



Available Online at EScience Press

Journal of South Asian Studies

ISSN: 2307-4000 (Online), 2308-7846 (Print)

<https://esciencepress.net/journals/JSAS>

Jargon In Military: A Comparative Analysis of English Varieties in Pakistan Based on Hallidiyan's Functional Perspective

^aSikandar Ali*, ^aSumra M. J. Satti^aDepartment of English Language and Literature, University of Lahore, Lahore Campus, Punjab, Pakistan.*Corresponding Author Email ID: sumraashfaq610@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Pakistani English is (also known as Paklish or Penglish) is the group of English language varieties that are spoken or written in Pakistan. It was recognized in terms of different varieties and forms first time in the 1970s and 1980s. This paper elucidated the phenomenon of transition that Pakistani English was undergoing in the current scenario because of its contact with other Pakistani languages in general, Urdu and Punjabi in particular. This study attempted to explore and interpret the varieties of Pakistani English in the Military at two different levels i.e., Officers to Officers Communication and Officers to Rank (Soldier). These constantly diverging forms and functions of English may not have reached stability and recognition among its users probably bilinguals or multi-linguals as Pakistan is a multi-lingual state. This study endeavored to use a Qualitative approach and data will be collected through observation from Pakistani English varieties used in the Military. This paper aimed to apply Halliday's (1960) theory of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) to conduct a comparative study of varieties of English to describe, interpret and explain the forms and functions of Pakistani English at two different levels. The findings revealed that the variations of Military language were unique and distinct from all other varieties of English. In addition, these variations were acceptable by the whole language community shared by individuals in the Military.

Keywords: Jargon, Military, Comparative, Analysis, English, Varieties, Pakistan, Based, Hallidiyan, Functional, Perspective.

INTRODUCTION

Language is considered one of the most influential possessions which can make or break relations in the world. It can shape and dominate the whole environment. The variegated functions of language are the reason for performing differences that prevails in lexical resources, register, various contexts, and situations either for information or to main social relationships. English is considered the language of prestige in Pakistan because it functions as a gateway to open numerous career opportunities as being capable of speaking and writing English can be observed as a steppingstone in career-oriented life. This study reports on the findings of a national-based survey of varieties, forms, and functions towards the use of English in the Pakistani Armed Forces. English has been placed in the core (middle) of language politics in Pakistan and it can

be seen from the political history of Pakistan, there has been a continuous confrontation on considering English as an official language. Joseph (2006) states, "language determines who stands where in the social hierarchy, who can be entrusted with power and responsibility. Pakistan is a multilingual state where the official language is English which is the language of South Asia's rulers-the British. Language-based ethnic movements remained part of the short history of Pakistan. Shamim (2008) states that English is taken as the vehicle for accomplishing modernization, scientific and technological development, economic advancement for self and the country; in short, for improving one's life opportunities. Haque (1982) focuses on the significance of English in official working conflicts that "English in Pakistan is more the language of Macaulay than of Shakespeare". He argues that English is the mode of

communication in all functioning of Federal and Provincial governments, court proceedings, and channels in the field of technology, information, business, and industrial sectors. This study investigates the important implications of the predominance of English and the linguistic variation in its form and functions at different levels in the Military. English language has been given importance and considered as superior in almost all domains in Pakistan as it also holds international scope. Furthermore, the strong supporters of the 'Urdu lobby' give priority to sending their children to English medium schools because they are financially strong and can easily afford it. Currently, English is one of the most sought-after languages in Pakistan because it is viewed as a language with high status and prestige. It is sometimes referred to as a "marker of class" because of psychological and social advantages to those who have rich family backgrounds. So, it is not merely upper-middle-class rather feudal and tribal chiefs from uneducated families sought to give their children education in the English Schools from an Elitist approach (Rahman, 1997).

In Pakistan, the significance of English elucidates that fluency in the English language plays a pivotal role for highly-paid jobs regardless of private and Government sectors.

LITERATURE REVIEW

English is scrutinized as the language of power and status in Pakistan as it is used for professional correspondence and status of symbols to a great extent. According to Shamim (2011), there is no systematic policy or discussion pertaining to the requirement of English in Pakistan. She sustains that minimum literacy level and mutually agreed on the perception that English is vital for getting prosperity and progress which can influence people's decision regarding the mode of instruction and the age/level when their children become unable to learn English. From the perspective of Kridalaksana and Augstina (2004), socio-linguistics is the science that studies the features and functions of the variations in language, and it is also concerned with the relationship between language and its function in the language society. Numerous linguistic variations such as register, slang, jargon, and dialect can be seen in the communication which is being done in society.

Jargon is one of the language variations in Socio-linguistics. Soeparno (2002) defines that jargon as the

form of language variation that the use of it is limited in certain social groups. Furthermore, a register affiliated with a particular occupation or activity often develops its own specific lexical resources, called Jargon (Herk, 2012).

Jargon is the technical language used in a particular field in society. In one study, it is mentioned that the function of jargon is to empower the communication and relationship among members in the group (Crystal, 2003). In other words, the identity of the group or individuals is also reflected through this language variation.

In another study, it is contemplated that there are many words that are uttered by individuals of the specific groups which are difficult to be understood by society in general and especially the people who do not belong to this specific group. The chief reason behind this comprehension problem is the use of jargon or special lexical items but they are not exactly coded words or secret. They lie in all professions like medical, computer, military, etc. Jargon in the military is entirely different from other jargon used in various groups. For example, when people say Amo, other people will not be able to understand who is not from the military. It means ammunition used in the war. In accord, only military personnel can understand the meaning of the technical or specific vocabulary, its forms, and the function of the words.

It is depicted that military language is not a free language to use rather it is used among the members of the military. It is mentioned that it is interesting to discuss military jargon, its variations to deconstruct how jargon is composed.

In the previous study, jargon was analyzed as part of the military language by the US military in the movie 'The Expendables 3'. It was concerned with the form, function, and formation of words (Jargon) used in the movie. Some earlier research was also examined in this study as reference.

In a study, it is demonstrated that the language of the military exhibits uniqueness from its particular linguistic features and characteristics. The characterization of language is done by the use of signals which is taken as the basic or primary medium of communication. Effective communication plays an important role and to achieve this objective, there has to be the requirement of professional training or expertise.

From the perspective of Kyenge (1999), "a signal must

be an action or the product of an action which demands answer or correspondence. The tone of the message dictates the message flow within the military hierarchy. In this study, it is mentioned that in spite of the direction of hierarchy, a signal message is identified in two ways; it is detailed and mostly conscious of rank and position. Secondly, it is short and precise, abbreviations or symbols. These codes carry pragmatic and semantic information as they also get changes and depend on the context and the situation.

It is also stated that the military language is precise when it is being used within its own hierarchy categorically when it is used for 1st and 2nd person singular pronouns. It is due to the reason that personal responsibility for actions can be avoided while performing some formal functions.

Malinowski (1949) states, "Language is always used to do something". The function of language is basically the mode of action. He studied the pragmatic and non-pragmatic functions of language. From his perspective, the pragmatic function is when language is used to attain concrete goals and the non-pragmatic function is when social intercourse is required to be established by using language. He believes that non-pragmatic is the functional use of language also termed as 'phatic communion. He considers these conversational turns of language as "a type of speech in which ties of union are created by a mere exchange of words" Malinowski (1949). "Soldier Talk" is a language in its own right and any person who has been serving in any of the Armed forces or some military organization is well aware of this talk. In this study, it is mentioned that the military has its own unique language as it is a separate world. Moreover, it is also stated that power is at the hand of dominating person at every stage because a soldier is answerable to a senior officer who is controlling and regulating the system within a specific hierarchy at some particular place. Furthermore, it is mentioned that institution such as the military achieves their objectives; collaborative work, social responsibility, loyalty, and influential communication are mandatory. Consequently, it puts forward the situation for systematic and situational language use as a potential means of communication. In other words, a situation where the senior officer gives order, and the junior has to obey initiates effective communication in an organized system.

Most of the previous work has highlighted the variations in language due to region or situational context and to

some extent; a social context.

The current study focuses on the varieties in the English language within military hierarchy among individuals of different ranks and its consequences on the meaning in the military language.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study is novel in the field as it gives the opportunity to get glimpse of the linguistic variety of English used among individuals at two different levels in the Military in Pakistan. It will create awareness about the phonological variations which are not merely the result of regional or social factors rather it is viewed from the perspective of acceptance among the language community shared by the Military officers and Ranks (Soldiers). It will update the linguistic knowledge of readers about jargon and its variation in the Military.

DELIMITATION

This study has delimited Halliday's model as it particularly focused on the Interpersonal metafunction of language as it is the most appropriate function because it deals with variations of forms and functions of language related to using of contexts. It is also important to investigate the social settings in which a variety of language is used in particular contexts. Furthermore, this study is limited to selecting specific jargon in the speech of individuals of different ranks, i.e., Officers and Soldiers at Military in Pakistan, and not all lexical items of the language of the military due to time and space constraints

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The aim of this study is to compare the various functions of the military as specialized varieties with their own distinctive features. The specific objectives of the study are;

- To examine the variegated functions in the language (jargon) of the Military, its forms, and functions used by different ranks in Pakistani Military
- To draw the comparison of varieties of English and unearth the phonological differences of selected words of English among different individuals in Military

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How do Pakistani officers and Soldiers vary in using military language(jargons) as specialized varieties of

English in terms of its forms and functions?

- What are the phonological differences of selected words of English in the Pakistani military?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This section dealt with the research methodology of the present study which employed a qualitative method to construct a comparative analysis of varieties of English, its forms, and functions among different ranks in the Pakistani Military. This study focused on the Jargons which was used as the common mode of communication in everyday life. The present study aimed to explore the variations of lexical resources and their functions among individuals of different ranks based on their educational background, competence, exposure, and many other factors which might be responsible for variations at phonological and syntactic levels. This paper attempts to examine the functions of these forms and the impact of those functions in the light of Hallidayan Linguistics or Systemic Functional Linguistics.

Systemic Functional Linguistics deals with social settings and it is the study of the relationship between language and its functions. It is a model of language study which is devised by Michael Halliday in the 1960s. The word "systemic" is contemplated as a network of systems or interlinked sets of choices for generating meaning and the other term "functional" refers to the practical utility of language encompassing context.

The present study is predicated on interlinked objectives i.e., the first was to identify the kind of variations and their functions in day-to-day communications. The second objective was to examine the impact of these functions and how they created meaning while having differences mainly at the phonological level and to some extent on other levels too.

The overall aim was to analyze the selected data from different (ranks) individuals to examine the kinds of variations in the process of creating and exchanging meaning while keeping differences aside.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK: FUNCTIONALISM

Functional linguistics deals with the communicative requirements of the language community which is mutually shared by the individuals. In other words, it is concerned with the study of language which is taking into account the speaker's and hearer's side. Moving on, this approach to language study is primarily concerned with the functions performed by the language either in

terms of relating information (Cognition or cognitive ability) or to indicate mood (expression) and exerting influence (conation). To analyze or interpret texts and their contexts of use, Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics is taken as both a theory of language and methodology as well. It is the dualistic role of SFL, it aims to elaborate how individuals practice language and its different usages are structured (Egins, 1994)

From the multi-functional perspective of language, which is, that language as it is to perform certain social functions, SFL divides the realized meanings by language into three main types which are ideational, interpersonal, and textual meanings.

Accordingly, language can be observed as 'systemic' as it comprises of a set of choice systems and in which, each system gives the writer /speaker a variety of ways to render their intended or desired meanings and it is viewed as functional as it serves functional purposes. As it is already mentioned that systemic functional linguistics is a theory to analyze texts and their use of contexts so it may be perceived as it creates situation-based meanings with reference to the contexts. This theory devises language as an expedient of generating meaning, a network of relationships rather than as a set of rules (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004).

The theoretical framework for this research has been mainly inspired by the Systemic functional linguistic model of Michael Halliday (1960) to identify the kinds of variations that are found in the conversation of individuals at different levels.

SFL is centered on the notion of language function because it is responsible for the syntactic structure of language; it orders the function of language as pivotal i.e., what language does, and how it does it. It is basically affiliated with social context and notices how language acts upon because it is constrained or influenced by social context to a large extent. There are three strata that build up the linguistic system in SFL: Semantics (meaning), Phonology (Sound) and lexico-grammar (Syntax, Morphology, and Lexis). From the perspective of Halliday (1960), language as a social phenomenon is functional as it focuses on the process of the structure of the text, function, and meaning of language. It commences an interpretation of language in a social context where a specific lexico-grammar choice is formulated under the influence of the Social and Cultural Contexts.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The conceptual work has been mainly influenced by Halliday's SFL (1994) accentuating semiotics, the code of language, and how meaning potentials are fixed. Moreover, it studies the functional and situational organization of language in the social context (Halliday, 1985). Its major concern is with how speakers make utterances and texts to convey their intended meanings through the generalized metafunctions that relate language to the outside world where the social roles of participants matter. Halliday (1994) introduced three types of meanings into SFL i.e. ideational (what texts are about), Interpersonal (how relationships are made through language, concerned with the communication), and textual (how information is organized into coherent texts). These three metafunctions played an important role in analyzing and interpreting language in terms of its forms, functions, and variations.

By applying Halliday's model (1994), through the examination of varieties of English (Jargon) used in the Pakistani Military, the researcher explored the factors which accounted for such variations and their impact on communication. This comparative study inquired about the different forms of English (Jargon) which were used in the Military in Pakistan.

The framework included data extraction from the selected conversations of Military personnel through observation and the analysis included a comparison of data and identification of variations in terms of metafunctions marked by Halliday's model (1994).

In this study, the process of analysis follows a comparative study between individuals of different ranks in the Military and their way of communication based on variations at the phonological level and concerned with morphological level to some extent. The purpose of the present study was to compare the forms of English used by individuals of a specific organization (Military) in Pakistan to utter the same words entirely in a different way. In accord, the researcher has applied Halliday's model (1994) and fit the data into mentioned categories (variations) and has tried to identify these variations in the speech of individuals of different ranks. Finally, the data has been analyzed to compare the different varieties to find out possible answers to the research questions by looking at the analysis of the selected conversations.

THE RATIONALE FOR THE SELECTION OF JARGON IN MILITARY

The framework for this research is drawn from Halliday's model (1994) as it represented the most suitable approach to unearth varieties of English forms used by individuals of Pakistani Military at different levels. A systematic analysis was helpful in exposing the various forms of English and their functions in social-based contexts. By doing so, a comparative study has been conducted to highlight the phonological differences of jargon used in the Pakistan Army.

Sampling Technique: Purposive sampling

A non-probability sampling technique has been employed in the present study. Sampling in qualitative research is usually purposive. There are many specific sampling techniques that can be used in qualitative research. For instance, the researcher collected data by observing conversations of individuals of different ranks i.e., Officers and Soldiers; how they utter words differently.

Tools of Data Collection

The researcher has used observation techniques to collect the data.

Data Analysis/Interpretation

This study is qualitative in nature and the data is collected through observation techniques. English is considered the official language in Pakistan as it is the language that is used officially in civil and military bureaucracy. Besides this, all examinations such as provincial civil service and Federal are conducted in English (Haque, 1982). This paper highlights the varieties of English which are used by individuals of different ranks in the Pakistani Military. Though English is recognized as the sign of Status in Pakistan which is at the macro level of understanding this study aimed to explore the various forms not due to regional basis only rather ideological reasons and some other factors are also involved which are coined by this investigation.

This study has used Halliday's Linguistics (1960) in general and metafunctions of language in particular. According to systemic functional linguistics, three metafunctions of language which are ideational, interpersonal, and textual reflected in a gigantic interconnected network of meaning potentials which further adds sub-networks of transitivity with a particular set of semantic features for an utterance production.

This study is delimited to the interpersonal function of language which is concerned with social and power relations among language users. It relates participants' specific situational roles to the discourse produced (Halliday, 1981).

Moreover, this function hands out the relationship between the speaker and the hearer. It describes the component through which the speaker encroaches himself into the context of the situation, "both expressing his own attitudes and judgments and looking for to influence the attitudes and behavior of others" (Halliday, 1978).

This function is primarily perturbed with the clauses as exchanges. In analyzing a clause as an exchange of events, Halliday specifies two components in a clause: the mood and the residue. The mood is carrying the syntactic burden of the exchange and carries the argument forward (Halliday, 1994). Every profession has a technical vocabulary that is shared by individuals of the same field. It is commonly known as Jargon. This study elucidated the use of jargon used in the Pakistani Military. The researcher collected the data and found that there were numerous variations across the board among individuals of different ranks which were identified as phonological differences. These varieties are observed at the same place which indicated that these may not be merely due to regional differences rather some other reasons came into consideration.

The researcher analyzed the collected data at two levels; the former is technical words used among Military officers such as when some junior officer is replying to a senior officer in text and intended to give the impression that he understood or acknowledged the message, so he used the selected words like "Roger or Vilco". In the same way, when some information is being conveyed to any officer so he would write, "Copied please". Similarly, the word 'please' is found at the end of almost all conversations as being part of their official communication.

Secondly, the data is analyzed at another level; when soldiers communicated to an officer or to some other soldier, they would use words of English in an entirely different way. A list of words with variations in English used by officers and soldiers is attached in the Appendix. This study drew a comparison between various forms of English used at the same place.

Following are the words that are pronounced differently by Military officers and Soldiers.

The word 'Fallin' is used by the officers when some activity is not being conducted or done as per the organized schedule and the same word is uttered as 'Fallni' by the soldiers. The meaning and function of the word remained the same and understood by all the participants of the Military community regardless of phonological differences between them. It is evident that this variation is not because of the region as these words are articulated by them at the same place. The researcher coined some other reasons for this variety of English which is mentioned in research findings.

Similarly, there are some other words that are articulated by these two groups of Military. Soldiers would say 'Jutent, Stundard, Dalda, Raager, Maike, Jaint, Ware, Rond, Card conference, sulf start, Rotairing, Hamber, Fainal, Probing, Rukshoo instead of Adjutant, Standard, Delta, Roger, Mike, Joint, Wire, Round, Cord conference, Self-start, Orienteering, Hammer, final, Problem and Ricochet bullet which are pronounced by the Officers.

It can be seen from the data that there are major phonological differences between the conversation of officers and soldiers. It has been observed that some of the technical words are taken from the general English language, but these words are used for specific purposes and most of the words are different from other varieties of English.

It can be evident from the collected data that different varieties of English are used by two different groups in the Military. The interpersonal metafunction of Halliday frames such types of differences because the functional role played by these varieties of English is conditioned by context and situation. These varieties are regulated by the social context. The researcher discovered that people have a different kind of exposure, and they acquire or learn the language within the same context modified by social factors which influence their language learning.

This study analyzed the data within the framework of Halliday's interpersonal metafunction. As this study is qualitative in nature, which is an emergent research design, it is somehow integrated with the creative construction hypothesis which is based on Cognition oriented theory. It claimed that second language learning is a process of habit-formation in which the major hindrance to learning is interference from the mother tongue. The researcher found that mother tongue influence may not be restricted to soldiers rather

officers encountered the same in most of the cases. In Pakistan, it is a very common practice to learn English as their third or second language for most of the language community. To interpret the data, the researcher reached the point that regional factors, social factors and mother tongue influence, educational background, and linguistic competence contributed to some extent only because if it would have been the case, all soldiers could not utter words exactly the same in spite of their region, exposure, etc as these differences are found among all individuals. The same uniformity is found in the communication of the military officers despite differences in their background, linguistic competence, etc. Consequently, Soldiers' communication may not be considered faulty due to their educational background or mother tongue influence rather this process is called micro-acquisition.

It is understood by the whole military community and uniformity is found in their conversation with each other and even to the officers.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

- The researcher discovered the varieties of English used by the Military officers and Soldiers in Pakistan and showed that these forms are acceptable in their shared language community within the military hierarchy
- The variations uttered by the soldiers are not due to the regional, social or educational background only rather these differences are due to Micro-acquisition
- The researcher observed the uniformity in the communication of Military officers at one level and among soldiers at another level
- The words articulated by Soldiers are not faulty but the result of micro-acquisition
- A comparative analysis has been drawn between soldiers and officers to indicate phonological differences between them
- Meanings might be understood despite phonological variations by the whole military community when they communicate with each other because these are common codes of conversation mutually accepted by them.

CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates how Pakistani military officers and soldiers use varieties of English that employ

phonological differences regardless of their regions, exposure, educational background, and mother tongue influence. This intra-speaker variation is found in the English language used among Pakistani Military officers and Soldiers. This paper depicts that micro acquisition may be likely the reason for linguistic variety in English because uniformity prevails at a large scale in both Military groups. Furthermore, meanings are understood at all levels of the military community without any misinterpretation. This preliminary study opens the gateway for other researchers to go for in-depth study to coin other reasons for such huge linguistic variety of English at some other common working places in Pakistan.

REFERENCES

- Corder, S.P. (1973). *Introducing Applied Linguistics*. London: Pergamon Books Scott Foresman.
- Crystal, D. and Davy, D. (1969). *Investigating English Style* London: Logman Group Limited.
- Dambazau, A.B. (1969). *Military Law Terminologies*. Ibadan: Specturm Bok Limited.
- Haliday, M.A.K (1985). *An introduction of functional grammar*. London: Edward Arnold.
- Joseph, J.E (2006) *Language and Politics*, Edinburgh, Edinburgh University Press.
- Khalique, H. (2006). The Urdu- English relationship and its impact on Pakistan's social development, 99-112. Retrieved from <http://www.urdustudies.com/pdf/22/09/HKhalique.pdf>.
- Kyenge, K. (1999). *The language of Military B.A*. Project English Department, A.B.I Zaria.
- Leech, G. (1975). *Semantics: The Study of Meaning*. London: Hazel Watsem and Vinety Ltd.
- Lyons, J. (1977). *Semantics Vol, I* Cambridge University Press.
- Mansoor, S. (1993). *Punjabi, Urdu, English in Pakistan: A sociolinguistic Study*. Lahore: Vanguard
- Moody, H.L. (1970). *Varieties of English*. London: Longman Group Ltd.
- Nwana, O. (1981). *Methods in Social Research*. London: Lagos Longman
- Nwofer, E.A. (1990). *Language Varieties. Focus on English*, London: OnishaCommonwealth publishers.
- Obasanjo, O, (1987). *Nzeogwn An Intimate Portrat of Major Chukwma Kaduna Nzeogwu Ibadan*.

Ibadan:Spectrum Books.

O' Brien, R.W. et al (1957). *Reading in General Society*. USA: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Ogun V. (1990). *A functional Study of the language of Engineering, A case study of Faculty of Engineering B.A projects*, English Department A.B.U Zaria.

Rahman, T. (1996). *Languages and Politics in Pakistan*, Karachi, Oxford University Press

Rahman, T. (2001). English Language Institution in Pakistan. *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development*, 22(3), 242-261.

Shamim, F. (2008). Trends, issues and challenges in English Languages education in Pakistan, *Asia Pacific Journal of Education*, 28(3), 235-249.

Shamim, F. (2011). English as the language for development: Issues challenges and possible

solutions. *Dreams and realities: Developing countries and the English language*, 291-310.

Retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Fauzia-Shamim/publication/313722489_English_as_the_language_of_development_in_Pakistan_Issues_challenges_and_possible_solutions/links/58a4188faca272d3a4984b31/English-as-the-language-of-development-in-Pakistan-Issues-challenges-and-possible-solutions.pdf.

Tamin, T. (2014). The politics of languages in education: Issues of access, social participation and inequality in the multilingual context of Pakistan, *British Educational Research Journal*, 40(2), 280-299.

Publisher's note: EScience Press remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.



Open Access This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, which permits use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license and indicate if changes were made. The images or other third-party material in this article are included in the article's Creative Commons license, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the article's Creative Commons license and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

© The Author(s) 2021.