



Abstract: *The survey study investigates the intergenerational attitudinal shift towards English from the Punjabi language with a focus on three generations (male and female) population of Lahore ageing 55 years and above, 35 to 54 and 15 to 34. A twenty-five questions questionnaire was administered on randomly selected sixty subjects for the quantitative data analyzed qualitatively. The numerical analysis was carried out to see the intergenerational shift towards English from the Punjabi language. For this purpose, the regression and ANOVA are conducted in SPSS (Statistical Software). The results reflect that the Punjabi language, though rich in literature and history, does not find a status that is enjoyed by English or Urdu. Hence the study recommends that to save the Punjabi language from social death; it may be taught as a language at schools so that the coming generations may enjoy speaking, reading and writing of Punjabi language as a living language like others.*

Key Words: Attitudinal Shift, Punjabi, Urdu and English Languages, Socio-Academic Needs, Language Death

Introduction

Language is a unique characteristic of human beings. It is the most significant element of human activities. It is used for communication, expression and a source of coordination among members of any society. Every language has its own importance and value in the world. Each language is representative of a specific region or culture which has the specific norms, values and ideologies of that culture. Language is not inherited; it is transmitted through culture. Apart from the objective mean of communication, language is closely related to the ethnic, social and cultural identities of its speakers [Appel & Muysken, 1987; Liebkind, 1999].

Pakistan is a heterogeneous country consists of different people having different cultures and languages such as Balochi, Pashto, Punjabi and Sindhi and many other regional languages. Though Punjabi is the language of people in the majority in the province of Punjab, it is not enjoying the good status. Punjabi is sometimes considered derogatory language as it is not used in formal situations even by the Punjabi speakers; hence, they cannot read and write Punjabi properly. Zaidi [1990] asserts that only 2% of people know how to read and write Punjabi. According to Rammah [2002], commonly, the Punjabi language is used by 60% of people in the

household, but now the use of the Punjabi language is decreasing day by day. The social status and temperament of the English and Punjabi language are not equal. The English language is a global language, whereas Punjabi is a parochial language spoken by 44 % of the population of Pakistan.

Focus of the Research

The study focuses on investigating the intergenerational attitudinal shift towards English from the Punjabi language by having a sample from Lahore (Pakistan). The main focus of the study is on three generations. The first generation or sample is determined as male/female from the age group of 55 years and above. The second-generation or sample is from the age of 35 to 54 years, and the third generation consists of both male and female of 15 to 34 years of age group. The study has been delimited to randomly selected sixty respondents representing each age group.

Hypotheses

H1: There exist various attitudes towards Punjabi and English; people are more inclined towards English.

* Ph.D Scholar, Department of Education, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan.

Email: nosheen_naqvi@ymail.com

† Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Education, Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan.

† Lecturer (English), Department of Social Sciences, University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan.

H2: Being a mark of modernization and language of the privileged class, English has superseded the Punjabi language because of socio-economic and academic needs.

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the study are to:

1. Throw light on the governmental policies which played a role in the deterioration of Punjabi.
2. To investigate the causes of intergenerational attitudinal shift and inclination towards English from the Punjabi language.

Research Questions

Following are the research questions for the study:

1. What are the perceptions of various age groups in Lahore about English and Punjabi languages?
2. What is the status of English and Punjabi languages in the Pakistani context, with the main focus on Lahore by keeping in view the delimitation of the study?

Methodology and Procedure

The questionnaire containing twenty-five items has been administered on sixty subjects selected randomly, and the attitudinal language shift has been determined in percentage as well as by finding mean and standard deviation. The quantitative data have been qualitatively analyzed and discussed for findings and conclusion. The numerical analysis is also carried out to see the intergenerational shift towards English from the Punjabi language under the questionnaire study. For this purpose, the regression and ANOVA are conducted in SPSS (Statistical Software). The recommendations have been forwarded in light of the conclusion of the study.

Literature Review

A language is a tool which is used for multipurpose, such as expression, communication and developing co-operation among society members. Every language has its own significance on the globe. [Michael Krauss \(1980\)](#) has mentioned the scientific, aesthetic and moral significance of every language in the world. He is of the view that unique languages of people make this world extra lovely due to the fact every language represents the expertise, cultural values and norms which have developed within the centuries. Language is an outcome of subculture, transferred from one generation to the opposite [\(Hamers & Blanc, 1989\)](#). Language offers strength to the audio system to look at the world from a specific lens [\(Reyhner, 1996\)](#).

[Eveyik \(1999\)](#) seconds the scholars who define 'attitude' as a position of readiness to react to a state of affairs or an item in a constant manner. They have a look at of language mindset is related to the perceptions that human beings have about linguistic sorts and the way these perceptions are related to the attitudes of various users of language [\(Meyerhoff, 2008\)](#). Language attitudes talk over with the mindset of humans, which they have got in the direction of different languages and in the direction of their own language. Language attitudes are perceived as linguistic alternatives and alternatives. Additionally, they take place the emotions of people in the direction of unique language [\(Crystal, 1992; Trudgill, 2003\)](#). According to [Schiffman \(1997\)](#), language attitudes are studied to explore the attitudes of people in the perspective of the shift of language within a specific community and in general and the status of a language and its speakers.

Attitudes are the most important to the progress, decay and stability of any language. While the negative attitude towards any language causes the decay of the language, and it motivates the people to leave their native language. We can say that the attitude of the language speaker also determines language life. Bhatt and Mehboob are of the view that the notion of majority and minority is problematic. They have raised a point that language status is difficult to define without taking its functional scopes. They present an argument that a "sociological definition of the term, based on functional vitality [\(Bhatt & Mehboob, 2008\)](#)

Saiqa (2005) had used the term 'language desertion' for the first time. The term language desertion shows the behavior of the speaker towards their native language that how other language becomes the cause of the abandonment of their mother tongue, despite having the ability to resist the pressure of the dominant language. It is modernization that is undermining the lower or less powerful language such as Punjabi. The change in mother tongue has been given the name of 'language shift' by sociolinguists. Language shift comes with the adoption of a second or foreign language by an individual. For language shift, bilingualism is an essential condition because child and parent must share one language in common with each other. The stage when one becomes bilingual, he/she leaves his/her mother tongue, and as a result, language shift occurs.

The elimination of a language is an outcome of language shift. Political centralization is the most renowned explanation for the language shift. Language shift may occur through the selection of standard languages for the education and

administration and both for the reasons of efficiency and to undermine the national loyalties and strengthen their adoption ([Dasgupta 1970](#); [Weber 1976](#); [Brass 1994](#)). Mass media, from television to newspaper, reinforces the accession and identification with the language in the majority ([Anderson 1991](#)).

The survival and decay of a language depend upon the role of parents. [Clyne and Kipp \(1999\)](#) describe that home plays a very vital role in the sustenance of a language. If language is not sustained in the domestic area, then it cannot be sustained anywhere in the world. The local population plays a very important role in the growth and development of any language. Within the family, language shift depends upon the parents who transmit only the foreign language to the children. As far as the Punjabi language is concerned, in Pakistan, most of the people speak Punjabi, especially in the province of Punjab. This research revolves around the attitudes of the people of Lahore towards Punjabi.

The English language has meagre native speakers in Lahore; even then, it is enjoying a very good status as compared to the Punjabi language; rather, it has marginalized all regional languages. On the other hand, Punjabi, with a large number of speakers, is losing its status day by day. The English language is promoted at the cost of the Punjabi language. By ignoring the fact that Urdu is spoken by only seven percent of the population, it has been

announced as the national language. The basic idea behind this policy was to make the Urdu language the 'lingua Franca of Pakistan. Thus due to these policies, English, Urdu, and Punjabi language have become the hallmark of various classes in society.

English is the trademark of the elite class; Urdu is the trademark of the middle class, even as the Punjabi language represents the illiterates ([Rahman, 2002](#)). People consider the English language the key to success and to attain a prosperous future. The people who know the English language are considered prestigious and intelligent. The Punjabi language is facing great pressure in Pakistan ([Mansoor, 1993](#); [Rahman, 2002](#)). The Punjabi language normally is not being used as a tool of instruction, nor it is taught in the schools as a subject. Thus people normally do not know how to write and read it. The Punjabi language is also not being used officially. There are many negative attitudes attached to it. Most of the educated people who speak Punjabi also use English and Urdu language as per need. The use of Punjabi as a basic language in their lives is shrinking day by day. In this scenario, it is noticed that there are many educated families who belong to the urban status in society, are not transferring language to their children; rather, they are switching towards English and Urdu in their daily use of language.

Population and Procedure

The population of this research work is the educated citizens of Lahore.

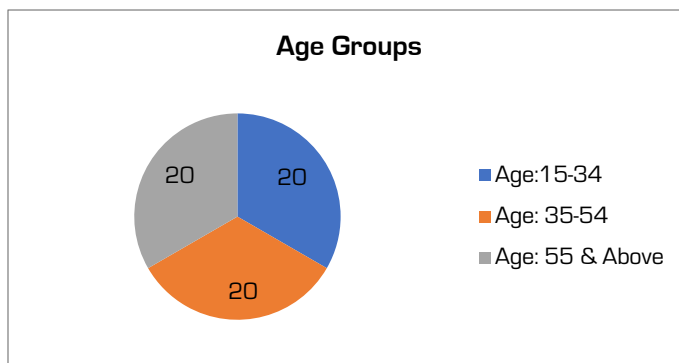


Figure 1: Distribution of Respondents on the basis of Age

Data Analysis

Validity is the main concept of the research methodology. The data collected through a questionnaire is analyzed by using the statistical software statistical package for the social sciences

(SPSS). The descriptive analysis is performed on both 'agree' and 'disagree' statements separately. The regression analysis is performed on two selective variables. The analysis of variance (ANOVA) table and correlation matrix is also generated.

Table 1. Result of Descriptive Analysis

Overall Descriptive Analysis of Variables (Agree)					
Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
q1	3	3	13	9.67	5.774
q2	3	4	10	7.33	3.055
q3	3	4	11	8.33	3.786
q4	3	5	11	8.33	3.055
q5	3	5	11	8.67	3.215
q6	3	2	8	6.00	3.464
q7	3	2	12	7.67	5.132
q8	3	12	14	13.00	1.000
q9	3	2	12	8.33	5.508
q10	3	12	15	13.00	1.732
q11	3	6	14	10.00	4.000
q12	3	11	18	14.33	3.512
q13	3	4	10	7.33	3.055
q14	3	4	14	9.33	5.033
q15	3	13	17	14.33	2.309
q16	3	16	18	17.00	1.000
q17	3	10	12	11.33	1.155
q18	3	8	15	12.00	3.606
q19	3	4	12	8.33	4.041
q20	3	8	14	12.00	3.464
q21	3	4	12	8.33	4.041
q22	3	11	14	12.33	1.528
q23	3	3	6	4.33	1.528
q24	3	10	16	13.33	3.055
q25	3	6	14	10.00	4.000
Valid N (listwise)	3				

Interpretation

Each row in the table represents the minimum, maximum, mean and standard deviation against each variable studied in the three generations. There

are twenty-five (25) different variables that show the agreed attitudes of citizens of Lahore towards the Punjabi language. The data mentioned above shows the mean value of each variable.

Table 2.

Overall Descriptive Analysis of Variables (Disagree)					
Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
q1	3	7	17	10.33	5.774
q2	3	10	16	12.67	3.055
q3	3	9	16	11.67	3.786
q4	3	9	13	10.67	2.082
q5	3	9	15	11.33	3.215
q6	3	12	18	14.00	3.464
q7	3	8	18	12.33	5.132
q8	3	6	8	7.00	1.000
q9	3	8	18	11.67	5.508
q10	3	5	8	7.00	1.732
q11	3	6	14	10.00	4.000
q12	3	2	9	5.67	3.512
q13	3	10	16	12.67	3.055
q14	3	6	16	10.67	5.033
q15	3	3	7	5.67	2.309

Overall Descriptive Analysis of Variables (Disagree)					
Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
q16	3	3	4	3.67	.577
q17	3	8	10	8.67	1.155
q18	3	5	12	8.00	3.606
q19	3	8	16	11.67	4.041
q20	3	6	12	8.00	3.464
q21	3	8	16	11.67	4.041
q22	3	6	9	7.67	1.528
q23	3	14	17	15.67	1.528
q24	3	4	10	7.00	3.000
q25	3	6	14	10.00	4.000
Valid N (listwise)	3				

Interpretation

Each row in the table represents the minimum, maximum, mean and standard deviation against each variable studied in the three generations. There are 25 different variables that show the disagree attitudes of people of Lahore towards the Punjabi language. The above data shows the mean value of each variable.

Tables: 3&4. Regression Analysis

Question number 7 based on likeness for Punjabi, and question number 23 based on a job opportunity, have been selected as variables for regression analysis.

Table 3.

Descriptive Statistics			
	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
q7	7.67	5.132	3
q23	4.33	1.528	3

Table 4.

Correlations			
		q7	q23
Pearson Correlation	q7	1.000	.914
	q23	.914	1.000
Sig. (1-tailed)	q7	.	.133
	q23	.133	.
N	q7	3	3
	q23	3	3

Table 5. Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.914 ^a	.836	.672	2.940

a. Predictors: (Constant), q23 b. Dependent Variable: q7

Table 6. ANOVA

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	44.024	1	44.024	5.094	.266 ^b
	Residual	8.643	1	8.643		
	Total	52.667	2			

a. Dependent Variable: q7 b. Predictors: (Constant), q23

Table 7.

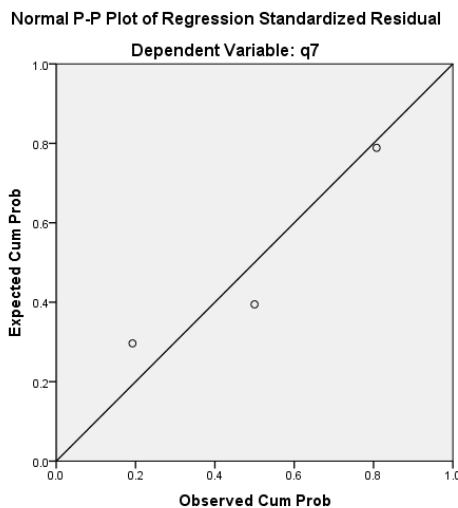
Coefficients								
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.	95.0% Confidence Interval for B	
		B	Std. Error				Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1	(Constant)	-5.643	6.137		-.920	.527	-83.616	72.330
	q23	3.071	1.361	.914	2.257	.266	-14.220	20.363

a. Dependent Variable: q7

Table 8. Residuals Statistics

	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Predicted Value	3.57	12.79	7.67	4.692	3
Residual	-1.571	2.357	.000	2.079	3
Std. Predicted Value	-.873	1.091	.000	1.000	3
Std. Residual	-.535	.802	.000	.707	3

a. Dependent Variable: q7



Interpretation

The regression analysis is performed on the two variables X and Y which are given as follows:

X: Better Job Opportunities

Y: Preference of English Language

The regression model is described as following

$$Y = \alpha + \beta X$$

Where Y is, the dependent variable and X is the predictor [Independent Variable].

The result shows the linear relationship between the two variables. The correlation between better job opportunities and preference for the English language is 0.914, which represents a high correlation.

The linear model is given as follows:

$$Y = -5.643 + 3.071X$$

The coefficient 3.071 represents the increase or decrease in Y as per unit increase or decrease in X. If the X=1, then

$$Y = 5.643$$

The t-test and ANOVA is also performed to test the linearity of variables X and Y under

H: There is a linear relationship between Better Job Opportunities and the Preference of the English Language.

Against

H: There is no linear relationship between Better Job Opportunities and Preference of English Language.

Level of Significance $\alpha = 0.05$

The value of test statistics is $F = 5.094$

The p-value is 0.226

Conclusion

P-value is 0.226, which is greater than α , so we accept H_0 . We conclude that there is a linear relationship between Better Job Opportunities and the Preference for the English Language.

The p-p plot is generated, which describes the linearity.

The related table displays the general descriptive analysis of X and Y variables, and the other gives the correlation matrix of X and Y and the p-value for one tail t-test, which is $0.133 > 0.05$, which means Y and X are correlated.

Table 5 gives the model summary, and table 6 represents the ANOVA results. The coefficient of models and 95% confidence interval for coefficients are displayed in table 7.

Finally, the Residual Statistics are presented in table 8.

Findings

The study put before it the following objectives as well as the below-mentioned Hypotheses:

1. Throw light on the governmental policies which played a role in the deterioration of Punjabi.
2. To investigate the causes of intergenerational attitudinal shift and inclination towards English from the Punjabi language.

H1: There exist various attitudes towards Punjabi and English; people are more inclined towards English.

H2: Being a mark of modernization and language of the privileged class, English has superseded the Punjabi language because of socio-economic and academic needs.

Conclusion

In light of the results of the analytical study, it can be inferred that the Punjabi language, though rich in literature and history, does not find a status that is enjoyed by English or Urdu. There could be many reasons which we can ascribe to this status of Punjabi language, but as the study manifests, it appears that Punjabi does not cater to the socio-economic or academic needs of the people. Hence, there is a drastic language shift from Punjabi to the English language in our society, and it has occurred, as the results show, because of the change of the attitude of the subjects who seem to consider socio-economic or academic needs more important than those of culture including domestic requirements. The majority of subjects consider that the important thing to social and economic fulfilment is the expertise of the English language or, to the extent

Urdu. The outcomes also exhibit that the centre generation is being stricken by the younger era to a much more extent to this point as their mindset in the direction of Punjabi language is concerned; they are the speaker of Punjabi language but favor the opinion of the first generation regarding the priority it gives to English or Urdu than the Punjabi language. The study also reflects that Punjabi is the tool of conversation in the households, but Urdu or English language is also used, in particular with the aid of the more youthful kids. Furthermore, the old generation is involved in their grand youngsters's training, a responsibility that needs extra 2nd language skills, and which in flip has an immediate effect on their social mobility, not simplest inside the circle of relatives but additionally within society as a whole. Hence, both the hypotheses: "There exist various attitudes towards Punjabi and English, people are more inclined towards English", and "Being a mark of modernization and language of the privileged class, English has superseded the Punjabi language because of socio-economic and academic needs", of the study are proved.

Recommendations

In the light of the conclusion, the following recommendations are made:

1. Government should take the necessary steps to save the Punjabi language from death.
2. Punjabi language may be taught as a compulsory language at Government schools so that it may continue as one of the important languages in the province of Punjab.
3. Linguists must try to produce equivalents in the Punjabi language of all scientific and other terminologies.
4. There must be some efforts on a national level to promote Punjabi as a language instead of a language to produce simply literature.
5. Parents could use the blend of Punjabi, Urdu and English languages so that the young generation may remain in touch with their mother tongue.
6. Medium of instruction may be re-visited and Punjabi may also be given room along with Urdu language to support English language in communication.
7. Similarly, Punjabi literature may be translated into English language so that Punjabi may be

introduced internationally on one hand and for its survival on the other.

8. By accepting the role of English as a global language works produced in English language may be re-produced or re-written in Punjabi language to provide easiness to the Punjabi speakers.
9. Undoubtedly there is very important role of English as a global language but it is also very

important that efforts may made in such a way that role of Punjabi language should remain present in our society to save it from language death.

10. Translation study should also be given some importance in our curricula to give some strength to Punjabi language by other languages such as English and Urdu.

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