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# The year's work in ecolinguistics 2022

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**Abstract:** Many important results were achieved in ecolinguistic studies in 2022. This article reviews ecolinguistic studies in 2022, which aims to shed light on the future research directions. It consists of two main themes. First, studies are reviewed in terms of research areas, conferences, monographs, and journals. Then, based on the above results, issues are summarized and trends are predicted for the next phase of ecolinguistic studies. The review shows that the research scope of ecolinguistics has gradually developed from micro to macro. In addition, many academic conferences on ecological issues were held worldwide, and several publishing houses and journals published dedicated volumes and issues on ecolinguistics. It is suggested that ecolinguistic studies in the future should pay attention to the following points: continuing to emphasize the significance of ecolinguistics in the framework of linguistics, clarifying the interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary attributes of ecolinguistics, and strengthening inquiries into issues such as ecological literacy, ecological awareness, and ecosophy.

**Keywords:** ecolinguistics; interdisciplinary research; language and ecology; linguistic ecology; transdisciplinary research

## 1 Introduction

In November 2022, the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) was held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. Leaders and representatives of many countries and international organizations put forward suggestions to address the climate crisis and called for active intervention. As ecolinguists in China, we are therefore more confident than other non-ecological scholars to address climate change, and in the process of ecological civilization construction. This reflects our “social accountability” as linguistics researchers (Halliday 1990). Stibbe (2021: 203), the convener of the International Ecolinguistics Association, defined ecolinguistics as “the study of the role of language in the life-sustaining interactions of humans with other species and the

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physical environment”. What we can do to achieve a harmonious relationship is to improve people’s ecological awareness and ecological literacy by exploring the role of language or linguistics in the harmonious coexistence between humans and the natural environment (Chen and Huang 2022; Ha et al. 2022). Our ultimate goal is to solve existing ecological problems and change the ecological status quo.

Zhang (2022) reviewed the work in ecolinguistics in 2021 considering the research situation and looking towards the future of this discipline. We review the issues and trends of 2022 in ecolinguistics by examining typical work. Specifically, this study discusses the year 2022 in terms of research areas (micro-ecolinguistics and macro-ecolinguistics) in Section 2.1, academic conferences, monographs, and journals in Sections 2.2 and 2.3. The directions and implications for what we can do next are presented in Section 3. The study concludes with Section 4. In previous studies within the framework of linguistics, many researchers used the Haugenian and Hallidayan approaches to support the literature review. However, if we consider the broader scope of ecolinguistics, we believe that the 2022 literature organized by research area will be more comprehensive by summarizing the literature from both macro and micro perspectives. This is the reasoning behind the structure of this study.

## 2 Research situation

### 2.1 Research areas

Ecolinguistics mainly straddles the two disciplines of “ecology” and “linguistics”, and it is a subject that intersects natural science and social science. There are several differences between the two disciplines. This means that researchers from different disciplinary backgrounds have different views on ecolinguistics. We included various research topics from different disciplinary foundations and perspectives. For linguists or those studying ecolinguistics using a linguistic framework, two main approaches are included, i.e. the Haugenian approach (also known as “linguistic ecology (I)”<sup>1</sup>) and the Hallidayan approach (also known as “ecological linguistics”). However, this discipline is different from the research framework of ecologists, and the form of “linguistic ecology (II)” they identify is more inclined to be a natural science with a wider span (see Huang and Li 2021). Huang and Chen (2018) divided ecolinguistics into two categories: “micro-ecolinguistics” (a branch of linguistics) and

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<sup>1</sup> In order to distinguish the common term “linguistic ecology” under these two frameworks in this article, the term in the linguistic framework is denoted as “linguistic ecology (I),” while the term in the ecological framework is denoted as “linguistic ecology (II)”.

“macro-ecolinguistics” (a trans-discipline above linguistics and ecology) according to the current research situation. Subsequently, Zhang (2021) affirmed and explained this classification through a visualization analysis. This study summarizes the research areas of ecolinguistics in 2022 from both micro and macro perspectives.

### **2.1.1 Micro-ecolinguistics**

Micro-ecolinguistics deals with the study of language and language use from an ecological perspective and can be seen as a branch of applied linguistics (Huang and Chen 2018; Huang and Li 2021). Thus, most ecolinguistic studies conducted by linguists can be classified as micro-ecolinguistics. Here, we discuss studies using the Haugenian approach, Hallidayan approach, and an extension of micro-ecolinguistics (i.e. the cognitive approach). According to the literature available, it is clear that the trend towards a broader approach to ecolinguistics (also the extension of micro-ecolinguistics) was achieved in 2022, with significantly more literature belonging to this category than the Haugenian or Hallidayan approaches.

#### **2.1.1.1 The Haugenian approach**

The Haugenian approach emphasizes interactions between language and its surrounding environment (Haugen 1972), and many scholars believe that this approach extends primarily to the research questions of sociolinguistics. Its content mainly centers on studies related to the ecology of language itself, such as its survival and developmental status. It is evident from the 2022 research results that most research was conducted along this line. This year's Haugenian approach works mainly employed disciplines such as sociolinguistics (Titone and Tiv 2022; Vukolova et al. 2022), ecosystemic linguistics (Guisan and da Silva 2022), pragmatics (Hampton 2022), and visualization analysis (Zhang and Ye 2022).

Titone and Tiv (2022) constructed a framework for bilingualism that provides certain complementary sociolinguistic and sociocultural experiences. One of their main aims was to promote the development of multilingualism. Adopting a similar perspective to them, other researchers have investigated the linguistic variability of the Pittsburgh dialect in the U.S., tapping into the prerequisites of urban language and speech (Vukolova et al. 2022). Guisan and da Silva (2022) focused on the use and interactions between discursive markers among native and second-language speakers of Portuguese from an ecosystemic linguistics perspective in a study involving migrants living near the Brazil–Venezuela border. Hampton's (2022) case study investigated the maintenance and revival of language by analyzing local natural world stories using Emilian, a minority language in Italy by employing pragmatic and ecolinguistic approaches. Their findings illustrate the importance of ecolinguistics in identifying the materials for language revitalization efforts.

Additionally, Zhang and Ye (2022) indicated that the boundaries of the current linguistic ecology (I) are rather blurred; therefore, they defined the concept of linguistic ecology (I) in a narrow sense and identified the main research topics in this field. Finally, they pointed out that linguistic ecology (I), understood in the narrow sense, should pay more attention to ecological methods and strive to deal with the interactions between language and the ecological environment in future research (Zhang and Ye 2022).

### 2.1.1.2 The Hallidayan approach

The Hallidayan approach focuses on the role of language in various ecological issues, mainly from the perspective of systemic functional linguistics (in the narrow sense) (Halliday 1990), and is primarily concerned with the ecological examination and criticism of people's discourses and behaviors. Thus, ecolinguistics is non-metaphorical in this approach and strives to analyze discourse from the perspective of systemic functional linguistics. In 2022, the main perspectives employed in the Hallidayan approach included critical ecolinguistics, appraisal theory, and ecological (and/or harmonious) discourse analysis, which are explicitly presented in relevant research.

Huang and Zeng (2022) selected the discourse in "The Land Ethic", a representative nature writing discourse in *A Sand County Almanac*, as an example of analysis, and used appraisal theory to analyze its attitudinal meaning and interpreted it based on the given historical context. Their study not only showed the importance of appraisal theory and considered the historical context in nature writing discourses, but also highlighted that the ideas of harmony and equality between human beings and nature are of great value to the development of ecolinguistics. Martin and Cruz (2022) drew on a functional analysis of Tagalog nominal group structures to address how these groups can be used as examples to explain the opinions of environmentalists. These efforts will be beneficial for building a greener world. Yu and Han (2022) presented the top ten Chinese network terms in 2021 from the perspective of critical ecolinguistics, based on Stibbe's ecosophy "Living!" and its seven components. They discussed the beneficial, destructive, and ambivalent aspects of these terms to promote the sustainable development of the socioecological environment. Ecological discourse analysis is a crucial aspect of the Hallidayan approach. Ma and He (2023) conducted a comparative ecological discourse analysis of general debate statements made by the USA and China in the United Nations General Assembly from 2017 to 2020 to explore the impact of the two countries' thematic choices on international relations. Their rationale for the analysis was the ecosophy proposed by their team, entitled "Diversity and Harmony, Interaction and Coexistence". Ma and He (2023) called attention to the need for developing beneficial discourses and building an ecological and harmonious world while demonstrating the feasibility of applying

ecological discourse analysis to political discourse. In the Chinese context, the harmonious discourse analysis was proposed by Huang and Zhao (2021) and has achieved great effectiveness. Zhao (2022a) examined the environment-privilege and environment-outflow of Arctic discourses from the perspective of harmonious discourse analysis. Her results suggested that the natural environment and international ecology are closely interwoven (Zhao 2022a).

### 2.1.1.3 Extension within the linguistics framework

The extension of micro-ecolinguistic studies on language and ecological issues by combining additional disciplines and perspectives can be seen from the relevant research results published in 2022. The main disciplinary perspectives adopted by researchers this year included applied linguistics (Maley 2022), cognitive linguistics (Drury et al. 2022; Franklin et al. 2022; Goatly 2022a), cognitive poetics (Cuadrado-Fernandez 2022), cognitive sociology (Calero and Pullopaxi 2022), corpus linguistics (Angwah 2022; Bevitori and Johnson 2022; Gilquin 2022; Hameed et al. 2022; Liu and Huang 2022; Poole and Micalay-Hurtado 2022; Zottola and de Majo 2022), (critical/ecocritical/multimedia/positive) discourse analysis (Ambe 2022; Forte 2022; Molek-Kozakowska and Szymańska-Czaplak 2022; Penz 2022; Plastina 2022; Sarmiento and de Moura 2022; Zeniakin 2022), ecocriticism (Sarmiento and de Moura 2022), ecolinguistics (see next paragraph), economic sociology (Thurlow 2022), ecostylistics (Goatly 2022a; Virdis 2022), frame theory (Forte 2022; Plastina 2022; Virdis 2022; Zeniakin 2022), metaphors (Virdis 2022), narratives (Ambe 2022; Plastina 2022), rhetoric (Molek-Kozakowska and Szymańska-Czaplak 2022), sociolinguistics (Thurlow 2022), sociopsychology (Fashal and Al Shamari 2022), and systemic functional grammar (Goatly 2022a).

Many studies directly proposed the adoption of an “ecolinguistic” (or “ecological discourse analysis”, or “ecosophy”) perspective in their interpretations (e.g. Calero and Pullopaxi 2022; Cunningham et al. 2022; Drury et al. 2022; Fashal and Al Shamari 2022; Franklin et al. 2022; Ha and Huang 2022; Litvinovich 2022; Merskin 2022; Micalay-Hurtado and Poole 2022; Moene 2022; Ponton 2022; Satyawati et al. 2022; Sokół 2022; Thurlow 2022; Ubanako and Acha 2022; Zhang and Gai 2022). In the literature cited above, most articles integrated several theoretical elements, whereas only a few did not mention other theoretical perspectives. Ha and Huang (2022) proposed that ecolinguistics in the Chinese context has to expand on three aspects after analyzing the two versions discussed in Stibbe’s (2015, 2021) monograph, entitled *Ecolinguistics: Language, Ecology and the Stories We Live By*: (1) drawing inspiration from the ecological wisdom of traditional cultures; (2) refining the types of ecological discourses; (3) improving the level of people’s ecological literacy. Satyawati et al. (2022) aimed to enhance the fauna lexicon and related values in the proverbs of the Minangkabau people. Their results revealed philosophical values,

environmental service values, sociocultural values, and so on. Zhang and Gai (2022) compared the differences in conceptual metaphors in Chinese and American news discourse, which are influenced by economics, politics, culture, society, and ecosophy.

Drury et al. (2022) incorporated the theoretical knowledge of ecolinguistics, cognitive linguistics, and critical discourse analysis and applied it to analyze speakers' contributions at the UN Biodiversity Summit 2020. Linguistic strategies used for more effective environmental communication were illustrated. Fashal and Al Shamari (2022) investigated and developed ecological identity in Haig's *Children's Book*, which combines ecolinguistics and sociopsychology. They addressed the implications of how lexicogrammatical variables can be effectively used to create ecological identity. Hameed et al. (2022) worked on corpus linguistics and ecolinguistics to present media discourse regarding the "Saudi Green Initiative" for a more ecologically beneficial plan. Ponton (2022) noted that the narratives of the discourses on industrial development and eco-friendliness are integrated into ecolinguistic and narrative perspectives for solving contemporary ecological problems. Poole and Micalay-Hurtado (2022) expressed concerns about corpus-assisted discourse analysis and ecolinguistics; they discussed a diachronic collocation (1820–2019) analysis of adjectives occurring with the terms tree(s) and forest(s) across the span of the corpus. Sokół (2022) combined ecolinguistics and positive discourse analysis. It showed the interdiscursive construction of performing eco-activism in YouTube vlogs to call on humans to protect ecosystems. Thurlow (2022) described discarded studies of sociolinguistics and how they work in attending to waste, drawing on parts of ecolinguistics and economic sociology. Other resources in this section are explained in detail in the "monographs and journals" section because they were published in reputed journals in the field of ecolinguistics.

### 2.1.2 Macro-ecolinguistics

Macro-ecolinguistics considers a broader range of disciplines than micro-ecolinguistics (Huang and Chen 2018). It mainly studies ecolinguistics within the framework of ecology or uses nonlinguistic theories. Therefore, macro-ecolinguistics cannot simply be treated as a separate discipline in the general sense (i.e. linguistics and ecology). In fact, many scholars position it as a trans-discipline (Finke 2018; Steffensen and Fill 2014). The main research perspectives involved in macro-ecolinguistics in 2022 were agroecology (Santos 2022), agro-ecosystem (Santos 2022), autopoetics (Santos 2022), basic human needs (Chau et al. 2022), (constructivist) ecolinguistics (E. Couto 2022; Kaushal et al. 2022), culturomics (D. Zhang et al. 2022), Danish dialectical theory (Bang et al. 2022), ecocontextualized approach (Xiao 2022), ecological and institutional economics (Herrmann-Pillath et al. 2022), ecological

psychology (Raczaszek-Leonardi et al. 2022), ecologically informed methodology (Garner 2022), ecosystemic linguistics (H. Couto 2022; Fernandes 2022a, 2022b; Finke 2022; Silva 2022), human ecology (Ha et al. 2022), landsenses ecology (L. Zhang et al. 2022), linguistic ecology (II) (Ha et al. 2022; D. Zhang et al. 2022), phytosemiotics (Lins and Neto 2022), and plant neurobiology (Lins and Neto 2022). If we compare macro-ecolinguistics with micro-ecolinguistics, macro-ecolinguistics has a much wider scope, extending the focus on “language” to human psychology, human needs, and even natural science.

Based on the statistical results of macro-ecolinguistics, Ha et al. (2022) presented an ecological literacy framework with five dimensions to assess inhabitants' ecological literacy levels in one of China's top ten ecologically advanced cities. Their perspective can be called linguistic ecology (II), which stems from human ecology (Ha et al. 2022). Herrmann-Pillath et al. (2022) were inspired by Anthropocene ecological and institutional economics to create a conceptual framework of co-evolution with nature-based solutions. Kaushal et al. (2022) examined climate change communication using a constructivist ecolinguistics approach to understand how climate change is effectively disseminated in society, how effective feedback is obtained, and the measures are taken to address climate change communication. Xiao (2022) contributed an “ecocontextualized approach” to concentrate on the sustainability of foreign language development and proposed a sound-meaning mapping prioritizing route, while also verifying this approach's applicability. D. Zhang et al. (2022) used the disciplinary perspective of linguistic ecology (II) and integrated the aspects of culturomics and ecological models to explore economic and ecological concepts in Chinese mainstream media, discovering patterns of language change in the newspaper *People's Daily* from 1946 to 2015 with the goal of developing a linguistic ecosystem that is harmonious for humans and nature. Finally, Zhang has made many contributions to landsenses ecology in recent years (Zhang et al. 2021a, 2021b, 2021c), and has creatively proposed the concept and framework of linguistic landsense ecology in the context of ecolinguistics, which provides a reference for the development of macro-ecolinguistics (L. Zhang et al. 2022). Several other resources listed in this section are discussed in the “monographs and journals” section.

## 2.2 Academic conferences

Many countries and regions held academic conferences on ecological issues in 2022. Here, we identify several academic conferences that are related to ecolinguistics for the analysis of the processes, topics, and contents of those academic conferences. The workings of such academic conferences towards the construction of an ecological civilization are also explored.

The Sixth International Conference on Ecolinguistics (ICE-6)<sup>2</sup> had the most widespread impact this year. This international conference series was initiated by the Chinese scholar Professor Guowen Huang and was held first at the South China Agricultural University in 2016 (Guangzhou, China), followed by Beijing Foreign Studies University (Beijing, China, 2017), Guizhou Normal University (Guiyang, China, 2018), University of Southern Denmark (Odense, Denmark, 2019), and University of Liverpool (Liverpool, UK, 2021). The ICE-6 was held at the University of Graz, Austria (organized by Hermine Penz), from September 21st–24th, 2022, with the theme “Language, Time and Sustainability: Ecolinguistics For, With, After, and Against the Future”. The ICE-6 was composed of five plenary sessions, 16 panel sessions, and other discussions. The five keynote speakers and the topics of their presentations were: Alwin Fill, “Ecolinguistics against Climate Change and for Peace”; Barbara Adam, “Reflecting on Future Matters for Eco-Linguistics”; Peter Mühlhäusler, “Time and Ecolinguistics”; Xingwei Miao, “Unity of Humans and Nature: Ecologization in Mandarin Chinese as Ecological Care for the Life-sustaining Environment”; and Andrew Goatly, “The Similarity and Contiguity Dimensions of Meaning and Ecology”. Regarding the 16 panel sessions, due to the large amount of content, we have organized and summarized some typical topics that appeared in linguistic studies as follows: ecological ideologies by Dai Faye, Panel 1; (multimodal) ecological discourse analysis by Wenjin Wendy and Baoyu Ma, Panel 1; linguistic accessibility by Braunsdorfer Johanna, Panel 1; prescriptive ecolinguistics by Zeniakin Oleksii, Panel 2; eco-critical metaphor discourse analysis by Festus Moses Onipede and Gabriel Abiodun Abioye, Panel 2; econarrative by Stibbe, Panel 3; and ecosophy by Drury, Panel 3. ICE-6 brought together scholars from many disciplines and regions who aimed to contribute to the solution of global ecological problems and to the sustainable development of humans and the natural world by discussing practical issues in ecolinguistics. ICE-6 highlights the importance of language and temporality in the sustainability debate. At the same time, this international conference promoted the interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary development of ecolinguistics.

In addition to ICE-6, many regions around the world organized local academic conferences, symposiums, and seminars on ecolinguistics or discussions around the issues of “language” and “ecology” to alleviate regional and global ecological problems and achieve effective solutions to ecological problems at home and abroad. Greater ecological problems can be effectively solved by alleviating regional

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2 Available at: <https://ecolinguistics-2022.uni-graz.at/en/> (accessed 20 November 2022).



ecological problems. We list several regional conferences on ecolinguistics that were hosted in the UK and China in 2022.

In the UK, from October 22nd to 23rd, 2022, a conference entitled “International Conference on Ecocriticism and Environmental Studies”<sup>3</sup> was held by the London Center for Interdisciplinary Research. This conference explored eco-environmental problem-solving, mainly from a humanities (i.e. linguistics, literature) perspective, focusing on the relationships between the physical environment and texts. The main topics listed on the conference website were animal studies, biopolitics, cultural and literacy ecology, ecofeminism, ecolinguistics, ecosophy, environmental arts, environmental history, ethnobiology, posthumanism, and sustainable development.

The China Association of Ecolinguistics has contributed much to the organization of conferences. First, the 7th National Symposium on the Strategic Development of Ecolinguistics was held on June 18, 2022, hosted by Guizhou Normal University (online/Guiyang, China). The conference consisted of two main parts: a colloquium and a roundtable discussion. More than 170 Chinese experts, scholars, and students participated in the colloquium, which consisted of keynote presentations by ten experts on issues surrounding ecolinguistics and its cross-fertilization with other disciplines. This roundtable discussion was attended by experts and scholars from the China Association of Ecolinguistics to discuss the next development path of ecolinguistics in China and promote the discipline of ecolinguistics.

Second, from August 20th to 21st, 2022, Inner Mongolia University held its 7th National Conference on Ecolinguistics (online/Hohhot, China). The theme of the conference was “Research on Ecolinguistics and the Construction of Ecological Civilization in the New Era”. The conference was attended by more than 240 Chinese experts, scholars, and students and included 14 keynote presentations by experts as well as a Young Scholars Forum. The keynote presentations by the experts focused on interdisciplinary research in ecolinguistics, developmental trends in ecolinguistics, linguistic landscapes, ecological lexicography, ecophilosophical perspectives, systemic functional linguistics, language planning, ecological identity, and corpus linguistics. The Young Scholars Forum was divided into ten panels for discussion, with the main topics being: “Connotative Development of Ecolinguistics in the Context of the New Era”, “Integration and Development of Ecolinguistics”, “Language Policy, Language Planning and Language Ecology”, “Research on Ecolinguistics and Language Teaching”, “Ecolinguistics and Translation Studies”, “Theory and Practice of Ecological Discourse Analysis”, “Ecolinguistics and Systemic Functional Linguistics”, and “Ecolinguistics and Cognitive Linguistics”. Through academic exchange, the aim was to promote the emergence of new growth points in ecolinguistic studies and to realize the academic value of ecolinguistics researchers.

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3 Available at: <https://eco.lcir.co.uk/> (accessed 20 November 2022).

Third, on October 13, 2022, Beijing Foreign Studies University held “Frontiers Symposium on Ecolinguistics” online and the development conference of the *Journal of World Languages*. The Frontiers Symposium section included eight invited experts from the UK, China, Italy, Malaysia, Brazil, and the USA to give academic presentations. The names of the experts and the titles of their presentations were: Hildo Honorio do Couto, “Ecosystemic Discourse Analysis”; Arran Stibbe, “Econarrative and the Creation of the Earth”; Daniela Francesca Virdis, “Environmental Stylistics: Theoretical and Analytical Approaches to Discourses of Nature, the Environment and Sustainability”; Robert Poole, “Corpus-Assisted Ecolinguistics for Diachronic Analysis of Eco-Key words and Constructs”; George Jacobs and Meng Huat Chau, “Ecolinguistics for and Beyond the Sustainable Development Goals”; Andrew Goatly, “Ecostylistics – and the Frontiers of Ecolinguistics”; and Alison Sealey, “Describing Animals: An Ecolinguistics Case Study”. The Construction Promotion Conference section discusses the progress of the *Journal of World Languages* and communication of further developments.

There were also academic forums on functional linguistics in 2022 that did not mention ecolinguistics in their themes, but reminded participants of the discussion of the relationship between ecolinguistics and functional linguistics in specific research topics, for example: The 5th Forum on Integration, Innovation and Development of Functional Linguistics held on October 29th–30th, 2022. Its theme was “Learn from each other and integrate for innovative development”, i.e. functional linguistics and ecolinguistics at Qufu Normal University, Jining, China. The First Zhuhai Forum on Functional Linguistics: Ph.D. Student Forum was held on November 5th–6th, 2022. Its theme was “Cultivation of Foreign Language Talents in the Context of New Liberal Arts” at Sun Yat-sen University, Zhuhai, China.

## 2.3 Monographs and journals

In the previous sections, we reviewed the progress of ecolinguistics in 2022 from different perspectives, including some of the publications mentioned in this section. However, those sections did not directly focus on the ecolinguistics monographs and journals. This section focuses on two ecolinguistic monographs and six scientific journals published in the field of ecolinguistics in 2022 (Statistics until November 26th, 2022).

Wuhan University Press published Chinese scholar Rong Wei’s English monograph on ecolinguistics, entitled *A Systemic Functional Framework of International Ecological Discourse Analysis*, which was adapted from her Ph.D. dissertation. Eight chapters in the monograph combine theory, analysis, and action (Wei 2022). First, the ecolinguistics framework is constructed by combining the ecosophy of “Diversity and Interaction, Coexistence and Harmony” with relevant content of systemic functional linguistics in Chapter 3 and Chapter 4. Subsequently, based on the ecolinguistics

framework described above, the conservation, neutrality, and destruction of ecosystems in the international ecological discourse were evaluated in Chapters 5–7. Finally, Wei warned people to take action to promote beneficial discourse, resist destructive discourse, and improve ambivalent discourse in Chapter 8. This monograph brought forth international ecosophy, verified the “applicability” of systemic functional linguistics and the theoretical development of ecolinguistics, and strengthened the dialog between Western linguistic theories and traditional Chinese ecosophy.

Rong Wei's book mainly adopted qualitative research methods to analyze ecolinguistics, but corpus-assisted quantitative research methods are also useful for the exploration of ecolinguistics (Stibbe 2021: 156). Poole's (2022) monograph used a corpus-assisted path, titled *Corpus-Assisted Ecolinguistics* (published by Bloomsbury). Poole's book contains seven chapters that apply corpus-assisted discourse analysis techniques to the study of ecolinguistics, highlighting the contribution of corpus linguistics to ecolinguistics. Poole begins his book by emphasizing the importance of ecosophy (also Stibbe 2021: 11–14) and applies ecosophy to discourse analysis, which consists of five elements: well-being, justice, awakening and transformation, compassion, and sustainability. The book reminded readers to be aware of the ecological turn in discourse; to question discourses that are inconsistent with their own ecosophy; to produce the linguistic forms behind the ecological crisis; and to contribute new ways of thinking, forms of behavior, and modes of existence for the ecological well-being and sustainable development of humanity.

*Ecolinguística: Revista Brasileira de Ecologia e Linguagem (ECO-REBEL)*, the *Journal of World Languages, Language & Ecology*, and *Language Sciences*, all made significant contributions to the field of ecolinguistics in 2021 and continued to publish many articles representing the frontiers of ecolinguistic studies in 2022. All of these journals deserve attention from the academic community.

*ECO-REBEL* is a journal that focuses on ecosystem linguistics, treating language as a biopsychosocial phenomenon both exoecologically and endoecologically (Zhang 2022). Hildo Honório do Couto is the chief editor. Nineteen academic articles in the field of ecolinguistics were published in the journal in 2022. The content types offered in Issue 1 included editorials, articles, short reviews, interviews with ecolinguists, and obituaries. The main contents covered were: Bang et al. (2022) referenced the Danish dialectical theory of language and ecolinguistics, focusing on the investigation and analysis of various types of languages. Two articles in this issue presented pioneering scholars of ecosystem linguistics and their scholarly perspectives: Romanian linguist Eugenio Coseriu and Romanian psycholinguist Tatiana Slama-Cazacu (Fernandes 2022a; Silva 2022). Sarmiento and de Moura (2022) incorporated interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary ideas using discourse analysis and ecocriticism to identify the representation of the country's people in *O Sertanejo*, revealing

the relationship between humans and their natural and sociocultural environments. E. Couto (2022) connected ecolinguistics with the imaginary and found the feasibility of their combination by sorting their respective contents to provide a certain complement to ecolinguistic studies. Santos (2022) emphasized the importance of communication processes between different species to promote the development of an agro-ecosystem. H. Couto (2022) confirmed the multidisciplinary and multi-methodological attributes of ecosystem linguistics through argumentation and stated that language is “a mode of communication or communication itself”.

The types of content in Issue 2 were editorials, articles, and reviews. In terms of the contents, it involved the following aspects: Pang and Marlow (2022) focused on the development of ecolinguistics in China and discussed the study’s contribution to the development of the discipline. Garner (2022) explored an ecological approach to language research and promoted linguistics as a genuine ecological scientific discipline. Using the critical discourse analysis framework, Forte (2022) explored whether texts in Argentine environmental law allowed participants to take certain actions within a particular framework. Finke (2022) practiced transdisciplinary thinking and discussed four aspects of historical and current prerequisites centered on the future, knowledge, and language, namely, the Anthropocene perspective, two contributions of linguistics, and steps that can be taken toward a sustainable understanding of knowledge. Fernandes (2022b) aimed to contextualize hate speech, link it to hate practices, and concluded that both are contradictory to the principles of ecosystem discourse analysis. Lins and Neto (2022) considered the relationship between humans and the plant kingdom, providing examples of human behavior through the knowledge of plant neurobiology. Guisan and da Silva (2022) studied migration along the Brazil–Venezuela border for a theoretical exploration of the interaction and use of discursive markers based on ecosystemic linguistics.

The *Journal of World Languages*, which explores the role, function, and structure of language worldwide, specifically highlights the research areas of ecolinguistics and ecological discourse analysis. Fifteen articles related to ecolinguistics appeared in 2022, and the second issue of this year was a Special Issue on ecolinguistics, entitled “Practical Applications of Ecolinguistics”, involving both an editorial and research articles. In eight research articles on this Special Issue, Penz and Fill (2022) traced the trajectory of ecolinguistics from the Haugenian and Hallidayan approaches and discussed the main trends in current research. They also provided suggestions for the next phase of ecolinguistic development. Gilquin (2022) drew on corpus linguistics to discuss ways to reduce people’s ecological footprint (i.e. second-hand consumption). The study revealed how discourse representations of second-hand consumption (i.e. frequency and collocation) have evolved over time and made suggestions for its further development (Gilquin 2022). Franklin et al. (2022) also used a corpus approach and combined the elements of ecolinguistics and cognitive

linguistics to investigate consumer attitudes toward plastic use in the UK. Suggestions were made as to how to communicate information on packaging and plastic recycling. Chau et al. (2022) addressed the important role of ecolinguistics in solving real-world issues and suggested how linguists could be involved in solving ecological problems and working towards achieving sustainable development goals. The next two articles emphasized the importance of language teachers inside and outside the classroom in addressing ecological issues and offered directional guidance for their teaching activities (Maley 2022; Micalay-Hurtado and Poole 2022). Merskin (2022) began with a discussion of the personal pronouns “she”, “he”, and “it” and proposed an animal protection initiative for the sake of our ecological well-being. The last article told the story of the local natural world and explored the conservation and revitalization of language (Hampton 2022).

Several other issues of the *Journal of World Languages* published in 2022 (including those that are “ahead of print”) also included articles with links to ecolinguistics, for example: the book review of *New Developments of Ecological Discourse Analysis* (Cheng 2022), the themes for ecostylistics (Goatly 2022a), the discourse analysis of the terms “climate change” and “global warming” (Liu and Huang 2022), the contrastive study of the general debate statements made by the USA and China at the United Nations General Assembly from the perspective of ecological discourse analysis (Ma and He 2023), the lecture review of Arran Stibbe (Ma and Stibbe 2022), and the study review of ecolinguistics in 2021 (Zhang 2022).

*Language & Ecology* is the ecolinguistics journal of the International Ecolinguistics Association, edited by Amir Ghorbanpour, which publishes articles on the role of language in life-sustaining relationships between humans, other species, and the natural environment, as well as creative work that fosters ecological literacy.

In 2022, it published three types of content (articles, creative work, and book reviews). Three articles were a combination of corpus linguistics and ecolinguistics, discussing intra-continental parallels of new Englishes in climate change discourses (Angwah 2022), the English pronoun “they” and human exceptionalism (Brown 2022), and comparing the difference between activists and politicians in the climate change debate (Cunningham et al. 2022). Zeniakin (2022) conducted a case study of British online media to uncover the anthropocentric framework in contemporary media discourse, laying the groundwork for ecocentrism. Cuadrado-Fernandez (2022) presented a range of issues regarding the emancipation of indigenous poetry in Mexico using an ecopoetic approach. Ubanako and Acha (2022) investigated the deictic categories of ecocentrism in Cameroonian newspaper discourse, promoting nature conservation. Litvinovich (2022) described a concrete image of the universal concept of “water” in Belarus. Moene (2022) applied ecofeminist theory to the teaching of English as a foreign language in classrooms, highlighting the role of educators in sustainable learning and ecological conservation. Ambe (2022)

emphasized the importance of ecological narratives and concluded that although they are missing from people's linguistic expressions, they are very important in today's society.

*Text & Talk*, a journal for interdisciplinary research in language, discourse, and communication studies, edited by Srikant Sarangi, published a Special Issue 4 with 10 editorials and full-length articles on "Environmental issues in the Anthropocene: Ecolinguistic perspectives across media and genres" in 2022 (Ponton and Sokół 2022). The specific content of the articles was as follows: assessing the prevalence and use of the Anthropocene concept (Zottola and de Majo 2022), the connection between the modernist industrial development and eco-friendly discourses (Ponton 2022), how particular discursive constructions relate to environment-oriented causes (Molek-Kozakowska and Szymańska-Czaplak 2022), the interdiscursive practices of lifestyle vloggers in implementing eco-activism (Sokół 2022), a diachronic analysis of "risk" and "resilience" in the global press (Bevitori and Johnson 2022), how to effectively communicate climate change information to the public and motivate them to intervene rationally (Penz 2022), changing the discourses on climate change by emphasizing social-ecological resilience (Plastina 2022), the beneficial discursive strategies embodied in the lectures of *The Storm-Cloud of the Nineteenth Century*. Finally, Goatly (2022b) reflected upon the articles of this Special Issue in the form of an epilogue.

In China, the *Journal of Poyang Lake*, edited by Yingfeng Hu, provided significant support for ecolinguistic studies. According to the official website of South China Agricultural University,<sup>4</sup> the "Guowen Huang Album" (including five articles) was published in the first issue of 2022's Ecological Scholarship to introduce the team of Huang's contributions to the field of ecolinguistics in recent years. Guowen Huang described his ecological turn in the field of linguistics and his thoughts on ecolinguistic studies (Huang 2022). Chen conducted an interview with Huang that focused on highlighting the role of language in the harmonious coexistence of humans and nature (Chen and Huang 2022). The other three articles in the album were a summary of Huang's ecolinguistic research dimensions (Zhou and Zhai 2022), a review of harmonious discourse analysis (Zhao 2022b), and a review of an ecolinguistics book (Wang and Chen 2022).

In addition to the aforementioned journals, *Language Sciences*, edited by Sune Vork Steffensen, published a large number of articles on ecolinguistics. One of the articles in this journal within the academy offered great insight into the study of ecological discourse analysis, namely from the "analysis of ecological discourse" to the "ecological analysis of discourse" (Alexander and Stibbe 2014). In 2022, this journal published an ecolinguistics article that aimed to contribute to "the

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4 Available at: [https://www.scau.edu.cn/\\_t78/2022/0704/c11310a320348/page.htm](https://www.scau.edu.cn/_t78/2022/0704/c11310a320348/page.htm) (accessed 4 July 2022).

construction of an ecologically valid framework for the emergence of symbolic communication in development” (Raczaszek-Leonardi et al. 2022: 1).

### 3 Research trends

Through the review of representative works in various ecolinguistic research areas, academic conferences, monographs, and journals in 2022, we have not only identified the research hotspots in ecolinguistics but we can also attempt to predict the next research trends.

Firstly, the study of ecolinguistics, with the discipline of linguistics as its main framework, is still in a prominent position but is no longer limited to the Haugenian approach (e.g. language diversity, language endangerment) and the Hallidayan approach (e.g. ecological discourse analysis, harmonious discourse analysis), and the integration of other linguistics-related subdisciplines has emerged. From a diachronic perspective, ecolinguistic research began in the 1970s using the Haugenian approach, and in the 1990s it started to focus on research that fell within the Hallidayan approach (Fill 2001). The disciplines that primarily support these two research models are sociolinguistics and systemic functional linguistics, and scholars continued to work on both perspectives in ecolinguistic studies in 2022. However, it is worth noting that more disciplinary perspectives have been incorporated into ecolinguistic studies recently, such as corpus linguistics, cognitive linguistics, cognitive psychology, and applied linguistics. Among these, many studies used corpus linguistic tools (see Section 2.1.1), reflecting the great potential of quantitative approaches in ecolinguistic studies (Poole 2017; Stibbe 2021: 156).

Secondly, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary trends in ecolinguistics have become increasingly prominent. The interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary nature of ecolinguistics cannot be attributed to a single discipline, and researchers from different disciplinary backgrounds can reach different conclusions as they work from different perspectives. Huang and Li (2021) clearly explained that the linguistic and ecological research conducted by linguists is not the ecolinguistics that ecologists have in mind; therefore, more commonalities remain to be explored. As seen in the 2022 research results, researchers incorporated more subject areas outside of linguistics, such as culturomics, ecosystemic linguistics, human ecology, landsenses ecology, phytosemiotics, and plant neurobiology (see Section 2.1.2). The research above is no longer limited to language studies per se but involves a wide range of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary content. If we look at the intersection of ecology and its related disciplines according to the ecology expert Wenhua Li, basic ecology, broad ecology, and general ecology can better define the connotation and development trends of ecology (Li 2004). Therefore, the scope of ecology is no longer



only the relationship between “different levels of organisms” and the “environment” but also the application of ecological principles, methods, philosophical ideas, and culture to explore the relationship between human beings and nature, which can be regarded as part of the study of ecolinguistics (Huang 2016; Li 2004). At the level of this research trend, the intersection of ecology and stylistics is also a point of innovation, and scholars interested in this intersection can be inspired by Stibbe’s discussion of the economic problem in his monograph (Stibbe 2021), while his forthcoming monograph *Econarrative: Ethics, Ecology and the Search for New Narratives to Live By* also once again verified the trend of the econarrative (Stibbe 2024).

Finally, the central position of “promoting ecological literacy” as one of the main goals and tasks of ecolinguistics (Huang and Zhao 2019: 152) is becoming clear in the reviewed research. Therefore, discussions on people’s ecological literacy, ecological awareness, and ecosophy that contribute to the harmonious coexistence of humans and nature require the attention of ecolinguists. Until now, one of the most comprehensive discussions of ecological literacy has been the “five-dimensional framework for assessing ecological literacy” designed by Ha et al. (2022) to explore the inhabitants of an ecologically advanced city (i.e. Guiyang City) in China from the perspectives of ecological knowledge, awareness, ethics, emotions, and behavior, and its previous foundation has provided much of the credibility of the design of this framework (Huang and Ha 2021; Huang and Zhao 2019: 152–153; Stibbe 2009). As far as ecosophy is concerned, many ecolinguists have not only emphasized its importance but also given an account of their own ecosophy as it was applied in their research, the more typical ones being: the ecosophy “Living!” and its seven components identified by Stibbe (2021), the proposition of Huang’s “one assumption and three principles” in harmonious discourse analysis (Huang 2017; Huang and Zhao 2021), and Wei He’s ecosophy of “Diversity and Interaction, Coexistence and Harmony” (He et al. 2021).

In investigating the research results for 2022, we see that most aim to promote people’s ecological awareness and cultivate their ecological literacy, which also happens to be a part of their ecological education. Thus, these topics should remain the focus of the next phase of research in this area.

## 4 Conclusion

Against the backdrop of the Anthropocene era, tensions in the relationship between humans and nature are repeatedly coming to the forefront. Although we, as researchers in ecolinguistics, cannot directly solve the ecological environmental problems by ourselves, we have an inherent “social accountability” (Halliday 1990) to encourage people to adopt more sustainable attitudes and behaviors regarding



the natural world through language, thinking, and awareness. This study reviewed the progress made in the field of ecolinguistics worldwide in 2022 in terms of research areas, academic conferences, monographs, and journals and summarized the trends in ecolinguistics based on a continued focus on ecolinguistics in the framework of linguistics, an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary trend in ecolinguistics, and a focus on the development of ecological literacy. This study does not include all the results of ecolinguistic studies published in 2022; however, it does provide direction for the next steps in ecolinguistics. We have called on researchers in various fields to pay attention to ecolinguistics, broaden its breadth and depth, use language as a medium to practice the harmonious coexistence of humans and nature, and help build a more ecological civilization.

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