

A Study of Shortened Forms in Pakistani English Print Media

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Abstract

The use of English as a second language and its development into different varieties throughout the world has opened new areas of exploration for the linguists and researchers. Different varieties of English have been analyzed with reference to different linguistic features. One of these less investigated features is the use of shortened forms developed from local socio-cultural, and political context. The present work is an investigation of Pakistani English i.e. a South Asian variety of English with reference to the use of such linguistic items in print media. To collect sample for the discussion, news stories of a Pakistani English newspaper, the Daily Dawn were utilized. Schneider's (2007) model of postcolonial Englishes has been integrated into the study as PakE falls in this category. The study has found that PakE of print media makes an innovative use of shortened forms deeply rooted in local context. The study concludes with the idea that PakE has evolved itself into a distinct variety and the role of media is crucial in recognition of Pakistani English as a distinct variety of South Asian English.

Keywords: Abbreviation; Acronym; Nativization; Pakistani English (PakE); Shortened Forms

Abbreviations: Abb. (Abbreviations), DN (Detail of news story), HN (Headline of news story), NC (Nominative Case) SF (Shortened Form), SFs (Shortened forms)

1. Introduction

English, a West Germanic language and the language of world communication, has emerged in various regions across the globe. Migration of native speakers of English and colonization took this language to different continents where it stayed and developed into World Englishes. Talking about English in the region of South Asia, Kachru (2005) opines that its basic role in this region was to serve the purpose of a foreign language. But its introduction in different regions and its interaction with local languages resulted in bilingualism. Thus institutionalization of this language resulted in the birth of South Asian varieties of English. These different varieties though developed through same



stages like those of exploration, implementation, diffusion and institutionalization, yet each variety is different from the other owing to different local context of different south Asian regions. Spear rightly asserts that though Macaulay's basic idea was to teach literature through the English language, yet this introduction of a foreign language became the foundation stone for the utilization of this language in various important domains of life. Baumgardner (1993) while talking about the reasons behind nativization of English in pre-partition Hindustan rightly points towards the demands of English by local community and their little interaction with the real native speakers of English. After the partition of sub-continent in 1947, English continued to enjoy its usage both in electronic and print media of Pakistan ; and after passing through the process of nativization, today, it has emerged as Pakistani English, a non- native variety of English.

Nativization, according to Sociolinguists, is the indigenization of the English language in the areas where it is not the first language of the speakers. According to Phillipson (1992, p.198), English has been indigenized in non-native contexts through nativization.

The changes in the English language to fulfill the needs of the local demands result in the emergence of nativized varieties of English. The local languages, their linguistic systems and the socio-cultural norms are the elements that influence the new variety of English. The foreignness of the English language is shed off when it comes in contact with the local language(s) and culture(s). Pakistani English is a distinct variety in the sense that it is comprehensible only when one is familiar with Pakistani languages and culture and with that of its socio-cultural, economic and political setup. As Baumgardner (1993) has truly pointed how PakeE has developed and maintained itself as a distinct variety because it carries with it different linguistic items from the local institutions of government administration, politics, education, art, music, food and clothing.

Today the vast and ever growing web of certain societal, political, socio-economic and cultural institutions has joined hands with the advancement of technology. And all of this has expedited the use of electronic and print media. The variety of news and the problems of space and time limitation have compelled the users to shorten the longer terms in form of abbreviations and acronyms. Pakistani English print media is of no exception to it .The study is an investigation into different forms and properties of such forms used in Pakistani English newspapers. In order to see how PakeE especially that of Pakistani print media makes an innovative use of abbreviations/acronyms, the following questions guided the study:

1. In what different forms and with what different features do these shortened forms appear in PakeE print media?
2. To what extent these identified shortened forms make PakeE a context bound distinct variety of English?

The researchers have tried to answer these questions to find out how nativization of PakeE is heading this variety towards the Endonormative Stabilization Stage as given in Dynamic Model by Schneider's (2007).

2. Literature Review

Abbreviation is done to replace longer terms by formation of new shortened words from these longer multi-word sequences. Formation of shortened forms is done by taking initial letters and pronouncing them as individual letters. According to Bauer (1983) acronyms and abbreviations are similar as far as their process of formation is concerned i.e. the initial letters of different words are taken to form such shortened forms. But the difference he gives is that of their pronunciation. Abbreviations are pronounced as individual letters but acronyms are pronounced as a complete word.

Initially, the abbreviations were used during war times for the sake of brevity and security but later on with the advancement of science and technology when new institutions were set up and new branches of knowledge emerged, the use of such linguistic phenomenon increased. The social media like web chats, SMS messages, emails and print media use these abbreviations to save time and space. The use of these shortened forms has been investigated by different researchers in these different domains. Choudhury et al. (2007), for example, have investigated SMS messages to as the non-standard forms of language usage. The logic they found was that of these items' utilization regarding their time and space saving as such an item is brief and short in length. Pahlavannezhad et al. (2012) investigated web chats to see the shortening processes of Persian vocabularies. They found different shortening methods like abbreviations and shortened sentences that were used by the internet users. Akbari (2013) focused on Persian SMS messages written in Roman format and his investigation found that these messages utilized contracted forms and the forms which were the result of certain omissions of certain letters.

Different researchers have analyzed different features of PakE as Talaat (1993) has analyzed how certain linguistic items are used semantically in a different sense in Pakistani English as compared to that of which these give in Standard British English. Likewise, Baumgardner (1993, 1998) also conducted a comparative study of PakE and British English where he analyzed PakE in relation to syntactic, lexical, and morphological innovations. It was, no doubt, a detailed study but it did not cover sociolinguistic variation in PakE. Mahboob (2004, 2009), too, investigated PakE at its covering the different levels of phonology, morphology and syntax. Thus the main and the common focus of all these researchers have been on the comparative study of PakE and Standard British English. The present study of PakE abbreviations and acronyms does not follow this pattern of comparison but it studies PakE in its independent form focusing on it as a distinct variety of English.

2.1 Theoretical Framework

The present study is guided by Schneider's (2007) Dynamic model for two reasons: firstly, abbreviations are a sociolinguistic phenomenon and, secondly, because PakE is a postcolonial English variety. The model covers both these elements. Schneider's (2007) framework talks about how the Englishes falling under the category of post-

colonial varieties developed. According to him this development is not sudden but it passes through different phases which are associated with changes in linguistic items and relevant identity development. He further claims that such varieties continue passing through different phases to reach at a position where these maintain an independent identity. Such an identity makes these varieties distinct enough that claims can be made regarding their independent form of the English language. Foundation, Exonormative Stabilization, Nativization, Endonormative Stabilization and Differentiation are the five phases suggested by him for this process. The first stage '*Foundation*' starts with introduction of the English language in a region where immigrants and the native speakers are not ready to contact with each other but only a little bit. Exonormative Stabilization stage comes up with bilingualism resulting from the use of English in some domains of life while the people consider the British English to be as a role model.

Nativization is the stage where the English language becomes a tool of communication to a greater extent but at the same time its practical utility increases that carries a new identity within itself. Second language acquisition of English by natives results in code-mixing. Falling standards result in, as Schneider expresses it, 'an increasing readiness to accept localized forms' (Schneider, 2007, p. 248). Endonormative Stabilization starts with an acceptance and usage of local norms in formal usage after political independence. Literature in the new English variety is written to mark new linguistic identity. This new variety gets a formal recognition through Codification so the phrase 'the English spoken in X-place' becomes 'X-an English'. *Differentiation*, the last stage, results in development of new social or regional identities of the variety.

PakE falls in the category of post-colonial English. After independence in 1947, nativization phase has been on its peak. A number of researchers have conducted different studies to analyze this process and its impact on Pakistani English from different perspectives. The researchers of the present study have investigated the use of PakE abbreviations and acronyms in the print media to see whether PakE is heading towards the Endonormative Stabilization stage or not.

3. Methodology

To check the status of Pakistani English as a distinct variety with reference to Schneider's developmental stages sample acronyms and abbreviations were collected from "The Daily Dawn", the widely read Pakistani English newspaper. The data were collected from the news stories of the said newspaper ranging from January 01, 2018 to February 28, 2018 due to limitation of time and space. The choice of this particular paper was based on three criteria i.e. popularity criterion as its large circulation; accessibility criteria as its online version provided with examples in recent use; and authenticity criteria as newspaper is an authentic source of PakE because such source is produced and consumed by those Pakistani English language users who are assumed to be well aware of language

use. Discussion section provides an analysis of the selected examples to locate different forms and features of these shortened forms. Each feature of these forms is discussed with a separate heading and relevant examples are given under each feature where full sentence in which this abbreviation/acronym appears is given to provide the context. This is followed by a discussion of socio-cultural and political context that work in background of these forms. Discussion section is followed by a brief section of 'Findings' that presents a relationship of these features with the development of Pakistani English according to Schneider model. Before concluding the work, the researcher has shown how the work can be utilized and what future works are to be done in the section of 'Implications and future prospects'.

4. Discussion

4.1 Shortened Forms and their classes

Kafi (1991) has given four major categories of shortened forms which include 'initialism', 'acronym', 'blending' and 'clipping'. When a compound term or a term consisting of more than one word is shortened by taking initial letters of these words, this process is called Initialism. Such shortened forms are called abbreviations and these are pronounced as individual letters. Acronyms are similar to initialism in their process of formation but they differ in their pronunciation as these are pronounced as a single word. In Clipping one part of a word is used to replace the complete word while blending is a process where different parts of the words are blended to form a new word.

The researchers in this work focus only on two classes of short forms: 'Abbreviations' (Initialism) and acronyms as found in PakE newspapers. In example 1, lexical item **SECP** (The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan) is a shortened form for a longer term which is formed by using the initial letters of functional words of that longer term. Moreover, as it is pronounced as individual letters so it is an abbreviation.

1. HN: **SECP** bans funding for JuD's charity wing

DN: ISLAMABAD: *The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP)* has prohibited all registered companies from donating cash to entities and individuals listed under the consolidated list issued by the United Nations Security Council's sanctions committee.

[The Daily Dawn: January 2, 2018]

SF: Abb.	lexical item in full
SECP	Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan

Some examples of acronyms have also been noticed by the researchers as used in the selected front pages. For example, the shortened form, **Pemra** is composed of five initial letters of a longer phrase ‘Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority’ which is an institution of Pakistan to regulate the private electronic media in order to make it a true provider of knowledge and entertainment for the people of Pakistan. The shortened form **Pemra** is pronounced as a full word, not as individual letters so it is an acronym.

2. HN: The court also expressed dismay over the assistance rendered by the *Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pemra)*...

[The Daily Dawn: January 04, 2018]

SF: Acronym	lexical item in full
Pemra	Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority

Thus PakE newspaper discourse makes use of the abbreviations and acronyms, the selected forms for the present study. The use and acceptance of such items which are not a part of Standard English but are used by the non-native speakers of this language is a clear indication that PakE is developing as a distinct variety of its own nature. The following discussion reveals different features of these two forms of shortened forms i.e. abbreviations and acronyms in detail.

4.2 Shortened forms used in PakE press media

Following are the features of two selected shortened forms that the researchers have found while analyzing the selected version of the Daily Dawn, Pakistan:

4.2.1 Shortened Forms and Ambiguity in Meaning

The SFs as seen in PakE newspapers are ambiguous as far as their meanings are concerned. Being context bound and genre/register specific, there arises a difficulty in comprehending their meaning. It can be the case for both the foreign readers and the native readers due to their lack of background knowledge. The story writers sometimes remove this ambiguity by giving the full word or phrase for a particular shortened form immediately before it in the detail of story. It is observed that this is done mostly when such a form appears for the first time in a particular text at a given time. The full words are given followed by the shortened form in parenthesis. There after the shortened form is used alone without any description of its full words.

3. HN: **PTI** accuses **PPP**, **PML-N** of buying Senate votes

DN: ISLAMABAD: *The Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI)* has accused *the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP)* and *the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz*

(PML-N) of approaching the members of other parties with “heavy offers” to buy their votes in the upcoming Senate elections.

[The Daily Dawn: February 06,2018]

SF: Abb.	lexical item in full
PTI	Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf
PPP	Pakistan Peoples Party
PML-N	Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz

The three shortened forms ‘PTI’, ‘PPP’, and ‘PML-N’ in the HN in example 3 are the abbreviations used for Pakistani famous political parties but for a foreign reader who is not well aware of the political scenario of Pakistan, it is not possible to locate the meaning of these abbreviations unless and until full words are not provided for these. The story writer has used the technique of giving the full words for these forms in DN which are underlined and italicized by the researchers in DN of example 3 where the SFs are given in parenthesis. However, for the SFs which are well established and well accepted by the public, the story writer doesn’t give a detailed description for these. These SFs which become a part of regular usage don’t need a reference of actual words with them each time these appear in the newspaper story.

For example, the SFs **MNAs** and **MPAs** in example 4 are well abbreviations used regularly in Pakistani political scenario so no detail for these forms is provided by the story writer.

4. DN: Irked by coordination committee’s decision, MQM-P convener holds meeting with party **MNAs**, **MPAs**

[The Daily Dawn: February 10, 2018]

SFs: Abb.	Full words (not given by the story writers)
MNAs	Members National Assembly
MPAs	Members Provincial Assembly

Important point to be noted is that the writer gives detailed description of these forms when these appear for the first time in a given news story, but these are used as SFs each time these appear next in the same story. Example 5 shows the pattern where Short form ‘**AG**’ is used alone after it has been made clear that it stands for ‘**Attorney General**’ in the beginning part of the news:

5. and even *Attorney General* (**AG**) Ashtar Ausaf Ali was not satisfied with their responses [...] the **AG** would receive a proper briefing from the intelligence agencies [...] However, the **AG** asked the court[...]The **AG** was also asked which authority controls social media

[The Daily Dawn: January 04, 2018]

4.2.2 Grammar of Shortened Forms

The SFs located in the selected versions belonged to two major grammatical categories i.e. the Noun and the Adjectives. For example, the abbreviation “**CJP**” in Example 6 is acting as a noun in the headline of news story:

6. HN: **CJP** looks to parliament for reforms in laws

DN: KARACHI: *Chief Justice of Pakistan* Mian Saqib Nisar has urged
[The Daily Dawn: January 14, 2018]

SF: Abb. (N)	Full lexical item
CJP	Chief Justice of Pakistan

The abbreviation **NAB** (National Accountability Bureau) in example 7 occurs for one time in HN and for two times in the DN. In its first occurrence, it is modifying ‘chief’ i.e. a noun. The second time it modifies ‘chairman’ that is a noun again and in its third occurrence, it is functioning as an adjective modifying ‘investigations’.

7. HN: Punjab govt not giving up records, says **NAB** chief

DN: LAHORE: National Accountability Bureau (**NAB**) chairman retired Justice Javed Iqbal appears unhappy with the [...] Some of the **NAB** investigations under way include cases against
[The Daily Dawn: February 09, 2018]

SFs: Abb. With nouns as head words	Full words for NAB used as with nouns
NAB chief	National Accountability Bureau chief
NAB chairman	National Accountability Bureau chairman
NAB investigations	National Accountability Bureau investigations

4.2.3 Shortened Forms & Case

Case, is actually the grammatical function of a noun. The researchers have found the examples of SFs with all the three cases i.e. nominative case, accusative case and genitive case. The examples for these patterns as found in PakE newspaper are discussed as under:

4.2.3.1 Nominative Case

Interesting phenomenon noted in the data is that SFs may appear in the subject position in a sentence. For example ‘**PML-N**’ in the HN of example 8 is an abbreviation that appears in the subject position in the

sentence and it is the subject of verb ‘sets’. The full lexical description for this abbreviation is given in DN.

8. HN: **PML-N** sets sights on Senate seats in Sindh, KP, Balochistan

DN: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has sought applications for Senate election till Feb 3.

[The Daily Dawn: January 29,2018]

SF: Abb. (NC)	Full lexical items
PML-N	Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz

4.2.3.2 Accusative Case

PakE SFs can also be used by the newspaper story writers in the position of an object in a sentence i.e. as the object of the verb. In example 9, the SF ‘IGP’ is functioning as an object of the verb ‘ordered’. **IGB** as the cotext shows refers to ‘Inspector General of Police’:

9. HN: The CJ ordered the **IGP** to deploy all available police resources to arrest the suspect

[The Daily Dawn: January 13, 2018]

SF: Abb. (AC)	Full lexical items
IGP	Inspector General of Police

4.2.3.3 Genitive Case

SFs may also show the relationship of belonging. The data has shown that PakE newspaper story writers make use of these forms in this way as well.

The abbreviation ‘**NAB**’ with the marker of possession (‘s) in the following extracts from the DN as given in example 10 , show how certain SFs may also take genitive marker with them. The first time this relationship of belonging is shown as highlighted in the first extract as “**the National Accountability Bureau’s (NAB)** appeal” shows a pattern where full form of an SF is used with genitive marker and SF is given in brackets. It gives the meaning as: “an appeal made by the National Accountability Bureau. *Second time it appears with ‘lack of commitment’ as in NAB’s lack of commitment* which refers to lack of commitment on the part of NAB. Third time **NAB’s** appears again with the noun ‘appeal’.

10. DN: **the National Accountability Bureau's** (NAB) *appeal* against the 2014 Lahore High Court (LHC) [....] **NAB's** *lack of commitment* and [....] **NAB's** *appeal* was time barred by 1,229 days
[The Daily Dawn: January 06, 2018]

The shortened form 'JIT' comes thrice in the DN as given in example 11. The first usage of it in parenthesis is preceded by the full lexical items *the Supreme Court-appointed Joint Investigation Team*. For the second time it appears as a subject in second extract where it appears alone without its description and it is its third entry in extract 3, where it is used as **JIT's** with the noun '*report*'. when **JIT** takes [-'s] with it, it is in genitive case as '**JIT's** *report*' mean the report that was prepared and presented by Joint Investigation Team in the Supreme court of Pakistan.

11. DN: *the Supreme Court-appointed Joint Investigation Team* (**JIT**) in the Panama Papers leak case[....], the **JIT** had recommended the filing of the appeal [....] the **JIT's** *report* referred to that allegation which took place in 1991-1992
[The Daily Dawn: January 26, 2018]

One more example of an abbreviation used with genitive case is that of '**MQM's**' used with '*top decision-making body*.' in example 12. This refers to top decision-making body of MQM (Muttahida Quami Movement), a political party in Pakistan.

12. and from now on they would no longer be part of the **MQM's** *top decision-making body*.
[The Daily Dawn: February 10, 2018]

The abbreviations in examples 9-11 are given in the following table:

SFs: Abb. (with [- 's])	Full lexical items
NAB's	National Accountability Bureau's
JIT's	Joint Investigation Team's
MQM's	<i>Muttahida Quami Movement's</i>

4.2.4 Shortened Forms & Number

An interesting feature of Pake shortened forms is that these forms allow plural formation with an addition of small 's' at the end of these forms. For example,

the abbreviation **MPAs** (Members Provincial Assembly) in example 13 is the plural form of MPA(Member Provincial Assembly)

14. DOS: Sharif wonders why Zardari entertained Balochistan **MPAs**
[The Daily Dawn: February 2, 2018]

The SF **NSAs** (National Security Advisers) in example 14 **is** the plural form of the abbreviation NSA (National Security Adviser).The HN uses only SF **NSAs** but detailed description of this abbreviated form is given in the DN.

15. HN: Pakistan, India **NSAs** hold secret dialogue.

DN: *the National Security Advisers (NSAs)* of the two countries were meeting sec-retly in Bangkok on Dec 26,....
[The Daily Dawn: January 1, 2018]

SFs: Abbreviations with plural marking	Full lexical items
MPAs	Members Provincial Assembly
NSAs	National Security Advisers

It is noteworthy that the plural marker [-s] is always occurring at the end of the abbreviated form but it is not compulsory that the full word for the last initial is always pluralized as in the case of **NSAs** it is last initial 'A' whose full form 'adviser' does take pluralization as in 'The National Security Advisers' but in case of 'MPAs', it is the first initial that carries [s] with it as in 'Members Provincial Assembly'. Thus it is the head word in a phrase that always carries pluralization with it.

4.2.5 Shortened Forms & Orthography

Kafi (1991) while considering orthography important criteria to judge Persian acronyms, has given three forms of abbreviations as uppercase letters with full -stops, uppercase letters without full-stops and the lowercase letters separated by full-stops. The PakE newspaper front pages have shown following two patterns of Shortened forms with reference to orthographic style:

4.2.5.1 Capital Letters without full-stops

Abbreviations fall under the category which is not pronounced as words. e.g. **TNSM** in the following example no. 15 is an abbreviated form for *Tehreek-i-Nifaz-i-Shariat-i-Muhammadi which refers to a religious movement*.

15. PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court on Monday granted bail to Maulana Sufi Mohammad, chief of the banned *Tehreek-i-Nifaz-i-Shariat-i-Muhammadi* (TNSM), in two cases....

[The Daily Dawn: January 09, 2018]

Acronym with capital letters	Full words
TNSM	Tehreek-i-Nifaz-i-Shariat-i-Muhammadi

4.2.5.2 Small letters with first letter capitalized (No full-stops)

The researchers have found another pattern where only first letter is capitalized while rest of the letters takes lower case small letters. For example, the SF **Fata** in example 16, is an acronym as it is pronounced as a whole word. The first letter is ‘F’ that is capital while the rest of initials are in lower case. Fata is now used as a word as its use has become very frequent. Other than this lower case formation, the use of capital letters to form an abbreviation can also be seen in the same example where **PHC** is all in capital letters that stands for ‘the Peshawar High Court.’

16. HN: Jurisdiction of apex court, **PHC** extended to **Fata**

DN: and *the Peshawar High Court (PHC)* to *the Federally Administered Tribal Areas* (Fata)

[The Daily Dawn: January 19, 2018]

SF: Acronym: small letters with first letter capitalized	Full lexical item
Fata	Federally Administered Tribal Areas

4.2.6 Context of Usage & Shortened Forms

Shortened forms as observed in Pake newspaper are the word formations of their own innovative nature in the sense that these are not a part British Standard English. But these are composed of the initials of longer phrases to avoid time and space in Pakistani English newspaper. Even the longer phrases like these cannot be understood by the native Speakers of English in the case where they are not well aware of the current system and the working of Pakistani institutions related to its political, social, cultural and religious set up. For example: the abbreviation ‘**RRF**’ appearing in the DN of Daily Dawn in example 17, is not understandable for the native speakers of English as compared to the readers of Pake:

17. DN: “The **RRF** personnel were travelling on a motorbike in plain clothes,” officials said.

[The Daily Dawn: January 19, 2018]

But this abbreviation is made understandable by the newspaper story writers by giving its detail in the same story at some other place as in the following: “...three personnel of *Rapid Response Force (RRF)* of Balochistan Constabulary were ...” (The Daily Dawn: January 19, 2018)

Likewise, some shortened forms may have more than one referent and different readers may get different meanings out of the same SF depending upon their different linguistic and social experiences. For example, the shortened form ‘ATC’ may stand for different meanings in different domains. It may stand for ‘Air Traffic Control’ for one person but it may refer to ‘The Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical’ for another one who belongs to medical field. In what sense it is actually being used in Pakistani English print media it stands for ‘Anti-terrorism court’. Example 18 shows the use of this abbreviation with its detailed description:

18. HN: Imran gets bail in sit-in violence cases

DN: ISLAMABAD: “My name is Khan and I am not a terrorist” was the response of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan after *the Anti-Terro-rism Court (ATC)* of Islamabad confirmed his pre-arrest bail

[The Daily Dawn: January 03, 2018]

The point is that PakE in this way makes a distinctive use of such shortened forms that are highly context bound and it strengthens the claim that PakE is a distinct variety. Another feature of PakE SFs, observed by the researchers is that these forms are used in political domain mostly as in the case of the longer names of political parties, the shortened forms help to save time and space both like PkMAP in example 19.

19. A government-allied senator belonging to the Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) alleged that [...] Senator Osman Kakar of the PkMAP said in Lahore that

[The Daily Dawn: January 06, 2018]

Short forms are also observed to be used to abbreviate the names of corporations as well. For example, the SF, LDA in example 20 refers to Lahore Development Authority:

20. HN: Charge-sheet in Rs14bn scam against ex-LDA chief ready

DN: LAHORE: Former Lahore Development Authority (LDA) director general allegedly misused

[The Daily Dawn: February 26, 2018]

Such SFs are also used to abbreviate the names of agencies like the intelligence agencies of **IB** and **ISI**. Example 21 shows how these abbreviations are used in parentheses where these are preceded by their full forms:

21. Today, hate, extremism and violence has become a way of life, but those who smile or speak softly will always get bullied, Justice Qazi Faez Isa observed while expressing dissatisfaction over the reports furnished by the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and the Intelligence Bureau (IB).

[The Daily Dawn: January 04, 2018]

The data has also revealed the use of shortened forms in the medical domain as the abbreviation ‘**PMDC**’ in example 22 refers to ‘*the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council*’.

22. DN: ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court may decide on Friday (today) the fate of the 35-member council of the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council headed by Dr Shabbir Lehri.....“If the **PMDC** is illegal then it cannot be allowed to continue,” observed Chief Justice Mian Saqib Nisar....

[The Daily Dawn: January 12, 2018]

Likewise, **PFSA** is one more abbreviation from the domain of medicine which is the name of an agency as underlined in example 23:

23. whereas her DNA samples were sent to the Punjab Forensic Science Agency (PFSA) on Jan 17...

[The Daily Dawn: January 31, 2018]

The names of Law enforcement agencies and those of the institutions related to the judiciary of Pakistan are also shortened as we find in the following examples. Example 24 carries the abbreviations **LHC**, **IGP** and **CJ** with it. These forms refer to judiciary, police department and again to the institution of judiciary respectively.

24. LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday gave Punjab Inspector General of Police (IGP) Arif Nawaz 36 hours to arrest the suspect behind the abduction, rape and murder of six-year-old Zainab in Kasur[....] A two-

judge bench, headed by **LHC** *Chief Justice* (**CJ**) Syed Mansoor Ali Shah [...] The **CJ** ordered the IGP to deploy all available police resources to arrest the suspect...

[The Daily Dawn: January 13, 2018]

The sequence and the patterning of three abbreviations in example 24 are interesting to note. It is clear that each term when appearing for the first time in the news story is appearing in parentheses with its full form preceding it as underlined in each case. But when these terms appear for the second time in the story; these appear alone with no description.

The shortened forms employed for armed forces are also used in the print media of Pakistan. For example, the abbreviation **COAS** refers to The Chief of Army Staff as in example 25, it is highlighted while the full lexical items for it are underlined.

25. DN: 'ISLAMABAD: *Chief of the Army Staff* (**COAS**) Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa has reassured Kabul and Washington that [...]Addressing the conference, the **COAS** said all terrorist sanctuaries had been eliminated from Pakistan's soil,'

[The Daily Dawn: February 14, 2018]

Another example is that of **FC** as in example 26 where this SF is used as a modifier of 'men' in the headline of the story and then it is used in its full form in the detailed news. FC stands for 'Frontier Corps' which refers to Pakistani paramilitary forces along the western provinces of Pakistan.

26. HN: Five **FC** men martyred in Turbat attack

DN: According to officials, two vehicles carrying the **Fron-tier Corps** personnel were

[The Daily Dawn: January 16, 2018]

PakE newspaper also covers the news related to media domain which, too, makes use of shortened forms as in 27, **Pemra** is an the acronym that is the SF derived from the longer term as underlined in the following example:

27. DN: The court also expressed dismay over the assistance rendered by the *Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority* (**Pemra**)

[The Daily Dawn: January 04, 2018]

Other than the above mentioned forms of SFs, the study has also revealed that these forms can also be used to abbreviate the names of festivals like the abbreviation **LLF** referring to ‘Lahore Literary Festival’ in example 28:

28. HN: Sixth edition of **LLF** begins today

DN: LAHORE: The sixth edition of *Lahore Literary Festival* (**LLF**) is all set to take place back at its original venue of Alhamra

[The Daily Dawn: February 24, 2018]

5. Findings & Development Of Pakistani English

The interesting features of these selected shortened forms as used in Pakistani English newspaper indicate how PakE is marching forward from normative stage to endonormative stage. Most important findings are discussed in the following lines.

The SFs are used by the PakE newspaper story writers for two basic reasons. Firstly, these are a source of brevity or to appeal the readers as Hartmann & Stork also claim that the aim of such forms is, “...either brevity or catchiness ...”(1976, p. 1) Secondly, such forms are used to save both time and space and are also helpful in saving the readers from the effort and boredom of seeing longer terms being used repeatedly.

The SFs are accompanied by their full forms in parentheses only when these are the new forms, that are being introduced for the first time and which have not become a part of daily usage. But SFs those are of a regular usage and have become a part of language so that these SFs are taken to be as words, these do not take detailed description with them.

The SFs are context bound and domain specific in the sense that these have become identity marker of certain social, political, cultural or economic groups. Thus PakE is making such a creative and innovative use of SFs in its print media that certain aspect and usages of these as introduced in PakE are not comprehensible to many who belong to Standard British English or different varieties of this language.

These findings indicate how PakE has emerged from its foundation stage to the present day developed stage in Pakistan. The linguistic history of PakE shows a clear impact and superiority of the British English as it looked towards British English as a standard norm. But it was the story of it before partition of sub-continent passing through Exonormative Stabilization phase. After the independence, the process of Nativization started which resulted in the emergence of a nativized variety of PakE. During this phase the English language underwent the processes of appropriation with a number of linguistic changes resulting from the local socio- political and cultural context. These changes and appropriations in British English occurred due to fit this language in a new set up according to the local needs of the different institutions and their working.

One aspect of this nativization as explored in this study is the use of shortened forms. The usage, acceptance and adoption of such forms being developed from the local

norms and then their inclusion at the formal forums like those of national newspapers confirms the newly developed identity and development of this variety. Thus the examples like the study found are a proof that English is no more the possession of its native speakers but it has become a valuable possession of the people who have nativized it. They have developed it to such an extent that it is called their language i.e. Pakistani English instead of 'English'. The phrase 'the English spoken in X-place' becomes 'X-an English' is, no doubt, going to prove true, if such codifications of linguistic features continue and get acceptance. This acceptance at internal and external, both the levels, may result in the formation of PakE as a distinct variety with its own grammar, course books and dictionaries. Thus the researchers believe that PakE though passing through Endonormative stabilization stage, is about to march towards the final phase of Differentiation. The need of the time is to strengthen our language policy and our education system. No doubt, this process of codification is effectively geared by the agencies like electronic and press media. The researchers from the field of linguistics must play their part to explore and maintain PakE identity and stability.

6. Implications & Future Prospects

The study, firstly, in the field of applied linguistics, can be useful for the understanding of word formation processes by both the instructors and the learners. It can motivate the students to learn such patterns on their own from different media and teachers can get a hint to utilize such national print media for the analysis of different linguistic features of PakE. Secondly, the producers of different print media like publishers of books and the story writers for the newspapers and magazines can benefit themselves by utilizing the concept of shortened forms for the purpose of economy, of time, space and finance as well. Lastly, the present findings are expected to instigate the whole community of the researchers, the policy makers, the university instructors, the book compilers and the lexicographers to work on PakE to investigate its different features at different levels. The researchers are to highlight this variety in their relevant materials and circles to show how this variety is a mark of identity for this region of the world carrying its own norms, culture and traditions. Local languages can be developed and enhanced by finding out the elements that are being borrowed from them into this variety of English for religious or cultural reasons. All this will be helpful in upholding its development as a distinct variety of SAEs.

Future studies can be carried on the basis of this research and different kinds of shortened forms and features other than those found in this study can be explored. The findings of the present study can be challenged and extended both and even these can be compared by analyzing the same patterns of shortened forms in some other discourses like those of textbooks, magazines, news channels headlines, web chats and SMS messaging. The shortened forms used in advertisements, bill boards, posters and even pamphlets are some of the other areas which can be analyzed to see how different socio cultural aspects are reflected through linguistic features in Pakistani English.

7. Conclusion

This work of the researchers is a work of its own nature as it deviates from the normal way of doing comparative studies of PakE with that of the British English. The researchers maintain that PakE has entered into Endonormative stage of its development and this claim is strengthened by exploring one of the less researched areas of PakE i.e. the study of the form and features of shortened forms as used in PakE. It is predicted that if this development got continued, then this variety of English will surely step into the Differentiation stage to maintain its own linguistic identity. The linguists, the researchers, and English-using class along with the Pakistani English media all are playing a key role in highlighting how PakE is developing as a distinct identity.

The researchers concludes with an optimistic claim that English is an important and flexible language that allows the people of the world to speak their experiences related to their ways of doing politics, ways of living daily life and even the ways of enjoying their cultural festivals. This appropriation of English in new setups is needed to be developed and introduced. PakE is rich with Pakistani culture and ideology and is serving to build relations with the rest of the world. Thus we, as a nation, are able to communicate with the world in the language it speaks by being linguistically self-sufficient. We should continue our maneuver to reach at that linguistic ladder of the English language which not only remains intact with our rich culture and civilization but enables us also to communicate with the global village of today successfully.

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