Guidelines for Authors

Balochistan Journal of Linguistics is a journal published annually by the Department of English Language and Linguistics, Lasbela University, Uthal, Balochistan. It accepts papers for consideration on any aspect of theoretical and applied linguistics. The authors are requested to send their papers according to the following guidelines.

I.   All manuscripts in English should follow the following format:

The first page should contain title; author(s)'s name(s), affiliation, E-mail address; and abstract of 150-350 words, followed by three to five key words, main text, acknowledgment, endnotes, and references in subsequent pages. Key words should be given in italics.

II.   Manuscripts in English should use the following style for headings and subheadings:

1.

1.1

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1.2

2

The main heading should be written bold in font size 14. All other headings should be written bold in font size 12. DONOT underline any headings at all.

III.   Tables, figures, and maps should have headings and be numbered consecutively and should be clearly presented. Notes and sources should be placed under each table and figure. Photo will be treated as figures.

Format

Use Letter size paper with Times New Roman writing style font size 12 for the main text with line spacing 1.5 and 10 for the abstract with 1.15 line spacing. Left margin should be 3.5 but all other margins should be 2.5 mm. Tables and figures should not be split on two pages.

Other requirements

Give one paragraph introduction of all authors in five to seven sentences (for each author) describing their educational background and research achievements in a separate file. But do not use hyperlinks.

Plagiarism

Authors should submit similarity index along with the manuscripts of the papers. They are also required to submit an affidavit declaring that the material in the paper is their own and it has not already been published. Quotes should be properly acknowledged.

References

1) Use APA style of referencing.

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Contents

A Corpus Analysis of Modality in Covid-19 Based Editorials of Pakistani English Newspapers

Faryal Waseem Khan[1] , Muhammad Saqib Zafar[2] , Hassan Bukhtiar[3]

Abstract

"Modality" is one of the "golden oldies" among the fundamental concepts in language semantics. It is a well-known grammatical idea that is put into practice. To begin, the research examines the various sorts of modalities employed by writers of editorials based on COVID-19 in Pakistani English newspapers. The second part of the study investigates the editors' modality functions. Finally, the impact of the COVID-19 issue on the modality/language employed by editorial writers in Pakistani English newspapers is investigated. To continue, the information was gathered from two Pakistani newspapers, "The Express Tribune" and "Daily Times." It contains 87 COVID-19-based editorials from January to May 2020 (37 from "The Express Tribune" and 50 from "Daily Times"). The AntConc 3.4.4 version was used for analysis, and the functional approach was used to analyze modality (Halliday, 2004). The findings found that the editors of the "Daily Times" utilized a high degree of modals (must, should) to strictly instruct the public about COVID-19 precautions/safety measures. The COVID-19 issue is discovered to vary in terms of its utilization in the language, which is the key concern of the current study. In comparison, both the "Daily News" and "The Tribune Express" newspapers successfully maintained the balance by employing median models (will, would). As a result, the editors of "The Tribune Express" newspaper played a constructive role in disseminating information to readers by employing polite/low-degree modal verbs (could, may, might).

Keywords: COVID-19, Corpus, Modal verbs, Editorials, Pakistani English newspapers

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1 Introduction

Corpus linguistics is a scientific approach that examines how people communicate. The language, which is collected and examined in the corpora. This paper uses a corpus linguistic analysis where we have collected Pakistani English newspaper genre that is based on editorial especially about the COVID-19 to find out the variations occur in modal verbs due to pandemic issue.

Newspaper is the perfect way to convey a beneficial and disfavored prejudice among the people. English is a foreign language, and in Pakistan, many highly educated individuals read an English newspaper, so English newspapers are called "elite newspapers". Thus, the majority of decision-makers rely on the English Press to understand better about the various issues through reading editorials that represent the meaning of a newspaper and represent its policy (Hayat & Juliana, 2016).

Newspaper editorials are of great significance for the genre of newspapers. A newspaper suggests that on every issue raised to the media, there is indeed only one fair perspective. (Alavi, Poor-Ebrahim, Ghiasianm, & Gilani, 2016), indicated that the editorial newspaper not only provides principles and convictions but also uses textual techniques, i.e. Auxiliary models are this study's key concern. According to (Orta, 2010), people judge the universe in which they live, communicate their values, interests, feelings and prove or disprove with other humans through social experiences.

COVID-19 is considered to be a killer disease in now a day. This disease is spreading throughout the world. There is a dangerous situation of entire universe and a kind of awful or horrific fear that is spreading all over. There is only one news in every television, talk shows, families, and friends everywhere, even in the entire world and that is pandemic.

Simpson (1993), gave the concept about modality that it is "angle of perception," "angel of saying," viewpoint or authorial value that defines the nature of writing form that makes the tale that it is specific "feel" and "colour."

Modality is the real nature of a logician's notion or proposition. Modality takes care of the state of affairs. Modal verbs "refer to the meaning aspect that induces the phrase to be about the non-factual, that is, the alternative possibility of how something could be" (Fasold & Connor-Linton, 2014).

Bonyadi (2011) explored the modality of "relativizing the validity of the meanings of statements to a collection of possible terms". In other terms, modality helps learners of the language to describe, "what would be what is, what may be, what should be and what will be".

Palmer (2001)describes, "how the interpretation of the clause is entitled to represent the opinion of the speaker on the probability of the proposition it communicates" and "Modality is a kind of mood that the models help to build together with the main verb to alter the role of communication." Modality deals with introducing the philosophies of the author.

Martin (2005), helps the interlocutor to say something without conveying a view to it. He defines that "modality is the perception of the writer, a way of say about something, the way of visualization the things and the author's purpose ascertaining the story's style with its specific look and colour (Simpson, 1993)

Our study tries to present the effect of the COVID-19 in editorials of "Daily Times" and "The Tribune Express", given the importance of modality in the activity of collective truth.

Considering the importance of modality in shaping the views of readers, the current study focuses on the influence of COVID-19 in the editorials of selected Pakistani newspapers, i.e., "Daily Times" and The "Tribune Express".

1.2 Objectives:

Objectives of the study are:
- To evaluate the different types of modality used by the writers of editorials based on COVID-19 in Pakistani English Newspapers
- To investigate the functions of modality used by the writer's editorials based on COVID-19 in Pakistani English Newspapers
- To examine the impact of COVID-19 issue on modality used by the writers of editorials in Pakistani English Newspapers

1.3 Research Questions:

- Which modal verbs are used by the editorial's writers based on COVID-19 in Pakistani English Newspapers?
- Which degree of function of modal verbs are used by the editorial's writers based on COVID-19 in Pakistani English Newspapers?
- Does the issue of COVID-19 leave an impact on modal verbs used by the writers of editorials of Pakistani English newspaper?

2 Literature Review

Taking into account the importance of modality, number of researches have been done to focus its utility and role in written text.(Sadia & Ghani, 2019) carried out a corpus-based research study based on modality in editorials. They compared two Pakistani English Newspapers named as "Dawn" and "The News International" dated from Jan-1-2015 to Jan-31-2015. More, they took 30 editorials; 15 editorials each and tokens were 20,000; 10,000 words each. By applying AntConc 3.4.4.w version, they did quantitative research. In said newspapers, they realized modality utilizing modal auxiliary verbs. The results of this study was that the editorial writers of Dawn used more credible information to readers as compare to the editors of "The News International".

Ahmad, Mahmood, Mahmood, & Siddique (2019) investigated "Modal Verbs as editors' stance markers: an analysis of Pakistani English Newspapers Editorials". For quantitative research, they analyzed only one newspaper named as "The News" dated from April-March 2016. They took 250 editorials consisted of 103860 tokens. Microsoft Excel was used for retrieving the data of previous research. To examine and compiling the data, they used AntConc 3.4.4.w version. The analysis aimed to examine whether or not the

editorials published in the said newspapers are influenced by the personal or institutional attitude. Research founded that the prediction models (will) be the most commonly used in Pakistani English newspaper editorials, which means that prediction is a characteristic feature of those editorials and that Pakistani editors provide apt information by using their realistic and judgemental style.

Siddique, Mahmood, & Qasim (2019) conducted a study to examine "Metadiscourse in Pakistani English Editorials". The research goal was to check the use attitude markers as a metadiscourse and later to establish an attitude marker classification system as well as to classify the propositional material in the Pakistani English Editorials. For a mixed approach, the data included one thousand editorials (250 from each of the four newspapers (Dawn News, The Nation, The Frontier and The Express Tribune) with 473,382 tokens taken from the month March and April 2016. Microsoft Excel and AntConc 3.4.4 used for analysis. They found that the editors of "The Frontier" had used more indicators of attitude than other editors. The use of personal pronouns is propositional. It was brought into interpersonal metadiscourse. Moreover, the extensive use of attitude indicators helps the writers to interact more easily with their readers and the editorialists personally direct the authors with authors or audiences.

Ahmad, M., Mahmood, M. A., Mahmood, M. I., & Siddique, A. R. (2019) conducted another study based on "The use of Modal Verbs as Stance Markers in Pakistani English Editorials". The study's objective was to investigate how modality comes into practice in Pakistani Newspaper, and how editorialists can use modal verbs to control mind and manipulate opinions. To support a new research, 1000 editorials were taken from the aforementioned newspapers respectively 250 each dated; March-April 2017 and total tokens were 4, 73,382. For quantitative research, Microsoft Excel was used for retrieving the data of previous research and AntConc 3.4.4.w version to examine and compiling the data. Results showed that the use of modal adverbs appears to be minimal and the use of predictive expressions appears to be strong in the editorials written by Pakistani editorialists for "The News." The uses of generic phrases are less used, and Pakistani editors seem unnecessary to use predictive expressions of The Dawn's editorials. The use of modal adverbs appears to be minimal whereas Pakistani editorials of "The Frontier" the uses prediction expressions which appears maximum. Moreover, in "The Express Tribune" the generic phrases are less frequently used than the prediction expression. Therefore, he asserted that Pakistani editors are primarily concerned with covering 'what can happen, what should happen,' and 'what will happen.'

Batool, Majeed, & Zahra (2019) wrote an article on "Hedges and Boosters in Pakistani Opinion Articles". They inspected how Pakistani writers express their stance while writing use these features, and what conventions are being followed in the background. It will also teach you how to express your voice when an inexperienced writer writes an opinion post. Five leading Pakistani English newspapers have been selected as "The Dawn," "The Pakistan Observer," "The Express Tribune," "The News" and "The Daily Times" for conducting a mixed-method study. Fifty opinion articles with a total of 47927 tokens were chosen, published in November 2018.METAPAK Software was used. The Pakistani writers used 457 boosters and 480 hedges. Results showed that Pakistani writers

used hedges to display commitment and reserved nature. Also, use boosters to demonstrate their attitude and personal conviction about something. It used to display how confident they are about their words and statements. This showed that a writer can lower his tone either by using less convincing marker hedge, or by using booster, he can raise and assert his point.

Bano, Mubeen, & Arshad (2019) conducted a corpus-based analysis on "Manifestation of Modal Verbs in Pakistani English Newspaper Editorials". By using mixed method for analysis, a corpus has been compiled which comprises 25 editorial of the month March 2019 from Pakistan's wide read English newspapers – Dawn, The Nation and The News. The length of corpora is 61514 words. For analysis, AntConc 3.4.4 is used. The paper focused on which modal verbs are used more and less frequently by editorial writers. Furthermore, how editorial writers use modal auxiliaries to form and reshape the opinions of readers on particular issues. Results showed that modal verbs of possibilities (should, can, could) are used more commonly than modal verbs of need (should and must), and prediction (will and would). Alternatively, requirement auxiliaries (should and must) are used less often in a newspaper's editorials. Yet by evaluating it is implied that "The Nation" is more occupied compared to "The News" and "Dawn" and explains what to do.

Alavi et al. (2016) conducted a study that is about mood and modality like the explicit comment grammar. People used it to express their scale of commitment to the reality and its proposition. Modality seems to be something in this context, which presents a writer's ideological intention. Consequently, modality allows the editorial writers' ample space to present their values and solutions to the text. From the epistemic type of modality, (Papafragou, 2006) sees truth – conditionality. She found that the epistemic modality does not apply on truth-conditional sentences; (Halliday, 2004) claims that modality is external to the substance of every proposition and therefore builds up the attitude of the speakers. That means, of course, the modality expresses any speaker or writer's opinion, and that there is no total commitment to the statement's truth.

Stressing the Helsinki Corpus, (Gotti, 2003) proposed that SHALL-forms is less used in scientific texts whereas shall is commonly used in speech-based prose. (J. Smith, 2003) focused on the diachronic shift and use of need and found that need is most frequently used in literature and mass media, that is important for development of mass media coverage. These research studies have found that modality may echo common features of development a particular genre.

Most media centres in Pakistan play a significant role in building public opinion, in policy and military leadership decision-making (Hayat & Juliana, 2016). The media has the power to ensure that the knowable public are motivated by a change in understanding. By propagating his philosophy to the public, the media has the power to change the world. The media claims are therefore important (A. C. H. Smith, Immirzi, & Blackwell, 1975). Emphasis is put on all critical media functions, which tailor features such as media education, entertainment, and violence(Hayat & Juliana, 2016).The journal is generally considered the most responsible and credible media outlet.

Mahmood, Batool, Shah, & Parveen (2013) performed a comparative analysis on stylistic in Pakistani and British fictions about the use of modal verbs. A corpus of Pakistani and British literature had been compiled for this purpose. It is composed of a million words. CLAWS tags set to C7 and POS tagging were used for research. The work is the concept expressed by using modal verbs, and also focuses on stylistic interpretations. The observations include that the BEF shows the characteristics of pessimism and gloom. It depicts the depression elements because of a lack of a strong family relationship and isolation. On the other hand, there is a class division and growing deterioration of morale is observed in PEF.

With the help of above-mentioned literature, we come to know about the papers that are similar to our present paper. However, there are still gap. These papers are limited in different aspects like newspapers from where they get data, months, years, research methodologies, objectives and tools. Our study differs from them in different ways. We observed the data specially related to COVID-19 in editorials of Pakistani English Newspapers. Another aspect is that, we collected data from Jan to April 2020. Further elements are discussed in detail in research methodology.

3 Methodology

3.1 Theoretical Framework:

This study is based on;

Table 1:

Function of model Verbs	Modality/Modal Verbs
Prediction	Will, Would
Obligation	Must, Should, Can
Possibility/ Ability	Could, May, Might

(Sadia & Ghani, 2019)

Theory of (Halliday, 2004), used a conceptual approach was used to interpret modal verbs in the data that not only interprets the modal verbs but also describes the relationship between the modal verbs. Such as between epistemic and deontic modality and gives 1) high, 2) intermediate and 3) low classification.

3.1.1 Types of Modal Verbs:

(Jakobson's Theory/Palmer, 1974) modal differ according to the communicative function they perform. Based on this, the following are three types of modal verbs, based on communicative purpose given in the table below.

Table 2:

Epistemic Modality	When using a modal verb to express the opinion of the speaker about a sentence. Eg: Might be real. To express an opinion on whether it is valid or not, to agree that there is a chance but not to be sure. It is used in the sense of impossible, unlikely, possible, probable and certain
Deontic Modality	When a modal verb is used to influence a situation, e.g. by requiring, etc. When you have done you should go. (Providing leave to track the situation). It is used, forbidden, appropriate and mandatory in the form of recommendation.
Dynamic Modality	It neither influences the situation of speaker nor states the speaker's perspective, So, e.g. He can understand French perfectly. (describing a realistic situation). It shows the ability, violation and willingness of an individual to take an action.

(Sánchez, 2009)

3.1.2 Functions of Modality:

There are various kinds of functions of modality that distinguish different kind of levels like high, low, median .These named as "values" that is in following table:

Table 3. Three values of modality: Halliday (1994, p. 362)

High value	Has to, Must, Ought to, Need to, Is to, Should,
Median value	Will, Would, Shall
Low value	Could, Might, May, Can,

(Sadia & Ghani, 2019)

3.1.2.1 Prediction:

It works as another type of modal and that is, modal auxiliary. That allows us to guess about upcoming occurrences of an event, situations. It is essentially used as assumptions that are not fixed. (McEnery & Kifle, 2002) , informed that prediction modal has a median value of modality which inform the editorial writer to use a mid-way to delineate the main theme.

3.1.2.2 Obligation:

Should is the preterit form of *shall* which use to inform about the act of the speaker. For example, if a person say "you should go" it means he have right to obligate which he expressed by using obligation kind of modal verbs. It shows obligation, desirability and expresses the situation, which makes less- straightforward and formal requests.

3.1.2.3 Possibility / Ability:

Leech (1969) deal with the sense of probability and capability that is more different as compare to permission. Modal "can" informs clear probability. Auxiliary modal "may" answer the sense of possibility, it also suggests proof of somebody's past skill, which demonstrates the scale of possibility. Whereas present and future times, modal auxiliary "can" is often used for possibility, and the situation in which possible action happened. "Could" tells us about the doubt of the mediator. Which shows to what extent the proposition of truth will be possible. It also informs us about the possibilities, which in the past imply possibility or probability. Might is the "can" past type which applies to certain things that have already happened in the past. In other words, modality describes how a speaker makes the world around him perceptible.

3.2 Design:

Quantitative approach has been taken as a research design to examine modality in COVID-19 based editorials of Pakistani English Newspapers

3.3 Sample:

The sample for the current research was selected through purposive sampling under its sub-type critical case sampling technique because it is critically concerned with the specific issue that is COVID-19. For sample, the data collected from Pakistan's recognized, wide read and on the top ranking not only in Pakistan in fact all over the world English Newspapers – "The Express Tribune" and "Daily times". The corpus selected for this study comprises of 87 COVID-19 based editorials (37 from "The Express Tribune" and 50 from "Daily times") dated; Jan-May 2020.

The length of the corpus is given below:

3.3.1.1 Corpus Details:

Table 4:

Newspapers	Editorials	Tokens	Word Types	Months/Year/Date
"The Express Tribune"	2+5+10+10+10 =37	26,136	4848	1-Jan-2020 to 31-Jan-2020 1-Feb-2020 to 29-Feb-2020 1-March-2020 to 31-March-2020 1-April-2020 to 30-April-2020 1-May-2020 to 10-May-2020
"Daily times"	10+10+10+10+10 =50	50,576	7,164	1-Jan-2020 to 31-Jan-2020 1-Feb-2020 to 29-Feb-2020 1-March-2020 to 31-March-2020 1-April-2020 to 30-April-2020 1-May-2020 to 10-May-2020
Total	87	76,712	12,012	

3.4 Research Tool:

AntConc 3.4.4 version has been used inside text for the study of linguistic features. Concordance method has been employed to address the quantitative analysis questions. Concordance tool helps to provide the frequency of tested linguistic properties and to learn about all the cumulative range of words used in a corpus main verbs, auxiliary verbs list, and includes expressions such as must, should, will, would, may, might, can, could etc.

Data Analysis

4.1 Data Procurement:

Editorials were retrieved from internet sites of the respective newspapers:

1)www.tribune.com.pk/author/editorials/COVID-19/corona+virus/corona/pandemic

2)www.dailytimes.com.pk/author/editorials/COVID-19/corona+virus/corona/pandemic

Firstly, the corpus is compiled then converted into text file, software "AntConc" 3.4.4w version (concordance tool) is used to find out modal verbs from the editorials.

"AntConc" offers many functions for analysing linguistic features of text. Researchers examine the various features of text with the help of these functions.

Key word list displays total number of terms in a corpus, and the Concordance tools illustrate the frequency of the piece being examined in respect to its meaning. The concordance tool is the most appropriate tools in the present study because it enlists the searched words with some context on right and some left side that help to understand the contextual understanding of a searched word. Secondly, the concordance plot demonstrates the use of each modal verb in its accurate context. Thirdly, with the help of word list, researchers took frequency of individual modal by using the tool preferences and adding specific words in a word list for ease. Therefore, in this way it is quite simple to count how many times in all these newspapers a modal verbs play different functions as probability, duty, prediction, and ability. Via descriptive statistics, the responses were further analysed.

Results

5.1 Findings:

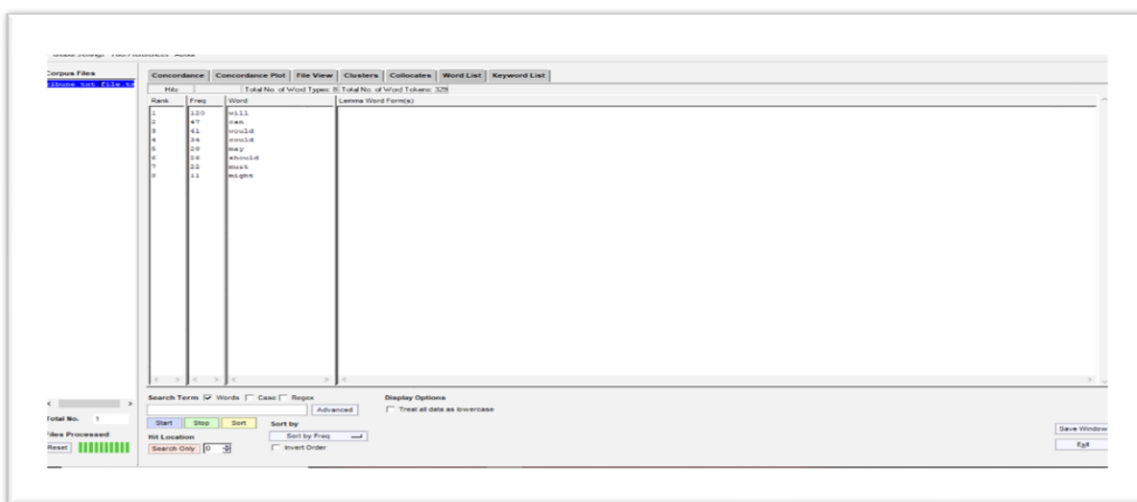**5.2 Rank-wise ratings of Model Verbs:**

5.2.1 Daily Times:

Figure:1

After placing the data in the "word list" tool of AntConc software, we become aware of the rank and frequency of Model Verbs used in an established corpus of the "Daily Times" Pakistani English Newspaper. If we see the above picture, it is mentioned that the *will* is on the first rank in the entire corpus. It means that it is the most frequently used word by "Daily News" editorial authors. More, *can* is on rank second, *should* is on rank third, *may* is on rank fourth, *would* is on rank fifth, *could* is on rank sixth, *must* is on rank seventh and *might* is on rank eighth. Using frequency-wise ranking of model verbs, we know about the usage of most frequently used terms, median frequently used terms and less frequently used words that make our findings clearer.
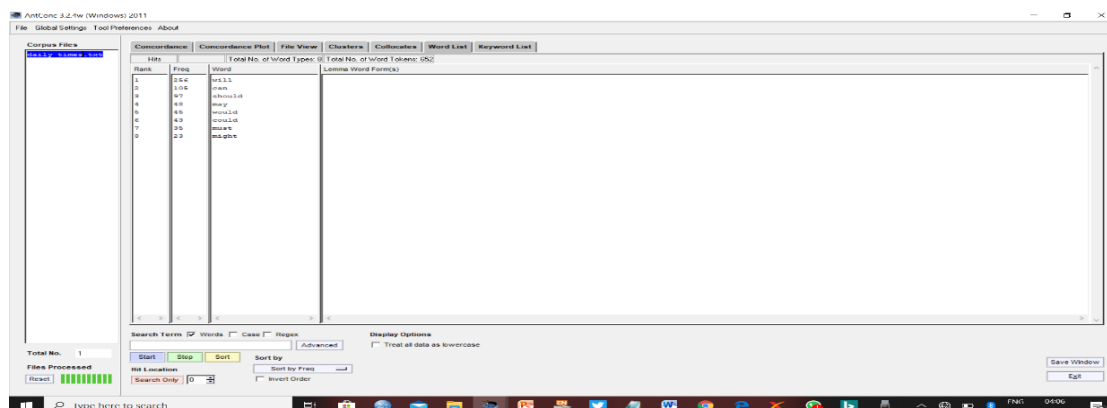
5.2.2 The Tribune Express:

Figure:2

If we see another corpus study produced by researchers based on the English Pakistani Newspaper's COVID-19 related editorials in "The Tribune Express", the result demonstrates that *will* is on the first rank and *can* is on the second rank as in "Daily Times." This indicates the same rating of *will* and *can* incidence in both newspapers but a significant disparity occurs in the next. *Would* become on third as well as *could,* in this newspaper is on fourth level. Further, there seems to be variation again in the rating of should, must and might. *Should* remain on the sixth, *must* is on the seventh whilst *might* is on the eight rank in the frequency-wise occurrence of modal verbs in Tribune Express' whole corpus. It means that there is a significant difference between the uses of model verbs between both newspapers.

5.3 Functional analysis of modal verbs:

Modality in the "Daily Times" and "The Tribune Express" COVID-19 based editorials section was conveyed by various textual techniques, like modal auxiliaries and modal verbs whereas, in this study the use of modality through modal auxiliary is central. The findings from the concordance method were classified as per the functions performed by modal verbs.

Table 5:

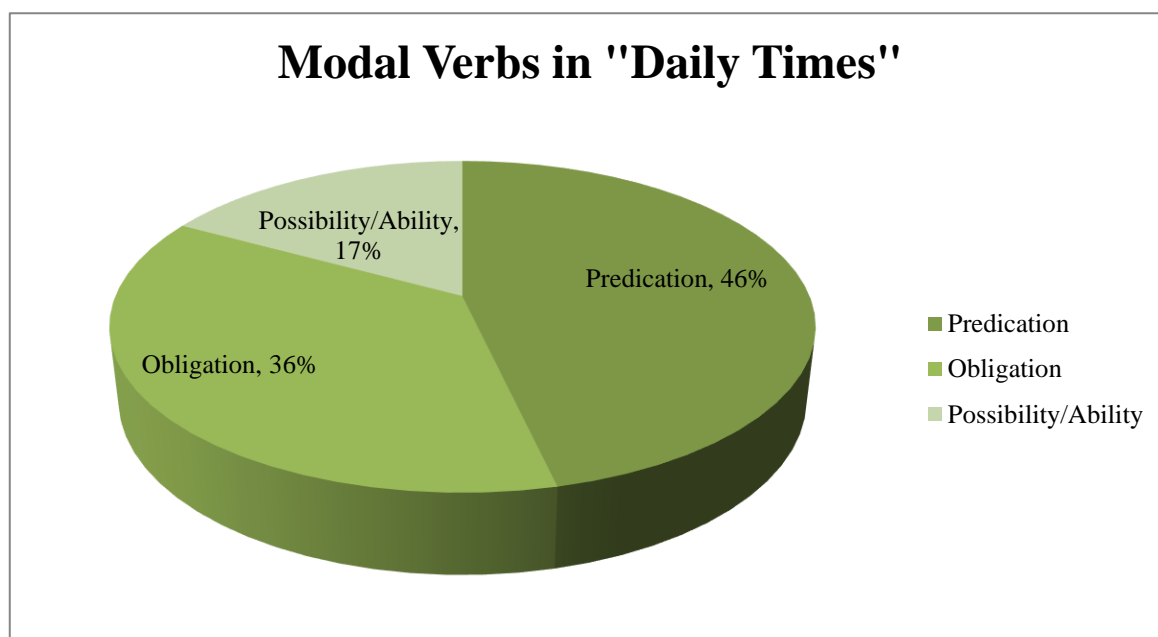| Function of Modal Verbs	Modal Verbs	Occurrences/frequency In "Daily Times"	Occurrences/frequency In "The Tribune Express"
Prediction	Will ,Would	301	161
Obligation	Must, Should Can	237	95
Possibility/ Ability	Could, May Might	114	92
Total		652	348

5.3.1 Modal Expression in "Daily Times":

Results show that the use of modal verbs by editors of widespread Pakistani English newspapers "Daily Times" in their editorials. If we see the above table no 5, then it is clear from the frequency of newspapers that verb of predication is used 301 times in which *will* is used 256 times and would is used 45 times. More, model of obligation is used 237 times in which *must* is used *35* times, *should* is used 97 times whereas *can* is used 105 times. Furthermore, modal verbs of possibility/ability is used 114 times in which *could* is used 43 times, *may* is used 48 times whilst *might* is used 23 times. The possibility/ability expression is less used whereas the use of predication expressions seems to be maximum in the COVID-19 based editorials of English Pakistani newspaper "Daily Times".

5.3.2 Modal Expression in "The Tribune Express":

Results show that the use of modal verbs by editors of widespread Pakistani English newspapers "The Tribune Express" in their editorials. If we see the above table no 2, then it is clear from the frequency of newspapers that verb of predication is used 161 times in which *will* is used 120 times and would is used 41 times. More, model of obligation is used 95 times in which *must* is used 22 times, *should* is used 26 times whereas *can* is used 47 times. Furthermore, modal verbs of possibility/ability is used 92 times in which *could* is used 34 times, *may* is used 47 times whilst *might* is used 11 times. However, the use of possibility/ability expression is less used whereas the use of predication expressions seems to be maximum in the COVID-19 based editorials of English Pakistani newspaper "Daily Times".
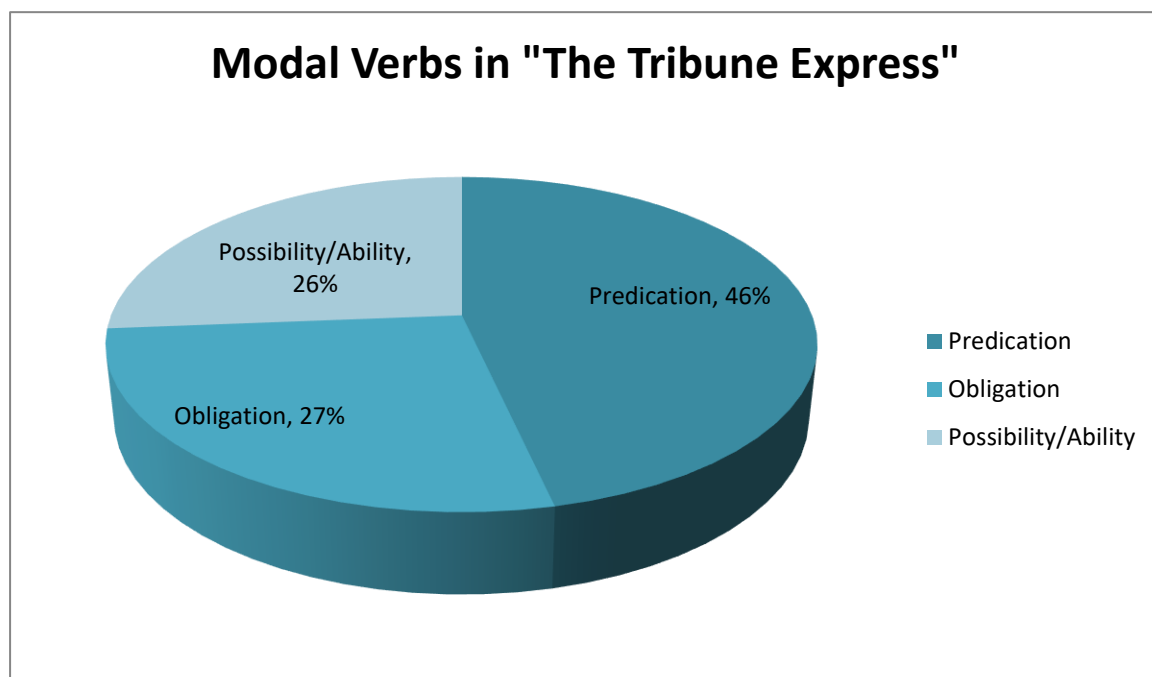
5.4 Cumulative Percentage:

Pie chart 1:

Modal Verbs in ''Daily Times''

Modal Verbs in "The Tribune Express"

Possibility/Ability, 26%

Predication, 46%

Obligation, 27%

- Predication
- Obligation
- Possibility/Ability

5.5 Comparison of "Daily Times" and "The Tribune Express":

After calculating the cumulative percentage of both newspapers we come towards the outcome. Results discovered that editorial's writers of both "Daily Times" and "The Tribune Express" used model auxiliaries of predication to the maximum and almost same use of *will, would* (46.16% "Daily Times" and 46.26% "The Tribune Express"). This shows that editors of both newspapers understand the dimensions in the use of will, would and they mark the accurate use of the actual function of model verbs. By doing this, they try to construct their readers' mind-set to assume and/or predict events that brings the reader's perspective to uncertainty. More, writers of both newspapers give expressing the inevitable situation of the country because of COVID-19 problem as well as advise the readers about how to cop up in this crucial condition.

While comparing the auxiliary model of obligation (must, should, can), a noteworthy difference seems in both newspapers. Editors of "Daily News" emphasizes more on obligation as compared to "The Tribune Express" (36.34% in "Daily News" and 27.29% in "The Tribune Express") which shows that editors of "Daily News" stresses on "what can be done" "what must be done" and "what should be done".
More, if we analyse the auxiliary modal of possibility/ability (could, may, might), again remarkable differences seems in both newspapers. Editors of "The Tribune Express" emphasizes more on possibility/ability as compared to "Daily News" (17.48% in "Daily News" and 26.43% in "The Tribune Express") which shows that editors of "The Tribune Express" stresses on "what could be done" "what may be done" and "what might be done".

The cause for concentrating on these functions is that these modal verbs give rise the readers to certain situations that help them to clarify their viewpoint. Besides, the editors of "The Tribune Express" showed less interest in using auxiliary modals of obligation whereas the editors of "Daily News" showed less interest in using auxiliary modals of possibility/ability. Therefore, we can say that "The Tribune Express" playing its vital role in conveying information by highlighting the possibility of the consequences of COVID-19 problem that affects everyone in this world. On the other hand, "Daily News" playing its vital role in the conveyance of information to its readers by giving suggestions about how to live in the uncertain condition of COVID-19, to indicate what is probable for stopping that killer disease and by expressing necessity about what are the things that people must do to fight with this dreadful disease COVID-19.

5.6 Examples from "Daily News" and "The Tribune Express":

5.6.1 Examples of Prediction:

1. "Pakistan's government **_will_** not be able to recover from the shortage of these things on its own."

(Daily
Times: 1/9/2020)

2. "In case someone is identified as the virus-carrier, they **_will_** be kept in isolation rooms designated by the CAA till they are shifted to a hospital."   (The Tribune Express: 1/25/2020)

3. "Saudi Arabia announced that mosques **_would_** no longer be opened for customary five daily prayers or Friday congregations, following the death of at least 171 coronavirus patients."

(Daily
Times: 3/21/2020)

4. "Conversely, if the people do not display the correct spirit and cooperation to implement the preventive measures and the virus continues to spread, the government will have to order a total lockdown, which **_would_** definitely harm the economy, industry, businesses and labour class due to the major loss of the economic activity." (The Tribune Express: 3/24/2020)

In the above-mentioned excerpts, the authors of these editorials not only presented the details but also gave their own perspective of events using those modal auxiliaries. In example (1) the editor of "Daily Times", use strong possibility that Pakistani Government have not enough assets to recover losses that occur because of horrible disease COVID-19. Example (2) from "The Tribune Express" also expresses the strong intention (sort of order) about those who are the suspect cases of COVID-19 will be in the isolation. In example (3), the writer gives directions to stop COVID-19. Mosques would close in Saudi Arabia because of 171 coronavirus patient's death. More, in e.g. (4), indicating the consequences of COVID-19 situation that if people do not cooperate in this bad time, then Government will give order for complete lockdown would definitely harm the economy, industries and businesses.

5.6.2 Examples of Obligation:

1: "Who's out of homes ***must*** wear masks — it should become a part of everyday attire; sanitisation and personal hygiene ***must*** be a requirement; social distancing should be a way of life at home and work." (Daily Times: 3/21/2020)

2: "The world ***must*** still await the effect of extreme heat on the virus in a very large, poor and congested population." (The Tribune Express: 4/3/2020)

3: "He commented. "The health department ***should*** immediately set up a medical camp and conduct check-ups of all those who met
him." (Daily Times: 1/22/2020)

4: "It suggests anyone with respiratory illness ***should*** seek medical attention and share travel history with their health care provider." (The Tribune Express: 2/4/2020)

5: "However, what is known are the commonalities of their pneumonia-like symptoms in the infected individuals; cold, difficulty breathing and in severe cases kidney failure ***can*** also occur" (Daily Times: 2/1/2020)

6: "Pakistan ***can*** deal with the foreseeable shortage of crucial commodities." (TheTribuneExpress:1/25/2020)

If we see an example of 1 and 2, we see that both give responsibility but writers of "Daily Times" used a high degree of modals as compare to "The Tribune Express". In e.g. (1), the writer insists about personal hygiene, wear masks and sanitisation is obligatory whereas in e.g. (2), the writer expressing an opinion about the world must wait for extreme heat to end the coronavirus (seems mild intensity). More, e.g. (3) displays strong obligation about immediately set up of a medical camp whereas e.g. (4) demonstrations suggestions that respiratory illness seek medical attention. Moreover, *can* in e.g. (5) show the typically happening of kidney failure because of coronavirus whilst e.g. (6) express the probability that Pakistan can deal with the shortage of commodities.

5.6.3 Examples of Possibility:

1: "If your children have any interest in reading, you ***could*** suggest those books, read along with them, and discuss and share your insights." (DailyTimes:3/20/2020)

2: "In 15-20% cases, the patients develop symptoms – and in some cases it ***could*** become dangerous," (TheTribuneExpress:4/21/2020)

3: "The present attack of COVID-19 is only a faint reminder of what ***may*** be in store for humanity in future." (Daily Times: 4/9/2020)

4: 2Countries like Pakistan ***may*** never have data available to count deaths of despair but many people, mostly poor, will die of despair without knowing about
(The Tribune Express: 5/10/2020)

5: "With everything that is happening about the coronavirus, it ***might*** be hard for us to make decisions" (Daily Times: 3/17/2020)

6: "One wrong step and the wrath of what ***might*** befall next may be enough to sweep all under. Beware." (The Tribune Express: 5/3/2020)

Example (1) give suggestion about utilizing yourself in this lockdown condition by reading books but e.g. (2), indicates a strong inclination about the dangerousness of COVID-19. More, e.g. (3) give a slight possibility of destructions in future because of terrific disease, COVID-19 while e.g.(4) express the strong possibility that Pakistan has

no data available to count deaths. Furthermore, in e.g. (5) *might* shows probability that it is hard to make decisions about the coronavirus whereas e.g. (6) express about the strong possibility of threatening condition due to frightful disease, COVID-19.

5.7 Discussion:

The first question of present research was, which modal verbs are used by the editorial's writers based on COVID-19 in Pakistani English Newspapers? Through analysis, it is clear that the editors of both English Pakistani Newspapers "Daily News" and "The Tribune Express" frequently use the auxiliary models of "predication"(will, would) on an almost equal level (46% each). If we see the infrequent use of modality, then we come to these results that editor of "Daily News" use frequently of the auxiliary model."Obligation" (must, should, can) 36% whereas "The Tribune Express" use the auxiliary model of "obligation" infrequently 27%. Conversely, model verbs of "possibility" (could, may, might) is frequently used by "The Tribune Express"26% but infrequently used in "Daily News"17%.

The second question was; which degree of function of modal verbs are used by the editorial's writers based on COVID-19 in Pakistani English Newspapers? (Qun, 2010), proposed that various forms of modal verbs performed different degrees of politeness in communication process. Low-value modal verbs show politeness whereas high-value model verbs show impoliteness in communication. That means the use of high (impolite) and low-degree (polite) templates, shows that the writer will be able to approach their writings objectively with the tilt of the writer in favour or against the case. Therefore, they use the intermediate value models intentionally to encrypt any negative perception between them.

It is clear from the results and above-mentioned examples that editors of both newspapers "Daily News" and "The Tribune Express" use median value of modality to maintain balance also avoid negative opinions between readers and editors. Moreover, editors of "Daily News" use a high degree of function of modality (must, should) as compared to "The Tribune Express". It means that "Daily News" shows impoliteness to its readers. Reasons may be that to save the life of people the writers put more emphasizes on safety measures.

Conversely, editors of "The Tribune Express" use the low degree of function of modality (could, may, might) more than "Daily News" shows the politeness in communication. It means that "The Tribune Express" try to avoid harsh words and strong intensity that is why they use euphemism to maintain the newspaper's status.

Third question was; does the COVID-19 issue leave an impact on models used by the writers of editorials of Pakistani English newspapers? Previous researches like(Sadia & Ghani, (2019); Ahmad, Mahmood, Mahmood, & Siddique (2019); Siddique, Mahmood, & Qasim (2019); Batool, Majeed, & Zahra (2019); Bano, Mubeen, & Arshad (2019),

shows that writers of editorials of Pakistani News Papers use the median degree of function of modality and use predication *will* to balance. They focused on 'what can happen, what should happen,' and 'what will happen.' The present study differs from previous studies. Current study shows that COVID-19 issue leaves an impact on models used by the writers of editorials of Pakistani English newspapers. This problem changes the living styles of society. A phobia of destruction, ending of humanity, of life, even the whole universe, threatening and awful condition impend on us. Changes in the living style also leave an impact or change the use of language. Results show that editors of "Daily News" use a high degree of function of modality (must, should). Reasons are that, the editors want to warn about the terrific disease. By giving instructions strictly to wash the hands, wear masks, medicated gloves while going outside and use sanitizers too. Also, give order to isolate those who are affected by COVID-19 to cop-up with the critical condition of the country as well as to maintain health that is why they restrict strictly by using high-value model verbs.

5.8 Conclusion:

In a nutshell, we can say that the "way of living change the way of language". By facing the problem of COVID-19, everyone's mind is disturbed, that mishmash our thinking too. In the news, on every social application, everywhere we see only one topic on the top, COVID-19. Discussion about death rate, safety precautions, new policies, problems of shortage of food that everyone is facing seems to be the main headline. There is an alarming situation in the whole world. By changing in lifestyle due to COVID-19, we see the variations in the use of language too. Therefore, findings of our research study likely inform us that, both newspapers "Daily News" and "The Tribune Express" successfully maintain the balance by using median models (will, would). "The Tribune Express" newspaper play their role positively in spreading information among the readers by using polite/low degree of modal verbs (could, may, might). Whereas by using high level degree of modals (must, should) used by "Daily News" give the answer to our research that variations occur because of COVID-19 disease. Researchers suggest to avoid these types of words that create fear, terror and leaves bad impact on everyone's mind because people can die from fear more than natural death.

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Appendices

Table A2: Types of modality:

Epistemic Modality	When using a modal verb to express the opinion of the speaker about a sentence. Eg: Might be real. To express an opinion on whether it is valid or not, to agree that there is a chance but not to be sure. It is used in the sense of impossible, unlikely, possible, probable and certain
Deontic Modality	When a modal verb is used to influence a situation, e.g. by requiring, etc. When you've done you should go. (Providing leave to track the situation). It is used, forbidden, appropriate and mandatory in the form of recommendation.
Dynamic Modality	Dynamic modality does not express the viewpoint of the speaker, nor does the speaker influence the situation. So, e.g. He can understand French perfectly.(describing a realistic situation). It shows the ability, violation and willingness of a individual to take an action.

Table A3: Function of Modality:

High value	Must, Is to, Should, Need to, Has to, Ought to
Median value	Will, Would, Shall
Low value	May, Might, Can, Could

Table A1 Model:

Function of model Verbs	Modality/Modal Verbs
Prediction	Will, Would
Obligation	Must, Should, Can
Possibility/ Ability	Could, May, Might

Corpus Details Table A4:

| Name of Newspaper	No. of Editorials	Word Tokens	Word Types	Months/Year/Date
"The Express Tribune"	2+5+10+10+10 =37	26,136	4848	1-Jan-2020 to 31-Jan-2020 1-Feb-2020 to 29-Feb-2020 1-March-2020 to 31-March-2020 1-April-2020 to 30-April-2020 1-May -2020 to 10-May-2020
"Daily times"	10+10+10+10+10 =50	50,576	7,164	1-Jan-2020 to 31-Jan-2020 1-Feb-2020 to 29-Feb-2020 1-March-2020 to 31-March-2020 1-April-2020 to 30-April-2020 1-May -2020 to 10-May -2020
Total	87	76,712	12,012	

Table A 5:

Function of Modal Verbs	Modal Verbs	Occurrences/frequency In "Daily Times"	Occurrences/frequency In "The Tribune Express"
Prediction	Will ,Would	301	161
Obligation	Must, Should Can	237	95
Possibility/ Ability	Could, May Might	114	92
Total		652	348

Modal Verbs in "Daily Times"
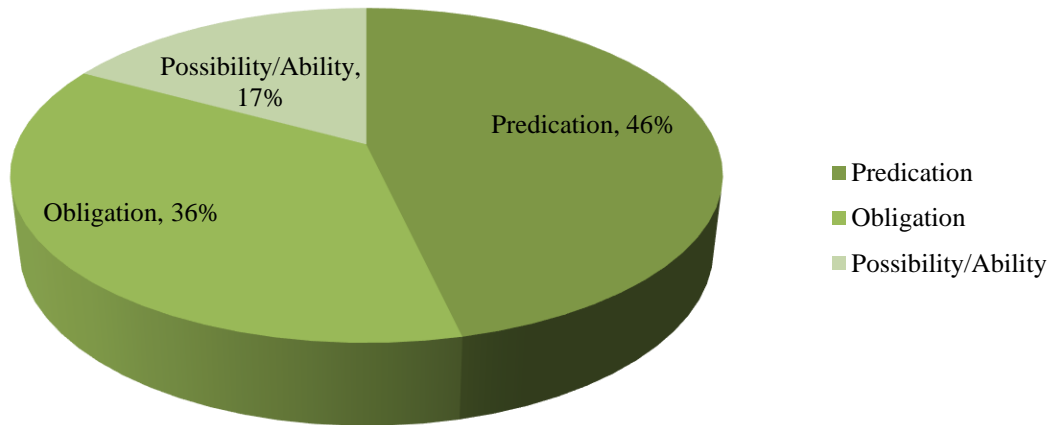
Pie chart A1: Modal Verbs in "Daily Times"

Modal Verbs in "The Tribune Express"
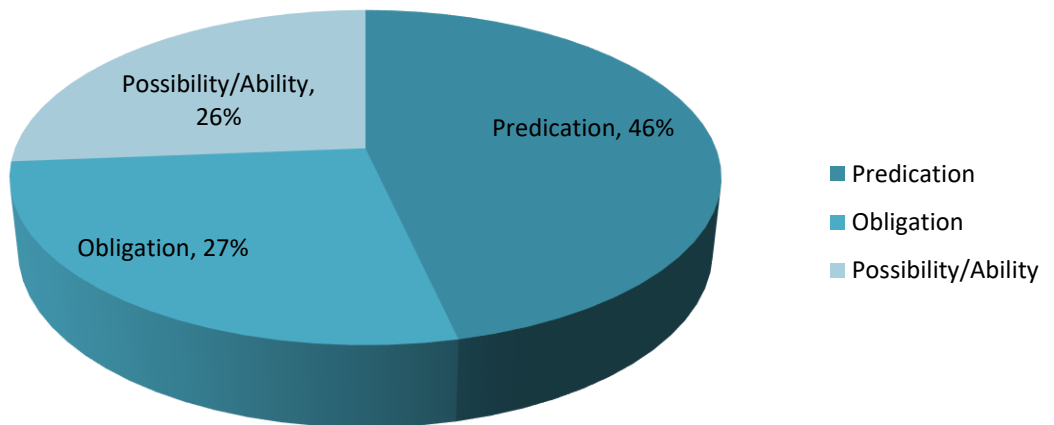
Pie chart A2: Modal Verbs in "The Tribune Express"
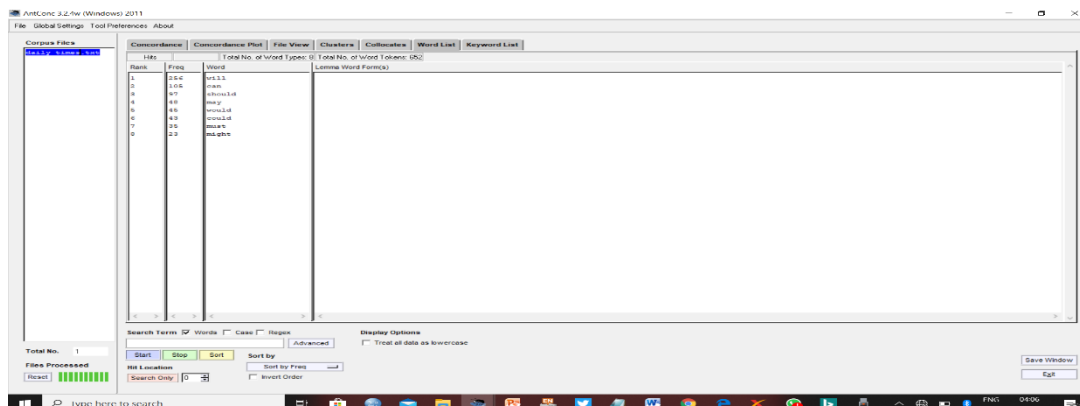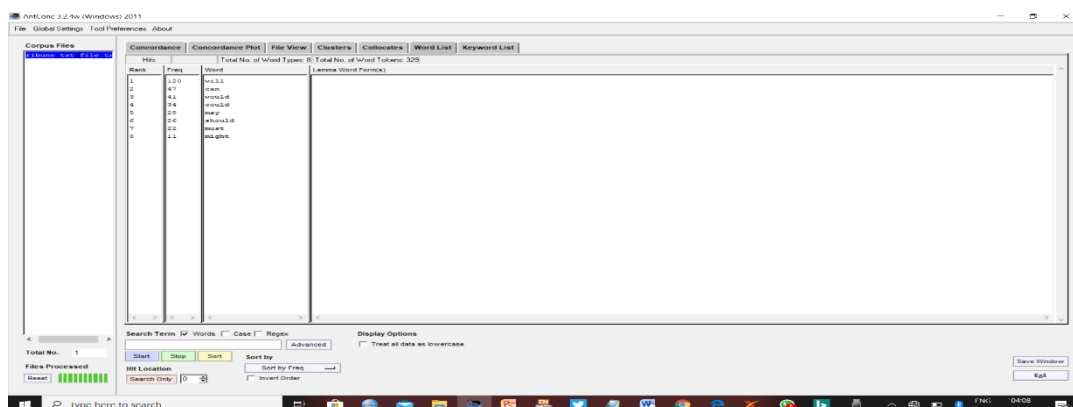
Figure A 5.2.1 "Daily Times":

Figure A 5.2.2."The Tribune Express":