

Anglicization of Urdu words by Pakistani Writers of Literature in English

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Abstract

Language hybridization is a process that results in language shift and change in the actual form of the language used in a non-native setting. It has become a socio-cultural phenomenon (Rasul, 2006) in Pakistan as English has been used in close association with Urdu since 1947. The close association of English and Urdu language usage has resulted in a divergent variety of English language in Pakistan. This divergent variety of English is characterized by the excessive use of Urdu terminology in terms of Urdu to English code-switching / mixing, literal translation from Urdu to English, Urdu loan words and Urdu-English hybrid terms. The influence of Urdu language on English has been so intense that even some Urdu words have been embedded in English language reflecting the Anglicization of such lexicology. In this scenario, description of the linguistic characteristics of English language used in Pakistan is the need of the current socio-lingual phenomenon i.e. World Englishes. Thus present paper investigates English – Urdu hybridization at the single word level and highlights its role in the Anglicization of such Urdu words.

1. Introduction

Pakistan, one of the colonized countries in the sub-continent, has always been under the firm influence of English language. English which was used for running the state affairs at the time of independence in 1947 (Talaat, 2002), became the language of the domains of power, government, bureaucracy, judiciary, military, education, commerce and media etc (Rahman, 1992). It is no longer considered an alien or foreign language rather it is even used by a noticeable number of people as a second language; thus making English a much needed language for our progress, intellectual development and social and professional prestige. In Pakistan, English has always faced challenges from the local and regional languages of the country. The enormous challenge that English faces in Pakistan comes from its national language Urdu. At the national level, people in this country use at least two languages, Urdu is the national language which is used for communication among people having different regional languages (Sindhi, Baluchi, Pashto, Punjabi etc.) as their mother tongues; whereas, English as official language in professional domains like government, semi-government and private offices, academics, judiciary etc. Both English and Urdu have simultaneously been used for 'regulatory, instrumental, creative and interpersonal functions' that develops close association between these two languages (Kachru, 1982). The close association of English and Urdu on one side has brought some serious alteration in the basic form of Urdu and on the other English has been under the continuous syntactic and morphological variation. Due to the unabated influence of Urdu language, English has been reshaped in Pakistan because it has absorbed many indigenous cultural, political, social and religious elements.

"There was a time when the British standard English was the only acceptable model to be followed ... [and] in Pakistan one was labeled Urdu medium or 'Paindoo' (ignorant [rural] speaking English deviated from the standard English" (Shehzad, 1992: pp.20)

At present, one can easily differentiate the variant form of English language used in Pakistan as per its syntax and morphology from the British English. Its interaction with Urdu also results in a new kind of morphological and syntactical structure in English language and develops Urdu – English hybridization. Though such hybridization is labeled as indigenization (Baumgardner, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1998; Rahman, 1990) yet, a close study of these at syntactic level can exemplify these as the Anglicization of

Urdu terms. The present study therefore aims to examine Urdu – English hybrid forms at single word level and enquire its role in the Anglicization of Urdu lexicology.

2. Literature Review:

‘Hybridization’ is a process in which two things are combined together to form a new thing. The new thing is a mixture, although it has the characteristics of the original sources. It has its own uniqueness in terms of appearance, characteristics and identity etc. However, in linguistics ‘hybridization’ is often a term used to describe “a language being blended with another language, a hybrid word is a word made up of elements (or morphemes) from different languages” (Pramodini, 2010). For instance; ‘bankwalla’ is a hybrid word from English ‘bank’ and Urdu ‘walla’; likewise ‘scape-goat’ English-French hybrid word means ‘somebody made to bear the blame for others’ (Skeat; 1892), ‘eyelet-hole’ English-French hybrid word means ‘a small hole edged with embroidered stitches’ (Ibid, 1892), ‘Airline pulp’ English-Chinese hybrid word means ‘food served aboard on airlines’ (Payack, 2006), ‘mormon’ English-Egyptian hybrid word means ‘more good’, ‘filmi’ English-Hindi hybrid word (Siddharth, 2005), ‘Freshie’ English-Hindi hybrid word means ‘a new immigrant’ (Ibid, 2005) and the hybrid terms like ‘Chinglish’ (Chinese-English), ‘Hinglish’ (Hindi-English), ‘Spanglish’ (Spanish-English) etc. Kachru (1978) explored various forms of hybridity in linguistic scenario. For instance; he referred to it as a mixing of lingos at either a very low level that is at word, phrase, clause or sentence level or it can be a complex process that can result in the development of a new language due to constant contact and mixing of languages.

Sebba (1997) opined that different languages within a community keep changing and adjusting their structures so that they become more similar to each other, similarly for adjustment in the Pakistani society English language has absorbed many of the Urdu traits either through code-switching, code-mixing, literal translation, embedding of Urdu lexicology or borrowing words from Urdu to English. In the process English has acquired a hybrid form as per its vocabulary, diction and syntax in Pakistan. This hybrid variety of English has been described in the works of Haque (1983), Baumgardner (1990, 1992, 1993 & 1998), Rehman (1990), Saleemi (1993), Kennedy (1993), Talaat (2002), Hassan (2004), Rasool (2006) and Qureshi and Akram (2009) etc. However, most of the above mentioned works are based on the study of newspapers, whereas; the present research studies hybridization in literary texts.

In Pakistani English, English – Urdu hybridization can be observed both at the word level (single & compound words) and phrase level (Noun & Verb phrases) as suggested by Rasool (2006). For instance words like, ‘sahibism’, ‘babuize’ (Baumgardner, 1993), ‘partian’, ‘filmon’ (Rasool, 2006), ‘Suffism’ (Qureshi & Akram, 2009), ‘bhattas’, ‘rotiwallas’ (Kennedy, 1993 & Buamgardner, 1991) and ‘paratas’ (Talaat, 2002). The current study is delimited to English – Urdu hybridization at the single word level and exemplifies its role in the Anglicization of Urdu through Pakistani English. Though such hybridization has mostly been labeled as indigenization of English yet, a close inquiry at a syntactic level can provide a clue to the possible process of Anglicization of such terms. This Anglicization of Urdu words can rightly be endorsed with respect to the Anglicization of vocabulary like the Latin word ‘obscenus’ into English ‘obscene’, old French ‘damoisele’ into English word ‘damsel’ (young lady), an Anglicization of ‘alkali’ from the Arabic ‘al-qili’ and also the anglicizing of ‘Almirah’ from Urdu word ‘Almari’ etc.

3. Methodology

The current research deals with the description of a significant linguistic aspect of Pakistani English (PE) reflecting Anglicization of Urdu at the single word level. Two Pakistani literary writings in English were chosen for the purpose. An anthology ‘Beloved City written on Lahore’ edited by Bapsi Sidhwa that includes the writings of different Pakistani English writers and ‘Slum Child’ a novel by Bina Shah, were used to collect data by following the pragmatists approach. The quantitative dimension

of this mixed methods research focused on identifying and categorizing data into different linguistic groups i.e. grammar groups (English possessive case and English regular plurals) and lexical groups. Whereas, the qualitative dimension of the research aimed at the analysis and interpretation of the categories in terms of linguistic explanation of Urdu words as anglicized in Pakistani literature in English.

The lexical items identified through textual analysis (Balsey, 2005) were divided into different lexical groups by following Kachru's model of 'lexical groupings' (1983), as discussed by Baumgardner (1992). Hybrids can occur in a wide range of semantic areas for which Kachru (1983) has provided a contextual classification. These include:

Table 1: **Lexical Grouping**

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Administration | Agriculture | Animals / Reptiles | Articles of Use | Art / Music | Buildings |
| Clothing/ Dress | Concepts | Edibles / Drinks | Education | Furniture | Habits |
| Medicines | Social (general) | Modes of address/ References | Occupation | Place Names | Politics |
| Religion/ Rituals | Speech/ Language | Trees / Flowers | Vehicles/ Carriages | Money/banking | Attitude |
| Arms | Villages (general) | | | | |

(Lexical groupings, Kachru, 1983b; Baumgardner, 1992)

Following this model an analysis of the Urdu-English hybrid forms used in the selected literary texts was done. This quantitative grid as discussed in the next section is of vital importance because it shows the frequency of the hybridized English – Urdu single words used in the target literature that would endorse the presence of this characteristic of PE as used in the literary texts.

Urdu-English hybridized single words in each lexically grouped category were analyzed separately along with their interpretation in order to illustrate the anglicizing feature of Urdu lexicology.

4. Results And Discussion

The results are discussed below according to the groups explained in the methodology section.

4.1. Grammar

A list of the Urdu - English hybridized lexical items (at single word level) was prepared after the content analysis. This list featured the use of two grammatical categories i.e. English regular plurals and English possessive case. Some of the selected words were repeatedly used in the texts under considerations. However, frequency count of individual words has not been included in the analysis since it was not the objective of the present study.

4.1.1 English Regular Plurals

The table below exemplifies hybridization of English regular plural within single words used in the literary texts 'Beloved City' and 'Slim Child'. As exemplified in the table below, Urdu words are anglicized and accommodated into the syntax of English language by patterning these into English regular plurals with the addition of suffix 's'. For instance, Urdu words like 'Mullahs', 'Hakeems', 'Burfis', 'Chappals', 'Nanas' and 'Charpais' etc, are anglicized by shaping these into English regular plurals with the addition of suffix 's'. Accommodation of making Urdu plurals by adding an English letter 's' is prevalent in the Pakistani society to the extent of making it an indicator of style and

modernity. This is even evident from the popular joke about a lower class woman sitting with a bunch of ladies from the upper group, who were talking about their gold pendants, rings, shoes and bags. This lower class woman felt uncomfortable and thinking of a reasonable escape said, ‘*meire husbands bahar intazaar kar rahe hain*’ (My husbands are waiting for me outside). This is an indicator of the speaker’s aspiration for upward social mobility. Kachru (1983) defines such code-mixing as a marker of modernization, socio-economic position, and membership in an elite group. It also illustrates the linguistic diversity of English and marks linguistic versatility and appropriation of English in Pakistan.

Table 1.1: Urdu-English hybridization for making English Regular Plurals

| Writer | Text | Urdu - English Hybridization |
|-----------------------|--------------|---|
| Bapsi Sidhwa | Beloved City | Tongas, Junglewallas, Toddywallas, Duppattas, Bottliwallas, Chaiwallas, Payjamas, Sahibs, Mullahs, Saris, Phulkhas, Mughals. |
| Fakir Syed Aijazuddin | | Ghaznavids, Ghorians, Ghakkars, Mangols, Omrahs, Silahbands. |
| Sorrayya Y. Khan | | Malis, Mashaks, Ghungroos. |
| Saad Ashraf | | Hakeems, Babus, Badmashes, Dolis. |
| Samina Quraeshi | | Takias, Muhallahs. |
| Adam Zamizad | | Tablas, Sitars, Sarangis, Parathas |
| Sara Suleri | | Burfis, Gajrelas, Gulab Jamans. |
| Tahira Naqvi | | Tikkas, Takhtis, Shami kababs, Qeema Parathas, Puris, Qulchas, Ashiqs, Na’ats. |
| Khalid Hasan | | Haramzadas. |
| Bina Shah | | Paindus, Nanis, Nanas, Khalas, Phupas, Rishtas, Shadis, Dholaks, Mendis, Khussas, Kulfis, Faloodas, Sheeshas, Lahoris. |
| Irfan Husain | | Kapuris, Jelabis, Payas, Matkas, Theilas, Seekh Kebabs. |
| Ijaz Husain Batalvi | | Faqirs, Sadhus, Sanyasis. |
| Rukhsana Ahmed | | Chappals. |
| Shaista Parveen | | Baradaris. |
| Umar Memon | | Charpais |
| Zulfiqar Ghose | Payjamas. | |
| Bina Shah | Slum Child | Chappatis, Dupattas, Burqas, Hajjis, Begum Sahibs, Channas, Pirs, Kameezes, Koels, Mohallas, Salaams, Shias, Sunnis, Chadors, Chowkidars, Bugtis. |

4.1.2 English Possessive Case:

The second remarkable grammatical category was of the use of apostrophe ’s with an Urdu word for making possessive case in English. The table below exemplifies hybridization of English possessive case within single words from the texts ‘Beloved City’ and ‘Slim Child’.

Table 1.2: Urdu-English hybridization for making English Possessive Case

| Writer | Text | Urdu - English Hybridization |
|-----------------|--------------|---|
| Bapsi Sidwa | Beloved City | sahib’s (master’s), ayah’s (nanny’s), pehlawan’s (wrestler’s) |
| Adam Zamizad | | naiqa’s (dancing girl’s) |
| Umar Memon | | chota’s (bell boy’s) |
| Shaista Parveen | | masterji’s (teacher’s) |
| Bina Shah | Slum Child | amma’s (mom’s), pir’s (apostrophe’s) |

Urdu words in the above table are anglicized by the addition of apostrophe 's' in order form English possessive case. For instance, Urdu words like 'Amma's', 'Pir's', 'Sahib's' and 'Ayah's' etc, are accommodated into English regular plurals with the addition of an apostrophe 's' thus resulting in the Anglicization of these Urdu words. The addition of apostrophe 's' is a regular linguistic practice in both formal as well as informal communicative events in Pakistan. It exemplify the linguistic influence and dominance of English language over the use of Urdu. It also marks the effects of Urdu language on the use of English in Pakistan. In socio-cultural scenario, such hybridization is considered as a mark of social prestige and status.

4.2. Lexical Grouping:

To recognize the nature of the exemplified Urdu - English lexical hybridization within single words, and to understand the reason behind the inclusion of such hybrid forms, the data has been categorized into lexical groupings (Kachru: 1983) and illustrated in the following table.

Table 1.3: Lexical Groupings

| S/No | Category Of Lexical Groupings | Number Of Urdu Words / Expressions | Percentage |
|------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|
| 01. | Edibles / Drinks | 19 | 20% |
| 02. | Art / Music | 05 | 5.2% |
| 03. | Social (General) | 13 | 13.6% |
| 04. | Occupation | 06 | 6.3% |
| 05. | Clothing / Dress | 12 | 12.6% |
| 06. | Religion / Rituals | 07 | 7.3% |
| 07. | Article of Use | 08 | 8.4% |
| 08. | Vehicles / Carriages | 01 | 1.0% |
| 09. | Animals / Reptiles | 01 | 1.0% |
| 10. | Language / Speech | 04 | 4.2% |
| 11. | Modes of Address / References | 19 | 20% |
| | TOTAL | 95 | |

After the identification of these lexical categories they were further analysed to find the reasons behind the insertion of Urdu lexical items in English language used by Pakistani English writers. The effort has been made to highlight the techniques with which these Urdu words are anglicized in the target literature. The lexical groups thus hybridized, is related to the following lexical groupings.

(1) Edibles / Drinks:

Urdu words like; 'chapatis', 'parathas', 'burfis', 'gajrelas', 'gulab jamans', 'tikkas', 'shami kababs', 'qeema parathas', 'puris', 'qulchas', 'kulfis', 'faloodas', 'sheeshas', 'kapuras', 'jelabis', 'payas', 'seekh kababs', 'phulkhas' and 'channas'.

(2) Art / Music:

Music is a vital part of any culture, lexicon used to talk about music in these literary texts was identified. The data showed that the words like 'ghungroos', 'tablas', 'sitaras', 'saranges' and 'dholaks' are hybridized by adding suffix 's' in order to fit them into English plural forms.

Thus, with the addition of the English regular plural form, all such words are embedded into the English syntactical structure. As these lexical groups also include words related to the edible or drinking

practices of the Pakistani society we do not have appropriate equivalent words in the English language to convey the exact meaning. Therefore, the addition of the suffix 's', surely aims to include these into the English language used in the Pakistani context.

(3) Social (General):

The third lexical group suggested by Kachru (1983) is related to 'Social' (General) that signifies norms of identification of people in Pakistani society. For instance; words like 'Ghaznavids', 'Ghorians', 'Ghakkars', 'mangols', 'bugtis' and 'Mughals' are hybridized by adding suffix 's' in order to convert them into English regular plurals. Though we may not have appropriate words in English to convey their true meanings in regard of societal caste and tribal system in Pakistan, yet, the addition of the suffix 's' mainly aims at changing them into English form so as to fit these into English syntactical structure. It might be assumed that If the writers under discussion did not have the aim or deliberate intention of including them in the Pakistani English language they would have safely used their Urdu plural forms which do not have suffix 's' in any of these words. Then, this group also includes words like 'nanis' (maternal grand mothers), 'nanas' (maternal grand fathers), 'khalas' (maternal aunts), 'phupas' (paternal uncles), 'baradaris' (clans), 'shias' (Shiites) and 'sunnis' (sunni muslims) that have appropriate equivalents in English language. But, Pakistani English writers in the selected literary texts have used their Urdu - English hybridized forms to make these a part of English language used in Pakistan. It is difficult to assert whether these writers have consciously included them with a purpose but the fact remains that they are very much present in these texts.

(4) Occupation:

Coming onto the lexical group of 'Occupation' Urdu words like 'junglewallas' (savages/brutes etc), 'chaiwallas' (who serves tea) also, different English words could be used such as 'barista', 'tea-rista', 'brew master' and 'tea master' etc, 'hakeems' (verbal doctors), 'malis' (gardeners), 'naiqa's' (head prostitute), and 'chowkidars' (security guards) have appropriate equivalents in English, yet their Urdu forms are hybridized by adding suffix 's' either to make them English regular plurals or possessive case. By the addition of such English suffixes, they are molded into English forms so as to make these appropriate enough to be a part of English syntactical structure.

(5) 'Clothing / Dress':

In the lexical group of 'clothing / dress' Urdu words like; 'dupatas' (veils), 'payjamas' (fitted trousers), 'saris' (ladies dress), 'khussas', 'chappals' (slippers), 'burqas' (head to toe veils), 'kameezes' (shirts / loose shirts), 'silahband' (a cloth for covering the body) and 'chadors' (shawls) have been used in the literary texts. Though in this lexical group, some of the words such as 'dupatas' (veils), 'payjamas' (fitted trousers) 'chappals' (slippers), 'burqas' (head to toe veils), 'kameezes' (shirts / loose shirts) and 'chadors' (shawls) have appropriate equivalent in English language yet, Pakistani writers have preferably used Urdu in order to convey the societal meanings of such entities and to make them a part of English syntactical structure. Again the suffix 's' is added in order to turn them into English regular plural forms and to fit these in the discursal practices of Pakistanis taking place in English language.

(6) Religion / Rituals:

The lexical group of 'Religion / Rituals' includes; Urdu words like 'mullahs' (priests), 'naats' (prophet Muhammad's praise), 'saadus' (ascetics), 'sanyasis' (hermits), 'pirs' (saints), 'pir's' (saints) and 'hajjis' (pilgrimages). Although 'sanyasi' is an English word derived from Sanskrit but people understand it as an Urdu word. The image of this person becomes vividly explicit when the Urdu word is used and would lose the charm if synonyms like 'hermit' or 'anchorite' are used. Pakistani English writers have

the option of using English equivalents of some of the quoted Urdu words such as ‘saadus’ (ascetics), ‘sanyasis’(saints), ‘pirs’(saints), ‘pir’s’(saints’) but because of different connotations they do not give the desired effect. These literary writers have used Urdu lexical forms by shaping them into English forms with either suffix ‘s’ to show their English regular plurals or to show their English possessive case.

(7) Article of Use:

The Urdu words related to lexical group of ‘Article of Use’ includes ‘mashaks’ (civets), ‘dolis’(palanquins), ‘takias’ (pillows), ‘mendis’(henna), ‘matkas’(pitchers), ‘thelas’ (shopping bag), ‘charpais’(charpoy) and ‘takhtis’ (wooden slat for writing).

(8) Vehicle / Carriages:

The Urdu word related to Vehicle / Carriages includes ‘tongas’ (horse carts)

(9) Animals / Reptiles:

Urdu word related to the lexical group of ‘Animals / reptiles’ includes ‘Koels’ (Nightingales) etc. ‘Koel’ is one of the romantic images used in fiction, movies and songs.

(10) Speech / Language:

This lexical group include such words that primarily reflects the change of language. Words in this category may not reflect the socio-cultural manifestation of entities rather it displays the linguistic difference between Urdu and English language. This lexical group includes words like ‘muhallah & mohallas’ (streets), ‘shadis’ (marriages) and ‘rishtas’ (relationships).

(11) Modes of Address / References:

This lexical group includes Urdu words that almost have exact equivalent words in English. For instance; Urdu words like; ‘lahoris’ (from lahore) ‘omrahs’ (courtiers), ‘babus’ (mistress/gentlemen), ‘badmashes’ (rascals), ‘sahibs’ (mistress), ‘ashiqs’ (lovers), ‘haramzadas’ (bastards), ‘salaams’ (greetings), ‘paindus’ (villagers), ‘ayah’s’ (nanny’s), ‘faqirs’ (beggars), ‘pehlawan’s’ (wrestler’s), ‘chota’s’ (stripling’s), ‘begum sahibs’ (mistresses’), ‘sahib’s’ (master’s), ‘amma’s’ (mother’s), ‘salaams’ (greetings), ‘naiqa’s’ (dancing girls) and ‘masterji’s’ (respected master’s). From the quoted examples in this category, it can be illustrated that Urdu words in this lexical group have almost appropriate equivalent words in the English language but Pakistani English writers have not only extensively used Urdu terms rather they have also accompanied each of such terms with suffix ‘s’ either to show their English regular plural forms or English possessive case. In this way they make this Urdu lexicology a part of English syntactical structure mostly used by Pakistani English writers.

It is pertinent here to highlight one of the vital aspects of the analysis. The review of the lexical categories, reflects that Urdu vocabulary of each category has been inserted into English syntax used. Moreover Urdu words are used with English character that shows possessive case include Urdu words like ‘amma’s’ (mother’s), ‘pir’s’(saints’), ‘chota’s’ (stripling’s) and ‘pehlawan’s’ (wrestler’s) etc. are used with English ‘s’ to accommodate it in English possessive case. whereas, words like ‘babus’ (mistress/gentlemen), ‘ashiqs’ (lovers), ‘omrahs’ (courtiers) and ‘takias’ (pillows) etc. are amalgamated in English by modifying these according to the requirement of English regular plurals. Thus, in both the cases Urdu words are anglicized by adding English grammatical character like apostrophe ‘s’ and letter ‘s’ to mark regular plurals.

5. Conclusion:

If the novel / short stories are written primarily for non-native speakers of English in Pakistan then the sociolinguistic and cultural dimension of this country portrayed through anglicization of Urdu remains a significant phenomenon of its literary writings. For Schneider (2008: pp.165) "A wide range of ... words which denote indigenous culture and lifestyles were taken over into international English" for instance, chit, dhoti, curry, loot, sahib, thug, veranda etc. whereas, Norman conquest resulted in 'frechification' of English language (Graddol, 2006: pp.58). He (ibid) further asserts that Global English may mean the end of English a foreign language.

The current study opens new vistas for inquiry and exploration in the realm of Pakistani English. It approaches the issue of language hybridization in English used in Pakistan with a new dimension and highlighted the anglicization of Urdu lexicology that plays a very significant role in the process of language maintenance and shift taking place in Pakistan as a multilingual country. The research has explored the role of Urdu-English hybridization in anglicizing of Urdu terms therefore; has given a new perspective with which the change in Pakistani English can be taken for future studies in this regard. Previously, Urdu-English hybridization was studied to highlight the indigenization or Urduization of English language. However, the recent phenomenon of language hybridization present in Pakistani English is getting more affiliated to the anglicization of Urdu terms.

Though the present study has only considered Pakistani English literature for the investigation of the anglicization of Urdu terms at the single word level. Yet, this trait of Pakistani English can be taken for more in-depth syntactical enquiries in variuos genres such as English news papers, magazines, electronic media as well as in discourse studies in the areas of academics, politics and religion etc. Research in this phenomenon through different genres can further help and facilitate the understanding of the area in innovative linguistic perspectives. It will also manifest the significance of Anglicization of Urdu words as one of the strategies for the linguistic appropriation of Pakistani English.

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