



# A Critical Metaphor Analysis on Green Development News Discourse from the Cognitive Perspective

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**Abstract:** *With the acceleration of industrialization and urbanization, environmental problems are becoming increasingly prominent. As an important means of information dissemination, news discourse not only reflects the degree of social concern about environmental issues, but also largely shapes the public's cognition and attitude towards these issues. Metaphor, as a way of thinking, can simplify people's cognitive process and play an important role in news discourse practice. This paper organically combines the Conceptual Metaphor Theory with the Critical Metaphor Analysis research paradigm, extracts 384 green development news reports from China Daily from 2016 to 2023 as the research object, and organizes them into electric files to form a self-built corpus. The purpose is to explore the metaphorical expressions in news discourse and conduct critical analysis through a combination of quantitative and qualitative research methods, so as to provide a language strategy reference for the external dissemination of China's green development concept in the context of emphasizing international cooperation to protect the global environment.*

**Keywords:** Conceptual Metaphor Theory, Critical Metaphor Analysis, Green development, News discourse.

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## 1. Introduction

Nowadays, green development has become an important trend, and its theoretical and practical significance has become increasingly prominent. News records society, disseminates information and reflects the times. It is one of the manifestations of green development. News plays a vital role in carrying and disseminating the concept of green development.

Cognitive linguistics is an emerging linguistic discipline that studies language based on new philosophical and cognitive views, and uses people's experience of the world and the way they perceive and conceptualize the world. [1] It is a broad theoretical and methodological system, rather than a single, tightly elaborated theory. [2] Before the Concept Metaphor Theory was proposed, traditional metaphor research had always been regarded as a rhetorical phenomenon in rhetoric, stylistics, literature and philosophy. In 1980, Lakoff and Johnson studied metaphor from a cognitive perspective, initially constructed the concept system and the essence of metaphor, and brought new ideas and directions to the study of metaphor. Metaphor research has thus achieved a cognitive turn. In order to explore the deep-seated ideology, culture and emotional motivation behind metaphors, Critical Metaphor Analysis (Charteris-Black 2004), which combines the theoretical viewpoints of conceptual metaphor and critical discourse analysis, came into being. Charteris-Black believes that critical metaphor creates the possibility of identifying and examining the relationship between different fields and enables us to establish connections between other unrelated fields of intellectual exploration. [3] Critical Metaphor Analysis aims to analyze metaphors by comprehensively applying the research methods of critical discourse analysis, corpus analysis, pragmatics and cognitive linguistics. [4] With the continuous evolution of contemporary cognitive linguistics, metaphor has shown a diversified research trend, which not only includes the study of news discourse, but also involves multiple disciplines such as literature, teaching, and translation. The application scope of metaphor is becoming more and more extensive.



## 2. Linguistic Data and Theoretical Analytical Framework

### 2.1 Data Collection

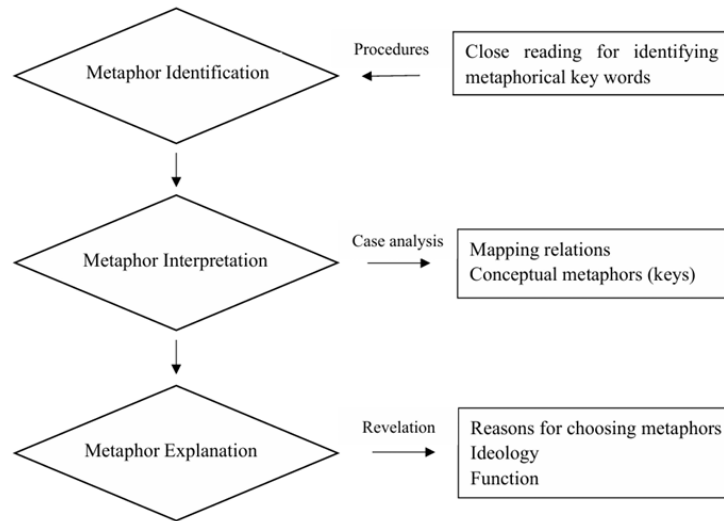
*China Daily* is a national newspaper sponsored by the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee and managed by the Information Office of the State Council. It is the only national English daily newspaper in China. It is not only a window for the world to understand China, but also a door for China to the world with strong research value. News discourse is all-encompassing, and green development is one topic of them. This study selected the linguistic data about news reports on green development in *China Daily* and built a corpus from a diachronic perspective (2016-2023). The reason for this time range is that in October 2015 (about 2016), the Fifth Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee passed the "Proposal of the CPC Central Committee on Formulating the 13th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development", which made green development and innovation, coordination, openness, and sharing together to form the five major development concepts. The concept of "green development" was officially listed as one of the five major development concepts. The deadline is just before the start of this study. However, the number of news reports related to green development is so huge that not all news reports in the database are selected, and additional criteria need to be set to ensure the scale and content of the self-built corpus. On the one hand, due to the large number of articles, in order to ensure the appropriate size of the corpus, the corpus of this study was searched with keywords such as green, environment, sustainable, etc., and randomly sampled at an average of 1 article per week (48 articles per year), and a total of 384 news reports were obtained as research objects. On the other hand, the titles and main contents of the news reports were examined, and the corpus that did not meet the requirements was excluded. The corpus that was consistent with the research theme of "green development" was retained and organized into electric files in Word documents to form a self-built corpus. After data cleaning and manual identification and filtering, the macro structure of the self-built corpus is shown in Table 1, with a total of eight Word documents for further analysis.

**Table 1:** Macro Structure of the Self-built Corpus

Year	Number of Passages	Number of Words (Tokens)	Total	Average
2016	48	25,089	202,720	25,340
2017	48	22,449		
2018	48	24,994		
2019	48	24,133		
2020	48	26,056		
2021	48	26,725		
2022	48	25,370		
2023	48	27,904		

### 2.2 Theoretical Analytical Framework

Conceptual Metaphor Theory has realized the shift in metaphor cognitive research and pointed out the mapping relationship from source domain to target domain. [5] The research paradigm of Critical Metaphor Analysis can reveal the selection motivation, ideology and pragmatic function behind metaphors. Therefore, this study attempts to combine the two, based on the three steps of Charteris-Black's Critical Metaphor Analysis (metaphor identification, metaphor interpretation, metaphor explanation), and tentatively draws a theoretical analysis framework, as shown in Figure 1. In practice, firstly, each lexical unit in the self-built corpus is carefully examined, and combined with the MIP metaphor identification program, [6] the contextual meaning of the word in the context is judged, and whether the word has a more basic meaning (semantic tension) in other contexts. Then the words with semantic tension (metaphor keywords) are annotated and counted, and the marked metaphors will be used for further analysis. Secondly, the identified metaphors are interpreted, and the mapping relationship from the source domain to the target domain is analyzed at the cognitive level to derive the conceptual metaphor (concept key). Here the metaphor interpretation stage has been basically completed with the completion of the first stage. Finally, the identified metaphors are examined in a more macro social context to analyze why these metaphors are chosen instead of other metaphors in the self-built corpus (the motivation for selection), and what kind of ideology and pragmatic function the metaphors reflect.



**Figure 1:** Theoretical Framework for Analysis of the Study

### 3. Main Metaphors and their Interpretation in Green Development News Discourse

This study summarizes several metaphors in high-frequency usage with critical research value in the self-built corpus. The corresponding metaphor classifications, metaphor keyword tokens, types, resonance and resonance proportion are summarized in Table 2, arranged in descending order according to the resonance proportion. The resonance indicates the degree to which the metaphor source domain is found in a specific corpus. The statistical method (Charteris-Black 2004) is the product of metaphor types and tokens in the same source domain.

**Table 2:** Identified Metaphors in the Self-built Corpus

Classification	Types	Tokens	Resonance	Proportion
violence metaphor	32	1,531	48,992	65.21%
journey metaphor	21	549	11,529	15.35%
human metaphor	15	543	8,145	10.84%
orientational metaphor	13	497	6,461	8.60%
SUM	81	3,120	75,127	100%

According to Table 2, there are 4 types of metaphors with high frequency usage in the self-built corpus, which are violence metaphor, journey metaphor, human metaphor, orientational metaphor, with resonance accounting for 65.21%, 15.35%, 10.84%, 8.60% respectively. Among them, violence metaphor has the highest frequency usage in the self-built corpus, far exceeding other metaphor classifications, which shows that violence metaphor has a high degree of standardization in news discourse. At this point, the metaphor identification stage has been completed, and the identified metaphors will be used for further qualitative analysis.

#### 3.1 Violence Metaphor

In the self-built corpus, violence metaphors account for 65.21%, and the metaphor keywords are summarized in Table 3:

**Table 3:** Metaphorical Key Words in Violence Metaphor

Classification	Metaphorical key words	Types	Tokens	Proportion
violence metaphor	crack down, protect, protection, protector, preserve, preservation, defend, defense, damage, destructive, destruction, destroy, strategy, strategic, campaign, conserve, conservation, beat back, win, counter, conflict, encroach, safeguard, guard, battle, guardian, guardianship, fight, combat, buck, fighter, hit	32	1,531	65.21%

The usage of violence metaphors can be roughly divided into three categories: "war", "conflict" and "protection". [7] First, green development involves a series of strategic policies, so it is possible to infer from the strategies used in war to the strategic measures formulated by humans to protect the environment. Achieving green development is like making overall plans and making plans in war. Secondly, some lawless elements still violate relevant measures for their own interests (illegal hunting, ivory smuggling), and a large number of contradictions and conflicts have also arisen. In the face of such behavior, it is necessary to crack down on it severely, so it can be extended from violent conflicts to conflict behaviors related to green development activities. Finally, the ecological environment has suffered great damage in the past, such as the thinning of the ozone layer, global warming, and rising sea levels. However, as time goes by, people are increasingly aware that social development must follow the objective laws of nature, and it is not advisable to promote social development at the expense of the environment. Since there are various "destructive" behaviors, people need to take "protective" measures to maintain the ecosystem, respect nature, adapt to nature, protect nature, and promote harmonious coexistence between man and nature. Therefore, news discourse uses concepts related to violence to assist in understanding relevant activities of green development and achieve cross-domain mapping from the source domain (violence) to the target domain (green development).

(1) The 55-year-old man has devoted 30 years to fighting desertification in Zhongwei and has helped develop an efficient method for fixing sand in place, which has increased tree survival rates by 25 percent. (2021.6.15)

(2) "What we want is to win a critical battle against pollution by advancing the rule of law," he added. (2021.2.1)

War belongs to the category of violence metaphors, and the framework of war is used to describe non-war events. In examples (1) and (2), the metaphorical keywords are fight, win, and battle, which metaphorically compare desertification control and pollution control to war. At the same time, win implies the result of "victory in war", thus constructing the conceptual metaphors of "Desertification control is war" and "Achieving pollution control is winning the war".

(3) Tubbat has also built a 10-km green fence in the desert to counter sandstorms. (2017.9.1)

(4) It's a breakthrough in solving the conflict between environmental protection and large-scale exploration projects," Shi said. (2023.5.25)

In example (3), the metaphor keyword is counter, which means "opposite", revealing the opposition between man and nature (sandstorm) in some cases. In example (4), the metaphor keyword is conflict, highlighting the contradiction between environmental protection and large-scale exploration projects. The conceptual metaphors of "Man and sandstorm are in conflict" and "Environmental protection and large-scale exploration projects are in conflict" are constructed.

(5) Joint cooperation on environmental protection in the past three years between Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei province has resulted in significantly improved air quality in the region. (2017.2.24)

(6) It also organizes a series of activities every year to raise public awareness, especially young people's awareness of the conservation of the Yangtze and habitat biodiversity. (2023.4.5)

The metaphorical keywords in examples (5) and (6) are protection and conservation, both of which mean "protection". They are source domain concepts in the violence domain and are mapped to the target domains of "environment", "Yangtze River" and "habitat biodiversity", indicating that various measures are taken to maintain and improve the quality of the natural environment to ensure the health and diversity of the ecosystem, thus constructing the conceptual metaphors of "Improving the environment is protection", "Improving the ecological quality of the Yangtze River is protection" and "Promoting habitat biodiversity is protection".

The use of violence metaphors will not only inspire readers' sense of struggle, boost people's morale and fighting spirit, strengthen people's sense of urgency about the ecological environment, and call on people to participate in environmental protection activities as soon as possible. It also reveals certain antagonistic relationships between man and nature, such as the threat of sandstorms to humans and the threat of large-scale mining projects to the environment. These conflicts need to be resolved urgently to achieve a benign interaction between man and nature.

### 3.2 Journey Metaphor

The proportion of journey metaphors in the self-built corpus is 15.35%, and the metaphor keywords are summarized in Table 4:

**Table 4: Metaphorical Key Words in Journey Metaphor**

Classification	Metaphorical key words	Types	Tokens	Proportion
journey metaphor	track, pathway, path, reach, step, arrive, access, achieve, attain, achievement, fulfill, move, movement, progress, beginning, start, block, halt, phase, stage, way	21	549	15.35%

A journey involves spatial movement from one place to another, where the progress made is often used to illustrate how something develops. Green development continues to advance in depth, with each stage proceeding step by step from initial planning to implementation to further optimization. Therefore, promoting green development is like walking on a journey. The journey comes with forks in the road, when decisions need to be made about whether to keep going or turn onto another path. Green development focuses on long-term sustainability and ensures the rational use of resources and the environment. Adhering to green development means adhering to the right path. At the same time, there are obstacles in the journey, which are used to reason about the setbacks that will be encountered in achieving green development. Finally, the journey is accompanied by a starting point and an end point. The starting point is people's awareness that the current economic development model has serious impacts on the environment and the decision to start taking actions to reduce these impacts; and the end point is a series of short-term and long-term goals to achieve green development, ensuring the benign interaction between man and nature. As a result, concepts related to journey are used to describe green development-related events and achieve cross-domain mapping from the source domain (journey) to the target domain (green development).

(7) Beyond the G20, there are areas in climate finance the two countries can cooperate on, such as providing funding resources for developing countries, African countries and poor communities to allow access to renewable energy and accelerate the clean energy transition in these areas and regions. (2023.11.17)

(8) "Although the deterioration of water quality has been halted, it is far from satisfactory," Wu said. "We still have a long way to go to protect our mother lake." (2018.6.19)

(9) China aims to reach peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060. (2023.1.19)

The journey metaphor uses the journey to structure green development-related events. In example (7), the metaphor keyword "access" is paired with renewable energy, which means the beginning of the journey, and constructs the conceptual metaphor of "Renewable energy is the starting point". In example (8), "halt" means "stop", which is mapped to the target domain of "water quality deterioration". In order to protect the mother river, we still have a long way to go, and constructs the conceptual metaphor "Preventing water quality deterioration is a stop on the journey". In example (9), the two metaphorical keywords reach and achieve both mean "arrive", implying the end of the journey, and construct the conceptual metaphors "Carbon dioxide peak is the end point" and "Carbon neutrality is the end point".

(10) The megacity has blazed a new path to water conservancy in recent years, fundamentally changing the quality of its water and environment. (2022.11.23)

(11) Although China remains the world's largest carbon emitter, the nation is making quick progress on transforming to low-carbon growth and is on track to fulfill its Paris pledges. (2016.11.5)

(12) "A tree is a water pump. It can bring rain and animals," he says. "I want to be a tree, to grow up in the desert and block the sand until I die." (2017.9.1)

According to people's common cognitive experience, there are many paths in the journey. In examples (10) and (11), the metaphorical keywords "path" and "track" both mean "roads", which are mapped to the two target domains of "protecting water sources" and "fulfilling the Paris commitments", respectively, to construct the conceptual metaphors "Protecting water sources is the path" and "Fulfilling the Paris commitments is the path". There are obstacles in the journey, which need to be effectively identified and appropriate measures taken to

overcome them. In example (12), people (I) are metaphorically regarded as obstacles that prevent sandstorms, thus constructing the conceptual metaphors "People are obstacles" and "Sandstorms are obstacles".

The journey metaphor realizes the concreteness of abstract concepts related to green development. The journey metaphor not only emphasizes the importance of the starting point, destination and intermediate process, which helps to set clear goals, but also attaches importance to the various roads in the journey, guiding people to make choices, which has important directional significance. In addition, achieving green development is not an easy road. Only by overcoming difficulties with a positive attitude and firm courage can we reach the destination.

### 3.3 Human Metaphor

Human metaphors account for 10.84% of the self-built corpus. The metaphor keywords are summarized in Table 5:

**Table 5: Metaphorical Key Words in Human Metaphor**

Classification	Metaphorical key words	Types	Tokens	Proportion
human metaphor	restore, restoration, improve, improvement, eye, ear, life, see, partner, child, devour, embracing, mother, recover, recovery	15	543	10.84%

Human metaphors describe green development as a living being, endowing it with human characteristics, emotions and behaviors. On the one hand, human metaphors not only use the overall structure of human beings to describe related events, such as "mother river", "children of the mountains", but also use human body parts to metaphorically represent related activities, such as "protecting the environment like we protect our eyes". In addition, human health conditions and body movements, such as "restore nature" and "embracing brisk growth", are also used to explain. Therefore, human metaphors highlight the importance of protecting the environment more intuitively through the personal experience of the human body, realize cross-domain mapping from the source domain (human body) to the target domain (green development), and emphasize and support green development.

(13) "We are enforcing the ban to restore fishery resources, protect the natural habitat, restore aquatic diversity and protect the water sources of cities," said Ershanjam Mamat, head of the center's law enforcement division. (2019.3.26)

(14) There has been a visible improvement to its environment in recent years, with lake water becoming clearer and vegetation recovering. (2022.5.19)

In example (13), the two metaphorical keywords "restore" refer to "restore a certain situation or feeling", which endow fishery resources and aquatic diversity with human emotions, and map people's experience to the two target domains of "revitalizing fishery resources" and "restoring aquatic biodiversity", respectively, and construct the conceptual metaphor of "Revitalizing fishery resources/Restoring aquatic biodiversity is people returning to a normal state". In example (14), the metaphorical keywords "improve" can refer to "improvement of health", and recover refers to "back to health", and map people's experience of recovery from illness to the two target domains of "environment" and "vegetation", respectively, and construct the conceptual metaphors of "Improving the environment is people's health improvement" and "Restoring vegetation is people's physical recovery".

(15) "We should stay committed to the basic State policy of conserving resources, protecting the environment like we protect our eyes, treating the environment like it is our lives," Xi has said. (2016.11.17)

(16) This supervising system is acting just like a telescope and the forward ears of the environmental protection departments, as it can help to supervise the problems that affect the public and solve them in a timely manner. (2017.3.14)

(17) "I have grown up and lived near water my entire life. People here earn a living from the sea. The sea is like our mother." Cai said, speaking in the Minnan dialect of southern Fujian. (2017.11.16)

Examples (15) and (16) map the human organs eyes and ears to the two target domains of "environmental protection" and "monitoring system", respectively, and construct the conceptual metaphors "Environmental

protection is protecting eyes" and "Monitoring system is ears", highlighting the importance of green development to human beings, just like human organs. Example (17) The metaphor keyword "mother" metaphorically represents the sea as a mother, and the conceptual metaphor "The sea is mother" can be obtained. The people living there regard the sea as a mother, and they obtain resources from the sea to make a living. As children of the sea, they should also protect, care for, and love their mother.

(18) Sandstorms devoured the green land. Herders had to move. (2017.9.1)

(19) Chengdu, the provincial capital, has embraced more blue skies in recent years thanks to the promotion of air pollution prevention and control work. (2022.10.8)

In example (18), the metaphorical keyword "devour" means "eat voraciously", and in example (19), the metaphorical keyword embrace means "embrace". The former is the action of eating when hungry, and the latter is a kind of physical contact behavior used to express intimacy, comfort, love and other warm scenes. The two are mapped to the two target domains of "sandstorm" and "welcoming blue sky", respectively, to construct the conceptual metaphors "Sandstorm devouring green land is eating voraciously", Welcoming more blue sky is embracing the blue sky".

Human metaphors give things human characteristics and make complex concepts more vivid. People can directly use personal experience to understand, which can arouse more resonance among readers. The human metaphor takes human health, human organs, body movements and even the overall human structure as the source domain concept, which greatly highlights the importance of environmental protection for human beings. To achieve environmental sustainability is to ensure the long-term development of human beings.

### 3.4 Orientational Metaphor

The proportion of orientational metaphors in the self-built corpus is 8.60%. The metaphor keywords are summarized in Table 6:

**Table 6: Metaphorical Key Words in Orientational Metaphor**

Classification	Metaphorical key words	Types	Tokens	Proportion
orientational metaphor	drop, reduce, reduction, decline, fall, rise, go down, increase, higher, highest, top, core, deepen	13	497	8.60%

Lakoff and Johnson pointed out that the spatial orientation of orientational metaphors comes from our bodies and the role they play in the physical environment. There are three main types of usage in the self-built corpus: top-bottom, central-peripheral, and deep-shallow.

(20) What makes the volunteers even happier was that they observed 11 cubs recently in the Yangtze's Nanjing section, which might indicate that the number of the species will keep increasing. (2023.4.5)

(21) China's strong commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is vital to fully implement the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, which was signed by 175 countries late on Friday, experts say. (2016.4.25)

(22) "The core principle of the three red lines is making protection a priority," said Zhang, who also emphasized that development should give way to ecological concerns. (2020.1.3)

(23) The two sides are also likely to intensify efforts to build a political consensus on climate change and deepen cooperation on new renewable energy technology, green finance and clean energy. (2020.11.11)

Example (20) belongs to the usage of "up-down" in the orientational metaphor. The number of this species will continue to increase, indicating that the biodiversity is richer and the ecological environment is better, which corresponds to the conceptual metaphor "GOOD IS UP". Example (21) also belongs to the usage of "up-down". "Down" generally refers to the negative development of things. When paired with "greenhouse gas emissions", it means that greenhouse gas emissions will gradually decrease through corresponding measures, which corresponds to the conceptual metaphor "BAD IS DOWN". Example (22) belongs to the usage of "center-edge" in the directional metaphor. The closer to the center, the more important it is. The conceptual metaphor "IMPORTANT IS CENTRAL" can be extracted. Example (23) belongs to the usage of "deep-shallow". The deeper it is, the more

critical and indispensable it is. It highlights the necessity of cooperation in the fields of new renewable energy technology, green finance and clean energy. The conceptual metaphor "ESSENTIAL IS DEEP" can be extracted.

Oriental metaphors are based on the human body's perception of direction and its interaction with the surrounding environment. They use spatial concepts to structure related events and inspire people's positive or negative attitudes toward things. For example, spatial directions such as "up", "center" and "deep" will create a positive impression in the audience's cognition; while spatial directions such as "down" will lead the audience to have a negative attitude and then resist things.

#### 4. Critical Analysis

The choice of metaphor is constrained by historical and cultural factors. Different cultures have unique understandings or symbolic meanings of certain concepts, so cultural background affects the choice of metaphor. First, military culture contains rich ideological connotations and has its own unique value orientation. This value orientation is the basic value position, value attitude and value choice of the special group of military strategists when facing various contradictions, conflicts and relationships in war, which is mainly manifested in "valuing strategy", "winning by the way" and "claiming victory". [8] Military thought runs through the civilization of the Chinese nation for thousands of years and has long been deeply rooted in people's minds, giving rise to war metaphors, which emphasizes the importance of using wisdom and strategy in solving problems or achieving goals. Wars often involve fierce conflicts, such as "the conflict between environmental protection and large-scale exploration projects" (2023.5.25), where environmental protection and large-scale mining projects are in opposition, because mining activities may cause soil erosion, water pollution, air pollution and other problems, and in severe cases, it may also cause the loss of biodiversity. Therefore, to achieve sustainable development, mining activities need to make compromises and concessions to resolve conflicts. Since the ecological environment has been destroyed, there are a series of corresponding protective behaviors, which protects animals and plants and prevents them from being damaged and causing a decline in their numbers, thereby reducing the threat to biodiversity. War, conflict and protection together constitute the metaphor of violence, which is the most frequently used conceptual framework in the self-built corpus, and is closely related to military culture. In the context of the new era, facing the deterioration of the global environment, China has formulated a series of policies and guidelines to promote green development step by step, giving rise to journey metaphors and building metaphors, because journeys and buildings also contain the characteristics of gradual progress, which are similar to the process of promoting green development.

In terms of ideology, some metaphors are associated with corresponding ecosophy views. Ecosophy refers to the concept of examining the relationship between humans and other living things and the natural environment. [9] Ecosophy views are the basis for ecological analysis of discourse and the yardstick for judging the ecological orientation of discourse. The researcher's ecological philosophy will constrain the interpretation and evaluation of discourse. [10] A person's ecological view is gradually formed in his life and is inseparable from the environment in which he was born, the atmosphere in which he grew up, the education he received, the specific social system in which he lives, his own beliefs, ideology, etc. [11] Therefore, the ecological philosophy has a certain rule for discourse analysis. An ecosophy was established that is self-consistent and conducive to the development of ecological balance, namely "green development and harmonious coexistence". [12] From the perspective of ecolinguistics, they conducted a comparative analysis of the conceptual metaphors in the climate change news discourse of China and the United States, and found that the Chinese news discourse highlights the ecological concept of "harmonious coexistence between man and nature". Taking this as a reference, this paper also adopts the ecological philosophy of "green development and harmonious coexistence". Combined with the metaphor recognition results, it is found that some metaphor categories with prominent concepts are highly consistent with this ecological philosophy. Human metaphors contain mapping relationships: "Protect the environment is protecting your eyes", "The environmental protection department's monitoring system is the ears", "The river is our mother", etc. Eyes and ears are responsible for vision and hearing respectively, allowing us to perceive and interact with the world around us, and are very important sensory organs of the human body. Although the two have their own independent functions, they often work together to provide individuals with a comprehensive perception of the external environment, because the brain will integrate information from different senses when processing external information to form a more complete perceptual experience. For example, examining the monitoring system from the perspective of vision and hearing can provide more comprehensive supervision information for the environmental protection department. In addition, the mother metaphor uses the source domain concept "mother" to look into green development. The reproductive ability of "mother" reflects the continuation of life, and only then can human beings survive sustainably. The mother is the child's bearer and nurturer, and has



established a direct connection with the fetus since pregnancy; the child is not only the continuation of the mother's life, but also an important source of emotional sustenance and life motivation. The two are closely connected and supportive of each other. Therefore, the value orientation reflected by the human metaphor is highly consistent with the ecological philosophy of harmonious coexistence between man and nature.

## 5. Conclusions

Critical Metaphor Analysis aims to study the language, pragmatics and cognitive characteristics of metaphors, and to reveal the beliefs, attitudes and feelings of the discourse community. [13] Metaphors are influenced by the social factors of the speaker and the author, and are constrained by rhetorical thinking. [14] This paper built a corpus of green development news discourse in *China Daily*. Through the research paradigm of Critical Metaphor Analysis, the main metaphors were first identified and classified in the metaphor identification stage, namely violence metaphor, journey metaphor, human metaphor, orientational metaphor, and building metaphor. Then, in the metaphor interpretation stage, the cognitive characteristics of the mapping of metaphors from the source domain to the target domain were explained. Finally, in the metaphor interpretation stage, some metaphor types were examined in a more macro social context, and the motivation for the selection of metaphors was analyzed, which was constrained by social and cultural factors; at the same time, the human metaphor is highly consistent with the ecological philosophy of "green development and harmonious coexistence". In short, protecting the environment, achieving green development, and harmonious coexistence between man and nature are eternal themes. This paper not only broadens the scope of discourse application of critical metaphor analysis, but also strengthens the audience's cognition of events related to promoting green development.

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