

A Corpus-Based Analysis of Linking Adverbials in Pakistani English

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Abstract

Linking adverbials are used to make speech and writing logically connected and have been considered important writing tools in English language. The present study has explored and compared the frequencies and patterns of usage of linking adverbials (LAs henceforth) in native and non-native Englishes. It examines the distinctive arrangements of LAs adopted by non-native speakers of English in Pakistan and compare them with the patterns usually

adopted by the speakers of three native varieties (i.e. U.K, USA and Australia) and three non-native varieties (i.e. Japanese, Chinese, and Singaporean). The present research is conducted using corpus methodology in order to maintain accuracy and preciseness of the results. The results of the present study have revealed that Pakistani writers use more additive, summative and contrastive type of linking adverbials as compared to transstantial and resultative LAs. Moreover, the contrastive LA but is higher in Pakistani writings than any other summative or additive LA.

Keywords: Corpus-Based Study, World Englishes, Pakistani English, Linking adverbials

1. Introduction

The emergence and acknowledgment of New Englishes has paved way for inter comparisons to ensure the distinctiveness of the each variety. The researchers are striving to find out the similarities and differences through such comparisons which are further leading to the codification and institutionalization of the non-native varieties. The present research is an addition to the existing literature aiming at highlighting the specificity of Pakistani English in terms of Linking Adverbials (Las).

LAs are semantic connectors which are used to make logical cohesion in a text. Study of linking adverbials is very important for ESL learners to develop a logically cohesive text. Biber et al. (1999) and McCarthy (2006) discuss LAs in the grammar book. According to Biber et al. (1999); “[the] function of linking adverbials is to make the semantic connections between spans of discourse of varying length” (p. 875). This paper is based on inter varieties differences and aims at finding out the numerical differences and the usage patterns of linking adverbials in native speakers (i.e. UK, USA & Australia) and non-native speakers (Pakistan, Singaporean, Japan, China). The main focus of this research is on the behaviour of English language learners in Pakistan in terms of the usage patterns of LAs.

2. Review of Literature

The global spread of English has given rise to the notion of indigenization and institutionalization of indigenous varieties of English. This research reports the use of linking adverbials in different English speaking countries while keeping main focus on Pakistan. Linking adverbials (LAs) are used for making a speech and writing logically cohesive and are called semantic connectors. Granger and Tyson (1996) conducted a corpus based study of LAs in EFL learners’ writing (English writing of French students) and call these adverbials connectors.

Researchers are now putting their efforts to throw light on the distinction of Pakistani English. A handful researches can be found highlighting the specificities of Pakistani English on various levels. Use of circumstance adverbials and variations in Pakistani English has been observed by Mahmood and Ali (2011). They study fifty more frequent circumstance adverbials in Pakistani Written English corpus and compare the results with that of LOB and FLOB corpora. They have found the significant differences on the basis of frequencies and patterns of circumstance adverbials and claim that Pakistani English is a separate variety. In the words of Talaat (2002); “The greatest majority of the Pakistani bilingual use a variety of English markedly different from standard English. This variety is influenced by L1 – on account of the huge linguistic differences between the first language and second language”. This research is a step forward and focuses on LAs and tries to find the inter variety differences. It aims at testing whether or not Pakistani users of English have similarities with other non-native varieties of English.

3. Methodology

International Corpus Network of Asian Learners of English (ICNALE) of five different varieties has been barrowed and data has been analyzed using corpus analyzing tool kit

ANTCONC 3.2.4. The researcher has created a list of 60 words working as LAs, after merging the lists provided by Biber et al (1999) and Carter and McCarthy (2006). For the detailed analysis, frequency based cut points have been kept in mind for the selection of LAs. Frequency and relative functions of these adverbials have been observed afterwards. For mutual comparison the raw frequency has been adjusted to per 10,000 token finally based on the average of the five adjusted frequencies, the differences of frequency of 60 selected items were chosen for detailed analysis.

4. Results and Discussion

This study aimed at testing the hypothesis that Pakistani Speakers of English use LAs like other non-native Asian speakers of English for this purpose, ICNALE components of selected varieties i.e. NS (UK, USA&AUS), China (Chinese Learners English: henceforth CLE), Singapore (Singaporean Learners English: SLE), Japan (Japanese Learners English: JLE) and Pakistan (Pakistani Learners English: PLE) have been borrowed. Varieties of UK, USA and Australia are considered as single variety and components of all these varieties are given as ENS (English Native Speakers) in ICNALE. Total 60 LAs, with higher frequencies, have been extracted from each selected variety. List of LAs has been made by using the model of Biber et al. (1999) and Carter and McCarthy (2006). The description of analyzed data has been presented in tabular form. Relative functions and major similarities and differences in the frequencies of the LAs used by Pakistani learners of English with other Asian non-native speakers of English and NS have been focused upon. The results which have been inferred on the bases of that frequency analysis have shown that in spite of the similarities seen in the frequencies of LAs used by PLE with SLE differences are also significant between both varieties which clearly proved that Pakistani speakers use their own variety of English and PLE have their own tendencies of using grammar and syntax. The results reveal that PLE have trends of indigenized English rather than native English or other non-native varieties.

4.1. Comparative Adjusted Frequencies of LAs

Comparative analysis of LAs on the basis of functions of linking adverbials (LAs) selected from five different selected varieties of native speakers (NS) and non-native speakers (NNS) of Asian variety is carried out in order to find out functions and usage patterns of linking adverbials of Pakistani speakers of English. All other four varieties of English are intentionally selected from three different circle of English as maintained by Kachru (1986) Pakistan and Singapore are selected from outer circle while Japan and China are selected from expanding circle while NS (UK, USA, AUS etc) are from inner circle. The frequency results are shown in Table 1 below.

Total numbers of tokens for all LAs items used by PLE (261.6 per 10,000) JLE (258.3 per 10,000 token) CLE (286.2 per 10,000 token) SLE (308 per 10,000 token) and NS (234.2 per 10,000 token).

Table 1. Frequencies of Adjusted and selected LAs Items

Items		Functions	Raw Frequency					Average of Adjusted Frequency				
			PLE	NS	JLE	CLE	SLE	PLE	NS	JLE	CLE	SLE
1	Rather	Reformulatory	13	14	4	37	49	1.3	1.5	.2	1.8	4.9
2	Worse	Replacive	14	13	57	99	75	1.4	1.3	3.1	4.8	7.5
3	However	Concessive	15	95	218	255	267	1.5	10.4	12.1	125	26.8
4	Still	Concessive	20	92	38	170	102	2.1	10.2	2.1	8.3	10.2
5	Besides	Concessive	5	3	33	119	37	.5	.3	1.8	5.8	3.7
6	But	Concessive	715	331	1380	1080	250	75.6	36.5	77.0	53.2	25.1
7	Any way	Concessive	3	35	17	17	2	.3	.3	3.3	.09	.83
8	Though	Concessive	5	11	39	23	22	.5	1.1	3.7	2.1	2.2
9	First	Listing	78	127	300	390	96	8.2	14	16.7	19.2	9.6
10	Still	Concessive	20	92	38	170	102	2.1	10.2	.7	8.3	6.2
11	Also	Additive	780	300	420	625	567	82.3	33.1	23.4	30.8	57.1
12	For instance	Appositive	0	4	80	25	1	0	.4	4.4	1.2	.1
13	Forexample	Appositive	15	39	378	162	26	1.5	4.3	21.1	7.9	2.61
14	Than	Summative	219	153	151	187	71	23.1	16.8	8.4	9.2	7.15
15	Thus	Summative	11	41	40	60	121	1.1	4.5	1.4	3.0	12.1
16	Other wise	Inferential	7	118	6	8	1	.7	13.0	.2	.3	.1
17	Mean time	Temporal	1	14	3	3	1	..1	1.4	.6	1.1	1.0
18	Therefore	Resultative	44	65	151	84	116	4.6	7.1	11.6	11.1	11.6
19	In addition	Additive	7	29	86	89	63	.7	2.9	4.8	4.6	6.3
20	Second	Listing	31	90	200	358	0	3.1	9.1	11.1	17.6	0

Although the total number of linking adverbials used by Pakistani learners of English (PLE) seemed close to Japanese learners of English (JLE) but the differences in the frequencies and functions of LAs between both JLE and PLE is significant. Comparative analysis has shown that there are similarities between the frequency and usage pattern of LAs used by PLE and SLE as both are outer circle varieties of English and both are ESL (English as a second language) speaking countries. The most frequent use of LAs in PLE and SLE are of additive type. The frequency of additive type of LAs in PLE is 100.2 while in SLE 120.6 and in CLE and JLE is 45.3 and 51.6 respectively while NS frequency of using additive type of LA is 51.7. According to Ishikawa (2009) Asian non-native speakers use more additive type of LAs as compared to native speakers. But the present study has investigated that Asian NNS of outer circle varieties use additive type of LAs more frequently as compare to NS as well as Asian non-native speakers from expanding circle. In fact Pakistani and Singaporean learners of English are more interested in adding more information in already existing information. Frequency of summative type of LAs is exactly same in PLE and SLE Frequency of listing type of LAs in SLE is closed to NS.SLE and PLE has almost same in term of frequency of appositive type of LAs which PLE has frequency less than NS and also less than from all the selected varieties of Asian NNS.

Table 2. Over used type of LAs in PLE

Sr. No	Item	Adjusted frequencies				
		NS	PLE	SLE	JLE	CLE
1	Additive	51.7	100.2	120.6	51.6	45.3
2	Summative	8.6	23.5	23	8.8	12.8
3	Contrastive	98.3	87.2	96.2	104.6	101.9

It has been noticed that half the frequency of listing type of LAs used by the NS while JLE and CLE use more listing type of LAs as frequency of JLE, CLE and NS are 28.5, 33.0 and 24.6 respectively. Frequency of using resultative type of LAs is highest as compare to NS and three other selected varieties of NNS. Frequency of resultative LAs in PLE seemed close to the frequency of CLE while frequency of resultative LA in JLE and NS was exactly same, transantal type of linking adverbials have been least used by PLE as shown in the table 3.

Table 3. Over used LAs items in PLE

Item	Function	Raw frequency					Adjusted frequency				
		PLE	NS	JLE	CLE	SLE	PLE	NS	JLE	CLE	SLE
Also	Additive	180	300	920	625	567	82.3	33.1	23.4	30.8	51.1
Than	Summative	219	153	151	187	71	23.1	16.8	8.4	9.2	7.15
But	Contrastive	715	331	1380	1080	250	75.6	36.5	77.0	53.2	25.1

As shown in table above, JLE used transantal type of LA in highest frequency 17.3 as compared to NS 8.6. Frequency of contrastive type of linking adverbial in PLE is highest than NS but less than from all other (NNS) of selected variety. Comparative analysis has shown that inferential type of LA were almost not used by PLE CLE SLE and JLE as compared to NS which is shown from their respective frequency JLE 1.8 CLE .98 PLE 1 and CLE 1.3 while frequency of NS is 13.2

Adjusted frequencies of each linking adverbials 20 out of 60 LAs have been selected for detailed analysis and comparison. Frequency of each item has been adjusted as per 10,000 in order to make the comparison precise. Above table shows that Pakistani learners of English have been most frequently using additive type of linking adverbial also and frequency of also in PLE is 82.3 which was the highest frequency out of rest of selected varieties as frequency of also in NS was 33.1 while SLE were found secondly frequent in using also additive type of LA having frequency 57.1 while frequency of also in JLE and CLE 23.4 and 30.8 respectively. Frequency of also additive type of linking adverbials has shown that PLE are more interesting in adding new information.

Frequency of 'But' contrastive linking adverbials has been nearly close to each other in JLE and in PLE which have 77 and 76 respectively while NS has 36.5 frequency and CLE 53.2 and SLE 25.1 respectively Pakistan. PLE have used 'but' contrastive linking adverbial frequently in order to create highest contrastive effect in speech and writings and to intensify the meaning. PLE over used 'than' summative linking adverbials having 23.1 frequency as compare to NS 16.8 and NNS frequency JLE 8.4 frequency of CLE 9.2 and SLE 7.15 respectively. This shows that PLE are prone to sum up their discussion. Comparative analysis of adjusted frequency of 'Still' concessive type of linking adverbial has shown that still has

been least used by JLE .7 and PLE also under use still linking adverbial having frequency 2.1 as compared to NS 10.1 and NNS of selected verity CLE and SLE 8.3 and 10.2

Appositive 'For instance' is not used by PLE and meanwhile has not been used by all. Resultative linking adverbials have been least used by PLE and among result ative adjusted frequency of therefore in PLE was 40 which was similar to the frequency of CLE 4.1. Both Pakistan and China under used therefore linking adverbial as compare to NS having 7.1 and SLE having highest frequency 11.6 and JLE 8.4.

Linking adverbial for example (appositive type)is least used by PLE frequency 1.5 which is dissimilar to the frequency of for 'example' in NS which is 4.3. JLE are the most frequent in the use of for example linking adverbial have frequency 21.1 while CLE and SLE have 7.9 and 2.61 respectively.

Detailed analysis revealed that there have been some linking adverbial which are commonly used by PLE and SLE in term of frequency and usage and there are some common LAs in term of frequency and usage in NS and JLE and CLE although PLE have shared more common frequency of LAs with SLE as compare to NS and JLE and CLE NNS but Pakistani learners of English also have dissimilarities in term of frequency and usage pattern with SLE which proves that Pakistani English is as independent variety which is a different variety from NS and other NNS. Table 2 shows the results of the over-used types of LAs in Pakistani learners English.

As it has been shown in the table 2, PLE over used summative type of LAs although SLE and PLE use same frequency of summative type of LA which are 23 and 23.5 respectively. There has been a significant difference in frequency of NS 8.6 and NNS of selected verities JLE and CLE having 8.8 and 12.8 respectively. PLE has also used additive type linking adverbials more frequently as above table has shown that PLE has possesd higher frequency 100.2 which is higher than NS frequency in additive type LA 51.7 and also greater than other NNS JLE 25.6 and CLE 45.3 respectively but SLE has frequency in additive type of LA 120.6 which is higher than Pakistan. PLE over use contrastive type of LA as compare to NS but lower than NNS (JLE CLE and SLE respectively). Table 3 shows the individual frequencies of over used LAs in PLE.

Table above has shown that PLE over used LAs 'also' and 'than' as compare to NS and NNS .The frequency of 'but' also shows that PLE has been more frequent in using this LA item as compare to NS and other NNS. Detailed analysis of LA sitems have proved that Pakistan learners of English over used also, than and but which shows that PLE are more interested in adding new information in already existing information and use more contrasive and summative linking adverbials in order to make their speech and writing more comprehensive an. The over-used of 'than' LAs also shows that PLE are more interested in summing up the discussion in speech and writing while over-used of contrastive LA sitem but in PLE show that they are interested in creating effect of intensification of and stress by using more contrastive structures.

5. Conclusion

The research aimed at finding out the specific features of Pakistani English at syntactic level. It aimed at finding out the frequency differences and usage patterns of LAs in native and non-native varieties with major focus on Pakistani English. The results showed that PLE used more additive, summative and contrastive types of Linking adverbials as compared to NS and other non-native speakers; while rest of the Linking adverbials are least or not used at all by them. Pakistani speakers of English are more interested in using contrastive structures for example *but* in order to make their discussion more intensive and use more summative type of LAS in order to make their speech and writing more comprehensive, cohesive and meaningful. Above discussion has shown that Pakistani speakers of English are more frequent in the use of contrastive, additive and summative type of linking adverbials as compared to other selected varieties of native and non-native speakers. The use of *also* additive type of linking adverbials has showed that PLE use this type of LAS as semantic connectors and cohesive devices for making their speech and writings more comprehensive. Hence it can be said from the above discussion that Pakistani English is an independent variety which cannot be merged into any other variety of English. This research has also proved that Pakistani English speakers use linking adverbials in quite different way which shows that Pakistani English is a separate distinctive variety. This research also paves the way for new researchers.

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