The English Language in Pakistan

Names: Duygu Demir and Zekiye Tolun

Course of study: LA-MA

Type of credit: TN=Teilnahme

Module: I (Historical and Social Perspectives on Language) [Duygu Demir]
K/Ka (Key Cultural Topics in Context) [Zekiye Tolun]
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Name of individual: Zekiye Tolun
Course of study: LA MA HRGe
Type of credit: TN
Module number/letter: Ka
Introduction

Just to give you a short impression… 😊

Video “Differences between Indian and Pakistani accent“

URL: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CXVF7AVY0aI (last accessed 29th November, 2015)
2. About the Country: Pakistan

Name of individual: Duygu Demir
Course of study: LA MA GymGe
Type of credit: TN
Module number/letter: I
2. About the Country: Pakistan

2.1 A Profile of Pakistan

- **Official language(s):** Urdu, English
  - English - Urdu
  - *Hello – salam*
  - *Thank you - shukriya*
  - *Friend – dost*

- **Population:** about 185 million
- **Capital:** Islamabad
- **Key industries:** Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing; manufacturing; wholesale and retail trade

2. About the Country: Pakistan

2.2 The History of Pakistan

- Pakistan was part of India until 1947
- Macaulay’s minutes of 1835
- \( \rightarrow \) social and political status of English
- Learning English by contact and through schooling
- **1971** Bangladesh Liberation War: East Pakistan became Bangladesh and West Pakistan became Pakistan

Mahboob/Ahmar 2008: 244.
3. The English Language in Pakistan

Name of individual: Zekiye Tolun
Course of study: LA MA HRGe
Type of credit: TN
Module number/letter: Ka
3. The English Language in Pakistan

3.1 The Role of the English Language in Pakistan

- Independence 1947: complex linguistic picture in Pakistan
  - No monolithic linguistic structure in one of the five provinces
  - Integration of English into legal, educational, and other systems
- Pakistan maintained English as an official language
  - Key role in economic, educational, social, and political lives of Pakistani people
- English became ‘nativized’ and ‘vernacularized’
  - Due to several processes, e.g. economic and social mobility
- Majority speaks English as an additional language
- Level of language proficiency varies

Sources:
Mahboob/Ahmar 2008: 244.
Mahboob 2012: 531.
Haque 1993: 13ff.
Name of individual: Duygu Demir
Course of study: LA MA GymGe
Type of Credit: TN
Module number/letter: I
3.2 Language Policy in Pakistan

- General Haq’s government: Islamization and Urduization policies → decrease role of English

- Today: shift of schools from Urdu to English
- Greatest use of English in urban areas
- Improvement of English language skills: **English Language Teaching Reforms project** (training to teachers)

Source: Mahboob/Ahmar: 245.
3. The English Language in Pakistan

Name of individual: Zekiye Tolun
Course of study: LA MA HRGe
Type of credit: TN
Module number/letter: Ka
3.3 Linguistic Aspects of Pakistani English (PakE)

- PakE: heterogenous language
  - reasons: socio-economic, geographic, and educational background of the people
  - various first languages of its speakers

- Variation within PakE based on the speakers’ first language

- No current researches that explored relationship between PakE and various indigenous languages
  - current studies focus on native speakers of Urdu

Source: Mahboob/Ahmar 2008: 245ff.
3.3.1 Phonology: Sounds and Phonological Features

- **Vowels**: Two main groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Invariant vowel realisation</th>
<th>Vowels exhibiting variation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vowels were spoken without variation by Pakistani speaker</td>
<td>Vowels are varied in their realization as spoken by different speakers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can be further divided into two sub-groups:</td>
<td>Grouped in monophthongs and diphthongs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 1A → vowels are similar to RP¹</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 1B → no variation within Pakistani speakers; different from RP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Mahboob/Ahmar 2008: 248f.

¹ RP: Received pronunciation
Group 1A - Examples: Vowels without variation among Pakistani speakers and similar to RP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lexical item; Monophthongs</th>
<th>PakE</th>
<th>RP (based on Oxford Dictionary)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HAPPY</td>
<td>l</td>
<td>l</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THOUGHT</td>
<td>ɔː</td>
<td>ɔː</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>START</td>
<td>ɑː</td>
<td>ɑː</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRESS</td>
<td>e</td>
<td>e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAP</td>
<td>æ</td>
<td>æ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRUT</td>
<td>ʌ</td>
<td>ʌ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOOSE</td>
<td>uː</td>
<td>uː</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lexical item; Diphthongs</th>
<th>PakE</th>
<th>RP (based on Oxford Dictionary)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PRICE</td>
<td>ʌɪ</td>
<td>ʌɪ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHOICE</td>
<td>ɔɪ</td>
<td>ɔɪ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOUTH</td>
<td>ʌʊ</td>
<td>ʌʊ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mahboob/Ahmar 2008: 249.
Group 1B - Examples: Vowels without variation among Pakistani speakers but different from RP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lexical item</th>
<th>PakE</th>
<th>RP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>horsES</td>
<td>ɪ</td>
<td>ə</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lettER</td>
<td>ɜ</td>
<td>ə</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>commA</td>
<td>ɜ</td>
<td>ə</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURSE</td>
<td>ɜ</td>
<td>ɔː</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOT</td>
<td>ɔː</td>
<td>ɔ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Group 2: Vowels exhibiting variation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lexical item; Monophthongs</th>
<th>PakE</th>
<th>RP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FOOT</td>
<td>ʊ ~ ʌː</td>
<td>ʊ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BATH</td>
<td>ɑː ~ æ</td>
<td>ɑː</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLOTH</td>
<td>ɔ ~ ɔː ~ ɒː</td>
<td>ɔ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lexical item; Diphthongs</th>
<th>PakE</th>
<th>RP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FACE</td>
<td>eː ~ ei</td>
<td>ei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOAT</td>
<td>ʊː ~ uː ~ ʊ</td>
<td>uː</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOAL</td>
<td>ʊː ~ œ</td>
<td>œ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEAR</td>
<td>ɪə ~ ɛə</td>
<td>ɪə</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SQUARE</td>
<td>ɛə ~ ɛ</td>
<td>ɛ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CURE</td>
<td>jʊə ~ jɛː ~ ɛː</td>
<td>jʊəː</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Consonants:

- Rhotic variety of English: refers to pronunciation of /r/
  - E.g. [fɔ:rs] ‘force’; [wɔ:rm] ‘warm’ → postvocalic [r]
  - This kind of variation is not explored well enough!

- Retroflexion of [t] and [d]: retroflex stops
  - realized as [ʈ] and [ɖ].
  - E.g. [ʃɪʈʃə] ‘strut’ and [ɖrɛʃ] ‘dress’

- [ʈ] and [ɖ] (dentalization)
  - Use of dental stops instead of dental fricatives → feature of South Asian English
  - E.g. [nɔːʈʃ] ‘north’ and [ɖɛn] ‘then’

Mahboob/Ahmar 2008: 252f.
- /v/ and /w/
  - No phonemic distinction → realized as allophones of /w/
  - E.g. [vɪnd] or [wɪnd] ‘wind’

- Clear /l/ 
  - Another feature of South Asian English
  - Pakistani speakers do not exhibit an allophonic variation of /l/
  - E.g. [ɡoːl] ‘goal’ and [lɔt] ‘lot’

Mahboob/Ahmar 2008: 253.
Phonological Features

❖ Spelling Pronunciation/Gemination
  ❖ Double consonants
  ❖ E.g. [p] in [hæppɪ] and [t] in [lettʌr]

❖ Vowel reduction
  ❖ Unstressed vowel automatically reduced to a schwa
  ❖ E.g. indefinite article ‘a’, definite article ‘the’, ‘was’, words with initial a (like ‘attempt’) → [ə], [ɨə], [wəz] and [əttemp(t)]

❖ Epenthesis
  ❖ In a consonant cluster, e.g. [ɪstrɔːŋәɾ] ‘stronger’ and [ɪstɔːrt] ‘start’
  ❖ Between a voiced bilabial stop and an alveolar lateral approximant, e.g. [bɪlju] ‘blue’

Mahboob/Ahmar 2008: 253f.
3.3.2 Lexical Variation in PakE

Lexical items which vary in the meaning from Standard British English (SBE) usage as a result of English-Urdu contact

Some examples...

- **Colony**: different meaning
  - PakE and Urdu: locality or neighbourhood in which people of the same profession live
  - SBE: the word *estate* would be preferred

- **Marriage**:
  - Same meaning in PakE and Urdu
  - Equivalent of SBE’s *wedding*
  - continued and frequent use in PakE

Talaat 1993: 56ff.
Some English items have been fully integrated in Urdu
➔ Fill in lexical gaps for which no Urdu-word exists
➔ Frequent use in Urdu has reinforced continued use in PakE

Tallat 1993: 62.
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3.3.3 The Use of Word-Formation in PakE

Compounding

- *Rickshaw-wallah* – one who drives a rickshaw
- *Balloonwalla* – one who sells balloons
  Also productive in Urdu: *paniwala* – one who sells water (pani)
- *Camel kid* – a young boy sent to the Middle East for use as jockeys in camel races
- *Childlifter* – a *lifter* is a thief
  *Bottle-cap lifter* and *shop lifter* as the only *lifter* compounds in BrE and AmE
- *To head-carry* - “to carry on the head”
- *Country-made* - “locally made”

Affixation

- **Urdu-based and English-based formations**
  - **Suffixation**
    - The –ee and –(i)er suffix very productive in PakE
    - *Earthquake affectees, riot affectees, ...*
    - *Denter: “I had to go to my denter to get the car repaired [...]”* (Baumgardner 1998:215)
    - *Eve- teaser – a youth who harasses girls*
  - **Prefixation**
    - Mostly Urdu-based formations
    - *Anti- and –de productive prefixes*
    - “He said that this decision was anti-shariat in spirit” (Baumgardner 1998:219)

  "If I were you, I would de-friend her” (Baumgardner 1998:219)

Conversion

- majority of PakE conversions adjective-to-noun
- "faithfuls: “The number of those Pakistani faithfuls who will perform Umra […] will cross 120,000 this year” (Baumgardner 1998: 220)
- "poors: “Political and social sectors have demanded the Government to provide shelter to the poors” (Baumgardner 1998: 220)

Clipping

- Common Urdu clippings in PakE:
  - Muj < Muj [ahideen]
  - Pak < Pak[istan]

In another incident a young girl Rabia Bibi d/o Karim jumped into Lower Jhelum Canal” (Baumgardner 1998: 224)

RA < Raziullah Anha “God is pleased with him” (Urdu abbreviations used in PakE include Arabic expression)

WASA < Water and Sanitation Agency

Blending

- *Lollywood* < hind-clipping of *Lahore* + fore-clipping of *Hollywood*
- *Islamabad* < Urdu *Islamabad* + inserted English *slum*
- In some blends only one morpheme is clipped:
  - *Photomachinist* < *photocopy* + *machinist*
  - *Cricketomacy* < *cricket* + *diplomacy*

4. Conclusion

- PakE: heterogenous language
- Linguistic aspects of PakE need to be studied in more detail
- Great variation concerning pronunciation of PakE-speaking people based on their first language
- English in political, economic and social areas
- Use of Word- formation in PakE: mostly conforms to morphological rules in English

Our own text.
5. Sources/Recommended Reading


Internet Sources
