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The hegemony of anthropocentric discourse on environmental news in Indonesian digital media: An ecolinguistic study based on big data corpus

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ABSTRACT

Background: Anthropocentric discourse positions humans as the supreme subject whose needs must be fulfilled. This benefactive role legitimizes the exclusion of humans as those responsible for destructive actions. This study explores how media, as an information channel, constructs anthropocentric dominance in environmental news in Indonesia. **Methods**: The research applies a mixed-method design with a corpus-assisted ecolinguistic approach. The data consist of text collections from Indonesian digital media compiled into a big data corpus using Sketch Engine (8,516,967,257 tokens). The data were collected through scraping and analyzed through critical discourse analysis. **Findings:** The findings reveal that the lexeme *"lingkungan"* (environment) appears 3,498,824 times or 492.18 occurrences per one million words. The data are classified into seven categories, with five main ones filtered using the highest logDice scores to determine collocation. From seventy-five collocates, ten lexemes from various categories (logDice 6.8–9.4) were selected for concordance pattern analysis. The concordance reading confirms the hegemony of anthropocentrism in environmental discourse. The media tend to assign responsibility to non-human entities or particular institutions. Some discourses also exhibit nominalization, implying that environmental problems are natural phenomena occurring without clear human agency. Several media even frame environmental issues as enemies to be fought by humans, when in fact, anthropogenic behavior triggers those issues. Other discourses emphasize human welfare over nature, suggesting that people will protect the environment only when it yields benefits**.** **Conclusion**: This nominalization obscures human activity as the root cause. The legitimized anthropogenic behavior reinforced by anthropocentric hegemony shapes public belief that human actions are not the central issue to be criticized. **Novelty/Originality of this article:** The limited exploration of how anthropocentrism shapes environmental discourse within large-scale media data.

KEYWORDS: anthropocentric; corpus; digital media; ecolinguistics; environment.

1. Introduction

The increasing frequency of the lexeme *"lingkungan"* (environment) in the corpus indicates that news coverage related to environmental issues in Indonesia has risen significantly. In 2019, the word *"lingkungan"* appeared 14,202 times, while in 2024 the number increased to 28,968 occurrences, showing a difference of 14,766 (Leipzig Corpora, 2024). Environmental issues have become a higher priority following the emergence of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which continue to receive widespread attention, particularly from digital media platforms as the main channels of public information (Czvetko et al., 2021). However, data from the Leipzig Corpora reveal that environmental

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issues are more often accompanied by negative sentiments, such as *"kerusakan lingkungan"* (environmental damage), *"dampak lingkungan"* (environmental impact), and *"masalah lingkungan"* (environmental problems) (Leipzig Corpora, 2024). Interestingly, subjects who should be responsible for environmental degradation are often obscured or nominalized (Kramar, 2023; Isti'anah et al., 2023). In fact, the dichotomy between humans and nature represents a destructive form of the deep ecology principle (Hambali et al., 2025).

Humans, as essential components of the ecosystem, are frequently excluded from environmental discourse (Philipson & Skutnabb-Kangas, 2017). This exclusion is influenced by the dominance of anthropocentric discourse, which positions humans as the main beneficiaries of all environmental resources (Heikkinen et al., 2024). Within the environmental context, this view encourages people to believe that everything within the ecosystem exists merely as an instrument to fulfill human needs (Frantz et al., 2025). The hegemony of anthropocentrism even penetrates deeper aspects of social life, such as urban planning and sanitation (Darnthamrongkul & Mozingo, 2020). In modern society, however, anthropocentrism has also been proposed as a fundamental cause of environmental degradation (Samways, 2023). Meanwhile, the media as a public information channel often normalize this view, while academic discussions on the matter remain limited (Isti'anah, 2025). In fact, the media should function as a space that facilitates the formation of public opinion and understanding (Kramar, 2023; Bohr, 2020).

In this regard, ecolinguistics can serve as an approach that bridges the relationship between media and the environment (Ponton & Sokół, 2022). This approach examines how language and the environment are intertwined, forming a dynamic force that influences public paradigms (Ashraf et al., 2025). Language shapes ideologies in the human mind, which subsequently manifest as actions (Zhou, 2023). Isti'anah et al. (2023) confirmed this through findings showing a tendency to shift responsibility onto governments or international organizations such as Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nation (UN), and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), while the public is rarely involved in active ecosystem preservation efforts.

Over the past five years, studies concerning environmental discourse and its relationship with anthropocentric hegemony, as well as research integrating ecology, linguistics, and media, have become increasingly prevalent in both global and national academic contexts. Beginning with discussions of anthropocentrism and environmental discourse, several studies have explored debates surrounding the nature of anthropocentrism in environmental narratives (Kopnina et al., 2021), anthropocentrism and the biopolitics of environmental personhood (Reeves & Peters, 2021), anthropocentrism as the scapegoat for environmental crises (Droz, 2022), anthropocentrism and environmental wellbeing (Rigley et al., 2023), the formation of environmental law between anthropocentrism and ecofeminism (Natalis et al., 2023), environmental ethics and anthropocentrism (Di Paola, 2024), the harmonization of technology and anthropocentrism for climate and ecological resilience (Sikandar et al., 2024), and the misinterpretation of anthropocentric values within small-scale societies (Samways, 2025).

Most of these studies focus on the mechanisms and debates surrounding anthropocentric approaches when contested within environmental issues. However, few have examined how anthropocentric discourse influences public media and shapes societal paradigms through distinctive linguistic patterns. With technological advancement, comprehensive examination of environmental reporting can now be conducted using big data corpora encompassing multiple textual sources (Isti'anah, 2025). Corpus-based studies, increasingly popular in recent years, offer novelty through large-scale textual data and have become a growing trend in contemporary linguistic research (Jashim & Joshi, 2023).

This trend in corpus studies has also influenced environmental discourse, particularly through corpus-assisted ecolinguistic research. In the past five years, several relevant studies have emerged, such as analyses of divergent activist and political discourses in climate change debates (Cunningham et al., 2022), representations of trees and forests in

U.S. discourse over two centuries (Poole & Micalay-Hurtado, 2022), discourses on plastic in the UK (Franklin, 2022), reviews on how corpus-assisted methods operate in ecolinguistics (Davari & Ghorbanpour, 2024), and studies on media discourse regarding environmental concern (Jabeen, 2024) and Pakistani newspaper coverage from an ecolinguistic perspective (Shakeel et al., 2025). These studies generally illustrate how environmental issues are represented across textual sources through corpus tools capable of processing large-scale data.

In Indonesia, several corpus-assisted ecolinguistic studies in the past year have addressed environmental discourse, including research by Hambali et al. (2025) on the use of specific metaphors in climate crisis reporting, Isti'anah (2025) on the lexeme "*air*" (water) in climate change discourse, and Suryani (2025) on climate change narratives on the official website of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry/*Kementerian Lingkungan Hidup dan Kehutanan* (KLHK). These studies focus on climate-related discourse but tend to highlight a single linguistic aspect, such as metaphors, the use of a specific lexeme, or one official platform like KLHK. In the same year, Widjajanti et al. (2025) examined agricultural reporting in local and national media, while Jefiza et al. (2025) analyzed ecological content in school literacy materials.

The research gap identified from these studies lies in the limited exploration of how anthropocentrism shapes environmental discourse within large-scale media data. Corpus findings tend to highlight lexical categories at the syntactic level representing particular events, yet comprehensive critical discourse analyses remain scarce, especially considering that corpus-based approaches are still relatively new in contemporary linguistics. The urgency of this study lies in the potential normalization of human-centered exploitation of natural resources, which could justify such practices as ordinary while assigning environmental responsibility solely to specific institutions. Therefore, this study seeks to reframe public paradigms concerning how the environment should be sustainably utilized.

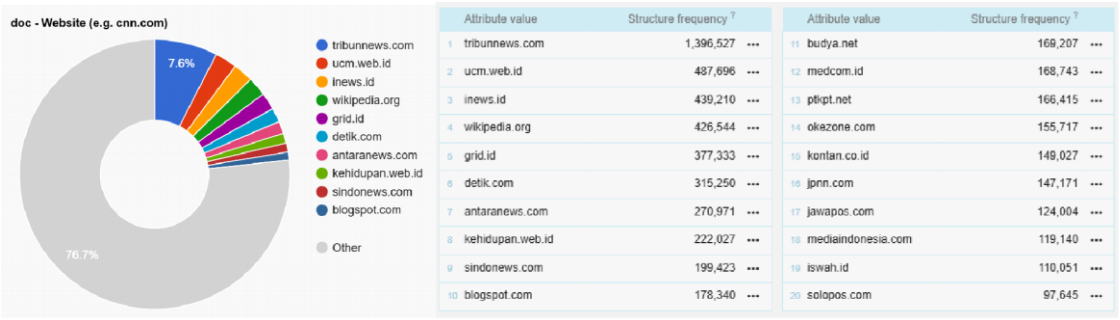
Accordingly, this research aims to examine how digital media, as an information channel, present anthropocentric dominance in Indonesian environmental reporting through a corpus-based ecolinguistic approach that explores the relationship between language, environment, and media. The study not only contributes theoretically by expanding the limited body of knowledge on corpus-based ecolinguistics but also provides practical implications for the future of environmental journalism and for reaffirming the position of environmental responsibility and policy direction. Specifically, this study addresses the following questions: (1) how is anthropocentric dominance linguistically represented in Indonesian environmental news discourse; (2) what corpus-based patterns (e.g., lexical choices, collocations, and concordances) indicate the presence of anthropocentric perspectives; and (3) how do these linguistic patterns reflect the relationship between language, media, and environmental ideology?

2. Methods

This study is categorized as a mixed-method research based on corpus-assisted ecolinguistics, a part of contemporary linguistic methodology that has gained popularity in the collection and analysis of big data derived from media sources (Isti'anah, 2025). On the other hand, corpus-assisted ecolinguistics is also strongly influenced by critical discourse analysis, which positions language as both a cognitive and social tool that legitimizes power, including media as a mechanism that shapes public opinion and societal paradigms (Al Fajri et al., 2023, 2024). Consequently, media-dominated discourse determines how people perceive and act upon environmental issues. Within the environmental context, the direction of discourse is guided by ecological principles that regard language as an instrument constructing thoughts and behaviors toward the environment (Hambali et al., 2025; Stibbe, 2015).

The data comprise news texts drawn from the big data platform Sketch Engine, specifically the corpus labeled "Indonesian Web 2024 (idTenTeN24)". The data were collected through scraping and document analysis methods. Sketch Engine was selected due

to its well-established credibility in linguistic research (De Luca et al., 2019; Kunilovskaya & Koviazina, 2017). The Indonesian corpus obtained from Sketch Engine consists of 8,516,967,257 tokens, totaling 7,108,841,939 words sourced from 28,302,794 documents. In addition to providing words and lemmas, Sketch Engine also offers lempos, a positional attribute assigned to each token in the corpus. Lempos combines a lemma and its part of speech (POS), including a lemma, hyphen, and one-letter POS abbreviation, resulting in more comprehensive data entries (Sketch Engine, n.d.). The figure below shows the distribution of text sources compiled into the corpus.



	Attribute value	Structure frequency
1	tribunnews.com	1,396,527
2	ucm.web.id	487,696
3	inews.id	439,210
4	wikipedia.org	426,544
5	grid.id	377,333
6	detik.com	315,250
7	antaranews.com	270,971
8	kehidupan.web.id	222,027
9	sindonews.com	199,423
10	blogspot.com	178,340

	Attribute value	Structure frequency
11	budya.net	169,207
12	medcom.id	168,743
13	ptkpt.net	166,415
14	okezone.com	155,717
15	kontan.co.id	149,027
16	jpnn.com	147,171
17	jawapos.com	124,004
18	mediaindonesia.com	119,140
19	iswah.id	110,051
20	solopos.com	97,645

Fig. 1. Indonesian corpus sources
(Sketch Engine, 2025)

Subsequently, the data were analyzed through a multidisciplinary approach combining ecology and linguistics, consisting of several stages. The first step involved calculating the frequency of the lexeme *"lingkungan"* to determine how often the word appears in media reporting. The second step was to explore the collocation of the lexeme *"lingkungan"* by identifying words that frequently co-occur with it under specific grammatical relations within a concordance line. Collocation refers to the statistical tendency of words to appear together more often than by chance within a corpus. Statistically, collocation significance was measured using the typicality score known as logDice, calculated with the formula in Equation 1 to assess the strength of lexical association. A threshold of > 5.0 logDice score or higher is generally considered effective in identifying salient lexical collocations within a corpus (Frankenberg-Garcia et al., 2019; Gablasova et al., 2017; Thomas, 2017).

$$14 + \log_2 \frac{2\,x\,f(w1,w2)}{f(w1)+f(w2)} \qquad \text{(Eq. 1)}$$

While most corpus studies typically begin with concordance analysis followed by collocate extraction, this research reverses the process by examining collocates first and introducing concordance as the third step. This approach ensures that the findings focus exclusively on lexemes with high typicality scores in relation to *"lingkungan"* By employing the concordance feature, query searches can be displayed alongside their usage contexts, which in this study are limited to five contexts on both the left and right sides (Hambali et al., 2025). After examining the linguistic aspects of the lexeme *"lingkungan"*, the study proceeds to analyze social actors based on concordance and collocate readings (Worarattapong & Phoocharoensil, 2021). Examining social actors in environmental news enables the researcher to deconstruct how the media construct hegemony and ideology that shape public paradigms (Gulzar, 2023).

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Corpus-based analysis of the lexeme "lingkungan" (environment) in media texts

Based on searches conducted in Sketch Engine, the lexeme *"lingkungan"* (environment) appeared 3,498,824 times, or 492.18 occurrences per one million words, in news texts and online media contained within the Indonesian corpus. The most basic step in corpus analysis

using the Sketch Engine tools is to examine the distribution of its word sketch. Word sketch processes the collocation of words and their surrounding lexical items to display the grammatical behavior and collocational patterns of a word (Stewart et al., 2021). The results are organized into categories known as grammatical relations, such as words that serve as the object of a verb, words that serve as the subject of a verb, words that modify the word, and so on.

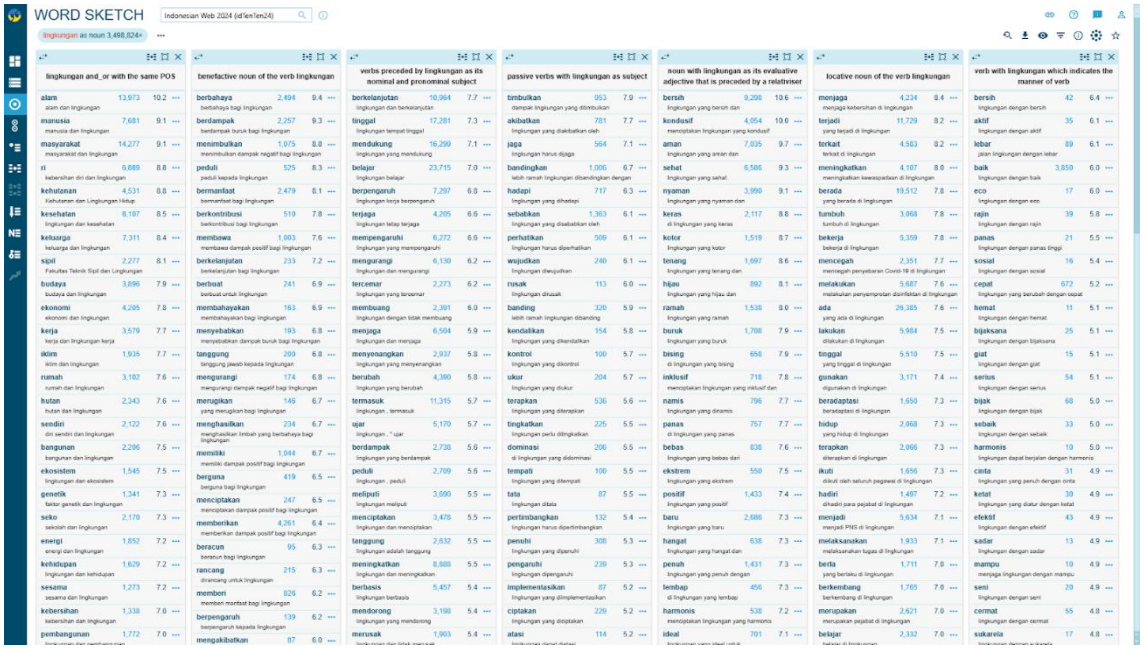


Fig. 2. Word sketch of the lexeme *"lingkungan"* (environment)
(Sketch Engine, 2025)

The word sketch results show seven categories that can be formed from the lexeme *"lingkungan"* (environment), including (1) *"lingkungan"* and or with the same part of speech (POS), (2) benefactive noun of the verb *"lingkungan"*, (3) verbs preceded by *"lingkungan"* as its nominal and pronominal subject, (4) passive verbs with *"lingkungan"* as the subject, (5) noun with *"lingkungan"* as its evaluative adjective preceded by a relativizer, (6) locative noun of the verb *"lingkungan"*, and (7) verb with *"lingkungan"* indicating the manner of the verb. Among these seven categories, the first to fifth serve as the main references for examining how media portray situations and conditions related to environmental discourse.

Table 1. List of colloquial lexemes *"lingkungan"* (environment) in the corpus

No	Category				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	*alam* nature (logDice 10.2)	*berbahaya* hazardous (logDice 9.4)	*berkelanjutan* sustainable (logDice 7.7)	*timbulkan* cause (logDice 7.9)	*bersih* clean (logDice 10.6)
2	*manusia* human (logDice 9.1)	*berdampak* impact (logDice 9.3)	*tinggal* reside (logDice 7.3)	*akibatkan* result in (logDice 7.7)	*kondusif* conducive (logDice 10.0)
3	*masyarakat* society (logDice 9.1)	*menimbulkan* generate (logDice 8.8)	*mendukung* support (logDice 7.1)	*jaga* maintain (logDice 7.1)	*aman* safe (logDice 9.7)
4	*diri* self (logDice 8.8)	*peduli* caring (logDice 8.3)	*belajar* learn (logDice 7.0)	*bandingkan* compare (logDice 6.7)	*sehat* healthy (logDice 9.3)
5	*kehutanan* forestry (logDice 8.8)	*bermanfaat* beneficial (logDice 8.1)	*berpengaruh* influential (logDice 6.8)	*hadapi* face (logDice 6.3)	*nyaman* comfortable (logDice 9.1)

6	*kesehatan* health (logDice 8.5)	*berkontribusi* contribute (logDice 7.8)	*terjaga* preserved (logDice 6.6)	*sebabkan* cause (logDice 6.1)	*keras* hard (logDice 8.8)
7	*keluarga* family (logDice 8.4)	*membawa* bring (logDice 7.6)	*mempengaruhi* influence (logDice 6.6)	*perhatikan* pay attention (logDice 6.1)	*kotor* dirty (logDice 8.7)
8	*sipil* civil (logDice 8.1)	*berkelanjutan* sustainable (logDice 7.2)	*mengurangi* reduce (logDice 6.2)	*wujudkan* realize (logDice 6.1)	*tenang* calm (logDice 8.6)
9	*budaya* culture (logDice 7.9)	*berbuat* act (logDice 6.9)	*tercemar* polluted (logDice 6.2)	*rusak* damaged (logDice 6.0)	*hijau* green (logDice 8.1)
10	*ekonomi* economy (logDice 7.8)	*membahayakan* endanger (logDice 6.9)	*membuang* dispose (logDice 6.0)	*banding* compare (logDice 5.9)	*ramah* friendly (logDice 8.0)
11	*kerja* work (logDice 7.7)	*menyebabkan* cause (logDice 6.8)	*menjaga* maintain (logDice 5.9)	*kendalikan* regulate (logDice 5.8)	*buruk* bad (logDice 7.9)
12	*iklim* climate (logDice 7.7)	*tanggung jawab* responsibility (logDice 6.8)	*menyenangkan* enjoyable (logDice 5.8)	*kontrol* control (logDice 5.7)	*bising* noisy (logDice 7.9)
13	*rumah* home (logDice 7.6)	*mengurangi* reduce (logDice 6.8)	*berubah* change (logDice 5.8)	*ukur* measure (logDice 5.7)	*inklusif* inclusive (logDice 7.8)
14	*hutan* forest (logDice 7.6)	*merugikan* detrimental (logDice 6.7)	*termasuk* included (logDice 5.7)	*terapkan* apply (logDice 5.6)	*dinamis* dynamic (logDice 7.7)
15	*sendiri* self (logDice 7.6)	*menghasilkan* produce (logDice 6.7)	*ujar* state (logDice 5.7)	*dominasi* domination (logDice 5.5)	*panas* hot (logDice 7.7)

The data presented in Figure 2 are sorted by typicality score (logDice), which displays pairs of words with the strongest collocation relationships. Sorting by logDice score is based on the consideration that this measure not only includes the frequency of the keyword (node) but also the frequency of collocates and the overall collocation frequency. LogDice is used to assess the strength or distinctiveness of collocation, that is, how strongly two lexical items co-occur. Unlike other measures such as mutual information (MI) or T-score, the logDice score is designed to remain unaffected by the total corpus size, meaning that even if a word has high frequency, it does not necessarily have a strong associative relationship with the lexeme *"lingkungan"* (environment) (Sketch Engine, n.d.).

To ensure transparency in lexeme selection for concordance analysis, this study applied the following criteria: (1) only collocates within the logDice threshold range of $5.00 < n \leq 14.00$ were considered; (2) collocates were ranked in descending order based on their logDice scores; and (3) the top fifteen lexemes were selected as they represent the most statistically salient and contextually relevant collocational patterns. Function words and semantically non-informative items were excluded to maintain analytical focus. The concordance analysis was then conducted on these selected lexemes to examine their contextual usage in greater detail (Frankenberg-Garcia et al., 2019; Gablasova et al., 2017; Thomas, 2017).

When viewed based on the part of speech (POS) category, the lexeme *"lingkungan"* (environment) is closely related to the noun class. The diversity of nouns that appear contributes to the obscuring of the main subject in environmental discourse (Isti'anah, 2025). Based on its logDice value, *"manusia"* (human) and *"masyarakat"* (society) appear as nouns, or agents and possibly beneficiaries, that play the most prominent roles in environmental discourse. This implies that the utilization of the environment is largely directed toward humans in general or toward specific social groups such as communities. However, subject attribution also appears for certain institutional names, such as Ministry

of Environment and Forestry, which is indicated by the lexeme *"kehutanan"* (forestry) with a relatively high logDice value. This finding aligns with Isti'anah et al. (2023), who demonstrated that the media tend to assign responsibility to specific organizations. Therefore, it is essential to examine further how subjects, whether individuals, communities, or institutions, are represented or framed by the media within environmental discourse. These lexemes can be identified for deeper examination through concordance reading.

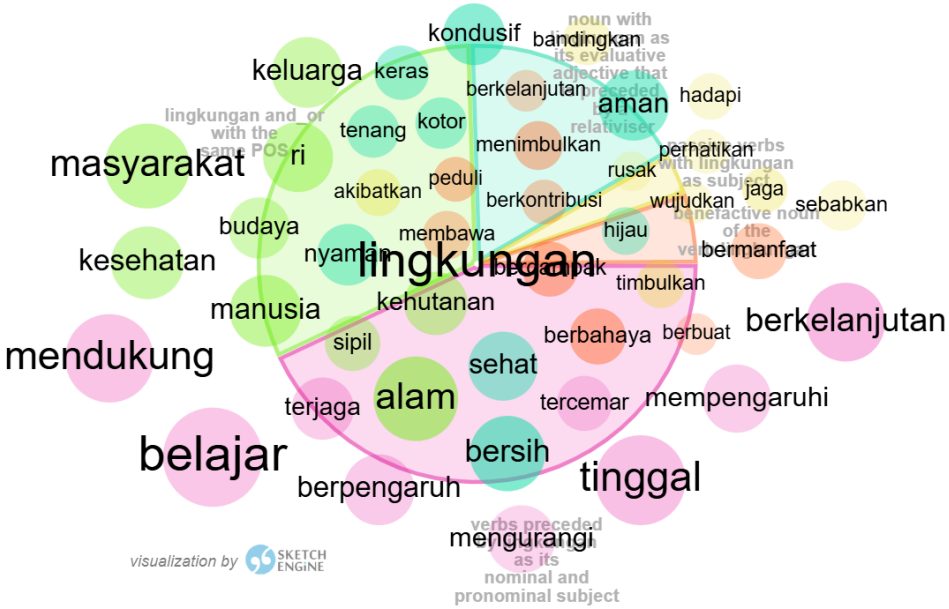


Fig. 2. Word clouds of colloquial lexemes *"lingkungan"* (environment) (Sketch Engine, 2025)

In the second category, concerning the benefactive noun of the verb, the lexemes displayed indicate the results produced by certain actions performed by particular subjects, positioning *"lingkungan"* as the recipient of those effects. The subjects or agents in this context may vary widely. As with the nouns identified in the first category, these agents may refer to humans, communities, ministries, and so on. The impacts received by *"lingkungan,"* however, predominantly carry negative sentiments. The strongest collocate is the lexeme *"berbahaya"* (hazardous), with a logDice value above 9, implying that "lingkungan," as the recipient, often receives something harmful. With similarly high logDice values (6.7–6.9), the verbs *"membahayakan"* (endanger) and *"merugikan"* (detrimental) indicate that actions involving the environment are largely dominated by hazardous activities.

Nevertheless, alongside negative sentiments, several positive associations are also found, such as *"peduli"* (caring), *"berkontribusi"* (contribute), and *"berkelanjutan"* (sustainable). These lexemes likely appear as collocates of *"aktivis lingkungan"* (environmental activists), which stands among the strongest "part of" relations for *"lingkungan"* (Leipzig Corpora, 2024). Reinforcing accountability for negative impacts while amplifying positive ones is a crucial role for media as an information channel. However, previous studies on climate change have found that anthropocentric nominalization often leads to ideological ambivalence (Kramar, 2023; Stibbe, 2015). The predominance of high logDice scores in negative contexts highlights the need for greater efforts to shift this trend toward a positive direction, requiring contributions from multiple actors, not merely environmental activists or organizations.

In the third category, verbs preceded by *"lingkungan"* as its nominal and pronominal subject, the list of lexemes reveals the verbs that tend to co-occur when *"lingkungan"* functions as the main noun or subject. Interestingly, when reporting focuses on *"lingkungan"* itself rather than other subjects such as humans or communities, the trend turns positive. The strongest collocate in this category is the lexeme *"berkelanjutan"*

(sustainable), suggesting a movement in environmental discourse toward a more constructive direction. The emergence of *"berkelanjutan"* as a collocate is likely driven by the global development priorities framed under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in which environmental sustainability, divided into several goals, constitutes one of the key global objectives (Dagnachew & Hof, 2022; Naseer et al., 2025).

On the other hand, in the fourth category, passive verbs with *"lingkungan"* as the subject, although *"lingkungan"* is still positioned as the subject, it tends to serve as a patient rather than an agent. In this context, negative trends reemerge, as indicated by collocates such as *"timbulkan"* (cause) and *"rusak"* (damaged). Referring to the phrases beneath these collocates, expressions such as *"dampak lingkungan yang ditimbulkan"* (environmental impacts caused) and *"lingkungan dirusak"* (environment damaged) are commonly found. This implies that environmental discourse continues to be dominated by negative portrayals, a trend that persists or even intensifies over time.

In the fifth category, noun with *"lingkungan"* as its evaluative adjective that is preceded by a relativizer, a balance is observed between lexemes carrying negative and positive sentiments. In this category, *"lingkungan"* appears with adjectives that describe or modify nouns or pronouns by providing further information about their qualities or characteristics. The findings show that the attributes attached to environmental reporting in Indonesia reflect both positive and problematic conditions. In other words, there is a contest between news narratives emphasizing ideal environmental states, such as clean, comfortable, green, friendly, and so on, and those describing threats, such as dirty, bad, or hot.

Overall, based on the data presented in Table 1, the researcher constructed a simple sentiment Overall, based on the data presented in Table 1, the researcher constructed a simple sentiment distribution using manual analytical categorization. The sentiments were classified into three categories: Positive (+1), neutral (0), and negative (−1) based on contextual semantic interpretation. The manually assigned labels were subsequently processed and quantified using Python in Google Colaboratory to obtain frequency distributions and percentages. Out of the 75 distributed lexemes, 34 were neutral, 19 positive, and 22 negative. When expressed as percentages, the results are shown in Figure 3. While this approach enables systematic quantification, the classification remains interpretative; therefore, future studies are encouraged to incorporate inter-rater reliability procedures to enhance objectivity and replicability.

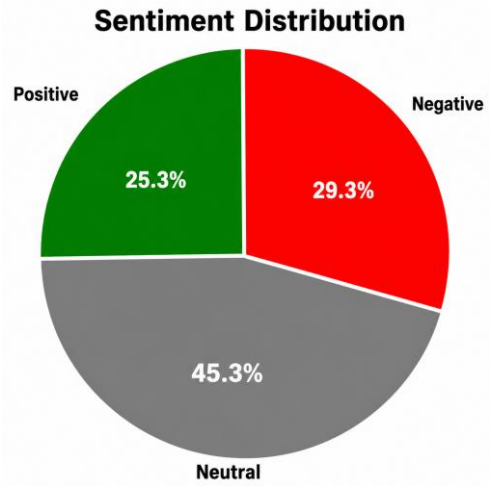


Fig. 4. Sentiment distribution based on Table 1

When neutral sentiments are excluded and only negative and positive sentiments are contrasted, it becomes evident that negative sentiments dominate environmental discourse more strongly than positive ones. This indicates the existence of problems in the environmental condition of Indonesia. The findings from the Sketch Engine corpus data are consistent with the results from the Leipzig Corpora news dataset, in which the top five part of the lexeme *"lingkungan"* are dominated by negative reports such as *"kerusakan*

lingkungan" (environmental damage), *"dampak lingkungan"* (environmental impact), *"masalah lingkungan"* (environmental problems), and *"pencemaran lingkungan"* (environmental pollution).

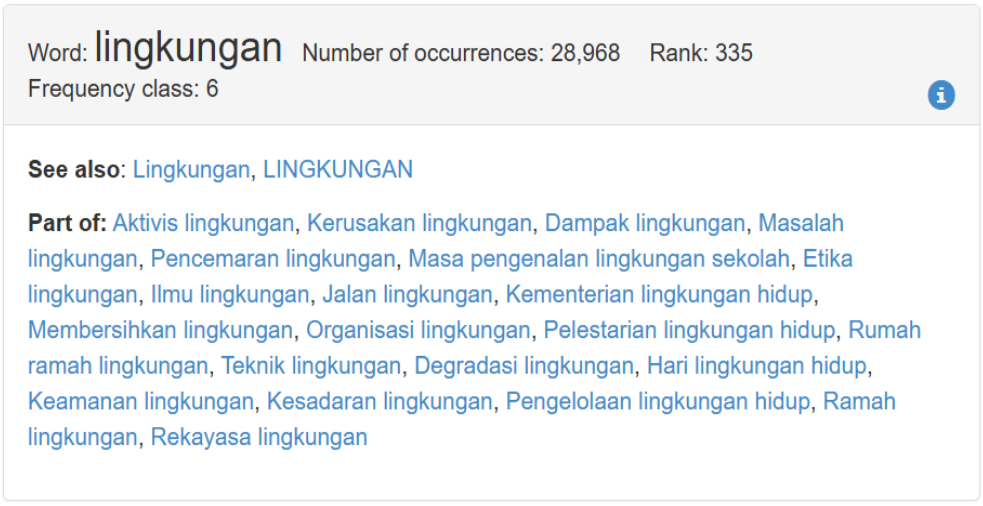


Fig. 5. Collocates of the lexeme *"lingkungan"* (environment)
(Leipzig Corpora, 2024)

The most critical aspect to highlight from these negative discourses in environmental reporting is how the media process and communicate such information to the public, including the agents, actions, impacts, and possible countermeasures presented. When this condition is combined with the presence of obscured nominalization, it produces an ambivalence that distorts public perception.

3.2 The hegemony of anthropocentrism in environmental discourse

Referring to specific lexemes with high logDice values that indicate strong collocation with the lexeme *"lingkungan,"* a deeper analysis can be conducted to examine how environmental discourse is represented. At this stage, the researcher performed concordance reading using *"lingkungan"* as the keyword in context (KWIC), accompanied by left and right contexts that serve as explanatory elements. The context lines in the concordance are crucial in linguistic research to identify the word class of the queried item. Furthermore, concordance lines provide a foundation for identifying grammatical patterns and interpreting them within specific theoretical frameworks. The following figure illustrates an example of the processed concordance data.



Fig. 6. An example of concordance for the lexeme *"lingkungan"* (environment)
(Sketch Engine, 2025)

However, rather than analyzing the concordance of the lexeme *"lingkungan"* (environment) randomly and generally, the researcher selected ten specific lexemes from various word-class categories with high collocation values (logDice 6.8–9.4) to better understand how environmental news discourse is represented by the media.

Table 2. List of selected lexemes for concordance analysis

Code	Lexemes *"lingkungan"* (environment) + "…."		Freq	LogDice
C1		*"berbahaya"* (hazardous)	8.431	9.4
C2		*"berdampak"* (impact)	14.763	9.3
C3		*"masyarakat"* (society)	143.162	9.1
C4		*"manusia"* (human)	108.395	9.1
C5		*"kehutanan"* (forestry)	62.694	8.8
C6	*"lingkungan"*	*"kotor"* (dirty)	4.830	8.7
C7	(environment) +	*"buruk" (bad)*	13.736	7.9
C8		*"iklim"* (climate)	13.406	7.7
C9		*"berkelanjutan"* (sustainable)	22.706	7.2
C10		*"tanggung jawab"* (responsibility)	14.281	6.8

Based on the concordance patterns shown in Table 2, further KWIC 5L–5R tracing was conducted to obtain quoted sentences used as the primary material for critical discourse analysis, focusing on the media's tendencies in representing environmental discourse.

Table 3. List of quoted sentences (QS) based on the concordance patterns in Table 2

Code	E.g. of	A quoted sentence from a news discourse	
QS1	C1	*"Kegiatan galian C memiliki cara kerja mengeruk dan menggali dengan menggunakan alat berat. Dengan demikian dampak yang dihasilkan sangat **berbahaya** untuk **lingkungan**."*	*The excavation activity known as category C mining involves dredging and digging using heavy machinery. Consequently, its impact is highly **hazardous** to the **environment**.*
QS2	C1	*"Setiap detik, tumpukan segunung sampah plastik dibakar atau dibuang di negara-negara berkembang, lapor laporan itu. Ketika memburuk, beberapa plastik dapat melepaskan bahan kimia **berbahaya** ke **lingkungan** dan terurai …"*	*Every second, mountains of plastic waste are burned or dumped in developing countries, the report stated. As the situation worsens, some plastics can release **hazardous** chemicals into the **environment** and decompose ...*
QS3	C2, C7	*"Bahan bakarlah yang **berdampak buruk** bagi lingkungan. Mereka membandingkan motor gas baru, dengan motor diesel."*	*It is the fuel that has a **bad impact** on the **environment**. They compared new gasoline engines with diesel engines.*
QS4	C2, C7	*"... pembangunan kilang minyak itu juga disebut **berdampak buruk** pada **lingkungan**. Berdasarkan rencana tata ruang dan tata wilayah Kabupaten Tuban akan membentuk seluruh daerah menjadi wilayah migas."*	*… the construction of the oil refinery is also reported to have a **bad impact** on the **environment**. According to the spatial and regional planning of Tuban Regency, the entire area is designated as an oil and gas zone.*
QS5	C3	*"LHK Siti Nurbaya mengimbau agar hutan terus dijaga dan dikelola untuk kesejahteraan **masyarakat** serta penciptaan **lingkungan** yang sehat. Komitmen ini diwujudkan melalui izin pengelolaan hutan untuk **masyarakat**."*	*LHK Siti Nurbaya, urged that forests be continuously protected and managed for the welfare of **society** and the creation of a healthy **environment**. This commitment has been realized through the granting of forest management permits to members of **society**.*

QS6	C4	*"... secara intrinsik, **lingkungan** yang menjadi media kehidupan **manusia** memiliki keterkaitan dengan diciptakannya tujuan-tujuan dalam SDG's."*	*... the **environment** as the medium for **human** life is closely related to the establishment of goals within the SDGs.*
QS7	C5	*"... mangrove di kawasan lindung dan cagar alam di wilayah tersebut sudah hancur dan rusak untuk tambak. Kementerian **Lingkungan** Hidup dan **Kehutanan** kemudian menjadikan mangrove di Torosiaje sebagai Kawasan Ekosistem Esensial."*	*... the mangrove forests within protected and nature reserve areas in the region have been destroyed and converted into fish ponds. The Ministry of **Environment** and **Forestry** subsequently designated the Torosiaje mangrove as an Essential Ecosystem Area.*
QS8	C6	*"Akibat banjir, **lingkungan** menjadi **kotor**."*	*As a result of the flood, the **environment** has become **dirty***
QS9	C6	*"... wilayah yang memanfaatkan wisata sebagai potensi tidak akan membiarkan **lingkungan**nya **kotor**, sehingga secara perlahan kesadaran itu tumbuh dan kebersihan bisa terus dijaga."*	*... regions that utilize tourism as a potential source will not allow their **environment** to become **dirty**; gradually, awareness grows, and cleanliness can be maintained.*
QS10	C8	*"... 2015 terjadi sekitar 15.000 bencana alam di Indonesia. Penyebabnya adalah perubahan **iklim** karena kelestarian **lingkungan** hidup terganggu."*	*...in 2015, approximately 15,000 natural disasters occurred in Indonesia. The cause was **climate** change resulting from **environmental** degradation.*
QS11	C8	*"... cenderung tidak suka dengan orang-orang yang mengarah membela **lingkungan** karena percaya perubahan **iklim** sedang terjadi. Hal ini terjadi karena kebanyakan orang ternyata menganggap isu perubahan iklim terlalu politis"*	*...they tend to dislike people who advocate for the **environment** because they believe **climate** change is happening. This occurs because most people consider the issue of climate change to be overly politicized.*
QS12	C9	*"Kerja Sama Ekonomi Asia-Pasifik (APEC) mengembangkan model pembangunan **berkelanjutan** . Sebab permasalahan **lingkungan** disebabkan karena pembangunan."*	*The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) developed a **sustainable** development model, as **environmental** problems have been caused by unrestrained development.*
QS13	C9, C7	*"Praktik **buruk** industri nikel ini, ungkap Taufik, menambah catatan merah pada pengelolaan sumber daya alam di Indonesia yang tidak **berkelanjutan** hingga menyebabkan kualitas **lingkungan** hidup buruk."*	*Taufik revealed that the **bad** practices of the nickel industry have further worsened the management record of Indonesia's natural resources, leading to un**sustainable** exploitation and declining environmental quality.*
QS14	C10, C4	*"Hal ini termasuk kesadaran dan **tanggung jawab** sosial terhadap **lingkungan** sekitar yang menjadi sarana mencapai tujuan peradaban **manusia** yang lebih baik."*	This includes awareness and social **responsibility** toward the surrounding **environment**, which serves as a means of achieving the goals of a more advanced **human** civilization.
QS15	C10, C3	*"Jadi persoalan sampah ini bukan hanya **tanggung jawab** dari dinas **lingkungan** hidup saja, tetapi lintas OPD bahkan **masyarakat** juga harus berpartisipasi dalam menangani masalah ini"*	*This waste problem is not solely the **responsibility** of the **Environmental** Agency; it also requires cross-departmental cooperation and the participation of **society** to address the issue.*

In the first and second concordances between the lexeme *"lingkungan"* (environment) (n.) and the lexemes *"berbahaya"* (hazardous) (v.) and *"berdampak"* (impact) (v.), the discourse reveals a tendency to assign responsibility to non-human subjects. Data QS1 and QS2 indicate that humans or communities tend to engage in activities that are harmful to the environment. These activities are carried out to fulfill human needs, such as mining or waste disposal, but are not implemented based on the principles of deep ecology. Waste is

often incinerated or piled up in one location, producing harmful chemical substances for the environment. However, even though the news reports state that such activities are harmful to the environment, the actual human agents responsible for them are never specified, as if these harmful actions occur without human involvement.

This nominalization obscuration worsens when several news discourses place the blame on inanimate objects, as seen in datum QS3, where it is the "fuel" that is said to harm the environment, rather than humans who exploit natural resources to obtain fuel for daily needs. *"It is the fuel that has a bad impact …"* encourages a shift in perspective, suggesting that environmental pollution is a natural phenomenon caused by substances, not human actions (Isti'anah, 2025). A similar pattern appears in datum QS4, which emphasizes the process of oil refinery construction rather than highlighting who is responsible for carrying out the construction without environmental awareness.

In the third to fifth concordances between *"lingkungan"* (environment) and the lexemes *"masyarakat"* (society) (n.), *"manusia"* (human) (n.), and *"kehutanan"* (forestry) (n.), the discourse shows a tendency to prioritize human welfare as the basis for environmental management. Although the nouns *"manusia"* and *"masyarakat"* appear explicitly, they do not function as social actors or agentive subjects responsible for making changes, but rather as benefactive subjects who receive benefits from the environment (Kramar, 2023). For instance, data QS5 and QS14 demonstrate that forest management is justified in the name of public welfare. Humans once again become the central beneficiaries of environmental resources, even granted special permissions for forest utilization. While such initiatives may serve as mitigation efforts for environmental preservation, anthropocentric discourse continues to dominate environmental reporting in Indonesia.

This anthropocentric tendency is further emphasized in datum QS6, which positions the environment as a medium for human life, implying that everything in the environment exists to serve human purposes. In datum QS7, there is also a recurring pattern of attributing conservation responsibility to government institutions or particular organizations, a trend that appears with high frequency. This finding aligns with previous research showing that environmental issues, such as climate, are often framed as natural phenomena and treated as responsibilities of governments or international organizations, leaving communities as passive components of the ecosystem with limited involvement in mitigation efforts (Isti'anah, 2025; Isti'anah et al., 2023).

In the sixth and seventh concordances between *"lingkungan"* (environment) and the adjectives *"kotor"* (dirty) and *"buruk"* (bad), similar discursive tendencies emerge, framing environmental degradation as the result of natural phenomena. For instance, datum QS8 describes a dirty environment as a consequence of natural events such as flooding. Although floods can indeed be natural, particularly during the rainy season, most cases in Indonesia are caused by human activities, such as deforestation, loss of water absorption areas, and littering (Pratama et al., 2022; Yutantri et al., 2023). This nominalization obscures humans as contributing agents and fosters the perception that environmental dirtiness is a normal and natural occurrence.

Another discourse suggests that humans develop environmental awareness only when there are tangible benefits involved. For example, in datum QS9, tourism is presented as a means to raise environmental awareness by leveraging economic gain. When the environment becomes a source of profit, humans are motivated to protect it to sustain these benefits. Although this can positively contribute to environmental cleanliness, it also implies that people will only protect nature when personal or economic gains are at stake. This indirectly legitimizes anthropocentric dominance, positioning the environment as a medium for human benefit, and suggesting that without profit, awareness may not develop or environmental responsibility may be deemed unnecessary.

In the eighth concordance between *"lingkungan"* (environment) (n.) and *"iklim"* (climate) (n.), two major tendencies appear in environmental reporting. The first mirrors previous discourse patterns. Datum QS10 frames climate change as a natural phenomenon resulting from environmental imbalance. Earlier studies on climate reporting even conceptualized climate change as an enemy to be fought by humans. The "war against

climate change" is depicted as a battle between good and evil, where humans are soldiers on the good side, and climate change is the enemy (Hambali et al., 2025). Yet, scientific evidence consistently shows that "anthropogenic" or human-induced activities are the root cause of climate change (Ge et al., 2021; Prakash & Verma, 2022; Kabir et al., 2023). Thus, the true adversary is not climate change itself, but human behavior that disrupts ecosystems and generates pollution.

Nominalization obscures human activities as the main cause, shifting the focus toward the environment as the primary issue. Anthropogenic behavior legitimized by anthropocentric hegemony shapes public perceptions, leading people to believe that human actions are not the main factors requiring scrutiny (Isti'anah, 2025). Worse still, as shown in datum QS11, segments of society continue to view environmental issues such as climate change as political agendas. Prior research also highlights how political ideology influences public perspectives on environmental actions, including ideological conflicts between liberal and conservative groups (Moore et al., 2024; Stockus & Zell, 2025). Many people still perceive humans as the center of everything occurring in the world. Although climate issues are real and strongly influenced by human activities, the belief that they are merely political agendas reflects apathy toward environmental crises. In reality, if humans were no longer treated as the primary beneficiaries and this benefactive role were transferred to the environment, it would become evident that protecting nature, regardless of human interests, is a collective duty, especially for humans as organisms with the greatest ecological impact.

In the ninth concordance between *"lingkungan"* (environment) (n.) and *"berkelanjutan"* (sustainable) (adj.), a similar pattern emerges, where responsibility is attributed to specific organizations, and environmental damage is blamed on substances or processes without identifying clear human agents. Datum QS12 supports prior findings on the delegation of environmental responsibility to international organizations (Isti'anah et al., 2023). Similarly, data QS12 and QS13 both reveal negative environmental behaviors but fail to specify who the actual perpetrators are. Industrial and construction activities, such as nickel production, are cited as causes of environmental degradation, yet the underlying human motives, rooted in the pursuit of higher living standards, remain unaddressed. In the tenth concordance between *"lingkungan"* (environment) (n.) and *"tanggung_jawab"* (responsibility) (n.), discourse shows a positive development, though its frequency and logDice value remain lower than other trends. In data QS14 and QS15, accountability for environmental management is more explicitly discussed. Although government agencies such as the Environmental Service Office and relevant organizations still dominate, the inclusion of community participation has become more visible. Even though QS14 still reflects the tendency to preserve the environment for human benefit, the involvement of society as social actors represents a constructive step toward shaping public opinion.

When contrasted with conditions in various other countries, the findings claimed in this study demonstrate similar patterns of alignment. Previous research has consistently shown the tendency and evolution of media in constructing public perceptions of environmental issues over time. The media have been found to employ multiple strategies in representing environmental issues, ranging from framing, the involvement of social actors, to thematic preferences. Not only in Indonesia but also in other countries, both developed and developing, there remains a tendency to marginalize the role of responsible actors in media discourse. For instance, Chinese and American newspapers still exhibit a disregard for causal responsibilities (Liu & Huang, 2023). In developed nations such as the UK and the US, studies have found a tendency to frame environmental coverage as a domestic issue, while Chinese media tend to frame it as a global concern (Song et al., 2021). Conversely, more recent studies reveal that in large countries such as China and Australia, the media have often represented environmental issues as domestic political conflicts, particularly between the Coalition government and the broader public (Huan, 2023), rather than emphasizing everyday anthropogenic behaviors that substantially contribute to the roots of environmental problems.

Although the media in the UK have begun to gradually raise public awareness (Gillings & Dayrell, 2024), British outlets still display a strong tendency to focus their coverage on China's role in climate change, positioning China simultaneously as a central actor, acknowledging its contributions while emphasizing its responsibilities and challenges as a major emitter (Liang et al., 2025). While it is important to call attention to key social actors, assigning environmental blame to specific parties or nations will not provide meaningful solutions, since environmental issues are fundamentally a collective human responsibility stemming from shared anthropogenic behavior. Prominent Western outlets such as The New York Times also exhibit similar tendencies, politicizing environmental issues (Liu & Huang, 2022), as do media in India, Nigeria, Australia, and the United States (Murali et al., 2021). This trend often sidelines the broader global objective of fostering unity in environmental stewardship. The issue becomes even more complex when, in regions such as South Africa, attention to objective facts in environmental reporting has significantly decreased over the years (Mulaudzi & Kioko, 2022).

Shifting the focus to Asian countries, most of which are classified as developing, there is a prevalent tendency to report environmental issues in reliance on government narratives, as seen in India, Singapore, Thailand, and even China (Comfort et al., 2020). The Philippines shows a similar pattern to Indonesia, where the dominant narrative centers on the government's "war" against climate change (Naguimbing-Manlulu, 2021). In such portrayals, governments or humans are also depicted as the "good" side, while environmental problems such as climate change are framed as the "enemy" to be fought, despite the reality that human actions are the very source of environmental degradation. The burden of responsibility is also often placed on international organizations such as the IPCC, a pattern observed not only in the South Asian press but also in large-scale media systems in China, the United States, and India (Raza et al., 2025; Raza & Shah, 2024).

Such discourses warrant further promotion to strengthen public awareness, given that humans are the primary users of environmental resources compared to other organisms. The media play a vital role in this regard, as language functions as one of the most powerful tools for persuasion and for shaping public perspectives on ideas and issues (Kuang & Bicchieri, 2024). Recent studies have reinforced this claim, showing that linguistic tone significantly influences the types of actions individuals choose to take (Shakeel et al., 2025). Scholars likewise acknowledge and demonstrate the crucial role of media and communication in mitigating environmental problems (Ejaz et al., 2021). Furthermore, since the majority of the public relies on media for information about climate change, it is essential that narratives of responsibility incorporate scientific evidence, such as the fact that human overexploitation of nature is the main cause, rather than merely serving as political expedients for delegating accountability (Murali et al., 2021). For instance, a recent study by Baral et al. (2024) illustrates how Nepali mass media utilize informative language to convey messages about the environmental crisis.

Based on these findings, it is evident that environmental reporting in Indonesia remains largely dominated by anthropocentric perspectives, whether intentionally or unintentionally. Environmental problems caused by "anthropogenic" actions receive limited attention, and some discourses even portray the environment as the negative side and humans, the very source of these problems, as the positive side (Hambali et al., 2025). While calls for public involvement in environmental responsibility do exist, most reports still emphasize substances or processes without clarifying the responsible agents. As discussed earlier, the obscured role of anthropocentrism through nominalization in mass media reflects an ambivalent ideology (Kramar, 2023; Stibbe, 2015). From a critical discourse perspective, nominalization can serve as a linguistic strategy to conceal social actors, in this case, "anthropogenic" humans whose actions cause environmental degradation, pollution, and climate change. This finding aligns with previous studies identifying nominalization as a legitimizing strategy used by the media to obscure anthropocentric factors in climate discourse (Isti'anah, 2025; Isti'anah et al., 2023; Kramar, 2023).

However, this study is subject to several limitations. First, the analysis is based on a selected corpus and a limited set of collocation items, which may not fully represent the breadth of environmental discourse in Indonesia. Second, the sentiment classification relies on manual, researcher-driven interpretation, which may introduce a degree of subjectivity despite the use of systematic analytical criteria. Third, the study focuses primarily on lexical and collocation patterns, without incorporating multi-modal elements such as images or visual framing that may also shape environmental meaning-making. Finally, although the use of logDice provides a robust statistical basis, the selection of threshold values and top-ranked lexemes may influence the analytical scope. Accordingly, the findings should be interpreted in light of these limitations.

4. Conclusions

In environmental news discourse in Indonesia, numerous environmentally related issues carry negative sentiments. Among the seventy-five collocation items, negative sentiments prevail over positive ones. Five out of the seven primary categories in the word sketch of the lexeme *"lingkungan"* (environment) reveal variations in parts of speech across collocation lists, suggesting that environmental reporting encompasses multiple aspects, from activities and actors to the characteristics of environmental issues. Concordance analysis also reveals a similar trend, whether intentional or not, environmental discourse continues to exhibit anthropocentric hegemony. Environmental problems stemming from "anthropogenic" behavior remain underemphasized, while responsibility is frequently assigned to non-human entities and specific organizations. The contrastive findings across various countries also reveal a similar tendency in sidelining causal responsibilities. Several discourses further exhibit nominalization that presents environmental issues as natural phenomena occurring without identifiable human actors. Such discourse obscures accountability and reinforces the public perception that exploiting the environment is acceptable because humans are the primary beneficiaries, while nature merely serves as a supporting medium for life.

From these findings, several practical implications arise; given that most of the public depends on the media for information, it is crucial that responsibility narratives employ clear and persuasive language to effectively communicate the environmental crisis, while also carefully considering word choice when representing the relationship between nature and humans. A balanced representation is needed, as the environment should not be seen merely as a medium for human survival but as an integral part of the ecosystem itself. Consequently, human exploitation of natural resources must be critically examined and explicitly acknowledged. This research also reinforces the role of ecolinguistics and corpus-based approaches in both linguistic and environmental studies. Notwithstanding these contributions, several limitations should be acknowledged. The sentiment categorization relies on manual interpretation, which may introduce subjectivity, and the selected corpus may not fully represent the diversity of environmental discourse in Indonesia. Accordingly, the findings should be interpreted with caution, and future research is encouraged to enhance reliability and corpus representativeness and expand their scope by exploring interdisciplinary links between ecology and other domains such as social, economic, and political spheres, all of which contribute to and are affected by environmental issues.

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Author Contribution

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Not available.

Informed Consent Statement

Not available.

Data Availability Statement

The data in this study can be accessed openly through the Sketch Engine platform by entering the corpus code "Indonesian Web 2024 (idTenTeN24)".

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Declaration of Generative AI Use

During the preparation of this work, the author used ChatGPT to brainstorming, assist in grammar, and enhance academic tone of the manuscript. After using this tool, the author reviewed and edited the content as needed and took full responsibility for the content of the publication.

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