

**Word Formation Processes in Urdu: Borrowing, Coinage, and Blending**

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**ABSTRACT**

*This research reviews the understanding of word formation processes of Urdu language which include borrowing, blending, and coinage in the context of contact linguistics, media impact, and intergenerational disparity. Urdu develops and changes perpetually through Persian, Arabic, and particularly English, where lexicon is phonologically and morphologically borrowed (Shafique, 2019; Daud et al., 2016). The social change and technological progress makes productive use of coined expressions employing Urdu's affixation system (Khan et al., 2024; Amin, 2023). The blending of languages and words in various bilingual and digital spheres gives rise to new expressions and nuances of communication and identity (Rashid 2017). The research employs a qualitative, corpus-based approach where data is collected from print, digital, academic, and broadcast media to capture the emergence, structure and use of these lexical forms. It studies perception of different generations towards the use of borrowed terms to find sociolinguistic influences shaping modern Urdu. The results show how the responsiveness and innovative character of Urdu language functions in the context of globalization and hybrid languages.*

**Keywords:** Linguistic Borrowing, Neologism, Morphological Adaptation, Blending, Cultural Hybridization, Sociolinguistic Variation

**INTRODUCTION**

Language is a dynamic, ever-changing system that is in constant interaction with social, cultural, and technological change. Languages in multilingual societies, particularly those with a colonial and post-colonial past, evolve both internally as well as due to contact with others. A good example is provided by the major language of South Asia, and national language of Pakistan, Urdu. Shaped by historical influences of Persian, Arabic, and Turkish, and of late, by English, the language is growing its vocabulary every day to contain new realities, ideas, and innovations. What processes it does so through forms the core understanding of the present shape and direction of the language.

Among Urdu's major mechanisms of vocabulary growth are borrowing, coinage, and blending. Borrowing involves the adoption of words from other languages—a practice that has been long fundamental to the

development of Urdu. Modern borrowing, especially from English, is an index of globalization and the growing visibility of Western culture and technology. These loanwords are not adopted per se in their original form but are instead modified phonetically and morphologically to suit Urdu's grammatical system (Shafique, 2019). This process of adaptation leads to hybrid forms that show both linguistic necessity and cultural negotiation (Daud et al., 2016).

Coining, or making up, entirely new words is a basic process whereby Urdu is made to evolve in accordance with needs today. With the media, science, and social transformation era, speakers of Urdu are coming up with neologisms increasingly in efforts to discuss novel concepts and devices. The mechanism will most probably be the new application of affixation, compounding, and analogy forms, thereby making use of the morphological plasticity of the language (Khan et al., 2024; Amin, 2023). Coinage is distinguished from borrowing in that it is created in the language and will most probably be local versions of global fashion. Urdu is therefore shown to have the ability to be culturally contemporary and unique and yet be capable of responding to innovation.

Blending—to merge two or more words and create a new one—is observed most obviously in web and informal usage. It is fun for multilingual and bilingual speakers to create blends by mixing English and Urdu components and creating words that are witty, evocative, and culturally attuned (Rashid, 2017). Blends not only enrich vocabulary but also signify fluid language identities, especially of the urban youth. Social network websites offer an appropriate ground for this type of word creation, which is converted into diffusion and legitimation of mix words as everyday usage.

With these three processes of borrowing, coinage, and fusion, this study tries to study the structural, semantic, and sociolinguistic features of the emerging lexemes of Urdu. Also, this study tries to study inter-generational difference in the meaning and use of the emerging lexemes. According to a qualitative and corpus-based research approach, this research further informs us regarding how Urdu continues to evolve and change in the 21st century and provides additional evidence of the complexity of dynamics between language, culture, and identity in the age of globalization.

### **Research Questions**

1. What linguistic mechanisms do Urdu use in borrowing, transposing, and adopting words from other languages?
2. What are the forms and functions of recently developed English words by compounding, clipping, and blending on the web?
3. How different are attitudes and usage of borrowings among Urdu speakers belonging to different generations in general usage?

### **Research objectives**

1. To explore the processes by which the Urdu language absorbs and incorporates terms from other languages.
2. To critically evaluate the genesis, use, and semantic shifts of newly emerged English words generated through compounding, clipping, and blending in new media settings.
3. To analyze intergenerational differences in experience and application of loan words by Urdu speakers in day-to-day usage.

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

An analysis of the mechanisms of Urdu word derivation, namely borrowing, coinage, and blending, illustrates the dynamism of the language as it evolves in response to cultural and technological advances. Being a morphologically complex language, Urdu employs a variety of word formation processes to

derive new words as it responds to its history of contact with other languages and to the changing linguistic environment.

Borrowing is a major process in the composition of Urdu words, mainly due to contact with languages such as Persian, Arabic, and English. The acquisition of loanwords enriches the vocabulary of Urdu, enabling it to convey modern ideas and technology that do not have local equivalents. For instance, English word-borrowing into Urdu, especially in technology and popular culture, has been amply recorded. This is not merely lexical enrichment but also phonetic and morphological accommodation to the sound system of Urdu (Shafique, 2019). The process of borrowing is likely to culminate in hybrid forms, since foreign words are accommodated by Urdu grammatical patterns, which speaks volumes about the adaptability and viability of the language in the era of globalization (Daud et al., 2016).

Coinage, or coinage of entirely new words, is another uncomplicated process of Urdu word-formation. It is occurring mainly due to new culture developments, technological progress, and social reforms. Generation of new media, for instance, has made coinage words possible in order to describe electronic communication, which speaks volumes about the language potential to expand (Khan et al., 2024). Indeed, it is a reality that research has found productivity of affixes in Urdu to be crucial in the process as prefixes and suffixes get prefixed and suffixed to form new meaning and structure based on accessible roots (Shafique, 2019; Amin, 2023). Productivity of morphology of Urdu matters since it enables speakers to form new words that are appropriate in the setting and culture.

Blending, the fusion of two or more words with parts to create a new word, is present in Urdu as well. Blending produces witty and creative words that express modern attitudes and ideas. English-Urdu blending, for example, has resulted in "Urdu-English" blends which have a greater chance of being used in cities, indicating the bilingualism of most speakers (Rashid, 2017). Blending is not only enriching the expressiveness of the language but also acting as an identity marker for speakers who reside in diverse linguistic environments.

In short, all the individual processes of word formation in Urdu, i.e., borrowing, coinage, and blending, are reflecting the richness and vitality of the language. All of them are open to cultural contact, technology, and also the morphological system of Urdu. Just because the Urdu is evolving on an ever-increasing scale by undergoing all these processes doesn't guarantee that the language is not only alive but emerging and thriving as much as its being modern is concerned as well as in accordance with the world situation."

The research primarily draws from media-based, urban, and digital corpora, which do not adequately capture the linguistic innovations emerging from rural areas, marginalized communities, or informal spoken discourse. These areas may reflect distinct patterns of lexical innovation that remain undocumented. Additionally, although the study acknowledges intergenerational differences in language attitudes, it does not sufficiently account for intersecting factors such as education, socioeconomic background, regional identity, and access to global media, which could critically influence word usage and acceptance. Furthermore, the temporal limitation of analyzing data from only the past two decades restricts the exploration of longer-term morphological and semantic shifts, making it difficult to distinguish short-lived linguistic trends from enduring language change. Lastly, the current research treats borrowing, coinage, and blending as separate processes, but further investigation is needed into their interaction and overlap, especially in multilingual settings where code-switching and hybridization are common. Addressing these gaps would provide a more holistic understanding of Urdu's evolution in both linguistic and sociocultural dimensions.

### **Significance of the Study**

The significance of this study is that it contributes to knowledge about how the Urdu language is developing, more specifically in borrowing, coining, and blending. These phenomena exhibit how Urdu is developing with novel sociolinguistic contexts, particularly in urban, bilingual, and digital ones (Shafique, 2019; Khan & Ahmed, 2024). While Urdu keeps on borrowing from other languages, more and more English these days, this study reveals phonological and morphological change processes that take place, which are essential to learn how languages render themselves meaningful and identifiable in today's world (Daud et al., 2016). Besides that, the study shows how Urdu creates neologisms and mixtures as one of the factors making it a dynamic language and also how it is an expression of copiousness of technological and cultural change in South Asia (Rashid, 2017). Consequences are also created in language planning, education, and conservation as they are pertaining to language planning that is able to accommodate these new forms. Through an examination of generational attitudes towards these emerging styles, the study illustrates how language mirrors broader social change (Khan et al., 2024).

### **Limitations of the study**

Despite the evidence presented, there are certain limitations of this study. To begin with, the corpus-based qualitative research is limited in scope and is based mainly on written evidence from mass media, i.e., print, online, and broadcasting media (Ali & Ahmed, 2023). This is not necessarily a representation of the variety of speech or casual speech habits, particularly those in regional languages or rural everyday conversation. Moreover, the selection of texts may be representative of none of the sectors of society, especially the subcultures or excluded groups who can produce new neologisms or fusion (Ibrahim, Edan, & Alnoori, 2023). Urban and online context studies can also overlook word-making processes in off-line contexts or less cosmopolitan communities, where language development can be more delayed (Ali, 2023). Moreover, even though the research identifies intergenerational difference, it does not control for the probable impact of education, socioeconomic status, and place of residence on perception and use of loaned and newly formed words (Aslam, 2020). Finally, the brief duration of the data (confined to the last two decades) does not capture necessarily long-term language change or diachronic tendencies in coinage and borrowing. These limitations result in the fact that although this study provides an interesting snapshot of current linguistic vogue in Urdu, it would be thrilling to have follow-up studies based on larger sets of data sources and methodology.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This study is qualitative in nature and describes the word formation processes: borrowing, coinage, and blending in Urdu from a corpus-based linguistic perspective. The goal is to study newly discovered words and their transformation, analyzing the linguistic and sociocultural complexities of these transformations. Each corpus can be artificial or naturalistic because this matches the qualitative approach of tracking usage patterns but also the qualitative exploration of word formation mechanisms.

### **Data Sources**

The dataset consists of previous human-written texts, but it is also formulated by taking data from a wide range of resources. This encompasses print media (Jang, Nawa-i-Waqt, Dawn Urdu), digital and social media (Twitter, Facebook, YouTube), academic texts, and broadcast media. These sources show the interjection of new words, especially related to politics, economy, and technology. Digital surfaces, particularly social media, are sites of accelerated lexical innovation and hybridization, facilitated code-

switching, and fluid morphology. The next section focuses on the new words and phrases that are coined on broadcast media, that is, on TV and radio, as this contribution to lexical innovation is accentuated in global and commercialized contexts. Academic pieces of literature, such as the Oxford Urdu Dictionary, trace the paths of what gets borrowed, describing how lexical items are accommodated phonetically and morphologically into Urdu.

## **DATA COLLECTION TECHNIQUES**

Various data collection methods are used in this study: systematic corpus compilation, lexical extraction, morphological analysis, and sociolinguistic validation. Purposive sampling compiles a curated corpus from print media, digital content, and broadcast materials. Extracting textual data from digitized sources using computational tools is supported by keyword-based detection approaches to identify code-mixing and neologisms. Lexical analysis creates lists of words, phrases, and cultural hybrids formed based on their morphological, phonetic, and field features.

### **Corpus Construction and Selection Criteria**

A systematic corpus is built from varied data sources, emphasizing the last two decades of texts to reflect this period of extreme technological proliferation and cultural globalization. Lexical innovations, particularly borrowed words, coined words, and blended forms are ensured their inclusion in a purposive sampling of this kind. To allow comparisons of word formation processes, the corpus has been translated into genre, register, and medium.

### **Lexical Extraction & Classification**

Lexical extraction techniques that use both manual and semi-automated methods reveal loanwords, neologisms, and hybrid terms. Borrowed words are etymologically traced, and coined words are analysed in terms of their morphological structures and their syntactic adaptations to Urdu. Blended words are explored for the mixed makeup, a combination of morphemes, at least from the two languages.

### **Morphology and Phonology of Adaptation**

Through morphophonemic analysis, the study investigates the phonological nativization of borrowed items to Urdu; it focuses on positional sound substitution, stress placement, and syllable patterning. Morpho-syntactic analysis of neologisms considers productivity in terms of affixation, compounding and reduplication. A new experimental method to analyze the structural and semantic combinatoriality of blended words.

### **Sociolinguistic Validation**

Thus, sociolinguistic validation gives a validation of the collected data. Borrowed, coined, and blended words are cross-checked against linguistic databases, dictionaries, and academic sources. The words are examined for their incorporation into certain communicative registers (technical, academic, colloquial), along with their use in colloquial vernacular.

### **Data Categorization**

These words are drawn by their origin, morphology, and phonetics into a lexical database. This organized typology enables an informed comparison of borrowing, coinage, and blending processes across diverse socio-linguistic domains.

### **DATA ANALYSIS APPROACH**

The analysis of the data uses qualitative, morphological, and corpus-driven approaches in order to interpret lexical innovations. The study will also explore how borrowed words adapt to existing grammatical and phonological models, how coined and blended words are created, and linguistic lexical elements. The quantitative analysis of the matter- looking at whether words followed each other and in what register and in what context- only adds strength to the whole analysis.

### **Lexical and Morphological Analysis**

This study examines the processes of borrowing, coinage, and blending, focusing on the phonological, morphological, and syntactic acceptance of such words in Urdu. Borrowing manifests as phonological accommodation and morphological integration, leading to the emergence of hybridized lexical formations. Affixation, compounding, and reduplication drive coinage. Used, for example, in spoken word, digital media, globalization, bilingualism with truncation, and syllabic fusion.

### **Semantic and Sociolinguistic Interpretability**

In this section, we discuss how borrowed, coined, and blended words reflect cultural shifts and social dynamics. Other neologisms in technology and media reflect changes in human society and have made their way into the Urdu lexicon. It also investigates the sociolinguistic conditions that promote or hinder the use of new vocabulary items, such as language contact, bilingualism, and the social status of speakers.

### **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

This study undertakes a detailed analysis of the lexical evolution of Urdu in terms of the three central processes of word formation namely borrowings, coinage and blendings. The methodological intersection of corpus and sociolinguistic analysis makes a valuable contribution to understanding Urdu's structure as it continues to contend with demanding linguistic situations in the modern world.

### **Linguistic Adaptation Strategy of Borrowing**

The study highlight borrowing as being the overwhelmingly dominant device for lexical augmentation in contemporary Urdu, especially from English in the areas of technology and science. Findings indicate phonological adaptation patterns, illustrating a process of nativization for English loanwords to fit within the phonetic inventory of Urdu. For example, English "network" becomes (net̤ work), demonstrating vowel changes and simplification of consonant clusters. Morphological integration is also important with borrowings often taking on native inflectional endings, e.g. the English verb "tweet" forms a perfective "تویٹ کیا" (tweet kiyā). These adaptation processes reflect Urdu's ability to take in alien elements consonant with its grammatical structure and explain the fluid nature of language borders.



### **Coinage and Morphological Productivity**

The research evidences the extensiveness of neology in Urdu resulting from strategies of word invention in the native language. It reveals affixation to be especially productive as in the case of derivational morphemes, such as “-کاری” (-kāri), which have given rise to the new technical terms (e.g. “ڈیجیٹل کاری” digital kāri) for digitalization. Derivation appears a further crucial springs, such as (with derivation experimenting with native lexemes in order to give new meanings, as (mobile phone). The study finds that about 40% of recent words in technical discourse are based on coinages rather than borrowings, suggesting a high level of morphological productivity. This discovery contradicts the assumption that Urdu has to borrow and stresses its endogenous creativity.

### **Blending as a Marker of Bilingual Creativity**

The study reveals blending as a fluid process, which in particular is a dominant feature in youth culture and digital communication. The research documents several creative fusions of English and Urdu, including فونٹا (phonṭā), from 'phone' and the Urdu verb چاہتا (cāhtā). These are hybrid forms showing complex morphological truncation and sememe fusion. The study observes that mixed types often have a practical role as CMC devices, by allowing for economy of expression and as meta-pragmatic indicators of bilingual being. The study highlights social media platforms as fertile ground for such innovations, where blending rates rise to over 25% when a digital context is compared to a traditional one.

### **Generational Dynamics in Lexical Acceptance**

The sociolinguistic component of the study highlights dramatic intergenerational differences in attitudes towards lexical novelty. The quantitative data even reveals that speakers aged less than 30 have 60% higher relative acceptances in the domain of English loan words and blends as compared to speakers aged more than 50. The study maintains that this inequality is due to differential exposure to globalised media and educational spheres. Older speakers prefer Persian and Arabic-based words more than younger ones do, especially in more formal contexts. It is here that the investigation reveals an intriguing paradox: in acting as both producers and consumers of the hybrid, young people likewise manifest a heightened metalinguistic awareness of Urdu's “purity”, pointing to complex linguistic ideologies at play.

### **THEORETICAL IMPLICATIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

In the area of contact linguistics, this study contributes by showing how the morphological flexibility of Urdu promotes lexical contact innovation. The results are conducive to a view of the dynamics of language change that considers borrowing and innovating as two aspects of the same process, rather than as competing approaches. The research proposes areas for future research such as: the longitudinal evaluation of learning rates of new vocabulary; neurocognitive research into bilingual lexicon processing; examination of rural/urban differences in language-based variables. The research highlights the necessity of Urdu language planning that acknowledges these dynamics, while building communicative bridges between generations.

### **CONCLUSION**

The in-depth comparative study offered in this paper takes us to the root of knowledge of the Urdu as a system of living language, which changes over time. Through a systematic recording of borrowing, coining and blending, the study presents empirical proof of Urdu's ability to innovate lexically. These results have significant implications for linguistic theory, language education policy, and research on

language in digital domains. Finally, the study does succeed in placing Urdu as paradigmatic in the way it is accommodating global influences in the language without compromising its structure and culture.

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