

Pakistani English (PakE): Establishing Legitimacy and Standardization in the South Asian English Varieties

Afzala Yaseen

Tahmina Sardar

Irfan Ashraf

PhD Scholar, Department of English (Linguistics), Riphah International University Faisalabad, Pakistan at- afzalayaseen643@gmail.com

PhD Scholar, Department of English (Linguistics), Riphah International University Faisalabad, Pakistan at- tahminanaveed90@yahoo.com

PhD Scholar, Department of English (Linguistics), Riphah International University Faisalabad, Pakistan at- irfanfani9282@gmail.com

Abstract

This paper aimed at analyzing various features of academic writings of some renowned writers on Pakistani English, for the purpose of examining it as a legitimate and standard variety of English. The objectives include: (1) to identify how PakE's unique linguistic features (compared to Standard British and American English) contribute to its potential recognition as a distinct, standardized South Asian English variety, and (2) to analyse the distinctive lexical choices in Pakistani English, including various innovative methods that impact its perceived legitimacy as a systematic and nativised variety of English. Inductive thematic analysis has been selected for this paper as it is a useful qualitative analytic method (Brown and Clarke 2006). The data for this paper, consisting of five high-quality studies, was obtained by a methodical search of academic online databases, including the Google Scholar website. Initially, emerging themes have been grouped under two headings – linguistic features of Pakistani English – and distinctive lexical choices including various innovative methods. Research uncovers how Pakistani English's inherent structure and standards contribute to its established status as a recognized South Asian English variety. The study highlights the need for the codification of PakE's distinct features in resources like dictionaries and textbooks is crucial for its wider recognition as a standardized international variety.

Keywords: Pakistani English (PakE), standardization, linguistic features, lexical features, thematic analysis

Introduction

English has attained global status, being employed by nearly every country for both national and international communication. This facilitates the overcoming of ethnic and linguistic disparities worldwide. Despite its international recognition, English also demonstrates local cultural characteristics. It is globally embraced, and the notion that it solely reflects Judeo-Christian cultural traditions has been dismissed by language scholars worldwide. Throughout this process

of evolution, fresh dialects and variations are coming to the forefront. In Pakistan, English holds the position of a favored official language, serving purposes both within the country and beyond its borders. In Pakistan, the language of English has undergone through the process of nativization, and shares many similarities with British and American English. Its purpose is to ensure effective communication along-with embracing its own distinctive flavor and nuances.

In the past, the term "Standard Language" has often been associated with the prestigious written form of language used in most formal situations. The term of Standard English is clearly defined by Weber, Platt and Richards (1985) in their dictionary as a type of language that hold higher standard and prestige in a nation and it is usually consisted on the writing and speech of educated persons of the language. They further added that a language having certain characteristics is considered standard such as: (a) used in dictionaries and grammar books (b) described in the literature and news media (b) (c) used in schools and taught to non-native speakers as a foreign language. English is not used as a native language in Pakistan; but it has been diversified through a process of nativization. English, used in Pakistan has undergone to the significant changes of local culture and languages. Pakistani English is considered a variety that follows distinct from standardized variety of British English. It is considered as an institutionalized variety of language because it meets the four criteria that are proposed by Kachru (1992) such as,

1. A broad spectrum of applications
2. An expanded variety of styles and registers
3. Contextual Nativisation of registers
4. A body of nativized Pakistani English that has been characterized by linguistic localization.

In Pakistan, English holds the official language status and is extensively utilized in various local, national, and international contexts. It is applied at all administrative and business domains, serving as the language for both civil and military bureaucracy, as well as the medium of instruction in higher education within the country.

The current study seeks to analyze distinctive features of Pakistani English, aiming to compare its differences and similarities with British and American varieties. To achieve this goal, the works of eminent scholars, including Ali (1993), Kachru (1982; 1983; 1992; 1996), Rahman (1990; 1991), Mahboob (2004; 2009), and Taalat (1993; 2002), Baumgardner (1987; 1993; 1998), focusing on Pakistani English, have been evaluated to delineate its characteristic features.

Researchers have conducted studies into specific domains, such as the utilization of lexical items, phonology, morphology, and various inventive techniques including borrowing, affixation, compounding, hybridization, and archaism, to examine the unique characteristics of non-native Pakistani English. In exploring these aspects, potential distinctions among native varieties—namely, British and American Englishes—become apparent. Pakistani English emerges as an autonomous, systematic, and standardized variety, demonstrating features that align with both British and American Englishes.

Limitations of The Study

This study is focused only to the written aspect of the language that how people write in a particular language, based on the investigations conducted by prior researchers. Emphasis is solely placed on linguistic elements, encompassing syntax, morphology, lexis, and phonology, with the objective of confirming the presence of distinct standards and values, thereby establishing it as a acknowledged South Asian variant of English. The study also points out different inventive approaches including archaism, affixation, hybridization, compounding and borrowing to show the identity of Pakistani variety in connection with their social and cultural experiences.

Statement of the Problem

The fact that Pakistan is surrounded by diversity in languages is a result of an intricate formation of vernaculars and dialects which gives account to rich cultural and historical legacy of the country. English has become one of the dominant and prominent languages of communication and in use in utilize and governance and professional domains. Moreover, the lack of an official standard of Pakistani English, however, is an obstacle, so that the recognition and endorsement of this variety linguistic diversity is a necessity. The ultimate target of standardization is not to cause linguistic homogeneity, but rather that to create a general framework that preserve the authenticity of Pakistani English and distil it to an easily understandable, clear, uniform language across the country. The rule of standardization has a special place in keeping the distinct features of Pakistani English and in the development process of a channel that is non-ambiguous, valid and functional.

Objectives of Study

- To identify the unique linguistic elements of Pakistani English in comparison to Standard British and American English will help it be recognized as a separate South Asian English variety.
- To Analyze Pakistani English's unique linguistic choices, including new ways, affect its perceived validity as a systematic and nativized version of English.

Study Questions

- What is the impact of PakE's distinctive linguistic characteristics, in comparison to Standard British and American English, on its prospective classification as a separate and standardized variant of South Asian English?
- How the legitimacy of Pakistani English is perceived as a systematic and nativized variant of English is influenced by its specific lexical choices, which encompass different creative approaches.

Significance of the Study

The study holds significance due to its investigation into the linguistic characteristics of Pakistani English (PakE) in relation to mainstream British and American English. Understanding these linguistic dynamics contributes to the indepth understanding of the development and standardization of PakE as a distinctive form. This study is helpful to enhance our understanding of the unique linguistic identity of Pakistani English and its broader implications for language studies and cross-cultural communication. The findings could help make better textbooks and educational materials. They would also boost the confidence of English teachers, researchers, and learners in Pakistan, showing that their way of using English is correct and follows rules. This could change how people, both locally and internationally, view Pakistani English.

Literature Review

1. Pakistani English (PakE)

Taalat's (2002) described Pakistani English as an English variant among speakers who are not native to StBrE; a specimen that uses all of the words in StBrE within social contexts. Taping (1993) devoted an entire article to the issue of lexical diversity among PakE English variety where attention is paid to the shifting meanings of some specific lexical items, that were transformed from their basic usage in the Standard variety of British English and a new set emerged which are

called Urduised meanings. As well, orientations such as those proposed by Baumgardner (1987), (1993), and (1998) rest upon English models either in Pakistan or abroad. Much of the study does an indepth analysis of the PakE possibilities with its production system, morphology, the lexicon, and grammar, which is the only article that in deep probability evaluation for all these areas. Yet, the aim of his investigation on the Issues concerning PKabE linguistic variety should be well understood. It is not just the linguistic variety itself that should be taken into consideration but also a deeper analysis of its impact on the social relations and identity of people speaking the same language.

Mahboob (2004) perhaps sums up the comprehensiveness of Pakistani English (PakE) by laying down the foundation of syntax, morphology, lexis, and phonology in detail. Mansoor (2004) says that Alhijazani work have been quite successful corpus planning in Pakistan. It is not improbable that the variant of Pakistani English (PakE) will become a thing of the past when Standard English will be gone. As outlined by Kachru (1983), non-native varieties typically undergo three stages of acceptance: a start, the identity of the local variety goes undetected; the nextl, it is evaluated as inferior; and later, it is belatedly recognised as the nature's choice. Pakenesian English at present is in the third stage of this progression, according to an editor and general linguist (Mansoor, 1993). The utilization of three unique types of English by Pakistanis is worth mentioning: This is what people call the acrolect, a special speech of the elite; the mesolect that belongs to those in the middle class; and lastly, the basilect is the dialect which is popular among people who are not educated and may include some slangs (Mansoor, 1993).

2. The evolution of Pakistani English (PakE) in the South Asian context

Pakistani English has its origins in British India. According to Ali (1993), English and South Asian languages evolved in distinct ways over time. The Germanic languages, influenced by Roman Christianity, tended toward Latin and Greek, whilst Indo-Iranian languages were related to Sassanian-Pahlavi and Sumerian, as well as Persian and Arabic due to Islamic influences. According to Ali (1993), the British presence in India began in the seventeenth century with Queen Elizabeth's charter, but it was not until the mid-eighteenth century that they were able to establish and cement their grip over the country.

The diffusion of English in British India resulted from the social and economic opportunities linked to it. Individuals acquired proficiency in English through direct exposure or formal

education. In South Asia, learners primarily received non-native and local English input due to a shortage of native English-speaking teachers to meet the demand, with most English instructors being Indians. Interaction with native English varieties in India was limited, and post-independence, this contact diminished further. These circumstances have played a role in the institutionalization and development of South Asian English as a distinct variety (Mahboob, 2004). The indigenous requirements and applications of English, coupled with restricted interaction with native English speakers, have given rise to what is referred to as the "nativization" of English in the Indian subcontinent (Baumgardner, 1993). English remained a social and political language during the British era, and because of its strong ties to the nation's socio-political structure, it continued to be used officially after independence in 1947 (Ali, 1993). The status of English has not changed much, even if the Raj has been exiled and the Empire has regained its territory, according to Sidwa (1993, p. 213). It is a phenomenon, and the rise of English as a global language is the single most significant element causing the phenomenon.

3. The localization of Pakistani English

Baumgardner declared that the new and old forms of the language are equally important. A change of lexicon is occurring that is not limited to the countries of Pakistan, but they are pertaining to whole of South Asia. Nevertheless, English is keeping on becoming a language which is of a great power in a multicultural and multilingual context of South Asia. It's good that it is changing to the environment that it is in and this transformation of English as a result happens exactly after the division and independence of the subcontinent. Also, as stated by Baumgardner (1993, p. 42), the borrowing vocabulary in Pakistani English from the political, cultural, fashion, education, arts and music fields has been extensively for long. He opines that the use of Urdu words such as "atta" (flour) and "maund" (a unit of measurement) is indecisive in getting fully understanding Pakistani English. As cited by Mahboob in the year of 2009 (p. 175), the English language is not a colonial language which places it in a separate niche and equally it does not just represent Islam but instead, it is infused with Islamic ideals which are further expanded upon by capturing the fine details of South Asian culture. English speaking Muslims also possess the differences in expressing themselves because of pragmatic variations and the uniqueness surrounding the culture in terms of behaviors and norms. For instance, an Arabic expression like "Insha-Allah"

(God willing) instead of a definite promise has taken the place of "non-committing promises" or even a polite response in some cases (Mahboob, 2009, p.183).

The variation observed in Pakistani English is both consistent and frequent. This distinct form of language is employed across various registers, and even individuals with high levels of education display features divergent from Standard British English. This evidence strongly suggests that Pakistani English has undergone nativization, yet it lacks formal codification. It's important to conduct research studies to understand the particular characteristics of Pakistani English. This research aims to find those unique features of Pakistani English that have become natural and are no longer seen as mistakes. This would help in standardizing the language. Standardization is crucial for recognizing and confirming the status of a variety, but it's not necessary for the variety to exist.

3. Methodology

3.1. Research Design

The study is qualitative and is based on thematic analysis. In the social sciences, the most popular qualitative analytical technique is thematic analysis. It is an exploration for recurring themes that show up as crucial to explaining the phenomenon. In primary qualitative research, it is a process or method for locating and organizing patterns of meaning (Braun & Clarke, 2006, 2013); it also identifies and groups themes that appear to be significant in the explanation of the phenomenon being studied and are frequently linked to a particular research question (Daly et al., 1997). The research aims necessitate the application of topic analysis as a methodical means of investigating and interpreting the identified linguistic characteristics of Pakistani English (PakE). Key components like syntax, morphology, lexis, and phonology were the focus of the analysis, which extracted themes that helped to grasp PakE as a valid and standard variety. Population, sampling, the study procedure, and data collecting are all included in research design and are described in detail below:

3.2. Population and Sampling

All research articles dealing with Pakistani English as a legitimate variety were the population of this research. Five quality papers written by Ali (1993), Mahboob (2004; 2009), and Taalat (1988; 1993) Baumgardner (1987; 1993; 1998), Rahman (1990; 1991), on Pakistani English that explore the

evolution of Pakistani English (PakE) as a legitimate variety were selected as a sample of the study.

3.3 Research Procedure

The research methodology used for this study was qualitative. Thematic analysis was utilized by the research's nature to achieve the intended results. The analysis's framework was very helpful in addressing the study issues. The following is a discussion of the data analysis process:

3.3.Data Analysis

The methodology of the thematic analysis undertaken for this research to investigate and perceive the linguistic features of Pakistani English (PakE) which referred to as the Pakistani specific variety of English was systemic. The analysis concerned vocabulary, phonetics, morphology, syntax, and the major themes that contributed to PakE understanding. The following steps outline the thematic analysis process:

3.4.1 Data Familiarization:

At this stage, before the actual analysis of PakE conducted extensive review of those written samples to be able to understand the characteristic linguistic and contextual features of that language then.

3.4.2 Initial Coding:

At the beginning of the coding, the data organized that obtained from linguistic features in a structured and systematic fashion according to the current question and well observed literature on the matter. There was a creation of symbols that encountered syntax, word forms, lexis and phonology in PakE.

3.4.3 Pattern Recognition:

The data after the coding were then analyzed to establish the main patterns and themes regarding the grammatical components of PakE. A process was performed on the sentences, words, and phonetic expressions to uncover the predominant elements that encompassed PakE.

3.4.4 Theme Development:

Building upon well-known motifs, it has been tried to summarize in a few words the whole idea of the linguistic feature that is going to be used. These themes were worked out to be as unique and useful a professional language as it is an Austronesian language, thus being a universe of its own kind, and is classified as South Asian Pete language.

3.4.5 Cross-Referencing with Literature:

The established themes were cross-checked with evidence from the research work of other scholars, for example Ahmad, Baumgardner, Kachru, Mahboob, Rahman and Maimoona Taalat. These procedures guaranteed the agreement of the newly acquired data with the pre-existing information, which relates to the languages general patterns.

3.4.6 Interpretation:

The last step was to make the themes found connect to the language identity of the future of Pakistani English (PakE). The interpretations dwelt on the roles of these themes in the making of PAK ENG a valid, decontextualized, and standard variety within the set-frame of South Asian English.

By this thematic analysis that was in accordance with the method, the research not only discovered linguistic patterns of PakE but also, the research gave a deep understanding about how these features come into existence in the PakE.

4. Data Analysis:

Pakistani English is commonly perceived as an exonormative variety by following British norms. However, recent research indicates that it has independently developed endonormative, stabilized rules diverging from British English. According to Sebba (2007, p. 34), language serves the crucial purpose of conveying culturally, socially, or community-specific meanings. These meanings, unique to a particular culture or society, cannot be effectively communicated by following strictly to the norms and codification standards of other cultures. Different societies speak English in different ways, with variations in pronunciation, spelling, sentence structure, word meaning, and how they use language in everyday situations.

4.1 Linguistic Feature of Pakistani English (PakE)

4.1.1 Syntax

Pakistani English (PakE) has its own unique way of putting words together, both in whole sentences and within smaller phrases. This shows up in different word orders, how verbs are used, and even which tenses are chosen compared to British English (BrE). For example, PakE might use the present tense to talk about ongoing actions ("I am doing it all the time") or the past tense for something that happened recently ("I have seen him yesterday"), which might sound different in BrE.

In his work, Baumgardner (1990) presents an interesting alternative to using long, descriptive phrases after nouns. He proposes using shorter "phrasal compounds" that serve the same purpose. Instead of saying "medicines which are detrimental to the health," you could use the more concise "detrimental to health medicines." This applies to other situations as well, such as replacing "an office which deals with the public" with "a public dealing office."

In their works, Baumgardner highlights various differences between Pakistani English (PakE) and British Standard English (StBrE) in how words connect to each other (complementation). For example, PakE often uses "to + infinitive" after adjectives where StBrE would use a preposition and verb with "-ing." This applies to nouns too, where StBrE's preposition and "-ing" phrase can be replaced with "to + infinitive" in PakE. Additionally, PakE speakers might use a "that-clause" after certain verbs instead of simply adding "to + infinitive" like in StBrE.

4.1.2 Morphology

A notable feature of PakE morphology is the variation in how articles and prepositions are used, along with the potential omission of certain auxiliary verbs, like "do" Rahman (1990, p.57). This is particularly evident in informal contexts, where some Pakistani speakers may simply choose to forego the "do" support.

- How you got here? (PakE)
- How did you get here? (StBrE)

Likewise, the article system in PakE diverges from that in BrStE. The presence or absence of an article in PakE may contrast with its usage in StBrE. The inclusion of a definite article in PakE may differ from BrStE, and an indefinite article might be excluded. Rahman (1990, p.42) illustrates this with the following example:

- The English is a good place.(PakE)
- He said that Education Ministry is reorganizing English syllabus. (PakE)
- My father is lecturer. (PakE)

PakE plays with prepositions quite differently than British English (BrE) do. The way PakE uses prepositions deviates from BrE in three key ways, as noted by Rahman (1990, p.51). First, PakE may simply skip a preposition that BrE would require. Second, it might add a preposition where BrE wouldn't use one. Finally, PakE sometimes chooses a different preposition than BrE for the same context.

- To distribute----
- To fight poverty
- What time is it on your watch?

According to Mahboob (2004) and Saleemi (1985) it is crucial to investigate the differences between the grammars of native and non-native English speakers. They suggest that the majority of these differences seem to be on the periphery of the language's core syntax.

4.1.3 Phonological features

Literature on speech of Pakistan-E though thick, has not hit the shelves yet. While Mahboob and Ahmar (2004, p.1006) endeavor to present a tentative picture of PakE phonology based on the data gathering exercise carried out in Karachi in 2002 In this study, the selection of the sample is done from Pakistan and is comprised of six scholars falling in age from 22 to 37 years. The entire set of words of the Sheffield list and the "The North Wind" reading text were obtained as language samples.

4.2.1 Vowels & Consonants of PakE

In their study, Mahboob & Ahmar (2004) categorized Pakistani English vowels into two groups. The first group, like some "RP" vowels (Received Pronunciation from British English), were pronounced consistently by all speakers. In contrast, the second group had vowels that varied depending on the speaker.

Mahboob & Ahmer (2004) claim that PakE can be classified as a rhotic variation of English based on the collected language samples. The majority of speakers consistently pronounce [r] in all contexts; words like "warm" [wɑ:rm] and "force" [fɔ:rs] are two examples. The postvocalic [r], however, is generated differently. For example, a speaker may pronounce it in "start" and "letter" but leave it out of "force." Rahman (1990) argues that sociolinguistic factors influence the degree of rhoticity in PakE. Rahman's study, which only included ten Pakistanis living in the UK, has drawn criticism for a number of reasons.

According to Kachru (1992, p.62), PakE has retroflex stops, which can be classified as a form of "series substitution" and is suggestive of South Asian English. In PakE, examples of retroflex stops replacing the RP alveolar stops are "dress" [dres] and "strut" [strɪ]. According to Kachru (1992, p.62) and Mahboob & Ahmar (2004), it has been observed that Pakistani speakers substitute dental stops for RP dental fricatives, as seen by the use of [t] and [d] in the words "north" [nɔ:rt] and "then" [den]. Additionally, Mahboob & Ahmar assert that Urdu language lacks

a phonemic differentiation between /w/ and /v/. Rahman also discusses this trait concerning Pushto speakers, noting their omission of /v/ in words like 'love' [luo] (Rahman, 1990).

According to Kachru (1983), the unique characteristics of South Asian English (SAsE) are mostly attributed to its non-segmental elements, such as stress and rhythm, rather than its segmental elements. Pickering and Wiltshire (2000) conducted a study wherein they investigated the lexical stress patterns of English spoken by native speakers of Hindi/Urdu, Bengali, and Tamil. The findings of their research revealed that there was no statistically significant variation in the lexical stress patterns observed across persons from these three language backgrounds. The syllable-timed version, known as SAsE, which encompasses PakE, is distinguished by the regular intervals at which syllables occur (Nelson, 1982; Kachru, 1983). This stands in opposition to RP, which is characterized by stress timing and displays fluctuations in syllable length. Pickering and Wiltshire (2000, p.177) classify South Asian English as a "pitch-accent" language, highlighting that accented syllable in speakers of Indian English, including Hindi/Urdu speakers, exhibit a lower frequency in comparison to unaccented syllables.

4.2 Lexical variations:

Baumgardner (1993, p.41) contended that the modifications in the Pakistani language are not the only ones, but during the subcontinent of South Asia similarly are transforming. Inversion of power and creation connection of different states, English still rules keeping in mind its multicultural environment and it's compatibly with the change. Unlike Mahboob (2009, p.175), the research subject believes that English is not only the result of colonial influences but also Islam values and South Asian sensibility. He proposes that the link between Pakistan-E Islamic and cultural values can be explored by means of the investigation of the content analyses and linguistic analysis of topics associated with the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), Islam, and Hajj from the entering of contemporary English-printed books.

An examination demonstrates that the Arabic lexicon has permeated Pakistani English, as evidenced by phrases like "Assalam-o-Alaikum" and terms that communicate admiration and gratitude, such as "Maasha-Allah" and "Alhumd-o-Lillah." Furthermore, the use of terms like "jihad" (referring to holy war), "masjid" (referring to mosque), "shaheed" (referring to martyr), "shariat" (referring to Islamic law), and "zakat" (referring to Islamic tribute) can be seen as indicative of this impact (Baumgardner, 1993, p.43; Mahboob, 2009, p.182).

The pragmatics of PakE demonstrates Muslim cultural practices, going beyond mere lexical and semantic alterations. As exemplified by Mahboob (2009), the phrase "Insha-Allah" (God willing) is sometimes utilized as a polite means of declining or making a "non-committal commitment" (p. 183). The taxonomy proposed by Baumgardner categorizes Islamic borrowings into 44 distinct groupings, which include administrative positions (such as amir and nazim), concepts (such as hadith and zina), education (such as iqra and maqtab), and marriage (such as halala and nikah). Furthermore, the process of Islamizing English can be observed in the linguistic patterns of written texts, exemplified by the Arabic phrase "bismi-llāhi r-rašmāni r-raḏm" that is present in the introductions of textbooks (Mahboob, 2009, p.184).

Similarly, in another investigation, Muhammad Asim Mahmood (2009) explored words such as 'Allah,' 'Shariah,' 'Mosque,' 'Prayers,' 'Prophet,' and 'Divorce,' noting their specific association with the domain of religion. Additionally, terms like 'allowed,' 'prohibited,' 'lawful,' and 'right' are frequently employed within this category, reflecting the inclusion of decisions related to religious issues and problems. Pejorative words like 'Muslim,' 'Islamic,' and 'Pakistani' significantly determine the Position Weight Equation (PWE), but they are very low in the Brightness and Liftness Factor (BF) and Low Frequency (LF) scales. These three adjectives particularly relate to the clothing type specific to the Pakistani style, which reflects the character of Islam and the beauty of Pakistan. On the other hand, a different set of adjectives, namely 'political,' 'economic,' 'military,' and 'international' represents the PWE concept space more heavily, and they are mostly seen in material released by the government or in newspapers and books.

In the search for detailing of Pakistani English (PakE), this article takes an analytical path to investigate the linguistic nature of this area bounded by some of its special lexical items. However, far beyond analyzing the vocabulary of the language, we study the methods or discovering how the way they have created it has influenced how PakE is perceived as a systematic and legitimately anglicized language. Through deciphering of intricate puzzle that is made up of textual elements, this analysis attempts to establish what might be the most important differences that sets PakE apart from other forms of English in the Subcontinent, thus making a contribution to the existing knowledge of how PakE developed as a language, with what cultural and social features it is associated with, and as a precious example of English in use in South Asia.

The word-formation of Pakistani English has been like a boss for long. A Pakistani times' advertising states Woolies do have good news. No longer trying to pull your woolen clothes all around should become a norm for you (Baumgardner, 1993, p.43). "er," "ee," and "ism" suffixes make an impact in PakE transmitters. In addition, English suffixes are `aperfect match` with Urdu bases which allows to create words like "rickshaw-wallahs," "shariatization," "maundage," "bradarism," and "lathi-charged" (Baumgardner, 1993, p. 45). The phenomenon of conversion—transformation/modification of form—which is one of the prominent producers of new words in Pakistan English is proved here. Another instance is, perhaps, the emergence of the term “move-over” which is a kind of verbal particle-to-noun conversion. The use of vocabulary that is no longer found in Standard British English is another notable aspect. Examples of such words are "moot" (meeting), "thrice" (three times), and "druggist" (a drug dealer) (Baumgardner, 1993, p. 45).

Pakistani English, or PakE, stands out as a unique form of South Asian English because it has its own special words and phrases related to various parts of life. These specific terms give PakE its distinct flavor and make it different from other forms of English. For example, in everyday conversations and writings, you might come across words like "bradarism" (brotherhood), "shariatization" (influence of Sharia law), or "rickshaw-wallahs" (rickshaw drivers). These words are not commonly used in other varieties of English, making PakE special and reflective of the rich cultural and linguistic influences in Pakistan. Some examples of various other terminologies are as follows:

The difference between idiom and colloquial language may be detected with grammatical aspect... This proves, however, that idiomatic expressions are characterized most explicitly "only by their thematic and context dependent lexicon" (Coulthard, 1977, cited in Kennedy, 1993, p.70). This experimental approach of specific context led him to probe for everyday articles (britisica), with a specific orientation towards the crime world. In her paper (1993), she identified a crime-reporting style unanimously used in newspapers in Pakistan, for example, Dawn, The Muslim, Morning News, and The Nation in Lahore, The Pakistan Times in Lahore. These terms include attendant, looter, bewaylaan, child smuggler, chor, goonda, and rassagir. These words are of Pakistani origin and are indicative of the language-specific features of this register.

6. Conclusion

This paper undertakes an examination of Pakistani English (PakE) as a distinctive linguistic variety, concurrently addressing its status as one of the less thoroughly investigated varieties of

the English language. The primary focus of research on PakE predominantly revolves around its comparative analysis with Standard British English. However, it is clear that English in Pakistan is undergoing a process of identity formation. This particular identity is actively projected and perpetuated not only by the influential English-speaking elite within Pakistan but also through the widespread influence of English in the mass media. Furthermore, the authenticity of this linguistic identity is evident in its reinforcement through teaching contents employed in Pakistani educational institutions. Baumgardner expounds upon the infiltration of Urdu borrowings and indigenous lexical and grammatical usages into locally-produced English textbooks. Lexical words, along with their morphological endings, form a dynamic set within a language, allowing for both variation and creative expression in their usage.

Additionally, when navigating the experience of using a second language, such as English in a native setting, a tendency towards embracing liberal values in the utilization of 'other' languages becomes apparent. In the Indo-Pakistani sub-continent, the significance of 'linguistic differences' only arises when two linguistic varieties reach a point of mutual unintelligibility. Emphasizing the importance of multilingualism, it is suggested that speaking several languages, even if done imperfectly, holds greater value than mastering a single language perfectly. Furthermore, there exists a notable degree of flexibility in adhering to the norms of language use, extending even to the realm of written communication.

While Pakistani users may perceive linguistic distinctions as insignificant, particularly from their standpoint, these variations become more apparent at the lexical level. Weinreich (1958) posits that the lexical level is the most pivotal aspect of language change. Notably, the majority of Pakistani English users don't categorize all language divergences as components of 'grammar.' Instead, they define grammar in terms of mastering tenses and fundamental rules such as direct/indirect or active/passive transformations. The author, in enhancing language competence, has chosen to exercise creative freedom with lexical collocations.

Choosing a particular variety as the standard and spreading it through codification and prescription solidifies its status as the canonical form. This process fosters a perception of legitimacy for the chosen variety. It is suggested in this paper's conclusion that the recognition of Pakistani English should be widely promoted, allowing for strategic measures to foster its growth and acceptance on the global stage. Additionally, future research on Pakistani English should focus on analyzing and exploring its unique characteristics, rather than solely comparing it to American and British English. Pakistani English exhibits distinctive features. Its structure, form, and functions reflect assimilation into oral, multilingual norms of expression, influenced to some extent by religious systems of belief. This influence appears to contrast with the abstract values of Western culture that promote secularization.

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