Communicative Dignity in Diplomatic Communication: A Peace Linguistics Corpus Analysis of Western and Eastern Press Releases on the Taliban Regime, 2021

Kaukab Saba[1], Dr. Wasima Shehzad[2] & Dr. Naveed Khattak[3]

[1] (Corresponding Author) PhD Scholar, Department of English, Air University, Islamabad, Pakistan
Email: kaukab.saba@iiu.edu.pk

[2] Professor, Department of English, Air University, Islamabad, Pakistan Email: wasima@mail.au.edu.pk

[3] Associate Professor, Department of English, Air University, Islamabad, Pakistan
Email: naveed.khattak@au.edu.pk

Abstract

Communication is the foundation upon which diplomatic ties are established, developed, bolstered, weakened, or terminated (Pukallaus, 2021). The purpose of this study is to study and compare the communicative dignity in the diplomatic communication by Western and Eastern diplomats used for Taliban regime, 2021 under the lens of Peace Linguistics. The linguistic strategies presented by Gomes de Matos (2008) were explored in the corpus of press releases from The United States of America, The United Kingdom, Pakistan and China; the results showed that the language used by diplomats followed peace linguistics strategies. However, comparatively the Eastern corpus exhibited higher frequencies of positive lexical choices compared to the Western press releases. The communicative dignity in the Eastern corpus was also greater compared to the Western corpus, likely due to the Eastern countries being neighboring nations and more concerned about Afghanistan's stability. The previous studies in the field of Peace Linguistics have often borrowed frameworks from other disciplines for analysis however, the current study is exploratory in nature and introduces a peace linguistics analytical framework. The study is significant in highlighting the positive role of communicative dignity in diplomatic communication, ultimately contributing to harmonious diplomatic relationships and making this world a better place to live in.

Keywords   Afghanistan, Corpus Analysis, Diplomatic Communication, Peace and Conflict studies, Peace Linguistics

Introduction

The establishment of a peaceful society has always been a major concern throughout human history, and over time, the need to explore additional measures to achieve this goal has grown even stronger (Saba, 2021). Disputes, be them personal or political, intervene the peace of the society and they have often started with communicative disrespect and have been settled through communicative dignity, as the most effective way of converting conflict into peace is through dialogue. Neither weapons nor armaments have served this purpose as effectively as peaceful communication so rather than investing on the latest weapons investing in creating awareness about peaceful communication is a more productive idea for resolving disputes and building lasting peace. In this context, Peace Communication (Gultung, 1969), Nonviolent Communication (Rosenberg, 2002), and Peace Linguistics (Gomes de Matos, 19993) are some of the disciplines introduced to contribute to creating a more peaceful world, these disciplines have been further explored in the recent years. Peace communication refers to a communication process aimed at achieving peace, often with a persuasive characteristic feature. Peace communication is an interdisciplinary field that investigates how communication processes and media can contribute to peacebuilding and conflict resolution

(Hoffmann & Hawkins, 2015). It integrates media studies, development studies, peace and conflict studies, sociology, psychology, and technology studies (Bau', 2020). On the other hand, peace linguistics is an interdisciplinary field that examines how language is effectively used to prevent violence, build peace, and promote human rights at a global level (Gomes de Matos, 2014). It delves into linguistic peace or violence manifested through language choices, varieties, modes, and registers that can empower or disempower individuals (Gomes de Matos, 2014). While peace communication focuses on effective communication for peaceful resolutions, peace linguistics explores the role of language in promoting peacebuilding and fostering communicative dignity (Gomes de Matos, 2014). Both fields share the common goal of utilizing communication and language to create a more peaceful world but differ in their specific areas of emphasis and study. The current study is a n attempt to study the diplomatic communication under the lens of Peace Linguistics.

Gomes de Matos (2012) introduced the framework for Peace Linguistics that revolves around two core principles: communicative peace and communicative dignity. These concepts serve as fundamental pillars for understanding and promoting peaceful communication. Communicative peace is a concept in Peace Linguistics that focuses on developing peaceful communication practices and creating conditions for peaceful communication in educational and social contexts. It involves prioritizing the humanizing nature of communication while being aware of the potential for dehumanizing uses of language. Communicative peace can be promoted through linguistic diversity, multilingualism, and culturally sensitive approaches to language education and communication (Matos, 2014). Furthermore, Gomes de Matos (2000) argues that the concept of communicative peace emphasizes the use of human intelligence to bridge gaps, find commonalities, and treat each other with dignity and respect. This concept holds relevance in diplomatic communication, as it helps build understanding and trust between nations and cultures. Communication that upholds dignity and respect plays a significant role in facilitating peaceful resolutions of disputes. On the other hand, negative or destructive communication can diminish citizens' understanding and participation in the political process. The second concept, communicative dignity introduced by Gomes de Matos, can be defined as the right to be treated with respect in all forms of communication. It is a fundamental aspect of effective and ethical communication, particularly in contexts where power dynamics and social hierarchies may influence interactions. Language is itself not violent; it is the ideology working behind the language which makes it violent or nonviolent (Friedrich, 2007). While some view 'hate speech' as potentially violent due to its consequences, it's important to acknowledge the complexity of this debate. Language, though not inherently violent, can have serious repercussions when used to promote discrimination or incite harm. Striking a balance between free speech principles and harm prevention remains crucial. This research primarily focuses on fostering positive and constructive language use to enhance communicative dignity.

Institutions, such as government, business and finance, education, family, and religions, shape and reinforce discourses by producing, consuming, and distributing texts that influence what is considered acceptable or unacceptable on a particular topic and in so doing, they engage in discursivity. Fairclough (2007, p.4) defines discursivity as "production, consumption and distribution of text." Institutions produce, consume, and distribute texts that are positively or negatively valenced toward an actor (i.e., another institution). Discursive structures work behind each discourse projecting the discourse seem as truthful and genuine as it can be within its own context or perspective. Discourses are highly regulated and have their own internal rules because they are based on human-made structures and human knowledge which is constantly shifting and changing according to the investment of power. Language gives rise to discourses that interweave, forming a complex discursive construct. Thus, the discursive nature of knowledge imposes limits on what is communicable about a subject or artefact.

The purpose of this study is to examine the discursive features of diplomatic communication regarding the Taliban regime in Afghanistan through the lens of NPL and PL. By analyzing the press releases of four selected countries between August 1st, 2021 to July 31st 2022, this research aims to gain a deeper understanding of the language used in diplomatic communication related to the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. This study has provided insight into the role of language and explore how diplomatic actors employ various linguistic strategies, suggested by Peace Linguistics, to construct narratives, shape perceptions, and influence international policies regarding peace and conflict in Afghanistan. Ultimately, the findings of this research can contribute to the knowledge of effective

communication strategies by using Peace Linguistics for peacebuilding and conflict resolution in diplomatic relations.

Afghanistan has been the target and obsession of some of the world's greatest empires including Britain, Russia, and the United States of America. On 30th August 2021 the Taliban took over control of Afghanistan officially declaring it *The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.* The last US troops left Afghanistan ending a 20 years-long war that took 2, 40,000 civilian Afghans' lives and cost about $2 trillion Since then, different countries have come up with their political narratives based on their political ideology creating various discourses on Afghanistan's geopolitics. The US government decided to withdraw troops from Afghanistan after nearly two decades of military involvement, citing factors such as a desire to end the war, changing national priorities, and shifting strategic focus. Additionally, there were various domestic and international pressures on the US government to withdraw troops from Afghanistan, including public opinion in the US and abroad, financial costs, and diplomatic concerns with other countries. These factors converged into the decision by the Biden administration to fully withdraw US troops by August 31, 2021 (Thomas et al., n.d.). Hence, the political scenario of Afghanistan over the years proves that weapons, ammunition, drones, army incursion failed and the only thing that could have worked was negotiation. The best possible approach to resolve disputes successfully through negotiation is to negotiate with communicative dignity and peace. The lack of communicative dignity in the previous peace deals and discussions failed the negotiations and brought calamities and disorder in Afghanistan.

Diplomatic communication about the Taliban Regime in Afghanistan and the political perspective of international communitive about it, paves the way to the realization of peace or conflict in Afghanistan. Since the taking over of Kabul by the Taliban, different Western and Eastern political discourses have been created. "Western discourse" and "Eastern discourse" refer to the prevailing narratives and perspectives adopted by countries and actors from Western and Eastern regions respectively, regarding the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. The discursivity in diplomatic communication has created an environment of qualm for the people of Afghanistan and its neighboring countries. It is not only communicative competence but also communicative dignity that should be part of diplomatic communication. The Afghan issue has been undertaken differently by different countries keeping their political agendas in consideration.

The presents research explores the discursivity in four countries' political discourses about Afghanistan through the lens of PL. It does so in order to understand the positivity and negativity of the use of language and its potential repercussions on the future in Afghanistan in either igniting war or establishing peace.

Research Objectives

This research endeavors to comprehensively investigate diplomatic communication concerning the Taliban regime in 2021, as conveyed through press releases originating from China, Pakistan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The primary objective is to analyze and delineate how 'Communicative dignity' and 'Communicative peace,' as conceptualized by Gomes de Matos (2008), manifest in the selected press releases. Additionally, the study aims to assess the alignment of diplomatic communication with the principles of Peace Linguistics (PL) aiming to derive valuable insights from this alignment.

Research Questions

Keeping the above-mentioned research objective in mind, the current research aims to inquire the following questions.

1. How can linguistics strategies, employed in the selected diplomatic texts, presents the political ideology of the country to which it belongs and to what extent it aligns with the principals of peace linguistics
2. How does 'Communicative dignity' and 'Communicative peace' as conceptualize by Gomes de Matos (2008) exhibits in the selected press releases?

Significance of the Study

The research explicates the role of language in shaping discourse and describing the fate of a nation. Moreover, it helps in highlighting the role of Peace Linguistics as a theoretical framework in the discursivity of political/diplomatic discourse. As Friedrich (p.1, 2007,) aptly notes, "However, despite its potential contribution, Peace Linguistics has not been systematized into a theoretical model." This study represents an earnest endeavor to harness both Peace Linguistics as both analytical and

theoretical models, seeking to provide a structured and systematic framework for their application in research and practice which can be further used by future researchers in linguistic or discourse analysis in other fields. The study has also highlighted the role of communicative dignity in establishing peace or triggering war and conflict. Overall, the research contributes to multiple fields such as Peace Linguistics, Discursivity, Diplomatic Communications, and Peace and Conflict Studies.

Literature Review

Peace linguistics was first formally defined in David Crystal's "A Dictionary of Language" in the 1990s. Francisco Gomes de Matos is recognized as a key founder of peace linguistics and has made significant contributions to this emergent field conceptually, politically, and pedagogically. (Wright, "Language and Creative Action for Peace: Contributions of Francisco")

The field of Peace Linguistics was introduced by Gomes de Matos in 1993, where he applied concepts of Peace Linguistics, particularly communicative peace, to education in Brazil, aligning with the empowering qualities advocated by Paulo Freire (Friedrich, 2007). Through the lens of communicative peace, Peace Linguistics aims to create a friendly environment conducive to peaceful negotiations and conflict resolution, emphasizing the importance of respectful language use and harmonious communication (Friedrich, 2007). Gomes de Matos's work in applying Peace Linguistics concepts to education underscores the transformative potential of language in promoting peace, dignity, linguistic rights, justice, equality, cooperation, kindness, and mutual understanding (Molina, 2019). By integrating linguistic principles, methods, findings, and applications, Peace Linguistics emerges as a means of fostering peace and human rights at a global level, reflecting a paradigm shift in linguistics towards promoting peaceful coexistence and conflict resolution (Molina, 2019). Therefore, Gomes de Matos's contributions to the field of Peace Linguistics have been instrumental in shaping its trajectory and establishing it as a vital area of study that leverages language for peaceful purposes and societal harmony.

Similarly, scholars like Patricia Friedrich have made significant contributions to the practical applications of Peace Linguistics in real-world scenarios related to peace, diplomacy, and negotiation. Friedrich's works, such as "Language, negotiation and peace: The use of English in conflict resolution" (2007) and "Applied linguistics in the real world: Working on peace, diplomacy, and negotiation" (2019), offer insights into how linguistic theories and methodologies can be effectively utilized to address issues of conflict resolution and foster peaceful communication (Friedrich, 2007, 2019). Furthermore, Rebecca L. Oxford's multidimensional framework for peace language activities, as discussed in her works like "The language of peace: Communicating to create harmony" (2013) and "Understanding peace cultures" (2014), provides a valuable organizational structure for incorporating 'peace consciousness' into daily life and practice, thereby fostering peacebuilding efforts (Oxford, 2013, 2014). These early contributions underscore the transformative potential of Peace Linguistics in promoting peaceful interactions and resolving conflicts through language and communication strategies.

Andy Curtis, through his book "The New Peace Linguistics and the Role of Language in Conflict" (2022), has significantly contributed to highlighting the political dimensions of language and its impact on peace and conflict (Curtis, 2022). His work sheds light on how language can either exacerbate or alleviate tensions in conflict situations, thereby emphasizing the crucial role of language in peacebuilding efforts. Additionally, Curtis's co-authored article, 'Peace Linguistics in the Classroom' (Curtis & Tarawhiti, 2018), provides valuable insights for educators seeking to integrate Peace Linguistics courses into college or university curricula. By outlining key objectives such as understanding communication for peaceful purposes, exploring cultural and linguistic aspects of conflict and peace, and conducting critical discourse analysis, Curtis's contributions facilitate the incorporation of Peace Linguistics into educational settings (Curtis & Tarawhiti, 2018). Moreover, Ishihara & Cohen further emphasized the importance of systematic pragmatic instruction in fostering peaceful interactions in multilingual and multicultural settings (2014). Through detailed discussions on teacher knowledge requirements, pragmatic norms, teaching strategies, and the role of language in conflict resolution, Ishihara's contributions empower language users to manage conflicts effectively and build peaceful interactions.

Similarly, there are multiple studies conducted on diplomatic communication from various angles. These include studying the process of diplomatic communication by combining the communication processes presented by different theorists (Marcus, 1984), and the diachronic study of

the communicative aspects of diplomacy focusing on continuity and change (Johnson & Hall, 2003), Baranyai (2011) studied the role of translation and interpretation in conveying the meanings within diplomatic communication. Similarly, Jonsson (2008) explored the challenges to global diplomatic communication. Huwang and Wang (2019) analyzed the Twitter strategies for building diplomatic communication by analyzing the selected tweets of the diplomats. Gomes de Matos (2001) presented the role of positiveness in diplomatic communication and gave his suggestion on making diplomatic communication dignified and peaceful from a linguistics perspective.

After reviewing the relevant literature, we contend that studying diplomatic communication under the lens of Peace Linguistics is an under-investigated area and they have not been used as an analytical framework for analyzing the data selected for Peace Linguistics research. Instead, theories from sociolinguistics, semantics, and applied linguistics have been used as analytical frameworks for the studies under PL umbrella. However, this study aims to further develop a Peace Linguistics analytical framework theoretical for future research.

Research Method

This study, taking a pragmatist epistemological position, employs a mixed-methodological approach for exploring the research problem. The research incorporates both objectivity and subjectivity to ensure a comprehensive analysis of diplomatic communication through the lens of Peace Linguistics. The objective dimension of the study is achieved by employing corpus-based tools to identify specific lexical items, through empirical and measurable methods. These tools enable precise data extraction and quantitative analysis, ensuring reliability and replicability in identifying linguistic markers like the list of communicative contrasts suggested by Gomes de Matos (2008). On the other hand, the study also embraces subjectivity in its exploration of peace within diplomatic communication. The subjective aspect emerges in interpreting the identified linguistic patterns to evaluate their alignment with the principles of Peace Linguistics, specifically how they foster peace, mutual respect, and cooperative dialogue in cross-cultural diplomatic contexts. This balanced approach ensures the research remains both data-driven and context-sensitive, combining measurable accuracy with meaningful interpretation, presenting a mixed method study following pragmatist research paradigm.

Gomes de Matos (2008) introduced the technique of using communicative contrasts to be more peaceful and less hurtful in communication. The 12 contraries presented by Gomes de Matos (2008) are listed into two groups namely, positive, and negative for this article (The list is given in Table I).

By pairing contraries, this framework encourages a shift from potentially confrontational or dehumanizing language to linguistically humanizing alternatives. This method not only helps identify instances of potentially harmful language but also highlights opportunities for language users to choose/ replace more constructive and nonviolent forms of expression. Gomes de Matos (2008) introduced the technique of using communicative contrasts to be more peaceful and less hurtful in communication. The 12 contraries presented by de Matos (2008) are listed into two groups namely, positive and negative for the current research.

Communicative Contrasts

Gomes de Matos (2008) has developed the pedagogy of positiveness as an analytical framework to promote peaceful communication. It focuses on using positive language and transforming negative language into positive expressions to enhance effective communication and promote peaceful interactions. The technique of communicative contrasts focuses on the principle of using contrasting language pairs to promote positive communication. It involves pairing semantically related verbs or phrases that convey opposite meanings, with the goal of highlighting the potential contrast between positive and negative language use and encouraging speakers to choose their words carefully. For example, rather than using negative language such as "don't denigrate," speakers could use positive language such as "appreciate" to convey the desired message. Similarly, instead of using language that might cause hurt or offense, speakers using communicative contrasts might use language that is more empathetic and constructive to ensure smooth and peaceful communication. This technique is meant to promote greater self-awareness and reflection on the part of communicators, encouraging them to pay attention to the language they use and consider the potential consequences of their word choices. By practicing communicative contrasts, speakers can develop greater communicative competence and become more skilled in using language to promote positive, non-violent communication. Gomes de Matos (2008) presented 12 contraries to replace hurtful communication with a constructive one, for

the current study the list of 12 contraries is divided in two lists of positive and negative groups as shared in table 1.

Table I.

List of Communicative Contrasts by Gomes de Matos (2008)

Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive
Denigrate	Appreciate	Detract	Attract
Suspect	Respect	Manipulate	Cooperate
Discard	Regard	Offend	Comment
Indoctrinate	Illuminate	Impose	Propose
Mortify	Dignify	Humiliate	Humanize
Resist	Assist	Attack	Question

Analysis

Communicative contrast in western corpus

The Western Corpus used for this analysis comprises 134 documents, encompassing a total of 2,469 sentences. This corpus includes 66,178 words and 74,212 tokens, representing a substantial body of text for examining language patterns. The selection and size of the corpus aim to capture a diverse and representative sample of Western diplomatic language. Through detailed linguistic analysis, this corpus has investigated across the list of 12 pairs of communicative contrasts suggested by Gomes de Matos (2008) allowing for an in-depth comparison with the Eastern Corpus hence helping to uncover potential differences in diplomatic communication styles and linguistic strategies within Western discourse.

Table 4.1.: Western Corpus Description

| Corpus Name	Documents	Sentences	Words	Tokens
Western Corpus	134	2469	66178	74212

4.1.1. Results of Communicative Contrast in Western Corpus

In the first step of the analysis, the developed corpora (each one) were analyzed by following the list of communicative contrasts presented by Gomes de Matos (2008). The results are shown in the given tables. See the given Tables.

Table 4.1.1. *Communicative contrasts analysis of Western Corpus*

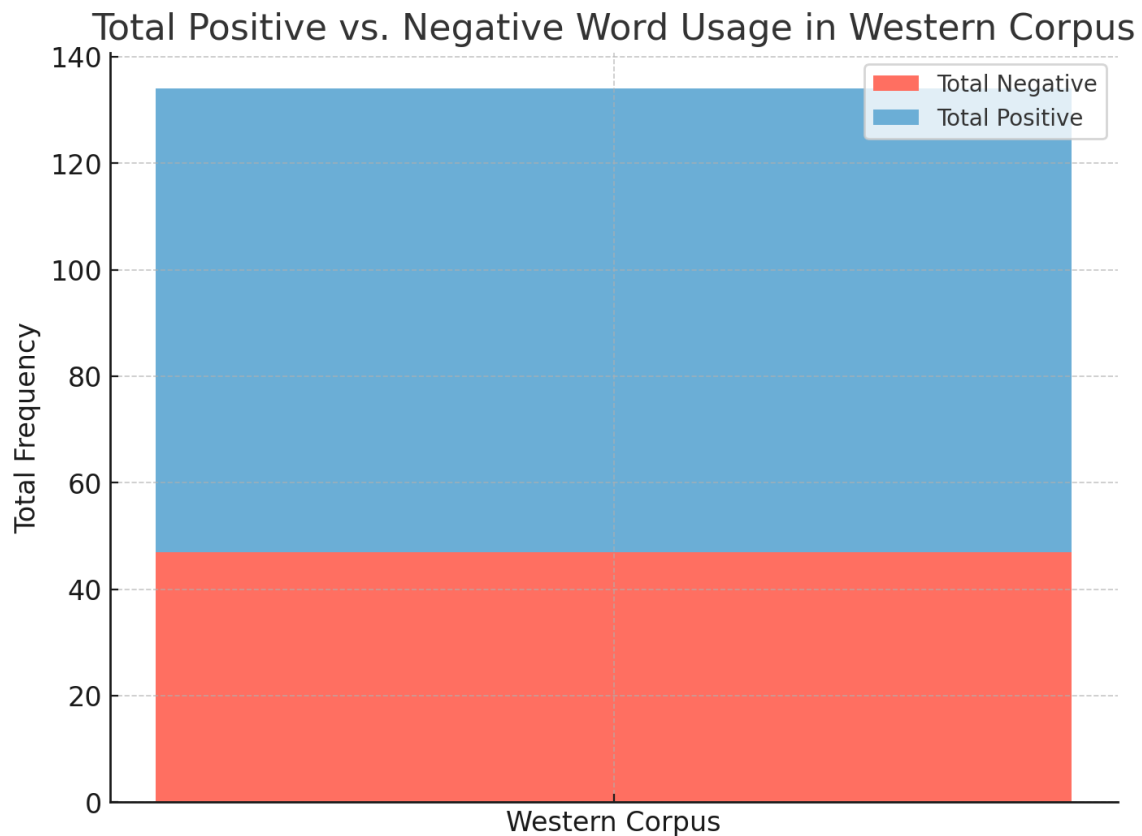| Negative	Western Corpus		Positive	Western Corpus	
	Frequency	FPM		Frequency	FPM
Denigrate	0	0	Appreciate	01	13.47
Suspect	0	0	Respect	34	458.15
Manipulate	0	0	Cooperate	20	269.50
Impose	02	26.95	Propose	02	26.95
Resist	0	0	Assist	13	175.17
Attack	45	606.3	Question	17	229.07
Total	**50**	**673.75**		**87**	**1172.31**

Communicative contrasts of Positive and Negative Categories in Western Corpus
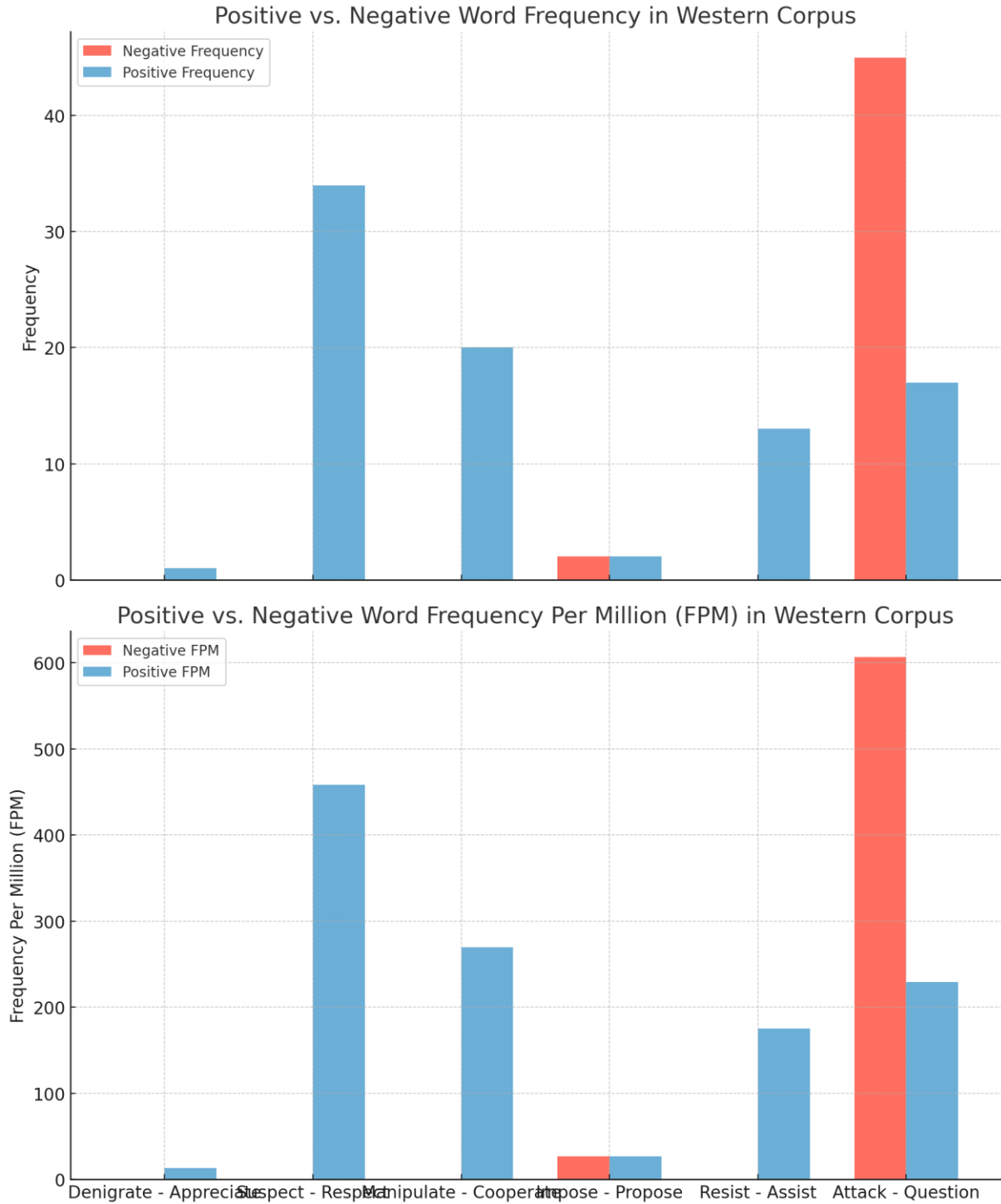
Side-by-Side Bar Charts:

The first chart shows frequency of each positive and negative word in the corpus, grouped by word pair. The second chart displays Frequency Per Million (FPM), again distinguishing between positive and negative words for each pair.

Graph 4.1.1.2: Stacked Bar Chart for Positive and Negative Communicative Contrast used in Western Corpus

Graph 4.1.1.1.

This chart compares the total usage of positive versus negative words in the Western Corpus, illustrating the overall balance between the two.

4.1.2. Communicative contrast in Eastern Corpus

The Eastern Corpus consists of 106 documents, totaling 1,959 sentences, with a word count of 50,837 and 56,820 tokens. This corpus provides a comprehensive sample of Eastern diplomatic language, enabling a thorough analysis of its linguistic characteristics. The corpus is analysed to identify the 12 pairs of communicative contrast suggested by Gomes de Matos (2008) to highlight distinct approaches used in diplomatic communication representing the political point of view of diplomats toward Taliban regime in Afghanistan contexts. The insights gained from this analysis aim to shed light on the unique features and communicative preferences within Eastern discourse.

Table 4.1.2.: Eastern Corpus Description

Corpus Name	Documents	Sentences	Words	Tokens
Eastern Corpus	106	1959	50837	56820

**Results of Communicative contrast in Eastern Corpus**

The Eastern corpus to identify the communicative contrasts, following the same framework established by Matos (2008). This individual analysis for each corpus enables a focused understanding of the specific communicative contrasts present within each corpus. The results from this step, as seen in the table given below, serve as a foundation for a comparative analysis that is followed in the subsequent stage, offering deeper insights into the linguistic distinctions and similarities between the Eastern and Western approaches to communicative expression.

Table 4.1.1. *Communicative contrasts analysis of Eastern Corpus*

Negative	Eastern Corpus		Positive	Eastern Corpus	
	Frequency	FPM		Frequency	FPM
Denigrate	0	0	Appreciate	27	475.1
Suspect	0	0	Respect	60	1,055.97

Manipulate	0	0	Cooperate	03	52.80
Discard	01	17.6	Regard	0	0
Impose	05	88.0	Propose	11	193.59
Resist	0	0	Assist	20	351.99
Attack	18	316.79	Question	8	140.80
Total	**23**	**404.79**		**129**	**2269.13**

Communicative Contrasts in Eastern Corpus
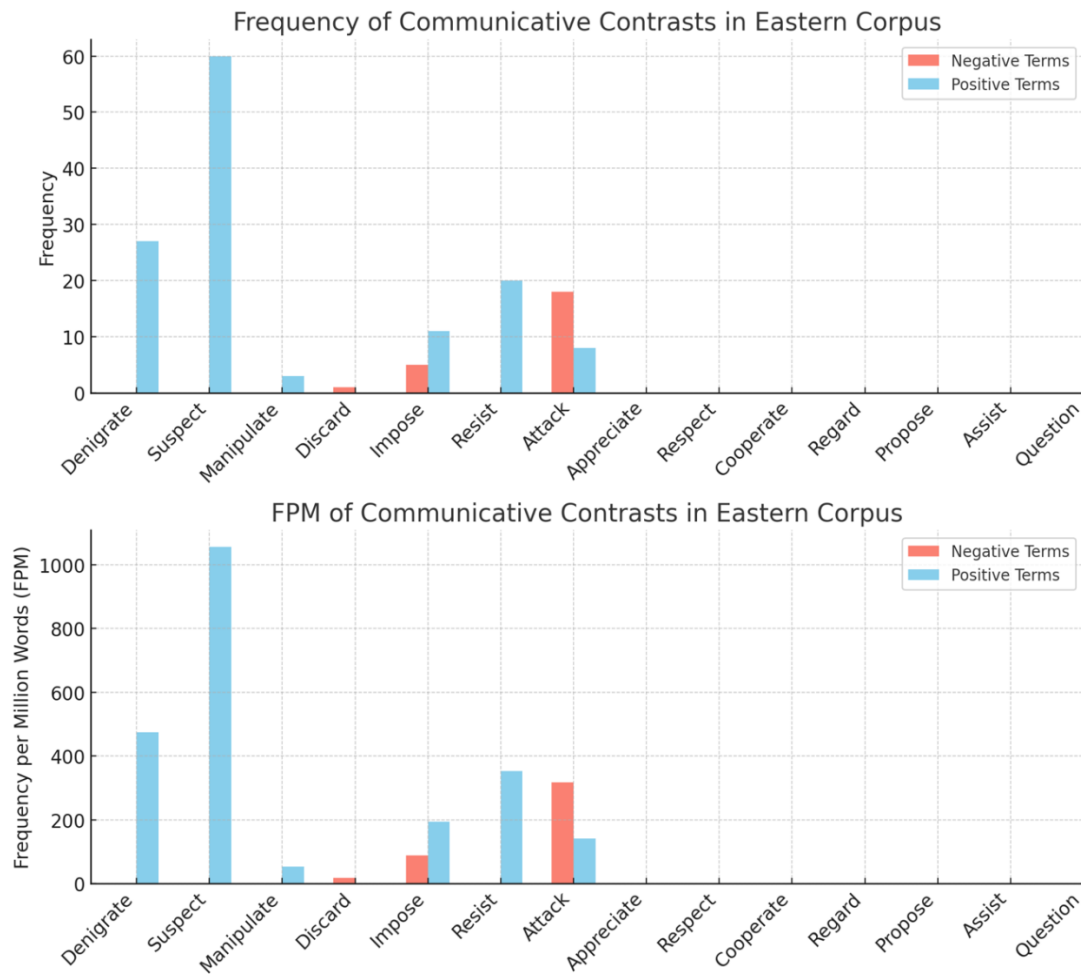
Both the corpora have been analyzed using Sketch Engine to identify the list of suggested communicative contrasts, positive and negative, presented by Gomes de Matos (2008). He gave a list of 12 communicative contrasts that consist of 24 words representing one positive and one negative word. Each negative word was suggested with a possible replacement of a positive word, communicating the same meaning, to minimize the element of conflict and increase the peacefulness of the discourse. Keeping in mind the purpose of the study, for this study the 12 pairs of communicative contrasts given by Gomes de Matos (2008) are divided into two separate lists, positive and negative, to identify the frequency of each word in the selected corpora one by one. The data in Table 4.1.1 and 4.1.2. illustrates the frequency of occurrences for each word in the provided list within the chosen corpus. The analysis reveals a distinct pattern: the positive words from the list exhibit a noticeably higher frequency in Eastern Corpus in comparison to Western Corpus. The frequency of positive and negative words from the list of communicative contrasts (12 pairs) suggested by Gomes de Mattos (2008) is calculated at end of the table. The statistics show that both

corpora (Western and Eastern) have greater frequency of positive words as compared to negative words from the list. i.e. the ratio is 50 :87 in Western corpus and 23: 129 in Eastern corpus. Moreover, the analysis reveals that the frequency of positive words from the list is greater in eastern corpus (129) as compared to western corpus (87). Similarly, the negative words are greater in number in western corpus (50) as compared to Eastern corpus (23). The Frequency per million (FPM) is number of occurrences of an item per million tokens, also called IPM. (instances per million). It is used to compare frequencies between corpora (or datasets) of different sizes. Since there is a little difference in the size of both the selected corpus so besides the frequency of each word, the FPM is also calculated for each pair of words to identify the exact difference in the frequencies of selected words within corpus and to compare both the corpora. The analysis show that total FPM of positive words is greater in Eastern corpus i.e. **2269.13** as compared to western corpus **1172.31.** Moreover, the FPM of negative corpus is greater in western corpus i.e. **673.75** as compared to Eastern corpus i.e. **404.79.** The detailed discussion on the analysis of communicative contrast showing the frequencies and FPM of each pair is given below.

1.   Denigrate vs Appreciate

The analysis of the first communicative contrast pair "Denigrate" and "Appreciate" from the list of communicative contrasts suggested by Gomes de Matos (2008) reveals notable differences in their presence across the Western and Eastern corpora. The term "Denigrate," carrying a negative connotation as listed negative by Gomes de Matos, appears in neither the Western nor the Eastern corpus. This absence could suggest a general avoidance of explicit negative expressions in both diplomatic communications i.e. eastern and western. Diplomatic communication demands to emphasize positive or neutral language over directly disparaging terms. Alternatively, it may indicate that criticism or negativity, if present, might be expressed through other linguistic choices rather than the direct use of "Denigrate."

On the other hand, "Appreciate," a word with positive connotations, shows a stark contrast in its usage between the two corpora. The term appears only once in the Western corpus but is found 27 times in the Eastern corpus. This discrepancy suggests a more pronounced emphasis on positive acknowledgment and appreciation in Eastern contexts compared to Western ones. The frequent use of "Appreciate" in the Eastern corpus might reflect political inclination to favor political stability in Afghanistan. In contrast, the Western corpus's minimal use of "Appreciate" could indicate a comparatively more straightforward political stance. Moreover, it could. Also indicate a cultural or contextual preference for expressing positivity in different terms or perhaps in less explicit ways. The Eastern corpus leans more heavily on direct language of appreciation.

Western Corpus

Example 1.

> *A Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office spokesperson said: We welcome and **appreciate** the release by the current administration of Afghanistan of 5 British nationals who were detained in Afghanistan (***UK20June***)

Eastern Corpus

Example 1.

> *The Foreign Ministers **appreciated** the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the second round of the meeting and agreed to hold the third round in 2022 in China.* (**China28 October**)

Example 2.

> *The Foreign Secretary, **appreciating** the Special Envoys' visit to Kabul, highlighted the importance of close coordination to promote the shared objectives of a peaceful, stable, sovereign and prosperous Afghanistan.* (**PK22September**)

Example 3.

> *China **appreciates** Afghanistan's clear declaration and solemn commitment that the country will not allow any external forces to use the Afghan territory to take actions against neighboring countries or harm the security of other countries.* (**China24bMarch**)

Example 4.

> *He also **appreciated** Pakistan's role in facilitating the international evacuation efforts.* (**PK 1 March**)

Example 5.

> *The Afghan side highly commended the role of the mechanism of coordination and*

*cooperation among Afghanistan's neighboring countries, and **appreciated** the neighboring countries' valuable support for Afghan people on humanitarian assistance, COVID response and economic development.* **(China01cApril)**

2.   Suspect vs Respect:

According to Gomes de Matos (2008), if the users prefer using *respect* instead of *suspect* in their language their communication can be inclined towards non-violent communication instead of violent communication. The contrast between *respect* and *suspect* highlighted by Gomes de Matos (2008) underscores a critical dimension of peaceful communication. By favoring *respect* over *suspect*, communicators in general, and specifically diplomats, can create a more constructive, non-violent discourse. In examining the Eastern and Western corpora, the findings indicate a notable difference: The analysis of the selected sample has shown that Eastern Corpus consists of 60 hits of *respect* whereas Western Corpus has only 34 hits of the same word and there is not even a single instance of suspect in either of the corpus. This distinction suggests a comparatively more potential inclination in Eastern diplomatic language as compared to western diplomatic language towards more respectful framing, aligning with non-violent communication principles that foster mutual understanding and dignity.

In the context of this research, these results contribute to a nuanced understanding of how differing geopolitical orientations might influence language choices in diplomatic settings. This aligns closely with the study's aim to reveal underlying communicative strategies that either enhance or detract from peace-building efforts. The higher frequency of *respect* in the Eastern corpus may reflect politically stable priorities that lean toward cooperative or honor-based language, thus advancing the peace linguistics framework.

Interestingly, the term *suspect*, which Gomes de Matos suggests replacing with *respect* for fostering peaceful communication, does not appear even once in either the Eastern or Western corpora. This absence could indicate a natural or intentional avoidance of language that conveys suspicion or distrust in diplomatic contexts. Such a tendency aligns with diplomatic communication's goal to promote mutual understanding and maintain respectful, cooperative relationships, reinforcing the principles of peace linguistics.

In the scope of this research, the lack of *suspect* across both corpora may highlight an underlying preference for positive or neutral terminology, suggesting a strategic language choice aimed at avoiding conflict-provoking expressions. This finding thus supports the study's objective to examine how linguistic choices in diplomacy can reflect or contribute to peace-oriented interactions.

Western Corpus

Example 1.

 *Our ex-servicemen and women and their families deserve recognition, support and **respect** throughout the duration of their service and beyond.* **(UK01March)**

Example 2.

*These are: Maintaining positive and constructive relations, based on mutual **respect** for the responsibilities of the governments and their shared role in governance of the UK, Building and maintaining trust, based on effective communication, sharing information and respecting confidentiality, Promoting understanding of, and accountability for, their intergovernmental activity.* **(UK13Jan)**

Example 3.

*The leaders also underlined the importance of **respect** for human rights in all initiatives.* **(UK16Sep)**

Example 4.

*They underlined that all parties must **respect** their obligations under international humanitarian law in all circumstances, including those related to the protection of civilians. (UK17Aug)*

Example 5.

*G7 Ministers support the statement of the UN Security Council on 16 August, and affirmed our commitment in particular to the urgent need for the cessation of violence, **respect** for human rights including for women, children and minorities, inclusive negotiations about the future of Afghanistan, and the need for all parties to respect international humanitarian law,*

in particular in relation to humanitarian and medical personnel, interpreters and other international service providers. (UK17cAug)

Eastern Corpus

Example 1.

The neighboring countries reaffirmed **respect** *for Afghanistan's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and support for the basic principle of "Afghan-led, Afghan-owned". (China01cApril)*

Example 2.

The Foreign Minister also stressed the importance of responding to the international community's expectations for inclusivity, **respect** *for human rights of all Afghans, girls' education, and action against terrorist groups. (PK 31d March)*

Example 3.

As a country that has constitutional provisions for women to have an equal and effective role in all institutions and walks of life, Pakistan looks towards full **respect** *for and enjoyment of fundamental rights of women and girls, especially the right to education. (PK 23 May)*

Example 4.

The international community should **respect** *Afghanistan's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, assist it in realizing security and stability and rebuilding its economy, and provide urgent humanitarian assistance. (China 8, Sept)*

Example 5.

As a country that has constitutional provisions for women to have an equal and effective role in all institutions and walks of life, Pakistan looks towards full **respect** *for and enjoyment of fundamental rights of women and girls, especially the right to education. (PK 23, May)*

3.   Manipulate vs Cooperate:

The terms *manipulate* and *cooperate* provide a meaningful contrast in diplomatic language. In alignment with Gomes de Matos's guidance on fostering peaceful communication, the absence of *manipulate* across both corpora suggests an intentional avoidance of language associated with control or coercion. The prominence of *cooperate*, however, varies markedly between the Eastern and Western corpora. With 20 occurrences in the Western corpus (FPM of 269.50), *cooperate* appears to be a favored term in Western diplomatic communication, contrasting sharply with the Eastern corpus's total of only 3 instances, all of which are from Chinese press releases (FPM of 52.80). Notably, Pakistani press releases contain no mentions of *cooperate*, which may reflect differences in diplomatic discourse preferences or strategies across these cultural contexts.

This discrepancy points to a potential emphasis in Western communication on collaborative language, aligning with peace linguistics principles that encourage constructive engagement. In the Eastern corpus, the limited use of *cooperate* may suggest a more reserved linguistic approach or alternative expressions for collaboration. These findings add depth to our understanding of how diplomatic language choices may reflect culturally distinct orientations toward cooperation, a critical element of peace-focused discourse in international relations.

Western Corpus

Example 1.

The ministers said all parties must **cooperate** *to ensure the safety and security of all EU citizens in Afghanistan, as well as local staff working for the EU or member states, and enable them to evacuate from the country if they wish and need to do so.* (UK18Aug)

Example 2.

The leaders agreed to continue to **cooperate** *in fighting disinformation alongside other nations and international organisations around the world. (*UK24bMay)

Example 3.

All relevant Federal departments and agencies are directed to provide their full and prompt cooperation, resources, and support, consistent with their own responsibilities for addressing the situation, and shall **cooperate** *with the Secretary and the Senior Response Official to ensure a unified Federal response.* (US 29 Aug)

Example 4.

> *As part of that, we will **cooperate** together and with neighbouring and other countries in the region on supporting Afghan refugees and host communities as part of a coordinated long-term regional response. (UK24cAug)*

Example 5.

> *We will also coordinate and **cooperate** in multilateral standardization organizations such as the International Telecommunication Union. (US24bSep)*

Eastern Corpus

Example 1.

> *R.O.C. (Taiwan) government cooperates with Turkish Red Crescent on Afghan earthquake relief efforts, donates US$1 million. (China01July)*

Example 2.

> *China will **cooperate** with international multilateral institutions to provide Afghanistan with food assistance and is willing to offer COVID-19 vaccines to Afghanistan based on its needs. (China25March)*

Example 3.

> *Call on the relevant parties of Afghanistan and the international community to address the root causes of refugees and forced displacement in Afghanistan to avoid any destabilizing activity that would deteriorate the situation and **cooperate** to bring a permanent solution for the protracted situation of Afghan refugees. (China28October)*

4. Discard vs Regard

The analysis of the *regard* versus *discard* contrast reveals an interesting pattern: only one instance of *regard* appears in the Eastern corpus, while neither *regard* nor *discard* are present in the Western corpus. In the context of Gomes de Matos's (2008) peace linguistics framework, this finding could indicate that both corpora may prefer alternative expressions to convey positive regard or acknowledgment, avoiding the direct expression of *discard* altogether. This selective use aligns with diplomatic strategies that often favor neutral or carefully chosen language. This observation contributes to a deeper understanding of how peace-oriented language principles are either adhered to or adapted in different diplomatic contexts.

Eastern Corpus

Example 1.

> *The new situation requires **discarding** old lenses, developing new insights, and proceeding with a realistic and pragmatic approach. (PK 08d Sep)*

5. Impose vs Propose

The *impose* versus *propose* contrast provides valuable insight into differing diplomatic approaches between the Eastern and Western corpora. In the Western corpus, both *impose* and *propose* occur twice, suggesting a balanced but minimal use of each term. In contrast, the Eastern corpus contains a higher frequency of both terms, with *impose* appearing 5 times and *propose* occurring 11 times. This disparity suggests that Eastern diplomatic language may be more inclined toward offering solutions or recommendations (*propose*), while still occasionally utilizing *impose* to assert a stance.

According to Gomes de Matos's peace linguistics framework, replacing *impose* with *propose* can create a more constructive communication style that promotes engagement over authority. The Eastern corpus's greater frequency of *propose* aligns with this principle, possibly reflecting a diplomatic preference for collaborative or solution-oriented language. The results highlight how the Eastern and Western contexts may embody distinct communicative strategies, with the Eastern corpus demonstrating a tendency towards linguistically cooperative expressions. This pattern supports the research aim of identifying linguistic strategies that align with or diverge from peace-oriented communication practices in diplomatic settings.

Western Corpus

Example 1.

> *When I came to office, I inherited a deal cut by my predecessor–which he invited the Taliban to discuss at Camp David on the eve of 9/11 of 2019–that left the Taliban in the strongest position militarily since 2001 and **imposed** a May 1, 2021 deadline on U.S. Forces (US14Aug)*

Example 2.

> This deplorable decision is the latest effort by Taliban leadership to **impose** additional restrictions on women and girls in Afghanistan and prevent them from exercising their human rights and fundamental freedoms. (US20Dec)

Example 3.

> Powerful report sets out the scale of the challenge of making progress on gender equality in the age of COVID-19 Recommendations call on G7 Leaders to take concrete steps to build back better for women and girls from the pandemic, and **proposes** robust monitoring and accountability mechanism to hold G7 governments to account on gender equality commitments and progress Specific focus on UK G7 Presidency priorities of education and STEM. (UK28bOct)

Example 4.

> That's why I opposed the surge when it was **proposed** in 2009 when I was Vice President. (US16Aug)

Eastern Corpus

Example 1.

> To this end, the international community should work more in a down-to-earth manner, countries that are still **imposing** unilateral sanctions on Afghanistan should lift the sanctions as soon as possible, and international financial institutions should increase their funding support for Afghanistan's poverty reduction, infrastructure and other projects. (**China12Oct**)

Example 2.

> **Imposing** one's own ideology on others, arbitrarily interfering in the internal affairs of other countries, or even resorting to military intervention will only bring about continuous turmoil and poverty, and cause serious humanitarian disasters. (**China12Oct**)

Example 3.

> Towards that end, I **propose** the following: • Continue to convince the Taliban to take the next steps, while incentivizing this process; • keep urging the international community to remain positively engaged and intensify provision of humanitarian assistance; • enhance our mutual coordination on facilitation of humanitarian assistance to reach maximum. (**PK 27bOct**)

Example 4.

> We propose launching as soon as possible the two meeting mechanisms, the special envoys/representatives for the Afghan issue and representatives of embassies in Kabul, to follow through on the consensus of this meeting and push forward specific work through consultation (**China28bOct**)

Example 5.

> This demonstrates the commitment and seriousness of the Government of Pakistan to facilitate the proposed humanitarian assistance. (**PK3Dec**)

6.   Resist vs Assist

While analysing the 11th pair of the communicative contrasts, resist vs assist, presented by Gomes de Matos (2008) the analysis reveals a consistent avoidance of resist and a pronounced preference for assist in both Eastern and Western corpus. Neither of the corpus exhibit any instances of *resist*, this shows a deliberate avoidance of language that might suggest opposition or defiance within diplomatic communication. On the contrary, *assist* appears 13 times in the Western corpus and 20 times in the Eastern corpus with FPM 175.17 and 351.99 in western and eastern corpus respectively indicate an obvious emphasis on supportive and cooperative language across both contexts.

According to Gomes de Matos (2008), favoring *assist* over *resist* fosters a more constructive, collaborative tone and it resonates with the peace linguistics approach. While dwelling deep into this discussion the higher frequency of *assist* in the Eastern corpus suggests an even stronger supportive diplomatic language towards political stability in Afghanistan. This trend aligns with the study's objective to explore linguistic choices that promote peace-oriented dialogue, as the use of *assist* reinforces the role of diplomacy in fostering cooperation and mutual aid over confrontation.

Western Corpus

Example 1.

*The government and the nation is extremely grateful for the role the armed forces community played in keeping the country safe from the threat of terrorism, through combat operations (known as Op Herrick) and the subsequent train, advise and **assist** mission, in Afghanistan.* (**UK25bAug**)

Example 2.

*As part of this, our immediate priority is to ensure the safe evacuation of our citizens and those Afghans who have partnered with us and **assisted** our efforts over the past twenty years, and to ensure continuing safe passage out of Afghanistan.* (**UK24cAug**)

Example 3.

*JP Morgan Chase JPMorgan Chase has announced a $1 million commitment in funding to the International Rescue Committee, which will regrant funding through Blue Star Families, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America and the UK-based Combat Stress to **assist** with resettlement of Afghans and provide mental health care and other services for those in military and veterans communities who have been impacted by the conflict.* (**US26OCT**)

Example 4.

US, the IRC and other prominent organizations, Accenture is assisting refugees with housing, critical goods and services as well as employment opportunities. (**US26OCT**)

Example 5.

*I was asked to authorize – and I did – 6,000 U.S. troops to deploy to Afghanistan for the purpose of **assisting** in the departure of U.S. and Allied civilian personnel from Afghanistan, and to evacuate our Afghan allies and vulnerable Afghans to safety outside of Afghanistan.* (**US16Aug**)

Eastern corpus:

Example 1.

*The cooperation will provide relief to affected Afghan people and **assist** reconstruction of disaster-hit areas* (**China01July**)

Example 2.

*Our shared objective of a peaceful, united and prosperous Afghanistan will only materialize when we join hands and **assist** Afghanistan* (**PK27bOct**)

Example 3.

*It is an essential step to synergize international forces to **assist** Afghanistan.* (**China31d March**)

Example 4.

The Foreign Minister reiterated that Pakistan would continue to assist Afghanistan bilaterally and provide humanitarian assistance. (**PK18Dec**)

Example 5.

*China welcomes multilateral mechanisms on Afghanistan to give play to their respective advantages and pool efforts to assist Afghanistan. (**China23Sep**)*

7.   Attack vs Question

Similarly, Matos suggested not to use *attack* instead the communicator should opt for the word *question.* The analysis has revealed that the word *attack* in Corpus A has been used 28 times whereas it has been used 18 times in Eastern Corpus. Similarly, the positive contrastive word suggested by Gomes de Matos (2008) for the attack is question, and there are 10 hits found in western Corpus and 08 hits are found in Eastern Corpus.

Discussion

Notably, Western Corpus contains 36 negative instances compared to 20 in Eastern Corpus. In terms of positivity, positive words from Gomes de Matos's list appear 105 times in Western Corpus A and a noteworthy 355 times in Eastern Corpus. This contrast highlights distinct communication strategies used in the diplomatic communication of Eastern and Western countries. Additionally, the thorough examination of concordance lines accompanying hits solidifies the analysis. This study underscores language's role in conveying perceptions and diplomatic inclinations, reflecting how these nations approach Afghan affairs. The analysis reveals that certain lexical positivizers align with the principles of 'Communicative dignity.' For instance, the frequent use of positive words like "respect" instead of

"suspect" and "question" instead of "attack" reflects a commitment to respectful and non-violent communication, in accordance with 'Communicative dignity.' Similarly, the choice of language aims to foster an environment of peace and constructive dialogue. The higher frequency of these linguistic elements, particularly in Eastern Corpus, suggests a stronger commitment to peace-oriented discourse. Both corpora exhibited alignment with these concepts, but Eastern Corpus displayed a stronger inclination toward linguistic choices and strategies that promote respectful, non-violent, and peace-oriented discourse. This alignment highlights the role of language in diplomatic relations and underscores the commitment to dignified communication.

The observation that Eastern Corpus has a higher frequency of positive words compared to Western Corpus reflects a distinct communication strategy. China and Pakistan, as neighboring nations to Afghanistan, are more directly affected by the political developments in Afghanistan. Hence, they have a vested interest in promoting a peaceful and stable Afghanistan, as it directly impacts the political environment in their region. Their choice of language in press releases reflects a systematic effort to convey a commitment to peaceful coexistence in the region.

Diplomatic communication was assessed for alignment with the principles of Peace Linguistics. The analysis revealed alignment of both corpora with Peace linguistic frameworks emphasizing positive language and non-violent communication however, Eastern Corpus is more aligned as compared to Western Corpus. This reflects the practical application of linguistic principles in diplomacy, serving as a powerful tool for building trust and promoting peace in international relations by the diplomats keeping the political ideology of their countries in their mind. Moreover, Peace Linguistics emphasizes the use of language that fosters peace, harmony, and constructive communication. The frequent use of positive language, the avoidance of negative language, and the incorporation of lexical positivizers align with the core tenets of Peace Linguistics. This linguistic approach contributes to the creation of a discourse that promotes peace and mutual understanding.

The role of diplomatic communication in promoting peace was explored, emphasizing the contribution of linguistic choices. Diplomatic communication emerged as a crucial means through which nations engage, resolve conflicts, and build alliances. Linguistic analysis illuminated the deliberate use of language to convey intentions and maintain diplomatic relations. Furthermore, linguistic analysis allowed for the identification of cross-country variations, cultural nuances, and alignment with linguistic frameworks, enriching our understanding of diplomacy's role in promoting peace.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this study underscores the pivotal role of Peace Linguistics and its strategies if applied in diplomatic communication and international relations can yield better and more peaceful results in terms of creating harmony and peace in the world. The analysis demonstrates that diplomatic communication is not merely a means of conveying messages; it is a strategic tool for promoting peace, resolving conflicts, and building bridges between nations and that is why Curtis says "NPL is based on in depth systematic analysis of the language of the world's most powerful people….as it is they have much more than us to bring peace or to start wars" (p. 235, 2022) . Peace Linguistic analysis enhances our comprehension of this role by revealing linguistic strategies, cross-country variations, and alignment with peace-oriented frameworks. By exploring the linguistic dimensions of diplomacy, we gain valuable insights into how language can be leveraged to foster a more peaceful and harmonious world. Diplomatic communication serves as a channel for nations to convey their intentions, interests, and concerns. Through linguistic analysis, we can discern how diplomats carefully select words, phrases, and communicative strategies to communicate their messages effectively and maintain diplomatic relations. The use of lexical positivizers, positive language, and avoidance of negative language, as evident in the analysis, underscores how linguistic choices contribute to the creation of a positive and constructive diplomatic environment. Peace linguistic analysis allows us to identify these patterns and variations in diplomatic discourse among different countries. By comparing press releases from China, Pakistan, the United Kingdom, and the United States, we gain insights into cross-country variations in linguistic strategies. These variations can offer valuable information about diplomatic approaches, cultural nuances, and diplomatic intentions. Understanding these differences is crucial for building trust, facilitating negotiations, and ultimately promoting peace. In the world of diplomacy, it is the words we choose and the language we employ

that possess the remarkable power to either ignite conflicts or bring them to a peaceful resolution, reminding us that in the end, it is through language that we can truly sow the seeds of lasting peace.

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