ISSN E: 3006-1466
ISSN P: 3006-1458
CONTEMPORARY JOURNAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE REVIEW
CJSSR
CONTEMPORARY JOURNAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE REVIEW
Vol.04 No.01 (2026)

LANGUAGE, IDEOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPRESENTATION IN FLOOD EDITORIALS OF PAKISTANI ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS: A CORPUS-ASSISTED ECOCRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

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Abstract
This study investigates the representation of floods, environment and public responsibility of an English language newspaper's editorial, printed in Pakistan during the year 2025. The corpus consists of 151 institutional editorials taken from 10 different newspapers which have 64,939 associated body tokens. The frequencies and concordances were checked with AntConc and Python and document spread and collocation were calculated with Python. Starting from Fairclough's three-dimensional model, choices, editorial practice and social context of the texts were analyzed, and the notions of Stibbe's ecolinguistics were applied when analyzing agency, salience and erasure of the texts. Flood and flood(s) was mentioned in 138 texts, for a total of 494 times. There were pronounced local variations, with the strongest being the word flash, and affected, victims and relief pairing the hazard with administrative action. Many articles referred to water as a destructive player before faulting authorities because of issues related to warnings, land use, or relief. Official estimates frequently provided grounds for opposing assessments of official measures. Others gave recognition to local warning practices, or suggested community involvement or waterways and floodplains as working systems. Transboundary discussions featured a ping-pong fight between coercive behavior allegations and appeals for joint predictions. The authors illustrate the potential dis-empowerment of preventable harm in editorial discourse and yet, the institutional hierarchy of which evidence and which "medication" are authoritative. Results are limited to editorial searching options and pathways.

Keywords: *Pakistan floods, editorial discourse, language ideology, ecolinguistics, corpus-assisted discourse analysis*

Introduction

A Flood Settlement editorial can report the events surrounding the entering of flood waters into a settlement in a number of different grammatically viable ways. Heavy rain can inundate an urban area, planners can permit development within a drainageway, or homes can be lost. In every of them one of the participants is the subject of the sentence, while the sentence then is an opening for and a beginning of a public statement. The 2025 floods in Pakistan offer a context to explore

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these choices in newspapers reporting on the same general emergency. According to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA, 2025), monsoons are typically experienced from 25 June to 30 September, with various flooding hazards reported, including riverine floods, flash floods, and urban floods. Nowhere on its own account will you find a chronology for the publication dates. This corpus is an assembly of newspapers' arguments concerning those occurrences, as well as flood risk throughout the rest of the calendar year.

In the case of the flood disaster, there is a difference between the precipitation and the disaster. Climate related risk is the compounding of a hazard with exposure and vulnerability (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC] (2022). Exposed populations and infrastructure are discussed, and a specific thirty-day rainfall metric was analysed during the World Weather Attribution (2025) study, which included the heavy monsoon rains and flooding in northern Pakistan. An editorial may take on some of those nuances; it may sum them up into a general conclusion on climate change; it may emphasize some different thing, the obstruction of waterways, for instance. This focus on the distinction allows the analysis to distinguish which evidence to include versus the independent evidence that should be used to determine a physical cause of an editorial.

This problem explored here is the organisation of the relationship between the recurring linguistic choices of the relation between people, water and public authority. Households to be counted and compensated — these are the subjects of an editorial which holds the provincial government accountable for having failed to “prepare”. Another might endow a river with a dramatic part as it annihilates villages, and then petition to restore its floodplain. A third may suggest that a common river can be used as an interstate coercive instrument. Relationships between grammar, authority and ecological value must be made in each case in the text. Some of the terms used on their own, e.g., nature, victim or resilience, are too general for the interpretation to be determined (Baker et al., 2008; Stibbe, 2021).

It is the institutional editorial that is the unit of study, since its genre gathers special force the movement from diagnosis to judgment. They take it for granted to explain what a public institution ought to do and whose fault it is when things go wrong, and they might well include evidence from authorities and present an assessment in the voice of the newspaper (Bell, 1991; Richardson, 2007). Signed commentary and disaster news can also give agency, though its presence would complicate matters in comparing who has which voice, and who is on whose side, since it is a publication. Constraining the data to editorial prose permits the analysis to focus on the question of who is quoted or paraphrased in an institutional argument and which remedies are instituted by that argument.

Research questions

1. Which recurrent words and collocational patterns organise representations of floods and the environment in the sampled Pakistani English-language editorials published in 2025?
2. How do the editorials assign agency, responsibility and authority to speak through grammatical choices, attribution and recurring narratives?
3. How do these patterns make ecological processes and socially differentiated exposure visible or background them, and where do the editorials offer competing accounts?

Research objectives

1. Compile a dated and source-traceable corpus of institutional editorials and measure the frequency and document spread of selected lexical patterns.
2. Examine concordance lines in their editorial contexts to identify how writers name actors, assign actions, invoke evidence and make policy demands.

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3. Evaluate the recurring and divergent representations against explicit ecolinguistic criteria and relate them to editorial genre and the 2025 Pakistani flood context.

Rationale

It is concluded that Pakistan's flood coverage research has shown interest in taking a closer look at climate attribution, climate impacts, and journalistic framing. The reading of editorials could pose an additional question in moving from the phenomena of knowing disaster to governing disaster. It is analytically important to note that in an editorial with all three statements, it is the differences between people that were evacuated, the mention of a warning of residence to neighbours, and the necessity for the district administration to act, and those differences have different codes for disaster response. The first features persons as the object of action, the second feature individuals as the source of initiative and the third feature the individual as the recipient of obligation. Such analysis can account for the fact of the coexistence of blame, recognition and intervention in one and the same account.

There is also that a reason to maintain the entire calendar year. The monsoon creates a distinct focus on this type of information, and publications covering purchase preparedness or recovery may have an assumption that a collection of materials after days of extreme rainfall would not contain. Forecast Editorial – talk about a potential event. Who are the victims whose losses are acknowledged by a relief editorial needs to be decided. Here are the same words in various contexts. As a result the articles' year of publication is noted and these differences in the articles' reading are taken into account in the course of the study. It is used to find recurrent themes in an easily accessible collection of editorial discourse and to supply the proof to consider them in other collections.

Literature review

Floods in the News Talk: Framing.

Framing can be understood as processes of selection and foregrounding that can be used to “call out” aspects of reality that facilitate specific problem definitions, causal explanations, moral interpretations, and/or treatments (Entman, 1993). This is a useful disjunction when dealing with floods, since declaring a disaster and accounting for it being a calamity are two different acts. An event may be labelled catastrophic in a report and place the primary duty on a city or on an upstream state or international creditors for future loss avoidance. Bell (1991) and Richardson (2007) view news language as located in practices of media organisations when they select sources and execute texts. This is the reason an official number, appearing in an editorial, is both a statement on the world, and a statement on the world of what classifies as a loss.

A focus on a particular editorial genre also hinders the distinction between an event-based and a policy-oriented reporting style. The death toll can be in the first sentence of a text, with a call to action at the end asking for a redesign of warning systems. If labeled as an event report or a policy fuel, those sequence of arguments would be hidden. The present analysis is done on paragraph level. It invites reflection on the following questions: What are the circumstances in which something is remembered; what are the circumstances in which an action becomes evidence; what are the circumstances in which an authority gives a judgment or becomes obliged to act. The study begins with framing analysis to provide a matrix in which problems and solutions can be identified, and follows up with discourse analysis of the words and flow of the information that link the concept together (Entman, 1993; Fairclough, 1992).

Pakistani media research

There are several points of comparison at present available in relation to Pakistan. Hussain et al. (2024) conducted an interview with reporters that covered climate-related events. The members

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of their group associated unequal use with reporters' sources and with the news worthiness of dramatic events. This discovery relates to journalists reporting what they hear about the reporting conditions. It may imply some context for the notion of grouping of texts around visible and manifested disasters but an empirical decision for production behind each single editorial. The leading Urdu and English language newspapers were compared by Hussain (2024), and it was found that both the effects of climate change and efficacy were highlighted by the English language newspapers. That is what makes practical answers in English editorials worth striving for. It does not provide any information that allows a language-group comparison against the present English-only corpus.

Similarly, studies done in response to the 2022 floods show diversity in the choice of issues. Akram et al. (2023) analysed the themes in the Pakistani press reports during and after the floods. The study of Umber et al. (2023), which focuses on the association that coverage forms between climate change and flooding in the Pakistani print news, brings a fresh perspective. Such studies then enable us to pose the question: Does an explicit climate link in 2025 come with a local detail – "flooding happens this way" – such as developing on floodplains or an institutional failure in early warning. One aspect of the answer is related to climate vocabulary. Another is the representation of the channels by which exposure is done.

Recent studies clarify its contribution. Saleem and Khan (2025) use a ecolinguistic approach to the climate reporting in the Dawn across multi-year cycles. Abbas and Tabassum (2026) analyse the difference and contrast between two newspapers, Dawn and The News International, in terms of climate framing January–August, 2025. Parveen and Abbas (2026) use Fairclough's model to analyse national and international newspaper articles on the 2025 floods. Sajid et al. (2026) analyse the similarities and differences of the 2022 and 2025 flood headlines, and they depict nature as a destructive force, as well as the system that receives human impact. The current study has a similar concern as they have with environmental representation. It is through notions of a full year search field, and limitation to the Pakistani institutions copies of editorials, that it is possible to define a different object, and that afford anchorage in cross-outlet corpus measures and explicit commentary on ecological agency and authorised speech. The comparison is across related designs, using a different level of analysis. To indict the flooding of 2025 as a broad claim lacking critical discourse analysis would be to miss out on this adjoining scholarship.

For anyone in the group, the action is a voluntary act of putting themselves forward.

Patterns discovered from the corpus can be analysed by close reading and compared with other press discourse: Baker et al. (2008) indicate this. The relationship is mutually beneficial says Mautner (2009). Concordances can argue against an argument where it is based on a memorable example; context can demonstrate that an apparent repetition may serve various purposes. These correlations between flood and place names may show the order of events in the corpus. Repeat designation is obtained thru association with victims. Whether the designation is used to justify compensation, or make a electoral accusation or report a number can only be determined by the clause and surrounding argument. This is relevant when the corpus is assembled in a disaster, where part of it can be gathered exactly using the words afterwards used as the criteria.

Gries (2008) further demonstrates that a simple sum/tally of a feature's frequency is not adequate to understand how the feature is distributed. The same institution can be mentioned several times over the course of a word as an editorial. Document spread and outlet spread are helpful at determining if the pattern is continuing beyond that text. In the current the study approach is a focused one. It reports count, distribution and local association, and then performs a check of

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selected uses with their source paragraphs. All of these measures serve to set limits on interpretation, and provide readers a path towards some specific texts.

Theoretical framework

Ideologies and processes of writing.

Woolard and Schieffelin (1994: 110) link language ideologies with "beliefs and interests about language and its role in social life. This study uses discursive authority as a way to operationalise the concept. It inquires as to what forms the editorial makes credible regarding what speaker says what when explaining a flood. Examples for sources of knowledge are an attributed estimate from a disaster-agency, an unmarked categorical assertion and a resident made observation. They have various types of power within an editorial. It might seem obvious to use one or more official measurements or administrative designations to name a situation. Knowing about that like has necessities of evidence with regard to attribution and placement in addition to the words. With this act of operationalisation, it is possible to differentiate from an ideology of credible speech and an environment that tells a story in speech. When an estimate is used, by name, to justify a prescription, then the named official is an authority for the use of his or her particular register, and the prescription may be an authority for the kind of embankment management. The two frequently communicate. A policy may look natural if the issues are already identified in fiscal or hydrology or security aspects. Nevertheless, it is a bad idea to extrapolate from an editorial the beliefs of its author, or the attitudes of the readership towards English and other Pakistani languages. Analysis only makes claims to the authority the published prose grants, and the environmental relations the latter makes salient.

Fairclough's three-dimensional model

Fairclough (1992) conceptualises discourse as text, 'discursive practice', and 'social practice'. Textual Aspect: Vocabulary, grammar, modality and cohesion are followed. It differentiates a grammatical subject from a Cause which is provided from outside, from a text. A clause in which the thing that is sweeping away the bridge is called the grammatical actor and that thing is the water. The same article might be able to find fault with the poor planning of the construction. Passives and nominalisations are analyzed in regard to their functions in context. The subject of the evacuation can be left out, resulting in a focus upon evacuated ones in a paragraph, and the motive force left unnamed elsewhere. A must attached to a named authority has a different function than must attached to an inclusive we.

At the level of discursive practice, the unit will be the editorial as institutional argument which incorporates other voices. Differences between the opening and the closing, the positioning of numbers, naming of sources, quoting and moving from administrative to humanitarian, financial to security registers are all relevant components. For instance, an editorial could take a hazard category from a formal warning, and then re-express the hazard as a call to action for change. Publication categories and bylines are evidence regarding publicly marked genre. They set the status of an article to be an 'Editorial' in the archive and reveal nothing of the history within the editorial process.

Social practice is their dimension connected to the situations in which the problems occur. In regards to the case it addresses two levels of government (federal and provincial), provision of relief, financing of adaptation, land-use and transboundary water coordination. Ecosystem-based approaches are included in the adaptation options of Pakistan's National Adaptation Plan and coordinate governance is provided for across levels of government (Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, 2023). The policy document is a reference that intrinsically gives meaning to a suggestion, e.g., restore a Floodplain. The study draws on context as a basis for this explanatory reading, and reads evidence for each reading in the editorial itself.

Stibbe's ecolinguistics

According to Stibbe (2021), there are different ways discourse maintains repeated stories, such as frames, metaphors, evaluation, identities, convictions and erasure/salience. Problem and responses are framed for

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this study. A metaphor brings expectations and ideas with it from another field (weapons-metaphor for river management). Evaluations identify which responses are needed, which are deficient and which are late. Identities are the categories according to which individuals are subject to the social positions of rescuers, officials or beneficiaries. Conviction focuses on the level of a story's authenticity. Salience & erasure: about what is foregrounded and what is backgrounded or absent, where it should make a difference. These concepts will be used to analyze paragraphs and entire editorials. They are not interchangeable counts and they are not categories which every text has to exemplify.

An explicit 'ecosophy' is used in the evaluation. It sees promoting healthy processes in river and wetlands, reducing risks that should not occur and participating equally in recovery as a good thing. It is operationalised using three questions. Does an account relate the movement of water to the land-use/land-cover practices and/or conditions that cause it to be harmful? Does it pay attention to differential exposures and does it permit exposed individuals to be seen as agents or knowers as well as recipients of assistance? Is the long-term impact of interventions on other communities and other ecosystems considered? These questions can have both yes and no answers. A call for re-engineering can take account of floodplain processes and thus be ecologically aware, while a call for environmental rehabilitation can subsidize the cost of relocating. The assessment relates solely to affordances of the account and not to material policy effects, per se, which will be subject of other types of study (Stibbe, 2014, 2021).

Linking the frameworks

The two methods were used to answer different questions with regard to the same text. In the dimension of Fairclough's size an editorial's linguistic strategies are seen in relation to the genre and institutions through which a claim is given force. The choices entrance a narrative regarding human and more-than-human life that can be evaluated using Stibbe's categories. The same passage about a blocked drain could in turn give the water clear agency, the authority of the development might remain silent and the repair of that water could be clearly tangible. All 3 features may apply at once. As you read them together, it will be easy to deceive yourself that if the environment is interestingly portrayed, it is closer to ecological sensitivity or that if a government is criticized, it is in a more forceful way; and easy to do because both are produced by the same hand.

Methodology

Design and unit of analysis

A corpus-assisted critical discourse design is adopted for the study. It starts repeating textual patterns, follows these patterns into full-length editorials and addresses how these patterns function in institutional and social settings. This movement between distribution and interpretation is informed by work of Baker et al. (2008) and Mautner (2009). The fundamental unit of the corpus is a single editorial body (a single location of a text volume). The token is the unit of lexical frequency, the occurrence of flood or floods is the unit of collocation and the clause or passage is the unit of close reading. The results are made at each level and the meaning of a count is not carried over from level to level.

Publication frame and retrieval

The turn/retrieval phase, especially for retrieval, should be published.

The search was conducted from 1st January to 31st December 2025 in Pakistan. An initial list of mastheads was provided by the English language directory of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS, n.d.). Editions all used the same masthead were counted as a single outlet; they provided an online editorial archive. The News International's editorial archive was part of the search. There are 12 newspaper sites and into article level search. Their routes, the numbers of candidate links and the contribution of each link are listed in Table 1. The effective population includes institutional editorials published in institutions that are earmarkable in specified routes and have complete bodies, which are checking possibilities. The various levels of archive access removes the possibility of regarding this collection as a census of the English-language newspapers published in Pakistan, or of a specific newspaper's full print run.

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Table 1

Newspaper search routes and screening outcomes

Outlet	Discovery route	Leads	Unavailable	Retained	Tokens
Dawn	Site search and editorial byline	46	0	26	10,661
The News International	Site search and board byline	34	2	10	5,277
The Express Tribune	Search and indexed publisher pages	15	10	4	1,178
The Nation	365 dated listings and site search	64	0	13	3,694
Business Recorder	365 dated listings and site search	64	0	16	8,784
Daily Times	Editorial category and site search	133	0	22	8,373
Pakistan Observer	Editorial category and site search	75	1	20	9,067
Pakistan Today	Editorial author archive and site search	25	0	9	3,788
Minute Mirror	Dated editorial category feed	222	3	24	8,773
The Frontier Post	Dated editorial category feed	26	3	0	0
Islamabad Post	Editorial category and site search	14	0	7	5,344
Daily Lead Pakistan	Selected editorial category pages	6	3	0	0
Total		724	22	151	64,939

Note. Leads are deduplicated candidate records. Unavailable records are part of the lead count. The listing audit logs four unsuccessful Business Recorder date requests.

Publication site editorial listings, date archives, editorial author pages, web queries with site restrictions were used in the search. It queried business recorder and the nation it dated with the name of editorial listing pages throughout the calendar year. It reviewed areas of paginated archives for Daily Times, Pakistan Today and Pakistan Observer where it would be relevant and around the 2025 time lines. quello che ha chiesto a Minute Mirror & The Frontier Post è stato un quesito con cui ha testato le pubbliche feeds di editorialisation con calendario-year filters. It took sample pages for the categories "Islamabad Post" and "Daily Lead Pakistan" in Islamabad. In the case of Dawn, The News International and The Express Tribune it relied on site-specific search

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engines and query search of publisher records. Log of discovery routes; remember range/paging searched. They were discovered and retrieved on 7 November 2026, Pakistan time.

If a title was provided and if these listings also contained some preview the title or the preview served as the source for a candidate. Screening terms included flood forms and related terms like monsoon, deluge, inundation, cloudburst, glacial lake, as well as terms relating to rain, drainage, disaster, relief, resilience, river and names of place or rivers. These types of words, when used in conjunction with a domain and editorial marks, were subjected to an index search. There are also examples of broader cues being kept at discovery as well because if an argument with the title Citizen defenders was unmentioned in the title then the customer is able to see that the hazard has been included. Each of the search returns was considered a lead. All of their full bodies were vetted for publication and their genre evidence is provided. Related links, alternate mobile paths and changes in title slugs were consolidated using canonical article identifiers.

Eligibility and screening

A text qualified if it was an institutional editorial an instuto Pakistan, published in 2025 and was in English language with a sustained argument regarding flooding in Pakistan which is verifiable. This included losses and rescues, flood-specific losses and rescue and/or public-health issues, as well as discussions on future risks or lessons from previous floods, with a current policy connection. A flood argument was deemed to be qualifying, if it was the central theme or if it was a prolonged strand along a piece involving many themes. A "climate change or an economy article did not contain any reference to a previous flood in isolation, which in itself was not enough to satisfy such a test. Foreign flood reports were excluded from the screening, as were signed columns and letters, incidental mentions or pieces in which the entire text and/or genre did not allow for the determination. For example, an article with an individual author called Tragic Climate Warnings written by one individual was withheld in search results from The Nation website. One language Islamabad Post editorial was published under two URLs and was kept once.

The evidence of genre was provided from the original editorial listing, a house by-line or an editorial label by the publication. Signed opinion can for example be supported by the display name Daily Times whereas house items can be displayed as Daily Time at Daily Times. Pakistan Today names pieces as authors of the “editorial page”. As a supplement, publishing accounts with generic names like a staff or a news desk were given meaning according to the fact that the article was published in the editorial category. A personal byline or a credit to the content of another genre superseded a general label of a category. The results and inclusion criteria are provided in Table 1 and in Appendix A. Repeated further requests if they failed as far as possible. When live route retrieval failed, entire text in body paragraphs of indexed subjects was compared on a limited number of easy-to-reach publisher pages. Partial preview videos were not included.

Preparing the corpus

The prose and paragraph order of the article is maintained in the extracted texts. The token stream omitted titles and decks, captions, share links, automated boxes of key points, author notices, line reporting publication dates and reader responses. The manifest keeps information of newspaper dates, titles and URL information. Cleared content was found to be exact copies of the players. The check was performed using almost identical check sets of token five-grams with a Jaccard similarity threshold of 0.80. No retained pair got as high as that. Every record delivered includes an identifier for the document, outlet of origin, date of origin, retrieval route, word

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count of document body, count of paragraphs in the document and a checksum. The index is included in Appendix C and evidence of Newspaper related to the link in the Corpus.

To perform lexical analysis, the body was Unicode-normalised and case-folded. A token is a string of consecutive letters. Boundaries are indicated by hyphens and apostrophes: flood affected supplies two tokens and the possessive ending 's' in river's is a single token. The digits and punctuation is not in the denominator. Multiple word expressions were identified within the same paragraph as adjacent words. The precise variants added to each measure are listed, such as spaced flood plain and floodplain, as in the lexicon. It is an explicit approach, with this set of terms: climate change kept separate from more general climate terms. A body-based denominator prevents repetition of headlines to give too much credit to short texts. While the preserved prose was used for syntax and interpretation, and case-folding and token-boundaries did not remove information for the purposes of the qualitative analysis.

Corpus procedures

The normalised files were used to conduct analysis on them using word list and concordance tools of AntConc 3.5.9 (Anthony 2020). The word-list total and exact-form concordances for flood and floods were verified in relation to a count of them in Python. The script preserves both the document and paragraph position of every occurrence in the document (positions are numbered starting from one). It generates lexical frequencies, the number of documents and outlets containing a match, and the number of matches per 1000 body tokens. The rate is the raw number divided by the respective group's total number of tokens, and multiplied by 1,000. Document coverage is defined as the proportion of documents in the group in which there is at least one match out of the total number of documents in the group. Both measure re-use, and distribution. For the description of prominence both are used in line with Gries (2008).

The collocation search didn't separate the exact forms flood and floods, but grouped them together as a single node. It scanned through the lexical tokens that were within 4 tokens either preceding or following each node occurrence, up until the next paragraph. A node window was counted even though the collocate twinned in that window. The window is designed to view short constructions like modifiers, subjects, objects and neighboring phrases. This is a measure of proximity. It doesn't indicate any kind of governing relationship. The score was logDice, which is defined as 14 + log2(2 x number of co-occurrence / sum of node frequency and collocate frequency in the corpus) (Rychlý, 2008). The list shown excludes the function words and the forms of the nodes, and has a minimum of five co-occurrences in four different documents. The document and outlet spread, and the counts used to calculate the rank, are given in the supplement. There may be sensitivity to window width: Repeat the calculation with spans of 3 and 5 tokens.

This design features within-corpus frequencies and associations. Does not run any keyword comparison with general English because if any it is confounded by an editorial aspect and the aspect of geography or retrieval topic. Operational indicators such as lexical groups (affected people, affected ecological processes, etc.) are present in the results. For instance, referring to a "wetland" does not imply that it is good for wetlands. Due to selection the number of floods is high and hence, it is hard to infer the significance of flooding within the outlets' main editorial current.

Close reading, quality check

The concordance hits were read back in their complete paragraphs. After that came interpretation of the opening of the editorial, attribution and remedy. The coding unit was defined as a passage that had a rhetorical function discernible. Codes were used for the grammar of who caused and

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who remedied, the source of the statement, the implied modal force and the type of environment described and relation with proposed remedy to ecological processes or people. Several codes might be assigned to a passage. In the codebook and in the example ledger the inclusion rule for each code is indicated. Passages were selected based on patterns derived from the Corpus. Some of the cases were chosen to find out if a compelling interpretation was maintained even at the face of conflicting contexts: of local initiative, of explicit ecological restoration and calls for trans-border cooperation.

The analytic reading was done as one reading with cross checking of full texts, results of concordance, and counter-examples (points). Not calculated an intercoder agreement statistic. The results separate the quantitative coverage of explicit forms from qualitative observations that are accompanied by passages. Counts are descriptive of the retrieved corpus. Newspaper publications group together by issue and date, and a number of texts come from one newspaper. This renders it wrong to consider each token as an individual observation. This design is more informatively checked with event-focused sensitivity counts and distribution across outlets than with population significance tests.

Ethics and scope

The data is a representative sample of press articles. Unless otherwise specified, the analysis considers any claims which were quoted or paraphrased from an editorial to be the newspaper's own, even if another institution was cited as the source. As far as it concerns contextual materials, there is a separation between the corpus and situation reports and the attribution study which is used as an official contextual material. It uses short quotes in which the words are needed for analysis and connects with a full quote, referenced and indexed. This document includes the corpus manifest, selection log, scripts, and counts and coded locators. Complete copyrighted materials remain on the sources.

Results

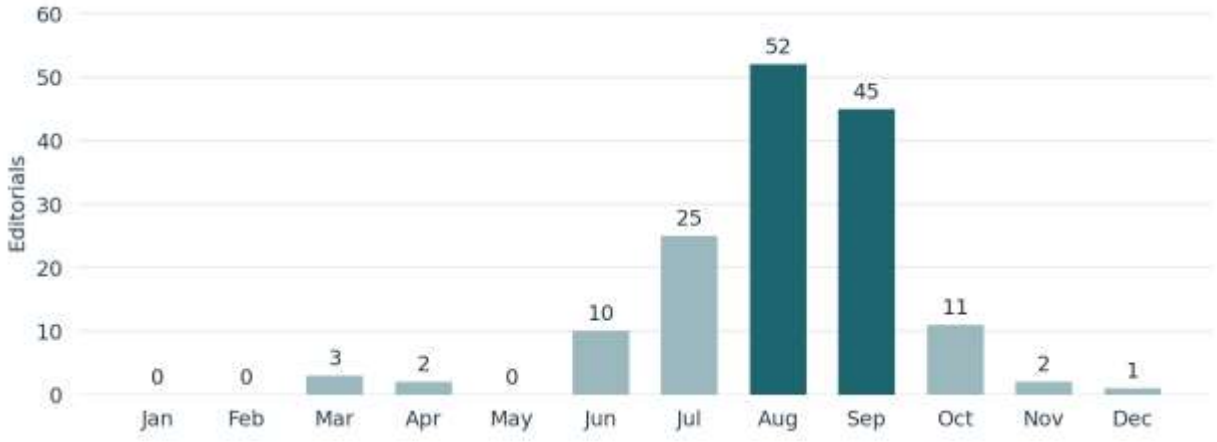
Corpus profile and timing.Profile of the timing and the corpus.

A screening log of 724 different article candidates exists. For 22 there were no full bodies, or they could not be taken out. 551 candidates were weeded out from 702 retrieved/different checking candidates via the date, genre, topic or duplicate screen. 64,939 body tokens are found in 151 retained editorials, across ten outlets. Dawn has written the most editorials (26) and tokens (10,661). Recovery is very poor – the Express Tribune's verified texts are limited to four – as a result of having only partial articles recovered from its indexed publisher pages. The pooled results give longer texts and larger subcorpora greater weight. They are accompanied by counts of a document's frequency and an outlet spread, meaning that a recurrent expression in one newspaper can be differentiated from many occurring in several newspapers..

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Figure 1

Retained editorials by publication month



Note. Counts are for the retrieved corpus and reflect both publication timing and discovery routes.

The calendar profile is focused. This was 52(64.2%) in August and 45(64.2%) in September. The concentration aligns with when monsoons affected the area, recorded by NDMA (2025), and when widespread displacement and disruption of services happened as recorded by UNICEF (2025). It also indicates discovery conditions. A search for flood terms is likely to retrieve a greater number of articles in the weeks in which the terms have been regularly added to a prominent flood event. Selected 12 texts coded as "anticipation" or "legacy" discussions that extend reading to anticipation and preparations for later seasons and liabilities from prior flooding. After discarding these passages, 139 editorials remain and contain 59,777 tokens. This constraint is exploited to determine the main lexical differences are based on legacy and preparedness texts or not.

How groups of words share meaning related to a flood.

Flood and floods were filled back 187 and 307 times respectively, giving 494 matches in 138 editorials. The total rate is 7.61 per 1,000 tokens in body. There are articles that are eligible but have a phrase such as waterlogging or describe when roads are lost due to poor drainage without referring to either of those nouns. To some extent this may account for the mismatch in the number of documents to the node compared to the corpus. In all the texts, the words “climate change” are used 137 times, in 74 editorials. The pure form of singular and plural is used 228 times in 100. These figures reveal evidence on their own that a climate explanation is available within the corpus, as is a governmental vocabulary. But they are unable to distinguish if a specific reference to government funding relates to readiness, a need for Government reform or a failure to prepare.

Table 2

Selected lexical measures in 151 editorials

Measure	Count	Per 1,000 tokens	Editorials	Outlets
Flood or floods	494	7.61	138	10
Climate change	137	2.11	74	10
Government or governments	228	3.51	100	10

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Measure	Count	Per 1,000 tokens	Editorials	Outlets
Disaster agency acronyms	58	0.89	28	8
Must	290	4.47	108	10
Relief	158	2.43	68	10
Early warning	39	0.60	35	9
Engineered structures	117	1.80	46	10
Drain or drainage forms	106	1.63	44	9
Floodplain forms	23	0.35	18	6
Wetland forms	2	0.03	2	2
Victim or affectee forms	39	0.60	24	8
Community forms	94	1.45	66	10
Woman or girl forms	7	0.11	5	3
India or Indian	94	1.45	29	9
Indus Waters Treaty	29	0.45	12	6

Note. Editorials and outlets are counted once for each measure with at least one match. The full lexicon and event-only counts are in the companion data.

The strongest local association with *flood* or *floods* is *flash*, with 42 node windows across 31 editorials and nine outlets. Forty-one of those windows put *flash* to the left of the node, which is consistent with its use as a hazard modifier. *Glacial*, *lake* and *outburst* also enter the four-token list. They can describe one recurrent construction rather than three independently salient ideas. In *Dawn*'s editorial on glacial lake outburst floods, the phrase sets the physical process in motion before the argument turns to monitoring, warnings and shelters ("Looming GLOFs," 2025, paras. 1–2). The classification gives readers more information about the mechanism and the localities at risk than a generic label such as disaster. The rest of the argument determines what the classification is used to justify.

Table 3

Top collocates of flood and floods within four tokens

Collocate	Windows	Texts	Outlets	Left	Right	logDice
flash	42	31	9	41	1	11.32
rains	27	20	7	20	7	10.42
areas	23	21	7	2	21	10.27
affected	20	18	6	5	15	10.14
glacial	17	13	7	15	2	10.06
recent	17	16	7	16	1	9.96

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Collocate	Windows	Texts	Outlets	Left	Right	logDice
hit	16	15	9	5	11	9.95
victims	15	13	7	1	14	9.86
monsoon	18	17	8	14	4	9.83
relief	18	14	8	4	14	9.82
punjab	18	16	8	6	12	9.77
outburst	13	9	5	11	2	9.72
prone	13	13	5	1	12	9.71
landslides	13	12	5	2	11	9.70
warning	14	10	7	5	9	9.67

Note. A collocate counts once per node window. A word can occur on both sides, so left and right counts can sum to more than the number of windows.

Other high neighbor rankings talk about Groups or consequences of the disaster. Affected is used in 20 windows on 18 texts and victims is used in 15 windows on 13 texts. In 14 of its 15 windows victims appears on the right side of the window, provides a observable basis for examining the expression flood victims and related formulations. Relief is seen in 14 texts, eight outlets and 18 windows. These relationships – in context – can describe the distribution of aid, criticise the delay in distributing aid, or define who the people should be whom officials should be reaching out to. Warning is present in 14 windows, 4 locations and 18 windows, 5 locations, 8 windows, 3 locations. It is the changing rank that is important as warning is sometimes connected to a flood by intervening words. The hazard classifier flash is fairly robust. The number of its counts on the three positions is 42, the number at the four position is 42, and the number at the five position is 43.

Recurrence & distribution of causal agency

In many of the examples of concordance, damage is caused by a weather or water agent. However, ‘MOTHER Nature' is in an ‘unforgiving mood,' according to Dawn's Rain havoc, before setting down a ‘flash flood at Leh Nullah due to torrential fires' (2025, paras.). 1–2). The editorial goes on to criticise provincial spending priorities and calls for an adaptation strategy (“Rain Havoc,” 2025, paras. 4–6). The personification is used as an opening assessment to the event. Human decisions are played an explicit role in the following causal account. This sequence makes an interpretation according to the first clause alone more difficult. However, a distinction is Stibbe's metaphor and framing, as a metaphor can establish a threat but not the policy frame for the entire text.

Business Recorder's Lessons were actually deliberately ignored, where a greater level of responsibility is more clearly assigned. Not learning from mistakes in 2022 is being rewritten as a charge on choices – its opening message. The second paragraph draws a connection between construction on riverbanks and floodplains, and approvals, enforcement and action actions taken by those with the power to construct in hazard-prone areas. 1–2). Likewise, Daily Times' Swat Floods distinguishes flood waters as in the actor, and describes the conditions of lethality as “exposure and neglect” and appeals to the trained district units (“Swat Floods,” 2025, paras. 1, 3, 6). First at text level, the action is done to the affected people. On the level of discursive practice,

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the former flood turns into the argument of what could have been known by the authorities. Raising the power of the present obligation is increased by the remembered disaster in both of these.

Recurring-disaster narrative to give conviction, other editorials. The Nation's Drowning in Denial shifts attention from destroyed livelihoods to a challenge to those who skeptically challenged it and offers more destruction as a result of inaction. 1–4). In using the collective we, you can achieve some agreement to the diagnosis; however, unless the article then says who can be responsible, then it has become a muddy water. Lessons ignored' is different at The News International. It underscores the disparity between past notions of a gradual increase and the abrupt nature of the flood, using this contrast to raise doubts about the effectiveness of warnings (Editorial Board, 2025a, paras. 2–3). Institutional learning is important where the speed of any event changes, institutional procedures are adjusted which assume that events occur at a certain time. The distinction between the two applications of recurrence is contrasting the exactness of the commitment assignment.

Scales of the effected people and the voice of the official with it

The group of disaster-management acronyms occurs 58 times in 28 texts. It is distributed more locally than to government and often the formal abbreviations refer to a source or responding body. In an article in The Express Tribune titled "Monsoon Misery," it states that according to figures of the NDMA, children are living in unsafe housing and there are no alternative housing options available for affordable prices (para. 2). 1–3). The agency will create a matrix of losses. Housing exposure, as explained in the editorial, provides a social take on that scale. Pakistan Observer indicates that using provincial estimates in Punjab is the way to understand the scale of evacuation or agricultural losses and then applies those estimates to credit provincial mobilisation. 1–3). Official attribution then can help in either scrutinizing or commending.

Theoretically, because the analysis that follows from it is dependent.

The auditor general (AG) report on the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) lends credence for the people criticising the agency because of their findings as presented in Business Recorder article Floods, funds, and the NDMA's failures. The article not only separates out the expenditure under audit from more recent relief operations, but also compares the visible activity of provincial authorities, and the military and civil society groups with that of the national agency ("Floods, Funds, and the NDMA's Failures," 2025, paras. 1, 7–12). The institutional voice here is an arbiter among official accounts. This is not the same as expecting official sourcing to be definitive of government views. There may be various types of state information being pitted against each other and the newspaper may promote an official counter narrative and hold another institution accountable for its decisions.

A legitimate claim to public assistance is made for people named as victims, beneficiaries or the displaced. It also predisposes their functions as speakers. In Dawn's Flood accountability, the details of the conditions of the camps are stated in line with river community; it also mentions the issue of sanitation faced by women and children ("Flood Accountability," 2025, para. 3). Then, this article requires auditable information, access for independent monitoring, ("Flood Accountability," 2025, para. 7). It is at this stage that evidence is provided from residents' accounts, albeit as a group and paraphrased. To educate viewers on the information that families and locals are providing about gathering locations, Minute Mirror airing a series of videos on social media that describes the current, Tragedies on the Swat River (2025, para. 2). Attribution starts down the path of situated evidence without identifying the particular speakers. These

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passages complexify an account of naming which suggested total exclusion through collective naming.

Two reports of a warning in Gilgit-Baltistan provide a particularly stark contrast. Sheepdog Wasiyat Khan thanks for his alert and the efforts of volunteers helped to evacuate, (2025, para. , "Citizen Defenders"). 1). The Nation foregrounds the group of shepherds focusing on their action, which it uses as a case to argue for training and support in civil defence ("Preparedness," 2025, paras. 1–3). In both, it's the local folks — the grammatical subject — sensing a danger or helping to make people evacuate. The recognitions are institutional and of a different nature. The first one personalises the person who called the alarm. Through the second, the question is: What arrangements would remove the element of improvisation from the work of citizens' initiative? In neither of the passages need a shepherd actually be quoted to be said to possess practical knowledge, but neither does either afford a shepherd sufficient space to express a desired policy.

The difference is found in Dawn's Rebuilding lives. Administrative categories are introduced when speaking to registration, shelter and access to social protection in the article. It then explicitly mandates "co-designers" of plans for relocation and livelihoods: women, sharecroppers and landless workers. ("Rebuilding Lives," 2025, paras. 6–7). Proposed participation is different from demonstrated participation. The passage demonstrates a prescriptive raise in who/what is involved in decision-making. This passage is relevant, given the relative lack of explicit woman (and girl) forms in the entire corpus: the seven occurrences in five texts. The count indicates how often the forms occur. The evidence provided for the role offered to these actors comes from the clause.

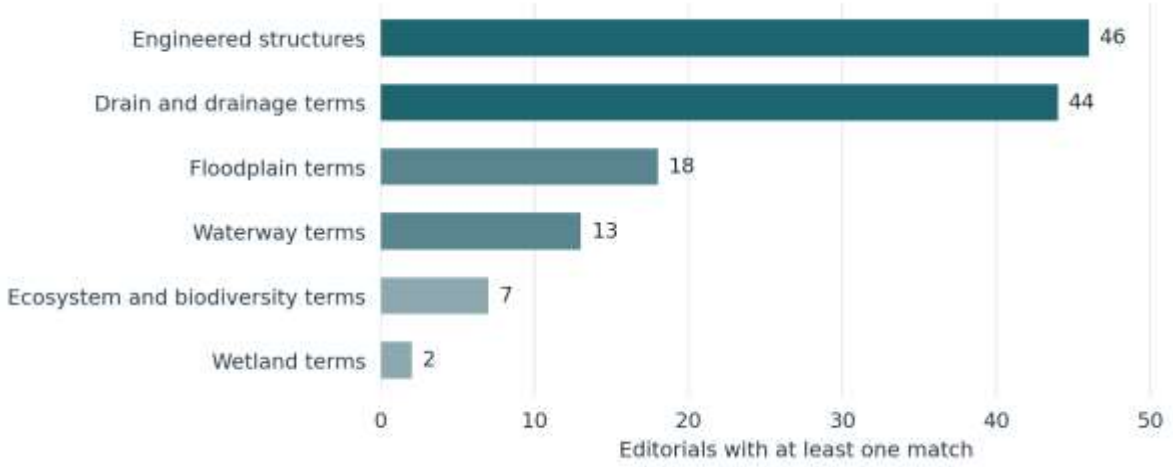
The functioning of the environment as a system

There are 117 instances of the words that refer to engineering structures, in 46 texts. The forms for floodplain are found 23 times in 18 texts while the forms for wetland are found twice. The word drain/drainage is used 44 times in 106 texts. The gap illustrates the focus of attention with the selected vocabulary. There are numerous textbooks that refer to the material environment via infrastructure and its functionality, and some of such infrastructure relies on the functioning of waterways. An ecological reading does not have to fit every use of drainage into the engineering frame, and not every use of floodplain into the restoration frame. Concordances and remedies differentiate between a functioning landscape and a place utilized just to pinpoint somebody or property at risk.

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Figure 2

Document coverage of environmental vocabulary



Note. The categories may overlap within a document. Counts use the explicit forms defined in the companion lexicon.

Business Recorder's *Preparing for a future of floods* describes floodplain absorption, overflow space, surface runoff and groundwater recharge. The argument is expanded to include ecological processes, in addition to the urban drainage. It also requires that conditions of a planned relocation shall include alternative housing, employment opportunities and necessary services. 4–8). This approach still has a prescriptive discourse and empowers institutions with powers of planning, but extends the subject for policy to hard defence not only. Similarly, the Express Tribune piece on Karachi at a standstill pyths the earlier function of the Malir and Lyari river as a lifeline in contrast to the one provided by the drainage system and suggests that fixing the waterways can also open up opportunities for investing in drainage ("Karachi at a Standstill," 2025, paras. 3, 5). The texts include the word 'damage' and it is here that the danger is identified, as lies in damage to the relation between rivers and settlement.

There are two local cases which give more specific descriptions of development. The depressions and small channels that absorbed or conveyed water "The Unprecedented Flooding of Gujrat" (paras. 2-6) are correlated to Islamabad Post's Gujrat editorial's (2025) statement on housing growth. 2–3). The Nation's Rainwater Rethink also ties construction on waterways with the ability developers have to convert cheap land into profitable property, and demands they be held accountable. 2–4). It has names more specific in its Flooding the Future, such as "elite encroachments," identifying who would be better served by a riverbed development project ("Flooding the Future," 2025, para. 1). These writings map a way of thinking through encroachment beyond a generic notion of obstruction onto one that is radically productive of exposure, a power of the power. The combination of an identified actor and the mechanism of these profits is what makes the interpretation "eternal" possible in the 31 texts where the term appears.

Naming oneself alters for the reader the entity object of protection. Business Recorder reports that pollution of Lyari, Malir and Korangi rivers is due to sewage, stagnant water and public health concerns and the planners objection to calling the rivers as "mere 'nullahs'" (2025, paras). 6–10). The criticism is brought against a method of classification of rivers as waste channels. The editorial then leads to a path from a changed waterway and then on to tainted water and hospital demand. The time of the flood story in the News International is extended by Tackling

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dengue connecting standing water after flooding to mosquitoes and the need of public health action (Editorial Board, 2025b, paras. 1–3). The two editorials highlight the relationship between water, infrastructure and bodies both after the headline event.

Argentum Water conflict and fiscal responsibility as a whole.

The word 'India' or 'Indian' is mentioned 94 times in 29 texts and the treaty expressions are mentioned 29 times in 12 texts. Vocabulary: ubiquitous (both: high number of outlet documents and high number of high-frequency documents). On this basis, Pakistan Today's Water bomb reads reported releases up the line as "deliberate" attempts at magnifying damage down to justify interstate duties. 1–3). However, Pakistan Observer's Water aggression considers the combination of holding and releasing the water as a "two-pronged weapon" ("Water Aggression," 2025, para. 6). 3). The metaphor adds an actor and a recipient together with a connotation of purpose. Part of its power is in the ability to make public and controversial claims of causation to sound like descriptions of what water does. These passages make an editorial assigning an intention to someone. There is a need for evidence for hydrological causation and for the intentions of decision makers.

The case of India in Dawn's Weaponising water also mentions a difference in communicativeness: between a general warning and information about the treaty on flow through, which the editorial claims that the treaty mechanism had provided ("Weaponising Water," 2025, paras. 2–10). Defying Borders in The Daily Times also mentions going off-treaty ("Defying Borders," 2025, paras. 42-44) but points out that it was due to an alert which helped provincially develop advisories and calls for coforecasting. 2–3, 8–11). Information is an interest shared by the editorials. They differ in their focus of antagonism evidence and usefulness of communication in practice. The contrast comes out when you see the difference — which is the reason you see treaty expressed only in this instance — otherwise it would be a false comparison. The river can either be considered an object controlled by one state, or a hydrological system common to both states that may require regular coordination.

When it comes to casting, the fiscal passages expand the cast of actors once again. The Express Tribune's Flood crisis, fiscal rethink" (2025) highlights how funding for post-disaster expenditures could be connected to debt and the safeguarding of development spending and to make flood-funding a routine part of the budget. 2–6). In Pakistan's Flood-hit Economy, Minute Mirror puts Pakistan and the IMF to the test and demands some flexibility as it strives to reform the economy. 2, 5–7). Pakistan Today starts off with the promise that electricity bills for flood-hit farmers will be waived and makes an assertion that "the IMF and the flood relief needs stand in opposition. 1–3). Fiscal terminology can make constraints in the upstream part thus visible and still leave allocation to households under-specified. By entwining the distribution lens of the BISP in the design of its usage and audit, Business Recorder's arguments tilt the debate in favour of BISP.Business Recorder's argument for using and auditing an existing social protection system places the problem on the lens of the distribution of BISP. 1–7). The evidence suggests that flood relief comes with a certain level of public authority and has implications for the way in which flood raise is conceived as, either budget planning or access/external flexibility.

Discussion

Explanation of danger words/loss

The first research question related to the words that were used to make the flood recognisable. The concordances differentiate between hazard classifiers, and descriptions of consequence and Response. The power of analysing a collocation in the context of a recurrent construction is indicated by the strength and position of the flash. Points to relief, affected and victims give

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clues to a parallel vocabulary for social consequences. Many passage level changes from a technical label to a local protection discussion would have been overlooked in a headline-level analysis. The understanding of this difference, of the strong clustering around flash and the higher sensitivity toward warning as a function of window width is an empirical one.

This information can be used to explain an understanding of their layered causations. In many examples, the material action is provided by the weather and water resources. Planning, enforcement and exposure bring their understanding to how that action can become a disaster in a certain location. The glacier-fed torrents and mudslides are a part of the first part of the editorial about Dawn's Unprepared nation. The latter one notes gaps in readiness and recommends what needs to be done at the local government level ("Unprepared Nation," 2025, paras. 2–3, 6–9). In Daily Times' Under Siege, the Sutlej starts by appearing the actor's batter. The article then highlights several factors that affect the consequences: silt, embankments that have not been repaired and clogged channels ("Under Siege," 2025, paras. 1, 4). The two arrangements provide a good match for the hazard vs. exposure gradient established in climate risk research (IPCC, 2022). It is the same similarity in the reasoning and the papers' claims on the causes and the losses are attributed to their respective texts.

Power, responsibility and reprieve

The second research question was related to who is the authority to give the explanations for disaster and who is supposed to act. Institutional names and figures provide Editorialists with the material to criticize and/or justify institutional performance. This is similar to what is seen in the national coverage by Parveen and Abbas in their 2026 report. The presentation of the editorial's voice becomes authoritative, too, by its ability to pit two sources against each other or by its ability to make a source's claim obey an observed condition in the present corpus. This is evident in the reporting of the Auditor General to the Business Recorder regarding the disaster agency's relation and in Dawn reporting regarding accounts from camps versus assurances coming from the government. 1, 8–12) ("Flood Accountability," 2025, paras. 2–3). The editorial may be based on an institutional supplied piece of evidence which can be used to explain rebuttal and render the institution accountable.

Language ideology is most clearly manifested at this juncture. The difference between resident, victim, and beneficiary/co-designer determines the role that it may reasonably play during the argument. A distribution of the labels gives a count of the wording; the role assigned by reading their predicates. A beneficiary can be signed on to, a resident can talk about conditions, and a co-designer can be counted on to help with decision making. These positions have a connection to the same recovery process and so can be held together in one article. The language of policies can consequently expand participation or drive the only link for a person to an institution: eligibility. What matters is the comparison made in the context of the published argument, based on the powers to speak and/or act afforded to each of the roles.

Ecological value and differences of scale

The third research question had to do with ecological salience and the existence of competing accounts. The event-only contrast of engineered structures and floodplain forms are consistent with the corpus-wide comparison. Rounded to two decimals, the numbers of engineered structures in the two corpora are 1.81/1000 and 1.81/1000 tokens, respectively. The floodplain rates are the same in the two, 0.35. The pooled contrast will differ for each outlet. There are 11 floodplain forms and five of the selected engineered structures retrieved in the Business Recorder subcorpus. In conjunction with its focus on overflow space and recharge, this reversal deters the pooled distribution from being misinterpreted as a uniform newspaper position and

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would prevent any such erroneous interpretation from being established as a precedent. 4–8). These numbers also allow for engineering to occur in conjunction with water ways, comprised of urban drainage modified and rehabilitated with the natural drainage systems.

The ecolinguistic evaluation has measured three various objects which can be turned into value. Water may be understood as a resource to be saved as water for food production, a flow that needs space and a pathway to be dispersed, or a common or shared array of water services (or some combination of these). Water and Opportunity (2025) in Pakistan Today integrates storage and irrigation with the loss of arable land due to floodwaters and sand deposits. 2–3). The writer of the Nation's description of the waterways in Karachi considers the ability of the city's waterways to carry rain water. 1–3). Daily Times proposes this extension to the shared-system account on the international level with the suggestions for data and joint forecasting ("Defying Borders," 2025, paras. 8–11). Objects suggest a variety of levels of action. How this change of scale takes place in the form of words and attribution is demonstrated as in Fairclough's model. Stibbe's framework assists in appraising what ecological and social relations come to light in the changing scale.

When an editorial does accompany a mechanism with a named responsibility and indicates who will be responsible for the cost of any remedy, then the environmental criterion has the greatest or most positive impact. It is that very standard that contributes to the fact that the term "floodplain," or more generally, the term "resilience," isn't all on its own helpful. Each of these factors, a reservoir, an open channel and a planned relocation, may be pertinent to specific risks. They are made ecologically and socially specific with its introduction in the text of what it does to water, land and the people who live on the land. Several of these are included in the context of Pakistan's National Adaptation Plan (Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, 2023). What makes each of the editorials urgent, and what each exclude from their consideration, are the differences among them.

Limits of inference

The corpus is influenced by web access, organisational features of the archives, and editorial identification. Some publishers provided only partial (recoverable) complete bodies; search cues can miss texts with oblique titles or previews. Thus the concentration for the month of August and September is a combination of publication activities with the discovery conditions. The synonyms and other reference not made explicit are not included into the exact-form lexicon. Qualitative reading conveys interpretation of the text passages displayed; broader patterns are analyzed with the lexical spread (and contra-cases). Does not account for the editorial output, readership, policy uptake or priorities across languages. For those questions, an additional source (Archive-complete comparison, matched English-Urdu or also a separately coded set of attributed speech) would be required.

Conclusion

Flood editorials in the corpora for 2025 contain clichés of loss, relief and preparedness and hazardspecific words. They often use the weather or water issues as the grammatical foreground, and vulnerability in terms of decisions regarding planning, construction, warnings and/or public finance. Those diagnoses and prescriptions are legitimatised by institutional sources. Some passages expand the narrative with firsthand accounts from residents, and the fact that some residents were warned and seeing a recovery opportunity in which they could participate. Others transform the space from being depicted as damaged resources, to something that becomes presented as pathways and processes that can be blocked, renovated or given away.

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The principal contribution is to be on the way of demonstrating that these moves co-exist in the institutional editorials and to do so can be checked on the distribution. The reach of a lexical pattern is determined by the frequency and collocation. Understanding the clause, source and remedy of Reading will make you clear what type of agency it supports. The environmental politics of a flood story in this corpus relies on the people who can discuss it, the people who are called upon to intervene and whether or not the "solution" acknowledges the dynamics of the movement of water and the processes of becoming exposed.

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Appendix A Corpus Decisions and Replication

The public newspaper pages are the primary sources. Appendix C gives each article an identifier and a live link. The companion manifest records the same identifiers, dates, clean-body token totals, archive routes and SHA-256 checksums.

Use the screening log to distinguish date, genre and topic exclusions from missing bodies. The archive listing audit records the URL, request status and number of cards parsed for each native listing page. A published date, an institutional editorial marker and a sustained Pakistani flood argument were required together. A piece on 2022 qualified only if it addressed an ongoing recovery obligation or a specific future risk relevant in 2025.

Table A1

Checks across software

Measure	AntConc 3.5.9	Python
Files or documents	151	151
Word tokens	64,939	64,939
Word types	6,597	6,597
Exact concordance hits for flood	187	187
Exact concordance hits for floods	307	307
Combined node occurrences	494	494

Note. AntConc used the normalised body files with Words selected and Case and Regex cleared for exact-form searches. The Python collocation window was bounded by paragraphs.

To rerun the counts, obtain the editorial prose from the linked source pages, compare the files with the manifest and run the companion analysis script. Where the live publisher page is inaccessible, consult the publisher's indexed page or print archive if available. Check the date, headline and checksum before substituting an archived body. The released counts correspond to the recorded version of each body.

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Appendix B Codebook and Evidence Locators

Paragraph references count the cleaned body from one. Multiple codes can describe the same passage. The examples illustrate decisions made in the reading and are linked to the full source through Appendix C. The companion ledger records the selected passages, applied codes and interpretation checks.

Table B1

Passage-level coding rules

Code	Apply when	Example locator
HAZ	Weather, water or a land process receives a grammatical action.	DA05, paras. 1–2
RESP	A clause or nearby explanation names a human decision, omission or accountable actor.	BR09, paras. 1–2
AUTH	A source is identified or an institutional statement is reworked as evidence.	BR10, paras. 1, 11–12
AFFECT	People are named as victims, recipients, evacuees or another administrative group.	PO14, paras. 1–2
VOICE	Local observation, initiative or testimony is explicitly attributed. Record which kind.	DA11, para. 1
DUTY	A modal or equivalent evaluation gives an actor an obligation.	DA16, para. 2
ECOL	An identifiable environmental relationship is explained, such as a channel carrying runoff.	IP06, paras. 2–3
SEC	Water is connected to a coercive intention, a weapon metaphor or a security claim.	PO11, para. 3
FIN	Budget, debt, credit or financing defines the problem or remedy.	ET04, paras. 2–6
TIME	A previous event becomes a premise for present risk or responsibility.	TN05, paras. 2–3
EQUITY	The passage identifies unequal exposure, uneven access or participation in a decision.	DA14, paras. 6–7

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Appendix C Index of Included Editorials

The article titles are clickable. IDs begin with the outlet code and follow publication order within an outlet.

BR Business Recorder, DA Dawn, DT Daily Times, ET The Express Tribune, IP Islamabad Post, MM Minute Mirror, NA The Nation, PO Pakistan Observer, PT Pakistan Today, TN The News International.

Table C1

Complete corpus index

ID	Published	Article	Tokens
BR01	2025-03-06	Flood aid corruption	590
BR02	2025-03-26	Fragile climate defences	628
BR03	2025-04-27	Looming threat of water scarcity	478
BR04	2025-06-27	Preparing for heavy rains	439
BR05	2025-07-23	Disaster on cue	677
BR06	2025-07-26	Preparing for a future of floods	464
BR07	2025-08-13	Climate crisis is not a surprise	581
BR08	2025-08-21	Caught in the deluge	495
BR09	2025-08-23	Lessons were actually deliberately ignored	562
BR10	2025-08-26	Floods, funds, and the NDMA's failures	451
BR11	2025-08-29	Health toll of urban flooding	626
BR12	2025-08-31	Flood fury in Punjab	393
BR13	2025-09-19	Climate chaos demands reforms	638
BR14	2025-09-23	Cotton's turning point	513
BR15	2025-09-29	BISP must not be made collateral damage	795
BR16	2025-11-23	Above-normal monsoon rains	454
DA01	2025-06-21	Monsoon readiness	320
DA02	2025-06-29	No lessons learnt	375
DA03	2025-07-06	No preparedness	451
DA04	2025-07-16	The next deluge	448
DA05	2025-07-19	Rain havoc	447
DA06	2025-07-21	Resilience or ruin	443
DA07	2025-08-12	Climate's human toll	313
DA08	2025-08-17	Unprepared nation	452
DA09	2025-08-21	Paralysed city	456
DA10	2025-08-22	Flood lessons	387
DA11	2025-08-25	Citizen defenders	387

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ID	Published	Article	Tokens
DA12	2025-08-28	Flooding in Punjab	453
DA13	2025-08-29	Weaponising water	460
DA14	2025-08-30	Rebuilding lives	453
DA15	2025-08-31	Agricultural loss	458
DA16	2025-09-02	Looming Glofs	392
DA17	2025-09-03	Unity for survival	454
DA18	2025-09-05	Flood accountability	444
DA19	2025-09-08	Crop devastation	444
DA20	2025-09-12	Climate emergency	453
DA21	2025-09-17	Rain-borne risks	312
DA22	2025-09-21	Erratic waters	382
DA23	2025-09-25	Relief politics	387
DA24	2025-10-02	Disturbing spat	414
DA25	2025-10-21	Dengue returns	302
DA26	2025-11-24	Harsher monsoon	374
DT01	2025-06-27	Swat Floods	388
DT02	2025-07-18	Pour Chore	292
DT03	2025-07-21	Monsoons Again	360
DT04	2025-07-23	Fight for Climate Justice	487
DT05	2025-08-14	Preventable Crisis	364
DT06	2025-08-15	Another Tragedy	349
DT07	2025-08-18	Nature’s Payback	453
DT08	2025-08-21	Karachi Cry	319
DT09	2025-08-25	Defying Borders	362
DT10	2025-08-27	Punjab’s Floods	391
DT11	2025-08-28	Dams and Floods	311
DT12	2025-08-30	Unity vs Division	312
DT13	2025-08-31	Fault in Tide	303
DT14	2025-09-01	Rain Reign	334
DT15	2025-09-08	Grain Strain	310
DT16	2025-09-11	Flood Feud	301
DT17	2025-09-16	Neverending Tragedy	502

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DT18	2025-09-27	Under Siege	456
DT19	2025-10-08	Economy on the Edge	387
DT20	2025-10-09	Dengue Season	460
DT21	2025-10-22	String of Crises	433
DT22	2025-12-30	Building Resilience	499
ET01	2025-08-05	Monsoon misery	297
ET02	2025-09-02	Looming super flood	294
ET03	2025-09-11	Karachi at a standstill	290
ET04	2025-09-19	Flood crisis, fiscal rethink	297
IP01	2025-06-30	The Swat River tragedy – a wake-up call	722
IP02	2025-07-12	Pakistan's rain havoc and killings in Baluchistan	954
IP03	2025-07-17	Flooding across Pakistan: a tragedy repeating every year	1,010
IP04	2025-07-22	Islamabad's rain havoc—a wake-up call	894
IP05	2025-08-28	The recurrent deluge: a story of negligence and corruption	726
IP06	2025-09-05	The unprecedented flooding of Gujrat: a man-made catastrophe	522
IP07	2025-10-01	PPP, PML-N differences widen over flood relief funds	516
MM01	2025-04-19	Mother Nature's fury	357
MM02	2025-06-27	Alarm bells welcome monsoon	386
MM03	2025-06-28	Tragedies on the Swat River	418
MM04	2025-07-01	Will our rescue services be revamped?	371
MM05	2025-07-18	Preparing for the storms ahead	220
MM06	2025-07-19	Disaster preparedness must remain top priority	379
MM07	2025-07-21	Were authorities prepared for floods?	379
MM08	2025-07-23	Climate change getting ferocious	393
MM09	2025-07-24	Time for climate justice	299

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MM10	2025-07-25	Town planning needs revision	380
MM11	2025-07-28	Gilgit-Baltistan sends out SOS	380
MM12	2025-08-05	Gilgit-Baltistan in need of help	662
MM13	2025-08-09	Pakistan needs to take climate-corrective measures	359
MM14	2025-08-18	Relief measures and empty pledge	324
MM15	2025-08-20	Rains and unprepared Karachi	309
MM16	2025-08-31	Pakistan's floodwater tragedy	410
MM17	2025-09-02	Aftermath of the ravaging floods	374
MM18	2025-09-08	Pakistan needs international assistance	401
MM19	2025-09-11	Sindh authorities gearing up for expected floods	427
MM20	2025-09-15	Punjab floods – lessons	361
MM21	2025-09-25	Pakistan's flood-hit economy	349
MM22	2025-09-26	Flood victims need help, not politics	281
MM23	2025-09-27	Floods and politics	285
MM24	2025-10-05	Fresh flood threat	269
NA01	2025-06-24	Monsoon Arrives	260
NA02	2025-06-30	Deadly Monsoon	279
NA03	2025-08-17	Drowning in Denial	301
NA04	2025-08-20	Karachi Drowning	261
NA05	2025-08-25	Preparedness	294
NA06	2025-08-28	Floods & Future	306

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NA07	2025-08-30	Climate Urgency	286
NA08	2025-08-31	Flooding the Future	293
NA09	2025-09-06	Politics Amid Disaster	301
NA10	2025-09-18	Rainwater Rethink	260
NA11	2025-09-21	Waterways Restored	290
NA12	2025-09-28	Flooded Futures	298
NA13	2025-10-21	Rehabilitating Punjab	265
PO01	2025-03-23	Glaciers at risk	290
PO02	2025-07-18	Rain emergency	747
PO03	2025-07-20	Recurring monsoon tragedy	392
PO04	2025-07-24	Rain wreaks havoc	360
PO05	2025-08-16	Rains wreak havoc	653
PO06	2025-08-18	Standing together in deluge	373
PO07	2025-08-20	Karachi drowns again	375
PO08	2025-08-27	Short-lived relief	386
PO09	2025-08-28	Punjab faces devastation	639
PO10	2025-08-30	Need for robust planning	638
PO11	2025-08-31	Water aggression	663
PO12	2025-09-03	Translate consensus into action	404
PO13	2025-09-04	Zardari's climate call	392
PO14	2025-09-08	Punjab expands relief efforts	262
PO15	2025-09-12	300-day plan	435
PO16	2025-09-13	Power bill relief	377
PO17	2025-09-21	WEF's climate alarm	639
PO18	2025-09-25	Crisis demands flexibility	412
PO19	2025-09-28	Stop the squabble	366
PO20	2025-10-23	Sindh unveils relief package	264
PT01	2025-07-10	Arrival of the monsoon	421
PT02	2025-08-17	KP flooding	402
PT03	2025-08-27	Water terrorism	426
PT04	2025-08-31	Water bomb	416
PT05	2025-09-12	Climate contingency planning	416

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PT06	2025-09-14	IMF and flood relief	390
PT07	2025-09-22	Water and Opportunity	503
PT08	2025-10-16	Review passed	398
PT09	2025-10-31	Water as weapon	416
TN01	2025-06-29	Swat tragedy	268
TN02	2025-07-18	Catastrophic times	630
TN03	2025-08-17	Monsoon misery	648
TN04	2025-08-21	City in the sea	520
TN05	2025-08-23	Lessons ignored	454
TN06	2025-08-28	Dangerous deluge	531
TN07	2025-08-31	Flooded farmers	573
TN08	2025-09-05	Don’t play politics	579
TN09	2025-09-10	Footing the climate bill	580
TN10	2025-09-20	Tackling dengue	494