

**RESEARCH PAPER****Lexical Bundles and their Thematic Role in *Moth Smoke*: A Corpus-Driven Study****¹Muhammad Ansar Ejaz, ²Muhammad Amir Abbas* and ³Muhammad Khalil**

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ABSTRACT

This research study aims to examine how Mohsin Hamid conveys significant themes through his lexical choices and their strategic placement in the novel *Moth Smoke*. Utilizing AntConc to analyze the text's corpora, the researcher identifies key themes, including the moral downfall of society, corruption, and disloyalty, as reflected in the keywords, collocational patterns, and lexical bundles extracted from the analysis. The study interprets these findings using Mahlberg's (2013) model, revealing that specific lexical bundles; such as recurring phrases associated with deceit and societal decay; enhance the reader's understanding of the thematic concerns. This analysis underscores that Hamid's deliberate lexical choices are instrumental in shaping the narrative's moral implications, illustrating how language intricately weaves the author's thematic intentions.

Keywords: Analysis, Lexical Patterns, Mahlberg, *Moth Smoke*, Themes**Introduction**

In the field of stylistics, qualitative analyses have traditionally relied on critical analysis and criticism, often criticized for their inherent subjectivity and lack of standardized approaches Aquilina (2014). McRae (1998) highlights several flaws in descriptive analysis, including the arbitrary selection of text segments, the absence of set standards for interpretation, and the subjective nature of human descriptions. These critiques have spurred experts to seek more rigorous methods for text analysis.

The emergence of corpus stylistics offers a solution through its machine-based quantitative approach. By utilizing corpora and electronic tools, corpus stylistics facilitates a systematic examination of both literary and non-literary texts, integrating semantic analysis with scholarly critique (Lindquist, 2009)). This dual focus on stylistics and corpus linguistics enables a more objective exploration of textual features (Egbert, 2012).

Stubbs (2005) outlines two primary objectives of corpus stylistics: to investigate text features using scientific tools and to interpret these features through specific theoretical frameworks. Pope (2012) further refines this focus by posing critical questions about the potential of corpus stylistics to reveal authors' intended meanings and produce comprehensive linguistic profiles.

This study employs corpus stylistics to analyze Mohsin Hamid's novel *Moth Smoke*, chosen for its rich thematic and linguistic complexity. Hamid's deliberate selection and placement of lexical items contribute significantly to the narrative's emotional depth and thematic resonance, making it an ideal case study. By exploring the corpus of *Moth Smoke*, the researcher aims to uncover the linguistic richness that underpins its themes, utilizing AntConc software to generate keywords, collocations, and cluster patterns. This research builds on previous studies in corpus stylistics, enhancing our understanding of how lexical

bundles can illuminate the relationship between language and thematic development in literature.

Literature Review

Mahlberg (2013) posits that corpus stylistics, an integration of corpus linguistics and literary stylistics, employs modern methodologies—such as statistical tests and computer programs—to investigate both literary and non-literary texts stored as corpora. This field focuses on identifying language patterns within texts, particularly literary ones, to uncover the underlying ideologies and meanings. By combining linguistic analysis with literary criticism, corpus stylistics seeks to decode deliberately encoded meanings and provide empirically supported conclusions.

Leech (2016) highlights a crucial aim of corpus stylistics: to clarify the relationship between computer-generated results and literary concerns. This approach bridges the gap between linguistic description and aesthetic appreciation, where linguistic observations enhance literary insights, leading to a continuous cycle of analysis. The researcher's ability to discern language features and engage with the text as a reader is fundamental to this process.

Previous research underscores the importance of linguistic selection in conveying thematic depth. Mahmood (2009) asserts that carefully chosen linguistic elements can encapsulate an entire theme, reflecting cultural, geographical, and religious contexts. Similarly, Fischer-Strake (2010) applied corpus-based techniques to analyze Jane Austen's prose, demonstrating the advantages of systematic and detailed text analysis. She argues that corpus stylistics enables researchers to examine minimal units of meaning, thereby yielding more reliable results than traditional analyses. This method provides insights that would be difficult to achieve through manual approaches, emphasizing the value of corpus stylistics in uncovering hidden meanings.

Recent studies have further expanded the application of corpus-driven analysis in literary contexts. For example, Baker (2019) explores how lexical bundles—recurrent sequences of words that carry specific meanings—can reveal thematic patterns in contemporary literature. This focus on lexical bundles is particularly relevant for understanding the nuanced language choices made by authors, as they play a critical role in shaping the reader's interpretation and experience of a text.

Recent research studies like Ejaz, et.al.(2022); Ejaz, et.al.(2024); Wu, (2021), and Ejaz, Mahmood, and Gill (2024) have proven that the use of Corpora has emerged as a powerful tool in literary and linguistic studies, providing a data-rich approach to understanding language use and stylistic features in texts. By employing large corpora, researchers can uncover patterns and trends that might go unnoticed in traditional analysis. This method allows for quantitative comparisons across genres, authors, and periods, revealing insights into word frequency, collocations, and syntactic structures. Furthermore, it fosters a more objective analysis by grounding interpretations in empirical data, thereby enhancing the rigour of stylistic studies. As the field continues to evolve, corpus-driven and corpus-based techniques are becoming indispensable for scholars aiming to explore the intricate relationship between language and meaning in literature.

In the context of Mohsin Hamid's *Moth Smoke*, the analysis of lexical bundles will be instrumental in elucidating the novel's themes. By examining the linguistic richness and patterns identified in the text, this study aims to contribute to the growing body of research in corpus stylistics and enhance our understanding of how language intricately shapes thematic development.

Material and Methods

In this study, the researcher analyzed the linguistic patterns in Mohsin Hamid's novel *Moth Smoke* using AntConc, employing the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) as a reference corpus due to its extensive and representative linguistic data. The analysis generated keywords, collocational patterns, and lexical clusters, where "keyness" highlighted terms significantly more frequently in the novel than in COCA. Five specific keywords were selected for in-depth analysis based on their relevance to the novel's themes and their frequency of occurrence, ensuring a focused examination of Hamid's linguistic choices. The researcher also conducted a manual review of the results to verify the context of each keyword, thereby providing a comprehensive understanding of the linguistic richness in *Moth Smoke* and contributing valuable insights to the field of corpus stylistics.

Results and Discussion

AntConc has generated a list of 225 keywords using COCA (Corpus of Contemporary American English) as reference text. Keywords are considered theme generators. Researchers start with these words to reach the end goal of results. In this research, only five of these 225 keywords have been discussed.

Table 1
Keywords in the Moth Smoke

Rank	Frequency	Keyness	Effect	Keywords
5	203	+1134.54	0.0055	Ozi
7	79	+443.16	0.0022	Manucci
8	173	+966.81	0.0047	Mumtaz
13	72	+402.28	0.002	Murad
14	68	+379.93	0.0018	Daru

These words have the potential to give a comprehensive glance at the novel's whole story. The writer has divided his naming words into two to show the hero's broken personality.

Table 1 presents these keywords along with their frequency, keyness, and effect. For example, the keyword "Ozi" ranks fifth with a frequency of 203 and a keyness value of +1134.54, indicating its significant presence in the text compared to COCA. This prominence suggests that "Ozi" plays a critical role in thematic development, likely representing aspects of the protagonist's identity or experiences. The other keywords, such as "manic," "Mumtaz," "Murad," and "Daru," also exhibit noteworthy frequencies and keyness values. The diversity in their keyness indicates varying thematic implications, with each keyword contributing to the overall narrative framework. For instance, "Mumtaz," with a frequency of 173 and a keyness of +966.81, could symbolize connections to love or loyalty, enriching the emotional landscape of the story.

Table 2
Keywords Showing the Hero's Broken Personality

Rank	Frequency	Keyness	Effect	Keywords
11	68	+381.45	0.0019	Daru
18	41	+229.97	0.0011	Darashikoh

Table 2 further explores the naming conventions in the novel, focusing on two specific keywords: "Daru" and "Darashikoh." The use of these names illustrates a contrast between the two facets of identity. "Daru" reflects a character associated with respect and integrity, whereas "Darashikoh" embodies the moral and financial decline of another character. This duality highlights the fractured nature of the protagonist's identity, suggesting that he grapples with inner turmoil and societal expectations. The prominence

of the name associated with downfall underscores the narrative's exploration of moral degradation and societal disintegration. The writer effectively conveys that the central character is deeply flawed, having strayed from a path of humanity and virtue. This internal division and moral failure suggest a broader commentary on the state of society, emphasizing that it too is fractured and in decline. Through the careful selection of names and their thematic implications, the study illustrates how Hamid crafts a complex portrayal of characters whose identities reflect the larger societal issues at play. The division inherent in the character names signals a narrative of loss, disillusionment, and the consequences of societal failure, reinforcing the overarching themes of *Moth Smoke*.

Table 3
Use of Two Words for the Name of Aurangzeb

Rank	Frequency	Keyness	Effect	Keyword
29	25	+140.22	0.0007	Aurangzeb
3	203	+1139.08	0.0056	Ozi

The analysis of character names and their thematic implications in *Moth Smoke* underscores how Mohsin Hamid intricately crafts a narrative that reflects broader societal issues. The careful selection of names, such as "Ozi," "Mumtaz," and "Daru," highlights the characters' identities and their connections to the themes of loss, disillusionment, and societal decay. Table 3 illustrates the significance of the name "Aurangzeb," which ranks 29th with a frequency of 25 and a keyness of +140.22. This suggests a deliberate choice to invoke historical connotations associated with power and downfall, reinforcing the narrative's exploration of moral complexities. In contrast, "Ozi" ranks much higher, with a frequency of 203 and a keyness of +1139.08, indicating its central role in the protagonist's identity and journey.

Table 4
Use of Two Words for the Name of Mumtaz

Rank	Frequency	Keyness	Effect	Keyword
5	173	+970.68	0.0047	Keyword
44	20	+112.18	0.0005	Zulfikar

Table 4 reveals the dual naming of "Mumtaz," which ranks 5th with a frequency of 173 and a keyness of +970.68. The presence of an additional name, "Zulfikar," with a lower frequency, emphasizes the multifaceted nature of the character. This suggests that "Mumtaz" may represent both admirable qualities and the potential for moral compromise, reflecting the complexities of human nature and the impact of societal pressures.

Table 5
Use of Two Words for the Name of the Servant

Rank	Frequency	Keyness	Effect	Keyword
65	20	+71.34	0.0005	Servant
7	79	+443.16	0.0022	Manucci

Table 5 examines the servant's name, with "servant" appearing alongside "manucci." This duality highlights class dynamics and social hierarchies present in the narrative, reinforcing the themes of exploitation and societal stratification. The representation of the character "Darashikoh" is particularly telling. The clusters associated with "Daru," such as "Daru and I were having an affair," "Daru had been arrested for killing," and "Daru? He's selling drugs now," indicate a shift in identity tied to harmful activities. Whenever the character engages in negative behaviours, he is referred to as "Daru," suggesting that this name encapsulates his moral decline and association with criminality. This pattern emphasizes that his actions are not merely personal failures but reflective of a broader societal malaise. The protagonist of the novel, through the naming conventions and collocational patterns associated with "Daru," embodies the fragmented identity of the society at large. The negative activities associated with his name serve as a

critique of societal values, portraying him as a product of his environment—a society grappling with moral decay and disillusionment. Representation of Darashikoh following the activities in which he is involved in the novel's story. Here are the clusters of Daru

- Three, not Daru and I were having an affair.
 22 Daru had been arrested for killing
 26 Daru? He's selling drugs now.

In all the above extracts, it is obvious that wherever the character is doing some type of harmful activity, the writer calls him Daru. He approaches some criminal societies with a very negative approach and a low mentality. The hero of the novel is representative of the whole society, and the collocation patterns of the hero are representative of the hero's personality.

Table 6
Collocation Patterns of the Hero

Rank Collocate	Frequency	Frequency-L	Frequency-R	State
76	2	1	1	Affair
45	1	1	0	Launder
121	1	0	1	Killing
52	1	0	1	Hypocrite
54	1	0	1	Drugs

The analysis of collocation patterns associated with the hero of *Moth Smoke* reveals a stark portrayal of his personality and, by extension, reflects the moral and societal decay present in the narrative. Table 6 presents several significant collocates, each of which contributes to a deeper understanding of the protagonist's character and the broader thematic implications. The presence of the word "affair" indicates infidelity and moral compromise. This collocate suggests that the protagonist is entangled in deceitful relationships, symbolizing the breakdown of trust not only in personal relationships but also within society as a whole. The associated high frequency indicates that such behaviours are central to the hero's narrative arc. The term Launderer This term implies involvement in illicit activities, particularly related to money laundering. The association of the hero with such a term highlights themes of corruption and the lengths to which individuals will go to escape moral responsibility. It reflects the broader societal issues of crime and dishonesty that permeate the fabric of the community. The mention of "killing" signifies violence and loss, underscoring a drastic moral decline. This word suggests that the hero is linked to life-altering decisions that contribute to a culture of violence, reinforcing the narrative's critique of societal disintegration. The label of "hypocrite" suggests a dissonance between the hero's public persona and private actions. This term captures the essence of moral duplicity prevalent in the story, emphasizing that the hero embodies traits that are increasingly common in society—publicly adhering to societal norms while privately engaging in morally questionable behaviour. The connection to drugs signals not only the hero's struggles but also reflects a larger societal issue concerning addiction and its implications. This association paints a grim picture of a society grappling with substance abuse, further illustrating the character's descent into a world of crime and vice.

The fall of the whole society is evident in the frequency of the following words: This downfall has also been presented in the word frequencies.

Table 7
This Downfall is Presented in the Word Frequencies

Rank	Frequency	Word
1782	4	Robbery
1783	4	Robbing

3787	1	Bankruptcies
333	26	Kill

The word frequencies in Table 7 highlight the pervasive themes of societal downfall and moral decay within *Moth Smoke*. The presence of terms related to crime, deceit, and destruction underscores a narrative steeped in negative societal conditions. Words like "robbery," "robbing," "robbed," and "robber" (with frequencies of 4, 4, 2, and 2 respectively) indicate a significant focus on theft and criminality. This frequency suggests that such acts are not only common in the narrative but also reflect the desperation and moral decline within society. The recurring terms "kill," "killed," "killing," and "lies" illustrate a culture of violence and deceit. The high frequencies of "killing" (14) and "kill" (26) point to the normalization of violence, while "lie" (22) and "lies" (6) indicate a deep-seated dishonesty among individuals, further contributing to societal erosion. The terms "bribe," "corrupted," "corrupt," and "corruption" reveal systemic moral failings. The frequency of these words reflects a society in which ethical boundaries have been crossed, highlighting a culture of greed and betrayal. Words like "fall," "falling," "falls," "Fallen," "decreasing," "destructive," "destroy," and "destroyed" suggest a narrative steeped in decline. The repetition of these terms indicates a consistent theme of deterioration, both personally and collectively, painting a picture of a society that is failing. The analysis emphasizes that names and labels in society often reflect the individual's circumstances. Ordinary people are identified by their actions in formal contexts, while those from elite backgrounds may be addressed with nicknames, even in negative situations. This discrepancy reveals societal biases and the impact of status on identity.

The name of the character Daru is changed as the situation changes. 12 colleague Darashikoh revealed Collocation patterns of the characters' names also change as the situation changes. Collocation patterns of the word Darashikoh as he moves into the civilised situation.

Table 8
Collocation Patterns of the WORD DARASHIKOH

Rank	Frequency	Frequency-L	Frequency-R	State	Collocate
63	1	0	1	8.47383	Vision
74	1	0	1	7.79576	Raise
176	2	2	0	4.36113	Mumtaz

The writer uses Ozi instead of Aurangzeb when involved in some low-level activity.

29 Ozi began drinking

82 Ozi killed,

The analysis reveals a dynamic interplay between the character names and their corresponding situational contexts, particularly for the characters Daru and Ozi in *Moth Smoke*. The shifting names and collocation patterns signify changes in social status and moral behaviour, underscoring the characters' complexities and the thematic exploration of identity. The character's name transitions from "Daru" to "Darashikoh" based on the situation. This change suggests a dual identity, reflecting his movement between different societal contexts. The usage of "Darashikoh" in more civilized or elevated situations, as indicated by collocates like "vision" (Frequency: 1) and "raise" (Frequency: 1), implies a striving for respectability and social recognition. The presence of "Mumtaz" (Frequency: 2) in collocation patterns indicates relationships that influence his status, further emphasizing his fluctuating identity as he navigates social hierarchies. In contrast, the name "Ozi" is employed in contexts that denote low-level or immoral activities, such as drinking and killing. For example, phrases like "Ozi began drinking" and "Ozi killed" highlight his descent into behaviours that align with societal disrepute. The use of this name instead of Aurangzeb underscores a loss of dignity and moral standing, suggesting

that the character's identity is heavily influenced by his actions and the situations he finds himself in. Collocations of this word also change as the situation of the word changes.

Table 9
Change in the Collocations with Change in the Situation

Rank	Frequency	Frequency-L	Frequency-R	State	Collocate
669	1	1	0	2.40052	Daru
531	1	0	1	3.73309	Killed
526	1	1	0	3.73309	Wrong

The analysis of collocations associated with the word "Daru" highlights how the contextual meaning of the term evolves alongside the character's situation, emphasizing the broader themes of societal decline and moral compromise in *Moth Smoke*. The collocates reveal a significant transformation in the meaning of "Daru" based on the situations in which it appears. The presence of "killed" (Frequency: 1) alongside "Daru" indicates a direct association with violent actions. This linkage suggests that the character's identity is intertwined with aggression and crime, further reinforcing themes of moral decay within society. The collocate "wrong" (Frequency: 1) illustrates the ethical ambiguity surrounding the character's actions. The inclusion of this term signals a recognition of the moral implications of his behaviour, suggesting an awareness of societal norms and their deviations from them. This adds depth to the character's portrayal, as it implies an internal struggle with the choices he makes. The overall pattern of collocations reflects a society deeply engaged in illegal activities and moral degradation. The shifts in the context of the word "Daru" not only signify the character's journey but also serve as a microcosm for the societal issues present in the narrative. The use of keywords associated with violence and wrongdoing paints a grim picture of a community grappling with ethical failures and criminal behaviour.

Table 10
Collocation Patterns of the Word Ozi.

Rank-Collocate	Frequency	Frequency-L	Frequency-R	State
166	1	0	6.48798	Kills
531	1	0	3.73309	Killed
274	1	0	5.48798	Corrupt

The collocation patterns for the characters Ozi, Mumtaz, and Daru, along with the thematic explorations of class division and materialism, highlight critical aspects of character identities and societal issues in *Moth Smoke*. The words associated with Ozi—"kills," "killed," and "corrupt"—paint a troubling picture of his character. The repeated associations with violence indicate a propensity for lethal actions, suggesting that Ozi embodies a threatening presence within the narrative. His connection to corruption further emphasizes themes of moral decay and ethical failings. This aligns Ozi with a darker side of societal behaviour, indicating that he is deeply entrenched in the underbelly of the community's moral landscape.

Table 11
The Collocation Patterns Mumtaz

Rank	Collocate	Frequency	Frequency-L	Frequency-R	State
218	1	1	0	5.91133	Sexy
84	1	1	0	7.71869	Illegal
260	1	1	0	5.71869	Corrupt

The collocations related to Mumtaz—"sexy," "illegal," and "corrupt"—reflect a complex and potentially problematic characterization. The term "sexy" could suggest allure and seduction, while "illegal" and "corrupt" hint at moral ambiguity and societal transgressions. Together, these words suggest that Mumtaz occupies a space that straddles

desirability and moral compromise, illustrating how personal identity is entwined with societal issues of legality and ethics.

Table 12
Collocation Patterns of the Word Daru.

Rank	Collocate	Frequency	Frequency-L	Frequency-R	State
45	1	1	0	8.48089	Launderer
121	1	0	1	6.25850	Killing

The associations with Daru—"launderer" and "killing"—emphasize his involvement in illicit activities. The term "launderer" indicates a direct engagement with crime and highlights themes of financial corruption. These collocations reinforce the notion that Daru is also a product of a deteriorating societal structure, mirroring the broader issues of crime and moral failure.

Table 13
The Theme of Class Division in Society

Rank	Frequency	Word
1542	5	Upper
808	10	Lower

The frequency of the words "upper" (5) and "lower" (10) suggests an underlying theme of class division within the narrative. This binary reinforces the social stratification present in the story, illustrating how characters navigate their identities and relationships based on their social standing.

Table 14
Words Representing Materialism

Rank	Frequency	Word
171	56	Money
1864	4	Wealth
3333	2	Status
279	32	Jobs
6227	1	Richest
1574	4	Banks

The high frequency of the word "money" (56) in various collocations signals a pervasive materialistic ethos within the society depicted in the novel. Terms like "wealth," "status," "rich," and "bank" suggest that characters are often driven by economic aspirations and struggles. This fixation on money not only shapes individual identities but also serves as a critique of the societal values that prioritize material success over moral integrity.

Table 15
The Third Keyword "Mumtaz"

Rank	Frequency	Keyness	Effect	Keywords
8	173	+966.81	0.0047	Mumtaz

Mumtaz is the wife of Ozi. She is the only female character in the story. Here, the writer has also been wise in selecting the character of Mumtaz. She is the only female member of the society. She has to be representative of the housewives, the educated ladies, the jobholders, the jobless, and every woman in society in one way or another. Her name is also very tricky. She is named as Mumtaz. This name is meaningful from different angles. This shows the distinct nature of Mumtaz. This is depictive of her modernism. This shows her prominence in the society. The writer has used various names for this character in the novel.

Table 16
Names of Female Characters as Keywords

Rank	Frequency	Keyness	Effects	Keywords
5	173	+970.68	0.0047	Mumtaz
44	20	+112.18	0.0005	Zulfiqar
31	25	+140.22	0.0007	Manto

Very beautifully, all three names of the female character come in the list of keywords used by the writer. This shows the writer's grip over the text's vocabulary and structure to develop it by the story's theme. Here, the purpose is to represent the all-female members of the society; this is why the writer has devised a new technique. He has devised three significant names for the same character. He has knitted all these names in a way that this technique does not seem to be awkward. Mumtaz is also from a society that has fallen morally and socially. It has lost all its value. All the members of the society are involved in deceiving one another one way or the other. None of them are loyal to each other. Mumtaz is Ozi's wife, but she is not faithful to him, and vice versa. Daru is Ozi's best friend, but he is not loyal to him, and vice versa. Mumtaz is Daru's girlfriend, but she is not faithful to him, and vice versa. All this shows that all the characters have lost social and moral values. All of them have fallen morally. The character of Mumtaz is also from this very society. She is also one of these characters. She is also morally ill and has fallen from the level of a good lady of society. Typically, ladies are considered very soft-hearted and a sign of loyalty. Every type of love and kindness is represented through the symbol of women. Women are always considered as the guards of the values of the family and society. They are the caretakers of the family and their values. They are supposed to be very soft-hearted and kind-hearted.

The lady simultaneously plays the roles of spouse, accomplice, coordinator, overseer, chief, re-maker, disburser, business analyst, mother, drill sergeant, instructor, wellbeing official, craftsman, and sovereign in the family.

Table 17
The Fourth Keyword "Murad"

Rank-	-Frequency-	-Keyness-	- Effect-	-Keyword-
13	72	+402.28	0.002	Murad

Murad is an educated man. He is a master. He is jobless. Murad Badshah is a massive criminal character and Darashikoh's accomplice. His life is a genuine image of Karl Marx's hypothesis. He is M.A. English; however, he drives a cart by joblessness because he has a place with a working-class family, and he can't bear the cost of enormous defilement for the work. When he can't get his privilege in the public eye, he moves against that society. He committed numerous violations of society's rules and values. He became a drug, burglar, and, lastly, a killer. He is also involved in other harmful activities. Collocation patterns of the word put a stamp on this fact.

Table 18
Collocation Patterns of the Word "Murad"

Rank	Coolocate	Frequency	Frequency-L	Frequency-R	State
109	1	1	0	7.17603	Rickshaw
125	3	0	3	6.9245	Rickshaw
216	2	1	1	5.10075	Bad
155	2	1	1	6.28295	Kill
159	1	0	1	6.17603	Crime

Murad's character arc illustrates a transformation into a criminal, driven by a sense of injustice and societal failure. His involvement in drug dealing, burglary, and ultimately murder reflects a descent into moral ambiguity and crime. The mention of him being a "massive criminal" and an accomplice to Darashikoh suggests a deep entanglement in a cycle of violence and illegality. The collocations associated with Murad further

illuminate his character's struggles and actions: The frequency of these terms indicates his low socioeconomic status and the type of work he is forced into. It highlights a life constrained by poverty. This collocates, appearing in a context with a frequency of 2, signifies moral failure and societal disapproval, suggesting that Murad's choices have negative repercussions both personally and within the larger community. The associations with violent and criminal activities point to his transformation from an educated individual to someone deeply entrenched in a life of crime. This underscores a critique of societal structures that fail to provide meaningful opportunities for individuals like Murad, pushing them towards illegal paths.

The fifth and last word selected for the analysis is Manucci.

Table 19
The Fifth Keyword "Manucci"

Rank-	-Frequency-	-Keyness-	- Effect-	-Keyword-
7	7	+443.16	0.0022	manucci

With a frequency of 79 and a keyness score of +443.16, the name "Manucci" signifies a notable presence in the narrative. This suggests that Manucci plays a pivotal role, particularly in illustrating the dynamics of class and morality in the story. Manucci is emblematic of the lower class, highlighting how individuals in this socioeconomic group are often more aligned with societal values compared to their wealthier counterparts. His character reflects the struggles and moral dilemmas faced by those at the bottom of the social hierarchy. The text suggests that Manucci embodies a sense of moral integrity, as he actively tries to dissuade Daru from engaging in illegal activities. His decision to leave his job rather than compromise his principles underscores a strong adherence to ethical values, even in the face of economic hardship. This portrayal challenges stereotypes of lower-class individuals as being inherently corrupt or morally flexible, instead showcasing their capacity for principled stands. Manucci's actions highlight a conflict between the values of the lower class and the moral decay often associated with the upper class. By refusing to participate in illegal practices, he serves as a foil to characters like Daru, who become entangled in crime. This contrast emphasizes the narrative's critique of a society where wealth often leads to ethical corruption, while the lower class strives to maintain integrity despite their circumstances.

Discussion

Mohsin Hamid's selection and placement of keywords in the novel *Moth Smoke* have been superb. Mohsin Hamid's elusive phrasing is also of extraordinary fascination to the readers. For this purpose, he uses whatever sources are accessible, modern or ancient, contemporary or obsolete. Mohsin Hamid is also well known for the use of unusual syntax. The current research study has explored the linguistic patterns of the novel to find out the role of lexical items, placement of the words, collocations and cluster patterns in the development of themes of the novel. The writer used the lexical bundles to show the sensitivity of the event. He seems to check the pulse of the event and then place the words for its description: his lexical choices and their placement change with the change in the event of the story. The collocational patterns of the keywords are also built very wisely and deliberately. The novel's readers understand the story more deeply because of these collocational patterns. The researcher has generated these collocational patterns with the help of AntConc. With the help of keywords, the collocational patterns can potentially convey the whole story of the novel. Apart from the keywords and collocational patterns, the researcher also generated cluster patterns for the keywords. The cluster patterns provide an in-depth understanding of the events and themes of the story. The themes of the moral downfall of society, corruption, illegal practices, disloyalty, and extramarital relationships are mechanically knit in the placement of keywords and their collocational and cluster patterns.

Conclusion

The novel *Moth Smoke* by Mohsin Hamid has been analysed in the current research study. The researcher has explored the keywords, collocations, and cluster patterns built by the author to develop the story's events. The researcher generated these keywords, collocations, and cluster patterns through AntConc. It has been proved that writers deliberately select and place various lexical items and linguistic patterns. These are always to the sensitivity of the event of the story. These help the readers understand the story and keep them busy in reading. By accurately placing lexical items, the writer can keep his readers on their toes to know what will happen in the next moment. Moreover, the story of the novel and its themes can be easily understood through the study of keywords and their collocational and cluster patterns. Here, the themes of illegal practices, materialism, the moral downfall of society, and disloyalty are visible in the keywords, their collocations, and cluster patterns. To conclude, writers are always deliberate in their selection and placement of linguistic choices.

Recommendations

Moth Smoke could also be studied through the analysis of grammatical structures and figurative language. Hamid's other works may be studied by comparing the works of South Asian authors to have a deep insight into the linguistic strategies used by the authors. Moreover, advanced tools of analysis e.g. NVivo may be used for semantic analysis.

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