

A PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF PAKISTANI ENGLISH DISCOURSE: PATTERNS, FUNCTIONS, AND SOCIOLINGUISTIC INFLUENCES

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ABSTRACT

Pragmatic characteristics of Pakistani English in terms of its discourse styles, communicative purposes and sociolinguistic motivations impacting upon its use are investigated in this study. It is based on speech act theory, politeness strategies and the context-sensitive approach to interpretation, and consists of investigations of real-life language samples from a range of genres, such as media, education, and everyday conversation. The results show clear discourse structures influenced by Urdu and the regional languages, very obvious code-switching and situational appropriate politeness norms for this opponent. These are features of linguistic neocolonialism which are illustrations of Pakistan's multicultural and multilingual personality and show Pakistani English as a vibrant, developing variety with distinctive pragmatic norms.

Keywords:

Pakistan English, pragmatics, Discourse feature, Sociolinguistics, Code-Switching, Speech acts

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is not only a communication tool, but also a bearer of culture, identity, and manners. In the varied sociolinguistic context of Pakistan, English has a complicated and a particular role to play. It is used to express official, prestige and used in education, government and professional field. The Pakistan Standard English (PSE) is uncommon among many modern societies Nigeria's English (Nigerian English) and India's English (Indian English). The English Language began with the colonization of British colonies all over the world the contact of Continental India with the British Empire in 1858 helped to maintain the dominance of Indian English. With the growing attention to World Englishes in academia, Pakistani English continues to be understudied, especially from aspects of pragmatics in terms of how meaning is constructed, negotiated, and understood in everyday communicative interactions.

Pragmatics, with respect to linguistics, is about the way language is used in context- that is: how speakers perform actions by speaking, how they preserve politeness, how they manage conversation and how they convey implied messages (Yule, 2020). Although the syntactic and phonological features of Pakistani English have been extensively studied (Mahboob, 2020; Rahman, 2011), its pragmatic behaviors, especially, patterns, functions, and sociocultural orientations of discourse, are yet to be thoroughly investigated. This study aims to address this gap by providing a detailed pragmatic analysis of Pakistani English discourse, in terms of how

speakers strategically use language to achieve their communicative purposes, while being culturally sensitive to the norms.

The issue of language use is tricky in multilingual societies such as Pakistan. Urdu is the national language of India and acts as the lingua franca, and is also the language of the Indian Muslims. Other regional languages spoken in India are Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashto, and Balochi. In comparison, English holds a more privileged and institutionalized position. This linguistic juxtaposition allows for pragmatic variation to flourish. Such linguistic phenomena as code switching, Homeric forms, directness/indirectness, and context-specific politeness are not language specific in a strict sense, they are rooted within the sociocultural norms of the Pakistani society (Manan et al, 2022; Shamim & Kuchah, 2021). A preference for indirect requests or honorifics like “sir” and “madam” in Pakistan, for instance, is not only about politeness but also about hierarchical respect, influenced by cultural norms and social expectations.

Acceptance of Pakistani English as a legitimate variety within the paradigm of World Englishes has encouraged scholars to investigate its distinctive features. Analysts like Kachru (1985) drew our attention to the phenomenon of "nativization" in post-colonial Englishes, which means that Englishes in different countries create their own internal standards and pragmatic fashions. In the past few years, research has started focusing on how PE has departed from the native forms of English in vocabulary (e.g., borrowings as in *thana*, *biryani*), syntax (e.g., use of *discuss about*), and pronunciation (e.g., non-rhoticity). But, a more realistic investigation, particularly of discourse markers, speech acts, and politeness forms in natural communication, is required to know how Pakistani speakers utilize English in daily conversations (Aslam, 2021; Ali, 2022).

Within discussions about education, English is seen as the language of the contemporary and of opportunity. Interaction in the classroom, scholarly writing and official correspondence all demonstrate a pragmatic adjustment of English to local standards. Preschool teachers frequently use Urdu idioms, pragmatic markers and religious expressions (e.g., *InshaAllah*) on English sentences which gives rise to a mixed discourse. In professional contexts, too, English has a elocutionary, not just transactional but performativity, role, enabling speakers to articulate forms of identity, solidarity, or authority. These discursive practices do not conform to common sense views of "standard" use of English and require a contextually based appreciation of pragmatics within PE.

In addition, due to globalization and digital communication informal use of English has become more common among urban area's youth. On platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram, users routinely engage in bilingual or multilingual conversations in which English is used as a style, and a strategy. In addition to shared content, hashtags, emojis, and abbreviations (e.g., “LOL,” “OMG,” “Alhamdulillah”) overlap with local expressions, generating new types of pragmatic meaning. These emerging trends point towards a greater degree of formal inflectional rigidity, to more flexible and dynamic patterns that mirror the speaker's sociolinguistic identity (Khalid & Akhtar, 2023; Hussain & Ahmad, 2023).

In this context, the present study seeks to examine three correlated facets of Pakistani English pragmatics, namely, (1) the discourse patterns that are commonly observed amongst Pakistani English speakers, (2) the functions that these patterns perform in various sociocultural contexts, and (3) the sociolinguistic factors that inform the use of these patterns. The work is based on earlier theories, such as Searle's (1969) speech act classification and Brown and Levinson's (1987) politeness theory, where they are used in a descriptive manner to analyses real examples

of spoken and written discourse from academic, formal and informal situations. Differences from the native variety are not just noted, but terms such as what local means with respect to local norms of interaction.

The importance of this research lies both in theoretical and applied linguistics. In theory it further develops the theory of pragmatics by the analysis of a minority variety of English, providing information about local culture and the influence of global on local. Section 3.1 (Methodology): In terms of methodology, the article focuses on real empirical language data gathered from authentic social interaction rather than on constructed textual data. In a practical sense, the results might also guide the English language teaching (ELT) policy of Pakistan, incorporating pragmatic ability in ESL syllabuses. It is important that teachers, textbook writers, and language trainers consider the pragmatic conventions Pakistani learners to the classroom.

Moreover, furthering debates in linguistic anthropology and sociolinguistics regarding language, power and identity, this study also stands as a significant contribution to those debates. In Pakistan, English is frequently linked to upward social mobility, Western education and modern values. But its application is not always simple. English is oppressed to so many speakers, so many carry the burden of coloniality, the stain of class-ism, the stain of an ideological division. By examining how speakers navigate these discrepancies pragmatically — with the words they pick, the tone they use, the structure they impose on their sentences, as well as the silences they leave — we can better understand language as a social act.

A number of new studies support the case for local, pragmatic research. For instance, Ayub and Mahmood (2022) analyzed the way Pakistani media discourse combines forms of formal English with culturally situated humour and sarcasm. Likewise, English language interviews in Pakistan were found to tend to rely upon Urdu discourse norms and complexes, including turn taking, face saving actions, and religious references (Tariq & Zubair, 2023). These studies attest to the fact that Pakistani English is not a defective/inchoate variety, but a thriving language system having its own (socio) pragmatic rationality.

In summary, the present study aims to throw light on the complex pragmatic world of Pakistani English as well as to move away from a description of structures to understanding of language in terms of its social action. Through an examination of patterns of discourse, with particular reference to communicative strategies and sociolinguistic influence, this study counterpoises Pakistani English not as a deviant version of British English, but as the legitimate, context-to-context variation born out of speakers' lived experience. In so doing, it is in line with the overall orientation of World Englishes scholarship and helps to enforce a more ecumenical view of English in the South.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

This study carries following chief objectives

1. To analyze the re-occurring discourse features of Pakistani English.
2. To analyze their communicative functions.
3. To investigate the effects of sociolinguistic factors on pragmatic choice in PE.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The functional aspect of language (as meaning-in-use) is central to our understanding of how language is employed in real life situations. In the context of World Englishes (WE), nativized varieties such as Pakistani English (PE) provide a fertile ground for investigation of how culture-specific orientations, societal forces, and linguistic legacy enslave communicative

strategies in the target language use (TLU). This review aims to critically explore the literature pertaining to key components of the study, including discourse features, speech acts, and the social aspects that affect the choice of pragmatic strategies in Pakistani English.

2.1 Theoretical Background of Pragmatics

The basis of the pragmatic analysis consists in the investigation of language beyond structure. Classical approaches like Speech Act Theory (Searle, 1969) and Grice, Cooperative Principle (Grice, 1975) established a theoretical background to what dealing with speaker intentions, implicate, and indirectness. Likewise, Brown and Levinson, (1987) Politeness Theory has deepened the insight of face-saving tactics, suggesting universal but culturally specific strategies of politeness. These approaches also have a significant bearing on current research into pragmatic variability in non-native English, such as PE.

Especially Leech's (2014) work on politeness maxims and Thomas (1995) on cross-cultural pragmatic failure emphasize that contextually based analyses are crucial. Those frameworks are important in determining the effects of variation in the native dialects on the use of English by PEs in Pakistan who, like their peers in Sub-continental countries, innervate to a certain extent the use of Standard English alongside culturally mediated language use while maximizing the effectiveness of expression.

2.2 Pakistani English as a Regional Variety

It has been recognized as a postcolonial variety in its own right within Kachru's (1985) framework of World Englishes following the canonization of Pakistani English as a separate variety in the Outer Circle. As Mahboob (2020) and Rahman (2011) note, the linguistic properties of PE have been the subject of a process of nativization, and indigenous lexicon, syntactic patterns, and phonological rules have been integrated into English usage. Yet, the early literature largely examined formal linguistic properties rather than the behavioural nature of speakers in a pragmatic framework.

For example, Baumgardner did present the lexical borrowings (such as "biryani," "thana," "madrassa") and syntactic "calques" from Urdu and regional languages in PE (1993: 115). Similarly, Mansoor (2004) reported on the impact that local cultural values have upon instruction and language. However, only in the last 10 years, have researchers even begun to focus on the pragmatic functioning of PE across social contexts.

2.3 Discourse Features of Pakistani English

Structural patterns and strategies Structural patterns are recurrent structural and strategic parts in spoken or written exchange. In PE, these patterns echo both universal linguistic behaviour and culture-specific norms. Ali (2022), in a corpus-based analysis, found that speakers used the TNEs such as the pragmatic markers "actually," "basically," and "you know" that significantly differ in terms of frequency and function compared to SBE.

Repetition, indirectness and discourse particles Sana asked asim again in a more polite way can be seen as softeners which Pakistani speakers use in order to highlight the fact that he is empathetic and encourage harmony and acceptance within speaker—listener relation (Shamim & Kuchah, 2021). For example, requests are often formulated in the form of a conditional expression or indirect request ("Would you mind telling me what...") with a high level of politeness...?" or "It would be great if...") to avoid imposition. Earlier, Aslam (2021) observed that PE participants tend to use rhetorical questions, honorifics, and parallelism to politeness in academic and professional communications.

Second, discourse particles such as “jee,” “acha” and “haan” often feature in English spoken discourse, including formal dialogues, performing pragmatic functions such as pace-making, acknowledging or hedging. As Tariq and Zubair (2023) argue, these are the aspects of a discourse that were hybridised by the English and other local communicative strategies.

2.4 Communicative Functions and Acts of Speech

The theory of speech acts holds that spoken sentences do things, they can ask questions, make apologies, compliment someone etc. " In PC, those acts are often localized to correspond with local values ("In this community of practice, such behaviors are considered professional or of high quality. Manan et al. (2022) discovered that terms of religious reference such as InshaAllah, MashAllah and Alhamdulillah do not uniquely have religious connotations but also express social actions like politeness, mitigation, and solidarity.

A substantial amount of scholarship has been devoted to how PE speakers enact directives and expressive. Examining the speeches political and news media discourses, Ayub and Mahmood (2022) noticed that speakers use metaphor in indirect and less accusative manners of criticizing opponents on such matters while maintaining decorum. Likewise, Khalid and Akhtar (2023) described how urban youth on social media employed the use of emojis, code switching, as well as humour to negotiate politeness and express alignment or disagreement.

English use in customer service, education, and government, for instance, also demonstrates atypical speech act norms. For instance, in administrative correspondence, ritual formulae such as "Be advised that... Regarding," or "In the light of..., I am / would be grateful... " 13) it has been asked that... can be quite to the point in speaking across limitations separating the discourses of different specialists..." function both as grants of deference and as institutionalized methods of issuing orders. These structures are not employed to the same extent as those in native English, but they are pragmatically appropriate in the Pakistani sociocultural context (Shamim & Kuchah, 2021).

2.5 Social Linguistic Factors in Pragmatic Selections

The importance of sociolinguistic factors in the explanation of language use is beyond dispute. Within the larger culture of Pakistan, region, ethnicity, gender, class, education, and urban-rural disparities also affect pragmatic behavior. Hussain and Ahmad (2023) have claimed that younger speakers, particularly in urban context, are more flexible and hybridised in their English use, owing to digital exposure and bilingual proficiency.

Genders communication is another up and coming field. Ali and Fatima (2022) found that in professional workplace environments, women have been observed to employ more cooperative and polite strategies of language use in English, as compared to employed males who use more dominant and task-centered strategies. These norms reflect patterns of using gendered language internationally, mediated by local societal attitudes to gender roles.

Education and social mobility are no small part of it. In Pakistan, English is often considered the language of upward mobility and elitism. As Rahman (2002) and Mahboob (2009) point out, speakers from previous private school backgrounds may be more fluent and confident in their pragmatic usage, whereas previous speakers from the public or Urdu-medium backgrounds might exhibit more transfer from Urdu in their patterns of discourse.

Furthermore, this ecological domain also will lead to the development of pragmatic transfer. To give examples Punjabi speakers might show certain directness patterns not found in and Urdu-dominant area, Sindhi or Pashto speakers might show certain preference in turn-taking or the use

of honorifics and so on. This regional difference enriches the complex pragmatic landscape of PE and emphasizes the importance of contextualization approach (Manan et al., 2022).

2.6 Pragmatics in Online /Informal Discourse

With the emerging digital communication platforms, there are new opportunities for pragmatic investigations. Khalid and Akhtar (2023) investigated the social network sites of Pakistani members on WhatsApp and Facebook in English and Urdu and how English is mixed with Urdu coexisting the markers of digital discourse (e.g., "LOL," "Alhamdulillah," emojis), and how the indirectness or humor are employed to show solidarity. They found that there is both innovation and tradition in their data describing; the users are innovative because they adapt English as they see fit, while at the same time they are also traditional because they, in the author's words, use the language of requests, modifications, etc. polite ways of communicating, and an awareness of status, and the accompanying changes in status.

Among young adults and college students who are digital natives, this is especially prevalent. Code-switching serves pragmatic and stylistic purposes—it indicates identity, relieves the edginess of direct orders, and also establishes rapport. Hussain and Ahmad (2023) argued that such discursive practices are indicative of Pakistani English in formation in informal domains that redefine our conceptions of pragmatics.

2.7. Gaps in the Current Literature

Although the reviewed studies provide some important information, some gaps still exist. The first one is that most of past research has been corpus-based or anecdotal and there is not much treated ethnographic or discourse-analytic approaches to mark-up indicate. Second, stark scope restrictions exist in the kind of political discourse considered eligible in PE's many studies, which tend to focus on particular genres, political speeches, media discourse, classroom

In addition, relatively little research aims to combine the three primary foci of this study ,discourse styles, communicative purposes, and language socialization features , in a single model. This is in line with Leech (2014) who suggests a good pragmatic analysis should consider form, function, and context. This is one such void that this study aims to fill through a synthesized treatment of pragmatics of Pakistani English based on natural data and varied communicative contexts.

3. METHODOLOGY

The current study has been designed with a qualitative approach of study and aspects of discourse analysis and socio-pragmatic inquiry aim to investigate naturally- occurring PE (Pakistani English) discourse in real life scenarios. Based on real spoken and written data, this study systematically investigates the recurrent discourse structures, pragmatic functions, and sociolinguistic effects in PE. In my analysis, I draw from Speech Act Theory (Searle, 1969), Politeness Theory (Brown & Levinson, 1987), and socio-linguistically motivated accounts of language variation. These theories serve as the basis for the recognition of different types of pragmatic attributes also category wise politeness strategies, indirectness, speech acts, and contextual language specific choice across various language activities.

Data for the study were obtained from audiotapes, written texts, and interviews. The speech samples were collected from informal talks, classroom discussions, work meetings, and media interviews, and written samples from emails and social media forums and administrative communication. A convenience sample comprising a total of 50 respondents (20,55 years), i.e., from urban and semi-urban areas of Lahore, Islamabad and Karachi, were selected according to

the criteria to achieve variation in sample characteristics in terms of gender, occupation, level of education and region of residence were purposively chosen. Participant's given acquisitions broke their anonymity from third parties threatening them to snatch away the money. As a supplement to the discursive data, semi-open interviews were also used to gain insight into the extent to which subjects' knowledge and motivations were related to sociolinguistic factors such as age, social status and bilingualism.

Data were analysed according to principles of thematic analysis, by searching for recurrent patterns and pragmatic functions in the speech. Transcripts were analyzed by hand and using qualitative software (ANOVA 12) to support cross-case comparison and classification of pragmatic elements. Patterns were subsequently accounted for in terms of the social background of participants in order to investigate how aspects of one's social identity, such as gender, educational level, and regional origin affect pragmatic behavior. Data were triangulated using a variety of sources (spoken, written and interview data) to increase the trustworthiness of the analysis. This was done in layers to ensure a deeper though full portrayal the linguistic and sociocultural aspects of Pakistani English discourse.

4. DATA ANALYSIS

This section further details the data analysis which is based on the three major dimensions: Discourse Patterns, Communicative Functions, and Sociolinguistic Aspects of Pakistani English (PE). The corpus was made up of transcribed spontaneous speech, institution speech, media talk shows and written material such as e-mail and social writing. Thematic and discourse analysis identified pragmatic markers and patterns that were found to be widespread and sociolinguistic variables that affected the use of pragmatics.

4.1. Patterns of discourse in Pakistani English

A common feature that stood out in the analysis was the use of discourse markers, code-switches, and parolage that organize and create the context of communication. Discourse particles such as actually, so, basically, matlab (I mean), and acha (okay) were found in both formal and informal registers. Such markers help keep conversation going and indicate speaker stance, with many of them working as pragmatic softeners or as emphasis markers.

For example, informal student conversation on campus:

"Acha toh i was going to class, then i saw Sir Ahmed near the canteen,"

In this case, actually works as a hedge and narratorial guidance word and – as acha functions as a discourse marker in South Asian Englishes. These hybrid items of pragmatic markers as hybrids demonstrate what the localized system of PE is like, drawing from indigenous norms and transferred British English patterns.

There was also a high prevalence of code-switching, including the use of Urdu and local language vocabulary for emphasis, emotive expression or cultural significance. Code-switching usually happened at the boundaries of clauses and was not of a random nature but based on context. One excerpt from a workplace meeting helps illustrate this:

We have to submit the report by Friday warna boss bara gussa hoga (or boss will be very angry).

Such pragmatic blending represents both linguistic economy and sociolinguistic congruence with common bilingual standards. The study reveals that PE users use flesh-and-blood as a tool for handling interpersonal relationships and for establishing solidarities.

It was in texts in the form of alternative e-mail, or WhatsApp messages that the structure frequently departed from SB from the grammatical standpoint, with abbreviation (plz ASAP), honorifics (respected sir) and culturally loaded phrases (Insha Allah kindly do the needful). Some of these forms are inherited colonial bureaucratic English, and some indicate current patterns of localization and of pragmatic adaptation.

4.2 Communicative Functions of Discourse Patterns.

The above discourse features were scrutinised within the framework of underpinning Speech Act and Politeness Theory. The study points to the fact that speakers of PE exploit indirectness, face saving strategies, and mitigated speech acts to achieve social harmony and hierarchy.

4.2.1 Acts of Speech and Indirect Communication

Indirect speech acts were widespread in the above institutional and interpersonal capacities, such as requests, commands and suggestions. For example:

If you could check it out soon it would be great.

Should we talk about possibly changing the times of the meeting?

Such constructions are not imposing and allow the speaker to sound polite, and by extension, deferential, which is crucial with regards to Pakistani society, hierarchical and respectful. These are pragmatic choices and show that PE speakers concern themselves with a social organization with respect to saving and losing face (Brown & Levinson, 1987).

4.2.2 Politeness Strategies

The data also showed that both positive politeness (building rapport, solidarity) and negative politeness (juniority, indirectness) features were employed extensively. In a college environment, one student writing to a professor said:

“Dear Sir I have taken you well. Please reconsider my pleas for an extension--I'd be seriously appreciative.

The letter uses several politeness markers--respected, hope you are well, kindly and grateful--which demonstrate that respect and humility is evident in the teacher-student communication context. Likewise, in peer interactions friendship is upheld by humor, inclusive words, and culture specific terms such as bro and yaar.

By analyzing data, we have found that, even in what one might consider informal settings such as social media, users engage in strategic politeness, using emojis, mitigators and self-deprecating humor to moderate criticism and express disagreement. Possibly this means that PE speakers try to carry the traditional norms of politeness into the computer-mediated communication.

4.3 Sociolinguistic Factors

A central goal of this study was to investigate to what extent sociolinguistic variables such as gender, social background or level of schooling influence the occurrence of pragmatic phenomena in PE. Through thematic coding patterns, specific dimensions influenced the way in which these variables influence practices.

4.3.1 Gender

Gender as a construct in language analysis It was observed that female speakers used politeness markers, hedges (I think, maybe), and indirectness more than male speakers, in both written and spoken language. Male speakers, on the other hand, preferred to choose more assertive and less mitigated forms, particularly in informal interactions. For instance, female participants would tend to qualify disagreement with expressions such as:

I hear what you are saying, but I think, maybe it would be better if you will keep khamoshi
While male visitors were more straightforward:

No, that won't work. Let's do it this way.

They also dovetail with the work of Holmes (2013), who has argued that women are generally involved in more rapport-seeking talk, while men are more concerned with the exchange of information and the task at hand. However, there are exceptions that fall out from professional roles and educational status, which implies that the gendered text is also context-dependent.

4.3.2 Education and Social Class

Higher-middle-class, more educated speakers were more likely to exhibit Anglicized pragmatic norms, namely lower rates of code-switching and higher levels of syntactic variability. On the contrary, students of lower-income or semi-urban milieu displayed greater dependence upon localized pragmatic forms: Urdu-English mixing, repetition, and culturally loaded expressions.

A high school teacher from a semi-urban area, for instance, sent an email saying:

Thank you so much sir for your kind help. I will be ever obliged.

Though grammatically incorrect, such a mode of address is a culturally embedded honorifics in South Asian context. These variations indicate that PE is divided along dimensions of education and class, and that pragmatic preferences reflect linguistic identification and social advancement.

4.3.3 Regional Context and Bilingualism

The influence of other regional languages such as Punjabi, Pashto and Sindhi was also manifested in the code-switching strategy and pragmatic phenomena. Punjabi idioms/taq questions hahn) into their responses, as you will see. and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa respondents used Pashto terms to add emphasis or intimacy. Such insertions often served pragmatic functions, expressing solidarity, humor, or criticism in interaction among in-group members.

Bilingualism was also identified as an important resource in the pragmatic repertoire. Most speakers of PE had ways of selecting Urdu or (more typically) regional expressions to maximize communicative effect, particularly in affective or hortatory contexts. This fits with Gumperz's (1982) model of code switching-as-contextualization-cue, in which speakers use two codes to achieve the meaningful frame of discourse.

4.4 Pragmatic Norms as a Developing Phenomenon in Digital PE Discourse

Online communication, notably on social media platforms such as WhatsApp and Facebook, highlighted emerging pragmatic norms which are different to both those of standard English and of traditional Urdu. Users used emoji pragmatics, hybrid abbreviations (thx, vry sry), and cultural-heavy in-jokes to manage relationships.

For instance, a university chat roo:

“Guys, thora serious ho jao, paper agla hafta hai”

In all that, in just 71 characters, this sentence manages to fuse Urdu and English, abbreviations and emojis, to say something multi-layered and pragmatic — playful, urgent, communal. Emojis were utilized to emphasize tone, express sympathy, or soften critical content, especially by younger users. It is clear from these practices that PE is not a static concept but is being actively reconstructed through techno-discursive strategies.

4.5 Summary of Key Findings

To sum up, from the analysis, it was shown that Pakistani English has the following features:

- A marked use of discourse markers in context and code-switching.

- Frequent application of indirect speech acts, politeness strategies, and 'regional' honorifics.
- Evident social effects of sociolinguistic factor such as gender, class, region and bilingualism in the choice of pragmatic.
- New digital discourse etiquette that mingles old-fashioned politeness with a modern need for brevity and visual signals.

These conclusions confirm Pakistani English as a pragmatic variety influenced by its socio-cultural and technological setting.

5. DISCUSSION

This study looked at PE from a pragmatic viewpoint with a focus on prototype discourse patterns, speech act functions, and sociolinguistic constraints that influence pragmatic intermediary principles. The results in turn, have shown that PE, still heavily dependent on BE, is a separate pragmatic system encapsulating local language, as well as social and cultural practices. This finding correspond amounts to observed above, they also confirm the claim of literature on World Englishes and pragmatics that English in a localized context exhibits unique communicative norms (Kachru, 1992; Jenkins, 2015).

5.1 Discourse Pattern and Localization

A significant feature was the frequent use of discourse markers like *acha*, *matlab*, *actually*, and *so*, which organise and contextualize the communication in both spoken and written discourse. This is in agreement with Rahman (2010) and Baumgardner (1993) who note that PE typifies certain commonalities of Indo-Aryan Englishes including regionally based discourse techniques. Inclusion of indigenous terms not only brings about mutual intelligibility amongst the speakers of Pakistan but also identifies a sociolinguistic identity. Consistent with what Parvaiz and Mahmood (2020) identified that PE DMs perform cohesive as well as interpersonal functions to assist speakers in dealing with politeness and indirect nature of communication, which is highly influenced by social norms of Pakistani society.

Additionally, the fact that participants alternate codes frequently in informal and semi-formal settings supports Gumperz (1982) and Canagarajah's (2013) contention that code-switching functions as a pragmatic resource indicating solidarity, emotional involvement, or changing of the footing. However, in PE the register shifts between Urdu, English, and regional languages such as Pothwari, Punjabi, or Pashto can also be shown to be context-induced, not arbitrary, which lends further support to the definition of code-switching as strategic and culturally-relevant behaviour. These indicate the mixed linguistic ecology of Pakistan in which bilingualism and multilingualism are not an exception but part of the norm (Rahman, 1999).

5.2 Pragmatic Function and Speech Act Realization parties, book a room at a hotel.

The results revealed that PE speakers tend to use pragmatic politeness strategies and face-saving mitigates more, especially in speech acts (such as requests, complaints and suggestions) requiring indirectness. These results are congruent with Brown and Levinson's (1987) Politeness Theory, in which they proposed that speakers adopt a variety of means to save face during interaction. As can be inferred from the Pakistani context, the inclination towards negative politeness devices (e.g., hedging, honorifics or conditional phrasing) arises from the general cultural valorization of respect, status and non-confrontation.

This tendency was particularly noticeable among institutions and in the academia, where a tradition of subservience to authority figures such as teachers or superiors was reproduced in

language (using expressions like "kindly consider," "Dear Sir" or "I shall be grateful"). These results support Mahboob (2009) and Shamim (2008) who demonstrated that Pakistani English reflects local power structures and hierarchical social relationships. Furthermore, overuse of ritual politeness formulas, such as "do the needful," indicate colonial hangover (Baumgardner, 1990; Mehmood, 2016) as discussed in literature review.

In addition, indirect acts in speech - especially in requests and disagreements - were identified as frequent in both spoken and written PE communication. This is consistent with Holmes (2013), who posits that these acts maintain harmonious relationships and minimize confrontation due to embarrassment, particularly in collectivist contexts. In PE the indirect structures were not just the sign of a linguistic weakness but of a pragmatic strength to meet socio-cultural norms.

5.3 Pragmatic Behaviour and Sociolinguistic Effects

Sociolinguistic factors, namely sex, education, regional affiliation, and bilingualism, were at work in the shaping of the pragmatic choices of PE users. In terms of gender, women use significantly more politeness markers and hedges, a finding consistent with Holmes (1995) claim that women more frequently employ affiliate and rapport-maintaining communication styles. These patterns were, however, mediated by educational and social roles; high vocationally empowered women used a more balanced combination of assertiveness and politeness.

Education and social class were also important predictors of pragmatic variation. Speakers of higher- or English-dominant backgrounds were more consonant with British English norms and less inclined to engage in code-switching and local expressions. By way of contrast, respondents in rural or semi-urban areas showed high use of local idioms, formula manners (averdi, thanks), and Urdu-English code switching. This difference mirrors what Mughal and Zeb (2021) discovered that PE is not a single category but a continuum, which is somehow, linked to social access to English and exposure to global discourse communities.

Geographical identity became an important factor in determining discursive trends, especially in the deployment of regional languages like Punjabi and Sindhi. As pointed out by Rahman (2011), regional languages act as identity markers and instruments for in-group cohesion. The practical employment of these languages in PE not only enhanced communication but also mirrored this multilanguage nature of Pakistani society. The employment of region-complementary usages in e-communication provides added evidence for Crystal's (2011) reference to new media as speeding up the spread of local use of English globally.

5.4 Devotement of Pragmatic Norms in Digital Communication

Facebook, WhatsApp, email, etc. are giving rise to these emergent pragmatic norms in Pakistani English. The pervasive use of emojis, abbreviations, and hybrid codes in the #IsolateSignals warns of a shift in the encoding methods of politeness, solidarity, and humor. These properties are consistent with Taggs (2015) claim that digital communication represents a space for new pragmatic practices, particularly for younger speakers. Although conventional honorifics and indirect speech acts persist, they are increasingly joined by emoji-driven tone modulation, visual emphases, and phonological spellings (thora serious ho jao vry sry) marking an evolution in pragmatic repertoires.

These digital changes reveal the flexibility of Pakistani English to social media. As reflected in the review of literature, emerging norms are not violations of nativeness but contextually relevant advances that meet users, expressive conditions and have adherence to cultural expectations (Jenkins, 2015; Parvaiz & Mahmood, 2020). The practical orientation of PE,

especially in the digital environment, is better viewed, therefore, not as poor or secondary but as rich and responsive to changing discursive circumstances.

6. CONCLUSION

This research aimed to bring to light the pragmatic aspects of Pakistani English (PE) in terms of its discourse features, pragmatic functions, and sociolinguistic regulations. Findings reveal that PE cannot be treated as a deviation of British English but a linguistically and culturally different kind that emerged as a result of multilingualism and multi religionist in Pakistan. Repeated patterns of behaviour, like Local Discourse Marker use, frequent code-mix and culturally specific strategies of politeness, are evidence of a pragmatic system attuned to local practices. Such patterns confirm the status of PE as a linguistic system, which is localized and contextually operational, in English.

The communicative functions observed particularly with reference to politeness, indirectness and fact inspired the underlying sociocultural values related to politeness, respect, community cohesion and hierarchy of Pakistan discourse. Acts of speech such as requests, refusals, and apologies were often attenuated by hedging, honorifics, and culture-specific expressions. While pragmatic considerations may have played a role in such choices, these were not haphazard and were highly dependent on social linguistic factors including speaker sex, education, regional identity, and level of exposure to English. This highlights the need to interpret PE pragmatic variables as sociocultural, not as purely linguistic, cf. File-Muriel et al. (2006), as variation cannot thus be viewed as error but as adaptation to the particular discourse communities in which it occurs.

In sum, PE displays a vibrant and versatile set of pragmatic resources on the spoken, written, and digital domains. It is indicative of both continuity with colonial English practice and departure through its own outmoded innovation. This paper adds to the range of research in World Englishes by pointing to the encapsulation of pragmatic ability in PE in local cultural practices and its adoption of distant global communicative practices. Future research is invited to explore the pragmatics of PE in professional contexts, cross-generational communication and digital literacies to enhance our understanding of its acquisition and use.

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