

### **Pakistani English as a Variety of English: A Corpus-Based Study of Blogs writing**

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#### **ABSTRACT**

*English, as a global language, has given rise to various regional variations known as "World English" based on historical, social, and cultural factors. Pakistani English (PakE) stands as a distinct language variety, which has emerged from the rich linguistic and cultural environment of Pakistan. The study employs a corpus-based approach, using blog posts by Pakistani authors as its data source. The results show that Pakistani English is developing and creating its own unique identity, making it a valuable addition to the global English family. Also, this article explores the unique features of Pakistani English, examining its phonological, morphological, syntactic, and lexical distinctions in comparison to variants of Standard English. Pakistani English has been influenced by regional languages such as Urdu, Punjabi, Sindhi, and Pashto, resulting in a dynamic vocabulary of loan words and phrases.*

Key Words: Pakistani English, Blog Writing, Corpus based Approach

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## INTRODUCTION

English a global language has evolved into a diverse and dynamic language spoken by millions of people around the world. The term "world Englishes" encompasses the various local and distinct versions of English that have emerged as a result of historical, social and cultural factors. Contrary to the notion of a single, monolithic "standard" English, global English's recognize the many variations and adaptations of the language in different regions and communities. The term "world Englishes" refers to the differences in the English language that occur as it is used in various situations around the world. Scholars studying world Englishes examine the varieties of the language used in various sociolinguistic settings, looking at their background, history, purpose, and influence. Languages evolve in response to the needs of the culture in which they are spoken. There are numerous dialects of the English language because societies have a wide range of social expectations that differ across cultures and geographical places. American, British, Australian, Canadian, and Indian Englishes are common in these countries.

Pakistan has a number of English dialects, notably Pakistani English (sometimes known as Paklish or Penglish). It was formally recognized and declared as such in the 1970s and 1980s. Other English dialects differ from PE in terms of vocabulary, grammar, accent, spelling of some words, and other characteristics. Despite the fact that only a small percentage of Pakistan's population speaks English, it is widely used in education, business, and the legal and judicial systems. Pakistani English is a fascinating and unique form of the English language that has developed inside Pakistan's richly varied linguistic and cultural milieu. Pakistan is a former British colony; therefore English is widely used in government, education, and other formal contexts. Through contact with other languages, cultural influences, and social practices, English in Pakistan has developed into a distinct dialect known as Pakistani English. This diversity is fascinating because it represents the nation's many language and cultural traditions. During their dominance of the Indian subcontinent, the British brought English, which has been traced back to the British Raj as the origin of Pakistani English. Even after British rule ended in 1947 and Pakistan was established as an independent nation, English maintained its status as the language of the ruling class, higher learning, and the law. British English had an early impact on Pakistani English, although over time, local dialects have become more prominent. The English spoken in Pakistan has its own distinct vocabulary, pronunciation, syntax, and idioms. Urdu, Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashto, and other regional languages

spoken in Pakistan all contribute to the lexicon of Pakistani English. The upshot of this linguistic melting pot is a vocabulary that is as diverse as the nation itself.

Pakistan's linguistic and cultural diversity are reflected in Pakistani English. It's a kind of English that's always changing and adapting to reflect the country's unique social and linguistic history. Pakistani English is characterized by its own distinctive vocabulary, pronunciation, syntax, and colloquial phrases. Pakistani English will surely continue to grow as the country develops and interacts with the rest of the world, adding depth to the country's linguistic tapestry and demonstrating the resiliency and flexibility of languages in multiethnic cultures.

The main objective of the study is:

- ✓ To discuss Pakistani English as a distinct variety of English and also to show contrasts between British, American and Pakistani English.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

According to Schneider (2003), postcolonial English evolved through the following stages: 1. Foundation Stage (Adoption in English) 2. Atypical stability phase (to be based on settlers' norms) 3. Nativization refers to the process of adapting one's original language to English. Stage 4. Endonormative Stabilization (acceptance of local norms) 5. Differentiation of Postcolonial.

### ***Subtypes of English***

Pakistani English (Pak E) is a well-known variant that is quickly replacing Standard English. According to Kachru (1985), a non-native variety goes through three stages: the existence of the native variety is not recognized in the first stage; it is considered as non-standard in the second stage; and it is progressively accepted as normal in the third stage. Rehman's efforts aided in the development of corpus planning in Pakistan. Following Baumgardner's lead, we can unquestionably agree with Pennycook (1994) that encounters with regional languages caused English to adapt, and as a result, English's grip over the world is not imperial but rather local. It is the result of power. English and Urdu are "used together or alternatively through code-switching and code-mixing, which have become the norm," according to Talat (2002, p. 14). It is trendy to

begin a conversation in Urdu with an English accent, move to English, and then return to Urdu (Khaliq, 2006).

Despite the fact that British rule in the subcontinent lasted nearly 200 years, the areas that are now Pakistan were among the last to be annexed: Sindh in 1842, Punjab in 1849 (which initially included the North-West Frontier Province), and portions of Baluchistan, including Quetta and its surrounding areas, in 1879. Baluchistan remained as a princely state under the British Empire. Despite having less time to integrate into local culture, British English, which was used at elite schools and higher institutions across the subcontinent, managed to become a part of elite culture. It is important to recognize that pre-Partition British India is where the English spoken in Pakistan has its roots. English and the languages of South Asia have evolved in different ways, according to Ali (1993, p. 3), with “the Germanic group under the influence of Roman Christianity being drawn towards Latin and Greek; Indo-Iranian, on the one hand, with Sasanian affinities with Pahlavi and Sumerian; and on the other hand, Persian and Arabic under Islamic influence”. According to Ali (1993), the British entered India under Queen Elizabeth’s charter in the seventeenth century, but they were unable to establish a firm foothold there until the middle of the eighteenth century.

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Following the fall of the Mughal empire, the mistrust engendered by his orthodoxy and short-sighted acts toward the Marathas and Sikhs, and his death, the empire was divided among

Aurangzeb's sons like any other private property. The power hoover started once everything was finished. The British had practically taken over India by 1818, following their victory at the Battle of Buxar in 1764 and their manipulation of Shah Alam's grant of the Diwani of Bengal in 1765. According to Spear (1965, p. 124), Macaulay remarked in 1835, "it is our great moral duty to perform in India" with classic English imperialism and self-satisfied arrogance.

The main goals were to "promote English literature and science through the medium of the English language" and to produce a class of individuals who were "Indian in colour and blood but English in taste and character, morals and intellect" (p. 127). As a result, Ali (1993, p. 7) states, "the government began establishing schools and colleges to convert Indians, today's South Asians, into brown Englishmen by imparting Western knowledge in the English language."

In his travelogue "Passage to Peshawar," Richard Reeves (1984) referred to Pakistan as the "Second English Empire" from a linguistic standpoint, implying that English is still very much alive in Pakistan. Pakistani English is part of the South Asian English linguistic subfamily, which also includes Bangladeshi, Indian, Nepalese, and Sri Lankan English (Kachru, 1982).

Several researchers have emphasized PE terminology and expressions, as well as different idioms, colloquialisms, and accents. In the early twentieth century, it was said that multinational firms found it easier to eradicate the accent in Pakistan than in India, but no follow-up research was conducted. Furthermore, numerous words that are now considered archaic in Britain have been preserved in Pakistani English, as well as in Indian English.

According to studies (Khan, 2012), This article investigates Pakistani English using a number of linguistic factors, including syntax, morphology, lexis, and phonology, to determine whether it has its own particular norms and standards that distinguish it from other variants of Southern English. Asians generate variety. Pakistani English (PakE) is discussed as a distinct variety in this study, but it is also discovered to be one of the less researched variants of English. PakE research has primarily focused on similarities with Standard British English. However, English is clearly forging its own identity in Pakistan.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research design used in this study is exploratory research design. In this study we explore different features of Pakistani English, The features that make Pakistani English as distinct variety of English. To ensure Pakistani english as a variety of english, the study use a corpus-based approach. The data for this study was collected from blog posts written by Pakistani authors, as published in various Pakistani newspapers.

## RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

### *Features of Pakistani English*

#### *1. Phonological Level*

Pakistani English exhibits unique phonetic features that have been influenced by regional languages. For example, some vowels and consonants may not be pronounced the same way in all English dialects. In some cases, the 'th' sound may be pronounced as 't' or 'd'.

Other English dialects, including British English and American English, each have distinctive phonetic features. Vowel sounds, diphthongs, and consonants may have different pronunciations.

Lexical item	PakE	RP
HorsES	ɪ	ə
LettER	ʌ	ə
CommA	ʌ	ə
NURSE	ʌ	ɜ:
LOT	ɔ:	ɒ

#### **2. Morphological Level:**

The most commonly cited features of PakE morphology are differences in the use of articles and prepositions and Exclusion of certain auxiliary verbs.

### **3. Use of Articles:**

BrStE: "I saw the car."

PakE: "I saw car."

### **4. Use of Prepositions:**

BrStE: "He is at the office."

PakE: "He is in the office."

Due to Pakistan's linguistic variety, Pakistani English may display certain variances in morphological traits including verb forms and pluralization. For instance, using "childs" instead of "children" in the plural form.

Even though there may be a few slight variations, other English dialects generally maintain consistency in terms of verb conjugations, plural forms, and other morphological features.

### **5. Syntax Level:**

Pakistani English is similar to other English dialects in terms of basic sentence structure and word order at the syntactic level. However, it may show some Urdu or other regional linguistic influences, resulting in sporadic changes in sentence structure.

Although British and American English generally adhere to the same syntactic rules, there may be some variations in sentence structure, idiomatic expressions, and colloquial usage.

Here are examples of progressive and perfective aspects of Pakistani English that clearly show deviations from British English.

1. PakE: "I am doing it all the time."

BrStE: "I do it all the time."

2. PakE: "I have seen him yesterday."

BrStE: "I saw him yesterday."

3. PakE: "We are having dinner at 8 PM."  
BrStE: "We have dinner at 8 PM."
4. PakE: "I have completed the task just now."  
BrStE: "I just completed the task."
5. PakE: "They have gone to the market yesterday."  
BrStE: "They went to the market yesterday."

The adjectives in Pakistani English are frequently followed by a to-infinitive instead of a preposition and participle clause as in British. Pakistani English also differs in Noun completion. Thus, a preposition plus -ing participle in British English may become to-infinitive in PakE. PakE speakers may substitute the StBrE main verb plus to-infinitive with a main verb plus that-clause.

BrStE : Pakistan has no influence in controlling affairs inside Afghanistan.

PakE: Pakistan has no influence to control affairs.

### **3. Lexical Level:**

Pakistani English is a distinctive variety of English that has developed in the socio-cultural environment of Pakistan. It represents a unique blend of the English language with regional influences, which sets it apart from other forms of English spoken around the world. This study explores some of the salient features of Pakistani English, highlighting its borrowing patterns, distinctive grammatical patterns, modern word-formation processes, conversion phenomena, and the use of archaic or obsolete words.

A number of loanwords and phrases from regional languages including Urdu, Punjabi, Sindhi and Pashto have been incorporated into Pakistani English. These imported terms give Pakistani English a unique personality and add to its lexical quality.

Regional differences and dialects are also present in other varieties of English, such as British and American English, but they may not be as dominant in terms of borrowing from other languages as in Pakistani English.



<b>Borrowing</b>	<b>Grammar</b>	<b>Word- Formation</b>	<b>Conversion</b>	<b>Use of obsolete words</b>
Baradari(clan)	Goondas  Jirgas (tribal council)	Elephant ego	To aircraft	Conveyance
Kabbadi(sport)	Kachchi abadis  Challan (urdu noun used as verb)	De-seat	To airline	Botheration
Kachchi abadi(shanty town)		History-sheeter	Charge- sheeted	Tantamount
Mela(a fair)		De-notify	Move-over	Patchwork
Wadera(landlord)		Affectees		Perplexity

## CONCLUSIONS

This paper explores the concept of Pakistani English (PakE) as a distinct variety, highlighting its status as one of the least researched varieties of English. Previous studies on PakE have mainly focused on comparing it with Standard British English. Nevertheless, it becomes clear that English is making its own identity in Pakistan. This unique identity was created and maintained by the English-speaking elite in Pakistan as well as the wider English media. Furthermore, the teaching materials used in Pakistani schools help reinforce this identity. Finally, the paper suggests widespread recognition of Pakistani English as a valid variety, which will facilitate appropriate measures for its further development and recognition globally.

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