

## USE OF SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD IN PAKISTANI SPOKEN AND WRITTEN ENGLISH

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### Abstract:

The present study is a corpus based analysis of Pakistani spoken and written English. Two corpora Pakistani Spoken English (PSE) and Pakistani Written English (PWE) have been compiled. This study explores the use of subjunctive mood in the said corpora. The data for study comes from different genres of PSE and PWE. 'CLAWS Tagger C7' has been used to tag the data and a software named 'Antconc .3.2.1' has been used to finalize the results. The research explores the use of 'present and past subjunctive' which is extended with 'mandative and suasive' verbs. The list of mandative verbs has been taken from research of Fillbrandt (2006). The study concludes that subjunctive mood is dying in Pakistani Spoken English because speakers use 'modal verbs' specially 'should' instead of subjunctive. The results show that hypothetical condition becomes an obligation in PSE due to the use of 'should' that is basically unawareness about this mood. The present research helps to discover the reasons behind the less use of subjunctive in Spoken English. It grabs the attention of educationists and practitioners who can design syllabus of English at school (particularly for early year's students) for the awareness of subjunctive.

**Keywords:** Mandative Verbs, Suasive Verbs, Pakistani English, Subjunctive Mood, Corpus Based

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## 1. Introduction:

Every language has its history and spread factors, English language also has its powerful history and its spread. This is a fact that language cannot be followed in the same ways as it is, by other regions or countries. Some changes always take place while adopting that language by the other users. So same is the case here, that the countries, who speak English from beginning till now, have their own English, which can be considered a different variety of English, but no one can say that this is original language that is followed by the British, Americans and etc. Many Asian countries use English language for different purposes like in the field of business, education, judiciary and health.

In past days, English of Pakistan was thought “Indian English”. When this term is used; it is normally considered that Pakistani English has the features of Indian English. But reality is different from it. It is true that in Pakistan English language came through British people and Pakistani people spent many years with Indian people but Pakistani English has not all the features Indian English, same as British English. Different studies and researches were conducted for the realization of features of Pakistani English.

- This study has generated an awareness that Pakistan English a variety of English which has its own features. This has been proved by the comparison of written and spoken corpus of Pakistani English with the help of subjunctive mood. For more than a century, linguists have reported that the subjunctive is disappearing from the English language (Ramsey, 1892; Strang, 1962), describing it with terms like ‘archaic’, ‘moribund’, ‘fossilized’, ‘nearly extinct’ or ‘nearly perished’. Now that corpus linguistics technology is readily available, however, it is possible to explore “rare” linguistic features—like the subjunctive—in large collections of text. Present study has some objectives as (i) to find the present subjunctive “be” and past subjunctive “were” in Pakistani Spoken English and in Pakistani Written English (ii) To collect the frequencies of mandative and suasive verbs (iii) to compare the frequencies of mandative and suasive verbs with subjunctive in Pakistani Spoken English and Pakistani Written English.

## 2. Literature Review

The use of corpora in linguistic study generally includes classifying and calculating linguistic features and, for that reason, has been considered to be appropriate to the state of quantitative analysis. The option of counting every occurrence of a specific item in any text in a systematic manner has allowed research in language studies. Language studies involve corpus-based and corpus-driven approaches to reveal significant results. Bonelli (2001. 17) distinguishes between corpus-based and corpus-driven studies “the main difference being that the former approach starts with a pre-existing theory which is validated using corpus data, while the latter builds up theory step by step in the presence of evident”.

Kennedy (1998.1) describes the corpus “in the language sciences a corpus is a body of written text or transcribed speech which can serve as a basis for linguistic analysis and description”. As Kennedy’s definition shows, the corpus-based method of linguistic research is a very recent development, and the use of corpora in the study of world Englishes is more recent still. Many corpora are being used for studies in all over the world. Sayder (1989) contrasts the use of the subjunctive in Indian, British, and American English, while Leitner (1992) analyzes the verbs *begin* and *start* in Indian English, in comparison with both AmE and BrE. The ACE corpus of Australian English has provided data for a wide range of investigations, focusing on, for example, and the comparisons of Australian and British usage, Peters (1993a, 1993b). Whether researchers examine aspects of Indian English, Australian English, or New Zealand English, a contrast is generally made ‘explicitly or implicitly’ with AmE and/or BrE. This is to be estimated, because of the traditional supremacy of these two varieties and also because of the availability of the Brown and LOB corpora.

Pakistani English is a least researched area in the World Englishes tradition. Baumgardner is among the first researchers of Pakistani English. He wrote several articles Baumgardner (1987, 1988, 1990, 1992) on Pakistani English. Talaat (1988, 1993, 2002, 2003) is local

linguists who worked in this area. Some linguists worked on Pakistani English and tried to introduce its features; they worked in different fields for establishing and recognizing it as a variety of English. Hassan (1983) claims that Urdu and English are no longer definably separate languages in Pakistan. So much 'nativized' English appears in Urdu and in code-mixing manner that Pakistani speakers do well to recognize the evaluation of a mode of expression better described as Urdish than Urdu or English.

Five hundred years ago, English had a highly developed subjunctive mood. However, after fifteenth century, speakers of English used the subjunctive mood less frequently. This mood has vanished from English language. Different people give different opinion about it as Overgaard (1995:93) explains the subjunctive and indicative moods. "The indicative is employed when the speaker intends the words to match the world, whereas the subjunctive and the imperative are used to state a wish, to make the world match somebody else's wish". Fowler and Gower (1965, P.595) say that it is dying, except in a few easily specified uses. Many researchers conducted researches on the role of this mood in other languages, but many of them worked on English subjunctive. In the following here are some scholars who worked on subjunctive with different aspects.

Pavlidou (1991) focuses on one syntactic form, subjunctive interrogatives in Modern Greeks. He tried to find out the interrogative forms of subjunctive. Grahne and Mandelzon (1995) worked on the query of subjunctive and developed a formula that according to the nature of the sentence it can be decided that if one part is true, so it is the compulsion for the next part, that it must be true. This analysis was based on knowledgebase. Skyrms (1999) shows a fundamental unity underlying the main alternative approaches to counter-factual and subjunctive conditionals according to him subjunctive mood also tells about those things which are not fact and there is no chance of to be true of those statements. Chiechia (1988: 245) argues that the subjunctive is a typical finite clause and carries finite tense. Hwang

(1997), Serpillet (2001), Andrew and Tony (2003), and Fillbrandt (2006), worked on mandative subjunctive from different perspective. The mandative subjunctive triggers have been identified through the previous corpus-based studies by Crawford and Albakry (2004); ten of which were common to the findings: ask, demand, direct, insist, order, propose, recommend, request, require and suggest. One non-corpus-based study on the use of the “suasive” subjunctive was conducted by Nichols (1987), who explored student preference for complements following mandative subjunctive triggers through a modified cloze test. She then validated her findings by replicating the study at two other academic institutions with similar results, leading Nichols to conclude that “the suasive subjunctive, at least, still flourishes, and students classified as REMEDIAL use it appropriately” (emphasis in original, p. 150). Finney (2000) opines subjunctive is an essential mood in English language, which performs many important functions in language that cannot be done by any other mood.

### **3. Methodology**

Corpus is data for analysis which compiled in 2009, only Pakistani speakers, who were in between 16 to 60 years old, were included in spoken corpus. So the study is synchronic in nature. The tokens of spoken corpus are 4, 49, 335 and written corpus has 4,51,424. Advertisement, commentary, discussion, documentaries, drama, lectures, radio news, radio presenters, reception language, recipes, speeches and talk shows are included in PSE. The major categories of written corpus are articles, books, columns, letters, novels, reports, thesis, websites etc. Mechanical tools such as tape recorder, Mp3, Mp4, mobile phones have been used for data collection of spoken corpus while written part is collected by scanning documents and from internet.

The corpus based methodology has been used for comparative analysis PSE and PWE. The study is quantitative in nature. Both the corpora have combined into one complete text file.

Antconc 3.2.1 has been used to study the concordance lines, to extract subjunctive mood and to measure the frequencies.

A list of mandative verbs has been taken from Fillbrandt (2006). The data has been collected from the instances occurring in PSE and PWE of subjunctive. This research finds out the reasons behind less use of subjunctive in PSE. Interpretations on the discussions have been made on the basis of usage of subjunctive.

#### 4. Results and Discussion:

The corpus-based method of linguistic research is a very recent development, and the use of corpora in the study of world Englishes is more recent still. This study is about “the use of subjunctive” in Pakistani Spoken English (PSE) and its comparison with Pakistani Written English (PWE). To complete the results, only those sentences have been taken in which this mood is used. Results are given bellow:

| Subjunctive    | Spoken | Written |
|----------------|--------|---------|
| Be             | 87     | 110     |
| Were           | 12     | 31      |
| Mandative verb | 7      | 8       |
| Suasive verb   | 1      | 13      |

The results enlightened 87 sentences of spoken English and 110 sentences of written English in which subjunctive mood is used. The examples of present subjunctive in its present form, continuous form, and passive voice form were taken for results. The results showed that in spoken the use of subjunctive is lower than written English.

One reason, behind less use of 'present subjunctive', can be that people speak very fluently and they don't give any attention to the language structure rather their major purpose of speaking is to convey the message, that's why the frequency of subjunctive can be affected due to this factor.

Another reason can be that most of the literate people don't know the correct and appropriate use of subjunctive in different conditions. So, this can never be said that the people, who get the intermediate level education, can use the subjunctive mood in properly. As the data of PSE is collected from different age groups so it is obvious that they can use this mood mistakenly.

Results pointed out one more and an important reason behind the decrease of this mood is that models as, May, Can, Shall, Must, Might, Could, Should etc. are taking place of subjunctive mood in spoken English. Speaker feels very relaxation when he uses models while he is speaking as compared to the use of subjunctive.

In written corpus the genres are totally different from spoken one that can be the reason of less use of subjunctive in spoken corpus. Because in written corpus there are novels and books in which the subjunctive used very frequently while in spoken there are not such instances are found. Subjunctive actually indicates the hypothetical condition and in novels author tries his level best to create such expressions which could draw the attention of the reader to think in other ways. For this purpose he uses subjunctive mood frequently than other moods or models. The genre of novel is only in written corpus so the frequency of subjunctive in written is higher than spoken.

Speaking fluently there are many chances of incorrect use of 'past subjunctive' as speaker can use 'was' with 'he, she, it and name' instead of 'were' in place of subjunctive mood. Results highlighted in spoken genres like advertisement, commentaries, recipes, and reception language, these are the categories in which past subjunctive is not found. Present

study analyzed that the 'past subjunctive' is not found frequently in spoken corpus as compare to written corpus.

The results showed that 'mandative subjunctive' is less in spoken. Denison (1993) claims 'mandative subjunctive' is vastly common in writing than in speech, this is mainly a correlative of the fact that triggering context occurs more often in writing than in speech medium. The study includes 'mandative subjunctive' in both forms for instance the use of mandative verb as subjunctive or the use of subjunctive after mandative verb. In PSE subjunctive is used with 'Provide', 'Charge', 'Find', 'Think', 'Forbid', 'Tell' and in PWE 'Hear', 'Desire', 'Look', 'Wish', 'Suffer', 'Want', 'Provide', and 'Think' are those 'mandative verbs' with which subjunctive is used. These verbs are very common which can be the basic reason behind the less difference in Pakistani spoken and written English.

Only those sentences in which subjunctive is used after suasive verbs or suasive verbs used as subjunctive have been included in results. The difference in the frequency of this type is very high. The reason can be this that suasive verbs are somehow difficult, and in spoken people don't use such verbs or they don't use tough vocabulary. The other reason can be that written corpus has such genres in which suasive verbs can be used but in spoken there were not such categories of corpus in which these verbs can be used. Here is another factor, that there are some verbs which fall in the category of both verbs mandative and as well as in suasive verbs. These verbs are included for two times in this study.

In spoken 'Requires' is the only verb which is used as subjunctive in this corpus. In written 'Allow', 'Requires', 'Recommended', 'Propose', 'Decide' and 'Decided' are the those verbs which are used as subjunctive. The list of suasive verbs, which is used for analysis, was consisted of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> form of verb but in the list of mandative verbs only 1<sup>st</sup> form of verb was used for analysis. That is why it is more obvious that in spoken subjunctive is used only with 1<sup>st</sup> form of verb while in written 2<sup>nd</sup> form is more frequent.

There is another element that Pakistani English speakers use mandative and suasive verbs repeatedly but they don't use them before subjunctive or they don't use subjunctive after these verbs. The only reason is this that people don't have full awareness about the correct use of subjunctive. That is why they only prefer its present and past form not its use with verbs. In spoken English the condition is more serious than written, because subjunctive is dying in Pakistani Spoken English as Foster (1968, p.220) remarks "the subjunctive mood of the verb is a rather feeble and restricted device in modern English". The reason is that in Pakistan people know English language and they also use it but in spoken people don't pay their full attention toward language. But in the case of written English just qualified people opt the profession of writing involving different genres, and they have full awareness of language. Rather all the published genres are edited after their publication, so that if there is any mistake it is removed after reviewing. But there are not such arrangements in spoken language. Therefore, in Spoken English use of subjunctive is decreasing just because of unawareness about its uses as Palmer (1974, p.48) believes that "it has no place in English Grammar".

After analyzing the both corpora, results showed that subjunctive is used in its present and past form frequently as compared to MV or SV. Pakistan speakers don't use mandative or suasive verbs with subjunctive. Speakers just concentrate on delivering message not on the accurate use of language. In Pakistani people don't use expressions before subjunctive. Whether there are certain expressions which are used before subjunctive. These expressions have mandative verbs but because of less use of expressions this fact becomes prominent that subjunctive is used in its present and past form frequently in Pakistani English.

## **5. Conclusion**

Present study has impartially attained the aim and objectives of exploring the use of subjunctive in Pakistani Spoken English and Pakistani Written English. This study has

exposed that subjunctive is dying in PSE. Speakers are habitual to use 'modals' instead of subjunctive in spoken and 'should' is prominent in this case. The study uncovered that less use of subjunctive mainly indicates the less use of expression in spoken.

It has become a solid argument that subjunctive is becoming a blurred feature of spoken English. Pakistani speakers use subjunctive in 'present and past' form rather than 'mandative and suasive verbs'. The study reveals that mandative verbs are very common and used frequently in spoken as well as written. So the study does not find any huge difference in the use of subjunctive with mandative verbs. But in case of suasive verbs both corpora show a very different picture that is because of rare use of these verbs. It has also been identified that English speakers of Pakistan are more conscious regarding the use of subjunctive in writing than spoken. The study contributes that Pakistani English has its own features in the use of subjunctive.

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