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URDUIZATION OF ENGLISH AS EMPLOYED IN TEXT MESSAGES

Abstract

Urduization of English language in routine life is a very common phenomenon in Pakistan in the present consumption of English as a second language . The study aims to explore various patterns of Urduization of English at lexical level. The proposed study follows the mixed method approach. Data have been collected from text messages in which Urduized words are used. The frequency of such words has been calculated and qualitatively analyzed. The researchers also aim to identify the basic reasons behind the use of such a vocabulary. The study will help the scholars interested in linguistic hybridity, world Englishes, code switching and sociolinguistics in Pakistani context.

Key words:

Urduized words, lexical level, code switching, Code mixing, Sociolinguistics.

Introduction

Multilingual speakers use different languages in various settings and gatherings according to the situation and they mix these languages in such a way that no one notices them. When speakers use two or more than two languages in such a way, it becomes difficult to differentiate as it is generating a new variety, exhibiting different accent, dialect, vocabulary and register, etc. (Trudgill, 2003. Crystal (1997), Pennycook (1998), Kachru and Nelson (1992), and Pilpson (1992) also discuss some varieties of English language in this context when English language moved towards the subcontinent. Imperialism is considered to be one of the major effects of this change. The languages of subcontinent like Urdu and other languages are also affected (Sebba, 1997). D' Souza (2001) establishes a claim in her study that English is not

only a language of foreigners. Pakistani novelist, Bapsi Sidhwa, also establishes such claim in her novel that English language is not used as the language of the Britishers, but we developed it in our own way (1996). Kirkpatrick (2007) asserts that English has been established according to the culture and taste of the subcontinent. English is considered as the most frequently used language in the world because of the colonial influences (Hickey, 2004). English attracts different nations and communities in the whole world. The Pakistani English novelists also borrow lexical items from Urdu in such a ways that sometimes only specific community can understand it. They also mix a few words of other languages in English that seem part of that language. Like in Ahmad Ali's novel *Twilight in Delhi* "You seem to have all your fingers in ghee [success] these days." This example shows the influence of one language on the other.

In the present study, the researcher locates such vocabulary of Urdu which is borrowed in English text messages by the youth of various cities of Pakistan.

Pakistani English is considered to be one of the new emerging varieties in English. English in Pakistan is still used as an official language, despite the fact that Urdu has been approved to be used as the official language of Pakistan. The important documents about the legislation of the country in English enlighten the importance of this language in Pakistan. Post-colonialism gave a prominence to different varieties of English. Pakistani English is also considered to be a local variety having many variations in it as Baumgardner (1993) says that the languages must have local impact on them which exhibits a real cause of variation. According to Talaat, (1993), Pakistani English has some words in it which have shifted from various other languages at lexical level. Pakistani literal community uses English as second language. This variety of English has many words in it at phrase, sentence, clause level which are not a part of the native variety of English. Baumgardner, (1993) points out that many regional words are added in English from various regional languages as well.

Urduization of English in various genres of literature, print media, official correspondence, and in text messages is a common phenomenon. With all these exceptions, Pakistani writers introduce themselves by winning various awards in English fiction like Mohsin Hamid, Kamila Shamsi, etc. Muhammad Shaban *et al.*

(2012) says that the variety of Pakistani English generalizes the phrases of Urdu to anticipate the functions and forms in Discourse.

Hybridity is also a major concept under this phenomenon. Two words are combined to form a new word, like “Lathi Charge”, one word from native language and the other from English language. Kachru (1983) also studies the same phenomenon in South Asian languages. Behzad (2007) explains the impact of such vocabulary items or Urdu on English newspapers in his research. Rehman (1990) elaborates various patterns of Pakistani English with reference to the lexical and semantic features. They use BE by involving some lexical variety of their local language in their writings (Rafat, 1969) just like the writers of India (Jussawalla, 1985).

According to the Rahman (2002), Sabiha Mansoor (1993, 2005), and Ahmar Mahboob (2002), English is considered as one of the most demanding languages in Pakistan by the parents, teachers or even the whole society. British Council suggests or argues that native language of the specific area must be learnt at the initial stages of the education but on the other side, they also confirm the preferences of English Language in Pakistani community (Coleman 2010). Peeli (2013) claims that the basic knowledge of English language is not so good in government and private sector faculty members. Rahman (1996, 2007) says that English is the symbol of elite class and considers it to be a basic tool to get a handsome job although the researches prove that mother tongue must be used at the initial levels.

The use of English or applying the same rules on the national language of Pakistan is a common phenomenon especially from the last decade and is becoming more popular day by day. The concept of Roman English (using English alphabets to write the Lexis of Urdu language) in text messages and in chats, is explored in the present study.

The present study also attempts to locate such example in English language where Urdu lexical items are a part of English. Background reasons and cultural aspects are also discussed. This study will help those lexicographers in the future who develop the dictionary of both the languages.

Research Questions

The study attempts to answer the following questions:

How are English words Urduized in at lexical level in text

messages?

What are the basic cultural reasons behind the urduization of English employed in text messages and in social sites?

Delimitation of the study

The researchers delimit study to:

- Two cities randomly selected from each province of Pakistan to study this phenomenon.
- Only text messages are selected for analysis.
- 10 speakers are selected from each province through which research can easily get texts and federal area by collecting two texts from each sample.
- The words of Urdu language are part of sampling which are used in English language text messages.

Research Methodology

The study falls under the realm of mixed method approach. Data were quantified and then qualitatively analyzed. Selected data was quantified after extracting the target vocabulary to analyze it. To get more objectivity or authentic results, data have been collected from various text messages. Selected data has been analyzed within the framework of sociolinguistics and globalization of world languages.

Speech community was informed at later stages about the data set which was collected from them to follow the ethical values of the research. Cultural aspects and social issues have also been discussed without the implementation of any theory so that all the key points must be studied which are the basic factor under this statement Urduization of English as employed in text messages and chats.

Analysis

Semantic categories according to the outline of Baumgardner

1.1 Celebrations

Sr. No Words

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1 | Jashs-e-Azadi |
|---|---------------|

1.2 Descriptive labels for peoples

Sr. No Words

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1 | Insan |
|---|-------|

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 | Chohy (it is used in descriptive sense in text) |
|---|---|

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 3 | Ameeroun |
|---|----------|

Sr. No Words

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 4 | Parro |
|---|-------|

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 5 | Taliban |
|---|---------|

1.3 Concepts

Sr. No Words

1	Gunahgaar
2	Taubaa
3	Nakhra
4	Khawari
5	Omid
6	Sochta
7	Almiya

Sr. No Words

8	Insaf
9	Manzoor
10	Madad
11	Jeet
12	Desi
13	Baghipn

1.4 Religion

Sr. No Words

1	Qudrat
2	ALLAH
3	Surah

Sr. No Words

4	Ameen
5	Shuker

1.5 Kinship Terms

Sr. No Words

1	Chachu
2	Bchy

Sr. No Words

3	Daado
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1.6 Mode of Address or Reference

Sr. No Words

1	Shuda-e-Pishwar
2	Awam
3	Tu
4	Ye
5	Unko
6	Koi
7	Yaar
8	Bcho

Sr. No Words

9	Sab
10	Tum
11	Apny
12	Wo
13	In
14	Ap
15	Yaaro
16	Ajmal

1.7 Adjectives/Adverbials

Sr. No Words

1	Jo
2	Nai
3	Sai
4	Thora
5	Bilkul
6	Isi
7	Isliye
8	Bht

Sr. No Words

12	Ka
13	Bura
14	zaida
15	Ikhty
16	Bhi
17	Kbi Kbi
18	Hamesha
19	Itni

9	Phr	20	Kuch
10	Aisy	21	Pory
11	Q	22	Ajkl

1.8 Games and Sports

Sr. No Words

1	Chuppan chuppai
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Sr. No Words

2	Gulli Danda
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1.9 Situations or Expressions

Sr. No Words

1	Mubarak
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Sr. No Words

2	Jald-z-Jald
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1.10 Clothing Accessories

Sr. No Words

1	Suit
---	------

Sr. No Words

2	Boot
---	------

1.11 Place names

Sr. No Words

1	AnarKali Bazaar
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1.12 Discourse Markers

Sr. No Words

1	Alllla
2	Kya

Sr. No Words

3	Achaa
4	Oh

MY PROPOSED CATEGORIES

1.13 Helping /Main Verbs

Sr. No Words

1	Kr
2	Sy
3	Rhi
4	Thi
5	Bnaya
6	Jao
7	Tha
8	Jis
9	Lea
10	Kha
11	Jaaty
12	Rhy
13	Is
14	Ki
15	Gai

Sr. No Words

22	Hoti
23	Krny
24	Hy
25	Kro
26	Di
27	Kia
28	Arhy
29	Kry
30	Gy
31	Gya
32	Hua
33	Hui
34	Krna
35	Hota
36	Ly

16	Ana	37	Lea
17	Khan	38	Nikli
18	Lena	39	Krna
19	Chlo	40	Hasil
20	Dekhi	41	Hnsi
21	Bch	42	Thak

1.14 Conjunction

Sr. No Words

1	K
2	B
3	Tb

Sr. No Words

4	Lekin
5	Ka
6	Kioun K

1.15 Personal Pronouns and Nouns

Sr. No Words

1	Main
2	Hum
3	Hamari
4	Mjy
5	Khud
6	Sehat
7	Dharna
8	Dfaa
9	Zarorat

Sr. No Words

10	Ghlat
11	Aj
12	Baat
13	Akely
14	Phansi
15	Awaragrdi
16	Hissy
17	dono
18	Dair

Socialization

Sr. No Words

1	Akely
3	Hissy

Sr. No Words

2	Phansy
4	Awaragrdi

Health Term

Sr. No Words

1	Sehat
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Time terms

Sr. No Words

1	Dair
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Discussion

Baumagardner introduces various semantic categories of nouns but the data set which he used to study those terms is quiet formal. In text messages, the ratio of such informal terms is higher, so various new semantic categories related to Time, Health,

Socialization were introduced. Text messages are newly established phenomenon. A decade ago, mobiles phones were not so common and the concept of text messages was quiet unfamiliar. The language consumed in text messages now is more globalized.

The selected data set which is also attached in appendix shows that Pakistanis use both languages in their text messages and switch from one language to the other for their own convenience and for the convenience of other too, whom they suppose their readers. This phenomenon is present in various genres of Pakistani literature as well.

Total 1824 words were collected from 100 messages and out of these words, 292 local language words were used by the speakers which are approximately 16% of the total data set. This percentage represents that the language used in the text messages is less formal and people use words of various local languages which represent their cultural norms on one side and ease the receiver on the other.

People normally use the words from the local language when they don't find the exact lexical item in English. English is not the native language of Pakistanis, and therefore, sometimes they face the issue of lack of vocabulary at that time and add the Lexis of local languages.

Events are used as it is in text messages without being translated into English which shows the interest level of the sender as well as to evoke a genuine feeling of that event in the receiver. A local touch has been given by using the terms of native Language as it is in the celebrations.

These types of words are used to express the specific approach and to maintain social level. The words like *ameeroun* and *Taliban* were used to specify the fix community or class and there are substitute words in English but those words were not taken help of. The main reason behind that is to express the fix approach which cannot be represented if these words were replaced by the words of English language. Same is the case with the word *choha* as it signifies the human being (of evil nature) in the text message.

Conceptual words are used as they are used in the mother tongue. Human beings also need the medium of language to think. When human beings convey conceptual words, they sometimes use words from their native language because concept or approach is

developed according to society in which language is acquired and it is not something which is universal, so words are borrowed from the local language to convey the concepts.

Religious words, Kinship terms were as it is used in text messages because the believers think there is no substitute of word ALLAH in other languages (attributing God to be associated with other religions) so they use these types of word in messages to convey the true meanings. Same is the case with kinship terms, although no proper words are available for uncle and aunt according to the relation but in Pakistan, special terms of kinship are found in the local lexicon and people normally use those local or native language terms to call their relations.

Native language adjectives and Adverbials were used to convey expression of attributing entities and confirming the intensity of the verbs in the sentences. Mostly the adverbials are used as connectives. The native people in Pakistan seem to be not so much aware of the constituents of a sentence, qualifying nouns and adverbs in text messages. They use local words to avoid panic in structuring messages in the shortest period of time and to make it comprehensible for the others to get the meanings. These adverbials and adjectives are much in use while in conversation and text messages, most people use local words instead of adjectives and adverbials of the English language.

Discourse marker like *Alla...* etc were also used in local languages to show more interest as native language is best way to represent the thoughts when we are excited or sad. Social language discourse markers and expressions were also used in text messages. These local markers are much enjoyed for the expression of thought and often noted to be more convenient in expressing the desired emotions. Such words are mostly colloquial and used frequently in conversations.

Baumgardner mostly introduces the various subcategories of nouns in his book (English In Pakistan). In this study, researchers introduce few more categories of nouns, personal pronouns, helping verbs, verbs and conjunctions. These categories were not introduced earlier because the researchers earlier applied this approach by using formal corpus where local language words which falls under the realm of this category are absent. Text messages are quite informal so these semantic categories are present in them. When senders communicate in English, they use

these categories in local language for their own and receivers ease. A significant percentage of Urduised words are used in text messages as compared to the other genres of Pakistani English.

Nouns are used in native language where a true expression is not present in English. There are many local expressions in Urdu Language for grandparents, uncles and aunts but in English, these expressions are absent and people of Pakistani community switch to their native language to convey the correct meanings. These vocabulary items are used to overcome the lexical gap of these two languages. Nouns are specially used to overcome the information gap and to add a nativity in language, so the readers of both communities found it interesting. Urduization also represents the norms and culture of the society in which those messages were read or sent. Verbs are also switched in the text messages and have higher frequency as compared to the nouns. Lexical items related to health, time and socialization is also used which also plays an important role in globalizing the Pakistani variety of English.

Conclusion

The six new semantic categories are introduced in this study and comparative analysis has been done with Baumgardner semantic categories. The newly introduced semantic categories are based on the analysis of text messages because this is considered to be one of the most informal genre in writing. The study will help the scholars interested in linguistic hybridity, world Englishes, code switching and sociolinguistics. This study is also helpful to globalize the Pakistani variety of English. The use of local words in the structures of English provides an ample proof of code switch where the speakers prefer using local words to express local experiences. The induction of local words in the texture of text messages also connotes to the ability of the local speaker to share the local experiences in their own indigenous way. The language hybridity in such a sense is also a phenomenon to be found in Pakistani English as a distinct variety.

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