

Generic Structure of the Statement of Problem Sections of Ph.D. Theses in Social Sciences

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to investigate the generic structure of the statement of the problem section of Ph.D. theses in the field of social sciences in Pakistani context. A statement of the problem is a foundation upon which building of research is constructed. This study adapts the modified model of Swales (1990) applied by Jalilifar, Firuzmand and Roshani (2011) in their study. Findings reveal that move three i.e. occupying a niche is the most widely used move. Step of announcing the present research has been considered obligatory by almost all of the researchers. Less than half of the data presents the steps of making topic generalization, stating the problem/need and outlining the purpose whereas all other steps in three moves have been rarely used by researchers in their theses.

1. Introduction

Statement of the problem is a significant constituent of research writing. Successful problem statement requires the knowledge of communicative functions of the texts beside linguistic text. According to Swales (1990), these functions are realized through moves and steps. Since its introduction, genre analysis focused on the move structure of academic genres such as abstracts, introductions, literature reviews and conclusion of articles and theses (Swales, 1990; Bunton, 2002; Afful, 2005). In Evans (1986) words: "This interest has been motivated by pedagogical concerns, in particular the need to provide satisfactory models and descriptions of academic and scientific texts to enhance the ability of non-native students to understand and produce them" (p. 136).

The main function of generic model proposed by Swales (1990) is to identify move structure of genre and their relation to communicative purpose while focusing on the social context of their occurrences (Afful, 2005). As is evident in his definition of genre, "a class of communicative events, the members of which share a set of communicative purposes" (Swales, 1990, p. 58). Statement of the problem is a central component of theses or proposals where as other parts are complementary to it (Riazi, 2000). Hernon and Duran (1993) maintained that "the statement of the problem is the first, and perhaps most important, step in setting up a research study" (p.71). Statement of the problem emerges in two stages in theses. It indicates the aim of the study and researchers formulate research questions while bearing it in mind. This is how problem statement integrates other elements of research which entail it (Ellis & Levy, 2008). Statement of the problem is the first proposition which demands for consideration before any other propositions in research (Hernon & Schwartz, 2007). Therefore, being the stimulus for research (Ellis & Levy, 2008, p. 22) and the core point of any research activity (Connor, 2000), every step in research is developed by it. In spite of its key role in research writing, few studies have been conducted in this regard (Hernon & Duran, 1993; Duran & Hernon, 1994; Stansbury, 2004; Jalilifar, Firuzmand, and Roshani, 2011; Coker & Coker, 2012; Kazeem, 2014).

Hernon and Duran (1993) and Duran and Hernon (1994) investigated the attitude of researchers in library and information sciences and other social science disciplines towards the structure of problem statement. They provided problem statement samples for this purpose. Nine characteristics of statement of the problem sections were identified: clarity and precision; identification of the study, while avoiding the use

of value-laden words and terms; identification of an overarching question and key factors or variables; identification of key concepts and terms; articulation of the study's boundaries or parameters; generalizability; showing the study's importance, benefits, and justification; absence of unnecessary jargon; and describing the data and providing a snapshot (Hernon & Duran, 1993, pp. 82-83). Applying the features of the problem statement discovered by P. Hernon and Duran (1993), Stansbury (2004) made content analysis of seven journals of library and information science. His study dwelled upon the following research questions:

1. To what extent do problem statements in library and information science research publications exhibit the attributes identified by Hernon and Duran (1993).
2. On the basis of this set of attributes, can characterizations be made of problem statements in published research writings of certain journals in the field of LIS? (Stansbury, 2004, p. 158)

Jalilifar et al. (2011) investigated the generic structure of problem statements in theses and proposals of applied linguistics. The main objective of the study was to find out differences in organization of statement of the problems in the field of Applied Linguistics. Data comprised 100 problem statement sections. It was analyzed by applying modified model of swales (1990). Results indicated that claiming centrality and outlining purposes were considered as optional elements as they were found in less than half of the theses whereas other steps were taken as compulsory. Coker and Coker (2012) analyzed the rhetorical structure of the statement of the research problem section of Master of Philosophy in English Language theses at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana. They manipulated Swales' CARS model (1990) for this purpose. Data consisted of twenty problem statement from M. Phil theses. They were selected randomly from the library of department. Data revealed that problem statements mainly presented two moves and students exhibited understanding of communicative functions of schematic structures.

Kazeem (2014) explored the move structure of problem statements in research article abstracts. He collected data from three hundred articles published in learned journals during 2001 and 2010. Articles were selected by using purposive sampling technique. Analysis was made by applying modality and mood of SFG. Results revealed that two rhetorical features are obligatory i.e. Picking out Inexistent Works (PIW) and Picking out Inadequacy of Existing Works (PIEW) whereas three other features present in problem statement are optional. Kazeem

concluded on the basis of his findings that awareness of move structure of problem statement provides learners insight into how and where to jot it down in abstract of article. Despite its importance in theses and proposals, this genre has drawn least attention of researchers. Few studies have been conducted to investigate the structure of this genre. Though Jalilifar et al. (2011), Coker and Coker (2012) and Kazeem (2014) have worked in this direction but no research has yet appeared in Pakistani context on the schematic structure of this genre. So this study explores the rhetorical moves found in problem statement sections in Ph.D. theses in the field of social sciences in Pakistani context. Following research questions are aimed to answer in this study.

1. What is the rhetoric structure of the statement of the problem sections of Ph.D. theses in discipline of social science?
2. What order of the moves does this section of theses observe?

2. Methodology

2.1. Materials

The data in this study comprises statement of the problem section of thirty Ph.D. theses in discipline of Social Sciences. Researcher have consulted 100 theses in the field of social sciences and found this section only in 30 theses which have been picked from HEC website. This section has been chosen for genre analysis as students in our context find difficulty in writing what is required of them in this section and this analysis reflected functional characteristics associated with this genre.

2.2. Instrumentation

Modified version of Swales' (1990) Create A Research Space (CARS) model used by Jalilifar et al. (2011) has been adapted in order to identify moves and steps in section of the statement of problem. By applying the model, statements of the problem have been described in terms of three moves (Move one, including claiming centrality, making topic generalization, and reviewing previous research; Move two, stating the problem/need, and indicating a gap; and Move three, constituting announcing present research, defining key terms outlining purposes and indicating significance) which have appeared with varying level of frequency in different problem statements. Besides move identification,

micro analysis has also been performed by examining steps in each move.

Table 1. Rhetorical Move Pattern of the Statement of the Problem Sections

Moves	Steps
Move 1. Establishing a territory	Step1. Claiming Centrality Step2. Making Topic Generalization Step3. Reviewing Previous Research
Move 2. Establishing a niche	Step1A. Stating the Problem/ Need Step1B. Indicating a Gap
Move 3. Occupying a niche	Step1 A. Announcing Present Research Step 1B. Defining Key Terms Step 2. Outlining Purpose Step 3. Indicating Significance of the Research

2.3. Data Analysis

Data have been analyzed by applying modified move structure model proposed by Swales (1990) to find out the rhetorical patterns of SP section in terms of macro and micro structures. At macro level, sequence and frequency of the moves have been identified whereas in micro-level analysis, steps in each move have been recognized. Data have been presented in form of frequency table. For further clarification, it has also been presented in form of bar and line graphs.

3. Result

Table 2. Frequency of Moves and Steps in Statement of Problem Sections in Discipline of Social Sciences

Moves	Frequency	Steps	Frequency
Move 1. Establishing a territory	12	Step1. Claiming Centrality	2
		Step2. Making Topic Generalization	10
		Step3. Reviewing Previous Research	1
Move 2. Establishing a niche	11	Step1A. Stating the Problem/ Need	10
		Step1B. Indicating a Gap	1
Move 3. Occupying a niche	27	Step1 A. Announcing Present Research	25
		Step 1B. Defining Key Terms	2
		Step 2. Outlining Purpose	9
		Step 3. Indicating Significance of the Research	1

Table 2 shows the frequency of moves and steps observed by researchers in their problem statement sections. Result indicates that twenty seven out of thirty statement of the problem have followed move three which includes occupying a niche. Four steps have been observed in this move. Step 1A (announcing the present research) is the most preferred step which has been included in twenty five out of thirty problem statement. It is realized in following types of expressions:

1. The present study explores the linguistic features of the language used in text messages in Pakistan. The study examines SMS language in a large corpus of 5000 text messages from multiple aspects.
2. The researcher wants to analyze the achievements of Adult Literacy, a Component of, National Plan of Action (2001-2015) of Education for All, and Development of Future Implementation Strategy.
3. A lexico-grammatical study of noun phrase in Pakistani English' intends to identify and explore these divergent trends regarding nouns and noun phrases at lexical and grammatical level so that the information may be used for the codification of Pakistani English.
4. This research intends to provide intertextual analysis of Updike's the Scarlet Letter trilogy by applying Julia Kristeva's theory of intertextuality as well as it will focus upon how updike tries to reconcile between private and public self and between body and soul.

5. This study focuses on need assessment of prevocational skills of the SWHI in Pakistan.
6. The study attempts to compare the administrative practices of public and private sector universities of Pakistan.

Only two of the theses have presented the step 1B which is related to definition of key terms used in the topic announced. Nine out of thirty theses have used the step of outlining the purpose of the study. For example:

1. The study aimed at developing an extension programme of Home Economics Education for Socio- economic uplift of the underprivileged.
2. This study aims at preparing and conducting a training program for studying its effectiveness in changing the teachers' attitude towards students' corporal punishment. The study further aims to explore the effect of change in the attitude of teachers about corporal punishment on students 'attitude towards learning and their achievement in Mathematics.
3. The proposed study aims at developing tolerance among students (prospective teachers) through classroom activities i.e. discussions, role play, and exposure to diverse literature.

So far as the move one and two are concerned, they are used in almost same frequencies i.e. twelve and eleven times respectively. In Move 2, which is establishing a niche, step one (stating the problem/need) is the main focus of researchers and have been used in ten of the total theses. Some of the examples from the data set are presented here.

1. Keeping in view the digitization benefits and demand for digital access to local scholarship, there is a need to study the prospects of digitization by exploring the demand for digitization and assessing the readiness of university libraries to meet this demand.
2. In view of the international research and emphasis on tolerance and its importance for a sustainable society, there is need to utilize education as an agent to promote tolerance.

Step two (making topic generalization) in move1 was employed by the writers more than any other steps in this move. It was used ten times in data set and was realized in following way:

1. Due to the implementation of CRC in Pakistan, there is ban on corporal punishment in schools but teachers still resort to it for disciplining children because change in behaviour and practice is

not possible only through legislative measures. It needs attitudinal change. Awareness about the harms of corporal punishment and awareness of its alternatives for behaviour modification through training may be helpful to change the attitude of teachers.

2. A country like Pakistan which has not yet achieved set standards of literacy, quantitative expansion of education is inevitable. It has been observed that in developing countries high priority was accorded to increase enrollment in recent past. The role of increased schooling, a central part of most development strategies, has become controversial because expansion of school attainment has not yet guaranteed improved economic conditions.

Step one and step three in move one are rarely present in study material. This finding is in contrast with the findings of Jalilifar et al. (2011) which showed considerable use of these steps in problem statement section of M.A proposals and theses in applied linguistics. Findings of this study do not correspond to the study on problem statement section in Ghana made by Coker and Coker (2012) in case of the distribution of all three moves and their relevant steps.

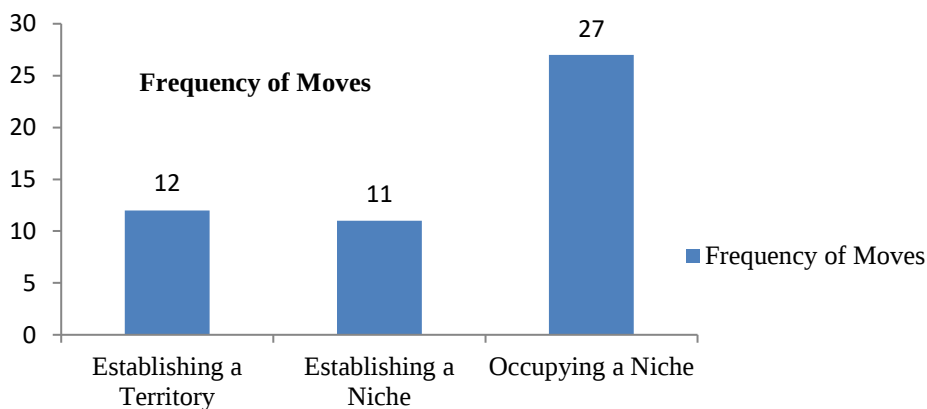


Figure1. Frequency of Move in Statement of Problem Sections in Ph.D. Theses

Figure 1 shows that move three which is occupying the niche is used in 27 problem statements whereas move one and two are observed in less than half of the data i.e. in 12 and 11 statements respectively.

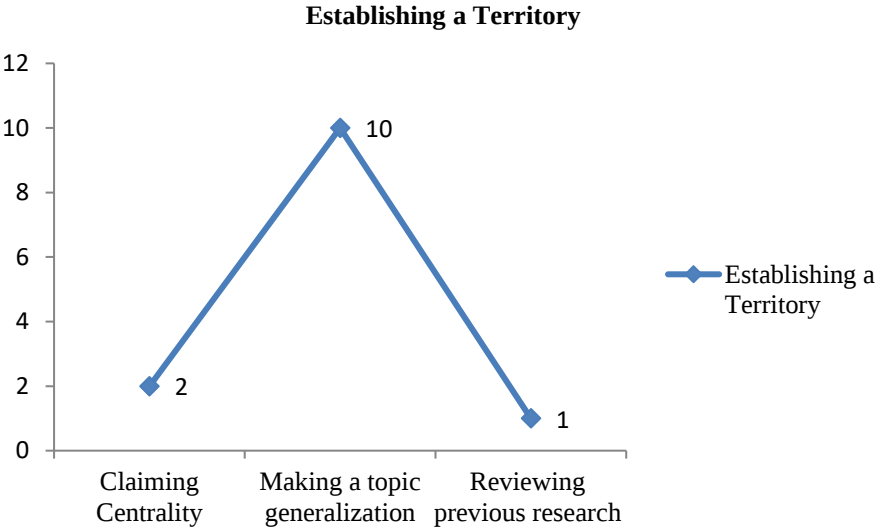


Figure.2. Frequency of Steps in Move 1

Figure 2 indicates the result of micro structure of move one. Step two (making a topic generalization) is applied ten of the theses whereas step one and three are rarely observed in this data set.

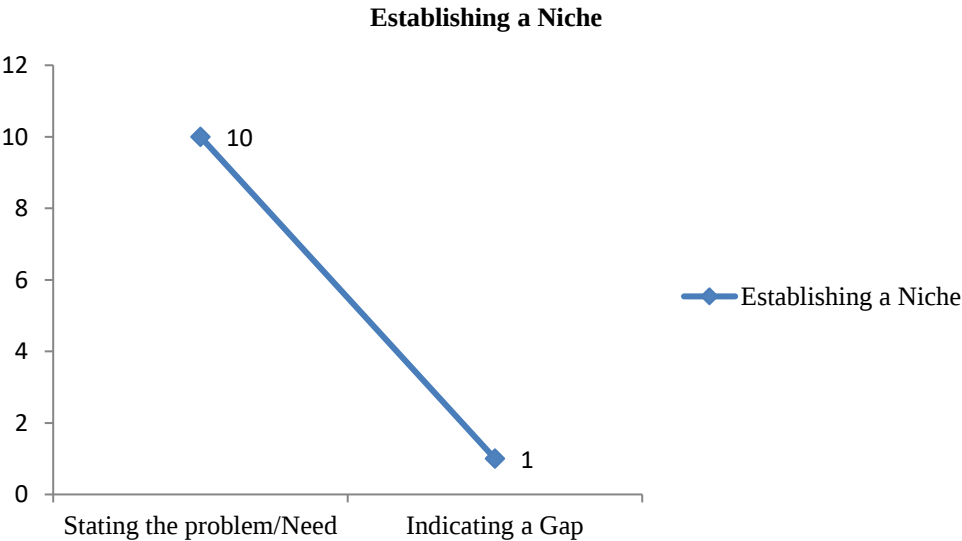


Figure 3 Frequency of Steps in Move 2.

Figure 3 presents the distribution of steps of move two in statement of the problem sections in theses. Step one which is related to the stating of problem/need is the preferred step in this move and it has been observed in 10 out of thirty theses.

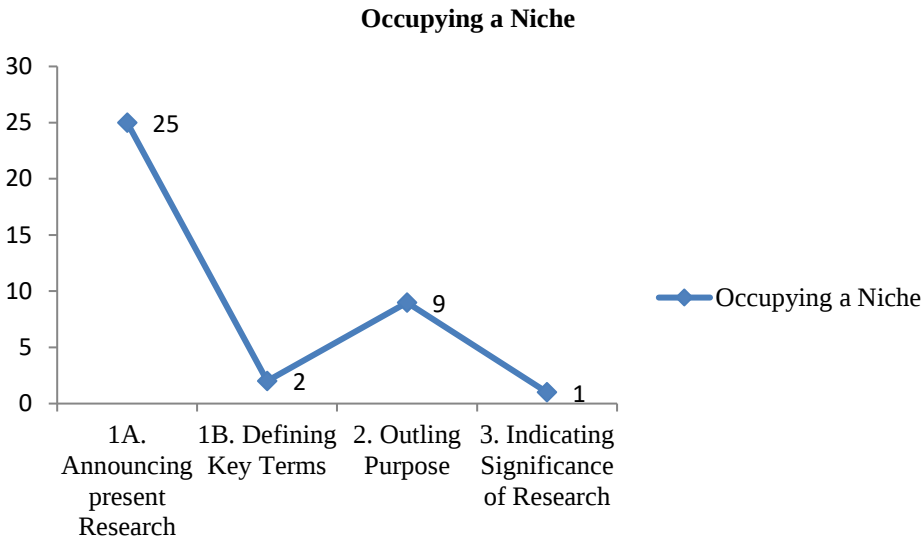


Figure 4 Frequency of Steps in Move 3

Figure 4 reflects the frequency of steps used in move three which is occupying a niche. Step 1A (announcing the present research) is presented in twenty five out of thirty theses. This is the step which has been used in highest frequency in this study material. Second preferred step in this move is step two in which researchers described the aim of their study. It has been applied in nine theses whereas in all other theses, the aim of the study was discussed in another section entitled objectives of the study.

3.1. Order and Number of Moves

More than half of the problem statement sections of all thirty theses selected for genre analysis, have only one move. Move three has been observed in 43% of the statement of the problem sections whereas move one and two have been found in 4% and 13% of the data respectively. In other 40% of the problem statements, multiple moves with varying order have been identified. Following table indicates the order and number of these moves.

Table 3 Order and Number of Moves

Statement of the Problem	Move Order	Number of Moves
06	1, 3	02
09	2, 3	02
12	1,3	02
13	1,3,1,3,1,3	02
14	1,2,3	03
21	1,3	02
22	1,3	02
24	2,3	02
26	1,2,3	03
27	2,1,3	03
28	3,2	02
30	1,2,3	03

Table 3 demonstrates that four out of thirty section of problem statement have applied three move patterns with almost similar order whereas eight problem statement have observed two move pattern with different moves and different order of the moves as table shows. In statement 6, 12, 21, 22, step three follows step one, on the contrary statements 9, 24 observe different pattern i.e. step two precedes step three.

4. Conclusion

On the basis of the analysis, following conclusion was drawn. Statement of the problem section of these observed three moves but with varying level of frequency. Move three was given highest representation whereas move one and two were applied with the same ratio. Step regarding the announcement of present research was the major focus of almost all the researchers which indicates its obligatory position. The findings revealed the researchers' inclination towards move three and many of the problem statements had only this step.

5. Recommendations for Further Research

This generic study may guide researchers towards the structure of this section of theses. It may draw the attention of the teachers in bringing to the notice of the novice researcher generic importance of this section of the theses. Researcher suggests that a comparative study of generic structure of statement of the problem can be conducted to highlight different patterns employed in different context. Besides, future researcher may examine the linguistic and grammatical feature of this

genre so that linguistic clues may be provided to students which are used in the realization of different communicative functions.

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Appendix

1. Statement of the Problem

Keeping in view the digitization benefits and demand for digital access to local scholarship, there is a need to study the prospects of digitization by exploring 12 the demand for digitization and assessing the readiness of university libraries to meet this demand.

1.3. Statement of the Problem

Keeping in view the previous discussion it seems desirable that a model for raising alternative funds for libraries should be developed in the Pakistani context.

3. statement of the problem

Keeping in mind the significance of field work and extension programme in Home Economics, the study aimed at developing an extension programme of Home Economics Education for the Socio-economic uplift of the underprivileged. The study was to be completed in four general phases listed below.

1. Assessment of pre-project situation with reference to Socio-economic conditions of selected under privileged areas.
2. Development of a model for extension programme of Home Economics education in the light of the assessed needs, and development of the instruments for evaluation of the extension programme.
3. Experimentation of the model of extension programme on a random sample of underprivileged women for a period of 6 months.
4. Evaluation of the extension model through application of tests and assessment of the impact of the Extension Programme on the socio-economic conditions of the subjects through the application of schedule.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This particular study was carried out to analyze the hydrophilic and hygroscopic properties, crease recovery, abrasion resistance and tensile strength of contemporary cotton-synthetic blend fabrics, available in the market, in relation to their behavior and end use requirements.

Clothing is our basic need so clothes should be durable, comfortable, long lasting. Also, they should be moderately priced so that all sections of society are satisfied. With these objectives, a comparative study of fifteen cotton-synthetic blends available in the local market in varying proportions of cotton and synthetic fiber was carried out.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This research was an attempt to find out the potential of nettle as a source of fibre in the Northern Montane Pakistan for cottage industry. It was focussed on the study of the availability of nettle plant in the areas of Murree, Khanaspur, Nathiagali, Barian and Ayubia, the resources available to extract fibre out of the plant and to investigate the prospects of cottage industry.

6. Statement of the Problem

Due to the implementation of CRC in Pakistan, there is ban on corporal punishment in schools but teachers still resort to it for disciplining children because change in behaviour and practice is not possible only through legislative measures. It needs attitudinal change. Awareness about the harms of corporal punishment and awareness of its alternatives for behaviour modification through training may be helpful to change the attitude of teachers. Hence this study aims at preparing and conducting a training program for studying its effectiveness in changing the teachers' attitude towards students' corporal punishment. The study further aims to explore the effect of change in the attitude of teachers about corporal punishment on students' attitude towards learning and their achievement in Mathematics.

7. Statement of the Problem

In order to improve students' achievement in science, a thorough understanding of factors of test anxiety and attitude towards science affecting students' achievement in science was necessary, so the problem to be investigated in this study was "Effect of Test Anxiety and Attitude towards Science on Students' Achievement in Science."

8. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

To review why this disparity is produced, and to what extent the desired objectives of Adult Literacy Component of NPA plan has been achieved and what strategy would be adopted to overcome the evil of illiteracy and how this country will be able to achieve the targets of NPA Plan of EFA. Being a very significant situation, the researcher wants

to analyze the achievements of Adult Literacy, a Component of, National Plan of Action (2001-2015) of Education for All, and Development of Future Implementation Strategy

9. Statement of the Problem

In view of the international research and emphasis on tolerance and its importance for a sustainable society, there is need to utilize education as an agent to promote tolerance. The proposed study aims at developing tolerance among students (prospective teachers) through classroom activities i.e. discussions, role play, and exposure to diverse literature.

10. Statement of the problem

Diagnosis and educational programming for the students with learning difficulties in mathematics

11. Statement of the Problem

This study focuses on need assessment of prevocational skills of the SWHI in Pakistan.

12. Statement of the Problem

The disadvantages of less developed countries in terms of educational enrollment and attainment have been well documented and are well known. For a country like Pakistan which has not yet achieved set standards of literacy, quantitative expansion of education is inevitable. It has been observed that in developing countries high priority was accorded to increase enrollment in recent past. The role of increased schooling, a central part of most development strategies, has become controversial because expansion of school attainment has not yet guaranteed improved economic conditions. The policy challenges facing most countries at the beginning of the 21st century including Pakistan are ones that have to do with quality, along with quantity. Higher quality translates into greater earnings for individuals over their lifetime. For those countries that stick to a path of real school quality improvement, investments in education have the potential to deliver truly large economic as well as social gains. So besides quantitative increase, enhancement in quality of education is also an important factor which has to be addressed. Keeping in view the importance of quality education, for the said study the researcher selected the topic entitled “A Comparative Study of Quality enhancement measures in public and private institutions at secondary level in Hazara region”; an effort has been made to study in-depth the role of public and private sector in education in provision of quality education at secondary level on important parameters of quality education.

13. Statement of the Problem

The Kalash community was one of the various communities residing in the Hindukush Mountains known as “Kafirs of Hindukush” who managed to survive in the once unapproachable three valleys (Bumburet, Birir and Rumbour) which were surrounded by the Hindukush Mountains. There are two main types of Kalash people residing in these valleys; the Red Kafirs (the majority group residing in the outskirt of Afghanistan border) embraced Islam and they became “*Nuristani*” (the people who are in light). The Black Kafirs “*Siah posh*” i.e. “Kalash” resisted the conversion, faced atrocities and migrated to far-flung inaccessible area, to remain loyal to the religion and tradition of their forefathers. Amongst the various ethnic groups of Hindukush of which Kalash is a part, occupied most of the regions in the north of Pakistan are now confined to three valleys comprising over six thousand inhabitants.

The purpose of this study is to understand the traditional culture of Kalash; their way of life, their aspirations and their efforts to evolve and meet the challenges for survival. Currently the people of Kalash is passing from the phase of *culturology*²⁹, their

traditions have delegated a specific identity which they maintained through their rituals, religious ideology, dress patterns, distinctive art and architecture and above all their social and marriage traditions. An attempt is made to collect the surviving memories about the Kalasha past, especially concerning their mythological knowledge and ritual behaviors. The details about their holy deities, shamans, open air sanctuaries, the village temple "*jestik han*", the cemeteries (old and new) their burial procedure and women menstruation houses are also observed in order to understand their cultural identity. The basic objective of this study is to identify that how and why Kalash community maintain their pre- Islamic cultural identity and traditions without assimilating, as their neighbours did, to the Islamic world around them. How this identity is well received and respected by others. It is believed that in developing a sustainable culture the impact of external and internal factors cannot be ignored. The manipulation and vested interests of foreign elements either in the form of Muhammadan Law or Greek Missionary has to be quantified. Kalash culture, more than anything else is a particular example of cultural invasion and the culture which has survived for more than two millennia appears to be dying and losing the charisma. It is important for Kalash people, "*to know thyself*"; as it is human instinct to seek its roots. At the moment the Greeks are tending to convince Kalash that they have a "Greek origin". Their distinct language, customs, religion and rituals have been a subject of speculation regarding their origin. They themselves have no clue about it. There are no artifacts or sculptures available which could throw some light on to the origin of Kalash. Since there is no concrete evidence of Greek lineage the people of Kalash are not recognized and individualized on the basis of their race but on their culture. Therefore their own tradition and culture delegates them a unique and true identity. The impact of conversion to Islam on Kalasha community and its culture is also analyzed. The people of Kalash were once satisfied with their simple way of life are no longer so. They now demand better educational and living facilities along with their active participation in local and national government. For them the imagined space of traditional culture in which they existed and maintained a closed group identity has been corrupted and widened. Now, when they have interacted with the outside world, they are aware of basic amenities of life and are inspired by the glamour of outside world; they don't want to remain in their cocoon forever hence they do not realize the bad influence of affluence that necessarily follows. The self determination of the youth in formulating "Kalash Identity" is also emphasized. Identity is not just limited to the geographical space where the group exists and that space may delegate a sense of belongingness to its people.

14. Statement of the Problem

Literature survey reflects that job satisfaction has always been a big question mark and in debate by the researchers since long. It is very important for the success or failure of any organization, including education. In developed countries the job satisfaction of teachers and administrators is given due importance but the condition in developing countries, like Pakistan is vice versa and also very few researches have been conducted in this regard, particularly at elementary level. The elementary level is the most crucial stage of education system as it lays down the foundation for further education. This study is to know the job satisfaction of academic and administrative staff working at elementary level in the education system of the Punjab, Pakistan

15 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The study attempts to compare the administrative practices of public and private sector universities of Pakistan.

The administrative practices include such as: amendments in university statutes; university operating bodies; its members selection; tenure; meetings; decision making practice; implementation of decisions; recruitment/selection/appointment and promotion of official and faculty; provision of facilities to faculty; administrative, financial and academic matters; establishment of new departments; allocation of funds; university timings suitability; scholarships; evaluation of the employees; Procedure for overcoming irregularities; university management; dealing of university with community, HEC; Government; and other universities; HEC influence in university affairs; students admission; and affiliation to colleges.

1.1. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Social justice and human rights are the fundamental outcomes of equality which is the origin of a democratic society. It is a matter of fact that women are the victims of inequalities in almost every aspect of life in the public and private spheres, regardless of the geographical location they are living in pathological conditions. The worst faces of this deep rooted discrimination against women can be witnessed in homes, the workplace and in overall society as well. However, in what manners women are discriminated against may vary from country to country, society to society and culture to culture. But the issue is universal. Stereotypes, tradition and cultural mind set, and some religious practices and beliefs are the reasons of unfavorable circumstances to women. (Vienna Declaration and Program of Action, 1993).

The term discrimination is derived from the Latin word 'discriminatio' which literally means to keep separate, to make distinction or to judge different members of society with bias. From a sociological perspective, discrimination is comprised of highly complex social process. Alex Thio explains that "discrimination is an unfavorable action against individuals that is taken because they are members of a certain category"(Thio, 1996: 266). According to J.M.Henslin (2000:330) discrimination is "an act of unfair treatment directed against an individual or a group."

Discrimination is opposed to the concept of equality. In general equality means treating everyone in the same manner. But in practice equality is far more than that. Injustice arises when people are treated unequally in equal situations. These situational imbalances

are the main hindrances in implementing true equality and hence they are required to be resolved. This broader view of equality has become a leading principle and ultimate objective in the struggle for recognition and acceptance of women's rights. (Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, 1993).

According to article 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979), the term discrimination against women "shall mean any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of the marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil any other field."

This definition not only covers direct and easily identifiable types of discrimination but it also covers the critical cases that might result from so called gender neutral laws, policies and practices, which are the real problem creator for women and their rights. These discriminatory acts are widespread and include any distinction, exclusion or restriction that results in biased opportunities for men and women with respect to their rights and freedoms in living everyday life. All women have to be granted equal rights, according to the Convention. Article 1 and article 3 of CEDAW Convention (1979) jointly oblige the States to eliminate any measures that are hindering the development and advancement of women and take appropriate steps to ensure women's rights. This also includes steps aimed at eliminating barriers faced by women that are rooted in the culture and customs of particular nations. The discrimination against women, what Connell (1987) describes as 'hegemonic masculinity', is a global phenomenon. It prevails in education, politics, and in pay scales. For example, in south Korea women make half of what men earn (Monk-Turner and Turner, 2000:223-236).

17

Statement of the Problem

This study was designed to explore the "Vocational rehabilitation and employment for disabled women in Pakistan".

18. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

There have been sporadic attempts to study Pakistani English and there is not even a

single objective and corpus based study of the variety that might determine the features of Pakistani English.

19. Statement of the Problem

The primary problematic of this study is to find out the ideologies, narratives and the factors that lead to radicalism and violence at the end in selected works of Dostoevsky.

I have tried to do with my conscious intention to find out the answers of the above mentioned questions in two selected novels of Dostoevsky.

20. Research Statement:

“Updike is not only inspired by Hawthorne’s thematic concerns but also questions and transforms his concept of sin in his own contemporary scenario”.

This research intends to provide intertextual analysis of Updike’s the Scarlet Letter trilogy by applying Julia Kristeva’s theory of intertextuality as well as it will focus upon how updike tries to reconcile between private and public self and between body and soul.

21. Statement of the Problem

The ever increasing use and role of English demands a systematic study of its various varieties in non-native contexts. Culture bound and ethnicized new Englishes need

to be studied at all levels of linguistic analyses. Pakistani English manifests many divergent trends from Standard British and American Englishes. The present research aims at exploring these divergent trends at noun and noun phrase level. ‘

A lexico-grammatical study of noun phrase in Pakistani English’ intends to identify and explore these divergent trends regarding nouns and noun phrases at lexical and grammatical level so that the information may be used for the codification of Pakistani English.

22. Statement of the Problem

This research is a semiotic study which aims at finding out signs and their relations in the press coverage and president George W. Bush’s speeches within the backdrop of colonial influence.

23.

1.2. Statement of the Research Problem

The performance and English language proficiency of students at the Intermediate level are far from satisfactory. Their prolonged stay both at schools and colleges does not significantly contribute to their linguistic proficiency. This deficiency may remain unresolved which in turn may affect their overall academic performance. It indicates that the present language teaching practices of English language teachers, which are central to language learning, at the Intermediate level need to be re-examined. The present study is an endeavour to evaluate the effectiveness of the current pedagogical practices of English language teachers at the Higher Secondary level in Islamabad, the capital territory of Pakistan.

24. Statement of the Problem

The present study explores the linguistic features of the language used in text messages in Pakistan. The study examines SMS language in a large corpus of 5000 text messages from multiple aspects.

The register specific language used in text messages is different in many ways from the formal language used for academic and official (making topic generalization)

25.

1.1. THE STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

English language teaching and learning is ineffective in secondary schools in Sana'a (Yemen). This is reflected in the performance of the students not only in their examinations but also in their inability to use English in any demanding situation in every day life. The possible cause for this is the passive role of the learners in the teaching/learning activities. Learner-centered approaches give a central role to the learners in the teaching/learning process. If a learner-centered approach is adopted, the learners can play an active role in the language classroom. This could offer a solution to the problem.

1.2. THE HYPOTHESES

26

THE PROBLEMS OF RESEARCH

Two problems have been identified in research on PE.

It has a great diversity.

All of it has not acquired stability

As discussed already in Chapter 1, there is a great diversity in the education of English and thereby a great diversity in the level of its acquisition and use. But the diversity is a problem in that the focus in linguistic research is on 'item analysis', and on the 'quantity' of data to make it authentic. The solution to this problem lies in, not looking for 'items' as 'product', but studying the 'process' of change in PE which may be some non-structural aspect of 'use'.

The best solution is, then, to abandon 'item analysis' and focus on studying 'the process of change in PE as may be evident in the use of English in a 'text'. It will allow to study less-stable divergences as well as the stable one without any a priori, arbitrary division.

The study of a text has many advantages:

- 1) It helps to identify divergent 'uses' as well as divergent structures.
- 2) A divergence can be studied together with the 'norm'.
- 3) A divergence can be 'interpreted' in relation to other features of the text.
- 4) It can be seen if it is a 'consistent' feature of the text or not.

Consequently, a text can not only furnish data, but also help to 'interpret' and explain it, without setting up a hypothesis before-hand. It helps to look at the language of an individual (idiolect), and many texts taken together can reveal the common features distinguished from those specific to particular texts. However, in this study many texts will not be taken together. The aim in this investigation is not to produce a great quantity of data, but to study the 'phenomenon' of change. Hence methods and techniques of the quantitative research have been abandoned in favour of the qualitative research methodology. This is introduced in detail in section 2. 4.

Before explaining the aim and method of the present research in detail, it is important to present a review of researches already done on this topic. Research on PE is, however, meagre, and many related linguistic issues are explored in other South Asian varieties of English. Hence it may be necessary to not only describe the views and conclusions drawn about PE but also relate important conclusions of other researches on non-native varieties of English, if necessary. In the following section the review of literature is presented.

27.

1.1 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEMS

This research was an attempt to investigate the relationship between some social and psychological variables and the children's academic achievement in Azad Kashmir. It was focussed on the study of relationship between father's occupation, parents education, interest for their children's education, parental control permissive versus restrictive, children's level of self-esteem and academic achievement of children of class tenth, the age level of children was between 14-16 years.

28. Statement of Problem

The study undertaken deals with "practices of Financial Management by Working Home Makers and its Implications on Goal Achievements". Money is one of the most important resources as practically all the goods and services are brought out of it and determines the standard of living. Therefore, most of

the success of family management depends on the satisfactory management of family finances for maximum achievement of goals.

29.

Statement of the Problem

It is a fact that an efficient educational information system for the exploitation of national and international information is a prerequisite for the development of a country. Educational administrators require various types of information and data for efficiently carrying out their official assignments. They can only do this in a context, which allows them to access, use, validate and communicate required information.

However, the problem is that in Pakistan no such information system exists to facilitate the educational administrators and decision makers. Currently, Pakistan has one institution that conducts research on educational issues; National Educational Management Information System (NEMIS) working under Academy of Educational Planning and Management conducts research on basic education only. However, its abilities are hampered by inadequate funds, non-institutionalized basis for collecting, processing and analyzing data, non-availability of technical support staff and little influence in policy making (Human Development Foundation, 2004). Without a reliable flow of valuable data, the impact of NEMIS with respect to any building and informing of institutions would be insignificant. Nevertheless, in the light of NEMIS's original objectives, a basic weakness in the project has been insufficient attention and effort given by the government and project management to establish NEMIS as an integral part of the existing government structure. The respective roles of NEMIS at the national and provincial levels are not clarified. There is lack of operational relationships between the national level and the provincial level, though the minimum forms of cooperation are necessary to assure statistics for national planning needs (Thomas & Khan, 1993). As a result, there is a gap in the provision of required, authentic and reliable information/data to the educational administrators working at tehsil/district/divisional level. In the absence of such information, they have to fill the gaps by approximation and they feel the need of having an efficient information system (Hashmi, 1984). Therefore, a management information system, badly needed by the Education Department of Pakistan, should be devised and established. Data on all educational institutions, teachers and facilities should be collected and computerized and programs should be designed to agglomerate and recall specific information needed by the administrators (UNESCO, n.d.). In this perspective, the problem addressed in this study will lead the researcher to identify the information needs and seeking behavior of educational administrators in Pakistan and then proposing a draft model for enabling them to make well informed decisions.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

This study focuses attention on the information need and information seeking behavior of

the **media practitioners (MPs)** in Karachi.

These needs are felt to meet the informational requirement for performing the professional activities. To satisfy their needs, they search various information channels such as library, information center, online service or conversation with some other persons. We call this pattern "Information Seeking Behavior".

MPs are staff members of mass media i.e. radio, television and newspaper/news agencies. They are involved in professional activities. Media practitioners from radio houses include producers, news editors, deputy controllers, and program/duty officers, anchor persons/hosts. They are involved in production of news, current affairs and research-based programs on different topics such as health, children, religion, and social issues. Some times they also make documentaries.

Participants from television houses include producers, reporters, researchers, news editors, in charges news section, in charges current affair programs, program managers, assistant directors, research coordinators, directors, assistant directors, sub-editors, news managers, anchors, director programs, director current affair programs, staff reporters, chief reporters, sports editors.

Participants from newspaper/ news agencies include editors, executive editors, deputy editors, associate editors, news editors, assistant editors, editorial directors, reporters, sub-editors, and feature writers. Some participants are page/magazine In-charges while some are desk in-charges.
