

Diachronic Variations in Pakistani English Newspaper Editorials: A Case Study

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Abstract

This study aimed at developing a specialized corpus of Pakistani English newspaper editorials and analyzing how the language of editorials varies through different socio-political phases. For this purpose, a specialized corpus of editorials of Pakistani English newspapers was developed and analyzed with reference to the five dimensions introduced by Biber (1988). The objectives of the present study were to analyze linguistic variation among the periodized data of press editorials in Pakistani print media and their sub-categories across Biber's 1988 textual dimensions. In order to meet the objectives, Biber's multi-dimensional (MD) analysis, which is a methodological approach that applies multivariate statistical techniques to the investigation of register variation in a language, was applied on the representative corpus, *Corpus of Pakistani English Newspaper Editorial* (CorPENE). Three factor ANOVA was applied on CorPENE to measure the significant differences among the phases as well as sub-categories of editorials. The linguistic variation among the phases indicated the fact that over the years, the language of Pakistani press editorials has grown less informational, non-narrative, explicit, overt in argumentation and impersonal in nature. The linguistic variations among sub-categories show that Editorial (ED) category has become less informational, more non-narrative, less explicit, overt in argumentation and more abstract with the passage of time. Further, Letter to Editor (LE) category has grown more informational, less non-narrative, less explicit, overt in argumentation and less abstract. As far as Op-ed (OP) category is concerned, it has become less informational, more non-narrative, more explicit, non-argumentative and more abstract over the years across Biber's five textual dimensions.

Keywords: *Pakistani English, Multidimensional Analysis, register variation, press editorial*

Introduction

An increasing interest in the study of newspapers has been observed in the recent years in terms of synchronic and diachronic studies of variation in language, mapping the changes within particular variety of language over the years and comparing one variety with the other regarding the changes occurred in a specific variety (for example by Atkinson, 1992; Biber & Finegan, 1988, 1989, 1992; Geisler, 2003, etc). Newspapers are widely read material as Westin observes that there is no other printed material that has such public reading as newspapers, and the language used in the newspapers largely reflects the language used in the society (2001). The newspaper language provides a tool to map the changes in the particular language as employed by a society and, therefore, hints upon the changing social patterns.

The language of print media has been the focus of research for a long time. Some studied newspaper language from discourse perspective (Fairclough, 1992, Murdock & Golding, 1978; van Dijk, 2013, etc.) while others (Halliday, 2009; Kress, 1983, etc.) used systemic-functional method to study it. Some researchers studied print media language from gender perspective as well (e.g., Fowler, 1991; Theberge, 1991; etc). Newspaper editorials have also gathered the attention of the researchers like van Dijk (1992), Bolivar (2016), etc., who studied the structure of the editorials. The studies of such variation in different varieties of languages were initially conducted, but the emergence of digital corpus has given a new impetus to such studies as a large number of data could easily be gathered, codified and interpreted through it. The corpus based analysis also provides greater validity to the conclusions drawn from the enormous data.

The study of diachronic variations in languages around the world has been a well-established research area. Languages, for instance, Spanish and Portuguese have been the most extensively studied with an availability of large corpora ranging from 45 million words to one hundred million words. Further, in order to study the diachronic variations in English language and its comparison with diachronic corpora of other languages, the building of English diachronic corpora has received considerable attention during the recent years. Further, numerous studies have been carried out to analyze the difference between registers diachronically, like Burt and Bauer (1996) studied the grammatical changes of newspapers editorials over time. Westin and Geisler (2002) studied the diachronic change in 20th-century newspaper editorials. Westin's (2001) study on British newspapers suggests that through the 20th century, the language of British newspaper editorials became more informal but at the same time more integrated and lexically more specific and diverse. Saily (2014) also studied sociolinguistic variation from Early Modern English to Present-day English. Laine and Watson (2014) conducted a diachronic study, covering five decades from 1965-2005, to investigate linguistic sexism in the language of *The Time*. Hyland and Jiang (2016) also conducted a diachronic study exploring the changes in engagement features in academic texts over past 50 years.

As compared to foreign researches, the language of Pakistani English print media has not been explored so much. Whereas some researchers focused on content analysis framework while studying the language of Pakistani print media (e.g., Sadaf, 2011), others studied it from variationists' perspective, like Uzair, et al., 2012; Shakir, 2013; Ahmad, 2015; Alvi, 2017 etc. Anwar and Talaat (2011) studied the individual linguistic characteristics of Pakistani English newspapers. Mansoor (2013) studied the language of Pakistani print media from gender perspective. Muhabat et al. (2015) compared the language of Pakistani print media with that of British print media with a focus on hyphenated lexemes.

Although, there are a few diachronic studies conducted in Pakistan, their focus was not Pakistani English. Latif and Chaudhry (2016), for example, studied diachronic linguistic variation in press reportage of British

newspapers with the special focus on sports category. There is another diachronic study on the impact of English language on Urdu in terms of borrowing English lexical items and structures (Mahmood, 2009).

Pakistani English is considered to be a distinct variety of English. There are certain attempts to identify the features which can distinguish Pakistani English from other varieties of English. However, most of the corpus based studies locate a particular point in time to study language. Thus, in an attempt to establish it as a separate variety of English, most of the research on Pakistani English focuses on its comparison with either British or/and American English instead of studying how it changes with the passage of time. While language is a changing phenomenon, there is need to trace the variations which occur during periods of time. Further, in order to compare the development of Pakistani English through history with the diachronic corpora of other Englishes/languages, there is need of Pakistani diachronic corpus which is presently missing. Thus there is need to build a diachronic corpus and conduct a diachronic study. Also, where there is hardly any diachronic study conducted on English language used in Pakistan, even most of the synchronic studies attempt to establish it as an independent variety on the basis of individual linguistic characteristics leaving the functional interpretation of linguistic differences aside which is a marked feature of register-based studies. Thus such studies and their claims are partial as they rely merely on occurrences of individual instances of peculiar words, phrases and structures. Therefore, the present study uses Biber's multidimensional approach and aims at exploring the linguistic variation in editorials of Pakistani print media in tri-periodized data.

In this backdrop, the language of Pakistani English newspapers has been selected to study various linguistic changes over a given period of time and the evolutionary stages of the selected variety of language. For this purpose, a specialized corpus of the editorials of Pakistani newspapers in English was developed.

As far as the selection of time periods is concerned, instead of merely dividing 69 years by all decades, we selected particular time period before/after major sociopolitical events. In order to map the diachronic changes in the language of Pakistani English newspaper editorials, three prominent periods in the history of Pakistan were selected: post-Independence, post-1971, and Pre and Post Zarb-e-Azb. Each of the three periods consists of five years, i.e., the first five years of Pakistan's making, the first five years after Pakistan lost its Eastern Wing, and the five years after Pakistan witnessed a major shift in its major policies before and after Zarb-e-Azb. The three selected periods in the history of Pakistan are the watershed moments that have been marked with trends reflected on the sociopolitical landscape of the selected phases.

The post-independence phase is marked by the important developments occurred after the creation of Pakistan when the sociopolitical landscape was at the formation stage. The second stage – post 1971– started

when the country's major part – East Pakistan – got separated from Pakistan. The third phase, pre and post Zarb-e-Azb, is also significant as it reflects the impact of terrorism and counterterrorism campaign on the socio-political landscape of the country.

Objectives

The objectives of the study are:

1. To carry out a corpus-based multidimensional analysis of editorials of Pakistani English newspapers across Biber's 1988 textual dimensions to describe how the language of editorials varies through different phases
2. To draw an internal comparison between the subcategories of editorials.

Methodology and Theoretical Framework

In order to map the language variation through the three mentioned phases, a specialized corpus of Pakistani English newspaper editorial (CorPENE) was developed and analyzed with reference to the five dimensions introduced by Biber (1988). The data was tagged for different linguistic features based in Biber's factor solution. Theoretical framework used for the study was developed by Biber (1988) introducing five textual dimensions: involved versus informational production, narrative versus non-narrative concerns, explicit versus situation-dependent reference, overt expression of persuasion, and abstract versus non-abstract information (see appendix I). These dimensions include 67 linguistic features. Each dimension has both positive and negative linguistic features occurring in complimentary distribution, i.e., the increase in positive features' frequency means the decrease in negative frequency and vice versa. Multidimensional approach is a distinctive approach as it is not only appropriate in dealing with large computer based text corpus; it also adds multivariate statistical techniques to study the linguistic features across text varieties. The idea of co-occurrence of set of markers, which is central in multidimensional analysis, is quite essential as merely focusing on specific or isolated linguistic features can be misleading (Brown & Fraser, 1979). Further, it combines quantitative and functional approaches as it interprets statistical analyses in functional terms in order to determine the underlying shared communicative functions. It is also a combination of micro and macro approaches. The microscopic investigation of overall distribution of many linguistic features across many texts is accompanied by microscopic analyses of particular features in text(s) (Douglas, 1992).

Results of Multidimensional Analysis

Variation among phases and sub-categories of press editorials on Dimension 1(D₁)

Table 1, given below, highlights the fact that there exist statistically significant differences among the three phases in the periodized data on D₁. The lower bound (3.915) and upper bound (-1.835) reflect the extent of variation and all the phases exhibit the high level of significance below (.05) which categorically indicates the high level of significant linguistic

differences among the three phases of Pakistani press editorials on D₁. The interaction in phase 3 and the other two phases has been found non-significant as the alpha value has been found non-significant (.98). It seems quite obvious from the mean scores that phase 1 appears to have been found highly informational in nature which seems to be the norm of press editorials in Pakistani print media. The analysis of the mean scores reveals the fact that phase 1 with mean score (-17.65) appears to be highly significant as gradual change has been found in the next two phases with mean scores of (-14.78) and (-13.9) respectively.

Table 1: Comparison of phases

(I) Phase	(J) Phase	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig. ^b	95% Confidence Interval for Difference ^a	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1.00	2.00	-2.875 [*]	.530	.000	-3.915	-1.835
	3.00	-3.752 [*]	.530	.000	-4.792	-2.712
2.00	1.00	2.875 [*]	.530	.000	1.835	3.915
	3.00	-.877	.530	.098	-1.916	.163
3.00	1.00	3.752 [*]	.530	.000	2.712	4.792
	2.00	.877	.530	.098	-.163	1.916

As far as the variation among the sub-categories is concerned on D₁, it has become quite clear from ANOVA (Analysis of Variance) results that there lie statistically significant linguistic differences among the sub-categories and among the phases. Editorial (ED) category has been found highly significant as compared to Letter-to-the-Editor (LE) category but there lie no statistical linguistic differences between ED and Op-ed' (OP) category as P-value has been found (.442). Similarly, in the interaction of LE with other two categories, the difference can be seen. LE category exhibits significant linguistic differences with other categories, ED and OP, and p-value has been found highly significant i.e., below zero. In the third interaction, no significant difference has been found between ED and OP categories as p-value has been found greater than (.05). Among all categories on this dimension, OP category has been found producing highest informational discourse in comparison with all other categories which accounts for the needs of column writing for enhancing the readership of press editorials in Pakistani print media. On the contrary, LE category with mean score of (-16.468) has been found producing least informational discourse which highlights a particular trend in Pakistani press editorials.

The page opposite to editorial page is called op-ed (short for opposite to editorial page) which contains the opinion of a named writer or subject matter expert which is not the member of editorial board or affiliated with the newspaper. They are also referred to as opinion editorials. Though, many newspapers include these writers' opinion on editorial page, they are still referred to as op-ed.

Table 2: Pairwise comparison of categories

(I) Category	(J) Category	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig. ^b	95% Confidence Interval for Difference ^b	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
ED	LE	-2.250*	.530	.000	-3.290	-1.210
	OP	.408	.530	.442	-.632	1.448
LE	ED	2.250*	.530	.000	1.210	3.290
	OP	2.658*	.530	.000	1.618	3.698
OP	ED	-.408	.530	.442	-1.448	.632
	LE	-2.658*	.530	.000	-3.698	-1.618

So the comparison of three phases reveals the fact that the language of phase 1 is highly informational in nature and a gradual decline is noticeable, as shown in fig. 1, in the informational discourse production of press editorials in Pakistani print media.

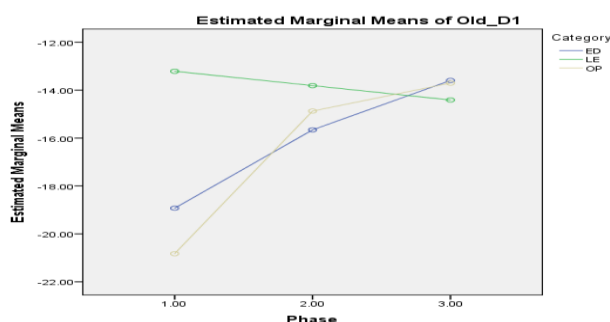


Fig.1 Comparison of phases and categories on old D1

This decline towards least informational highlights the certain deviant trend of Pakistani print media on this dimension.

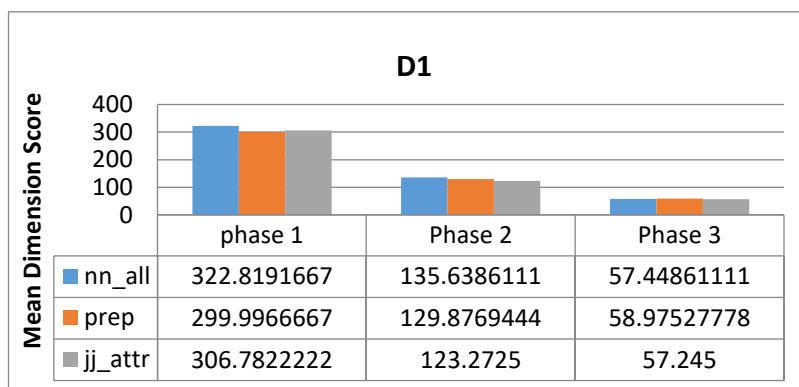


Fig.2 Comparison of informational linguistic features among phases on D1

Fig.2, given above, clearly indicates the fact that phase 1 has highest mean score among the three phases. It becomes clear that phase 1 has high

ratio of nouns, attributive adjectives and prepositions in comparison with other two phases of press editorials in Pakistani print media. With the highest ratio of these linguistic features, language of press editorials in Pakistani print media, appears to show high level of informational discourse production which accounts for certain trends in the language of press editorials in Pakistani print media.

The following bold words in the example from the phase 1 of press editorials show a dense presence of informational linguistic features in Pakistani print media. In the following example, the nouns like *paper*, *apology*, *regret*, *letter*, *Devdas Gandhi*, *libel*, *public* and *judgment* mark information density in this text, as nouns, prepositions and attributive adjectives are the key source of information in any text. Similarly, the presence of informational linguistic features marks the absence of involved linguistic features in the language of Pakistani print editorials. Adjectives like *unconditional*, *deep*, *managing editor* and *journalistic* enhance the gravity of informational discourse in the example given below.

Example 1: The **paper** published an **unconditional apology** and **expressed deep regret on** its **conduct**. In a **letter** to **Mr. Devadas Gandhi**, **Managing Editor of the "Hindustan Times," Mr. Shahi**, accepting **apology**, says: "Since you have at last withdrawn the **gross and malicious** libel against me and have published an **unconditional apology**, expressing **deep regret on** your **misconduct**, and since you have also explained why you could not apologize **to** me personally, I have decided **to** accept your **apology**," I leave it to the **public** to **pass judgment upon** the **journalistic standards** and **ethics** followed by your **newspaper**.

Variation among phases and sub-categories of press editorials on Dimension 2 (D2)

Table 3 given below discusses the interaction among three phases on D2 and it becomes quite clear that no significant statistical linguistic difference was found between the three phases on D2 as P-value is greater than (.05) value. All phases have been found narrative in nature, therefore, no significant difference in terms of p-value has been found among them.

Table 3: Interaction among three phases on D2

(I) Phasepost	(J) Phase	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig. ^b	95% Confidence Interval for Difference ^a	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1.00	2.00	.010	.170	.952	-.323	.344
	3.00	.349*	.170	.040	.016	.683
2.00	1.00	-.010	.170	.952	-.344	.323
	3.00	.339*	.170	.046	.006	.672
3.00	1.00	-.349*	.170	.040	-.683	-.016
	2.00	-.339*	.170	.046	-.672	-.006

Table 4 given below compares the categories of Pakistani press editorials on D2 and again LE category has been found quite distinct in comparison with other two categories, ED and OP in Pakistani press

editorials and this pattern is quite similar in D₁ as only LE category has been found significant statistically.

Table 4: Comparison of categories

(I) Category	(J) Category	Mean			95% Confidence Interval for Difference ^a	
		Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig. ^b	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
ED	LE	.694 [*]	.170	.000	.361	1.028
	OP	.020	.170	.908	-.314	.353
LE	ED	-.694 [*]	.170	.000	-1.028	-.361
	OP	-.674 [*]	.170	.000	-1.008	-.341
OP	ED	-.020	.170	.908	-.353	.314
	LE	.674 [*]	.170	.000	.341	1.008

It seems quite interesting to find that the language of Pakistani press editorials in all phases has been found non-narrative in nature. Fig. 2 given above compares the mean scores of the three phases and sub-categories on D₂. The comparison of values makes it clear that language of phase 3, with mean score (-1.462), has been found producing highest non-narrative discourse in Pakistani print media. In comparison with other phases, the language of phase 1, with mean score (-1.113), and phase 2, with mean value (-1.123), produce comparatively low non-narrative nature over the years.

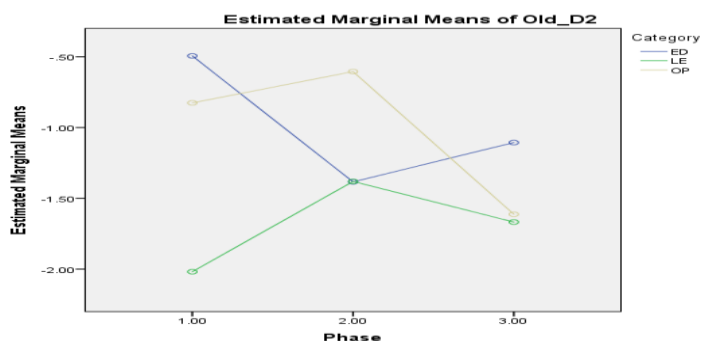


Fig.3 Comparison of phases and categories on old D₂

The trend of non-narrative discourse production in the Pakistani press editorials has increased over the years. During the period of time, the mean score increased which indicates certain trend in the language of Pakistani press editorials. The following example, from phase 3, highlights the low presence of past tense and perfect aspect verbs, indicating high rate of non-narrative discourse production in Pakistani print media. In the following example, very few past tense verbs have been found which create very low density of narrative discourse in Pakistani press editorials. Verbs like *happened*, *failed*, *have faded*, *could not*, *have played countless rigorous attempts* are examples of narrative in the language of Pakistani press editorials.

Example 2: It so **happened** that I **failed** to pass the test as both my thumb impressions **have faded** to the extent that the biometric machine could not

match my impressions with the record in Nadra despite **countless rigorous attempts**. It seems Providence knows that older people **have played** their roles, and their exit does not require the rigmarole of identification.

It is also interesting to find the differences among the subcategories of press editorials through their mean values. LE category with mean score (-1.689) marks the highest non-narrative discourse production as compared to other sub-categories of OP (-1.014) and ED (-.995). Among all the categories, the lowest score produced by ED category indicates a tendency towards narrative discourse production.

Variation among phases and sub-categories of press editorials on Dimension 3 (D₃)

Table 5 given below compares the three phases in Pakistani press editorials on D₃ and all dimensions have been found highly significant as there lie statistically significant differences among the three phases of periodized data. The upper and lower bound scores of phases on this dimension indicate the extent of high variation among the phases and it unfolds a certain consistent trend in language of Pakistani press editorials over the years. The language of first phase has been found explicit in nature which relates to the consistent pattern of Pakistani print media. In second phase, the explicit trend moved towards the situation-dependent discourse.

Table 5: Comparison between phases

(I) Phase	(J) Phase	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig. ^b	95% Confidence Interval for Difference ^b	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1.00	2.00	1.149 [*]	.337	.001	.488	1.810
	3.00	.727 [*]	.337	.031	.066	1.389
2.00	1.00	-1.149 [*]	.337	.001	-1.810	-.488
	3.00	-.422	.337	.211	-1.083	.239
3.00	1.00	-.727 [*]	.337	.031	-1.389	-.066
	2.00	.422	.337	.211	-.239	1.083

Table 6 given below presents ANOVA results of the categories of Pakistani press editorials. It becomes clear from the results that the interaction between LE and OP categories has been found statistically significant, unfolding a certain trend in Pakistani press editorials over the years. The mean values of LE and ED categories are situation dependent in two phases.

Table 6: Comparison between categories

(I) Category	(J) Category	Mean			95% Confidence Interval for Difference ^b	
		Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig. ^b	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
ED	LE	-.296	.337	.379	-.958	.365
	OP	.692*	.337	.040	.031	1.353
LE	ED	.296	.337	.379	-.365	.958
	OP	.988*	.337	.003	.327	1.649
OP	ED	-.692*	.337	.040	-1.353	-.031
	LE	-.988*	.337	.003	-1.649	-.327

Fig.4 discusses the variation among the three phases of Pakistani press editorials on old D₃. The language of phase 1, with mean score (6.67), stands distinct among all three phases. It has been found producing highest explicit discourse, showing certain trend of Pakistani press editorials diachronically. Phase 2, with mean score of (2.537), stands lowest in its explicit discourse production. The language of Pakistani press editorials shows rising trend again in phase 3 (5.94).The trend of explicit discourse production in the second phase indicates a trend going towards situation-dependent discourse due to uncertain political condition in Pakistan in second phase which is certainly exhibited by language of Pakistani press editorials.

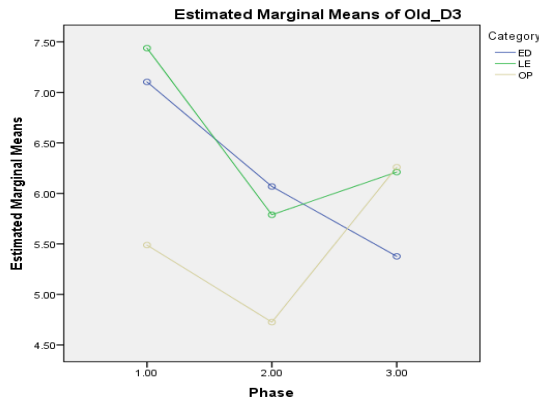


Fig.4 Comparison of phases and categories on old D₃

Fig.5 below compares explicit linguistic features among the three phases of Pakistani press editorials on D₃. It is quite distinct that in phase 1, linguistic features, noun-nominalization with mean score (77.08), adv. of place (4.77) and adv. of time (6.28), show the highest explicit discourse production.

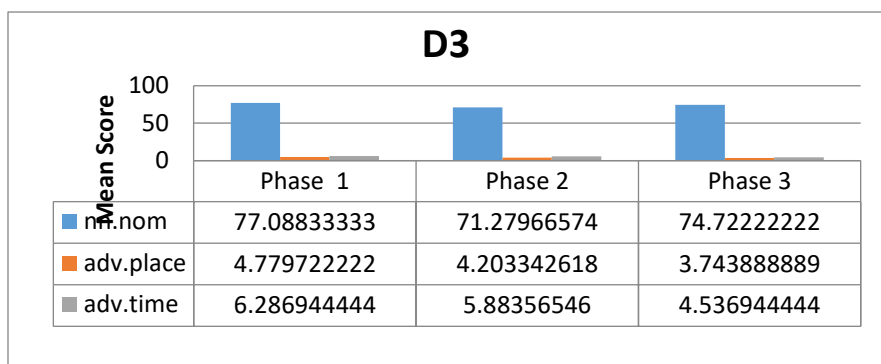


Fig.5 Comparison of explicit linguistic features among phases on D3

This high explicit discourse production in phase 1 seems to indicate certain pattern of Pakistani print media taking into account the demands of the readership and the low literacy rate of Pakistani readership. The trend of explicitness goes down in second phase where explicit linguistic features indicate low frequencies, unfolding a certain pattern of Pakistani press editorials keeping in view the destabilizing political milieu in Pakistan. But the frequencies of explicit linguistic features are on the rise again in the phase 3 which conform to the norm of Pakistani print media which flags explicit and informational discourse production. Overall, in all phases, the language of Pakistani press editorials shows explicit trend, indicating a certain trend in Pakistani print media. The following example from phase 2 indicates low presence of explicitness and thus, more tendency towards situation dependent discourse production can be seen. Adverbial phrases and clauses like *a unique relationship, by-measure and likewise and kindness for His faithful servants, from the fountainhead of love God has for His obedient creatures, to what extent God love a bonfire* and *in my blanket* give certain context-based reporting, providing concreteness to the language of Pakistani press editorials.

Example 3: Islam establishes **a unique relationship of love** between God and love. A true Muslim is expected to love God **by-measure and likewise and kindness for His faithful servants**. He is Beneficent and Merciful is the e-giving springs of Divine mercy flow **from the fountainhead of love God has for His obedient creatures. To what extent God love a bonfire** believe has been described by the Holy Prophet Peace be upon him himself **in a very touching manner**. Hazrat Amir Rami reports **that once a man covering himself with a blanket presented himself before the Prophet. The new-comer** was holding something in his hand He said: "O Prophet of Allah I happened to **pass by a grove**. There the chirping of some fledglings I caught and hid them **in my blanket. Meanwhile**, the mother of the young birds came ahead.

Variation among phases and sub-categories of press editorials on Dimension 4(D4)

Table 7 given below discusses the statistically significant linguistic differences among the three phases of Pakistani press editorials on D4. The

results indicate that phase 2 is highly significant as it has shown p-value less than (.05) in comparison with the other two phases: phase 1 and phase 3. Almost all phases with positive values indication covert production of argumentation in Pakistani press editorials except the language of phase 3 which has shown certain overt trend of argumentation in Pakistani print media.

Table 7: Comparison of phases

(I) Phase	(J) Phase	Mean			95% Confidence Interval for Difference ^b	
		Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig. ^b	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1.00	2.00	-.507	.283	.074	-1.063	.049
	3.00	.129	.283	.649	-.427	.685
2.00	1.00	.507	.283	.074	-.049	1.063
	3.00	.636*	.283	.025	.080	1.192
3.00	1.00	-.129	.283	.649	-.685	.427
	2.00	-.636*	.283	.025	-1.192	-.080

Table 8 given below presents ANOVA results of the sub-categories of Pakistani press editorials. OP and LE categories show significant variation in their interaction with other category as P-value is equal to zero. It shows high significance of this category on D4. The ratio of upper bounds and lower bounds has also exhibited prominent linguistic variation among the categories.

Table 8: Comparison between categories

(I) Category	(J) Category	Mean			95% Confidence Interval for Difference ^b	
		Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig. ^b	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
ED	LE	-.225	.283	.427	-.781	.331
	OP	1.086*	.283	.000	.530	1.642
LE	ED	.225	.283	.427	-.331	.781
	OP	1.311*	.283	.000	.755	1.867
OP	ED	-1.086*	.283	.000	-1.642	-.530
	LE	-1.311*	.283	.000	-1.867	-.755

Phase 2 with mean value of (.269) has been found most overt in argumentation/persuasion which unfolds a deviant trend in the language of second phase of Pakistani press editorials. The argumentative discourse production in phase 2 can be seen in the background of destabilizing political situation in Pakistan. Fig. 6 given below compares the three phases and sub-categories of Pakistani press editorials on D4.

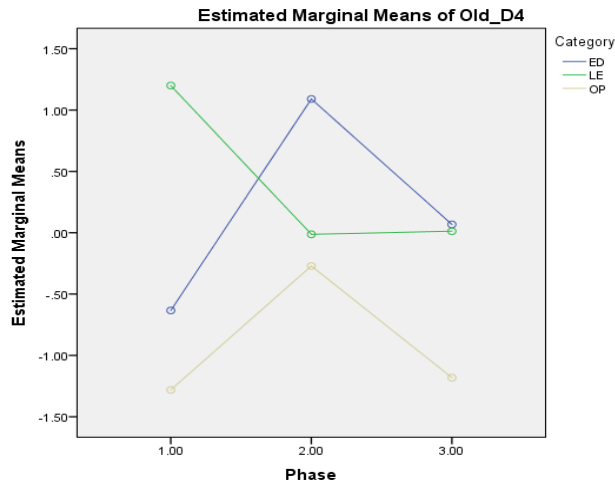


Fig.6 Comparison of phases and categories on old D4

Among the sub-categories, it is observed that only OP category with value of (-.911) has been found producing high degree of covert expression of persuasion/argumentation which also seems quite plausible, taking into account the informational nature of Pakistani press editorials. On the contrary, ED (.175) and LE (.400) show overt expression of persuasion/argumentation discourse which seems to be a deviant trend in Pakistani press editorials. LE category stands the most distinct for overt argumentation discourse which also seems quite rational because LE category exhibits more informal discourse in Pakistani culture where letters are usually written in informal context. The following example with bold words from LE category speaks volume about persuasive/ argumentative discourse production. Letter to the editor in Pakistani press editorials is written to address the problems and issues and in order to highlight them; the language needs to be argumentative and convincing. In the following example, infinitives like *to let the people, to which the service reforms, to make the grade, concentrate to enable him in service* clearly represent an initiating stance in Pakistani press editorials, making it more argumentative in nature:

Example 4: Your editorial of Dec 23 **concludes** with request to the Government **to let the people** have an idea of the extent **to which the administrative reforms brought** into force 16 months ago- aimed at improving the outlook and performance among the higher officers of the administration - have been justified by the results they have so far produced. **If there is a lacuna** in the conditions of service, or in their **implementations**, the most efficient employee will lose interest in his job: on the other hand in a favourable climate, even a plodder might be able **to make the grade**. In conclusion, it may be pointed out that a person who enters public service stakes his whole future on a permanent and regulated

career. To enable him to concentrate on the job to hand, he constantly needs a feeling of security.

Variation among phases and sub-categories of press editorials on Dimension 5 (D5)

Table 9 given below compares three phases of Pakistani press editorials on D5 and explains the statistically significant linguistic differences. It becomes clear from the table that no statistically significant linguistic difference has been found among the three phases. Similarly, low extent of variation has been found between lower and upper bounds of the three phases.

Table 9: Comparison of categories

(I) Phase	(J) Phase	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig. ^a	95% Confidence Interval for Difference ^a	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1.00	2.00	.233	.280	.407	-.318	.783
	3.00	.346	.280	.217	-.204	.896
2.00	1.00	-.233	.280	.407	-.783	.318
	3.00	.113	.280	.686	-.437	.664
3.00	1.00	-.346	.280	.217	-.896	.204
	2.00	-.113	.280	.686	-.664	.437

Table 10 given below presents the categories of Pakistani press editorials on D5. ANOVA results categorically highlight the fact that there lie statistically significant linguistic differences among the categories. Among all the categories, LE category (with P-value less than .05) stands out as different from the other categories. Its interaction with other categories has also shown prominent statistical linguistic differences.

Table 10: Comparison of categories

(I) Category	(J) Category	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig. ^b	95% Confidence Interval for Difference	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
ED	LE	-.779 [*]	.280	.006	-1.329	-.228
	OP	.446	.280	.112	-.104	.997
LE	ED	.779 [*]	.280	.006	.228	1.329
	OP	1.225 [*]	.280	.000	.675	1.775
OP	ED	-.446	.280	.112	-.997	.104
	LE	-1.225 [*]	.280	.000	-1.775	-.675

Fig. 7 given below compares impersonal linguistic features among the three phases in the periodized data of Pakistani press editorials. The comparison of the impersonal linguistic features i.e., infinitive (14.65), passives (5.66), by-passives (1.36) are compared to other two phases where the low frequencies of linguistic features have been calculated.

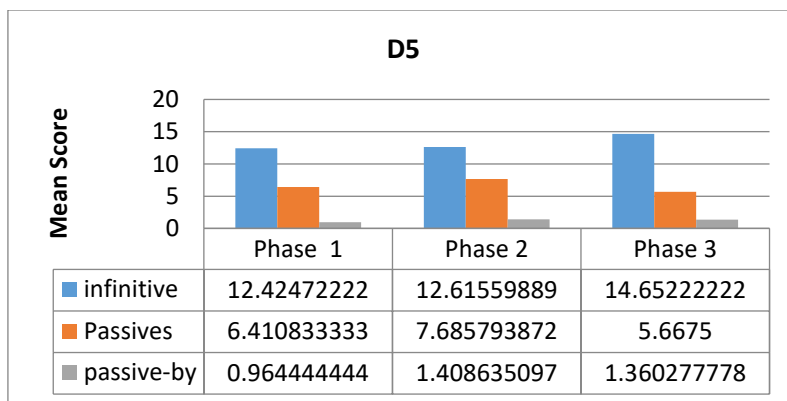


Fig. 7 Comparison of impersonal linguistic features among phases on D₅

The bold words, in following example from phase 1, highlight a dense presence of infinitives, passives and by-passives. The passive verbs like *belated decision, will be received, should also be acceptable* give indirect stance in news media, evading responsibility on the one hand and projecting objective reporting in Pakistani press editorials on the other. The impersonal stance in the example can also be seen through adverbial sub-ordinates like *on Monday, for arbitration by the Security Council, on the three-man committee* thereby strengthening the impersonal stance in language of Pakistani press editorials:

Example 5: The Security Council's **belated decision, on Monday, to appoint** a three-man arbitration **committee to resolve the** Indonesian deadlock **will be received** with satisfaction. Though this decision does not **meet** the Indonesian demand for arbitration by the Security Council as a whole it does treat Indonesia on equal footing with Holland. The decision **to have one representative** each from Indonesia and Netherlands and the third from the Security Council, **on the three-man committee, should also be acceptable** to the Dutch **who felt that arbitration by the Security Council** would infringe their sovereignty.

The comparison of sub-categories in their mean values also seems interesting. Among all categories, LE category shows highest impersonal discourse production with mean value of (4.007) and this high score unfolds a certain pattern in LE category in Pakistani print media. As compared to mean scores of other categories, ED (3.22) and OP (2.78), LE category exhibits highest impersonal discourse production in Pakistani press editorials.

Conclusion

The current study has comprehensively discussed the linguistic variation among the three periods as well as the sub-categories of press editorials in Pakistani print media. Among the phases on D₁, phase 1 has been seen producing the highest informational discourse production in Pakistani

press editorials; whereas, phase 2 has been found producing the lowest informational discourse production. Likewise, the variation among the subcategories on D₁ seems quite distinct in OP category among other categories and thereby OP category has been found producing highest informational discourse in press editorials of Pakistani press media.

On D₂, the language of phase 3 produces highly narrative discourse as compared to other phases, whereas, the language of LE category has been found the most narrative thereby revealing certain trend of LE category in Pakistani press editorials.

On D₃, the results reveal that all the phases are explicit in nature. However, unlike phase 3, highly narrative discourse production has been found in the language of phase 1. There is a steady decline in the periodized data and the language of press editorials has shown a decreasing trend in its explicit discourse which also reveals a certain trend in Pakistani press editorials. Similarly, among sub-categories on D₃, LE category has been found producing highest explicit discourse which also reflects a certain pattern of LE category in Pakistani press editorials.

On D₄, the comparison of phases reveals the fact that in phase 1 and phase 3 the language appears to exhibit covert expression of persuasion/argumentation, whereas, phase 2 produces the trend towards overt expression of persuasion/ argumentation which highlights the deviant trend in press editorials of Pakistani print media. Among sub-categories, only LE category produces overt expression of argumentation unlike ED and OP categories which have been found to be producing covert expression of argumentation/persuasion. On D₅, all phases have been found producing highly impersonal discourse which also seems to be a norm of Pakistani press editorials. But the impersonal reporting trend has been found on rise over the years. Among the sub-categories, LE category has been found producing the highest impersonal discourse as compared to other categories which accounts for the nature of letter to editor as they are always written objectively conveying the complaints of the readers to the public. Thus, the linguistic variation among the phases and sub-categories indicate the fact that language of Pakistani press editorials has grown less informational, non-narrative, explicit, overt in argumentation and impersonal in nature across Biber's five textual dimensions over the years.

The findings of the study are useful in terms of providing an insight into how Pakistani English, which is considered to be a distinct variety, underwent a change over a period of time. It documents the evolution of variation and change in Pakistani English newspaper editorials and offers an analysis of linguistic change over a period of seventy years. Further, the specialized corpus of Pakistani English newspaper editorials is a step towards the development of a more comprehensive diachronic corpus of Pakistani English which gives an impetus to the further research comparing the development of the Pakistani English over time with the diachronic corpora of other Englishes or indigenous and foreign languages. Thus, the present

study imparts a different dimension to the existing research on English used in Pakistan. It provides an interesting insight into how English in Pakistan developed and got its present shape with development of the country through different phases.

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Appendix I

Positive linguistic features	Negative linguistic features
Dimension 1: Involved vs. Informational Discourse	
Private Verbs, Nominalization, 'That' deletion, Verb (uninflected present, imperative & third Person), Second Person pronoun/Possessive, Verb 'Do', Demonstrative Pronoun, Adverb/Qualifier-Emphatic (e.g., just, really), First person pronoun/possessive, Pronoun 'it', Verb 'Be' (uninflected present tense, verb, and auxiliary), Sub-ordinating Conjunction-Causative, Discourse Particle, Nominal Pronoun, Adverbial –Hedge, Adverbial/Qualifier-Amplifier, Wh-question, Modals of Possibility, Co-ordinating conjunction-clausal connector, Wh-clause, Stranded Preposition	Nouns (excluding gerund) Preposition Attributive Adjective
Dimension 2: Narrative vs. Non narrative Concerns	
Past Tense Verb, Third person pronoun (except 'it'), Verb-perfect Aspect Public Verbs	(No negative Features)
Dimension 3: Explicit Vs. Situation Dependent Discourse	
Wh-pronoun-relative clause-object position, Wh-pronoun-relative clause-subject-position, Wh-pronoun-relative clause-object position, With prepositional fronting (pied-piping), Coordinating Conjunction –phrasal connector, Singular noun-nominalization	Adverb of time Adverb of Place Adverb Other
Dimension 4: Overt Expression of Argumentation /Persuasion	
Infinitive Verb, Modal of Prediction, Suasive Verb, Subordinating conjunction-conditional, Modal of Necessity, Adverb within auxiliary	(no negative features)
Dimension 5: Impersonal (Abstract) VS. Non-impersonal (Non-Abstract Style)	
Adverbial-conjuncts, Agentless Passive verb, Passive verb + by, Passive Post nominal modifier, Subordinating conjunction-Other	(no negative features)

Appendix II

Old MD	Phases	Mean	Std. Deviation	Variance	Minimum	Maximum
D1	1	-17.6549	7.80291	60.885	-37.29	13.69
	2	-14.7796	7.74704	60.017	-34.99	31.13
	3	-13.9031	6.41439	41.144	-27.74	7.25
D2	1	-1.1128	2.64024	6.971	-5.73	9.39
	2	-1.1231	2.50773	6.289	-5.22	10.64
	3	-1.4621	1.69665	2.879	-4.74	5.81
D3	1	6.6767	5.61874	31.571	-17.39	27.33
	2	5.5274	4.33610	18.802	-8.90	23.39
	3	5.9493	3.43874	11.825	-2.71	17.94
D4	1	-.2383	4.58007	20.977	-6.61	17.03
	2	.2688	3.84072	14.751	-6.61	13.74
	3	-.3672	3.02565	9.155	-6.61	13.35
D5	1	3.5315	4.71643	22.245	-3.63	23.94
	2	3.2988	3.60729	13.013	-3.63	16.71
	3	3.1854	2.88992	18.352	-3.08	17.87