

Impact of Urduised English on Pakistani English Fiction

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ABSTRACT: *The present work studies the use of Urduised words in the Pakistani English fiction. The present study is a corpus-based study and investigates the influence created through the Urduised words used in the Pakistani English drawing on the data from Pakistani English Fiction corpus (PEF) consisting of one million words . The influence of Urdu through Code- switching has resulted in a lot of innovations at the lexical level in the Pakistani English. The data analysis reveals that Pakistani English shows distinct impact of its indigenous culture through the usage of dynamic lexis steeped in Pakistani culture. The frequent use of Urduised words in Pakistani English Fiction at the lexical level is the distinct feature of Pakistani English and strengthens the fact that Pakistani English being an independent variety has bridged the process of localization and represents independent linguistic norms of its own.*

Key words: Pakistani English, Urduised words, Indigenization, Lexical Compounding, Pakistani Culture.

Introduction:

Pakistani English is an emerging independent variety. English in Pakistan enjoys the status of co-official language and has become a lingua franca. Its important position in Pakistan can be understood by the fact that the constitution and the body of law are codified in English. Post-colonial scenario has given birth to different varieties of English. Pakistani English is undergoing the Process of Localization and the impact of local languages has been the main cause of the language variation (Baumgardner 1993). The influence of Urdu language on the lexical level has been distinct in Pakistani English. 'Certain lexical items may show a shift from their original Standard British English usage to Urduised meaning (Talaat 1993).'

Being a non-native variety, Pakistani English has manifested its independent individual linguistic and cultural identity. This individual identity can be easily figured out throughout the language at the lexical level, the phrase level and the sentence level. Needless to say that it is natural result of its regular contact with the Urdu language. 'A large number of borrowings from Urdu and the regional languages of Pakistan have entered in Pakistani English' (Baumgardner 1993).

Pakistani English fiction writers have won world-wide recognition and have been acclaimed on international level as well. From 1980's Pakistani English literature began to receive national and official accolades, when Pakistan Academy of Letters included works originally written in English received annual literary awards. The first major English writer who received this national honour was Alamgir Hashmi. Subsequently, during the last three decades, a number of other English writers, including Bapsi Sidhwa, Kamila Shamsie and Nadeem Aslam, have been recognized by the Academy. In the early years of the 21st century, a number of Pakistani novelists writing in English won or were shortlisted for international awards. Mohsin Hamid wrote his two novels *Moth Smoke* (2000) & *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* (2007), which are considered masterpieces of Pakistani English fiction. Kamila Shamsie, who got fame in Pakistan by getting the Prime Minister's Literary Award for her first novel and was shortlisted for the John Llewelyn Rhys award for her third novel, *Kartography* (2002); she has recently published her sixth novel, *A God in Every Stone* (2014). Uzma Aslam Khan was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers Prize (Eurasia region) for her second novel, *Trespassing* (2003). With the

passage of time, more & more fiction is being written by Pakistani English writers and the impact of indigenous culture seem quite dominant upon the language used by authors in Pakistani fiction

Literature Review:

Being a non-native variety, English language in Pakistan has imbibed different words, structures, expressions from the native languages especially Urdu language. It displays many characteristics of its own norm and these distinctive features signify the independent trend of the Pakistani English.

Kachru (1983) studied the South Asian English in a detailed manner; especially the use of hybridized structures which showed innovations in the south Asian varieties of English one included one native word combined with an English word and these hybrids were many like 'lathi charge , rickshaw-driver, child-lifter , Tonga-drivers, Police-wala, Tonga-wala'(57).

In Pakistani English, Baumgardner (1993) worked on the influence of Urdu upon lexical level in a detail. He put forward that Pakistani English borrowed frequent words from Urdu and regional languages. Baumgardner (1993) also pointed out the area of word-formation in Pakistani English. He made clear that prefixes and suffixes prove to be very productive and innovative in the Pakistani English. Rahman (1990) also highlighted the distinct patterns of lexical and semantic features in Pakistani English. Behzad (2007) studied the impact of Urdu upon Pakistani English newspapers. The present work studies the impact of Urduised words used in Pakistani English fiction and the use of these Urduised words has resulted in innovative lexis in Pakistani English enriched with Pakistani culture.

3. Research Methodology

The present research work is both quantitative and qualitative in nature. On quantitative level, the present work gives the frequency of each Urduised word in Pakistani English Fiction whereas; all discussion has been done qualitatively. The theoretical framework of the present study is world Pakistani English and the data consists of all the Urduised words taken from a Pakistani English Fiction Corpus (PEF). Pakistani English Fiction corpus (PEF) consists of one million words

collected from Pakistani writer's novels and novellas which has been compiled by researchers of GC University Faisalabad and is available for research purpose.

All the words have been taken manually from the novel and their interpretation has been done accordingly. The whole Pakistani English Fiction speaks for its impact of Urduised words as Urdu words are found in abundance and seem to have been used by authors for a certain purpose. Frequencies of all the words in the Pakistani English corpus have been studied through the software AntConc 3.1.1 and all the grammatical and Culture specific categories have been studied at length in the corpus. The present study reveals the use of Urduised words in Pakistani English and their use has been analyzed by distributing them in categories set by Baumgardner in 'The English Language in Pakistan' (1993:84).

4. Data Analysis

The use of Urduised words in Pakistani English has rendered it a linguistic and cultural identity and the present analysis has been carried out keeping in mind this contextual use of Urduised words in Pakistani English.

Baumgardner (1993) argues:

Urduised words in Pakistani English give it a linguistic and cultural identity and it is more evident in the large number of loan words from Urdu and the other regional languages which have made their way more common in Pakistani English. The influence of Urduization seems all-pervasive in Pakistani English (42).

4.1. Categories of Urduised words & Discussion

All the Urduised words have been arranged in their categories and the discussion has been given after giving each word with its near equivalent and its frequency in the Pakistani English Fiction corpus (PEF). All categories have been discussed at length by dividing them in categorized tables and their concordance lines have also been studied from the Pakistani English Fiction corpus (PEF).

Table 4.1.1:

Urduised words belonging to Culture-specific category in PEF.

Serial No.	Urdu nouns	Near Equivalent	Frequency
01	Shadi	marriage	10
02	Jaheiz	Dowry	12
03	Imamzaman	charm for protection	05
04	mehandi	henna ceremony at wedding	01
05	luddi	Dance	01
06	purda	veil	03
07	Jalsa	public meeting	01
08	jhoola	cradle	03
09	dai	unregistered gynecologist	01

Table 4.1.1 clearly describes the Urduised words used in the Pakistani English Fiction that directly come from Pakistani culture and again the authors seem to have no choice but choosing these words for a certain purpose. The words like ‘Doolah’, ‘Jhoola’, ‘purdah’, have also got proper equivalents available in English but yet again the authors’ choice in the Pakistani English Fiction corpus for using these words certainly speak for their rich cultural connotation.

Nouns like ‘Luddi and dai’ are unequivocally the words that are steeped in customs and traditions of Pakistani culture. It does not seem a lexical gap but their meanings are clearly steeped in Pakistani culture and their use is the individual feature of Pakistani English with its own norms.

She was feeling very happy as shadi was drawing near and celebrations were in the offing. (Pakistani English Fiction corpus/PEF.file.txt.26)

Table 4.1.2:

Urduised words belonging to Religious category in PEF.

Serial No.	Urdu nouns	Near Equivalent	Frequency
01	Maulvi	Saint	02
02	Jaeyenamz	Prayer Carpet	04

03	Fateha	Prayer	03
04	Haram	Sinful in Islam	01
05	Tasbi	Rosary	02
06	Mazaar	Mausoleum	01
07	Darbaar	Tomb	03
08	Fatwa	Religious Declaration	01
09	Jamia	Religious school	03
10	Aftaris	meal end of breakfast	01
11	InShaAllah	If God allows	01
12	Deen	Religion	04
13	Sufi	Spiritual Guide	04
14	Khutba	Sermon	01
15	Ijtehad	Consensus	01
16	kismat	Fate	01

Table 4.1.2 describes the religious category and all nouns clearly about the Pakistani religious cult. Clearly, nouns in this religious category have their proper alternate in English language i.e. ‘mazaar’, ‘ulema’, ‘kismat’, ‘jaeyenamz’, ‘Khutba’, ‘deen’, ‘tasbi’, ‘basant’ and there seem to be no lexical gap in choosing these words in the novel yet the writer chose for the Urduised words and built a strong link to the Pakistani society.

While the other nouns like ‘walait’, ‘pir’, ‘maulvi’, ‘Mureed’ have no exact English words but still words nearing to the context have been avoided by the author and thus portrays the impact of religious cult in Pakistani English. It yet again speaks high volume of the distinct trademark of localization of Pakistani English that ascertains the fact that Pakistani English has certainly bridged across the process of indigenization i.e. all the postcolonial Englishes have absorbed the words from local languages.

Table 4.1.3:

Urduised words belonging to wearings in PEF.

Serial No.	Urdu nouns	Near Equivalent	Frequency

02	Pagri	Turban	09
03	Karra	Bracelet	04
04	Burqa	Veil	02
05	Kurta	Shirt	04
06	Jora	Trouser shirt	01
07	Farak	Shirt	03
08	Payajama	Trouser	01
09	Chunni	Shawl	02
10	Choli	Cloak	02
12	Dhurries	Rugs	01

Table 4.1.3 discusses about the Culture-specific nouns pertaining to wearings category and the impact of Urduised words seems more dominating as well in this section. The words like ‘kurta, farak, chunni and choli’ are wearings that reflect the Pakistani culture in detail and this element becomes quite apparent in Pakistani English fiction.

He was looking very smart in his specially made kurta(PEF.file.txt.49).
The farak of the young daughter, Asia was little bit old-fashioned and she was very exasperated (PEF.file.txt 27).

Table.4.1.4 Urduised Words belonging to Edibles/Drinks category

Serial No.	Urdu nouns	Near Equivalent	Frequency
01	Shaljam	Turnip	02
02	Mattar	Beans	06
03	Mooli	Reddish	04
04	Phool Gobhi	Cauliflower	05
05	Sherbat	Drink	03
06	Zam Zam	Holy Water	02
07	Pulao	Salt rice	05
08	Pista	Pistachios	03

09	Dal	Pulse	01
10	Gajjar	Carrot	02
11	Burfi	Sweets	04
12	Kulfi	Ice Cream	02

Table 4.1.4 discusses the Urduised words that pertain to edibles/drinks category that have been used in the Pakistani English fiction. The micro analysis of all the Urduised words used in this category clearly indicated the deep impact of Urduised words in Pakistani English fiction. Almost all the words like 'dal, Shaljam, matter, pista, gajjar' have certainly proper available equivalents English but the Pakistan English authors have certainly used these words being spoken inside the country on a large spectrum and depicts the rich impact of Pakistani culture and therefore, their use speak high volume of the localization of Pakistani English fiction.

Table 4.1. 5:

Urduised words belonging to Relations category in PEF.

Serial No.	Urdu nouns	Near Equivalent	Frequency
01	Phupha	Uncle	04
02	Mama jee	Maternal Uncle	06
03	Jaanu	Darling	04
04	Sweetoo	Dear	05
05	Phopho	Aunt	04
06	Phupha	Uncle	02
07	Rishta	Relation	05
08	Khala	Aunt	03
09	Khaloo	Uncle	01
10	Abu	Father	02
11	Beta	Son	01

Table 4.1.5 includes the words pertaining to relations category and we find that most of the words rangirom 'ami to nani amma 'have

suitable alternate words available in English language but the choice of author seems more dominating in using these words to depict the culture of Pakistan. Words like “ khala, khaloo,phupo, phupa, maamo jan have no exact alternatives so they show deep feelings for near and dear relations. The words like ‘Ami’, ‘Bari Ami’ are frequently spoken in Urdu language and therefore they speak of rich Pakistani culture with its individual traditions and customs that have penetrated into Pakistani English language as well and all these lexical items have given richness and individual norms to Pakistani English at the lexical level.

Table 4.1. 6:

Urduised nouns of miscellaneous category in PEF.

Serial No.	Urdu nouns	Near Equivalent	Frequency
01	Munshi	Assistant	05
02	Fauji	Armed Man	04
03	Dastur	Constitution	01
04	Faqir	Beggar	05
05	Mohallah	Locality	03
06	Halaat	Condition	05
07	Takht	Throne	04
08	Haveili	Mansion	02
09	Sehan	Compound	06
10	Manhoos	Ominous	03
11	Beema	Insurance	01

Table 4.1.6 is also very interesting to study as it mentions the miscellaneous category of Urduised words found in the novel. And it becomes clear that except one Urduised noun, ‘Haveili’, all other words ‘thaila, takht, bachey, sehan, shamiane, madjlis’ have very suitable replacement words available and there was no lexical gap in using these words in the novel but the Pakistani English still prefers to use Urduised words which not only describes the impact of Urdu language in Pakistani English but also speaks of the distinct norm of Pakistani English. The sehan would have been spacious and may be even pleasant (PEF.Txt.74).

The word *sehan* has proper equivalent in English but still this word has been used by Pakistani English writers to depict the Pakistanization of English language representing the norms of its country.

The grammatical categories of Urduised words consist of innovative Urdu-compounding in Pakistani English fiction and all categories have been described in categorized tables followed by the discussion:

Table 4.1.7:

Urdu-English compounding category in Pakistani English Fiction

Serial No.	Urdu nouns	Near Equivalent	Frequency
01	shariat laws	religious laws	01
02	tiny diyah	small lamp	01
03	Katcha Houses	slum houses	01
04	Political Jalsa	Political pubic meeting	01
05	paan leaves	Betel leaves	01
06	municipal jammadaar	municipal sweeper	01
07	opperwala portion	upper portion	02
08	rickshaw wala	rickshaw man	02
09	Paan walla	a seller of paan	01
10	Dry-fruit wala	dry-fruit man	01
11	canopied jhoola	canopied cradle	01
12	Phoolwalla	Flower man	01
13	chalia palm	palm with small grains	01
14	Muslin Dupatta	Muslin shawl	01
15	Burqa-clad	veil-clad	01
16	Solar Topi	cap to avoid sunlight	08

Table 4.1.7 discusses the Urdu-English compounds in the Pakistani English fiction and elaborated the innovative compounding in Pakistani English. This is explicitly prominent in formations consisting

of one element from Urdu and one from English.

Urdu words take different positions in these mixed compounds. Such a word formation process is called hybridization (Kachru 1983:112).

Compounding is a very productive process for forming new words in Pakistani English. Urdu-English code-switching make interesting combinations in the formation of many compound words in Pakistani English.

Compounds may be endocentric or exocentric (Wardhaugh 2003:233). An endocentric compound is one that may be used for one of its integral parts. These compounds are always apparent in their meaning. For example a opperwala potion is a kind of portion, a Katcha Houses are a kind of Houses. Here are some examples of mixed endocentric compounds in the Pakistani English fiction. It is interesting to note that the table consists of non-noun compounds, adjective-noun compounds, noun-verb compounds and noun-particle compounds. It is interesting that in each compound, with noun, or adjective or particle belong to Urduised category and again all these Urduised words seem to have appropriate alternate in English but used purposefully by the authors in Pakistani English fiction:

Endocentric compounds in Pakistani English Fiction

Solar Topi	Cap to avoid sunlight (A kind of Cap)
Katcha houses	slum houses
(A Kind of house)	
Opperwala potion	upper portion (A kind of portion)
Canopied Jhoola	cradle with a canopy (A kind of cradle)

The entrance to opperwala portion of the house was completely independent (PEF,txt.43).

Ameenah laughed on the other end of the canopied Jhoola and then became silent (PEF.txt.41).

On the contrary, an exocentric compound has a meaning which becomes explicit from the sum of its parts. These compounds are little bit vague in meaning and thus very idiomatic. For example black sweater and big toe: a black is not a type of sweater, nor is a big a type of toe. Examples of mixed exocentric compounds are also found in the Pakistani English fiction:

Exocentric Compounds in Pakistani English Fiction

Burqa clad
Municipal Jammadaar
jammadaar who works in Municipal
dressed in Burqa

All the use of Urduised words in these compounds have rich connotation in Pakistani culture and therefore seem to have been chosen by the authors in Pakistani English fiction to depict Pakistani culture in its real context.

Table 4.1.8:

Urdu-English nouns with inflections 's/es, ed, 'category in Pakistani English Fiction.

Serial No.	Urdu nouns Urduised inflections Domain	Near Equivalent	Frequency
01	jammadaar	Sweeper	02
02	Phoolwala	flower man	01
03	jammadaarni	female sweeper	01
04	Chaddared	covered	01
05	Chapped feet	feet with shoes	01
06	chowkidaar	watchman	01
07	Diays	lamps	02
08	Bhangras	dances	01
09	Nallas	drains	01
10	dholkies	drums	01
11	Nallies	small drains	01

Table 4.1.8 discusses the nouns pertaining to inflections 's/es, daar, ed' category and it is very interesting to study that that Urduised

words ‘nalla, nalli, diva, choli’ have English inflections ‘s’. Urdu-English code-switching has resulted in interesting and unique word combinations and this unique Urduised-English compounding is categorically the distinct feature of Pakistani English: Urduised words with English inflections ‘s/es/ed in the words, Dholki-es, Chaddar-ed, Chappal-ed, Diya-s, Nalla-s manifest the innovation at the lexical level in Pakistani English and speak of the independent linguistic norm of Pakistani English.

The derivational morphemes ‘Daar and wala are very much productive in Pakistani English fiction:

The old chowkidar lets me in with no trouble, and I see maybe a dozen cars in a long driveway. (PEF file txt.03)

All the paanwallas, Phoolwalas, the attar wallas, dry-fruit wallas and fruit vendors were gathered on Mall road. (PEF.file68)

Furthermore, it is also notable in table 4.1.8 that Urduised words have very appropriate alternative words in English but their purposeful choice speaks high volume about the deliberate choice of authors in Pakistani English fiction. The words like ‘Jammadaar’, ‘chowkidaar’, have very appropriate alternates in English language but deeply related to Pakistani culture and all these words are spoken by all and sundry in Pakistani culture.

Therefore, the Pakistani English fiction seems to have chosen these words deliberately to give very stark picture of Pakistani society through the usage of these Urduised words.

Conclusion:

The present work study has studied the impact of Urduised words used in the Pakistani English fiction. The findings of this study reflect distinct characteristics of Pakistani English. Pakistani English fiction shows innovation at the lexical level due to strong impact of Urdu language. Pakistani English exhibits the process of hybridization at the lexical level which leads to the formation of endocentric and exocentric compounds. The present study of Pakistani English fiction has manifested that the Urduised words have been used in the Pakistani English fiction by the writers to depict the rich Pakistani culture. Certainly, this Urdu-English code-switching is the independent linguistic norm of Pakistani English on the lexical level and thus, strengthens the fact that Pakistani English is an independent variety with features of its own.

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