



## Role of Word Formation in the Development of Lexicon of Pakistani English

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### Abstract

*Pakistani English is a non-native variety of English that emerged by the amalgam of British Standard English and native languages of Pakistan. It is one of the varieties of World Englishes that is globally recognized. It has its own morphology, phonology, semantics, and pragmatics. It includes vocabulary and linguistic elements of local Languages with cultural norms, values, and tradition of Pakistani society. This paper explores the role of word formation in the development of the lexicon of Pakistani English. It provides insights into the processes such as compounding, affixation, loan translation, hybridization, and conversion by which words emerge and integrate into the lexicon of Pakistani English. It also investigates sociolinguistics factors such as culture, register of Islam and impact of local languages that contribute to the development of the unique variety of Pakistani English.*

**Keywords:** Pakistani English, Local languages, Anglophone Literature, Register of Islam



## **Introduction**

English was just a West Germanic language of Great Britain back 1500 years in England. It developed from time to time and now serves as a global lingua franca. Over the course of history English got influenced by many local and regional languages. The initial version of English was known as 'Old English' and it developed from the Germanic language of Anglo-Saxon, Latin, Norse, and Celtic languages (Adnan, & Tehseem, 2022). The Norman Conquest of Britain in 1066 brought French influence on the English language. This marked the transition of Old English to Middle English. With the passage of time, English passed many phases such as standardization of English grammar, the great vowel shift, industrial revolution, and technology. Globalization and diplomacy led English to international communication and thus it became a lingua franca (Batool, Khalid, & Maan, 2022).

The concept of World Englishes emerged in 1978 but remained unaddressed. In 1998 TESOL held a conference to deal with the issue of World Englishes. The term World Englishes refers to the localization of indigenization of English language in the world. The study of World Englishes shows the identification of varieties of English used in different sociolinguistic contexts in the world and analyzing the function and influence of other languages on English globally (Ashraf, Turner, & Laar, 2021).

In the subcontinent, English came after Portuguese and Dutch in the sixteenth century. It came in three phases: the missionary phase, the phase of local demand and the phase of governmental policy (Hossain, 2021). It is believed that the first direct contact between English and subcontinent was established in 1569 when Thomas Stephens, a Jesuit missionary, arrived in India. However, formally English was introduced to the subcontinent by British merchants in 1600 A.D. Establishment of the East India Company in the early seventeenth century developed a state contact of English with the subcontinent that lasted for the next three centuries. This colonial time of three centuries led the development of Indian English as a separate variety of English (Bauer, 2020).

New variety of Indian English was developed by the fusion of British English with local Indian languages. Partition of the subcontinent into India and Pakistan further narrowed down the concept to the emergence of Pakistani English as a separate variety of English (Iqbal, Hussain, Muhammad, Jamil, & Perveen, 2022). Pakistani English PE is an interference variety of English created using the features of Urdu, Punjabi, Pashto, Sindhi, Saraiki, Kashmiri, Balouchi and other languages in Pakistan.

Anthropology says that socio-cultural factors determine cultural patterns, and it is culture that determines a language and then language makes a collective consciousness of a community.



In the case of Pakistani English, culture and religion are two main forces that contribute to the development of Pakistani English. Pakistani Culture is a collective term that encompasses different local cultures such as Punjabi, Sindhi, Paktoon, Baluchi and Kashmiri. Each of the above-mentioned cultures has their own values, norms, traditions, and languages. These values, norms, traditions, and languages have a direct impact on Pakistani English (Jadoon, & Ahmad, 2022).

The state religion of Pakistan is Islam as 98% of Pakistan's population is muslim. Philosophy of Islam (Quran, Sunnah, and Hadees) is in Arabic Language (Mahboob, & Tupas, 2022). Routledge. The Register of Islam mainly consists of Arabic language hence it has a direct impact on Pakistani English (Khan, 2020). Pakistani English has a rich vocabulary of Islam. The national language of Pakistan is Urdu. Pakistani English has a major part of Urdu vocabulary as compared to any other regional or local language. Urdu is known as a lashkari language meaning it has a vocabulary of various languages of the subcontinent such as Sanskrit, Hindi, Bengali, Gujarati, Arabic and Persian Languages. Pakistani English contains vocabulary of Arabic and Persian languages but indirectly through Urdu (Khattak, & Shah, 2022).

Pakistani Linguist Tariq Rahman divides PE into four categories; Anglicised English, Acrolectal English, Mesolectal English and Basilect English. Anglicised English is very similar to the speech and writing of British Standard English. It is spoken by Pakistanis raised in the United Kingdom. Acrolectal is used by Pakistanis educated in English medium Schools such as Karachi Grammar School, Beacon House, and American School. Mesolectal PE is used by ordinary Urdu medium educated Pakistanis. Basilect PE which is used by people of little formal education such as guides and waiters etc.

### **Literature Review**

Many writers, scholars, columnists, and researchers worked in the field of Pakistani English. Their research covered morphology, phonology, semantics, and pragmatics of Pakistani English. Pakistani English has been emerging since the partition of Pakistan from India in 1947 but it wasn't regarded as an internationally acceptable variety of English till the mid-60s. One can divide the Anglophone of Pakistani English into two generations. The first generation of Pakistani Anglophone writers wrote about Partition, its aftermath and assertion of a certain Islamic thought during Zia's martial law (Liaqat, Q., & Mukhtar, 2022). Their writing lacks the true essence of Pakistani English and identity but laid the foundation of Pakistani English. Ghose's *Murder* by Aziz Khan, *The Crow Eaters* by Sidhwa are examples of literary works written in that time. In the last decade of the 20th century, a second



generation of Anglophone writers of Pakistani English emerged that tailored Pakistani English as a unique non-native variety of World Englishers. “Pakistani Anglophone literature finally gained acceptance as the newest and youngest of its many literatures” (Qureshi, Muhammad, & Jadoon, 2023). The second generation of Anglophone writers worked on Pakistani English as a subject.

Robert J. Baumgardner wrote an article on Word-Formation in Pakistani English that was published in 1998. This article talks about patterns of word formations that are specifically characteristics of Pakistani English. It highlights the process of word formation in Pakistani English by compounding, affixation, conversion, back-formation, clipping, abbreviation/acronym, and blends. Tariq Rehman discussed ESL (English as a second language) and EFL (English as a foreign language) in the context of Pakistani English in his article that was published in 1990. Mubina Talaat highlighted the socio-linguistics varieties of Pakistani English in her article published in 1993. Ahmar Mehboob wrote articles on different aspects of Pakistani English. He wrote on interference of Islamic values and culture in Pakistani English. Mahboob and Tupas (2022) say that lexis is the primary field of linguistics in Pakistani English.

Sarfraz, (2021) conducted research on Ahmed Ali’s novel *Twilight in Delhi* and highlighted the lexical variations in Pakistani English in comparison to British Standard English. He states that Pakistan English has an extensive vocabulary developed by the blends of English words with that of words of native languages. It also highlights that Pakistani English has an extensive vocabulary that is the result of hybridization. Zeb, and Bashir (2019) explored semantic and lexical variation in Pakistani English and British Standard English. Qureshi, Muhammad and Jadoon (2023) collectively conducted research on Pakistani Anglophone Literature. They discussed various linguistic dimensions of Pakistani English such as syntax, lexical, morphology and phonology. They selected *A Season for Martyrs* (2014) by Bina Shah and a collection of short stories, *In Other Rooms, Other Wonders* (2009) by Mueenuddin. Soomro (2022) studied pronunciation and semantic differences in Pakistani English and British Standard English.

Khalid and Anwar (2023) conducted research on the phonological shift of Pakistani English from Standard British English. Khattak and Shah (2022) also studied the phonological differentiation of Pakistani English and Standard British English. Both concluded that Pakistani English has a unique phonology that makes it a separate variety of World Englishers.



### **Research Objectives**

1. To investigate the role of word formation in the development of the lexicon of Pakistani English.
2. To examine the word formation processes in Pakistani English such as compounding, affixation, hybridization, loan translation and conversion.
3. To explore the impact of culture, register of Islam and local languages on the construction of the identity of Pakistani English.

### **Research Questions**

1. How word formation played a role in the development of the lexicon of Pakistani English?
2. How do word formation processes such as compounding, affixation, hybridization, loan translation and conversion contribute to the lexicon of Pakistani English?
3. How does culture, register of Islam and local languages shape the identity of Pakistani English?

### **Research Methodology**

This paper is written based on the corpus available for Pakistani English. It follows a Qualitative approach of research that explains the word formation in Pakistani English by methods such as Affixation, Compounding, Hybridization, Loan translation, Conversion and Archaisms. It follows a three-step procedure for collecting data. First is the selection of journals, books, and newspapers. Second is the decoding of language in mentioned texts and third is the interpretation and analysis of the extracted material. Basically, this paper is a textual analysis of given corpus that makes this study descriptive in nature. The data is collected mainly through the research papers; A Study of Lexical Features of Pakistani English by Naeem Khan Jadoon and Mustansir Ahmed, Correlation of Urdunization in Pakistani English (PAKE): a cultural integrant by Hafiz Syed M. Yasir, Morphological Integration of Urdu Loan Words in Pakistani English by Tania Ali Khan and Unveiling Pakistani English: A linguistic and Cultural Odyssey of Features, Evaluation and Distinctiveness by Tahira Asgher, Asma Kashif Shahzad and Anum Hanif.

### **Discussion and Analysis**

Pakistani English is a full-fledged variety of English that has its own morphology, semantics, and pragmatics. It developed with the passage of time and now serves as a unique variety. The lexicon of Pakistan English is what makes Pakistani English, Pakistani English. This



paper focuses on the lexicon developed by various word formations such as compounding, affixation, conversion, back-formation, clipping, abbreviation/acronym, and blends.

Borrowing is one of the main sources of this lexicon, but it is not a word formation process. It is the process of adopting words from one language to another. Languages may lack certain terms or concepts; this led them to borrow that term or concepts from other languages or to borrow the translation of that term or concept. Pakistan English has extensive vocabulary borrowed from regional languages (Urdu, Punjabi, Sindhi, Balouchi, Pashto and Saraiki), registrar of Islam and culture. For example, Pakistani English borrowed "Khakee" from Urdu, "Sain" from Sindhi, "Jirga" from Pashto, "Sarawan" from Baluchi and "Chulla" from Saraiki.

### **Word Formation**

In grammar, there are various word formation processes that allow us to create new words or modify existing ones. Here are some common word formation processes in Pakistani English.

#### **Compounding**

Compounding is a word formation process in grammar. In this, two or more words combine to form a new word. It is an important feature of Pakistani English that developed many nouns, pronouns, verbs, and adjectives in English form or in hybrid, Urdu-English or English Urdu (Adnan, & Tehseem, 2022). Some compounds are formed by combining two roots, one of which can be a bound root as in the case of Burqa clad. Compounding is the most productive process in word-formation in Pakistani English. It can be divided into different types. In Pakistani English the first form of an appositional compound represents gender for example Boy-friend, Girl-friend and Lady doctor.

Examples: Mohalla-wise, Side hero, Dhol beats, Bus adda, Qawali night, Jinnah cap, Kachchi abadi, Iftar party, Chicken karahi, Goonda tax, Mini Jirga, Baradari system, Barat ceremony, School boy, rabi Season, etc.

Broadly, compounds are categorized into vernacular or classical and can exist in solid, liquid, and hyphenated forms.

- I. Solid Compounds: Solid compounds are compound nouns that are written as a single word without any spaces or hyphens between the constituent words.

Examples: Nikkahfied, Inshaallah, Raincoat, Motorcycle, Panjtan, etc.

Open or liquid Compounds: Open or liquid compounds are compound nouns that are written as two separate words without any hyphens but with a space.



Examples: Muslim Shower, Bhangra Music, Fruit Chaat, Maghrib Time, Panjtan Pak, etc.

**Hyphenated Compounds:** Hyphenated compounds are compound nouns that are written as two or more words connected by hyphens.

Examples: Lathi-charged, Shia-sunni, Headscarf, Marriage-goers, Mohalla-wise, etc.

From a syntactic point of view, compounds can be nominal, verbal, or adjectival and these types are identified through the right-hand head rule. Right head rule means, the right constituent of the compound identifies the type of compound.

01. Nominal compounds in PE are compounds that consist of nouns or noun phrases.

They can be further classified as: primary or secondary or synthetic.

Primary compounds are formed by combining two or more nouns together. Examples: Bus adda, Police Chowki, District Nazim, Paan Shop, Animal Mela, etc.

Secondary compounds are formed by combining a noun with another word class, such as an adjective or a verb. Examples: Hijab wearing, Shia dominated, Sheesha smoking, Gandasa wedding, Tawa fried, etc.

02. Verbal Compounds: Verbal compounds are formed by combining a verb with another word, often a noun or an adjective. The derived word typically functions as a verb and conveys a specific action or meaning. Examples: Perform hajj, Offer fateha, Wage jihad, etc.

03. Adjectival Compounds: Adjectival compounds are formed by combining an adjective with another word to create a new adjective that describes a specific quality, quantity, or state. The derived word may consist of two adjectives or an adjective and a noun.

Examples: Local jirga, Awami colony, Desi soap, halal meat, Jihadi camp, etc.

### **Affixation**

Affixation is a word formation process to drive new words or modify existing words by adding affixes to them. In this derivation spelling, pronunciation and meaning of the word change. In other words, morphology, phonology, semantic and pragmatic of the derived words changes. It is one of the most common word formation processes in PE (Imran 2023).

In PE, most of the English affixes are attached with the root word of local languages.



Table 1

Root Word	Prefix/Suffix	Derived/Modified Word
Islam	Ize	Islamize
Karachite	Non	Non-karachite
Counter	Fatwa	Counter-fatwa
Rickshaw	Wallah	Rickshaw-wallah
Jihad	Pro	Pro-jihad

Affixation in Pakistani English is divided into two types: Urdu-based affixes and English-based affixes. Urdu based affixes are used with either Urdu root word or English root word to create a new word. “Wallah/Walli” and “Ji” are frequently used Urdu-based affixes for instance Waxing walli, Tonga wallah, Gandhi ji, Uncle ji, etc (Jadoon & Ahmad, 2022). “Ness” and “Un” are frequently used English-based affixes for instance Punjabiness, Bengaliness, Unfeudal, Unislamic, etc (Jadoon & Ahmad, 2022).

- a) **Prefixation:** Pakistan English has many words derived by combining urdu root words with English Prefix. Prefixes are units that attach at the beginning of the words. These prefixes add meanings, negative, attitude, size or degree, locative, temporal or order, and number to the root words (Bashir, Aleem, Anjum, & Ahmed, 2021)
  - 1) Prefixes of Negative are non-afghan, non-desi, non-Punjabi, etc (Jadoon & Ahmad, 2022).
  - 2) Prefixes of Attitude are anti-Taliban, anti-jihad, anti-Islam, etc (Jadoon & Ahmad, 2022).
  - 3) Prefixes of Time and Space are ex-khateeb, pre-Taliban, post-Zia, etc (Jadoon & Ahmad, 2022).
  - 4) Prefixes of Size and Degree are super bazar, prime gunda, semi pucca, etc (Jadoon & Ahmad, 2022).
- b) **Suffixation:** Suffixes are units that attach at the end of the root words to derive or modify a new word. Pakistani English has many words derived by suffixation.





Table 2

Root Word	Suffix	Derived Word
Islam	Isation	Islamisation
Lota	Ism	Lotaism
Jihad	Ist	Jihadist
Tehsil	Wise	Tehsil-wise
Sufi	Like	Sufi-like

Suffixes are further classified into two categories: inflectional suffixes and derivational suffixes (Jadoon & Ahmad, 2022).

- 1) Inflectional Suffixes: Affixes that do not allow further affixation.
- 2) Derivational Suffixes: Affixes that do allow further affixation.

### Hybridization

It is a word formation process in Pakistani English in which a non-English word is used with an English word to create a new word. Police thana, Motia seller, Eid festival, Purdah system, Usher tax, Zakat ordinance, Nikkah Ceremony, Aqiqah Ceremony, Iftar Party, etc are the examples of hybridization in Pakistani English.

### Loan Translation

Loan translations or calques is the process of translating words from other languages. Pakistani English has many words, phrases, idioms, metaphors that are directly translated from local languages.

Table 3

PE.	BSE.	Original Source.
Keep fasting	Fast	Rozy rakhna (Days of fasting)
Cousin/Sister/Brother	Cousin	Chacha Zad, Phupized, Khalazad
Head to to veil	Veil	Burqa
Light gone	Electric power outage	Bijli gai



### Conversion

Conversion is another process of word formation in Pakistani English. In this process, a word that belongs to one part of speech is used as another part of speech such as an adjective to become a noun or a noun to become a verb.

#### I. Urdu Noun to Verb (Urdu noun Urdu verb)

Urdu Noun	To Verb	Example
Challan	To Challan	He is challenged 500 rupees for Helmet.

#### II. Urdu Adjective to verb (Urdu Adjective Urdu verb)

Urdu Adjective	To Verb	Example
Sabakdosh	To Sabakdosh	Ayesha is eager to sabakdosh herself from the firm.

### Conclusion

This paper looked at the word formation processes in Pakistani English. Its findings suggest that Pakistani English is one of the unique varieties in World Englishes. The impact of local languages on Pakistani English is the main distinguishing feature that separates it from Standard British English and American English. Pakistani Anglophone writers used a variety of methods such as borrowing, compounding, hybridization, loan translation and conversion to develop the unique lexicon of Pakistani English. Pakistani English is in a continuous process of development that gives it a distinct flavor to Pakistani identity.

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