

LEXICAL HYBRIDIZATION AS A STRATEGY FOR INNOVATIONS IN PAKISTANI ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS: A CORPUS-BASED STUDY

Dr. Syed Rizwan Shabbir¹, Dr. Tabassum Iqbal²

ABSTRACT

Hybridization of lexis represents a salient feature of Pakistani English, reflecting the dynamic interaction between English and indigenous languages. This study investigates the phenomenon of lexical hybridization in Pakistani English newspapers, with a particular focus on The News corpus spanning seven months (January 2017-July 2017). The primary objective is to identify and analyze hybrid lexical structures, exploring how hybridization functions as a deliberate strategy for lexical innovation within the logical linguistic context. By examining examples drawn from various sociocultural domains and analyzing their frequency of occurrence, the study highlights the systematic integration of linguistic elements into English discourse. The findings underscore the role of lexical hybridization as a defining characteristic of Pakistani English journalism and its contribution to the evolving identity of World Englishes.

1. Introduction

Pakistani English (PKE) maintains its status as a distinguished variety in the realm of New World Englishes; however many of its linguistic features have been remained a less focused area which have been very cursorily investigated or entirely overlooked. One such area is lexical hybridization. This study focuses the types and communicative spheres of this dynamic trait of Pakistani English and discusses that the impetus to use these hybridized lexical constructions comes from a deliberate consciousness of the shared co-existence among English and the L1 language (Urdu in case of Pakistan). This research along with highlighting the uniqueness of Pakistani English PKE lexicon, also further implicates the codification of PKE features for its eligibility to be recognized as a legalized variety.

1.1 Aims and Objectives:

- To find hybridization as a strategy in lexical innovations in Pakistani newspapers
- To find the frequency of hybrid structures in the newspaper corpus

1.2 Research Questions:

- Q1: How does hybridization play role in lexical innovations in Pakistani English newspapers?
Q2: In which domains these hybrid structures are used?
Q3: In what frequency these words occur in Pakistani newspaper corpus?

2. Literature review

This study aims at considering hybridization as a strategy of lexical innovations in Pakistani English newspapers. Moreover, native lexical formations in the hybrid structures analyzed in the present study are mostly belong to L1 or native languages, being a main factor emphasizing the influence of L1 on Pakistani English linguistic.

Investigations into the distinctive linguistic features of Pakistani English has accomplished the Pakistani variety as a frequently referred developing local standard variety of English within Kachru's outer circle of World Englishes (Kachru, 1992), mostly cited as 'New Englishes' (Pride, 1982; Anchimbe, 2007). Pakistani English variety has been cited by Kachru (1983); Baumgardener (1987, 1990, 1998); Mehrotra (1982) and K. Sridhar (1991).

Besides these references of Pakistani English variety, a good number research work is available on Pakistani English there exist quite a considerable number of studies Rahman (1990, 1996) gave a detailed account on phonological, semantic, lexical, morphological and syntactic features. He took data from written and spoken sources of Pakistani English and identified various distinctive

features of Pakistani English which were not observed in Standard British English. Anwar (2007) gave a comprehensive view of the phenomenon of code switching of Urdu phrases and clauses in Pakistani English. There is an impact of local languages and society on Pakistani English. It fulfills the communicative prerequisites of the people of Pakistan (Anwar, 2007). Anwar and Talaat (2011) are among the pioneers of corpus linguistics in Pakistan as they analyzed the salient features of Pakistani English used in journalism utilizing the newspaper corpus. They asserted that English in Pakistan has become a separate variety quite distinctive from Standard indigenous English as it possesses certain grammatical and structural features which are different from the Standard variety of English. Mahboob (2004) discussed the phonological traits of Pakistani English and Islamic perspective of Pakistani English (Mahboob, 2009). Baumgardener (1990, 1993, and 1998) conducted a detailed study of Pakistani English under a project of University Grants Commission. The findings of this project were presented at International Conference on English in South Asia conducted in Islamabad in January 1989. The research papers encompassing various aspects and features of Pakistani English were edited by Baumgardener in 1990 in the book form published by Oxford University Press. This book also proved to be an impetus for research in Pakistani English. Recent research has been done in corpus linguistics with reference to Pakistani English. Asim (2016) presented A Multidimensional Analysis of Pakistani press editorials to analyze the register variation of Pakistani English from Standard British English. Biber (1988) introduced the concept of Multidimensional Analysis. He maintains that the variation among different registers and genre cannot be assessed through analysis of one or two variant features, their more features should be analyzed for dichotomy.

Even though a significant work has been done in PkE but still some linguistic phenomena need to be further explored keeping recent data as the distinction from the previous research done in this paradigm. Due to dearth of research in this area of investigation we have not been able to provide a systematic coding resource for the PkE and to make the world realize that Pakistani English is also a standard non-native variety of English. These goals can only be achieved through systematic and continuous research on distinctive features of PkE.

The present study is an effort to describe PkE. It would describe lexical hybridization. Though being a very ubiquitous lexical attribute of PkE, lexical hybridization needs in-depth investigation in Pakistani perspective of English usage. Hybridized lexical structures make logical variances in the language of Pakistani English newspapers. The paper at present focuses on hybridization in written text only. The talk shows, debates, speeches and other spoken instances of English hybridization are not in the scope of this study

3. Lexicon and Lexical Hybridization

The word 'lexicon or lexis generally means vocabulary and technically the complete list of lexical items or words in a language or dialect/variety of a particular language. At present, it specially refers to PkE vocabulary. All existing languages or their varieties undertake variations with passage of time. The variation could be at any level or could be of any type as a consequence of external or internal procedures. Internal lexical developments depend on the lexical properties of a language to create new concepts and connotations in that language. For instance, PkE utilizes the resources of Standard British English but communicate different semantic interpretation than obtained in native English perspective.

Borrowing is also a consolidated feature of Pakistani English and is relevant to the present research. Through borrowing words from other languages seep into English (in the present case).

Borrowed lexical entities become an integral part of a language with the passage of time (Crystal, 2003). In Pakistani perspective these borrowings from Pakistani L1 language (Urdu) into English is a common phenomenon, and has much to do with lexical hybridization.

Kachru has given a general definition of hybridization while explanation of hybrids in the perspective of Indian English, Kachru (1983) articulates that a lexically hybridized item is made up of components (words) from two or more languages, and in any case one of the components must belong to L1. I implement Kachru's definition in this study, as it appositely explains the entities analyzed in this research

3.1 Theoretical Considerations:

The present research is based on two separate but interconnected ideas deployed in language description; the concept of language contact by Weinreich (1970) and the concept of language nativization proposed by Kachru (1982) which was further modified by Schneider (2003) a Dynamic Model investigating diachronic evolution of postcolonial new Englishes. These two concepts are very significant as they explain and account for the characteristic dynamic variations being demonstrated by local varieties of English, particularly the non-native varieties usually termed 'New Englishes', of which PkE is a noteworthy component.

3.1.1 Languages in Contact:

One way to describe the linguistic variation taking place in all aspects can be accredited to the phenomenon of languages in contact. Weinreich (1970) asserts that if two or more languages come in contact, they influence each other. The consequence of such an interaction can be referred to as "linguistic interference" (Weinreich, 1970). He further accomplishes that this interference involves "those cases of deviance from the standards of a language that takes place in speech of bilingual societies as a consequence of their acquaintance with at least two languages". These variations might be exhibited in such aspects as phonetics, syntax, semantics and lexicon. The impact of languages in contact has been more noticeable and prevalent in such multilingual context as Pakistan where English (as official language) co-exists along with over 20 local languages serving as L1.

This research considers that the lexically hybridized entities are formed due to influence of L1 on English. Bamgbose (1971) has rightly said, "the impact of local languages on English as L2 is significant as some particular forms of the indigenous languages on phonological, syntactical and lexical level— incline to be transmitted into English"

3.1.2. Nativization of English Language

At present there is a well accomplished consensus among researchers of world Englishes that the English language has undergone complicated procedures of nativisation and acculturation in various colonial and post- colonial settings ,like, for instance Ex-British colonies in Africa and Asia which continue to utilize English after decolonization (Kachru, 1986, 1996). In multilingual situation like Hong Kong like, Nigeria, India and Singapore etc. contact of English with local languages for a prolonged time period has ensued in nativisation and acculturation, "the processes of modification that nativized varieties of English have experienced through adopting new linguistic and cultural identities" (Kachru, 1996: 138). Consequently new non- native varieties of English like Nigerian English, Singaporean English, and Pakistani English etc. have emerged. In non-native situations of English usage, the users have inevitably adopted and reformed English and incorporated local situation and contexts and to be more vivid this process hasn't met an end.

Acculturation refers to linguistic modifications which take place at phonetic, syntactic, lexical and discourse level.

Kachru (1996, 1997), in his extensively used Tri-circle Model for the expanse and usage of English round the world, terms the regions where English has been nativized and acculturated, the *Outer Circle* regions. Rest of his three concentric circles have been termed as *Inner Circle* and the *Expanding Circle* regions. The Inner Circle includes native-speakers of English like the UK, America, Australia and Canada who use it as L1. The Outer Circle countries include those regions where spread of English was an outcome of colonization by Inner Circle countries. Countries like Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Pakistan and India belong to this *Outer Circle*. In these Outer Circle regions, the status of English enjoys a very high social status and has multifunctional usage and is main language of instruction and official usage. English in these regions has been acculturated and nativized to some extent and this sort of transformation or evolution is envisioned to continue further. Japan, China, Egypt, Korea and some others have been listed in Expanding Circle because English is used there as a foreign language.

Schneider's (2003) Dynamic Model explains the diachronic evolution of new Englishes to be divided in five primary phases/periods of development:

Phase 1: Foundation Phase. the initial phase when English is 'transplanted' into a colonized country.

Phase 2: Exonormative stabilization refers to a situation when an area completely achieves the status of a colony, having a significant count of English speakers interacting with the local population. This phase is characterized by input of foreign language with standard norms and as output some changes at the level of lexicon and pronunciation can be noticed.

Phase 3: Nativization Phase is marked with significant changes taking place, and can be recognized as beginning step for progressing distinguished local variety with varied lexicon, phonetics and syntax.

Phase 4: Endonormative stabilization phase begins after liberation when English is used as an official language operating in a large number of linguistic situations like media, commerce and trade, politics, academics etc. this new English variety effusively evolves in this phase with language handlers complying and relating themselves to local standards and norms.

Phase 5: Differentiation phase articulates the stage at which the endonormatively stabilized language variety can further replicate to regional dialects.

In Pakistan the English language lies somewhere between nativization and Endonormative stability phase. The reason for slow rate of Pakistani English development can be the absence of its proper codification and lack of publically available corpora belonging to different fields of life like judiciary, health, trade etc. Large electronic corpora on PkE, particularly diachronically calculated corpora, are needed for effective implementation of Schneider's Dynamic Model in the Pakistani perspective. However, the model is pertinent for the account of Endonormative traits like hybridized lexical structures i.e.; the scope of research at hand. The comparatively small data analyzed for this study construes that lexical hybridization is likely a stabilized feature substantially recognized by Pakistani English users especially PkE newspapers.

4. Research Methodology

4.1 Data Collection:

The data have been compiled in the form of a corpus. It comprises seven months' data of daily English newspaper The News. The total number of Words Token in this corpus is 11246800 with 131972 word types. Only the hybridized lexical items have been taken out of this corpus. The

hybrid structures comprising names of persons have not been considered as candidates of lexical hybrid structures. A total of 85 hybrid structures have been hewed out of the corpus for data analysis.

4.2 Data Analysis Framework

The data have been analyzed both qualitatively and quantitatively. The aim of this study has been to represent the lexically hybridized forms which frequently run into PkE, and try to indicate the impetus for utilization of these hybridized items which have developed as a significant feature PkE lexicon.

5. Data Analysis

The hybridized forms of Pakistani English can be categorized to fall in various domains. Five such domains have been selected to show the expansive use of the hybrids in different spheres of life. These domains include:

1. Social domain
2. Religious domain
3. Judicial domain
4. Political domain
5. Economic domain

5.1 The Use of Lexical Hybrids in Different Domains of Life:

1. Social domain

Lexically hybrid formations used in the social domain involve those frequently used in society, showbiz, domestic usage, performing arts, recreation, and games. These words are usually noun phrases with either adjectives as modifiers or either nouns modifying nouns. In all the above stated examples the initial word, whether it is a noun or an adjective, belongs to English and the second part is of Urdu. The purpose behind the use of such structures is to increase the intimacy of the reader with English newspaper as easily as possible. The newspapers make use of publicist style of writing which is a functional style of communication and allows such linguistic adjustments to fulfill the purpose of communication.

The table given below contains the hybridized English structures which have been found in the corpus of the newspaper The News. The frequency of each hybrid structure in the used corpus has also been given in the table

Table 1: Hybrid Lexical Structures in Domain of social Life

S. No.	Hybrid Lexical Item	Frequency	S. No.	Hybrid Lexical Item	Frequency
1	Bhatta Mafia	1	12	Traditional Shalwar Qameez	1
2	Saaf-Paani Project	1	13	Full-Body Burqa	1
3	Ashyana Housing Scheme	2	14	Traditional Burqa	1
4	Patwari Culture	5	15	Sasti Roti Scheme	4
5	Bhattha Stop	1	16	Aurat Foundation	58
6	Special Mushaira	1	17	New Generation Mushaira	1
7	Sasta Aata Scheme	2	18	Mutton Biryani	2
8	Fried Kaleji	1	19	Oil-Fried Samosa	1

9	Strong Doodh Patti	2	20	Poisonous Lassi	1
10	Grand Mushaira	3	21	Malang Dance	1
11	Bhangra Band	2	22	Embroidered Achkan	1
23	Sasti Roti Scheme	4	24	Sufi Movement	1
25	Sufi Poets	33	26	Sasta Aata Scheme	2
27	Gram Daal	4	28	Home-Grown Daal	1
29	Brain Masala	1	30	Fruit Masala	1

In this table, *Aurat Foundation* appears with the highest frequency (58 occurrences), indicating its strong socio-political relevance in public discourse. Similarly, lexical hybrids such as *Patwari culture*, *sufi poets*, and *sasti roti* scheme recurrent use, reflecting themes related to bureaucratic structures, cultural identity, and socio-economic initiatives.

The presence of food-related hybrids (*Mutton biryani*, *fried kaleji*, *strong dhood patti*) and cultural expressions (*bhangra band*, *malang dance*) highlights the integration of indigenous cultural concepts into English journalistic language. This illustrates how hybridization serves a relative strategy for localizing English to represent Pakistani socio-cultural realities authenticity.

2. Religious domain:

The use of hybrid structure is a very pervasive phenomenon which encompasses almost all circles of life. Religious terms have also been found in the form of hybridized form in the Pakistani English newspaper corpus. The frequency of the items is though less in this corpus but the presence of these hybrids in this small corpus indicates that there is a significant number of such structures being used in Pakistani English dailies. Most of the words found in the corpus related to religion N+N structure implying that nouns modify nouns in such hybrid forms e.g. Zakat Fund. In this example zakat is also an Urdu noun and fund is an English noun which after merger with Urdu noun leads to formation of a hybridized English word.

Table 2: Hybrid Lexical Structures in Domain of Religion:

S. No.	Hybrid Lexical Item	Frequency	S. No.	Hybrid Lexical Item	Frequency
1	Zakat Fund	6	8	Matmi Procession	1
2	Naat Competition	6	9	Islamic Jihad	1
3	Naat Album	1	10	Jihad Union	1
4	Naat Conference	1	11	Featured Qirat	1
5	Umrah Draw	1	12	Jumma Prayer	2
6	Umrah Ticket	4	13	Eid Collection	1

This table exhibits several hybridized lexical items that merge English with Arabic or Urdu-origin terms. High-frequency examples like *Zakat Fund* and *Naat Competition* (6 occurrences each) highlight the localization of Islamic practices within English media. Items such as *Umrah Ticket*, *Umrah Draw* and *Matmi Procession* demonstrate how religious and socio economic expressions intersect. Overall, these forms illustrates that lexical hybridization in Pakistan English serves as a linguistic tool for representing religious concepts in culturally resonant ways.

3. Judicial Domain:

Judiciary is a very significant and unavoidable institution of a country. The use of hybrid lexical structures is also found in this register. Following table represents the instances of lexical hybridized words found in the PkE newspaper corpus.

Table 3: Hybrid Lexical Structures in Domain of Judiciary:

S. No.	Hybrid Lexical Item	Frequency	S. No.	Hybrid Lexical Item	Frequency
1	Shariat Council	2	9	Zina Ordinance	2
2	Shariat Court	24	10	Khula Mistake	1
3	Zina Laws	1	11	Qabza Mafia	9
4	Qabza Group	3	12	Sipahi Leadership	2
5	Panchayat Committee	2	13	Rickshaw Mafia	1
6	Grand Mufti	2			

The judicial domain of the news contains several hybrid lexical items that blend English with Urdu and Arabic-origin legal terms. The most frequent expression *Shariat Court* (24 occurrences), reflects the institutional integration of Islamic jurisprudence within Pakistan's legal system. Similarly, *Zina Ordinance*, *Qabza Mafia* and *Panchayat Committee* represent localized legal and social phenomena expressed through English structures.

These hybrids demonstrates how Pakistani English employs hybridization to convey culturally embedded legal concepts, making English adaptable to the country's unique judicial and religious context. Through such lexical formations, English in Pakistan effectively articulates indigenous legal realities while maintaining global intelligibility.

4. Political Domain:

Pakistan is a country rich in political traditions. The English newspapers' political reportage is also a manifestation of varied lexicon of PkE. The present study remains limited to hybridization of lexicon, so, the researcher will confine him to the concerned area. The hybrid structures are a trademark distinction of PkE variety and the Pakistani political reportage in English newspapers is thronged with such items. Some of these structures have been detected in the corpus at hand. The frequency of occurrence of these hybrids has also been given below in tabular form.

Table 4: Hybrid Lexical Structures in Political Domain:

S. No.	Hybrid Lexical Item	Frequency	S. No.	Hybrid Lexical Item	Frequency
1	Danda-Bardar Force	1	7	Kisan Package	41
2	Dharna Politics	5	8	Aam Admi Party	7
3	Kisan Convention	5	9	Dharna Party	2
4	Desi Governance	1	10	British Raj	11
5	Grand Jirga	27	11	Khilafat Movement	2
6	Global Khilafat	1	12	Jang Group	142

This domain displays a rich presence of hybrid lexical items that merge English with Urdu and regional expressions, reflecting Pakistans distinct political culture. The most frequent item, *Jang Group* (142 occurrences), signifies a major media and political entity, while *kisan Package* (41) and *Grand Jirga* (27) reveal how indigenous political and administrative practices are linguistically integrated into English discourse.

Expression such as *Dharna Politics*, *Aam Admi Party* and *Desi Governance* show how English accommodates locally rooted political movements and terminologies. These examples demonstrates that lexical hybridization in Pakistani English serves a key mechanism for

representing national political realities, allowing English to convey culturally and ideologically specific concepts while maintaining communicative reach and relevance.

5. Economic Domain:

Economics is the backbone of a country. This field is also enriched with lexically innovated linguistic forms. It includes names of banks, monetary schemes and other finance related lexis. In order to attract local reader in Pakistani society the English newspapers make use of linguistic gimmicks. The hybridization is done deliberately in order to attract the audience. They use such items which are in common use in the society in local language usage. Some of such structures have been deducted from the newspaper corpus of The News along with their frequency of occurrence within the corpus.

Table 5: Hybrid Lexical Structures in Economics Domain:

S. No.	Hybrid Lexical Item	Frequency	S. No.	Hybrid Lexical Item	Frequency
1	Halal Sector	5	7	Ghee Mills	5
2	Riba-Free Financing	1	8	Easy Paisa Scheme	2
3	Tameer Bank	3	9	Mobile Paisa	5
4	Rozgar Scheme	27	10	Fruit Mandi	2
5	Khushhali Bank	3	11	Jhat Pat Market	1
6	Hundi Business	5	12	Hundi Channel	2

Examples like *Rozgar Scheme* (27), *Halal Sector*, *Hundi Business* and *Easy Paisa Scheme* reflect the localization of financial and employment related concepts. These hybrids show how Pakistani English employs lexical hybridization to express Islamic and indigenous economic practices, making English discourse contextually relevant to Pakistan's socio-economic setting.

6. Conclusion:

Now let's consider how the hybrid lexicalization got so significant position in Pakistani English (with special reference to PkE newspapers)? The study however can suggest the answer to this riddle. Here it is worth mentioning the use of local lexis in hybrids is not a consequence of the lack of terms to refer local items. English equivalents are available for almost all such items and hybridization can be checked e.g. Bhatta mafia can be replaced by extortion mafia, conveying same semantics construing that the innovation process of lexical hybridization in PkE is a willful linguistic tact that comes due to a sense of concomitance of the English and local languages (i.e. L1). It is this consciousness which is responsible for lexical forms to be borrowed from local resources to develop new blends in English. Y. Kachru and Smith (2008) maintain "borrowing forms from a native language is one method which is applied for nativization of a language in a new scenario".

Present research tries to discuss a very prevalent trait of PkE: lexical hybridization. The use of hybridized lexicon in Pakistani English newspapers testifies the inventive trend and ability of this English variety, and adequately conforms to Schneider's (2003) *Endonormative Stabilization phase* of the Dynamic Model. The hybridized lexical forms described in this paper, along with the

discussion on previous research on the lexicon, syntax, intonation and discourse styles of PkE, are bench marks that distinguish Pakistani English from other varieties of English.

7. Findings of the Research:

This research shows that the lexical hybridization of English found in Pakistani English newspaper corpus is a strategy for lexical innovations thus answering the first research question of this study. The lexical hybrids have been shown to occur in various spheres of life like religion, politics, economics, judiciary and social life. Thus the answer to our second research question is answered. The corpus generated frequencies are the reply to my third research question.

References:

- Anwar, B. (2007). Urdu-English Code-switching: The Use of Urdu Phrases and Clauses in Pakistani English (A Non-native Variety). *ESP World*, 17. ISSN 1682-3257, <http://www.esp-world.info>.
- Anwar, B. & Talaat, M. (2011). English in Non-native Context: Distinctive Features of Pakistani Journalistic English. *ELF (English language and literary forum) Annual research journal*. Vol:13. 11-20.
- Baumgardner, R.J. (1987). Utilizing Pakistani English newspaper to teach grammar. *World English*, 6(3), 241-52.
- Baumgardner, R.J. (1990). The indigenization of English in Pakistan. *English Today*, 6, 59-65
- Baumgardner, R. J. (1993). *The English Language in Pakistan*, editor. Karachi: Oxford University Press.
- Baumgardner, R. J. (1995). Acceptability and the Norm in Pakistani English. *World English*, 14(2), 261-71.
- Crystal, D. (2003). *The Cambridge encyclopedia of the English language* (2nd edn). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Kachru, B.B. (1983). *The indianization of English*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- Kachru, Y. and Smith, L.A. (2008). *Cultures, contexts, and world Englishes*. New York: Routledge
- Mahboob, A. (2004). Pakistani English: an overview of its syntax, morphology, and lexis. In Bernd Kortmann and Elizabeth Traugott (eds.), *A Handbook of Varieties of English*, Vol. 2 (1045–57). Munich: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Mahboob, A. (2009). English as an Islamic Language: A case study of Pakistani English. *World English*, Vol. 28, No. 2, pp. 175–189, 2009.
- Rahman, T. (1991). The use of words in Pakistani English. *English Today* 7(2): 32–38.
- Schneider, E.W. (2003). The dynamics of New Englishes: From identity construction to dialect birth. *Language* 79(2): 233–281.
- Weinreich, U. (1970). *Languages in Contact: Findings and Problems*. The Hague: Mouton.