



## Phonological Shifts in Pakistani English (PakE): A Comparative Study under Standard British English

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**ABSTRACT-** Pakistani English is not a native variety of English language. Pakistani English has its roots laid deep in pre-partition British India. These roots developed into a non-native variety of English spoken in Pakistan. This non-native variety is passing through different changes, shifts and modifications as compared to its origin, i.e. Standard British English, because every variety undergoes some changes with the passage of time. These changes and deviations from Standard British English can be seen at different levels of Pakistani English which are: Syntactic, Morphological, Lexical and Phonological. Recent decades have shown voluminous research under parasol of Pakistani English in multi-dimensional ways. This paper intends to investigate Phonological shifts of Pakistani English from Standard British English. Qualitative approach will be used to highlight paradigm shifts in pronunciation of Pakistani English under different aspects with the help of sample of population selected through convenience sampling technique. For this purpose, eminent works of Ahmar Mehboob(2003) and Tariq Rehman(1990) will be discussed as marked description of Pakistani English Phonology. This study will also delineate inclination of Pakistani English phonology towards American English. Findings show distinct deviations and shifts of Pakistani English phonology from Standard British English. This study will support works regarding Pakistani English as a legitimate variety of English Language and will open different pathways of research in this regard.

**KEYWORDS:** Deviation from British English, Pakistani English, Phonological Inclination, Phonological shifts, Pronunciation.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Different languages are spoken worldwide under different social, regional and cultural factors. English is one of these languages which is spoken internationally. There is not a single variety of English language which is spoken across the world but different varieties called as 'plethora of World Englishes' (Canagarajah, 2006). These varieties deviate from standard versions of English language and become a different variety in World Englishes. All new varieties deviated from standard norms and standard varieties of English language. These deviated varieties transform gradually under the influence of social factors like culture, regional languages, traditions, religious values etc. (Kilickaya, 2009) Thus with the passage of time these varieties come as a standing part of world Englishes. So 'World Englishes' include all the varieties whether standard or in the process of standardization as an integral part of varieties of English having different but distinct features other than standard norms of English variety (Baumgardner, 1995). The term 'World Englishes' refers to localized and emerging varieties of English language as these varieties are not interlanguages but legitimate varieties with their own features and norms within a specific cultural and social context (Jenkins, 2009).

Pakistani English is a distinct variety among these varieties of English language in the world. Pakistani English is a non-native variety of English language which is deviated from Standard British English (Irfan, 2017). Pakistani English has distinct features under social, cultural, religious and regional factors. These factors contribute in Morphological, syntactic, lexical, semantic and phonological changes. Thus English in Pakistan is an independent variety of English language as an emerging form in the world Englishes, which enjoys status of an official language and act as a lingua franca in Pakistan (Ahmad & Ali, 2014). English in Pakistan is a distinct variety as soon it will take the place of standard variety of English language (Khan,

2012). Non-native variety passes through three phases to become a standard variety (Kachru, 1986), according to Kachru following are the three phases:

1. Firstly, non-native variety will not be recognized
2. Secondly, it will be considered as a sub-standard and
3. Thirdly, it will become a norm-providing language i.e. standard language.

So this model led in creating argument that Pakistani English is passing through third phase and soon, it will take the status of Standard English language (Mansoor, 2004). This replacement will be accomplished due to distinct features of Pakistani English.

Pakistani English is not a native variety of English but English is used as a Second Language (ESL). English language in Pakistan has its connection with pre-partition Indian sub-continent. Pakistani English raised under contact with British Englishmen from 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century till independence 1947 under the impact of Colonialism and Imperialism.

## II. HISTORICAL VIEW OF PAKISTANI ENGLISH

History of Pakistani English is linked with pre-partition of Sub-continent (Pakistan: History (The Commonwealth), n.d.). It was the time of 17<sup>th</sup> century when the British people arrived in sub-continent as merchants under '*East-India Company*' who were given a charter from Queen Elizabeth I during the beginning of 17<sup>th</sup> century for the purpose of trade in sub-continent and Britain (Rehman, 1990). They waited till their strengthening position until 18<sup>th</sup> century when Mughal power declined. Thus, in this situation a vacuum of power and authority was created due to Aurangzeb's orthodoxy in sub-continent and led to the rise of British people (Mehboob, 2003).

British people took position at higher levels and they actually started their vision of arrival under English imperialism as Macaulay in 1835 said: "We have a great moral duty to perform in India". They wanted to impose British culture, traditions and language to India. Their mission was to make 'Brown Englishmen' which highlights conversion of people of sub-continent into Englishmen by just speaking English language as well as following their lifestyle which includes dressing, look, behavior etc. (British Colonialism In India, 2009). British men started implementation of their strategies and ideas in order to fulfil their aim of colonization. They brought the concept of classes through high and low notions which were used to highlight level of English speaking as well as following the tradition of English gentlemen. Under all these aspects English language was fabricated across the sub-continent.

In 1947, sub-continent was divided and Pakistan got independence. After independence British people went away but their influence remained there. This influence was association of English language in the culture, mind and society. English language remained prominent due to its social, economic and global mobility across the world (Mehboob, 2003). Many people learned English language through formal contact or by proper schooling under these factors. Input of learning English language in Pakistan was non-native and local. It got more as interaction and contact with natives, was further reduced after partition of sub-continent. So English was flourished in Pakistan after independence but it was clearly a non-native variety of English because different languages were spoken in Pakistan as a first language (Haque, 2007). These languages include Urdu, Sindhi, Balochi, Pashto, Saraiki, Punjabi and Bengali, etc. and some other regional languages. So English language became the part of Pakistani languages and has a distinct feature due to some gradual transitions and transformations.

Pakistani English is an official language as well as language of education and medium of instruction in institutions and organizations in Pakistan. Thus English language act as a lingua franca in Pakistan due to its recognition and importance, internationally and globally. English language is used for the purpose of trade, business, meetings, research, education, and official letters etc. (Shehzad, 2017)

III. PAKISTANI ENGLISH (PAKE) VS. STANDARD BRITISH ENGLISH (STBRE)

Standard British English is a native variety of English language and act as a norm-providing language while Pakistani English started from British people and is very much norm-dependent. Pakistani English as a non-native variety initially followed Standard British people during pre-partition of sub-continent but when contact with natives got decreased so it started deviating from its norms providing standard British English(Mansoor, 2004). It is observed that when native variety come in contact with non-native variety, a new variety arises with different features and characteristics(J, E, & Shamim).

Pakistani English is associated with Standard British English. Standard British English is like a mother to Pakistani English because it laid base of Pakistani English which gradually get changed under different factors. Changes are the part of any variety of language. Same goes with Pakistani English because it also has been changed and still changing which highlights deviation from standard British English due to cultural, regional, religious, social etc. factors. With the passage of time some features of Standard British English were replaced in Pakistani English e.g.,StBrE doesn't pronounce /r/ sound but Pakistani English pronounces /r/ sound in pronunciation. For example: 'Heart' is pronounced as /hɑ:t/ in Standard British English while Pakistani English pronunciation is /hɜ:rt/. Pronouncing /r/ sound is called as rhoticity which is not a part of Standard British English but very much pronounced in Pakistani English (Khan, 2012).

IV. PHONOLOGY

According to Cat-ford (2001), Phonology is the study of sound systems and how these sounds are organized into systems and utilized in the language. It is the branch of linguistics which deals with phonemes in speech, the relation of different phonemes, functions of phonemes etc. in other words it's the abstract study of sounds (Roach, 2009) while phoneme is the smallest sound of the speech which makes one word different from another (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.). Phonology lies with phonetics which deals with sounds made by human voice in speech which means, it's the physical aspect of sounds. Phonetics is usually concerned with production of sounds and how these sounds are articulated through the interaction of different parts of mouth called as articulators (Avery & EHRlich, 1992).

Phonetics and phonology is based on sound systems which contain symbols. These symbols interact together and make our speech sounds. Under International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), there are 44 sounds or phonemes in English sound system. These symbols contain 20 vowels (Short vowels, long vowels and diphthongs) and 24 consonant sounds.

Vowels	
Short Vowels	Long Vowels
ɪ HIT, SITTING	i: SEE, HEAT
e MET, BED	ɑ: ARM, FATHER
æ CAT, BLACK	ɔ: CALL, FOUR
ʌ CUP, LUCK	u: BLUE, FOOD
ɒ HOT, ROCK	ɜ: TURN, LEARN
ʊ PUT, COULD	
ə AWAY, CINEMA	
Diphthongs	
aɪ FIVE, EYE	ɔɪ BOY, JOIN
aʊ NOW, OUT	eə WHERE, AIR
eɪ SAY, EIGHT	ɪə NEAR, HERE
oʊ GO, HOME	ʊə PURE, TOURIST

**Table 1: IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) Vowel Symbols**

<b>Consonants</b>
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b	BAD, LAB	r	RED, TRY
d	DID, LADY	s	SUN, MISS
f	FIND, IF	ʃ	SHE, CRASH
g	GIVE, FLAG	t	TEA, GETTING
h	HOW, HELLO	tʃ	CHECK, CHURCH
j	YES, YELLOW	θ	THINK, BOTH
k	CAT, BACK	ð	THIS, MOTHER
l	LEG, LITTLE	v	VOICE, FIVE
m	MAN, LEMON	w	WET, WINDOW
n	NO, TEN	z	ZOO, LAZY
ŋ	SING, FINGER	ʒ	PLEASURE, VISION
p	PET, MAP	dʒ	JUST, LARGE
<b>Table 2. IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) Consonant Symbols</b>			

#### 4.1 Phonological Shifts

In Historical Linguistics we study changes in pronunciation and these changes occur in different variety of forms. These changes can be studied by observing pronunciation and phonological patterns at different times, these changes are called as phonological shifts. These shifts can be studied over time (British Library, n.d.).

Phonological shifts occur because all languages change with the passage of time due to different aspects. These phonological shifts can be of different types like: change in stress patterns, change in vowel length, change in consonant pronunciation, insertion of vowels or consonants in words under idiolect and dialect influence etc. (Wells, 1982). These changes result in new phonological patterns which are different from the previous phonological patterns of the language spoken in the past. Almost all languages undergo some variations with the passage of time and can be studied under Historical Linguistics. If we are observing ongoing changes then it's an obvious thing that these changes have not been adopted by many speakers yet but soon it will be spread to majority of speakers (British Library, n.d.). Thus, we can track how these changes come across the social boundary.

#### V. LITERATURE REVIEW

Research regarding Pakistani phonology is not reliable and is very less researched area (Mahboob, 2003). We don't have any authentic account of Pakistani phonology whether it is based on some specific set of rules or not. Some works highlight phonological aspects of Pakistani English but have some exceptions in different stance. Some support has been given to phonology of Pakistani English through the eminent works of Tariq Rahman who worked on different phonological aspects of Pakistani English and will be discussed as following.

Mehboob's work (2003) is based on Pakistani English which highlights different aspects of English variety in Pakistan. He defined historical evolution of Pakistani English and how this language included certain changes and still in the changing process. He explained influence of other languages of Pakistani on English of Pakistan. These regional languages affect phonological essence of English variety and thus deviate from its basic essence and variety. These changes gradually become a part of phonology of Pakistan and phonological

shifts can be observed. He also studied vowel variations under two categories. One category is being pronounced as it is, without any variation, while second category highlighted variations under shortening of vowel, insertion of short vowel instead of long vowel, pronouncing long or short vowel instead of diphthongs. Mehboob's study was based on very short sample which is not appropriate to study proper description of phonology of Pakistani English.

Tariq Rahman's (2015) work is of great significance in the field of Pakistani English. He described detailed view of Pakistani English by highlighting morphological, syntactic, lexical, phonological view of English variety of Pakistan. He observed and studied Pakistani English under three different categories i.e. Acrolect (Elite class variety), Mesolect (Middle class variety) and Basilect (variety of low class). According to Rahman, these three classes use English language differently and proclaim significant feature according to class variety. He studied rhoticity of Pakistani English, which is a distinct part of Mesolect and Basilect variety of Pakistani English. Segmental and non-segmental features were addressed by Tariq Rahman in his work. Phonological study of Tariq Rahman was based on a very short sample like Mahboob and moreover he initially done his survey regarding phonological scheme and pattern of Pakistani English in United Kingdom which doesn't fulfil the authenticity of true phonological pattern of Pakistani English spoken.

Many scholars have done works on Pakistani English but a few of them touched the phonological boundary of Pakistani English. This is the reason that phonology field of Pakistani English needs more research which should be authentic as well as very much reliable. Work of Humaira Irfan (2012) also address English phonology of Pakistan. She highlighted phonological aspects of Pakistani English by compiling existing works of Tariq Rahman, Ahmar Mahboob and Baumgardner. Insertion of vowels in consonant cluster, rhoticity, retroflexity of Pakistani English was highlighted by Humaira Irfan. M. Taalat, Ahmad Ali, S. Mansoor are also in this field but their works do not direct phonology of Pakistani English directly.

## VI. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research explores the phonological aspects of Pakistani English and how phonological patterns deviate from standard British English. For this purpose, works of Tariq Rahman and Ahmar Mahboob were discussed as a basic study in this regard. Following measures were taken by the researcher to attain the aim of this study.

### 6.1 Research Design

Qualitative approach will be used to highlight phonological aspects of Pakistani English. For this purpose Ahmar Mehboob's (2003) framework will be used to compare phonological patterns of Pakistani English in comparison with Standard British English. Pakistani phonological patterns will be taken from sample selected through convenience sampling technique. Respondents will be asked to pronounce a poem so that their pronunciation would be analyzed. After observing their speeches, comparison will be done through the transcription. This analysis will be carried by taking transcription of poem by using online application "To Phonetics" based on IPA transcription under British accent (RP) then speech sounds of respondents and RP of poem will be compared in order to see changes in speech sounds. Focus will be done on distinct vowel changes and consonant changes in respondents' speeches. After this procedure distinct phonological deviations and characteristics will be highlighted through Ahmar Mehboob's comparison technique.

### 6.2 Sampling

Sample is based on population of students belonged to different universities situated in Lahore. Convenience sampling was used to select sample of 25 students between the ages of 20 to 25 years. Sample contains 15 female and 10 male students who are currently studying in universities in the region of Lahore and voluntarily agreed to participate in this research. Sample was guided through online communication by using WhatsApp and they were told to send voice note of selected poem.

### 6.3 Research Tool

A reading activity was used as a research tool which is based on an activity in which respondents were asked to read a selected poem in order to take pronunciation to highlight speech sounds. This tool was appropriate to get an account of speech sounds of English through pronunciation. Only reading is the best way to observe sounds and phonological patterns of any kind. Poem which was selected for this activity is *Pronunciation* which is written by an anonymous poet. This poem was selected because it contains common words with a lot of phonological diversity of English language. Following is the poem with its transcription in British accent to compare with speech sounds of Pakistani respondents:

<b>'Pronunciation'</b> <i>(a poem by an anonymous writer)</i>	
<u>Poem Lines</u>	<u>Transcription (British)</u>
<i>Here is some pronunciation.</i>	hiəɪz sʌmpɹəˌnʌnsɪ'eɪʃən.
<i>Ration never rhymes with nation,</i>	'ræʃən 'nevə raɪmz wɪð 'neɪʃən,
<i>Say prefer, but preferable,</i>	seɪ pri'fɜː, bʌt 'pɹefərəbl,
<i>Comfortable and vegetable.</i>	'kʌmfətəbl ænd 'vedʒtəb(ə)l.
<i>B must not be heard in doubt,</i>	biː mʌst nɒt biː hɜːd ɪn daʊt,
<i>Debt and dumb both leave it out.</i>	det ænd dʌm bəʊθ liːv ɪt aʊt.
<i>In the words psychology,</i>	ɪn ðə wɜːdz sɑː'kɒlədʒi,
<i>Psychic, and psychiatry,</i>	'saɪkɪk, ænd sɑː'kaɪətri,
<i>You must never sound the p.</i>	juː mʌst 'nevə saʊnd ðə piː.
<i>Psychiatrist you call the man</i>	sɑː'kaɪətrɪst juː kɔːl ðə <a href="#">mæn</a>
<i>Who cures the complex, if he can.</i>	huː kjuːz ðə 'kɒmpleks, ɪf hiː kæn.
<i>In architect, chi is k.</i>	ɪn 'ɑːkɪtɛkt, tʃiː ɪz keɪ.
<i>In arch it is the other way.</i>	ɪn <a href="#">ɑːtʃ</a> ɪt ɪz ðɪ 'ʌðə weɪ.
<i>Please remember to say iron</i>	pliːz rɪ'membə tuː seɪ 'aɪən
<i>So that it'll rhyme with lion.</i>	səʊ ðæt 'ɪl raɪm wɪð 'laɪən.
<i>Advertisers advertise,</i>	'ædvətaɪzəz 'ædvətaɪz,
<i>Advertisements will put you wise.</i>	əd'vɜːtɪsmənts wɪl pʊt juː waɪz.
<i>Time when work is done is leisure,</i>	taɪm wɛn wɜːk ɪz dʌn ɪz 'leɪʒə,
<i>Fill it up with useful pleasure.</i>	fɪl ɪt ʌp wɪð 'juːsfʊl 'pleɪʒə.
<i>Accidental, accident,</i>	ˌæksɪ'dentl, 'æksɪdənt,
<i>Sound the g in ignorant.</i>	saʊnd ðə dʒiː ɪn 'ɪgnərənt.
<i>Relative, but relation,</i>	'relətɪv, bʌt rɪ'leɪʃən,
<i>Then say creature, but creation.</i>	ðen seɪ 'kriːtʃə, bʌt kri(:)'eɪʃən.
<i>Say the a in gas quite short,</i>	seɪ ðɪ ə ɪn gæs kwɔːt ʃɔːt,



<i>Bought remember rhymes with thwart,</i>	bɔ:t rɪ'membə raɪmz wɪð θwɔ:t,
<i>Drought must always rhyme with bout,</i>	draʊt mʌst 'ɔ:lweɪz raɪm wɪð baʊt,
<i>In daughter leave the gh out.</i>	ɪn 'dɔ:tə li:v ðə gh aʊt.
<i>Wear a boot upon your foot.</i>	weə ə bu:t ə'pɒn jɔ: fʊt.
<i>Root can never rhyme with soot.</i>	ru:t kæn 'nevə raɪm wɪð su:t.
<i>In muscle, sc is s,</i>	ɪn 'mʌsl, sc ɪz ɛs,
<i>In muscular, it's sk, yes!</i>	ɪn 'mʌskjʊlə, ɪts sk, jɛs!
<i>Choir must always rhyme with wire,</i>	'kwaɪə mʌst 'ɔ:lweɪz raɪm wɪð 'waɪə,
<i>That again will rhyme with liar.</i>	ðæt ə'geɪn wɪl raɪm wɪð 'laɪə.
<i>Then remember it's address.</i>	ðen rɪ'membə ɪts ə'dres.
<i>With an accent like posses.</i>	wɪð ən 'æksənt laɪk 'pɒsɪz.
<i>G in sign must silent be,</i>	dʒi: ɪn saɪn mʌst 'saɪlənt bi:,
<i>In signature, pronounce the g.</i>	ɪn 'sɪgnɪtʃə, prə'naʊns ðə dʒi:.
<i>Please remember, say towards</i>	pli:z rɪ'membə, seɪ tə'wɔ:dz
<i>Just as if it rhymed with boards.</i>	dʒʌst æz ɪf ɪt raɪmd wɪð bɔ:dz.
<i>Weight's like wait, but not like height.</i>	weɪts laɪk weɪt, bʌt nɒt laɪk haɪt.
<i>Which should always rhyme with might.</i>	wɪtʃ ʃʊd 'ɔ:lweɪz raɪm wɪð maɪt.
<i>Sew is just the same as so,</i>	səʊ ɪz dʒʌst ðə seɪm æz səʊ,
<i>Tie a ribbon in a bow.</i>	taɪ ə 'rɪbən ɪn ə baʊ.
<i>When You meet the queen you bow,</i>	wen ju: mi:t ðə kwi:n ju: baʊ,
<i>Which again must rhyme with how.</i>	wɪtʃ ə'geɪn mʌst raɪm wɪð haʊ.
<i>In perfect English make a start.</i>	ɪn 'pɜ:fɪkt 'ɪŋɡlɪʃ meɪk ə stɑ:t.
<i>Learn this little rhyme by heart.</i>	lɜ:n ðɪs 'lɪtl raɪm baɪ hɑ:t.

**Table 3: Pronunciation Poem by an Anonymous Writer with Transcription**

[Transcription is based on IPA under British accent retrieved from <https://tophonetics.com/>]

## VII. DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

Data was collected from sample through online source via WhatsApp application. Letter of consent, attached with the text of poem, was sent to the respondents to respond. Respondents sent their voice recording. Recordings were transformed into speech sounds with the help of IPA symbols so that it would be easier to compare speech sounds of respondents and original British speech sounds of the poem. This comparison was done through Ahmar Mehboob's comparison technique.

Data will be analyzed through the phonological characteristics with the help of respondents' speech sounds by comparing them with standard British sound of the poem. After this analysis, study will highlight main characteristics of phonological proceedings of Pakistani English collected by the sample.

### 7.1 Changes in Vowels:

In Pakistani English context two types of vowel realizations can be observed. Some vowels remain same without any change but some deviates from phonological pattern of Standard British English. Vowels changes are significant in Pakistani English speech sounds as they clearly deviate from Standard British English. These changes are of various types, for example: changing short vowel to long vowel, long vowel to short vowel, replacing one vowel to another vowel, mispronunciation of diphthongs or absence of diphthongs. Pakistani English speakers insert short vowel instead of long vowel. Following table illustrates these phonological changes:

Words (From Pronunciation Poem)	StBrE (IPA Transcription)	Pakistani Phonology (Majority results)
Towards	tə'wɔ:dz	tʊwɑrdz
Prefer	prɪ'fɜ:	prɛfər
Heard	hɜ:d	hɑrd
Advertisements	əd'vɜ:tɪsmənts	ædvɛrtɪzments/ædvɛrtɪzment
Work	wɜ:k	wɑrk
Creature	kri:tʃə	krætfər~krɪtfər

**Table 4: Replacement of short vowels instead of long vowels**

Under this table, it can be observed that long vowels are replaced by short vowels. Most frequently long vowel /ɜ:/ is replaced by short vowel /ʌ/ or /ə/. Changing of long to short vowel also occur in opposite direction as short vowels will be replaced by lengthening of short vowels. For example: Comfortable is pronounced as /'kʌmfətəbl/ in StBrE but it is mispronounced in Pakistan by changing short vowel /ə/ into /e:/ as /kʌmfɛtɛ:bəl/.

Other variations in vowels also can be seen in Pakistani English phonology. Pakistani speakers replace one vowel with another one, sometimes nearer and sometimes completely different vowel. Following table illustrates these vowels changing in Pakistani English phonology:

Words (From Pronunciation Poem)	StBrE (IPA Transcription)	Pakistani Phonology (Majority results)
Pronunciation	prə'nʌnsɪ'eɪʃən	prɒnʌnsɪ:ʃən
Ration	'ræʃən	Reʃən
Preferable	prɛfərəbəl	prɛfʌræbəl
Psychology	sai'kɒlədʒi	saɪkɒlədʒi
Psychiatry	sai'kaiətri	saɪkætri
Advertisements	əd'vɜ:tɪsmənts	æd'vʌrtɪsmənts
Ignorant	ɪgnərənt	ɪgnɒrɛnt
Relative	rɛlətɪv	relɪtɪv
Thwart	θwɔ:t	θwɑrt
Towards	tə'wɔ:dz	tʊwɑrdz

**Table 5: Replacement of one Vowel Sound with another**

This table shows some distinct vowel replacement with another vowel which could be nearer vowel or completely different vowel sound. So, these changes do occur in phonology of Pakistani English.

### 7.2 Change in Diphthongs:

Phonology of Pakistani English also varies in terms of 'diphthongs' (two combined vowel sounds). Pakistani English phonology sometimes shows absence of diphthong sounds by replacing other short or long vowel sounds. Sometimes diphthongs are mispronounced in Pakistani English and sometimes replaced by wrong diphthong sounds which do not occur in English phonology. Following changes in diphthongs can be seen in Pakistani English



Words (From Pronunciation Poem)	StBrE (IPA Transcription)	Pakistani Phonology (Majority results)
Here	hɪə	heər
Pronunciation	prəˈnʌnsɪ'eɪʃən	prɒnʌnsɪe:ʃən
Nation	neɪʃən	neʃən
Both	bəʊθ	bɒθ
Cures	kjʊəz	kɪjɔrz
Relation	rɪ'leɪʃən	rɪleʃən
Drought	draʊt	drɒt

**Table 6: Changes in Diphthongs**

There are also some triphthongs present in English phonology. These sounds are also changed in Pakistani English. Speakers of Pakistani English do not pronounce triphthongs and thus not included in Pakistani English phonology. For example: 'Psychiatry' is pronounced as /sar'kaɪətri/ but Pakistani English pronounce it as /sar'kætri/. Same is the case with 'lion' it is pronounced in Pakistani English as /lam/ instead of /laɪən/.

### 7.3 Similarity of /v/ and /w/ Sounds:

These sounds are often get mixed by Pakistani English speakers. Mostly Pakistani English speakers do not pronounce these sounds separately but use only /w/ sound for both cases /v/ and /w/. This phonological characteristic is influenced by Urdu sound "و", because this sound is pronounced as English sound /w/. For example:

Words (From Pronunciation Poem)	StBrE (IPA Transcription)	Pakistani Phonology (Majority results)
Never	nevə	newə
Vegetable	vɛdʒtəb(ə)l	wɛdʒtəb(ə)l
Words	wɜ:dz	wɔdz
Advertise	ædvətəɪz	ædwətəɪz

**Table 7: Similarity of /v/ and /w/ Sounds**

### 7.4 Change in /θ/ and /ð/ Sounds:

These sounds are dental fricatives and produced when tip of tongue touches inner side of the lower tongue teeth and the blade touches inner side of the upper teeth. The difference between them is that 1<sup>st</sup> sound /θ/ is unvoiced while 2<sup>nd</sup> sound /ð/ is voiced. /θ/ is pronounced as *th+ss* (Mixture) e.g., Birth, Think etc. while /ð/ is pronounced as *th+zz* (Mixture) e.g. this, that. In case of Pakistani English speaker, these sounds are not pronounced like British speakers. This trait is much influenced by our Urdu language sounds. we usually replace /θ/ sound with Urdu sound "ث+ت" sound and /ð/ sound with Urdu alphabet "ذ".

### 7.5 Rhoticity:

Rhoticity is based on rhotic consonant /r/ sound. It is the part of American English to pronounce /r/ sound after vowel. In Standard British English this sound is suppressed or eliminated if found after a vowel. Thus, British English is a rhotic variety of English. In context of Pakistani English, rhoticity is used in the accent means Pakistani English speakers pronounce /r/ sound in their speeches after vowel sounds. Following table illustrates rhoticity of Pakistani English speakers:

Words (From Pronunciation Poem)	StBrE (IPA Transcription)	Pakistani Phonology (Majority results)
Here	hɪə	heər
Never	nevə	nevər
Prefer	prɪ'fɜ	prefər
Heard	hɜ:d	hərd
Short	ʃɔ:t	ʃɔ:rt

Cures	kjʊəz	kɪjɔrz
Words	wɜ:dz	wɔrdz

**Table 8: Rhoticity of Pakistani English**

But degree of rhoticity varies according to speakers and sociolinguistic context. As some speakers pronounce /r/ sound and then leave it in the same turn. So, it depends on the reader and speaker in Pakistani English context.

### 7.6 Insertion of Vowel in Consonant Cluster

Combined consonant sounds without any vowel is called as 'consonant cluster', e.g. start is pronounced as /stɑ:t/, /st/ sound is consonant cluster and pronounced without any obstruction. Consonant cluster is pronounced by inserting vowel sound in them in Pakistani English by most people. This characteristic can be observed in Punjabi and Urdu speakers who insert vowel sound in consonant cluster under the influence of their mother tongue. Following table illustrates insertion of vowel sounds by some speakers of Pakistani English;

Words (From Pronunciation Poem)	StBrE (IPA Transcription)	Pakistani Phonology (Majority results)
Comfortable	kʌmfətəbl	kʌmfərtæbəl
Muscel	mʌsl	mʌsəl
Pleasure	plɛzə	pələɪzər
Creature	kri:tʃə	kəri:tʃər
Start	stɑ:t	sətɑ:rt

**Table 9: Vowel Insertions in Consonant Clusters**

Insertion of vowel sound is somehow more common in Punjabi speaker and they insert vowel in consonant cluster to pronounce. Some speakers add vowel sound /ɪ/ before consonant cluster in the starting position, e.g. Start will be pronounced as /ɪstart/.

### 7.7 Absence of Aspirational sounds:

Aspiration occurs when the vocal folds remain open after a consonant is released. It is sound /h/, pronounced with consonant sound because they are pronounced with an accompanying forceful expulsion of air. Aspiration occurs in voiceless plosive like /p/, /t/, /k/ sounds and will be denoted as /p<sup>h</sup>/, /t<sup>h</sup>/, /k<sup>h</sup>/ in English alphabets C, P, Q, K, T are aspirated. E.g. Cat, Pet, topic etc. Aspiration becomes strong when voiceless plosive come in the beginning position of the word. If it becomes at the ending position aspiration will be suppressed. Following are some aspirational sounds:

- I. Cat: /k<sup>h</sup>æt/
- II. Topic: /t<sup>h</sup>ɒpɪk/
- III. Pet: /p<sup>h</sup>et/

### 7.8 Stress Patterns:

Pakistani English phonology also varies in terms of stress patterns on syllables as compared to Standard British English. These variations are influenced by our mother tongues e.g. Urdu or Punjabi language. Stress on syllable or sound is denoted with (') symbol. Stress patterns are an important part of English language and important to convey a proper meaning sometimes. E.g. in word Prefer: /pri'fɜ:/ stress is on second syllable and in Pakistani context stress is laid on the first syllable by pronouncing it as /'prefər/.

## VIII. FINDINGS

This research explored phonological shifts of Pakistani English (PakE) under comparison with Standard British English (StBrE). Pakistani English deviates from Standard British English phonologically. These deviations and variations come under influence of other languages spoken across Pakistan especially mother

tongue plays an important role in phonological shifts of English language of Pakistan. Findings show the underlined phonological characteristics of Pakistani English which are being used by majority of speakers of Pakistani English. These characteristics include rhoticity, insertion of vowel sound in consonant cluster, shortening of vowel, absence of diphthongs, mispronunciation of vowels or diphthongs etc. These characteristics also include non-aspirational sound of Pakistani English as well as phonology varies in terms of stress on syllables. This research is an extended version of Ahmar Mehboob's study, as his experiment was very limited and short but this research explored these phonological factors at a broader level.

This study also highlights that Pakistani English is somehow getting inclined towards American English. The basic reason of this fact is progressive technology from American side used in communication and technology. Use of Microsoft Office is the biggest reason of this fact, as this program highlights spelling change if not written in American variety of English. Under phonological facets, Pakistani English follows rhotic accent like American English. Some Pakistani English pronunciation are also similar to American English. So it Pakistani English is somehow similar to American English under the use of technology.

#### IX. CONCLUDING REMARKS

Pakistani English has its own feature which deviate from Standard British English. Every variety undergoes some changes under regional, religious, social and cultural factors and these changes gradually become a standing part of that variety. Same case goes with Pakistani English, that it has certain characteristics under factors which is identification of Pakistani variety of English language. According to some linguists, including Ahmar Mehboob, Tariq Rehman and Mansoor, Pakistani variety is passing through the third phase of non-native variety and soon it will become the standard language and will be recognized globally.

The point is that we don't have specific rules for phonology of Pakistani English to make it more stable, because research is not being done on phonological aspects of Pakistani English which has been pointed out by some Pakistani linguists too. This research will act as a contribution towards distinct phonology of Pakistani English deviated from its origin, as well as it will play a role to lead Pakistani English towards legitimacy of English variety. This research has explored different characteristics of Pakistani English phonology which were unique to the majority of the sample. As this research was only done to the limited sample but it can be implied to the large number of sample population. This research will open different barriers to know phonology of Pakistani English.

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