

A COMPARATIVE MULTIDIMENSIONAL ANALYSIS OF LANGUAGE VARIATION IN CRIME PRESS REPORTING IN PAKISTANI AND BRITISH PRINT MEDIA

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Abstract

Being a non-native variant of the language, Pakistani English exhibits each register's own linguistic characteristics. The multidimensional analysis of British and Pakistani criminal news reporting serves as the foundation for the current investigation. Prior research utilizing news reports from Pakistan did not concentrate on comparing data internally and outside. It has been noted that a few specific language elements of Pakistani news reporting have been examined. Register variation studies that lack internal and external comparability and are dependent on individual linguistic variables rather than co-occurring elements are deceptive, according to Biber (1988). The current study has found distinct statistical linguistic disparities between Pakistani crime press coverage and British news reportage after gathering equal corpora of both types of reporting from chosen newspapers.

Keywords: *Crime press reportage, Paklish (Pakistani English), British Standard English (BSE), register variation, Multidimensional analysis (MDA), newspapers genre, dimensions mean scores.*

1. Introduction

Pakistani English is a non-native variety of World Englishes and has its own different registers which show the variation and change in language. With the concept of language change, the analysis of the linguistic patterns across registers has gained vital importance for the description of varieties of English. Ferguson (1983) highlighted the concept of the register, it is a type of language structure that is occasionally used in human's language.

Register variation in which language structure varies in accordance with the occasions of use, is all-pervasive in human language (p. 154).

Similar to the distinctiveness of Pakistani English, Pakistani newspapers' language likewise adheres to a standard style and distinct news registers that set it apart from other languages. It has been established that Pakistani English is a unique variant of non-native English with structured linguistic diversity, possessing its own registers and sub-registers. For this reason, defining the register and sub-register of Pakistani newspapers is the primary goal of the current study. The current study deviated from earlier research that did not compare data internally and outside. Multidimensional analysis based on Biber (1988) is used to demonstrate Pakistani English's uniqueness. The methods used in earlier research have some shortcomings. Firstly, they are not grounded in sizable corpora, and secondly, they evaluate discrete language elements. Thirdly, they don't use appropriate statistical metrics to present empirical findings. Adopting the corpus methodological approach of register variation may address all of these constraints since it offers various benefits, such as a thorough study through the identification of co-occurring linguistic patterns of register variation. The focus of the current study is on internal and external linguistic diversity as well as register variation. In order to determine how different or similar these newspapers are from one another in terms of the use of multidimensional analysis on mean scores, the internal variation displays the linguistic variance

among five major newspapers in the crime press coverage category. The Biber 1988 research of multidimensional analysis is utilized to validate the claim. The external comparison specifies the language diversity between Pakistani and British newspapers based on criminal press coverage to see how much variation exists between both kinds. According to Biber (1988), analyzing co-occurrence characteristics is a very helpful technique for determining the right textual interpretation: However, it turns out that the proportional distribution of shared language traits, when taken separately, is unable to accurately differentiate between registers. There are too many linguistic traits to take into account, and each trait has a unique distribution. Nonetheless, significant variations across registers become apparent when examinations are predicated on the co-occurrence and alternation patterns for collections of linguistic elements (p. 824).

The primary goal of the current study is to compare the extent to which criminal press reporting in print media differs in Pakistani and British discourses. In a nation like Pakistan where many languages are spoken, language change and variation are typical occurrences. For this reason, the current study is focused on language variation in news reports using multidimensional analysis. In his groundbreaking 1988 work, Biber examined six aspects of textual variance in registers. However, using Biber 1988 MD analysis, the present study discusses the following five textual dimensions.

1. The discourse's involved vs informative character.
2. The discourse characteristic of narrative vs non-narrative.
3. The use of explicit versus situation-dependent speech references.
4. The discourse's covert vs overt features.
5. Discourse features that are abstract vs non-abstract.

Three researchers have tried linguistic studies on news press reporting using corpora: Nadia (2008), Sadaf (2011), and Najam (2013). Past research on language used in news media reporting. In addition, Anwar and Talaat (2011), Uzair (2012), and Muhabat (2015) have demonstrated that the English used in news reportage in Pakistani newspapers differs from that used in British press reportage in terms of specific linguistic features. Mansoor (2013) investigated how Pakistani women are traditionally interpreted and positioned in the country's print media. In 2012, Uzair made an attempt to investigate the effects of lexical variations in Pakistani English media. Shakir (2013) played an important role on exploring the "registers Variation" in Pakistani English, and justified Pakistani English as non-native variety of World Englishes. Shakir (2013) focused on Pakistani print media for his study, gathering a corpus of 1351 advertisements. Grover and Deepak (2004) found that the Pakistani language used in print news media has distinctive characteristics that call for a thorough investigation based on multidimensional analysis. Grove and Deepak (2004) demonstrated that the Pakistani language used in print media has several unique linguistic elements that are borrowed from regional tongues in order to facilitate successful communication with readers who are native speakers (p. 15). Bell (1991) studied newspaper language from a sociolinguistic standpoint. Variations and differing perspectives in news material have been found by this study on the language used in the media. In his study, Bell (1991) also demonstrated how these determiners were dependent on the readership's structures. Bell (1991) also worked on New Zealand news media languages when he was a student.

Data from New Zealand radio station show a similar correlation between the determiner deletion and audience design. I found that negative contraction is stratified according to audience status in New Zealand radio news (Bell, 1991, p. 110).

Reporting on crime using language newspapers have a page titled "crime press reportage" where they post news articles and crime-related occurrences. The purpose of this page and

news media is undoubtedly to give readers background and information. The reason readers who might not be aware of the previous events that occurred somewhere acquire accurate information is because of the "Eye-Catching" aspect of crime reporting. Such information was "dramatically and suddenly" provided by the media, especially crime reporting (Young, 1981, p. 398). In an attempt to investigate newspaper terminology, Katz (1987) defined terms such as "crime news" and their significance.

Since the early beginnings, one of the vital functions of the news media especially regard to crime news was to publicize moral dilemmas by drawing attention to the ethical issues arising from a specific criminal act and by offering plausible societal responses (p. 58).

Newspapers also convey crime tales in a clear, distinctive style that is typical of them. Cotter (2010) conducted research on the style of criminal news stories in texts. She found that crime news articles follow standard textual conventions and are presented in a certain manner, with quotes and a well-written lead (p. 27). "Pity and fear" is a popular style employed by crime press reporters; the reader defiantly addressed the scenario in the news text. Everyday newspapers in Pakistan have dedicated sections for reporting on crime press news, as do British and English newspapers. Ferguson's (1983) study focused on the various speech patterns and their unique contextual relationships in radio newscast reporting. The language employed in news articles and news editorials was the subject of research conducted by Halliday (1985) and Kress (1983). Katz (1987) demonstrated the key components of crime reporting in print news media, including:

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2. Theoretical framework

The data analysis of present study is based on four sub sections, the first part describes in detail how data has been collected, the second section explains how data is analyzed by software, third section discussed the whole design of present study and fourth and last section highlights the procedure of data analysis. The first segment of present study was data collection process from newspapers of Pakistani and British crime press reportage. Then the researcher suggested via email with Prof. Douglas Biber, Arizona University USA who suggested the researcher to collect the leading newspapers of Pakistani and British news print media on basis of crime reportage category. So five leading newspapers from both sides.

The current study's data analysis is organized into four subsections: the first outlines the data collection process in detail; the second section explains how software is used to analyze the data; the third section discusses the study's overall design; and the fourth and final section provides an overview of the data analysis process. The data gathering technique from Pakistani and British crime press publications was the initial section of the current study. Subsequently, the researcher proposed by email to Professor Douglas Biber of Arizona University in the United States that the main Pakistani and British print media newspapers be gathered according to the category of crime coverage.

Thus, five prestigious publications from each side. After choosing the newspapers, the texts from these publications had to be gathered. Since all newspapers could be found on various websites, the data was gathered using online resources. An equal number of texts are gathered from Pakistani and British print media's crime reporting categories, based on news reports from the criminal press, in order to create an equal-sized corpus from both sides of the crime reportage debate. Five hundred sentences, each of at least 150 words, are gathered from

online sources on various dates from Pakistani newspapers. An attempt was made to gather a corpus of equivalent size for crime news reports from Pakistan and Britain. Following the collection of data from crime press reports in Pakistani and British publications, the data is assembled in the form of words then into notepad. Because the Biber 1988 multidimensional analysis program cannot comprehend data in Microsoft Word, all of the data is converted from words into notepad. Thus, each text was once more molded into a notepad, one by one, and a fresh corpus was created for examination. The data for this study was analyzed using Biber's multidimensional analysis of language variation from 1988.

Using the mean scores of the Pakistani and British print media, the five aspects of criminal press reporting were examined. In order to support the identity of the Pakistani crime press reportage register in comparison with the British crime press reportage register, the present study of Pakistani and British crime press reportage has compared its textual dimensions mean scores with the results to Biber's 1988 study of multidimensional analysis of press reportage. Because of this, a comparison of British and Pakistani criminal newspaper coverage in English would allow researchers to better understand Pakistani English's place and identity among non-native varieties of World Englishes. Three phases are included in the data analysis in this study:

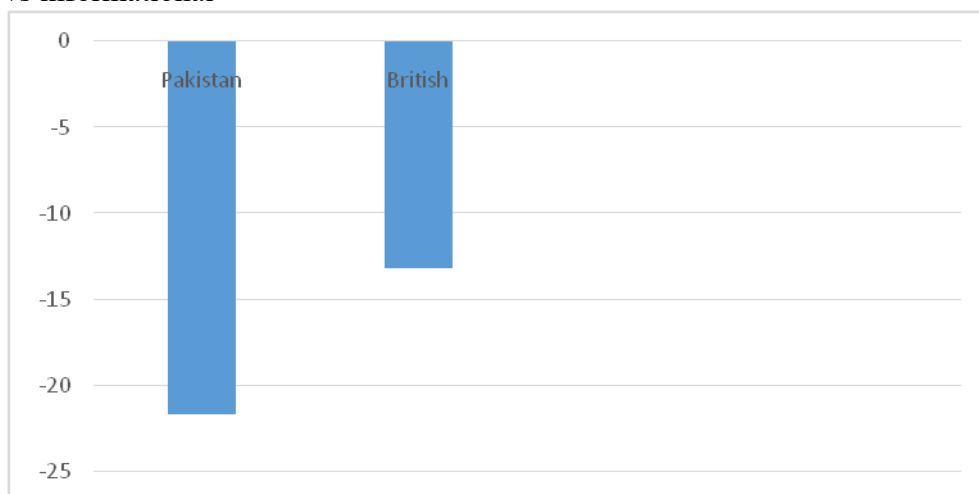
1. Tagging British and Pakistani media news sources.
2. Determine the raw numbers of the news corpus that the 1988 multidimensional analysis research by Biber verified.
3. Use of column graphs and discussion to analyze the raw counts (means scores of five textual Dimensions) with mean scores of co-occurring linguistic characteristics.
4. Co-occurring language elements through conversation and column graphs.

At this point, the multidimensional analysis was carried out using Biber's multidimensional analysis from 1988, and dimension scores were determined for each of the five textual dimensions. Following the computation of the mean scores for each text and Dimension, linguistic differences were discussed in relation to Biber's 1988 dimensions. The next step was the interpretation of the data to highlight the language differences between the criminal press coverage in Pakistani print media and British print media.

3. Data Analysis

Based on Biber's 1988 multidimensional analysis, the data analysis of the current study compares the dimension mean scores and co-occurring linguistic characteristics mean scores of crime news reports from Pakistan and the British (United Kingdom). It discusses the findings of all dimensions mean scores of Pakistani data with British data of criminal news coverage, and it explains the results of data with the aid of Biber's 1988 multidimensional analysis as it obtained from Biber's 1988 MD Analysis. The current study's five textual dimensions—referred to as the discourse dimensions D1, D2, D3, D4, and D5—are based on Biber's approach. For further reasons, certain co-occurring linguistics traits from each textual dimension are additionally chosen and thoroughly discussed using graphs. This section of the research compares the crime newspaper coverage from Pakistan to that from Britain, as reported by Biber in 1988, and it also addresses language variations. Using multidimensional analysis as a tool, the current study validated the assertion that the Pakistani news register differs from the British news register, as proposed by Biber (1988). A comparison of each dimension separately, based on mean scores obtained on a particular pattern in the study, to support the linguistic identity of certain linguistic aspects of the print media's coverage of Pakistani crime stories as a distinct register. It is found evidentially that Pakistani crime reportage register is linguistically different with British crime reportage register.

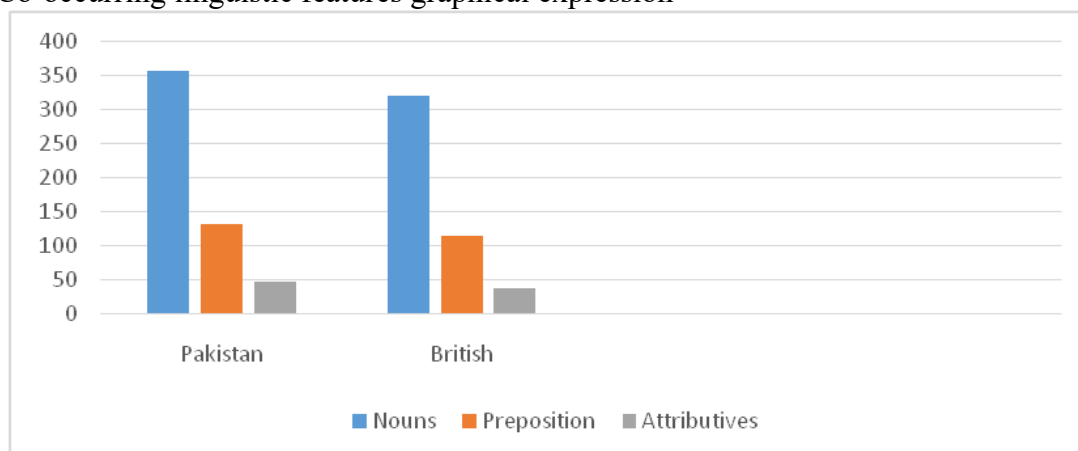
Figure Error! No text of specified style in document..1 Graphical expression of Dimension 1 involved vs informational



The contrast between British and Pakistani criminal news press reporting is seen in figure 4.1 above. When compared to British press crime journalism, it is evident that Pakistani data on crime news press reportage, with mean scores of -21.74, is less engaged and more informative. On the other hand, the British crime press coverage data, which has mean ratings of -13.18, is deemed to be more involved and less informative. The linguistic diversity seen in Pakistani discourse amply demonstrates the impact of the country's post-colonial context and the cross-cultural variations found in its print media. Because of reader expectations, Pakistani discourse on crime news newspaper coverage is less engaged and more factual.

It has been shown that in order to meet reader needs, Pakistani criminal press reporting is more factual and less engaged. Pakistani and British readers have different social and cultural backgrounds. In addition, news organizations and writers are driven by reader demand to create texts that are easily understood in the local context. News writers are also compelled by their educational backgrounds to provide such material. The multidimensional analysis of Biber (1988) is cited in the discussion of the mean scores for Dimension 1. Thus, it may be argued that the debate around criminal news reporting in Pakistan is less participatory and more informative.

4.2 Co-occurring linguistic features graphical expression



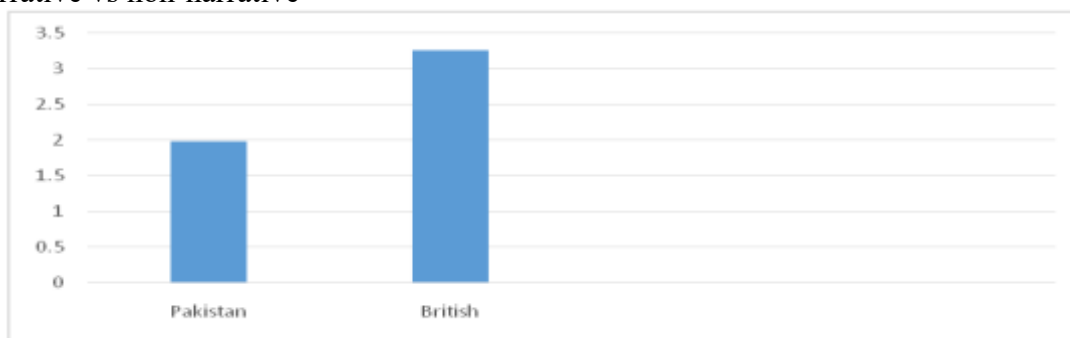
Example:

ISLAMABAD: The **Supreme Court** on Monday directed the **National Accountability Bureau (NAB)** to file its reply by Thursday on a plea filed by **Pakistan People's Party's (PPP)** former **federal minister for petroleum** (*The Nation newspaper Pakistan*).

Example:

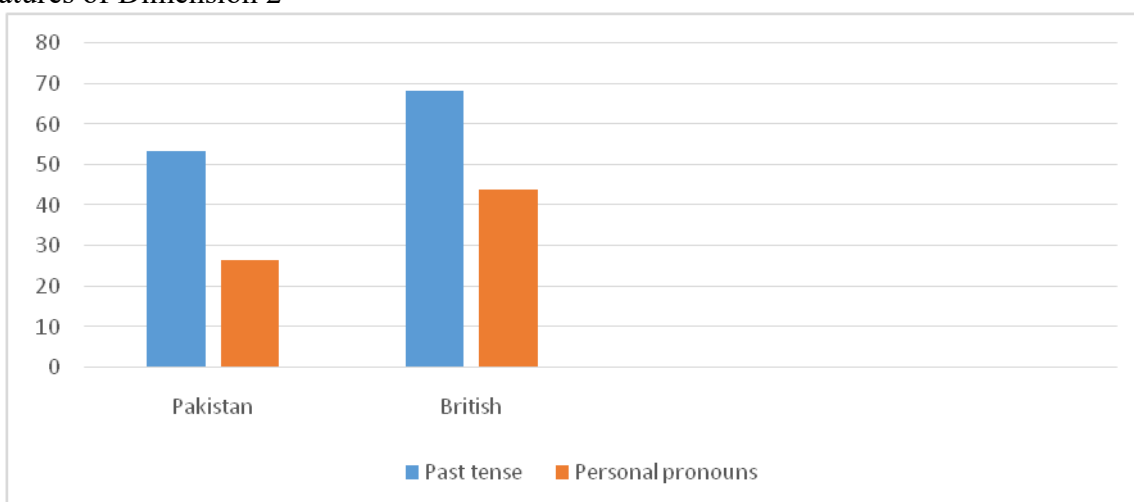
A **Florida** man has been charged with murder after his girlfriend told the authorities that the 29-year-old kicked her three-year-old daughter in the head (*Daily Mirror British*).

Figure **Error! No text of specified style in document..2** Graphical expression of dimension 2 narrative vs non-narrative



The aforementioned figure (4.3) compares British and Pakistani criminal news press coverage based on the mean scores of Dimension 2 and the mean scores of the former. It demonstrates that, in contrast to British crime press reporting data, which has mean scores of 3.25, which demonstrates a strong narrative feature of discourse, Pakistani data on crime news press coverage of chosen newspapers has a mean score of 1.98, which indicates fewer narrative elements of discourse. The linguistic variety in discourse makes it evident how cross-cultural variations among societies have an impact on society. It also explains the variation, since Pakistani crime news print media discourse is tailored to meet the demands of the local newspaper market. It has been discovered to satisfy reader demand. British discourse of crime news press coverage is determined to be high narrative, meaning more involved on Dimension one, whereas Pakistani crime press reportage media is less narrative, like Dimension one less involved.

Figure **Error! No text of specified style in document..3** Graphical expression of linguistic features of Dimension 2



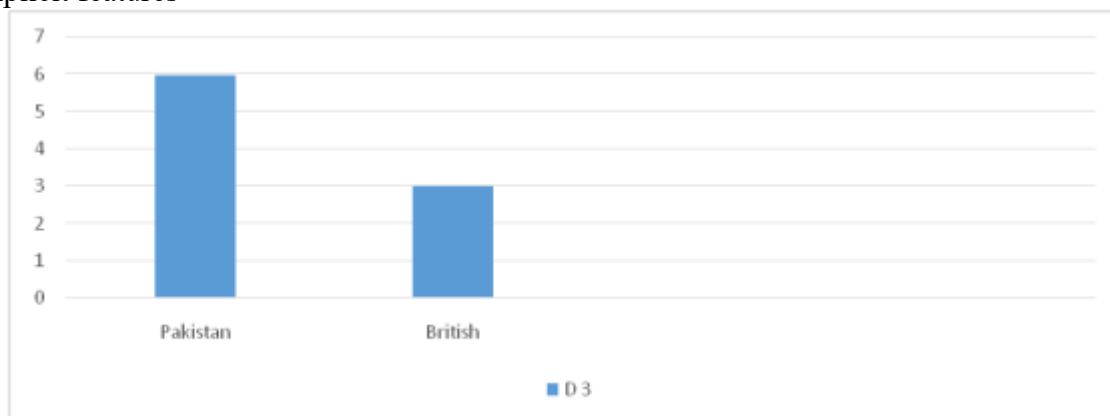
Example:

The public prosecutor's office has **released** a statement confirming the militant gunman **were carrying** the ISIS flag when they **opened** fire inside the mosque yesterday (*The Daily Mirror British*)

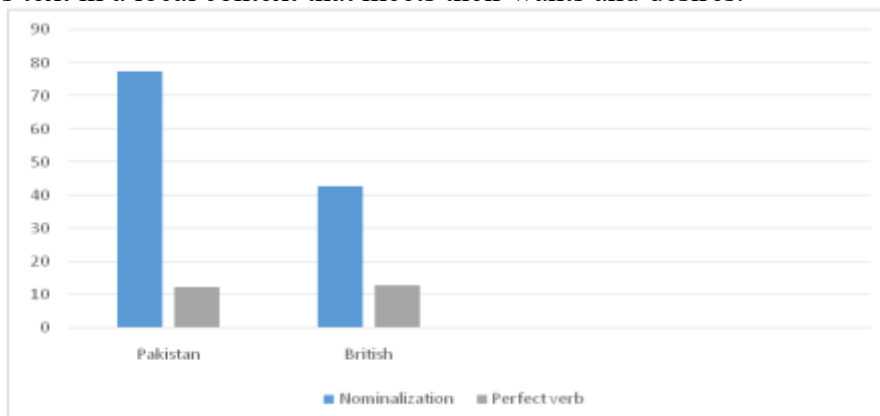
Example:

In a crackdown on illegal housing societies, the town planning and metropolitan wings of the Lahore Development Authority **demolished** boundary walls (*Daily Times, Pakistan*).

Figure Error! No text of specified style in document..4 Graphical expression of Dimension 3 explicit features



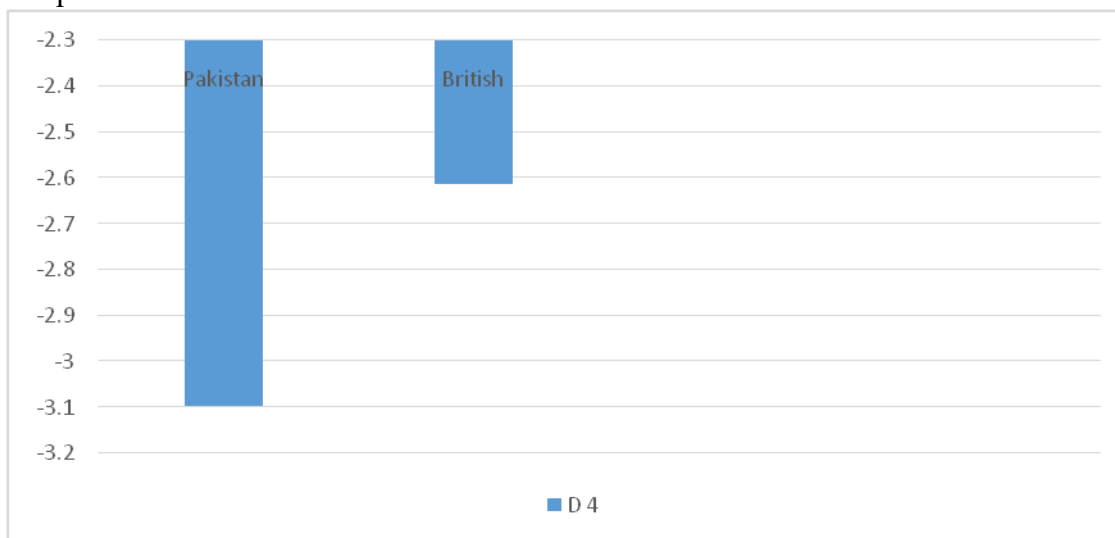
The contrast between British and Pakistani crime press coverage based on news print media and crime news print media is seen in figure 4.5 above. It demonstrates that, in comparison to British crime reportage data of press reportage, which has mean scores of 2.99 and reveals highly situation dependent and less explicit features discourse, Pakistani data of crime news print media of chosen newspapers found more explicit and less situation dependent features discourse with mean scores of 5.97. The linguistic variance in the discourse mean scores provides a clear explanation for the cross-cultural and post-colonial disparities between the two civilizations. Due to reader demand, Pakistani crime news press reportage is less situation dependent. It has also been observed that linguistic variations in both discourses are based on post-colonial scenarios and cross-cultural differences between Pakistani and British culture, which encourages crime news writers to arrange text in a way that makes it easy for local readers to understand. For the benefit of their news market and to encourage the growth of the number of readers, every newspaper agency in the news market thus makes every effort to present news text in a local context that meets their wants and desires.



Example:

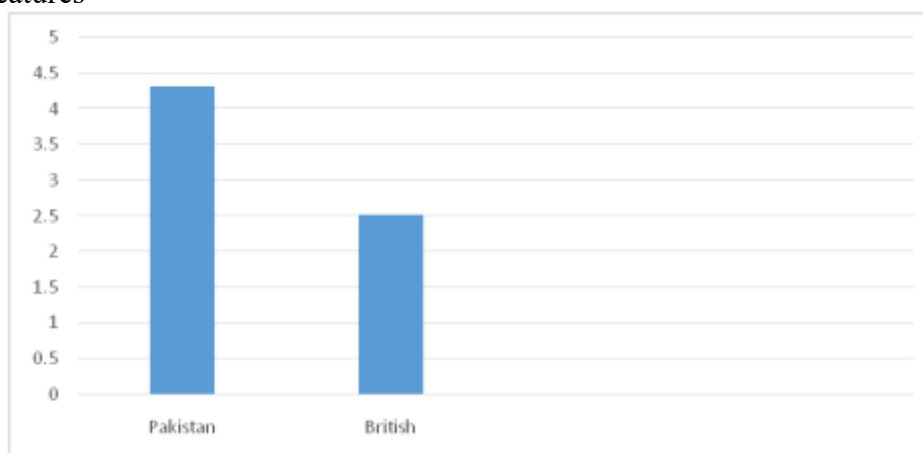
*Americans used **more** health services and spent **more** on **prescription** drugs in 2013, reversing a recent trend, though greater use of cheaper generic drugs helped control **spending**, according to a report (The Nation newspaper).*

Figure *Error! No text of specified style in document.*5 Graphical expression of Dimension 4 overt expression



The comparative analysis between British and Pakistani crime news press reporting, which is based on print media, is depicted in figure 4. 7. The comparison above demonstrates that, as compared to British crime coverage, Pakistani crime press reportage of chosen newspapers has a mean score of -3.09, which indicates higher concealed and less combative elements in discourse. The British criminal press coverage data has a mean score of -2.69, indicating a less subtle and more contentious discourse style. The outcome of post-colonial circumstances and cross-cultural disparities is apparent in the linguistic variety in the discourse of news print media reporting on crime in Pakistan and Britain.

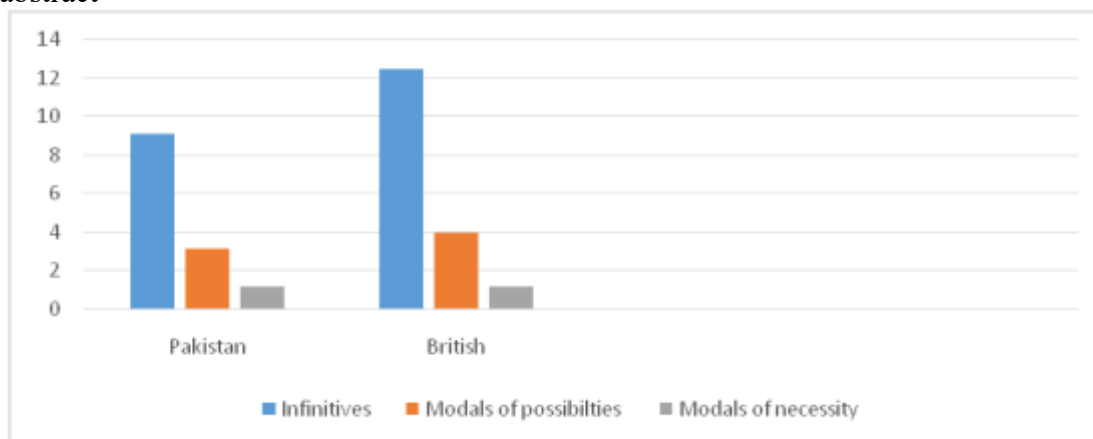
Figure *Error! No text of specified style in document.*6 Graphical expression of Co-occurring linguistic features



In order to meet reader demands, the discourse of criminal news reports from Pakistan and Britain adheres to specific linguistic traits. The social and cultural backgrounds of Pakistani and British societies differ, which also influences the news writers to produce these kinds of texts.

In addition, reader demand drives news agencies and writers to produce crime news texts that are contextualized locally, and readers' educational backgrounds compel news writers to produce such easily understood content. The multidimensional analysis of Biber (1988) is cited in the discussion of the mean scores for Dimension 4.

Figure *Error! No text of specified style in document.*7 Graphical expression of Dimension five abstract

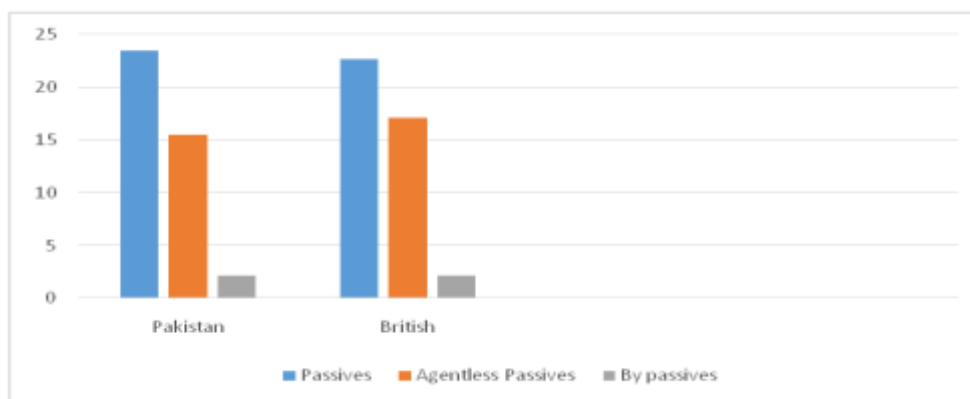


Based on news print media, the comparison between British and Pakistani criminal press reporting is shown in figure 4.9 above. Figure 4.9 above illustrates how, as compared to British criminal press reporting discourse, Pakistani data on crime press coverage of chosen newspapers exhibits a mean score that indicates a very abstract element in the discourse. There is less abstract characteristic in discourse news print media, according to data from British criminal press reports, with mean scores of 2.52.

Undoubtedly, the variations in the average scores for the discourse that followed is a consequence of the post-colonial context and the cultural disparities between Pakistani and British communities. Because of reader desire, Pakistani discourse on crime press reporting is perceived as being more abstract. It has been discovered to satisfy reader demands. The media's reporting of crime in Pakistan is more abstract. Societies differ in their social and cultural backgrounds. In addition, the news market pushes news organizations and writers to create news texts that are easily understood in the context of their hometowns. News writers are also compelled by their educational backgrounds to produce content that is easily understood by readers.

For this reason, when compared to the British crime reporting discourse of the print media, Pakistani crime reportage discourse is observed to be considerably more abstract in the comparison above. The multidimensional analysis of Biber (1988) is cited in the discussion of the mean scores for Dimension 1. Because of this, it can be demonstrated that the language surrounding crime news reporting in Pakistani crime press news outlets is more abstract simply in order to satisfy reader demands; also, the social, cultural, and educational backgrounds of local readers compel news writers to provide news texts in context.

Figure *Error! No text of specified style in document.*8 Graphical expression of linguistic features of Dimension 5



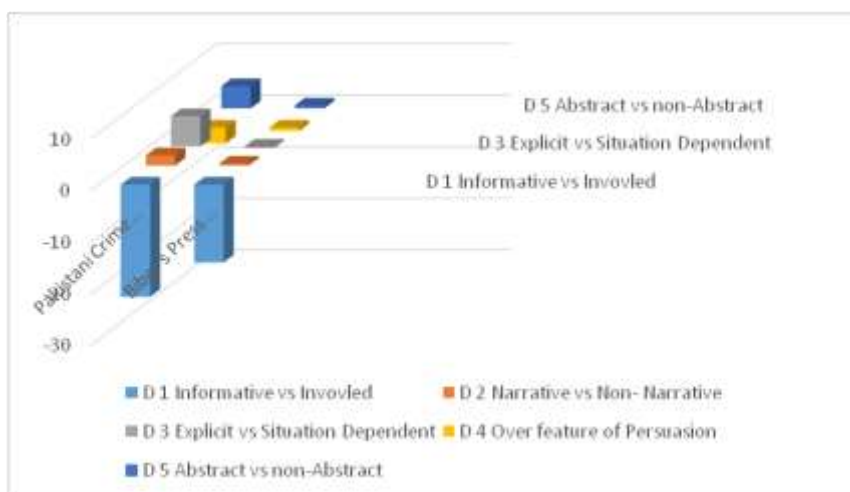
Example:

Some unknown **people gunned** down two persons and **injured** three at Pedak in the outskirts on Tuesday morning here, Local TV **reported**. Levies Force **confirmed** (The Nation, Pakistan).

Summary from Dimension 1 to 5

The comparison of British and Pakistani crime press reports presented above, along with a reference to Biber's 1988 study of multidimensional analysis, demonstrated that the discourses exhibit distinct mean scores across all study dimensions, which results in linguistic variances in the language used in the newspapers that produce crime press reports. Because of these linguistic differences, the crime news registers of British and Pakistani newspapers are completely different from one another. Two factors contribute to the linguistic differences between the two communities: first, the vastly different social and cultural backgrounds of the two groups cause linguistic variations; second, post-colonial settings with academic backgrounds encourage news writers to present crime stories in a way that local readers of the communities can understand. It can be proved that linguistic variations among crime texts is because of the differences among socio and academic backgrounds. The cross cultural effect also a motive element for Pakistani crime news register as a different news register as compared with British crime newspaper register, so the press genre of both discourse Pakistani crime press reportage discourse and British crime reportage discourse are different based on press reportage registers of news print media. It can be proved that the register of Pakistani crime press reportage is different as compared with British crime press reportage register based on news print media. It is demonstrable that language variances seen in crime press reportage writings are a result of social and educational backgrounds. The cross-cultural influence is another driving force behind Pakistani crime press reportage news registration, which differs from British crime newspaper registration in terms of news register, and therefore the press genre of both discourses Based on press reportage registers of news print media, the discourse around crime reporting in Pakistani and British media is distinct. It is demonstrable that the British criminal press reporting register, which is based on news print media, differs from the Pakistani crime press reportage record.

Figure 4.11 Graphical expression of all dimensions from D1 to D5 of both discourse



The comparison of the whole mean scores of the Pakistani press reporting discourse on crime news from Dimension 1 to Dimension 5 and the Biber press reportage discourse with mean scores from Dimension 1 to Dimension 5 is depicted in the above image. In compared to the news media's Biber press reporting discourse, Pakistani criminal news discourse is determined to be less engaged and more informative in Dimension 1, with a mean score of -21.74. The mean scores for Pakistani crime news press coverage in dimension two are 1.98, indicating that the discourse around crime in Pakistan is more narrative than that of the Biber press. Comparing the Pakistani criminal discourse to Biber's press reporting discourse, dimension three shows that the latter is less circumstance dependent and more explicit. The mean scores for this dimension are 5.97. Once Pakistani crime press reportage data is compared with Biber's discourse of press reportage based on news print media, Dimension five, with 4.31 mean scores, shows Pakistani crime news text is found more abstract than British crime news text. Dimension four, with -3.09 mean scores, asserts that Pakistani discourse is found more covert and less argumentative.

4. Conclusion

The present study's summative analysis and conclusion have also included all three of the comparisons between British, Biber, and Pakistani crime press news coverage. The results of the individual comparison of Pakistani and British newspapers' criminal press coverage based on printed news media are also covered in this portion of the study. Based on five textual aspects from Biber's 1988 multidimensional analysis research, a comparison is made. The results of this study demonstrated the distinctions between British and Pakistani English registers. The language of five prominent newspapers based on crime reportage press coverage demonstrates how different newspapers in Pakistani print media are linguistically diverse from one another according to Biber's 1988 research of multidimensional analysis. The current study also explains how future researchers on language variations and Pakistani newspaper language usage might find the data from this study useful.

The current study also shows the extent to which British and Pakistani news media's press reports differ linguistically from one another when it comes to reporting on crime subcategories. The current study discovers that, according to five textual dimensions from Biber's 1988 study of multidimensional analysis, all newspapers of both news media speech differ from one another. The study also examines the differences between the British and Pakistani crime press reportage genres, analyzing the latter with reference to Biber's 1988 multidimensional analysis study.

The primary goal of the current study is to demonstrate the extent of linguistic variance in Pakistani crime news media reporting compared to British crime news media reporting, using mean dimension scores and co-occurring linguistic elements as a point of reference. The current study also demonstrates the existence of linguistic variance in Pakistani newspapers, as indicated by the mean scores that agreed with Biber's multidimensional analysis study from 1988. Every dimension is examined using the outdated multidimensional analysis from Biber's (1988) multidimensional analysis research.

Dimension 1: demonstrates Using co-occurring linguistic features such as nouns, prepositions, and attributive adjectives, it is possible to determine the involved vs. informational features of discourse in the crime reportage discourse of two corpuses: the British crime reportage corpus is found to be less informational and more involved than the Pakistani corpus, as confirmed by Biber's (1988) multidimensional analysis, and the Pakistani corpus is found to be less informational and less involved.

Dimension 2: shows the proportion of narrative versus non-narrative discourse features using co-occurring linguistic features such as past tense and personal pronouns in the crime reportage discourse of the Pakistani corpus, which is found to be less narrative due to low mean scores confirmed by Biber's (1988) multidimensional analysis, and the British crime reportage corpus, which has higher mean scores verified by Biber's (1988) multidimensional analysis, is found to be more narrative than the Pakistani corpus. Based on narrative/non-narrative co-occurring linguistic features in crime reportage text that made it less narrative or more narrative crime press reportage discourse on Dimension two, there is linguistic variation between narrative/non-narrative discourse of Pakistani crime news corpus and British crime news corpus.

Dimension 3: uses co-occurring linguistic features such as nominalization and perfect verbs to explain the explicit vs. situation dependent features of discourse in the crime reportage discourse of the Pakistani corpus, which is found to be more explicit and less situation dependent in relation to high mean scores verified by Biber's (1988) multidimensional analysis, and the British crime reportage corpus, which is found to be more situation dependent and less explicit than the Pakistani corpus due to low mean scores verified by Biber's (1988) multidimensional analysis.

Dimension 4: Using co-occurring linguistic features such as infinitives, modals of possibilities, and modals of necessities, one can determine the overt vs. argumentative/persuasive features of discourse in the crime reportage discourse of two corpuses: the British crime reportage corpus is found to be more argumentative and less overt than the Pakistani corpus due to its low mean scores verified by Biber's (1988) multidimensional analysis, and the Pakistani corpus is found to be more overt and less argumentative overall.

Dimension 5: Uses co-occurring linguistic features such as passives, agentless or short passives, to demonstrate both abstract and non-abstract features of discourse in the crime reportage discourse of the British crime reportage corpus, which is found to be less abstract than the Pakistani corpus due to low mean scores verified by Biber's (1988) multidimensional analysis. The linguistic variation between the discourse of the British and Pakistani crime news corpuses is based on abstract co-occurring linguistic feature in crime reportage text that made it less or more abstract crime press reportage discourse on Dimension five.

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