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RESEARCH PAPER

A Corpus Linguistic Analysis of Ahmed Ali's *Twilight in Delhi*

Sadia Gondal[1]   Dr. Saira Maqbool*[2]   Anna Ali[3]

1. Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities, Social Sciences and Modern Languages, University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan
2. Assistant Professor, Department of English, Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad, Pakistan
3. Lecturer, Department of English, GIFT University, Gujranwala, Punjab, Pakistan

Introduction

Ahmed Ali is the first Muslim writer who wrote in English language. His masterstroke novel in English language is *Twilight in Delhi* (1940). He was one of the early writers of Progressive Writers Movement. He decided to write in English

language, but he also used poetry and words from Urdu language to decolonized the minds of his people. The amalgamation of European and Indo-Muslim language helps the writer to depict the indigenous history and culture effectively. By this hybridization of language, Ali shows that Muslims have their own culture, language, history and civilization that are disrupted by British colonizers.

The Indian Subcontinent remains under colonial control about three centuries from 1707 till 1947. *Twilight in Delhi* recalls the decay of Delhi and the decline of Mughal Empire. Ahmed Ali as a native or as colonized intellectual wrote this novel with great devotion to redefine the Muslim history. He depicts cultural norms, political and economic conditions of Muslims of India through his characters. And he used excessive nouns to depict the whole story through the apt use of linguistics features. Mir Nihal is the protagonist and the portrayal of his character represents the whole condition of Delhi or Muslim community in the subcontinent. The other characters also portray the decline of Muslim culture, politics, history and economy.

Table 1

Decay of Muslim Culture through Major Characters	
Delhi	Downfall of Muslim culture
Mir Nihal	Imago of last Mughal king
Asghar	Represents inferiority of 'other' and his idealization of West is the reason of Muslim deterioration
Belqeece	Symbol of past glory of Muslim culture
Begum Nihal	Symbolizes female subjugation in a patriarchal Muslim culture

In this novel, the writer has used descriptive method for the development of characters in the plot of the novel. Ali's art of characterization is remarkable to portray the realistic picture of the downturn of Muslim culture. The incidents or happenings in the novel, have been given universal importance by the novelist.

The novel *Twilight in Delhi* is going to analyze through Corpus Toolkit. Corpus linguistic is an approach to analyze written and spoken text. This is an age of information technology and the use of technology has increased in this modern world. So, the use of computer in linguistics research for statistical data analysis, has increased. The author of Corpus tool AntConc is Laurence Anthony. It is developed in 2014.

This computer software is used for text analysis of lengthier texts as *Twilight in Delhi* is. It provides a solid quantitative data. The main function of this software is to generate Concordance, Collocation and Keyword list. AntConc concordance studies language units from a specific text. The concordance tool provides results in keyword in context form. Collocation helps to investigate the non-consistent models in the language of the specific fiction. Word list tool in AntConc software presents the statistical data. It shows that how many times a word has repeated in the whole specific text. These tools will be analyzed according to the research process.

Literature Review

In Linguistics, the word Corpus can be defined as a body or the structure of language on specific topic. The word Corpus is used to describe a group of language units that can be in form of text and speech as well.

Corpus Linguistics is the new linguistics methodology that investigates of naturally occurring language on the bases of computerized corpora. The analysis of the text is obtained through the help of computer, with software like AntConc, COCA, BNC and Wordsmith and then the quantitative data investigated. Corpus Linguistics analysis are always based on the examination of some kind of frequencies. Alderson (1996) introduces Corpus Linguistics to the researchers of language testing.

Stubbs and Halle (2012, p1) defines Corpus Linguistics as it is a computer-assisted method to deal with the larger quantity of linguistics analysis in a text of novels or anthologies. It is used to check the validity of language produced by the non-expert users of language that have started to write in newly learned international languages.

Smith (1997) describes that Corpus Linguistics is the study of language structures, but it is different from customary linguistics. Its focus is on the systematic study of authentic of language in use. According to Coniam (2004), the role of corpora of language data become significant far the teaching of new language to the students.

Ahmed Ali is a prolific writer who had written novels, short stories and poetry but his novel *Twilight in Delhi* is a masterpiece in English literature. *Twilight in Delhi* reconstruct the decay of Delhi, the fall of Muslim's control that began with the downfall of Mughal crown in 1707 and finally went off track in 1857.According to Oxford history of India (1958), Ahmad Ali takes the task of transliterating modern India to itself and the world from EM Forster and Edward Thompson.

Ms Iftikhar (2012) regards "*Twilight in Delhi* as a magnum opus of art. Ali presents Delhi as the centre of Muslim civilization. Delhi is a true eye witness of the turned the city and the pathetic conditions of its people. Ahmad Ali has been successfully evoking pathos in the hearts of his readers with his dismal and desperate description"

The researcher Huma Yaqub in her article states that Ahmed Ali portrays the city Delhi as the colonizers portray the Orient as engulfed in darkness, raped or destroyed. The creation of Delhi fulfills the demand of European imagination. The city acts as a living being and develops fear through a web of lanes or by lanes.

The use of English language in Sub-continent is the outcome of colonial rule. According to Rehman (1991), Noon, Abbas, Ali and Shahnawaz were the innovators of English literature. They discuss the social, political, religious and nationalistic

challenges in their literary works. They used English to challenge the colonial rule and to raise voice against hybrid identity. The postcolonial writers Sidhwa, Hashmi, Ali, Shamsie and Suleri are most famous writers of Pakistan.

After the British colonialism in the India, the Muslims lost their homeland, their Glory, Kingdome to rule, their language, culture and their city Delhi which was the capital. And they lost their identity too (Ahmed p.43).

Twilight in Delhi includes the hybridism in language and culture. It highlights the concept of 'Other'. The novelist investigates the happenings in the great Muslims center in Delhi, India. It highlights that the new light of colonialism in Delhi was extinguishing the light of past glory through its outward brightness. The colonial light affected the culture, religion and the whole family saga of the Muslims of India. As Ali points out that, "My purpose in writing this novel was to portray the past glorification of our national life and destruction of a whole culture, politics, economy, thinking and living values before our eyes" (Ali,1984, p.10).

The novelist attempts to build mosaic of text in *Twilight in Delhi* as a strategy to put resistance against the politics and identity of colonial rule. Hence, Ali translates the Urdu poetry into English language in this novel to create dialogical possibility in the texts (Alam, 2015).

Twilight in Delhi can be read by the reader of any age, of any religion and after reading the novel, the readers can imagine the portrait of Ahmed Ali's Delhi. Coppola (1994) states that Ali employs a great detail of Muslim culture and ceremonies (related to marriage and birth of children) in this novel. The purpose behind this is to target the Western readers' psychology towards Muslims or Asians.

Mrs. Jamal (2012) says that Ali has presented a very realistic picture of Delhi in the novel. He symbolizes it as a descriptive symbol of "Loss". The city, Delhi was once the emblem of art, culture, architecture, oral literature and learning. Its throne was adorned by Kings and monarchs but the glory has fade away now.

Ali introduces the city Delhi as a 'beaten dog' in *Twilight in Delhi* (ibid. p.5). Ahmed Ali describes the ordinary customs, traditions and ceremonies and daily aspects of life with great details that the indigenous readers feel it as futile and tiresome effort of the writer to paint Muslim life in subcontinent during colonialism (Askari, p30).

Ali shows the real golden age of Mughal Empire and the picture of its deterioration as well. He shows the cultural and traditional ceremonies as kite flying and pigeon flying. It is an amazing novel that is written during the colonialism of India to reshape the Muslim history with its culture. And it also portrays the declination of Muslim culture with the arrival of colonizers. The novel is a storehouse of various images collected from real life and Ahmad Ali depicts them marvelously

through the apt use of linguistics features.

Material and Methods

Research methodology is a systematic and careful study of something to find facts by using set methods or rules. This research paper involves the mixed method approach for the analysis of the data. It includes both the research methods as qualitative and quantitative. It is qualitative in nature as it employs the textual narrative analysis of Ahmed Ali's novel. And for quantitative data, it applies the AntConc software. First of all, the researcher will prepare the corpus of the novel *Twilight in Delhi* than will convert it into a plain (TXT). TXT stands for text file that is a kind of computer file or e- text. It is employed for the storage of information. Then for the corpus analysis the researcher has installed the software AntConc 3.5.8 (Windows) 2019. Here is a reference to download this software as https://www.laurenceanthony.net/software.html .   AntConc is a concordance tool that helps us to process corpora. It is developed by Laurence Anthony. It is commonly used for corpus text analysis. It helps the researcher to explain the details even the longest one. That corpus toolkit saves the time and provides solid quantitative data. AntConc's most popular tool is concordance analysis it gives a researcher the insight of the text. The purpose behind using this software is to analyze the linguistic features used by Ahmed Ali. AntConc is freely available software it helps to process the data as per requirement. This software includes different tools. For this paper Concordance, Collocates and keyword List have been selected to gain authentic quantitative analysis. For qualitative purpose, the data is collected from internet. The researcher has been studied four thesis and nine articles related to the topic from acdemia.edu and Research gate. Thus, in this way both methods are employed in this paper. Concordance tool, collocated and keyword List used throughout this paper to find out linguistics features like Nouns, pronouns, adjectives, articles, code switching words, religious and cultural norms. Screenshots will also be pasted in the paper for better understanding of the analysis.

Research Framework

Ahmed Ali's novel Twilight in Delhi has been examined and analyzed in this research paper with the help of Corpus analysis of the use of linguistics features by applying AntConc software. It is an electronic system to find and show the units in language. This study will be using Corpus analysis as a theoretical framework. For Corpus analysis of the selected text, Laurence Anthony's software AntConc will be used for concordance and text analysis. It gives an insight that how does Muslim culture transforms from glory into heap of waste.

Data Analysis

For Corpus Analysis Ahmed Ali's novel "Twilight in Delhi" has been selected for this paper. First of all prepared the corpus of the novel and then convert it into a

plain (TXT) . For analysis of the corpora, corpus toolkit AntConc 3.5.8 (2019) is employed.
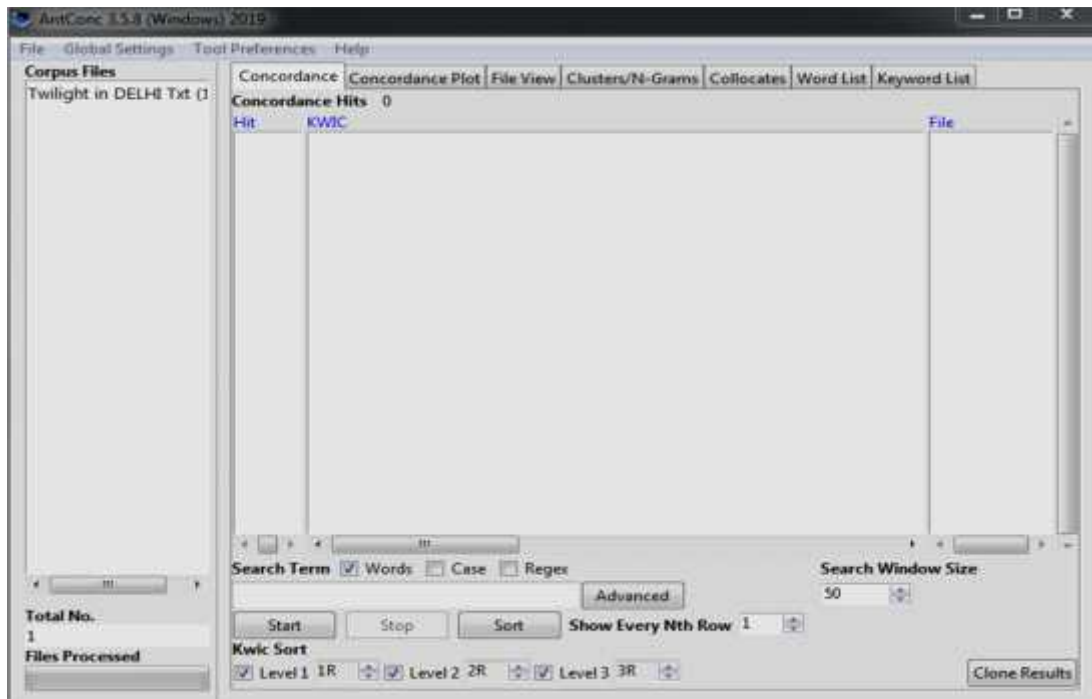
Screenshot No: 1

Question No: 1

First of all, the researcher will analyze that how the AntConc software helps to analyze nouns used by the Ahmed Ali in this novel to portray the real image of Delhi's culture and its decline.

Nouns

Ahmed Ali's novel Twilight in Delhi is enriched with nouns as names of persons, places, events and things and he also uses pronouns for them. The novelist has used proper nouns to introduce characters and through the depiction of characters he portrays the real picture of Delhi's cultural and political decline. Here is a list of proper nouns used by Ali in this fine piece of art.

Table 2

Proper Noun Used by Ahmed Ali		
	Zohra	Bundoo
Mir Nihal	Mehro Zamani	Nisar Ahmed
Begum Nihal	Masroor	Ghafoor

Asgar	Miraj	Begum Waheed
Bilqeece	Shams	Shaikh Fazal Elahi
Mushtari Bai	Dilchain	Karim
Babban Jan	Mirza Shahbaz Baigh	Saeed Hassan
Ruqaya	Anjum Zamani	Gul Bano
Habibudin	Chanbeli	Mulavi Dulhan

Most of the characters in this novel are known by their occupations and due to their status in the society. The purpose behind the use of such names were to represent the culture of the Muslims of India at that time. In the realistic world, the professions or hobbies of a community or a nation symbolize the psychology or attitude of it. It shows that what type of this community is, either it is an agrarian or industrial. Thus Ahmed Ali introduces of such characters in the novel that bear their names after their professions. As, it is clear in the table no 3.

Table 3

Names Representing Professions & Status	
Hakim	Beggars
Milk Man	Nawab
Ghassal	Kahars

The female characters are called by the name of their husbands as Begum Nihal, Begum Jamal and Begum Waheed. This stylistic tool of language shows that Delhi is a patriarchal city, where the females have no equal rights to men. Their names show that they do not have their individual indentity. Hence, Ali depicts the patriarchal structure of Muslims in Delhi by using word 'Begum'. The following screenshot no 2 shows the concordance of this word and suggests that females' surnames carry the burden of patriarchal society.

Screenshot No.2: Concordance of Noun Begam

The Author presents beautiful imagery through language, especially the nouns. The nouns are full of images like kite flying, pigeon flying, henna tree, Jinn, dogs and cats. There are many religious nouns which depicts the religion of the people of Delhi like, Jamma Masjid, Melaad, Qawali, etc. The writer used mixed language in the novel he used code switching at every sentence of the novel to show the hybridity of Muslim culture. It is an amalgamation of both Indian, Muslim and English culture. So the real beauty lies in the depiction which can clearly analyze through corpus tools like Concordance tool. The screenshot no 3 will show the concordance of noun as Mir Nihal.
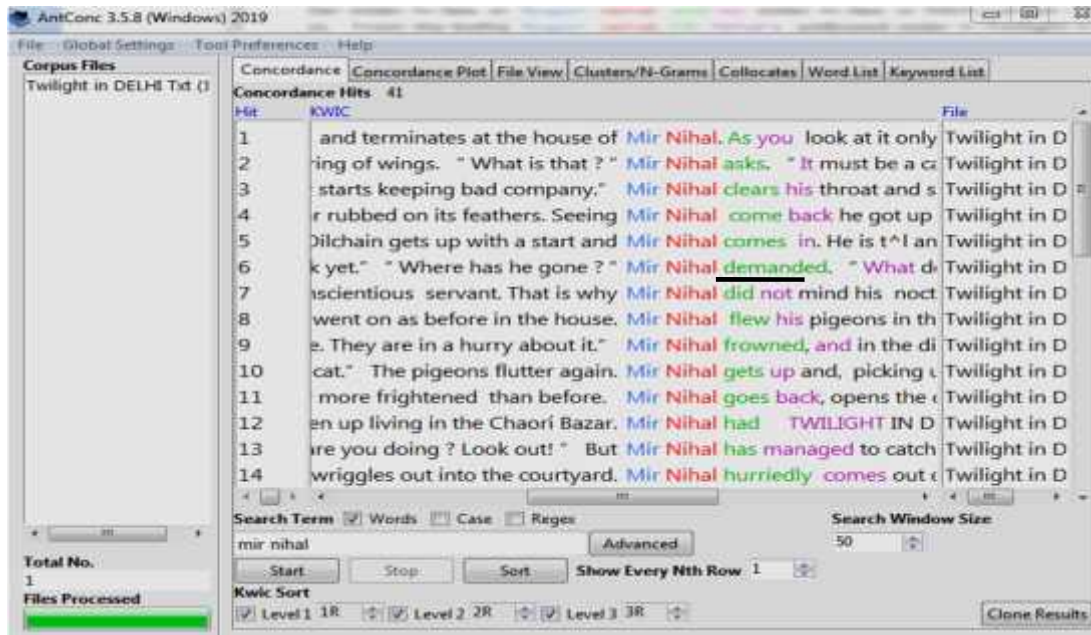
Screenshot No.3: Concordance of Noun Mir Nihal

By this screenshot, it is clear that how many times the novelist portray the theme of Delhi's past glory and its present decline. As Mir Nihal is the representation of its eminence and chaos as well.

The novel *Twilight in Delhi* begins with the noun 'Night' and ends with the noun 'Gloom'. Thus Ahmed Ali shows the period of decline and decay of Muslim culture and civilization in the novel. By the words gloom and night, he wants to show that how Muslims of Delhi become passive at the colonial encounter and starts to mimic the colonizers' culture due to their inferiority as 'other'. Due to colonialism, Delhi's culture became a hybrid culture. The writer through the apt use of linguistic features showed the themes of the novel and Corpus tool helps to analyze them. As here the researcher checks the concordance of word night from the first chapter of the novel *Twilight in Delhi*.

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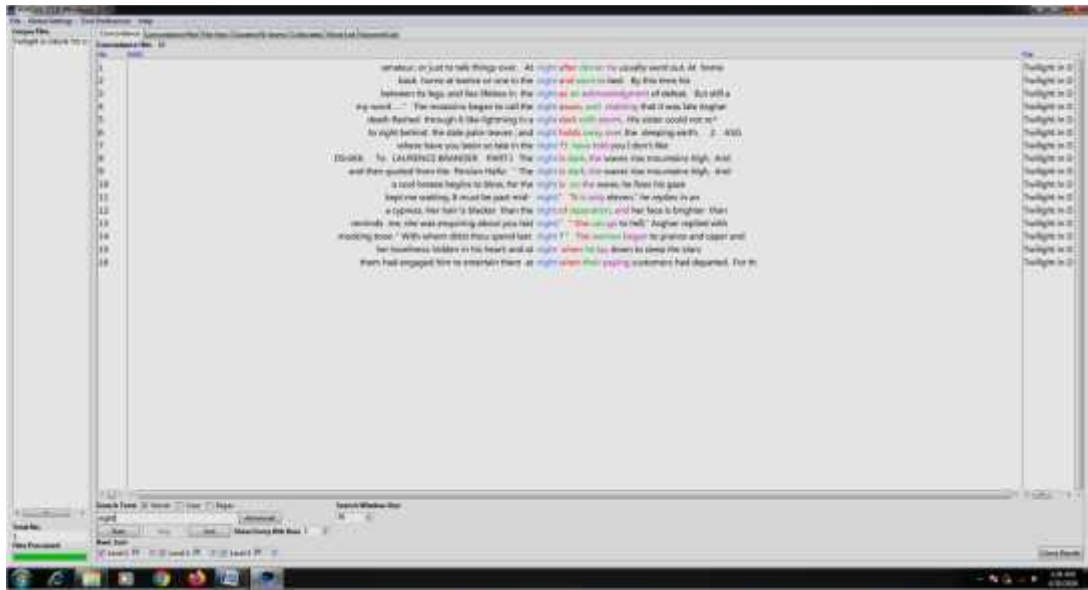
Screenshot No.5: Concordance of Noun Night

Ahmed Ali shows the atmosphere and weather conditions of Delhi again and again in the novel. He shows that there is a very suffocating summer season. The summer winds are burning the whole city with its heat. So, his novels each chapter depicts heat in the atmosphere to highlight the condition of dying Muslim culture and also the political oppression. The following concordance screenshot has been taken from the part 1, sec. 2

Screenshot No.6: Concordance of Word Heat

Concordance Plot Tool:

For quantitative analysis, the concordance plot tool has been used. Concordance plot tool shows the list of the searching term in a specific corpus. This tool also works like the concordance tool. However, it tells the results in statistical way. We can search the word whatever we want to search by entering in searching box and the results will appear on the screen. It is shown in the below figure;
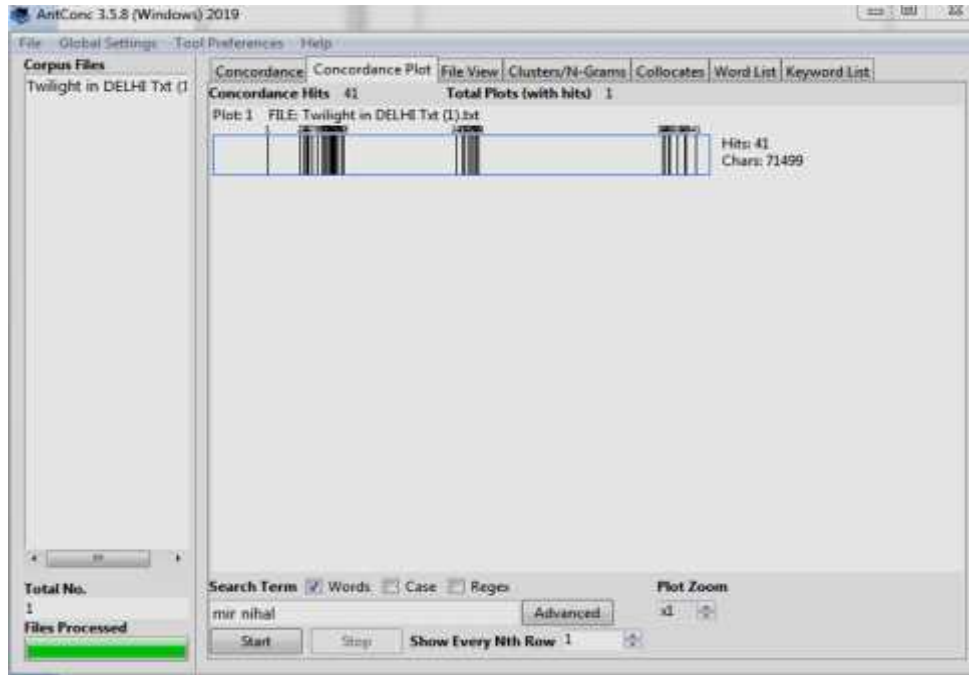
Screenshot No.7: Concordance Plot of Keyword Mir Nihal

The concordance analysis showed here the nouns' frequency and place where they are used. By this tool, the research will be able to tell that the keyword Mir Nihal has been used by the author a lot of times in the specific part of the novel. By the number or hits, the researcher can determine the importance of this keyword.

Question No: 2

How AntConc software helps to analyze the use of adjectives and metaphors used by the writer to depict present and past, glory and decline of Mughal Empire. Adjectives are words that modify nouns. Most of the writers use attributive and predicative adjectives to describe the situation and the emotional condition of the characters. Ahmed Ali portrays his Muslim society and natives according to the prevailing situation which he has observed in his surroundings. He tries to present that Delhi in the novel of which stories, he has been listening since his childhood from his grandparents. His use of adjectives with places, ceremonies, settings, atmosphere, objects and characters represent the socio political conditions of Delhi and the

Muslims. There is a list of commonly used adjectives in this novel by Ahmed Ali.

Table 4

Use of Adjectives to demonstrate the Physical Condition of Delhi

Old	Dark hair	Bobbed head	Wild
Tall	Narrow	Sweetheart	Glinted
Ugly	Glowing	Heavenly grace	Graceful as Cypress
Lithe & handsome			

These adjectives show the realistic picture of Delhi and its peoples. The author wants to capture the true picture of colonized Delhi therefore he used adjectives in this way. He also portrays the natives' attitude towards the colonizers. He presents two different attitudes towards the colonizers through the major characters of the novel i.e. Mir Nihal and Asghar. Mir Nihal shows hatred towards the colonizers. He hates their culture and politics, As he condemns his son Asghar due to wearing English shirt and shoes, "You are wearing those dirty English Boots…" . This textual line shows the hatred for colonizers. On the other side, Asghar dislike his own culture and wants to adopt the English culture. He wants to resist against Whites colonialism by adopting their culture. Thus he condemns his own traditions. There is a screenshot of the concordance of the adjective 'dirty' that suggests two different views of indigenous people towards the colonizers.
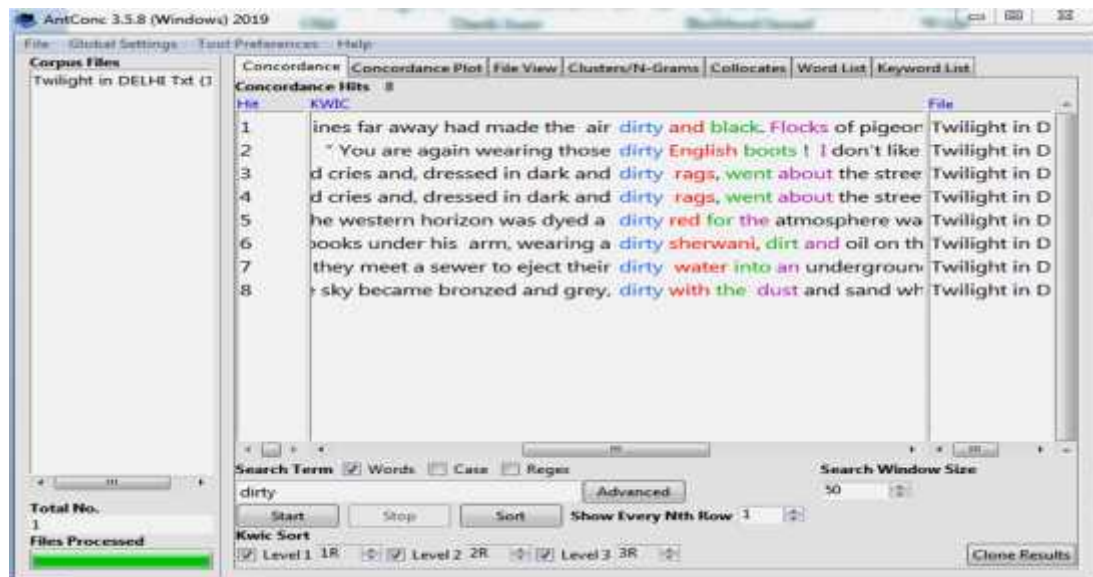
Screenshot No.8: Concordance of an Adjective 'Dirty'

Ahmed Ali has used onomatopoeias in this novel to highlight his theme of destruction and decay in the novel through forceful language. He depicts the pigeon flying imagery that was the significant part of Indo-Muslim culture. The deaths of Mir Nihal's pigeons symbolize the gradual death of Muslim culture in the

subcontinent under the colonial rule. Here, the researcher has checked the concordance plot of word pigeon from the first chapter of the novel *Twilight in Delhi.*
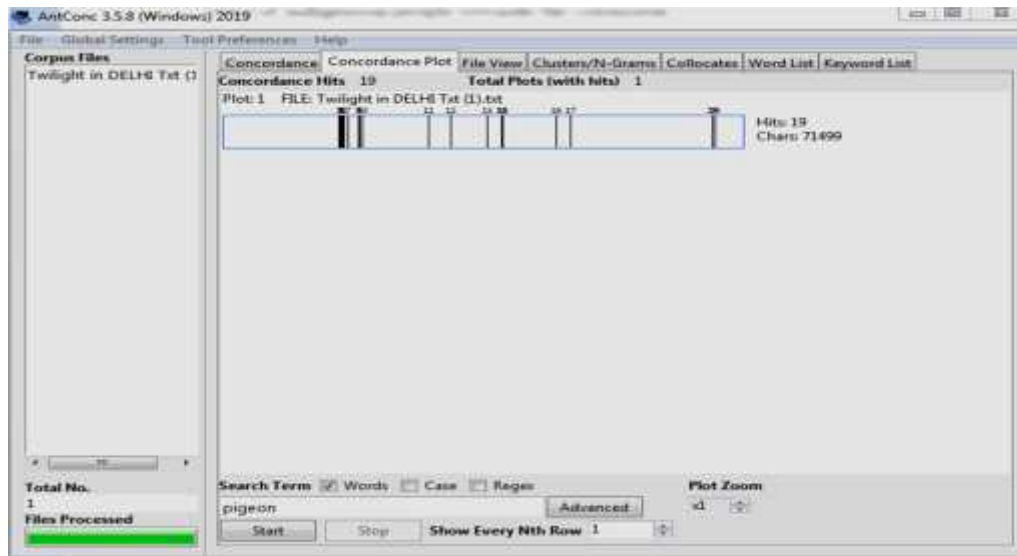
Screenshot No.9: Concordance plot of Bird Imagery of Pigeon

Ahmed Ali describes that Muslims feel helpless and chaos with the arrival of colonizers in India. Mir Nihal went into the state of coma when the Whites start to rule Delhi by following their own laws. Here the novelist pictures the situation of Mughal Empire which is now paralyzed like the protagonist Mir Nihal and colonizers made him unable to move on in the future any more. The atmosphere of Delhi is so gloomy and the writer uses words of sadness to portray the haunting situation. He uses the following words throughout the novel;

Table 5

Adjectives to show horror and Gloom		
Dark	Blind	Twilight
Deserted	Tangled	Darkness
Wrinkled	Gloon	Coma
Old	Beggars	Gust
Wind	Storm	Rain

There is also a concordance plot of the word Twilight that haunts the readers from the very title of the novel and till the end of it. Here the researcher has examined the only second chapter of the novel for concordance plot of this word.

Screenshot No.10: Concordance Plot of Words Twilight, Gust, Beggars and Dark

Through these words the story and the underlying theme of the novel got cleared. With the help of Corpus Toolkit (AntConc), the quantity and the place of these words where they used to be not cleared.

Use of Metaphors

A metaphor is a linguistic feature which directly refers to one thing by mentioning another. Ahmed Ali used metaphors also in this novel. As the novel begins with the description of city in a metaphorical way;

Table 4
Night covers the city like a blanket.
Dim straight Roofs
wrapped in rustle slumber
Breathing heavily
Shoots through the body like pain
Half Naked
Jasmine Garland
Sniffing of the gutter

These words are metaphorically describing Ahmed Ali's Delhi. His characters also metaphor for his themes as one is stand for Delhi the protagonist and the one is the colonizers. In this way through the corpus analysis the text will analyzed more deeply its only possible due to AntConc Software.

Question No: 3

How does Corpus toolkit AntConc help to analyze the significant use of

articles and conjunctions through keyword list tool?

Articles

Articles are special modifiers that appear before nouns or noun phrases, like adjectives that help to clarify the meaning of the noun. There are two types of Articles:

a) Definite Article: The

b) Indefinite Article: A, An

Ahmed Ali like other linguistic features also uses articles in his novel *Twilight in Delhi* to refer to nouns. Through the use of a, an, and the, the plot of the novel became more meaningful. As the keyword tool shows the list of the articles used by the novelist in the novel.

What is keyword list Tool?

For analyzing corpus data, at first a research needs to know how many words, what type of part of speech, and how many and how often words appear in the intended research text. A researcher can use wordlist function to get what is located in menu function.

If a researcher keenly observes Ahmed Ali's novel *Twilight in Delhi,* he can see in the wordlist tool that his first 10 words in this novel are linguistic features and from grammar side. He has used a lot of parts of speech as articles, conjunctions, interjections, personal pronouns and other linguistic units in his novel. His excessive use of articles or conjunctions show that English language is not the native language of Ahmed Ali. English is a secondary language that he has learnt and used to put resistance against the British colonizers. He used it to decolonize the mind of the colonized people.

Screenshot No.11: Use of Wordlist Tool

The Use of Conjunctions in the Novel

Ahmed Ali has been used conjunctions in the novel to connect clauses or sentences to develop connectivity and coherence in the corpus of the novel. The writer has been used both types of conjunctions in the novel. As:

a) Subordination Conjunction

b) Coordinating Conjunction

Coordinating conjunctions adds beauty in the story of the novel. As we see in these lines of *Twilight in Delhi.*

   i.   **yet the glory has gone.**

  ii.   **Yet ruins have enveloped the city.**

 iii.   **And ruin its culture as well.**

There is a short list of conjunctions that are commonly used in this novel. As:

Conjunctions
Yet
And
But
Or
Neither
So
For

These conjunctions are used in the novel many times. The writer has used coordinating conjunction in every sentence of the novel as below the textual lines shows

"But Delhi had built hundreds of years ago, and it participated in wars, gave sacrifices of life, destroyed or reconstructed by its people".

Through the use if conjunctions here the writer portrays the image if Delhi. The purpose behind using this linguistic feature is to show the gloom the condition of natives and the advent of colonialism. Subordinating conjunctions are also used in novel. As

Subordinating Conjunctions

After	every time
Although	Since

As	as if
As far as	as long as
Even though	

So the conjunctions and the previous explained linguistic tools create a perfect sense towards

the theme of the novel and writers aim to use them in his story.

Personal Pronouns

It is a short word used as a substitute of a proper noun. It refers to the speaker or to one or more, to or about whom or which he or she is speaking as I, we, he, she, it, they, you, us, them, his, her, gender and number etc. Ahmed Ali has used personal pronouns in his novel. Asghar describes the beauty of Bilqueece by using the pronoun 'she' a lot of time before his friend Bari. As:

She is beautiful. She is full of grace.

Her hair is too black than the night.

 Her face is glows more than love.

 Her eyes are too attractive.

Screenshot No.12: Concordance Plot of Pronoun 'She'

Personal pronouns in the novel are mostly his, him, her and they. The dominant pronoun he is used for Mir Nihal and Delhi to show the grace and decline of Muslim culture. So the use of personal pronouns shows the writer's art in using English language. Ahmed Ali has used different techniques and tropes of language to compile the whole story. In this way the novel packed with unique linguistic features and these features are better analyzed through corpus linguistics. The concordance tool, collocates, concordance plot and keyword list help to get quantitative data. Through AntConc software and its tools the paper will be concluded with an authentic data analysis.

Conclusion

Corpus analysis is one of the important and authentic method to get quantitative and qualitative data. For the corpus linguistics analysis of this research paper, AntConc software has applied on the text of Ahmed Ali's novel *Twilight in Delhi*. This software is easily available on the internet. The researcher can download it freely for the Corpus analysis of any text. Concordance tool, keyword list and word list has been employed to collect the data. It has analyzed the whole language corpora of the novel. The researcher selected the most frequent words from it for Corpus analysis.

The aim of this paper is to provide insight into the novel. Ahmed Ali has described the decay of Delhi through the language and characters. He shows the drastic impacts of British colonialism on the natives. The protagonist of the novel, Mir Nihal is the true representation of Delhi, Muslims and their culture. His son Asghr is the example for new generation with new changes. He represents hybridity and transition in the Muslim culture by the colonial encounter.

Through the AntConc software tools, the researcher provides the frequency, the wordlist of the words, concordance, and concordance plot to depict the glory of Muslim culture, the traditions of the natives and their deterioration. The above analysis helps the researcher to come towards that conclusion that Ahmed Ali's style of writing a novel is marvelous and sensational in its nature. This style makes the writer unique among other novelists. Corpus linguistics helps to cover the whole corpora of the novel. Statistical analysis helps to write this paper and hence after the analysis the text will be elaborated in a detailed way. The author has used nouns, pronouns, conjunctions, articles, adverbs and many other linguistic features which analyzed above. The analysis presents the true insight of the novel that is only possible due to corpus analysis. The novelist through the use of language shows the culture and the life style of natives through the use of language. The analysis of all the linguistic details are only possible by applying AntConc software. After the study of this paper, the researchers will be able to learn the new methods of analyzing corpora. Corpus linguistics is a new field and in which I as a researcher learned new methods of analyzing linguistic data. It takes many weeks to analyze the text qualitatively and quantitatively. On the whole the corpus software provides a unique

research. By the study of this research paper, the future scholars can easily understand the themes of Ahmed Ali's novel *Twilight in Delhi* and will be able to do Corpus analysis of any piece of fiction, speech or essay by the use of AntConc software.

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