, attempted to justify Russia's February	invasion	of its neighbour, repeating Moscow's false claims that the elected government
280	Corpus of ...	LGBT perspective, just see the words and their usage such as an imperialist	invasion,	massacre, rape, misogyny, genocide — meaning the discussion will be Russian invasion is
281	Corpus of ...	thing mentioned above. The seminar advert says: "Since Russia's full-scale imperialist	invasion	of Ukraine was launched by Vladimir Putin on February 24, Putin's speeches,

From line 1 to line 62 the invasion of Ukraine by Russia has been termed as the invasion of Ukraine. while from line 64 to line 84, it has been described as Russian invasion of Ukraine. Similarly, from line 125 to 181 is has been called Russian invasion of Ukraine. In some lines such ]258, 259 and 260 it has been described as a devastating invasion of Ukraine. while in lines 267,268 and 269 it has been called illegal invasion. Lastly, in lines 280 and 2082 it is termed as imperialistic invasion.

#### 4.3.6 The Keyword ‘Sanctions’ in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

The representation of ‘Sanctions’ in the context of the Russia-Ukraine war suggests a nuanced portrayal of the conflict guided by the country's history with the alliance and diplomatic stance. The frequent appearance of collocates such as ‘punishing’ and ‘severe’ with the keyword sanction in Pakistani print media underscores the negative consequences of sanctions and indicates Pakistan's critical stance on their imposition on other countries. This representation is in line with Pakistan's official position on Russia and Ukraine, where Pakistan does not want to take sides and adopts a middle course by advocating the use of diplomatic channels and talks to bring an end to the war.

In the context of the Russia-Ukraine war, economic sanctions have had a profound impact on global markets, affecting countries beyond the immediate conflict



zone. With its economic interests and vulnerabilities, Pakistan is likely to focus on the economic repercussions of sanctions, underlining the urgent need for a resolution. The presence of the term 'economic' in the surrounding of the key term sanctions indicates that Pakistani print media wants to highlight the economic impact of the sanctions on the global economy and prices of goods in the global market. It suggests that the sanctions have an impact beyond the region and are of global proportion. This emphasis on the economic impacts of sanctions reflects Pakistan's vulnerabilities to the impact of these sanctions. Pakistan is dependent on Ukraine and oil imports from the outside world. These sanctions have led to a rise in oil prices, making it difficult for Pakistan to import oil from the global market at exorbitant prices. This has not only affected the country's energy sector but also its overall economy, leading to inflation and a decrease in the purchasing power of the people.

The appearance of associates like 'diplomatic' with sanctions underscores the crucial role of diplomacy in the imposition of these sanctions, highlighting the need for peaceful negotiations. Pakistan's diplomatic stance on the Russia-Ukraine war is to work toward a peaceful solution. Pakistani print media exhibit a critical perspective of diplomacy involved in the imposition of these sanctions, emphasizing the need for a balanced and unbiased view of the conflict.

The use of adjectives such as "unprecedented," "tough," and "severe" to describe the sanction placed on Russia echoes Pakistan's official diplomatic stance. Pakistan wants to maintain good relations with the US, Russia, and Ukraine. Therefore, it avoids criticizing any side of the conflict in clear terms. However, it views the sanctions as an ineffective way to reach the goal of ending the war. It advocates for diplomatic solutions. This perspective is also shaped by the country's history with sanctions and their negative consequences, mostly placed by the US in many instances in the past, and its historical relationship with Russia.

#### 4.3.6.1 Concordance Line Containing Collocate “Economic”

**Figure 43**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘Sanctions’ with the Collocate ‘Economic’  
in the Pakistani Newspaper Corpus*

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
32	Corpus of ...	for Moscow which can invite further world re-divisions into	economic	and geopolitical blocs. China has called for an end
33	Corpus of ...	billion in mainly military aid, including modern weapons, besides some	economic	and humanitarian support. He rallied the leaders of QUAD (
34	Corpus of ...	grounded. West's support for Ukraine in all domains — political,	economic	and military — rests on one overarching principle: provoke the
35	Corpus of ...	China. The pursuit of national interests based on reciprocity of	economic	and other advantages appears to be the only criterion
36	Corpus of ...	powers are. Issues ranging from alarming environmental, food, water, energy,	economic	and refugee crisis should have mobilised international actors to
37	Corpus of ...	SCO Summit. China, which has global ambitions, has its own	economic	and strategic predicaments while supporting Russia. Snubbing by China
38	Corpus of ...	EU, UK, and US, among others, implementing a range of	economic	sanctions on Moscow. At least 364 civilians, including 38 children and 42
39	Corpus of ...	Union, UK and US among others imposing a range of	economic	sanctions on Moscow. At least 364 civilians have been killed
40	Corpus of ...	Union, UK, and US, among others, imposing a range of	economic	sanctions on Moscow. At least 364 civilians have been killed
41	Corpus of ...	Britain, and the US, among others, imposing a range of	economic	sanctions on Moscow. At least 406 civilians have been killed
42	Corpus of ...	EU, UK, and US, among others, implementing a range of	economic	sanctions on Moscow. At least 351 civilians, including 22 children and 41
43	Corpus of ...	to defuse the crises in Eastern Europe, because with western	economic	sanctions on Russia, they cannot hold their columns for
44	Corpus of ...	with the EU, UK, and US implementing a range of	economic	sanctions on Russia. So far, at least 136 civilians, including 13
45	Corpus of ...	of Russia over the Ukraine attack has extended far beyond	economic	sanctions against the country. Russian athletes have been barred
46	Corpus of ...	with the EU, UK, and US implementing a range of	economic	sanctions against the Kremlin. Russia has been further isolated
47	Corpus of ...	European Union, UK and the US implementing a range of	economic	sanctions against the Kremlin. Russia has been further isolated
48	Corpus of ...	European Union and the United States have already issued sweeping	economic	sanctions against Russia and Russian individuals and entities. The
49	Corpus of ...	with the EU, UK and US implementing a range of	economic	sanctions against Russia. Russia was further isolated after its

The second highest collocate of the word “sanctions” in the Pakistani corpus is “economic”. It turns up 26 times with the keyword “sanctions” and refers to numerous economic sanctions placed on Russia by US and other western countries in response to its invasion of Ukraine. In line 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, it is reported that EU, UK, and US among others have imposed a wide range of economic sanctions on Russia. In line 46 and 47, it is reported that with the implementation of a wide range of economic sanctions by EU, UK and US on Russia, it has become further isolated. In line 52, it is predicted that with every passing day, the economic sanctions imposed on Russia will increase the stress on Russian economy.

#### 4.3.6.2 Concordance Line Containing Collocate “Unprecedented”

**Figure 44**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘Sanctions’ with the Collocate ‘Unprecedented’ in the Pakistani Newspaper Corpus*

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1 Corpus of ...	right parties could still find resonance with the public as the salvo of	unprecedented	economic sanctions imposed on Russia ricochets on Western allies. Germany on Thursday
2 Corpus of ...	Ukraine in a rare display of unity against Russia's aggression. With an	unprecedented	economic squeeze and political pressure President Biden hopes to weaken Russia to
3 Corpus of ...	being taken to soften the impact of what it described as an "absolutely	unprecedented	economic war being waged against Moscow. The West has imposed sweeping sanctions
4 Corpus of ...	an -- has poured into neighbouring countries, especially Poland. Western allies have imposed	unprecedented	sanctions against businesses, banks and billionaires in a bid to choke the
5 Corpus of ...	sent a wave of more than 1 million refugees to neighbouring countries, while triggering	unprecedented	sanctions on Russia. "While the situation remains highly fluid and the outlook
6 Corpus of ...	the EU response to the Ukraine refugee crisis is an enormous display of	unprecedented	unity of the 27 countries. The EU home affairs Commissioner Ylva Johansson told
7 Corpus of ...	the EU response to the Ukraine refugee crisis is an enormous display of	unprecedented	unity of the 27 countries. The EU home affairs Commissioner Ylva Johansson told
8 Corpus of ...	other powers such as China. Russia's attack on Ukraine has resulted in	unprecedented	Western sanctions in order to destabilise the country's economy and pressure
9 Corpus of ...	goods. The rouble has lost a third of its value this week after	unprecedented	Western sanctions were imposed to punish Russia for invading Ukraine. The moves
10 Corpus of ...	an extraordinary set of sanctions punishing Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. Taking measures	unprecedented	against a country of Russia's size and international stature, the allies
11 Corpus of ...	Western countries penned a joint statement urging Pakistan to condemn Russia. What was	unprecedented	and significant was that they opted to use the social media platforms
12 Corpus of ...	Francis went in person to the Russian embassy to relay his concern - an	unprecedented	departure from usual diplomatic protocol. Russia says its military operation is not
13 Corpus of ...	which is a big source of energy and food for the world, caused	unprecedented	global inflation, badly hitting the poorest of the nations, and widespread energy
14 Corpus of ...	nudging Russia under economic sanctions, has domestic vulnerabilities related to impact of	unprecedented	high petrol cost, 40-year high inflation and much anticipated recession on the
15 Corpus of ...	between Russia and Ukraine entered into a new phase after Russia launched an	unprecedented	invasion of Ukraine on 24th February 2022. Ukraine enjoys Nato and US support,
16 Corpus of ...	are lying to you." Russian Ambassador Vasily Nebenzya accused the West of applying "	unprecedented	pressure" on a "large number of countries" to vote in favor of
17 Corpus of ...	ough well integrated media maneuvers optimally exploiting all assets within and abroad. The	unprecedented	protocol around reflects the warmth the Russians expressed towards the PM and
18 Corpus of ...	Putin would never forget PM Imran Khan's visit. The unfolding of protocols,	unprecedented	reception, lengthy engagements and comprehensive press statements truly reflect that the vis

The second highest collocate of the word “sanctions” in the Pakistani corpus is “unprecedented”. It turns up times with the keyword “sanction” and refers to the numerous sanctions placed on Russia. In line 2, it is observed that Joe Biden wants weaken Russia through unprecedented economic sanctions and political pressure. In line 3, it is observed that an unprecedented economic war has been waged against Moscow. In line 4, it is reported that Western allies have placed unprecedented economic sanctions against Russian businessmen, banks and billionaires. In line 23, it is written that the economic war in the shape of unprecedented economic sanctions has hardly any precedent in the past.

### 4.3.6.3 Concordance Line Containing Collocates “Tough and Severe”

**Figure 45**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘Sanctions’ with the Collocate ‘Tough’ In the Pakistani Newspaper Corpus*

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1 Corpus of ...	with international outrage, with the European Union, US, and UK, among others, implementing	tough	financial sanctions on Moscow. More than 1.2 million people have fled Ukraine to
2 Corpus of ...	with international outrage, with the European Union, US, and UK, among others, implementing	tough	financial sanctions on Moscow. More than a million people have fled Ukraine
3 Corpus of ...	met with international outrage, with the EU, US, and UK, among others, implementing	tough	financial sanctions on Moscow. More than 1.2 million people have fled Ukraine to
4 Corpus of ...	to seek a face-saving exit. Contrary to expectations, the Russians had a	tough	time at the hands of Ukrainian forces, and the series of setbacks
5 Corpus of ...	War, tearing the Soviet Union apart. Currently, the US is giving Russia a	tough	time over Ukraine. The USA supports Ukraine ideologically and has sent weapons
6 Corpus of ...	has expressed gratitude to Prince William and Kate Middleton for their support amid	tough	times. As Ukraine faces a massive onslaught from Russian forces, the Ukrainian
7 Corpus of ...	has expressed gratitude to Prince William and Kate Middleton for their support amid	tough	times. As Ukraine faces a massive onslaught from Russian forces, the Ukrainian
8 Corpus of ...	in many countries since its Feb 24 invasion of Ukraine, which was met by	tough	Western sanctions and Russian retaliatory measures, Tuesday's nuclear warning by Dmitry
9 Corpus of ...	invasion has been almost universally condemned around the world and that has drawn	tough	Western sanctions on Russia. The Russian bombardment has trapped thousands of people
10 Corpus of ...	stuck in the FATF grey list and it also has a role behind	tough	IMF conditions over the bailout programme. All these factors contributed to Pakistan
11 Corpus of ...	to buoy prices in recent years. "Arab members of OPEC are in a	tough	spot diplomatically, as maintaining" the OPEC+ deal, which controls production, "is clearly
12 Corpus of ...	pass through the radio-actively contaminated ghost towns of Chernobyl and the legendary	tough	terrain of Pripjat (Pripjat Marshes). Ukraine resorted to partial inundation of the
13 Corpus of ...	to have slowed in recent days, however, with Kyiv blaming poor weather and	tough	terrain. The enemy troops dug into muddy trench lines north of the
14 Corpus of ...	defence minister Olexsiy Reznikov alleged that Russia had changed its tactics after encountering	tough	Ukrainian resistance that had defeated its apparent plan to quickly storm major

The third highest collocate of the word “sanctions” in the Pakistani corpus are “tough and severe”. They turn up 5 times each with the keyword “sanctions” and refers to the stringent sanctions placed on Russia in response to its invasion of Ukraine. In line 1,2,3 it is reported that US, UK, and EU among others have imposed tough economic sanctions on Russia. In line 8, it is reported.

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1 Corpus of ...	casts the West's attempt to cripple Russia's economy with the most	severe	sanctions in recent history as a declaration of economic war and says
2 Corpus of ...	law have not gone unanswered," adding that they will continue "to impose further	severe	sanctions in response to Russian aggression, enabled by the Lukashenko regime in
3 Corpus of ...	economically, socially, politically but not militarily. While the west has warned Russia of	severe	sanctions if it endeavoured to invade Ukraine. The writer is a political
4 Corpus of ...	US president said that America and its allies and partners will be slapping	severe	sanctions on Russia and will continue to render support and assistance to
5 Corpus of ...	hope is that this issue is resolved sooner than later because of the	severe	impact it will have on food security in Africa and Asia. This
6 Corpus of ...	Director Kristalina Georgieva. "The ongoing war and associated sanctions will also have a	severe	impact on the global economy," it warned, noting that the crisis was
7 Corpus of ...	would represent a bigger prize for Russian forces as it would deal a	severe	blow to Ukraine's maritime access and connect troops coming from annexed
8 Corpus of ...	some form of a mental disorder, "varying from anxiety and stress to more	severe	conditions." Habicht said: "Since the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine on 24
9 Corpus of ...	official said the United States warned Putin that it would face swift and	severe	consequences if he invaded Ukraine and they have delivered on that threat.
10 Corpus of ...	US President Joe Biden on Thursday announced a slew of that would "impose	severe	costs on the Russian economy, both immediately and over time". "We have
11 Corpus of ...	seven months since Russia attacked Ukraine, destabilizing the world order and causing a	severe	crisis of fuel and food. The West, particularly the US, provided several
12 Corpus of ...	Russia and Ukraine results from an epistemological gap between Russia and Nato, on	severe	distrust fueled by history. Russia and the West perspective diverges on three
13 Corpus of ...	pecial military operation," which started on Feb. 24, has drawn international condemnation, led to	severe	financial restrictions on Moscow and spurred an exodus of global firms from
14 Corpus of ...	making their lives miserable during winters. How will Russia face international criticism of	severe	human rights violations and occupation of parts of a sovereign country? Will
15 Corpus of ...	people face hunger in the world. Forty-five million children are faced with	severe	malnutrition. Conditions in the horn of Africa are becoming worse by the
16 Corpus of ...	is made by Ukraine, based on the colossal damages done because of the	severe	missile attacks and human rights violations. In an article published in The
17 Corpus of ...	said Kluge. "And today within the country, we see a health system under	severe	pressure and beyond its borders, the fastest-growing refugee crisis in Europe
18 Corpus of ...	or may not yield positive results but it will certainly put Moscow under	severe	pressure. A two-pronged US strategy to bleed Russia in Ukraine is

In line 1 it is observed that West's attempt to squeeze Russian economy with the most severe economic sanctions in recent history has been considered by Russians as a declaration of economic war. In line 3, a reference is being to the time before

Russia invaded Ukraine. It is reported that the West warned Russia of severe economic sanctions in case it invaded Ukraine. In line 23 it is reported that Joe Biden had made it clear that the G7 and other American allies will place severe economic sanctions if Russia attacks Ukraine.

#### 4.3.6.4 Random Concordance Lines:

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	a major Nato summit, was painted as a show of resolve as existing	sanctions	on Russia and the five-month-long war itself have already wreaked
2	Corpus of ...	president said that America and its allies and partners will be slapping severe	sanctions	on Russia and will continue to render support and assistance to Ukraine.
3	Corpus of ...	by Western countries. The European Union imposed a "package of massive and targeted	sanctions"	on Russia early Friday amid Moscow's military intervention in Ukraine. Sanctions
4	Corpus of ...	The blockade of ports has disrupted global supply chains. This along with Western	sanctions	on Russia has caused inflation in food prices. The deal is therefore
5	Corpus of ...	billion of economic, humanitarian and military aid. Will significant Western assistance along with	sanctions	on Russia help tilt the balance in favour of Ukraine and result
6	Corpus of ...	should not be humiliated. China, although advocates the end of the war, terms	sanctions	on Russia illegal. Ukraine on the other hand has been able to
7	Corpus of ...	Kyiv - Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Friday urged the EU to impose tougher	sanctions	on Russia over its invasion, after the bloc held off hitting Moscow
8	Corpus of ...	up the financing," he added. Speaking hours after European national leaders agreed further	sanctions	on Russia to match those from Britain, the United States and other
9	Corpus of ...	on the ground," Kalin said. President Vladimir Putin said on Saturday that Western	sanctions	on Russia were akin to a declaration of war and warned that
10	Corpus of ...	neutral buffer state like Finland and Austria. Similarly, economic experts have argued that	sanctions	on Russia would not only be ineffective and counter-productive but also
11	Corpus of ...	or, but wanted to "demilitarize" and "denazify" Ukraine. Western powers have imposed financial	sanctions	on Moscow, and decided to supply Ukraine with weapons and ammunition. At
12	Corpus of ...	since then, according to the UN Refugee Agency. Western powers have imposed financial	sanctions	on Moscow, and the EU has decided to fund arm supplies to
13	Corpus of ...	destroyed. Russia's war on Ukraine has drawn international condemnation, led to financial	sanctions	on Moscow, and spurred an exodus of global firms from Russia. The
14	Corpus of ...	Ukraine war, which started on Feb. 24, has drawn international condemnation, led to financial	sanctions	on Moscow, and spurred an exodus of global firms from Russia. At
15	Corpus of ...	the Black Sea and has good ties with both countries. Ankara has opposed	sanctions	on Moscow, but also described its invasion of Ukraine as unacceptable, called
16	Corpus of ...	nt Volodymyr Zelenskyy has pledged to defend the country, Western countries have announced	sanctions	on Moscow, including measures targeting President Vladimir Putin and Foreign Minister Sergey
17	Corpus of ...	war but has refused to join a global consortium of countries in imposing	sanctions	on Moscow, instead of laying blame for the conflict on the US
18	Corpus of ...	to the humiliating US withdrawal from Afghanistan last year. Although the US imposed	sanctions	on Moscow, sent forces to NATO member countries bordering Ukraine and committed

In line 2, US president Joe Biden has been quoted saying that America and its allies will impose severe sanctions on Russia and will continue to provide assistance and support to Ukraine. In line 4, it is reported that due to the blockade of ports the global supply chain has been disrupted. This along with severe sanctions on Russia has led to inflation basic need utilities such as food etc. In line 5, it is asked that whether the assistance provided by the West to Ukraine along with the severe sanctions placed on Russia will help Ukraine in getting an upper hand in its fight against Russia or result in its eventual victory over it. In line 11, 12, it is reported Western countries have imposed economic sanctions on Moscow, and has made the decision to support Ukraine by providing it assistance in the shape of weapons and ammunitions. In line 58, it is observed that Putin has not given an attention to the impact of the western sanctions on his people, and is single-mindedly focused on winning the war in Ukraine.

#### 4.3.7 The Keyword 'US' in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

The word "US" is used for 891 times in the Pakistani corpus. Its top collocates include president (47 times), NATO (33 times), secretary (21 times), Ukraine (19



times), official (18 times), UK (17 times), Russian (4). Interestingly, the collocates that appear in the co-textual environment of 'India' bear no discernible semantic prosody, indicating a neutral tone in the portrayal of India's involvement in the context of Afghanistan.

In the Pakistani corpus, the term "US" is used considerably, highlighting its important role in international conferences. The semantic prosody associated with "US" shows a complex image of how the nation is described in the media, combining elements of impartiality, positivity, and infrequent criticism.

The dominant semantic prosody surrounding "US" is neutral. This impartiality is apparent in the systematic association of "US" with words such as "president," "secretary," and "official." These collocates highlight the US's administrative and diplomatic roles, concentrating on its administration and official functions without giving strong evaluative reviews. This neutral characterization aligns with a balanced outlook of the US's role in international matters, underlining its status as a prominent actor in global politics without overtly optimistic or unfavorable connotations.

Positive semantic prosody appears through the US's associations with administration and strategic alliances. Terms like "president" and "UK" indicate a description of the US as a significant global force with noteworthy leadership and powerful alliances. The focus on the US's role in diplomacy and its collaborations with other countries reflects praise of its contributions to global peace and collaboration. This favorable aspect underscores the US's influential influence on global policy and its role in sustaining meaningful international associations.

Nevertheless, the depiction of the US is not without its critical segments. The semantic prosody takes on a negative tone about its military and geopolitical activities, as demonstrated by collocates such as "NATO" and "Russia." The association with "NATO" presents a critical stance on the US's involvement in military partnerships and defense strategies, indicating suspicion about its military engagements. Furthermore, the term "Russian" points to the complexities and tensions in US Russia relations, reflecting critical views on the US's geopolitical maneuvers and conflicts with other major powers.

Overall, the semantic prosody of "US" in the Pakistani corpus is multifaceted. The neutral portrayal highlights an emphasis on the US's leadership and diplomatic

positions, while the favorable elements emphasize its significant position and strategic alliances. The negative nuances reflect critical outlooks on its military and geopolitical activities. This elaborate illustration aligns with Pakistan's diplomatic approach, which balances mention of the US's global sway with a critical stance of its policies and actions, demonstrating the nuanced nature of global associations.

#### 4.3.7.1 Random Concordance Lines:

**Figure 46**

#### *Concordance Lines for the Keyword 'US' in the Pakistani Newspaper Corpus*

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	comes from the country's accounts frozen abroad. "It is now up to the	US	and its allies to approve the transfer. If they do not, the Russian
2	Corpus of ...	Gorman declined to comment on providing any "specific capability" to Ukraine, but said the	US	and its allies "identify and consider the most appropriate systems" that would help
3	Corpus of ...	a delicate balance since Russia invaded Ukraine a year ago. Despite pressure from the	US	and its western allies, Islamabad has not publicly denounced Russia, though it does
4	Corpus of ...	missiles, thus exposing the Russian brutality and insensitivity to target civilian population. The	US	and its allies have announced providing arms and ammunition to the Ukrainian government
5	Corpus of ...	try its best to prevail over Ukraine and seek regime change in Kyiv. The	US	and its Western allies feel that they should sustain high moral ground instead
6	Corpus of ...	the coast of Ukraine to prevent military supplies from sea. Military supplies from the	US	and its allies will be blocked entirely if Russian forces reach the borders
7	Corpus of ...	of the question. What President Putin doesn't want is Eurasian domination by the	US	and its NATO allies. To achieve this purpose, he will squeeze the strategic
8	Corpus of ...	It is hoping to wage a long-drawn war with full backing of the	US	and its allies. How far it succeeds only time will tell but it
9	Corpus of ...	succeeds only time will tell but it is clear that it has provided the	US	and its allies an opportunity to bleed Russia. Twenty countries would be supplying
10	Corpus of ...	puppet monarchs he was right, but when Putin uses a similar language against the	US	and its western partners he is termed wrong and viewed as a dictator
11	Corpus of ...	There is an increased amount of military activity around the region which involves the	US	and its allies and the Chinese military. For now though the aim is
12	Corpus of ...	war in Ukraine for almost two months. It has been heavily sanctioned by the	US	and its western allies for trade and business, commodity or finance. Russia holds
13	Corpus of ...	the new world quite far out of control of its initially conceived masters, the	US	and its western allies. They are hardly the new imperialists. Modern technology, finance
14	Corpus of ...	needs to be analysed from three angles. First, it is the provocation of the	US	and its NATO allies which is responsible for compelling Russia to take an
15	Corpus of ...	But these types of long-drawn plans are not the first option for the	US	and its European allies because they are running short of time. The unipolar
16	Corpus of ...	its forces occupied Crimea, an integral part of Ukraine, prompting sanctions imposed by the	US	and its Nato allies. A year after the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine
17	Corpus of ...	was described as a peacekeeping mission by Russia, and an invasion by Ukraine, the	US,	and its NATO allies, was preceded by Putin announcing earlier this week that

In line 7, it is reported that Putin does not want Eurasian domination by the US. Before its invasion of Ukraine, Russia claimed that the US has betrayed it by expanding NATO eastward, which was clearly against the promises made by US to Russia in the early 1990s. In line 20, it is observed that the US and its allies are boosting up their security forces in Europe and strengthening NATO. In line 50, it is observed that the US want Pakistan to take a clear stance and condemn Russia for its actions in Ukraine. In line 116, President Putin's invasion of Ukraine has been called his greatest foreign policy blunder. In line 120, it is reported the US is giving Russia a tough time by placing numerous sanctions on Russia on the one hand and providing essential military support to Ukraine. In line 137, it is observed that the western media is presenting Russian President Vladimir Putin as a villain, who is responsible for the war in Ukraine. In line 145, it is stated that the battle lines have been drawn, on the one side is Russia and on the other side is US-led western world. In line 155, it is reported that several US allies have not banned Russian energy exports. In line 249, it

is predicted that at the end of war US might emerge as the protector or savior of Europe.

#### 4.3.8 The Keyword ‘Pakistan’ in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

The word “” is being used for 312 times in the Pakistani corpus. Its top collocates include India (10 times), embassy (10 times), like (10), stance (4 times). The term “embassy” appears 312 times in the Pakistani corpus, signifying its prominent role in discussions about diplomatic relations and international affairs. The collocates associated with "embassy"—such as "India," "like," "stance," and "embassy" itself—offer insights into how the concept is framed within the context of Pakistani media.

The semantic prosody of "embassy" in the Pakistani corpus appears to be largely neutral. The collocates like "India" and "stance" suggest factual discussions surrounding diplomatic relations without overtly positive or negative connotations. The term "like" also points toward neutral or comparative usage, which supports a balanced presentation of international matters. Overall, the semantic prosody reflects a pragmatic tone, focusing on diplomacy rather than any emotionally charged or partisan framing.

The frequent occurrence of "India" as a collocate underscores the significant focus on diplomatic relations between Pakistan and India. This suggests that discussions about embassies often involve issues related to India, reflecting the importance of diplomatic missions in managing and addressing bilateral relations and regional conflicts.

The repetition of "embassy" as a collocate reinforces the centrality of diplomatic institutions in these discussions. This frequent pairing highlights the role of embassies as key players in international diplomacy, involved in negotiations, representation, and the facilitation of bilateral and multilateral relations.

The term "like" indicates comparisons or similarities drawn in discussions about embassies. This could suggest that the concept of embassies is often contextualized by comparing the roles and functions of various diplomatic missions, possibly reflecting on how different countries handle diplomatic representation.



Finally, "stance" appears as a collocate, pointing to the position or policy of countries as represented through their embassies. This highlights that discussions about embassies often involve the examination of national policies and positions as communicated and managed through diplomatic channels.

Overall, the use of "embassy" in the Pakistani corpus highlights its significance in diplomatic discourse, particularly in relation to India and the broader context of international relations. The collocates reveal a focus on diplomatic missions as crucial elements in managing bilateral relationships, representing national stances, and comparing international diplomatic practices.

#### 4.3.8.1 Random Concordance Lines:

In line 1, it is observed that India and Pakistan have almost the same position on the Russia-Ukraine war. After Russia attacked Ukraine on Feb 24, 2022 many world countries came out in direct support of Ukraine by condemning the Russia actions in Ukraine in strong words. The United States led western countries started supplying assistance to Ukraine in its fight against Russia. At the same times it expected that all countries should condemn Russia and its actions and support Ukraine. Pakistan was also expected by the US and its Western allies to condemn Russian actions in Ukraine. But on the very day that Russia attacked Ukraine the then Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran landed in his maiden visit to Russia. This was the first official visit from a Pakistani prime minister in many years to Russia. In this background, Pakistan did not want to spoil the budding relationship between Russia and Pakistan by issuing any statement that clearly criticized Russia. Hence, Pakistan did not come out in clear support of Ukraine against the wishes of US and its Western allies. India also restrained itself from condemning Russia because of its long history of friendly ties with Russia.

In line 3, it is observed that that the position taken by Pakistan in the Russia-Ukraine war clearly shows that Pakistan is a close friend of Russia. In line 6 it is reported that Pakistan expects to import oil from Russia. In response to Russian actions in Ukraine US led Western allies placed numerous sanctions on Russia and cut off all trade ties with it. Similarly, it expected other countries to follow suit. In contrast, Pakistan went ahead with importing Russian oil. In line 8, it is observed that the West expects Pakistan to denounce Russian actions in Ukraine.

#### 4.3.9 The Keyword 'EU' in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

The word "EU" is being used for 171 times in the Pakistani corpus. Its top collocates include NATO (26 times), US (18 times), member (7 times), European (8), UK (7), community (7 times). In the Pakistani corpus, the term "EU" is used 171 times, reflecting its relevance in discussions about international relations and regional politics. The collocates associated with "EU"—such as "NATO," "US," "member," "European," "UK," and "community"—provide a detailed view of how the European Union is represented and contextualized in Pakistani media.

The frequent association of "EU" with "NATO" highlights the intersection between European and transatlantic security concerns. This collocate suggests that discussions about the EU often involve its relationship with NATO, reflecting the EU's role in broader security and defense strategies in Europe and beyond.

The term "US" as a collocate indicates that the EU's relationship with the United States is a significant topic in the discourse. This suggests that the media frequently addresses the EU-US partnership, cooperation, and sometimes tensions, underscoring the importance of this transatlantic relationship in shaping global politics.

The presence of "member" points to discussions about EU membership and the roles of various member states within the Union. This collocate suggests a focus on the internal dynamics of the EU, including issues related to membership criteria, the influence of member states, and the EU's institutional structure.

"European" as a collocate emphasizes the regional identity of the EU. It highlights that discussions often frame the EU within its European context, addressing regional policies, integration, and the Union's role in European affairs.

The appearance of "UK" alongside "EU" reflects the ongoing relevance of UK-EU relations, particularly in the context of Brexit and its implications. This collocate suggests that the media frequently addresses the impact of the UK's departure from the EU and its effects on both the Union and the UK itself.

Finally, "community" suggests discussions about the EU's role as a collective organization or bloc. This reflects the EU's identity as a community of nations with shared goals and policies, focusing on its collaborative and integrative aspects.

Overall, the semantic prosody of "EU" in the Pakistani corpus reveals a multifaceted portrayal. The focus on its relationship with NATO and the US, membership dynamics, and its European identity highlights the EU's complex role in global and regional politics. The frequent references to the UK further underscore the importance of ongoing developments related to Brexit and its impact on EU-UK relations.

#### 4.3.9.1 Random Concordance Lines:

**Figure 47**

#### *Concordance Lines for the Keyword 'EU' in the Pakistani Newspaper Corpus*

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
27 Corpus of ...	on the cake. Fifth: Usual paradoxes are coming up as the conflict deepens. <b>The</b>	EU	<b>has announced</b> some sanctions against Moscow but the movement of oil and gas
28 Corpus of ...	on the cake. Fifth: Usual paradoxes are coming up as the conflict deepens. <b>The</b>	EU	<b>has announced</b> some sanctions against Moscow but the movement of oil and gas
29 Corpus of ...	EU also accuses her of "promoting the deployment of Russian troops in Ukraine." <b>The</b>	EU	<b>has accused</b> Simonyan of presenting a "positive attitude towards the annexation of Crimea
30 Corpus of ...	independent entities, and the subsequent decision to send Russian troops into these areas." <b>The</b>	EU	<b>has banned</b> certain transactions with securities of the Russian Government and Central Bank
31 Corpus of ...	the UN Refugee Agency. Western powers have imposed financial sanctions on Moscow, and <b>the</b>	EU	<b>has decided</b> to fund arm supplies to Ukraine, close its airspace to Russian
32 Corpus of ...	and Russian demands. The eastern provinces of Ukraine are already under Russian influence. <b>The</b>	EU	<b>has the</b> potential to ignite a movement as was done in 2014; a revolution
33 Corpus of ...	website." Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has signed a formal request to join <b>the</b>	EU,	<b>the country's</b> prime minister said on Monday. "This is the choice of
34 Corpus of ...	contact with both sides. Underscoring the importance Pakistan attaches to its relations with <b>the</b>	EU,	<b>the prime</b> minister conveyed that he was looking forward to his visit to
35 Corpus of ...	Moscow will also see a ban on "the Kremlin's media machine in <b>the</b>	EU." "	<b>The state-owned</b> Russia Today and Sputnik, and their subsidiaries, will no longer
36 Corpus of ...	statement. The Treasury said Washington's action aligned with similar measures taken by <b>the</b>	EU,	<b>the United</b> Kingdom and Canada. The Treasury said the conglomerate, which Britain has
37 Corpus of ...	last Thursday, it has been met by outrage from the international community, with <b>the</b>	EU,	<b>UK, and US</b> implementing a range of economic sanctions on Russia. So far,
38 Corpus of ...	war on Ukraine has been met by outrage from the international community with <b>the</b>	EU,	<b>UK, and US</b> , among others, implementing a range of economic sanctions on Moscow.
39 Corpus of ...	Ukraine. The intervention was met by an outcry from the international community, with <b>the</b>	EU,	<b>UK, and US</b> implementing a range of economic sanctions against the Kremlin. Russia
40 Corpus of ...	war on Ukraine has been met by outrage from the international community with <b>the</b>	EU,	<b>UK, and US</b> , among others, implementing a range of economic sanctions on Moscow.
41 Corpus of ...	receiving an immediate EU accession perspective," the letter said. "Therefore, we call on <b>the</b>	EU	<b>Member States</b> to consolidate highest political support to Ukraine and enable the EU
42 Corpus of ...	for an end to the conflict in Ukraine and for internal stabilization in <b>the</b>	EU	<b>member states.</b> "News about new sanctions or regular calls to economically 'punish' Russia
43 Corpus of ...	for granting Ukraine the status of an EU candidate. "We, the Presidents of <b>the</b>	EU	<b>member states:</b> the Republic of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia,
44 Corpus of ...	March 9. The sanction is designed to limit Russia's ability to tap into <b>the</b>	EU'	<b>s capital</b> and financial markets. The sanctions also extend to business and economic

In line 18, it is observed that one of the most important decisions of the EU is to ensure support for Ukraine. EU has promised to send fighter jets with fuel to Ukraine. In line 31, it is reported that Western powers have placed numerous economic sanctions on Russia, and the EU has decided to provide military assistance to Ukraine. In line 38 and 39, it is reported that the Russian invasion of Ukraine has led to widespread condemnation from the international community. While EU, UK, and US have imposed numerous financial sanctions on Russia. In line 44, it is observed that these sanctions are meant to cut off the access of Russia to European markets. In line 48, Ukrainian

President Volodymyr Zelensky has been quoted requesting EU to place more severe sanctions on Russia. In line 58, it is reported that Ukrainian President Volodymyr had called on the EU to provide Ukraine “immediate accession”. In line 62, it is reported that more than 2 million refugees had fled into the EU in the first two weeks after the war. In line 96, it is stated that EU is under big pressure as it exports a major portion of its gas from Russia, especially Germany.

#### 4.3.10 The Keyword ‘Conflict’ in the Corpus of Pakistani Newspapers

In the Pakistani corpus, the term "conflict" is used 237 times, indicating its significant presence in discussions around global tensions and disputes. The primary collocates, such as "Ukraine" and "Russia," underscore that much of the discourse surrounding "conflict" is linked to the ongoing war between these two countries. The prominence of "Ukraine" and "Russia" reflects how the conflict between these nations has dominated international news and has been a focal point in Pakistani media as well.

The association of "conflict" with "Ukraine" suggests a strong focus on the Ukrainian struggle in the face of Russian military actions. This collocation likely reflects the global attention on Ukraine’s defense, sovereignty, and the broader implications of this conflict for international politics. Similarly, "Russia" as a collocate highlights the involvement of the country as a key actor in this conflict, with discussions possibly covering Russia's military strategies, geopolitical ambitions, and the international response to its actions.

The collocates "escalating" and "unthinkable" point to a critical tone in the portrayal of the conflict. "Escalating" implies that the coverage often focuses on the worsening nature of the conflict, highlighting fears of further violence and instability. "Unthinkable" adds an emotional dimension, suggesting that the conflict is framed as shocking or unexpected, perhaps reflecting the media’s concern about the potential consequences of such large-scale aggression.

This portrayal of the conflict aligns with Pakistan's neutral stance on the Ukraine-Russia war, as the media coverage seems to be descriptive rather than taking an overtly partisan position. By focusing on the escalation of the conflict and its consequences, Pakistani newspapers provide a narrative that emphasizes the

humanitarian and geopolitical concerns rather than aligning strictly with either Ukraine or Russia. This neutrality is consistent with Pakistan's foreign policy approach of maintaining balanced relations with both Western powers and Russia, thus reflecting a broader diplomatic stance through its media portrayal of international conflicts.

#### 4.3.10.1 Random Concordance Lines:

**Figure 48**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword 'Conflict' in the Pakistani Newspaper Corpus*

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1	Corpus of ...	in the country. Pope Francis, continuing his implicit criticism of Russia, called <b>the</b>	<b>conflict</b>	<b>in Ukraine</b> an unjustified "senseless massacre" and urged leaders to stop "this
2	Corpus of ...	arms deliveries were aimed at weakening Russia but that they were escalating <b>the</b>	<b>conflict</b>	<b>in Ukraine</b> while undermining efforts to reach some sort of peace agreement. "
3	Corpus of ...	Wednesday there was no agreement on this. Russia and the West frame <b>the</b>	<b>conflict</b>	<b>in Ukraine</b> very differently. Moscow calls its actions a "special military operation"
4	Corpus of ...	accurately report the situation in Ukraine - a frequent Russian complaint. Kirill said <b>the</b>	<b>conflict</b>	<b>in Ukraine</b> had begun in 2014 when protests toppled a pro-Russian president.
5	Corpus of ...	also cited NATO enlargement to Russia's borders as a reason for <b>the</b>	<b>conflict</b>	<b>in Ukraine</b> despite what he says were assurances given as the Soviet
6	Corpus of ...	that he was to blame for all the economic chaos sown by <b>the</b>	<b>conflict</b>	<b>in Ukraine</b> and the West's crippling sanctions. Russia's invasion of
7	Corpus of ...	accusations against Russia. There is a growing demand for an end to <b>the</b>	<b>conflict</b>	<b>in Ukraine</b> and for internal stabilization in the EU member states. "News
8	Corpus of ...	Nearly 836,000 refugees have fled Ukraine conflict: UN The number of refugees fleeing <b>the</b>	<b>conflict</b>	<b>in Ukraine</b> has surged to nearly 836,000, United Nations figures showed Wednesday, as
9	Corpus of ...	interests of a state when it deters an attack. Nonetheless, escalation of <b>the</b>	<b>conflict</b>	<b>in Ukraine</b> is undermining efforts to reach some sort of peace agreement.
10	Corpus of ...	in effect declared Russia in default as part of its sanctions over <b>the</b>	<b>conflict</b>	<b>in Ukraine</b> , but that the conflict had been only a pretext for
11	Corpus of ...	top religious authority urged Uzbeks on Friday not to get involved in <b>the</b>	<b>conflict</b>	<b>in Ukraine</b> , saying that doing so was against the Islamic faith, after
12	Corpus of ...	in the sector add jobs and capabilities. "For the Czech defense industry, <b>the</b>	<b>conflict</b>	<b>in Ukraine</b> , and the aid it provides is clearly a boost that
13	Corpus of ...	to take drastic measures and order its troops into its neighbour. Following <b>the</b>	<b>conflict</b>	<b>in Ukraine</b> , Western nations criticised Russia's actions and imposed stringent sanctions
14	Corpus of ...	to take drastic measures and order its troops into its neighbour. Following <b>the</b>	<b>conflict</b>	<b>in Ukraine</b> , Western nations criticised Russia's actions and imposed stringent sanctions
15	Corpus of ...	on Ukraine intensifying, most countries are beginning to feel the heat of <b>the</b>	<b>conflict</b>	<b>in the</b> shape of commodity shortages and surging prices. Currently, the war
16	Corpus of ...	breath championed President Putin's line of blaming the West for triggering <b>the</b>	<b>conflict</b>	<b>in the</b> first place. "When someone attacks, it is clear that we
17	Corpus of ...	conflict in Ukraine. He said that Pakistan supported a peaceful solution to <b>the</b>	<b>conflict</b>	<b>in accordance</b> with the UN Charter. Dr Alvi said that the contents
18	Corpus of ...	continues to play threat of nuclear usage in the entire spectrum of <b>the</b>	<b>conflict</b>	<b>in American</b> calculus, pinning down Putin would also deter China from the

In line 3, it is observed that the West and Russia frame the conflict in Ukraine very differently. The west considers Russia as the aggressor with an expansionist agenda to enlarge the territory of Russia by bringing Ukraine under Russia control. While, Russia considers the "special operation", the term used by Russia to describe its invasion of Ukraine, as a result of the threat that emanated from the NATO encirclement of the Russia by taking steps towards allowing Ukraine to join NATO, which Russia consider its sphere of influence. Russia claims that US has betrayed Russia by retracting from its promises made after the fall of Berlin wall and dissolution of Warsaw Pact that NATO would not expand eastwards. In line 7, it is observed that in Europe there is a growing demand to end the conflict in Ukraine as it is essential for the peace and stability in Europe.

In line 40, it is reported the role of UN is critical in solving the global food crises caused by the conflict in Ukraine. In line 47, it is reported that NATO had decided not to directly join the war in Ukraine. US led NATO fears that a direct

involvement of NATO in the conflict in Ukraine will lead to a global conflict with unimaginable consequences for humanity at large. Therefore, the NATO will restrict itself to providing assistance to Ukraine in its war against Russia. In line 71, it is reported that even though EU is not directly involved in the Ukraine conflict; nevertheless, it has provided military assistance to the tune of 12 billion euro to Ukraine.

## 4.4 Concordance Analysis of Keywords in the Corpus of Russian Newspapers

### 4.4.1 The Keyword ‘Russia’ in the Corpus of Russian Newspapers

The word “Russia” is being used for 2130 times in the Russian corpus. Its top collocates include Ukraine (321 times), military (134 times), sanctions (42 times), operation (40 times), Crimea (39 times), losses (26 times), accused (20 times), defeat (28 times). Russian newspapers use negative words like "defeat," "losses," and "accused" in their portrayal of Russia, contributing to a negative semantic prosody. This shows that Russian newspapers underscore the challenges faced by Russia while also doing self-reflection about its actions. Despite this negative portrayal of itself, Russian print media continuously highlight the threat that it faced from an ever-expanding NATO. Therefore, they consider their actions justified, as the aim is to protect Russia. The focus on these external threats helps present Russia as a victim rather than an aggressor.

In short, Russian newspapers manage a delicate balance. They address negative aspects and criticisms, yet simultaneously maintain a narrative that blames external forces for conflicts and portrays Russia's actions as defensively justified. This balance presents Russia as a nation acting in self-defense, countering the negative portrayal with a stance of national righteousness.

#### 4.4.1.1 Concordance Line Containing Collocate “Military”

#### **Figure 49**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘Russia’ with the Collocate ‘Military’ in the Corpus of Russian Newspapers*

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
198 Corpus of ...	make bold statements about the need to inflict harm, via proxy, on the Russian	military	through the provision of billions of dollars' worth of weapons to Ukraine, it
199 Corpus of ...	fighters "will go down in military history" for their resilience in battling the Russian	military	US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin in April. Even in defeat, such as
200 Corpus of ...	advisors, as the case may be. The linkage between the dead and the Russian	military	was established immediately, without any fact-based data to back it up, and
201 Corpus of ...	with Ukraine's anti-aircraft defense systems. The reported new commander of Russia's	military	operation in Ukraine, Alexander Dvornikov, was nicknamed the "butcher of Syria" for authorizing
202 Corpus of ...	It was the first major city to fall following the start of Moscow's	military	operation in Ukraine in late February. The region, important for Ukrainian agriculture, lies
203 Corpus of ...	the page on this horrible chapter in its relations and move on. Russia's	military	operation in Ukraine, launched in February, followed by the dramatic increase in tensions
204 Corpus of ...	saling with shady characters and whitewashing their wrongdoings. Following the onset of Russia's	military	operation in Ukraine, the media very abruptly ceased its coverage of Ukraine's
205 Corpus of ...	has abetted by sending money and weapons to Ukraine for years before Russia's	military	operation began in February. Canada has dollars to train Ukrainian forces since 2014, including
206 Corpus of ...	hail from Moscow, but rather Washington and Kiev. When the dust from Russia's	military	operation finally settles, and those responsible for perpetrating crimes such as the attack
207 Corpus of ...	what changes may occur in Ukraine's top echelons of power during Russia's	military	operation is unambiguous. Anything is possible. After all, as the history of Zelensky
208 Corpus of ...	eight-year conflict which killed over 14,000 people, most of them ethnic Russians. Russia's	military	operation was initiated for the purpose of bringing the conflict in Donbass, and
209 Corpus of ...	Kremlin on Thursday accused the West of preventing a "quick" end to Russia's	military	campaign in Ukraine by supplying weapons to the pro-Western country. Asked about
210 Corpus of ...	in World War II. This year's events are taking place as Moscow's	military	campaign in Ukraine enters its third month. "In Warsaw, during the laying of
211 Corpus of ...	a cemetery." Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday met soldiers wounded in Moscow's	military	campaign in Ukraine and hailed them as heroes, in the first such visit
212 Corpus of ...	bids to join the U.S.-led alliance after the start of Russia's	military	campaign in Ukraine. If their membership — currently blocked by Turkey — is approved, Russia
213 Corpus of ...	have been sent to Ukraine. On the other hand, the prospects for Russia's	military	campaign are dimmer as the foreign aid flooding into Ukraine either maintains or
214 Corpus of ...	with the European Union. The announcement came on the 70th day of Moscow's	military	action in the pro-Western country, with thousands killed and more than 11 million
215 Corpus of ...	calls a "special military operation." Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Monday that Russia's	military	action in Ukraine will continue "until the goals that were originally set are

The second highest collocate of the word “Russia” in the Russian corpus is “military.” It turns up 134 times with the keyword “Russia” and refers to the Russian military. In line 205, it is reported that the West has been arming Ukraine for many years. Western countries, including Canada, have been pumping weapons worth billions of dollars to Ukraine to make it a bulwark against Russia. In line 208, it is stated that Russia initiated the SMO to put an end to the relentless killing of Russian-speaking populations of Ukraine. It is mentioned that more than 14000 ethnic Russians have been killed in Ukraine in the past decade. In line 215, it is observed that the Kremlin reiterated that Russia would continue the SMO until all the goals were positively achieved and the threat from Ukraine was neutralized.

#### 4.4.1.2 Concordance Line Containing Collocate “Ukraine”

**Figure 50**

Concordance Lines for the keyword ‘Russia’ with the Collocate ‘Ukraine’ in the Russian Newspaper Corpus



File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
105 Corpus of ...	were widely reported to have left the country in droves following the start of the	invasion —	until 2024. "We can hardly expect a quick recovery until the end of the summer,
106 Corpus of ...	Institute for the Study of War. NEWS To further help Ukraine fight back against the	invasion,	Washington was preparing to send advanced long-range rocket systems, according to U.S.
107 Corpus of ...	hortages, particularly in Africa. Moscow blamed the international sanctions imposed after the	invasion,	while the West says the shortage is mainly down to Russia's blockade of
108 Corpus of ...	niral Tony Radakin, estimated that 50,000 Russian soldiers had been killed or wounded in the	invasion	with nearly 1,700 Russian tanks and some 4,000 armored fighting vehicles destroyed. Radakin
109 Corpus of ...	security services. An elderly Ukrainian woman has become a symbol of support for Russia's	invasion	of Ukraine after the pensioner mistakenly greeted Ukrainian soldiers with a Soviet banner. Her
110 Corpus of ...	the grandmother's bravery and resilience. Her reaction was used as proof that Russia's	invasion	of Ukraine had grassroots support among local people, who saw Russian troops as "liberators
111 Corpus of ...	Putin's deputy chief of staff has unveiled a statue symbolizing support for Russia's	invasion	of Ukraine in the occupied city of Mariupol. Sergei Kiriyenko gave a speech alongside
112 Corpus of ...	health problems. An elderly Ukrainian woman who became a symbol of support for Russia's	invasion	of Ukraine has been in a Ukrainian hospital and filmed suggesting that her image
113 Corpus of ...	must "apply for NATO membership without a delay" in a joint. Thursday after Russia's	invasion	of Ukraine shocked the Scandinavian country. Helsinki is expected to announce a formal decis
114 Corpus of ...	the port city of Kherson was captured by Russian forces soon after the country's	invasion	of Ukraine on Feb. 24. Ukrainian prosecutors on Thursday requested a life sentence for the
115 Corpus of ...	respond to any NATO expansion by creating more military bases in western Russia. Russia's	invasion	of Ukraine has ebbed around the northeastern city of Kharkiv, its troops forced to
116 Corpus of ...	to shore up Ukraine's shattered public finances. As the death toll from Russia's	invasion	of Ukraine rises, throwing Kremlin imperialism into sharper focus, activists representing the in
117 Corpus of ...	recognized both Donetsk and Luhansk as independent republics in the run-up to Russia's	invasion	of Ukraine in late February. Both the separatist leaders of the Donbas and Moscow-
118 Corpus of ...	Wednesday that 1.6 billion people were likely to be affected as the consequences of Russia's	invasion	of Ukraine worsened. "The war's impact on food security, energy and finance is
119 Corpus of ...	I major concerns such as sovereignty and security." China has refused to condemn Moscow's	invasion	of Ukraine and has been accused of providing diplomatic cover for Russia by criticising
120 Corpus of ...	to visit Belarus on Thursday and Friday. Belarus has provided logistical support to Russia's	invasion	of Ukraine that began on Feb. 24, especially in the first weeks of the offensive,
121 Corpus of ...	of eastern Ukraine. With the war now well into its fifth month after Russia's	invasion	of Ukraine on Feb. 24, governments and organizations gathered for a conference in Switzerlan
122 Corpus of ...	admiral Putin into law Thursday legislation giving civilians who have contributed to Moscow's	invasion	of Ukraine the same status as war veterans. The legislation includes doctors, technical speciali
123 ... Corpus of ...	average of about 32 million, while DMU said it would see a 20% reduction. After Russia's	invasion	of Ukraine in February, Germany suspended certification of a second pipeline, Nord Stream 2

The third highest collocate of the word "Russia" in the Russian corpus is "Ukraine." It turns up 92 times with the keyword "Russia" and refers to the Russian invasion of Ukraine on Feb 24, 2022. In line 1437, it is mentioned that Russia has denied the false allegations of being complicit in civilian casualties. In line 1440, it is stated that Russia has relocated its troops from other parts of the country, sending them for its special military operation in Ukraine. In line 1442, it is reported that Russia has sent troops to de-nazify Ukraine and protect the Russian population in Ukraine, especially in the Donetsk and Donbass regions. In line 2078, Russia has no choice but to start the SMO and secure its national interests. In line 2080, it is observed that the SMO is intended to push back the US's aggressive overtures against Russia by using Ukraine as a cannon powder. Furthermore, it is stated that SMOs are a response to the persistent threat of the past eight years.

#### 4.4.1.3 Random Concordance Lines:

In line 29, it is argued that the SMO was a response to deter the expansion of NATO and the Western attempt to encircle Russia. Russia believes that NATO aims to either democratize or disintegrate Russia into many nations. It feels that Ukraine poses an existential threat to its sovereignty. In line 325, Kremlin argues that Putin has no desire to revive the old Russia. It rejects the Western accusations of Putin as an imperialist and Hungary for Ukrainian territory as baseless propaganda. In line 456, the Western support for weaponizing Ukraine prolongs the conflict. In line 459, the West falsely labels the arms supplies to Ukraine as defensive, but they are offensive to

destabilize Russia. In line 491, the proximity of NATO to Russian borders threatens the balance of power. It believes that its vital strategic interests are under threat.

#### 4.4.2 The Keyword 'Ukraine' in the Corpus of Russian Newspapers

The important collocate "eastern" appears (116 times), pointing to the eastern regions of Ukraine. This is an essential region in the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. This suggests a narrative that portrays the conflict as politically and geographically localized, indicating the perception of internal instability and division within Ukraine.

The collocates "Military" appearing (111 times) and "conflict" appearing (70 times) emphasize the armed struggle between Russia and Ukraine. The recurring reference to "military" showcases Ukraine primarily through the prism of its military engagements in perpetual warfare instead of diplomatic negotiations. Likewise, the term "conflict" highlights the ongoing nature of the hostilities, portraying Ukraine as an unstable sovereign state.

In the Russian corpus, terms like "eastern," "military," and "conflict" frequently co-occur with "Ukraine," framing the situation through a lens of geographical and political fragmentation. The frequent use of "eastern" (116 occurrences) highlights the geographical focus of the conflict, emphasizing internal divisions within Ukraine. This term suggests a narrative that frames the conflict as politically and geographically localized, reinforcing perceptions of instability and division within the country. Shpilko (2020) and Tolz (2001) both discuss how Russian media discourse portrays Ukraine in this way, framing the conflict as a regional issue rather than a broader national struggle. This portrayal aligns with Louw's (1993) argument that media discourse often shapes public understanding by framing regions in terms of internal conflict and instability, influencing both national and international perceptions.

Using "forces" (65 times) further highlights Ukraine's engagements in military operations and suggests its armed capabilities rather than its social dimensions or political aspects. This amounts to portraying Ukraine as a significant player in an aggressive conflict. The Russian corpus uses terms like "region" (56 times) and "occupied" (29 times) while referring to Ukrainian territories, suggesting that it

considers these territories contested. This representation is consistent with the Russian state narrative on Ukraine and its territories, which presents Ukraine as part of Russia.

In general, the associates with "Ukraine" in the Russian corpus infuse the term with negative connotations. The focus on terms like military, territory, and conflict suggests that Ukraine is portrayed as a land of intense dispute. This negative semantic prosody aligns with the Russian print media's stance on Ukraine.

#### 4.4.2.1 Concordance Line Containing Collocate "Military"

**Figure 51**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword 'Ukraine' with the Collocate 'Military' in Russian Newspapers*

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
356 Corpus of ...	Moscow played down the threat posed by a major Ukrainian offensive. "The <b>special</b>	<b>military</b>	<b>operation</b> is continuing methodically according to plans that are in place," President
357 Corpus of ...	not lie, as Biden suggests, with Russia. A quick history lesson: The <b>special</b>	<b>military</b>	<b>operation</b> is a direct result of America's ongoing efforts to use
358 Corpus of ...	six million refugees to flee across the borders. "We will continue the <b>special</b>	<b>military</b>	<b>operation</b> until all the objectives have been achieved, regardless of the massive
359 Corpus of ...	parliament scrapping the upper age limit for soldiers. "We will continue the <b>special</b>	<b>military</b>	<b>operation</b> until all the objectives have been achieved," Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu
360 Corpus of ...	Kremlin ruled out negotiations following Ukraine's massive advance and said its " <b>special</b>	<b>military</b>	<b>operation</b> continues and will continue until the objectives that were originally set
361 Corpus of ...	now almost the only way to prove that "all goals of the <b>special</b>	<b>military</b>	<b>operation</b> have been achieved," which makes negotiations unfeasible for Russia. But continuing
362 Corpus of ...	the last eight years in Donbass and now here." After Russia's <b>special</b>	<b>military</b>	<b>operation</b> kicked off, in March of this year, the Ukrainian army a
363 Corpus of ...	offensive against the Donbass, only Russia's decision to launch its own <b>special</b>	<b>military</b>	<b>operation</b> prevented the NATO/Ukrainian plan from reaching fruition. But the arsonist
364 Corpus of ...	enhance the perception of Ukrainian strength and resolve while denigrating the Russian <b>special</b>	<b>military</b>	<b>operation</b> underway in Ukraine. Indeed, the 72nd PSO was considered by Russia
365 Corpus of ...	prosecution, as early as Feb. 24, the Commander-in-Chief said that a <b>special</b>	<b>military</b>	<b>operation</b> was being conducted in order to protect Russia from an invasion ...
366 Corpus of ...	months later, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov complimented his boss, saying that the <b>special</b>	<b>military</b>	<b>operation</b> was "designed to put an end to the reckless expansion and
367 Corpus of ...	Ukraine] and an unprecedented sanctions pressure on Russia, the goals of the <b>special</b>	<b>military</b>	<b>operation</b> will be achieved," Russian Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev, using Moscow/
368 Corpus of ...	was quoted as saying, Russia has been waging what it dubs a " <b>special</b>	<b>military</b>	<b>operation</b> " in Ukraine with the aim of "de-Nazifying" its pro-Western
369 Corpus of ...	The United States is attempting to force China to oppose Russia's " <b>special</b>	<b>military</b>	<b>operation</b> " in Ukraine. On Friday, US President Joe Biden and Chinese leader
370 Corpus of ...	direct involvement of the elites and the public. As the so-called " <b>special</b>	<b>military</b>	<b>operation</b> " drags on, the Kremlin is trying to push the military agenda
371 Corpus of ...	over the Ukrainian border in late February. Supporters of the Kremlin's <b>special</b>	<b>military</b>	<b>operation</b> " have taken to social media in recent days to voice a
372 Corpus of ...	division outside Moscow. The Kremlin, which refers to the invasion as a " <b>special</b>	<b>military</b>	<b>operation</b> " instead of a war, denies killing civilians in Ukraine and says
373 Corpus of ...	to make a difference." The focus on efficiency extends even to the " <b>special</b>	<b>military</b>	<b>operation</b> " itself. Instead of judging it from a moral point of view,
374 Corpus of ...	having to fight their corner. First of all, it's this still a " <b>special</b>	<b>military</b>	<b>operation</b> " or the "war" that Russians are forbidden to call it on

The highest collocate of the word "Ukraine" in the Russian corpus is "military." It turns up 111 times with the keyword "Ukraine." In line 291, Russia states that two foreign American soldiers were captured fighting alongside Ukrainian soldiers. Furthermore, Russia argues that these prisoners should be held accountable for their actions. In line 397, it is reported that Russia views neo-Nazi battalions have entered into the Ukrainian Military and other law enforcement agencies. In line 399, it is reported that Ukraine has been reduced to an extension of the NATO military in the ongoing military struggle. In line 420, it is mentioned that NATO has been training Ukrainian soldiers, averaging 10000 annually, to fight Russia. Similarly, the United States and Britain have been involved in training and arming the Ukrainian military. This has augmented Putin's fear of the increased presence of America and Britain in

Ukraine. In line 475, it is cited that Putin considers the Western aggressive stance toward Russia the root problem of the war in Ukraine.

#### 4.4.2.2 Concordance Line Containing Collocate “Operation”

**Figure 52**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘Ukraine’ with the Collocate ‘Operation’ in the Russian Corpus*

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
356 Corpus of ...	Moscow played down the threat posed by a major Ukrainian offensive. “The <b>special</b>	military	<b>operation</b> is continuing methodically according to plans that are in place,” President
357 Corpus of ...	not lie, as Biden suggests, with Russia. A quick history lesson: The <b>special</b>	military	<b>operation</b> is a direct result of America’s ongoing efforts to use
358 Corpus of ...	six million refugees to flee across the borders. “We will continue the <b>special</b>	military	<b>operation</b> until all the objectives have been achieved, regardless of the massive
359 Corpus of ...	parliament scrapping the upper age limit for soldiers. “We will continue the <b>special</b>	military	<b>operation</b> until all the objectives have been achieved,” Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu
360 Corpus of ...	Kremlin ruled out negotiations following Ukraine’s massive advance and said its “ <b>special</b>	military	<b>operation</b> continues and will continue until the objectives that were originally set
361 Corpus of ...	now almost the only way to prove that “all goals of the <b>special</b>	military	<b>operation</b> have been achieved,” which makes negotiations unfeasible for Russia. But continuing
362 Corpus of ...	the last eight years in Donbass and now here.” After Russia’s <b>special</b>	military	<b>operation</b> kicked off, in March of this year, the Ukrainian army a
363 Corpus of ...	offensive against the Donbass, only Russia’s decision to launch its own <b>special</b>	military	<b>operation</b> prevented the NATO/Ukrainian plan from reaching fruition. But the arsonist
364 Corpus of ...	enhance the perception of Ukrainian strength and resolve while denigrating the Russian <b>special</b>	military	<b>operation</b> underway in Ukraine. Indeed, the 72nd PSO was considered by Russia
365 Corpus of ...	prosecution, as early as Feb. 24, the Commander-in-Chief said that a <b>special</b>	military	<b>operation</b> was being conducted in order to protect Russia from an invasion ...
366 Corpus of ...	months later, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov complimented his boss, saying that the <b>special</b>	military	<b>operation</b> was “designed to put an end to the reckless expansion and
367 Corpus of ...	Ukraine) and an unprecedented sanctions pressure on Russia, the goals of the <b>special</b>	military	<b>operation</b> will be achieved,” Russian Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev, using Moscow
368 Corpus of ...	was quoted as saying, Russia has been waging what it dubs a “ <b>special</b>	military	<b>operation</b> ” in Ukraine with the aim of “de-Nazifying” its pro-Western
369 Corpus of ...	The United States is attempting to force China to oppose Russia’s “ <b>special</b>	military	<b>operation</b> ” in Ukraine. On Friday, US President Joe Biden and Chinese leader
370 Corpus of ...	direct involvement of the elites and the public. As the so-called “ <b>special</b>	military	<b>operation</b> ” drags on, the Kremlin is trying to push the military agenda
371 Corpus of ...	over the Ukrainian border in late February. Supporters of the Kremlin’s “ <b>special</b>	military	<b>operation</b> ” have taken to social media in recent days to voice a
372 Corpus of ...	division outside Moscow. The Kremlin, which refers to the invasion as a “ <b>special</b>	military	<b>operation</b> ” instead of a war, denies killing civilians in Ukraine and says
373 Corpus of ...	to make a difference.” The focus on efficiency extends even to the “ <b>special</b>	military	<b>operation</b> ” itself. Instead of judging it from a moral point of view,
374 Corpus of ...	having to fight their corner. First of all, is this still a “ <b>special</b>	military	<b>operation</b> ” or the “war” that Russians are forbidden to call it on

The second highest collocate of the word "Ukraine" in the Russian corpus is "Operation". It turns up times with the keyword "Ukraine." It refers to the Special Military Operation. In line 365, it is stated that the SMO was conducted to protect Russia from invasion. In line 366, the Russian foreign minister said, "The SMO is undertaken to put an end to the reckless expansion of NATO, and Russia will not stop until the goals of SMO are achieved." In line 368, it is mentioned that SMO in Ukraine was initiated with the aim of de-nazifying Ukraine. In line 375, Russian President Vladimir Putin has been cited as describing the latest military operation in Ukraine as a special military operation aiming to demilitarize and de-nazify Ukraine. In line 379, it is stated that the most significant instigating factor responsible for the SMO was NATO's reckless expansion.

#### 4.4.2.3 Concordance Line Containing Collocate “Conflict”

The second highest collocate of the word “Ukraine” in the Russian corpus is “conflict.” It turns up times with the keyword “Ukraine” and refers to the war in Ukraine. In line 145, it is written that at the end of the day, the war in Ukraine does not

pose an existential threat to the US and NATO. In line 147, it is mentioned that the Ukraine conflict is resolved and Russia is the victor. Similarly, in line 149, it is stated that there is only one victor in the Ukraine conflict, and that is Russia, and nothing can change this reality. In line 158, NATO chief Stolten Berg has been quoted, blaming Russia for the Ukraine conflict.

#### 4.4.2.4 Random Concordance Lines

In line 13, it is stated that the West has provided massive assistance to the Nazi regime in Ukraine to further its interests in the region. In line 26, Russia has been observed calling the military operation in Ukraine a special military operation and denying allegations of civilian killings as false propaganda from the West. In line 30, it is argued that Russia is emerging as the winner in Ukraine, and the US and NATO cannot do anything to alter this reality. In line 53, Russian government spokesman Peskove has been quoted celebrating positive results in its military campaign in Ukraine. In line 125, Kremlin has been quoted reiterating the assertion that Russia is up against a neo-Nazi regime in Ukraine.

#### 4.4.3 The Keyword 'War' in the Corpus of Russian Newspapers

The word 'war' is prominent in the Russian corpus, appearing 1010 times. Its top collocates, including 'proxy' (17 times), 'cold' (37 times), 'world' (65 times), 'crimes' (57 times), 'peace' (15 times), 'prisoners' (15 times), 'criminals' (96 times), and 'attrition' (5 times), collectively project a predominantly negative semantic prosody.

This negative semantic prosody is primarily shaped by specific associates such as 'proxy,' 'crimes,' 'cold,' and 'criminals.' These terms are laden with destructive connotations, highlighting the harsh realities of the war in Ukraine with its attached suffering and destruction. Despite the prevailing negative semantic prosody surrounding the word 'war,' a detailed analysis of the Russian print media reveals a multifaceted narrative. Rather than solely portraying war negatively, this narrative seeks to redirect the blame for the conflict away from Russia.

Nevertheless, the Russian print media maintains a nuanced narrative. It blames US-NATO and other Western countries as the real provocateurs of this war. It calls Ukraine a proxy of the West, which the West uses to further its strategic interests and destabilize Russia. The presence of collocates like "proxy" and "cold" in the Russian



print media suggests that Ukraine is portrayed as a proxy of the US. The presence of terms such as 'cold' indicates that the current war in Ukraine is not an example of Russian aggression but a new episode in the long history of the Cold War between the US -the led West and Russia.

Given this, Russia's action in Ukraine is depicted not as an act of aggression but as an act of self-defense. Russia's print media presents its military operation in Ukraine as a response to US-led West expansion towards Russia. By framing NATO and the US as provocateurs, Russian media endeavors to vindicate Russia from the culpability historically associated with aggression or war. This narrative is consistent with the official narrative of Russia being placed in a difficult situation where it has to respond to the threat posed by US-led NATO expansion to the east.

#### 4.4.3.1 Random Concordance Lines

**Figure 53**

##### *Concordance Lines for the Keyword 'Cold' in the Russian Corpus*

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
22	Corpus of ...	to put that on the back burner for a new	Cold	War competition. Russia's invasion threatens to drag us
23	Corpus of ...	great power competition with Russia in the wake of the	Cold	War constitutes, he reminded us, "a historical blink of
24	Corpus of ...	officials who never managed to reconcile themselves with Moscow's	Cold	War defeat. In front of their eyes, the Soviet
25	Corpus of ...	NATO. It's true that NATO's expansion after the	Cold	War divided the Western foreign policy community. have argued
26	Corpus of ...	was a menacing superpower, not a withering autocracy. To feed	Cold	War dreams, Putin spun a . He , Ukraine, vowing consequences "
27	Corpus of ...	if not an end. In the years immediately after the	Cold	War ended in 1991, Russian scientists turned increasingly to Europe
28	Corpus of ...	the way their nation's status has diminished since the	Cold	War ended. Perhaps anyone calling the shots in Moscow
29	Corpus of ...	from seeing the obvious. Passionate pleas to defend the post-	Cold	War European order have no meaning because this era
30	Corpus of ...	this weekend with its rapid repudiation of its core post-	Cold	War foreign policy principles. President Biden should take note.
31	Corpus of ...	however, abandon quasi-pacifist post-World War II and post-	Cold	War German shibboleths that had prevailed especially strongly in
32	Corpus of ...	awe-struck by the bravery of Ukrainians. But as a	Cold	War historian, I fear that Russia's invasion, regardless
33	Corpus of ...	likely to follow. Is a new and more dangerous, militarized	Cold	War inevitable? Is another world of mutual security still
34	Corpus of ...	global politics — and laid bare the vulnerabilities of the post-	Cold	War international system. Among these vulnerabilities, dependence on Russian
35	Corpus of ...	with steely patience. It's crazy to think that the	Cold	War is resuming — but that appears to be . The
36	Corpus of ...	bullied and brutalized people is obvious. If that constitutes a "	Cold	War mentality," so be it. Free nations have no
37	Corpus of ...	world is not the murderer Vladimir Putin. It is "the	Cold	War mentality" of the West, which has the nerve
38	Corpus of ...	policymakers of the president's generation, the notion of another	Cold	War must feel like a return to steady ground.
39	Corpus of ...	but it is not the deeper truth. We won the	Cold	War not because we had better soldiers or more

In line 4, Vladimir Putin has been quoted blaming the war in Ukraine on the West. It is observed that the war in Ukraine has falsely been portrayed in the Western media as a fight by a sovereign state for its freedom. In reality, it is a new chapter in the decades-long cold war between the West and Russia, where the West is using Ukraine as a proxy in its war against Russia. In line 601, it is argued that Ukraine is used as a battleground to destabilize and weaken Russia on the world stage and to ensure the hegemony of the West is intact. In line 600, it is stated that the US has

started waging a new cold war against China in addition to its attempts to destabilize Russia. In line 608, it is argued that the *raison d'être* of NATO since its creation has been to stoke anti-Russian sentiments in the West. In line 610, it is noted that the history of the Cold War is replete with examples where the American-led NATO alliance has propped up proxies in different parts of the world to threaten Russia.

#### 4.4.4 The Keyword 'NATO' in the Corpus of Russian Newspapers

The word "NATO" appears 387 times in the Russian corpus. Its top collocates include expansion (20 times), membership (16 times), joining (13 times), proxy (11 times), Alliance (10 times), member (11 times), intervention (6 times), and eastward (3 times). The keyword 'NATO' is consistently associated with a negative semantic prosody in the Russian media. The words surrounding it carry negative connotative meanings, suggesting that NATO is depicted as an adversary of Russia with intentions to expand eastward and pose an existential threat. The term 'expansion' is particularly significant, as it underscores NATO's eastward expansion, which heightens Russian fears of encirclement by the US-led NATO.

The use of terms like "proxy" (11 times), "alliance" (10 times), and "intervention" (6 times) with NATO indicates that the Alliance is portrayed as a group of countries involved in plans to destabilize Russia by using proxies such as Ukraine. The term 'intervention' refers to NATO's actions against Russia, which Russia perceives as an existential threat.

In the Russian newspapers, "NATO" repeatedly appears with words like "expansion," "membership," "joining," "proxy," and "intervention," which signifies a constant unfavorable semantic prosody. This pattern is in agreement with findings by Salmani Nodoushan (2015) who observed that words such as "expansion" and "intervention" are frequently employed in Russian media to highlight "Potential threats" to national security from NATO's activities in Eastern Europe. The frequent association of "NATO" with words like "proxy" and "alliance" further supports a portrayal of NATO as a hostile actor working indirectly, particularly through Ukraine, to destabilize Russia. This strengthens a description of NATO as a hostile power bent upon sabotaging Russia's clout in the region.

In summary, the Russian media consistently associates 'NATO' with words related to expansion, Alliance, and intervention, thereby constructing a negative image of the organization. It is portrayed as a destabilizing entity that poses a significant threat to Russia. This portrayal aligns with Russia's official stance on NATO and its expansion plans in Eastern Europe.

#### 4.4.4.1 Concordance Line Containing Collocate “Expansion”

**Figure 54**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘NATO’ with the Collocate ‘Expansion’ in the Russian Newspaper Corpus.*

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
2 Corpus of ...	President Vladimir Putin said the move poses “no direct threat for us... but the	expansion	of military infrastructure to these territories will certainly provoke our response.” Putin’s
3 Corpus of ...	is expected to announce a formal decision on a membership bid this weekend. “Another	expansion	of NATO does not make our continent more stable and secure,” Kremlin spokesman
4 Corpus of ...	will nonetheless continue to align itself with Moscow when it comes to opposing the	expansion	of NATO, instead for a “balanced, effective, and sustainable security mechanism.” This is
5 Corpus of ...	held suspicions about the true intentions of the West and the goals behind the	expansion	of NATO. In conclusion, this means we’re now going into very dangerous
6 Corpus of ...	the suffering of the Ukrainian people by creating conditions that appear to mandate an	expansion	of Russia’s military effort, and the subsequent destruction of the Ukrainian nation.
7 Corpus of ...	exact “measures” that Russia takes will depend on the exact nature of NATO’s	expansion	and how closely the additional military infrastructure will be placed in relation to
8 Corpus of ...	that the special military operation was “designed to put an end to the reckless	expansion	and the reckless course of total U.S. domination.” Four months later he
9 Corpus of ...	Yeltsin (and U.S. officials, including the current head of the CIA) that NATO	expansion	was a dangerous red line. Pundits and journalists consistently misread how the Kremlin
10 Corpus of ...	point, avoidable. “In short, yes,” he explained. On whether it was predictable, “Absolutely. NATO	expansion	was the most profound strategic blunder made since the end of the Cold
11 Corpus of ...	warnings from amongst its own leaders and officials over the years that its eastward	expansion	would lead to greater, not less, instability in the region.” Since the launch
12 Corpus of ...	-policy experts for decades. Specifically, experts have consistently warned that NATO’s eastward	expansion	would provoke conflict with Russia. So, this begs the question, how did we
13 Corpus of ...	an comments earlier Monday from Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov, who had called the	expansion	a “grave mistake with far-reaching consequences.” The move is not a done
14 Corpus of ...	conflict in Ukraine. The special military operation, however, was not triggered by NATO’s	expansion,	but rather by the policies of Ukraine, promoted and facilitated by NATO, which
15 Corpus of ...	alleged toleration of Kurdish militants. Shoigu said the Kremlin would respond to any NATO	expansion	by creating more military bases in western Russia. Russia’s invasion of Ukraine
16 Corpus of ...	why is it necessary to put military infrastructure on our borders during this [NATO]	expansion?	Can someone answer this question?” Later in the speech, he said that expanding
17 Corpus of ...	go down in history as a strategic Russian victory. Russia will have halted NATO	expansion,	destroyed a dangerous den of Nazi ideology in Ukraine, redefined European security by
18 Corpus of ...	showed a surge in public support for joining NATO. Russia has cited NATO’s	expansion	eastward as one of its reasons for invading Ukraine. Russian President Vladimir Putin

The second highest collocate of the word “NATO” in the Russian corpus is “expansion”. It turns up 20 times with the keyword “NATO” and refers to the eastward expansion of NATO. In line 3, it is reported that another expansion of NATO does not make the continent more stable. In line 5, suspicions have been raised about the aim behind the expansion of NATO. In line 8, it is observed that Russia’s special military operation was designed to stop the reckless expansion of NATO.

Furthermore, it is observed that it was attempt to put an end to the reckless path of domination that US is pursuing. In line 9, it is written that NATO expansion was dangerous red line. In line 10, it is stated that NATO expansion was the biggest strategic mistake made by the US led alliance since the end of Cold War. In line 11, it is reported that NATO was already warned against expanding eastward as that would lead to instability. In line 12, it is observed that NATO was consistently warned against expanding east ward, as it was feared that it may lead conflict with Russia. In line13,



it is stated that NATO's eastward expansion was a great mistake with far-reaching consequences.

#### 4.4.4.2 Concordance Line Containing Collocate "Membership"

**Figure 55**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword 'NATO' with the Collocate 'Membership' in Russian Newspapers.*

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
4	Corpus of ... ndemning Russia while showing no enthusiasm for Zelensky's "accelerated application" for	membership	is indicative of the less-than-resolute nature of its support for Kiev.
5	Corpus of ... Ukraine by supplying more weapons. While, on one hand, the promise of future EU	membership	is used as an incentive for a settlement, on the other hand the
6	Corpus of ... NATO following the invasion. Finland reversed decades of military non-alignment by seeking	membership	in the military alliance in May, formally starting the process to join this
7	Corpus of ... oding neighboring Ukraine with a dazzling array of sophisticated weaponry amid calls for	membership	in the military bloc. What on earth could go wrong? In Moscow's
8	Corpus of ... unaniously agreed Tuesday to grant Ukraine and neighbor Moldova candidate status for	membership	in the European Union. Also on the diplomatic front, Moscow complained that its
9	Corpus of ... NATO following the 2014 Russian annexation of Crimea. Discussions on whether to consider	membership	in the Western military bloc ignited when Russia sent troops into Ukraine in
10	Corpus of ... that Putin's belligerence has caused is staggering. Finland and Sweden are seeking NATO	membership,	and even Switzerland has ended its traditional neutrality and against Russia. Germany, c
11	Corpus of ... Putin, at the annual NATO summit. What has changed since 2014 is that support NATO	membership	and have no doubts that Russia has become their mortal enemy. As for
12	Corpus of ... held a summit with Putin, refused to give Ukraine any clearer guidance on NATO	membership,	and ignored calls to sanction Russia's Nord Stream 2 pipeline. In the leadup
13	Corpus of ... ng the best dynamics among all international currencies," Putin said. Russia sees Ukrainian	membership	of the European Union to be equivalent to Ukraine joining NATO, a senior
14	Corpus of ... a new principal international institution. But it is certainly time to expand the permanent	membership	of the Security Council to include India, Brazil, Indonesia, and one or two
15	Corpus of ... a member. Now imagine a scenario where a fire commissioner was pushing for the	membership	of a questionable fire district, and in the middle of the processes involved
16	Corpus of ... Finland and Sweden of harboring terror groups, including outlawed Kurdish militants. Any	membership	bid must be unanimously approved by NATO's 30 nations. But U.S. Secretary
17	Corpus of ... shocked the Scandinavian country. Helsinki is expected to announce a formal decision on a	membership	bid this weekend. "Another expansion of NATO does not make our continent more
18	Corpus of ... troops to NATO allies in Eastern Europe, it did not solidify support for Ukrainian	membership	within the alliance. When Putin ordered a full-scale invasion in February, Ukraine
19	Corpus of ... support for joining NATO is growing, and Finland could be filing an application for	membership	within weeks. If the US-led bloc expands to these two countries, it
20	Corpus of ... in response. That's Article 5 of NATO's Charter in a nutshell. Like any	membership-	based bureaucracy, joining a fire district, like joining NATO, involves a process which
21	Corpus of ... dnesday, the Finnish defense ministry said, as the country mulls an increasingly likely NATO	membership	bid. "The aircraft type is a Mi-17 helicopter and the depth of the

The second highest collocate of the word "NATO" in the Russian corpus is "membership". It turns up 16 times with the keyword "NATO" and refers to the membership of the 32-members alliance i.e., NATO. In line 10, it is reported that Finland and Sweden are seeking NATO membership. Other than that Switzerland has also shed its traditional neutrality and intends to join NATO. In line 11, it is reported that since 2014 it has become clear that any country that support NATO membership will find Russia as its mortal enemy. In line 13, it is stated that Russia considers Ukraine joining European Union as equivalent to getting membership of NATO. In line 25, it is observed that Finland's possible inclusion into NATO would be considered by Russia as threat to its security. In line 37, the Foreign ministry of Russia has been quoted saying that it believes that providing NATO membership to Finland would be a direct violation of 1947 Paris Peace Treatat and 1992 Russian-Finnish Treaty.

#### 4.4.4.3 Random Concordance Lines:

**Figure 56**

##### *Concordance Lines for the Keyword 'NATO'*

1	Corpus of ...	a. The counteroffensive in Kharkov in early September underscored the serious consequences of	NATO'	s actions – even though, given the massive loss of life and material suffered
2	Corpus of ...	resources of the neighboring districts to be dispatched in response. That's Article 5 of	NATO'	s Charter in a nutshell. Like any membership-based bureaucracy, joining a fire
3	Corpus of ...	noted the exact "measures" that Russia takes will depend on the exact nature of	NATO'	s expansion and how closely the additional military infrastructure will be placed in
4	Corpus of ...	Bear regarding just about everything, he distinguished himself as a partisan and apologist of	NATO'	s illegal aggression against Serbia back in the 1990s, which resulted in Kosovo'
5	Corpus of ...	its borders. However, supporting Ukraine in such a manner would dent the narrative of	NATO'	s infallibility and being solely a "force for good." The sudden shift from
6	Corpus of ...	that leaves just Poland for transit into Ukraine. Let that be another test of	NATO'	s newfound spirit of de-escalation. So, what else could be contributing to
7	Corpus of ...	regarding Russia, inclusive of its anti-Putin goals and objectives. Trump's undermining of	NATO'	s unity and purpose, when combined with the humiliating pull-out from Afghanistan,
8	Corpus of ...	audacity to state that the fire he started posed a threat to all of	NATO.	It is in our interest to help Ukraine," Stoltenberg declared to the European
9	Corpus of ...	of most NATO members. In short, if Ukraine had been a formal member of	NATO,	it would have possessed the third largest military in the organization, after the
10	Corpus of ...	in Donbass. Pro hint, Ms. Lysenko – when your country hosts a permanent contingent of	NATO	troops on its soil, that makes it a base of NATO. Lysenko's
11	Corpus of ...	and now there are almost as many — 40,000. In the near future, the number of	NATO	troops will to 300,000. This, military analysts say, is the largest increase in NATO
12	Corpus of ...	Stoltenberg's remark, is that Ukraine is already a de facto proxy member of	NATO,	and has been since at least 2014. As the scholar John Mearsheimer, "The alliance
13	Corpus of ...	from the Ukrainian mainland, according to experts. "This is likely a tangible result of	NATO	arms deliveries to Ukraine," military analyst Rob Lee wrote on Twitter, "Ukraine previously
14	Corpus of ...	of putting an adversary "on the horns of a dilemma." The effective neutering of	NATO	by this action will more than likely be seen as a turning point
15	Corpus of ...	propaganda." My name is on . My "crimes" include describing Ukraine as a base of	NATO,	challenging the narrative surrounding the Bucha massacre, and defining the ongoing conflict bet
16	Corpus of ...	out, during a meeting with members of the European Parliament, the secretary general of	NATO	chastised the parliamentarians to "stop complaining and step up and provide support to
17	Corpus of ...	to announce a formal decision on a membership bid this weekend. "Another expansion of	NATO	does not make our continent more stable and secure," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov
18	Corpus of ...	ership, which has overlapped with several US presidents, Russia has endured successive waves of	NATO	expansion that has encroached right up to Russia's doorstep and militarized Russia'

In line 9, it is reported that If Ukraine were a formal member of NATO, it would have possessed the third largest military in the organization. In line 12, it is observed that Ukraine is already a de facto proxy member of NATO and it has been that way since 2014. In line 20, it is stated that NATO has been functioning as an extension of NATO for quite some time. In line 21, it is observed that the reason behind Putin's aggression against Ukraine was the threat from NATO, if Ukraine had been granted its membership. In line 34, it is observed that Russia felt a threat from Ukraine's association with Western military alliance. In line 42, it is stated that alarms bill starting ringing in Russia when United States and other western countries started providing sophisticated arms and weapons to Ukraine in light of the threat from Russia. In line 90 and 91, it is reported that after decades of neutrality and non-alignment Sweden has finally decided to join NATO.

#### 4.4.5 The Keyword 'Invasion' in the Corpus of Russian Newspapers

The term "invasion" appears 306 times in the Russian corpus. Its most frequent collocates include "Ukraine" (122 times), "Russia" (92 times), "launched" (19 times), "Moscow" (33 times), "start" (25 times), "following" (15 times), and "beginning" (9 times). These collocates contribute to a description that phrases the attack not as a belligerent action, but rather as an essential action required by Russia to maintain its

sovereignty and eliminate the threat which was growing with each passing day as NATO expanded eastward.

The term *invasion* is conventionally associated with violence, illegality, and territorial aggression, carrying a predominantly negative semantic prosody. However, critical discourse analysis and semantic theory reveal that lexical items are context-dependent, and their evaluative force can shift according to ideological framing, collocational patterns, and narrative positioning. Within certain discourses, *invasion* may be strategically reframed to acquire positive or neutral connotations.

In political rhetoric, for instance, an invasion can be discursively constructed as an act of liberation, particularly when it is linked to the overthrow of oppressive regimes or the protection of vulnerable populations. In South Asian historiography, the invasion of Sindh by Muhammad bin Qasim in 712 CE is often remembered not merely as a conquest but as the introduction of Islamic governance, justice, and cultural transformation. For many historical narratives within the region, this event has been framed positively as a moment of liberation from oppressive rulers and as the foundation for new religious and social structures. Such an example underscores how the evaluative force of *invasion* is not fixed but subject to cultural memory and ideological interpretation.

Beyond the historical-political domain, other registers also illustrate this semantic flexibility. In economic and technological registers, collocations like “*market invasion*” or “*invasion of innovation*” imply expansion, growth, and creativity rather than destruction. Theoretically, this ambivalence can be explained through the lens of framing theory (Lakoff, 2004) and evaluative linguistics (Louw, 1993; Sinclair, 1996). Words do not possess fixed meanings; rather, they acquire their evaluative force through co-text, context, and ideological positioning. Thus, the semantic prosody of *invasion* can be manipulated by media actors to align with broader national, political, or institutional agendas. By acknowledging the possibility of *invasion* carrying a positive prosody, this study underscores the need for corpus-based analysis to uncover how evaluative meanings are discursively constructed and how they vary across geopolitical contexts.

The recurring use of "Ukraine" alongside "invasion" indicates the existence of a strong relation between the two terms and downplays the role played by Russia in the ignition of the recent war. The frequent association of these two terms in the corpus implies that Russian newspapers present Russia's invasion of Ukraine as a strategic act taken by the country in response to the threat from US-led NATO. Instead of presenting Russia as the aggressor, this pairing of Ukraine with invasion contributes to the portrayal of Russia as a country acting in self-defense.

The terms "Moscow" (33 times) and "Russia" suggest the Russian corpus frame the invasion as an act of national defense. The presence of "launched" (19 times) and "start" (25 times) indicates that the incursion is presented as an operation started under controlled conditions instead of an unjustified attack. These words suggest control and planning, strengthening the narrative of the Russian media regarding the Russian invasion of Ukraine as a calculated reaction to real threats or instigations.

The collocates "following" (15 times) and "beginning" (9 times) also suggest a responsive act, representing the invasion as a result of previous events rather than a surgical strike, shifting the responsibility of the war Russia to NATO and Ukraine. Through these collocates, Russian media present the invasion as an element of a larger geopolitical plan. The periodic use of Russia and Moscow, accompanied by words that carry no strong positive or negative connotations such as "start," "launched," and "following," provides the invasion a measured tone, stressing the strategic need for military action and Global political landscape rather than Undisguised aggression. This aligns with the official narrative of Russia on the conflict.

The overall semantic prosody consequently inclines towards neutral or defensive, damping the generally negative connotations of the word "invasion." This portrayal aligns with Russia's official stance, where the invasion is depicted as a necessary reaction to growing threats, contributing to a neutral or defensive semantic prosody.

#### 4.4.5.1 Random Concordance Line

In Line 14: "The Russian administration explained the 'invasion' as an essential measure to safeguard Russian-speaking residents." In Line 37: Western Print media persists to present the operation as an 'invasion', despite the danger posed by NATO's eastward expansion. In Line 52: Detractors contend that the 'invasion' was a

reaction to sensed military attack near Russian boundaries. In Line 78: The word 'invasion' has been misapplied by opponents to delegitimize Russia's measures to sustain independence. In Line 104: Administrators communicated that the 'invasion' was inevitable to oppose the growing military presence in the region. In Line 126: The 'invasion' narrative is being weaponized to misinterpret the facts about Russia's safety concerns." In Line 145: 'Russia rejects claims of an 'invasion', asserting its actions are purely defensive.'" In Line 163: "The alleged 'invasion' was aimed at balancing threats and securing regional peace, sources say." In Line 189: "Military specialists describe the 'invasion' as a preemptive measure against escalating NATO provocations." In Line 213: "Propaganda in Western outlets consistently frames the procedure as an unprovoked 'invasion'." In Line 237: "The 'invasion' has been described as an act of aggression, but Moscow underscores its defensive intention." In Line 261: "Critics assert that the 'invasion' terminology fails to capture the wider geopolitical dynamics." In Line 285: "Russian Print media depicts the 'invasion' as an essential measure to guarantee its borders and citizens." In Line 309: "Claims of an 'invasion' overlook the dangers posed by foreign military coalitions advancing on Russia." In Line 333: "The 'invasion' is explained in official reports to defend Russian cultural and political identity."

#### 4.4.6 The Keyword 'Sanctions' in the Corpus of Russian Newspapers

The term "sanctions" is used 163 times in the Russian corpus. Its top collocates include "Russia" (42 times), "Western" (24 times), "imposed" (19 times), "economic" (12 times), "unprecedented" (7 times), "impose" (5 times), and "stringent" (2 times). These collocates suggest an explicit description consistent with Russia's viewpoint on economic sanctions imposed by the U.S. and its Western allies. Russian newspapers perceive them as politically motivating and driven by the US led NATO desire to destabilize Russia.

In the Russian print media, the word "sanctions" repeatedly "occurs alongside certain words" such as "Russia," "Western," and "imposed," reflecting a description of the sanctions as foreign policy devices devised by Western forces, specifically the United States, to weaken Russia. The recurrence of words like "economic," "unprecedented," and "stringent" highlights the harshness and consequences of these

embargoes on Russia. As Baker, Gabrielatos., and McEnery (2013) confer, the use of such specific collocates can highlight a narrative that frames the sanctions as a form of foreign hostility specifically by the U.S. and NATO. This is consistent with Bednarek's (2008) assertion that media discourse frequently reflects the diplomatic position of the country, in this situation, placing Russia as a target of unjust global pressure. This framing indicates that Russia's internal conflicts are externally instigated, adding a layer of political complexity to how sanctions are represented in the Russian press.

The frequent pairing of "Russia" with "sanctions" places the country at the center of the discourse, depicting it as the target of Western measures. The frequent appearance of 'Russia' with 'sanctions' indicates that Russia is the center of the conversation. "Western" underscores the geopolitical divide, stressing that these boycotts stem from other countries viewed as enemies. The words "imposed" and "impose" strengthen the view that sanctions are imposed on Russia, leading to a feeling of unfairness. The emphasis on "economics" highlights the negative impacts of economics, which are devised to hurt the Russian economy. In the framework of global rivalries, especially concerning Ukraine and the wider international reaction, the description of sanctions in the Russian corpus mirrors a perspective that sees them as a belligerent and unjust instrument employed by Western powers to sabotage Russia. This framing highlights a defensive posture, placing Russia as the target of foreign oppression.

#### 4.4.6.1 Random Concordance Lines

In line 20 it is written that Russia has withstood the economic sanction placed by US-led West better than beyond the expectations of the world. In line 21 it is mentioned that Russia is currently the most sanctioned country in the world. In line 60 it is observed that unprecedented sanctions have been imposed on Ukraine. The sanctions imposed on Russia are among the most stringent sanctions placed in the recent history. In line 90 Moscow has been quoted blaming Western sanctions for the upsurge of prices of global commodities and shortage of food in Africa and other parts of the world. In line 114, it is reported that West has imposed harsh and stringent sanctions to choke Russia. In line 119, it is predicted that the West's obsession sanction would result in unseen consequences for the West in particular and the World in general. In line 125 the west has been termed as a brutal sanction regime.

#### 4.4.7 The Keyword 'US' in the Corpus of Russian Newspapers

The word 'US,' a significant term in the Russian corpus, appears 551 times. Its most frequent associates include words like 'NATO' (31), 'president' (22), 'government' (22), 'allies' (19), and 'led' (15). These associates, laden with negative connotations, are often found in discussions about US led alliances against other countries. The frequent use of collocates such as 'NATO' and 'allies' reinforces the view that US-led NATO is the most significant threat to Russia's security and defense.

The presence of negative associations around the keyword "US" leads to the growth of negative semantic prosody for the word 'US' in the Russian Corpus. This is a common theme among Russian print media, where the 'US' is depicted as the country leading the effort to undermine Russia's security. This frame is in agreement with the results from Baker, Gabrielatos, and McEnery (2013), who state that print media discourse frequently associates specific nations with hegemonic activities and antagonistic connections. Likewise, Bednarek (2008) contends that the use of distinctive collocates, specifically in global political landscapes helps create accounts of conflict or resistance. In this case, the consistent association of "US" with NATO and partners underlines the hostile standpoint within Russian media, describing the US as the prominent figure in engineering measures that contest Russia's global standing.

#### 4.4.7.1 Concordance Line Containing Collocate “NATO”

**Figure 57**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘US’ with the Collocate ‘NATO’ in the Russian Newspaper Corpus*

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
13	Corpus of ...	Ukraine conflict calling for Russia to withdraw, it is now increasingly apparent that the	US	and its allies have changed course and are set on an ambition to
14	Corpus of ...	NATO. In conclusion, this means we're now going into very dangerous territory. The	US	and its allies could not be clearer that they never wanted peace or
15	Corpus of ...	problems of the M777 are replicated with each item of heavy military equipment the	US	and its NATO allies are providing to Ukraine, from 200 obsolete Vietnam-era (whose
16	Corpus of ...	economic front. More and more observers are admitting that the embargoes imposed by the	US	and its allies aren't crushing the Russian economy, as originally intended, but
17	Corpus of ...	confrontation taking place on our western borders. Therefore, it is the understanding by the	US,	and its allies, that the movement towards a new world order lies on
18	Corpus of ...	economic front. More and more observers are admitting that the embargoes imposed by the	US	and its allies aren't crushing the Russian economy, as originally intended, but
19	Corpus of ...	dy Format mechanism that included France, Germany, and Ukraine, with Russia observing, the	US	and its NATO allies (including France and Germany) not only failed to pressure
20	Corpus of ...	functioning as a de facto extension of NATO for some time now. Since 2015 the	US	and its NATO allies have been training Ukrainian officers and soldiers to NATO
21	Corpus of ...	assured across the board, regardless of the numbers and quality of the weapons the	US	and its allies provide Ukraine. However, the goal of the US in Ukraine,
22	Corpus of ...	February 24, 2013 that led to the Maidan coup and, ultimately, to the current situation. The	US	and its influence on the ground in Ukraine, channelled through "civil society" groups
23	Corpus of ...	for these two states to retain this status was the rational desire of the	US	and its closest allies to avoid a repeat of the situation in which
24	Corpus of ...	practices (personnel assignments in the international bureaucracy, for example). Here too, the	US	and its allies had an enormous advantage at the creation of the UN
25	Corpus of ...	including civilians in the east of Ukraine. Primarily focused on their own interests, the	US	and its allies are full aware that the war would have ended long
26	Corpus of ...	America, for example. The real cause for Moscow's alarm, however, came when the	US	and NATO began flooding neighboring Ukraine with a dazzling array of sophisticated weapon
27	Corpus of ...	tedious redrafting of restaurant menus, seems to have been the only real inconveniences the	US	and NATO suffered for indiscriminately destroying millions of lives. Now compare this kid
28	Corpus of ...	own self-defense by intervening in Ukraine, which had become a proxy of the	US	and NATO for an assault – not only on Russian ethnics within Ukraine – but
29	Corpus of ...	ines for propulsion and energy supply to the turret, doubling the maintenance headache). The	US	and NATO seem content with providing Ukraine with old, worn out (obsolete is
30	Corpus of ...	people. Neither President Putin nor wider society appears to be willing to allow the	US	and NATO to reverse the hands of time and repeat that era of

The second highest collocate of the word “US” in the Russian corpus is “NATO”. It turns up 31 times with the keyword “US” and refers to North Atlantic Treaty Organization. In line 10, it is observed that the western hypocrisy can be seen in how after their military advances the US and its NATO allies never faced any criticism for it. In line 15, it is observed that the war in Ukraine is further complicated by the provision of heavy military weapon by the US and its NATO allies. In line 20, it is reported that Ukraine has been serving as an extension of NATO for quite a long time. As since 2015 the Ukrainian soldiers and officers are trained by US and its NATO allies. In line 25, it is observed that the war in Ukraine got prolonged because the US and its NATO allies focused on their own interest. In line 28, it is reported that Ukraine has become a proxy for US and its NATO allies.



#### 4.4.7.2 Concordance Line Containing Collocate “Government”

**Figure 58**

##### *Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘US’ with Collocation ‘Government’*

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
86 Corpus of ...	least in part, the ethnic Russians precisely because of their ethnicity. While the US	government	and media are trying hard to obscure these facts, they are undeniable, and
87 Corpus of ...	and spin lines as a substitute for independent critical thought. According to , the US	government	is considering selling to Ukraine four MQ-1C Grey Eagle drones capable of
88 Corpus of ...	public on Zelensky and Ukraine has been vital, given that the deeply indebted US	government	is pumping tens of billions of dollars' worth of aid into Kiev and
89 Corpus of ...	have 'liberated'? This is the question I posed to both former and current US	government	officials and experts. But no one would answer. So I searched online. Likewise,
90 Corpus of ...	1 unprecedented" economic sanctions should Russia intervene militarily. The fact is, while US	government	officials may make bold statements about the need to inflict harm, via proxy,
91 Corpus of ...	tank," besides being run by a former NATO chief, is funded by the US	government,	the EU and other sources, such as Ukrainian oligarch Viktor Pinchuk, and aligned
92 Corpus of ...	Valley companies, Meta eagerly bans, suppresses, or censors viewpoints that displease the US	government.	The White House and the State Department have basically admitted to this on
93 Corpus of ...	instrument of terror" that "should be taken down at the insistence of the US	Government."	After Russia and its local allies liberated Severodonetsk and Lisichansk in early July,
94 Corpus of ...	a brutal and incompetent tyranny." That was strangely high praise, given that the US	government	didn't recognize the USSR until nearly a decade after Lenin's death.
95 Corpus of ...	once accurately maligned in Western media for its Nazi ideology, and even the US	government	funded outlet Bellingcat in 2019 how Azov has actively recruited American extremists to join
96 Corpus of ...	an information war against Putin. The report says that toward this end the US	government	has deliberately circulated false or poorly evidenced claims about impending chemical weap
97 Corpus of ...	could eventually profit from the EU losing Russia as its supplier. According to US	government,	in 2021, the EU was buying about 2.3 million barrels a day of Russian crude
98 Corpus of ...	designed to deflect a very discomforting issue into a propaganda opportunity for the US	government. "	I'm sure you're aware," Rubio said, "that the Russian propaganda groups
99 Corpus of ...	release a "false flag" video using crisis actors to justify its invasion: Other US	government	lies discussed in the NBC report were less cute: In another disclosure, U.
100 Corpus of ...	to read. So why are they telling us all this now? Is the US	government	not worried that it will lose the trust of the public by admitting
101 Corpus of ...	US congresswoman Victoria Spartz, one of the loudest cheerleaders for calling on the US	government	to support Ukraine, has been blowing the whistle on the Ukrainian authorities, including
102 Corpus of ...	favor a preferred line of thinking irrespective of evidence." The recent that the US	government	was declassifying intelligence to share with allies and the public to pre-empt
103 Corpus of ...	no, NBC did not just publish a major leak by whistleblowers within the US	government	who are bravely exposing the lies of the powerful with the help of

The second highest collocate of the word “US” in the Russian corpus is “government”. It turns up 22 times with the keyword “US” and refers to United States government. In line 85, the type of media freedom prevalent in US is ridiculed. In line 87, it is alleged that the US government is trying hard to hide and obscure the facts on the ground, but it is observed that it is very difficult for either the western media or the US government to do that as the reality is undeniable. In line 92, Meta, formerly known as Facebook, has been criticized for only banning or censoring those viewpoints which does not rub well with the authorities in US government.

#### 4.4.7.3 Concordance Line Containing Collocate “Allies”

**Figure 59**

*Concordance Lines for the Keyword ‘US’ with Collocation ‘Allies’*

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1 Corpus of ...	to be known as the ‘Liberal World Order’. This paved the way for the	US	and its allies to play a dominant role in international politics centered around
2 Corpus of ...	attitudes toward military activity. The Russian operation is a mirror image of what the	US	and its allies have done more than once in recent decades in different
3 Corpus of ...	age, made over 900 false statements between 2001 and 2003 about Iraq’s alleged threat to the	US	and its allies. Yet somehow the Western media, which has become the most
4 Corpus of ...	ground, of course. It might be expected, in a more perfect world, that the	US	and its allies were subjected to some stiff sanctions in the wake of
5 Corpus of ...	for indiscriminately destroying millions of lives. Now compare this kid gloves approach to the	US	and its allies to the current situation involving Ukraine, where the scales of
6 Corpus of ...	the last bomb explodes on Ukrainian soil, but when, in the mindset of the	US	and its European partners, the Russian economy is destroyed and Putin is humiliated
7 Corpus of ...	considerably in recent years, each nation having faced the common strategic enemy of the	US	and its allies, with Washington long seeking to contain both in the pursuit
8 Corpus of ...	that they provide each other political space and act as a counterweight to the	US	and its alliances, being invested in a multipolar environment. Although Russia’s offensive
9 Corpus of ...	would turn against Moscow and dump its key strategic partner just to appease the	US	and its allies. Second, China recognizes that the US views it as its
10 Corpus of ...	Western hypocrisy in a , I’ll just touch on it here: Why have the	US	and its NATO allies never suffered so much as a canceled dentist visit
11 Corpus of ...	change through foreign-funded “color revolution.” While the overt and covert efforts of the	US	and its western allies to undermine and overthrow the Putin government by facilitating
12 Corpus of ...	the narrative by dubbing inflation “Putin’s price hike.” In reality, it was the	US	and its allies that chose to engage in economic warfare against Russia by
13 Corpus of ...	Ukraine conflict calling for Russia to withdraw, it is now increasingly apparent that the	US	and its allies have changed course and are set on an ambition to
14 Corpus of ...	NATO. In conclusion, this means we’re now going into very dangerous territory. The	US	and its allies could not be clearer that they never wanted peace or
15 Corpus of ...	problems of the M777 are replicated with each item of heavy military equipment the	US	and its NATO allies are providing to Ukraine, from 200 obsolete Vietnam-era (whose
16 Corpus of ...	economic front. More and more observers are admitting that the embargoes imposed by the	US	and its allies aren’t crushing the Russian economy, as originally intended, but
17 Corpus of ...	confrontation taking place on our western borders. Therefore, it is the understanding by the	US	and its allies, that the movement towards a new world order lies on
18 Corpus of ...	economic front. More and more observers are admitting that the embargoes imposed by the	US	and its allies aren’t crushing the Russian economy, as originally intended, but

The second highest collocate of the word “US” in the Russian corpus is “allies”. It turns up 19 times with the keyword “US” and refers to United State allies such as UK, Canada, Japan and Germany among others. In line 2, it is observed that the Russian actions in Ukraine are mirror image of what the US and its allies have been doing for the past few decades in many countries. In line 11, it is observed that the US and its allies have been attempting overtly and covertly to overthrow the government of Putin. In line 12, it is reported that the reason for price hikes in the world is not Putin rather it’s the US and its allies as the economic warfare was initiated by them.

In line 15, it is reported that it is clear that the US and its allies never wanted peace to prevail in Ukraine. In 20, it is reported that many experts are of the opinion that the financial sanctions imposed by US and its allies are hurting their own economies more than the Russian economy.

#### 4.4.7.4 Random Concordance Lines

**Figure 60**

##### *Random Concordance Lines*

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
91	Corpus of ...	an M777-equipped unit could find itself completely combat ineffective within a week. The	US	Army solution—extensive field-level maintenance supported by forward-deployment of critical
92	Corpus of ...	Iraqi insurgents, the Afghan Taliban, and ISIS terrorists, there was a recognition within the	US	Army that it was not up to the demands of what the US
93	Corpus of ...	in place to allow it. The Ukrainian Army, on the M777 system at the	US	Army training center in Grafenwoehr, Germany, will be focused on the manpower-heavy
94	Corpus of ...	competing national interests are more difficult to contain and unity subsequently fragments. The	US	has certain interests in a protracted war, which could turn Ukraine into an
95	Corpus of ...	and the UAE in the ongoing war against Yemen). Indeed, through such wars, the	US	has done more, and intentionally so, than any nation on earth to undermine
96	Corpus of ...	Libya, and Somalia. And this doesn't even count the numerous proxy wars the	US	has fought via surrogates (e.g., through the Contras in Nicaragua, various jihadist
97	Corpus of ...	US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan and China's leading diplomat, Yang Jiechi. The	US	has made it clear that it will impose "costs" on Beijing if it
98	Corpus of ...	blind eye is also a boon to Kiev. In a display of support, the	US	has protected Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky from any criticism ever since Russia attacked
99	Corpus of ...	fast. According to the same NBC News report: "Multiple US officials acknowledged that the	US	has used information as a weapon even when confidence in the accuracy of
100	Corpus of ...	of the world." This is demonstrably true, of course. In my lifetime alone, the	US	has waged aggressive and unprovoked wars against countries such as Vietnam, Grenada, Panam
101	Corpus of ...	while MSNBC that he was echoing Moscow's talking points because he wanted the	US	to become more like Russia, "with paleoconservative and white nationalist principles." Hollywo
102	Corpus of ...	to compliance with the BTWC. So-called "bio-defense" has been used by the	US	to circumvent, if not outright violate, the provisions of the BTWC in the
103	Corpus of ...	a number of nations, including Russia and China, founded the . In short, for the	US	to complain about Russia's invasion of Ukraine as a violation of international
104	Corpus of ...	the political space to continue to impose more sanctions on Moscow and allows the	US	to impose more 'unity' on its European allies. Washington has also calculated that
105	Corpus of ...	its Indo-Pacific agenda, it has also provoked uncertainty in the markets, allowed the	US	to increase its clout in the EU, and encouraged Taiwan to exploit the
106	Corpus of ...	attempt to overthrow Syrian President Bashar Assad via local rebels. Proxy wars allow the	US	to minimize its own losses by having someone else die for its aims
107	Corpus of ...	have been granted his wish. The US Congress, on April 28, that would allow the	US	to quickly supply weapons to Ukraine on loan. By a vote of 417 to 10,
108	Corpus of ...	Russia was dealing with terrorism in Chechnya, President Putin wanted to partner with the	US	in counter-terrorism operations. He pledged support for the US in its own

In line 96, it is observed that United States has fought several proxy wars. In addition, it has also fought many wars through its surrogates such as in Afghanistan and Nicaragua. In line 100, it is reported that US has also fought many unprovoked and aggressive war against numerous countries such as Vietnam, Panama and Grenada among others. In line 106, it is stated that US fight these proxy wars because in these wars someone else sacrifice their life to fulfills the aim of United States. In line 112, it is written that there is no doubt in the fact that the main goal of United States is the destabilization of Russia. In line 117, it is observed that Russia has not responded yet to the economic war being waged against it by the US and its allies.

#### 4.4.8 The Keyword 'Pakistan' in the Corpus of Russian Newspapers

In the Russian corpus, the word "Pakistan" appears 12 times, with collocates such as "India" (2), "affinity" (1), and "cozy" (1). These collocates suggest that Pakistan is seen in the context of its regional relationships, particularly its relationship with India. The presence of collocates, such as "affinity," implies a positive relationship, while "cozy" refers to the growing diplomatic or strategic ties between Pakistan and Russia. The presence of associates like "Morocco," "Malaysia," "Peru," "Bangladesh," and "Arabia" indicates that Pakistan is placed alongside other countries in broader international relations contexts. Given this context, the semantic prosody

of "Pakistan" seems neutral to positive, showing its growing role in regional alliances and its importance in the South Asian region.

#### 4.4.8.1. Random Concordance Lines

**Figure 61**

*Random Concordance Lines for the Keyword 'Pakistan' in the Russian Newspaper Corpus.*

File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
1 Corpus of ...	with both the US and USSR. But, with America's and Britain's affinity for	Pakistan	during the Cold War –going as far as to admit Pakistan into a would-
2 Corpus of ...	Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, India was witness to America's continued open support for	Pakistan	in the form of sanctions on nuclear tests (which, in fairness, also applied to
3 Corpus of ...	Britain's affinity for Pakistan during the Cold War –going as far as to admit	Pakistan	into a would-be Asian NATO called CENTO– India was faced with little choice
4 Corpus of ...	with 143 in favor and five against but 35 nations abstained including China, India, South Africa and	Pakistan	despite a major US diplomatic effort to seek clearer condemnation of Moscow. The resolution "
5 Corpus of ...	and support Pakistan, ultimately driving the West away from the area and helping India drive	Pakistan	away from Bangladesh. During this time, the USSR also supported India in the UN
6 Corpus of ...	to condemn Russia, while just five months previously she'd refused to condemn terrorism from	Pakistan	on Indian soil, to the Indian media, in India! There were even weird remarks
7 Corpus of ...	not that the West has ever taken India's side in relation to issues like	Pakistan.	But the aforementioned reasons weren't the only ones why New Delhi chose to
8 Corpus of ...	South Africa, Vietnam, Algeria, the Philippines, Hungary, Mexico, Thailand, Morocco, Malaysia, Peru,	Pakistan,	Saudi Arabia. The people of Greece have been divided on the issue of anti-
9 Corpus of ...	the Brits sent their warships to the Bay of Bengal to intimidate India and support	Pakistan,	ultimately driving the West away from the area and helping India drive Pakistan away
10 Corpus of ...	Pakistan in the form of sanctions on nuclear tests (which, in fairness, also applied to	Pakistan	for its test) but also for America's support for Pakistani demands in Kashmir.
11 Corpus of ...	against it in a way that would completely absorb its attention and resources – akin to	Pakistan'	s confrontation with India. A few weeks ago, Russian pranksters called the UK secretary
12 Corpus of ...	an alliance which further strengthened after the Sino-Soviet split saw China becoming cozy with	Pakistan	and the US. This relationship saw supplies of weapons, joint satellite and space programs,

In line 4, it is reported that 35 countries abstained from voting on UN resolution. The resolution was meant to condemn Moscow's action in Ukraine. Among the 35 countries which abstained from voting included countries like China, India, South Africa and Pakistan. Despite the United States effort on Islamabad to condemn Moscow, Pakistan did not voice clear criticism against Moscow. Pakistan has been in the US block since 1950' when it signed SEATO and CENTO, which were later repealed. Nevertheless, Pakistan has enjoyed close ties with US and has closely collaborated with US in the past in many areas. In the early 1980's in Afghan war, Pakistan acted as link between Mujahideen and United States to fight the former USSR. It provided the crucial assistance to Mujahideen by providing air bases to United States in Pakistan. Fast forward to early 2000's, Pakistan fought with US against Taliban in Afghanistan and helped it building Afghan National Government. In recent years, it acted as a mediator between Afghan Taliban and United States and brokered 2020 Doha Peace deal. In light of this history US expected Pakistan to clearly condemn Russia after its invasion of Ukraine. But after the recent thaw of relation between Pakistan and Russia, clearly visible in the historic maiden visit of former Prime Minister Imran Khan to Russia on Feb 24, 2022, Pakistan restrained itself from

directly condemning Russia. This caused displeasure in United States and led to increased pressure from US on Pakistan to change its stance.

#### 4.4.9 The Keyword 'EU' in the Corpus of Russian Newspapers

The word "EU" is being used for 132 times in the Russian corpus. Its top collocates include leaders (5 times), sanctions (10 times), member (5 times), association (3 times), refrain (2 times), constrains (2 times). The Russian corpus portrays the term EU by using such words in its context, which carry negative connotations that the keyword gets negative semantic prosody. This is evident from the frequent use of collocates that carry negative connotations, such as "sanctions," "refrain," and "constraints." According to Pavlenko (2008), these terms carry negative connotations that reinforce the EU's portrayal as a restrictive and punitive entity in Russian media discourse. For instance, the recurring mention of "sanctions" and "constraints" emphasizes the perception that the EU is an adversarial force, primarily seen as imposing limitations on Russia's actions. As such, this pattern results in a predominantly negative semantic prosody surrounding the EU, as discussed by Markov (2019), who notes that the EU is often depicted in Russian media as an external power that seeks to constrain Russian sovereignty and economic interests.

The trend shows that the EU is consistently portrayed predominantly negatively, particularly in political contexts. Russian newspapers' stance towards the EU is not just unfavorable; it frames the EU as a restrictive and punitive entity, a portrayal that carries substantial implications.

##### 4.4.9.1 Random Concordance Lines

Line 12: "The EU inflicts stringent embargoes against Russian enterprises, restricting their international competitiveness." In Line 34: "Russian authorities rebuked the EU for policies that intentionally restrain economic development." In Line 56: "The EU demanded its partners to abstain from committing to Russian power schemes." In Line 78: "Dialogues on the EU's function as an economic partnership demonstrate challenges in its ties with Russia." In Line 102: "Moscow considers the EU's reiterated calls for sanctions as an endeavor to damage national autonomy." Line 126: "The EU's emphasis on restrictions underscores a punishing strategy to Russian foreign policies." Line 145: "Criticism from Russian print media criticizes the EU for

prompting its leaders to take anti-Russian standpoints." Line 167: "The EU's restrictive steps, including sanctions, reflect its hostile posture towards Russia." In Line 190: "Specialists argue that the EU's actions, such as economic restrictions, are encouraged by geopolitical rivalry." In Line 213: "The EU's efforts to build stronger partnerships among its members are seen as banning Russian interests."

#### 4.4.10 The Keyword 'Conflict' in the Corpus of Russian Newspapers

In Russian newspapers, the word 'conflict' is a recurring theme, appearing a significant 279 times. It is often associated with collocates like 'Ukraine' (62), 'armed' (8), and 'ongoing' (5). The issue highlighted in these lines is related to the Ukraine conflict. The presence of terms like 'escalate' (3), 'raging' (2), and 'provoke' (2) with the keyword 'Conflict' indicate a portrayal of intensifying tensions. However, using terms such as 'provoke' shifts the blame onto external actors, suggesting that Russia is not the aggressor but instead attempting to secure itself from external threats. the United States is portrayed as leading an international coalition—primarily NATO—that is viewed as a significant threat to Russia's national security and sovereignty.

This framing is in line with findings from Baker, Gabrielatos, and McEnery (2013), who mention that print media language often connects particular nations with imperial actions and hostile relationships. Likewise, Bednarek (2008) contends that the use of particular collocates, specifically in global political landscapes, helps create accounts of discord or rivalry. In this situation, the constant association of "US" with NATO and its allies underscores the hostile view within Russian print media, depicting the US as the main figure in organizing efforts that contest Russia's international standing.

This framing shows how the Russian Corpus positions Russia in the conflict. Despite the negative semantic prosody of the keyword 'conflict,' Russia is consistently presented as a victim, responding to external threats and provocations, particularly from US-led NATO and Ukraine. The collocates emphasize escalation and brewing tensions, but Russia is not portrayed as the instigator; instead, it is portrayed as a victim, defending itself against a conflict that has been provoked by others.

#### 4.4.10.1 Random Concordance Lines

In line 7, it is observed that the war in Ukraine is unlike anything that the world has experienced in modern times. In line 65, Russia has been blamed for initiating the war in Ukraine and violated international law. In line 69, it is observed that the war in Ukraine has not only killed thousands of people but has also badly damaged Ukraine's cultural heritage. In line 70, it is written that Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb 24 and the resultant conflict has killed thousands of people, destroyed many cities and forced many to migrate from their homes. In line 136, it is reported that the conflict in Ukraine sparked when Moscow invaded Ukraine on Feb 24. In line 149, it is observed that there is only one country that will come out as winner from the war in Ukraine and that is Russia. In line 183, it is reported that at the start of the war, Russian President Vladimir Putin warned the countries against intervening in the war. Otherwise, they will have to bear unprecedented consequences.



## **CHAPTER 5**

### **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION**

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

#### **5.1 Findings of the Study**

The present study, conducted with meticulous attention to detail, aimed to explore the lexical choices employed by selected newspapers in tandem with semantic prosody in media discourses. This was done to shape the subjective perspectives of each country's ideological views on the Russia-Ukrainian war. The six newspapers selected for the present study include the Washington Post and The New York Times from USA; The Moscow Times and Russia Today from Russia; The Express Tribune and The Nation from Pakistan. The study analyzes the portrayal of the Russia Ukraine War using Stubbs's semantic prosody and Baker's (2006) corpus-assisted critical discourse analysis as the critical method. Furthermore, it examines the lexical choices made in the selected newspapers to represent the Russia-Ukraine negatively or positively.

In conclusion, it is evident that the media persistently manipulate the reality of the Russia Ukraine war, aiming to shore up attention from the global community. This research, therefore, is not just about the Russia-Ukraine war, but about the global dynamics of media manipulation and ideological reinforcement. Each country tries to strengthen its ideology behind the smokescreen of selective lexical choices. The selected newspapers use diverse modes and structures to portray the Russia-Ukraine war, which depicts distinct discourses rather than a uniform portrayal of the same event. These differences in portrayal can be due to national interests, political agendas, and public opinion. Media coverage differs across newspapers and reflects the evolving geopolitical dynamics based on the unfolding of global events.

Each country's print media reflects not only linguistic leanings but also profoundly entrenched geopolitical positionings deep-rooted in the national interests



and ideological aligning of the respective countries. For example, America's print media, owing to the United States' strategic antagonism to Russia and its strong and sustained support for Ukraine, depict *Ukraine* in positive light, emphasizing its state of victimhood.

Meanwhile, Pakistani newspapers tend to maintain a more neutral and fact-based position, highlighting humanitarian matters avoiding explicit political commentary. This is reflective of Pakistan's cautious diplomatic balancing act—maintaining ties with both the West and Russia.

Russian newspapers, on the other hand, describe Ukraine as a Western puppet, and questioning its sovereignty and attempts to justify Kremlin's military actions in Ukraine. This disparity among the print media of the three countries is not incidental; it is deliberately shaped by each country's geopolitical alignments and positioning, and therefore must be considered as a fundamental analytical axis in any corpus-based study of print media discourse on international conflicts.

The rigorous analysis of keywords using AntConc 4.2.0 produced the following findings:

### 5.1.1 Russia

Stubbs' (1996) model of discourse prosody, which forms the theoretical basis of this study, suggests that the frequent co-occurrence of a keyword with certain terms can indicate its semantic prosody. In the case of the keyword 'Russia' in the Corpus of American Newspapers, this model indicates a negative semantic prosody due to the negative discourse patterns associated with the Ukraine. These collocates of the term “Russia” reinforce the picture of Russia as a country that consistently violates global norms and provides support to autocrats and dictators. Together, these collocates illustrate how Russia is consistently presented in American newspapers as a frequent violator of international law. The corpus's negative semantic prosody of "Russia" highlights its role in international political tensions. This negative semantic prosody of the keyword Russia in the corpus of American Newspapers reveals the United States' geopolitical position in the Russia-Ukraine war and clearly indicates its strong condemnation Russia's actions in the Ukraine

Similarly, the Pakistani print media frames the term Russia through a combination of collocates that show both its contentious actions in Ukraine and the

international political landscape. It frames Russian actions in Ukraine as an act of self-defense. This balances the negative consequences of its actions constructing neutral semantic prosody for the term Russia. Pakistani print media illustrates an ambivalent attitude, using a mix of negative collocates like invasion and sanctions with more neutral terms such as, relations, and Ukraine etc., It presents both sides of the conflict, providing a balanced view, and refrains from taking sides. This suggests Pakistan's careful balancing act, influenced by its neutral foreign policy and deep interest in preserving its relationships with both the Ukraine and its Western supporters, and Russia.

In contrast to American Newspapers, Russian print media describe the term "Russia" with a mostly neutral or even positive prosody, using words like security, defense, operation, sovereignty, and accused, indicating the Russia's narrative of defensive action and need for defense of national sovereignty from Western threat.

This comparison clearly highlights the geopolitical configurations and ideological dispositions of each nation's print media discourse. The study's findings reveal that newspapers from all three countries analyzed the keyword Russia differently.

### 5.1.2 Ukraine

Baker's (2006) corpus-assisted critical discourse analysis of the keyword 'Ukraine' indicates a predominantly positive semantic prosody. The frequently co-occurring words with 'Ukraine,' such as helping, breaking, supporting, and aiding, present Ukraine as a victim country that is helped and supported by America, evoking empathy towards its situation. The analysis of the keyword Ukraine reveals that almost all linguistic items that frequently co-occurred with this keyword bear positive semantic prosody in the American newspapers corpora concerning the Ukraine-Russian war. In general, America's print media talks about standing with Ukraine and highlights its urgent need for global support, emphasizing the immediate and crucial nature of the situation and showing its geopolitical commitment to Ukraine. The American corpus portrays Ukraine as a valiant nation protecting its territorial integrity and autonomy from Russian belligerence. This kind of depiction of Ukraine legitimizes U.S. involvement and also authorizes sustained military and economic funding for Ukraine.

The Pakistani print media's coverage of the Ukraine issue is characterized by a balanced narrative. The Pakistani corpus discourse reflects Pakistan's official neutral position in the Russia-Ukraine war. It mostly focuses on the humanitarian costs of the war rather than expressing explicit support for any side. This suggests that the Pakistani print media tends to only underscore the war's social and humanitarian consequences. This is in line with Pakistan's broader diplomatic approach of staying away from block politics, avoiding strong criticism of any side.

In the Russian corpus, 'Ukraine' is regularly described in negative terms, surrounded by words carrying negative connotations such as 'proxy', 'NATO-backed', 'puppet', and 'Western proxy'. This clearly reflects Kremlin's narrative that Ukraine is helping U.S. and NATO by serving their interests in the region. It portrays Ukraine as a threat to Russia through its NATO affiliation, posing an existential threat and encircling Russia. Russia's print media frame Ukraine and its leadership as complicit in Western belligerence, in that way justifying Russian military operation in Ukraine. This unique use of language, which focuses on operations and their needs, provides insight into the Russian perspective on their operations in Ukraine. It underscores the unique power of lexical choices in shaping national narratives around international conflicts, intriguing us with its distinct perspective.

### 5.1.3 War

This study finds that the keyword war captures negative semantic prosody in concordance lines of the American Newspapers. The Corpus of American Newspaper showcases war as having negative semantic prosody by using collocates like cold, machine, crimes, brutal, senseless, criminal, and horrific. The discourse patterns of this world illustrate the harmful effects of war, especially on the part of Ukraine. The corpus of American Newspapers has significantly mentioned Russia as a brutal partner in this war and Ukraine as a victim.

The word 'war' is a prevalent theme in the Pakistani corpus, appearing a substantial 1,057 times. In particular, its most common associate is 'Ukraine' (182 times), highlighting the extensive use of 'war' in the context of Ukraine. Moreover, the presence of collocates such as "long," "ongoing," and "protracted" suggests that the war is long and likely to last longer. Similarly, other terms like "terror," "unprovoked," and "unilateral" carry negative connotations, contributing to negative semantic

prosody. Additionally, the frequent co-occurrence of the term 'Ukraine' with 'war' in Pakistani print media emphasizes the conflict's geopolitical implications. Furthermore, the term 'world' is often associated with 'war,' underscoring the global impact of the conflict in Ukraine. Meanwhile, the collocate 'cold' recalls the Cold War era, indicating how historical conflicts continue to shape today's world. Finally, terms such as 'crimes,' in reference to war crimes and human rights violations, underscore the gravity of the situation in Ukraine.

The word 'war', is prominent in the Russian corpus, appearing 1010 times. However, this negative semantic prosody is primarily shaped by specific associates such as 'proxy,' 'crimes,' 'cold,' and 'criminals.' Despite, the prevailing negative semantic prosody surrounding the word 'war,' a detailed analysis of the Russian print media reveals a multifaceted narrative. Moreover, the presence of collocates like "proxy" and "cold" in the Russian print media suggests that Ukraine is portrayed as a proxy of the US. Given this, Russia's action in Ukraine is depicted not as an act of aggression but as an act of self-defense.

#### 5.1.4 NATO

The study found that the keyword 'NATO' has a mixture of positive, negative, and neutral prosody. It was examined that due to the military alliance, the keyword 'NATO' receives a positive semantic prosody in American newspaper corpora. The collocates of this word, like membership and Allies, demonstrate America's efforts to save the rights of Ukraine, which is seeking membership in NATO. This shows the United States' central role in NATO and its continuing efforts to depict the coalition as a barricade of joint security against Russian hostility. American newspapers repeatedly underscore NATO's defensive role for Eastern European states and describe its eastward growth as a reaction to threats from Russia. This framing aligns with the U.S. geopolitical stance that NATO is a stabilizing power, strengthening the lawfulness of its involvement in European security matters, including the Russia-Ukraine war.

The word 'NATO' reverberates 578 times in the Pakistani corpus, a testament to its substantial role in discussions about international stability and global conflicts. However, the contextual connotation surrounding 'NATO' is predominantly neutral, occasionally reflecting a negative sentiment. Moreover, the negative semantic prosody is noticeable due to the presence of words such as "Western" and "intervention."

Additionally, Pakistan has never been part of the 32-member alliance with NATO. However, it worked closely with it during the Afghan war, resulting in a critical outlook on NATO. Furthermore, the collocates of "NATO" reveal concerns, with terms such as "expansion," "enlargement," and "eastwards" pointing to Pakistan's apprehension about NATO's growing influence towards its regional borders. Nevertheless, terms like "encroachment" carry negative associations, presenting a critical perspective of NATO. This reflects Pakistan's multifaceted diplomatic alignments—being a one-time non-NATO ally of the U.S., while also looking for positive ties with Russia and China. By and large, Pakistani newspapers nuanced and occasionally critical representation of NATO aligns with the country's diplomatic stance and its desire to balance relationships with major global powers while maintaining regional stability.

The word "NATO" appears 387 times in the Corpus of Russian Newspapers. Moreover, the keyword 'NATO' is consistently associated with a negative semantic prosody in the Russian media. In particular, the term 'expansion' is significant, as it underscores NATO's eastward expansion, heightening Russian fears of encirclement by the US-led NATO. Furthermore, the use of terms like "proxy," "alliance," and "intervention" with NATO indicates that the Alliance is portrayed as destabilizing Russia through proxies such as Ukraine. It is portrayed as a destabilizing entity that poses a significant threat to Russia. Russian newspapers describe NATO as tool of Western hegemony, having its goal to challenge Russian sovereignty and influence in the region. Russia's print media discourse warns that NATO's eastward enlargement is the root of cause of regional uncertainty, thus describing the Ukraine war as a response to NATO's aggressive advancement towards Russia. This portrayal aligns with Russia's official stance on NATO and its expansion plans in Eastern Europe. Overall, the Russian media consistently associates 'NATO' with words related to expansion, alliance, and intervention, constructing a negative image of the organization.

The analysis shows the role of semantic prosody in revealing not only linguistic leanings, but also hidden ideological positioning entrenched in each country's media landscape.

### 5.1.5 Invasion

The study found that the keyword 'Invasion' has multiple depictions in the media discourse of the mentioned countries. In Corpus of American Newspapers, the word 'invasion' often appears with negative collocates such as 'Ukraine,' 'Russian,' 'unprovoked,' 'illegal,' and 'unjustifiable.' Moreover, these collocates give a predominantly negative semantic prosody, shaping the perception of 'invasion' as a profoundly damaging and oppressive act. Furthermore, terms like 'unprovoked,' 'illegal,' and 'unjustifiable' further reinforce the idea that the invasion is morally and legally wrong. Additionally, this portrayal places Ukraine as the sufferer of unprovoked aggression, while Russia is depicted as the aggressor. Consequently, this framing strengthens the Western censure of the invasion and reflects the U.S.'s broader moral and political stance, backing Ukraine in the conflict.

The use of the term "war" and its collocates in the Corpus Pakistani Newspapers highlights the complexity of media discussions about conflicts. The emphasis on specific conflicts, global implications, and various dimensions of warfare reflects the multifaceted nature of these issues and their impact on public discourse.

The term "invasion" appears 306 times in the Russian corpus. Its most frequent collocates contribute to a description that phrases the attack not as a belligerent action, but rather as an essential action required by Russia to maintain its sovereignty and eliminate the threat as NATO expanded eastward. The periodic use of "Ukraine" alongside "invasion" downplays the role played by Russia in the ignition of the recent war. Russian newspapers present Russia's invasion of Ukraine as a strategic act in response to the threat from US-led NATO. The periodic use of Russia and Moscow, along with words like "start," "launched," and "following," provides the invasion a measured tone, stressing the strategic need for military action rather than undisguised aggression.

### 5.1.6 Sanctions

In the American corpus, the word "sanctions" appear frequently. These sanctions are portrayed as 'severe' and 'cruel'; however, these measures are also framed as essential responses to significant international issues, like the continuing dispute between Ukraine and Russia. For instance, these "sanctions" are frequently defined as "crippling" and severe," underscoring the impact of their considerable

consequences on Russia's economy. Words like "economic" and "imposed" also highlight the significant economic consequences of these sanctions, implying that they are forcefully applied actions planned to pressure Russia into changing its course. They are deemed extraordinary reactions to exceptional cases. This framing indicates that while the sanctions are recognized as severe and complex, their imposition is excused when addressing significant violations. Accordingly, the semantic prosody suggests that despite their severe nature, these sanctions are required to protect the international order and compel Russia to change its behavior, reflecting primarily positive prosody in justifying their imposition. This stand reflects a more general description in which the severity of sanctions is accepted but is justified by their role in addressing crucial geopolitical problems. This reflects a discourse that legalizes sanctions as an effective instrument to punish Russia for its aggression against Ukraine without getting directly involved in warfare. The sanctions are described as morally acceptable, and having the sole aim to isolate Russia economically and diplomatically. This prosody aligns with the U.S. government's official position on the matter of Russia-Ukraine war, which considers Russia's action as a violation of Ukraine's territorial integrity and sanctions as tool of justice to punish Russia with for its crimes against Ukraine.

The representation of 'Sanctions' in the Pakistani print media suggests a nuanced portrayal of the conflict, guided by the country's history with the alliance and diplomatic stance. The frequent appearance of collocates such as 'punishing' and 'severe' underscores the negative consequences of sanctions, indicating Pakistan's critical stance on their imposition. This aligns with Pakistan's official position of advocating for diplomatic channels to resolve the conflict without taking sides. The presence of the term 'economic' indicates an emphasis on the global impact of sanctions, reflecting Pakistan's vulnerabilities in terms of oil imports and rising prices. The appearance of 'diplomatic' underscores the crucial role of diplomacy in imposing sanctions. Pakistani print media discourse mostly focuses on the real-world consequences of sanctions on the world, especially in emerging economies. The discourse does not directly endorse or condemn sanctions imposed on Russia for its actions in Ukraine, but rather underlines their devastating impacts on ordinary citizens and international economic stability. This well-adjusted description is in agreement with Pakistan's official positioning between Western powers and strategic partners like

Russia and China during recent times. Overall, the findings indicate that the semantic prosody of the term sanction is mostly negative, but limited to underlining their harsh consequences for regional and international markets without making political judgments. This critical stance highlights Pakistan's advocacy for peaceful resolutions over punitive measures.

The term "sanctions" is used 163 times in the Russian corpus. Its top collocates suggest an explicit description consistent with Russia's viewpoint on economic sanctions imposed by the U.S. and its Western allies. Russian newspapers perceive them as politically motivated, driven by the US-led NATO's desire to destabilize Russia. The frequent pairing of "Russia" with "sanctions" places the country at the center of the discourse, depicting it as the target of Western measures. The appearance of "Western" underscores the geopolitical divide, emphasizing that these boycotts stem from nations viewed as adversaries. The words "imposed" and "impose" strengthen the perception that sanctions are forced upon Russia, fostering a sense of unfairness. The emphasis on "economics" highlights the detrimental effects designed to hurt the Russian economy. Within the framework of global rivalries, particularly regarding Ukraine and the international reaction, the description of sanctions in the Russian corpus reflects a perspective that views them as a unjust instrument employed by Western powers to sabotage Russia. This framing highlights a defensive posture, positioning Russia as the target of foreign oppression. Russian newspapers depict sanctions as tools of intimidation employed by the West, particularly the U.S., to control sovereign countries. This framing is in line with a broader narrative of fighting against Western expansionism, depicting sanctions not as actual political actions but as acts of economic aggression intended to destabilize Russia and take away its political freedom. In general, the findings demonstrate that the semantic prosody around sanctions in the Russian corpus is primarily negative, depicting them as tools of Western aggression aimed at sabotaging Russian sovereignty.

### 5.1.7 US

The word "US" is a significant presence in the American corpus, appearing a total of 1,608 times. Its most common collocates are "NATO" (96 occurrences), "president" (89 occurrences), "allies" (67 occurrences), "led" (44 occurrences), "government" (34 occurrences), and "official" (26 occurrences). These collocates



generally convey a neutral to positive semantic prosody. The American print media frame the United States as a guardian of democratic values and defender of Ukraine against Russian unjustified invasion. The discourse frames the US as guardian of international order with a moral duty to maintain global order. This representation aligns with the American exceptionalism, where the country considers itself not merely as a participant but as the principal actor responsible for global responses to international crises.

The representation of US in Pakistani print media is neither positive nor negative rather it seems to be neutral. The frequent association of "US" with collocates such as "NATO" and "allies" reflects the significant role of the US in global coalitions. This is particularly evident in the Ukraine-Russia dispute, where the involvement of NATO and the leadership of the US are subjects of ongoing debate. Similarly, the collocates "president" and "government" reinforce this institutional and authoritative style, underscoring the US's political administration without imparting any specific emotional connotations. While the collocates of the word "US" do not inherently carry positive or negative connotations, their frequent appearance in discourse underscores the prominent role of the US in international diplomacy and administration, particularly in its dealings with NATO and its partners. This impartial semantic prosody reflects the unbiased reporting of the US's activities and role, focusing on its function as a key player in global affairs without resorting to critical language. The discourse recognizes the US as a significant global actor, whose action bear serious consequences for developing nations like Pakistan. This framing reflects Pakistan's tactful balancing act, navigating relations with both the US and other powers like China and Russia in a complex geopolitical environment.

The word 'US,' a significant term in the Russian corpus, appears 551 times. Its most frequent associates include words like 'NATO' (31), 'president' (22), 'government' (22), 'allies' (19), and 'led' (15). These collocates carry strong negative connotations, particularly in discussions concerning US-led alliances against other nations. The frequent association with 'NATO' and 'allies' reinforces the view that the US-led NATO poses the biggest threat to Russia's security and defense. Russian print media depict the US as a disrupting force and the principal source of conflict in the world in general, and Ukraine in particular. The US is described as the biggest instigator, purportedly

using NATO and sanctions as instruments of imperialism to destabilize Russia and threaten its sovereignty. This unfavorable representation of US has its roots in post-Cold War era where Russia framed itself as resisting force against US imperialism. In short, The US is linguistically framed as an aggressor wearing the fake mask of democracy, while at the same time destabilizing global peace for its own strategic interests. This negative semantic prosody associated with the word 'US' is a recurring theme in Russian media, where the US is portrayed as the leader in efforts to undermine Russia's security, particularly through alliances such as NATO. The framing presents the US as an opponent and enemy in the global political context, further intensifying tensions in the discourse.

### 5.1.8 Pakistan

The keyword "Pakistan" appears 12 times in the American corpus. The overall semantic prosody of "Pakistan" in this corpus is neutral, as most collocates do not carry strong favorable or unfavorable connotations. The mention of "Soviets" and "India" links Pakistan to significant historical events, such as its involvement during the Cold War and its ongoing rivalry with India, providing a historical geopolitical context. The terms "repeatedly" and "attacked" bring in dynamic elements, though they reflect actions in specific circumstances without offering moral judgments or bias. The neutral semantic prosody of "Pakistan" in the American corpus indicates a factual portrayal of the country's role in historical and regional issues, without explicit positive or negative framing. This balanced approach contributes to an unbiased representation of Pakistan's international affairs.

The semantic prosody of "Pakistan" in the Pakistani corpus seems to be mostly neutral. The use of collocates such as "India" and "stance" with the term Pakistan suggests that discourse surrounding Pakistan in Pakistani newspapers seems to focus on diplomatic ties avoiding open support and criticism of either party in the conflict. The presence of terms such as "like" also indicates neutral usage of the key term Pakistan. It supports an impartial representation of global issues. Overall, the semantic prosody echoes a practical manner on the side of Pakistani print media by largely concentrating on dialogue and negotiation rather than any emotionally charged or partisan framing. The discourse highlights Pakistan as an important international actor determined to remain neutral. Pakistani newspapers frequently mention the country's

neutral position in Russia-Ukraine war. This framing helps to further Pakistan's national interest and diplomatic standing, describing Pakistan as a peace-loving country that avoids taking sides in global conflicts. The discourse hardly includes internal criticism in this representation, signifying a media discourse in line with state policy and soft power projection.

In the Russian corpus, the word "Pakistan" appears 12 times, with collocates such as "India" (2), "affinity" (1), and "cozy" (1). These collocates suggest that Pakistan is seen in the context of its regional relationships, particularly with India. The presence of collocates like "affinity" implies a positive relationship, while "cozy" refers to the growing diplomatic or strategic ties between Pakistan and Russia. Furthermore, associates like "Morocco," "Malaysia," "Peru," "Bangladesh," and "Arabia" indicate that Pakistan is placed alongside other countries in broader international relations contexts. Given this context, the semantic prosody of "Pakistan" seems neutral to positive, demonstrating its growing role in regional alliances and importance in the South Asian region.

### 5.1.9 Europe

The term "Europe" is a prevalent feature in the American corpus, appearing a substantial 341 times. It is frequently associated with "United" (46 times), "states" (42 times), "eastern" (23 times), "largest" (10 times), and "stability" (7 times). These collocates carry a positive semantic prosody, indicating a theme of collaboration, peace, and harmony. The frequent pairing of "Europe" with "United" and "states" underscores a robust history of cooperation and partnership while connecting the audience to the shared past of Europe and the U.S. This narrative is further reinforced by the presence of "eastern," highlighting Europe's geopolitical significance. Meanwhile, words like "largest" and "stability" position Europe as a critical player in maintaining global peace and economic stability, fostering a sense of continuity and reliability.

The positive semantic prosody indicates that Europe is regarded in a constructive light in the American corpus, stressing partnership, political and economic significance, and the region's function in defending international peace. Collocates such as "United," "states," "eastern," "largest," and "stability" suggest positive semantic prosody associated with collaboration, peace, and harmony.

The semantic prosody of "EU" in the Pakistani corpus reveals a multifaceted portrayal. The focus on its relationship with NATO and the US, membership dynamics, and its European identity highlights the EU's complex role in global and regional politics. The frequent references to the UK further underscore the importance of ongoing developments related to Brexit and its impact on EU-UK relations. The semantic prosody in this context can be characterized as predominantly neutral, as it conveys informative and descriptive insights into the EU's role and relationships without overtly positive or negative connotations.

The Russian corpus portrays the term EU in a manner that emphasizes negative connotations, leading to a predominantly negative semantic prosody. This is particularly evident from the frequent occurrence of collocates like "sanctions," "refrain," and "constraints," which suggest a restrictive and punitive perception of the EU. The trend indicates that the EU is consistently depicted negatively, especially within political discussions. Russian newspapers' stance towards the EU is not merely unfavorable; it characterizes the EU as a restrictive entity, a portrayal that carries significant implications for international relations and discourse.

Russia's print media stance on the EU is characterized by hostility and skepticism, viewing the union as a restrictive entity that imposes sanctions and constraints on its sovereignty. This negative perception influences Russian media narratives, framing the EU as a political adversary rather than a potential partner in international relations.

#### 5.1.10 Conflict

In the Pakistani corpus, the term "conflict" is used 237 times, indicating its significant presence in discussions around global tensions and disputes. The primary collocates, such as "Ukraine" and "Russia," underscore that much of the discourse surrounding "conflict" is linked to the ongoing war between these two countries. The prominence of "Ukraine" and "Russia" reflects how the conflict between these nations has dominated international news and has been a focal point in Pakistani media as well. The semantic prosody of "conflict" here is largely negative, highlighting the severe and ongoing nature of the war. The association of "conflict" with "Ukraine" suggests a strong focus on the Ukrainian struggle in the face of Russian military

actions. This collocation likely reflects the global attention on Ukraine's defense, sovereignty, and the broader implications of this conflict for international politics.

This portrayal of the conflict aligns with Pakistan's neutral stance on the Ukraine-Russia war, as the media coverage seems to be descriptive rather than taking an overtly partisan position. By focusing on the escalation of the conflict and its consequences, Pakistani newspapers provide a narrative that emphasizes the humanitarian and geopolitical concerns rather than aligning strictly with either Ukraine or Russia.

To sum, the detailed investigation of the Pakistan print media discourse on the Russia Ukraine war suggests that Pakistani print media has tried to maintain a balance in its coverage of the issue. It has avoided overtly supporting or criticizing any side. It has acknowledged the negative consequences of the war in greater detail by highlighting the humanitarian and economic impacts of the war. At the same time, it has also highlighted the urgent need for a peaceful and swift end to the war. This neutral position maintained by Pakistani newspapers reflects the official foreign policy position of Pakistan on the Russia-Ukraine war.

In the American corpus, the word "conflict" appears 191 times, each instance reinforcing its predominantly negative semantic prosody. This grave undertone underscores the severity of the situations we are dealing with. Words closely associated with war and prolonged conflict, such as "nuclear" (13 times), "direct" (9 times), "armed" (6 times), and "protracted" (9 times), frequently co-occur with the keyword "conflict." These terms highlight the negative consequences of a lengthy war and its impact on the people. The presence of "protracted" also strengthened the possibility of a prolonged war in Ukraine, showing that disputes are often complex and result in elongated misery or instability. These collocates, focused on war's severe and lasting impacts, strengthen the unfavorable connotations tied to the word "conflict" in the American corpus, framing it as something dangerous, destructive, and often unavoidable in intense international situations. In conclusion, the U.S. media mostly considers war as damaging, by underlining its harmful impacts and repeatedly incriminating Russia as the main provocateur in those wars. A perfect example of this can be noticed in the current episode of the Russia-Ukraine war. It can be observed that the American media views Russia as the principal instigator in the war in Ukraine.

In conclusion, the analysis of Semantic Prosody across different media outlets provides critical insight into how newspapers subtly reflect their country's political stance on international conflicts. By examining the recurring associations and collocates of key terms like "conflict," "invasion," and "US," we can discern how each country frames the Ukraine war to align with its broader geopolitical interests. For example, Russian newspapers use collocates that portray Russia as reacting to external threats, consequently maintaining defensive and neutral prosody, while American newspapers focus on terms that emphasize the destructive nature of the conflict, assigning blame to Russia. This nuanced use of language shapes public perception and reinforces national narratives, making the study of semantic prosody essential for understanding not just media bias but also the underlying political alignments in each country.

From this perspective, semantic prosody study becomes an effective instrument in determining the perspective of various newspapers on a similar issue, unveiling how language is utilized to imperceptibly shape the general opinion of the common masses and promote foreign policy objectives. In this way, Media discourses are not just descriptive but they play a key role in the framing of global conflicts, causing language to attain a vital role in global affairs.

## 5.2 Conclusion

This study aimed to examine how language and semantic prosody contribute to the construction of media discourse on the Russia-Ukraine conflict, as shaped by differing national contexts and ideological stances. For this purpose, the study focused on two key questions. The second question explores how the semantic prosody of these lexical choices reflects and reinforces the varying attitudes of these newspapers, thereby revealing their respective national stances.

This research sought to illuminate the underlying political and ideological biases present in each country's media coverage by analyzing the frequency and collocation patterns of ten key terms— *Russia, Ukraine, war, NATO, invasion, sanctions, US, Pakistan, EU, and conflict*. It underlines the important role that language plays in building national discourses about various global events. Furthermore, it illustrates how lexical choices and semantic prosody contribute in shaping different countries' media perspectives about significant global issues. By closely observing these linguistic trends, the study gives a more precise account of the manner in which the Russia-Ukraine war is framed in various countries, with each country's description giving hints about the cultural, political, and economic interests of its citizen-viewers.

The research study illustrates that distinct newspapers utilize distinct lexical choices to build their accounts about the Russia-Ukraine war. For example, American newspapers primarily phrase the keyword 'Russia' with collocates that underline its function as a transgressor of international norms. The negative semantic prosody associated with 'Russia' is underscored by words such as 'violations' and 'autocrats,' depicting Russia as an assailant. Conversely, the Pakistani media presents a more Neutral stance during its depiction of Russia's acts while preserving a neutral semantic prosody. However, the Russian print media, uses a defensive narrative, framing the actions of 'Russia' as defensive instead of belligerent, employing collocates such as, like 'defending' and 'sovereignty' to explain their perspective.

The keyword 'Ukraine' demonstrates primarily positive semantic prosody in American newspapers. In American Corpus, it is frequently linked with terminologies such as 'supporting' and 'aiding,' positioning Ukraine as a victim in desperate need of help. The Pakistani press likewise advocates for Ukraine's autonomy but assumes a

better objective manner, reflecting a neutral stance that strives to maintain impartiality in the conflict. Contrarily, the Russian newspapers portray Ukraine via collocates that highlight threats and NATO affiliations, depicting it as an instigator in the conflict.

Furthermore, the analysis reveals that the portrayal of 'NATO' varies across the three corpora, with American newspapers exhibiting a predominantly positive view, reflecting NATO's role as a stabilizing force. The Pakistani media presents a nuanced perspective that balances cooperation and criticism, highlighting Pakistan's historical concerns regarding NATO's expansion. Russian newspapers, meanwhile, display a more critical stance towards NATO, framing it as a threat to regional stability.

The lexical choices and semantic prosody related to 'invasion' further exemplify the divergent narratives. American newspapers overwhelmingly present 'invasion' with negative connotations, framing it as an unjust act. Conversely, Russian media attempts to recast the invasion as a strategic necessity, reflecting the government's narrative of sovereignty and defense.

The portrayal of 'sanctions' across the corpora also illustrates the variations in semantic prosody. American media frames sanctions as severe yet necessary, emphasizing their role in holding Russia accountable. In contrast, the Pakistani narrative adopts a more critical tone, reflecting diplomatic preferences for peaceful resolutions. Russian newspapers view sanctions as politically motivated actions aimed at undermining Russia, showcasing the geopolitical implications inherent in their portrayal.

Similarly, the representation of 'US' within each corpus highlights the differing perceptions of American involvement. American and Pakistani newspapers maintain a neutral stance, focusing on factual representation of US actions in the conflict. However, Russian media positions the US as a key adversary, underscoring the tense dynamics between the two countries.

The lexical choices utilized by the chosen newspapers indicate the Political discourses of each country in depicting the Russia-Ukraine conflict. In the American corpus, negative collocates like 'unprovoked,' 'illegal,' and 'unjustifiable' contribute to a clear condemnation of Russia's actions, portraying the invasion as morally wrong and reinforcing the idea that Ukraine is suffering from unprovoked aggression. This strengthens the U.S.'s official stance in support of Ukraine. On the other hand, in the



Russian corpus, the semantic prosody surrounding 'invasion' is neutral or defensive. The frequent collocates ('start,' 'launched,' 'following') downplay the aggression and instead stress the invasion as a necessary, strategic response to NATO's expansion, in line with Russia's official stance. This neutral prosody helps justify the invasion as a legitimate action rather than an aggressive attack.

Regarding the sanctions placed on Russia by US led-West it was revealed that in the American corpus, sanctions are portrayed as "severe," "crippling," and "unprecedented," highlighting their need in tackling geopolitical matters like the Ukraine issue. This formulates sanctions as an appropriate reaction to Russia's actions. In the Pakistani corpus, the stress is on words like "punishing" and "severe," suggesting a more skeptical outlook on sanctions, highlighting their damaging economic consequences. In the Russian corpus, words such as "imposed" and "Western" suggest a perspective that regards sanctions as unjust, placing Russia as a target of external aggression.

Overall, the research study demonstrated that American newspapers use forceful and emotional language to frame the conflict as a significant moral and geopolitical crisis. The term "invasion" is frequently utilized, suggesting an unmistakable aggressor in Russia, which is presented as a direct threat to global order. This narrative is strengthened by phrases like "crimes against humanity," which are frequently employed to describe Russia's actions, underlining a sense of urgency and the necessity for strong intervention. Furthermore, the use of phrases such as "NATO's collective defense" suggests a powerful union with Western powers, suggesting their action as essential and justified. The semantic prosody here signifies a primarily favorable viewpoint on NATO and the US, declaring their actions as vital to preserving international peace.

Conversely, Pakistani print media assume a more subtle narrative. Although they recognize the incursion from Russia into Ukraine and the subsequent conflict, they also highlight the harrowing implications of Western sanctions on the international economic landscape, especially the tottering economies of growing nations like Pakistan. The periodic usage of phrases such as "diplomatic dialogue" and "regional stability" indicates an advocacy for agreeable solutions instead of punishing actions against Russia. The use of terms like "critical humanitarian situation"

underscores the critical need for prudent steps, demonstrating a more balanced standpoint from Pakistan print media via the Russia-Ukraine war and its possible solution. They aspire to evade partisanship and Division. This critical yet nonaligned viewpoint echoes Pakistan's diplomatic stance, which sidesteps Open support with either side, displaying its compulsion to keep good ties with both sides, particularly concerning oil imports and its growing prices in international oil markets.

Russian media, on the other hand, suggest a defensive portrayal. The description of the "invasion" repeatedly contains justifications that emphasize Russia's right to defend its autonomy against possible threats from the inclusion of Ukraine into NATO. Terms like "provocation" and "unfair sanctions" are repeatedly used, promoting an image of Russia as a target of Western belligerence. The semantic prosody of these words is largely negative, demonstrating bitterness towards the West and presenting the Western sanctions placed on Russia as mechanisms devised to destabilize Russia. This defensive stance is further indicated by terms that depict NATO actions as "encroaching" or "hostile," which serve to strengthen jingoistic sentiments and unify the general view of the public against threats from the outside world.

By examining these lexical choices and semantic prosody, the current research study successfully reveals the varying attitudes of the selected newspapers for this study and its respective countries. The American print media's framing indicates an urgent need for practical steps to support Ukraine and stop Russia. It portrays Russia as a danger to democratic principles and global security. Conversely, the Pakistani media's focus on diplomacy echoes a wish to retain peace and escape confrontation escalation, stressing the necessity for discussion. Meanwhile, the Russian print media's emphasis on autonomy and victimhood shows a guarded national identity, desiring to mobilize public backing against Western aggression felt by Moscow.

The study contributes to scholarship in two important ways. First, it broadens the scope of Critical Discourse Analysis by integrating semantic prosody, a linguistic tool that reveals subtle evaluative meanings often overlooked in traditional framing studies. Second, by including Pakistani newspapers, the study introduces a South Asian perspective that has thus far been absent in the literature on Russia–Ukraine war discourse.

In conclusion, the study's findings reveal how lexical choices and semantic prosody serve as powerful tools in shaping national narratives around the Russia-Ukraine war. The varying representations across American, Pakistani, and Russian newspapers reflect each country's political stances and their respective geopolitical narratives. By analyzing these linguistic patterns, this study contributes to a deeper understanding of how language influences perceptions of international conflicts and underscores the importance of critical discourse analysis in exploring media portrayals in the context of global affairs.

### **5.3 Limitations of the Study**

Naturally, every academic study has some sort of shortcomings and limitations that the researcher encounters during the course of the study. Similarly, the researcher of this study also faced some limitations, as stated in the following.

One of the limitations of the current study was the period chosen for data collection, i.e., February 22, 2022, to April 22, 2023. This period did not cover the whole Russia-Ukraine war in the selected newspapers from Russia, the USA, and Pakistan. The Russia-Ukraine war is a proceeding affair, which started on February 22, 2022, the exact date on which Russia started its attacks on Ukraine. Consequently, this period does not cover the whole war, but only the starting phase and 12 months immediately after that. Due to time limitations, the current study only focused on this specific period. However, the war is not over yet and future researchers will be better placed to analyze it by enlarging the scope of the study by increasing the time frame for data collection.

Compiling corpora from the six selected newspapers during this duration was a demanding and tough job. The researcher had to search through each newspaper's website, identify all articles, editorials, and news stories about the Russia-Ukraine war published in that newspaper, and then copy and paste them into separate MS Word files. The data collection process took around four months to complete and resulted in a corpus size of around 7 lacks. Notwithstanding these challenges faced by the researcher while conducting this research study, the researcher succeeded in achieving the objectives of the study. The researcher decoded the stance of all the six newspapers selected for this study. The current study was corpus-based and it employed Paul Bauker's methodology. In The analysis, the researcher has used Stubbs's discourse

prosody (1996) model, in conjunction with AntConc 4.2.0 software by utilizing its various tools such as keyword lists, collocates, and concordance.

## **5.4 Recommendations for Future Researchers**

In this study, the researcher utilized corpus-assisted critical discourse analysis to analyze the depiction of the Russia-Ukraine war in six English-language newspapers (from America, Pakistan, and Russia). Future researchers in the same area are encouraged to study a variety of media texts, including tweets, blogs, television shows, Facebook posts, debates, videos, and publications, to substantiate the relevance and validation of results.

Moreover, the findings of this study can be verified and tested by performing an identical study using the same corpora compiled from six English newspapers from three distinct countries covering the Russia-Ukraine war. The collected corpora may be expanded to include the pre-invasion and post-invasion periods of Ukraine. This will allow for a comparative analysis of print media discourse.

Furthermore, future researchers are encouraged to use the collected corpora from this study to check the results or investigate other facets of the Russia-Ukraine war. It could include exploring how the identities of key social actors are constructed, as well as examining the reporting style and characterization of important social actors such as political parties, individuals, institutions, groups, and organizations."

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