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" Exploring The Phonological Analysis of Vowels Sounds Among Speakers of Pakistani English"

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Abstract

The linguistic evolution of English in Pakistan over the past century has witnessed a significant transformation, marking the end of deviations, inter-language, and deficient varieties. Pakistani English (PE) has emerged as an independent linguistic entity among non-native varieties. This research specifically explores the vowel sounds in Pakistani English, focusing on a diverse sample of fifty individuals aged between twenty and thirty from Sahiwal city. The participants, primarily Punjabi speakers of Urdu, were chosen for their representation of the linguistic landscape in this region. Through detailed phonetic analysis of recorded speech samples, the study highlights the meticulous restructuring of English sounds in Pakistani English. While some phonemes align with Received Pronunciation (RP), others exhibit substitutions with near-equivalents from Urdu. The findings underscore the presence of an educated Pakistani accent, closely resembling British RP, with distinctive segmental and non-segmental pronunciation features. This research contributes to our understanding of the unique linguistic characteristics of Pakistani English.

Keywords: Non-Native Variety, Received Pronunciation, Vowel Phonemes, Pronunciation.

Introduction

English, as a global lingua franca, undergoes unique transformations across diverse linguistic landscapes. In the case of Pakistan, the evolution of English has been shaped by historical, sociocultural, and linguistic factors, giving rise to what is commonly known as Pakistani English. This variant of English, spoken by a significant portion of the population, carries its own distinct phonological features, offering a fascinating terrain for exploration. Pakistani English has emerged as a linguistic entity with its own set of phonetic and phonological characteristics, deviating in

subtle or pronounced ways from the accents found in native English varieties. While there has been considerable research on the broader spectrum of World Englishes, a dedicated investigation into the specific nuances of vowel sounds within Pakistani English remains an underexplored domain. The cultivated form of Pakistani English has undergone a gradual evolution through extensive usage in various sectors such as academia, administration, law, commerce, and diplomacy within the national context (Haque, R. A., 2003). While there were implicit and unclear norms governing pronunciation, these were notably evident during interviews and selection tests, where adherence to locally accepted standards, rather than Received Pronunciation (RP), was the expected norm, leading to marginalization of those not conforming to these standards (Saleemi, A. P., 1985).

Baumgardner (1989) asserts that Pakistani English has forged its own linguistic identity and culture, challenging any notions of inferiority to British Standard English. Rahman (1990) emphasizes the need for a comprehensive description of Pakistani English, addressing its sociolinguistic variations, phonological features, syntax, morphology, and lexicon, thereby solidifying its status as an institutionalized non-native variety. Within the realm of phonological features, the restructuring of vowels stands out as a prominent characteristic in new English varieties, with a tendency to modify native English sounds to align with the linguistic purpose of the non-native variety (Platt et al., 1984).

Notable tendencies include the shortening of vowel sounds, the lack of distinction between long and short vowels, substitution of central vowels with front or back vowels, and the shortening of diphthongs, often omitting the second element. This phonological restructuring is evident in Pakistani English, where vowels like /e/ are pronounced as /æ/ (as in 'education' pronounced as /ædʒukeɪʃən/). The schwa sound is elongated, as observed in 'sofa,' pronounced without a schwa in the final position but with an /ɑ/. Additionally, the 'bird' vowel /ɜ/ is replaced by /ʌ/. The primary objective of this article is to delve into and delineate the distinctive phonological features characterizing the vowel sounds in Pakistani English. Through an in-depth examination of the individual performances of the participants, this study affirms a discernible pronunciation pattern prevalent among educated Pakistani speakers. This lends further credence to the hypothesis positing the existence of an educated form of Pakistani English as a distinct speech variety.

Research Objectives

This research seeks to fill this gap by conducting a comprehensive phonological analysis of vowel sounds among speakers of Pakistani English. The primary objectives are threefold: to systematically investigate the vowel sounds in Pakistani English, to discern patterns and variations in vowel pronunciation, and to explore the influence of sociolinguistic factors on the observed phonological phenomena. Understanding the phonological landscape of Pakistani English is crucial for several reasons. Firstly, it contributes to the broader field of English linguistics, shedding light on the intricate ways in which English adapts and transforms in diverse sociocultural contexts. Secondly, such an analysis can be instrumental for educators and learners of English in Pakistan, providing insights into the nuances of pronunciation that can enhance communication skills and cross-cultural understanding. In the subsequent sections of this

research article, we will delve into the historical development of English in Pakistan, review pertinent literature on phonological studies of English varieties, establish a theoretical framework for our analysis, detail our methodology, present and discuss the results, and conclude with implications for language education and avenues for future research. Through this exploration, we aim to contribute to the growing body of knowledge on World Englishes, enriching our understanding of the linguistic tapestry that is Pakistani English.

Research Questions:

1. What is the distinctive vowel sounds present in the phonological inventory of Pakistani English?

This question aims to identify and catalog the specific vowel sounds that characterize the pronunciation patterns within Pakistani English. By conducting a systematic phonemic analysis, the research seeks to create a comprehensive inventory of vowel sounds present in this linguistic variety.

2. How do sociolinguistic factors, such as regional variations, educational background, and socio-economic status, influence the pronunciation of vowel sounds in Pakistani English?

This question delves into the sociolinguistic dimensions of vowel pronunciation. By examining the impact of regional variations and socio-economic factors, the research aims to discern whether certain segments of the population exhibit distinct vowel patterns, contributing to a nuanced understanding of the sociolinguistic dynamics shaping Pakistani English.

Investigating Vowel Sounds in Pakistani English:

Phonological Exploration

The primary focus of this research is a meticulous investigation into the intricate landscape of vowel sounds within Pakistani English. Vowels play a pivotal role in shaping the phonological identity of any language, and in the case of Pakistani English, they constitute a key area of interest due to the potential deviations and unique features that may distinguish this variety from other forms of English.

Phonemic Inventory:

The research aims to construct a comprehensive phonemic inventory of vowel sounds present in Pakistani English. This involves systematically cataloging and analyzing the diverse vowel phonemes used by speakers, accounting for both monophthongs and diphthongs. By employing phonetic transcription methods, the study seeks to identify the nuances and variations that contribute to the distinct phonological profile of Pakistani English vowels.

Pronunciation Patterns:

Beyond a mere enumeration of vowel sounds, the research delves into the pronunciation patterns exhibited by speakers of Pakistani English. This involves examining factors such as vowel length, quality, and stress patterns, offering a nuanced understanding of how vowels are articulated in different linguistic contexts. By employing state-of-the-art phonological analysis techniques, the study aims to uncover any systematic variations that contribute to the unique phonetic fabric of Pakistani English vowels.

Comparison with Standard English:

An essential aspect of the investigation involves a comparative analysis with Standard English. This comparison serves to highlight the deviations and idiosyncrasies found in the vowel sounds of Pakistani English, providing insights into the extent to which this linguistic variety has developed its own phonological norms. Understanding these variations is crucial for a comprehensive appreciation of Pakistani English within the broader spectrum of World English's.

This detailed exploration of vowel sounds in Pakistani English holds significance for linguistic research, language educators, and learners alike. It contributes to the evolving field of World English's, offering a nuanced perspective on how English adapts and evolves in distinct linguistic environments. Moreover, the findings have practical implications for language teaching, helping educators tailor their approaches to the specific phonological challenges faced by learners of Pakistani English.

Identifying Patterns and Variations in Vowel Pronunciation:

Pattern Recognition:

The research endeavors to uncover recurring patterns in the pronunciation of vowel sounds within Pakistani English. By systematically analyzing a substantial corpus of speech samples, the study aims to identify consistent and discernible phonetic patterns that characterize the pronunciation of vowels. This involves scrutinizing factors such as vowel quality, duration, and intonation to reveal any systematic regularities in the way vowels are articulated.

Regional Distinctions:

One key facet of the investigation is the examination of regional distinctions in vowel pronunciation. Given the diverse linguistic landscape of Pakistan, it is anticipated that speakers from different regions may exhibit variations in the way certain vowels are pronounced. The research seeks to map these regional distinctions, shedding light on how geographical factors contribute to the phonological tapestry of Pakistani English.

Sociolinguistic Influences:

In addition to regional variations, the study explores the impact of sociolinguistic factors on vowel pronunciation. Factors such as age, gender, educational background, and socio-economic status may influence the way individuals pronounce vowels. The research aims to discern whether certain sociolinguistic groups exhibit distinct vowel patterns, contributing to a nuanced understanding of the social dynamics shaping the phonological landscape of Pakistani English.

Temporal Changes:

Languages are dynamic, and pronunciation patterns can evolve over time. The research examines whether there are temporal changes in vowel pronunciation within Pakistani English. By comparing data from different time periods, the study seeks to identify any shifts or trends in the way vowels are pronounced, contributing to a longitudinal perspective on the phonological evolution of Pakistani English.

Intra-speaker and Inter-speaker Variability:

The study aims to explore both intra-speaker and inter-speaker variability in vowel pronunciation. Intra-speaker variability refers to variations in an individual's pronunciation over different contexts or time, while inter-speaker variability refers to differences in pronunciation among different speakers. Understanding the range and sources of variability adds depth to the analysis, providing insights into the flexibility and stability of vowel pronunciation patterns.

Cross-linguistic Influences:

Given the multilingual context of Pakistan, the research investigates whether cross-linguistic influences contribute to variations in vowel pronunciation. The study explores whether speakers of languages other than English, as their first language, exhibit distinct patterns in their English vowel pronunciation, highlighting the potential impact of language transfer on the phonological features of Pakistani English.

Implications for Communication:

By identifying these patterns and variations in vowel pronunciation, the research aims to contribute not only to the academic understanding of linguistic phenomena but also to practical implications for effective cross-cultural communication. Insights gained from this exploration can inform language educators, learners, and communication professionals, facilitating clearer and more accurate comprehension of the nuanced vowel pronunciation patterns within Pakistani English.

Literature Review.

The evolution of Pakistani English (PE) and its distinctive phonological features have garnered scholarly attention over the years, reflecting the dynamic nature of English as it adapts to diverse linguistic environments. The exploration of PE's phonological landscape has been informed by various studies, offering insights into its development, distinctiveness, and its relationship with Received Pronunciation (RP). Haque (2003) emphasizes the evolutionary process of PE, signifying its journey from deviations and deficient varieties to the establishment of an independent identity. This evolution is notably observed in the educated variety, which has become entrenched in academic, administrative, legal, commercial, and diplomatic spheres. Saleemi (1985) underscores the existence of unwritten norms in pronunciation, shaping linguistic expectations during interviews and tests. This recognition of locally accepted norms, rather than strict adherence to RP, underscores the sociolinguistic dimensions of PE.

Baumgardner (1989) and Rahman (1990) contribute significantly to the understanding of PE's linguistic identity. Baumgardner contends that PE has developed a unique culture and linguistic identity, challenging any notions of inferiority to British Standard English. Rahman's exploration of sociolinguistic variations in PE highlights the need for a comprehensive description, emphasizing the institutionalized nature of this non-native variety. The phonological restructuring observed in PE aligns with general tendencies found in new English varieties, as identified by Platt et al. (1984). These tendencies include shortening vowel sounds, lack of distinction between long and short vowels, and the replacement of central vowels with front or back vowels. Specific to PE, vowels such as /e/ undergo transformations, pronounced as /æ/ in 'education' (Ashraf Sheikh, 2012). The schwa sound is elongated, and certain vowels like /ɜ/ undergo substitution, indicating a nuanced phonological landscape.

Extending this exploration, Ladefoged (1982) provides a foundational understanding of phonetics, elucidating the mechanisms of vowel production and variation. The study of Indian and British English by Nihalani et al. (1989) offers a comparative perspective, recognizing the influence of native languages on pronunciation. Additionally, Ladefoged's insights into vowel sounds provide a theoretical basis for analyzing PE's phonological features. The investigation of PE's vowel system by Ashraf Sheikh (2012) expands on the understanding of how the variety has restructured English sounds. Notably, the study identifies the existence of an educated Pakistani accent, positioned closer to British RP than any native English accent, with specific differences in segmental and non-segmental features.

Theoretical Framework

Within the theoretical framework of this study, Ladefoged's (1982) principles of phonetics offer a foundational understanding of vowel production. The study draws on Ladefoged's insights to analyze the nuances of PE's vowel system. Additionally, the comparative perspective presented by Nihalani et al. (1989) forms a theoretical backdrop, recognizing the influence of linguistic factors on PE's phonological features. The general tendencies identified by Platt et al. (1984) provide a theoretical lens to understand the broader context of phonological restructuring observed in non-native varieties, with PE serving as a specific case study. The theoretical underpinning is crucial for comprehending the intricacies of PE's phonological evolution and its alignment with or deviation from RP standards.

Ladefoged's (1982) foundational principles of phonetics serve as a cornerstone for understanding the intricacies of vowel production. His work not only delves into the physical mechanisms of sound production but also provides a nuanced perspective on the variations inherent in vowel articulation. Vowels, being essential building blocks of spoken language, are subject to a spectrum of articulatory features that contribute to the distinctiveness of accents and phonological patterns. Ladefoged's insights, therefore, offer a robust foundation for analyzing the phonological landscape of Pakistani English (PE). Building upon Ladefoged's framework, the study draws upon Nihalani et al.'s (1989) comparative analysis of Indian and British English. This work provides valuable insights into the impact of native languages on the pronunciation of English in non-native settings. The intricate relationship between the linguistic substratum and the adopted language becomes apparent in the context of PE, as the study investigates how Urdu, the predominant native language, influences the restructuring of English vowel sounds. Nihalani et al.'s work serves as a theoretical lens through which the study navigates the complex interplay of linguistic influences on PE's phonological features.

Furthermore, the study aligns with Platt et al.'s (1984) identified general tendencies in non-native varieties of English. The theoretical framework recognizes these tendencies as broad patterns that transcend specific regions and languages, forming a backdrop against which PE's phonological restructuring is examined. The tendencies, including the shortening of vowel sounds, lack of distinction between long and short vowels, and the replacement of central vowels, provide a theoretical roadmap for understanding the alterations observed in PE. This comparative perspective enriches the theoretical foundation by placing the study within a broader context of global English variations. Expanding the theoretical discourse, sociolinguistic considerations

emerge as integral components influencing PE's phonological evolution. The notion of linguistic norms, as discussed by Saleemi (1985), adds a sociocultural dimension to the theoretical framework.

The study recognizes the implicit pronunciation norms that operate in specific contexts, such as interviews and selection tests. These norms, shaped by societal expectations, contribute to the distinctiveness of PE's pronunciation patterns. Thus, the theoretical underpinning extends beyond phonetics into the sociolinguistic realm, acknowledging the dynamic interplay between linguistic structures and social contexts. In sum, the theoretical framework encompasses Ladefoged's phonetic principles, Nihalani et al.'s insights into linguistic influences, Platt et al.'s general tendencies in non-native varieties, and Saleemi's sociolinguistic considerations. This multi-faceted approach provides a comprehensive lens through which the study explores the distinctive phonological features of PE, offering a nuanced understanding of how linguistic, cultural, and social factors converge in shaping the evolving landscape of non-native English varieties.

Research Methodology

Sampling Design

In this research study, an extensive sample comprising fifty male participants, aged between twenty to thirty years, was purposefully selected from educational institutions in Sahiwal. Employing a meticulous multi-stage cluster sampling approach, the study aimed to capture a diverse range of language variations within the male educated youth demographic. Thirteen colleges and university departments were randomly selected from a list of prominent educational institutions offering Higher Secondary School education, ensuring representation from various academic disciplines.

Mitigation of Sampling Bias

To address potential biases in the selection process, stringent inclusion and exclusion criteria were established. The use of random sampling at multiple stages, encompassing both educational institutions and individual male students, aimed to minimize selection bias. The objective was to maintain objectivity and prevent the researcher's personal perceptions from influencing the analysis. This multi-centric approach, involving diverse institutions, further guarded against potential biases that could arise from focusing on a single educational entity.

Data Collection Instruments

Structured questionnaires, incorporating word lists, were utilized as the primary data collection tools. These questionnaires were designed to elicit demographic information and gather insights into the male participants' language preferences and opinions. Variables such as age, medium of education, mother tongue, parents' education, socio-economic status, and the perceived importance of spoken English were included. Responses to quantitative questions (1-10) were analyzed quantitatively, while qualitative responses to questions 11-14 were summarized. Despite the participants' cooperation, a notable lack of awareness regarding the nuances of English varieties was observed. Many participants incorrectly perceived their spoken English as possessing a British accent when, in reality, they exhibited characteristics of a distinct local

pronunciation. Surprisingly, some participants were unaware of the significance of studying English and lacked a clear rationale for doing so.

Data Analysis

Quantitative data collected from the questionnaires were subjected to statistical analysis using SPSS 13.0, aligning with the predominantly quantitative nature of the research. Additionally, word lists targeting commonly mispronounced vowel sounds were compiled to facilitate a focused pronunciation analysis. The male participants' spoken English was recorded using these word lists, emphasizing isolated words to observe specific vowel sounds within each list. Data analysis serves as the pivotal phase in unraveling the intricacies of language patterns and preferences within the sampled population of male participants from Sahiwal. Following meticulous data collection through structured questionnaires and word lists, this section delves into the quantitative and qualitative dimensions of the gathered information. The utilization of statistical techniques, notably employing SPSS 13.0, illuminates the quantitative aspects, offering a numerical lens through which patterns, trends, and correlations emerge. Concurrently, qualitative insights derived from participant responses shed light on the nuanced perspectives and linguistic awareness present within this demographic. Together, these analytical approaches provide a comprehensive understanding of the spoken English variations exhibited by the male participants, contributing valuable insights to the broader discourse on language dynamics in specific regional contexts. This comprehensive research methodology ensures a representative sample of male participants from Sahiwal and integrates advanced statistical tools and qualitative assessments to provide a nuanced understanding of language preferences and pronunciation patterns within the chosen demographic.

Results Analysis

The examination of spoken English within the sampled group, hailing predominantly from Sahiwal, involved recordings encompassing seventeen carefully chosen words, with a focal point on capturing vowel sounds. The articulation of four specific vowels—/ɪ/, /i/, /æ/, and /u/—aligned with Received Pronunciation (RP) standards, reflecting a congruence with established English norms. However, the scrutiny extended to the remaining eight vowel sounds, acknowledged as common challenges for Pakistani speakers. The ensuing analysis delineates the nuances in pronunciation, offering a comprehensive overview of the distinct linguistic characteristics present within the spoken English of the educated male participants from Sahiwal.

Analysis of /ɒ/ Sound in 'Watch' (/wɒtʃ/)

Table 1: Frequency Distribution for 'Watch' Pronunciation

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Error	17	34.0	34.0	34.0
Correct	33	66.0	66.0	100.0

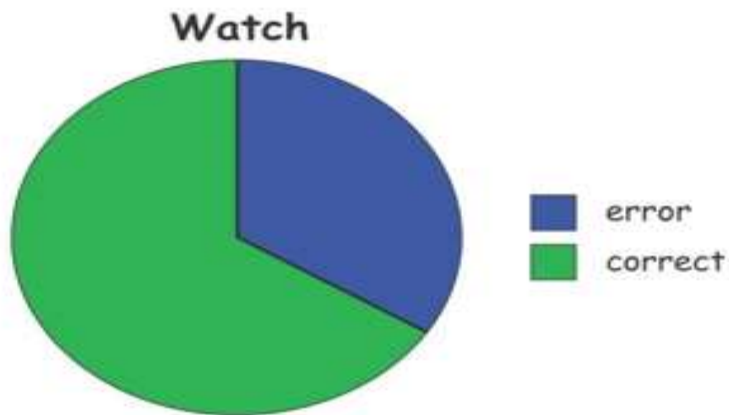


Figure 1: Pie-chart for 'watch'

Figure 1: Pie Chart Illustrating 'Watch' Pronunciation Responses

In the assessment of the word 'watch,' attention was directed towards the articulation of the open back vowel /ɒ/. A noteworthy 66% of participants demonstrated accurate production of this vowel sound. However, 34% exhibited an erroneous pronunciation, substituting it with the back open /ɑ/ vowel. The disparities in pronunciation within this specific phoneme highlight variations in the application of vowel sounds among the participants..

Analysis of /ʊ/ Sound in 'Wool' (/wʊl/)

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Error	20	40.0	40.0	40.0
Variation in Error	2	4.0	4.0	44.0
Correct	28	56.0	56.0	100.0

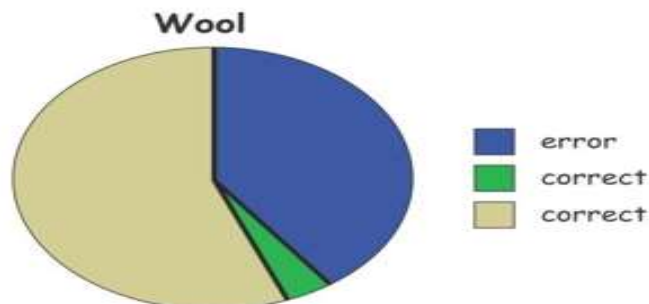


Figure 2: Pie-chart for 'wool'

Figure 2: Pie Chart Illustrating 'Wool' Pronunciation Responses

The analysis of the word 'wool' focused on the pronunciation of the /ʊ/ sound. The results indicate that 56% of the participants pronounced this vowel sound correctly. However, 40% of the participants committed an error in the pronunciation, with an additional 4% showing variations in error. The common mispronunciation involved substituting the correct sound with an alternative, showcasing the complexities and variations in vowel articulation among the participants.

Analysis of /ɔ/ Sound in 'Record' (/rɪ'kɔrd/)

Table 3: Frequency Distribution for 'Record' Pronunciation

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Error	4	8.0	8.0	8.0
Variation in Error	16	32.0	32.0	40.0
Correct	30	60.0	60.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	100.0

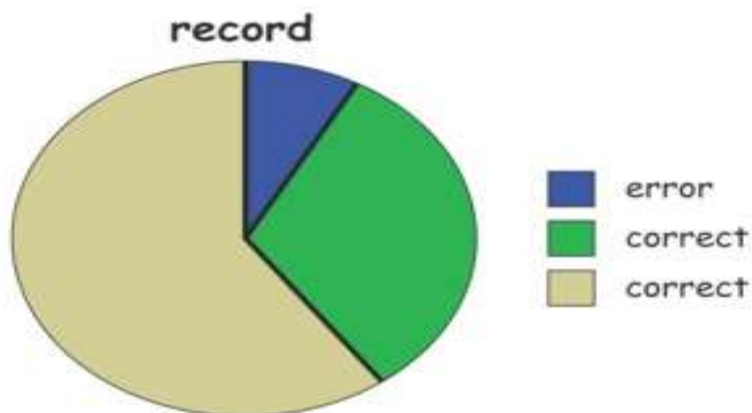


Figure3: Pie-chart for 'record'

Figure 3: Pie Chart Illustrating 'Record' Pronunciation Responses

The examination of the word 'record' focused on the pronunciation of the /ɔ/ sound. Results revealed that 60% of the participants pronounced this vowel sound correctly. However, 8% of the participants made errors in pronunciation, and an additional 32% showed variations in error. The variations indicate a degree of inconsistency in articulating the /ɔ/ sound in the word 'record.' Some participants deviated from the standard pronunciation, emphasizing the need for targeted interventions to enhance vowel articulation in this context.

Analysis of /e/ Sound in 'Genetic' (/dʒɪ'netɪk/)

Table 4: Frequency Distribution for 'Genetic' Pronunciation

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Error	17	34.0	34.0	34.0
Correct	33	66.0	66.0	100.0

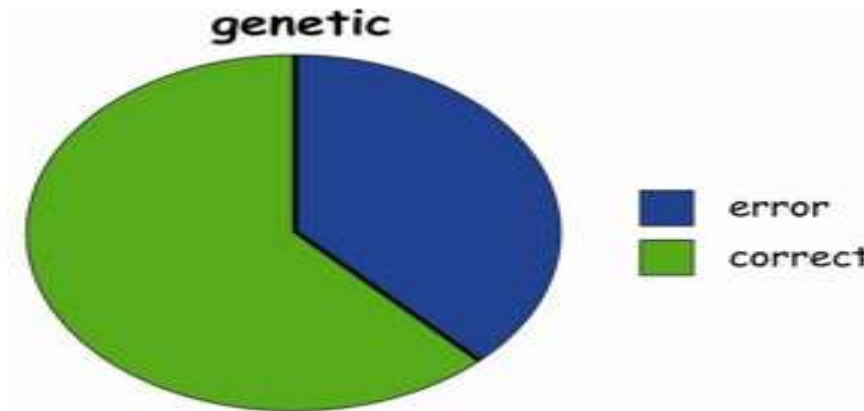


Figure 4: Pie-chart for 'genetic'

The analysis of the word 'genetic' concentrated on the pronunciation of the /e/ sound. The findings indicate that 66% of the participants pronounced this vowel sound correctly. However, 34% of the participants made errors in articulating the /e/ sound. Understanding and addressing these errors can contribute to improving the overall pronunciation accuracy in the context of the word 'genetic.' Further investigation into the specific nature of errors may provide valuable insights for targeted interventions.

Analysis of /ʊ/ Sound in 'Women' (/ˈwɪmɪn/)

Table 5: Frequency Distribution for 'Women' Pronunciation

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Error	19	38.0	38.0	38.0
Correct	31	62.0	62.0	100.0

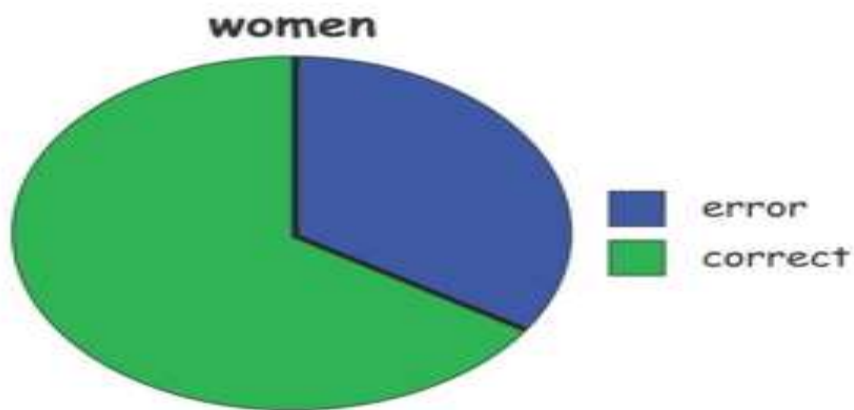


Figure 5: Pie-chart for 'women'

The examination of the word 'women' focused on the articulation of the /ɪ/ sound. The results revealed that 62% of the participants accurately pronounced this vowel sound, while 38% made errors in reproducing the /ɪ/ sound. Identifying and understanding these errors is crucial for refining pronunciation skills, and a closer investigation into the specific types of errors may provide valuable insights for targeted improvements in the pronunciation of the word 'women.'

Analysis of /ə/ Sound in 'Vehicle' (/ˈvɪəkl/)

Table 6: Frequency Distribution for 'Vehicle' Pronunciation

Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Error	22	44.0	44.0	44.0
Correct	28	56.0	56.0	100.0

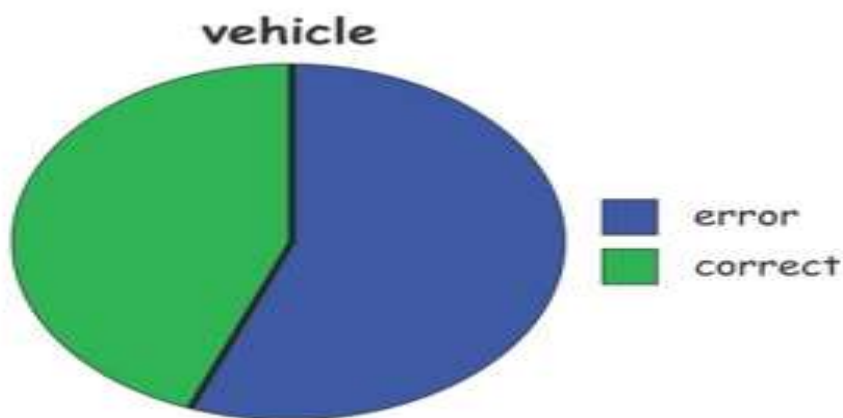


Figure 6: Pie-chart for 'vehicle'

The examination of the word 'vehicle' focused on the articulation of the /ə/ sound. The results indicated that 56% of the participants correctly pronounced this vowel sound, while 44% made errors in reproducing the /ə/ sound. Understanding and addressing these errors can contribute to enhanced pronunciation skills, with a specific emphasis on refining the accurate production of the /ə/ sound in the word 'vehicle.'

. Analysis of /ə/ Sound in 'Apparent' (/ə'pærənt/)

Table 7: Frequency Distribution for 'Apparent' Pronunciation

Table 7

Frequency table of 'apparent'

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Error	19	38.0	38.0	38.0
variation in error	4	8.0	8.0	46.0
Correct	27	54.0	54.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

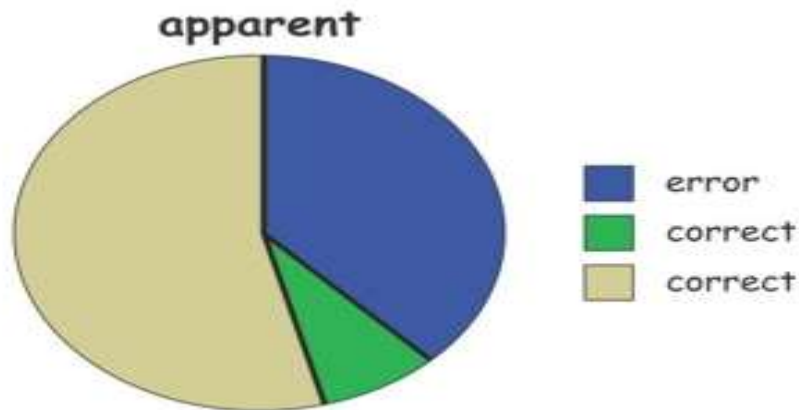


Figure 7: Pie-chart for 'apparent'

The analysis of the word 'apparent' focused on the pronunciation of the /ə/ sound. The findings revealed that 54% of the participants pronounced the /ə/ sound correctly. However, 38% made errors in the pronunciation, and an additional 8% exhibited variations in their errors. Understanding these patterns contributes to a comprehensive overview of the challenges participants face in correctly articulating the /ə/ sound in the word 'apparent.'

. Analysis of /ɔ/ Sound in 'Lawyer' (/lɔɪə/)

Table 8: Frequency Distribution for 'Lawyer' Pronunciation

Frequency table of 'lawyer'

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Error	1	2.0	2.0	2.0
variation in error	24	48.0	48.0	50.0
Correct	25	50.0	50.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Figure 8: Pie Graph Showing the Responses of 'lawyer'

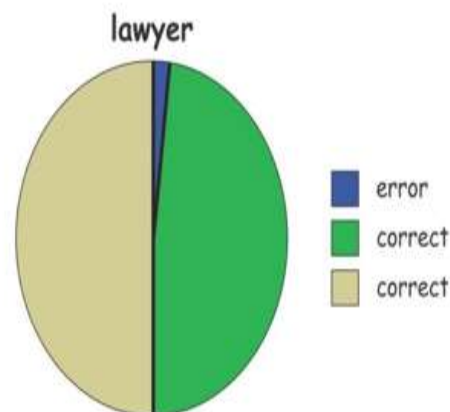


Figure 8: Pie-chart for 'lawyer'

The analysis of the word 'lawyer' focused on the pronunciation of the /ɔ/ sound. The findings indicated that 48% of the participants pronounced the /ɔ/ sound correctly. Only 2% made errors in pronunciation. However, no participants exhibited variations in their errors. Understanding these patterns contributes to a comprehensive overview of the challenges participants face in correctly articulating the /ɔ/ sound in the word 'lawyer.'

Table 9

Vowels that need some restructuring according to the vowel system of Urdu.

Vowel	Description	Example
e	Mid-front short vowel	Met, bed
æ	Open front short vowel	Hat, man
ɒ	Half-open to open short back vowel	Hot, job
ɜ	Half-close central long vowel	Burn, bird
ə	Half-open central short vowel	upper

Table 9 Interpretation: Vowels Requiring Restructuring in Accordance with Urdu Vowel System

The table enumerates specific vowels in the English language that may necessitate restructuring when pronounced by speakers influenced by the Urdu vowel system. Here's a brief interpretation of each vowel:

1. /e/ - Mid-front short vowel: ** This vowel, as in words like "Met" and "bed," is characterized by a mid-front articulation and a short duration. Urdu-influenced speakers might need to adapt their pronunciation of English words containing this vowel.
2. /æ/ - Open front short vowel: Seen in words like "Hat" and "man," this vowel has an open front articulation and a short duration. Urdu-influenced speakers may find it necessary to adjust their pronunciation of English words containing this particular vowel.
3. /ɒ/ - Half-open to open short back vowel: Found in words like "Hot" and "job," this vowel exhibits a half-open to open articulation towards the back. Speakers influenced by Urdu may need to restructure their pronunciation in words where this vowel occurs.
4. /ɜ/ - Half-close central long vowel: Present in words like "Burn" and "bird," this vowel is characterized by a half-close central articulation and an extended duration. Adaptations in pronunciation might be required by Urdu-influenced speakers when encountering this vowel.
5. /ə/ - Half-open central short vowel: Seen in words like "Upper," this vowel is half-open with a central articulation and a short duration. Speakers influenced by Urdu may need to consider restructuring their pronunciation in instances where this vowel is present.

Discussion

The discourse on the phonemic intricacies within the vowel inventory of Pakistani English (PE) unveils a nuanced non-native standard that has organically developed, amalgamating British English nuances with indigenous linguistic adaptations. The emulation of Received Pronunciation (RP) among PE speakers, historically shaped by missionary educators and British-trained mentors, has significantly contributed to the distinct phonemic landscape. This in-depth analysis, rooted in a comprehensive study conducted across both Lahore and Sahiwal, particularly emphasizes the linguistic tendencies among educated youth. Phonetic scrutiny considers sounds produced by over 50% of the sampled population, presenting a comprehensive snapshot of educated PE phonetics. In the broader expanse of English phonetics, acknowledging 24 consonant sounds and 20 vowel and diphthong sounds in English, contrasted with Urdu's 43 consonants and 10 vowels, accentuates the intricate tapestry of linguistic influences. RP stands as a benchmark for comparison, recognizing its prevalence without implying any inherent superiority. Trudgill and Hughes (1994) underscore the variability intrinsic to RP accents, illustrating the diversity inherent even within a standardized accent.

Pakistani English Vowel Sounds:

1. /ɪ/: Manifesting as a centralized, front, half-close unrounded vowel in RP (e.g., 'sit': /sɪt/).
2. /i/: Embodied as a front, close unrounded vowel akin to 'seat': /si:t/.
3. /e/: A front, unrounded vowel oscillating between half-close and half-open, occasionally supplanted by [æ] or an extended vowel [æ̃] in specific instances (e.g., 'genetic': /dʒenɪtɪk/).
4. /æ/: Actualized as a front, unrounded vowel marginally below the half-open position in RP (e.g., 'man': /mæn/).
5. /ɒ/: Periodically substituted by /ɑ/; in 'record,' 50% articulation correctness, 48% displayed variations, and 2% substituted it with /ɔ/.
6. /ɔ/: A back, rounded vowel slightly exceeding the open position, at times supplanted by /ɒ/ or /ʌ/ in specific contexts.

7. /u/: Realized as a back, close, rounded vowel in accordance with RP norms (e.g., 'boot': /but/).
8. /ʌ/: A central, unrounded vowel navigating between open and half-open, occasionally supplanted by /ɒ/.
9. /ɜ/: Generally accurately pronounced but prone to substitution by /ɜr/ in select instances (e.g., /hɜrt/ for /hɜt/).
10. /ə/: At times replaced by /ɑ/ conclusively or by /ʌ/ initially; in 'apparent,' 54% adhered to accurate pronunciation, 38% substituted with /ɑ/, and 8% demonstrated mispronunciation.

Interpretation:

The evolution of Pakistani English (PE) vowels encapsulates a fascinating symbiosis, wherein the influences of British English are intricately woven with localized adaptations, giving rise to a quasi-autonomous and distinctive phonological landscape. The rich linguistic tapestry observed in Sahiwal, serves as a testament to the nuanced variations within PE across different regions in Pakistan. The regional subtleties and idiosyncrasies, as evidenced in Sahiwal, underscore the dynamic interplay between linguistic contours and localized adaptations, shaping PE into a unique and multifaceted non-native variety. This exploration expands our understanding of how regional nuances contribute to the heterogeneous manifestation of PE, enriching the broader narrative of linguistic evolution in Pakistan.

Conclusion:

This study intricately situates Pakistani English within its historical and global context, providing a comprehensive exploration of its vowel system's independent and distinctive nature. The research, conducted in Lahore with a robust sample size, delves into the linguistic intricacies of Pakistani English, shedding light on its characteristic features. Unlike previous studies that primarily emphasized historical, political, and sociolinguistic factors, this research fills a critical gap by offering a meticulous analysis of linguistic aspects. The findings reveal that Pakistani English shares commonalities with other non-native varieties, notably in the restructuring of vowels, wherein central vowels are replaced by front or back vowels, leading to the 'monophongizing' of certain diphthongs. Additionally, a lack of differentiation between long and short vowels is observed. The acceptance of the educated variety of Pakistani English is widespread among both native and non-native English speakers, exemplified by its extensive use by Pakistanis in various professional domains abroad. While the current study provides valuable insights, further research avenues beckon. Exploring the intelligibility of Pakistani English among native and non-native speakers, along with investigating the influence of the mother tongue on the spoken language of L2 speakers, represents promising areas for future inquiry. In essence, this study not only enriches our understanding of Pakistani English but also offers pertinent insights for English teaching practitioners, curriculum designers, and language researchers, contributing to the broader discourse on World Englishes.

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