A COMPARATIVE CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF PAKISTANI AND INDIAN ENGLISH IN NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF THE 2025 FLOOD CRISIS

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Abstract
The current study examines the Pakistani English and Indian English newspapers' discursive construction of the 2025 flood crisis, grounding the analysis within the framework of World Englishes and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). Drawing on Fairclough's three-dimensional model (1989), the research investigates textual features, discursive practices, and socio-cultural contexts to reveal how language mediates disaster narratives in two neighbouring South Asian countries. A sample of thirty news reports from six leading English-language newspapers in Pakistan and India were taken, employing a qualitative, comparative analysis. The findings demonstrate clear divergences in disaster representation. Pakistani English newspapers predominantly frame floods as humanitarian emergencies, employing emotive lexicalization, passive constructions, and crisis-oriented narratives that foreground vulnerability, climate risk, and governance limitations. Indian English newspapers, by contrast, adopt a more procedural and bureaucratic discourse, emphasizing administrative control, technical expertise, and institutional accountability through active agency and policy-focused framing. Despite these differences, both varieties rely heavily on elite institutional sources, marginalizing the voices of affected communities. From a World Englishes perspective, the study shows how Pakistani and Indian English function as localized outer-circle varieties that balance global journalistic norms with national socio-political ideologies. The article contributes to disaster discourse scholarship by highlighting how English, as a shared transnational medium, simultaneously enables cross-border circulation of information and reproduces distinct national identities, power relations, and models of governance in climate crisis reporting.
Keywords: World Englishes, Critical discourse analysis (CDA), English newspapers, flood crisis, India, Pakistan, disaster reporting

1. Introduction

Language and media are pivotal in shaping public understanding and perception of disasters, particularly in socio-politically and environmentally sensitive regions such as South Asia. Pakistan and India, two neighboring countries with shared histories, climatic challenges, and geopolitical tensions, provide a unique context for examining how English-language newspapers mediate and construct narratives of shared disasters. Print media in both countries not only informs readers but also frames events, responsibilities, and public sentiment through the selection of lexical choices, metaphors, and intertextual references (Aslam & Shahzad, 2025; Hussain, Aslam, Sohail, & Faiz Ullah, 2025). English, in this context, functions as both a medium and a message: while it enables transnational readership, it also reflects the socio-cultural and political inclinations of the media institutions that produce it (Kachru, 2009; Sher, 2025).

Disaster reporting, particularly on floods and water crises, has become increasingly urgent due to climate change and its intensifying effects in South Asia. Media framing plays a crucial role in shaping public and policy-level responses by highlighting certain causes, consequences, and actors while minimizing others (Raza et al., 2025; Akram, Khan, & Ahmed, 2023). Pakistani English newspapers, for instance, often emphasize political accountability and institutional shortcomings, while Indian media may prioritize developmental narratives and governance reforms (Hussain et al., 2025; Kouser-Asif, 2022). This divergence is further influenced by cross-border tensions and historical narratives, wherein nationalistic agendas and diplomatic considerations subtly shape reportage (Shaheen, Alam, & Ghauri, 2024; Ahmed, Mubeen, & Nawaz, 2022).

The growing Americanization of Pakistani English further complicates media discourse, as lexical and grammatical choices increasingly reflect American standards rather than British norms (Sher, 2025). These linguistic shifts are not merely stylistic but also ideological, impacting how issues are framed, how blame is attributed, and how solutions are proposed. Critical discourse analysis (CDA) provides a robust lens for interrogating such discursive practices, particularly Fairclough's three-dimensional framework, which considers textual features, discursive practices, and social practices (Fairclough, 1989). By integrating textual analysis with broader socio-cultural and national contexts, CDA allows researchers to uncover the implicit ideologies and power relations embedded within media narratives.

Recent studies underscore that disaster reporting in Pakistan often marginalizes local voices and resilience narratives, focusing instead on episodic framing, political blame, and sensationalism (Raza et al., 2025; Nazeer, Alam, Shams ur Rehman, & Yasir, 2025). Comparative analyses of Indian and Pakistani media reveal differing thematic emphases, with Pakistani media highlighting conflict and nationalism, whereas Indian outlets foreground governance, modernization, and developmental solutions (Hussain et al., 2025; Bukhari, Nasir, Ali, & Aziz, 2025). Such patterns have profound implications for regional cooperation, climate policy, and public understanding of transboundary issues like floods and water scarcity. Studying these divergences in English-language newspapers is critical because English serves as a shared medium that bridges national boundaries, enabling cross-border circulation of narratives while simultaneously reflecting national ideologies and sociopolitical agendas (Kachru, 2009; Raza & Shah, 2024).

This study situates itself within this complex nexus of media, language, and socio-political context. By focusing on Pakistani and Indian English newspapers reporting on shared disasters, the research employs Fairclough's CDA framework to examine how textual choices, discursive practices, and broader social practices construct, mediate, and contest meanings in public discourse. The framework is particularly suited to this study because it allows for the integration of micro-level linguistic analysis with macro-level socio-political interpretation, revealing how language both reflects and shapes power, ideology, and public perception in transnational contexts (Aslam & Shahzad, 2025; Sher, 2025).

1.2 Background

Pakistan and India are among the most disaster-prone countries in South Asia, frequently facing floods, droughts, and water scarcity. English-language newspapers in both countries play a crucial role in disaster communication, shaping public perception and influencing policy agendas. Studies indicate significant variations in media framing between Pakistani and Indian outlets. Pakistani media often emphasizes episodic coverage and political accountability, while Indian media focuses on thematic coverage and governance solutions (Hussain et al., 2025). Climate

change and cross-border water politics further complicate media narratives, requiring careful analysis of language use and discursive strategies to understand how disasters are represented and how public responsibility is constructed (Bukhari et al., 2025; Akram et al., 2023).

1.3 Problem Statement

Despite extensive research on disaster reporting and climate change communication, limited studies have comparatively analyzed Pakistani and Indian English newspapers reporting on shared disasters. There is a gap in understanding how linguistic choices, framing, and ideological orientations differ across national contexts and how these differences shape public perception and transboundary discourse.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study contributes to the field of media discourse analysis and disaster communication by offering a comparative evaluation of Pakistani and Indian English newspapers. It highlights the linguistic and ideological differences in reporting shared disasters, providing insights into nationalistic, environmental, and political discourses. The findings have practical implications for policymakers, journalists, and media scholars, enhancing cross-border understanding, promoting responsible reporting, and informing climate change communication strategies.

1.5 Research Objectives

1. To evaluate how Pakistani English and Indian English differ in the textual strategies used to report shared disasters.
2. To examine how socio-political and cultural contexts in Pakistan and India shape discursive patterns in disaster reporting.

1.6 Research Questions

1. How do Pakistani English and Indian English newspapers differ in their textual presentation of shared disasters?
2. What discursive patterns are identified in both Pakistani and Indian English?
3. How do socio-political and cultural contexts influence disaster framing in Pakistani and Indian English media?

2. Literature Review

2.1 Introduction

The role of English-language media in shaping public understanding of climate crises has become increasingly prominent in South Asia, where vulnerability to extreme weather events like floods is high (Raza et al., 2025; Hussain et al., 2025). English, as a global medium, functions not only as a vehicle of information but also as a site for ideological negotiation and power discourse, a perspective aligned with Kachru's Three Circles model (1985) and Fairclough's (1985) three-dimensional framework of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). In this context, Pakistani and Indian English represent distinct outer-circle varieties of World Englishes, shaped by local sociopolitical realities, historical colonial legacies, and emerging global influences (Kachru, 2009; Sher, 2025). These varieties mediate the construction of climate narratives, influencing how causality, responsibility, and resilience are framed in disaster reporting. While global scholarship on disaster communication has addressed North-South media differences (Khawaja et al., 2025), the comparative study of Pakistani and Indian English newspapers' flood reporting remains underexplored, particularly through a CDA lens that examines both linguistic and ideological dimensions. This review situates the analysis of 2025 flood reporting in Pakistan and India within the broader scholarship on climate discourse, media framing, and English as a transnational variety.

2.2 English in South Asian Media and the Three Circles Model

English functions in Pakistan and India as a legacy of colonial administration and education, but it has evolved into socially distinct forms reflecting localized linguistic and cultural norms (Kachru, 2009). In Kachru's three-circle model, both Pakistani and Indian English are categorized as outer-circle varieties, where English serves as a second language with institutional and socio-political significance. Sher (2025) notes a marked Americanization of Pakistani English in journalistic texts, especially in newspapers, where American lexical and grammatical norms increasingly dominate over traditional British English. Indian English, in contrast, reflects a more hybridized system, balancing British English standards with localized idiomatic expressions and discourse conventions (Hussain et al., 2025; Ahmed et al., 2022). These outer-circle varieties function as cultural and political mediators, carrying both local nuances and globalized norms in the construction of climate-related narratives.

2.3 Media Framing of Floods and Climate Change

Flood reporting in Pakistani and Indian English newspapers reveals notable differences in framing strategies and discursive patterns. In Pakistan, coverage of climate crises such as the 2022 and 2025 floods has predominantly employed episodic framing, emphasizing immediate impacts, sensational imagery, and political blame attribution (Raza et al., 2025; Umber et al., 2023). Daily Dawn and The News International, while highlighting causality and government response, often marginalize community voices and long-term resilience narratives (Akram et al., 2023; Aslam & Shahzad, 2025). Conversely, Indian newspapers like The Times of India adopt more thematic framing, linking floods to systemic governance challenges, developmental reforms, and climate adaptation strategies (Hussain et al., 2025; Kouser-Asif, 2022). Both media landscapes demonstrate a dual tension between scientific explanations of climate change and political narratives, yet the balance differs, reflecting each country's sociopolitical context.

Lexical and rhetorical strategies in English-language reporting also reveal ideological orientations. Pakistani newspapers frequently employ metaphors and urgency-driven vocabulary to create affective responses, portraying climate change as a series of immediate crises (Nazeer et al., 2025; Rehman et al., 2025). Indian newspapers, while also using emotive language, embed discourse within policy debates and developmental frameworks, suggesting a more mediated narrative of responsibility and mitigation (Bukhari et al., 2025). Such patterns are consistent with Fairclough's (1992) three-dimensional model, where text (lexical choices), discursive practice (intertextuality and narrative conventions), and social practice (ideological and structural power relations) intersect in the construction of meaning.

2.4 Pakistani and Indian English in Disaster Reporting

Comparing Pakistani and Indian English reveals distinct stylistic and ideological features in climate and flood reporting. Pakistani English exhibits Americanized lexical preferences, with a high frequency of direct causality markers, sensational adjectives, and nominalizations that emphasize institutional responsibility (Sher, 2025; Raza et al., 2025). Headlines often foreground political accountability, reflecting both nationalist discourses and governance critiques (Aslam & Shahzad, 2025; Akram et al., 2023). Indian English, while also engaging with political narratives, foregrounds developmental solutions, intergovernmental coordination, and systemic accountability, often through multi-layered syntactic constructions that allow for nuanced attribution of responsibility (Hussain et al., 2025; Ahmed et al., 2022).

Cross-border comparisons highlight how media discourse not only reflects national contexts but also reinforces regional perceptions of risk and cooperation. Studies on the Indus Water Treaty and transboundary water politics show that Pakistani newspapers frame water

scarcity and flood events in competitive and conflict-laden narratives, whereas Indian newspapers adopt a more neutral or solution-oriented stance (Bukhari et al., 2025; Shaheen et al., 2024). Such contrasts underscore the role of English as a sociolinguistic resource in shaping perceptions of environmental crises and international relations, mediating both domestic policy debates and public understanding of cross-border challenges.

2.5 Sociolinguistic Dynamics and Ideological Implications

The interplay of language, ideology, and representation is central to understanding South Asian climate discourse. Fairclough's CDA framework highlights the interrelation between textual features, production processes, and social structures. In Pakistani English newspapers, the predominance of episodic frames, dramatized imagery, and Americanized lexical patterns reflects both the media's commercial imperatives and the influence of globalized journalistic standards (Raza et al., 2025; Sher, 2025). Indian English newspapers, employing more thematic framing, illustrate a discourse oriented toward governance critique and policy evaluation (Hussain et al., 2025; Kouser-Asif, 2022). The linguistic realization of these frames, through modality, transitivity choices, and evaluative adjectives, signals differential ideologies about agency, responsibility, and resilience. Both varieties reveal how English, even as a shared medium, carries divergent cultural and political meanings in outer-circle contexts.

2.6 Research Gap

Despite extensive research on climate reporting in South Asia, significant gaps remain. Most studies on Pakistani and Indian English newspapers are descriptive, focusing on content frequencies and thematic patterns without fully integrating linguistic, sociopolitical, and intertextual dimensions (Ejaz et al., 2023; Faraz Ahmad & Shahzad, 2022). There is a paucity of comparative CDA studies that situate Pakistani and Indian English within the framework of World Englishes and critically examine how lexical, syntactic, and rhetorical choices construct divergent narratives of climate responsibility, risk, and resilience. Furthermore, previous scholarship has largely neglected the emerging influence of Americanized English on Pakistani media discourse and its implications for cross-cultural communication in disaster reporting (Sher, 2025). A systematic, comparative analysis of 2025 flood reporting in both countries' English-language newspapers can fill these gaps, providing insights into how outer-circle English varieties mediate climate discourse and influence public perception.

2.7 Conclusion

The literature demonstrates that English-language media in Pakistan and India serves as both a vehicle for information and an instrument of ideological construction in disaster reporting. Pakistani and Indian English, as outer-circle varieties, display distinct lexical, syntactic, and rhetorical characteristics shaped by local contexts and global influences (Kachru, 2009; Sher, 2025). Pakistani English tends toward episodic framing, sensationalism, and Americanized lexical features, while Indian English demonstrates thematic framing, developmental discourse, and nuanced attribution of responsibility. Fairclough's three-dimensional CDA framework provides a robust tool for analyzing these linguistic and ideological patterns, integrating textual, discursive, and social dimensions. By situating this comparative study within World Englishes scholarship and outer-circle English contexts, the proposed research addresses critical gaps in climate communication, highlighting the socio-linguistic implications of English in South Asian disaster reporting. This approach contributes not only to the theoretical understanding of Asian Englishes and media discourse but also to practical considerations for policymakers, journalists, and climate communicators seeking more inclusive, context-sensitive disaster reporting strategies.

3. Research Design

This study employs a qualitative and interpretive design grounded in Fairclough's three-dimensional model of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) (1989) to comparatively examine how Pakistani and Indian Englishes are used in newspaper coverage of the 2025 flood crisis. CDA provides an appropriate analytical framework by examining textual features, discursive practices, and socio-cultural contexts. This multidimensional approach enables exploration of how flood reporting simultaneously reflects political interests, media positioning, national attitudes, and broader regional dynamics.

Positioned within World Englishes, the study further investigates how English functions differently in two neighbouring South Asian countries, Pakistan and India and how media discourse reflects these localized, hybrid, and culturally embedded varieties of English. Through CDA, the study uncovers how flood narratives are framed, how responsibility is discussed, and how national and humanitarian identities are constructed differently by Pakistani and Indian media outlets.

3.1 Theoretical Framework

This study is grounded in Fairclough's three-dimensional framework of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), which conceptualises discourse as a form of social practice (Fairclough, 1989). In this view, language is not external to society but dialectically embedded within it. Linguistic practices both shape and are shaped by social structures, institutions, and power relations. Discourse is therefore understood simultaneously as text, discursive practice, and social practice.

At the textual level, analysis focuses on formal linguistic features, such as vocabulary, grammar, transitivity, modality, and evaluative language, which function as traces of underlying production processes and cues for interpretation. At the level of discursive practice, texts are examined as products of socially situated processes of production and interpretation, drawing on shared "members' resources" such as background knowledge, beliefs, and ideological assumptions (Fairclough, 1989). Finally, at the level of social practice, discourse is situated within broader socio-political, institutional, and cultural contexts that condition meaning-making and reproduce or contest power relations.

By integrating these three dimensions, Fairclough's model offers a multidimensional analytical framework that links micro-level linguistic choices with macro-level social structures. This framework is particularly suited to media discourse analysis, as it enables a systematic examination of how newspaper texts both reflect and actively constitute social realities, ideologies, and relations of power (Fairclough, 1989).

3.2 Data Collection & Sampling

A purposive sampling strategy was employed to select texts that aligned with the research objectives. Thirty news articles were collected, five each from six major English-language national newspapers in Pakistan (*Dawn, The Nation and The News International*) and India (*Hindustan Times, The New Indian Express and Deccan Chronicle*). Newspapers were chosen for their national influence, credibility, and accessible online archives. A fixed timeframe (1 August–30 September 2025) was used to capture peak reporting during the 2025 flood crisis. Relevant articles were located through Google's advanced search using the query *site:[newspaper].com "flood" 2025*, and the first two pages of results for each outlet were screened. Although the data consists of publicly accessible news reports, ethical considerations remain important and no copyrighted material was altered or misrepresented.

4. Data Analysis

This section presents a comparative Critical Discourse Analysis of Pakistani English and Indian English newspaper coverage of the 2025 flood crisis using Fairclough's three-dimensional model (1989): textual analysis, discursive practice, and sociocultural practice. The analysis draws on combined national datasets to identify dominant discursive patterns. Comparative findings are summarized in the tables, which present side-by-side contrasts between the two countries.

4.1 Textual Analysis

At the textual level, the analysis focuses on lexical choice, agency, process types, quantification, and tone through which the floods are represented. Table 1 presents a comparative overview of these features.

Table 1: Comparative Textual Analysis of Pakistani and Indian English Newspaper

Textual Feature	Pakistani English Newspapers	Indian English Newspapers	Analytical Observation
Lexical Choice	Crisis-intensifying and emotive expressions such as "catastrophic super flood of 2025," "grave flood situation," "unprecedented devastation," and "extreme situation"	Neutral and technical terms such as "flood-like situation," "red alert," and "heavy rainfall"	Pakistani English frames floods as humanitarian emergencies, while Indian English frames them as manageable events.
Process Verbs	Dynamic and destructive verbs like "wreak havoc," "washed away crops," and "submerged villages"	Procedural verbs such as "issued alerts," "declared holidays," and "evacuated students"	Floods are constructed as violent natural forces vs. administrative challenges.
Agency	Frequent passive constructions: "villages were inundated," "people were evacuated"	Predominantly active constructions: "authorities evacuated," "administration announced"	Responsibility is backgrounded in Pakistani texts but foregrounded in Indian texts.
Quantification	Numbers highlighting loss: "802 deaths," "900,000 residents evacuated," "690,000 cusecs"	Numbers highlighting governance: "190.4 mm rainfall," "Rs 1,582 crore released," "45 students evacuated"	Statistics emphasize suffering vs. administrative control.
Overall Tone	Emotional, urgent, and crisis-oriented	Detached, factual, and rational	Reflects humanitarian vs. technocratic discourse styles.

As shown in Table, Pakistani English newspapers rely heavily on emotive lexicalization and passive grammatical structures to construct floods as overwhelming humanitarian disasters. Indian English newspapers, by contrast, use technical vocabulary and active agency to present floods as administratively manageable. This directly addresses RQ1, demonstrating clear differences in textual presentation of shared disasters.

4.2 Discursive Practice

Discursive practice analysis examines sources of authority, intertextuality, narrative sequencing, and representation of social actors. Comparative patterns are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2: Comparative Discursive Practice in Pakistani and Indian English Newspapers

Discursive Feature	Pakistani English Newspapers	Indian English Newspapers	Analytical Observation
Sources of Authority	Official and security institutions: "NDMA said," "PDMA report," "army called in for rescue"	Expert and bureaucratic institutions: "IMD said," "CWC issued warning," "state government announced"	Different elite authorities dominate each discourse.
Intertextuality	Frequent crisis statements: "the next 48 hours will be critical," "flood situation is grave"	Expert advisories and reports: "meteorological department issued red alert"	Both privilege elite voices over lay perspectives.
Narrative Structure	Rain → flooding → evacuation → relief → military assistance	Alert → administrative action → containment → compensation	Survival-oriented vs. procedure-oriented narratives.
Representation of Affected People	Represented mainly as victims: "farmers extremely vulnerable," "people displaced"	Mostly absent or indirectly referenced	Marginalization of affected communities in both contexts.
Media Role	Emergency informer and humanitarian mediator	Administrative communicator	Media aligns with dominant governance practices.

As evident in the table, Pakistani English reporting constructs floods through a crisis-escalation narrative centered on emergency response and humanitarian intervention. Indian English reporting, however, follows a procedural narrative emphasizing alerts, administration, and compensation. This answers RQ2 by showing how discursive patterns differ despite similar reliance on institutional authority.

4.3 Sociocultural Practice

At the sociocultural level, the analysis situates flood discourse within broader ideological, political, and environmental contexts. Table 3 presents the comparative findings.

Table 3: Comparative Sociocultural Practice in Pakistani and Indian English Flood Discourse

	Pakistani English Newspapers	Indian English Newspapers	Analytical Observation
Climate Change Framing	Explicit links to climate change: "accelerated glacial melting," "climate change has pushed agricultural risks"	Implicit references through alerts and rainfall data	Structural causality emphasized more in Pakistani discourse.
Governance Ideology	Emphasis on vulnerability and limited capacity: "reactive firefighting responses"	Emphasis on efficiency and control: "robust disaster response"	Reflects contrasting governance narratives.
Civil–Military Relations	Military normalized: "army called in," "synergy between civil administration and military"	Disaster response largely civilian and bureaucratic	Reveals differences in power structures.
National Self-Image	Climate-vulnerable and risk-exposed state	Developmentally strong and administratively capable state	Disaster discourse reinforces national identity narratives.
Geopolitical Context	Primarily domestic vulnerability	Linked to regional politics: "humanitarian grounds," "IWT"	Floods embedded in broader political contexts differently.

As shown in the table above, Pakistani English newspapers frame floods within discourses of climate vulnerability and governance constraints, while Indian English newspapers embed flood reporting within developmental and geopolitical narratives. This directly addresses **RQ3**, demonstrating how socio-political and cultural contexts shape disaster framing.

Taken together, the tables demonstrate that Pakistani English and Indian English newspapers construct the same environmental crisis through distinct textual strategies, discursive practices, and sociocultural ideologies. These differences reveal how disaster discourse functions not only as news reporting but also as a site for reproducing national identities, power relations, and models of governance.

5. Discussion and Findings

The comparative analysis of Pakistani and Indian English newspapers in reporting the 2025 flood crisis reveals both convergences and divergences in textual, discursive, and social dimensions, reflecting localized norms of English usage as conceptualized within World Englishes.

5.1 Textual Presentation of Shared Disasters

Pakistani and Indian English newspapers both employ formal, evaluative, and technically precise language; however, their textual strategies diverge in emphasis and orientation. Pakistani English frequently combines disaster-specific terminology with emotive human-interest elements, using expressions such as "historic floods" and "villages have been submerged" alongside precise numerical data on rainfall, casualties, and affected populations. Passive constructions and nominalization foreground the magnitude of the disaster while often anonymizing victims, aligning textual choices with an empathetic yet authoritative tone.

Indian English, by contrast, emphasizes bureaucratic and procedural precision through evaluative language such as "unprecedented calamity-like situation" and "dangerous levels," often integrating technical and institutional lexicon, cusecs, and economic indicators. Action verbs and linear problem-response structures foreground state interventions and procedural efficiency, while human-interest elements are selectively integrated to complement the narrative rather than dominate it. This indicates that Pakistani English foregrounds human vulnerability and emotional resonance, whereas Indian English foregrounds institutional authority and governance competence, reflecting divergent textual priorities despite a shared focus on disaster severity.

5.2 Discursive Patterns in Pakistani and Indian English

Both varieties employ structured problem-response sequences, intertextual layering, and authoritative sourcing, yet the deployment of these strategies differs. Pakistani English constructs narratives that foreground state and civil-military actors while integrating humanitarian concern and citizen experience, balancing institutional authority with empathetic engagement. Frequent intertextual references to local, national, and international agencies, such as PDMA, NDMA, and UN offices, enhance credibility and procedural transparency.

Indian English exhibits discursive patterns emphasizing hierarchical governance, procedural clarity, and cross-referencing of multiple sources, including government officials, meteorological departments, and historical records. The reporting constructs layered narratives that integrate causality, quantification, and human-interest elements selectively, positioning institutional competence and operational efficiency at the center of the discourse. Both varieties display high intertextuality and sequential narrative structuring, yet Pakistani English foregrounds relational and human-centered discourse, while Indian English foregrounds bureaucratic and procedural discourse.

5.3 Influence of Socio-Political and Cultural Contexts

Socio-political and cultural contexts strongly shape disaster framing in both countries. Pakistani English situates flood events within broader environmental, infrastructural, and social vulnerability frameworks, highlighting climate change, agrarian dependence, and collective resilience. Human-interest stories and detailed demographic data reinforce empathy, social cohesion, and expectations of state accountability, reflecting Pakistani cultural and socio-political norms where relational and community-centered perspectives are foregrounded.

Indian English situates flood coverage within bureaucratic, economic, and governance frameworks, emphasizing institutional efficiency, compensation schemes, and procedural transparency. Humanitarian concern is present but operates alongside an ideological emphasis on hierarchical authority, public trust in governmental competence, and cross-border implications, reflecting the cultural expectation of state-led intervention and economic accountability. Both varieties reveal that media discourse is not merely descriptive but actively constructs a socio-political understanding of disasters, aligning reporting with national values and cultural expectations.

5.4 Integrated Findings

1. **Textual Differences:** Pakistani English integrates human-interest and emotive elements more consistently, while Indian English emphasizes bureaucratic and procedural precision. Quantification, nominalization, and evaluative language are common to both, but their communicative orientation diverges.

2. **Discursive Convergence and Divergence:** Both varieties rely on intertextual references, sequential narrative structures, and authoritative sourcing; however, Pakistani English foregrounds empathy and relational framing, whereas Indian English foregrounds state authority and operational competence.

3. **Socio-Cultural Influence:** Disaster framing reflects national socio-political and cultural norms: Pakistani English emphasizes vulnerability, community, and climate-conscious narratives; Indian English emphasizes governance, procedural clarity, and economic stakes.

4. **World Englishes Perspective:** The findings demonstrate localized norms of English that balance global reporting conventions with domestic socio-political expectations. Pakistani English embodies an empathetic-technical hybridity, whereas Indian English embodies a bureaucratic-precise hybridity, illustrating how World Englishes adapt to context-specific communicative and ideological needs.

CDA Dimension	Pakistani English Newspapers	Indian English Newspapers	Comparative Observation / Implication
Textual Features	- Technical and formal lexicon: "unprecedented hydrological crisis," "historic floods," "ravaged," "submerged" - Numerical precision: river levels, casualties, evacuated populations - Emotive human-interest narratives - Passive constructions and nominalizations - Intertextual references: PDMA, NDMA, UN, scientific sources	- Formal, precise, and evaluative lexicon: "unprecedented calamity-like situation," "flood-like situation," "dangerous levels" - Numerical specificity: population, acres, villages affected - Human-interest details blended with official and economic information - Nominalization and technical terms: SDRF, cusec, girdawari - Intertextual references: state officials, IMD, historical records, Reuters	- Both employ technical, formal registers, quantification, and nominalization. - Pakistani English foregrounds emotive and human-centered reporting. - Indian English foregrounds institutional, bureaucratic, and economic perspectives.
Discursive Patterns	- Problem-response sequence: rainfall → flooding → evacuation → relief → policy - Authority-driven narrative with victim	- Sequential reporting: rainfall → flooding → human impact → government intervention → relief measures - Authority-centric,	- Both integrate intertextual sources and sequential narratives. - Pakistani English emphasizes humanitarian concern and citizen

	anonymization - High intertextuality: PDMA, NDMA, FAO, UN, field reports - Modality and hedging indicate risk and uncertainty - Victim-responder dichotomy	emphasizing competence and procedural clarity - Intertextual layering: officials, meteorological data, historical records, international reports - Risk attribution: natural + human/infrastructural factors - High modality and prescriptive guidance	resilience. - Indian English emphasizes institutional competence, hierarchical governance, and accountability.
Social / Contextual Features	- State-centered governance and bureaucratic legitimacy - Socio-economic vulnerability, especially agriculture and smallholders - Climate change references and structural risks - Cultural framing: collective responsibility, empathy, civic compliance - Cross-border awareness (India) embedded	- State authority and governance central - Socio-economic stakes, including agriculture and industry - Humanitarian and cultural sensitivity; moral responsibility highlighted - Cross-border awareness included (Pakistan) - Ideology of resilience and control emphasized	- Both frame floods as socio-political, environmental, and cultural phenomena. - Pakistani English emphasizes human vulnerability and community-centered narratives. - Indian English emphasizes institutional efficiency, operational control, and cross-border implications.
Overall Linguistic Implication	Pakistani English demonstrates a blend of technical authority and empathetic reporting, highlighting citizen vulnerability and governance responsibility.	Indian English demonstrates bureaucratically nuanced, precise, and culturally attuned reporting, foregrounding state competence and economic stakes.	Both reflect World Englishes adaptations to local socio-political, cultural, and institutional norms while maintaining global journalistic conventions.

In conclusion, the analysis confirms that while Pakistani and Indian English newspapers share formal and evaluative textual traits, their discursive and socio-cultural patterns diverge significantly. Pakistani English foregrounds humanitarian concern and relational framing, whereas Indian English foregrounds bureaucratic authority, procedural transparency, and economic accountability. Both varieties construct credible, authoritative, and culturally resonant disaster narratives, reflecting the interplay between language, ideology, and context in contemporary South Asian English media.

Conclusion

This study applied Fairclough's three-dimensional Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to examine how Pakistani English and Indian English newspapers reported the 2025 flood crisis. The findings show that disaster reporting is not neutral; rather, it reflects national ideologies, governance models, and socio-political contexts.

At the textual level, Pakistani English newspapers mainly framed the floods as humanitarian emergencies, using emotionally charged language and crisis-focused expressions to highlight suffering and urgency. In contrast, Indian English newspapers adopted a more technical and administrative tone, relying on neutral vocabulary, expert references, and procedural descriptions. This difference clearly shows how the same disaster can be linguistically constructed in different ways.

At the level of discursive practice, both media contexts relied heavily on official and institutional sources, while the voices of affected communities remained limited. However, Pakistani reporting emphasized humanitarian and security institutions, whereas Indian reporting prioritized bureaucratic and scientific expertise.

At the sociocultural level, Pakistani English coverage linked floods to climate vulnerability, rural hardship, and governance limitations, often normalizing military involvement in disaster response. Indian English coverage reflected developmental nationalism, institutional efficiency, and geopolitical responsibility. Together, these findings demonstrate that flood reporting helps reproduce national views about responsibility, power, and environmental risk.

Overall, the study shows that newspaper discourse not only reports disasters but also shapes public understanding of climate crises and state roles, making CDA a valuable tool for analyzing environmental media discourse in South Asia.

Implications and Recommendations

This study has important pedagogical implications for English language teaching and media literacy. Disaster-related news texts can be used effectively in classrooms to develop students' critical reading skills and awareness of how language shapes meanings of power, responsibility, and vulnerability. Integrating Critical Discourse Analysis into ELT and teacher education can help learners critically engage with media texts and better understand the linguistic construction of environmental issues.

From an academic perspective, the study contributes to research on disaster discourse by offering a comparative CDA of Pakistani English and Indian English newspapers. It demonstrates the usefulness of Fairclough's framework for analysing environmental crises in South Asian media contexts and highlights the value of cross-national comparisons in revealing ideological differences. Future research may extend this work through corpus-based, multimodal, or audience-oriented approaches.

The findings also have clear implications for media practice. The dominance of official and institutional voices in both contexts suggests a need for more inclusive reporting. Journalists are encouraged to include the perspectives of flood-affected communities alongside expert and governmental sources. Greater awareness of linguistic framing can help avoid the naturalization of disasters and support more balanced and ethical reporting.

In terms of policy and environmental implications, media discourse plays a key role in shaping public understanding of climate risks and disaster management. Policymakers should promote communication that links floods not only to emergency response but also to long-term climate adaptation, infrastructure planning, and environmental governance. Such discourse can encourage preventive action and support more sustainable and resilient responses to future climate-related disasters.

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