



Published by
*Centre for Languages and
Translational Studies*

Pakistan Journal of Languages and Translation Studies

ISSN (Print) 2410-1230

ISSN (Online) 2519-5042

Volume 11 Issue 2 2023

Pages 01-22

Open Access

Investigating Semantic Differences in Lexical Borrowing in Pakistani English

Publication Details

Hafsa Bibi

Government College University Faisalabad, Pakistan.

muhammadkhn5505@gmail.com

Paper Received:

September 5, 2023

Samina Ishaq

Government College University Faisalabad, Pakistan.

Saminaishaq22@gmail.com

Paper Accepted:

November 15, 2023

Dr. Hafiz Muhammad Qasim

Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Linguistics Govt.

College University, Faisalabad, Pakistan.

muhammadqasim@gcuf.edu.pk

Paper Published:

December 30, 2023

Abstract

The present study aimed to explore the semantic shift in lexical borrowing in Pakistani English from Standard British English and indigenous languages of Pakistan such as Urdu, Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashto Balochi, etc. The study was qualitative and exploratory. For exploration, the data was collected from several Pakistani English newspapers, magazines, fiction, books, studies in the field, and general conversations. The findings of the study revealed that there were more instances of lexical borrowing in Pakistani English from Standard British English where a shift in meanings and grammatical category was noticed. In comparison to this, there were fewer instances of borrowing from indigenous languages such as Urdu and Punjabi where a difference in meaning and grammatical categories was observed. In addition to this, the findings suggested that no significant instances of lexical borrowing from other indigenous languages such as Sindhi, Pashto, or Balochi had been found. Based on its results and findings, the present study suggests further exploration of Pakistani English and the impact of



Published by Licensee CeLTS. Copyright: © the author(s). This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

indigenous languages on its growth and development. Further, the study recommends the standardization of Pakistani English as it has been proved through several studies that it has the capability of providing its norms and features which are unique from native varieties, and considers Pakistani English a distinct variety.

Keywords: semantic shift, lexical borrowing, Pakistani English, Standard British English, indigenous languages, standardization

1. Introduction

English that is spoken and written in Pakistan, where it coexists with Urdu as an official language, is referred to as Pakistani English. Although it displays distinctive linguistic traits and vocabulary derived from the indigenous languages spoken in Pakistan, it also displays influences from British English. Pakistani English is distinct from other varieties of English due to its unique phonological, grammatical, and lexical features. It incorporates linguistic borrowings from Urdu, Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashto, and other regional languages, reflecting the linguistic diversity and cultural setting of Pakistan. Understanding the sociolinguistic and linguistic facets of language contact and language variation can be learned by studying Pakistani English (Bhatti, 2018). For example, the word "chapati" in Standard English refers to a particular variety of Indian bread, however in Pakistani English; it can refer to a wider variety of flatbreads and is frequently used as a general term for all bread types. These semantic variations in lexical borrowing add to the uniqueness and diversity of Pakistani English as a linguistic variant.

Semantic shifts are the changes in meaning that take place when words or expressions are imported from one language or variety into another. Semantic variations occur when English terms are adopted and utilized in ways that depart from their typical English meanings in the context of lexical borrowing in Pakistani English. These semantic changes can be brought about by linguistic, cultural, or contextual factors, giving borrowed words new or altered meanings. Researchers can better understand the dynamics of language interaction and how new meanings develop in a particular linguistic environment by examining semantic distinctions in lexical borrowing.

Lexical borrowing is the practice of incorporating phrases or words into another language from a different one. Lexical borrowing refers to the incorporation of words from locally spoken languages into the English lexicon in the case of Pakistani English. The lexicon of Pakistani English is enriched by this borrowing process, which also reflects the region's linguistic and cultural variety. Lexical appropriation plays a role in the creation of a distinct Pakistani English vocabulary that includes words for things like food, dress, social customs, and other facets of Pakistani culture. Insights

into language interaction, language evolution, and the dynamics of borrowing and adaptation in multilingual situations can be gained from research on lexical borrowing in Pakistani English (Malik, 2019).

In-depth research on the semantic variations in lexical borrowing in Pakistani English has been significantly aided by different scholars. Their research has concentrated on examining the semantic changes that take place when English terms are adopted and incorporated into the regional language context. Pakistani researchers have uncovered and recorded the precise semantic variations that exist in Pakistani English as a result of lexical borrowing through in-depth research and data analysis. Their work has aided in a better understanding of the linguistic features of Pakistani English and shed light on the sociolinguistic and cultural elements that affect semantic change in borrowed words. To codify and standardize Pakistani English as a unique variation, it is helpful to investigate the semantic distinctions in lexical borrowing. Linguists and language planners can create rules and norms for the proper use of these terms in various contexts by researching the distinctive semantic characteristics of borrowed words and how they are used in Pakistani English. As a result, Pakistani English is becoming more standardized, which is advantageous for communication, education, and other fields where English is a language of teaching or engagement.

1.1. Aims of the Study

- i. To explore the semantic shifts in lexical borrowing in Pakistani English from Standard British English
- ii. To investigate the shifts in meanings in Pakistani English due to lexical borrowing from indigenous languages of Pakistan

1.2. Significance of Present Study

The present study is significant as it contributes to exploring the impact of semantic shifts on grammatical categories in Pakistani English. The researchers in this study discovered how borrowed words in Pakistani English might change and expand their meaning and grammatical category. This study emphasizes the dynamic nature of language evolution and how incorporating borrowed words can affect a language's grammatical structure. No significant study has been found in the field which focuses on word-level borrowing which also focuses on grammatical shift along with semantic shift.

2. Literature Review

English is a global language and is widely spoken around the world. The spread of English in many countries was due to colonialism. Most of the ex-colonized countries including Pakistan have been using the English language even after the departure of colonizers. Because of its widespread, now English in terms of population is excessively used in non-native countries than in the countries where English is the native language. This supports the view that no one can claim sole ownership of the English language as it is an international language. It will be justified to say that English is the language of those who speak it.

Since, there is no sole owner of English, the term World Englishes can be utilized for these new emerging varieties which are localized. World Englishes refers to these New Englishes or different varieties of English that are newly developed. It would be legitimate to call these New Englishes varieties of English because they are independent languages and have their own rules and standards. In New Englishes, South Asian English, or dividing it further into Pakistani, Indian, and Sri Lankan English has acquired a significant status. A dynamic model of these New Englishes has been given by Schneider (2007) which describes the development and emergence of New Englishes. This theoretical framework explains the processes that have been associated with sociolinguistic dynamics and the formation and development of New Englishes. He presents five stages in his model which demonstrate the route of New Englishes. The five stages are:

1. **Foundation:** The initial stage, when English had been introduced in territories through colonization and other significant factors.
2. **Exonormative Stabilization:** When English has been learned and used as L2, and the norms of colonizers were standards to be followed
3. **Nativization:** When local linguistic features have been adopted by English an amalgamation of local linguistic features emerged as distinct characteristics.
4. **Endonormative Stabilization:** A stage when there is development of norms in New Englishes that are different from native varieties, and the variety of language becomes established and widely accepted in a local context.
5. **Differentiation:** At this stage, these varieties of New Englishes have evolved and can be further differentiated into regional and social varieties which are influenced by local dialects and certain other factors.

Pakistani English is a non-native variety of English and developed in a situation where native speakers of English were in contact with non-natives through different channels like trading, globalization missionaries, immigration, etc. A new variety came into existence when different languages were exposed and influenced each other. According to Trudgill (2003), Variety is a neutral term and can be used for any language while referencing. Kachru (1986) considered Pakistani English as an institutionalized variety with a long cultural and geographical history. Therefore, societal and cultural traditions influence Pakistani English Baumgardner (1998) describes that one needs to be familiar with the Urdu language and Islamic culture to be familiar with the English language in the context of Pakistan.

Pakistani English has an independent linguistic and cultural identity. Its individuality can be examined through different linguistic levels such as lexical, phrasal, and sentential because of regular contact with Urdu and other indigenous languages and contains many borrowed words from these languages. Talaat (2003) says that every language is governed by cultural concepts and these regional dialects provide a variety of socio-cultural settings of Pakistani English. In Pakistan, this cultural reality has been developed by Islam and Muslim history and semantic, morphological, lexical, and pragmatic levels are prominent. Rehman (2020) divided Pakistani English into further four categories such as:

- a) Anglicized English: This is spoken in British settings by Pakistanis exposed to it for a long time,
- b) Acrolect: This variety emerged in educational institutions as a medium of instruction and is different from British English in terms of linguistic features.
- c) Mesolect: This is used by Pakistani speakers whose medium of education is Urdu and it differs from British English
- d) Besilect: This is used by less educated speakers (Rehman, Pakistani English, 2020).

In countries where English has reached through colonialism, other indigenous languages influenced English and were influenced by English as well because of regular contact and exposure between languages. Pakistani English has adapted many words from the different domains of indigenous languages such as food, clothing, governance, administration, education, etc. It has been asserted that Pakistani English is mostly influenced by the culture prevailing in Pakistan and from Islamic norms and

values. It was stated words can be borrowed, translated, hybridized, or semantically shifted (Weinreich, 1953).

Lexical borrowing refers to a situation in which certain words have been borrowed from other languages because of certain historical, cultural, or societal reasons. In the context of Pakistani English, certain words have been borrowed from Urdu, regional languages, and even different dialects of English itself. But, when these borrowed lexes are assimilated into Pakistani English, semantic differences can arise as compared to their original meanings. Semantic differences in borrowed lexis can arise due to cultural context, language contact, linguistic variations, etc. In the case of Pakistani English, lexical borrowing occurs due to Islamic cultural and religion-specified words. There are many words in Pakistani English borrowed from Arabic, Persian, and Sanskrit. Certain concepts in Pakistani Islamic culture can only be described in their original language. As a result, lexical borrowing occurred in Pakistani English. According to Sullivan (2008), there are certain reasons which became the cause of lexical borrowing such as:

- a. Influence of difference between formal and informal contexts and distinctions regarding the conventions of speech in different contexts;
- b. Lack of access to education and different ways of language control;

Mental processes involved in recalling items.

Further, some factors have been identified by Shaukat and Talaat (2021):

- a. Lack of technical terminologies
- b. A significant role of donor language
- c. Convenience in borrowing nouns instead of verbs
- d. Culturally imported lexical categories

Sometimes, because of lexical borrowing, the words have changed their meanings and even categories. This semantic shift is more prominent in borrowing English words in Urdu than Urdu words in English. Mostly, the words of Urdu which are now part of Pakistani English have been used because there were no equivalent words that can translate or express the meanings. The reason behind not finding equivalent words can be cultural or religious constraints. There are further two types of lexical borrowing as cited by Fayyaz, Abdulaziz, and Arooj (2023):

1. External Borrowing usually includes taboos such as using *affaire* instead of *love*.
2. Internal Borrowing includes jargon and technical terms.

There is an intact difference between lexical borrowing and code-switching as was said by Grosjean (2010) that lexical borrowing is the permanent shift of words from one language to another and it might result in semantic, syntactic, and phonetic differences while on the other hand, code-switching is a temporary shift of words from one language to another and it didn't affect the meaning, form or category of those words.

The semantic shift gives a new dimension to Pakistani English and makes it a unique and independent variety of English. The reasons behind this semantic shift can be the fulfillment of communicative purposes for authenticity, role-playing, and emphasizing communication (Sridhar, 1989, p. 76). For instance, the word *bogey* had been used in British English for railway vehicles with short wheelbase while in Pakistani English it had been used for railway carriage. Moreover, it was cited by Mahboob (2004) that certain words like *patchwork*, *conveyance*, and *teasing* had differently been used in Pakistani English than in British English for the meanings of *repair*, *transport*, and *harassing* respectively.

Furthermore, according to Mahboob (2009), Pakistani English has been influenced by the values and ideas of Islam. Similarly, Zeb and Bashir (2019) examined lexical and semantic differences between Pakistani English and International English. The study investigated how Pakistani English borrowed words from Islamic culture, Arabic and Persian languages, and Pakistani cultures from newspaper data. The researchers provided examples of semantic changes that occurred due to borrowing. For instance, in British English, the word *family* is used for only husband and wife while in Pakistani English, this word has been used for all members of the family. Other examples included words like *Chips* used for French fries in Pakistani English; the word *hotel* had been used for a restaurant instead of only referring to it as a place of stay. Likewise, words such as *Give Examination* used by students as directly translated from *Imtehan dena* and *Take Examination* used by teachers as directly translated from *Imtehan lena* are semantically different from Standard British English.

In addition, pronunciation, lexical and semantic differences had been investigated by Soomro (2022), to measure the differences between Pakistani English and Standard British English. The data had been collected from informal conversations and then transcribed and listened to for finding phonological and semantic differences. The study revealed that lexico-semantic differences in Pakistani English occurred due to Islamic and Pakistani cultures. The instances of semantic differences had been quoted

by the researcher such as *Lady-doctor* has commonly been used in Pakistani English as it is a trait to designate gender with a profession in Pakistani English although there had rarely been any instance of using gender-specific denotations with a profession in Standard British English. Further, the word *Ladies' finger* had been used in Pakistani English although in standard usages the word *okra* had been used. Moreover, the word *Halal* had been used in Pakistani English and borrowed from Islamic culture, and hence no equivalent word in Standard English of Britain. Usually, the word *Black* indicates the color but in Pakistani English, it has been used to refer to money that has been earned from illegal ways.

In Pakistani English, many borrowed words have been used for quite different meanings as investigated by Aslam and Chaman (2020). The results of the study revealed that approximately 69% of the words examined in this study did not imply dictionary meanings. For instance, words like *light*, *press*, and *paste* had been used in Pakistani English for *electricity*, *to iron*, and *to brush* respectively. Additionally, it had been revealed that the vocabulary of Pakistani English had been enriching and the reason behind this enrichment is borrowing.

Furthermore, a study was done by Qureshi, Jadoon, and Farooq (2023) to investigate different features developed from sociocultural contexts where English has been used. They adapted Weinreich's (1968) model of language contact which provides the patterns of interaction between languages and provides elaboration for linguistic change. The study utilized four literary texts to investigate how the Pakistani sociocultural environment affects the meaning of words. The researchers mentioned different categories of semantic differences that occurred due to lexical borrowing from the texts used for this study. For instance, the word *awful*, *Bingo* had differently been used than their origin. Another example can be the word *paindu* which initially meant for people living in villages, but now in many situations, it has been used to refer to people as ill-mannered or uneducated.

Rahman (1990) mentioned English lexical terms that have had different semantic meanings in Pakistani English as compared to British English. For example, *academicians* are used for people associated with university teachers and scholars, etc. *The mummy-daddy type* is used for a person who belongs to the elite class, attends an English medium school, etc., and *shopper* being used for plastic bags. Furthermore, Gul, Sabih-ul-Hassan, and Imran (2022) linguistically analyze the influence of COVID-19 on English language diction in Pakistan. During this period, certain new words had been invented and there had been a change in meanings. The study aimed to investigate new words, semantic shifts coinage, etc. The study revealed that semantic changes were reflected through different words when they were used with reference to

COVID-19. Many changes in meanings have been noticed for instance words like pandemic, lockdown, smart lockdown, physical exam, online exam, etc.

Moreover, a study was done by Fayyaz, Abdulaziz, and Urooj (2023) to examine the role of euphemism in English language Newspapers' headlines. The researchers analyzed three Pakistani English language newspapers such as Dawn, The Express Tribune, and The News International. Further, the researchers aimed to identify certain kinds and functions of euphemism in Pakistani English-language newspapers. The findings of the study revealed that writers of Pakistani English language newspapers frequently used certain major types of euphemisms such as semantic change, shortening, and borrowing. The researchers provide examples of semantic change for example the use of the word Blossom instead of pimples.

Crystal (2003) mentioned in his book "English as a Global Language" while talking about non-native varieties of English, that the word *sorry* had been used to express sympathy when something worse happened to some other person even when the speaker is not at fault. Similar is the case with Pakistani English where certain words had been borrowed from Standard English and then used to express different meanings.

The investigation of the lexico-semantic variation of Pakistani English along with its socio-cultural significance makes researchers and linguists explore the fertilized domain of language. Therefore, Jilani and Anwar (2018) explored the lexico-semantic variation of Pakistani English newspapers according to Moag's model of New Englishes. Further, the researchers adopted Cultural Relativism by Boas and Kachru's concepts of Nativization and Acculturation with the Outer circle conceptualization. The study analyzed further categories of lexico-semantics in two major Pakistani English newspapers' corpus. The researchers provide certain instances where the words had been used in different meanings instead of their original meanings for example *Drag the name in the mud, the son of soil, Tall claims, Talking Terms, etc.* The results of the study revealed that lexico-semantic variation in Pakistani English Newspapers had mainly been influenced by the local culture of Pakistan. The usage of these words is diverse in different contexts in Pakistan. Moreover, the study suggests further investigation of Pakistani English along with its comparison with other varieties of English.

Pakistani English has certain distinguishing features even in newly developing genres for example online travel blogs which had been explored by Noor et al. (2015). The researchers gathered the data from different internet resources and then compared it with the British National Corpus. The results of the study revealed that Pakistani

English had a divergent use of features on all linguistic levels and suggested the codification of Pakistan English.

The study included many examples of semantic extension for example in Pakistani English newspapers the word *accustom tour* had been used instead of *customize tours* which is used in British English. Moreover, in the world of technology, everyone has access to certain platforms of the internet and people write on different topics for knowledge and information. From these platforms, one important genre is blogging. Many studies have been done in this regard such as Haq (2016) examined terms of English and Urdu which had been borrowed and used for different meanings. The results revealed that in comparison to English, Urdu has more loan words that portray semantic shifts. The researcher mentioned many examples of words that had faced shifts in meaning along with their categories. For instance, *Loot, Thug, Bungalow, Avatar, Dacoit, etc.*

3. Research Methodology

3.1. Research Design

The present study adopts a descriptive qualitative research design to explore the semantic shifts in lexical borrowing in Pakistani English.

3.2. Data Collection

The data is taken from newspapers, literary texts, works in the field, and informal conversations. The newspapers i.e. The News, Dawn News, Express Tribune, etc. were taken from online resources. Secondly, literary texts of Pakistani English writers like Ahmad Ali and Moni Mohsin were chosen. In addition to this, several books, theses, and studies have been explored for data collection. Along with this, the researchers of the current study observed and experienced certain instances of lexical borrowing where semantic shift had occurred and therefore these instances have been utilized in this research

3.3. Data Analysis

The first step was to collect the data through several sources. After this, all of the instances of semantic shifts have been put in a table along with their actual or dictionary meaning and the meanings in which they have been used in Pakistani English. The meanings of the words have been checked in dictionaries for instance Oxford Dictionary. No statistical tools have been utilized as the research is exploratory

and the purpose of the study was just to explore the instances of semantic shifts due to lexical borrowing in Pakistani English.

3.4. Representation of Results

The results have been represented in tabular form. Further, the findings of the data have been discussed and interpreted in the Discussion Section.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Results

In this section, the findings have been presented. Tables 1 and 2 show the data which has been collected by the researcher in different ways such as by exploring Pakistani English Newspapers, magazines, fiction written by Pakistani authors, different books and studies that have been conducted in the context of Pakistani English, and also from casual, informal daily routine conversations. In Table 1, the column entitled as *word* contains words that have been collected through various sources. The next column entitled *Dictionary Meanings* contains meanings of words that have been checked online in the Oxford English Dictionary. Moreover, the last column, *Meaning in Pakistani English*, contains the meanings of these borrowed words and explains how they have been used in Pakistani English by Pakistanis.

Table 1: Findings of semantic shift in lexical borrowing in Pakistani English from Standard English

Sr No	Word	Dictionary Meaning	Meaning in Pakistani English
1	Mobile	Something capable of movement	Usually refers to a cell phone
2	Tuition	Fee paid to be taught in a college or university	Refers to private lessons specifically in the context of academic preparation
3	Passing Out	To become unconscious	Used to refer to the completion of studies or graduation from an

Investigating Semantic Differences . . .

			educational institution
4	Store	A shop that sells several types of goods	Refer to any type of retail establishment. Also refers to a room containing useless or less used things.
5	Duster	Any cloth or brush that is used or dusting	Refer to an eraser used to clean white/Blackboards specifically
6	Ground	Refers to solid surface of earth	Used to refer to sports fields or playgrounds particularly
7	Deck	Platform on vehicles like ship	Used to refer to rooftop
8	Line	A long, thin mark on the surface	Queue or waiting line
9	Section	Refers to a separate part of a Structure from which the whole can be put together.	Separate departments in an organization or institute
10	Note	A short piece of writing that helps in remembering something	Often used to refer to currency notes
11	Extra	More than is expected	Refers to background artists in a film or TV show
12	Unit	A single thing, person or group that is complete by itself but can also form part of something larger	A classroom lecture hall.
13	Coach	A person who trains athletes	Refers to long distance bus

Investigating Semantic Differences . . .

14	Paste	A soft, wet mixture usually made up of powder or liquid. Also refers to putting something on something else	Used in place of 'to brush' means to clean/ teeth
15	Light	The energy from the sun, bulb or lamp that makes it possible to see things	Refers to electricity
16	Press	To push something closely against something else, To squeeze	Used as an expression for ironing clothes
17	Feel	Sense. To notice or beware of something because of its physical effect	Refers to taking offense
18	Shopper	A person who buys things from shops	Plastic bag Metaphorically refers to people who take money from someone to write or speak in their favor
19	Patchwork	A type of needlework	Repair
20	Conveyance	Process of taking something or someone from one place to another	Transport

Similarly, Table 2 has all the instances which have been found in the data. The examples depict that Pakistani English adopts words from other indigenous languages spoken in Pakistan and sometimes, this lexical borrowing results in semantic shift. As has already been mentioned in the table the column '*Word*' contains words of indigenous languages, the column '*Dictionary Meanings*' depicts their actual

meanings, and the column ‘*Meaning in Pakistani English*’ shows the semantic shift or differences of meanings in Pakistani English.

Table 2: Findings of semantic shift in lexical borrowing in Pakistani English from indigenous languages of Pakistan

Sr No	Word	Dictionary Meaning	<i>Meaning in Pakistani English</i>
1	Dhaba	Roadside restaurant	Refers to casual dining where traditional Pakistani food has been served irrespective of its location
2	Bakra	Male goat	Metaphorically refers to a fool, similar to scapegoat, a slang in English
3	Savari	Ride. Transportation. Passenger	Usually used for any kind of transportation means
4	Jugaar	Improvised solution	Innovative makeshift to solve the problem

4.2. Discussion

The study aimed to explore the semantic differences that occurred in Pakistani English while borrowing words from Standard English i.e. British English and other indigenous languages such as Urdu, Punjabi, Pashto, Sindhi, etc. The study has been done on a word level.

Table 1 shows the findings of semantic shift in lexical borrowing in Pakistani English from Standard English. The findings showed that there occurred a difference in the

grammatical category of words when they had been used in Pakistani English in different meanings but most words did not change their grammatical category.

- (1) **Mobile:** In Standard British English, the word *Mobile* is used to refer to something capable of movement. Further, its grammatical category is Noun. But, conversely, when the word is used in Pakistani English, it simply refers to cell phones. Most people use it for cell phones and they are not even aware of the dictionary meanings associated with the word in British English except few highly qualified people who might know the actual meanings of this word. The word didn't change its grammatical category and remained a noun in Pakistani English though with different meanings.
- (2) **Tuition:** This word simply is used for the money that is given for being taught in college or university in Standard English. On the other hand, people in Pakistan use this word for private lessons. Instead, in Pakistani English, the money that is paid for these private lessons is called Tuition Fee. The word didn't change its grammatical category i.e. Noun while being borrowed from Standard English to Pakistani English.
- (3) **Passing Out:** In Standard British English, it is used to refer to 'getting unconscious'. The grammatical category of this word can differ according to the context where it is used and it can function as Noun, Verb, etc. While, in Pakistani English, it is frequently used to refer to the completion of a degree or graduating from an educational institute. The lexical borrowing has a slight effect on grammatical category as in Pakistani English it can function as a Noun, Adjective, and Verb, etc. Hence, a shift and expansion in meanings and grammatical categories has been observed in lexical borrowing from Standard British English.
- (4) **Store:** A semantic shift has been noticed in the use of the word Store in Standard British English and Pakistani English in Standard English it can be used for a shop having several types of goods while in Pakistani English it is used for any type of retail establishment. The word didn't change its grammatical category i.e. Noun while being used in Pakistani English. The word didn't change its meaning completely rather the meaning has been expanded.

- (5) **Duster:** Similar to the previous example, we have noticed a semantic shift in the borrowing of this word where the word didn't change its grammatical category

i.e. Noun and has expanded meaning in Pakistani English. The meanings are given in Table 1.

- (6) **Ground:** Also, in this example, a shift in meaning has been noticed although the grammatical category of the word that is Noun remains the same. In Standard British English, the word refers to the solid surface of earth but in Pakistani English, it has commonly been used for sports fields.
- (7) **Deck:** According to Oxford Dictionary, the word Deck has been used for vehicles' platforms but in Pakistani English, this word refers to rooftops. The grammatical category of the word that is Noun didn't change but it is used in quite different sense.
- (8) **Line:** The word Line simple refers to a thin and long mark on the surface. But in Pakistani English, it is used for a line of people waiting for their turn. In Standard English, the word Queue is used as its equivalent. The grammatical category Noun remains the same.
- (9) **Section:** In Pakistani English, the word Section is used for a separate department of an organization or institute. While, in Standard British English, it referred to separate parts of a structure. It depicts that although the meanings have been expanded in Pakistani English the grammatical category of a word that is Noun didn't change.
- (10) **Note:** Another example of complete semantic change in lexical borrowing is the word Note. In Standard British English, it is used for a piece of writing that helps in remembering something. While on the other hand, it has been used for referring to currency notes. It shows that the grammatical category of the word i.e. Noun remains unchanged although the meanings are different.
- (11) **Extra:** In Standard British English, the word Extra is used as an Adjective and is used when there is something more than expectation. While on the other hand, in Pakistani English it is used for a background artist in film or TV

shows as a Noun. Moreover, it is also used in the actual sense very frequently. Hence, It can be said that a semantic shift as well as a shift in grammatical category has occurred in lexical borrowing in Pakistani English.

- (12) **Unit:** Moreover, the word Unit functions as a Noun and refers to any single thing, group, or person that is complete by itself and also forms a part of something larger. Conversely, it has been used for a classroom lecture hall in Pakistani English although the grammatical category remains the same. In addition to this, the word unit has been used for several other meanings such as a chapter of a book, electricity units, units in the military, etc. which indicates expansion in the meanings of the word.
- (13) **Coach:** It is another example of semantic shift where expansion in meaning has been noticed. The word Coach is used to refer to a person who trains athletes in Standard British English while in Pakistani English it is used for a long-distance bus as well as for a trainer. Although the grammatical category that is Noun remains unchanged.
- (14) **Paste:** In British English, the word Paste is used for a wet mixture made up of powder or liquid and functions as a Noun. Also, it refers to putting something on something else and functions as a Verb. On the other hand, In Pakistani English, this word is used for these two meanings which indicate expansion in meaning where grammatical categories remain the same. But, interestingly, it has been noticed that this word is used in different senses in Pakistani English as it functions as a verb and is used as an equivalent to brushing the teeth.
- (15) **Light:** In Standard British English, Light is used to refer to energy from different sources like the sun, bulb lamp, etc. which makes us able to see things and it functions as a Noun. Similarly, it functions as a Noun in Pakistani English but it only refers to Electricity.
- (16) **Press:** Again, the word Press functions as a Verb in Standard British English and is used to refer to pushing something against something else as well as to squeezing something. It has been used similarly in Pakistani English. In addition to this, it is used in Pakistani English as an equivalent to Ironing Clothes. Although it remains a verb, the semantic change is evident.

- (17) **Feel:** In data that had been collected for this research, the word *Feel* has been used in Pakistani English to convey meanings similar to Standard British English i.e. *Sense* and to notice something. But, in addition to this, the word has been used to refer to *taking offense* in Pakistani English more specifically in Fiction and general conversations. Although, the grammatical category i.e. Verb remains unchanged.
- (18) **Shopper:** The word *Shopper* in Standard British English refers to a person who buys things and it functions as a Noun. On the other hand, in Pakistani English, it usually refers to Plastic Bags to carry things and it functions as a Noun. Furthermore, in Pakistani English, the word *Shopper* has been used metaphorically and refers to a person who takes money from others for speaking in their favor. Here, it conveys the meaning of an envelope of money and it functions as a Noun.
- (19) **Patchwork:** The word *Patchwork* in British English refers to the *Needlework* which functions as a Noun. On the other hand, it functions as a Verb in Pakistani English and is used as an equivalent to *Repair*. Here, semantic and grammatical shifts have been noticed.
- (20) **Conveyance:** The word *Conveyance* has been used to refer to the process of taking or moving something or someone from one place to the other in Standard British English. But in Pakistani English, it has been used for Transport only. Here a semantic shift can be observed but the grammatical category remains unaffected.

Table 2 shows the semantic shift in lexical borrowing in Pakistani English from Urdu and other indigenous languages. The findings depict that there was a less significant semantic shift in meaning when Pakistani English borrowed words from the Indigenous languages of Pakistan. When the researchers explored the data, most of the examples were found where the words of these Indigenous languages have been used in Pakistani English directly because there were no equivalent words that could convey the meanings for instance the concept of *Halal*, *Namaz e Janaza*, *Pardah*, *Daig*, *Daleem* etc. The aforementioned examples depict that these words are from cultural and religious concepts. The researchers found fewer examples of Indigenous language words which changed their meanings when they were borrowed in Pakistani English as

can be seen in Table 2. Further, no instances of borrowing from Sindhi, Balochi, and Pashto have been found maybe because of the availability or size of the data.

- (1) **Dhaba:** The word Dhaba has been borrowed from Punjabi into Pakistani English. In Punjabi, Dhaba is used as a roadside restaurant. While, on the other hand, in Pakistani English, it refers to any casual dining where Desi food is served irrespective of its location. The grammatical category that is Nouns remains unchanged.
- (2) **Savari:** In Urdu, it has been used to refer to ride which functions as Verb. Also, it refers to rider and Transportation which function as Nouns. In Pakistani English, it has been used for means of transportation which functions as Nouns. Hence, semantic shift and expansion in meaning in lexical borrowing have been noticed.
- (3) **Jugaar:** In its actual meaning, this word has been used to refer to improvised solutions and functions as a Noun. While, in its use in Pakistani English, its grammatical category remains the same a semantic shift has been noticed as it has been used to refer to innovative makeshift of solving the problem.

The discussion illustrates that Pakistani English has borrowed words from Standard British English and the Indigenous languages of Pakistan. And, as a result of borrowing, a shift in semantics and grammatical categories has been noticed. The findings of the study are consistence with the results of previous studies (e.g., Aslam & Chaman, 2020; Noor et al., 2015; Rahman, 1990) that lexical borrowing had resulted in a shift in meaning and made Pakistani English a distinct variety. To the best of our knowledge, no significant study has previously been done that focuses on exploring lexical borrowing in Pakistani English from indigenous languages of Pakistan.

The findings of the current study and reviewed literature suggest that Pakistani English is a distinct variety of English as it has developed its internal features and norms which are different from native varieties of English as presented by Schneider (2007) in Endonormative Stabilization stage of his Dynamic Model of New Englishes. The present study, based on its findings, suggests that Pakistani English is a distinct variety and has distinct linguistic features. The present study recommends further exploration of the effect of indigenous languages on Pakistani English and the process of codification and standardization of Pakistani English.

5. Conclusion

The discussion highlights the intricate process of semantic borrowing within Pakistani English, drawing from both Standard British English and indigenous languages such as Urdu and Punjabi. It explicates the way borrowed words undergo different semantic shifts while often preserving their grammatical categories within the Pakistani English. These findings point out the dynamic nature of language, shaped by cultural and societal influences.

Furthermore, the research shows the pivotal role of lexical borrowing in shaping Pakistani English as a distinct linguistic variety. It substantiates the prior studies, emphasizing how this borrowing has contributed to Pakistani English's emergence as a unique entity with its own set of internal norms and features. The study also identifies a research gap, encouraging for further exploration of lexical borrowing from indigenous languages to better understand its impact on Pakistani English's linguistic landscape. This research paves the way for future researches into the intricate interplay between language, culture, and identity within the context of Pakistani English.

References

- Aslam, A., & Chaman, S. (2020). Semantic Change in Words Borrowed from English to Urdu. *International Journal of Linguistics*, 12(1).
- Baumgardner, R. J. (1995). Pakistani English: Acceptability and the norm. *World Englishes*, 14(2), 261–271.
- Baumgardner, R. J. (1998). *The English Language in Pakistan*. Oxford University Press.
- Crystal, D. (2003). *English as a Global Language*. Cambridge University Press.
- Fayyaz, A., Abdulaziz, M., & Urooj, I. (2023). Role of euphemisms: An analysis of English language newspapers' headlines. *Journal of Communication and Cultural Trends*, 5(1), 01–16.
- Grosjean, F. (2010). *Bilingual*. Harvard University Press.
- Gul, N., Sabih-Ul-Hassan, S., & Imran, S. (2022). A linguistic analysis of the impact of Covid-19 on English language diction in Pakistan. *Pakistan Journal of Social Research*, 4(2), 1010–1017.

- Haq, M. (2016). Lexical borrowing and semantic change in Pakistani Weblogs: A study of English-Urdu inter-lingual effects.
- Jilani, F. S., & Anwar, B. (2018). Lexico-semantic features of Pakistani English newspapers: A corpus-based approach. *International Journal of English Linguistics*, 8(4), 50–63.
- Kachru, B. (1986). *The Indianization of English: The English Language in India*. Oxford University Press.
- Mahboob, A. (2004). Pakistani English: An overview of its syntax, morphology, and lexis. In B. Kortmann & E. Traugott (Eds.), *A Handbook of Varieties of English* (pp. 1045–1057). Mouton de Gruyter.
- Mahboob, A. (2009). English as an Islamic language: A case study of Pakistani English. *World Englishes*, 28(2), 175–189.
- Mahmood, R. (2009). *Lexico-Grammatical study of noun phrases in Pakistani English* (Unpublished doctoral dissertation). Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan.
- Qureshi, M., Jadoon, N. K., & Farooq, M. (2023). An account of semantic change in Pakistani English and its impact on its intelligibility and acceptability. *Pakistan Journal of Social Research*, 5(02), 538–546.
- Rahman, T. (1990). *Pakistani English: The Linguistic Description of a Non-native Variety of English*. National Institute of Pakistan Studies, Quaid-e-Azam University.
- Rahman, T. (2020). Pakistani English. In B. Kingsley, B. Werner, & K. Andy (Eds.), *A Handbook of Asian Englishes*. Wiley Online Library.
- Rasul, S. (2013). Borrowing and code mixing in Pakistani children's magazines: Practices and functions. *Pakistaniaat: A Journal of Pakistan Studies*, 5(2), 46–72.
- Shaukat, U., & Talaat, M. (2021). A linguistic study of lexical borrowings from English in the Urdu narratives of early school children. *Pakistan Journal of Languages and Translation Studies*, 9(1), 106–121.
- Soomro, M. (2022). Pronunciation and semantic difference in Pakistani and British English. *Repertus: Journal of Linguistics, Language Planning, and Policy*.

Investigating Semantic Differences . . .

- Trudgill, P. (2003). *A Glossary of Sociolinguistics*. Oxford University Press.
- Weinreich, U. (1953). *Languages in Contact: Findings and Problems*. Mouton.
- Weinreich, U. (1968). *Languages in Contact*. Linguistic Circle of New York.
- Zeb, A., & Bashar, K. U. (2019). Paklish versus English: Lexical and semantic features. *Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences Studies*, 1(4), 199–204.