



**A CORPUS-BASED STUDY OF NOUNS USED AS METAPHORS
SHOWING PESSIMISM IN T.S. ELIOT'S *THE WASTE LAND***

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ABSTRACT

*The present Corpus-based study aims to identify the nouns used as metaphors showing pessimism in *The Waste Land* by T.S. Eliot. The study tries to determine the role of metaphors in creating pessimism in poetry and also to prove the effectiveness of the application of Corpus methodology to study this phenomenon. Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT) of Lakoff and Johnson (1980) has been used as a framework. For better results, a mixed-method approach, Corpus methodologies and tools, AntConc 3.5.8, CLAWS7, WebCorp Live, and WORDCounter are applied to obtain and analyze data. The study reveals that metaphors or metaphorical words play a vital role in creating pessimism in the poem. This study also offers a comprehensive and objective source for ELT teachers, learners, and researchers who desire to use the Corpus methodologies and tools to study metaphors and their pedagogical implications in any literary text by using both qualitative and quantitative approaches.*

KEYWORDS: *AntConc 3.5.8, Conceptual Metaphor Theory, Corpus-Based Study, Corpus Methodology, Metaphorical Nouns, Pedagogical implications, Pessimism, Poetry, *The Waste Land*, WebCorp Live.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Literary texts are not only the source of entertainment and feast for aesthetic senses but also the reflection of the reality of any society they are constructed in it. They are like animated



things affected by outer things and circumstances and situations. There is no concept of any language without the use of metaphors. Steen et al. (2010) explored that almost one out of every seven lexical items, in the British National Corpus (BNC), is metaphorical. According to Deignan's view (2005), initially, metaphors were considered as a mere figurative tool, having a rhetorical and decorative role in language to enhance the beauty of any text where they functioned as symbols of something else. A lot of work is done regarding the use of metaphors and pessimism in *The Waste Land* but without the combination of nouns and Corpus methodology, which is a highly beneficial and accurate method to understand the true nature of the investigation in any study.

With the advent of Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT) projected by Lakoff and Johnson (1980) now metaphorical expressions can be seen more than decorative devices. By Lakoff and Johnson (1980) metaphors were seen as a systematic conceptual part of human language, without metaphors, it is impossible to imagine any language. They opine that the use of metaphors is prevalent in human life; they are omnipresent not only in our language but also in our ways of thinking and conceptualizing things. Poetry is the richest genre of text that deals with rhetorical devices and aesthetic expressions and even a short poem can contain more metaphors than any newspaper, novel, or a play. Newmark (1981) stated that they are used to create situations, thoughts, themes, and bring vivid clarity and also used to shock and attract people. Newmark (1988) mentioned that there are two major functions of metaphors: rhetorical and cognitive. To reveal the disillusionment of waste landers, the exercise of these functions can be seen at their peak in the poem.

Metaphors are frequently used in Modern English poetry is highly rich. This device is employed to portray complex abstract ideas and concepts of the modern man. Thomas Stern Eliot, the noble prize winner, is a modern poet, famous for the most appreciated poem *The Waste Land* which deals with the post-world war situation and is the best example of pessimism. He was born in the United State of America in 1888 and passed away in London in 1965 (Bush, 1991). He has a multidimensional personality and a novel style of writing. Above all, he is handy with the use of metaphors among his contemporaries. For this purpose, he takes metaphors not only from the English language and culture but also from different languages, cultures, and pieces of literature around the globe. His work contains a rich variety of genres and literary devices as well (Murphy, 2007).

His poem, *The Waste Land* is accounted for the famous English poems in the modern era. It is the longest and complex poem of the 20th century in American and English literature. Lennard (1996) commented about the complexity of Eliot's style by saying that if a lecture is delivered related to Eliot's work, you would see many students are not able to respond to it, because he is too complex to describe or understand. *The Waste Land* has five sections with titles. The first section is known as "*The Burial of the Dead*"; the second section named as "*A Game of Chess*", the third section is titled as "*The Fire Sermon*", the fourth one is "*Death by Water*" and the last section is opened as "*What the Thunder Said*". This poem shows the pessimistic view, miserable situation, soulless people, collapsing city and culture, and dejected tone in each stanza (Hammad, 2014). To create such a pessimistic tone he gathered all aspects; references and metaphors from history, myth, and everyday life. Thomas Sterns Eliot was a modern poet and he was influenced by his surroundings and social, cultural, political-religious



turmoil of that time. His poem carries the best description of the sense of anxiety, dejection, and lifelessness of Waste Landers. That is the reason for choosing Eliot and his poem for analysis in this study.

There are some important terms and definitions which are discussed in this article such as poetry, metaphor, pessimism, and Corpus Linguistics, as given below:

Poetry is a source for the writers to express their emotions and feelings with the help of rhetorical language using rhythm and style, which give beauty to their thoughts. With the help of imagination, the poets can intensify the feelings and emotions and also provide a source for catharsis to readers. For this task, language plays a vital role. The poet cautiously uses different figures of speech by choosing different sound patterns and rhythm in different meters to create an effective impact in his writing ("Poetry", n.d.). By doing this he also keeps in mind that the true meaning of the poem should be transferred to the reader with the help of these literary devices. For this purpose, figures of speech like metaphor, simile, hyperbole, and metonymy are commonly used by the poets.

In Merriam Webster's online dictionary, it is stated that Metaphor is an expression in which the meaning of a word or phrase is given to another opposite word, idea, action or phrase to show likeness or unlikeness between them ("Metaphor", n.d.). The most appreciated example of a metaphor from English literature is "the entire world's a stage" from Shakespearean monologue "As You Like It". My house is a prison, life is a rollercoaster, the curtain of night fell upon us, etc.

Pessimism is a negative perception about every aspect of life in which people only go for undesirable and pessimistic outcomes from a specific situation ("Pessimism", n.d.). Pessimists always concentrate on the negatives instead of positives in life. It can be said that all bad events, expecting evil outcomes, obstacles, helplessness, powerlessness, looking black side of the things and even the tendency of focusing on the half-empty glass can be encompassed in single word pessimism. Metaphors are useful sources to investigate and reveal abstract concepts and mental attitudes.

Corpus Linguistics does not contain anything new about language rather it provides systematic unbiased investigations and results with the application of software upon a data source. It is a combination of methodology and procedures which deal with a collection of linguistic data in a machine-readable form, either videos, written texts or a transcription of recorded or spoken speech; which can be used as a starting-point of linguistic description or as a means of verifying hypotheses about a language (McEnery & Hardie, 2011). Studies that use a Corpus-based methodology, are those which make use of the Corpus to propose, investigate verify, or refuse a particular theory of language (Tognini-Bonelli, 2001).

Bujanova (2013) mentioned that Corpus Stylistics is a way to unify the language and literature in an integral form within a single study. In other words, it can be said that Corpus methodology is one of the scientific and objective ways to get authentic results by using a single (qualitative or quantitative) or double approach in any study. There are several online and offline Corpus tools to analyze any type of data such as AntConc 3.5.8 (Anthony, 2019), WebCorp Live (1999), WordsSmith, Wmatrix, The Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA), British National Corpus (BNC), and The Constituent Likelihood Automatic Word-Tagging System 7



(CLAWS7). These tools deal with a million of data within a single click. This Corpus methodology is easy to explore, time-saving, and reliable in results.

1.1 Objectives of the Study

The research objectives for this study are:

- To examine the role of metaphorical nouns in creating pessimism in poetry,
- To identify the frequent use of nouns as metaphors in Eliot's *The Waste Land*,
- To find out the effectiveness and application of Corpus methodology.

1.2 Research Questions

The study attempts to answer these research questions:

- Q.1) How do metaphorical nouns play an important role in constructing pessimism in poetry?
- Q.2) How frequent are nouns used as metaphors in *The Waste Land*?
- Q.3) To what extent does the application of Corpus methodology help in analyzing metaphors in Poetry?

1.3 Significance of the Study

Corpus Linguistics is a relatively new subject in Pakistan and there is a dearth of work related to Corpus in Literature. The reason behind conducting this study is that a lot of work has been done on English poetry and metaphors related to pessimism but there is an absence of Corpus methodology in it. In this regard, this research efforts to explore the role of nouns, instead of taking verbs, adjectives, allusions, or symbols, used as metaphors in creating pessimism in the genre of poetry with the help of Corpus tools and methodology. This Corpus-based study tried to explain the nature and use of metaphors to create extraordinary effects in poetry. This study can be useful for those teachers who crave to convey the exact nature of metaphors that are not just rhetoric devices but also a useful tool for perceiving the conceptual understanding of the text.

This Corpus-based study would be a guideline for future researchers who want to understand the role, importance, and application of Corpus methodology to solve the numerous issues related to metaphors and other literary devices. This Corpus-based study can give a contribution to empirical findings in a scientific way. It can be a reference for those students who want to study Corpus Linguistics as a tool and know about it whether it is a subject or methodology. Finally, the current study aspired to add something useful to the research field related to the pedagogical implications of literary devices in ELT. Furthermore, it can stimulate the Corpus researchers to explore new vistas for the betterment and development of both Corpus methodology and metaphors and to change the views related to Corpus and stylistic devices as well.

1.4 Delimitations of the Study

There is a wide range of poets and literary devices and genres in modern poetry that can create pessimism very well and there are also several Corpus approaches and tools to analyze data as well. It was difficult to cover all the corpus methodologies, literary genres, devices, and



themes of the poem within a single study. So, for better results and comprehensive view in a short period (through the application of Corpus methodology), this study focused only on some verses which contain metaphorical nouns, that are used to create pessimism in *The Waste Land* by T.S. Eliot, with the help of AntConc 3.5.8, CLAWS7, WORDCounter (2016) and WebCorp Live.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

There are considerable previous studies on metaphors, semantic and lexicogrammatical metaphors that investigate the nature of metaphors in poetry, texts, and discourses to make them more charming, rhetoric, symbolic, moving, and obscure. Such work is done by Cap and Okulska (2013) in which they investigated different genres in the political paper. Kazemian and Hashemi (2014) checked rhetoric devices in Obama's speech. Noor et al. (2015) investigated metaphors in the last sermon of the holy prophet Hazrat Muhammad (P.B.U.H). But all of these studies were conducted on different genres and discourses instead of poetry. This present Corpus-based study attempts to explore the role of nouns used as metaphors in creating pessimism in poetry. The study is also novel in this way that it tries to fill the space by considering nouns, instead of symbols, adjectives, and verbs, used as metaphors with the application of Corpus methodology as compared to previous works.

Aiken (as cited in Darwish, and Al-Widyan, 2016) stated, *The Waste Land* as a mirror upon modern society and provides the broken images of values, ethics, and peace, and confuse nation in a kaleidoscopic view. Most of Eliot's poems such as "Four Quartets", "Gerontion", "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" and "The Hollow Men" express the spiritual bankruptcy, chaos, confusion, and cultural anarchy of the postwar era. Rivers and Walker's (1978) paper on this poem showed the lack of sexual purity, love, and romance in the modern age and confirmed the theme of debauchery and sexual aridity by referring the allusion to Dante's "Inferno" which is used by Eliot in his poem.

Dwivedi (1984) described in his paper that *The Waste Land* shows significant loss of culture, values, and life in human life with the marvelous and wise use of metaphors and complex allusions taken from other cultures. Stephen, M. (1984) mentioned that the modern age in poetry, in its true sense, begins with T.S. Eliot. His poetry moved from skepticism and despair to Christian faith and hope and known as *The Waste Land* revolutionized poetry. The use of a variety of works created, what Lewis (2007) said, a collage of poetic fragments to create the sense of speaking for an entire culture in crisis. Verse form, choice of diction, metaphors, allusions, myths, and historical- religious references, techniques, and devices for the representation of themes of desolation, uncertainty, hollowness, and nothingness all are encapsulated very well in this poem.

Everything in this poem is sad and dead. The people miss things that have passed or ended. They are also indifferent to what happens to them. The images and seasons are dark, cruel, and desolate" all of these are recaptured with the help of metaphors, allusions, and similes. There were many works on Eliot's *The Waste Land* on allusion, ethics, post-war situation, spirituality, psychological and ecological aspects, and cultural norms. There are also some other works on poetry with the application of Corpus Stylistics, for instance, McIntyre and Walker (2010) worked on the investigation of William Blake's "Songs of Innocence and of Experience" with

the comparison of semantic and lexical items with the help of Wmatrix software. Applying CMT, Nguyen (2013) explored EMOTION IS LIQUID by comparing similarities and differences in English and Vietnamese language samples taken from different American and Vietnamese Corpora. He declared that there is a minor difference in the use of metaphors in both languages.

Brooke et al., (2015) located different voices in *The Waste Land* by using computer analysis to find out the difference between the computer and human analysis. They successfully distinguish semantic and clustering voices by using the profiling approach and strengthen the claim of voices, especially, by applying a quantitative approach. Darwish and Al-Widyan (2016) explored Eliot's approach toward ethical aspects and retrogression of values and sexual impurity by referring to different samples of the poem through qualitative discussion. Ayassrah and Alidmat (2017) proved that metaphors are a useful source for creating pessimism in poetry by using qualitative analysis; they discussed the verses of *The Waste Land* taken from different sections of the poem. This analysis was done by using a descriptive qualitative approach. In another research, Ayassrah and Azmi (2019) compared the percentage of conceptual metaphors in modern English and modern Arabic poetry by using CMT theory. They used modern English poem *The Waste Land* by Eliot and modern Arabic poem *The Rain* by Al-Sayyab. Jaafar (2018) worked on *The Waste Land* to interpret the poetic diction by using Corpus tools. The researcher analyzed the data by focusing on semantic domains with the application of Wmatrix and with keyword features in the text by using WebCorp Live. Jaafar (2019) also examined the poem "A Herbal" by Seamus Heaney to check the use and importance of stylistic devices, with the help of WebCorp Live and Wmatrix, and concluded that the application of Corpus methodology can be used with both qualitative and quantitative study to get objective results.

3. METHODOLOGY

This Corpus-based study used a mixed-method approach to investigate the metaphorical nouns showing pessimism in *The Waste Land* and to determine the usefulness of the application of Corpus methodology in data analysis was also the concern of this current study. "Conceptual Metaphor Theory" of Lakoff and Johnson (1980) was used in this study as a theoretical framework. In Lakoff and Johnson's view, metaphors are inborn faculty of the human cognitive system and they are considered an essential part of the conceptual system for all language users. They are an all-pervasive phenomenon. With the assistance of metaphors abstract and opposite concepts are explained. Metaphors play an important role in understanding the abstract ideas, thoughts, and phenomenon of reality comprehensively; and in conveying meaning effectively. They are not bound to literary texts only but also can be found in non-literary texts. The components that make the identification and understanding of metaphors are based on abstract conceptual domain and concrete semantic linguistic expressions. They can be understood in terms of their linguistic expressions, semantic function, nature, and level of generality. Yasir and Ghani, (2022) found that corpus methodology integration with quantitative approach brings more generalizability, and less biasness in the findings. Ghani and Hafeez (2025), found in their works that the combination of both approaches enhance the generalizability of the data and minimize the risk of biasness with the detailed overview of human cognition as well as behavior (Saeed et al., 2020; Ghani & Hafeez, 2025; Mustafa & Ghani, 2025).



3.1 Data Collection Tools

Different tools were applied in this study to collect and analyze data. The PDF document of the poem *The Waste Land* (Eliot, 1922) was downloaded from the internet. Then this data was converted into plain text to make it workable for Corpus tools. After that, the data was tagged by using the CLAWS7 [CLAWS WWW tagger](#). It is a part of speech tagging tool for BNC launched by Lancaster University. This tagged data was used for further analysis in AntConc 3.5.8. WebCorp Live and WORDCounter an online website were brought into use to generate the content words list and the information about the exact number of verses, paragraphs, and characters used in the poem respectively. Further, these metaphorical words were analyzed to get their frequency and percentage of metaphors in the poem to determine their role in creating a pessimistic or optimistic view of the poem.

3.2 Procedure

For this purpose, AntConc 3.5.8, CLAWS7, and WebCorp Live Corpus tools were used to analyze the data. For Corpus analysis data was in text machine-readable form. So, in this regard, data material *The Waste Land* poem was chosen from the internet then it was converted into the plain text from PDF to a simple document by using Google online file converter to make it workable with Corpus tools. To identify the noun, used in this poem the data was uploaded on an online Corpus tool CLAWS7 to get it tagged. This is an online Corpus tool that Tags the large scale of written or spoken English data within a very short time. Then the tagged file was uploaded to AntConc 3.5.8 and the required nouns were looked up in search bar. For better and valid data concordance hits, frequency, and KWIC (keyword in context) was also analyzed to strengthen the claim. The plain text of the poem was also pasted in WORDCounter to count the exact number of words, characters, and lines. Then, this text again copied to WebCorp Live to generate a content word list. Latterly, nouns were counted from CLAWS7 tagged data and studied carefully twice to obtain the frequency of occurrence and percentage of nouns to reveal the pessimistic and optimistic shade of the poem.

4. DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

In this analysis, an effort was done to identify and evaluate the metaphorical nouns which show pessimism in *The Waste Land* with the help of Corpus tool AntConc 3.5.8. The context of a word can be checked through the concordance lines results in KWIC (key word in context), which analyzes the word rapidly and reliably. They provide the words which come before and after the node word and support the discussion more accurately and objectively. *The Waste Land* is a poem in which a sea of metaphorical expressions can be seen. For the analysis of the poem, some cases of examples, which have the use of metaphorical words indicating pessimism, are chosen by the researchers for the analysis. Then these verses are qualitatively analyzed with the help of concordance lines.

4.1 The Title of the Poem

“The Waste Land”

The name of this poem itself presents a gloomy and sad picture of a land that depicts the consequences of the dreadful war and its effects upon humanity. The title of the poem depicts a place that is not only destroyed in physical but also in a spiritual sense. The concordance line of the title shows that it is a combination of nouns and with the aid of these metaphorical nouns, European land is compared to a barren land by Eliot. The noun land occurs three times in the poem with the meaning of bareness and hollowness. The whole expression *The Waste Land* is a metaphor that also depicts pessimism at the very start of the poem.

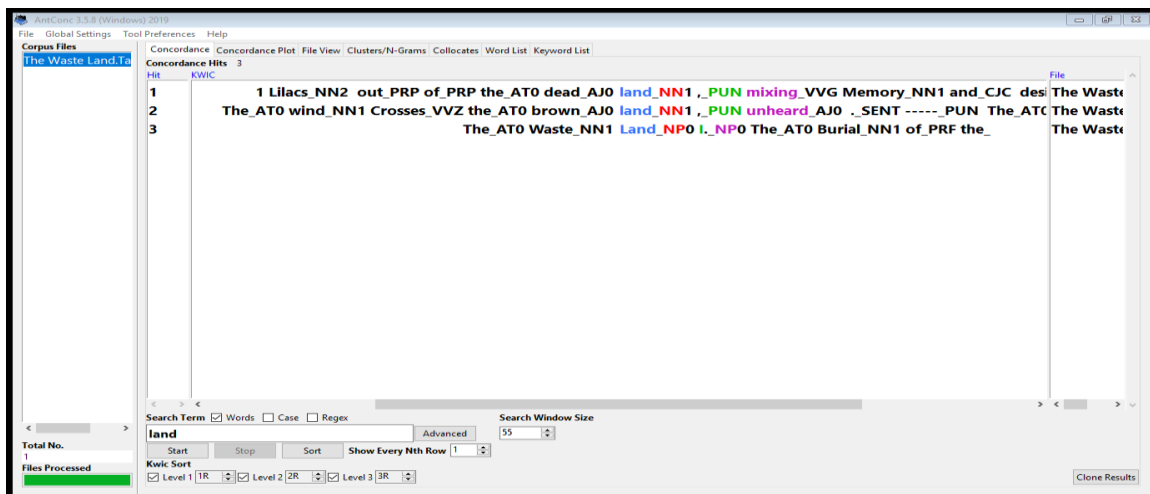


Figure 1. Screenshot of the concordance lines for the noun land

4.2 The Title of the First Segment of the Poem

“The Burial of the Dead”

Following this pessimistic and metaphorical approach, Eliot once again with the title of the first segment *“The Burial of the Dead”* practices the same notion. This part of the poem is the longest part of the poem which contains four characters with four incomplete stories. This section is considered complex to interpret due to German and French text references. According to the concordance line, the title is a combination of nouns and adjectives, which are used metaphorically. Here the European land is compared with a cemetery where living Europeans are depicted as burial dead bodies that are living a life worse than the deceased. The graveyard is a symbol of death, awful silence, hollowness, and emptiness. As there is no existence and hope for life the same the case is with modern waste Landers. But instead of the dead, there are living bodies who are buried in a barren land with their rotten values. The word dead is also repeated in the poem ten times and each time it presents a gloomy and dark picture of modern man and gives a shady and dull expression of pessimism by using adjective dead with different noun combinations such as dead man, dead land, dead sound, dead tree, etc. It can be said that the metaphors used in the poem not only create a pessimistic tone in the titles of all other sections of the poem but also continue this expression throughout the poem.

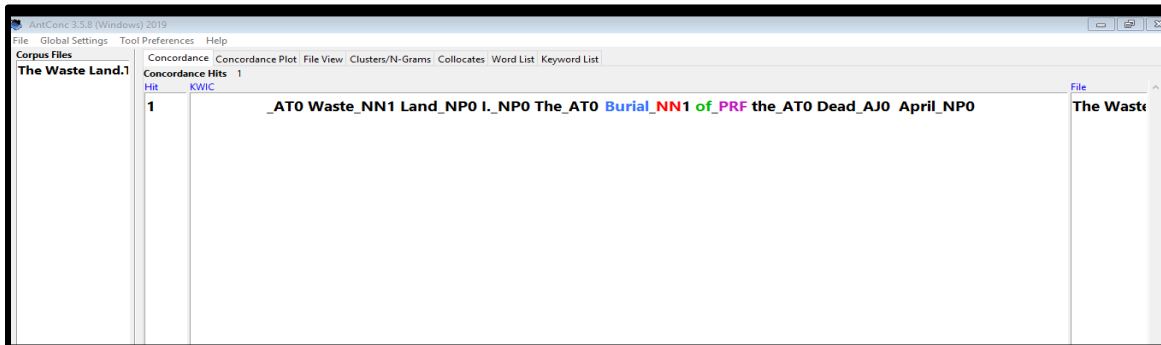


Figure 2. Screenshot of the concordance lines for the noun Burial

4.3 The Noun April (Extracted from Line 1)

“April is the cruelest month,”

According to concordance line one the noun April occurs with the words *“is the cruelest month”*. It is the beginning line of the first section of the poem. Here the use of the metaphorical personification can be observed, where Eliot describes the month of April as the cruelest month of the English year. In this way, he characterizes April with human features to dramatize the situation of agonies to its climax. By using such type of metaphor, he illustrates a situation to readers that is totally against the real one. In the real situation, the month of April is the start of the spring season in Europe, which stands for love, reincarnation, growth, desire, creativity, and optimism. By comparing April to a cruel person, Eliot gives the pessimistic understanding of the sad emotions, sorrows, and feelings, which this month brings to him. The description of the April of *the Waste land* is opposite to the April discussed by Chaucer and other English poets. Chaucer describes it as a month of shower, fragrances, songs, joy, and pilgrimages. While in Eliot’s work April has a shattered image as compared to the conventional concept of this month. For him and modern men, it is a time of sorrow and agony and it wakes their pains and painful memories of the good time before the war. Instead of talking and thinking about good things and pleasant memories modern people are surrounded by lamenting murmurs, senseless and soulless bodies, sighs, damaged values, and bloody past events.

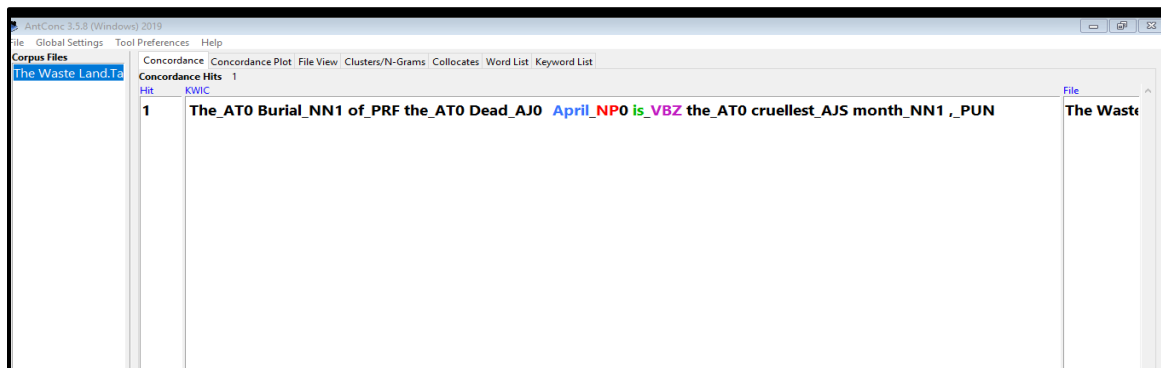


Figure 3. Screenshot of the concordance lines for the noun April

4.4 The Noun Winter (Extracted from Line 5)

“Winter kept us warm,”

Winter is cold weather and particularly in Europe it is very cold and every hope and freshness of life remain under the blanket of snow. With the arrival of spring, everything and hope bloom but in Waste Land every normal phenomenon turns to abnormal. Here in this expression, Eliot reverses the features of winter and compares it to the sun which usually provides warmth. Eliot prefers to use the season winter opposite to its common definition to create a melancholic atmosphere because it can cover the dead waste landers and their past with their numbing conscience. They remain occupied with senseless activities and lusty pursuits and do not want to adhere to moralities anymore. In the concordance lines, winter has been shown five times as a noun and it is also used as a metaphor having the unusual features given by the poet.

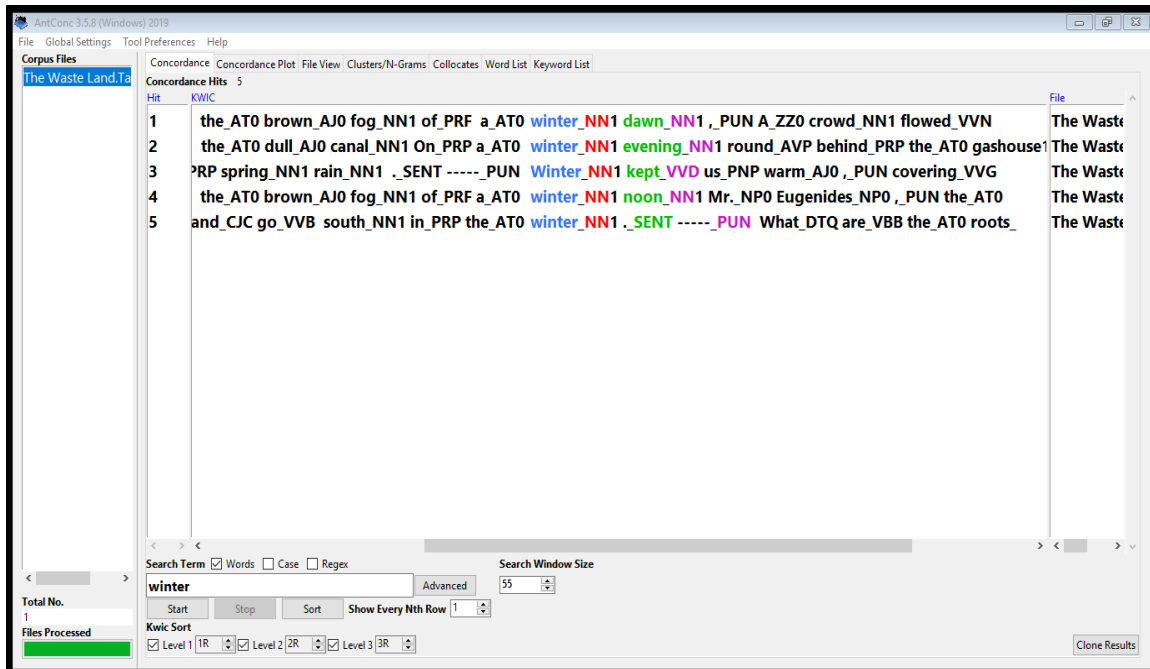


Figure 4. Screenshot of the concordance lines for the noun winter

4.5 The Noun Sun (Extracted from Line 27)

“A heap of broken images, where the sun beats,”

According to the concordance, the sun is a noun. Here, the sun is compared to a cruel person who beats the weaklings and images are the oppressed ones that are beaten by the sun. The property of the sun is to give a shine that is pleasant to everyone without bitterness but the metaphorical use of sun depicts it as having human attributes. Images in broken condition indicate that the understanding of man is damaged and he is unable to recognize what is right and wrong, what are the values, realities, and etiquettes of life. This shows the pessimistic picture of life in Eliot’s Waste Land.

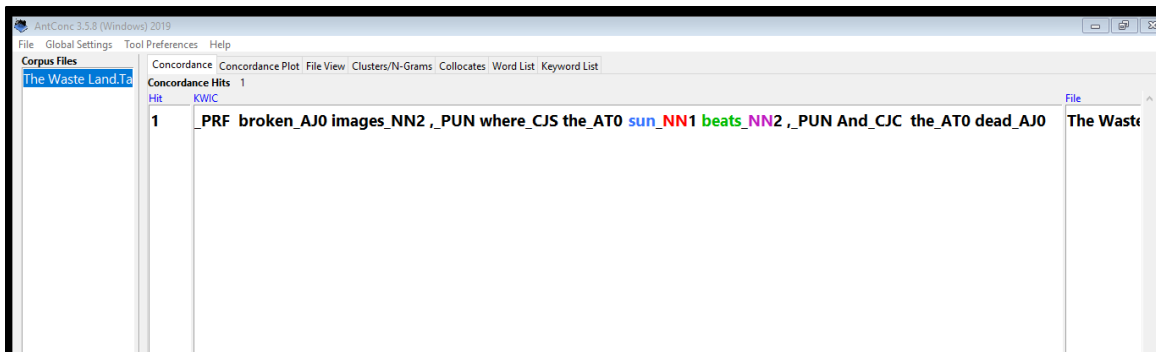


Figure 5. Screenshot of the concordance lines for the noun sun

4.6 The Noun Tree (Extracted from Line 28)

“And the dead tree gives no shelter, the cricket no relief,”

In the above line, the tree is shown as a noun. Eliot again contributes metaphorical personification to the tree and compares it with a person who can give something. The tree is a basic symbol of shelter, food, and spiritual progress, and insects’ chirping in summer amuses human ears is a source of relief to senses. In romantic poetry, both are used to recount for soothing effects upon human beings and indicate towards a life where everything is normal and full of pleasures. But in the modern waste land, the dead tree and even innocent creatures like crickets are deprived of this ability to cheer others. In modern society, men are still alive but they are morally dead. Although they are living bodies without souls and it is due to the absence of happiness and spiritual values. They are away from their creator and nature that is the reason for their annoyance and dissatisfaction. They are unable to receive pleasure and contentment from nature and natural objects that are created for them. The poet again shows pessimism by using the noun tree as a metaphor.

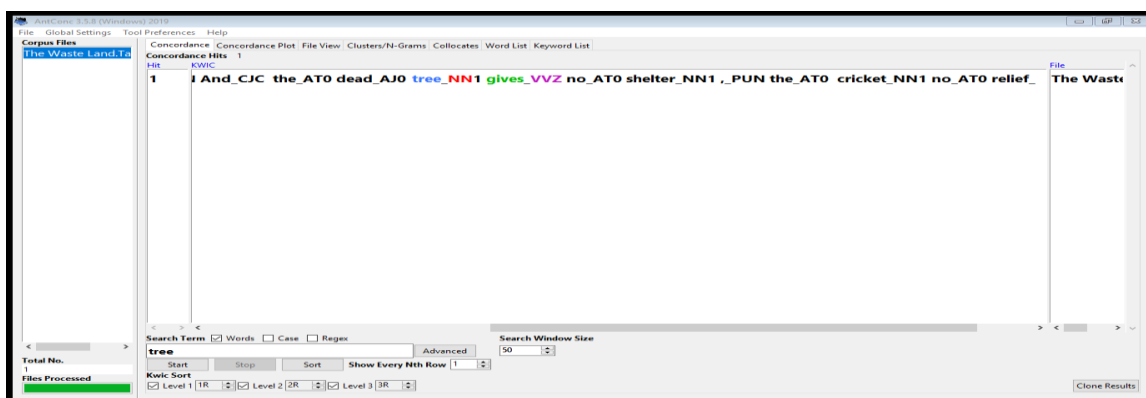


Figure 6. Screenshot of the concordance lines for the noun tree

4.7 The Noun Stone (Extracted from Line 29)

“And the dry stone no sound of water.”

The noun stone, observed from the concordance line, is also given human features by the poet. Tree and stones are materials used to make other new things and the sound of water is also

a symbol of hope, happiness, purity, and life. In the same way, it is the ability of a person to share something useful to others that are not found in the modern society because of the spiritual and moral decay after the World War I. Again, the poet's pessimistic use of metaphor can be observed in the screenshot in third concordance line, where the stone is dry and cannot give something to other. In the metaphorical sense expressions of the tree, stone and water are personified to a person of modern society who is morally dead, and dead people are incapable of contributing anything to others. Throughout the poem, the words stone, rock, mountain, and rock are applied to refer to Christianity and now this stone is dry that marks the spiritual barrenness and weak communication of modern man with their God.

On the other hand, the absence of the “*sound of water*” implied no reformation that leads to destruction and deterioration due to the fire of their lusty pursuits. Only water (religion and spiritual purity) can extinguish this fire but there is no water (hope of reformation) in the modern waste land. Religion has no part in the lives of royal, upper, middle, and low class. They are burning in their worldly desires. “Sound of water” also represents the activities and joys of life and living conscience of man before World War I. The noun sound has six hits in the poem which stands for the meaning of emptiness, senselessness, anxiety and disturbance of waste landers.

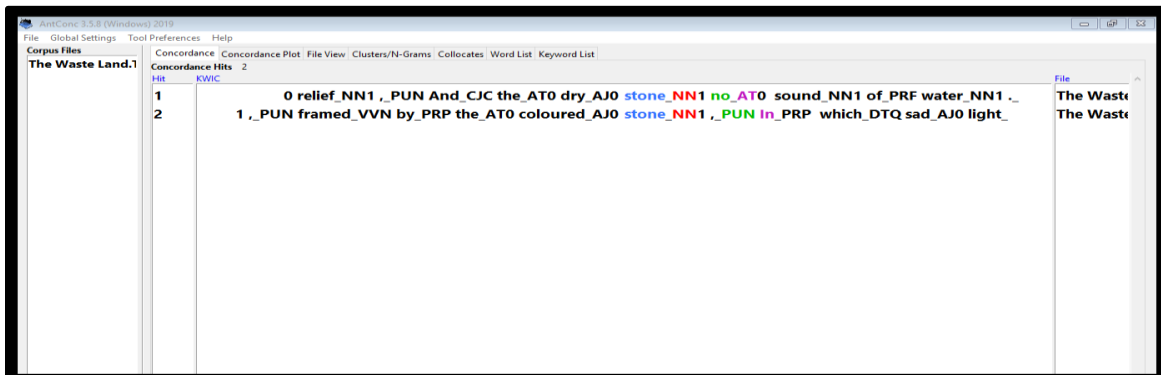


Figure 7. Screenshot of the concordance lines for the noun stone

4.8 The Noun Handful (Extracted from Line 30)

“I will show you fear in a handful of dust.”

In the above-mentioned verse, noun handful justifies the claim of a pessimistic approach in Eliot's work *The Waste Land*. Poet discusses how a handful of dust can create fear of death which leads to a pessimistic view in life. This is a Biblical reference taken by Eliot related to the origin and end of human life. Fear is a mental concept and it is impossible to see it but the poet claims that he can demonstrate the physical image of fear in the form of the dust of a rotten body. He talks about the very basic human feeling which is fear and fear from death is the most dreadful thought in life. Waste Landers have lost their hopes and values because for them the soil of Waste Land has become the mark of death and blood due to war. Fears are hovering on the sky of wasteland and the soil of wasteland is rich enough for nothing but bloodshed events and ashes of living and dead bodies and still it is good for decay and destruction.



Figure 8. Screenshot of the concordance lines for the noun handful

4.9 The Title of the Second Segment of the Poem

“A Game of Chess”

The title of the second segment is also used metaphorically to show the post-war routine life of waste landers. The dull and soulless wasteland is compared with the hard surface of the board of chess; both are occupied with spiritless and senseless bodies and people are equal to chess pieces or stones. Waste landers are emotionally deceased, spiritless, loveless, and mindless and morally decayed people directed by their benefits and lusts. All of their activities and relationships are devoid of sincerity and their relationships with others are based on their benefits. Their dealings are like the movements of stones on the chess. Such type of lifestyle drives toward a pessimistic approach.

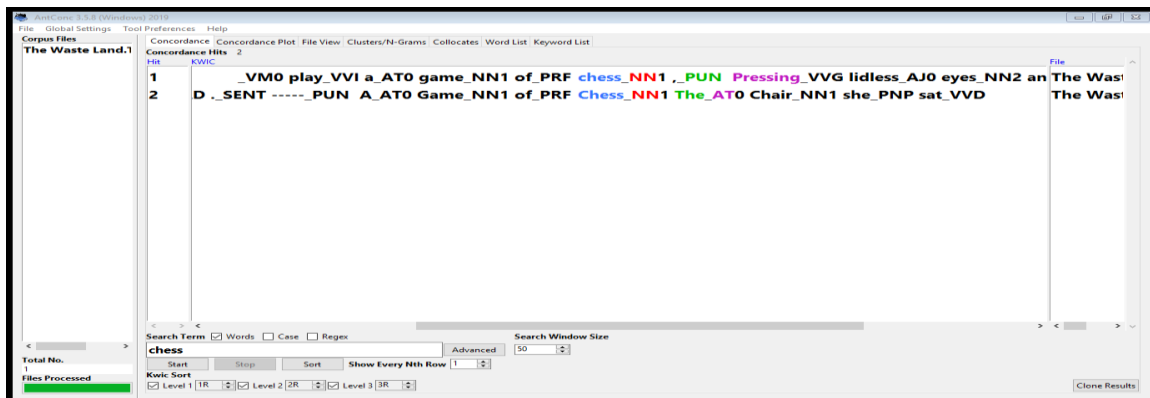


Figure 9. Screenshot of the concordance lines for the noun chess

4.10 The Noun Nothing (Extracted from Lines 117-123 and 301-305)

The noun nothing hits 10 times in concordance lines and mostly it is used in the lines (117-123) of the second part “A Game of chess” and the lines (301-305) of the third section “The Fire Sermon”. This noun is used as a metaphor to reveal the boredom, hollowness, and dearth of the morality of waste landers. They feel and understand nothing. They have eyes, ears, and brains but they act like deaf, dumb, and senseless people having no moralities. With the

repetition of the noun “nothing” the poet creates the pessimistic view to describe the true situation of modern people.

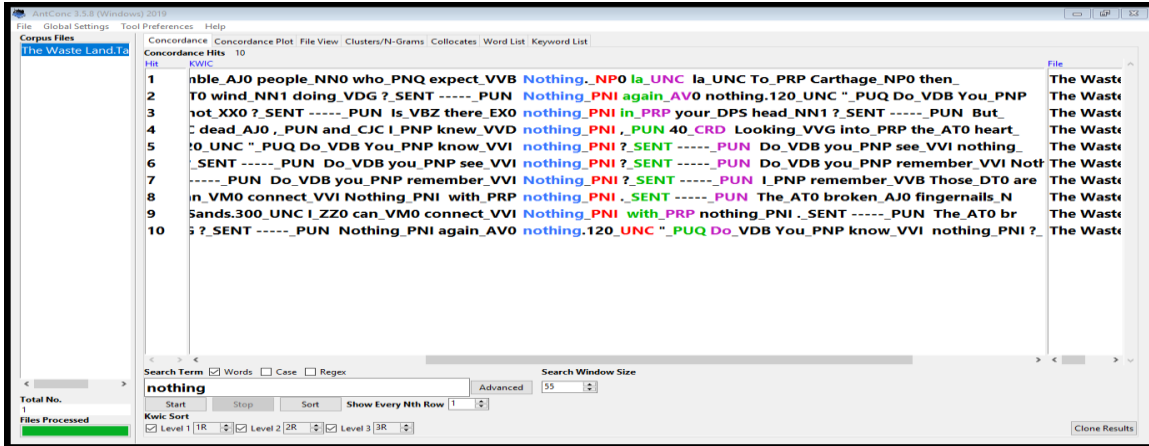


Figure 10. Screenshot of the concordance lines for noun nothing

4.11 The Noun City (Extracted from Line 60)

“Unreal city,”

In the poem, the noun city occurs 6 times. In the concordance line the noun city preceded by the adjective unreal, taken from the third segment of the poem *The Fire Sermon*, gives the metaphorical sense in a way that here Eliot compares it with London. Here the poet shows his feelings of despair about his city London by calling it “Unreal City” which is jam-packed by crimes, sexual orgies, degeneration, and decay of moralities instead of real happiness, peace, and prosperity which are the true characteristics of a living city. The poet is desperate over such a situation and he pessimistically sees the city as unreal because of the anarchy created by the man over there. Fourth and sixth concordance lines show this metaphorical expression which is a combination of adjectives and nouns.

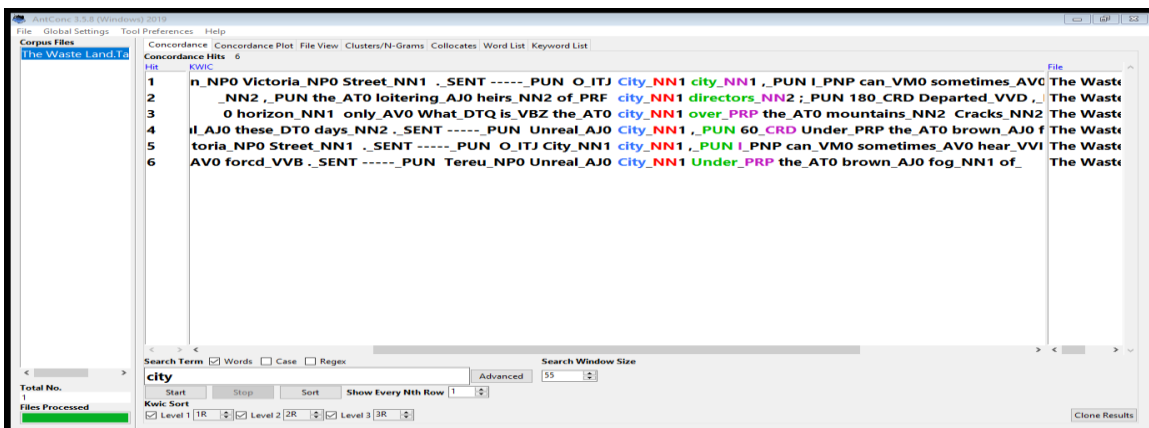


Figure 11. Screenshot of the concordance lines for noun city

4.12 The Noun Thunder (Extracted from the Title of the Fifth Section)

“What the Thunder Said”

Eliot personifies thunder to a person who can speak and has this ability. Throughout the poem, the poet refers to incorporeal entities to corporeal things. The title is a question, where the poet is asking about the message given by the thunder that usually does not happen in reality. Some critics say, in the last section, thunder paves the way for rain (hope). But if it happens, it happens at a great cost and amount of wreckage behind it. So, this demands great courage and sacrifice to change the fate of waste landers. This bitter reality is near to false hope without real consideration of the demand and the people of the waste are not ready to pay this amount. This situation contributes to a pessimistic atmosphere. The concordance lines show thunder as a noun and this noun is used as a metaphor.

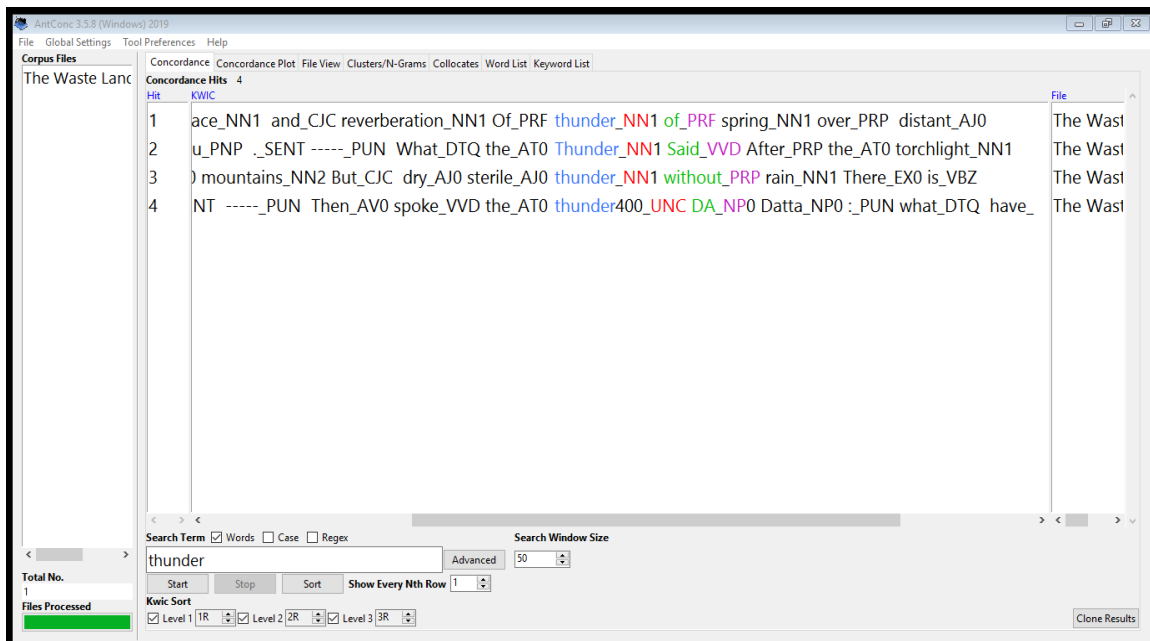


Figure 12. Screenshot of the concordance line for the noun thunder

In the end, to know the frequency of metaphors in the poem, the text was inserted into online WORdCounter software. According to the WORdCounter result, the poem contains 3029 words, 17,981 characters, 131 sentences, and 445 paragraphs. Then the plain text was uploaded to WeCorp Live to generate the wordlist containing a total number of content words used in *The Waste Land* poem. The list showed that the poem has 1031 content words and the total number of content words with repetition in the poem is 1554. This word list, also verified by both CLAWS 7 and AntConc 3.5.8 indicates 244 adjectives, 379 verbs, and 720 nouns in the poem. This list was generated by making specific choices of single or double words in the n-gram size option, with a minimum frequency of occurrence and by filtering out function words.

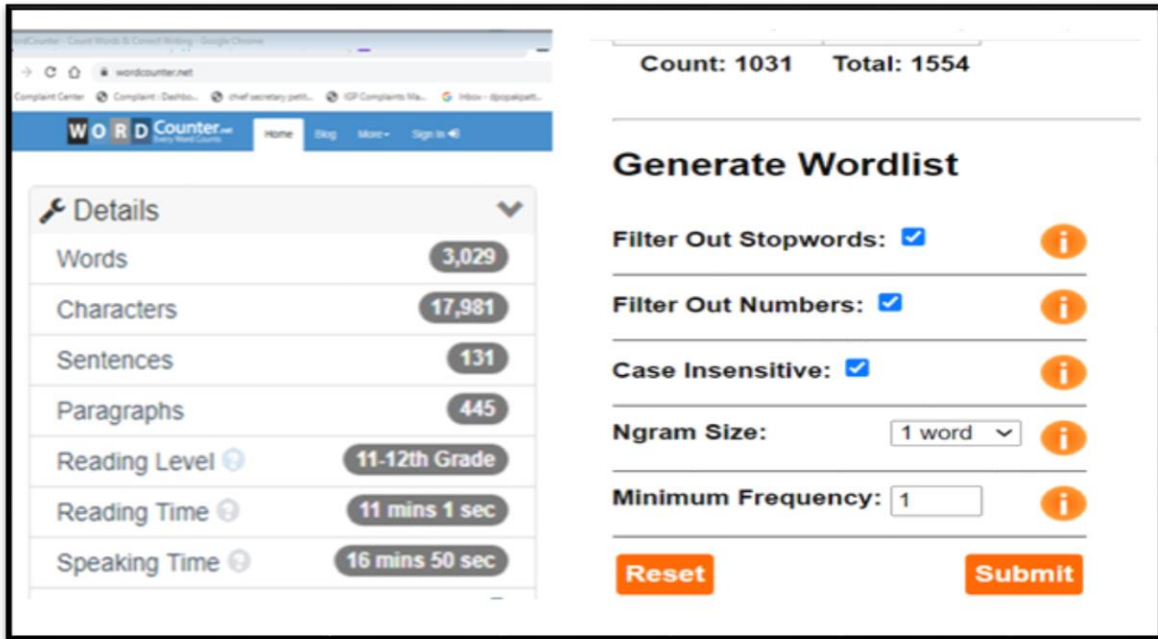


Figure 13. Screenshots captured from WORDCounter and WebCorp Live

On the other hand, careful examination of the poem conducted by the researchers twice showed that 170 (39.17%) metaphors are used in a total of 434 verses. 103 (60.58%) metaphors out of 170 (100%) are pessimistic in approach and only 67 (39.41%) metaphors are optimistic. Total verses were divided by 170 metaphors to get the proportion of metaphors used in lines and according to calculation each of 2.55 lines contains minimum one metaphor. These percentages revealed the important role of metaphors to construct a pessimistic approach in poetry as well as the special use of metaphors in Eliot's poetry. The following Table indicates a summary of the frequency and percentage of metaphors applied in the poem.

Table 1

Total Number, Frequency, and Percentage of Pessimistic and Optimistic Metaphors Used in The Waste Land

Number of Metaphors	Frequency	Percentage
Total metaphors in the poem	170	100%
Pessimistic metaphors in the poem	103	60.58%
Optimistic metaphors in the poem	67	39.41%

5. CONCLUSION

It is discovered that nouns are used as metaphors and showed pessimism in a very effective way in *The Waste Land*. Eliot by using these metaphorical nouns depicts the aftereffects of



events, and situations of World War I and cultural and spiritual death and decay of modern European society. The conclusive answers to the research questions are given below:

1) How do metaphorical nouns play an important role in constructing pessimism in poetry? It is observed from the analysis that the use of these metaphorical nouns constructs pessimism in a very effective way. By the use of these metaphorical nouns, Eliot depicts pessimism almost throughout this poetic work. By personifying these nouns, he beautifully uses metaphors and creates pessimism.

2) How frequent are nouns used as metaphors in “*The Waste Land*”? According to the analysis given by AntConc 3.5.8 nouns are used in 434 lines of the poem and it can be observed from the analyzed verses that nouns (720) are very frequently used as metaphors. Eliot mostly uses nouns to create metaphors and then uses these metaphors in a pessimistic way. The nouns used as metaphors are observed through AntConc 3.5.8 in concordance lines which give very objective support in this regard.

3) To what extent does the application of Corpus methodology help in analyzing metaphorical nouns in Poetry?

The use of Corpus methodology is no doubt very helpful in analyzing metaphorical nouns as the Corpus tool CLAWS7 tags the text within a short duration of time by providing all the nouns which are present in the text, WebCorp Live generates the content words list within a single click, and then the use of concordance lines from the AntConc 3.5.8 also facilitates the objective results regarding their pessimistic metaphorical use. Corpus methodology can be used in literary and non-literary texts to investigate any point with authentic and reliable results in any study. This study can be helpful in the future for the researchers who want to analyze the literary data using corpus methodologies.

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