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REPRESENTATION AND SOCIAL PERCEPTIONS OF ENGLISH VARIETIES IN EVERYDAY CONVERSATIONS: PREFERENCES AND LINGUISTIC DYNAMICS

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Representation and Social Perceptions of English Varieties in Everyday Conversations: Preferences and Linguistic Dynamics

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Abstract

This study explores the representation of English varieties in everyday conversation examining the social perception and preference associated with different linguistic forms by analyzing interaction in diverse settings we investigate how speakers imply linguistic features and how these choices influence social perceptions The researcher aims to uncover patterns of preference in previous links to specific varieties

shedding light on previous dynamics of language use and social judgment in communication to understanding this nuance is crucial for foresting inclusive communication in challenging status types associated with linguistic diversity. In this article, we explained different varieties of English language. In this research mixed method is used to make qualitative judgments based on quantitative data. The study aims to highlight social preference for using the English variety in daily conversation.

Keywords: English varieties, Social perception, Linguistic diversity, Communication, Cultural factors.

Introduction

Language serves as a bridge between people, and a tool for communication, expression, and connection. Language facilitates the exchange of information, ideas, emotions, and intentions between individuals or groups. It allows for the transmission of complex thoughts and enables social interaction. Language individuals to express individual thoughts, and experiences in nuanced and varied ways. It provides a means for creativity, allowing for the articulation of abstract concepts and emotions. It's not merely a means to convey thoughts and ideas; it embodies culture, history, and identity. It serves as a repository of culture, encapsulating traditions, values, and historical narratives. It preserves the collective memory of a



Journal for Current Sign

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community or society. It fosters a sense of belonging and unity among speakers of the same language, creating a shared identity and reinforcing social bonds. The nuances within language—intonation, dialects, vocabulary—mirror the diversity of human experiences. It's the vessel through which stories are told, traditions are preserved, and communities are formed. Whether spoken or written, language encapsulates the essence of who we are, where we come from, and how we relate to one another. language facilitates the exchange of information, ideas, emotions, and intentions between individuals or groups. It allows for the transmission of complex thoughts and enables social interaction. Language plays a crucial role in cognitive processes. It shapes how we perceive and understand the world, influencing our thought patterns and problem-solving abilities.

Moreover, Language serves as more than a mere tool for communication; it embodies the essence of cultural heritage and societal roots. It encapsulates the traditions, values, and shared history of a community. Within this context, the diverse tapestry of English variations holds a profound significance in shaping and reflecting cultural identities across the globe. cultures interwoven within the myriad languages spoken around the world. It embodies the richness and complexity of human societies, where languages serve as vessels carrying unique cultural identities, traditions, histories, and worldviews. This concept emphasizes how languages aren't just systems of communication but repositories of cultural heritage. They encapsulate the essence of a community's beliefs, values, rituals, folklore, and social norms. The diversity of languages reflects the diversity of human experiences, offering different lenses through which societies perceive and interpret the world. It serves as a powerful emblem of heritage, carrying within its words and expressions the collective history, traditions, and values of a community. It embodies the continuity of cultural legacies, passed down through generations, shaping identities and fostering a sense of belonging. As an emblem of heritage, language acts as a vessel that preserves narratives, folklore, customs, and rituals unique to a particular group or society. It holds the echoes of past civilizations, serving as a living repository of shared experiences and wisdom. Through language, individuals not only communicate but also connect with their roots, forging a It serves as a unifying force, fostering connections and solidarity among individuals who share a common language or dialect. Communities often find strength and solidarity through shared linguistic identities. The use of a particular language or dialect becomes a source of pride, offering a sense of belonging and familiarity link



Journal for Current Sign

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to their ancestral past. It's a means of understanding one's heritage, navigating cultural nuances, and expressing a distinct identity of

English stands as a testament to linguistic dynamism, evolving through a rich tapestry of global influences and embracing a remarkable prevalence on the world stage. Its journey from a regional language to a global lingua franca embodies its adaptability and resilience in the face of diverse cultural encounters. The dynamic nature of English can be traced back to its roots, stemming from Anglo-Saxon and Germanic origins. Over centuries, it absorbed vocabulary, grammar, and nuances from various languages due to historical events like invasions, colonization, and cultural exchanges. This amalgamation shaped its versatility, allowing it to assimilate and incorporate diverse linguistic elements. Today, English stands as the most widely spoken second language globally, entrenched in international business, diplomacy, science, technology, entertainment, and academia. Its global prevalence transcends borders, serving as a tool for cross-cultural communication and breaking down barriers between people of different linguistic backgrounds. The adaptability of English is evident in its multiple variations across the world, each with its distinct dialects, accents, and idiomatic expressions. British English, American English, Australian English, and numerous others reflect regional influences, societal norms, and cultural identities, showcasing the language's flexibility to adapt and reflect local contexts. Furthermore, the prevalence of English in digital spaces, social media, and entertainment has accelerated its global reach, allowing it to constantly evolve and assimilate new words, phrases, and expressions from diverse sources. This constant evolution demonstrates its ability to remain relevant and responsive in an ever-changing world. In essence, English's dynamic nature and global prevalence signify its ability to transcend boundaries, adapt to diverse contexts, and serve as a conduit for global communication, cultural exchange, and mutual understanding in our interconnected world. It resonates with history and tradition. - Communities often bond through shared linguistic practices, fostering a sense of unity and inclusivity. Varieties of English serve as bridges, connecting communities with their global counterparts while preserving local nuances and identities

British English originating from England, British English serves as the foundation for the English language. It spread worldwide due to the British Empire's extensive influence. It encompasses diverse accents and dialects across the UK, including Received Pronunciation (RP), Cockney, Scottish English, and others, each with unique phonetic and lexical features. The UK boasts a wide array of accents and dialects, varying from Received



Journal for Current Sign

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Pronunciation (RP), often associated with standard British English, to regional dialects like Geordie, Cockney, Scouse, and many others. Each carries unique phonetic features, vocabulary, and expressions. British English maintains specific spelling conventions that can differ from other English varieties. For instance, words like "color," "center," "theatre," and "realize". Historically, Received Pronunciation (RP) was considered the prestige accent. However, due to societal changes and regional diversifications. Historically, Received Pronunciation (RP) was considered the prestige accent. However, due to societal changes and regional diversification, RP's influence has decreased, and other accents and dialects have gained prominence. British English, once widely influential due to the British Empire, still has a global impact, especially in former colonies where English remains an official or widely spoken language. It's also a dominant force in various academic and professional contexts worldwide.

American English rooted in British English, American English emerged with the colonization of North America. Over time, it evolved independently, shaped by diverse immigrant influences and regional variations. It showcases a range of accents and dialects across the United States, including General American, Southern, New York, and more, each characterized by distinct pronunciation and vocabulary. American English is highly diverse, with various regional accents and dialects. From the Southern drawl to the Boston accent or the distinct vocabulary of the Midwest, each region has its unique linguistic traits. American English's influence has grown significantly due to the dominance of American media, including movies, television, music, and the internet. Many American idioms and phrases have become widely used in global contexts. While there's no official language academy in the US, American English has a generally accepted standard. However, due to its vast regional diversity, there's no single "standard" accent or vocabulary. American English continues to evolve, incorporating new words, expressions, and linguistic influences from various sources, including technology, immigration, and cultural exchanges.

Pakistan is a nation of multilingual societies where people have different mother tongues with a national language URDU and English language as a medium of instruction and official language as well. People of Pakistan are categorized as **Anglicans** those who have accents like standard British English, **acrolects** often represent the formal or educated variety of a language, adhering closely to grammatical norms, standardized vocabulary, and pronunciation. Acrolects are typically associated with higher socio-economic classes or formal educational settings **mesolects**



Journal for Current Sign

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represent a middle ground between formal and informal language and may be used in semi-formal or semi-informal contexts and **bascilects** the most nonstandard or vernacular form of a language within a particular community. They typically deviate the most from the standard or prestige form and are often associated with informal speech, regional dialects, or specific socio-economic groups. Pakistani English, among the myriad varieties of the language, stands as a distinct and evolving form with unique linguistic features, influenced by historical, social, and cultural factors specific to Pakistan. Its development reflects a fascinating fusion of English with indigenous languages, regional dialects, and societal norms, shaping a linguistic identity that resonates within the diverse fabric of Pakistan. The roots of Pakistani English trace back to British colonization, where English served as a medium of administration, education, and governance. Over time, this colonial legacy intersected with Pakistan's multilingual landscape, resulting in a linguistic interplay between English and native languages such as Urdu, Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashto, and others. One defining characteristic of Pakistani English is its lexical borrowing and code-switching, where native vocabulary and idioms seamlessly intertwine with English, reflecting the cultural richness and diversity of the nation. This linguistic hybridity gives rise to unique expressions, idiomatic phrases, and colloquialisms, enriching the language with a distinct flavor. Furthermore, the pronunciation and accent in Pakistani English exhibit regional variations, influenced by geographical factors and local linguistic norms. These variations create a spectrum of accents, from urban centers to rural areas, contributing to the language's dynamism and diversity. Moreover, the evolving role of Pakistani English in various domains, including education, media, literature, and governance, signifies its increasing significance and acceptance within the country. Its use in formal and informal settings reflects a growing cultural integration and the language's capacity to resonate across diverse societal strata.

Language is a fundamental component of cultural identity. It embodies history, traditions, and values. The language(s) one speaks often reflects their heritage, ethnic background, and belonging to a particular community or nation. For example, speaking a specific dialect or regional variation of a language can signify cultural ties and heritage. Each variety of English, whether British, American, Australian, or Pakistani English, is intertwined with unique cultural contexts. The language reflects historical, social, and political influences, embodying the values, norms, and traditions of the societies where it's spoken. The language(s) one speaks often reflects their heritage, ethnic background, and belonging to a particular community



Journal for Current Sign

Online ISSN (3006-1504)

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or nation. Proficiency or fluency in a particular language can impact social status and inclusion. In multilingual societies, individuals proficient in the dominant language Proficiency or preference for a specific variety of English can affect social dynamics. In multilingual societies, certain English variations may be associated with prestige, education, or socioeconomic status, impacting inclusion or exclusion from certain social circles or opportunities. Globalization and multicultural societies have led to the emergence of hybrid identities. People often navigate multiple languages and cultural influences, leading to the development of hybrid linguistic and cultural identities that enrich social interactions. People create hybrid linguistic identities by integrating elements from various English variations.

Language acts as a vessel for cultural expression, reflecting values, beliefs, and traditions. It has become a means to celebrate diversity and express collective identities within a society. Varieties such as British English, American English, and Pakistani English carry distinct cultural connotations. They mirror historical, social, and political aspects unique to each region, influencing societal norms and perceptions. The language one speaks is integral to personal identity. It shapes how individuals perceive themselves and are perceived by others, affecting self-esteem and a sense of belonging. the choice of English variety can be tied to personal and communal identities. Different varieties of English can carry varying degrees of social prestige and power, affecting perceptions of intelligence, sophistication, or societal status. It serves as a marker of belonging, expressing cultural heritage, regional affiliations, and even educational backgrounds. The language used in media, literature, and digital platforms contributes to shaping societal narratives and perceptions, influencing opinions, and understanding various cultures. The portrayal of English varieties in media, movies, music, and literature shapes perceptions and influences trends, establishing certain varieties as aspirational or culturally prestigious. English varieties in educational institutions and official settings influence linguistic hierarchies, affecting access to opportunities and resources in educational settings. Multilingual societies often feature various English varieties, contributing to a diverse linguistic landscape. Acceptance and appreciation of these variations promote inclusivity and a sense of cultural richness.

So understanding the impact of English language variations involves examining how linguistic diversity intersects with social structures, cultural values, and individual identities. These variations not only reflect historical legacies but also actively shape contemporary societal dynamics. The study aims to explore Pakistani English within the broader context of global



Journal for Current Sign

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English varieties allowing us to appreciate its unique evolution, complexities, and the pivotal role it plays in reflecting Pakistan's diverse cultural landscape preferred by society while embracing the global linguistic community.

Research question

Which variety of English is preferred by the public (mesolects and basilects)? How do societal attitudes shape the use and acceptance of Pakistani English variety in everyday conversations?

What are the perceived differences between Pakistani English, British English,

and American English within the local community, and how do these perceptions

influence language preferences?

Research Objectives

The study aims to investigate:

Use of Pakistani English variety in everyday conversations across different social

contexts, identifying patterns in their usage.

The influence of language variations on social interactions, including their impact

on forming social identities, relationships, and communication styles.

Literature Review

"Language is a of system of communication using symbols, sounds, or gestures to convey meaning within a community," (Clark & Clark, 1977).

Johnson (2010) said that language is a complex, rule-governed system enabling communication through words, symbols, and gestures". According

to Chomsky (1965)"Language is a structured system of symbols used by humans for communication," language is a way of communication and has

its own patterns as Fromkin, Rodman, & Hyams (2013) stated that "Language refers to a shared set of conventions and rules enabling communication,

consisting of grammar, syntax, and vocabulary. Language has many functions rather than communication only as Smith & Johnson (2017) said

"Language functions as a tool for communication and social interaction."

"Language is a guide to social reality ... it powerfully conditions all our thinking about social problems and processes... The 'real world' has

different language habits depending upon the group. languages are never sufficiently similar. The world in which different societies live are distinct

worlds, not merely the same world with different labels attached." (Sapir 1949: 68-69). "Language operates as a means of expressing thoughts,

emotions, and cultural nuances (Garcia et al., 2015). Adams & Clark (2019).



Journal for Current Sign

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stated that "Language functions not only in conveying information but also in shaping societal identities" Walther (2004) said that "online discourse is immune to many nonverbal communication elements that may confound language effects in speech"

Language has role as a "flexible inter-unit communication has been stressed as an important source of internal cohesion (Ghoshal, Korine & Szulanski, 1994)." Kone (1999) finds out that 'language acts as a barrier and a facilitator to inter-unit, and that those who possess relevant language competences may find themselves in more powerful positions" Walther (2004) said that "online discourse is immune to many nonverbal communication elements that may confound language effects in speech" Language, like mind and intelligence, is a phenomenon that "we find intuitive but hard to define" (Florida, 2013, p. 601). Culture is, rather, a process of language use that is integrated with other semiotic systems such as "ritual, dance, music, graffiti, beat-boxing, clothing, gestures, posture, ways of walking and talking" (Pennycook 2007: 75).

Luis Moll (1992, p. 20) has termed "the obsession with speaking English," as if learning English were the solution to all the difficulties faced by students who are not native speakers of English." Flores and Rosa reframing that "reframing language diversity in education away from a discourse of appropriateness toward one that seeks to denaturalize standardized linguistic categories." Hyme (1972) transcends, "the dominance of 'grammar' as the cultural genre in terms of which the place of language in human life is understood." Clyne (1991) said that "English has long been identified to be a pluricentric language."

The linguistic variation that accompanies the geographical distribution and functional range of English is at least partly due to the fact that "no other language has ever been put to so many uses so massively by so many people in so many places" (McArthur 1998: 54). Markus in (2008) explored that "majority of English-speakers/users are now non-native users of the language, that there is a huge diversity of varieties of English in use today and that even native speakers of English rarely speak the highly generalized traditional Standard Englishes." "English is unmistakably one language, with two major national varieties: British and American" (Pyles and Algeo 1993:212). The English language changed on both sides of the Atlantic, but the English spoken in America nowadays has retained many characteristics of earlier British English that are now gone in British English (there were little difference in British and American English, but following the Revolution, the Americans broke with English traditions and linguistic, social and political differences became more obvious (Barber 2005:25).



Journal for Current Sign

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Trudgill and Hannah (1994) said that there has been a “independent linguistic change within each variety.” s Norrish (1997) says, that it is entirely natural that English used in environments from those in which it grew up, so to speak, should mutate to suit its new environments. After Independence, with the withdrawal of the British, local varieties of English became an even more dominant model for language learning, English in South Asia became ‘nativized’ and ‘vernacularized’ (Kachru 1992; Mahboob and Ahmar 2004; Rahman 2011). Baumgardner (1988, 1993), Rahman (1991), and Talaat (1993, 2002) have discussed Pakistani English as an independent variety whose norms are being established.

Research Methodology

Theoretical Framework

The study has investigated by applying a mixed methods approach, in which Labov's variationist sociolinguistics theory to explain the grammatical representation of varieties of English in daily conversation in different contexts such as Pakistani English, British English, and American English. Linguistic variables, including vocabulary and syntactic structures, are examined to identify patterns of grammatical variation in social stratification based on factors like region, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status that influence the way grammatical features are distributed. style-shifting is observed as individuals adapt their grammar in different social contexts, such as formal or informal settings. Applying Labovian principles involves longitudinal studies to track grammatical changes over time, we will use quantitative analysis to identify patterns and ethnographic considerations to understand the social context of language use. This framework facilitates the exploration of how grammatical features contribute to the unique representation of English varieties in daily conversation across different linguistic and cultural landscapes.

Data Collection

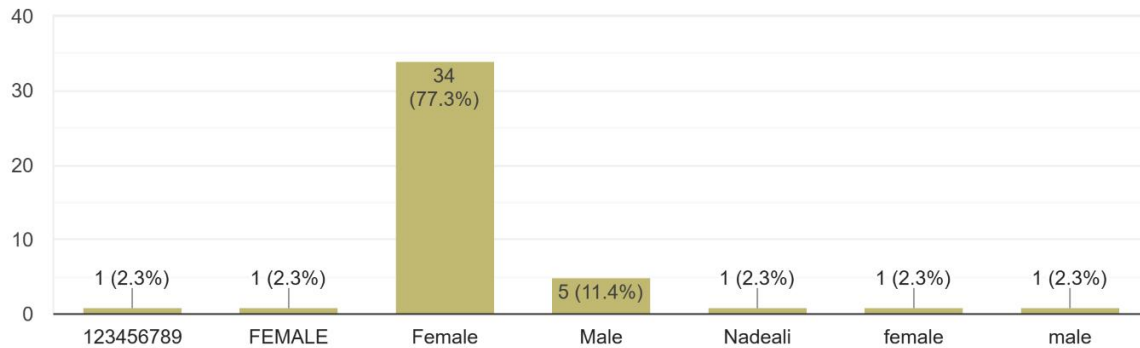
we have collected our research data by two questionnaires and distributed it to our participants by email, WhatsApp, and other social media platforms. The importance of choosing an online questionnaire because it is a suitable method for your study. The advantages of using online questionnaires are accessibility, cost-effectiveness, and efficiency. There were two hundred respondents who filled out the questionnaire and created differentiation among Pakistani, British, and American English.



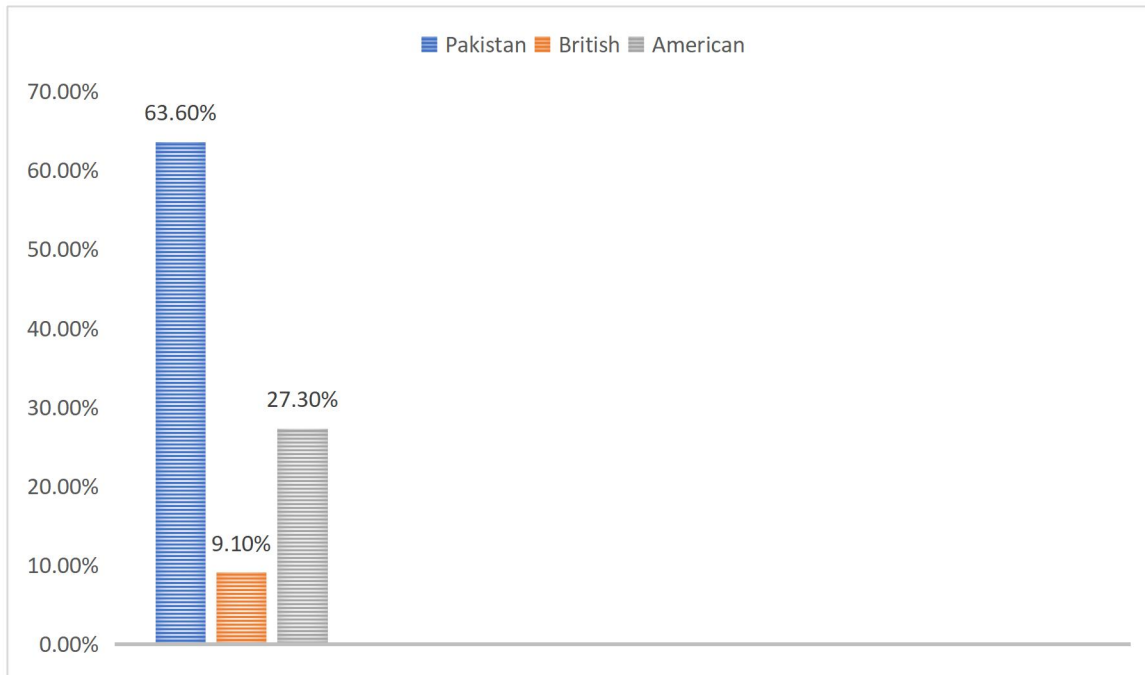
Data Analysis

Gender

44 responses



In our Questionnaire, we found that 77.3% of the responses came from females, while only 11.4% came from males. So females may have a stronger inclination to engage in discussion about language and communication. On the other hand, the lower male participation could be attributed to varying levels of interest, linguistic self-perception, or time constraints. The impact on the perception of linguistic diversity is noteworthy. A higher female participation may indicate a greater acknowledgment and appreciation for the richness of language variations, fostering a more inclusive and diverse linguistic environment. However, the lower male participation could lead to a potential underrepresentation of diverse linguistic perspectives, potentially influencing societal perception of language diversity. Moreover, societal and cultural factors can also play a role. In this graph the x-axis of the graph shows the respondent and the y-axis shows the number of respondent. This data is presented in a clear and easy-to-understand format, making it easy to compare the number of male and female in the result. This graph shows a crucial purpose by helping identify common English expression used in daily life across various countries for example, Pakistan, America and British. This information holds significance for people, enabling them to comprehend the variations in everyday language across different nations.



The aim of this survey was to investigate the preferences and perceptions of individuals regarding sentences from different varieties of English - Pakistani English, American English, and British English. The focus was on understanding how these linguistic variations are perceived and chosen in daily conversation. To conduct the survey, a diverse sample of participants was selected to ensure a representative cross-section of language users. A set of sentences, each reflecting the linguistic nuances of one of the specified English varieties, was presented to the participants. The sentences were designed to cover common daily conversation scenarios, allowing respondents to assess the naturalness and appropriateness of each variant. The results of the survey revealed interesting patterns in the preferences of participants. In this questionnaire, you found that the sentence the team is performing well. Pakistani people chose this sentence and the percentage of this sentence is 63.6% and the British sentence the team is playing well. the percentage of this sentence is 27.3% and in the American sentence the team is playing well 9.1 % of people choose this sentence. So the high preference for Pakistani English suggests a strong inclination among respondents towards linguistic expressions that align with their local cultural and linguistic context. This may indicate a sense of familiarity and comfort with the linguistic patterns of Pakistani English in daily communication. The



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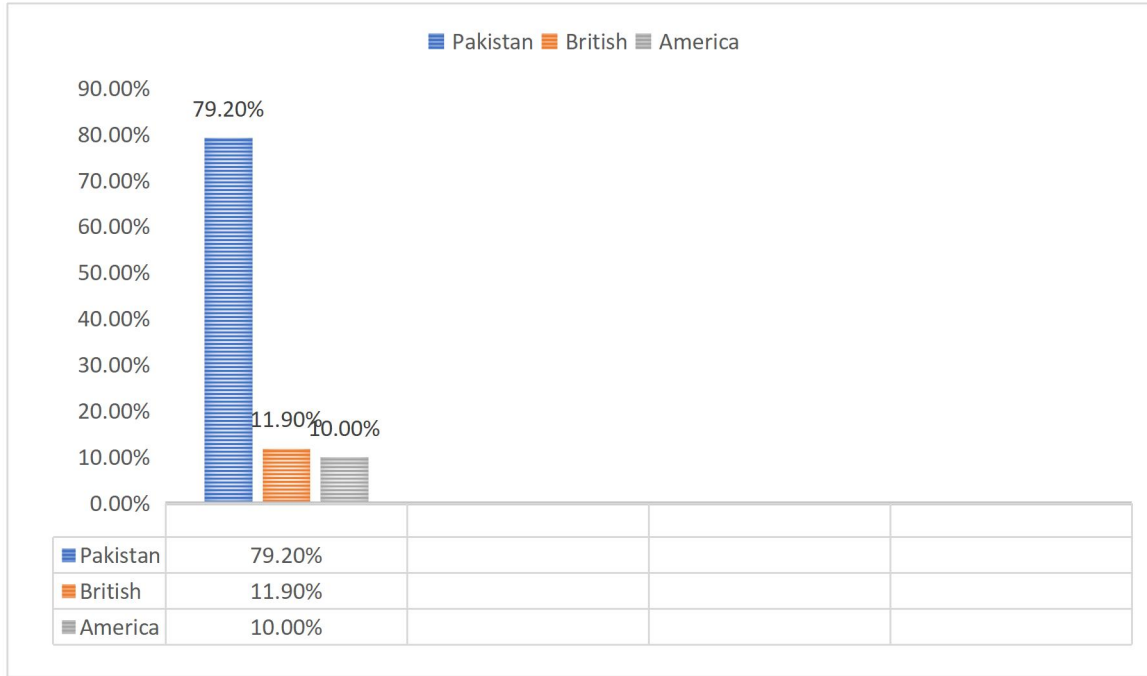
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lower preference for American and British English indicates that, within this sample, there is a relatively smaller audience who finds American and British English sentences more suitable for daily conversation. This could be attributed to factors such as exposure to American or British media, educational background, or personal preferences. The higher preference for Pakistani English sentences in the survey may be influenced by several factors, reflecting the unique linguistic and cultural context of Pakistan. In exploring the representation of English varieties in daily conversation, this survey sheds light on the nuanced preferences of individuals within the surveyed sample. The findings contribute to our understanding of the diverse ways in which English is employed in different cultural and linguistic contexts, emphasizing the importance of considering local variations in language representation. Further research in this area could explore additional factors influencing language choice, such as age, education, and regional variations within each English variety.

In the second questionnaire, we will Prefer the Sentence that created your identity as a Pakistani English Speaker. Participants are from different professions and give different feedback about vocabulary and sentence structure that is easily comprehensible for common people. The frequency of Pakistani English was 79.20% because respondents are not more familiar with British and American English, however, it has a rich vocabulary and complicated sentence structure. Most participants chose Pakistani English sentences because the diction are very similar to local language like chapati, daastar, Nano, Nikkah, Takhat, Qawali, and daastarkhawan. This research shows the sociocultural influences on different aspects of language like diction and syntactic variations.



The research provides insights into how language, in this case, Pakistani English, serves as a dynamic and evolving expression of cultural nuances. Understanding these sociocultural influences is crucial for appreciating the diversity and richness of linguistic expressions within the context of Pakistani English. The choice of words and sentence structures reflects not only linguistic preferences but also cultural identity.

Discussion

The study has examined how different English varieties are perceived in daily communication and understanding the factors that influence individual and societal preferences. The representation of English varieties in everyday conversations is a multifaceted and dynamic aspect of language use that reflects societal perceptions and preferences. The study suggests that English varieties occur by the influence of different factors Cultural, historical, and economic aspects that create a separate identity and language of a specific region. It shows preferences for specific English varieties may be shaped by exposure to media, literature, and educational materials associated with a particular culture or region. The selection of certain linguistic features in everyday conversations can be a deliberate choice to align with one's cultural background and community. Individuals may favor English varieties that they believe enhance clarity, understanding, and effective communication in their specific contexts. The findings also confirm that respondents mostly implemented the Pakistani English



language in their daily conversations. Individuals may choose to use a specific English variety as a means of expressing their cultural or linguistic identity.

Education plays a crucial role in shaping linguistic preferences. Individuals with exposure to diverse English varieties through formal education may develop a more inclusive and adaptable attitude toward linguistic diversity. Understanding societal preferences for English varieties is crucial for promoting inclusivity and recognizing the diversity of linguistic expressions. In the world Englishes, acknowledging and respecting various English varieties creates a more inclusive linguistic environment.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the representation of English varieties in everyday conversation has revealed a nuance interplay between linguistic choice and social perception through meticulous analysis across diverse settings the preferences associated with specific variation have come to highlight intricate dynamics of language use in social judgments the use of Pakistani language English in everyday conversation varieties across different social contexts but there may not be a universally standardized form pattern in its usage factors such as education urbanization in the exposure to global media influence the way individual employees Pakistani English contributes to diverse linguistics and communication need language variation plays by what the role in a shaping social interaction influencing the formation of social identity relationship and communication style recognizing and understanding this linguistic nuance is essential fostering inclusivity and effective communication. The basic purpose of the study is to uncover patterns of preference and prejudice linked to specific variety shedding light on the complex dynamic of language use and social judgment in daily communication.

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