

Framing 'Development' in Economic Discourse: An Ecolinguistic Perspective

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Abstract: This research explores the discourse produced around the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) from an ecolinguistic perspective; examining how environment can be saved or degraded through the use of language. By analyzing documents taken from the CPEC's website, the study has identified and analyzed the framing of the construct of 'Development' by conducting a corpus analysis. Employing corpus-based critical discourse analysis, the research used Fairclough's (2013) theoretical framework to find out different frames surrounding 'Development'. The identified development frames are further divided into 14 frames by using Sen's (2013) approach of sustainability at three levels such as economic sustainability, social sustainability and environmental sustainability. Sen's approach helped to find out the Ecolinguistic perspective in terms of environmental frames triggered in the minds of people. The findings highlight 14 frames used in the portrayal of development within the CPEC context. The highest frequency is gained by the economic development frame with 425 concordance hits while lowest frequency is gained by the social frames constituting 86 concordance hits. The findings based on concordance analysis suggest that economic development frame is highly triggered by the discourse on the CPEC in the minds of people through infrastructure and industrial development.

Keywords: Framing, Development, Economic Discourse, Ecolinguistic Perspective, China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

Introduction

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has brought both opportunities and challenges to Pakistan. On the economic front, CPEC has been a game-changer, leading to new highways, energy projects, and industrial zones. These developments are creating jobs and boosting the economy, offering hope for a brighter future (Shahriar, 2020). However, the environmental cost is a growing concern. Construction and industrial activities affect natural habitats, increase pollution, and put pressure on water resources (Saqib et al., 2023). Pakistan faces the tough task of ensuring that the economic benefits of CPEC do not come at the expense of its environment, striving for a balance that supports both progress and sustainability. In recent years, the discourse surrounding 'development' within the economic domain has become increasingly significant, particularly in the context of large-scale projects such as the China-

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Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Understanding how 'development' is framed within such projects is crucial for comprehending the underlying narratives, ideologies, and power dynamics at play. According to Cornwall (2007), the word 'Development' is a comforting buzzword that allows people and nations to fantasize about their status to uplift and boost in areas where they are surrounded by numerous challenges. This paper employs this phenomenon differently by using an ecolinguistic lens to investigate the framing of development within the official discourse of the CPEC. By examining various official documents sourced from the CPEC's website, this research seeks to identify and analyze the different frames through which development in Pakistan is portrayed. It will also help to develop ongoing knowledge in relation to the discursive construction of development within the context of CPEC.

The CPEC project is a signature project of the Build and Road Initiative (BRI), which intends to link China and Pakistan for enhanced economic integration. The CPEC, being one of the biggest infrastructure and investment projects undertaken in the history of Pakistan, is a sprawling project with activities covering several sectors: transportation, energy, telecommunications, industrial cooperation, and others. According to Khalid et al. (2022), due to the mega infrastructure development in Pakistan through CPEC, human development may highly cost the environment of Pakistan. The project's official discourse, as reflected in documents available on the CPEC website, plays a crucial role in shaping public perceptions and understanding of development within the corridor. The development taking place through the CPEC, according to Hassan et al. (2022), needs to cater to the sustainability dimensions based on social, economic, and environmental levels. Sen (2013) also states that the sustainability approach can be judged in any economic project such as the CPEC. His sustainability approach has been used in this research to explore the ecolinguistic aspect by identifying a number of environmental frames present in the discourse on CPEC.

Research Questions

Two primary research questions guided the inquiry:

1. How many kinds of 'Development' frames exist in the discourse on CPEC?
2. How is Ecolinguistics employed in the representation of development in the discourse around CPEC?

Literature Review

Previous literature on this pressing issue of 'Development' helps critically analyze the discourse produced around economic projects and infrastructure plans worldwide (Kothari & Minogue, 2002). As CPEC is an example of economic discourse, the impact and consequences engendered by economic development through infrastructure and industrial development under it have been studied by scholars differently. For instance, geopolitical implications and socio-environmental impacts are examined by Qazi (2019) and Khan et al. (2020), respectively. In the same way, Ahmad, Azam, and Hussain (2020) performed a statistical analysis to check the relationship between infrastructure and the environment and found a very weak correlation. Similarly, Anwar et al. (2023) have explored political, ethnic, educational, social, psychological, and environmental outcomes of the CPEC in their research by collecting negative and positive aspects of the above-given outcomes. Faraz, Saleem, and Mehmood (2024) analyzed the Ecosophy of the project of CPEC by identifying the anthropocentric and ecocentric ideologies and concluded that human beings have

supremacy over other beings to exploit nature such as plants and animals because of their own survival, therefore ignoring their existence for fulfilling their short-term goals.

Framing theory, in general, defines problems and how decisions are made to solve those problems (Entman, [1993](#)). Applying framing theory to the development discourse, certain notions such as progress, modernization, or economic growth become ubiquitous (Hajer, [1995](#)). Frames in ecolinguistics establish the relationship between language and environment, trying to provide a basis for the developments as a game in the context of evaluating the discursive consequences related to ecology. Thus, the penetration of the construct of development ranging from the field of health, economics, and psychology to the field of linguistics gives rise to the analysis of exploring the environmental frame in this study.

Ullah et al. ([2021](#)) also found out that the development of the CPEC has caused environmental destruction and afflicted many diseases and concerns for the local population. Another aspect of development in Pakistan through the CPEC was found by Awais et al. ([2019](#)), who identified the synergy of economic, social, and environmental aspects by using the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, there remains a gap in the literature concerning the specific framing of 'Development' within the official discourse of the CPEC from an ecolinguistic perspective. This research seeks to address this gap by conducting a detailed analysis of official documents available on the CPEC website, focusing on the framing of development concepts and their ecological dimensions.

Methodology

This section describes the methodology undertaken for this research, starting from the theoretical framework to the analysis tool used to explore 'development' frames. I have used Fairclough's ([2013](#)) critical discourse analysis and certain aspects of the ecolinguistic perspective from Stibbe ([2021](#)). The study also incorporates Sen's ([2013](#)) sustainability levels, such as economic, social, and environmental. The primary data on CPEC includes long-term plans, annual reports, magazines, policy briefs, fact books, working papers, and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) available on the CPEC website homepage. These documents offer valuable insights into the narratives and discourses produced around the CPEC by authorities regarding development under the corridor. There were six types of documents available on the official CPEC website in Pakistan. As the study was a corpus-based analysis of development frames in the discourse produced around the CPEC, a corpus of documents available on the official website of the CPEC had great relevance, which was accessible to the common public and did not involve any ethical permission because of the free availability.

First, the documents available there were downloaded and then converted into plain text files because the software used in this research involves AntConc and plain text file format is required to run before analysis. Fairclough's theoretical framework provided the way for critical development frames to be extracted from the data, whereas Stibbe's ([2021](#)) ecolinguistic perspective provided support to divide and analyse environmental frames in the study. After downloading the documents, plain text files were made to run on AntConc software version 3.5.8 (Anthony, [2019](#)) for corpus analysis. Corpus linguistics was used as a research method. The total number of text files became 28.

The corpus-based analysis has focused on identifying key themes of development and then putting each theme into a separate category referred to here as a frame: frame of economic development, frame of

sustainable development, frame of human development, and frame of social development. Identification of key themes drove me to segregate all the frames present in the discourse into three main types such as economic development frames, social development frames, and environmental/ecological development frames. By applying an ecolinguistic perspective, particular attention has been paid to the representation of environmental issues, sustainability, and ecological impacts within the development frames.

Data Analysis and Discussion

This section involves a corpus-based analysis of the official discourse surrounding the CPEC, as mentioned in the methodology that the specialized corpus built for this research constitutes 28 text files. The analysis is done based on frequency or concordance hits for exploring the frames of the construct of 'Development' employed in the data, for which the search term was the word 'development.' The frequency is given in the table below, and screenshots are also given to interpret the frames. AntConc version 3.5.8 (Anthony, 2019) is used for corpus analysis. After uploading text files in the software, we found 2486 concordance hits or frequency of the word 'development' inside the discourse about CPEC built from all documents present on the official website of the CPEC in Pakistan. The frame of development constitutes 14 more sub-frames in the overall discourse produced around the CPEC taken for this research.

Development

Figure 1

Showing the frame of 'Development' in the CPEC

Hit	KWIC
8	everyone in Pakistan are admired of the development achieved by China but unfortunately Pakistan did
9	everyone in Pakistan are admired of the development achieved by China but unfortunately Pakistan did
10	path for peace and security more than economic development achieved through regional collaboration. OBOR sig
11	path for peace and security more than economic development achieved through regional collaboration. OBOR sig
12	South-South cooperation that can strengthen green development across a wide range of developing countries.
13	strategic economic vision to create a balanced development across Asia. the idea was revealed when
14	Pakistan Economic Corridor as it aims on development across the country. He expressed his gratitude
15	Pakistan Economic Corridor as it aims on development across the country. He expressed his gratitude
16	to reach a higher plane of human development across the world. The China-Pakistan Economic
17	to reach a higher plane of human development across the world. The China-Pakistan Economic
18	nd social development; equitable partnerships for development; active protection of the environment and nature;
19	Free Zone began with some other urban development activities in Gwadar. Important milestones in the
20	9 Chinese workers involved in entrepreneurial and development activities in the region.98 As such, the
21	nefited much from Chinese investment and concrete development activities on the ground. The KKH makes
22	the landing site and evaluation of marine development activities there, as well as comprehensive analys
23	the landing site and evaluation of marine development activities there, as well as comprehensive analys
24	and lessons from the economic and social development activities would be availed to ensure long
25	and lessons from the economic and social development activities would be availed to ensure long

The frame of development has gained inspiration in this research from how it has become a buzzword in almost every field of life as cited in Cornwall (2007), the word *development* itself, Gilbert Rist observes, has become a 'modern shibboleth, an unavoidable password', which comes to be used 'to convey the idea that tomorrow things will be better, or that more is necessarily better'. In this context, the development done through the mega projects like CPEC have the potential to boost the economy and development posture of an underdeveloped country like Pakistan. It can be found in the screenshot of 'development' given above that CPEC promises Pakistan's tomorrow better by economic, social, human, socioeconomic, infrastructure, energy, industrial, agricultural, and sustainable development.

Next, we have the frame of 'economic development' inside the main frame of 'development' with the frequency of 181 hits.

Economic Development

Figure 2

Showing the frame of 'Economic Development' in the CPEC

Hit	KWIC	File
1	the path for peace and security more than economic development achieved through regional collaboration.	press release
2	the path for peace and security more than economic development achieved through regional collaboration.	press release
3	. Pakistani nation is united on agenda of economic development, Ahsan Iqbal stated and added that	press release
4	. Pakistani nation is united on agenda of economic development, Ahsan Iqbal stated and added that	press release
5	onment without compromising social well-being and economic development. An effective transition would also create	Report 2.txt
6	sportation infrastructure plays a pivotal role in economic development and attracting investments. 7th Pillar of	press release
7	sportation infrastructure plays a pivotal role in economic development and attracting investments. 7th Pillar of	press release
8	affairs and fo-cused gradually on the economic development and building economic relations with the	Policy brief 5
9	affairs and fo-cused gradually on the economic development and building economic relations with the	Policy brief 5
10	industrial base so as to ensure sustainable economic development and creation of employment opportunities s	press release
11	industrial base so as to ensure sustainable economic development and creation of employment opportunities s	press release
12	for Pakistan to come out from wobbly economic development and energy crisis hence to eradicate	Magazine 1.1
13) and set the direction of social and economic development and environmental protection for the 15-ye	Report 2.txt
14	a profound understanding of the balance between economic development and environmental protection, and thus did	Report 2.txt
15	mmunications and infrastructural demands. Chinese economic development and growth of highways and railroad	Fact Book CF
16	is entering a new phase of domestic economic development and international cooperation by combining	Working Pap
17	has reached wide consensus on social stability, economic development and livelihood improvement, a series of	CPEC- Long
18	between south Asia and East Asia, promote economic development and livelihood improvement in the neighb	Magazine 1.1

The frame of economic development exists in the discourse of the CPEC on the second place with frequency of 181 concordance hits which shows that CPEC mainly focuses on the economic development in Pakistan through the project of the CPEC.

Next, we have the frame of 'infrastructure development' inside the data with the frequency of 158 hits.

Infrastructure Development

Figure 3

Showing the frame of 'Infrastructure Development' in the CPEC

Hit	KWIC	File
24	st century. 130 China Pakistan Economic Corridor: Infrastructure Development Hussain Qazi* Abstract The Frontier Wo	
25	out for all CPEC projects (including transport infrastructure development) in all provinces to identify the	
26	. Provinces' role is not only confined to infrastructure development in 'core' and 'radiation' areas around	
27	onmental impact due to CPEC activities, including infrastructure development in KPK and other provinces: • Detailed	
28	oram Highway, vol I, (FWO Rawalpindi) 2011. CPEC: Infrastructure Development 135 In the aftermath of the 1965 Indo-	
29	developed to make a total of 1,000MW. 6.2 INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT Infrastructure construction shoul	
30	ruction delay. The original 2011 timeline of port infrastructure development is still not met in 2018. On	
31	the attractions that interest a tourist. Public infrastructure development is the key and essential requirement	
32	outhern most farms to solar development firms. 3) Infrastructure Development items for Phase III In Phase	
33	of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor. CPEC: Infrastructure Development 131 Karakoram Highway which was cor	
34	, low foreign direct investment (FDI), lack of infrastructure development, losses due to war on terror	
35	installation of cameras at every Km CPEC: Infrastructure Development 153 M-2 will also serve as the	
36	road is two lanes (width 7.5 to 9.3 CPEC: Infrastructure Development 143 meters) and caters to all type	
37	's economy like energy, oil and gas, infrastructure development, minerals, agriculture etc. offer plenty of	
38	investment is being spent on projects of infrastructure development." Minister said that Sindh has the	
39	investment is being spent on projects of infrastructure development." Minister said that Sindh has the	
40	. Muhammad Afzal, i°Role of FWO in National Infrastructure Development, i±. October 21, 2015, Institute of Strateg	
41	2013 Page 22 of 56 The master planning report for infrastructure development of Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park,	

The frame of infrastructure development exists in the discourse of the CPEC in third place with a frequency of 158 concordance hits, which shows that infrastructure development under CPEC results in the development of road networks, resulting in more oil and gas, agricultural, and mineral development projects. Then, we have the frame of 'sustainable development' inside the data with a frequency of 105 hits.

Sustainable Development

Figure 4

Showing the frame of 'Sustainable development' in the CPEC

Concordance		Concordance Plot	File View	Clusters/N-Grams	Collocates	Word List	Keyword List
Concordance Hits		105					
Hit	KWIC						
1		hieu Boussichas& Patrick Guillaumont, ;±Financing Sustainable Development: Addressing Vulnerabilities;± Fondation p					
2		to address the challenges. The "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", adopted in September 2015, put forward					
3		's economic transformation. Implementation of the sustainable development agenda and the process of achieving					
4		in the context of global goals for sustainable development and climate change. In 2016, President Xi					
5		ntegrated. Economic integration led them toward a sustainable development and decreasing of political differences and					
6		a new development agenda, (the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development) and set 17 comprehensive development					
7		for China to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieve the targets of					
8		the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development; and to protect, restore, and promote					
9		demands of developing countries toward achieving sustainable development are adjusting to changing circumstances. U					
10		ngly important factor in green transformation and sustainable development around the world, especially in developing					
11		support of the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the United Nations General Assembly					
12		uth-South cooperation for ecological civilization Sustainable development cannot be achieved if economic developm					
13		ustainable economic development. The spectrum for sustainable development caters three important components i.e.					
14		ogramme, UNEP-Tongji Institute of Environment for Sustainable Development CHEN Xiaoning, Assistant Research Fellow					
15		with the concept of ecological civilization (or sustainable development). China has always been a leading					
16		Director, Centre of Research for Integral and Sustainable Development (CIDIS) Executive Director, CITEacuicola U					
17		he country's primary approach towards encouraging sustainable development, conserving natural resources, and improv					
18		faced with the same challenge of pursuing sustainable development. Development cooperation with other dev					

The frame of sustainable development exists in the discourse of the CPEC on the fourth place with frequency of 105 concordance hits which shows that CPEC mainly focuses on the sustainable development in Pakistan through the project of the CPEC. It is being evolved from the research, conservation of the natural resources is the primary approach towards the sustainable development and green transformation is the key for the developing countries.

Next, we have the frame of 'industrial development' inside the data with the frequency of 66 hits.

Industrial Development

Figure 5

Showing the frame of 'Industrial Development' in the CPEC

Concordance		Concordance Plot	File View	Clusters/N-Grams	Collocates	Word List	Keyword List
Concordance Hits		66					
Hit	KWIC						
1		ab's vision, diagnostics including bottlenecks to industrial development and both sector-specific and non-					
2		's vision, diagnostics (including bottle-necks to industrial development) and both sector- specific and non-					
3		growth in Pakistan. Under the fold of Industrial development and global value chains, the government					
4		as an Analyst. 9 Under the fold of Industrial development and global value chains, the centre					
5		productivity graph. In a nutshell, under the industrial development and global value chains category, the					
6		velopment and poverty alleviation in Pakistan. 2. Industrial Development and Global Value Chains 4. Agriculture Mod					
7		d Party Participation Trade and Marketing Access, Industrial development and Global Value Chains, Socio-economic					
8		orative projects for infrastructure construction, industrial development and livelihood improvement, aimed at socio					
9		rise to global nence in terms of industrial development are purely attributed to SEZS-an					
10		ology and Innovation in Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development" 4.3.2 Are there prospects for improving inc					
11		ology and Innovation in Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development" available at https://www.unido.org/					
12		ology and Innovation in Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development" available at 138 Engagement with Punjab u					
13		Social Inclusiveness Social inclusiveness through industrial development can happen through two routes: employer					
14		strial Development Opportunities > Land intensive industrial development e.g shipyard, steel mill etc. >					
15		strial Development Opportunities > Land intensive industrial development e.g shipyard, steel mill etc. >					
16		. "Foreign direct investment as a catalyst for industrial development." European economic review 43, no. 2 (1999					
17		& Third Party Participation Trade & Market Access Industrial Development & Global Value Chains Socio-Economic Dev					
18		of CPEC which are: Trade & Market Access; Industrial Development & Global Value Chains; Socioeconomic Dev					

The frame of economic development exists in the discourse of the CPEC in fifth place with a frequency of 66 concordance hits, which shows that the CPEC mainly focuses on industrial development in Pakistan through the project of the CPEC. Infrastructure development is the backbone of industrial development, where innovation is the cutting edge, and direct foreign investment can play a vital role in the industrial development of Pakistan through CPEC.

Then, we have the frame of 'social development' inside the data with the frequency of 32 hits.

Social Development

Figure 6

Showing the frame of 'Social Development' in the CPEC

Hit	KWIC
1	environmental protection, livelihoods, as well as social development. 6.1.2 A partnership of equals. South-south
2	, experiences and lessons from the economic and social development activities would be availed to ensure
3	, experiences and lessons from the economic and social development activities would be availed to ensure
4	on the fast lane of economic and social development, and become more and more open.
5	iciencies, besides unbalanced regional economic and social development, and external sector vulnerabilities need to
6	for achieving a balance in economic and social development, and for paying more attention to
7	ore on the relationship between environmental and social development. And the environment would have a
8	les 6.1.1 Balancing environment, livelihoods, and social development. Break through the traditional development mod
9	bridging the gap between economic growth and social development by focusing on poverty alleviation, education,
10	bridging the gap between economic growth and social development by focusing on poverty alleviation, education,
11	and needs of the environment, livelihoods, and social development; equitable partnerships for development; active
12	ions - China-Pakistan cooperation on economic and social development has made remarkable progress. In the
13	f economic growth, industrial transformation, and social development in developing countries, guiding cooperation an
14	major bottlenecks to Pakistan's economic and social development in different phases. - The Long Term
15	estern development strategy, promote economic and social development in Western China, accelerate the Belt
16	of success of China's economic and social development. it's very clear that the
17	and economic agreement centric to economic and social development of Pakistan but the "opportunity of
18	and economic agreement centric to economic and social development of Pakistan but the "opportunity of

The frame of social development exists in the discourse of the CPEC in sixth place with a frequency of 32 concordance hits, which shows that the CPEC mainly focuses on social development in Pakistan through the project of the CPEC. Belts and roads will not only improve the local area residents' economic state but also the social state. Economic growth will also result in poverty alleviation as a result of CPEC development.

Next, we have the frame of 'energy development' inside the data with the frequency of 21 hits.

Energy Development

Figure 7

Showing the frame of 'Energy Development' in the CPEC

Hit	KWIC
1	MARKET SYSTEM Formulate policies to promote solar energy development according to photovoltaic generation principles;
2	be similar to that of urban development, energy development and electric power generation. It has
3	n carrying out priority projects in connectivity, energy development and power generation and promoting building
4	HDPPL) Ministry of Water and Power 50 Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB) Wind/ Wind Turbine80/2011.87
5	PEC-Energy Actively Promoted Projects Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB) 29 #Project NameEstimated Cos
6	of Intent ("LOI") in 2013 by the Alternative Energy Development Board ("AEDB") after submission of a
7	of Intent ("LOI") issued by the Alternative Energy Development Board ("AEDB") in 2013 to the Project
8	th the Government of Pakistan through Alternative Energy Development Board ii. Energy Purchase Agreement with
9	Road Multan 9. Chief Executive Officer Alternate Energy Development Board, Islamabad Accepted and agreed for &
10	However now with the establishment of Alternative Energy Development Board, this sector of power generation
11	with the policies regarding land utilization, new energy development, etc. 4.3.2 Identification of environmental impac
12	Near East Policy xv Introduction Plans for energy development in NATO's adjacent Afghanistan theater
13	in parallel to the schedule of solar energy development in order to achieve the overall
14	dy, China's leaders have increasingly prioritized energy development in the Greater Middle East as
15	dy, China's leaders have increasingly prioritized energy development in the Greater Middle East as
16	try to learn more advanced concepts for energy development in the future to cope with
17	rgy transit and demand; 3) to support sustainable energy development including the development of energy efficiency
18	park is in line with the national energy development policies. It can become a major

The frame of energy development exists in the discourse of the CPEC in seventh place with a frequency of 21 concordance hits, which shows that the CPEC mainly focuses on the economic development in Pakistan through the project of the CPEC. Sustainable development is directly dependent on cheaper sources of energy, and CPEC is emphasizing the development of renewable energy like solar and wind energy.

Next, we have the frame of 'urban development' inside the data with the frequency of 16 hits.

Urban Development

Figure 8

Showing the frame of 'Urban Development' in the CPEC

Concordance Hits 16	
Hit	KWIC
1	Gwadar Free Zone began with some other urban development activities in Gwadar. Important milestones in
2	ncluding transportation, economic policy, housing/urban development, and energy. Such capacity building will
3	on, regional connectivity, financial integration, urban development and job opportunities created by the
4	on, regional connectivity, financial integration, urban development and job opportunities created by the
5	. Saleem Janjua and Numra Asif Policy Head, Urban Development and Research Assistant, CoE-CPEC Figure 1-
6	. Saleem Janjua and Numra Asif Policy Head, Urban Development and Research Assistant, CoE-CPEC my
7	fers unique potential for industrial development, urban development, coastal tourism and marine resources. the
8	-CPEC) • Dr. Saleem Janjua (Head of Policy, Urban Development Division, CoE-CPEC) • Ms. Fauzia Bilqis
9	Asif A roundtable conference was hosted by Urban Development Division of Centre of Excellence -China
10	has to be similar to that of urban development, energy development and electric power genera
11	their priority are shown in table-02. Figure 02: Urban Development in Gwadar overtime www.cpec-centre.
12	ng and Financial sector integration under CPEC 5. Urban development in Pakistan under CPEC 6. Job growth
13	I connectivity, financial sector integration, and urban development. It took a while before we
14	xchanges Experts from industrial zones, rural and urban development, job creation & SMEs, water resources managen
15	activities in Gwadar. Important milestones in the urban development of Gwadar are explained in figure 02.
16) is too limited to finance large-scale urban development projects. At present, there are only

The frame of urban development exists in the discourse of the CPEC in eighth place with the frequency of 16 concordance hits, which shows that the CPEC mainly focuses on urban development in Pakistan through the project of the CPEC. Transportation, housing facilities, the creation of industrial zones, and small and medium businesses directly contribute to urban development under the umbrella of CPEC. More jobs are created as a result of financial integration having a direct relationship with urban development in various CPEC projects.

Then, we have the frame of 'agriculture development' inside the data with the frequency of 15 hits.

Agriculture Development

Figure 9

Showing the frame of 'Agriculture Development' in the CPEC

Concordance Hits 15	
Hit	KWIC
1	Quetta and Gwadar regions to lead local agricultural development. > Agricultural Products Processing. To in
2	Quetta and Gwadar regions to lead local agricultural development. > Agricultural Products Processing. To in
3	CPEC route and enhance trade facilitation. IV. Agricultural Development and Poverty Alleviation China and Pakista
4	connectivity, energy, trade and industrial park, agricultural development and poverty alleviation, tourism, livelihooc
5	services in the parks backed by legislation. Agricultural Development and Poverty Reduction > Planting and Br
6	services in the parks backed by legislation. Agricultural Development and Poverty Reduction > Planting and Br
7	the CPEC route and enhance trade facilitation. _ Agricultural Development and Poverty Alleviation:- China and Pakist
8	the CPEC route and enhance trade facilitation. _ Agricultural Development and Poverty Alleviation:- China and Pakist
9	Project The project meets the needs of agricultural development, build online agricultural product platform.
10	Project The project meets the needs of agricultural development, build online agricultural product platform.
11	n infrastructure construction, and industrial and agricultural development. Environment-related projects mainly cons
12	rgy cooperation, industries and industrial parks, agricultural development, poverty alleviation, tourism, financial coop
13	rgy cooperation, industries and industrial parks, agricultural development, poverty alleviation, tourism, financial coop
14	demonstration area to promote Pakistan's modern agricultural development. The project will undertake the task
15	demonstration area to promote Pakistan's modern agricultural development. The project will undertake the task

The frame of agriculture development exists in the discourse of the CPEC in ninth place with a frequency of 15 concordance hits, which shows that the CPEC mainly focuses on agriculture development in Pakistan through the project of the CPEC. The trade facilitation between China and Pakistan will alleviate poverty. Both countries can use online agriculture product platforms to enhance the agriculture yield. Belt and Road will not only focus the economic development but also will serve as the key factor for the agriculture development in CPEC.

Next, we have the frame of 'human development' inside the data with the frequency of 12 hits.

Human Development

Figure 10

Showing the frame of 'Human Development' in the CPEC

Concordance		Concordance Plot	File View	Clusters/N-Grams	Collocates	Word List	Keyword List
Concordance Hits 12							
Hit	KWIC						
1		order to reach a higher plane of human development across the world. The China-Pakistan					
2		order to reach a higher plane of human development across the world. The China-Pakistan					
3		it will be a game changer for human development and economic growth. Extending from the					
4		nexus. This will cover not only the human development but also the natural The key					
5		to identify the need of investment in human development. Fig 5 shows the number of districts					
6		tional philosophy Philosophical status Concept of human development Governing philosophy Scope of application Ap					
7		within the given province is also noticeable. Human Development Index Figure 1: Pasha, H. (2018) www.cpec-					
8		pment spending Figure 1: source: Pasha, H. (2018) Human development index is the measure of investment					
9		including annual growth rate, unemployment rate, Human development index, per capita income, Physical infrastruc					
10		Pakistan in the form of economic and human development, job creation, and trade enhancement. Investm					
11		the positive relationship between investments in human development particularly in education and social inclusion.					
12		omic indicators are also varied greatly including human development, population density, public spending, educatio					

The frame of human development exists in the discourse of the CPEC on the place with frequency of 12 concordance hits which shows that CPEC mainly focuses on the human development in Pakistan. CPEC will reduce unemployment and will result in the increase of per capita income of the individuals. Education and training will also directly contribute to human development through CPEC.

Next, we have the frame of 'green development' inside the data with the frequency of 11 hits.

Green Development

Figure 11

Showing the frame of 'Green Development' in the CPEC

Concordance		Concordance Plot	File View	Clusters/N-Grams	Collocates	Word List	Keyword List
Concordance Hits 11							
Hit	KWIC						
1		of South-South cooperation that can strengthen green development across a wide range of developing					
2		the specific demands of cooperating countries for green development; assist host countries in improving their					
3		case study of a country stakeholder experiencing green development challenges, and how calls for green					
4		, and have advocated for global and regional green development. China has been an advocate for					
5		protection, link developing countries' demand for green development closely with China's supply capacity,					
6		the specific needs of cooperating countries for green development from the perspectives of infrastructure, technol					
7		to the implementation of the concept of green development in South-South cooperation, and will					
8		including the ideas of "sustainable development", "green development", "low-carbon development", and "environment					
9		recommendations on how to better promote the green development of developing countries through foreign assista					
10		yin "Promoting South-South Cooperation to Achieve Green Development" 11 social responsibility in South-South cooper					
11		ration initiatives in ecological civilization and green development would increase, and China would be					

The frame of green development exists in the discourse of the CPEC on the eleventh place with frequency of 11 concordance hits which shows that CPEC mainly focuses on the green development in Pakistan through the project of the CPEC. The project emphasis on the reduction in emission of green gases, depending more on renewable energy for low carbon emissions.

Now, we have the frame of 'future development' inside the data with the frequency of 8 hits.

Future Development

Figure 12

Showing the frame of 'Future Development' in the CPEC

Concordance Hits 8	
Hit	KWIC
1	should be especially focused in the near future development agenda to take the load of
2	rastructure, which is essential to the successful future development of cities. Green, low-carbon transport
3	will play an important role in the future development of CPEC that would project Pakistan
4	will play an important role in the future development of CPEC that would project Pakistan
5	Africa, which is critical for China's future development. Route of energy will also be
6	Africa, which is critical for China's future development. Route of energy will also be
7	needs to focus on the quality of future development so that it moves the country
8	economic potential of the region; clarifying the future development vision and strategic targets for Gwadar;

The frame of future development exists in the discourse of the CPEC on the twelfth place with frequency of 181 concordance hits which shows that CPEC mainly focuses on the future development in Pakistan through the project of the CPEC. Economical and low carbon emissions are considered as key factors for future development in CPEC.

Next, we have the frame of 'environmental development' inside the data with the frequency of 4 hits.

Environmental Development

Figure 13

Showing the frame of 'Environmental Development' in the CPEC

Concordance Hits 4	
Hit	KWIC
1	s. 13 3. THE EXPERIENCE OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT AID Development aid has been tl
2	.. 11 3. THE EXPERIENCE OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT AID13 3.1 Promoting environme
3	the results of more recent evaluations of environmental development cooperation.22 Other emerging econor
4	e development goals relating to economy, society, environmental development, safety, and more. An important charact

The frame of environmental development exists in the discourse of the CPEC on the thirteenth place with frequency of 4 concordance hits which shows that CPEC mainly focuses on the environmental development in Pakistan through the project of the CPEC. The effect of green gases on the environment and focus on production of renewable energy are the factors to be considered as a major controlling factor for environmental development in CPEC.

Next, we have the frame of 'socioeconomic development' inside the data with the frequency of 3 hits.

Socioeconomic Development

Figure 14

Showing the frame of 'Socioeconomic Development' in the CPEC

Concordance Hits 3	
Hit	KWIC
1	industrial clusters, while balancing the regional socioeconomic development, enhancing people's wellbeing, and pro
2	ss; Industrial Development & Global Value Chains; Socioeconomic Development & Poverty Alleviation; Agriculture Moc
3	ss; Industrial Development & Global Value Chains; Socioeconomic Development & Poverty Alleviation; Agriculture Moc

The frame of socioeconomic development exists in the discourse of the CPEC on the fourteenth place with frequency of 3 concordance hits which shows that CPEC mainly focuses on the socioeconomic development in Pakistan. Social development and poverty alleviation will also result in socioeconomic development through CPEC.

Next, we have the frame of 'marine development' inside the data with the frequency of 2 hits.

Marine Development

Figure 15

Showing the frame of 'Marine Development' in the CPEC

Concordance Hits 2	
Hit	KWIC
1	near the landing site and evaluation of marine development activities there, as well as comprehensive
2	near the landing site and evaluation of marine development activities there, as well as comprehensive

The frame of marine development exists in the discourse of the CPEC on the fifteenth place with frequency of 2 concordance hits which shows that CPEC development also caters for the marine life and safety which may be affected by the infrastructure development.

The findings of the analysis reveal 14 frames through which development is portrayed within the official discourse produced around the CPEC. These frames encompass various dimensions, including economic growth, infrastructure development, social and economic progress, and environmental sustainability through green and sustainable development. Suppose we segregate development frames according to the sustainable development perspective of Sen (2013), which includes social development, economic development, and environmental development. It can be noticed that the sustainability of development depends upon social, economic, and environmental development. Therefore, we can divide frames into three types according to Sen's sustainable development perspective, as shown in the table below.

Table 1

Showing 14 frames of 'Development' in the CPEC

Frames of 'Development' (Frequency: 2486)			
S. No	Name of the frame	Frequency	Type of Frame
1	Economic Development	181	Economic frame
2	Infrastructure Development	158	Economic frame
3	Industrial Development	66	Economic frame

Frames of 'Development' (Frequency: 2486)			
S. No	Name of the frame	Frequency	Type of Frame
4	Social Development	32	Social frame
5	Socioeconomic Development	3	Social frame
6	Human Development	12	Social frame
7	Future Development	8	Social frame
8	Urban Development	15	Social frame
9	Agriculture Development	16	Social frame
10	Environmental Development	4	Environmental frame
11	Energy Development	21	Environmental frame
12	Green Development	11	Environmental frame
13	Sustainable Development	105	Environmental frame
14	Marine Development	2	Environmental frame

According to the findings, 'Development' has been framed variously in the discourse produced around CPEC by incorporating three types of subframes, which include three economic frames, six social frames, and five environmental frames. The highest number of frames in the discourse is social frames, while five are environmental, and lastly, three frames of economic development. So, social development frames are dominant frames, but if we see the frequency of all these frames, it can be implied that the highest frequency is carried by economic frames, which constitute 425 concordance hits. The social development frames are greater in number, but the frequency is only 86. In comparison to these two frames, if we see environmental frames, their frequency is 133, which is after the frequency of economic development frames. According to the frequency analysis through the corpus approach, the CPEC discourse has employed social frames more than economic and environmental frames, but the highest frequency gained by economic frames of 'infrastructure,' 'industry,' and 'economic' shows how frequently the economic development frame has been triggered in the minds of people of Pakistan through CPEC.

Looking at the composition of 'Development' frames, the frame of economic development in CPEC discourse is composed of three sub frames such as 'economic', 'industrial', and 'infrastructure', while social frames constitute 'social development', 'socioeconomic development', 'urban development', 'human development', agricultural development', and 'future development'. The frame of environmental development is composed of 'energy development,' 'marine development,' 'sustainable development' and 'green development.' So, the frame of economic development stands to be at the heart of the overall development frame inside the CPEC discourse, which, according to Mirowski & Plehwe (2009), interacts with the idea of neoliberal economics in the 1950s due to the decolonization and dilution of neoclassic economics. In addition to these findings, environmental frames are found to be triggered less in the minds of people as the frequency is 133.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this research offers valuable insights into the framing of the construct of 'Development' within the official discourse of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) from an ecolinguistic perspective. By analyzing official documents sourced from the CPEC's website, the study identified and

analyzed the 14 different frames through which development is portrayed within the corridor. The dominant frame based on frequency analysis is found to be of economic development frame constituting 425 concordance hits at first place whereas environmental frames occupying 133 concordance hits on the second place and social frames capturing 86 concordance hits on the third place. The findings highlight the complex interplay between language, ideology, and power in shaping perceptions of development at economic, social, and environmental levels within large-scale infrastructure projects such as the CPEC. Analyzed by using Sen's (2013) approach to sustainability and sustainable development, it is found that there should be a balance among economic, social, and environmental sustainability, which needs attention in carving out developmental projects such as the CPEC. Moving forward, further research is needed to explore the implications of these discursive constructions in terms of frames of development for environmental policy, sustainability practices, and public engagement within the CPEC context. Similar research can be conducted in the future by using discourse produced around the CPEC in newspaper articles and editorials.

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