

## PAKISTANI ENGLISH: A GLIMPSE OF PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGICAL FEATURES

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### ABSTRACT

*Pakistani English is an institutionalised non-native variation of the English language that developed from contacts between English and Pakistani indigenous languages. Although, it is still closely related to the standard variety of British English, it deviates from it in multiple ways as it has developed distinct Pakistani features at all linguistic levels. However, it is best recognized by its phonetics and phonological characteristics, despite the fact that phonological variations are widespread. This study described the phonetics and phonological features of Pakistani English in relation to the standard variety of British English. The analysis is based on the researchers' observation and intuitive understanding in the context of the findings of existing studies on Pakistani English, with data taken from published Pakistani Anglophone literature. The findings suggest that the Pakistani English's phonetics and phonological features deviate significantly from those of Received Pronunciation, which is mostly the result of first language interference. However, the researchers recommend a more detailed examination of each and every feature of Pakistani English, such as consonants, vowels, and rhythmic patterns.*

**Key Words:** Pakistani English; Phonetics and phonology of Pakistani English; Non-native varieties of English; Segmental features of Pakistani English; Non-segmental features of Pakistani English.

### INTRODUCTION

Linguistic divergences have given rise to various varieties of English that have emerged in areas where English is often used as a second language. Initial mistrust regarding these variations has given way to a more tolerant attitude in recent years. As a result, linguists are evaluating the various facets of countless new variants of English that are steadily but gradually becoming recognized in various regions of the world. One such variant that has lately left its imprint on the global language scene is Pakistani English. The notion that Pakistani English is indeed a unique variety assumes that English is being "Pakistanized" in Pakistan, which has led to the emergence of distinctive Pakistani features in Pakistani English at all linguistic levels, because of the use of English language in new sociocultural settings of Pakistan, in contact with other Pakistani languages, and in the absence of native speakers of English. Sidhwa (1993), commenting on the Pakistanization of English says, "we, the ex-colonized, have just subjugated the language [English], beaten it on its head and made it ours! Let the English chafe and fret and fume. The fact remains that in adapting English to our use, in hammering it sometimes on its head, and in sometimes twisting its tail, we have given it a new shape, substance, and dimension" (p. 212).

Despite the fact that there is a lot of phonological variety, this indigenous form of Pakistani English is most easily identified by its phonetics and phonological characteristics. Even though Received Pronunciation predominates, English pronunciation does not follow a consistent pattern across Pakistan. It is because of the influence of diverse ethnolinguistic backgrounds of Pakistani English speakers. The

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phonetics and phonology of Pakistani English are often influenced by the phonetic and phonological structure of the speakers' native languages because Pakistan is a multilingual country with at least 71 living languages. The researchers set out to examine certain phonetic and phonological features of Pakistani English in relation to the standard variety of British English in this context. However, it is important to note at the outset of this study that the phonetics and phonological characteristics of Pakistani English that distinguish it from Received Pronunciation are not absolute differences, these are the generalized tendencies, which distinguish it from the Received Pronunciation. All generalisations in the field of language contact, according to Schneider (2007), are primarily probabilistic in character and do not constitute concrete laws, albeit they would apply to or explain the majority of observable occurrences (p. 22).

**Phonetics and Phonology of Pakistani English: A Glimpse of Previous Studies**

In recent years, Pakistani English has gained the wider acceptance as a valuable source of data for cross-cultural and multilingual language contact research. The result has been a number of attempts to evaluate the various aspects of Pakistani English as a non-native variant of the standard variety of British English. Following is a brief summary of the most valuable research on the phonetics and phonological aspects of Pakistani English.

**Phonetic-Phonological Features**

Pakistani English may be distinguished most by its phonetics and phonological features, despite extensive phonetic and phonological variation. An illustration of this diversity is in the placement and quality of the epenthetic vowel in English used by native speakers of Urdu, Hindko, and Panjabi (Mahboob & Ahmar, 2008), as evidenced by the following examples:

Native speakers of Urdu: [ɪstɑ:rt] 'start'

Native speakers of Panjabi: [sətɑ:rt] 'start'

The realization of [ʒ], is another example of the varying impact of first languages on Pakistani English.

Native speakers of Urdu: [meʒɑr] 'measure'

Native speakers of Panjabi: [mejɑr] or [medʒɑr] 'measure'

These examples of differences in Pakistani English, according to Mahboob and Ahmar (2008), demonstrate that there may be substantial variability within Pakistani English based on the speakers' mother tongues. Pakistan has at least 71 living languages, and speakers of these languages are likely to use English quite differently. However, no study has yet been done to determine how different mother languages affect Pakistani English (es). The existing research on Pakistani English's phonetics and phonology, however, focused on the following segmental and non-segmental aspects.

**Segmental Features**

Segmental features of the Pakistani variety of English include consonants and vowels, such as, the dental fricatives /θ/ and /ð/ are replaced by /th/ and /d/ in Pakistani English according to Rahman (1990), similar to speakers of Indian English who also lack the /θ/ and /ð/. Kachru (1969) refers this as a case of transfer to replacement of mother-tongue components into the second language. Rahman (1990) asserts that Pakistani English speakers are unable to recognize the distinction between the realization and acoustic quality of these English phonemes and their own equivalents unless their attention is specifically drawn to them.

Similarly, according to Rahman (1990), Pakistani English speakers do not aspirate the consonants /p,t,k/ at the start of words or at the start of stressed syllables. Because aspirated and unaspirated consonants in Pakistani languages like Urdu, Punjabi, and Sindhi are independent phonemes and form minimum pairs. The graphic illustration that follows, which he modified from Yamuna Kachru (1987, p. 472), serves as an additional proof of his point.

Labial	Dental	Retroflex	Alveo-palatal	Velar
p	t	ɖ	ç	k
ph	th	ʈh	čh	kh
b	ɖ	ɖ	ǰ	g
bh	ɖh	ɖh	ǰh	gh

↑  
rh

**Figure 2.1**

This graphical representation indicates that the distinction between [k] and [kh] in English is allophonic and has no bearing on the meaning of words. The [h] represents the voiceless interval preceding the voicing of the subsequent vowels. It takes some time for voicing to begin; this period is termed as the ‘voicing-lag’. Catford (1977) refers Lisker and Abramson (1964), who explored this phenomenon in a variety of languages, such as those where there is a phonological opposition between an unaspirated and an aspirated voiceless stop. The voiceless stops /p, kh, th/ in Hindi, one of the languages investigated, were treated in a manner comparable to the English aspirated /ph, kh, th/. The average voicing lag time for Hindi is measured in milliseconds (ms), and the same is true for Urdu, such as:

	Unaspirated	Aspirated
	/p, t, k/	/ph, th, kh/
English speakers	-	70
Hindi-Urdu speakers	16	78

(Catford, 1977, p. 113 in Rahman, 1990, p.28).

**Figure 2.2**

In Urdu-Hindi, the [h] is more prominent and the commencement of voicing takes longer. While, the ‘voiced aspirated stops’ are /bh, dh, and gh/, are usually utilized as /bh, dh, and gh/. (Catford, 1988, P. 60). However, this seems to be a contradiction in terms, as Ladefoged (1971) notes. In order to address the issue, Catford (1977) suggests that these pauses have a whispering sound but no normal voice. He backs this claim with the following evidence:

[...] Instrumental recordings of voiced aspirated stops demonstrate that the pattern of air pressure in these stops is exactly the same as that of voiceless stops that have been both aspirated and unaspirated (Catford, 1977, p. 113).

In North Indian languages, the entire vowel that comes after [bh], [dh], and other letters can be phonated with a whispering voice, he says.’ (Catford, 1988, p. 60). Since Urdu, Punjabi, and Sindhi in Pakistan do not have an allophonic distinction between [p] and [ph], but rather a phonemic one, the orthographic "p" is considered to stand for the first language phone [p]. The distinction between [p] and [ph] in these first languages is phonemic rather than allophonic, therefore the speakers of these languages are also seem oblivious to the allophones in English. It implies that Rao’s (1961) assertion that Indians do not aspirate these stops only because of the spelling and because they are not taught to do so appears to be erroneous. Rahman (1990) asserts that speakers from India and Pakistan pronounce [h] more forcefully because to a longer mean voicing lag time (8 ms or more). As a result, [ph, th, kh] does not seem to be the same as their own [ph, th, kh]. Since there are no orthographic or sonic indicators to substitute [ph, th, kh] with [p, k, t], the latter are used in all positions without aspiration (Rahman, 1990, pp. 29-30).

In case of retroflex stops /ɖ, ɗ/, Rahman (1990) says that they serve as alveolar stops /t, d/ in Pakistani English. Mahboob and Ahmar (2008) also recognized Rahman’s (1990) assertion. Moreover, this is also a substitution of second language elements for first language. Even in South Asian English, a retroflex sequence takes the place of the entire alveolar series, as observed by Kachru (1969, p. 28). The alveolar stops for other English variations are [t] and [d]. As an example of “series replacement,” Kachru (1992, p. 62) identifies this use of retroflex stops in place of Received Pronunciation alveolar stops as a trait of South Asian English. Retroflex stops are used in the following examples: [t̠] and [d̠] in Pakistani English are: [ɪstr̠ʌt̠] ‘strut’ and [d̠res] ‘dress.’ Moreover, Sindhi and Urdu speakers experience the retroflexion more than others. However, Rahman (1990) asserts that the majority of speakers do not identify the phonetic difference between the Received Pronunciation and their own pronunciation of these stops unless their attention is first drawn to it (p. 30).

In terms of vowels, Rahman (1990) claims that some diphthongs in Pakistani English are replaced by monophthongs in Received Pronunciation. Monophthongs are used to substitute some diphthongs in Received Pronunciation. In some pairing, /ou/ and /ev/ are substituted by /o:/ and /e:/, respectively, and /ə/ is erased. The diphthongs /ou/ and /ev/ are lacking from Urdu's vowel system, according to Bansal (1962). They are likewise absent from Punjabi, Sindhi, and Pashto languages. As a result, even highly educated Pakistani English speakers tend to use monophthongs in place of diphthongs.

In Pakistani English, according to Rahman (1990), the /l/ is not velarized in Received Pronunciation positions. It is retroflexed, though, because it is one of the alveolar phonemes. Thus, both the allophones [l] and [ɭ] are represented by /l/ in Pakistani English. As a result, speakers of Punjabi, Urdu, Pashto, and Sindhi only use one phoneme of /l/ in all contexts because these languages have no alternate allophone for the /l/ sound. Moreover, Mahboob and Ahmar (2008) claim that all realizations of /l/ are "clear" in Pakistani variant of English, which is a characteristic of South Asian English as well (Kachru, 1992, p. 62). In Received Pronunciation, a clear [l] and a dark [ɭ] have an allophonic distribution. When it appears in the final place of a word or followed by a consonant, /l/ is realized as 'dark' or velarized [ɭ]. In all other circumstances, it is pronounced [l], which is a 'clear' or alveolar [l]. Pakistani speakers lack this allophonic variation, as evidenced by the examples [go:l] for 'goal' and [lɔ:t] for 'lot' (p. 253).

The Received Pronunciation vowels /ɔ:/ and /ɒ/, according to Rahman (1990) sometimes replaced with /ɑ:/ in Pakistani English. The Hindi vowel system was studied by Bansal (1962), and his findings that these vowels are absent from Hindi also hold true for Urdu and other Pakistani languages. As in Pakistani English, horse and cot are respectively pronounced as /ha:rs/ and /ka:t/. However, the majority of speakers of this variant of English use a vowel sound that is more backward and half-open.

Similar to Hindi, which Rao (1961) studied, Rahman (1990) asserts that Pakistani English also lacks distinction between /v/ and /w/. Yamuna Kachru (1987, p. 472) lists /w/ as a Hindi-Urdu phoneme, but /v/ as a Persianized Urdu phoneme. In addition, Mahboob and Ahmar (2008) also assert that there is no phonetic distinction between /v/ and /w/ in Urdu. There is no phonemic difference between [v] and [w] in Pakistani English, either. The two sounds are produced as /w/ allophones. The pronunciation of the word wind, for example, was either [vɪnd] or [wɪnd] (p. 253).

Furthermore, Mahboob and Ahmar (2008) suggested that Pakistani English may be categorized as a rhotic variation of English. The majority of speakers always pronounce [r], even when it comes after a vowel, however, individual variations are there in the pronunciation of the postvocalic [r], because the presence or absence of [r] was not unequivocal for every individual speaker. The same speaker, for example, may use [r] in start, cure, and letter but drop it in force. Rahman (1990) claims, however, that the actual prevalence of rhoticity among Pakistani English speakers varies. In Pakistani English, rhoticity is not the only factor affecting pronunciation, spelling also influences it. As Rahman (1990) notes, in Pakistani English, pronunciation is frequently determined by spelling. In [haeppi] happy and [lettər] letter, for example, most of the Pakistani speakers geminate the [p] and [t], which is dependent on spelling. However, there are also significant exceptions, as the term wrapped.

### **Non-segmental Features**

South Asian English's originality, according to Kachru (1983), is defined by non-segmental qualities like stress and rhythm rather than segmental features. While segmental features of South Asian Englishes are greatly impacted by mother languages, he claims that non-segmental features are universal. One of the most typical examples he and other linguists studying the language provide is the stress pattern in South Asian English. Different research studies indicate that the stress patterns of various sub-varieties of South Asian English (es) are identical and unaffected by the speakers' first languages. Pickering and Wiltshire (2000) have examined South Asian English (es) spoken by native speakers of Hindi/Urdu, Bengali, and Tamil and discovered no significant differences in lexical stress patterns across the three languages. This confirms Kachru's (1983) claim that South Asian English (es) share non-segmental features. For example, whereas most South Asian languages are syllable-timed, the English language uses stress timing (Nelson, 1982). Likewise, the rhythm of Pakistani English is distinct from that of Received Pronunciation because it is syllable-timed rather than stress-timed. In Pakistani English, syllables occurred at regular intervals. This is in contrast to Received Pronunciation, which is stress-timed with syllable length variation. The distinction

between Received Pronunciation and Pakistani English is traditionally explained in terms of the first language. Because most South Asian languages, including Urdu, are syllable-timed, it is assumed that Urdu speakers of the English language follow this pattern. Mahboob and Ahmar (2008), also claim that the Pakistani English has a syllable-timed rhythm that goes hand in hand with a lack of vowel reduction (p. 256). However, Punjabi and Urdu have slight variations in rhythm and stress patterns, while Pashto and Sindhi have more obvious discrepancies, as a result, the rhythm used by Pakistani speakers varies.

In addition, there is a frequency, pitch, and amplitude difference between Pakistani English and Received Pronunciation. Pakistani English speakers speak with a different tone than those who use Received Pronunciation. This is due to the distinct intonation patterns of Pakistani languages. As, Pickering and Wiltshire (2000) observed that in speakers of Indian English, which include Hindi/Urdu speakers, accented syllables seemed to have a lower frequency than unaccented syllables. In contrast to American English, which uses accented syllables in these settings more frequently, Indian English clearly employs less frequently used accented syllables. The fact that Indian languages also use low frequency on emphasized syllables suggests a potential source (p. 177).

Thus, they classify South Asian English as a ‘pitch-accent’ language based on the usage of frequency to denote stress. They make a distinction between a pitch-accent and a stress-accent language, contending that in South Asian English, pitch is the most vital indicator of accent. Furthermore, they observed that South Asian English speakers do not use amplitude to signify stress, in contrast to American English speakers. Pickering and Wiltshire (2000), concludes the analysis of the phonetic manifestation of word accent in Indian and American English, there are two differences between the two languages. First, while Indian English utilizes pitch-accent and mostly uses frequency to denote an accented syllable, American English is a stress accent language and uses cues like amplitude and length as well as frequency. In contrast to Indian English, American English signifies an accented syllable with a high frequency (p. 181).

In addition to the non-segmental characteristics mentioned above, the stress distribution and points of junction in Pakistani English and Received Pronunciation are not necessarily the same, rather the stress may be distributed differently (bold letters indicate primary stress) as displayed in the following figure.

Received Pronunciation <b>America</b> Galileo	Pakistani English Amrica <b>Galileo</b>
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**Figure 2.3**

Stress in Pakistani English may not be used to mark nouns and verbs as it is in Received Pronunciation. This is a characteristic of Indian English as well. (Taylor, 1969, p.31 in Kachru, 1983) as depicted in the figure below.

Received Pronunciation <b>Object</b> (noun) <b>Object</b> (verb)	Pakistani English <b>Object</b> (n & v)
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**Figure 2.4**

In addition, Taylor (1969) claims that the secondary/primary stress pattern for free noun/noun combinations in South Asian English (es) replaces the primary/tertiary stress pattern for compound nouns (as cited in Kachru, 1983, p. 31). Moreover, on-native English speakers of South Asian English (es) give the weak and unstressed syllables of the English language stronger and equal stress. Their stress patterns and points of juncture are often unpredictable. When their first language is an Indo-Aryan language, stress patterns deviate in the following ways:

- A proclivity for stressing suffixes and other non-predictable syllables rather than the penultimate syllable.
- A proclivity for giving weak-strong stress to nouns and verbs in a set of two-syllable words that indicate grammatical contrast through stress.

- In contrast to the secondary/primary patterns used with free noun/noun combinations, the primary/tertiary stress pattern for compound nouns is less well understood than the secondary/primary pattern used with free noun/noun combinations.
- A strong propensity to appreciate contraction-written auxiliary verb forms fully and a moderately high degree of stress.
- A propensity to randomly break apart grammatical units inside of phrases, breaching the boundaries between ‘sense groups,’ and placing significant emphasis on terms that aren't typically linked with ‘sense stress.’ (Taylor, 1969).

This review of research on phonological and phonetic aspects of Pakistani English demonstrates the diversity of patterns that may be found in this variant. These patterns, though, differ from the Received Pronunciation, the speakers of Urdu/ Punjabi and Hindko who speak Pakistani English share most of the phonetic and phonological features of the English spoken in North India.

### **METHOD OF ANALYSIS**

In the present study, an effort is made to analyze the phonetics and phonological characteristics of Pakistani English in relation to the standard variety of British English. The analysis is based on the researcher's intuition and observation in light of the conclusions of previous studies on Pakistani English, which are discussed in the literature review. A thorough exploration of specific consonants, vowels, and non-segmental characteristics follows a wide examination of systemic differences at the outset of the study. The data for this study comes from the following sources:

- Personal observation
- The written Pakistani Anglophone literature

The written Pakistani Anglophone literature includes Kamila Shamsie's *Broken Verses* (2005), Moni Mohsin's *Tender Hooks* (2011) and Nadeem Aslam's *The Blind Man's Garden* (2013). Besides that, the researcher also observed Pakistani speakers and asked them to read aloud lists of words so the researcher could abstract the characteristics of their linguistic usage.

#### **Phonetics and Phonology of Pakistani English: An Analysis**

Pakistani English may best be identified by its phonetics and phonological traits, despite the fact that the phonetic-phonological variations are widespread. Although Received Pronunciation is the norm, the English pronunciation does not follow a consistent pattern across Pakistan. It is because of the influence of diverse ethnolinguistic backgrounds of Pakistani English speakers. Pakistan is a multilingual country with at least 71 living languages, therefore the phonology and phonetics of the Pakistani variant of English is often influenced by the phonology and phonetics of the speaker's mother tongue. The variation between the placement and quality of the epenthetic vowel in the native Urdu/Punjabi and Hindko speakers' English is one example of this:

Native speakers of Urdu: [ɪsku:l] ‘School’

Native speakers of Hindko: [səku:l] ‘School’

Another example of the variable influence of first language on Pakistani English is:

Native speakers of Urdu: [ɪsteɪʃn] ‘station’

Native speakers of Hindko: [səteɪʃn] ‘station’

These two examples clearly demonstrate the interference of speakers' first language on the Pakistani variety of English. The researcher, however, concentrates on the phonetic and phonological features of Pakistani English that may be present in the speech of educated Pakistani speakers since the primary objective of this research is the linguistic examination of the educated variation of Pakistani English. Since a cline of proficiency exists for Pakistani English, as is the case with every second language variety, at all linguistic levels, including pronunciation, grammar, and lexis. As a result, pronunciation variations amongst speakers are pretty common in Pakistani English. The findings that follow are therefore, for the most part, tendencies rather than absolute differences. These varying tendencies of Pakistani English from the Received Pronunciation are of two types, namely, the variation in segmental features and the non-segmental features. Examples, based on the researcher's observation and intuition, from the

selected Pakistani Anglophone literature, namely, Kamila Shamsie’s *Broken Verses* (2005), Moni Mohsin’s *Tender Hooks* (2011), and Nadeem Aslam’s *The Blind Man’s Garden* (2013), are used to illustrate these variations. They are as follows:

### The Segmental Features

Segmental features of speech include consonant and vowel sounds or phonemes that appear in a specific temporal order. Crystal (2003) defines segmental features, as “any discrete unit that can be identified, either physically or auditory, in the stream of speech” (pp. 408–409). The following are some notable segmental variations between Pakistani English and Received Pronunciation:

#### Consonant Sounds

Three fundamental characteristics are used to classify consonants: place of articulation (the area in the mouth cavity where two organs make contact), manner of articulation (the way air is restrained and released), and voicing (whether or not the vocal chords vibrate). In the Pakistani variety of English, the following consonant variations predominate:

- **Plosives.**

Only /p/, /t/, and /k/ exhibit a different realization from the Received Pronunciation (RP) among the plosives /p/, /t/, /k/, /b/, /d/, and /g/ in the Pakistani variety of English. These voiceless stops are not aspirated in the syllable-initial position. The word *kit*, for example, is pronounced [kɪt], without an aspiration on [k] unlike Received Pronunciation [kʰɪt]. This may be because aspirated and un-aspirated stops are independent phonemes in Pakistani languages. In addition, /t/ and /d/ tend to be retroflexed as in the words [ɪstrʌt] ‘strut’ and [dʀes] ‘dress.’

- **Fricatives.**

In the Pakistani variety of English, the dental fricatives /θ/ and /ð/ do not exist. The voiced stop /d/ and the aspirated voiceless stop /tʰ/ are realized in place of the dental fricatives /θ/ and /ð/. The voiced stop /d/ is realized for /ð/ and the aspirated voiceless stop /tʰ/ is realized for /θ/, as in *thin* = [tʰɪn] and *then* = [den].

In addition, the phonemic distinction between the voiced labio-dental fricative /v/ and the velar semi-vowel /w/ does not exist in Pakistani English. The two sounds realized as allophones of /w/. The pronunciation of the word *power*, for example, was either [pa:wəɹ] or [pa:vəɹ].

- **Liquids.**

In Pakistani English, there are two liquids /l/ and /r/, just like in Received Pronunciation. However, the /l/ is generally ‘clear’ (i.e. alveolar) in Pakistani English, whereas, in Received Pronunciation, it has an allophonic distribution between a clear and dark /l/. But this allophonic variation does not exist in Pakistani English, as in the words: [go:l] ‘goal’ and [lo:t] ‘lot’. It may be because of the absence of this allophonic variation in Pakistani languages.

Pakistani English is usually termed to be a rhotic variety of English because the liquid /r/ is generally pronounced in all circumstances. While most of the other consonant sounds of Pakistani English matches Received Pronunciation.

#### 4.1.2 Vowel Sounds.

Vowels are categorized based on three fundamental characteristics: the part of the tongue that is used for articulation (front, center, or rear); the height to which it is raised (high or close, half-close, half-open, and low or open); and the level of lip rounding. The two types of vowels are diphthongs and pure vowels. Pure vowels can be either long or short. All of the articulations of these vowels share the same characteristic. Vowels that transit between two qualities are known as diphthongs. In a diphthong, there are typically two audible sounds.

However, a detailed phonetic evaluation of Pakistani English vowels is still desired. The preliminary analysis that follows is intended to serve as the foundation for further research and improvements.

**Table No. 1 The vowels variation in Pakistani English in the light of Wells’ (1982) Lexical Set.**

KIT	ɪ	DRESS	e
TRAP	æ	LOT	ɒ > a:

STRUT	ʌ	FOOT	ʊ > o:
BATH	ɑ:	CLOTH	ɒ > a:
NURSE	ɜ:	FLEECE	i:
FACE	eɪ > e:	PALM	a:
THOUGHT	ɔ: > a: > o:	GOAT	əʊ > o:
GOOSE	u:	PRICE	aɪ
CHOICE	ɔɪ > oɪ	MOUTH	aʊ
NEAR	ɪə	SQUARE	eə
START	a:	NORTH	ɔ: > a:
FORCE	ɔ: > o:	CURE	ʊə > ɔ:
happY	i	lettER	ə
horSES	ə	commA	ɑ

In addition, there are many additional terms where the vowel realization differs between the Received Pronunciation and the Pakistani variety of English. The researcher compiled a list of a handful of these terms from the Pakistani Anglophone Literature under study, with the most atypical phonetic variations based on general observations (different words have been chosen from each novel for analysis). The tabular representation below includes these words and their transcription both in the Received Pronunciation and Pakistani English to highlight the deviant pronunciation (for the transcription of words, an IPA chart has been used).

• *Broken Verses (2005)*

**Table No. 2 Words that have been extracted from Kamila Shamsie's *Broken Verses (2005)*.**

Words	Received Pronunciation	Pakistani Pronunciation
Although	/ɔ:l'ðəʊ/	/ɑ:l'ðʊ /
All	/ɔ:l/	/ɑ:l/
Birthday	/'bɜ:θdeɪ/	/'bərθde:/
Breakfast	/'brekfəst/	/'breɪkfɑ:st/
Carpet	/'kɑ:pɪt/	/'kɑ:rpət/
College	/'kɒlɪdʒ/	/'kɑ:lədʒ/
Daughter	/'dɔ:tə(r)/	/'dɑ:ctər/
Determine	/dɪ'tɜ:mɪn/	/dɪ'tərməɪn/
Enjoy	/ɪn'dʒɔɪ/	/ɪn'dʒəɪ/
Energy	/'enədʒi/	/ɪ'nərdʒi:/
Film	/'fɪlm/	/fi'ləm/
Forty	/'fɔ:ti/	/'fɑ:ti:/
Girl	/gɜ:l/	/'gərl/
Government	/'gʌvənmənt/	/'gəʊrment/
Hall	/hɔ:l/	/hɑ:l/
Horizon	/hə'reɪzən/	/'hɒrɪzən/
Idea	/aɪ'diə/	/'aɪdiɑ:/
Immediately	/ɪ'mi:diətli/	/ɪ'mmi:dʒiətli:/
January	/'dʒænjʊəri/	/'dʒænvri:/
Little	/'lɪtl/	/'lɪtəl/
Learning	/'lɜ:nɪŋ/	/'lərnɪŋ/
Modern	/'mɒdn/	/'mɒdrən/
Normal	/'nɔ:ml/	/'nɑ:rməl/
Orange	/'ɒrɪndʒ/	/'oʊreɪndʒ/
Police	/pə'li:s/	/pʊ'li:s/
Power	/'paʊə(r)/	/'pɑ:vər/
Quarter	/'kwɔ:tə(r)/	/k'wɑ:tər/
Recipient	/rɪ'sɪpiənt/	/rɪ'sɪ:pɪənt/



Record	/ˈrekɔ:d/	/rɪˈkɑ:(r)d/
Saw	/sɔ:/	/sɑ:/
Script	/skɪpt /	/ˈsækrɪpt/
Tall	/tɔ:l/	/tɑ:l/
Translation	/trænsˈleɪʃn/	/trɑ:nsˈleɪʃən/
Vehicle	/ˈvi:əkl/	/ˈvehɪkəl/
Want	/wɒnt/	/vɑ:nt/
Wardrobe	/ˈwɔ:drəʊb/	/ˈvɑ:drəʊb/

• *Tender Hooks (2011)*

**Table No. 3** Contains words that have been taken from Moni Mohsin's *Tender Hooks (2011)*.

Words	Received Pronunciation	Pakistani Pronunciation
Accept	/əkˈsept/	/ɪkˈsept/
Also	/ˈɔ:lsəʊ/	/ˈɑ:lsəʊ/
Asthma	/ˈæsmə/	/ˈesθma:/
Allocated	/ˈæləkertd/	/ˈæləkertd/
Balloon	/bəˈlu:n/	/bəˈlu:n/
Conversation	/kɒnvəˈseɪʃn/	/ˈkɒnvəseɪʃən/
Cupboard	/ˈkʌbəd/	/ˈkʌpbərd /
Date	/deɪt/	/ˈde:t /
Film	/fɪlm/	/fiˈləm/
Group	/gru:p/	/gˈrʊp/
Hospital	/ˈhɒspɪtl/	/ˈhɒspɪtəl/
Modern	/ˈmɒdn/	/ˈmɒdrən/
Phone	/fəʊn/	/fu:n/
Play	/pleɪ/	/ple:/
Protagonist	/prəˈtæɡənɪst/	/prəˈtæɡonɪst/
Proposed	/prəˈpəʊzd/	/pərˈpəʊzd/
Sprite	/sprɪt/	/ˈsəprɪt/
Strange	/streɪndʒ/	/ˈsətreɪndʒ/
Spread	/spred/	/ˈsəpred/
Strong	/strɒŋ/	/ˈsətrɑ:ŋ/
Station	/ˈsteɪʃn/	/ɪsˈteɪʃən/
School	/sku:l/	/ɪsˈku:l/
Table	/ˈteɪbl/	/ˈteɪbəl/
Total	/ˈtəʊtl/	/ˈtəʊtəl/

• *The Blind Man's Garden (2013)*

**Table No. 4** Contains words that have been taken from Nadeem Aslam's *The Blind Man's Garden (2013)*.

Words	Received Pronunciation	Pakistani Pronunciation
Audience	/ˈɔ:diəns/	/ˈɑ:diəns/
Abroad	/əˈbrɔ:d/	/ebˈrɔ:d/
Bowl	/bəʊl/	/ˈbɑ:əʊl/
Butterfly	/ˈbʌtəflaɪ/	/ˈbʌtərflaɪ/
Cupboard	/ˈkʌbəd/	/ˈkʌpbərd/
Cinema	/ˈsɪnəmə/	/ˈsenmə:/
Divorced	/dɪˈvɔ:sd/	/dɑɪˈvɔ:rsd/
Debt	/det/	/ˈdebt/
Experience	/ɪkˈspɪəriəns/	/eksˈpɪ:riəns/
Escape	/ɪˈskeɪp/	/esˈkeɪp /
Fall	/fɔ:l/	/fɑ:l/

Forward	/'fɔ:wəd/	/'fɑ:rwə(r)d/
Genuine	/'dʒenjʊn/	/'dʒenʊən/
Go	/gəʊ/	/gʊ/
Here	/hɪə(r)/	/heɪr/
Horse	/hɔ:s/	/'hɑ:rs/
Information	/ɪnfə'meɪʃn/	/ɪn'fɑ:rmɛɪʃən/
Lieutenants	/'leɪ'tenənts/	/'leɪtɪnənts/
Law	/lɔ:/	/lɑ:/
Model	/'mɒdl/	/'mɑ:dəl/
Necklace	/'neɪkləs/	/'nækləs/
Occasion	/ə'keɪʒn/	/ʊ'keɪʒən/
Precise	/'preɪ'saɪs/	/'pɛr'saɪz/
Poor	/'pɔ:(r)/	/'pu:ər/
Quality	/'kwɒləti/	/'kʊɑ:lti:/
Report	/'rɪ'pɔ:t/	/'rə'pɔ:rt/
Screen	/'skri:n/	/'sækri:n/
Station	/'steɪʃn/	/'sɪ'steɪʃən/
Target	/'tɑ:ɡɪt/	/'tɑ:rgət/
Today	/tə'deɪ/	/tu:'deɪ/
Vegetable	/'vedʒtəbl/	/'vedʒɪteɪbəl/
Vase	/vɑ:z/	/væs/
Warm	/'wɔ:m/	/'vɑ:(r)m/
Zealous	/'zeləs/	/'zɪ:ləs/

The aforementioned word lists, combined with Wells' (1982) lexical set, can be used to make the following generalizations regarding the vowel realization in Pakistani English.

- The sound /ɔ:/ becomes /ɑ: / in words like all, although, daughter, forty, hall, and so on.
- The sound /ə/ is converted to /ɑ: / in the final position of words like cinema, data, and photography.
- In words like recipient, opponent, probably, and abroad, the sound /ə/becomes /e/.
- The sound /ɪ/ becomes /ə/ in words like credit, genuine, and college.
- In words like salute, and lieutenant, the sound /u:/ changes to /ju:/.
- The sound /e/ becomes /æ / in words like academic, balloon, and necklace.
- The sound /ə/ changes to /ʊ/ or /u: /, as in words like police, and occasion.
- In words like play, the diphthong /eɪ / is pronounced as a monophthong.
- In words like natural, the sound / æ / changes to /ei/.
- Diphthongs /əʊ/ or /oʊ/ switches to monophthongs /ʊ/ or flat 'o' sound, such as in word, go.
- In words like cinema, faculty, and quality, the sound /ə/ is not used. But it, nevertheless, inserted into words like information, congratulation, station, normal, little, hospital, total, model, pattern, and table.

However, further investigation is warranted before drawing definite conclusions about these generalized tendencies of vowel realization in Pakistani English.

#### **Additional Segmental Features.**

In addition to consonants and vowels, the Pakistani variation of English also has the following segmental features: spelling pronunciation, gemination, and consonant cluster simplification:

- ***Gemination (Spelling Pronunciation).***

The institutionalised nature of Pakistani English results in a stronger correspondence between writing and spoken sounds than one would expect in a language learned informally. As a result, Pakistani English speakers tend to use spelling as a guide to pronunciation. The gemination of consonants based on spelling is one example of this, since all of the speakers geminated the [p], the [t] and the [l] in [hæppɪ] happy,

[lettʌr] letter, and [kɪlɪŋ] killing. However, there are exceptions to gemination, such as the word wrapped (Ahmar & Mahboob, 2008). In addition, the pronunciation of several words, including climb and dumb, which both have the last /b/ articulated, further demonstrates the impact of spelling. In plumber and plumbing, the sound /b/ is also articulated.

- **Simplification of Consonant Clusters.**

Consonant cluster simplification is another feature of Pakistani English. It occurs in a variety of ways. The most popular method is to remove some consonants from a word to make it simpler, such as texts, which is pronounced as /tɛks/. Besides that, in non-syllabic consonants, usually the vowel /ə/ or /ɪ/ is inserted before the last consonants, such as in words like, table as /'teɪbəl/, hospital as /'hɒspɪtəl/ and others. In addition to these, vowel /ə/ or /ɪ/ is also inserted either before or within the consonant clusters like school as [ɪsku:l] or [səku:l], screen as /'sɛkri:n/, station as /ɪs'teɪʃən/, and others.

### **The Non-Segmental Features**

Non-segmental (supra segmental) features, also known as prosodic features, are phonological characteristics that affect multiple sound segments, which often extend over syllables, words, or phrases, such as stress, pitch, or juncture. In fact, the Pakistani variety of English deviates the most from Received Pronunciation in its non-segmental qualities, particularly in the interaction between stress, pitch, and syllable length. Moreover, unlike segmental features, these features do not appear to be influenced by the different first languages of their speakers (Kachru, 1983). Thus, it might be claimed that the non-segmental degree of consistency of features is present in the Pakistani dialect of English. An analysis of some significant non-segmental features of Pakistani English is provided below:

### **Syllable-Timed Rhythm**

In contrast to the standard variation of British English, which has a stress-timed rhythm, the Pakistani variant of English is usually believed to have a syllable-timed rhythm. As a result, all syllables in Pakistani English take the same amount of time whether they are stressed or not. The unstressed syllables, on the other hand, have been squeezed in between the stressed ones in stress-timed variants, such as Received Pronunciation. One of the distinctive characteristics of Pakistani English is its machine-gun rhythm. The distinction between Pakistani English and Received Pronunciation is caused by the speakers' first languages, as the majority of Pakistani languages are syllable-timed.

### **Stress Patterns**

The syllable-timed rhythm of Pakistani English makes it difficult to identify patterns of stress assignment. Since each syllable receives the same amount of time, it can be challenging to distinguish between the syllables' relative prominences. Unlike a stress-timed variant, which frequently realizes stressed syllables with higher pitch, loudness, and length. In terms of stress patterns, the study claims that the Pakistani variant of English tends to exhibit the following trends:

- In Pakistani English, terms that would typically have primary and secondary emphasis are stressed equally. In Received Pronunciation, when a word like “*anniversary*” (Mohsin, 2011, p. 17) is used, the syllable ‘*ver*’ is stressed most; however, in Pakistani English, all syllables are equally stressed, as '*an'ni'ver'sa'ry*.
- There are no differentiating patterns in Pakistani English that indicate changes in parts of speech. For example, the word “*increase*” (Aslam, 2013, p. 110) is stressed the same way in Pakistani English whether it is a verb or a noun, unlike in Received Pronunciation, where the stress changes as per the grammatical category, as *in'crease* (verb), and '*increase* (noun).
- In Pakistani English, auxiliary verb forms written as contractions are usually treated as whole words and accorded a relatively strong stress as opposed to the Received Pronunciation, which omits some sounds.
- In Pakistani English, the placement of stress frequently occurs on a different syllable than in Received Pronunciation, as in the word “*eco'nomiC*” (Mohsin, 2011, p. 43), which is stressed like *e'conomic*.

- In Pakistani English, the first syllable of abbreviations is usually stressed as opposed to the last syllable in Received Pronunciation. Such as, “**TV**” (Mohsin, 2011, p. 53), is stressed as **TV** instead of **T’V** in Received Pronunciation.
- Similar to abbreviations, compound words in Pakistani English tend to emphasize the first word rather than the second, contrary to the Received Pronunciation, which stresses the second word. Such as, “**steering-wheel**” (Aslam, 2013, p. 112), “**fifty-foot**” (Aslam, 2013, p. 115), “**water-colour**” (Shamsie, 2005, p. 8), and “**grape-wine**” (Mohsin, 2011, p. 54).
- Additionally, Pakistani English tends to randomly break up grammatical units within sentences, in contrast to the Received Pronunciation. This indicates that the difference between function words and content words—those that convey a sentence's main idea and those that are essential to its grammaticality—is frequently overlooked in Pakistani English. This is due to the rhythmic differences between Pakistani English and Received Pronunciation.

Pakistani English stress patterns, despite these generalizations, are often unpredictable and differ from person to person. Therefore, it may be argued that Pakistani English speakers’ default stress patterns are influenced by both their ethnolinguistic and educational backgrounds and the sources from which they have learned the language.

### **Intonation**

Intonation is connected to the perception of pitch, which is the frequency at which air molecules vibrate while someone speaks. Pitch variations in the voice are the primary determinant of intonation. In languages like English, it frequently collaborates with rhythm and stress to produce meaning. Thus, in Received Pronunciation, pitch serves a number of functions. A variation in pitch, for example, used to express contrastive meaning. However, in Pakistani English pitch contrasts are used less frequently. Pakistani English users do often lengthen the final syllable as a form of emphasis. Besides that, the Pakistani variety of English; regardless of the weak forms of vowels or contractions in auxiliary verb forms, takes more time to utter similar English language components than the Received Pronunciation because of its syllable-timed rhythmic patterns.

A generalized view indicates that Pakistani English tends to use three intonation patterns: falling intonation, rising intonation, and fall-rise intonation, however a complete examination of Pakistani English's intonation has not yet been undertaken. The falling intonation is often used in statements, orders, and even in exclamations. While a rising intonation is used for tag questions, yes-no questions, and to some of the ‘wh’ questions. Likewise, dependent clauses reflect rising intonation. Fall-rise intonation, on the other hand, denotes incompleteness or reservation. Nevertheless, in Pakistani English, rising and falling intonation patterns are used more frequently than fall-rise intonation. In the following sentences from the under study Pakistani Anglophone literature, the researcher has examined the intonation patterns. These sentences, for example, exhibit falling intonation patterns:

- “‘Nicknames and friendship rarely go ↘ together,’ I said” (Shamsie, 2005, p. 13).
- “‘Pussy!’ Mummy hissed. ‘People are ↘ looking’” (Mohsin, 2011, p. 10).
- “‘Thank you, uncle. And I am ↘ sorry’” (Aslam, 2013, p. 285).

These sentences have rising intonation patterns, as:

- “‘Which of your Lord’s blessings would you ↗ deny’” (Shamsie, 2005, p. 10)?
- “‘Are you here for ↗ *Boond*’” (Shamsie, 2005, p. 11)?
- “‘Head cracked, fainted, not to ↗ worry. Not to ↗ worry’” (Mohsin, 2011, p. 13)?
- “‘What are you doing ↗ here’” (Aslam, 2013, p. 16)?
- “‘You are going to ↗ Afghanistan’” (Aslam, 2013, p. 17)?

In addition, intonation patterns in Pakistani culture often correspond to social status and politeness strategies. As a result, when speaking to subordinates, Pakistani speakers use falling intonation, and when speaking to strangers, they use rising intonation patterns. For example, when asked to strangers, the following Wh-questions have a rising intonation.

- “I picked it up with gratitude and an unfamiliar voice on the other end said, ‘Aasmaani Inqalab’ (Shamsie, 2005, p. 9)?
- “‘Who are you?’ I asked (Mohsin, 2011, p. 121).
- “‘Who are you?’ the man says” (Aslam, 2013, p. 300).

Conversely, when the same questions are directed toward one’s social inferiors or subordinates, the intonation is usually falling.

However, it seems quite challenging to generalize the intonation patterns or pitch change, as it is stated under stress patterns, Pakistani English, in contrast to the Received Pronunciation, tends to arbitrarily break up grammatical units within sentences. Therefore, it needs further investigation to draw some valid conclusions.

### **Some Additional Aspects of Connected Speech**

In Pakistani English, emphasis, exaggeration, and surprise are expressed phonologically by stretching both consonants and vowels (which are occasionally echoed orthographically, too), as well as by repeating specific words (Upper case letters are occasionally used in writing to reflect this feature of Pakistani English). Examples of this usage are provided below:

- “Jonkers is **so** happy, so happy that don’t even ask” (Mohsin, 2011, p. 175).  
[extra-long / o: / in so]
- “Stupid” (Mohsin, 2011, p. 17).  
[extra-long /p/ in stupid, which is also used orthographically with an extra p]
- “The man gives what must be his happiest smile” (Aslam, 2013, p. 216).  
[extra-long /p/ in happiest]

Repetitions of words to express emphasis, exaggeration or surprise as:

- “No, no. That’s what you *do*” (Shamsie, 2005, p. 126).
- “No, no, that’s not true” (Shamsie, 2005, p. 242).
- “‘Welcome, welcome!’ said Zeenat” (Mohsin, 2011, p. 28).
- “Honestly the sich is so bad, so bad that don’t even ask” (Mohsin, 2011, p. 57).
- “‘No, no, no, no,’ Mikal says under his breath” (Aslam, 2013, p. 276).

### **CONCLUSION**

The study findings, which are based on detailed observations of the phonetic and phonological features of the educated variety of Pakistani English in Pakistani Anglophone literature, observe that the Pakistani variety of English deviates from the standard variety of British English in the use of segmental and non-segmental features. The deviant tendencies of segmental features, which include vowel and consonant sounds of Pakistani English, are outlined below.:

- In the Pakistani variety of English, the dental fricatives /θ/ and /ð/ do not exist. The voiced stop /d/ and the aspirated voiceless stop /tʰ/ are realized in place of the dental fricatives /θ/ and /ð/. The voiced stop /d/ is realized for /ð/ and the aspirated voiceless stop /tʰ/ is realized for /θ/, as in thin = [thin] and then = [den].
- The phonemic distinction between the voiced labio-dental fricative /v/ and the velar semi-vowel /w/ does not exist in Pakistani English. The two sounds realized as allophones of /w/.
- Only /p/, /t/, and /k/ exhibit a different realization from the Received Pronunciation (RP) among the plosives /p/, /t/, /k/, /b/, /d/, and /g/ in the Pakistani variety of English. These voiceless stops are not aspirated in the syllable- initial position.
- In Pakistani English, there are two liquids /l/, and /r/, just like in Received Pronunciation. However, the /l/ is generally ‘clear’ (i.e. alveolar) in Pakistani English, whereas, in Received Pronunciation, it has an allophonic distribution between a clear and dark /l/. But this allophonic variation does not exist in Pakistani English, as in the words: [go:l] ‘goal’ and [lɔ:t] ‘lot’. It may be because of the absence of this allophonic variation in Pakistani languages.

- Pakistani English can be termed a rhotic variety of English because the liquid /r/ is generally pronounced in all circumstances.
- Consonant cluster simplification is another feature of Pakistani English. It occurs in a variety of ways. The most popular method is to remove some consonants from a word to make it simpler, such as texts, which is pronounced as /tɛks/.
- Pakistani English speakers tend to use spelling as a guide to pronunciation.
- In Pakistani English, the sound /ɔ:/ becomes /ɑ:/ in words like all, although, daughter, forty, hall, and so on.
- The sound /ə/ is converted to /ɑ:/ in the final position of words like cinema, data, and photography in Pakistani English.
- In words like recipient, opponent, probably, and abroad, the sound /ə/ becomes /e/.
- The sound /ɪ/ becomes /ə/ in words like credit, genuine, and college.
- In words like salute, and lieutenant, the sound /u:/ changes to /ju:/.
- The sound /e/ becomes /æ/ in words like academic, balloon, and necklace.
- The sound /ə/ changes to /ʊ/ or /u:/, as in words like police, and occasion.
- In words like play, the diphthong /eɪ/ is pronounced as a monophthong.
- In words like natural, the sound /æ/ changes to /ei/.
- Diphthongs /əʊ/ or /oʊ/ switches to monophthongs /ʊ/ or flat 'o' sound, such as in word, go.
- In words like cinema, faculty, and quality, the sound /ə/ is not used. But it, nevertheless, inserted into words like information, congratulation, station, normal, little, hospital, total, model, pattern, and table.

The following lists the variations between Pakistani English and Received Pronunciation in terms of no segmental features.

- The Pakistani variety of English tends to use syllable-timed rhythm as opposed to the stress-timed rhythm of Received Pronunciation.
- There is a tendency in Pakistani variety of English to place stress on suffix and in other cases randomly rather than where predictable on the penultimate syllable.
- Pakistani English speakers lay equal stress on terms that would normally have primary and secondary stress.
- In Pakistani English, there is an absence of differential patterns to mark changes in parts of speech.
- In Pakistani English, the first syllable of abbreviations is usually stressed as opposed to the last syllable in Received Pronunciation.
- In Pakistani English, the placement of stress frequently occurs on a different syllable than in Received Pronunciation.
- In Pakistani English, auxiliary verb forms written as contractions are usually treated as whole words and accorded a relatively strong stress as opposed to the Received Pronunciation.
- Compound words in Pakistani English tend to emphasize the first word rather than the second, contrary to the Received Pronunciation.
- Pakistani English speakers, as contrasted to the native speakers of the standard variety of British English, have a tendency to arbitrarily break up grammatical units within sentences. This means that in Pakistani English, the distinction between content words—those which communicate a sentence's core meaning—and function words—those which are essential for a sentence's grammaticality—is frequently overlooked.

The aforementioned preliminary findings of the phonetic-phonological features of educated variety of Pakistani English reflect different tendencies and tend to serve as the foundation for further research and

improvements. Since these are divergent tendencies rather than absolute differences; therefore, the researchers believe that a detailed phonetic-phonological evaluation of Pakistani English is still desired.

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