

# Multidimensional Analysis of Pakistani and U.K Sports Column Writers

Asma Iqbal (Correspondence author)

E-mail: asmaiqbal036@gmail.com

Malik Haq-nawaz Danish

E-mail: dani malik@hotmail.com

Received: July 12, 2014 Accepted: July 22, 2014 Published: September 8, 2014

doi:10.5296/ijl.v6i5.6282 URL: http://dx.doi.org/10.5296/ijl.v6i5.6282

#### **Abstract**

The research aims at locating the basic difference between structures of British and Pakistani sports column writers. How columns writer picturize sports world cup in their columns and what are their intentions, how both these states project their point of view towards sports. The research aims at locating all the differences at the lexical level. MAT is used to analyze the text and it helps us in locating 165 features like passives, Nouns, pronouns, articles, conjunctions and other grammatical feature in the text. The research aims at exploring which community uses specific features excessively.

The finding indicates the different ways of both writers how they present their views by using various writing techniques. The study also explores how sports column writers use specific structures and verbal situations in construction of reality and highlighting their interest to control the mind and maintain power over the audience.

Keywords: MAT, Pakistani, UK, columns, language, corpus, column writers, frequency



## 1. Introduction

Newspaper is one of the most readable and easily available genre in print media all over the world. All types of updated information about the whole world, about politics, sports, editorials, entertainment, reports, business, adds etc. is easily available on the newspaper. John Carolous was the inventor of newspaper, In 1605, he published newspaper for the first time. The newspaper is one of the earliest genre in print media. Now a days, on-line version of the newspaper is also freely available on the Internet.

Different writers present their views by writing and publish their writings in various papers. They present their critical views and develop the critical thinking of the readers by presenting their views on different issues like politics, sports and business. Newspaper fulfills so many purposes, it gives us information and at the same time it also provides us entertainment.

The writing style of the writer differs from community to community. The Pakistani sports column writers have different writing styles as compared to the UK column writers.

The aim of the research is to locate all the basic differences in the Pakistani and UK sports column writers and their different styles by using Douglas Biber's multidimensional model. Only first dimension is studied to locate all those features.

MAT is a new software for analyzing text at six various dimensions which is freely available otherwise, Douglas Biber's MD analysis software is available to analyze text like MAT but that was not available and could only be used in Douglas Biber Lab.

The researchers selected sports column to study the features of the first dimension. First dimension deals with the involved versus informational production. The features of Factor One have been studied in dimension like private verbs, demonstrative pronoun, WH clauses, and WH questions etc.

# 1.1 Hypothesis

UK sports columns are more informative as compared to Pakistani Column writers.

## 1.2 Research Questions

What are the basis distinctive features in Pakistani and UK column writers?

Which community writers use more private verbs?

Which community writers use more nouns and nominalizations?

Which community writers use Attributive Adjective and predicative Adjectives?

What are the basic reasons of differences in features?

# 1.3 Delimitation of the Study

Only five Pakistani English newspapers were selected i-e Dawn, News, Nation, Express Tribune, Observer.

Five UK English newspapers were selected for this analysis i-e City A.M, Guardian, Metro,



London Evening standard and The Independent newspaper.

Ten articles were selected from Pakistani News paper.

Ten articles were selected from the UK News paper.

Two articles from each newspaper have been selected for analysis.

Only 3<sup>rd</sup> July News paper was selected to collect the corpus.

Only those newspapers are selected which are on-line and freely available to all readers.

1.4 Research Objective

The objectives of the study are:

A MAT analysis of Pakistani and UK sports column writers.

Study of various features of dimension, one of MAT in these columns.

Study of excessive use of grammatical categories and context behind using these features in their writings through columns.

#### 2. Literature Review

In the last 10 years, a considerable change had been observed in software refinement and data digitalization to analyze a text in automated way. On the basis of this development, so many researchers had been doing researches on large-n samples like Trenz, 2004, Koenig *et al.*, 2006, Liebert, 2007, Kantner *et al.*, 2008, Kantner, 2009, Kutter, 2011, Renfordt, 2011, Grabowsky, 2011. They did content analysis on large number of data by using refined softwares.

All the languages (present or dead) in the whole world came into being in the need of communication among peoples. Language also represents the civilization and lifestyle of the communities. Many words and structures are found borrowed from other speech communities.

Opinion writer, Journalist and column writers write for publication in a sequence. Like John Crosby, Nick Kenny and Franklin Price Adams are those journalist and column writers who attained high status and cast their positions by entering into television and radio and all their programmes were similar like newspapers format.

Few researchers in the past conducted researches by using other softwares to locate the differences in Pakistani and other countries column writer. For last so many decades, researchers have been trying their level best to identify all those features in a text which help readers to differentiate the text of different communities. Many researchers have tried to find those differences on gender basis like Trudgill 1972, Lakoff 1975, L above 1990, Holmes 1993and Coates 1998.

Newspaper is the most important tool in every community because it spreads information about literature, politics, sports and almost every sphere of life. Newspapers educate and



entertain people. Cheyney (1992) said that newspaper genre is just like textbooks which provide us the latest information about national and international affairs; the recent criticism and analysis of administrative and enacting decision making; recent in theatre, television, comics and music to create laughter among people. The newspaper is one of the most readable genre among the majority of the community's students, workers, youngsters, upper and lower classes of each and every community.

Too many researchers have conducted research on the newspaper genre in CDA, content, genre analysis, but no work has ever been done by using MAT as MAT is freely available online, otherwise this analysis would not have been made possible except in Douglas Biber Lab.

There is no other research which is conducted to differentiate the writing styles of Pakistani and UK writers presented in their articles. Moreover, no such type of research is conducted in Pakistan to find the difference in the writing styles of Pakistani and UK writers in the articles collected from Pakistani newspapers. So, the researchers have tried to investigate whether the Pakistani writers use more nouns or UK writers, which is the indicator of the informational factor according to Douglas Biber's model.

## 3. Research Methodology

To investigate the null hypothesis of the study, ten columns of Pakistani and UK News paper were selected on the basis of maximum followings and easily availability on the internet. The study is a mixture of both qualitative and quantitative methods so fall into the realm of mixed method research. All the columns are analyzed first quantitatively by using MAT to get the frequencies of dimension one features and then qualitative to find the context and background knowledge behind those differences.

MAT, six dimensional model of Analysis, has been used to analyze the text and only dimension one features are located and on those features, main focus is given to the private verbs, nouns, nominalizations, attributive adjectives and predicative adjectives.

The researchers collected corpus of Pakistani and UK sports columns and copied them into notepad files because MAT only analyzes txt. File. Later on, frequencies of dimension one features have been collected to check either the text is informative or not. A First dimension has been selected via VASW tags to analyze the text. According to Biber, the maximum number of nouns in a text shows that the text is more informational. Biber's model of MD analysis analyzes the text and gets frequency of a large number of words. On the other side, MAT analyzes the text on low frequency as compared to MD, researchers discuss the difference of these features on the basis of MAT and all the frequencies which have been mentioned in the text are according to the MAT.

All the interpretations of this software have been analyzed according to the Douglas Biber interpretations.



# 4. Data Analysis Result / Findings

According to MAT, statistical results of the following features are as follow:

## Nominalizations (NOMZ)

Pakistani sports column text	UK sports column text
1.65	1.57

# Total other nouns (NN)

Pakistani sports column text	UK sports column text
28.98	26.1

# Attributive Adjectives (jj)

Pakistani sports column text	UK sports column text
7.17	6.66

## Predicative Adjectives (PRED)

Pakistani sports column text	UK sports column text
.41	.54

## Private verbs (PRIV)

Pakistani sports column text	UK sports column text
.88	1.09

#### 5. Discussion

Nouns are the primary informational token as said by Douglas Biber (1998). He said, "Nouns are the primary bearer of referential meaning in a text, and high frequency of nouns thus indicates the greater density of information" (p. 104).

Factor 1 features present higher density of information and exact informational content versus effective, interactional, and generalized content. Two separate communicative parameters are involved to be here: (I) The primary purpose of the writer. (II) The production circumstances. Douglas Biber (Textual dimension in speech an writings p. 107).

The Pakistani text is more informative because English is not a native Language of Pakistani community. Pakistanis learn English as second Language so in their newspaper, they use English in a more elaborative way to clear their concepts. The readership of English news papers in Pakistan is less than that of UK.

According to the results of the MAT, it is evident that Pakistani column writers use more nouns and Nominalization and according to Douglas Biber, the text having more Nouns and nominalization is more informative so on the basis of his set dimension, it is clear that the Pakistani sports columns are more informative as compared to the UK sports columns.



According to Douglas Biber, nouns are the barricade to bring up the meaning of the text. The number of maximum nouns and nominalization represents the higher amount and density of information of the text. Attributive Adjectives are used in a text to elaborate nominal information more extensively.

As researchers have already discussed the frequency of text in tables, it is clear that the Pakistani sports column writers use more nouns to make their text informative so the use of attributive adjectives is also higher as compared to the frequency of UK sports column writers in Pakistani sports columns. Attributive Adjectives are in a more integrated form of nominal elaboration as compared to predicative adjectives Douglas Biber (1988) (p. 105). The frequency of predicative adjectives is higher in UK sports columns as compared to Pakistani sports columns, but they cannot perform as much informative function with nominals as compared to attributive adjectives which perform a more informative function with nominals.

Schemata also plays an important role when readers read newspaper. English is not a native Language so the Pakistani column writer also gives hints or background knowledge concept if they write about anything new or introduce any terminology. In UK ,English being a a native Language ,sports column writers don't need to give the concepts of their culture or technologies and it is conceptualized that the concepts discussed are already a part of community's episteme.

Pakistani sports column writers use less private verbs as compared to UK sports column writers, but at the same time, the frequency of public verbs is higher in Pakistani sports columns as compared to UK sports columns.

The literacy rate of Pakistan is less as compared to the literacy rate in the UK. This is also a reason that Pakistanis use more nominalization, noun, attributive adjectives and private verbs to make their columns comprehensible for an average reader.

According to Douglas Biber in his book, Variation Across Speech And Writing, says that the private verbs are mostly used for the overt expression of private attitudes and in UK sports column, this feature is present having higher frequency as compared to Pakistani sports columns which shows that the UK column writers use more overt expression to present their view in sports columns as compared to Pakistani sports column writers who use this factor at a low frequency.

#### 6. Conclusion

Pakistani text is more informative according to statistics of MAT, like normalization is 1.05%, nouns are 2.88, Attributive adjective.51%, predicative adjectives -. 13 and private verbs -. 21. These statistics show that there are some features which are higher in Pakistani sports columns and some features have a higher frequency in UK sports columns. The structure of the news column in the Pakistani news paper also depends on the comprehension of the reader, as one of the multilingual community, it is attributive to comprehend the message structured around nouns, adjectives etc. The literacy of the target newspaper reader's community in Pakistan and UK differs in respect to their receptivity, comprehension and



ability to interpret. The column writers on both the sides demonstrate the idiosyncrasies in their text by keeping the general perception of the reader in mind.

The researchers can claim from the results as Douglas Biber said that the text having more nouns is more informative as compared to the text having less normalization and noun and on the basis of his this claim, researchers maintain that the Pakistani sports columns are more informative.

On the same side, the ratio of private verbs and predicative adjectives is higher in UK sports columns as compared to Pakistani sports columns which presents that they have more technicality in their text in case of private verbs and predicative adjectives.

According to the Douglas Biber's set modal, the text having nomalization in excess is informative as compared to the text having less numbers of nouns in it. But at the same time, some features are excessively used in UK sports columns and some are excessively used in Pakistani news columns.

#### References

Biber, D. (1984). A model of textual relations within the written and spoken.

Biber, D. (1985). *Investigating macroscopic textual variation through multi-feature analyses*. *Linguistics*, 23, 337-60. http://dx.doi.org/10.1515/ling.1985.23.2.337

Biber, D. (1986b). On the investigation of spoken/written differences. *Studyia linguistic*, 40, 1-21.

Cheyney, A. B. (1992). Teaching Reading Skills through the newspaper, Newark, International Reading Association

Grabowsky, J. K. (2011). Who Cares about Genocide in Europe? Identity-Related Reactions to Interventions and the Srebrenica Massacre in French, German, Dutch and American Newspapers. Otto-Suhr Institute of Political Science. Berlin: Free University Berlin.

Holmes, J. (1984). Hedging your bets and sitting on the fence: some evidence for hedges as support structures. *Te Rao*, 27, 47-62.

Kantner, C., & Renfordt, S. (2007). Public Debates on Humanitarian and Military Interventions in Europe and the U. S. (1990-2005). Paper presented at the 48th Annual ISA Convention 'Politics, Policy and Responsible Scholarship', Chicago, IL Feb. 28th - March 3rd, 2007. Chicago.

Kantner, C., Kutter, A., & Renfordt, S. (2008). The Perception of the EU as an Emerging Security Actor in Media Debates on Humanitarian and Military Interventions (1990-2006). *RECON Online Working Paper*, 2008(19), Arena Oslo, Oslo.

Koenig, T., Mihelj, S., & Downey, J., et al. (2006). Media framings of the issue of Turkish accession to the EU, Innovation. *The European Journal of Social Sciences*, 19(2), 149-169.

Kutter, A. (2011). Polity-Construction in Multilevel Settings. Recontextualisation and the



Exampled of the Polish and French Media Debates on the EU constitution. Department of Cultural Studies. Frankfurt/O.: European University Viadrina.

Liebert, U. (2007). Introduction: Structuring Political Conflict about Europe: National Media in Transnational Discourse Analysis. *Perspectives on European Politics and Society*, 8(3), 236-260. http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15705850701432969

Renfordt, S. (2011). Framing the Use of Force: An International Rule of Law in Media Reporting. A Comparative Analysis of Western Debates about Military Interventions, 1990-2005. Baden-Baden: Nomos.

Trenz, H. J. (2004). Media coverage on European governance. Exploring the European public sphere in national quality newspapers. *European Journal of Communication*, *19*(3), 291-319. http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/0267323104045257