The study highlights the distinctive features of Pakistani English (PE) in a new genre: online travel guides of Pakistan uploaded by Pakistan Tourism. The data has been gathered through internet resource. British National Corpus has been used for the conformation of the distinctiveness of those features. The features highlighted in the paper validate the previous studies in order to take a serious step towards the codification of PE. It also presents new features such as a divergent use of punctuation and orthography of compound words from BSE and contributes to the existing body of knowledge. It is helpful for the researchers interested in a compilation of register based lexis and also offers a number of dimensions for further research by taking new genres into account in the study of non-native varieties of English. It also provides a good source of data for the compilation of corpus of PE.

Key Words: Non-native varieties of English; South Asian English; Pakistani English; British National Corpus


INTRODUCTION

Pakistani English (PE) is a non-native variety of English that evolved as a result of colonialism. English is deep-rooted in the area since British Raj, exclusively, after the Indian Education Act 1835. English was spread to every corner of the sub-continent by Christian Missionaries. After the Independence of sub-continent, English left its native speakers and stayed with its non-native speakers. Since then, nativization and acculturation of English took place.

English enjoys the status of the official language of Pakistan along with the national language Urdu. The use and impact of English language in different domains of
life are very common and effective such as education, law, medicine, print media, advertisements, and business and trade. Tourism is a beneficial business industry around the world (Baloch, 2007). In this era of technology, computers and the internet are major sources of information and online business activities. Online travel guides are a radical and convenient source of information available for international as well as intranational tourists. The online travel guides of Pakistan uploaded by Pakistan Tourism exhibit lexical and syntactic divergences from British English. It is worth stating to say that British English is considered as the standard language while studying distinctive linguistic features of PE.

Kachru (1985) opened a new debate in the linguistic circle as soon as he termed “World Englishes” (WE) for the non-native varieties of English. Henceforth, English was pluralized and jolted power structures. Soon after, arguments and cross arguments started and the studies on non-native varieties began. Studies in this regard extend to different genres of language. The current study intends to highlight divergences from British English which have become features of Pakistani English and have made it a distinctive non-native variety of English. The current study is unique due to the fact that non-native features of English language generally, and PE particularly, have not studied with reference to travel guides yet.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:
The study aims at:

- Highlighting the distinctive linguistic features of Pakistani English, strengthening the previous work done in support of documentation of non-native varieties of English
- Extending WE research sphere to a new dimension; the genre of online travel guides
- Providing conceptual basis for forthcoming researchers in this field.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Kachru (1996) allocates and classifies, for the first time, a ‘nativised’ variety of English as South Asian English (SAE) in South Asia. He declares that English is an Asian language on the basis of ‘Genetic Nativeness’ and ‘Functional Nativeness’ (Kachru, 2000). The Asianisation of English resulted in a number of nativised varieties of English within Asia such as; Indian English, Pakistani English, Singaporean English and Srilankan English etc. (Anwar, 2007). Same is the case with African Englishes in which Ghanian English, Nigerian English, Papua New Guinea English and Jamaican English etc. are included.

The study of non-native varieties of English is very popular among linguists throughout the non-native English world. The distinctive features of these nativised varieties are discussed in details by a number of researchers throughout the non-native English world (Kachru, 1969; Rahman, 1990; Bokamba 1992; Sey 1973; Jibril, 1982; Platt et. al. 1983). The problem of identification and acceptability occurs due to the fact that even their users are unaware of the divergent features of these varieties (Meyler, 2009). There is a dire need of codification of these varieties (ibid). We are of the same view and through the current study attempt to extend the study of non-native varieties of English, especially PE, to a new genre of language. We find a gap here because to date no study is available on online travel guides with reference to the study of non-native varieties of English.

Kachru (1983) brings forth PE as a distinct variety in his early works while discussing South Asian English. He discusses it with some examples from PE (Baumgardner, 1993, xvi). The study related to the distinctive features of PE has been done by many researchers in different genera of language. Therefore, the study on the features of PE dates back to Baumgardner (1987) who takes the first step towards the identification and recognition of Pakistani English as a non-native variety. He also validates the emergence of nativised varieties throughout South Asia. He discusses PE in a comparison with exonormative models of English and acceptability of PE as a norm (1993, 1995). His study consists of Pakistani English newspapers through he provides divergences at various linguistic levels. Talaat (1993) presents the sociolinguistic perspective of PE and discusses semantic variations and divergences from Standard British English (SBE). She extends the study of PE to the views of native speakers and PE speakers and documents a comparison between the both of the speakers’ views. She points out various features of PE highlighted by the native speakers. Rahman (1990) presents a comprehensive study of PE and categorizes different features with reference to three sub-varieties of PE. Mansoor’s (2002) study validates these sub-varieties. Furthermore, Mahboob (2004) studies the phonological features of PE and Islamisation of PE (Mahboob, 2009) with reference to Pakistani English textbooks. Baumgardner (1993, 1395) and Mahboob (2004) give examples from spoken language to assert their claims. In other world languages, Kazemian & Hashemi (2014) have contrasted and compared inflectional bound morphemes of English, Azerbaijani and Persian languages in details to pinpoint any similarities and differences between them. The current study takes into account the features related to grammar and vocabulary only and attempts to endorse the features discussed by the previous authors.

PE is highly influenced by the local languages and
culture. It satisfies the communicative needs of the people of Pakistan (Anwar, 2007). Kennedy (1993a, b, as cited in Bilal et al., 2012) points out a register related to crime reporting in Pakistani English newspapers. He declares that lexical divergence and borrowing of PE are cultural specific. Anwar (2007) studies PE through the sociolinguistic perspective. His worth noting contribution in the newspaper genre is documented with the help of Corpus of PE newspapers. Anwar and Talaat (2011) discuss distinctive features of Pakistani journalistic English and extend Baumgardner’s (1993) pioneering work from morphological level to syntactic level. Furthermore, Talaat and Anwar (2012) consider Urdu-English code-switching as an important factor of divergence in PE.

Rasul (2006) study consists of the language of media, particularly, the language used on Television. Similarly, Ahmad and Ali (2014) extend the sphere of the study of PE features to Pakistani English fiction. PE is being studied from different perspectives and through different genera. The present study adds its contribution in the existing body of work.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The study is qualitative-descriptive by owing to unavailability of any theoretical framework. The studies carried out by the previous writers (mentioned in literature review section) has (have) been considered as benchmarks and guides. The data has been gathered through internet resources. Travel guides of Pakistan, available on the internet, are downloaded and distinctive features of the language are highlighted. British National Corpus (BNC: a 100 million words collection) has been used for the conformation of the distinctiveness of those features. Only those instances have been discussed which did not match totally or partially (with less than 7 times occurrences in BNC) with SBE with the help of BNC.

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Pakistani English is a distinctive variety of SBE (Standard British English) with its unique features. Some of its features are similar to Indian English (Rahman, 1990) and other non-native varieties of English whereas, others are not. It is used with a wide range of functions, same as other outer circle varieties (Kachru, 1985), by the speakers of varied competence. It has been nativised and satisfies different communicative needs of its speakers. Its functional range stretches to different genres (Sailaja, 2009). The online travel guides are a useful source of information for the tourists around the world. The language used in the online travel guides uploaded by Pakistan Tourism shows its distinctiveness from SBE. Following are some of the features discussed with ample examples.

Grammar

The linguistic change in Grammar and vocabulary of any language indicate language contact (Noor et al., 2015b). It is one of the main reasons behind the nativisation of English language. Language change at morpheme levels is very critical (Talaat, 2003). Pakistani English exhibits divergence from SBE at every level.

Article


1) Travel & Culture is pleased to offer following options for the tours Visit Pakistan from China Retrieved from http://www.travel-culture.com/tours/visit_pakistan_from_china.shtml
3) Situated in* heart of south Asian sub-continent Pak Tourism Retrieved from paktourism.com
5) It has* rich history. 3 days Lahore Package Retrieved from http://www.travel-culture.com/tours/stopover.shtml

The examples mentioned above, taken from online travel guides of Pakistan, show irregularity in the use of articles. The lack of articles in the indigenous languages of Pakistan is responsible for this inconsistency.
Plural marking of Nouns

Pakistani indigenous Languages have no concept of a difference between countable/uncountable nouns. This phenomenon results in the lack of discrepancy between countable and uncountable nouns while showing for numbers. Unlike the native speakers of English, Pakistani English users make plurals of uncountable nouns. Indigenous languages of India share the same characteristic which results in discrepancy from SBE regarding non-native varieties of Pakistani and Indian English (Enokizono, 2000).

9) and return to China after visiting the high mountains of Karakorums and Himalayas. Visit Pakistan from China Retrieved from http://www.travel-culture.com/tours/visit_pakistan_from_china.shtml


Preposition

The discrepancy in the use of Preposition is, mostly, another common feature of non-native varieties of English. In many South Asian languages, postpositions are used and the non-native speakers utilize prepositions in a place of their mother tongue equivalents which cause difference from the SBE. In Pakistani English, redundant use of preposition and wrong or different use of preposition from BSE is evident. African Englishes and Indian English display discrepancies likewise (Bokamba, 1993, Enokizono, 2000).

12) Beside *of the fact that Gwadar is the global commercial hub Gwadar. Tourist Guide http://paktourism.com/


14) We will bring you back to hotel in about 4 hours. Karachi City Tours. http://www.travel-culture.com/tours/karachi_city_tour.shtml

Tense and Aspect

In Pakistani English, the synchronization between tense and the aspect in complex sentences is different from BSE. Pakistani languages do not have this relationship the way it is found in BSE grammar. Trudgil and Hannah (1982, as cited in Rahman 1990) report the same with reference to Indian English.

15) You will have a look at the bazaar and watch an old bridge built in 1880s by the British. Mountain Kingdoms of Hunza Valley Retrieved from http://www.travel-culture.com/tours/visit_pakistan_from_china.shtml

16) Indus civilization was buried in time and Aryans arrive. Pakistan - History Retrieved from http://www.travel-culture.com/pakistan/history.shtml

17) Eudaamus was took his place as the ruler. Pakistan – History Retrieved from http://www.travel-culture.com/pakistan/history.shtml


Similarly, present/past progressive forms of the verbs are commonly used in PE instead of simple present/past. Rahman (1990) points out the divergence in which progressive aspect is used with habitual action and where the action is completed. In Indian English, likewise, the same feature exists (Sailaja, 2009).

20) people were cultivating crops on rain dependent lands Pakistan - History Retrieved from http://www.travel-culture.com/pakistan/history.shtml

21) They were making excellent Quality of ceramics from terracotta. Pakistan - History Retrieved from http://www.travel-culture.com/pakistan/history.shtml

The use of to infinitive is another feature of PE that is distinctive from BSE.

22) most of Pakistan is safe to travel. Pakistan Culture Tours Itineraries http://www.travel-culture.com/tours/culture.shtml

23) All of the tours below are available and are safe to take for foreign tourists. Pakistan Culture Tours Itineraries http://www.travel-culture.com/tours/culture.shtml

Subject-verb agreement between singular noun and verb in present simple formisalso problematic for PE (Rahman, 1990) and BSAE (Black South African English) speakers (Gough, 1996) and many non-native Englishes
Use of Comparative Degree

PE shares this feature with African English where the construction of comparative degree is done without the use of the comparative degree of adjectives. The use of more and much performs, mostly, the entire function of comparative constructions (Kachru & Nelson, 2011). 25) the long unspoiled golden sunny beaches of Balochistan along the Coastline makes the journey even more charming. Tourist Guide http://paktourism.com/

Punctuation

Punctuation has an important role in English grammar. It is a least studied feature of non-native varieties of English. Pakistani English users do not strictly follow the SBE rules in this regard. The use of capitals is also included in punctuation and it is rule-governed. This feature of PE differs from SBE.
26) Cost does not Include the fare from Taxkorgan to Sost and Sost to Taxkorgan Hunza Valley Tour From kashgar or Taxkorgan. Retrieved from http://www.travelculture.com/tours/visit_pakistan_from_ch ina.shtml

27) You can see Nanga parbat with a contrast of lush Green meadows From Hunza to Fairy meadows Retrieved from http://www.travelculture.com/tours/visit_pakistan_from_ch ina.shtml
28) and the mighty Indus river Travel Guide to Pakistan Retrieved from http://www.pakistan4ever.com/

The use of comma, colon, semi-colon, exclamation mark, apostrophe (for both of the uses; genitive and contractions) and the full stop is also distinctive in PE. They are not properly used and/or are omitted.
33) The local media*the war on terror leaders have now destroyed peace and tranquility of some areas of Pakistan's* in a game that no one understands. Travel Guide to Pakistan Retrieved from http://www.pakistan4ever.com/
34) This game is not an old one* similar games (Gilgit Game, Great game) were played on this soil many years ago by similar powers. Travel Guide to Pakistan Retrieved fromhttp://www.pakistan4ever.com/ 35) This is where Moen Jo Daro of Indus civilization is,*This is where the mighty river Indus runs, This is here where Buddhism was developed, this is where Sanskrit was born, and this is where the Alexander came. Travel Guide to Pakistan Retrieved fromhttp://www.pakistan4ever.com/
36) The spectacular views of the mountains* the green planes, colorful deserts Travel Guide to Pakistan Retrieved from http://www.pakistan4ever.com/ 37) Today people talk of taxes and hygiene and organic food and saving nature* we have had these ideas in 2500 BC* we had a tax system democracy Travel Guide to Pakistan Retrieved fromhttp://www.pakistan4ever.com/ 38) butits* only us who see that Pakistan still stands out Travel Guide to Pakistan Retrieved fromhttp://www.pakistan4ever.com/ 39) Which do nothing but hurt our earth *can those countries build mountains like K2* can they bring about a river as mighty and as legendry as river Indus. Travel Guide to Pakistan Retrieved fromhttp://www.pakistan4ever.com/ 40) This is an open invitation to everyone* come visit Pakistan* don't listen to media* don't listen to advisories* this country is full of friendly folks* flora and fauna. Travel Guide to Pakistan Retrieved from http://www.pakistan4ever.com/ 41) Emergence of prosperous Indus civilization. Moen Jo Daro was one of the main cities of this most advanced civilization of the world* There are buildings made of baked bricks* a rich treasure of ceramics covered drainage, grid system of the streets are few of the things of Indus civilization you can witness. Pakistan – History Retrieved from http://www.travel-culture.com/pakistan/history.shtml 42) From the south of Indus* he continued to Iran via Baluchistan desert (In Pakistan) Pakistan – History Retrieved from http://www.travel-culture.com/pakistan/history.shtml 43) and it is Balochistans*amazing tourist attraction. KundMalir. Tourist Guidepaktourism.com
44) Pakistan is a unique land!* Pak Tourism. Retrieved from paktourism.com

This feature has not been discussed yet with reference to PE where the non-observance of BSE punctuation rules is evident.

Word Order

First language interference also affects the syntax of the second language. PE exhibits discrepancy in syntactic order from BSE (Anwar & Talaat, 2011). Talaat (1993) adds that Pakistani English lacks precision. The sentences are elongated as compared to BSE.

45) Here the heights and magnitude of things are redefined. Hunza Valley Tour From Kashgar or Taxkorgan Retrieved from http://www.travelculture.com/tours/visit_pakistan_from_china.shtml

46) Places like singhar, Palm Beach, are also which is unseen by the world.


VOCABULARY

Vocabulary is an important element of any language. As far as the nativisation of English language is concerned, change in vocabulary and in the use of vocabulary is evident in all the contexts (Fernando, 2003).

Compounds with Space

Compound words are distinctive features of PE (Anwar, 2007) and African Englishes (Kachru & Nelson, 2011). The compound words used in the following examples exhibit a unique feature of PE. These compounds belong to British English vocabulary but are written with a space between the two constituents of a compound word that is distinctive from BSE. In BSE, these words do not carry a space between the two constituents. This is a unique feature found in the study which has not been discussed yet.

47) the views of snow capped (only 3 occurrences in BNC) Karakorum mountains Hunza Valley Tour From Kashgar or Taxkorgan Retrieved from http://www.travelculture.com/tours/visit_pakistan_from_china.shtml

48) and everything elsewhere in the world seems so small. Hunza Valley Tour From Kashgar or Taxkorgan Retrieved from http://www.travelculture.com/tours/visit_pakistan_from_china.shtml

49) This in itself is a big pride for this friendly city Mountain Kingdoms of Hunza Valley

Spelling

Partial non-observance of British spelling rule is another feature of non-native varieties of English (Loreto, 2014). The non-native users take liberty to use the spelling of words as they desire. Pakistani users take spelling as a guide to pronounce (Rahman, 1990) and to write any words. That is why, they spell the words the way they utter them.

50) and even a system which was most eco friendly Travel Guide to Pakistan Retrieved from http://www.pakistan4ever.com/

51) There are numerous unexcavated sites of this period in Pakistan. Pakistan - History Retrieved from http://www.travelculture.com/pakistan/history.shtml

52) Ormara is the unseen tourist attraction of Pakistan, throughout the year Ormara. Tourist Guide www.pakistantoursguide.com/

53) If you are nonresident Pakistani visiting your family in Pakistan 4 days Indus civilization (Karachi to Moen Jo Daro) http://www.travel-culture.com/tours/stopover.shtml

54) It is a complex of a well defined monastery Pakistan-Archeology. www.travel-culture.com/pakistan/archeology.shtml

55) a class of architecture in itself. Pakistan- Archeology www.travel-culture.com/pakistan/archeology.shtml

56) We will meet you at your hotel anywhere in Karachi at 9:00 AM Karachi City Tours http://www.travel-culture.com/tours/karachi_city_tour.shtml

57) An indepth tour of archeology and history of south eastern Pakistan (without space) 4 days Indus civilization (Karachi to Moen Jo Daro) http://www.travel-culture.com/tours/stopover.shtml

The last example (57) displays the reversal of aforementioned feature where the compound word is written without space which carries the space in its standard form or, otherwise, hyphenated.

58) breakfast with the Hunzaappricots Hunza Valley Tour From Kashgar or Taxkorgan Retrieved from http://www.travelculture.com/tours/visit_pakistan_from_china.shtml

59) and delicious honey and all things organic Hunza Valley Tour From Kashgar or Taxkorgan Retrieved from http://www.travelculture.com/tours/visit_pakistan_from_china.shtml

60) and pure in this pure land of longetivity. Hunza Valley Tour From Kashgar or Taxkorgan Retrieved from http://www.travelculture.com/tours/visit_pakistan_from_china.shtml

61) Earliest hymns of Ragveda were written in the Indus valley (Pakistan)

62) It is a huge eco park www.travel-culture.com/pakistan/arechology.shtml


Old Vocabulary

The use of old and obsolete words is also a feature of non-native varieties. Pakistani English shares this feature with Indian English and Sri Lankan English. The reason behind this phenomenon, according to Talaa (2003), is learning English through the classic English literature. EnoEnkizono (2000) is of the view that Indian users are close to written form of English so that they frequently use ‘old-fashioned’ vocabulary. It is also a feature of Sri Lankan English but less frequently occurs as compared to the other features (Vuorivirta, 2006). 64) Village life of this quaint little (only 2 occurrences in BNC) area surrounded by gigantic mountains Hunza Valley Tour From Kashgar or Taxkorgan Retrieved from http://www.travel-culture.com/tours/visit_pakistan_from_china.shtml


66) This land is a witness to vicissitudes of history (only two occurrences in BNC) and civilization Pak Tourism Retrieved from http://paktourism.com/Pakistan.aspx

Pakistani English contains classical English words which are not being used in native varieties of English. Rahman (1990) opines that the use of archaic English words in PE presents new experiences and new identities in the world of Englishes.

Semantic Extension

It is another common feature of natively written English in which English lexical items are used with the additional meanings different from native varieties of English (Bobda, 1994). PE shares this feature with other varieties of English. Baumgardner, (1990) discusses this PE feature with ample examples from Pakistani English newspapers.

67) accustom tour (used in place of customize tours means according to the needs of the visitors).

Translation of Thoughts

The English language performs a variety of functions in a non-native context. It is altered according to the use and the taste of local people and local languages (Noor et al, 2015b). Anchimbe (2006) supports this notion with respect to African Englishes. PE displays a translation of thoughts from indigenous language into English language which makes it divergent from SBE.

70) The remains of all those people, who inhabited this land and contributed their spice to its culture, Pakistan–Archeology www.travel-culture.com/pakistan/arechology.shtml

71) The site of MaharGarh is located at the foot of Bolan Pass. Pakistan–Archeology www.travel-culture.com/pakistan/arechology.shtml

72) There are several sites where one can see the rock drawings of those Buddhist Pilgrims Pakistan–Archeology www.travel-culture.com/pakistan/arechology.shtml

Creativity and Innovations

Non-native varieties of English display creativity of their users. Standard English vocabulary is, sometimes, used in a creative way which distinguishes them from the standard varieties. The experiences and identities of the users of non-native Englishes exhibit through their innovative usage. Bobda (1994) discusses this feature of African Englishes. The feature is common with PE, but the uses are related to the local needs. PE exhibits this feature in a number of ways, sometimes, in a creative use of English vocabulary, such as followed (in 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, and 79). Sometimes, PE presents the use of vocabulary different from SBE construction, such as the distinctive adjectival use (in 80, 81, 82, 83, and 84), innovative use of verbs (in 85 and 86), complementation with embedded clauses (in 87, 88, 89 and 90) and inventive compounding (in 91 and 92).

73) it has probably been the most sought after land in the history.
The study discusses some new features along with already discussed features of non-native varieties of English with special reference of PE.

CONCLUSION

Non-native varieties, especially, SAE share varied features. More or less, African Englishes also exhibit similar divergences highlighted in this paper. The influence of local languages on these non-native varieties including PE is evident. We cannot ignore nativised varieties of English which have been performing a variety of functions by owing to a lion share number of their speakers.

The study stretches the array of research on PE to the online travel guides which are a direct contact to the English-speaking world. PE relishes its identity among the world of Englishes. Its users analyze their proficiency according to their own set rules which let them liberty at every linguistic level (Talaat, 2003). The data source of the study consists of the current use of PE which, beside the divergences highlighted, does not posit any intelligibility problem. Tourism, as mentioned earlier, is the big source of foreign exchange for any country. The official websites of Pakistan Tourism display a number of pages providing information about every city and tourist destination. The features highlighted in the paper validate the previous studies in order to take a serious step towards the codification of PE. It also presents new features such as divergent use of punctuation and orthography of compound words from BSE and contributes to the existing body of knowledge. In the light of the work of Kennedy (1993), the highlighted features, particularly the vocabulary used in tourist guides, might be termed as the tourist-guides register or tourism register on the basis of typical lexis use. The study is helpful for the researchers interested in the compilation of register based lexis.

The study offers a number of dimensions for further research by taking new genres into account in the study of non-native varieties of English. It also provides a good source of data for compilation of the corpus of PE.

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