

Contact-Induced Restructuring of Gender Agreement: A Corpus-Driven Sociolinguistics Analysis of English-Origin Dual-Gender Nouns in Pakistani Urdu

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Abstract

The paper offers a very interesting study of the performativity of grammatical gender in the context of English loanwords, namely nouns, in Urdu, a gender-rich language with a plethora of genders associated with nouns, adjectives, and adverbs. Unlike English, Urdu has more than one gender class; for example, 'e or i' in 'paki' (cleanliness), 'zindagee' (life), and 'parhai' (study) imply femininity. Thus, the borrowed nouns have to fit in the gender system of Urdu to be used in the natural discourse. Based on a strong interpretive research paradigm, the study adopted a qualitative approach, drawing on corpus-based evidence from various newspapers and talk shows to examine gender assignment in real-world language use and everyday conversation. The analysis focuses on borrowed English words, grouped into four semantic sets: places, professions, food items, and objects. The analysis shows that borrowed nouns in Urdu lack a definite grammatical gender; rather, they exhibit flexible or dual-gender behavior that depends on syntactic constructions and discourse features. The Structural position of loanwords in a clause is very important, as it is confirmed from spoken and written sources with the help of distributed morphology and contact-induced morphology (Noyer, 2003). Future research might expand and diversify this study to include other contact languages, such as Punjabi and Sindhi, and investigate the diachronic stabilization of gender or the psycholinguistic mechanisms underlying the processing of gender in borrowed nouns.

1. Introduction

Nothing exists in isolation. In fact, all beings and phenomena exist only because of their relationship with other beings or phenomena. Language contact is an inevitable phenomenon in multilingual societies. Speakers constantly come into contact with multiple languages, and as a result, linguistic change occurs. One of the most common outcomes of such contact is lexical borrowing, in which words of one language (L2) are embedded in another language (L1). The Urdu language has borrowed a vast corpus of English words as a result of colonization. In today's world, in which English holds considerable influence and prestige, it should not be viewed as an isolated linguistic system. Instead, English exists within diverse sociocultural and sociopolitical settings and is shaped by underlying. (Blommaert, 2010). Due to historical, political, and economic factors, English established its prominence in Asia early and has since become deeply embedded in everyday life, to the extent that it is now often regarded as an Asian language. (Mahboob, 2009).

Unlike English, Urdu is a gender-rich language. In English, nouns are neutral in terms of grammatical gender. Gender is an important feature of many languages and governs agreement between nouns and other elements such as adjectives, verbs, and determiners. The same goes for Urdu: gender is significant; a verb and an adjective must agree in gender. Unlike natural gender, grammatical gender is not inherently meaningful; rather, it is shaped by patterns of use within the language. As a result, borrowed English nouns require gender assignment to function naturally in everyday communication. Distributed grammar focuses on the distribution of linguistic elements across different structural and contextual environments and examines how meaning and grammatical behavior change as a function of distribution. According to Distributed Morphology, words do not carry fixed meaning or grammar on their own. Instead, grammar decides when words are used in sentences. Distributed grammar explains how grammatical features like gender, number, and agreement are assigned to words based on context rather than being stored permanently in the world. (Noyer, 2003)

With Distributed Morphology, the study also uses Contact-induced Theory to analyze the dual nature of English-origin nouns with respect to their gender agreement. Lucas (2015), Thomas and Kaufman (1988), offered a framework for analyzing the contact between English-origin nouns. English-origin nouns are borrowed in Urdu, but Urdu remains the dominant language. The borrowing process of these nouns, especially in terms of their gender, highlights how contact-induced change can happen without a full language shift. Besides, according to Thomas & Kaufman, the preservation of ancestral language need not be the most important aspect; however, structural adaptation can occur through normal linguistic communication processes.

A lot of work has already been done on borrowing and its importance. However, when it comes to gender agreement, not enough consideration is being given to how borrowings behave within the context of Urdu grammar. Existing literature largely focuses on sociolinguistic aspects, identity, and lexicography. At the same time, the concept of grammatical gender in a bilingual context and its dual nature are not yet well known. Strangely enough, very few corpus-based studies on gender agreement in loanwords, using authentic sentence data and contexts, have been conducted so far. Also, insufficient research has been conducted on the role of syntax and language contact in the assignment of gender to English borrowings. Moreover, few researchers have connected contact-induced language change with distributional analysis to better understand gender variability in loanwords.

The purpose of this study is to understand and interpret the processes involved in the rearrangement of gender agreement patterns in English, and in Urdu. This study offers novel findings from the analysis of thirty (30) Urdu sentences on how loaned words are incorporated into the grammatical system, the role of nouns in sentences and, the patterns of agreement in specific contexts have been analyzed to determine noun gender. Besides, the study examines the dual nature of gender across various syntactic environments and how contact affects gender acceptability. Nevertheless, there can be no doubt that proper discussion and explanation are owed to explain how the manifestation of borrowed nouns from English to Urdu occurs regarding the application of the role of gender.

1.1 Research Questions

The primary focus of this study is to address the following research questions:

- i. In what ways does the sustained interaction between English and Urdu contribute to the restructuring of gender agreement patterns in English loanwords that have been integrated into the Urdu language?
- ii. To what extent do established grammatical gender and contact-linguistic theories explain the observed dual-gender behavior of English-origin loanwords, particularly nouns in Pakistani Urdu?

2. Literature Review

In the present time, the world has become a global village, and according to Ethnologue, seven thousand one hundred and seventy (7170) languages are in use today. Therefore, there is a great deal of interaction across different languages; consequently, multilingualism is now a trend rather than an exception. When languages come into contact, interaction often leads to borrowing words across linguistic boundaries, making communication and cultural understanding easier. The Urdu-English interaction dates back to the colonial times. It was a period when the English language was actively and systematically introduced and imposed on South Asian speakers as a means of political dominance over the linguistically diverse population. Due to colonialism, English not only became a symbol of political strength but was also linked to socioeconomic progress, and, as a consequence, a linguistic elite emerged that came to determine society. The effects persist in contemporary society, and the use of English has slowly permeated everyday language (Seema Gul, 2025). This dynamic and exceptional phenomenon offers insight into the genesis of English's impact on the multilingualism of the current South Asian region. Whereas the social motivation and frequency of such borrowing have been mostly emphasized in earlier studies, little attention has been paid to the grammatical aspects of the incorporation of English-origin nouns borrowed in other languages. In languages where grammatical genders are used, the borrowed nouns will have to be rated as either male or female so that they can be used in the sentences. Nevertheless, the phenomenon that clarifies how syntax and context jointly determine the gender of loanwords in Urdu remains inadequately explained. Distributed morphology reshapes our understanding of the idea that words do not carry meaning or grammar on their own. Instead, grammar is decided by syntax. Distributed morphology was first proposed by Halle (1990) and later refined by Halle and Marantz (1993) in response to the debate over the relationship between morphology and syntax in generative grammar.

Distributed morphology is presented as an influential non-lexicalist framework that proposes that morphological structure is constructed within syntax rather than in a separate lexical module (Noyer, 2003). Saeed (2025) discusses the pattern of change in Urdu as described by Moizuddin (Saeed, 2025). The research work, *Distributional Morphological Approach to Word Productivity and Base Isolation in the Urdu Language*, provides explicit examples of how morphological features interact with the syntactic and agreement system. According to Moizuddin, Urdu nouns can be declinable or indeclinable, and their structural changes often follow set rules influenced by number and gender agreement, although exceptions exist. From the perspective of Distributed Morphology, systematic variations in morphological features provide a constructive framework for understanding how these grammatical categories, including gender, are realized syntactically rather than stored in a pre-existing lexicon. This theoretical approach is beneficial, particularly for analyzing borrowed English nouns in Urdu. Just as native nouns adapt their forms to align with Urdu's declension and agreement rules, borrowed nouns also engage with the language's sentence structure to acquire gender. The process adheres to similar morpho-syntactic principles while exhibiting some variability. Therefore, Moizuddin's insights into noun change provide an empirical foundation for understanding how gender assignment operates within Urdu's morphological system. This foundation can now be extended to examine English loanwords.

Language contact occurs when more than one language is actively used or passively understood by the same person. Contact has introduced heterogeneity within a single language. Thomason (2001) is considered a pioneer who offered functional definitions of contact, characterizing it as the concurrent use of multiple languages within a shared geographical area. Hickey (2010) argued that language contact is as old as language itself and suggested that it can be divided into two types based on the nature of the contact.

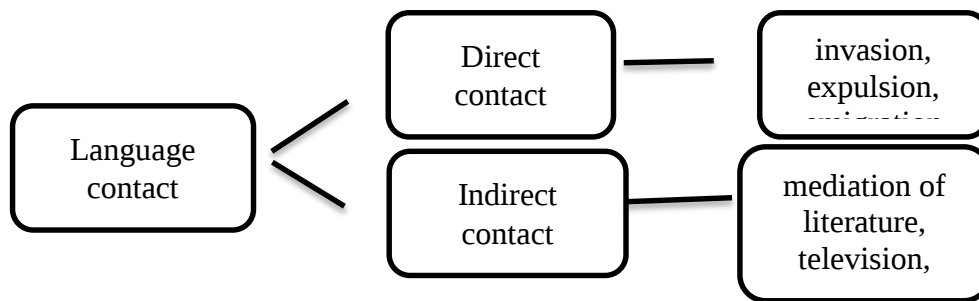


Figure 1. *Classification of Language Contact Types*

Source: Adapted from Hickey, 2010.

Contact-induced changes have occurred in any language due to various factors; however, Thomason and Kaufman's (Lucas, 2015) explanation of this phenomenon through their theory is considered the epitome of linguistic history. The theory deals with two types of contact-induced changes: borrowing and interference through shift. According to the theory, borrowing is the incorporation of foreign words and their features into a native language by its speakers. The phenomena behind incorporation are interaction and contact. Contact-induced changes have always remained unexplained by historical linguists and researchers. Nevertheless, before the theory proper, a discussion and explanation are owed to account for

how borrowed words manifest in the recipient language. Change is not isolated; it occurs due to contact. Sadaf Munshi (2010), in her study of Contact-induced language change in a trilingual context: The case of Burushaski in Srinagar, explained how contact changes linguistic properties in the trilingual society of Jammu and Kashmir. The study claims that Burushaski remains a dominant force in group communication. The male community has a higher level of proficiency in these languages because of greater contact frequency than women. (Munshi, 2010). What makes this contact situation especially interesting from a contact-linguistic perspective is that three languages are interacting simultaneously, and changes are taking place in all of them. The kinds of changes that occur, and how they develop, are strongly influenced by the social, cultural, and historical relationships among these languages while they remain in contact. Regarding terminology, the term borrowing is used here in its usual sense to describe the transfer of linguistic features from a second language, Kashmiri or Urdu in this case, into the first language, Burushaski. This type of transfer reflects *recipient-language agency*, since speakers are fully competent in their native language, which they acquire naturally at home. (Munshi, 2010).

Riaz Ahmed Islam (Islam, 2011). In his thesis, *The Morphology of Loanwords in Urdu: the Persian, Arabic and English Strands*, Winter (2008) discusses loanword integration by emphasizing two criteria of conformity: conformity to the source-language form and to the target-language system. His study shows that loanwords may follow one of two paths: either borrowed language words' properties remain intact and continue to reflect the source language, or these properties change to conform to the morphological system of the target language.

Gender is an idea that is culturally and socially constructed; therefore, culture has discriminatory ways in which the Urdu language, as well as the English language, is practiced. In their article, *Gender Representation in Primary Level English and Urdu Textbooks in Pakistan*, Rabia and Hussain (2019) give evidence that textbooks perpetuate gender discrimination because of the assignment of major or key roles to boys. She applies Foucault's (1980) theory to explain that textbooks are an invisible force that naturalizes this prejudice. In Foucault's discourse theory, individuals engage in communication based on a common repository of knowledge and understanding that is slowly created and gradually embraced by society. The knowledge shared is formed by repetition in daily communication and in formal literature, including educational sources. These understandings are not fixed in the long run; they change along with social practices, and new perspectives emerge. Consequently, it is a group of people that influences what is believed to be the truth in a particular society. He explains that not every person or group influences these common meanings equally. The influence is proportional to power and provides more means of exerting pressure. Thus, those with greater social, political, or economic influence largely shape the definition and propagation of the prevailing ways of thought among ordinary people. This is why influence is usually viewed as a direct function of power, which varies across cultures and is linked to social class, professional status, education, and gender. She speculates that this theoretical standpoint is especially applicable to textbook studies, since the contributions of authors, publishers, quality assurance officers, and educational institutions play a significant role in constructing and validating knowledge among young people. Here, educational institutions are dominated not only by stakeholders but also by ideologies and narratives that shape learners' learning experiences. Available literature on English and Urdu textbooks in Pakistan shows that dominant social norms and cultural attitudes influence the portrayal of gender in discourse. It has resulted in the recurrent

appearance of male roles and their stories, while female voices and their input are disregarded. These gendered discourses may reinforce the stereotypes in textbooks, which, in turn, serve as a strong place where the socially acceptable knowledge is reproduced, and thus, defamiliarizes the gender hierarchies or inequalities instead of addressing them.

Urdu uses gender as an important element of nouns, since all nouns have a gender. It influences verbs, adjectives, and adverbs in the sentences. One such interesting study is a study by Khan (2009), titled "Computation of Gender of Urdu Nouns," which points out that all nouns in the Urdu language are gendered and either male or female. The research proposes computational and corpus methods. The two methods provide an effective analysis of gender inflections by applying dictionaries and background knowledge across a complete set of corpora. The effectiveness of such systems makes them very useful and extremely valuable. They skillfully determine the gender and animate/inanimate status of nouns based on surrounding words and semantic context. This is a new method for examining the English origin of dual-gender English nouns in Urdu. The method is also very clear about how borrowed nouns can be easily incorporated into the target language.

3. Research Methodology

3.1. Research design

The present study adopts a qualitative, exploratory, and interpretive research design. (Creswell, 2018) to investigate the phenomena of gender assignment and structural concurrence in English borrowed nouns within recipient English syntax. Rather than employing a large-scale framework, this study relies on a micro-level qualitative morphosyntactic and contextual analysis.

This study focuses on the gender assignment of English loanwords in Urdu. Drawing on the conclusions of Ahmad (2013) and Munshi (2010), it establishes its core premise: the gender assignment of these loanwords is not governed by fixed grammatical rules, but is influenced by contextual register. The concept of the gender agreement matrix originates from Corbett (1991).

3.2. Data Sources and Sampling

This study employs purposive sampling to collect corpora for Urdu language research. To obtain authentic and natural linguistic data, the study excluded artificially constructed corpora and sourced samples from four categories of authoritative media outlets in Pakistan that cover distinct register characteristics. The first corpus source is the print edition of the Daily Express, whose corpus data constitutes a highly formal, edited, and structurally conservative written discourse.

To cover spoken registers, PTV serial 'Dhuwan' was selected for the analysis of naturalistic, script-mediated dialogue from broadcast television drama, as well as Geo TV contemporary drama 'Alif', which simultaneously reflects casual conversational registers in which code-switching and English lexical integration are very high.

In these different sources, a non-probability purposive sampling strategy was utilized, resulting in the compilation of a final dataset of thirty-five (35) unique nouns borrowed from English in Urdu sentences. This study is best suited to purposive sampling in that a very methodical targeting and separation of representative lexical borrowings, most notably nouns used for places, professions, foods, and objects of use that incriminate explicit gender fluidity or dual-gender application based on predictive variation (Noyer, 1997) can be made. Although the 35 sentences may be seen as statistically small, this is methodologically rigorous and provides sufficient structure to a qualitative paradigm. The dataset prioritizes deep structural description over statistical generalizability, focusing on the underlying grammatical frameworks and sociolinguistic dynamics of contemporary Urdu speech communities.

4. Data Analysis, Findings, and Discussion

This section presents a structural and contextual analysis of borrowed English nouns and their behavior in gender-rich language. The English language is considered gender-neutral; While the English lexicon is fundamentally gender-neutral, target nouns incorporated into Urdu syntax must conform to a binary grammatical gender matrix consisting strictly of masculine (+M) or feminine (+F) feature specifications.

In Urdu, there are two genders: masculine and feminine. In Urdu, 'i' is a terminal vocal suffix used to indicate the adjectival and abstract feminine noun, for example, 'dosti' (*friendship*). Whenever '-e' or '-i' is attached to words like 'zindagi' (*life*) and 'sharmandagi' (*embarrassment*), it also refers to femininity. On the other hand, 'a' in nouns like larka (*boy*) refers to the masculine.

To model how English loanwords, especially nouns, integrate into a gender-rich ecosystem in the study, Data is analyzed and interpreted from the perspective of distributed morphology. Distributed morphology (DM) claims that grammar does not reside within a word; it is the syntax that shapes the word. (Noyer, 2003). The focus of this study is to analyze how context and societal usage shape the gender of English-borrowed words in Urdu. The study analyses the data from a DM perspective; this analysis and interpretation show that English borrowings lack innate, immutable lexical gender markers in bilingual Urdu discourse. Rather, their surface gender configuration is automatically determined by the syntactic matrix and the societal register. This phenomenon is evaluated across four semantic classes: professional names, locations/places, food entities, and quotidian concrete objects. It is also observed that these borrowed words can be assigned either a male or a female gender based on their semantic meaning.

4.1. Name of Professions

Professional nouns are fascinating: although borrowed from English, their gender is inherently neutral; usage determines whether they are male or female. For instance, the English word 'doctor' is a borrowed noun, and social factors determine its gender. The phenomenon is described by Thomason and Kaufman's theory of language contact. Lexical borrowing is a contact-induced phenomenon in which social contact explains the status of the borrowed word. At the same time, the recipient language's linguistic structure governs the integration of borrowed items. In Urdu-English contact, borrowed English nouns, for

example 'doctor', retain their semantic meanings; however, they adapt morpho-syntactically to Urdu, as seen in the case of the gender agreement pattern of example 1(a) of the noun 'doctor'. The situational and linguistic environment does not create meaning. However, it facilitates the contextual interpretation and grammatical accommodation of the borrowed word in the recipient language, as explained in example 1(b).

In Urdu-English contact, borrowed professional nouns participate in Urdu gender agreement patterns, which are activated in an interactional context but regulated by Urdu's morpho-syntactic constraints; another example that clarifies this is the borrowed word 'lawyer' (1c). The gender agreement pattern here can be explained by distributed morphology. In all the above examples, it is the syntax and context that determine a noun's gender.

Description of other English-borrowed nouns, including 'Pilot' and 'Vegetable vendor', further supports this study and demonstrates the work by Thomson Kaufman. The arguments also align with Riaz Islam's study. His study shows that loanwords may follow one of two paths: either the properties of the borrowed-language words remain intact and continue to reflect the source language, or these properties change to conform to the morphological system of the target language. (Islam, 2011). These examples explicitly demonstrate that gender agreement is a contact-induced phenomenon influenced by multiple factors, in line with Thomason and Kaufman's claim that contact-driven change is socially motivated but structurally constrained, and with Poplack's variationist perspective, which emphasizes the systematic and rule-governed nature of grammatical behavior in bilingual discourse. (Poplack, 1993).

1(a) - Doctor Agaya, Doctor Agii (*The doctor came*).

1(b) yeh doctor waqt ka paband hai, yeh doctor waqt ki paband hai. (*This doctor is punctual*).

1(c) Lawyer case Acha Lara, Lawyer case Acha Lari. (*The lawyer handled the case well*).

1(d) Yah pilot jet maharat sa urata hai, yeh pilot jet maharat sa urati hai. (*This pilot flies the jet skillfully*).

1(f) wo vegetable vendor sabzi taza deta hai, wo vegetable vendor sabzi taza deti hai (*The male vegetable vendor sells fresh vegetables*) and (*The female vegetable vendor sells fresh vegetables*).

1(g) Mazdoor ki tankhawah bht kam hai (*A laborer's wages are very low*), Mazdoor ka guzr basar mushkil sa hota hai (*A worker can hardly make a living*).

Hence, these examples provide an explicit explanation of distributed morphology, showing how English loanwords acquire grammatical gender and exhibit dual-gender behavior. It provides empirical evidence regarding gender agreement in Urdu sentences.

4.2. Nouns for Locations/Places

Urdu adopted many words and place names of English origin; however, they seamlessly became part of the Urdu language and everyday communication. The gender assignment of borrowed lexical items that name places is explicitly explained in Amir Mustafai's paper, "The Reality and Its Instances: Review on Berger's and Luckman's Theory of The Social Construction of Reality." (Mustafai, 2019). They argue that society exists as an objective reality, although humans create it through social interaction. According to them, through

continuous interactions, they develop everyday habits that later become their accepted way of thinking. Gradually, ideas, concepts, and social positions become traditionally accepted, as in the case of gender assignment in the Urdu language, *ka* for masculine and *ki* for feminine. The same goes for borrowing of lexical nouns; interaction and context determine their gender. For instance, the English borrowed word 'School' has its gender adjusted according to context, as in scenario 2(a). Hence, the borrowed word retains its core meaning; however, gender assignment is determined by its social context and frequency of use (Islam, 2011).

Other borrowed words to discuss the phenomenon of gender assignment are 'hotel', 'station', and 'hospital'. The fact is that all these words are of English origin; however, they have been integrated into Urdu, as commonly used in response to colonialism and imperialism. (Blommaert, 2010). According to Distributed Morphology (DM), the words 'Station', 'Hotel', and 'Hospital' are gender neutral; however, they act as both masculine and feminine, based on syntax and the discourse in which they are used, as presented in the following sentences.

2(a) Iss School ki reputation achi hai (*This school has a good reputation*), Iss School ka bht charcha hai (*This school is widely talked about*).

2(b) Hotel ki location achi hai (*The hotel's location is good*), Hotel ka kahana khush zaiqa hai (*The hotel's food is delicious*).

2(c) Station ka pata bta do (*Please tell me the address of the station*), Station ki building khasta hal hai (*The station building is in poor condition*).

2(d) Hospital ki safai hoi? (*Was the hospital cleaned?*) Hospital ka visit/doarh kesa raha (*How was the hospital visit?*)

4.3. Name of Food Items

The English language has a substantial corpus of borrowed nouns used to describe food items. The collection nouns are fascinating; although borrowed from English, they possess an inherently neutral gender. This refers to the insight that the gender assignment of these borrowed nouns, whether masculine or feminine, is not fixed but is shaped by their usage and social context within the recipient language community, as described by distributed morphology. Let us take an example of the English word 'juice'. As a borrowed noun, its classification can vary across societies, leading to different interpretations. Distributed morphology refers to the fact that the word 'juice' has no gender until it is used syntactically. Social factors determine the gender of the borrowed word. The phenomenon is described by Thomason and Kaufman's theory of language contact. Lexical borrowing is a contact-induced phenomenon in which social contact explains the status of the borrowed word. At the same time, the recipient language's linguistic structure governs the integration of borrowed items. It implies that the relationship between speakers of different languages fosters term borrowing and that this is not merely a straightforward adoption but is mediated by the linguistic structure and grammatical rules of the recipient language, as in the case of Urdu.

The linguistic structure and grammatical rules of Urdu provide valuable insights into its unique features. For example, the word 'rice' exemplifies the principles of distributed morphology, a theoretical framework in linguistics that posits that grammatical categories

such as gender are not fixed within a word itself, though syntax is the ultimate arbiter. Instead, these features emerge from a combination of various syntactic factors and their relational context within a sentence. Furthermore, the word 'Coca-Cola' demonstrates how certain foreign words retain their original meanings while acquiring a grammatical form in Urdu. When such loanwords are inserted into the Urdu discourse, Coca-Cola not only retains its status but also adapts the grammatical conventions of the recipient language. This adaptation may involve changes in the pronunciation of gender markers like 'ka' and 'ki' (of), or the addition of markers that reflect the grammatical structure of Urdu. The following examples illustrate how languages can evolve and integrate external influences while maintaining their inherent grammatical frameworks.

3(a) Rice ki fasal bohat shandar hai, (*The rice crop is excellent*), Rice ka zaiqa bohat acha hai (*The rice tastes delicious*).

3(b) Coca-Cola ki bottle kitne ki hai? (*How much is the Coca-Cola bottle?*) Coca-Cola ka rang kala hota hai (*Coca-Cola is black in color*).

3(c) 'Curry ki khushbu lajawab hai' (*The aroma of the curry is fantastic*), 'Curry ka zaiqa aala hai' (*The curry tastes excellent*).

3(d) 'Juice ki bohat maang hai' (*There is a high demand for juice*), 'Juice ka karobar karo', (*Do business in juice*).

4(d) cream kitni soft hai (*The cream is very soft*) cream ka color safaad hai (*The color of the cream is white*).

5(d) oil ki qeemat main izafa ho gaya hai (*The price of oil has increased*), oil ka bohran ana wala hais (*An oil shortage/crisis is going to happen*),

4.4. Name of Objects

In Urdu-English contact, borrowed nouns actively participate in Urdu gender agreement patterns, which are intrinsically triggered in interactional contexts but are regulated by Urdu's morpho-syntactic constraints. A clear example from the collected data clarifies this with a borrowed word, 'Surf' 4(a). These analyses encompass words such as 'charger', 'diaper', and 'tissue', which must be analyzed through the theoretical framework of distributed morphology. In this framework, the gender of the noun is determined syntactically, meanings are compositionally derived, and phonological forms are inserted post-syntactically. The morpho-semantic and morpho-syntactic structure of the expression provides empirical evidence that the dual-gender behavior of gender-neutral borrowed words is a product of syntactic derivation (Sabah et al., 2026). This observation strongly supports the Distributed Morphology framework, which posits that morphological phenomena can be understood in terms of syntactic principles.

4(a) 'Surf ki kya qeemat hai?' (*What is the price of Surf?*) Surf ka istemal kam karna chahiye' (*The use of Surf should be reduced*).

4(b) 'Diapers ki bohat maang hai' (*There is a high demand for diapers*), 'Diapers ka istemal walidain ke liye bohat khushgawar hai' (*Using diapers is very convenient for parents*).

4(c) 'Charger ki taar kharab ho gayi hai' (*The charger wire has been damaged*), 'Charger ka cell kamzor ho gaya hai' (*The charger cell has become weak*).

4(d) ‘Tissue ki bohat zaroorat hoti hai’ (*Tissue is greatly needed*), ‘Is tissue paper ki ijad insaan ke liye naimat hai’ (*The invention of tissue paper is a blessing for humans*), ‘Tissue ka istemal karna chahiye’ (*Tissue should be used*).

4(e) ‘Chair ki chaar taangein hain’ (*The chair has four legs*), ‘Is chair ka rang brown hai’ (*The color of this chair is brown*).

In 4(e), the noun ‘chair’ originates from English and presents an interesting illustration of grammatical gender. In the first scenario, it is clearly feminine due to syntactic and contextual cues, whereas in the second, it adopts a masculine form. Although the word remains the same, as the contact-induced theory unequivocally states, change is a dynamic process that is not confined to singular instances; instead, it suggests that grammatical gender depends on sentence structure and the context in which the word is used. (Lucas, 2015). This demonstrates how language evolves and adapts through contact with other languages, as English-borrowed nouns take on new meanings when they come into contact with Urdu and other cultural contexts. Table 1 below provides the evidence from Urdu on how English-borrowed words acquire gender based on syntax and linguistic context.

Table 1:

Borrowed Nouns in Urdu and Their Contact-Induced Gender

1- Category	2- Examples in Urdu	3- Gender agreement
4- Name Of Profession	9- Doctor Agaya (<i>the doctor came</i>)	11- Masculine ‘Agaya’
5- Name Of Profession	10- Doctor Agayii (<i>the lady doctor came</i>)	12- Feminine ‘Agayii’
6-		
7-	13- yeh doctor waqt ka paband hai, (<i>This doctor is punctual</i>)	15- Masculine ‘ka’
8-	14- yeh doctor waqt ki paband hai, (<i>This doctor is punctual</i>)	16- Feminine ‘ki’
	17- Lawyer case Acha Lara (<i>The lawyer handled the case well</i>)	19- Masculine ‘lara’
	18- Lawyer Case Acha Lari (<i>The lawyer handled the case well</i>)	20- Feminine ‘lari’
	21- Yah pilot jet maharat sa urata hai, (<i>this pilot flies the jet skillfully</i>)	23- Masculine ‘urata’
		24-
		25- feminine ‘urati’

	22- yeh pilot jet maharat sa urati hai. (<i>This pilot flies the jet skillfully</i>)	26-
	27- wo vegetable vendor sabzi taza deta hai, (<i>The male vegetable vendor sells fresh vegetables</i>)	29- Masculine 'deta'
	28- wo vegetable vendor sabzi taza deti hai (<i>The female vegetable vendor sells fresh vegetables</i>).	30- 31- Feminine 'deti'
32- Name of Locations and Places	33- This school ka bht charcha hai (<i>This school is widely talked about</i>)	35- Masculine 'ka'
	34- This school ki reputation achi hai (<i>This school has a good reputation</i>)	36- 37- Feminine 'ki'
	38- Hotel ka kahana khush zaiqa hai (<i>The hotel's food is delicious</i>)	40- Masculine 'ka'
	39- Hotel ki location achi hai (<i>The hotel's location is good</i>)	41- 42- Feminine 'ki'
	43- Station ka pata bta do (<i>Please tell me the address of the station</i>)	45- Masculine 'ka'
	44- Station ki building khasta hal hai (<i>The station building is in poor condition</i>)	46- 47- Feminine 'ki'
	48- Hospital ka visit kesa raha (<i>How was the hospital visit?</i>)	50- Masculine 'ka'
	49- Hospital ki safai hoi? (<i>Was the hospital cleaned?</i>)	51- Feminine 'ki'
52- 53- 54- 55- Name of Food Items	56- Rice ka zaiqa bohat acha hai (<i>The rice tastes delicious</i>). Rice ki fasal bohat shandar hai (<i>The rice crop is excellent</i>)	57- Masculine 'ka'
	59- Coca-Cola ka rang kala hota hai' (<i>Coca-Cola is black in color</i>).	58- Feminine 'ki'
		61- Masculine 'ka'

	60- Coca-Cola ki bottle kitne ki hai? (How much is the Coca-Cola bottle?)	62-
		63- Feminine 'ki'
	64- Har taqreeb mein cake ka aham kirdar hota hai (Cake plays an important role in every ceremony)	66- Masculine 'ka'
		67-
	65- Is cake ki shakal kitni achi lag rahi hai (This cake looks very beautiful).	68- Feminine 'ki'
	69- Curry ka zaiqa aala hai (The curry tastes excellent)	71- Masculine 'ka'
	70- Curry ki khushbu lajawab hai (The aroma of the curry is amazing)	72- Feminine 'ki'
73- Name of Objects	75- Juice ka karobar karo, (Do business in juice)	78- Masculine 'ka'
74-	76- Juice ki bohat maang hai (There is a high demand for juice)	79- Feminine 'ki'
	77-	
80-	81- oil ki qeemat main izafa ho gaya hai (The price of oil has increased)	84- Feminine 'ki'
		85-
	82- oil ka bohran ana wala hais (An oil shortage/crisis is going to happen)	86- Masculine 'ka'
	83-	87-

The interpretation of this thorough study supports the relevance of the distributed morphology categorization, indicating that English-borrowed nouns in Urdu exhibit grammatical gender flexibility rather than fixed categorization. This result, along with the variability, suggests a strong understanding of the morphosyntactic dynamics of the borrowed term, particularly its gender. The research examines borrowed words, especially nouns, across 4 categories to understand gender agreement better.

The interpretation and analysis of the borrowed nouns demonstrate that the same nouns of these categories could be both masculine and feminine. It is solely a product of the interaction of words in a particular context. (Munshi, 2010). The analysis also demonstrates that words do not belong to any grammatical category; rather, it is the syntax that determines whether

the gender of English-borrowed nouns in the Urdu sentence is masculine, feminine, or dual. The examples of analysis discussed in this extensive study demonstrate the dynamic interaction between noun agreement with verbs and adjectives and contextual indicators that change grammatical gender, indicating change rather than a firm fixation on the words under consideration (Noyer, 2003). Moreover, the study indicates the effect of language contact on the development of Urdu through English-borrowed words. Moreover, the examples demonstrate that Urdu is a natural language that accommodates English vocabulary and follows a gender-based agreement system, as in a recipient language. Finally, the study demonstrates the dynamic and adaptable nature of English borrowed words in Urdu sentences. The study clearly discusses the research gap in more than 30 sentences, showing that the gender assignment of English-borrowed words in Urdu sentences is a dynamic process that depends on syntax and discourse.

5. Conclusion

The present study presents a comprehensive morphosyntactic analysis of English loanwords, particularly nouns, within the binary-gender framework of Pakistani Urdu. Using the theoretical framework of Distributed Morphology (DM). This study took a qualitative, exploratory, and interpretive route to map how loanwords behave morpho-syntactically across four categories: professions, locations, food items, and everyday objects. Analysis of the sentences shows that these borrowed nouns do not have a fixed gender; instead, their gender can be flexible depending on context and usage. Methodologically, the employment of non-probability purposive sampling, together with close examination of the real data, specifically, thirty-five Urdu sentences that have been selected from authentic sources, such as newspapers and TV dramas. These sentences were not randomly chosen. Instead, for this study, data were purposively selected from the Daily Express newspaper for its formal style and from dramas such as Dhuwan and Alif for their informal dialogue. Through this careful selection of data, it can be assumed that the reader may come across the real examples of the usage of these loanwords, particularly nouns. These examples justify the applicability of Distributed Morphology (DM) and other linguistic theories to this investigation into the adoption of gender by borrowed nouns in Urdu syntax. By adopting a distributed morphology, English loanwords are incorporated into gendered Urdu syntax as gender-neutral roots with morphological features. In this case, English loanwords enter Urdu syntax with no particular gender category. This implies that although English itself is gender-neutral, its lexicon still needs to abide by the morphosyntactic restrictions imposed by Urdu. To conclude, this paper sheds light on an evident gap in the existing literature on the role of loanwords, particularly nouns, in Urdu grammar. This paper offers a firm foundation for further research on the role of syntax in gender stabilization and extends to the study of languages in different parts of the world, including Sindhi and Saraki. Finally, it emphasizes the dynamic nature of language in addressing the complexities of multilingual societies.

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