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**LEXICO-SEMANTIC VARIATIONS IN A PAKISTANI  
ENGLISH NEWSPAPER CORPUS**

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**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA  
2024**

**LEXICO-SEMANTIC VARIATIONS IN A PAKISTANI ENGLISH  
NEWSPAPER CORPUS**

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**UUM**  
Universiti Utara Malaysia

**Thesis Submitted to  
Awang Had Salleh Graduate School of Arts and Sciences  
Universiti Utara Malaysia  
In Fulfillment of the Requirement for Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**



Awang Had Salleh  
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## ABSTRACT

Pakistani English is recognized as a distinct linguistic variant, yet it remains comparatively understudied in relation to other English variations. This study delves into the linguistic variations evident in Pakistani English as manifested in newspaper discourse, with a specific emphasis on the impact of cultural and social norms. The investigation explores the incorporation of indigenous and innovative forms of New English, tailored to facilitate everyday tasks and capture attention. The theoretical framework, situated within the socio-cultural context of Pakistan, draws on, Schneider Dynamic Model, Moag's model of New Englishes and Kachru's Model of Nativisation and Acculturation, particularly in reference to the Kachru's Outer Circle Model and its role in institutionalizing Second Varieties of English. The examination of lexical items reveals that Pakistani English draws from its source, Standard British English, exemplified by terms such as "Shadi hall" and "Jihadi outfits." These lexical categories manifest in coinages, borrowings, idiomatic collocations, and semantic shifts. The study compiles a purposive corpus of 6 million words from the websites of three major Pakistani English Newspapers, namely, DAWN, The Nation, and The News. Utilizing the corpus software tool Antconc 3.5.8w, the analysis identifies key terms and discerns the nuances of linguistic stances. The study's findings underscore the emergence of a New English variety within Pakistani English Newspapers, featuring adapted lexemes contextualized within the local sociolinguistic milieu. A significant revelation is the infusion of Islamic, historical, and social cultural elements into New English lexemes, showcasing a blending of Arabic, Urdu, Punjabi, and English vocabulary. The lexico-semantic variations presented in the study are deemed suitable for the linguistic and cultural landscape of Pakistan, warranting inclusion in Pakistani English books and dictionaries. Moreover, the study contributes to the expansion of societal educational and communicational practices while upholding endonormative standards.

**Keywords:** Lexico-semantics, Corpus-based Analysis, Pakistani English Variations, New Englishes, Endonormative Standards.

## ABSTRAK

Bahasa Inggeris Pakistan diiktiraf sebagai variasi linguistik yang berbeza, namun ia masih kurang dikaji berbanding dialek Inggeris yang lain. Kajian ini mengkaji variasi linguistik yang jelas dalam Bahasa Inggeris Pakistan seperti yang dinyatakan dalam wacana akhbar, dengan penekanan khusus terhadap kesan norma budaya dan sosial. Kajian ini meneroka penggabungan bentuk asli dan inovatif Bahasa Inggeris Baharu, yang disesuaikan untuk memudahkan tugas harian dan bertujuan untuk menarik perhatian. Rangka kerja teori, yang terletak dalam konteks sosio-budaya Pakistan yang menarik, termasuklah Model Dinamik Schneider, model Moag Bahasa Inggeris Baharu dan Model Nativisasi dan Pembudayaan Kachru, terutamanya merujuk kepada Model Lingkaran Luar Kachru dan peranannya dalam menginstitusikan Varieti Kedua Bahasa Inggeris digunakan di dalam kajian ini. Kajian item leksikal mendedahkan bahawa Bahasa Inggeris Pakistan diambil daripada sumbernya iaitu Bahasa Inggeris Piawaian British, contohnya seperti "Dewan Shadi" dan "Pakaian Jihadi." Kategori leksikal ini digunakan dalam sistem perbendaharaan kata baharu, kata pinjaman, kolokasi idiomatik, dan peralihan semantik. Kajian itu menyenaraikan korpus bertujuan sebanyak 6 juta perkataan daripada laman web tiga Akhbar Inggeris utama Pakistan, iaitu, DAWN, The Nation, dan The News. Analisis kajian mengenal pasti istilah utama dan membezakan nuansa pendirian linguistik dengan menggunakan alat perisian korpus Antconc 3.5.8w. Penemuan kajian ini memperlihatkan kemunculan kepelbagaian Bahasa Inggeris Baharu dalam akhbar berbahasa Inggeris Pakistan yang memaparkan set perkataan *leksem* yang disesuaikan dengan kontekstualisasi dalam persekitaran sosiolinguistik tempatan. Antara pendedahan penting ialah penyerapan unsur-unsur budaya Islam, sejarah dan sosial ke dalam *leksem* Bahasa Inggeris Baharu, yang memperlihatkan gabungan perbendaharaan kata Arab, Urdu, Punjabi dan Inggeris. Variasi leksiko-semantik yang dibentangkan dalam kajian ini dianggap sesuai untuk landskap linguistik dan budaya Pakistan, yang menjamin kemasukan daftar ke dalam buku dan kamus Inggeris Pakistan. Selain itu, kajian ini menyumbang kepada pengembangan amalan pendidikan dan komunikasi masyarakat di samping mengekalkan standard endonormatif.

**Kata kunci:** Leksiko-semantik, Analisis berasaskan korpus, Variasi Bahasa Inggeris Pakistan, Bahasa Inggeris Baharu, Piawaian endonormatif.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the name of Almighty Allah, the most Merciful and the most Gracious. Praise and Peace Be upon His Beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), His (PBUH) family and companions (May God Be Pleased with Them) with the guidance of whom and by the will of Allah, we come out from darkness to light. Whomever Allah guides no one can lead him astray, and whomever Allah leaves astray no one can guide him. I thank Allah for His persistent help and guidance upon me.

I dedicated my work to my Parents, Nasim Nawaz Mokal and Ahmed Nawaz Mokal.

First and foremost, I wish to express my deepest appreciation to my supervisor, Dr. Hasliza Abd Halim for her inspiration, guidance, support, and generosity. She inspired and motivated me greatly throughout my Ph.D. journey until the completion of the study. This research has benefited greatly from the feedback and expertise of my supervisor, and without her advice and constructive criticisms this thesis would never have been written.

Many other scholars who have contributed directly or indirectly also deserve my thanks. I am grateful for their academic guidance, comments, and constructive suggestions at various points during the research. It is well known that a Ph.D. thesis cannot be written without the intellectual and motivational help of other scholars. I am very greatly indebted to so many wonderful people for their contributions and spontaneous assistance in so many ways in completing this thesis.

Finally, to my family who always stood by me throughout my Ph.D. journey. My mother and father deserve a special mention for their prayers and endless love. Along with them my siblings Maliha Mokal, Alishba Mokal and Asad Mokal who have sacrificed a part of their life, endured without me that gave me hope and strength without which I would not be able to make this dream come true. I would also like to convey my gratitude to my colleagues and friends Dr. Zaki Ahmad and Musharraf Kaifi.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b>PE</b>	Pakistani English
<b>BNC</b>	British National Corpus
<b>PEN</b>	Corpus Pakistani English Newspaper Corpus
<b>EAP</b>	English for Advanced Purposes
<b>EFL</b>	English as a Foreign Language
<b>EIL</b>	English as an International Language
<b>ELT</b>	English Language Teaching
<b>ENL</b>	English as a Native Language
<b>ESL</b>	English as a Second Language
<b>ESP</b>	English for Specific Purposes
<b>F</b>	Function Word
<b>Fig</b>	Figure
<b>ICE</b>	International Corpus of English
<b>ICLE</b>	International Corpus of Learner English
<b>KWIC</b>	Key Word in Context
<b>L1</b>	First Language
<b>L2</b>	Second Language
<b>LF</b>	LOB and FLOB Corpora
<b>N</b>	Noun
<b>NP/np</b>	Noun Phrase
<b>OED</b>	Oxford English Dictionary
<b>POS</b>	Parts of Speech
<b>PEELI</b>	Punjab Education and English Language Initiative
<b>PWE</b>	Pakistani Written English Corpus
<b>FLA</b>	Foreign Language Acquisition
<b>SLA</b>	Second Language Acquisition
<b>VP</b>	Verb Phrase
<b>PTI</b>	Pakistan Tehreek-e- Insaf
<b>PMLN</b>	Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz Sharif
<b>MQM</b>	Mutihada Qoumi Movement
<b>PPP</b>	Pakistan People's Party

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# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter serves as the foundational framework for the research endeavor. It begins by elucidating the problem statement, providing a basis for formulating the study's objectives and questions. The subsequent sections delve into the significance and scope of the research, offering operational definitions to enhance clarity. The chapter culminates in a comprehensive summary, followed by an elucidation of the thesis structure.

### 1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Pakistan, with its linguistic tapestry boasting over 74 actively used languages, presents a rich reservoir of diversity. While Urdu holds the mantle of the national language, its role as the mother tongue is limited to a modest fraction of the populace. Within this intricate linguistic backdrop, Pakistani English (PE) becomes a focal point of scholarly examination, explored by notable scholars like Rahman (2009) and Baumgardner (1995). This exploration extends to unique dialectal variations within PE, including Pashtun English, Sindhi English, Urduized English, Punjabi English, and Baluchi English, each shaped by the crucible of sociocultural language interplay.

The linguistic landscape in Pakistan is dynamic, with local languages such as Urdu, Punjabi, Arabic, Persian, and Hindi collectively contributing to the blend of lexical variations within the broader canvas of Pakistani English. These languages, members of the Indo-Iranian language family, further delineate subbranches within the Indo-Aryan

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# APPENDICES

## APPENDIX A

### Request Letter for Data Collection

	<b>PUSAT PENGAJIAN BAHASA, TAMADUN DAN FALSAFAH</b> <b>SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES, CIVILISATION AND PHILOSOPHY</b> Bangunan Komunikasi dan Bahasa Modern Universiti Utara Malaysia 06010 UUM SINTOK KEDAH DARUL AMAN MALAYSIA	 <b>UUM</b> Universiti Utara Malaysia
		<small>Tel: 604-928 5691/5701/5707/5561 Faks (Fax): 604-928 5709 Laman Web (Web): <a href="http://www.slcp.uum.edu.my">www.slcp.uum.edu.my</a></small>
		<b>UUM/SLCP/s903990</b> <b>March 1, 2020</b>
<b>TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN</b>		
<p>I have a doctoral student Mahvish Mokal (Matric No. : 903990) who is working on a project to see the variations of Pakistani English newspapers. Around the world there is considerable interest in 'New Englishes' of which Pakistani English is one. It is little studied and documented. Many varieties of English are now studied using large corpora, machine readable collections of texts which can be annotated and searched for various properties of the language in which the texts are written. Your newspaper provides a very good source of information on the variety of English used in Pakistan. It is important to understand this variety since it reflects the local culture and social values.</p>		
<p>I am writing to ask your assistance in providing 5 years' copy of news and current affairs in text only-form. This copy is very vital to this research project as we need a large corpus to work with otherwise the data are not reliable.</p>		
<p>I would like to thank you for your kind consideration.</p>		
<p>Thank you.</p>		
<b>"KEDAH AMAN MAKMUR – HARAPAN BERSAMA MAKMURKAN KEDAH"</b> <b>"KNOWLEDGE, VIRTUE, SERVICE"</b>		
<p>Yours sincerely</p>		
		
<p><b>DR HASLIZA ABD HALIM</b> Senior Lecturer School of Languages, Civilizations and Philosophy Universiti Utara Malaysia</p>		
<small>Universiti Pengurusan Terkemuka The Eminent Management University</small>		

## APPENDIX B

### Request form for validation of Qualitative Instrument

#### Request form for Validation of Instrument

Dear Professor,

I am a Ph.D. student in Applied Linguistics in SLCP at the University of Utara Malaysia. I am writing to you to request your assistance in providing feedback on the validity of the research instrument that I used in my research thesis titled

“A LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF LEXICO-SEMANTIC VARIATIONS IN PAKISTANI ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS”

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The instrument is the following:

1. Anconc 3.5.8w

The Anconc tool aims at determining the keywords in context and collocations phrases frequently used in Pakistani English Newspapers to provide an estimated frequency measure and to explore the qualitative challenges associated with the Pakistani New English variety.

The above-mentioned instrument and the results are attached to the letter. I request your evaluation on whether they effectively capture what I intend to measure in my objectives, and whether or not there are amendments that I should consider to improve my instruments and corpus data collection procedures. More information about my research topic and research objectives is attached to this email. Your kind cooperation and assistance in the aforementioned matter is greatly appreciated.

Thank You.

Yours Sincerely,

Mahvish Mokal

Ph.D. (Applied Linguistics)  
Researcher

## APPENDIX C

### Letter for NOC

#### NOC Letter

Respected Editor

DAWN, Karachi

Subject: Request for the NOC (No Objection Certificate)

It is requested that I am a doctoral student at the University Utara Malaysia, Malaysia (Mahvish Nawaz Mokal, Matric No: 903990). I am working on a project to see the variation of Pakistani English newspapers. Your newspaper provides a very good source of information and reflects the standard English, local culture, and social values.

Kindly allow me to collect online data of your newspaper corpus from year (2020-2023) for my doctoral research preferably at Lahore office. A letter of reference from my university has been attached.

I'll be highly obliged.

Regards

Mahvish Nawaz Mokal  
Researcher  
University Utara Malaysia  
Email: mokalmahvish@gmail.com

## APPENDIX D

### NOC Letter for The Nation News

4/4/24, 2:21AM

Gmail - Request for NOC for data collection



The News International <editor@thenews.com.pk>

#### Request for NOC for data collection

editor dawn <editor@thenews.com.pk>  
To: Mahvish Mokal <mokalmahvish@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 3, 2024 at 12:28 AM

Dear Mahvish Nawaz Mokal,  
I trust this email finds you in good health and high spirits.

Your recent inquiry regarding your doctoral research project at the University Utara Malaysia has been received with gratitude. It's heartening to know of your interest in our newspaper and your acknowledgment of its role as a reliable source reflecting standard English and social values.

After thoughtful deliberation on your request, I am pleased to inform you that we have granted permission for you to access online data from our newspaper corpus spanning the years 2020 to 2023. Recognizing the importance of academic research, we are delighted to extend our support to your scholarly pursuits. Furthermore, we have received the attached letter of reference from your university, which we will keep on file for future reference.

We have full confidence in your professionalism and integrity in handling the collected data. We expect that you will maintain ethical standards and ensure confidentiality throughout the process. Should you require any assistance or additional information during your data collection endeavors, please feel free to reach out to us.

Thank you for considering our newspaper as a valuable resource for your research. Wishing you the very best in your doctoral journey.

Kind Regards,

Mir Shakil ur Rehman,  
Editor-in-Chief, The News International  
Address: Al Rehman Building, 3rd Floor,  
I.I Chundrigar Road, City Railway Colony, Karachi  
Direct Line: +92(021) 32213287  
Fax: +92365478965

## APPENDIX E

### NOC Letter for Dawn News

Gmail - NOC Letter

 Gmail editor dawn <editor@dawn.com>

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**NOC Letter**

editor dawn <editor@dawn.com> Mon, Nov 16, 2020 at 12:30 PM  
To: Mahvish Mokai <mokalmahvish@gmail.com>  
Dear Mahvish Nawaz Mokai,

I hope this email finds you well.

Thank you for reaching out to us regarding your doctoral research project at the University Utara Malaysia. We appreciate your interest in our newspaper and your recognition of it as a valuable source of information reflecting standard English, local culture, and social values.

After careful consideration of your request, we are pleased to grant you permission to collect online data from our newspaper corpus for the years 2020 to 2023. We acknowledge the significance of academic research and are glad to support your endeavors in this area. We have received the attached letter of reference from your university and will keep it on file for our records.

We trust that you will handle the data collected with professionalism and integrity, adhering to ethical standards and ensuring confidentiality. If you require any further assistance or information during the data collection process, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for considering our newspaper for your research, and we wish you all the best in your doctoral endeavors.

Warmest regards,

**Zaffar Abbas,**  
Editor, Dawn Newspaper  
Address: Dawn Media Group, Plot 20, Block N Gulberg III,  
Lahore, Punjab 54660, Pakistan  
Direct Line: +92 42 111 444 777  
Fax: +923 2136 7810

[Quoted text hidden]

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ikc=59c28770e&view=pt&search=all&simlmsgid=msg-a:919137005235082625&swipe=msg-a:919137005235092

1/1

## APPENDIX F

### NOC Letter for The Nation News (Pakistan)

The Nation (Pakistan)  
Lahore Office,  
Pakistan

Date: 16 November 2020

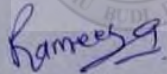
#### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Mahvish Nawaz Mokal,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to inform you that your request to access and utilize materials from our newspaper's online archives for your Ph.D. research at Universiti Utara Malaysia (Matric Number: 903990) has been granted. We are pleased to provide you with permission to proceed with your research using the resources available in our archives.

As a reputable publication, we recognize the importance of supporting academic research and scholarship. We are delighted that our newspaper's archives can contribute to the advancement of knowledge in your field of study. We trust that the materials you access will be utilized responsibly and ethically by academic standards and copyright laws.

Warm regards,



**Rameeza Nizami,**  
Executive Editor, The Nation (Pakistan)  
Address: NIPCO House 23 Shahrah e Fatima Jinnah,  
Lahore - Pakistan  
**Direct Line:** +92 (42) 3636 7580  
**Fax:** +92 (42) 3636 7005  
Email: editor@nation.com

## APPENDIX G

### Reviewer letter I for instrument validation



#### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

REG/057/23/1207  
Date: November 13, 2023

Dear Mahvish Nawaz Mokal,

Thank you for reaching out and sharing details regarding your Ph.D. thesis titled "A linguistic analysis of lexico-semantic variations in Pakistani English newspapers". We appreciate your dedication to your research and your commitment to ensuring the validity of your research instrument.

Regarding your request for feedback on the validity of the research instrument, Anconc 3.5.8w, used in your study, I hereby grant you permission to proceed with its evaluation. I understand that the Anconc tool plays a crucial role in determining keywords in context and collocational phrases frequently used in Pakistani English Newspapers, providing valuable insights into the linguistic landscape of this variety.

Please be assured of my full cooperation and assistance in this matter. I recognize the importance of refining research methodologies to ensure the integrity and accuracy of academic investigations.

Should you require any further clarification or assistance during this process, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Thank you for considering my expertise for the evaluation of your research instrument, and I wish you continued success in your Ph.D. journey.

Yours Sincerely,

**Dr Musharraf Kaifi**

Assistant Professor  
Department of English Language and Literature  
University of Lahore  
Email: musharrafazizkaifi@gmail.com

## APPENDIX H

### Reviewer letter II for instrument validation



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Date: November 08, 2023

Dear Mahvish Nawaz Mokal,

I wish to express my gratitude for your correspondence and for providing detailed information regarding your Ph.D. thesis entitled "A linguistic analysis of lexico-semantic variations in Pakistani English newspapers." Your dedication to this research endeavor is commendable, and I commend your commitment to ensuring the integrity of your research instrument.

In response to your request for feedback on the validity of the research instrument, Anconc 3.5.8w, utilized in your study, I hereby authorize you to proceed with its evaluation. I understand the pivotal role that the Anconc tool plays in identifying keywords in context and collocational phrases commonly employed in Pakistani English Newspapers, thereby offering valuable insights into the linguistic nuances of this particular variety.

Should you require further clarification or assistance at any stage, please feel free to reach out to me without hesitation.

I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute my expertise to the evaluation of your research instrument, and I extend my best wishes for continued success in your Ph.D. journey.

Yours Sincerely,

**Dr Ahdi Hassan**

Global Institute for Research Education & Scholarship,  
Amsterdam 1101 EB, The Netherlands  
Email: ahdihassan441@gmail.com

## APPENDIX I

### Checklist for Evaluation of Qualitative Instrument

#### Qualitative Evaluation Checklist

The purpose of qualitative checklist is to guide evaluators in determining when qualitative method are appropriate for an evaluative inquiry and factors to consider. (1) to select qualitative approach that are particularly appropriate for a given evaluation's expected uses and answer the evaluations questions, (2) to collect high quality and credible qualitative evaluation data, (3) to analyze and report qualitative evaluation findings.

Checklist	Yes	No	Comments
The corpus in the instrument is relevant to the objectives of the study.			
The instrument has an appropriate number of files for the construct being measured.			
The corpus in the instrument is stated clearly.			
The corpus in the instrument can provide keywords, which define the socio-cultural context.			
The lexical terms adopted in the corpus are appropriate.			
The layout or format of the instrument is technically sound.			
The frequency on the software shows a reasonable range of variations.			
The instrument is not too short or long for the corpus to fill it in within the allocated time.			
The instrument is interesting enough to stimulate the corpus data to accomplish the fil-in process.			
The instrument, as a whole, relates to the purpose for which it was designed.			
The language of the instrument is correct.			

## APPENDIX J

### Corpus Data Compilation Table

Lexical categories	Words/phrases	PEN Corpus (Frequency)	BNC (Frequency)
<b>a. Coinage</b>	i. Gullu butt	04	0
	ii. Jihadi outfits	04	0
	iii. Zainab's case	02	0
	iv. The global idiot	02	0
	v. Juicy Topic	02	0
	vi. Taliban Khan	1228	0
	vii. Chacha Cricket	04	0
	viii. Certified Liar	109	0
	ix. Landa Bazar	76	0
	x. Tik-Tok	11	0
	xi. Imported government	431	0
	xii. Socially- distanced	31	0
	xiii. Smart lockdown	62	0
	xiv. Naya Pakistan	35	0
	xv. Pakistaniyat	04	0
	xvi. Suicide bombing	20	02
	xvii. Minus-one formula	83	0
	xviii. SARS-Cov-2	23	0
	xix. Kaptaan	16	0
	xx. Lathi charge	04	0
	xxi. Mr Khan	391	05
	xxii. King of jalsas	19	0
	xxiii. Pindi plan	06	0
	xxiv. Virus spike protein	02	0
	xxv. Poor tax culture	14	0
	xxvi. Pandemic	492	17
	xxvii. The blame game	31	04
<b>b. Borrowing</b>	i. Hazrat	57	2
	ii. Madadgar	02	0
	iii. Sunni Muslim	28	14
	iv. Shirk	08	96
	v. Tabedar khan	02	0
	vi. Deen se doori	08	0

vii.	Madina ki riyasat	50	0	
viii.	Eid	23	11	
ix.	Azan	15	1	
x.	Milad	11	1	
xi.	Ramazan	54	05	
xii.	Zaireen	18	0	
xiii.	Mohalla/mohallah	05	0	
xiv.	Zakat	16	1	
xv.	Mujahid	48	03	
xvi.	Madrasa	06	02	
xvii.	Sunday bazaar	15	0	
xviii.	Jirga/jirgas	109	9	
xix.	Kisan card	14	0	
xx.	Yaadgaar e shuhada	03	0	
xxi.	Ajoka	05	0	
xxii.	Darbar	31	0	
xxiii.	Zamindar	03	0	
xxiv.	Shaadi	08	0	
xxv.	Mehndi	01	0	
xxvi.	Tamasha	11	0	
xxvii.	Mast qalandar	02	0	
xxviii.	Lok Mela	77	0	
xxix.	Chand	14	0	
xxx.	Roti	22	04	
xxxi.	Kapra	07	0	
xxxii.	Makaan	04	0	
xxxiii.	Tandoor	02	02	
xxxiv.	Thana	54	0	
xxxv.	Sain	03	06	
xxxvi.	Sabzi mandi	15	0	
xxxvii.	Ras malai	01	0	
xxxviii.	Pulao	11	0	
xxxix.	Kabab	02	0	
xl.	Tikkay	02	0	
xli.	Gulab jamun	09	0	
<hr/>				
<b>c. Idiomatic Collocations</b>	i.	Business type	57	05
	ii.	Their wives/his wife	203	388
	iii.	Win win	26	32
	iv.	Venue of jalsa	09	0
	v.	Loot sale	24	0
	vi.	Lasting stains	03	1
	vii.	Master of U-turn	05	0
	viii.	Pakistani women	20	08

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ix.	Heavy responsibility	04	37
x.	Looting cash	41	0
xi.	High command	17	121
xii.	Dirty money	06	08
xiii.	Blood money	14	19
xiv.	Women seat	19	13
xv.	Time tested friends	05	0
xvi.	The dinosaurs of Pakistan/ City of dinosaurs	05	0
xvii.	Hungary beast	04	03
xviii.	Trade not aid	04	01
xix.	No woman's land	12	02
xx.	City receives rain	01	0
xxi.	Last man standing	40	0

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**d. Semantic Shift**

i.	Chief	7756	12,147
ii.	Female	508	9,413
iii.	Long march	1203	7,747
iv.	Rally	136	2361
v.	Social distancing	932	1,561
vi.	Shrinking	33	344
vii.	Jumped	54	6,174
viii.	Hungry leader	03	0
ix.	Hotel	314	12,822
x.	Ticket	281	4,556
xi.	Lower class	07	193
xii.	Copy	232	9,531
xiii.	Feudal	51	610
xiv.	Freedom of the press	29	76
xv.	Top options	04	1
xvi.	Listening ear	03	16
xvii.	Endure the burden	01	0
xviii.	Zero tolerance	44	03
xix.	Hide and seek	03	60
xx.	Academic	254	5,414
xxi.	Paid content	02	0
xxii.	Dirty politics	10	0
xxiii.	Biggest thief	14	0
xxiv.	Zero covid	29	0
xxv.	Red-zone	73	02
xxvi.	Cantonment	54	20

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## Publications

1. Mokal, M. N. & Halim, H. (2023). An Analysis of Lexico-Semantic Variations in Pakistani English Newspaper Corpus. *World Journal of English Language*,13(6), 371-384

