Linguistic variations in English Newspaper Editorials: A comparative analysis of Pakistani and British newspaper editorials

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Abstract

This study investigates linguistic variations in Pakistani and British newspaper editorials, focusing on their comparative analysis to understand the distinct features of Pakistani English (PE) as a non-native variety. Media, particularly newspapers, play a pivotal role in shaping public opinion through editorials that propagate political and cultural ideologies. By employing the Multidimensional Analysis Tagger (MAT) on a corpus of 100 editorials (50 from each country), this research identifies and analyzes various linguistic dimensions such as lexical, syntactic, and argumentative patterns. The findings highlight significant differences in linguistic features, reflecting the cultural, social, and regional influences on language use in Pakistani English newspaper editorials. Pakistani editorials tend to exhibit a formal yet accessible tone. They also reflect the socio-political landscape of Pakistan, using persuasive techniques and argumentation patterns distinct from their British counterparts. The study reveals that Pakistani editorials have higher scores in dimensions related to explicit expression, abstract information, and online informational elaboration compared to British editorials. These insights contribute to the understanding of PE as a distinct register influenced by local norms and global linguistic trends. The research has implications for media professionals, educators, and language learners, emphasizing the importance of linguistic awareness in journalistic and editorial writing. The limitations of the study are acknowledged, and future research directions are suggested to further explore the nuances of linguistic variation in World Englishes.

Keywords: Linguistic variation, English newspaper editorials, Pakistani English, British English, Language use, Multidimensional Analysis Tagger (MAT)

1. Introduction

Media plays a significant role in transformation of common and day today incidents into the news. Undeniably, media develops people's perceptions of world around them through the news. (Malik et. al., 2023). A newspaper is a vehicle of thought. It propagates ideas, ideologies, and philosophies in the minds of people. It is a powerful organ to public opinion (Shahid et. al.,

2021). Abdollahzadeh (2007) believes that the newspaper is a kind of socio-cultural practice through which the author describes an event of great interest to the public. The language of newspaper discourse is quite interesting since the writers try to convince anonymous readers who may or may not share the writer's point of view. The primary objective of the newspapers is to present the news by informing its reader about their opinion on specific news. In short, a newspaper creates a discourse which constructs knowledge and belief of the people.

Newspaper editorials are integral parts of any newspaper. They are important in reshaping the opinion of an anonymous reader who is sitting in a farfetched area and reading the newspaper. They contain the opinions of the newspaper editorialists about a specific event by representing their media group. Editorialists writing editorials on behalf of the newspaper are the real propagators of political and cultural ideologies. They try to propagate the political and ideological agenda of different political parties in the minds of their readers (Shahid et. al., 2021). For this, the editors try to unearth the underlying aspects of the news for their readers. They try to highlight information in a way which they believe can support their opinions (Shafique et.al 2019). An editorialist may persuade, motivate, change, and even manipulate others. For this purpose, editorialists use linguistic variations as a strategy of manipulation and persuasion. Authors use these variations to guide their audience and present an acceptable competent individual to inform their audience (Shahid et .al. 2021).

Analysis of linguistic patterns across various registers is of paramount importance in understanding language variety within both native and non-native contexts. Pakistani English (PE), like other registers in Pakistan, remains an area that warrants further attention from researchers and linguists (Manzoor et. al., 2023). According to the Kachru (2008), Pakistani English is classified as a distinctive non-native variety. Over the past two decades, numerous studies have provided valuable insights into the unique linguistic features found in various aspects of Pakistani English. Past researches have explored the diversity of Pakistani English in different contexts. These studies, (Ali, 2013; Siddique, 2018; Sadia, 2019) have contributed to our understanding of English as a legitimate variety within Pakistani cultural environments.

1.1.　Linguistic Variation

The concept of language variation is equally significant when analyzing linguistic patterns. Newspaper editorial writing, among other registers, is an area that still requires the attention of researchers and linguists in Pakistan. For language learners, newspaper editorial writing represents a vital register, enhancing vocabulary, improving reading skills, and expanding current knowledge about the world (Manzoor et. al., 2023).

Pakistani English newspaper editorials exhibit linguistic variations that reflect the cultural, social, and linguistic diversity of Pakistan. These variations are evident in the choice of vocabulary, sentence structure, and use of idiomatic expressions. Furthermore, the influence of regional languages, such as Urdu and Punjabi, can also be observed in the editorial writing. For example, Pakistani English newspaper editorials may incorporate Urdu words or phrases, providing a unique flavor to the language. Moreover, Pakistani English newspaper editorials often adopt a formal and informative tone, presenting factual information and analysis on various topics. The language used in Pakistani English newspaper editorials is often characterized by a

balance between formality and accessibility. This allows the editorials to appeal to a wide range of readers, from educated professionals to everyday citizens. Additionally, Pakistani English newspaper editorials often reflect the political and social landscape of the country. They may address current events, political controversies, societal issues, and provide critical commentary on government policies. Their role as a voice of the people and a platform for public discourse is significant (Ali et al., 2021).

Overall, linguistic variations in Pakistani English newspaper editorials demonstrate the rich diversity and dynamic nature of the language within the Pakistani context (Manzoor et al., 2023. These variations contribute to the development of a distinct Pakistani English register, which is influenced by both local cultural norms and global linguistic trends. Therefore, the researchers got first-hand knowledge of a wide belief that method of teaching in education policy can sometimes act as a tool to figure out which social and linguistic groups can have access to political and financial chances, and it can also accelerate the phenomenon of "linguistic genocide" in a multilingual society.

The linguistic variations observed in Pakistani English newspaper editorials reflect a range of influences, including cultural norms and global linguistic trends. They also demonstrate the importance of considering local contexts and perspectives when studying language variation in World Englishes. Overall, the linguistic variations observed in Pakistani English newspaper editorials shed light on the unique characteristics of language usage in Pakistan and highlight the role of newspapers as a platform for public discourse and a mirror of societal issues.

1.2.   Types of Linguistic Variations in Newspaper Editorials

While analyzing linguistic variations in newspaper editorials, one can specifically focus on variations that relate to written language and the style of persuasive and informative discourse. In the context of newspaper editorials the kind of linguistic variations found are as under:

1. **Lexical Variation**: Lexical variation refers to the diversity of words and phrases used in a language. It encompasses different dialects, regionalisms, colloquialisms, slang, jargon, and technical terminology. It adds richness and depth to language, allowing users to express nuances in meaning, convey cultural identity, and adapt to different social contexts. It also reflects historical, geographical, and social influences on language usage. For example, English spoken in the United States differs lexically from English spoken in the United Kingdom, with variations in vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammar. Similarly, within any other country or region, lexical variation can be observed among different social groups, age groups, and communities.
2. **Syntactic Variation**: It refers to the diversity of sentence structures and grammatical patterns within a language. It encompasses variations in word order, sentence complexity, grammatical constructions, and syntactic rules. Syntactic variation can arise due to factors such as regional dialects, social class, age, individual education level and style. For example, in English, there are syntactic differences between varieties such as British English and American English. These differences can be observed in the placement of adverbs, the use of auxiliary verbs, and the order of words in a sentence. Moreover,

within any linguistic community, there may be syntactic variation based on factors such as formality, context, and communicative purposes.

3. **Argumentation Patterns**: Argumentation patterns are structured ways in which arguments are constructed and presented to support a claim or perspective. These patterns follow established rhetorical strategies aimed at persuading an audience by providing evidence, reasoning and logical coherence. Simply, it refers to the variation in the structure and presentation of arguments, including use of persuasive verbs and necessity modals.

4. **Modality**: Variation in modality can be manifested through the choice of modal verbs, adverbs, adjectives, and other linguistic devices. Different languages may exhibit varying patterns of modality expression. Modality can be categorized into epistemic modality, deontic modality, and dynamic modality. Epistemic modality expresses the speaker's degree of certainty or uncertainty regarding the truth or likelihood of a proposition. It includes expressions such as "might," "may," "could," "must," "probably," and "certainly". Deontic modality is related to the expression of obligation, permission, prohibition, or necessity. It involves indicating what is required, allowed, or forbidden e.g. "must", "should," "ought to," "can," "may," "shall," and "will". Dynamic modality refers to the expression of ability, possibility, capability, or likelihood of an action or event. It involves conveying what is physically or mentally feasible. Verbs such as "can," "could," "might," "would," and "will" are used to express dynamic modality.

5. **Persuasive Techniques**: Persuasive techniques are used to influence and convince an audience to adopt a particular viewpoint, take a specific action, or change their behavior. These techniques are commonly employed in various forms of communication, including advertising, marketing, politics, public speaking, and writing. Some of the persuasive techniques include pathos (emotionally charged language or imagery is used to evoke feelings such as fear, anger, happiness, or sympathy); logos or logical appeals (Rational arguments, evidence, statistics, and logical reasoning are employed to support a claim or proposition); ethos or credibility (citing reputable sources, demonstrating expertise or experience, or appealing to shared values and beliefs); repetition; use of personal pronoun particularly inclusive "we" and "us" to a create a sense of unity; use of fear appeal (Highlighting potential risks, dangers, or negative consequences can motivate people to take action or change their behavior to avoid undesirable outcomes) and anecdotes.

6. **Tone and Mood:** Variation in tone and mood refers to the diversity of attitudes, emotions, and atmospheres conveyed through language in various contexts or situations. Tone and mood are closely related but serve distinct purposes in communication. Tone may vary from formal to informal, friendly to authoritative or even to neutral. Mood may experience variation from positive to negative, elevated to neutral or vice versa. Variation in tone and mood make speakers and writers adapt their communication style to suit the context, purpose, and audience of their message. By consciously selecting appropriate tones and moods, communicators can effectively convey their intended message.

7. **Register:** The formality or informality of language used varies according to the topic and intended audience. Variation in register depends upon a particular social setting, context, or situation. It encompasses aspects such as vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and style, which may vary depending on factors such as formality, audience, purpose, and

topic. Speakers and writers often adapt their language to match the appropriate register for a given situation, effectively communicating with their audience.

8. **Stylistic Devices**: Stylistic devices or rhetorical devices are used by writers and speakers to enhance the effectiveness, impact, and beauty of their language. These devices are appealing and add depth, creativity, and rhetorical flair to the text, making it more engaging, memorable, and persuasive. These include similes, metaphors, personification. hyperbole, alliteration, assonance and onomatopoeia.

9. **Information Density**: Information density refers to the amount of information conveyed within a piece of writing, such as a word, phrase, sentence, or paragraph. It reflects how efficiently information is given and how much content is packed into a specific linguistic expression. Higher information density indicates that more information is conveyed in a compact manner, while lower information density suggests that the information is spread out or less condensed.

10. **Discourse Style**: Overall style of the editorials, which could be informational, narrative, argumentative, expository or persuasive. Each discourse style serves different communicative purposes and is adapted to suit the specific context, audience and goals of communication.

11. **Textual Cohesion**: Use of cohesive devices like conjunctions and lexical chains are used by the writers to ensure the text flows coherently. Textual cohesion can be achieved through transition words and phrases like in addition," "consequently," "in conclusion," and "furthermore." Or Coherence markers such as "first," "second," "finally," or "in summary". This creates unity and logical flow within the text. Effective cohesion ensures that readers can follow the editorial's argument or analysis smoothly and understand the connections between different ideas and sections.

12. **Objectivity vs. Subjectivity**: The balance between presenting facts and author opinions, and how they are linguistically manifested relates to objectivity and subjectivity. Both represent two contrasting perspectives or approaches to interpreting and evaluating information, ideas, or experiences. Objectivity refers to an impartial, unbiased, and fact-based viewpoint that aims to analyze and interpret information unbiased. Subjectivity, on the other hand, involves personal perspectives, opinions, feelings, and interpretations that are influenced by individual experiences, beliefs, values, and emotions.

Research on linguistic variation in Pakistani English newspaper editorials, for example, might explore these aspects to determine how different newspapers express persuasiveness and argumentation, comparing them with established linguistic model.

1.3. World Englishes

World English refers to the diverse forms and variations of the English language spoken and used globally, encompassing different regions, cultures, and contexts. It recognizes that English is no longer solely defined by its traditional British or American standards, but has evolved into a complex, dynamic, and multifaceted language shaped by its widespread use as a lingua franca, cultural exchange, and technological advancements. World Englishes acknowledges the legitimacy and importance of various Englishes, such as Indian English, Pakistani English, Australian English, and many others, each with their unique linguistic features, idioms, and expressions.

Pakistani English, a variant of World English, exhibits a distinct blend of linguistic and cultural characteristics. It often incorporates words, phrases, and grammatical structures from local languages like Urdu, Punjabi, and Pashto, resulting in a unique lexicon and syntax. For example: She is wearing a beautiful shalwar kameez (traditional dress) today. Additionally, it tends to use formal and polite language, reflecting the importance of respect and courtesy in Pakistani culture. The pronunciation is often marked by a distinctive accent, with flatter tones and a tendency to pronounce the sound /x/ (as in "loch") as /kh/. Overall, Pakistani English is a vibrant and dynamic language variety that reflects the country's history, cultural diversity, and linguistic creativity.

1.4. Research Objectives

The present study aims to:

  I.   Find out the dimensions of linguistic variations in Pakistani English newspaper editorials.
 II.   To develop a corpus based multidimensional analysis of the Pakistani and British English newspaper editorials.
III.   To make a comparative analysis of linguistic variations found in Pakistani and British English newspaper editorials.

1.5. Research Questions

  I.   What are the dimensions of linguistic variations in Pakistani English newspaper editorials?
 II.   What insights does the corpus based multidimensional analysis provide to the language of Pakistani and British newspaper editorials?
III.   How do Pakistani and British English newspaper editorials differ from each other in linguistic features?

1.6. Significance of the Study:

The current research is significant as it has great implications in the domains of print media. The findings of the study are helpful for the people working in the media profession especially the editorialists and content writers as well. From the pedagogical point of view, this research is significant specifically for the instructors who intend to teach journalistic writing, editorial writing, news article writing, blog writing, and content writing to the learners. This study will also help language learners comprehend how journalists choose particular phrases and style to convey their views.

1.7. Limitations of the Study

This study is limited to the newspaper editorials only. Five Pakistani English newspapers editorials and five British newspapers editorials have been selected for the analysis of linguistic variations. This study is also limited to 10 editorials from each newspaper.

2. Literature Review

Malik et. al. (2023) examine the linguistic features of Pakistani newspaper headlines, focusing on topics like IMF, Dollar, Social Media, Political Uncertainty, Flood, and Financial Crisis, as well as sports, politics, national, and international issues. The researchers use Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to investigate how language is used to shape public opinion and construct news narratives. The study highlights the significance of headlines in communicating news and influencing public perception, and how they reflect the ideologies and philosophies of the media outlets. By analyzing headlines from four English newspapers, the study aims to uncover the linguistic features and ideological biases that shape the construction of news in Pakistani media.

The corpus-based study (Yasmeen et. al., 2023) examined the use of conjunctive cohesive linkages in opinion columns/articles published in Pakistani English newspapers (DAWN and The Express Tribune) in November 2022. A corpus of 141 columns was analyzed using AntConc software, revealing a higher frequency of conjunctive adjuncts of extension and enhancement types. The study found that columnists in both newspapers favored conjunctions of additive, causal, and adversative sub-categories, with similar usage tendencies among the most frequently used conjunctions. However, differences were observed in the choice of least used conjunctions between writers from DAWN and The Express Tribune, providing insights into the linguistic preferences and writing styles of columnists in Pakistani English newspapers.

Manzoor et. al. (2023) examine linguistic variation in Pakistani English newspaper editorials, focusing on the overt expression of persuasion. Using Biber's (1988) analytical framework and the Multidimensional Analysis Tagger (MAT), the study analyzes 1000 editorials from four reputable newspapers to identify variations in persuasive and argumentative language. The findings reveal that Dawn newspaper editorials exhibit a higher degree of persuasive and argumentative linguistic features and that newspaper editorial overall resemble general fiction in terms of language use. This highlights the unique linguistic characteristics and persuasive elements of this genre, emphasizing its distinctiveness within written discourse. The study contributes to our understanding of linguistic variation in newspaper editorials and the importance of recognizing their unique features.

The cross-linguistic study of Shahid et. al., (2021) examines the use and distribution of meta-discourse markers in English and Urdu newspaper editorials in Pakistan. A corpus of 100 editorials was analyzed using Hyland's (2005) model of meta-discourse markers. The study found significant differences between the two languages in the use of interactive and interactional meta-discourse resources, with interactional meta-discourse being more prevalent in both languages. Attitude markers were also found to be a dominant feature in both English and Urdu editorials. The study highlights the importance of considering language-specific differences in meta-discourse markers

and suggests that exploring how these differences impact translation between languages could be a valuable area of future research.

Mokal and Abd Halim (2023) examine the lexico-semantic variations in Pakistani English newspapers, exploring how they adapt to local cultural and social ideals while deviating from native English norms. Using Moag's model on New English's, Boas's cultural relativism, and Kachru's Theory of Nativisation and Acculturation, the study analyzes a 2 million-word corpus from two major Pakistani English newspapers, The Nation and The News. The findings highlight the emergence of a new variety of Pakistani English, infused with Islamic, historical, and social cultural elements, and adapted to the local context through coinage, borrowing, idiomatic collocations, and semantic shift. The study identifies the blending of Arabic, Urdu, Punjabi, and English lexemes, contributing to the development of New English's in Pakistan. The research aims to create lexicographical entries to represent Pakistani English and promote its use in education and global communication, while maintaining end normative standards.

Siddique et. al., (2022) undertake a diachronic analysis of linguistic variation in Pakistani English newspapers with the aim of elucidating the evolutionary trajectory of Pakistani English. Employing a corpus-based multidimensional approach, this research examines the textual dimensions of PEN and reveals significant diachronic shifts. Notably, Dimension 2 (D2) exhibits a discernible transformation from non-narrative to narrative discourse between 1977-1986 and 1987-1996, marked by an increased propensity for past tense, present participial clauses, and public verbs. Conversely, Dimension 4 (D4) indicates that the language of newspapers was more interactive and less argumentative in the earlier decades (1947-1956), but underwent a significant shift, becoming less interactive and more argumentative over time. These diachronic changes culminate in the language of PEN becoming statistically less distinct across decades and converging with Biber's (1988) registers. Thus, this study concludes that the language of PEN is characterized by informational density, non-narrativity, explicitness, abstraction, and reduced argumentativeness, situating it within the outer circle of English language varieties, where it is classified as a second language due to its linguistic variation.

Mudassir et. al., (2022) investigates linguistic variation and language functionality in leading Pakistani English newspapers, with a focus on internal linguistic variation and sub-genres. While Pakistani news language has received limited attention in register studies, this research pioneers a comparison of the linguistic characteristics of political news and opinion-based reportage in Pakistani English newspapers. By examining the linguistic variation between these sub-genres and the language usage of trending English newspapers in Pakistan, this multidimensional study aims to identify the factors contributing to newspaper trending. The corpus consists of 7,240 text samples from five leading English newspapers in Pakistan, analyzed using Biber's (1988) five-dimensional framework. The findings reveal heterogeneous results in terms of linguistic functionality in political news and opinion-based reportage, with high coherence observed in opinion-based reportage but not in political news. This study contributes to the understanding of linguistic variation in Pakistani English newspapers, shedding light on the language usage and functionality of different sub-genres and trending newspapers.

The corpus-based study of Siddique et. al., (2020) examines the utilization of frame markers in newspaper editorials as a discourse-organizing tool. The results reveal that editorialists in these newspapers employ frame markers to contextually construct meaning in readers' minds. Notably, The Frontier's editorialists exhibit the most frequent use of frame markers among the four newspapers. This study contributes to the existing literature by proposing an expanded list of 121 frame markers, drawing from Hyland (2005). By investigating the strategic use of frame markers in newspaper editorials, this study sheds light on the linguistic mechanisms employed by editorialists to shape readers' interpretations and perceptions. The findings have implications for discourse analysis, language teaching, and media studies, highlighting the significance of frame markers in contextualizing meaning and organizing discourse.

Siddique et. al. (2023) conduct a comprehensive corpus-based multidimensional analysis (MDA) to investigate the diachronic linguistic variation of co-occurring linguistic features in Pakistani English newspaper editorials (PENE) from 1995 to 2021. A meticulous selection process was employed to ensure the representativeness of the diachronic PENE corpus, drawing on prominent online data sources. The multidimensional analysis framework proposed by Biber (1988) was utilized, enabling a nuanced exploration of various linguistic dimensions within the newspaper editorials. To ensure accuracy and reliability in the linguistic annotation process, the data was systematically tagged using the MAT tagger, developed by Nini (2014). The research findings reveal the evolving nature of language usage in Pakistani English newspaper editorials. Dimension 1 indicates a shift towards a more informational style, emphasizing factual information and objective analysis. In contrast, Dimension 2 demonstrates a prominent narrative quality, suggesting an increasing focus on storytelling and engaging readers through compelling narratives. Dimension 3 highlights the explicitness of discourse, while Dimension 4 reveals an overtly argumentative and persistent characteristic across the decades. Lastly, Dimension 5 indicates a trend towards an abstract style of discourse over time. These findings offer valuable insights into the changing linguistic landscape of Pakistani English newspaper editorials, shedding light on the dynamic nature of language usage in this genre. The study contributes to our understanding of language change and variation, with implications for language teaching, discourse analysis, and media studies.

Ali et. al., (2022) conduct a comparative analysis of modal verbs in Dawn, a Pakistani English newspaper, and Guardian, a British English newspaper, to investigate the expression of modality in media discourse. A corpus of equal-sized editorial samples from both newspapers was created, and Antconc was employed to conduct the analysis. The results show that Guardian editorial writers prefer predictive modal verbs like "will" and "would", whereas Dawn editorial writers favor obligatory modal verbs like "must" and "should". Additionally, Dawn editorial writers use a higher frequency of modal verbs like "may" and "might" to express possibility and ability. This research contributes to the understanding of modality in media discourse, highlighting the distinct preferences of Pakistani and British English newspapers in conveying modal meanings. The findings have implications for language teaching, media studies, and discourse analysis, emphasizing the significance of modal verbs in shaping the tone and stance of editorial writing.

Butt et. al., (2022) investigate the syntactic complexity of editorials in five Pakistani online English newspapers (The Dawn, The Nation, Daily Times, The Express Tribune, and Daily Pakistan), all

written by non-native writers. The L2 Syntactic Complexity Analyzer (L2SCA) was employed to examine the data. The editorials aim to influence readers' opinions on controversial issues. The study reveals fourteen syntactic complexity measures, including various production units and syntactic constructions. Notably, The Nation's sentence structure is more complex, as indicated by its production unit length, which correlates with higher proficiency levels. In contrast, Daily Times exhibits the highest level of subordination, indicating greater complexity at both initial and intermediate proficiency levels. This research contributes to our understanding of syntactic complexity in L2 writing, shedding light on the linguistic characteristics of Pakistani online English newspapers' editorials. The findings have implications for language teaching, writing instruction, and discourse analysis, highlighting the importance of considering syntactic complexity in evaluating writing proficiency.

Asghar et. al., (2023) delve into the distinctive features and cultural significance of Pakistani English, a unique non-native variety of English that has evolved into an independent and institutionalized language form. Diverging from Standard British English, Pakistani English exhibits distinct characteristics in morphology, syntax, lexis, grammar, and phonology, shaped by socio-cultural, religious, and regional influences. These features contribute to its singular linguistic and cultural identity, which plays a pivotal role in various domains within the Pakistani context. This comprehensive study explores the historical development of Pakistani English and conducts an in-depth analysis of its linguistic characteristics, including lexical, morphological, syntactic, and phonological features. It also meticulously highlights the distinctions between Pakistani English and Standard British English, adopting a mixed-methods approach that combines qualitative analysis of linguistic data with ethnographic insights. The study underscores the significance of these findings in advancing linguistic and cultural studies, offering valuable insights into the complex dynamics of language evolution and its profound impact on cultural identity and communication in the contemporary world.

Ahmad et. al., (2020) examine the use of modal verbs as stance markers in newspaper editorials. The results, obtained using AntConc 3.4.4.0, show that Pakistani editorial writers employ various types of modals, including prediction, possibility, necessity, modal adverbs, reporting verbs, knowledge verbs, and generic phrases, to express their personal stance when commenting, reporting, or informing about current events. The study reveals that prediction markers are used most frequently, indicating that prediction is a characteristic feature and function in these newspaper editorials. Additionally, the results highlight a difference in the use of modal adverbs between the two newspapers, with The Daily Dawn editorial writers using fewer prediction markers compared to The Daily News. This research raises awareness about the stance of editorial writers and its potential impact on readers' opinions, providing insights into the language and tone used in newspaper editorials.

3. Research Methodology

3.1.   Corpus Development and its Size

Two different corpora were built based on the selection of 100 editorials (50 from Pakistani English newspapers and 50 from British English newspapers). In the case of comparative analysis, the comparability of the two research corpora is quite significant. Editorials across both groups have therefore been chosen from a broad array of topics, complementing the two different cultures in terms of subject matter. Another requirement that was kept in view for the selection of editorials was the date of publication. To meet this requirement, editorials were collected from April 1, 2024 – April 10, 2024.

Summary of corpus size and development

Sr. No	Newspaper	Category	No of Editorials	Words
1	The Dawn		10	4400
2	The Nation	**Pakistani**	10	3756
3	The News	**English**	10	5731
4	The Express Tribune	**Newspaper**	10	3319
5	The daily Times	**Editorials**	10	3487
Total			**50**	**20693**
6	The Guardian		10	5729
7	The Sun	**British**	10	5050
8	The Telegraph	**English**	10	3514
9	The Daily Mail	**Newspaper**	10	3049
10	The Express	**Editorials**	10	5431
Total			**50**	22773
G.Total			**100**	**43466**

3.2.　Procurement and Retrieval of the Corpus

The data collection procedure for the research was based on retrieving the data from the electronic version newspapers through the internet. Newspapers from both countries, selected for this study, have been chosen very carefully. All the selected newspapers, belonging to both countries, are representative, well-reputed, and easily accessible through the internet. Later, two metadata files were created which contained the following categories: number of words, name of newspaper, date, and title. After these preliminaries, data belonging to both languages were converted into two different.txt files. In the final stage, both files were made readable and acceptable for the software.

3.3.　Research Tool

The Multidimensional Analysis Tagger (MAT) was used in this research for analyses. MAT is a computer program that replicates Biber's (1988) tagger for the MD analyses of English texts. It is generally applied to study text type or register variation. It provides grammatical features to the corpus, text types, or registers for analysis. Furthermore, it is based on Biber's (1988) Dimensions, and it determines its closest text types as proposed by Biber (1989).

3.4.   Procedure of Corpus Analysis

The data analysis for this study encompassed some key steps. First, the content of all editorials was obtained and converted it into Word files, then further transformed them into Notepad files. Irrelevant information like headers, footers, and other extraneous content from the corpus was removed. Second, MAT tagger developed by Nini was employed to automatically tag and analyze the corpus. The tagger provided mean dimensional scores by identifying the co-occurrence of 67 linguistic features across six textual dimensions. To facilitate comparison, the writing of Pakistani editorials (Pak. Ed) were compared to British editorials using mean dimensional scores. Similar scores for British editorials (Brit. Ed.) were obtained from MD Analysis.

3.5.   Calculation of Dimension Scores

The dimension scores were computed by aggregating standardized scores from each text within Pakistani newspaper editorial writing. These dimensions are constructed around sets of language elements that co-occur with shared communicative purposes. They serve as tools to identify statistically significant disparities in Pakistani newspaper editorial writing. Each dimension is linked to a specific communicative function, and this connection is instrumental in interpreting the results. The following dimensions were considered:

1. Involved versus Informational Production

2. Narrative versus Non-Narrative Concern

3. Explicit versus Situation-Dependent Expression

4. Overt Expression of Persuasion vs Covert Expression of Persuasion

5. Abstract versus Non-Abstract Information

6. Online Informational Elaboration

4. Analysis and Discussion

This research aimed to investigate the extent of linguistic variations in PENE comparing it with the variation found in Brt. NE on Biber's (1988) dimensions. The results, as presented in table below, illustrate the usage of linguistic features in PENE and Brt. NE. Additionally, the table

displays the range of differences among these features and their Z Scores, revealing the significant variations in their usage patterns.

Distribution of Linguistic Features across Pakistani and British Newspaper Editorials

S. No	Linguistic Features	Scores PENE	Scores Brt. NE	ZScores PENE	ZScores Brt. NE
1.	Average word length	5.04	4.88	1.35	0.95
2.	Type-token ratio	231	226	1.28	1.04
3.	Amplifiers	0.07	0.11	-0.77	-0.62
4.	Independent clause coordination	0.51	0.4	0.13	-0.1
5.	Be as main verb	1.69	1.63	-1.2	-1.26
6.	By-passives	0.13	0.12	0.38	0.31
7.	Causative adverbial subordinators	0.09	0.06	-0.12	-0.29
8.	Concessive adverbial subordinators	0.09	0.07	0.5	0.25
9.	Conditional adverbial subordinators	0.13	0.2	-0.55	-0.36
10.	Conjuncts	0.27	0.2	0.94	0.5
11.	Contractions	0	0.14	-0.73	-0.65
12.	Demonstratives	1	0.81	0.02	-0.43
13.	Demonstrative pronouns	0.42	0.47	-0.08	0.02
14.	Discourse particles	0.02	0.47	-0.43	-0.3
15.	Down toners	0.24	0.2	0.24	0
16.	Emphatics	0.37	0.67	-0.62	0.1
17.	Existential there	0.23	0.2	0.06	-0.11
18.	First person pronouns	0.7	0.79	-0.77	-0.74
19.	Gerunds	0.45	0.69	-0.66	-0.03
20.	Hedges	0	0.02	-0.46	-0.31
21.	Indefinite pronouns	0.06	0.06	-0.4	-0.4
22.	Attributive adjectives	8.27	7.47	1.17	0.74
23.	Necessity modals	0.42	0.4	1	0.9
24.	Total other nouns	25.08	25.77	1.97	2.17
25.	Nominalizations	4.28	3.17	1.59	0.82
26.	Other adverbial subordinators	0.38	0.28	2.55	1.64
27.	Agentless passives	1.03	1.11	0.11	0.23
28.	Past participial clauses	0.07	0.05	1.5	1
29.	Perfect aspect	1.15	1.12	0.56	0.5
30.	Phrasal coordination	1.01	0.79	2.48	1.67
31.	Total prepositional phrases	11.44	11.41	0.15	0.14
32.	Pied-piping relative clauses	0.04	0.07	-0.27	0
33.	Pronoun it	1.43	1.11	0.56	0.11
34.	Place adverbials	0.31	0.32	0	0.03
35.	Possibility modals	0.55	0.48	-0.09	-0.29

36.	Predicative adjectives	0.64	0.64	0.65	0.65
37.	Present participial clauses	0.22	0.25	0.71	0.88
38.	Private verbs	1.08	1.08	-0.69	-0.69
39.	Predictive modals	0.47	0.72	-0.21	0.38
40.	Pro-verb do	0.06	0.06	-0.69	-0.69
41.	Public verbs	0.55	0.78	-0.41	0.02
42.	Total adverbs	2.8	3.08	-2.14	-1.98
43.	Sentence relatives	0.06	0.16	1.25	3.75
44.	Seem|appear	0.1	0.09	0.2	0.1
45.	Split auxiliaries	0.57	0.49	0.08	-0.24
46.	Split infinitives	0.05	0.01	5000	1000
47.	Second person pronouns	0.01	0.03	-0.71	-0.7
48.	Stranded preposition	0.06	0.11	-0.52	-0.33
49.	Suasive verbs	0.43	0.45	0.45	0.52
50.	Synthetic negation	0.22	0.13	0.31	-0.25
51.	That adjective complements	0.06	0.07	0.5	0.67
52.	Subordinator that deletion	0.14	0.29	-0.41	-0.05
53.	That verb complements	0.43	0.41	0.34	0.28
54.	Time adverbials	0.4	0.51	-0.34	-0.03
55.	Infinitives	2.09	1.89	1.07	0.71
56.	That relative clauses on object position	0.22	0.2	1.27	1.09
57.	Third person pronoun	1.06	1.91	-0.86	-0.48
58.	That relative clauses on subject position	0.26	0.22	2.75	2.25
59.	Past tense	1.51	1.91	-0.82	-0.57
60.	Present tense	5.71	5.48	-0.6	-0.67
61.	WH-clauses	0.02	0.04	-0.4	-o.2
62.	WH relative clauses on object position	0.01	0.03	-0.76	-0.65
63.	Direct WH-questions	0.02	0.05	0	0.5
64.	WH relative clauses on subject position	0.08	0.16	-0.65	-0.25
65.	Past participial WHIZ deletion relatives	0.22	0.18	-0.1	-0.23
66.	Present participial WHIZ deletion relatives	0.32	0.38	0.89	1.22
67.	Analytic negation	0.63	0.6	-0.36	-0.

Graphic Representation of Bieber's Textual Dimensions
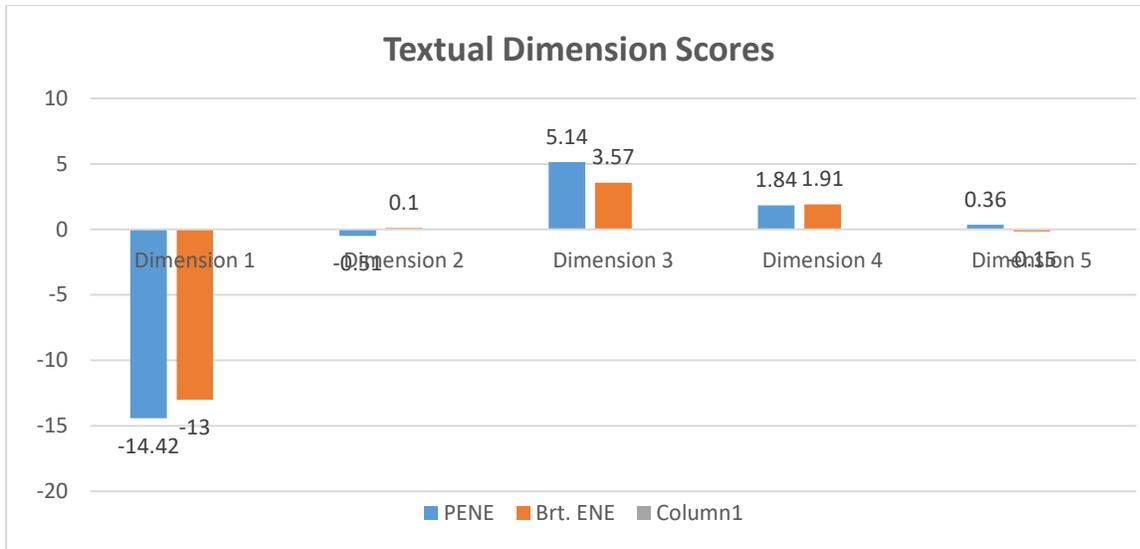
Dimension 1: Involved vs. Informed Production

Sr. No	Linguistic Features	PENE Scores	Brt. NE Scores
	Positive Features		
1.	Split infinitives	5000	1000
2.	Sentence relatives	1.25	3.75
3.	Total other nouns	1.97	2.17
4.	Average word length	1.35	0.95
5.	Direct WH-questions	0	0.5
6.	Type-token ratio	1.28	1.04
7.	Attributive adjectives	1.17	0.74
8.	Total prepositional phrases	0.15	0.14
9.	Pronoun it	0.56	0.11
10.	Downtoners	0.24	0
11.	Existential there	0.06	-0.11
	Negative Features		
12.	Possibility modals	-0.09	- 0.29
13.	Causative adverbial subordinators	-0.12	-0.29
14.	Discourse particles	-0.43	-0.3
15.	WH-clauses	-0.4	-0.2
16.	Demonstrative pronouns	-0.08	-0.02
17.	Hedges	-0.46	-0.31
18.	Subordinator that deletion	-0.41	-0.05
19.	Analytic negation	-0.36	-0.41
20.	Emphatics	-0.62	-0.1
21.	Indefinite Pronouns	-0.4	-0.4
	Stranded Preposition	-0.52	-0.33

22.	Amplifiers	-0.77	-0.62
23.	Pro-verb do	-0.69	-0.69
24.	Second person pronouns	-0.71	-0.7
25.	Contractions	-0.73	-0.65
26.	First person pronouns	-0.77	-0.74
27.	Present Tense	-0.6	-0.67
28.	Private verbs	0.69	-0.69
29.	Be as main verb	-1,2	-1.26
30.	Independent clause coordination	-0.13	-0.1
31.			

The table shows the results of mean scores of Dimension 1"Involved versus Informational Production," for both corpora i.e. Pakistani English Newspaper Editorials and British Newspaper Editorials. It displays the fact Pakistani International news press reportage has rather higher mean score (-14.42) than British press reportage (-13), thus the register of Pakistani editorials has been found more informational in nature as compared with the British newspaper editorial register. To compare the differences in linguistic features between the PENE (Pakistani English Newspaper Editorials) and Brit. NE (British Newspaper Editorials) corpora we can analyze the provided data. This dimension generally contrasts features that are common in more involved, conversational, or informal discourse with those typical of more informational, formal, or written discourse. So far as the positive features are concerned, split infinitives are slightly more common in PENE than in Brt. NE, suggesting a marginally more relaxed or conversational style in PENE. Brt. NE uses sentence relatives more frequently, which indicate more complex sentence structures typical of informational production. Both corpora use a high number of nouns, with Brt. NE slightly higher, aligning with a tendency towards detailed informational content. Longer average word length in PENE indicates more complex vocabulary and informational content. Brt. NE has more direct WH-questions, which could indicate a more interactive or involved discourse style. A higher type-token ratio in PENE suggests more lexical diversity found in more informational contexts. PENE uses more attributive adjectives, which can add descriptive detail typical of informational discourse. On the other hand, the negative features found more in PENE are possibility modals, causative adverbial subordinators, analytic negation and independent clause coordination. They indicate more complex sentence structures, more explicit negation and preference for connected ideas, typical of informational discourse. Brt. NE tends to use more discourse particles, WH-clauses, demonstrative pronouns, emphatics, stranded prepositions, amplifiers, second person pronouns, contractions, and first person pronouns. These features indicate a more conversational, personal involvement and involved style. Thus, PENE seems to align more with informational production with formal, detailed and informational style, while Brt. NE displays features more characteristic of involved production.

Dimension 2. Narrative versus Non-Narrative Concern

Sr. No	Linguistic Features	PENE Scores	Brt. NE Scores
	Positive Features		
1.	Perfect aspect	0.56	0.5
2.	Synthetic negation	0.31	-0.25
3.	Present participial clauses	0.71	0.88
	Negative Features		
4	Past Tense	-0.82	- 0.57
5.	Third Person Pronouns	- 0.86	- 0.48
6.	Public verbs	- 0.41	- 0.02

The analysis of corpora along the dimension of "Narrative versus Non-Narrative Concern," shows contrasts in elements that are common in narrative texts (stories, recounting events) with those found in non-narrative texts (expository, informative, or argumentative writing). Positive features analysis indicates that both corpora use the perfect aspect similarly, suggesting that they both include references to actions that have relevance to the present, a feature common in narrative and some non-narrative contexts. Synthetic negation is higher in PENE, indicating more frequent use of "cannot," "won't" which might be used to express clear and emphatic negation in narratives. Present participial clauses are a bit more in PENE, indicating a marginally greater use of present participles ("walking," "running"), which can add detail and dynamism to narratives. Negative features analysis shows a higher use of past tense in Brt. NE that is a hallmark of narrative texts that recount past events. Third Person Pronouns are also more in Brt. NE which are common in storytelling. Brt. NE, indicates a higher frequency of public verbs (e.g., "announce," "claim") which are often used in narrative contexts to describe actions and events.

Thus, Brt. NE shows a stronger alignment with narrative concerns, indicated by higher usage of past tense, third person pronouns, and public verbs. These features are indicative of storytelling and recounting events. PENE seems to have a weaker alignment with narrative concerns and a slightly greater tendency towards features that can be used in non-narrative contexts.

Dimension 3: Explicit versus Situation-Dependent Expression

Sr. No	Linguistic Features	PENE Scores	Brt. NE Scores
	Positive Features		
1.	Phrasal coordination	2.48	1.67
2.	That relative clause on subject position	2.75	2.25
3.	Nominalization	1.59	0.82
4.	Predicative adjectives	0.65	0.65

5.	Concessive adverbial subordinators	0.5	0.25
6.	Pied-piping relative clauses	-0.27	0
	Negative Features	0	0.03
7.	Place adverbials	-0.34	-0.03
8.	Time adverbials	-.0.76	-0.65
9.	WH relative clauses on object position	-2.14	-1.98
10.	Total adverbs		
11.	WH relative clauses on subject position	-0.65	-0.25

This dimension, "Explicit versus Situation-Dependent Expression," contrasts elements that provide explicit, context-independent information with those that rely more on situational context for meaning. On this dimension, there is a significant difference between PENE and Brt. NE. Among positive features, the higher ratio of phrasal coordination in PENE suggests a more explicit style by connecting phrases clearly and explicitly. That relative clauses on subject position show a tendency to provide more explicit information. The marked difference of nominalizations (e.g., "decision" instead of "decide") in both corpora is a proof of explicit and formal style of PENE. The equal ratio of predicative adjectives does not distinguish between the two corpora regarding explicitness. Concessive adverbial subordinators, slightly higher in PENE, are suggestive of a more explicit style by using clauses that express concession (e.g., "although"). Brt. NE has more Pied-piping relative clauses that are indicative of a slight preference for a more formal and explicit construction. Negative features analysis reflects almost the similar use of place adverbials in both corpora that does not distinguish between the two corpora regarding situation-dependency. Anyhow the frequency of time adverbial is higher in Brt. NE pointing a more situation-dependent style by specifying times explicitly. More use of WH relative clauses on object position in Brt. NE provides more specific detail about objects. The frequency of total adverbs is another element to make Brt. NE situation-dependent style through the use of adverbs. Same is the case with WH relative clauses on subject position that are higher in Brt. NE.

Thus, PENE demonstrates a clearer style of expression as it leans more towards explicit expression with higher use of features such as phrasal coordination, nominalizations, and concessive adverbial subordinators expressing a clear and context-independent style, whereas Brt. NE incorporates more features that could be considered explicit yet somewhat situation-dependent. The higher use of time adverbials in Brt. NE suggests a more situation-dependent style by specifying times more explicitly.

Dimension 4: Overt Expression of Persuasion vs. Covert Expression of Persuasion

Sr. No	Linguistic Features	PENE Scores	Brt. NE Scores
	Positive Features		
1.	Infinitives	1.07	0.71
2.	Necessity modals	1	0.9
3.	Suasive verbs	0.45	0.52
4.	Predicative modals	-0.21	0.38
	Negative Features		
5.	Split auxiliaries	0.08	-0.24

The dimension of "Overt Expression of Persuasion vs. Covert Expression of Persuasion," contrasts elements that explicitly persuade or suggest actions with those that imply persuasion more subtly. Positive features analysis highlights more use of infinitives by suggesting actions directly (e.g., "to do something") that depicts a greater tendency towards overt persuasion. Necessity modals are also found slightly higher in PENE as compared to Brt. ENE. The stronger use of modals that express necessity (e.g., "must," "have to") contribute to overt persuasion. There is marginally a greater use of suasive verbs (e.g., "recommend," "urge") in Brt. ENE that makes the genre more persuasive. The stronger use of modals that predict outcomes (e.g., "will," "shall") which can be a form of persuasion by projecting certainty has been observed in Brt. ENE. The only negative feature, split auxiliaries has been found higher in PENE pointing a bit more relaxed or conversational style, which can sometimes align with a less formal approach to persuasion. In short, PENE shows higher use of infinitives and necessity modals, indicating a more overt style of persuasion by directly suggesting actions and expressing necessity, while Brt.ENE exhibits higher use of suasive verbs and predictive modals, which can also be overt but often have a nuanced approach.

Dimension 5: Abstract versus Non-Abstract Information

Sr. No	Linguistic Features	PENE Scores	Brt. NE Scores
	Positive Features		
1.	Conjuncts	0.94	0.5
2.	Other adverbial subordinators	2.55	1.64
3.	By-passives	0.38	0.31
4.	Agentless passive	0.11	0.23
5.	Past participial clauses	1.5	1
	Negative Features		
	Past participial WHIZ deletion relative		

6.	-0.1	-0.23

This dimension "Abstract versus Non-Abstract Information, "contrasts elements that convey abstract, generalized, or conceptual information with those that provide concrete, specific, or situational details. Conjuncts (e.g., "therefore," "however") that help in connecting ideas and expressing abstract relationships are higher in PENE than Brt. NE. The frequent use of adverbial subordinators (e.g., "although," "because") that contribute to complex sentence structures and abstract reasoning is also found more in PENE. There is a marginally greater use of passive constructions in PENE that can contribute to an abstract style by focusing on actions rather than actors. Agentless passives are more frequent in Brt. NE, suggesting a greater use of passive constructions without specifying the agent, which can also contribute to an abstract style by omitting concrete details**.** Past participial clauses are relatively higher in PENE, which can add complexity and abstraction to sentences. So far as the past participial WHIZ deletion relatives are concerned, there is more frequent use of reduced relative clauses (e.g., "the book published last year") in PENE. It provides more concise and abstract information by omitting explicit relative pronouns.

In short, PENE demonstrates a stronger inclination towards abstract information, using various linguistic structures like conjuncts, other adverbial subordinators, by-passives, past participial clauses, and past participial WHIZ deletion relatives that help convey general, conceptual, and interconnected ideas. Brt.NE, although slightly abstract with its use of agentless passives, shows a less pronounced tendency towards abstract expression compared to PENE.

Dimension 6: Online Informational Elaboration

Sr. No	Linguistic Features	PENE Scores	Brt. NE Scores
	Positive Features		
1.	Seem/appear	0.2	0.1
2.	That adjective complements	0.5	0.67
3		0.34	0.28
4.	That verb complements	1.27	1.09
5.	That relative clause on object position	0.89	1.22
	Present participial WHIZ deletion relatives		
		-0.55	-0.36
6.	**Negative Features**	-0.66	-0.03
7.	Conditional adverbial subordinators	0.06	-0.11
8.	Gerunds	0.02	-0.43
9.	Existential there		
	Demonstratives		

This "Online Informational Elaboration," dimension contrasts elements that conribute to the elaboration and development of information within the text, providing in-depth and additional detail. The analysis of **s**eem/appear feature   exhibits similar usage in both corpora, suggesting that both use these verbs to hedge or qualify statements, contributing to informational elaboration. However, That Adjective Complements (constructions like "It is important that...") are found more in Brt. NE indicating elaborated information. On the other hand**,** That Verb Complements are somewhat more in frequency representing both corpora use verb complements to add detailed information and elaboration. Brt. NE has rather greater tendency to use that relative clause on object position which provides detailed information about objects in sentences. Higher in Brt. NE, Present Participial WHIZ Deletion Relatives indicate a greater use of reduced relative clauses that add detail and complexity to the information presented. Higher use of conditional adverbial clauses (e.g., "if," "unless") in Brt.NE provides hypothetical or conditional information, adding to elaboration. Significantly higher in Brt.NE, gerunds (e.g., "running," "thinking") provide additional details and elaboration within sentences. Somewhat higher usage of existential there constructions (e.g., "there is," "there are") to introduce in PENE elaborates on new information. There is also a greater use of demonstratives (e.g., "this," "that") in PENE to refer back to previously mentioned information, aiding in elaboration and coherence.

On the whole, PENE demonstrates a balanced approach to informational elaboration with a slightly higher use of existential constructions and demonstratives that aid in clarity and coherence, while British corpora shows a stronger inclination towards informational elaboration through the use of gerunds, conditional adverbial subordinators, and present participial WHIZ deletion relatives, providing detailed and rich descriptions within the text. Thus, Brt.NE exhibits a stronger tendency towards online informational elaboration compared to PENE.

5. Conclusion

Based on the analysis across six dimensions, we can draw comprehensive conclusions about the linguistic differences and tendencies between the PENE and Brt. NE corpora. PE (Pakistani English) shows a slightly more involved style and BE (British English) leans more towards informational production, suggesting a more formal, structured approach. BE exhibits stronger narrative features indicating a focus on storytelling and recounting events, whereas PE displays more neutral or non-narrative features, suggesting less emphasis on narrative style. PE bends towards explicit expression providing clear, context-independent information, while BE shows a more situation-dependent style. PE demonstrates a more overt style of persuasion, directly suggesting actions and expressing necessity, whereas BE **e**xhibits a nuanced approach, suggesting persuasion through projection of certainty and recommendation. PE shows a stronger inclination towards abstract information, providing a more complex, generalized style, while BE has a less pronounced tendency towards abstract expression compared to PE. PE balances informational elaboration with clarity and coherence to aid in understanding in comparison with BE that are strongly inclined towards detailed informational elaboration. These differences highlight the unique characteristics of Pakistani English Newspaper reflecting variations in style, focus, and expression. The findings underscore the distinct characteristics of Pakistani English as a non-native variety, shaped by the unique linguistic, cultural, and social landscape of Pakistan.

The study contributes to the broader understanding of World Englishes demonstrating how local contexts influence linguistic practices in media discourse.

5.1.   Implications/Recommendations

Implications for media professionals, educators, and language learners include the importance of recognizing and appreciating linguistic diversity in editorial writing. This awareness can enhance the effectiveness of communication with diverse audiences. Educators and language learners can benefit from understanding the specific features of PE, which can inform teaching and learning strategies in multilingual settings.

Future research should continue to explore linguistic variations in other non-native English varieties, examining different genres and contexts to provide a comprehensive understanding of the global dynamics of English usage. This study sets a foundation for such research, highlighting the intricate interplay between language, culture, and society in shaping editorial discourse.

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