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## TRANSLATION GAP: A VARIATIONIST PERSPECTIVE OF LINGUISTIC HYBRIDIZATION ACROSS PAKISTANI ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS

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### ABSTRACT

The socio cultural diversification squarely inculcated the tint of adaptations and innovations in the language of its users and has triggered the researchers to explore the lexico-semantic categories within the bounteous soil of Pakistani English. This research aims at unearthing and tracing the norm developing variety of English and the surged response of glocalization in the world Englishes specifically Pakistani English thus adding to development and evolution of English with its essence in non-native contexts. The study grails to partake the investigation and exploration of translation gap being prevalent and why the near translatable approximants are not used, instead of using hybridized language i.e. innovations and borrowings from Urdu (acculturation). Lexico-semantic variations and innovations in the Pakistani newspapers due to translation gap, in light of Stuart Halls' theory of representation are being put to inspection. The study was exclusively carried on different sections of The News, Dawn, Express Tribune and Pakistan Observer to acknowledge the sociolinguistic profile of Penglish in a plurilingual context. Findings of this research culminates the modifications in English by putting it in social and cultural fertile frame of context of Pakistan and the vocabulary used in Pakistani English newspapers imbuing diverse colors of local aroma in the multifaceted Pakistani context. This paper preserves lexical diversity, bringing empowerment to Pakistani English and documents the phenomena; and provides insights into the practices of lexical hybridization due to the lexical gap. This study widens and broadens the horizon for carrying out further works on phrasal and sentential level and by employing various strategies.

**Keywords:** Glocalization, Translation Gap, Lexical Innovations, Content Analysis.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Being the major articulator of social and cultural conceptualizations, language circumscribe psychometrics of its lived society, intertwined in attitude's modifications, individual, group and social interaction patterns comprising of the intrinsic, usage of language within the society. These intrinsically motivated exchanges of communication ascertain the lexico-semantic rules rooted within moves of culture, serving as markers and icons of social identity (Rahman, 2014). Due to expansion of English, World Englishes on the international horizon are spreading their wings. One quarter of globe's population is now a user of both written and spoken English and

the number is on hike. The English non-native speakers are more as compared to the native speakers and are recurrently mounting.

English is a highly hybrid and flexible language. Language contact being the drive to change. In the beginning it borrowed words freely from Latin and Celtic, then at a later stage from French and Scandinavian and more recently from other languages of British former allies and colonies. This makes it adaptive to expand quickly. Multifarious forms of spoken English in British are there and native speakers continue to restyle and reshape themselves in the coming times and emerging Englishes of Europe and rest of world will be at variance in the future (Brammerts, 2011). The Englishes have their own particular style and pattern and contain a lot of loan words being borrowed from local languages.

Rapid emergences of new Englishes have been witnessed in the postcolonial era in subcontinent and in Asia. On various levels efforts were put to prove that new varieties are establishing. Deterding (2005, 2007) carried out studies on Singaporean English vowels to prove that a new variety is in the making. The results of his work proved that standard Singaporean English – a style independent of external standard and some aspect of it being idiosyncratic i.e. can't be predicted by Standard British English is emerging.

Pinglish is one of the most widely used variety of world Englishes. It presents a complex phenomenon due to rise of polyglotism and linguistic diversity. Pakistan is one of fast spreading user of English and it is the official language of the country. Rehman (1990) categorized Pakistani English into further sub varieties under the umbrella term Pinglish. Variety A i.e. Anglicised English is much closer to SBE, Variety B being acrolect differing in morphology, semantics, syntax and is used by graduates of English medium schools. Variety C- mesolect belonging to middle strata of society and is more different to SBE and Variety D or the basilect used by minor officials. Pinglish is different at different lexical levels due to borrowings, cultural concepts and historical experience.

Nativization of English by the local users has added the tinge of cultural and social flavor to the variety of English in use leading to multicultural identities of English (Jenkins, 2003). Pakistani English i.e. Pinglish is a norm developing independent sub variety of South Asian languages. Pinglish is entrenched within local and the socio-cultural norms. It is seen in the English newspapers of the country. Glocalization is there in the eclectic style of newspapers. There are borrowings, innovations thus leading to a completely different Englishised Pakistani variety. Words are being used with a flavor of local language. The same is the norm of the day and is accepted everywhere. But this hybridization of English may be one cause of translation gap as the words used from a completely different language are used when the near approximants of that particular language i.e. translatable version is not used. Instead of it an amalgamation is made and an addition of romanised urdu is used in daily newspapers (Zaidi, 2013). To study the effects and causes of such diversions, the current study approximates to know the reasons and to highlight those particular usages in the English newspapers of Pakistan.

#### **STATEMENT OF PROBLEM:**

English is a globalized language and has a deep penetration in the diverse cultures of the world. It has affected their language and it also has got a change being affected by other languages. Culture specific vocabulary is used in newspapers. Urdu is hybridized and the indigenization of Penglish is there. Borrowings and innovations in the lexis of daily newspapers is analyzed and why there is translation gap i.e. why there is Urduization of English and why the near translatable approximants are not used is analyzed through this study. The glocalization of English in Pakistani context is also being investigated through this research.

#### **RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:**

The research encompasses following research objectives:

To highlight and point out the recent innovations and borrowing in Pakistani English newspapers.

To investigate the idiosyncratic differences in cultural specific vocabulary used in newspapers.

To study the cultural specific vocabulary usage in Pakistani English newspapers due to the translation gap.

#### **RESEARCH QUESTIONS:**

How the cultural impact is reflected by the vocabulary used in the newspapers of its locality?

Why non-native areas like Pakistan newspapers borrow words from local languages?

What type of morphological innovations are being made and used in Pakistani English newspapers?

#### **DELIMITATION:**

This study is delimited to The News, Dawn, Express Tribune and Pakistan Observer newspaper and only the recent decade's diversions of language used are being analysed. The lexical innovations, borrowings with the tinge of cultural specificity due to the lexical gap are under exploration of this work.

#### **SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY:**

The study partakes to update the present bank of knowledge of Penglish. The distinctive categories of lexico-semantic variations due to diverse cultural and contextual factor in the language of Pakistani English newspapers highlights the sociolinguistics profile of English non-native variety in a plurilingual context. Linguistic content in the newspaper is highlighted through this research. Acknowledging preferences while creating empowerment to Penglish is the main arena to be covered in this research. This research highlights the modifications in English. The findings of this research will be helpful for the morphologists and semanticists as they will get a chance to know the innovations and borrowings due to translation gap. They will get to know why the translated words are not used instead of which roman urduised words are used. Culture specific vocabulary will be put in the limelight and the findings of this research will be an extension of already existing knowledge.

## **2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

Paikedey's (1985) proclamation that the native speaker is dead and McArthur's (1993) declaration that there is a club of equals here, strengthened the inception that English

is no more the monopoly of native speakers rather cross cultural users of English became the sole owners and proprietors of English, retaining multi-dimensional functional milieus of English. Baumgardner (1993) presents the view that Penglish i.e. Pakistani English can be identified in accordance with certain linguistics features of lexical variations, grammar, word formation, borrowing etc. Rehman (2014) a celebrated Pakistani research scholar highlighted certain semantic and lexical categories and accentuated that the words can be hybridized, translated, borrowed or be even semantically changed.

Baumgardner (1993) referring to penglish asserts that it is a blend of lexical permeation with the yoking of functional nativization. So, to be able to read Pakistani English newspapers one must have the necessary understanding of not only Urdu language but also its culture. Socio cultural factors like local coinages, family bondings, ideological, political and social influences powerfully contribute to the Pakistani variety of English.

One of the prime factors leading to changes in languages is contact between two languages, due to the social and cultural expansion and amalgamation. It not only affects the social aspects of a language but also the linguistic aspect is affected like grammar, pronunciation, lexis and syntax. (Schendl, 2001).

English is a highly accommodative language. It has borrowed words from not only Urdu but also from other languages, the purpose being to fill the lexical gap, or to portray the cultural connotations. So, borrowed words either are modified to borrowing language or retain their native form (Corry, 2001).

Khan (2013) stated that in the domain of lexical borrowing, two things have been observed. Borrowing is more common for a number of nouns as compared to verbs and borrowing of cultural terms presents new concepts. So borrowed words convey ideas and concepts being distinctive of the culture of that particular language.

Particular use of lexical terms in Pakistani print media was investigated by Kennedy (1993). By categorizing few words in four lists, he highlighted that newspapers in Pakistan use emotional and sensational words. The words endorse new meanings, particular to the Pakistani contextual use only. New compound words coined; loan words have also been fitted into Penglish some of which have no equivalents in British or American English. The use of such phrases and lexis is cultural specific in Pakistani crime reporting. He also put word that there are slangs used in dailies of English news reporting Medias. Lexical borrowings from urdu are now a trend and a permanent feature and entwined with the local background cultures.

The emerging innovations of semantic and lexical usages of Nigerian English results in new hybrids with a marked emphasis on language of socio cultural, family discourse, media and political discourse (Aremu, 2016). Questionnaires were administered to three hundred respondents from tertiary Nigerian institutes and the results showed dominant power of press and media, cultural and lexical transfer, coinages, borrowings results in the new creative semantic and lexical Nigerian English practices.

The current study is incredibly marked as it is investigation of Urduization of Pakistani English from the perspective of translation gap as glocalization is there in Penglish.

Utilization of certain Urdu phrases and words in the pragmatic and discourse relations, woven within the thought as well as cultural operations being assessed are due to either domestication or borrowing or innovation processes. Why pure approximants of English are not used in Pakistani English newspapers is the main dichotomy that this research is undertaking to investigate.

### **3. METHODOLOGY**

This research is qualitative in nature as it is the exploration of not only what but also why and how things got to be the way they are now. It is holistic, inductive and process oriented method for analyzing the data. The research method used for this study is content analysis at the level of words for determining the words and concepts within text. Preparation, organization and reporting are the three phases of inductive content analysis. Selection of a unit of analysis be it a word or a theme, is basically making and obtaining sense out of it to analyze the data. Coding, categorizing and abstractions of the organized data come next. Stuart Hall concept of representation and the three approaches i.e. reflective, intentional and constructionist have been utilized as conceptual framework of this study. Real meaning of concepts is reflected through the use of vocabulary. Intentionally the cultural specific vocabulary is put to light in the newspapers and the cultural specific vocabulary has been constructed by the readers are the hallmarks of his theory being put to investigation of this study.

### **4. DATA ANALYSIS**

Inductive approach of qualitative content analysis was applied for conducting this research. The data of the present study was collected from the articles in the Dawn, Nation, Express Tribune and Pakistan Observer newspaper on account the most potential readership and the effective utilization of text being extracted from real life in these newspapers. The data has been collected from 2014 till 2024. The articles and selected sections consisting of national news, top stories, sports' news, editorials and opinions, are contemplated for the analysis of this study owing to the diversifying range of linguistic items and occurrence of internal modifications for the examination were selected randomly. At the level of words, content analysis is done and the ideas associated with them are examined with the reflected intentional and constructivist approaches.

The researcher started data analysis by defining the unit of analysis. Then categorizing and subcategorizing the words and formation of word lists for analysis. After reading the codification of data was done within categories of similar correspondences. The researcher first carried out the inspection on meaning of the units i.e. the words which reflect the culture of Pakistan. These words were categorized and then interpreted.

The researcher made different categories regarding culture specific vocabulary which includes religion, food, clothing, festivals, music, politics, sports, entertainment and society. The researcher analyzed these categories in the light of cultural connotations. The researcher first picked out the words related to religion and hypothesize that due to cultural differences these words are taken as they were which represents the translation gap. Such as if we take into account the religious category we have words which have near equivalents but they did not convey the same connotation and if we

want to convey those exact connotations we do not have the translations. A lot of words have been found regarding religion such as Halal the English equivalent is slaughter but a Muslim can easily understand the connotation attached with halal. Similarly, we do not have any equivalent for the concepts of zakat, we even do not have any near translation which also reflects the cultural difference. Some of the words to be mentioned are; Sufi, Haji, Niqab, Alim, Fatwa, shariat, Madrassas, Mufti, Khilafat, Iddat, Nikkah, khatm-e-nabuwat etc.

This shows that religious vocabulary is specific to culture. This religious specific vocabulary is practiced in all the newspapers which were examined in this research. We might say group and Jamaat are same but they both did not convey the same concept. We have Friday but Jumma is altogether a different belief. The words aalim and mufti have near equivalents as priest and scholar but they did not evoke particular religious sentiments.

The next category which the researcher describes is of clothing and inductive content analysis is applied in order to collect words from newspapers like Dupatta, Sherwani, Kameez, hijab, sherwani etc. Although clothing is not particular to a specific culture but we do not translate our concepts and meanings of particular clothing items with Britishers and this leads to the use of different lexical items. The natives mostly do not use a piece of cloth to cover their head but it is obligatory in Islam as they do not have this concept so they do not have any translation.

The researcher then analyses food items which have different labels because of translation gap. Inductive content analysis helped in pinpointing words like Naan, Lassi, Biryani, Kulfi etc. The words which the researcher observed in the newspapers are mostly cultural specific and we do not have any equivalents because we do not have these items in western culture and due to translation gap we adapt these words as they were present in our culture.

The words regarding music were also analyzed by the researcher and the results revealed that there are some instruments and some music forms which are not prevalent in western countries such as attan, jhoomar, tappa, qawwali, dhol and tabla. The next category comprises of words regarding festivals and festivals are the mirrors of their enlived society and mirrors back the culture. We do not have equivalents in English language like Lok mela, Huner mela, Eid ul fitar, Eid ul azha, Ashura, chehlum etc. So these festivals are not celebrated in western culture and they do not know our specific vocabulary and ideas regarding these festivals and due to the gap in our cultures, ideologies and thoughts it leads to the gap in our vocabulary too.

Vocabulary regarding politics is also discussed in this study. Inductive analysis reveals numerous lexical items regarding politics such as Nazim, Baboos, Jalsa, Dharna, Panchayat, Ehtesaab, lota, patwari etc. This lexis is only used in Pakistani culture and the gap is there because of the difference of connotations attached to these words.

There are also some sports which are culture specific. We do have some sports which are common for all but some of them are particular to a specific region. The researcher found some of the instances present in newspapers such as Kabbadi etc.

There are also some morphological innovations being found through the study under consideration like we have labels for sports in English language but there are some labels which are cultural specific such as Gymkhana. Also we have some sports cultural specific vocabulary, which cannot be translated in English language. One of such instances found in this study is Fakhar-e-Pakistan.

The researcher found some vocabulary items which are not translated in English because of the concepts attached to them. The researcher identified those words as Milk mafia, Drug mafia Qabza mafia, Daku raj etc. These words are bound with certain view points which expresses what we exactly meant by these terms and are morphological innovations.

Most of the words which the researcher highlighted from newspaper are being permeable in society such as Bazaar, Baboos, Izat, Khidmat, Saeen, Rangila, Tuk tuk, Sartaj, Takht, Mohalla, Ustad etc. These words have no real or near approximants present, so they are used as it is in Penglish.

Certain words are borrowed or adapted because the objects and lexicons do not exist in the foreign language like English. The concept is new or at least not common to everyone, so to convey those concepts newspaper takes help from local languages. Morphological innovations are also practiced and mostly by borrowing a word from one language and applying grammatical rules of other language for instance Naans, Hakeems etc. In these words, by adding suffix to the lexical items of local language new words have been formed. The researcher also found other innovations which are the examples of coinage but taking half word from local language and half from foreign language such as lotacracy, superdan etc. Sometimes the lexical item is taken as it was in one of the language but with different connotation with the difference in semantics and by suffixation morphological innovations are made like Containerism, Gullu butt etc.

From the data collected through newspapers, specifies the fact that due to translation and the lexical gap, borrowing and innovations are practiced leading to the linguistic hybridization. Accomodation and adaptability of words reflects the fact that Penglish is a living language as it is open to change and modification. Translation gap also verifies the idiosyncratic cultural differences.

## **5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Language change is now being the trend of the day involving many factors that trigger it. When languages get in touch they are tinted with the color of the culture. When in a non native context particular language is used, it becomes the inherent part of it. English used in Pakistani context is one such variety having several localized words being the part of its culture. Language change is basically a time taking phenomena, Different words are added and they become the part of that particular language.

Through data analysis, it has been proved that culture specific vocabulary is used in Pakistani context showing that impact of culture is there on language used. The culture of Pakistan is reflected through the vocabulary usage in print media to ease and help potential readers to get to know about the culture more effectively.

It has also been proved that Urdu and from other indigenous languages words are borrowed to convey meanings of cultural specific context. To fill the lexical gap certain words are borrowed and the connotations associated with the culture are portrayed by using it. The vocabulary used is highly vocal to the users and represents the Pakistani culture.

Language being a social phenomenon changes with society and in accordance with its needs. Cultural borrowing of lexical items is there. Morphological innovations are being made by adding suffixes to the core word, few being made by the combination of Urdu and English words. Idiosyncratic differences are observed.

Therefore it is presented that language is mirrored by its society and culture. So, the writers borrow, mold and make innovations to exterminate the social obstacles prevalent if in non-native areas, native language is used

### **Recommendations:**

For future researches, analysis at the phrasal or sentential level can be done.

Language of articles, stories, editorials can be analysed.

Morphemic, syntactic, semantic borrowings can be investigated in the future.

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