EXPLORING SEMANTIC DEPTHS: A CORPUS ANALYSIS OF WORD MEANING, SENTENCE STRUCTURE, AND LEXICAL RELATIONS IN BAPSI SIDHWA'S NOVELS

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Abstract

*This study investigates the semantic architecture of five major novels by Bapsi Sidhwa (*The Crow Eaters, The Pakistani Bride, Ice-Candy-Man, An American Brat, Water*) through a corpus-stylistic lens, focusing on how meaning is constructed at multiple linguistic levels in her narrative style. We adopt a multi-layered semantic analysis framework drawing on Frawley's semantic theory (1992) and Murphy (2010), and incorporating recent corpus linguistic techniques) for systematic extraction of meaning-based features, targeting six key aspects: word meaning, sentence meaning, propositional content, semantic roles, lexical relations, and semantic fields. A digital corpus of the novels was processed with CorpusMate and Sketch Engine to generate concordance lines and collocational profiles for each category. Quantitative findings were complemented by qualitative interpretation of textual examples, linking linguistic patterns to their narrative functions. The combined semantic profiles and illustrative excerpts reveal a consistently rich use of sensory imagery, emotional expression, and cross-cultural lexicon across Sidhwa's writing over nearly three decades (1978–2006). Major trends include her use of vivid lexical contrasts and metaphors to evoke settings and character emotions, and the alignment of semantic roles and fields with thematic concerns such as identity, gender, and faith. Findings contribute to lexical semantics and postcolonial stylistics by demonstrating how global English semantic structures interact with localized expressions and cultural themes to construct Sidhwa's distinctive narrative voice. Implications include methodological support for applying corpus-assisted semantic analysis in literary stylistics, and deeper insight into how English-vernacular hybridity manifests at the semantic level in South Asian fiction.*

Keywords: Lexical Semantics, Sketch Engine, CorpusMate, Frawley's semantic theory (1992) and Murphy (2010).

1. Introduction

This study explores the semantic representation of women in Bapsi Sidhwa's novels through a corpus-based analysis, utilizing digital linguistic tools to examine patterns of word meaning, sentence structure, and lexical relationships. In order to understand how language develops and reflects cultural, gendered, and socioeconomic identities in Pakistani fiction, the study focuses on five of Sidhwa's foundational works: The Crow Eaters, The Pakistani Bride, Ice-

Candy-Man, An American Brat, and Water. This work is grounded in both feminist literary inquiry and language analysis since women's narratives are still underrepresented or stereotyped in both real and fictional contexts. It explores how layers of meaning that either support or contradict patriarchal rhetoric are revealed by semantic depth, particularly in Pakistan's sociocultural context. This study finds lexical relations, metaphorical domains, and recurrent semantic patterns that help create gendered meaning using programs like Sketch Engine and CorpusMate.

1.1 Background of the Study

Pakistani women's sociocultural status is complicated, influenced by historical legacies, religious interpretations, and current political structures. Historically, societal institutions and media representations have built and maintained the roles of modesty, domesticity, and obedience, which women frequently navigate (Rashid, 2022). These assumptions can be analyzed and, occasionally, challenged through the critical lens provided by literature, particularly English-language novels by South Asian authors.

Women in Pakistani society are still subject to limitations on their freedom and mobility, which restricts their access to self-expression, work, and education (Kumar et al., 2025). Cultural narratives, especially those spread through literature, both reflect and reinforce these limitations. Patriarchal standards still rule social life despite contemporary legislative reforms and lobbying initiatives, frequently relegating women to submissive or silent roles (Imran, 2019). These dynamics show up in literature as linguistic decisions that influence power dynamics, symbolic representation, and character roles.

Discourse is a tool for creating social reality as well as a mirror of it, according to theoretical theories of language and power (Fairclough, 1992). Within Pakistan, literary books function as potent discursive platforms for negotiating gender, identity, and resistance concerns. Language in literature frequently quietly contains gender and class ideologies, according to Sengottaiyan et al. (2020), making linguistic research crucial for revealing covert power relations.

Particularly noteworthy is Bapsi Sidhwa's work, which depicts women negotiating patriarchal and postcolonial environments in a nuanced and critical manner. From diasporic adolescents to child brides, her female characters are enmeshed in highly semantic worlds where meaning is created through lexical patterns, syntactic structures, and metaphorical fields in addition to story arcs. Therefore, a linguistic analysis of these texts offers a more profound comprehension of the ideological positioning and semantic construction of gendered identities.

1.2 Problem Statement

Few studies have used semantic corpus analysis to examine how women are portrayed in Pakistani novels, despite the abundance of South Asian English literature. Few studies have examined how word usage patterns, syntactic structure, and lexical linkages produce meaning, despite the fact that feminist issues have been brought to light by theme studies. This disparity is important as language is a crucial medium for the encoding and dissemination of gender stereotypes. Subtle semantic components frequently disclose more about society views than overt story frameworks, as shown by Kristiyawan & Rarasati (2023).

Existing studies mostly ignore this language layer, but Bapsi Sidhwa's books give a rare chance to investigate the semantic aspects of gender depiction. It is necessary to look at the ways that certain word choices, sentence structures, and semantic domains affect how women and their social roles are portrayed. Without this kind of study, we run the danger of overlooking important details about how language in literature and, therefore, in society upholds or challenges patriarchal norms.

1.3 Research Objectives

1. To examine how semantic elements including word meaning, sentence meaning, and lexical relations construct the representation of women in selected novels by Bapsi Sidhwa.
2. To identify the recurring semantic fields and propositional meanings that shape cultural and gendered identities in the narratives.

1.4 Research Questions

1. How are semantic structures used to portray women in Bapsi Sidhwa's novels?
2. What patterns of lexical relations and thematic fields emerge in the representation of gender and identity?

1.5 Purpose of the Study

In order to comprehend how language plays a role in the creation of gendered meaning, this study composed a semantic corpus analysis of a few of Bapsi Sidhwa's books. The study intends to reveal the complex ways in which women are positioned within Pakistani sociocultural narratives by concentrating on semantic structures and linguistic patterns.

2. Literature Review

The chapter considers some of the works currently available on the theories of linguistic and semantic and feminist interpretation of literary works text with the reference to the fiction of Bapsi Sidhwa. It looks at five main areas which include the corpus-stylistics, gender representations in the South Asian literature, perhaps the application of the corpus linguistic in the discourse analysis, feministic criticism and discourse, as well as semantic theories. Such thematic strands form the cognitive basis of meaning, structure and ideology in the novels by Sidhwa.

2.1 Corpus- Stylistics and Text Linguistic Analysis of Fiction by Bapsi Sidhwa

This guide shows that the approach of corpus linguistics has also been used to analyze the stylistic patterns in the fiction of Sidhwa, and revealed certain patterns. By way of example, a morphological corpus-stylistic analysis of five large novels over three decades by Khan et al. (2025) found regularities in word-formation strategies, including compounding and affixation. The most remarkable discoveries of these findings were a consistent morphological structure that fuses the world-encompassing English structures with the localized vocabulary, which in turn establishes the narrative voice of Sidhwa. Such a kind of quantitative evidence confirms the manner in which her use of language corresponds to the overall trends within World Englishes and postcolonial literature (Khan et al., 2025).

The study conducted by Afridi et al. (2025) explored the sociolinguistic features of The Crow Eaters, which focused on examining Urdu-English code-mixing. Their results revealed that the lexical items of Urdu origin were not a decoration only; they are planned to be built-in and therefore works on strengthening cultural identity with language. Their measurements of the corpus confirmed Sidhwas bilingual narrative approach which is one of the major aspects in our analysis of the lexical relations in her work.

In a similar manner, Ali (2023) employed the technique of corpus-stylistics to make a cross-evaluation of the gender terminologies in Ice-Candy-Man written by Sidhwa and Train to Pakistan by Singh. Their review showed that the two authors described their male characters using more descriptors as compared to that of the female characters, which was somehow an implicit gender bias. The concept of women was less positive regardless of Sidhwa being a female, which can be explained by the fact that lexical patterns, including adjectives and modals, contribute to gender hierarchies rather subtly. This is what we base our research on the theme and semantic depth of Sidhwa narratives.

In sum, the relevance of quantitative textual evidence is proven by the fact that the corpus-linguistic methods applied in studying the works by Sidhwa proved to be valuable. These studies can form a basis on the extent to which we build our semantic understanding of lexical and syntactic patterning and in her novels and indeed providing a methodology to literary meaning.

2.2 South Asian and Pakistani Literature Women Representation

Women in south Asian literature have now become a major subject of literary criticism. Raising the question of female representation in fiction by writers dealing with the Partition, Qazalbash (2021) compared the Sidhwa (The Ice-Candy-Man) and Singh (Train to Pakistan). Although these are texts of trauma that the women faced because of the violence, they are also texts of female strength and struggle. The researcher underlined that woman must not be considered only victims but can be considered agents and strong individuals. Such a recontextualization correlates with new changes in feminist literary discourse.

Feminist critiques of Pakistani English fictions have revealed suppression of women by the rate of the society. According to the analysis provided by Adil, Tahira, and Akhter (2021), in The Pakistani Bride Sidhwa conducts a feminist reading that shows the universal domination of womenary residents of cities, tribal women and those in the West as patriarchal. The main character, Zaitoon, is deprived of control over own sexuality and marriage. Using cultural feminism as a source of referencing, the study was able to bring into the picture how the women are treated as second-rate citizens something that is already captured in the socio-political contexts that we are seeking to place our research using semantics and lexical markings.

Intersectional lens also builds our perspective in understanding gender oppression. Amin (2024) compared Water with the aspects of caste, religion, and gender. The novel portrays a story about Hindu widows, the emphasis given is that patriarch norms are practiced through religious orthodoxy as well as discrimination that exist based on caste. In this intersectional criticism, we also found how hegemonic systems are criticized by Sidhwa through feminine voices and points of views. Corpus used in this study discussed such themes by using family terms, honorifics, and modal verbs that show female agency.

Analysis on the current research on South Asian women narrative studies the importance of language in representing historical trauma and gender ideology. Sidhwa and others like her employ the use of narrative voice, character development, and the language they choose to implement twisting gender dynamics. Through these insights, we have attempted to analyze the semantic architecture of Sidhwa, correlating language trends to greater antidotes of gender representation and resistance.

2.3 Literature and Discourse Analysis Corpus Linguistics

The corpus linguistic way in literatures has introduced new prospects to research. The previous style of literary analysis was conducted based on close reading, however, with the advent of digital technology, it is easy to conduct large textual analysis. Ferro (2025) highlighted the importance of using software to create concordance, frequency and collocations, which help the scholars identify the patterns within large corpora. The approaches have contributed to stylometry research, author identification as well as topic modeling. This combination of both quantitative and qualitative methods serves as an advantage of our study, especially when used in terms of the lexical choices Sidhwa makes, or the structures used in syntax.

Corpus-assisted discourse studies (CADS) are a hybrid of critical discourse analysis and corpus. Bednarek, Schweinberger, and Lee (2024) advanced the aspects of methodological rigor in CADS with emphasis to transparency, reproducibility, and triangulation. They suggested the

application of reproducible Jupyter notebooks and declare datasets as a way of increasing accountability. This is a very appropriate model in the context of our study, because we intend to harmonise statistical results and background interpretation, when we are performing an analysis of the fiction by Sidhwa.

There have been developments of literary corpora based on genre specific and author specific analyses. Ali (2023) created a comparative corpus that allowed analyzing gendered language in two novels. Supportive interpretive claims were conducted through the use of concordance tools, and through this process we were able to see how corpus-based analysis could be used to help the literary interpretation. Identical procedures have revealed ideological prejudices in media and fiction and shown collocational patterns which qualitative reading may not notice.

The literature ascertains that, corpus linguistics mediates between linguistic form and literary meaning. Our text falls within the line of this methodological development, in which we use tools of the corpus to analyze the language of Sidhwa in her fiction to determine how her language creates meaning. Considering the lexical and syntactic patterns we hope to provide empirical evidence to her themes and style peculiarities.

2.4 Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis of Literature

Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis (FCDA) The Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis is a sub domain of CDA that reveals the relation between gender, ideology and power. As stressed by Lazar (2005), FCDA is also intended to rewrite texts in an emancipatory way, not just to expose power deviations. FCDA has been found useful in literary criticism particularly when discussing gendered discourse.

Shahraz, Khan (2019) employed the idea of subaltern by Spivak and the model of Lazar to FCDA application to Shahraz (2001) The Holy Woman. The paper explained how the discourse of patriarchy uses religion to stay dominant and lets women as a subaltern. Much in the same fashion, Munir et al. (2019) studied the problem of misogyny in Hosseini A Thousand Splendid Suns using the models of CDA by Fairclough and FCDA by Lazar. Their results raised the point at which discourse has constructed the struggles of women in opposition to hegemony of men.

Amir et al. (2020) analyzed The Stone Woman by Ali with the help of FCDA and found out that the system of female subordination was established in familial and social institutions. In their corpus-based analysis, they proved that the patriarchal ideology is legitimized as women become marginalized in both the social and personal lives. Such results echo in our study that we use FCDA on Sidhwa novels to discuss gendered power relations.

Our methodology has been confirmed by the reviewed literature. They show how feminist discourse analysis is able to experience hidden power system within literary works. We have applied this method to Sidhwas fictions that further adds value into the understanding of intersections between gender, ideology, and language.

2.5 Semantics: The Lexical Meaning and Systemic Functional Linguistics

Semantics, or word meaning study, semantics was and still is concerned with word meanings and their relations (lexical semantics). Its core is sense relations like synonymy, antonymy and metaphor. According to Crystal (2008), synonymy is the fact that two words can relate because they have similar meanings, even though synonyms, in their actual definition, are scarce. The information that indicates opposite meaning is antonymy which is either gradable (as in the case of hot and cold) or binary (as in the case of married and single). As an important analytical component of CDA, metaphor exposes hidden ideologies that are developed using figurative language (Baker & Ellece, 2011).

Halliday has developed Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) which regards language as a semiotic social system. SFL focuses on context and considers the interconnection between grammar and the purpose. Transitivity model, which was postulated by Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), examines processes of verbs and roles of the participants to interpret experiential meaning. Burke (2014) pointed out that this model assists in exploring or analyzing the construction of social reality through language.

SFL and CDA have a historical connection, and SFL has analytical underpinning of critical discourse practices. We apply SFL in our efforts to investigate the contribution of the lexical and grammatical elements of the texts of Sidhwa to the encoding of social meanings. We examined transitivity, modality and thematic formations in order to find any traces of the expression of gender ideologies and power relations through her language.

To sum up, semantic theories and SFL provide the effective constructs of interpretation of literary language. They are in tandem with our aim of looking at how the linguistic choices made by Sidhwa helps in forming multi-layered meanings. These instruments enable us to relate micro to macro-level lexical interpretations and macro-level thematic interpretations that strengthen the semantics of her fiction.

3. Research Methodology

3.1 Research design

Qualitative corpus-based research design is used in this paper to analyze Bapsi Sidhwa novels in a detailed way. It is descriptively undertaken through methodology as it does not control what variables it holds, but rather reveals a trend in the application of words and syntax, and reliance on other terms in the chosen readings. In agreement with the approach of corpus linguistics, the study transforms work of Sidhwa into a searchable body of work, making possible the use of tools of computation to identify the presence of semantic units. This mixed technique combines the use of quantitively (e.g., counting the frequency) and qualitative reading, which is why it is an adequate process when examining semantic and structural features in works of literature.

3.2 Sample

One gets to see five of the most salient novels by Bapsi Sidhwa in the sample, The Crow Eaters, The Pakistani Bride, Ice-Candy-Man (or Cracking India), An American Brat, and Water. These are works that cover her literary work and are dealt with various themes such as Partition, diaspora and gender. Those selected purposively are wide in terms of context as well as theme coverage. The digital full-text corpus of about 400,000 words facilitates good statistics of frequency and concordance patterns and can be additionally viewed at qualitative browsing.

Belfast survey All original English-language versions were used to preclude cross-language intrusion. The data integrity was achieved by formatting each novel to filter out their non-narrative content (e.g., prefaces, indices). This arrangement allows establishing stylistic patterns and determining the ways the linguistic constructions indicate the theme priorities of Sidhwa.

3.3 Theoretical Framework

The research combines SFL approach, lexical semantics, and visual modes to guide analysis.

3.3.1 System Function Linguistic

SFL is a theory of language as a social semiotic standardized by M. A. K. Halliday. It focuses on practical functions of language- particularly on how the language is grammatical in

carrying experience meaning. The research goes under the ideational metafunction, especially transitivity: the determination of participants, processes, and contexts in clauses. This assists in finding out how the syntax of Sidhwa reveals some themes like agency and identity.

3.3.2 Semantics of lexicons

Based on Frawley (1992), the lexical semantics focuses on the meaning and the relations of words such as synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, and meronymy. The theory assists in interpretation of how themes and emotional moods in the poems are indicated by choice of words by the author, Sidhwa. As an example, some word changes of the bride in question process may suggest various narrative roles, and recurrent employments of synonymous or subordinated ones may carry a sign of thematic emphasis.

3.3.3 The Visual Models

With visual analytics, it is useful as data are interpreted graphically in terms of semantic and syntactic patterns. The usage of semantic maps and collocation networks is based on the works by Alyousef (2016) and Ping (2018), which allows visualizing key terms and thus uncovering latent patterns in the association of words. These graphic devices supplement letter text analysis, contribute to cognitive relevance of complex information.

3.4 Data Collection Instruments

They were two main tools, CorpusMate and Sketch Engine.

3.4.1 CorpusMate

A corpus tool, CorpusMate, which is easy to use and with the help of which the preliminary upload of the texts and simplest search within the concordance with basic functions was realized, helped. It allowed keyword searches of the five novels with the results displayed in Key Word in Context (KWIC) style, and assisted in identifying patterns within the lexicon, e.g. common modifiers or collocations. It was basic when it came to features, but perfect at least to perform checks of integrity of the corpus and exploration searches.

3.4.2 Sketch Engine

Sketch Engine offered the functionality of detailed analysis. These uploaded novels made a custom corpus, which was annotated with parts of speech and grammatical tags. The important functionalities were:

- **Frequency Lists & Keywords:** Stressed commonly used words and vocabulary used in a specific topic.
- **Word Sketches:** Grammatical roles and word collocations of target words summarized.
- **Concordance and Collocation:** Showed contextual usage of sentences to show connotation and tone.
- **Thesaurus (Distributional Similarity):** Hypothesized near-synonyms based on ordinary derivation, which are applicable in pointing out semantic clusters (e.g., between words maid and servant).

The frequency, grammar, and usage patterns that this tool had integrated preserved have been used to match the lexical data with SFL and lexical semantics frameworks.

3.5 Analysis of data

The analyses of data were carried out on three levels, i.e., word meaning, sentence meaning, and lexical relations.

- **Meaning of words:** The high-frequency and culturally significant words were chosen in order to be analyzed with the help of concordance. The traces of words such as the word

bride or the word freedom could be traced in different contexts with the help of Sketch Engine. The classification of these usages depended on the semantic connotation (literary, metaphorical, and so on), following the example of Frawley. Connotative patterns were found in collocates e.g., helpless widow, wealthy widow.

- **Sentence Understanding:** Under the influence of SFL, clauses were analyzed as a transitivity structure, same as determining the subjects, actions, and contexts. As a case in point, after parsing clauses that described Partition violence in Ice-Candy-Man, the assignment of agency was analyzed. Narrative stance and intensity were studied by marking structures such as passive voice, exclamative or adverbial clauses. Targeted retrieval was achieved by using POS pattern searches in the Sketch Engine.

- **Lexical Relations:** Synonymy, antonymy and hyponymy patterns were examining to trace networks. Repetitions of such words as the word fire and burn or the word truth and the word lie were a suggestion to what might be symbolic connections. Together manual and automated scanning provided proper thematic attribution. Relationships such as clothing and sari were examples of localization of cultures.

Relational clusters and distribution were presented on visual aid (semantic maps, frequency graphs). Such multimodal approach promoted the textual interpretation and helped to back up the SFL-semantics correlation.

To triangulate data, the study used Experiential Functional Analysis (EFA) that entailed the triangulation of word- and sentence-level data with general thematic issues. To illustrate, the common religious terms were projected to the experiential functions (e.g., practices, beliefs, identities), thus providing a multi-dimensional interpretation of the creation of meaning in the fiction of Sidhwa.

To conclude, the approach provides the necessary level of systematization, as well as depth of interpretation, being based on the linguistic theory within the framework of corpus linguistics. Valid inquiry into the semantic and stylistic repertoire in the work of Sidhwa is justified by the triangulation of tools, theoretical lenses, and visual representation.

4. Findings and Results

This section presents a semantic and linguistic analysis of selected excerpts from Bapsi Sidhwa's novels based on William Frawley's (1992) model of linguistic semantics. The key semantic dimensions include word meaning, sentence meaning, propositional meaning, semantic roles, lexical relations, and semantic fields. Each excerpt is analyzed using a concise tabular format that highlights these dimensions.

Table 1: Extract from *Water*

Semantic Element	Description
Word Meaning	Vivid terms (e.g., "leaned forward," "luxuriant") depict lush natural scenery.
Sentence Meaning	Emphasizes Chuyia's awe at the landscape; sensory phrases evoke wonder.
Propositional Meaning	Actions and visuals show Chuyia's discovery of the beauty ahead.
Semantic Roles	Chuyia = experiencer; water lilies, buds = perceived entities.
Lexical Relations	Related terms ("billowed," "green ocean") deepen sensory imagery.

Semantic Element	Description
Semantic Fields	Nature, color, perception.

Table 2: Extract from *Water*

Semantic Element	Description
Word Meaning	Contrasting adjectives (e.g., "withered," "bloom") show generational difference.
Sentence Meaning	Peaceful companionship between young and old characters.
Propositional Meaning	Sentences show unity across age gaps.
Semantic Roles	Shakuntala = observer; characters = companions.
Lexical Relations	Contrasts highlight harmony in difference.
Semantic Fields	Age, companionship, harmony.

Table 3: Extract from *Water*

Semantic Element	Description
Word Meaning	Harsh terms (e.g., "bastard," "hell") express resentment.
Sentence Meaning	Angry exclamations reflect bitterness.
Propositional Meaning	Speaker criticizes husband's actions and consequences.
Semantic Roles	Speaker = victim; husband = cause of anguish.
Lexical Relations	Heaven vs. hell contrasts emphasize emotional disparity.
Semantic Fields	Anger, betrayal, frustration.

Table 4: Extract from *Ice-Candy-Man*

Semantic Element	Description
Word Meaning	Dramatic words like "mockery," "shout" show sarcasm and intensity.
Sentence Meaning	Dialogue conveys public ridicule of authority.
Propositional Meaning	Gandhi is mocked by the crowd in response to the colonel's question.
Semantic Roles	Colonel = speaker; wag = sarcastic responder.
Lexical Relations	"Snapped," "mockery," "promptly" = quick, derisive exchange.
Semantic Fields	Public discourse, sarcasm, political critique.

Table 5: Extract from *Ice-Candy-Man*

Semantic Element	Description
Word Meaning	Emotional terms ("valued," "beautiful") indicate attachment.
Sentence Meaning	Expresses reluctance to leave beloved homeland.
Propositional Meaning	Speaker protests against forced displacement.
Semantic Roles	Speaker = emotionally attached; authority = pressure to leave.
Lexical Relations	Positive descriptors vs. "leave" = emotional conflict.

Semantic Element	Description
Semantic Fields	Home, belonging, resistance.

Table 6: Extract from _Ice-Candy-Man_

Semantic Element	Description
Word Meaning	"Cycles," "ache," "shattered hope" = routine and emotional pain.
Sentence Meaning	Narrator's hopes crushed daily by routine disappointment.
Propositional Meaning	Details parents' movements and narrator's reaction.
Semantic Roles	Father/mother = actors; narrator = hopeful observer.
Lexical Relations	Routine verbs with emotional terms = psychological toll.
Semantic Fields	Routine, expectation, disappointment.

Table 7: Extract from _An American Brat_

Semantic Element	Description
Word Meaning	Religious terms ("forgiveness," "faith") reflect devotion.
Sentence Meaning	Prayer reflects Zareen's spiritual gratitude and hope.
Propositional Meaning	Zareen expresses repentance and seeks divine help.
Semantic Roles	Zareen = supplicant; saints/angels = invoked protectors.
Lexical Relations	Blended Islamic/Zoroastrian terms = religious syncretism.
Semantic Fields	Faith, gratitude, divine protection.

Table 8: Extract from _An American Brat_

Semantic Element	Description
Word Meaning	Flight and taste metaphors ("fly," "bitter," "sweet") symbolize life.
Sentence Meaning	Encourages facing both good and bad experiences.
Propositional Meaning	Risk-taking and openness lead to growth.
Semantic Roles	Father Fibs = mentor; Feroza = listener.
Lexical Relations	Contrasting pairs enhance metaphorical guidance.
Semantic Fields	Growth, risk, experience.

Table 9: Extract from _An American Brat_

Semantic Element	Description
Word Meaning	Romantic visuals ("sapphire eyes," "glance") highlight attraction.
Sentence Meaning	Glance exchange implies mutual interest.
Propositional Meaning	Moment of silent emotional connection.
Semantic Roles	Protagonist = observer; David = gaze initiator.
Lexical Relations	Visual/emotional words intensify romantic subtext.
Semantic Fields	Attraction, non-verbal communication.

Table 10: Extract from *The Pakistani Bride*

Semantic Element	Description
Word Meaning	Mixed values: "sacrifice," "loot," "nobler passions."
Sentence Meaning	Emotional shift from inspiration to resentment.
Propositional Meaning	Audience reacts negatively despite moral intent.
Semantic Roles	Listeners = conflicted recipients; stories = intended motivators.
Lexical Relations	Moral ideals vs. greed indicate tension.
Semantic Fields	Disillusionment, morality, materialism.

Table 11: Extract from *The Pakistani Bride*

Semantic Element	Description
Word Meaning	Action terms ("bang," "skidded") evoke sudden chaos.
Sentence Meaning	Sudden gunshot causes dangerous truck movement.
Propositional Meaning	Chain of events from gunshot to vehicle reaction.
Semantic Roles	Gun = cause; truck = affected entity.
Lexical Relations	Sound and motion verbs intensify action scene.
Semantic Fields	Violence, motion, disruption.

Table 12: Extract from *The Pakistani Bride*

Semantic Element	Description
Word Meaning	"Tears," "smile," "grooves" depict concealed sadness.
Sentence Meaning	Conflict between Hamida's outward calm and inner sorrow.
Propositional Meaning	She hides her feelings but visible signs betray her pain.
Semantic Roles	Hamida = grieving subject; others = unaware.
Lexical Relations	Smile vs. tears = emotional contradiction.
Semantic Fields	Concealment, vulnerability, emotion.

Table 13: Extract from *The Crow Eaters*

Semantic Element	Description
Word Meaning	"Effort," "reward," "God" imply divine justice.
Sentence Meaning	Suggests payoff for Jerbanoo's sacrifices.
Propositional Meaning	Husband's kindness = result of her moral labor.
Semantic Roles	Jerbanoo = self-righteous actor; husband = changed recipient.
Lexical Relations	Hard work + moral language reinforce self-justification.
Semantic Fields	Sacrifice, validation, divine approval.

Table 14: Extract from *The Crow Eaters*

Semantic Element	Description
Word Meaning	"Broker," "friend," "gods" combine support and spiritual belief.

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Semantic Element	Description
Sentence Meaning	Neighbor offers Freddy comfort and hope.
Propositional Meaning	Encouragement tied to personal and divine reassurance.
Semantic Roles	Broker = guide/supporter; Freddy = distressed.
Lexical Relations	Terms of empathy and divine protection.
Semantic Fields	Faith, friendship, crisis management.

Table 15: Extract from *The Crow Eaters*

Semantic Element	Description
Word Meaning	Opulent descriptors ("brocade," "crystal") emphasize luxury.
Sentence Meaning	Lavish drawing room described in admiring detail.
Propositional Meaning	Group enters and observes elegant room setting.
Semantic Roles	Rodabai = guide; others = admiring guests.
Lexical Relations	Luxury items linked in setting description.
Semantic Fields	Grandeur, aesthetics, social setting.

This comprehensive semantic analysis using EFA conceptual framework uncovers how Sidhwa's lexicon and syntax collaborate to evoke emotion, develop character, and present cultural context. By using Frawley's semantic dimensions, this study highlights the layered meanings embedded in Sidhwa's narrative voice across her major works.

5. Discussion and Conclusion

Bapsi Sidhwa applies meaning construction in her novels by means of selecting words accurately and applying semantic tactics. Based on a corpus-oriented methodology, it could be identified that Sidhwa develops her narrative voice by uniting lexical, sentence structures, and a specific semantic in the reinforcement of the basic socio-political issues. Such themes are gender inequality, postcolonial identity, emotional trauma, and spiritual belief that run through multiple incidences of this book. Integrating lexical semantics and systemic functional linguistics, all the authors of the analysis interpret the layering of meaning in the texts of Sidhwa. Using semantic category of Frawley and systemic functional model advanced by Halliday, the paper determines how meaning is constructed at word, sentence and discourse level.

The narratives that were written by Sidhwa contain vivid senses of the senses. In the Water and Ice-Candy-Man, some words such as luxuriant or green ocean and Cass thrust up create and bring the picture images in the mind projecting nature to the feminine consciousness. Such words, which are usually related to the process of evaluation and affection, have some emotions that are vital to the text. The usage of visual and emotional stimuli is monotonous in our analysis of the corpus to emphasize the messages of the narrations. Gendered roles also came out as a dominant characteristic in the corpus. The text Water depicts a conversation between a child and an old widow in terms of perception and affective verbs to stress the theme of innocence and compassion. This is exemplified by such scenes where interpersonal metafunctions form and mirror social attitudes. On the contrary, the references such as to the horny bastard or to being stuck in this hell in The Pakistani Bride and Ice-Candy-Man represent male characters through the prism of female misery. Such wording captures feminist protest and psychological trauma.

Another level of Sidhwa texts is established through the religious discourse created on the basis of interfaith themes. The characters of hybridity with respect to religion in An American Brat are the character of Zareen and Sarosh. Semantic mediators are lexical items (such as forgiveness, neglect, kindness) that work as a bridge point between spiritual systems. Such speech marks emotional universality and plots the cultural convergence. The arrangement of space in the work by Sidhwa is part of the element of semantics, and this helps to criticize colonial and patriarchal systems. Elite drawing rooms, changes of location and broken journeys symbolize homelessness and a social distinction. To illustrate, a truck marred by bullets in The Pakistani Bride figuratively represents the fracture of life of a woman on account of violence. These are images that are repeated throughout her novels and a code that conveys social instability.

Syntax, also, is a form of creation of sense. In An American Brat, there is a syntactic ascent in the saying arms, shoulders, soar which leads to a metaphor of freedom. Such pattern is an example of linguistic foregrounding: the concepts to be treated as emotional ones are lifted by the rhythmic structure. Sidhwa is also very complex with language, which is exemplified by the richness in semantics. The research was done using systemic-functional and lexical-semantic resources that revealed stable connections between character identity, social ideology and linguistic expression. The study of the stylistics in the corpus has made it possible to have a close insight of how such narratives take meaning in many levels.

The Crow Eaters, The Pakistani Bride, Ice-Candy-Man, An American Brat and Water are five analyzed novels using Sketch Engine and CorpusMate. The methods used in both quantitative (frequency, concordance, collocations) and qualitative analysis presented the manner in which thematic profundity is coded through word choices and sentence structure. Sidhwa has adopted a sociolinguistic style, in which she combines Urdu and English. This code-mixing portrays the Pakistani duality in culture, and it is noticeable in all of her novels. It reflects the hybridity of culture and authenticity. As an example, in terms of transitivity patterns, female characters frequently become patients or victims of actions, particularly it is observed in scenes of a widowhood, marginalization, domestic violence.

The prevalent themes are marked in semantic fields of the corpus: words that refer to the role of the family (mother, marriage), traumas (pain, tears) and the notion of the spiritual (faith, prayer) are used with characteristic collocates. This confirms why gender, violence, and belief are at the center of her narration. The examples of lexical patterns include physical and emotional brutality of the Partition, which is brought out in Lexical patterns in Ice-Candy-Man, whereas paradoxical ideologies of the East and West are expressed by the use of words, as applied to An American Brat. The meanings further extend to the thematic meanings in the semantic relations like synonymy, antonymy and the metaphor. There is a tendency to contrast tradition and modernity or doubt and faith common to Sidhwa. These antagonisms are represented linguistically as internal conflicts and cultural conflicts. These kinds of pairing drive narrative unity and ideological sounding.

Cultural identity and personal experience have a semantic context that is shown in Sidhwa novels. Examples of interpersonal functions of language can be seen in the use of modal verbs and evaluative words by her. In their characters, women tend to resist indirect but strong wording choices. The cultural and gendered hierarchy can be expressed not only in the aspect of content but it is also expressed in modality and semantic roles. The results are consistent with the systemic functional linguistics. The ideative metafunction of the work by Sidhwa is one that regularly subjects men as actors (doing, commanding) and women as receivers (suffering, perceiving). This

draws attention to the issue of social power unevenness and forms a linguistic attack on patriarchy. The usage of modals and evaluative colloquialisms to display attitude and bargain social relations is observed in the represented characters used by her interpersonally. Textual metafunction can be seen in the repetitive characters and language changes that keep thematic consistency.

A similar role is played by lexical semantics. Words get their meaning by their cultural background and purpose of relation. To give an example, terms that are family-related have the connotation of respect, hierarchy, and an emotional burden. Likewise, the opposition of such concepts as freedom/duty or native/foreign constructs the conceptual frameworks of postcolonial and diasporic discourses. Another research area created by this corpus-based semantics approach is also brought about. Future research may focus on the use of feminist discourse analysis to the language usage in Sidhwa with an attempted detection of how the tiny orientations of agency and judgment contribute to gender discourse. A comparative analysis with other South Asian, or diasporic writers would be able to draw regional or authorial semantic characteristics. Moreover, the application of these techniques can improve the studies of translation and literary pedagogy in terms of determining the core semantic fields in order to achieve interpretive correctness.

To sum up, the language used in Sidhwa can be considered as a carrier of cultural, ideological and emotional content. Her art of semantics combines personal language and the shared memory of the people, and her novels become central works of feminism and postcolonial rhetoric. This paper presents us with the evidence of a careful analysis of meaning, through which it becomes clear that each and every word in Sidhwas fiction is laden with a sense of cultural intonation leading to his strong literary voice grounded in language depth.

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