

Lexical Choices and Environmental Ideologies: A Corpus-Based Eco-Linguistic Analysis of Supreme Court Judgments in Pakistan

Nimra Noor¹, Muhammad Farukh Arslan², Tuba Latif³ and Huda Noor⁴

<https://doi.org/10.62345/jads.2025.14.2.25>

Abstract

Environmental ideologies play a pivotal role in shaping institutional responses to nature and sustainability. This study examines how such ideologies are constructed through legal discourse in the Supreme Court of Pakistan, using a corpus-based ecolinguistic approach. A dataset of ten publicly available environmental judgments was compiled and analyzed using AntConc for frequency, collocation, and concordance, with ecologically relevant lexical items identified through the USAS semantic tagger. The analysis, interpreted through Stibbe's (2015) ecolinguistic framework, revealed a discourse dominated by anthropocentric and administrative frames. High-frequency terms such as "environment," "pollution," "land," and "park" were largely embedded in legal, developmental, and public health contexts. In contrast, ecocentric lexemes like "ecosystem," "biodiversity," and "habitat" were entirely absent, highlighting a pattern of lexical erasure. Concordance patterns showed that state institutions and legal authorities are repeatedly positioned as agentive actors, while the environment is constructed as passive and regulated. Rhetorical strategies such as modality, nominalization, and technocratic register further reinforce human-centered governance of nature. These findings demonstrate that judicial language, though aimed at environmental protection, often reaffirms dominant anthropocentric ideologies rather than promoting ecological ethics. This study extends ecolinguistic analysis into the legal domain and emphasizes the ideological role of judicial language in shaping environmental responsibility.

Keywords: Ecolinguistics, Legal Discourse, Environmental Ideology, Corpus Linguistics.

Introduction

Environmental sustainability is one of the major global priorities, and the legal frameworks play a major role in determining how different countries respond to and mitigate environmental risks. The judgments delivered by the Supreme Court have a very high influence in these frameworks. By their interpretations, enforcement, and rulings, they determine what environmental standards are maintained, educate the public, and provide the main principles for policy development. Legislation provides the foundation for environmental law, but it is the rulings of the Supreme

¹MPhil Linguistics Scholar, English Graduate Studies, National University of Modern Languages (Faisalabad Campus). Email: nimranoor1105@gmail.com

²Lecturer, English Graduate Studies, National University of Modern Languages (Faisalabad Campus). Email: farukh.arslan@numl.edu.pk

³MPhil Linguistics Scholar, English Graduate Studies, National University of Modern Languages (Faisalabad Campus). Email: tubalatif77@gmail.com

⁴MPhil Linguistics Scholar, English Graduate Studies, National University of Modern Languages (Faisalabad Campus). Email: hudanoor2112@gmail.com



Court that make it operational, and ultimately determine the direction and emphasis placed on environmental issues. Although they play a critical role, the linguistic approach to environmental responsibility in Supreme Court decisions, particularly in Pakistan, has been under-investigated. Language is an active mechanism. The legal language has a great impact on the way environmental governance is presented and understood. Legal language can build an anthropocentric framework, where legal judgments are based on humans and development, or an ecocentric one, where nature itself is valued. The manner in which Supreme Court decisions build environmental issues can reveal whether legal language supports sustainability or sustains development-oriented perspectives.

The previous research has addressed environmental discourse in media (Ponton & Sokół, 2022), advertising (Ali et al., 2025), and public communication (Nisar et al., 2023); however, the analysis of legal texts is under-researched. Most Pakistani research on environmental law focuses on the effectiveness of institutions and the regulation of environmental policies (Kiran et al., 2023; Mehmood & Cousins, 2022), however, the role of language in legal decisions in shaping environmental responsibility has received little research attention. Although corpus-based methods have demonstrated potential in the analysis of environmental discourse, they are rarely used in legal studies. This paper addresses the existing gaps by investigating how environmental legal judgments in Pakistan reflect ecological accountability through a particular ecolinguistic approach.

Background of the Study

Ecolinguistics studies the ways in which the use of language influences people's environmental attitudes and behaviors. The use of language is perceived as a tool for both expressing and defining environmental values. The language of the Supreme Court decisions is significant in the building of the nation's environmental narratives. Such decisions are more powerful than explanation of legal documents. They define how people and organizations perceive themselves in terms of environmental responsibilities. The way these rulings are phrased, influences the way environmental issues are handled by government policy and by the public.

Supreme Court of Pakistan has been handling major environmental controversies such as deforestation, water pollution and industrial waste cases. Although these cases are important, there is no comprehensive analysis of how the language used in these rulings constructs environmental discourse. The use of ecolinguistic analysis in these judgments shows their peculiar impact on the creation of environmental policy.

There have been many studies around the world that have talked about the issues of environmental rights and legal theory with the works of scholars such as Gilbert et al. (2023) and Mihalopoulos (2011). However, the role of the legal language in the creation of environmental ideologies has not been researched in detail. In spite of the use of AntConc in the study of media discourse (Fatima & Arslan, 2023), the use of the tool in legal analysis is still low. The examination of these strategies in legal documents allows this research to demonstrate how the court language functions in the environmental governance system of Pakistan.

Research Questions

This research answers the following questions:

1. What are the most frequently used environmental terms in selected Supreme Court judgments?
2. How do lexical patterns in these judgments reflect anthropocentric versus ecocentric ideologies?
3. What rhetorical and legal strategies are used to reinforce these ideological positions?

Literature Review

Ecolinguistics has expanded across domains such as media, education, politics, and advertising in contexts like Pakistan, Indonesia, South Africa, and Italy. While employing tools from critical discourse analysis and corpus linguistics, most studies have overlooked legal texts, particularly judicial language. This review highlights how environmental ideologies are constructed across genres, identifying a key gap in ecolinguistic analysis, i.e. the discursive framing of ecological responsibility in legal judgments, especially those of Pakistan's Supreme Court.

Ecolinguistic Foundations in Cultural, Educational, and Public Discourse

Ecolinguistic research shows that cultural, educational, and commercial texts shape environmental ideologies implicitly. Ullah, Arslan, and Fatima (2023) revealed how energy drink ads promote consumerist vitality while obscuring ecological harm. Shakeel and Arslan (2023) found that English nursery rhymes embed environmental vocabulary, fostering early ecological awareness. Baig, Naeem, and Zafar (2023) analyzed Sufi poetry using Stibbe's framework, identifying spiritual metaphors that support ecological harmony, despite the study's classical focus. Institutional discourses also reflect ecological messaging. Abbas, Rasheed, and Aleena (2024) examined Pakistani government textbooks, finding that green discourses are conveyed through semiotic strategies, though lacking longitudinal depth. Together, these studies demonstrate how various genres contribute to environmental worldviews, yet legal discourse remains underexplored in this context.

Framing, Metaphor, and Ideological Strategies in Environmental Media

Environmental media discourse reflects ideologies such as consumerism, anthropocentrism, and development through framing and metaphor. Shakeel et al. (2025) found that *Dawn* adopts ideological framing, while *The Express Tribune* maintains a pragmatic tone. Ali et al. (2025) revealed how luxury branding erases animal origins through multimodal cues, reinforcing anthropocentric views. Similarly, Hayat, Murtaza, and Ali (2024) and Rashid et al. (2024) showed how advertisements aestheticize nature and promote eco-consumerism using persuasive grammar. Ishaq and Arslan (2023) added a gendered perspective, noting how environmental messages are differently interpreted by men and women, suggesting audience-specific ideological framing. Ponton and Sokół (2022) and Takoudis (2023) found that activist media amplifies urgency, while corporate outlets dilute ecological concerns. Iqbal and Khwaja (2023) echoed this in South Asian hydropower narratives, where development discourse overshadows ecological harm. Visual and verbal strategies like personification and imperative language also enhance eco-centric appeals, as seen in Jiayi (2024) and Ubanako and Acha (2023), though their focus lies outside legal discourse. Bridging that gap, Gilani and Bin Sadiq (2025) analyzed Pakistan's environmental laws, showing how sustainability is framed through legal language—highlighting the ideological function of institutional texts and the need to extend ecolinguistic analysis to judicial discourse.

Methodological Innovations and Theoretical Shifts Toward Eco-Centric Discourse

Ecolinguistic research increasingly integrates corpus linguistics and CDA. Shakeel, Arslan, and Akram (2025) and Nisar, Malik, and Asif (2023) applied tools like AntConc, NVivo, and SPSS to media and political texts, offering scalable models, though not extended to judicial discourse. Fatima and Arslan (2023) highlighted environmental marginalization in *Dawn* via corpus analysis, while Rabbani and Ahmed (2025) used LDA to map pollution discourse in Indian and Pakistani

media. Both studies, though methodologically sound, did not explore institutional language construction.

Goźdz-Roszkowski (2021) demonstrated how corpus tools reveal legal phraseology patterns, supporting their application to court texts in Pakistan. Theoretical contributions by Baard (2024), Gilbert et al. (2023), and Mihalopoulos (2011) advocate for ecocentric legal paradigms and nature's rights, yet remain conceptual, without examining how such shifts manifest linguistically in judicial contexts.

Institutional and Legal Constructions of Environmental Responsibility

Shah et al. (2025) demonstrated how Sindh's English textbooks promote neoliberal and anthropocentric ideologies via an Eco-CLA framework. Likewise, Nisar, Malik, and Asif (2023) analyzed the Billion Tree Tsunami campaign's strategic use of sustainability discourse to build political capital. Both studies reveal ideologically charged institutional narratives but omit the judiciary's role in environmental governance.

Mehmood et al. (2022) noted increasing judicialization of environmental disputes in South Asia, which often depoliticizes grassroots movements, yet did not examine how courts linguistically construct legitimacy. Kiran et al. (2023) and Ghashim et al. (2023) identified enforcement gaps and the syntactic complexity of environmental laws, with the latter emphasizing inaccessibility due to dense legal language.

Talha et al. (2024) connected environmental and human rights through comparative legal analysis, though their thematic focus lacked linguistic insight. Similarly, Penz and Fill (2022), despite tracing ecolinguistics' evolution, overlooked legal texts and Global South contexts, reinforcing the need for ecolinguistic studies of judicial discourse.

The Judiciary's Role in Environmental Governance: Power, Language, and Activism

Ahmad et al. (2025) highlighted judicial activism's role in Pakistan's environmental justice through case-based and statistical analysis, noting institutional constraints but neglecting linguistic and ideological aspects. Hassan, Wali, Durman, and Hussain (2024) analyzed suo motu activism under Chief Justices Chaudhry and Nisar, showing a focus on governance reform, yet overlooking ideological framing in judicial discourse.

Gilbert et al. (2023) proposed "Rights of Nature" as a transformative legal paradigm but lacked empirical examination of its discursive realization, reinforcing the need for textual analysis. Similarly, Khan et al. (2024) explored the Supreme Court of Pakistan's role in climate governance without addressing the linguistic strategies that legitimize such decisions.

Astawa et al. (2019) offered a culturally grounded example from Indonesia, showing how *awig-awig* laws reflect ecological values through Positive Discourse Analysis, an approach relevant to Pakistan's hybrid legal culture blending Islamic and indigenous ethics. Laurie (2023) and Naheir and Dhayef (2024) examined political and UN climate discourse respectively, both exposing how ecological priorities are often subordinated to economic concerns, a dynamic mirrored in judicial texts and warranting critical linguistic scrutiny.

Conceptual Developments in Eco-Legal Thought

Sikandar et al. (2024) critiqued anthropocentrism in smart city narratives, advocating ethical anthropocentrism, though without applying it to legal or textual analysis. Haris et al. (2024) introduced "Eco-Maqāsid," merging ecolinguistics and Islamic jurisprudence in Indonesian

climate discourse via Van Leeuwen's social actor theory, offering a culturally relevant model for Pakistan's legal-religious context.

Mihalopoulos (2011) advanced ecological jurisprudence by challenging human-centered legal norms, yet remained theoretical and untested on legal texts. Chu et al. (2024) reviewed Ecological Discourse Analysis, identified methodological fragmentation, and recommended integrating CDA with computational tools, a direction aligned with this study's textual analysis of Supreme Court judgments.

Ecological Discourse Beyond Law: Political and Pandemic Narratives

Dhayef and Naheir (2024) and Mansyur et al. (2021) used CDA to show how political green rhetoric masks neoliberal agendas, revealing how elite discourse sustains dominant structures. Hanif, Alam, and Khan (2025) demonstrated how Pakistani COVID-19 news coverage employed ecological metaphors to link health and environmental crises, highlighting metaphor's broader discursive role.

Abrar and Hashmi (2025) used multimodal analysis of editorial cartoons to reveal ecological critique through visuals and captions, while Habib and Zahra (2024) analyzed Time Magazine's flood reporting using semiotics to show how language and imagery frame environmental narratives, offering indirect models for metaphor and framing analysis in legal texts. Giacomini and Grippaudo (2024) critiqued Italy's environmental constitutional reforms, noting persistent anthropocentric interpretations but lacking analysis of judicial language, reinforcing the need for discourse-level legal inquiry.

Gaps in the Literature and Rationale for the Current Study

Despite the Supreme Court of Pakistan's key role in environmental governance, little research examines how its judgments linguistically construct environmental responsibility. Most ecolinguistic studies focus on media, education, or policy, leaving judicial texts underexplored from a linguistic and ideological lens.

Legal scholarship often emphasizes policy impact or judicial activism, with limited attention to how courts discursively frame ecological issues. Although corpus and discourse-based methods are growing in environmental research, they are seldom applied to judicial texts, leaving a gap in understanding how legal language reflects anthropocentric or ecocentric ideologies.

This study addresses these gaps by applying a corpus-based eco-linguistic framework to Supreme Court judgments on environmental cases in Pakistan. Using lexical and eco-critical discourse analysis, it investigates how legal language frames environmental responsibility and reveals underlying ideological positions. It contributes to ecolinguistics and legal discourse analysis by uncovering how the judiciary constructs environmental meaning through language.

Methodology

This research takes a mixed-method corpus-based approach to analyze the way the Supreme Court of Pakistan linguistically constructs environmental responsibility. Combining quantitative and qualitative ecolinguistic approaches allows conducting a systematic and critical analysis of legal discourse, revealing ideological framing of environmental governance in high-authority judicial texts.

Research Design

This study uses a mixed-method and corpus-based ecolinguistic approach to examine how the Supreme Court of Pakistan discursively constructs environmental responsibility in its judgments. The combination of quantitative and qualitative approaches provides a systematic as well as interpretive understanding of legal language. Quantitative analysis aims at finding lexical patterns like word frequency and collocations, whereas the qualitative part, based on eco-critical discourse analysis (ECDA), gives an interpretation of the ways in which such linguistic choices reflect underlying ideologies. This design is especially appropriate for revealing the ideological aspects of the legal discourse that is frequently presented as neutral or objective though is profoundly rhetorical and value-loaded.

The success of such a hybrid approach has been proven in the previous studies, particularly by Shakeel et al. (2025) who combined corpus analysis and CDA to study the differential framing of environmental issues in national newspapers, and Nisar, Malik and Asif (2023) who applied similar methods to analyze political environmental campaigns. Although these studies were concerned with media and political discourse, their approaches provide a strong base for extending corpus-assisted ecolinguistic analysis to the judicial texts – a field which is little researched. With the structured nature of the legal language and its major socio-political impact, the corpus-based approach of this study is quite capable of showing how legal discourse participates in the overall construction of environmental ideologies.

Data Collection & Corpus Compilation

The judgments were collected in scanned PDF format and converted into machine-readable text using OCR technology. These texts were then cleaned and formatted to ensure compatibility with corpus analysis tools. The complete corpus, comprising ten Supreme Court judgments on environmental issues, was processed through the AntFileConverter and subsequently tagged using the USAS semantic tagger for environmental semantic domains. The final compiled corpus contained approximately 37,438 words (tokens), providing a sufficient dataset for both frequency-based and qualitative discourse analysis.

This set is a representative but thematically coherent sample of issues in the field of environmental legal matters in the Pakistani judicial setting. The structure and size of the dataset are meant to facilitate the discovery of recurring linguistic patterns and yet have sufficient contextual depth for discourse-level interpretation. The use of the official and publicly available sources guarantees that the data is authentic and representative of the high-level legal discourse.

Sampling

Purposive sampling strategy was utilized to ensure that only judgments containing significant content of the environment were included in the corpus. This non-random method allows the researcher to focus on cases that are thematically aligned with the study's objectives, specifically, the analysis of how language constructs environmental responsibility in legal decisions. The chosen judgments present a range of ecological issues such as air and water pollution, forest conservation, and climate-based governance. This thematic diversity guarantees the diversity of the corpus which reflects the multidimensional nature of environmental litigation in Pakistan, but at the same time keeping the whole collection focused on legal discourse that directly addresses sustainability and ecological accountability.

Theoretical Framework

This research is guided by the ecolinguistic framework that was developed by Stibbe (2015), which offers a systematic approach in the analysis of how language influences the perception and relationship of the human being in the natural world. At the core of this framework are such notions as erasure, framing, and salience, which aid in locating the ideological positioning in the discourse. Erasure means excluding or playing down environmental issues in the discourse often at the expense of developmental or anthropocentric interests. Framing means shaping the environmental narratives in a manner that will frame issues either as urgent moral imperatives or as less important than human-centric goals. Salience, on the other hand, measures the prominence in which environmental issues are foregrounded or backgrounded compared to other legal issues.

Table 1: Outline of the Eco Linguistic Framework (adapted from Stibbe 2015, p. 17)

Tool	What it is	What to look for
Ideology	A story about how the world was, is, and should be in the minds of members of a group	Discourses, i.e., characteristic language features used by members of a group
Framing	The use of a source frame to structure a target domain	Trigger words that bring a particular source frame to mind
Metaphor	A type of framing where the source frame is from an imaginable area of life that is distinctly different from the target domain	Trigger words that bring the source frame to mind
Evaluation	A story in people's minds about whether an area of life is good or bad	Appraisal patterns, i.e., language that represents things positively or negatively
Identity	A story in people's minds about what it means to be a particular kind of person	Forms of language that characterise <i>people</i>
Conviction	A story in people's minds about whether a particular description is true, certain, uncertain, or false	Facticity patterns, i.e., linguistic forms that show something as true, uncertain, or false
Erasure	A story in people's minds that something is unimportant or unworthy of consideration	Patterns of language which erase or diminish
Salience	A story that something is important or worthy of consideration	Patterns of language which foreground an area of life

This framework is particularly suited to legal discourse, where language is formal, strategic, and influential. While previous studies, such as those by Ali et al. (2025) and Baig et al. (2023), have used Stibbe's model to analyze environmental erasure and metaphor in advertisements and poetry, this study applies it to judicial texts, where ideologies may be institutionalized through legal authority. In doing so, the research examines whether the Supreme Court's language reflects an anthropocentric stance (subordinating environmental protection to economic or human interests) or an ecocentric orientation that values ecological sustainability and recognizes nature's intrinsic rights.

Data Analysis Techniques

The study employed a combination of corpus-based and discourse-analytical techniques to examine both surface-level lexical patterns and underlying ideological structures in Supreme Court

judgments. Using AntConc, word frequency analysis was first conducted to identify prominent environmental terms filtered through relevant USAS semantic tags.

Table 2: USAS Tags Related to Environment

USAS Tag	Label
W1	The universe
W2	Light
W3	Geographical terms
W4	Weather
W5	Green issues
L3	Plants
L2	Living creatures generally
L1	Life and living things
F4	Farming & Horticulture
O1	Substances and materials
M6	Location and direction
M7	Places

The most frequent environmental terms were then analyzed through collocation to observe how they co-occurred with legal or administrative concepts highlighting how environmental discourse is intertwined with institutional language.

In the qualitative phase, concordance (KWIC) analysis was used to explore how selected keywords function within their textual contexts. Attention was given to rhetorical strategies such as modality, material processes, and nominalizations. These patterns were interpreted through Stibbe's (2015) ecolinguistic framework, focusing on tools like ideology, framing, conviction, identity, erasure, and salience. Together, these techniques revealed whether legal language in the judgments reflected anthropocentric or ecocentric orientations.

Ethical Considerations

This research adheres to academic ethical standards by using publicly available legal texts and focusing solely on linguistic and discursive analysis. No confidential or private data have been accessed or interpreted, and the study does not critique judicial intent or verdicts. Rather, it examines how environmental responsibility is framed through language in public legal texts. All sources have been properly cited, and the analysis has been conducted objectively, with a commitment to academic integrity and respect for judicial institutions.

Data Analysis

The following is the in-depth eco-linguistic analysis of some of the environmental judgments made by the Supreme Court of Pakistan. With the use of corpus tools (USAS tagger and AntConc), the study determines dominant environmental lexicon, studies collocational behavior, interprets concordance patterns in order to evaluate ideological framing of environmental discourse in judicial reasoning. The analysis refers to Stibbe's ecolinguistic framework (2015) and challenges the anthropocentric vs. ecocentric ideology with consideration of rhetorical strategies and discursive silences.

Wordlist Analysis

In order to find lexical patterns that represent environmental ideologies, USAS-tagged corpus was filtered with a set of environmentally relevant semantic domains. The filtering procedure enabled the identification of lexemes that directly or indirectly refer to the environmental themes, both natural aspects and the human interventions in the environment. After extraction, the wordlist was analyzed to find out frequency patterns and thematic relevance.

Table 3: Top 40 Most Frequent Environmental Lexemes with Semantic Tag

Rank	Frequency	Range	USAS Tag	Semantic Category	Lexeme
1	274	10	M6	Location and direction	this
2	160	8	W3	Geographical terms	land
3	137	6	M7	Places	area
4	69	4	L3/M7	Plants/Places	park
5	59	1	M7	Places	playground
6	49	2	M6	Location and direction	transferred
7	43	5	M6	Location and direction	above
8	43	6	M7	Places	areas
9	33	1	M6	Location and direction	transfer
10	32	5	M6	Location and direction	course
11	31	1	W3	Geographical terms	lands
12	30	6	W5	Green issues	environmental
13	29	5	M7	Places	site
14	27	7	M7	Places	provincial
15	26	3	M6	Location and direction	herein
16	24	3	M6	Location and direction	below
17	24	3	M6	Location and direction	ground
18	23	1	M7	Places	boundaries
19	23	6	W5	Green issues	environment
20	23	8	M6	Location and direction	where
21	22	7	L1	Life and living things	life
22	20	3	M6	Location and direction	situated
23	19	9	M6	Location and direction	directed
24	19	1	L3	Plants	trees
25	17	1	M7	Places	estates
26	16	3	M7	Places	building
27	16	4	M7	Places	local
28	16	1	O1	Substances and materials	tankers
29	15	1	O1	Substances and materials	oil
30	14	6	W5	Green issues	nature
31	13	3	M7	Places	boundary
32	13	4	M6	Location and direction	located
33	13	5	O1	Substances and materials	material
34	13	6	M7	Places	province
35	12	3	M7	Places	city
36	11	1	O1	Substances and materials	cement
37	11	6	M6	Location and direction	direct
38	11	2	M7	Places	provinces
39	10	2	W5	Green issues	pollution
40	10	5	M6	Location and direction	position

Each of these keywords reflects a particular thematic dimension within the legal discourse of the selected Supreme Court judgments. For example, “environment” and “pollution” were frequently used in contexts that invoked citizens’ fundamental rights to life and health, revealing a legal framing of environmental concerns as human entitlements. Similarly, “air” was discussed primarily in relation to pollution control and respiratory health, rather than as part of the broader ecological cycle.

The presence of “land,” “park,” and “playground” in high frequency suggested a consistent judicial focus on urban environmental governance, particularly in matters related to land use, zoning laws, and disputes over the conversion or encroachment of public spaces. These words were most often embedded within discussions of property rights, public access, and municipal planning, indicating a treatment of the environment primarily through the lens of human-centered urban utility.

What is particularly notable, perhaps even more so than the words that appeared, is the absence of key ecological lexemes such as “biodiversity,” “habitat,” “ecosystem,” “flora,” “fauna,” or “wildlife.” This absence aligns with Arran Stibbe’s (2015) concept of “erasure,” where ecologically significant concepts are silenced or marginalized in dominant discourses. The wordlist thus reveals not just what is said, but what is systematically left unsaid: the living, interconnected complexity of nature is nearly absent in the judicial representation of environmental issues.

Taken together, the frequency and thematic use of environmental terms in this corpus point strongly toward an anthropocentric orientation, where environmental elements are primarily valued in terms of their utility to human systems (legal, economic, and administrative) rather than their intrinsic ecological worth. The environmental lexicon found in these judgments does not narrate nature as an agent, stakeholder, or victim in its own right, but rather as an object of management, to be protected, regulated, or litigated upon for the sake of human interests.

Collocation Patterns

Following the wordlist analysis, a collocation analysis was conducted using AntConc to explore how key environmental terms function syntagmatically within the corpus. By identifying words that frequently appear in close proximity to selected environmental keywords, this method revealed deeper discursive patterns and underlying ideologies embedded in legal language. The analysis focused on high-frequency terms such as “environment,” “pollution,” “trees,” “park,” “land,” “playground,” and “environmental,” with collocates measured using Mutual Information scores to assess statistical significance.

Table 4: Top 10 Collocates per Keyword with Mutual Information Scores

Rank	Freq	Freq (L)	Freq (R)	Stats	Collocates
Top 10 Collocates of Environment					
1	1	1	0	9.90681	threaten
2	1	1	0	9.90681	supporting
3	1	0	1	9.90681	succeeds
4	1	1	0	9.90681	severe
5	1	1	0	9.90681	safe
6	1	1	0	9.90681	protecting
7	1	1	0	9.90681	professionals
8	1	0	1	9.90681	periodically
9	1	0	1	9.90681	necessitates
10	1	0	1	9.90681	loving

Top 10 Collocates of Environmental

1	2	1	1	11.28533	litigations
2	2	1	1	11.28533	contraveners
3	1	1	0	10.28533	succeeds
4	1	0	1	10.28533	replied
5	1	1	0	10.28533	prosecuted
6	1	0	1	10.28533	pela
7	1	1	0	10.28533	intervened
8	1	1	0	10.28533	heads
9	2	0	2	10.28533	hazards
10	1	0	1	10.28533	emanating

Top 10 Collocates of Trees

1	1	0	1	10.94429	threaten
2	1	1	0	10.94429	succeed
3	1	1	0	10.94429	saved
4	1	0	1	10.94429	plus
5	1	0	1	10.94429	might
6	1	1	0	10.94429	matured
7	2	2	0	10.94429	mature
8	2	2	0	10.94429	felling
9	2	0	2	10.94429	felled
10	9	9	0	10.94429	cutting

Top 10 Collocates of Pollution

1	1	0	1	11.60725	suspended
2	2	2	0	11.60725	source
3	1	1	0	11.60725	scarcity
4	1	0	1	11.60725	particulate
5	1	1	0	11.60725	intervened
6	1	0	1	11.60725	emanating
7	1	0	1	11.60725	emanate
8	1	0	1	11.60725	dust
9	2	0	2	11.60725	damage
10	1	0	1	11.60725	crucial

Top 10 Collocates of Park

1	4	2	2	10.08369	oriented
2	2	1	1	10.08369	hill
3	2	1	1	10.08369	carting
4	24	23	1	9.20922	jubilee
5	1	0	1	9.08369	typography
6	2	1	1	9.08369	sought
7	1	0	1	9.08369	rock
8	1	0	1	9.08369	restraints
9	1	1	0	9.08369	regular
10	1	1	0	9.08369	commercially

Top 10 Collocates of Land

1	1	1	0	7.80851	wall
2	1	1	0	7.80851	wale
3	1	0	1	7.80851	virtually
4	1	0	1	7.80851	utilization
5	1	0	1	7.80851	unqualified

6	1	1	0	7.80851	unoccupied
7	1	0	1	7.80851	tilled
8	1	0	1	7.80851	register
9	1	1	0	7.80851	reserve
10	1	0	1	7.80851	supports
Top 10 Collocates of Playground					
1	1	1	0	9.30957	urge
2	2	0	2	9.30957	until
3	1	0	1	9.30957	undeniably
4	1	0	1	9.30957	unambiguously
5	1	1	0	9.30957	therewith
6	1	1	0	9.30957	surrounds
7	1	0	1	9.30957	socially
8	1	0	1	9.30957	privately
9	1	1	0	9.30957	occasional
10	1	1	0	9.30957	expired

The collocates of “environment” prominently included terms such as “safe,” “loving,” “protect,” “threaten,” and “severe,” indicating a prevalent protection frame grounded in human-centric legal rights. Rather than portraying the environment as a dynamic or self-regulating entity, it is linguistically constructed as an object of governance, which needs to be secured and defended in order to protect constitutional rights, especially the right to life and health.

Likewise, “pollution” was most commonly co-occurred with “scarcity”, “damage”, “dust”, “crucial” and “emanate”. These collocates support an understanding of pollution as a public health problem, which is essentially assessed in terms of its danger to urban populations. The collocation patterns that were highlighted focused on containment, reduction, and administrative control, which reflected a technocratic concept of environmental damage.

“Cutting,” “mature,” “saved,” “threaten,” “felling,” and “illegal” were the strongest collocates in the case of “trees”. These terms reveal that vegetation, particularly urban trees, is largely perceived through the lens of urban planning, law enforcement, and age-based valuation. The word “mature” appears not to celebrate ecological richness but to denote development thresholds for permissible cutting, reflecting a legalistic commodification of green life.

Other key terms such as “park” and “playground” were collocated with “socially,” “restraints,” “expired,” “privately,” and “commercially.” These associations reinforce the idea of urban green spaces as units of legal dispute, property designation, or recreational entitlement rather than ecosystems. Similarly, “land” collocated with words such as “utilization,” “unoccupied,” “reserve,” and “register,” all of which suggest a dominant discourse of ownership, transaction, and strategic development, fully aligned with property law rather than environmental ethics.

What is strikingly absent across all collocation fields is the presence of ecocentric or life-affirming terms such as “biodiversity,” “habitat,” “ecosystem,” “climate,” or “flora/fauna.” This absence substantiates Stibbe’s (2015) concept of erasure, in which ecologically vital perspectives are systematically excluded from dominant narratives. The few evaluative terms that do appear, such as “severe” or “degradation”, point to the urgency of environmental crises, yet even these are embedded in a procedural legal register that lacks emotive or ethical depth.

In general, the collocational structure of the corpus reveals a pattern of instrumental and managerial discourse, where environmental terms are mobilized in service of human systems (legal, administrative, economic) but rarely ecological. The co-texts of environmental language in

these judgments confirm a deep-seated anthropocentric ideology, wherein environmental discourse is shaped more by the logic of governance than the ethos of ecology.

Concordance Analysis

To deepen the understanding of how environmental issues are discursively constructed in judicial contexts, a qualitative analysis of keyword-in-context (KWIC) concordance lines was conducted using AntConc. Such an approach made it possible to recognize the recurrent semantic, syntactic, and rhetorical patterns around the key environmental lexemes. The focus was made on the analysis of the immediate linguistic co-text of these terms in order to reveal the ideological positioning and discursive strategies of Supreme Court judgments.

Pollution

The word “pollution” was commonly employed together with the words such as “air,” “water,” “noise,” “disease,” and “health,” reflecting a legal-medical orientation with regard to human danger. This technocratic approach is manifested, for example, in such expressions as “pollution causes respiratory problems”, or in court orders to decrease industrial emissions. The discourse focuses on pollution’s threat to the urban health but does not speak about such ecological consequences as biodiversity loss or ecosystem disruption. This supports an anthropocentric ideology in which environmental damage is recognized only to the extent that it challenges human well-being, with little regard for nature’s inherent value or systemic interdependence.

Figure 1: Concordance Patterns for “Pollution”

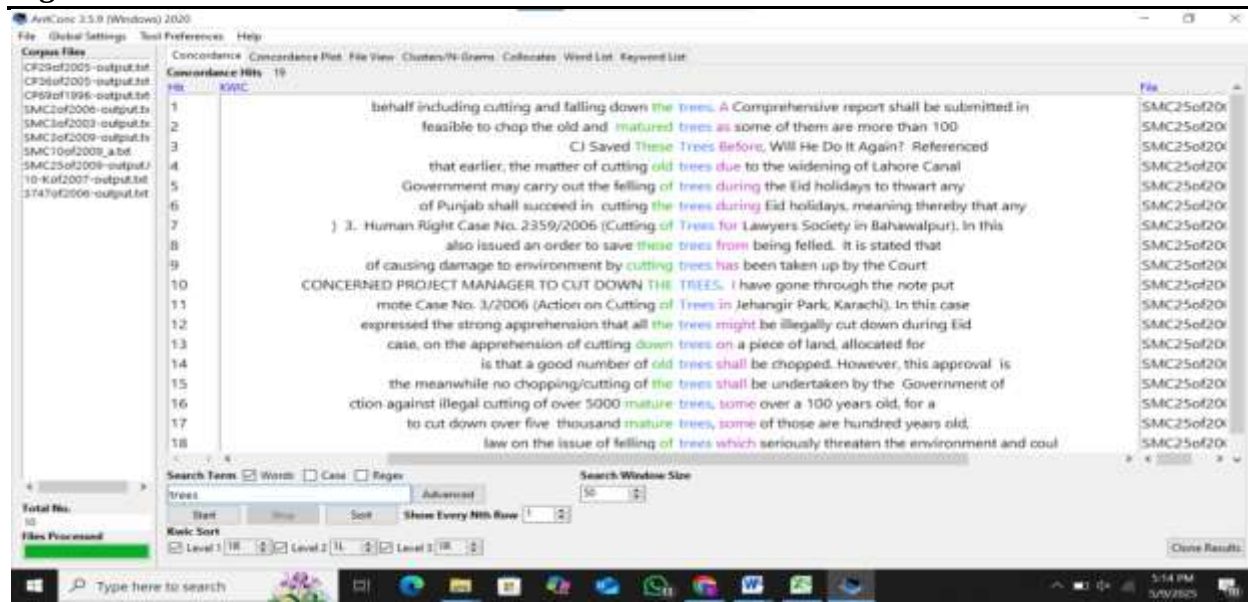


Trees

Concordance patterns for “trees” showed a highly administrative tone with an emphasis on such phrases as “approval to remove trees,” “cutting of mature trees,” and “illegally felled trees.” Vegetation was not regarded as an ecological agent but as a controlled object that needed permits. Judicial attention was focused on procedural compliance rather than degradation of the ecology or

the biodiversity impacts. Such reduction of trees to legal entities is consistent with Stibbe's (2015) concept of "erasure," whereby biologically significant life forms are discursively neutralized whereby the lack of ecocentric ethic of judicial reasoning is further expressed.

Figure 2: Concordance Patterns for "Trees"



Environment & Environmental

The words "environment" and "environmental" were constantly used in legal terms – "fundamental right to a clean environment", "environmental protection order", "environmental impact assessment". These terms were employed in formal judicial settings with such institutional actors as the Secretary of Environment, Director General, or Environmental Tribunal. The environment was presented not in the form of an operating subject, but as a regulated legal object, connected with public rights and procedural obligations. Ideologically, this is in line with Stibbe's (2015) categories of "ideology" and "identity," where nature is stripped of agency and put within governance style, strengthening the idea of environmental protection as an administrative task, rather than an ethical or ecological issue.

Land

The term "land" was always put in legal and territorial terms such as "prime land," "defence land," "leased land," and "reclassified land". Its representation was based on zoning, acquisition, and authority of the institutions, especially by the state or military ownership. There was no recognition of land as an ecological entity, i.e. no mention of habitats, soil systems, or biodiversity. This abstraction demonstrates a commercialized view of nature where land is reduced to a transactional asset, reinforcing a legal-bureaucratic ideology that excludes environmental complexity or ecological functionality.

Park & Playground

References to "park" and "playground" commonly occurred in legal disputes over encroachments, zoning conversions, or leasing for commercial use. Expressions like "converted into parking," "leased to developers", and "access to public playgrounds" showed that these green spaces were

primarily valued as urban amenities. While residents' rights and public access were sometimes invoked, environmental concerns were subordinated to civic infrastructure and legal jurisdiction. From Stibbe's (2015) ecolinguistic lens, this reflects a user-oriented framing where nature is valued for its utility or recreation, rather than for its ecological role or integrity.

Table 5: Comparative Ideological Analysis Table

Keyword	Ideological Frame	Dominant Agent	Ecocentric Potential	Rhetorical Strategy
Environment	Legal-rights frame	State/Court	Low	Modality, obligation
Environmental	Regulatory-bureaucratic	Laws, agencies	Low–Moderate	Nominalization, formality
Pollution	Health & risk discourse	Government	Very low	Threat & prevention verbs
Trees	Permit-based management	Project authorities	Low	Material processes (cut, fell)
Land	Commodification & control	Government, Army	None	Transfer, reclassify, acquire
Park	Urban planning discourse	City Govt./Developers	Low	Conversion, lease, public use
Playground	Public utility discourse	Citizens/State	None	Access, maintain, lease

The corpus-based ecolinguistic analysis shows a strong anthropocentric bias in the judgments of Pakistan's Supreme Court on environmental issues. While the language of the judiciary is evidence of institutional care for environmental degradation, it does so in a legalistic, utilitarian, and urban-centered manner. Nature is not usually presented as an active, interrelated system, but rather as a resource that needs to be regulated, protected, or litigated for the benefit of people. The results support Stibbe's argument that hegemonic discourses tend to eliminate ecological consciousness. The linguistic preferences are an expression of a technocratic ideology in that the environmental responsibility is instrumentalized rather than ecologized.

Discussion

The lexical, collocational, and concordance-based findings are critically interpreted through the theoretical lens of Stibbe's (2015) ecolinguistics, examining how language encodes ideologies, assigns agency, and constructs environmental responsibility in the legal discourse of the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Emphasis is placed on how institutional power, legal formality, and rhetorical structures shape environmental meaning, often in ways that reinforce anthropocentric ideologies and suppress more ecocentric worldviews.

Lexical Prioritization and Thematic Silences

The frequency analysis revealed that environmental language in the judgments centers on a limited set of legally significant but ecologically narrow terms such as "land," "playground," "environmental," "area," "park," and "trees." These terms appear predominantly in legal and administrative contexts, reinforcing a functionalist framing tied to human needs like health, zoning, and urban access (Fatima & Arslan, 2023). Crucially, ecologically rich lexemes such as "ecosystem," "biodiversity," or "habitat" are absent, exemplifying Stibbe's concept of erasure,

where dominant discourse excludes ways of understanding nature as a complex, interconnected system (Shakeel, Arslan, & Akram, 2025), reducing the environment to a background element in legal and urban discourse.

Anthropocentric Ideology and Institutional Authority

Collocational and concordance patterns showed that environmental terms are discursively constructed as passive legal objects subject to human control. Words like “environment” are framed with terms like “clean,” “safe,” or “protected,” emphasizing public entitlement and state obligation rather than ecological balance (Shah, Jatui, & Raba, 2025). This framing is especially apparent in cases about zoning, tree removal, or urban pollution, where harm is recognized only in relation to human populations. The state, through institutions like the PELA (Pakistan Environmental Law Association) or CDA (Capital Development Authority), is consistently the agent of action, while nature appears grammatically passive, reflecting Stibbe’s “identity” structure, where humans dominate and nature is silenced (Iqbal & Khwaja, 2023; Ali et al., 2025).

Linguistic Strategies Reinforcing Ideological Positions

The judgments employ a range of rhetorical strategies that uphold anthropocentric ideology. Through modality and legal obligation, modal verbs such as “shall” and “must” convey procedural authority, aligning with Stibbe’s notion of conviction where obligation replaces ethical engagement. This rhetorical mode is comparable to findings by Gilani and Bin Sadiq (2025), who observed that such modalized certainty in legal texts often overshadows ethical reflection in environmental legislation. Nominalization and abstraction, seen in terms like “degradation” or “violation,” conceal agency and diffuse responsibility, strategies Goźdz-Roszkowski (2021) describes as typical of legal texts aiming to depersonalize institutional power. Similarly, material processes such as “trees were cut” or “land was reclassified” show nature as grammatically passive. The technocratic register, featuring zoning, tribunals, and master plans—further reflects what Naheir and Dhayef (2024) identify as legal-bureaucratic distancing in environmental policy discourse.

Erasure, Suppression, and Marginal Ecocentrism

The absence of ecological terminology and the dominant legal framing reflect a clear pattern of erasure, where the environment is not portrayed as sacred, interconnected, or morally significant. Even in cases of large-scale harm, such as the felling of 5,000 trees, legal violations take precedence over ecological loss, a trend also evident in news coverage, as shown by Rabbani and Ahmed (2025), who found that media discourse emphasizes disruption to human life rather than ecological degradation. However, a few suppressed ecocentric moments exist, such as the depiction of the destruction of a “magical valley” or the phrase “irreparable loss” used for deforestation, which briefly evoke a deeper environmental consciousness. These align with the kind of culturally rooted ecological storytelling found in Sufi poetic traditions, as highlighted by Baig, Naeem, and Zafar (2023), though such narratives remain sidelined in legal contexts. These moments align with Stibbe’s (2015) idea of positive discourse, but they remain marginal and are not integrated into the dominant legal narrative.

Toward a Re-storying of Environmental Responsibility

Generally, the corpus presents the environment as a managed entity defined by legal control, urban planning, and institutional procedure. While these judgments reflect judicial engagement with

environmental issues, their language remains anchored in human-centered protection rather than ecological ethics. In line with Stibbe's call for re-storying, the study highlights the need for a narrative shift, one that moves beyond procedural compliance and toward the recognition of nature as an active, interconnected, and morally significant system. This is echoed in the legal-ecological reforms proposed by Gilbert et al. (2023), who advocate for Rights of Nature legislation, and by Baard (2024), who calls for post humanist judicial narratives. Even in the Pakistani context, Khan et al. (2024) note the Supreme Court's potential to advance environmental protection, though they do not engage with its ideological framing. Legal discourse must evolve not just in practice but in language, to reflect a vision of environmental responsibility grounded in coexistence rather than control.

Future Trends

The future studies can develop this study by investigating environmental judgments of lower courts, of international tribunals or of regional languages to conclude whether the ecological framing is coherent or disjointed in different judicial levels and cultures. Longitudinal studies could also follow the development of judicial discourse through time as a result of the climate change, civil activism, or global environmental frameworks. Also, scholars can conduct comparative corpus studies on media, educational curricula, and legal documents to reveal the more general patterns of ideologies in Pakistani environmental narratives. The improvement of NLP and AI-supported corpus tagging may help to conduct large-scale, multilingual ecolinguistic research in South Asia and beyond.

Conclusion

This study explored the construction of environmental responsibility in Supreme Court of Pakistan judgments using a corpus-based ecolinguistic framework. Through lexical, collocational, and concordance analyses, and Stibbe's (2015) framework, the study demonstrated that environmental responsibility is primarily interpreted in the judiciary in anthropocentric, technocratic, and regulatory ways. Judicial narratives mostly used legal-bureaucratic language for terms like "environment," "pollution," and "land," while the vocabulary around "ecosystem," "biodiversity," or "habitat" was much rarer. The study indicates that although the judiciary plays a leading role in environmental administration, the language of its decisions tends to ignore ecological networks, view natural systems as tools of regulation, and endorse human-centered beliefs.

The research highlights important trends that enrich both ecolinguistic scholarship and environmental jurisprudence, showing how what seems neutral in court documents reflects specific worldviews. It requires a rethinking of legal discourse to include ecological values, non-human recognition, and the wider interconnections that characterize our world. In this way, the research appeals to the use of ecolinguistic awareness in the sphere of judicial and legal reforms, encouraging the further legal texts to seek a deeper link with environmental issues. This research provides a basis for interdisciplinary collaboration between language, law, and environmental justice in Pakistan and other countries.

Implications of the Study

The study is of great importance to both ecolinguistics and legal discourse analysis as it provides a unique empirical insight into the construction of environmental ideologies in the judicial language. It shows the dominance of anthropocentric framing in the Pakistani legal texts and the lack of ecocentric or biocentric ethical constructs. Using Stibbe's (2015) ecolinguistic tools in a

legal setting, the study helps set up future research at the intersection of environmental linguistics and institutional language. The results also give environmental activists and legal reformers something to think about, because they show that legal language, with its authority, is often focused on people rather than the environment and can get in the way of greener policies.

Recommendations

This study suggests increased incorporation of ecological values and language in the judicial reasoning. Courts should expand their rhetorical and conceptual boundaries to ecocentric views, which transcend procedural legality to an ecologically interconnected, environmentally ethical and non-human agentive discourse. Linguistic training for judges and clerks in legal institutions can also be helpful, especially in the formulation of nature-related issues, to prevent purely technocratic or anthropocentric expressions. In academic contexts, this study promotes the use of ecolinguistic tools in interdisciplinary legal education, so that the students can critically analyze the role of language in mediating environmental justice.

References

- Abbas, W., & Rasheed, S. (2024). Green Discourses in Textbooks: A Critical Eco-Linguistic Analysis of Children's Literature at Primary Level in Pakistan. *Pakistan Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 12(3), 2717-2729. <https://doi.org/10.52131/pjhss.2024.v12i3.2388>
- Abrar, A., & Hashmi, Z. H. S. (2025). Social Praxis Of Multimodal Environmental Discourse: A Dialectical Ecolinguistic Analysis Of Print Media Cartoons. *Policy Journal of Social Science Review*, 3(1), 110-129. <https://doi.org/10.63075/pjssr.v3i1.99>
- Ahmad, I., Haider, A., & Ahmad, K. (2025). The Impact of Judicial Activism on Environmental Protection and Justice in Pakistan: A Statistical Analysis. *Journal of Asian Development Studies*, 14(2), 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.62345/jads.2025.14.2.1>
- Ali, K., Shah, S. F. S., & Saddiqi, S. (2025). Origin erased: an exploration of anthropocentricity and ambivalence in the discourse of Pakistani leather-selling brands. *Journal of Applied Linguistics and TESOL (JALT)*, 8(1), 623-640.
- Asif, M., Nisar, M., & Malik, S. (2023). Analyzing Imran Khan's billion tree tsunami initiative from ecolinguistic perspective: Assessing its environmental implications for Pakistan. *Panacea Journal of Linguistics & Literature*, 2(2), 1-17. <https://doi.org/10.59075/pjll.v2i2.270>
- Astawa, I. G., Budiarsa, M., Mbete, A. M., & Simpen, I. W. (2019). The Interpretation of Ecological Preservation in the Awig-awig (Customary Law) Text of Tenganan Pegringsingan Village: Positive Discourse Analysis. *E-Journal of Lingusitics*, 13(2), 56-71. <https://doi.org/10.24843/eJL.2019.v13.i01.p06>
- Baard, P. (2024). Rights of Nature Through a Legal Expressivist Lens: Legal Recognition of Non-Anthropocentric Values. *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, 1-17. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10677-024-10479-4>
- Baig, I. A., Naeem, T., & Zafar, A. (2023). A Study of Sultan Bahu's Poetry through Arran Stibbe's Eco Linguistic Framework. *Pakistan Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 11(4), 4046-4054. <https://doi.org/10.52131/pjhss.2023.1104.0673>
- Chu, A., Ang, L. H., & Halim, H. A. (2024). Systematic Literature Review of Ecological Discourse Analysis From 2014 to 2023. *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*, 14(11), 3431-3442. <https://doi.org/10.17507/tpls.1411.12>
- Dhayef, Q. A., & Naheir, H. S. (2024). An Ecolinguistic Analysis of Green Texts in the Speech of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on the Climate Crisis. <https://doi.org/10.57239/PJLSS-2024-22.1.00276>

- Fatima, G., & Arslan, M. F. (2023). Eco-Linguistic Analysis of 'Dawn' Newspaper: A Corpus Based Study. *Journal of Asian Development Studies*, 12(4), 112-122. <https://doi.org/10.62345/jads.2023.12.4.8>
- Ghashim, M., Litvishko, O., & Pronchenko, E. (2023). Environmental law: Discourse complexity indices. In *E3S Web of Conferences* (Vol. 460, p. 05038). EDP Sciences. <https://doi.org/10.1051/e3sconf/202346005038>
- Giacomini, G., & Fratto Rosi Grippaudo, E. (2024). Spectrum of Anthropocentric Approaches to Ecological Integrity: Environmental Protection Effectivity and Legal Standing in Italy's New Constitutional Framework. *The Law and Politics of Ecological Integrity*, Springer. <https://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4800435>
- Gilani, R. F., & Sadiq, A. H. B. (2025). Exploring the linguistic dimensions of pepa law in pakistan: a critical analysis of sustainable development discourse. *Journal of Applied Linguistics and TESOL (JALT)*, 8(1), 161-184.
- Gilbert, J., Macpherson, E., Jones, E., & Dehm, J. (2023). The Rights of Nature as a Legal Response to the Global Environmental Crisis? A critical review of international law's 'greening' agenda. *Netherlands Yearbook of International Law 2021: A Greener International Law—International Legal Responses to the Global Environmental Crisis*, 47-74. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-6265-587-4_3
- Goźdz-Roszkowski, S. (2021). Corpus linguistics in legal discourse. *International Journal for the Semiotics of Law-Revue internationale de Sémiotique juridique*, 34(5), 1515-1540. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11196-021-09860-8>
- Habib, A., & Zahra, F. T. (2024). Eco-Linguistic Analysis of Flood Representations in Selected Print Media: A Case of Climate Change Semiotics. *Pakistan Languages and Humanities Review*, 8(2), 240-251. [https://doi.org/10.47205/plhr.2024\(8-II\)21](https://doi.org/10.47205/plhr.2024(8-II)21)
- Hanif, S., Alam, M. F., & Khan, S. (2025). Narratives of Covid-19 in Pakistani English Newspapers: An Ecolinguistic Appraisal. *Journal of Arts and Linguistics Studies*, 3(1), 141-164. <https://doi.org/10.71281/jals.v3i1.216>
- Haris, A., Widodo, A., Tantri, I. D., & Sarah, S. (2024). Eco-Maqāṣid in Climate Change Campaigns: From an Ecolinguistics Study to the Philosophy of Islamic Law. *Al-Manahij: Jurnal Kajian Hukum Islam*, 219-236. <https://doi.org/10.24090/mnh.v18i2.10652>
- Hassan, S., Wali, H., & Hussain, S. (2024). Judicial Activism and Comparative Analysis of Suo Motu Notices Taken by Chief Justice Saqib Nisar and Iftikhar Chaudhry. *Social Science Review Archives*, 2(2), 796-813. <https://doi.org/10.70670/sra.v2i2.127>
- Hayat, M. S., Murtaza, G., & Ali, M. (2024). An Eco-Linguistic Discourse Analysis of Selected Pakistani Advertisements. *Al-Mahdi Research Journal (MRJ)*, 5(4), 572-581.
- Ishaq, T., & Arslan, M. F. (2023). An eco-linguistic analysis of pakistani advertisements: a gender based study. *Jahan-e-Tahqeeq*, 6(3), 330-349. <https://doi.org/10.61866/jt.v6i3.956>
- Jiayi, W. (2023). Harmonious Discourse Analysis of Multimodal Eco-Speech in New Media. *The Frontiers of Society, Science and Technology*, 5(16). <https://dx.doi.org/10.25236/FSST.2023.051606>
- Kiran, A., Murtiza, G., Yousaf, A., Hussain, M., & Al Jbawi, E. (2023). A critical analysis of legal responses to water pollution in Pakistan. *Cogent Social Sciences*, 9(2), 2254944. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311886.2023.2254944>
- Laurie, J. (2023). Green Economy/Green Revolution: an ecolinguistic critical discourse analysis of South African political parties' public communications on climate change.
- Mansyur, S. A., Lukmana, I., Isnendes, R., & Gunawan, W. (2021). Eco-critical Discourse Analysis of the Indonesian President's Statement at the 21st Conference of the Parties in Paris. *REiLA: Journal of Research and Innovation in Language*, 3(2), 105-114. <https://doi.org/10.31849/reila.v3i2.6285>
- Mehmood, A., & Cousins, J. J. (2022). Judicialising urban political ecologies: Post-politics and environmental governance in South Asia. *Antipode*, 54(6), 1944-1964. <https://doi.org/10.1111/anti.12850>

- Naheir, H. S., & Dhayef, Q. A. An Eco-Critical Discourse Analysis of Environmental Policies in Presidential Statements.
- Penz, H., & Fill, A. (2022). Ecolinguistics: History, today, and tomorrow. *Journal of World Languages*, 8(2), 232-253. <https://doi.org/10.1515/jwl-2022-0008>
- Philippopoulos-Mihalopoulos, A. (2011). *Law and ecology: New environmental foundations*. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203829691>
- Ponton, D. M., & Sokół, M. (2022). Environmental issues in the Anthropocene: Ecolinguistic perspectives across media and genres. *Text & Talk*, 42(4), 445-451. <https://doi.org/10.1515/text-2022-0040>
- Rabbani, S., & Ahmed, F. (2025). Ecological modelling: A computational analysis of air pollution discourses in English print media of India and Pakistan. *PloS one*, 20(2), e0315087. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0315087>
- Rashid, T., Sair, H. K., Khalid, T., & Hamid, A. (2024). Deciphering Linguistic Forms, Functions, and Pragmatics: An Eco-Linguistic Analysis of Environmental Campaign Slogans. *Panacea Journal of Linguistics & Literature*, 3(1), 79-92.
- Shabbir, S. S., Daavi, R. A., Khan, H., & Mehmood, M. I. (2024). *Legal Framework for Promoting Environmental Justice in the Context of Climate Change: Highlighting Proactive Role of the Supreme Court of Pakistan*.
- Shah, W. A., & Shah, U. R. (2025). De-centering the anthropocentric worldview in language textbooks: A posthumanist call for discursive reparations for sustainable ELT. *Linguistics and Education*, 86, 101397. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.linged.2025.101397>
- Shakeel, M., & Arslan, M. F. (2023). Eco-linguistic analysis of nursery rhymes: exploring the environmental impact of vocabulary and words on children consciousness. *Jahan-e-Tahqeeq*, 6(3), 309-329. <https://doi.org/10.61866/jt.v6i3.955>
- Shakeel, M., Arslan, M. F., & Akram, A. (2025). Media Discourse and Ecolinguistics: A Corpus-Based Analysis of Pakistani Newspapers Stories. *Journal of Social Signs Review*, 3(03), 24-54.
- Sikandar, S. M., Ali, S. M., & Hassan, Z. (2024). Harmonizing smart city tech and anthropocentrism for climate resilience and Nature's benefit. *Social Sciences & Humanities Open*, 10, 101026. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ssaho.2024.101026>
- Stibbe, A. (2015). *Ecolinguistics: Language, ecology and the stories we live by*. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315718071>
- Takoudis, A. (2023). *The Role of Language in the Environmental Movement: A Comparative Discourse Analysis of Spanish and English through an Ecolinguistics Framework*. <https://doi.org/10.6082/uchicago.6384>
- Talha, A., Noor, S., & Mingfei, M. A. (2024). Environmental Rights as Human Rights: A Case Study of Pakistan and Multiple Approaches towards their Recognition. *Pakistan Social Sciences Review*, 8(4), 82-97. [https://doi.org/10.35484/pssr.2024\(8-IV\)07](https://doi.org/10.35484/pssr.2024(8-IV)07)
- Ubanako, V. N., & Acha, W. A. (2022). An ecolinguistic analysis of ecocentrism in Cameroon newspaper discourse. *Language & Ecology*.
- Ullah, F., Arslan, M. F., & Fatima, G. (2023). The perfect boost” an eco-linguistic analysis of energy drink ‘sting’ advertisement. *Harf-o-Sukhan*, 7(2), 258-271.
- Wijitsopon, R. (2025). Exploring the Semantic Domain of Environmental Issues in British English Conversation: A Corpus-Assisted Ecolinguistic Perspective. *rEFLECTIONS*, 32(1), 76-103. <https://doi.org/10.61508/refl.v32i1.278833>