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## **Pinterian Model World: Exploring the Element of Anger in Pinter's Two Plays: The Caretaker and No Man's Land**

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### **Keywords**

- Anger
- Agony
- Existentialist
- Social Relationships
- Emotional Refuges
- Frustrations

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### **Abstract**

*This paper contends that the characters of Harold Pinter often find themselves angry. Set under existentially nebulous conditions, the fictional events in Pinterian plays push its characters to remain agonized and reclusive. To explore the causes and effects of Pinterian anger Harold Pinter's two plays *The Caretaker* and *No Man's Land* are selected and analyzed in this paper by applying textual analysis as a qualitative research methodology. A close scrutiny of the plays shows that characters face existential uncertainties, identity crises, torments of memories, and the failure to attain the desired goals. They lack any interest in life and social relationships. They are at constant war with themselves and others. In their pursuit of finding social and emotional refuges, they are compelled to define and redefine their understanding of freedom and relationships which ultimately leave them frustrated and angry.*

## 1. Introduction

In Harold Pinter's characters, a pervasive sense of anger occupies a dominant place. His characters mainly remain disoriented and often find themselves angry. This paper delves into the genesis and explores the impact of anger on Pinterian characters through his two masterworks: *The Caretaker* and *No Man's Land*. A close scrutiny reveals that Pinter's characters find themselves stranded in an existential wasteland, devoid of any existential meaning and social connection. Fractured identity, torments of the past, and uncertainty fuel their frustration which draws them further towards isolation and leaves them in a constant conflict – both internally and with others. In *The Caretaker* and *No Man's Land*, the characters' failure to navigate the modern condition manifests as simmering anger, a force which deepens their sense of alienation and isolation. Anger compels the characters to perpetually realign and readjust their conception of freedom, communication, and relationships. In the present study, anger is analyzed as a potent force which encompasses both psychological and physical aspects and acts as a driving force behind the emotions and feelings of Pinterian characters.

The purpose of delving into Pinter's presentation of anger in *The Caretaker* and *No Man's Land* in this paper is to investigate its significance within the modern human condition. It explores the reasons behind Pinter's portrayal of characters consumed by anger. It uncovers the answer to the question if anger works as a catalyst to shatter the moral fabric of Pinter's *Gesellschaft*. Do these characters succumb to self-perpetuating anger, or are they victims of external forces? For example, consider the ending of *The Caretaker* where Pinter's three main characters Mick, Davies, and Aston are perpetually embroiled in anger. They find it hard to forge a connection with each other due to communication breakdowns, personal insecurities, territorial anxieties, and fragmented identities. Their interactions turn out to be a constant source of pain for each other and also expose the futility of communication in Pinter's world. The characters' unreliable memories, further complicate their lives which adds to the pervasive sense of threat and frustration that defines their existence. This draws the readers' attention to a crucial question: does anger reside as an inherent menace within Pinter's societal model or the Pinter's characters are trapped in a self-perpetuating cycle of frustration?

Harold Pinter (1930-2008) is a 2005 Nobel Prize winner in literature. He is considered one of the giants of twentieth-century theatre. He has left a lasting legacy by transcending his roles as a playwright, screenwriter, director, and theatre actor. His works are firmly rooted in the 'Theatre of the Absurd'. According to Martin Esslin, Harold Pinter is one of the greatest writers of the Theatre of Absurd. Rejecting the conventions of realism, Pinter has crafted a unique style of writing known as the 'Pinteresque style of dialogue'. Rich in disharmony and dark humour, Pinter's writing style which also includes the frequent use of long pauses (The famous Pinterian Pause) is characterized by elusive meanings and conversations. Nevertheless, Pinter's plays are also often classified as comedies of menace, which touch upon the theme of existential anxieties and nothingness. A recurring theme in his plays is his characters' constant struggle with the harsh realities of life. However, the Pinterian style of writing and themes have inspired generations of playwrights, including Lucy Ann Kirkwood, Alexi Kaye Campbell, Sam Shepard, David Mamet, and Dennis Kelly.

## 2. Literature Review

Delving into the analysis of the element of anger in Harold Pinter's plays necessitates an understanding of the concept of anger itself, its nature and the reason why Pinterian characters are consumed by it. In its generic term, "to be angry is considered to be an aggressive act and to feel angry is considered the subjective awareness of aggressive impulses. Aggression also includes violence, hatred, hostility, and all manifestations of destructiveness" (Rothenberg, 1971, p. 455). Two critical factors, purposelessness and the crushing feeling of nothingness, engender a gradual accumulation of frustration and stress which cause humans to experience emotional outbursts (Chen, 2010, p. 73). Anger harbinger a cascade of negative consequences, including physical aggression, strained relationships, destructive behavior, and emotional turmoil. Anger is a potent emotion-driven force and a social disrupter. It can sever social and personal connections and erode the very foundations of communal living. As an emotional catalyst, anger intensifies passions and overwhelms rational thought. The heightened emotional state generated through anger can easily prompt individuals towards harmful behaviors and put them in unacceptable situations. "Expression of anger may take many forms, including violence, self-harm, and more commonly, physical and verbal aggression" (Rohany & Ghani, 2014, p. 566). Anger gives birth to catastrophic events. It jeopardizes the safety of both oneself and others. Its origin can be traced back to diverse stimuli. Modern behavioral psychologists describe several key factors which contribute to the emergence of anger. Anger, "can be generated by interpersonal relationships and is experienced when the plans, desires and needs of the individuals are frustrated and when the individual perceives the situation is unfair and a threat towards his ego" (Arslan, 2010, p. 26). Anger generates negative mental health consequences such as "decrease in attention, difficulty in focusing on a subject, difficulty in establishing a relationship, excessive forgetfulness and obsessive thoughts" (Arslan, 2010, p. 28). The effects of anger as a detrimental physical and psychological force, permeate Pinter's characters at varying degrees which lead to the erosion of their individual and social freedom. This paper explores the key catalysts of anger: unfulfilled desires, traumatized past, existential threats, and identity crises, in Pinter's characters from his two plays *The Caretaker* and *No Man's Land* to answer the questions previously posed.

Harold Pinter's manifestation of anger in his characters is a significant contribution to modern theatre. However, it is important to acknowledge his place within a larger movement. The social and political upheavals of the 20th century fueled several playwrights to depict a disillusioned and 'angry modern man' in their works. During World War I and World War II, a group of playwrights and novelists emerged whose works focused on the presentation of the modern man's dilemmas. Among them, there also emerged several writers known in English literature history as the 'Angry Young Men'. Their works flourished in the so-called "Angry Decade" (Sierz, 1996, p. 136), as they explored the themes of existential frustration and social alienation which they expressed through anger in their characters. Their working-class backgrounds built their frustration with the perceived inadequacies in the modern world, especially after having the harrowing experience of witnessing the devastations of World War I and World War II. As per the Encyclopedia Britannica, 'The Angry Young Men', "novels and plays typically feature a rootless, lower-middle or working-class male protagonist who views society with scorn and sardonic humour and may have conflicts with authority" (2017). However, these writers, impelled by the disillusionment of the post-war era, used their pen to present a terse



commentary on the prevailing social and economic disorders. The harsh realities of war, human nature, and the rapid social transformations of the post-war period drastically impacted this generation of playwrights. They saw themselves and the societies around them through a starkly different lens than their predecessors. Their plays portray a disillusioned modern man who is burdened by the weight of history and unable to find meaning in the present. Their characters represent the frustrations and anxiety of their generation due to existential complexities and a sense of isolation. They have a disregard for romantic ideals and chivalric narratives, instead, their works challenge the established theatrical traditions by embracing the themes of psychological complexity and the search for meaning in a world seemingly devoid of answers. Their dramatic works explore the multifaceted causes of anger in modern man. The playwrights like Albert Camus, Samuel Beckett, Jean-Paul-Sarter, John Osborne, Arthur Miller, and Jean Genet have presented a theatrical investigation of the modern man's problems.

Jean-Paul Sartre and Albert Camus's dramas expound the profound existential struggles of modern man. The characters in their plays try to confront the absurdity of their existence while failing to grapple with the question of the meaning of human life. Their struggle leads them to a state of paralysis and agony where they constantly question the value of life itself. Both Sartre and Camus's works attempt to explore the alienation experienced by modern men in a world seemingly indifferent to their existence. A sense of isolation and meaninglessness in their characters fuel a deep animosity towards other humans which insinuates that human existence can be a source of friction and conflict. Their works focus on the inherently antagonistic existence of humans. In *The American Journal* (1987), Albert Camus writes that "to live is to hurt others and through others, to hurt oneself! How can we manage not to touch anything? To find what ultimate exile?" (p. 111). This self-created existential dilemma heightens anger in Sartre and Camus's characters and to them, all kinds of relations and aesthetic pleasures become meaningless. Albert Camus further elaborates about this modern man's agony that "we used to wonder where war lived, what it was that made it so vile. And now we realize that we know where it lives, that is inside ourselves" (qtd. Hughes, 1989, p. 54). Similarly, Samuel Beckett, Eugene Ionesco, and Jean Genet's works also touch upon the themes of existentialism and anger. In Samuel Beckett's 1952 masterpiece, *Waiting for Godot*, the two central characters battle with the issue of anger. In the play "nobody comes, nobody goes, nothing happens". (Beckett, 1956, p. 1.41) The two homeless characters, Vladimir and Estragon embody a pervasive sense of anger and disillusionment. They appear purposelessly stagnated and devoid of any meaning in their lives. Their existential ennui breeds a deep cynicism in them whereby they fear that any social interaction might disrupt their fragile sense of identity. Samuel Beckett describes Vladimir and Estragon's condition as "the suffering of being: that is the free play of every faculty, because the pernicious devotion of habit paralyses our attention, along those handmaidens of perception whose cooperation is not absolutely essential" (qtd. Esslin, 1961, p. 92). In a similar fashion, Jean and Berenger in Eugene Ionesco's play *Rhinoceros* (1960), constantly engage in petty squabbles. Their anger escalates over trivial matters like the number of horns on African and Asian rhinoceros. They fume with anger and ultimately part ways over for not being able to bear each other. Jean severs ties with Berenger on the street. He yells at him "if that's how you feel, it's the last time you'll see me. I am not wasting my time with a fool like you" (Inesco, 1960, p. 1.31). John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger* (1956) exemplifies the archetype of the angry modern man. Jimmy Porter, the protagonist of the play, persistently remains in rage over a potent cocktail of

social injustices. His anger stems from feelings of social deprivation, the sting of class conflict, unresolved sexual frustration, and a deep aversion to established religious dogma. Also, Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* (1949) depicts the tragic consequences of the American Dream's dark underbelly. Willy Loman and his family confront the harsh realities of a capitalist society. The relentless pursuit of capital advancements, coupled with a perceived decline in moral values, creates a suffocating atmosphere that breeds anger and disillusionment in Miller's characters. The pervasive sense of despair and agony ultimately leads to Willy's tragic downfall. old memories haunt Miller's characters. "Willy (the protagonist of the play in the *Death of a Salesman*) relives past encounters with his brother, his sons, and his love. The play merges a realistic present with a past experienced by Willy. These subjective remembrances return Willy to a past that may perhaps explain the reason for a failed and angry life" (Malkin, 1999, p. 20).

Anger as a defining characteristic of modern man finds a powerful expression in the Dramatic works of Harold Pinter. Pinter's plays explore the psychological and existential roots of this emotion. His characters navigate the complexities of the modern world which is confronting alienation, meaninglessness, and purposelessness. These factors coalesce to create a pervasive sense of rage and frustration in Pinter's characters which is often manifested through menacing silences, ambiguous power dynamics, and cryptic language in his plays. Harold Pinter "is often cited as the most original writer in England today and as one of the most significant of all living modern dramatists" (Burkman, 1971, p. 27). "In Pinter as in Beckett there is the tendency to deal with extreme situations, with men at the end of their tether" (Watson, 1988, p. 187). Pinter's plays delve deeply into the psychology of anger and investigate the situational triggers which ignite rage in his characters. The unmet needs as the recurring themes in his plays lead characters down a path of unconscious machination, where they accidentally start a conflict which they seek to avoid. Furthermore, Pinter portrays the characters' anger in response to external forces that thwart their ambitions and dreams. Pinter's *The Caretaker* and *No Man's Land* exemplify this dynamic, where the protagonists' dreams are dashed by the complexities of social interaction and their limitations which leave them isolated and angry.

### **3. Research Methodology**

This paper explores the element of anger in the works of Nobel Prize dramatist Harold Pinter, specifically *The Caretaker* (1960) and *No Man's Land* (1974). These two masterpieces of Pinter are chosen due to their literary merit and their prominent presentation of anger. This study offers a close reading of the plays by utilizing the Textual analysis as a qualitative research method outlined by Catherine Belsey in her essay *Textual Analysis as a Research Method* (2005). Moreover, the concept of anger in modern man, Angry Young Man playwrights, and twentieth-century playwrights are my secondary data collected to explore the element of anger in Harold Pinter's plays. Textual analysis is selected as an analytical tool which is applied to the Pinter plays to examine the texts. An attempt to "find out the different positions the text has to offer helps in locating the texts and takes the readers to definitive interpretations" (Belsey, 2005, p. 161).

#### 4. Data Analysis and Discussion

In Pinter's *The Caretaker*, Aston, Davies, and Mick remain frustrated due to a profound sense of longing, their unfulfilled desires, and their wishes. Aston is the first who shares his yearning to build a shed with Davies – a small act of creation and existence which symbolizes his desire for stability and purpose in life that is marked by neglect, torture, and societal indifference. He shares with Davies that "I might build a shed out the back" (Pinter, 1991, p. 1.17). Aston's desire to make a shed permeates throughout the play. He wastes his time wielding different tools and keeps on searching for construction materials instead of making the actual shed. However, he soon realizes that building a shed is contingent upon collaboration without which he cannot materialize his dream. This realization forces him to seek Davies help in materializing his dream. He hires Davies as a Caretaker of the house and requests his help in building the shed. Aston says to Davies, "you could be...caretaker here, if u liked" (Pinter, 1991, p. 2.42). Nevertheless, Davies, after accepting the offer starts threatening and criticizing Aston and his project.

Davies's threats and Aston's own incompetency to materialize his dream project turn Aston angry. In his distress and resentment, Aston blames Davies for his failure. He kicks Davies out of the apartment and tells him "I think it's about time you found somewhere else. I don't think we're hitting it off" (Pinter, 1991, p. 3.68).

Moreover, Aston's younger brother Mick, has plans of furnishing their flat with "furniture...mahogany and rosewood. Deep azure-blue carpet, unglazed blue and white curtains, a bedspread with a pattern of small blue roses on a white ground, dreeing-table with a lift-up top containing a plastic tray, table lamp of white raffia" (Pinter, 1991, p. 3.60). Mick also believes that with the Davies assistance, he could decorate the flat. However, once Davies accepts the offer of helping Mick, he instantly tries to encroach into Mick's personal space and also starts making fun of his idea. It compels Mick to stay away from Davies. Also, when Mick senses that there is now no possibility of accomplishing his dream, he turns angry. The fear of purposelessness and failure have a deep psychological impact on him. Mick becomes disrespectful and abusive. He instantly terminates Davies from his post of caretaker.

Similarly, Davies also experiences the same problems. He thinks of Aston as a bone of contention between him and Mick living alone in the apartment. Davies, to ensure his survival and job, perpetually endeavours to corrupt Mick's mind against his brother Aston and even succeeds in winning Mick's trust for some time. However, Mick eventually does not adhere to Davies's proposal of throwing his brother out of the house which makes Davies frustrated and furious. The failure of not accomplishing his dream turns Davies cynical. He begins mocking Mick and passes provocative statements. Life appears to him meaningless and in one instance, physically shoves Aston to start a fight with him.

Hirst and Spooner in Pinter's *No Man's Land* experience a similar burst of anger and frustration. Similar to Davies, Spooner tries to intrude into Hirst's personal life. "The real focus lies in Spooner's intrusion into Hirst's private sanctuary of his No Man's Land. It is his bold intrusion in this world that makes Spooner a dangerous and repellent figure in the eyes of the poet-host and eventually has himself kicked out" (Chen, 2010, p. 170). This intrusion by Spooner ultimately turns Hirst angry. The fear of living alone consumes

Spooner's mind and to avoid that he pleads Hirst to recall those mutually shared dreams. He appeals in frustration in fury, "what happened to our cottages? What happened to our lawns? You've revealed something.... We share something. A memory of the bucolic life". To Spooner's requests, Hirst responds by "throws his glass at him" (Pinter, 1979, p. 1.94). Briggs and Foster, the two other characters in *No Man's Land* start psychologically tormenting Spooner. They presume of him as an outsider with the potential to jeopardize their plan. Therefore, they first try to intimidate Spooner: "Don't try to drive a wedge into a happy household. You understand me? Don't try to make a nonsense out of family life" (Pinter, 1979, p. 1.112), and later make a plan to throw Spooner out of Hirst's house.

Nevertheless, Pinter in *No Man's Land* and *The Caretaker* has also depicted memory as one of the prime causes of engendering anger in his characters. In Pinter's plays flashbacks are employed in three ways. (i) Intrusive memories remind Pinter's characters of their previous failures. (ii) It reawakens the demons from the past which turns the characters angry. (iii) It also revivifies unhappy social and personal encounters. According to Sigmund Freud and Friedrich Nietzsche, the traumatic experiences of the past can cause anger and frustration. "Like Freud's repressed memory of the past, he claims but never lost, Proust too believed that the past part of our memory is concealed from our own vision in a more or less prolonged, thus leading us to remember those incidents which cause anger" (Foucault, 1986, p. 11). Aston in *The Caretaker*, lives in the agonies of his past and previous experiences. In the similar fashion, Hirst and Spooner in *No Man's Land* leave each other fuming with anger by reviving their past. They even start to have a verbal quarrel. Their effort to relive their past opens a threshold of unsettling old memories which pilot them to fight with one another.

Identity crisis and existentialism are the two prominent thematic features whereby Pinter explores the element of work in his plays. According to him, "it is very difficult to feel contempt for others when you see yourself in the mirror" (qtd. In Burkman. 1971, p. 27). Harold Pinter insinuates that human life is quite incomprehensible. He proposes that "there are no hard distinctions between what is real and what is unreal, nor between what is true and what is false. A thing is not necessarily either true or false; it can be both true and false" (qtd. In Aliakbari & Pourgiv, 2006, p. 1). In *The Caretaker*, Pinter's characters grapple with the idea of human identity and individuality. Mick's inhibits anger partially due to his inner uncertainties. He fails to live and grasp the existential complexities of life. At first, he attempts to avoid the problems of being and nothingness. However, gradually the existential crisis completely occupies. In one encounter, he fiercely thrashes Davies to apprise himself and others about his existence. Mick asserts his presence by giving a long description of his uncle and friends while beating Davies.

You remind me of my uncle's brother. He was always on the move, that man. Never without his passport. Had an eye for the girls. Very much your build. Bit of an athlete. Long-jump specialist. He had a habit of demonstrating different run-ups in the drawing-room round about Christmas time. Had a penchant for nuts. That's what it was. Nothing else but a penchant. Couldn't eat enough of them. Peanuts, walnuts, Brazil nuts, monkey nuts, wouldn't touch a piece of fruit cake. Had a marvelous stop watch. Picked it up in Hong Kong. That day after they chucked him out of the Salvation army. Used to go

in number four for Beckenham Reserves. That was before he got his gold medal (Pinter, 1991, p. 2.31).

Mick obsessively talks about human nature, his preferences, and city layouts in a desperate attempt to affirm his own existence. His physical outburst against Davies shows Pinteresque archetype characterization. It portrays an image of a modern man suffering from identity and existential crisis and constantly simmering with rage. Mick's frustration aligns with Nietzsche's notion of a man who is trapped in a repetitive cycle and who loses the meaning of life due to endless recurrence. Nietzsche has suggested:

What if a demon crept after you one day in your loneliest solitude and say to you: this life as you live it now and have lived it, you will have to live again and again, times without number; and there will be nothing new in it, but every pain and every joy and every thought and sigh and all the unspeakable small and great in your life must return to you, and everything in the same series and in the same sequence—and in the same way this spider and this moonlight among the trees, and in the same way this moment and I myself. The eternal hour glass of existence will be turned again and again-and you with it, you dust of dust! - would you not throw yourself down and gnash your teeth and curse the demon who thus spoke? (Nietzsche, 1969, p. 19).

Pinter's characters attempt to uncover the enigma of human existence. The deeper they look the more they find their existential foundation hollow as human philosophies and religion fail to provide any answer and solace. In *The Caretaker* Mick breaks the 'Buddha's statue' which symbolizes the failure of religion in helping to overcome the human existential issues. Mick's brother Aston succumbs to existential meaninglessness. His surrender depicts that existence is involuntary and he has no control over his fate. "Yet one wonders what exactly life should have offered them. Like Sartrean disciples, they were thrown into the world from nowhere and with nowhere to go. They wander round No Hope Alley" (Lumely, 1967, p. 209)

In *No Man's Land* Spooner and Hirst also struggle with a profound sense of meaninglessness. They remain in constant despair and conclude that life offers no inherent value or purpose. They think of existence as an enforced inescapable prison which has no meaning or possibility for growth. Hirst, in particular, expresses his sentiments when he declares, "it's a long time since we had a free man in this house" (Pinter, 1979, p. 1.83). With multiple insecurities and complexities in their lives, Hirst and Spooner try to understand the meaning of life. But their futile gestures and useless pursuits do not alter their situation and they keep on living a meaningless life. Moreover, their stagnant position makes them angry and depressed. Hirst describes their situation as an angry purposeless being. His dialogues aptly connote their mournful condition. He says;

Yes. It is true. I am walking towards a lake. Someone is following me, through the trees. I lose him, easily. I see a body in the water, floating. I am excited. I look close and see I was mistaken. There is nothing in the water. I say to myself, I saw a body, drowning. But I am mistaken. There is nothing there (Pinter, 1979, p. 2.95).

Hirst and Spooner remain anxious and question their existential freedom. Likewise, in *The Caretaker*, Davies embodies the existential plight mirroring Hirst and Spooner in *No Man's Land*. Enduring social seclusion, Davies loiters in the streets of London, contemplating on a man's existential void and his own sufferings. He struggles from internal conflict which culminates in the realization of the meaninglessness of his existence. He desperately endeavours to overcome his existential dilemma but repeatedly fails in his attempts. To seek refuge from his existential void, he initially works at a hotel and later accepts Mick's invitation to work as a caretaker. However, he is ultimately ejected from the apartment. Moreover, a glimmer of hope emerges for Mick to materialize his dream of decorating the house when Davies accepts his offer of the job but the self-imposed emptiness and the harsh realities consume him whereby he ultimately suffers in rage. Similarly, "Davies, besides feeling guilty about his existence, cannot tolerate the existence of others" (Mahmoudi, Azizmohammadi, & Kohzadi, 2013, p. 150). Aston suffers the same fate when Davies exposes him of his unworthiness.

In Harold Pinter's *No Man's Land*, Hirst and Spooner make a desperate attempt to escape the realities of life by burying themselves in the quicksand of memory. They engage in repetitive memory games, believing that revisiting their past might offer them a sense of belonging and purpose. In Act One of the play, their initial discussions revolve around mundane generalities and then gradually progress to more personal recollections in Act Two. This fleeting sense of progress gives them a sense of forging something new which ultimately crumbles as they get stuck in an existential struggle for they start questioning their very being (beingness). The feeling of fundamental nothingness breeds not only anger in Hirst and Spooner but also a profound sense of hopelessness in them. Both the characters' introspective journeys reveal to them that their lives are devoid of joy or happiness. The realization leaves them stranded in a wasteland of loneliness and rage.

Social constraints in Harold Pinter's plays also become the cause of anger in the characters. For example, Hirst and Spooner in *No Man's Land* face societal hostility once they decide to break free from the social norms. Foster and Briggs, who act as mouthpieces of societal forces in the play do their utmost to restrict Hirst's freedoms. They dictate his social interactions, sleep schedules, and even his sense of agency. This perceived control by society makes Hirst frustrated and angry. It demonstrates how social expectations can become a form of imprisonment. Similarly, in *The Caretaker*, Aston epitomizes the frustration of societal limitations. His unique ability to communicate with the unseen is interpreted by society as a rebellion against its norms. Therefore, it ostracizes Aston and forces him to conform. Aston initially, tries to suppress his uniqueness for fear of being considered a social menace. Also, when he starts talking with the supernatural forces again, he immediately attempts to shut his power for fear of being punished by society again.

## 5. Conclusion

*The Caretaker* and *No Man's Land* dredge out the reasons behind their characters' development of anger. Identity crisis, existential threat, recollections of the past, and failures to attain the desired goals build frustration in characters which causes them to remain angry. These themes heave out Pinter's manifestation of the causes of modern man's anger. His plays provide an important theatrical insight into the causes and effects of anger in modern times. Pinterian works redefine the causes of modern man's dilemmas, their effects, and their aftershocks. His characterization postulates that remaining angry

under the pathos of existential absurdities, societal imbalances, and memorialization of the past has put modern man in such a conundrum that he is left with no option but to struggle, to define and redefine his boundaries of freedom, thought, communication, and relationships. Davies, Aston, Mick, Hirst, and Spooner in *The Caretaker* and *No Man's Land* remain dissatisfied with their social and individual positions which breed social and personal insecurities in them. It prompts them to retreat to anger which further creates an atmosphere of violence, fear, and menace.

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## A Comparative Study of Word Formation in English and Pashto: Compounding and Derivation

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### Keywords

- Compounding
- Derivation
- English and Pashto
- Word Formation

### Abstract

*Comparative analysis of the world's languages reveals a good deal of correspondence in various areas like phonetics, phonology, grammar, syntax and morphology. Various features of languages range from perfect similarity to complete contrast. The process of word formation is one such feature. This correspondence concerns morphological and semantic aspects. The present study concentrates on the similarities and differences in the processes of compounding and derivation in Pashto and English. Following the trend of 'Contrastive Analysis' as a theoretical framework, the description and comparison were used to interpret the data. The researchers compared described and compounds and derivatives taken from both languages with main focus on their semantic and morphological patterns and features. Primary data for this work were the tokens selected from Daryab, Taj u lughat and Oxford dictionaries. On the whole, 98 tokens were picked up randomly from Oxford Dictionary and their equivalents were searched in Daryab, Taj u lughat. Qualitative and descriptive approaches were adopted in data analysis. The selected tokens were compared and analyzed on semantic and morphological bases. Major findings reveal that in the phenomena of compounds and derivatives in English and Pashto, there is perfect harmony where the equivalents in both languages have resemblance on the bases of semantics and morphological patterns. Similarly, there are tokens in both languages where there is partial harmony. Moreover, there are some other compounds and derivatives in which there is no similarity on morphological and semantic grounds. Thus, they are in complete disharmony. The study interest's researchers in the field of comparative linguistics, Pashto and English morphology and semantics, translation studies and the non-native speakers of Pashto to an extent.*

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## 1. Introduction

Pashto, also spelled as 'Pukhto', 'Pukhtu' and 'Pushtu', is one of the two national languages of Afghanistan and the regional language of Pakistan- mainly spoken in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (Comrie, 1989). It belongs to the New Iranian language group- a part of Indo-Iranian language group that is the major Eastern branch of the Indo-European languages. In terms of its number of speakers, Pashto is the second most important language of the Iranian family (Collins & Stabler, 2016).

Morphology is the study of words and their internal structures as well as the patterns and principles underlying their composition. It looks at both sides of linguistic signs i.e., at the form and the meaning, combining the two perspectives- words and the principles underlying the composition of words. The phenomenon of 'word formation' is central to morphology. Languages fulfill their lexical need either by morphological changes in the existing words or coining new lexemes. Popular processes of word formation include acronym, derivation, blending, coinage, backformation, borrowing, clipping and conversion. Compounding and derivation are two such sources of word formation. In the former, two distinct words are combined to form a new word which has different meaning from its component words when taken in isolation. For instance, nouns and adjectives are combined to form a compound. The latter involves adding an affix to build a word with a meaning and or category distinct from that of its base or stem word (Grady & Archibald, 2015).

Both of the phenomena of compounding and derivation are common across languages. The vocabulary of English and Pashto is also characterized by these widely-used processes. The purpose of the present study is to compare compounds and derivatives of English and Pashto on the basis of morphology and semantics. It accounts for the correspondences and differences between English and Pashto regarding the compounds and derivatives.

## 2. Literature Review

In modern-day linguistics, morphology is one of the core areas of grammar, along with phonetics, phonology, syntax, and semantics (Aronoff, 2013). Morphology is divided into two major areas: inflectional and derivational. The former deals with the markers of grammatical categories such as case, number, tense, and aspect. The latter studies the formation of new words that are different either in syntactic category or in meaning from their bases. Thus, a derivational morpheme is an affix that is added to a word in order to create a new word or a new form of a word. Moreover, a derivational morpheme can either change the meaning or the grammatical category of the words (Yule, 2020).

The basic unit of morphology is morpheme. Words in a language can be subdivided into morphemes. The morpheme is a minimal unit of meaning or grammatical function. A morpheme is not identical to a word because morpheme may or may not stand alone, whereas word can stand alone (Yule, 2020).

Richards & Schmidt (2013) define word is the smallest linguistic unit that occurs on its own in speech and writing. Word can be defined from four perspectives: orthographic, morphological, lexical, and semantic (Bauer, 2003). Orthographically word is one which has a space on either side of it. Morphologically, the form of word is considered. Lexically word covers the various forms of items which are closely related by meaning. Semantically

word involves distinguishing between items which may be morphologically identical but have a different meaning (Raja, 2014).

Along with some others, inflection, coinage, borrowing, contraction, backformation, affixation, derivation, compounding, conversion, blending, clipping, and acronyms are the processes of word formation (Bieswanger & Becker, 2017). A compound is the combination of two separate words to produce a single form. Compounding is even often regarded as the most productive process of the English word-formation. In English, most compound words are nouns, verbs or adjectives. Derivation uses an affix to build a word with a meaning and/or category distinct from that of its base. In derivation, a word that is attached to an affix will change word meaning or the word category (Grady & Archibald, 2015).

The overwhelming influence of English language has led researchers to compare world's minor and major languages with English. Pashto is no exception in this trend. Hamid (2018) conducted a comparative analysis of the argument structure of English and Pashto and came up with a number of aspects in which both English and Pashto differ in their syntax concerning the argument structure. The structure of the determiner phrase in Pashto has been investigated by Imdad et al. (2021) where they investigated the equivalents of the English determiner phrase in Pashto language. Pamir and Haqparst (2023) have conducted contrastive analysis of the structure and order of English and Pashto adjectives. Yet, the morphological pattern and structure of compounds and derivation as the widely used processes of word formation in English and Pashto need to be compared. This study is an attempt to fill this gap.

### **3. Research Methodology**

#### **3.1 Theoretical Framework**

Contrastive Linguistics, a sub-discipline of linguistics is concerned with the comparison of two or more (subsystems) of languages. Apart from its applied aspect, it also has a strong theoretical utility; it contributes to the understanding of language typology and language universals. It uses contrastive analysis as its method. This analysis usually comprises three steps: description of two languages, comparison of the two languages to show similarities and contrasts between them, and thirdly prediction of the areas of difficulties and errors for the benefit of the learner of the second or the foreign language. Theoretical contrastive linguistics mainly concentrates on similarities with the aim of discovering linguistic universals (Aziz, 2001). The present study falls in the domain of theoretical comparative linguistics and uses the first two steps: description and comparison of the sub-system of word formation with exclusive focus on compounding and derivation. Locating the aspects of difficulty for Pashto speakers for learning English or vice versa is however beyond the scope of this study.

#### **3.2 Nature and Procedures**

This study mainly follows the qualitative and descriptive approaches. Compounds and derivatives from both languages were compared, analyzed and classified into various categories on the basis of semantic and morphological correspondence.

The primary data for the study were collected from the latest dictionaries of English and Pashto. During the process of data collection, the researchers consulted Daryab, Taj-ul-loghat and Oxford dictionaries to collect and compare the tokens. The semantic and morphological patterns of the selected compounds of both languages were compared. Initially, the researchers purposively took 49 tokens from Oxford English Dictionary. Their equivalents were next searched in two Pashto dictionary i.e., Daryab and Taj u lughat. The comparison was made on the semantic and morphological bases. Each token was explained and compared with its equivalent in both languages.

#### 4. Results and Discussion

##### 4.1 Compounding

Table 4.1

*Comparison of Compounds in English and Pashto*

Pattern 1	English	Pashto
1	Barefooted	Khpialba-khpe
2	Heartbroken	Zra-chawdai
<b>Pattern 2</b>		
3	Ugly	Bad-sorata
4	Nervous	War-khata
5	Sibling	Ror-o-khor
6	Parents	Mor-o-Plar
<b>Pattern 3</b>		
7	Bathroom	Tashnab
8	Graveyard	Hadera
9	Guestroom	Hujra/dera
10	Eyebrow	Banra
11	Forehead	Tanday

#### 4.1.1. Pattern 1: English- Free-Free morphemes vs. Pashto- Free-free morphemes

Results shown in the above table illustrate that a wide number of compounds in both languages follow a perfectly similar pattern from both morphological and semantic perspectives. The first such common pattern of compounds consists of two free morphemes in English and their equivalents in Pashto follow the same pattern. Mostly, these words consist of a noun followed by an adjective or vice versa. For example, in [1], barefooted is the combination of an adjective and a noun in English. Its equivalent in Pashto is also of the same combination (adjective + noun). ‘Khpialba’ stands for bare which is an adjective in both languages. The second part of this compound is ‘khpe’ which stands for feet in English. Thus, both these words i.e., ‘foot’ in English and ‘khpe’ in Pashto are nouns. The order is reverse in [2] (heartbroken). Here in [2], the noun (heart) is followed by adjective (broken) in both languages. Moreover, the first two compounds have the marker of ‘ed’ and ‘en’ in English that usually turn nouns into adjectives. The rest of the words given in the above table are comprised of adjectives which are followed by nouns. The same morphological structure can be found in a number of other compounds in both English and Pashto.

#### 4.1.2 Pattern 2: English- Free morpheme vs. Pashto- Free-free morphemes

The second category in this respect contains those compounds which are formed of a single free morpheme in English. The equivalent of these compounds in Pashto are the combination of two free morphemes. The English words and their equivalent counterparts in Pashto mostly belong to the categories of nouns and adjectives. In [3], the English word and its corresponding compound in Pashto are both adjectives. Yet, the Pashto compound ‘Bad-soorata’ consists of an adjective and noun. The Pashto free morpheme ‘Bad’ is an adjective, while ‘sorat’ (face/shape) is a noun. The final shwa is case marker that inflects it for converting it into adjective. Similarly, [2] is a single free morpheme in English that stands for an adjective (Nervous) and its equivalent compound is in noun-adjective order (war-khata). The rest of the two instances in this pattern [5] and [6] follow the structure of [3]: parents, siblings (English, ‘mor-o-plar (mother and father) and ‘runra-khwaiendi (brothers-sisters) and so on.

#### 4.1.3 Pattern 3: English- Free-Free morphemes vs. Pashto- Free morpheme

Pattern (3) is structurally opposite of the proceeding pattern (2) above. In English these compounds are comprised of free-free morphemes whereas the equivalents of these compounds in Pashto are made up of a single free morpheme.

In English, the order of these compounds is noun followed by another noun; their equivalent word in Pashto comprise a single free morpheme- a noun. For instance, [8] consists of two English nouns ‘bath’ and ‘room’. The Pashto counterpart for this compound is a single noun ‘Tashnab’. The same correspondence can be observed in English-Pashto pairs in [9], [10], [11] and [13]: ‘graveyard’ and ‘hadera’, ‘guestroom’ and ‘dera’/‘hujra’, ‘eyebrow’ and ‘banra’, ‘forehead’ and ‘tandai’. The phenomenon illustrated in the last two patterns is indicative of the fact that the mentioned correspondence in English and Pashto is bilateral. In some instances, a single English free morpheme equates two Pashto morphemes for expressing a concept and vice versa.

## 4.2 Derivation

Table 4.2

*Comparison of Derivative Words in English and Pashto*

Pattern 1	English	Pashto
1	Friendship	Malgartia
2	Powerful	Zorawar
3	Sinful	Gonahgar
4	Economist	Maeshatdan
5	Lucky	Qesmatdar
6	Childhood	Mashomtob
7	Gardener	Baghwan
<b>Pattern 2</b>		
8	Helpless	Na-chara
9	Careless	Be-ehzeyata
<b>Pattern 3</b>		
10	Unknown	Na-ashna
11	Unhealthy	Na sama/na-jora
12	Incomplete	Na-mokamal
13	Unfair	Na-jayez
14	Disobedient	Na-farmarna
15	Unmarried	Na-wada/be-wada
<b>Pattern 4</b>		
16	Cheerful	Khoshal
17	Ownership	Malkiyat

#### **4.2.1. Pattern 1: English- Free+bound morpheme vs. Pashto- Free+bound morphemes**

This section presents a comparison of the derivatives as another source of word formation common in English and Pashto. The first morphological pattern in this regard is comprised of free-bound morpheme in English; its equivalent pattern in Pashto morphologically resembles its English counterpart. Morphologically, they are in perfect accordance with one another. Yet, they differ in their grammatical structure in some cases. The free morphemes in this set of English compounds are all nouns, i.e., friend, power, sin, economy, luck, child, garden. They are followed by suffixes as bound morphemes in both languages i.e., ship, ful, ist, y, hood, and er in English, and 'tia', 'war', 'gar', 'dan', 'dar', 'tob' and 'wan' in Pashto respectively.

Moreover, both of the languages carry the grammatical harmony when word classes of these derivatives are analyzed. In both languages, [1], [4], [6] and [7] are nouns, whereas, [2], [3] and [5] are adjectives that have been derived from nouns. This derivation involves the addition of suffixes to the first words (nouns) in these compounds. The bound morphemes in this category function either as inflectional or derivational morphemes. When they are used as inflectional morphemes, the grammatical category of the compounds is not changed. The first instance [1] (friendship) contains the bound morpheme 'ship'. Both friend and friendship are nouns because ship here is an inflectional morpheme. Thus, the grammatical category is not changed when friendship is derived from friend. The equivalent of friendship in Pashto is 'malgartia' is also comprised of a free morpheme 'malgaray' followed by a bound morpheme 'tia'. Here also, both the base and derived words are nouns. On the other hand, bound morphemes as derivational markers change the grammatical category of words. Powerful in [2] for example is an adjective that has been derived from the noun 'power' through the suffixation by adding 'ful' as a bound morpheme to the base. The Pashto equivalent of powerful is 'zorawar'. In this compound, the stem word 'zor' is a noun. By adding a bound morpheme 'awar', it becomes an adjective.

#### **4.2.2 Pattern 2: English- Free+Bound morpheme vs. Pashto- bound+Free morpheme**

In this category, the derivative English words are the combinations of free- Bound morphemes. The equivalent of these tokens in Pashto are in reverse order- following the bound-free morphemes structure. In these derivatives, a free morpheme, either a noun or adjective is followed by a bound morpheme in English like in pattern 1 above. For example, in [8] 'less', a bound morpheme, is suffixed with 'help' which is a free morpheme. Its equivalent derivative in Pashto has a bound morpheme 'na' as a prefix in 'Na-chara' which is affixed with 'chara' which means help in Pashto. Same is the case with [9]. Moreover, both [8] and [9] have 'less' in English that correspond to 'na' and 'be' in Pashto.

#### **4.2.3 Pattern 3: English- Bound+free morpheme vs. Pashto- Bound+free morpheme**

Unlike pattern (2), this set of derivatives are the combination of a bound morpheme followed by a free morpheme in both languages. The free morphemes as base words in this category are adjectives or verbs. The equivalents of these derivatives in Pashto are in



perfect correspondence as they are also made up of a bound morpheme followed by a free morpheme.

The first pair [10] is formed of a bound morpheme which is followed by a free morpheme (adjective) in English. Its equivalent is also of the same combination of a bound and free morpheme. The second of which is also an adjective in Pashto like English i.e. 'na' in Pashto is a bound morpheme and 'ashna' means known. The list given above have the markers of 'un, dis, in, un, etc. followed by adjectives in English. In Pashto 'na, be, bad' etc. are followed by adjectives. These prefixes in both languages are used as markers of negation that reverse the meaning of words.

#### **4.2.4 Pattern 4: English- Free+Bound morphemes vs. Pashto- Free morpheme**

This category of derivatives is a sort of exception to the above pattern. It was found in some cases that some English adjectives derived from noun through suffixation correspond to a single Pashto free morpheme. In both [16] and [17], base words as free morphemes are followed by suffixes as bound morphemes. Their equivalent terms in Pashto consist just a single morpheme as base word. For instance, both [16] and [17] have 'ful' and 'ship' as suffixes attached to base words 'cheer' and 'owner' respectively. However, their Pashto counterparts do not carry any bound morphemes either prefixes or suffixes with them. Yet, this pattern was found to be unilateral; there are no such Pashto derivatives in this order (free-bound) the English equivalents of which consist a single free morpheme.

### **5. Conclusion**

This study concludes that the phenomena of compounding and derivation in Pashto and English range from perfect harmony to complete disharmony. There are compounds in English and Pashto that resemble perfectly in both languages. This harmony is based on both morphological patterns they follow and the semantic contents they carry. Their comparison shows that they bear free morphemes (stems) and correspond to one another in meaning. In some other compounds and derivatives, the researchers found partial harmony regarding the morphological patterns of the counterparts taken from the two languages. It was also established that in some other compounds and derivatives, there is no correspondence regarding their morphological structure- though they serve the similar semantic and grammatical function.

#### **5.1 Further research**

This study was mainly concerned with the comparative description of compounds and derivatives in English and Pashto as the two processes of word formation. Future research can compare other processes of word formation in these two languages. Research can also be carried out on noun modification and adjectival order in English and Pashto. Similarly, investigation into the inflectional systems of English and Pashto may yield interesting findings. Lastly, the scope of this study can be extended to other closer languages to Pashto

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## An Exploration in the Environmental and Gender Effects on Voice Onset Time

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Keywords	Abstract
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Acoustic phonetics</li><li>• Voice Onset Time (VOT)</li><li>• PRAAT</li><li>• Phonology</li></ul>	<p><i>Acoustic phonetics is an important field in the domain of phonetics and phonology. It enables phoneticians to analyze the individual differences in human speech especially the properties of formants and voice onset time. The aim of the current study was to analyze the differences in voice onset time across genders and in laboratory and external settings. The researchers collected voice samples from 6 participants; 3 Male and 3 Female participants aged between 22-26 years. The participants recorded three mono-syllabic words starting with plosive consonants; pet, top, and kit on PRAAT software, initially in lab settings and then in external settings. Afterward, the VOT values were observed and plotted on Excel and then represented in the form of bar graphs for a comparative analysis of the VOT values across gender and environment. The principal findings of the current study revealed that the values of voice onset time for female participants were comparatively higher than for male participants. Moreover, the voice onset time in lab settings for the majority of the voice samples was higher than the VOT values in external settings.</i></p>

## 1. Introduction

Voice Onset Time (VOT) is one of the acoustic features that has been utilized in the field of linguistics which was introduced by Lisker and Abrahamson (1964). They defined VOT as “the time interval between the burst that makes the release of the stop closure and the onset of periodicity that reflects laryngeal vibration” (Lisker & Abrahamson, 1964, p. 422). VOT acts as both an audio cue and an inferential estimate of speech motor control. This requires precise motor coordination of the respiratory, phonatory, and articulatory components Kent (2002). According to Hutter (1985); Abramson (1973) & Ito (1986) in English and several other languages, VOT is a reliable indication to differentiate between voiced and voiceless stops. Individual talkers have different acoustic characteristics, which is a well-known fact Allen et al (2003). However, these variations result from a variety of sources, including dialect Byrd, (1992). Despite the broad applicability across various linguistic fields of VOTs, there are a variety of elements that could affect them. The speaker’s gender is one of the variables that can affect VOTs. Reports on this subject appear to differ from language to language and study to study Malavi (2017). According to the majority of studies, women produce longer VOT values than men due to physiological differences between the sexes (Swartz, 1992) but other studies showed that males produce longer VOT durations as a result of societal influences (Oh, 2011). The influence of gender and environmental setting on VOT has been studied in different languages however, it has not been explored in Pakistani English. Hence conducting a study that deals with the influence of gender and environmental setting on VOT in Pakistani English seems to be very important. Therefore, this study attempts to investigate the influence of gender and environmental settings on VOT using the PRAAT Software. PRAAT is an open-source application for analyzing speech sounds in phonetics. It was created by Paul Boersma and David Weenink of the University of Amsterdam. The aim of this study is: to investigate the influence of gender on VOTs and to investigate the influence of environmental settings.

### 1.1 Research Objectives

The objectives of the current study are as follow:

- To analyze the influence of gender on Voice Onset Time.
- To analyze the impact of different external environments like laboratory and lounge on the Voice Onset Time of the participants.

### 1.2 Research Questions

1. What is the difference in Voice Onset Time of the monosyllabic words; pet, top and kit pronounced by different genders?

**H1:** The VOT values of Voice samples by female participants would be higher than the VOT values of the male participants.

2. What is the variance in the Voice Onset Time of the words; pet, top and, kit articulated in different environment settings like laboratory and lounge?

**H2:** The VOT values observed in the laboratory settings would be higher than the VOT values observed in the external settings.

### 1.3 Significance of the study

The current study, which aims at investigating the impact of gender and environmental settings on Voice Onset Time (VOT) in the context of Pakistani English has multiple implications. Firstly, it intends to contribute to the domain of linguistic variation within Pakistani English, especially with reference to the factors of gender and environmental settings and how these factors shape the speech patterns. This aspect of the present study holds the tendency to provide an understanding of sociolinguistic dynamics in different cultural and linguistic contexts. Secondly, it might provide technical understanding for the development of speech recognition and synthesis tools and technologies which are culturally sensitive and inclusive and can be employed in various fields. Thirdly, this study can significantly enhance the understanding of phonological processes across genders and speech production across various linguistic varieties. Furthermore, as the researchers have utilized software named “PRAAT” for the analysis, which is reliable and widely used tool in the field of phonetics, therefore, the current study would yield reliable findings, detailed analyses, and precise measurement that can enhance the credibility and replicability of the results.

### 1.4 Delimitations of the study

Delimitations determine the boundaries drawn by the researcher prior to embarking upon a study and are essential for narrowing the focus of study (Creswell, 2009). The study has been delimited:

- To the calculation of Voice Onset Time for only three monosyllabic words: pet, top, and kit.
- To the sample size of 6 university students (three males; three females).
- To the context of Pakistani variety of English.

## 2. Literature Review

Acoustic phonetics is a well-established field in the domain of linguistics; it enables linguists to analyze the segmental and supra-segmental features of human language. Phoneticians use different software like PRAAT and Audacity to analyze the acoustic properties of speech sounds. Many researchers during the last three decades have composed remarkable studies in the domain of acoustic phonetics especially focusing on Voice Onset Time (VOT). Some of these studies related to the context of the current study have been reviewed below; these studies provide the critical insight, methodological framework, and theoretical framework for the current study as well. Lisker and Abramson (1967) have a great contribution to the field of acoustic phonetics. Their study talks about the characteristics of voiceless aspirated and voiced consonants. The principle findings of this research work suggest that the English plosive sounds /b/, /d/, /g/, /p/, /t/, and /k/ can be discriminated by the variation in time and duration VOT. The sounds articulated in the glottal opening in comparison to the supra-glottal consonant sounds have different VOTs. The researchers mainly focused on the analysis of words starting with plosive consonants and their voice onset time (VOT). According to the researchers, VOT can be defined as the time duration between the abrupt release of the plosives under closure and the onset of the

periodicity that determines the voicing in vocal cords. These consonants are distinctly separate in their phonetic citations while in a continuous speech, less sharp difference and separation can be marked in these sounds. In some cases, an overlapping in the VOT can be seen. This study also concludes that in a continuous speech, some contextual features might influence the VOT which might result in overlapping. The researchers suggest that a voiceless aspirated stop/ plosive at starting of any stressed syllable results in a long lag or interval in the onset of vocal cord vibration. However, these stops in the start of any unstressed syllabic environment have a comparatively lower VOT. Particularly, an increase in voicing interval was observed by the researcher in syllables with stressed sounds at the final position. Thus, voice onset time is an important feature of speech sounds to recognize and distinguish them.

In their study, Allen et al (2003) claim that every distinct speaker has a variety in his/her acoustic properties that differ from another speaker. These varieties and acoustic properties pave the way for phonetic perception. The findings of some previous research work that revealed that the listeners can violate these acoustic differences to help them perceive and recognize speakers' voices and to recognize the words uttered by speakers familiar to them were taken as the conceptual framework for their study. Their study mainly focused on investigating the variation in the speech of an individual speaker especially his/her voice onset time (VOT). These researchers defined VOT as a "temporal property of speech" which clearly distinguishes voicing and un-voicing in plosive consonants. The research also claims that every distinct speaker differs from the other speaker greatly in their Voice Onset Time. The research work explored and analyzed monosyllabic words articulated by eight different speakers. These words are initiated with voiceless plosive consonants. Furthermore, these researchers used hierarchical linear modeling, however, a difference in VOT of different speakers was still observed even though these differences were attenuated. The results of these studies validate that VOT values significantly differ from one speaker to another.

Cooke and Selbie, (1997) have also made a remarkable contribution in the domain of acoustic phonetics and investigation of voice onset time. Their study tends to investigate the vocal cords movement before voicing especially in glottal, normal, and breathy onsets across gender. The methodology adopted by the researchers seemed to be really interesting; the glottal sounds were taken from some video recordings which had a strong laryngoscope and distinct voice onset categories. A relationship that was ( $p \leq 0.0055$ ) was extracted from all the onset categories on the basis of "gesture duration when moving from 80% to 20% of maximum distance during adduction", "maximum velocity", "duration between the completion of adduction" and phonation onset" and "ratios of maximum velocity to the maximum distance between the vocal processes, an estimate of stiffness". The findings revealed that the interval VOT was maximum in the breathy onsets and minimum in the glottal onset consonants. On the other hand, more velocity/ speed and tension were observed in glottal and hard onset consonants and lesser velocity and tension was observed for breathy onsets. The researchers concluded that VOT increases from glottal to normal and then to breathy and heavy voice onset categories.

The study by Whiteside et al, (2004) focused on the investigation of the Values and interval of Voice onset time (VOT) for the stop consonants /p/, /b/, /t/, /d/, /k/ and /g/ with the CVC environment with the following vowel sounds /i/ and /a/. The researchers selected five groups of forty-six males and females aged between five to eight years and thirteen to

twenty years as a sample. Their aim was to investigate the differences in VOT across different sexes and ages. The researchers came to the conclusion that the voice samples from female participants showed a long interval (Voice Onset Time) figure as compared to the VOT values for male participants. The principle findings also suggested that the VOT values of the thirteen to twenty-year-olds were comparatively higher. These differences across genders in VOT values suggested that CVC environment context has an influence on VOT; it is evident from the example that the highest gender differences have been observed for the voiceless stops, and in the vowel environment of /i/.

Zlatin (1974) has also made a great contribution to the field of acoustic phonetics. To conduct this research work the researcher attempted to investigate the role of VOT (voice onset time) in the recognition and articulation of words starting with voiced (with vibration in vocal cords) and voiceless (without vibration in the vocal cords) bilabial, dental, and velar plosives. A sample of twenty native English speakers above 18 years was selected. For the experimental procedure, artificial voice stimuli were composed. The subjects were exposed to the following four set of words as stimuli: "BEES/PEAS, BEAR/PEAR, DIME/TIME, and GOAT/COAT". Afterward, in the second phase of this work, the researchers calculated the voice onset time for thirty voice samples for the similar syllables that were provided as stimuli for the process of recognition activity. The researchers observed the VOT values from spectrograms and waveforms. The main goal of this research work was to analyze the perceptual data. The principal findings of this work revealed that there were variations in the VOT values of the bilabial, dental, and velar plosives. It was observed that the articulation of voiceless and voiced plosive had a significant variation in the average values of VOT. The research also revealed that the VOT for bilabial and velar onsets were significantly different. The researchers then drew a comparison among recognitions and articulation of such syllables, the results revealed that there were high VOT values for articulated voice samples.

Port and Rotunno's (1979) study seems to be interesting with respect to acoustic phonetics. Their research work investigated and calculated the VOT and time interval for English plosives and the time interval for a few voiced vowels in single syllables for the speakers in New York City. The results of this study revealed that the Voice Onset Time of a syllable starting with a consonant sound was longer when it was placed before a voiceless final consonant cluster as compared to when it was placed before a nasal sound. VOT was comparatively longer when a voiceless consonant was placed before the tense vowel sounds than the lax vowels. The study also found that the duration of vowels was comparatively longer in the CV environments where the Voice Onset Time seemed to be longer. No constant ratio was seen in the VOT values and the vowel duration. A change in values of VOT was observed for a syllable with a single vowel sound with different places of articulation particularly of the plosives. The researchers also conducted another phase of the experiment in which the syllables with tense vowels and final consonants were constructed and tested. Thus, the findings of this experiment revealed that the ratio of the time duration for vowels significantly changed during the whole procedure. Then the researchers concluded that "temporal implementation rules' have a great effect on the acoustic time durations and intervals of both Voice Onset Time and the duration of the vowel. Klatt (1975), also has a great contribution in the field of acoustic phonetics. This study by this researcher aimed to investigate and measure the VOT and the time interval of the release of fricative sound for the articulation of a stop consonant. The researchers analyzed the spectrograms and waveforms of syllables starting with consonant clusters and



combinations. Data was collected from three participants who read English words from the same sentence. The researchers came up to the findings that the Voice Onset Time experienced a change when the place of articulation of the plosive was changed. The findings also indicated that the intervals VOT for /p/, /t/ and /k/ had a significant difference in different CVC environments. The researchers also found that the Voice Onset Time seemed to be comparatively longer when these stops were placed in front of high energy and sonorants vowels. On the other hand, when these stops were placed before mid, low, and less sonorous vowels the VOT was shorter. The researchers also found that a puff of air and aspiration was there in a CV environment with more sonorant vowels.

Another similar study has been conducted by Robb et al, (2005) that examined the impact of gender and environmental setting on voice onset time (VOT). The study involved participants producing six stop consonants paired with three vowels in both a laboratory setting (inside a sound booth) and a non-laboratory setting. The analysis revealed that females produced voiceless stops with longer VOT in both settings. Additionally, both gender groups produced tokens with significantly longer duration in the laboratory setting, but females continued to produce tokens with longer duration in the non-laboratory setting. The findings suggested that differences in vocal anatomy between genders may account for some of the observed effects, while socio-phonetic factors, such as speaking style, may also contribute to gender differences in speaking behavior

After reviewing the previous literature on VOT, we reached to the conclusion that the impact of gender and environmental context on Voice Onset Time (VOT) have received attention across various linguistic contexts. However, this phenomenon remains unexplored in the context of Pakistani English. Consequently, there exists a significant research gap into the influence of gender and environmental variables on VOT specifically within the context of Pakistani English. Hence, the importance of conducting a comprehensive study to address the influence of gender and environmental factors on VOT in Pakistani English emerges as a vital research endeavor. Therefore, this study endeavors to investigate the influence of gender and environmental settings on VOT using the PRAAT Software

### **3. Research Methodology**

The current study aims to investigate the difference in Voice Onset Time (VOT) of the monosyllabic words; pet, top and kit pronounced by different genders and the variance in the Voice Onset Time (VOT) of the monosyllabic words; pet, top, and kit articulated in different environmental settings like laboratory and lounge. In order to answer the above-mentioned research questions, we have designed and followed the specific research methodology elaborated below.

#### **3.1. Research paradigm.**

A paradigm is the framework or perspective that guides a researcher's approach for understanding a phenomenon (Creswell, 2014). The current study lies under a positive paradigm which revolves around the perspective that knowledge can be gained through empirical observation and scientific methods. This paradigm focuses on objectivity and quantification. It mostly follows a deductive approach and is used for testing hypotheses. Research within this paradigm often employs quantitative methods, such as experiments, surveys, and statistical analysis, to measure variables and establish causal relationships

(Creswell, 2014). The current study is quantitative in nature and deals with the quantities of Voice Onset Time provided by the software PRAAT. These quantities have been compared across the variables of gender and environmental settings.

### **3.2. Research Design**

Creswell (2014) defines research design as a comprehensive plan outlining the data collection and analysis methods employed to address the research question or hypothesis. However, the current study has employed a quantitative and experimental Research design. The demand of the research questions and hypothesis was to gain quantitative answers and to draw a comparison of the values of VOT across the variables of gender and environmental settings. Moreover, experimental design refers to a type of research design where the researcher manipulates one or more independent variables to observe the effects on one or more dependent variables while controlling for extraneous variables. However, for the current study the variable of Voice Onset Time of the monosyllabic words pet, top, and kit were measured against the Independence variables of gender and different environmental settings. The values of Voice Onset Time were recorded for a comparison against the two variable of male and female and these values were also recorded and compared in two different settings of laboratory and lounge to investigate the effect of these variables on the VOT of the words pet, top and kit.

### **3.3. Population and sample**

The present study was conducted using a qualitative research method. A total number of 6 participants; 3 males and 3 females were selected aged between 22 to 26 years. All the participants belong to a post graduate level and had a good competence and profession c in English, or we can say Pakistani variety of English. All these participants belonged to the department of English; hence, their pronunciation patterns were better than the laymen and this factor helped the researchers in the process of data collection.

### **3.4. Sampling Technique**

The research participants were selected on the base of purposive sampling technique that allows the researchers to select the sample with no probability sampling technique where researchers deliberately select participants or the cases that possess specific characteristics relevant to the research question or objectives (Creswell, 2014). Following this sampling technique the researchers selected 6 MPhil scholars who were proficient in English language and had no history of any speech disorder. As the demand of the research was to measure the VOT values in the Pakistani variety of English, therefore, the students of MPhil linguistics were the better choice as they have a good command on this variety of English.

### **3.5 Selection of Words**

The words for data collection were also selected on the base of purposive sampling technique. We selected 3 highly familiar, monosyllabic consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) Words; each of which began with a voiceless stop consonant. The words selected for the study are pet, top, and kit. Words beginning with voiced stop consonants /b/, /d/, /g/ were not used, because previous work has indicated that VOT values associated with voiced stops are subject to less variability than are VOT values associated with voiceless stops

e.g., Kessinger and Blumstein, (1997); Miller et al., (1986); we therefore chose to concentrate on voiceless stop consonants, where we expected that any individual differences in VOT would appear more clearly.

### **3.6. Data Collection Tool**

The researchers have used the tool PRAAT for the purpose of collection of data. PRAAT is a significantly used software tool for phonetic analysis, primarily used in linguistics and speech science research. It offers a comprehensive suite of tools for analyzing, synthesizing, and manipulating speech sounds. Researchers typically collect data in PRAAT by recording audio samples directly into the software or by importing existing audio files. Once the data is collected, PRAAT provides various forms of output, including spectrograms, waveforms, pitch contours, and acoustic measurements such as formant frequencies and intensity values, and Voice Onset Time. These data can be exported in formats such as text files, image files, or spreadsheets for further analysis or visualization. PRAAT's versatility and user-friendly interface make it an invaluable tool for studying various aspects of speech production and perception.

### **3.7 Data Collection and Analysis Procedure**

Considering the requirement of the study, the recording was taken in two different environmental settings, first in the language lab in the Department of Social Sciences, Air University Islamabad. The second setting was the launch of Air University. In the first setting, all the participants were seated in the language lab and through a microphone which was kept 12 in (30 cm) away from the mouth of the participants in both environmental settings. The word list was placed in front of the participants and with a 5-second pause every word was pronounced and recorded. The participants were instructed to produce their natural pronunciation. After that, we analyzed the recording using PRAAT Software for the data analysis and findings. Voicing occurred before the burst release was measured by placing the left cursor at the onset of the pre-burst voicing and the right cursor was positioned at the burst release. The VOT for this time interval was reported as a negative value. In addition to VOT, the overall duration of each CV token was measured. The CV duration was defined as the time interval between cursors at the burst release and the last instance of vocal fold vibration associated with the vowel. The CV duration was reported in milliseconds.

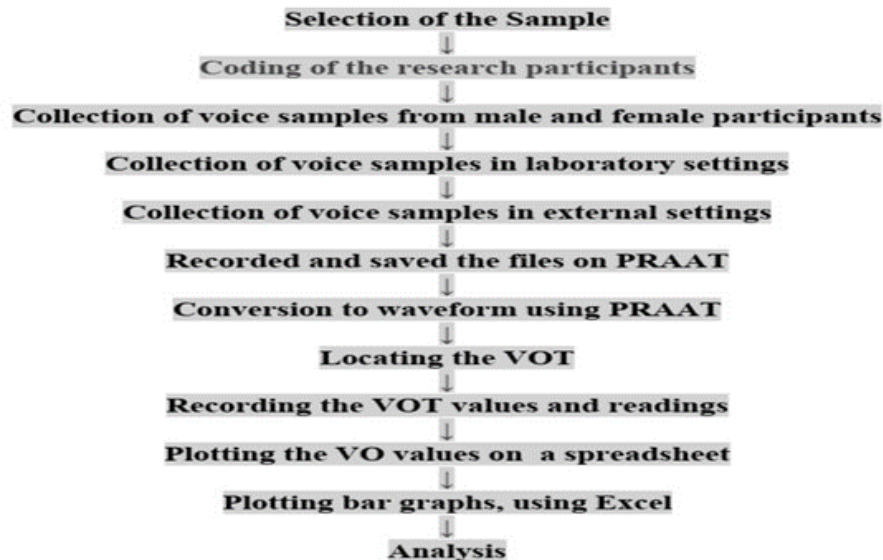


Figure 3: Data Collection and Analysis Procedure

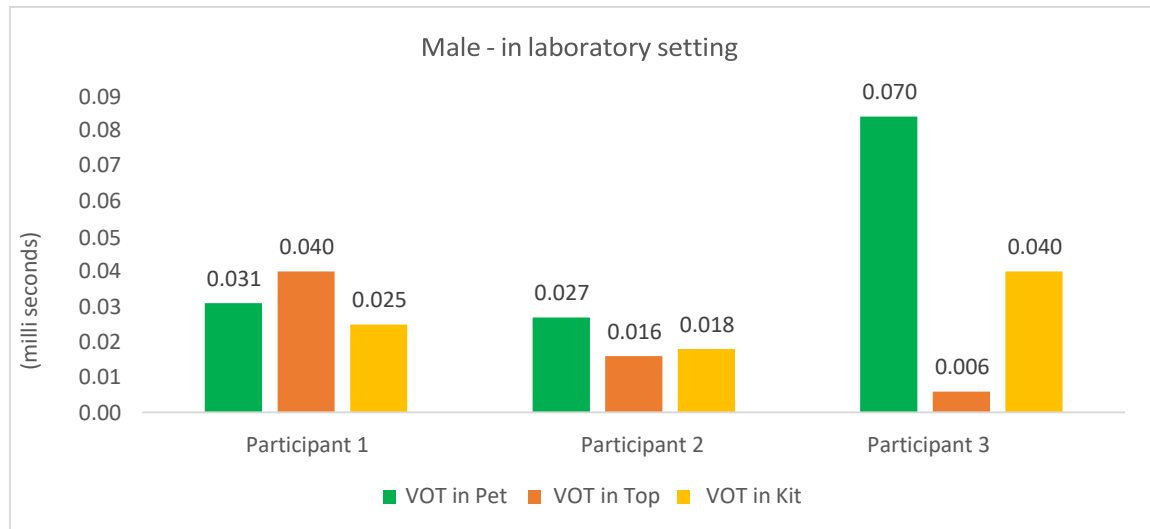
### 3.8. Ethical Considerations

Good research follows the moral guidelines and ethical principles during the conduct of the research. During the current study the researchers tried to follow most of the moral and ethical guidelines, for instance the consents of the research participants were taken before the collection of their voice samples. The participants were informed about the purpose of the study, and they were ensured that their Voice samples would solely be used for the purpose of research. Additionally, their identities were kept anonymous and private.

## 4. Data Analysis and Discussion

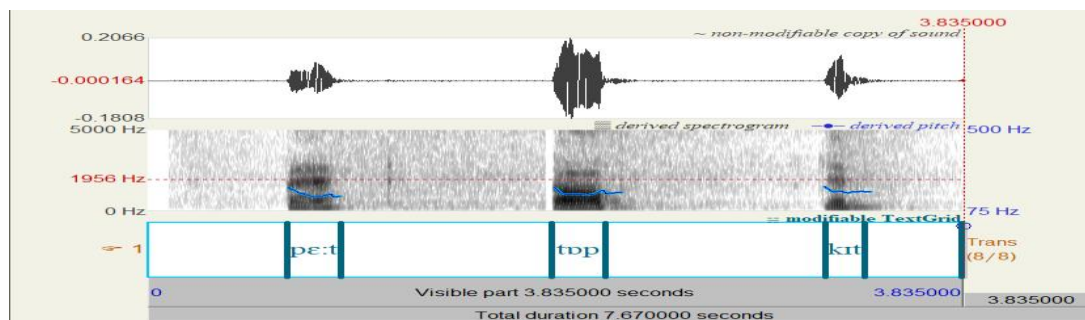
The collection of voice samples of the participants in both controlled laboratory setting and uncontrolled external setting was done while directly recording on PRAAT. After that the recorded files were saved in waveforms, for further analysis. Afterwards, the researchers analyzed the waveforms and spectrograms and located the burst of air and the pause in articulation VOT, then the time duration between the burst of air and voicing was noted and recorded in milliseconds. Furthermore, all the 36 readings of VOT were recorded and plotted on a spreadsheet for creating a visual representation of the results in form of bar graphs which could make the analysis and comparison of effects of gender and environmental setting on VOT easy and possible. Afterwards, the bar graphs were plotted using Microsoft Excel and spreadsheet, on which the VOT values have been plotted. The bar in green color represents the VOT value for the word *pet*, the bar in red color shows the VOT value for the word *top* and the bar in yellow displays the VOT value for the word *kit*. Moreover, the bar graphs that draw a comparison between variables and show their influence on the VOT value have been plotted and analyzed. The following figures showcased below display a step-by-step procedure followed by the researchers that have

been interpreted and discussed.

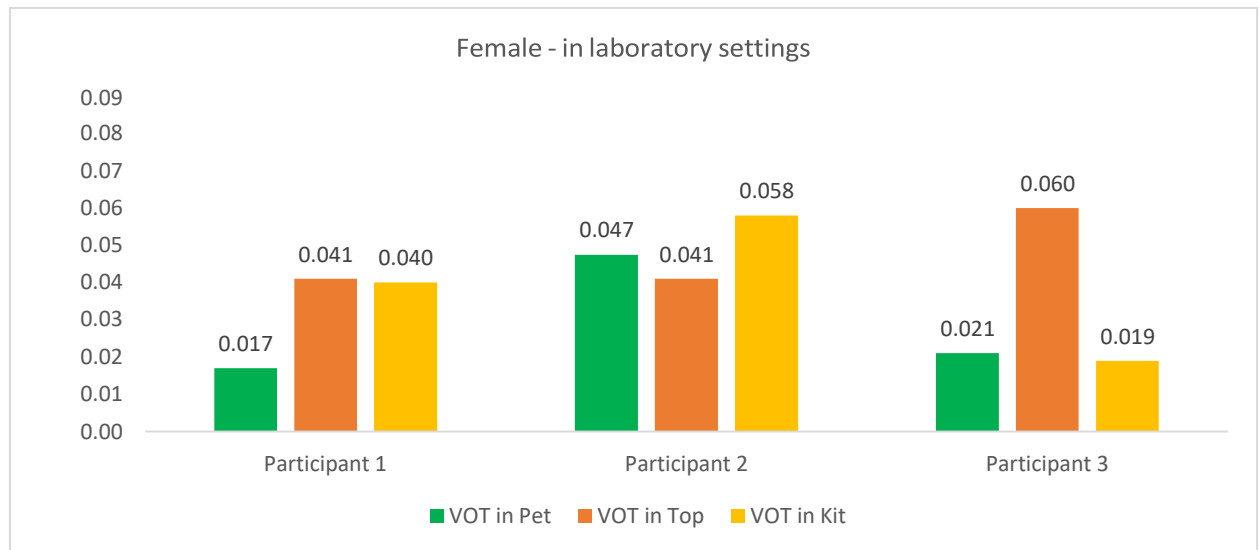


**Figure 1 (a): VOT in Male Voice Samples in Laboratory Setting**

Figure 1(a) shows the Voice Onset Time (VOT) values of the three monosyllabic words: pet, top, and kit, as pronounced by three male participants in a laboratory setting. Notably, the highest VOT value was recorded in the word "pet" pronounced by the third male participant, while the lowest VOT was observed in the pronunciation of the word "top" by the same participant as can be seen in the (figure 1(b) below)

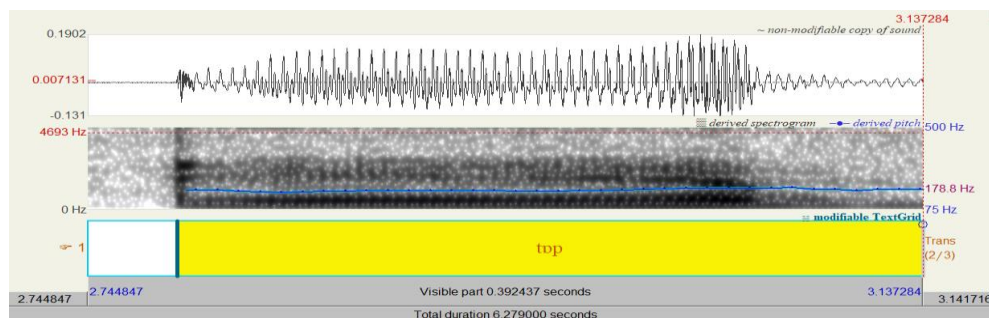


**Figure 1 (b): Spectrogram of VOT in Laboratory Setting**

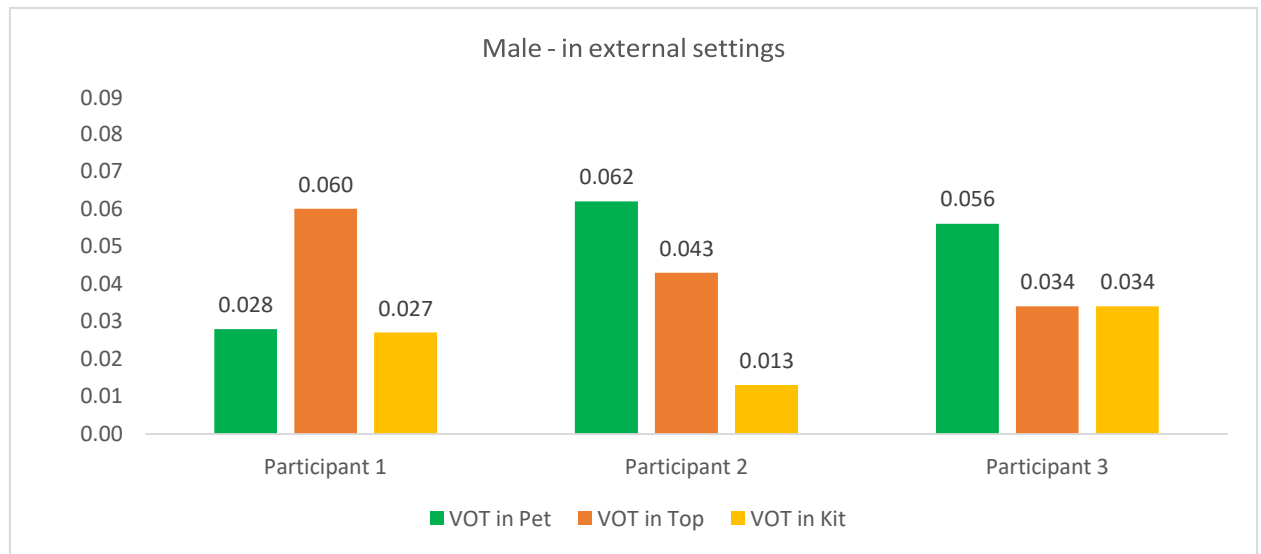


**Figure 2(a): VOT in Female Voice Samples in Laboratory Setting**

The Figure 2(a) shows the VOT values of female participants within a controlled laboratory environment. Notably, the highest VOT values were observed in the pronunciation of the word "top" by female participant number 3 (see Figure 2(b) , while the lowest VOT was recorded for the word "kit" pronounced by female participant number 1.

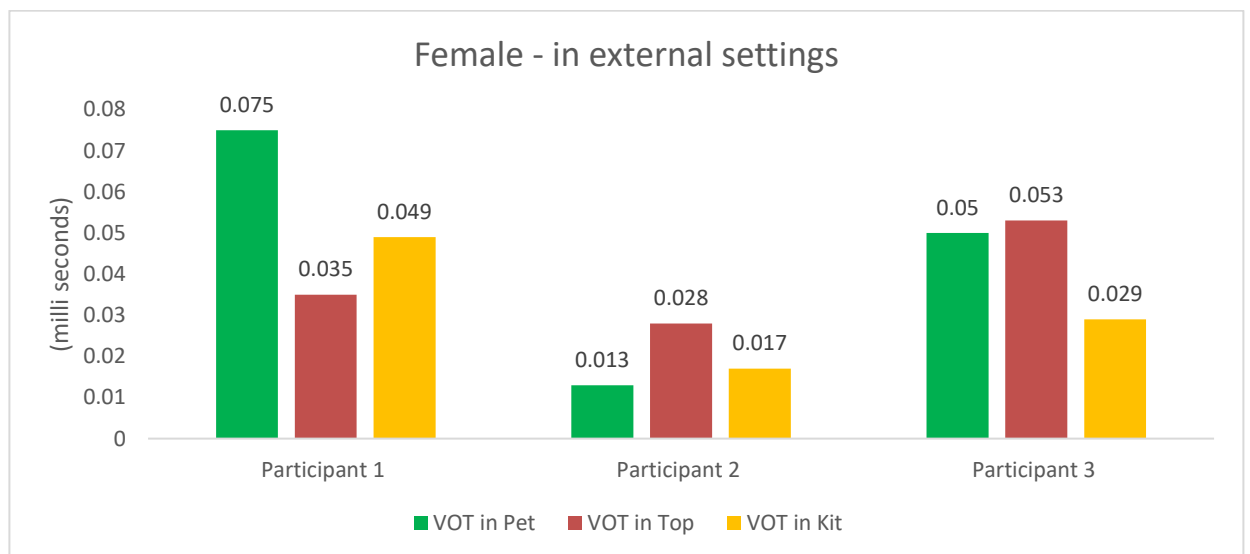


**Figure 2(b): Spectrogram of VOT in Laboratory Setting**



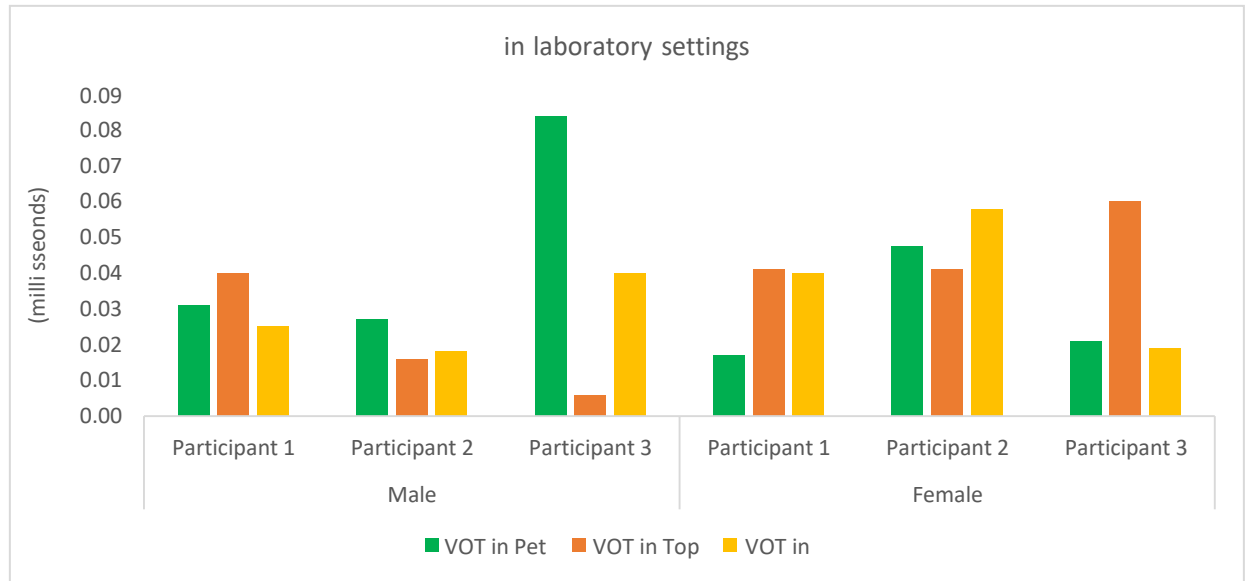
**Figure 3:** VOT in Female Voice Samples in Laboratory Setting.

Figure 3 shows the voice onset time values for the male participants in external settings. The highest voice onset time value has been recorded for the word *pet* pronounced by the male participant number 2. The lowest VOT has been observed for the word *kit* pronounced by male participant number 2.



**Figure 4:** VOT in Female Voice Samples in External Settings

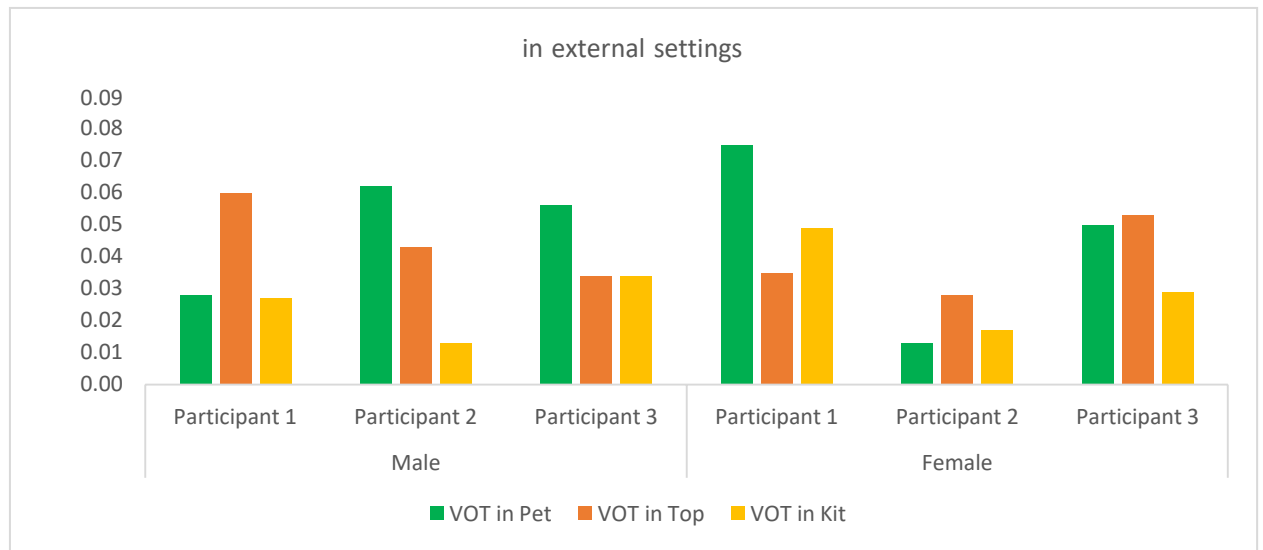
The Figure 4 shows the VOT values for the female participants in external settings. The highest VOT value has been observed for the word *pet* pronounced by female participant number 1. The lowest VOT value has been observed for the word *pet* pronounced by the female participant number 2.



**Figure 5:** VOT in Male and Female Voice Samples in Laboratory Settings.

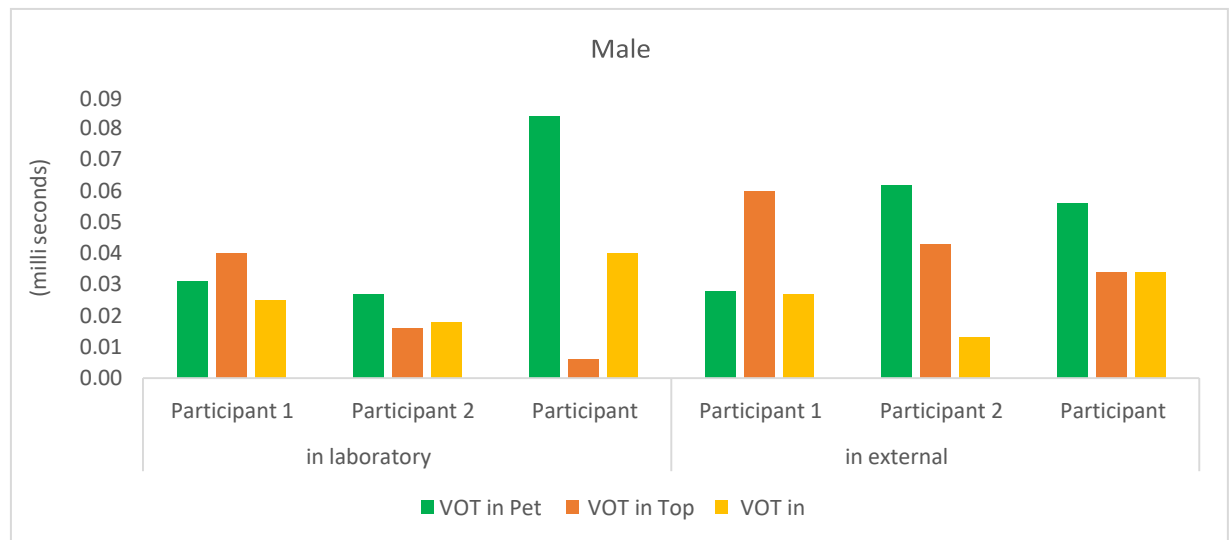
The Figure 5 provides a comparison of Voice Onset Time (VOT) values for both male and female participants in laboratory settings. Upon analysis of the graph, it is clearly evident that the VOT values for female participants are significantly higher than those of male participants. This indicates a noticeable difference in the way speech sounds are produced by males and females





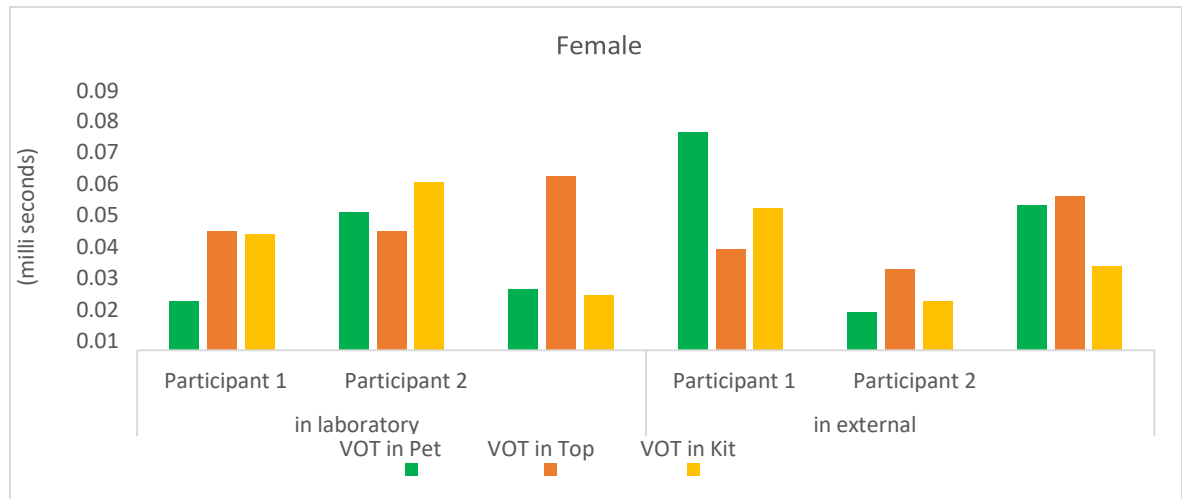
**Figure 6:** *VOT in Male and Female Voice Samples in External Setting*

The Figure 6 presents a comparison between the Voice Onset Time (VOT) values of male and female participants in external settings. By analyzing the graph, it can be observed that the average VOT value for male participants is significantly higher than the average VOT value for female participants. This suggests that there is a difference in the way male and female speakers initiate phonation, which can be attributed to biological, physiological or sociolinguistic factors.



**Figure 7:** *VOT in Male Voice Samples in Laboratory and External Settings*

The data presented in Figure 7 highlights the variation in voice onset time (VOT) values for male participants across laboratory and external settings. Upon examining the graph, it becomes apparent that the VOT values for the male voice samples obtained in laboratory settings are significantly higher than the corresponding values observed in external settings. This finding suggests that the acoustic properties of the environment can have a noticeable impact on speech production, particularly in terms of the timing of vocalic and consonantal sounds.



**Figure 8:** VOT in Female Voice Samples in Laboratory and External Settings

The figure 8 shows that there is a noticeable difference in the voice onset time (VOT) values of female participants between laboratory settings and external settings. Specifically, the VOT values recorded in laboratory settings are observed to be higher than those recorded in external settings. This finding suggests that the environment in which speech is produced can have an impact on the VOT values of female participants.

The study utilized PRAAT Software to analyze Voice Onset Time (VOT) values of male and female participants pronouncing monosyllabic words in both laboratory and external settings. The data was presented through graphical representations illustrating VOT values for different participant groups and settings. The results of the current study supports H1, indicating that female participants exhibited higher VOT values compared to male participants across both laboratory and external settings. This finding is consistent with previous research suggesting gender-related differences in VOT production. Furthermore, the study validates H2 by demonstrating that VOT values tended to be higher in laboratory settings compared to external settings for the majority of voice samples.

## 5. Conclusion

The purpose of this study was to explore how gender and environmental setting impact VOT, using the PRAAT Software. Upon thorough analysis of the data, the results indicated that female participants had higher values of voice onset time compared to their male counterparts. Additionally, voice onset time was generally higher in lab settings than in external settings for the majority of voice samples. The study offers valuable insights into the relationship between gender, environmental settings, and VOT values in speech production. By leveraging PRAAT Software, the research advances our understanding of acoustic phonetics and contributes to the existing body of knowledge in phonology. The findings underscore the need for further exploration of gender-related differences in speech

production and emphasize the role of environmental factors in shaping phonetic variation.

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## Analyzing Tweets of Global Political Figures: Appraising Public Response to the Imran Khan's Incident of November 2022

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### Keywords

- Appraisal analysis
- Twitter
- Social media
- Opinion,
- Attitude markers
- Imran Khan

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### Abstract

*Social media platforms are used by people to interact with one another, express their emotions, and participate in public discourse. For individuals who want to interpret public opinion from tweets, it is crucial to evaluate social media sites. This article is an analysis of the tweets of a Pakistani political figure, the ex-prime minister. Taking the elements of appraisal theory (Martin, et al., 2005) into account, this research aims to explore the evaluative language used by the office holders of several countries around the globe. Tweets in the media reflect the ideology of the political parties through reference to the murder attempt on Imran Khan. Appraisal theories claim emotions are produced when certain appraisals are performed (Arnold, 1960a). A process of evaluation and subsequent emotion is frequently brought on by the occurrence of an event since the perceptual system is built to recognize change (Ornstein, 1991). The findings offer evidence of the maximum use of negative affect, an element of the attitude part of the theory used for this research, because they deal with the personal emotions with regard to the incident such as Appalled," "feeling ill," "unaccepted," "shocked," "tragic," "horrifying," "condemned," "terrible," etc.*

## 1. Introduction

The influence of television, radio, newspapers, and the internet on people and society becomes very pervasive when technology is creeping in every sphere of our lives. Now people express their opinion and experience on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or on concerned websites (Liu, Li, & Guo, 2012; Bharath, Prabhakaran, Saravanan, & Vinoth, 2018). People express their sentiments and opinions about various social and political issues on social media too. Posting tweets on Twitter has become a new platform for expressing emotions and sentiments on a particular topic (Ghiassi & Lee, 2018). The mob reveals different opinions regarding the same situation differently due to their varying influencing factors such as education, religion, power, and personality (Bulmer et al., 2017). Drawing from sentiment analysis and appraisal theory within discourse analysis, the public's opinion on global warming, as revealed through X (Twitter) tweets, regularly exhibits a reduced pleasure level characterized by increasing negative language usage and decreasing positive words (Qiao et al., 2022).

The discourses and ideologies of individuals, or communities, shape the writings produced by the media. Language use should be considered when analyzing the ideological discourse of the media, which has a significant impact on how political, cultural, and social life is shaped, as well as the link between the community that produces this discourse and ideology (Yağcıoğlu, 2002:6). Oktar (2002: 39) contends that specific linguistic codes are employed in the mass media to promote and advance ideology, and as a result, the mass media offer pertinent information for analyzing the ideology dimension of language use. The impact of language on society makes the ideas of competence and power more salient (Yağcıoğlu, 2002: 6). The dataset for the current study seeks to identify the evaluative terminology employed by those in positions of authority in various nations around the world. As in the ever-evolving landscape of global politics, the attempted murder on prominent political figure Imran Khan sent shockwaves through international media, highlighting the vulnerability of leaders in the public eye. Imran Khan, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, survived a brazen attack that not only shook the nation but also reverberated across borders. Media outlets around the world dissected the incident, emphasizing the potential geopolitical ramifications and the precarious nature of leadership in contemporary times. The event sparked debates on security, political stability, and the challenges faced by leaders on the global stage. The narrative woven by the media underscored the significance of the incident, raising questions about the motives behind by making reference to the attempted murder of Imran Khan, tweets in the media represent the ideologies of the political parties. 20 tweets from neighboring countries' political, social, or human rights advocates (from their official verified accounts) make up the data. For data analysis we apply appraisal theory, according to the appraisal theory, emotional responses are actually the outcome of assessments of actual or imagined events or circumstances rather than being entirely reflexive (Martin, et al., 2005).

Appraisals are assessments of a stimulus in light of a person's wellbeing. In this context, "well-being" is defined as the fulfilment or impediment of all of an individual's wants, attachments, values, ambitions, and beliefs. Dimensions—a term used by researchers to describe certain appraisal criteria—have been identified as crucial for separating emotions. The most prevalent dimensions are novelty (whether the environment has changed unexpectedly), pleasantness (whether the event or environment is pleasant or unpleasant), goal significance (how important the event is to the individual's goal), agency (whether the

individual is responsible for the event), and legitimacy (whether the individuals' actions are justified). Moreover, the Appraisal theory comprises of three main subfields i.e. 'engagement', 'attitude' and 'graduation'. Attitude is concerned with our emotions, including emotional reactions, behavioral judgements, and object appraisal. In discourse, engagement is concerned with sourcing attitudes and the play of voices around opinions. Graduation addresses the phenomenon of grading, in which sensations are heightened and categories are confused. Attitude is itself divided into three regions of feeling, 'affect', 'judgment', and 'appreciation'. Affect is concerned with the resources available for constructing emotional reactions for example feeling of shock in relation to the events of 9/11. Judgement is concerned with resources for analysing behaviour in accordance with various normative concepts, such as criticism of Australia's neo-conservative government led by Prime Minister John Howard. Appreciation considers resources for determining the worth of things, such as natural events and semiosis (as a product or process), such as a fan's positive review of a Stevie Ray Vaughn CD (Martin, et al., 2005). However, in this study the researchers have only considered the Attitude as subtype to delimit and to relate with the aims of the study.

## 1.2 Research Questions

The research questions of this research paper are:

- How do global political figures utilize evaluative language in their tweets to assess and respond to Imran Khan's incident in November 2022?
- Which appraisal (attitude) elements are employed to evaluate the given incident according to the appraisal theory used for the research?

## 2. Literature Review

Language is modelled according to its use in Systemic Functional Linguistics (Halliday, 1978, 1994), which means that language is theorized, characterized, and evaluated in accordance with the context in which it operates. A variety of language-in-use environments, especially oral and written media discourse, have benefited from the application of SFL (Bartlett, et al., 2017). In line with the objectives of this study and Halliday's meta-function hypothesis, we will concentrate on the interpersonal meta-function of language, or the linguistic tools that speakers employ to create roles and relationships. APPRAISAL, from SFL, provides an ideal text analysis framework to systematically identify interpersonal meanings and, in this case, examine the attitude of tweets reproaching the attempt at target killing of X-Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan. Led by Martin (e.g. Martin, 2000, 2003; Martin, et al., 2005; Martin and Rose, 2007), appraisal comprises three main systems: attitude, graduation, and engagement. On a brief note, attitude is the semantic resource used to express emotions, judgments, and valuations, while engagement and graduation engage with, source, and amplify those various evaluations and 'positions' within a text. Therefore, appraisal analysis and opinion building are directly related to the computational treatment of emotions, statements, and opinions. This allows the industry to make wise decisions regarding its product creation, promotion, and modification, for instance, by assessing its clients' viewpoints. We can now get opinionated texts on social media.



Appraisal analysis requires sentence-level or phrase-level analyses. At the phrase level, an appraisal analysis was conducted by Wilson et al. (2005). They introduced computational techniques to analyse psychological processes to identify the contextual polarity of a large subset of sentiments. In their research, they not only drew a line between neutral and polar phrases but also disambiguated the polarity of the expression. Not just computational linguists (Asghar, et al., 2018), but psychologists (Vij et al., 2018), neurologists, and practitioners in the field of medicine (Bulmer, Böhnke, & Lewis 2017) are also interested in conducting sentiment analysis; they adopt and adapt different methods for sentiment analysis according to their requirements (Saeed, 2021). In addition, appraisal analysis has been done to analyse various pieces of writing to examine the sentiments of the writers. Such as, appraisal theory was used to analyse the online news text (Jin Cheon Na, 2012). In this research, researchers were mainly focused on identifying various aspects of sentiment. They discussed appraisers and the object of appraisal, the bias of the appraisers and the author, the type of attitude, and the manner of expressing the sentiment. Similarly, at the phrase level, movie reviews were analyzed. In this research, appraising adjectives and their modifiers were kept under appraisal theory and found in such a bag of words that certain kinds of appraisal appear to be more significant for expressing emotions than others (Whitelaw et al., 2005). Sentence-level appraisal analysis has been done by Indonesian researchers, who used Bahasa Indonesia to determine and compare the positive and negative sentiment of popular smartphone products in Indonesia, such as Lumia and Xperia. The findings of this research proved to be helpful in the marketing intelligence field (Alamsyah, 2015). Issues hindering the development of different areas could also be tackled through sentiment analysis, which involves detecting, extracting, and classifying opinions and sentiments concerning different topics within textual input (Monotoyo, 2012). Furthermore, at a broader level, appraisal analysis has been conducted on speeches at global events where elements of appraisal theory were exhibited excessively (M Chingwere, 2014). Therefore, appraisal theory is useful in determining the attitude of people in various situations and is not confined to the specific field of study.

Today, social media has become a milestone in public opinion and sentiment. X (Twitter) has become one of the platforms for expressing emotions on specific topics. By using Twitter, mobs can easily capture attention and get a reaction from a population. Twitter helps authorities and analysts figure out the objective opinions of people. Such excessive use of X (Twitter) helps to track the political preferences of citizens by analysing the online popularity of politicians (Ceron, Curini, Iacus, & Porro, 2014). Sentiment analysis of tweets of famous office holders has been conducted, such as Trump's tweets (former president of the USA) and Iman Khan's tweets (ex-Prime Minister of Pakistan), to see the appraisal elements in their tweets. Researchers analysed the ratio of polarity and neutrality in these leaders (Ross, 2019, Saeed, 2021). Drawing from sentiment analysis and appraisal theory within discourse analysis, the public's opinion on global warming, as revealed through X (Twitter) tweets, regularly exhibits a reduced pleasure level characterised by increasing negative language usage and decreasing positive words (Qiao, Jiang, 2022). Appraisal analysis has also been done to specify human reactions to an important event in history. COVID-19 affected human beings differently, psychologically, emotionally, economically, etc. but analysts tilt towards technology to find accurate equations of disturbance in human life in this pandemic situation plus the exercise of power through the health authorities (Esra, 2019). According to these studies, it is clear that for sentimental analysis, appraisal theory has been used by researchers in different ways; some have only

focused on affects, while others see polarity and neutrality only. However, this study focuses on the subfield of appraisal theory, attitude. As its subject of study, the current study examines the most tragic incident of the terrorist attack against Pakistan's former Prime Minister. Based on the condemning tweets in response to this, the attitude elements of appraisal have been calculated.

### **3. Research Methodology**

The dataset of the present study, which aims to determine the evaluative language used by the office holders of several countries around the globe, Tweets in the media reflect the ideology of the political parties with reference to the murder attempt on Imran Khan. The data consists of 20 tweets sent by political, social, or human rights activists from neighboring countries. The tweets were posted to condemn the terrorist attack on the former prime minister of Pakistan, Mr. Imran Khan. The date range of the study begins on November 3, 2022, amidst Mr. IK's long march from Lahore to Islamabad. Most of the significant tweets by authority holders across the world are included in this study. Although the tweets regarding this unfortunate incident were more than 6 million, this study includes only those tweets that were done by verified Twitter accounts.

This is a genre-based study of social media, more specifically X (Twitter) as an opinion-sharing platform. In addition, only tweets in the English language were analysed in this research work. To evaluate the language used in the tweet, we applied the appraisal theory, which was developed by Martin and White in 2005. To specify, only the attitude subfield of the appraisal theory is applied. The reason why the attitude subfield (affect, judgement, and appreciation) of the appraisal theory was chosen for the analysis of the data in this study is that the subject of the discourse under investigation is an alarming political situation, as one of the most influential political leaders as well as the former prime minister of a nuclear state, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, was targeted. Therefore, it was assumed that this analysis could be effective in the emergence of linguistic constructs in a subject related to the incident since the attitude subfield is related to reactions and emotions, judgments, and negative or positive appreciation. In the evaluation of the findings, while describing the frequencies of the subclasses of the Attitude subfield of appraisal theory, the technique of content analysis, which is a qualitative research method that helps to identify the data and reveal the facts within it (Yıldırım and Şimşek, 2006), was used. In the next section, the findings related to the study are presented and discussed in accordance with the purpose of the study.

#### **3.1. Theoretical Framework**

Appraisal theory, as mentioned above, was developed by Martin and White (2005) and describes the processes by which people evaluate the incidents happening around them in their environment. Through this cognitive process, people reveal their emotions, reactions, and feelings towards certain environmental stimuli. In this way, we may say that people express their personal and emotional thoughts regarding a specific situation. (Urda and Loch, 2005: 2).

Appraisal Theory is described by Roseman and Smith in its simplest form as reporting emotions by evaluating situations and events (Roseman and Smith, 2001: 3). According to Martin and White, appraisal theory can be simply understood as an interpersonal system at the level of discourse semantics (Martin, et al., 2005: 33). Appraisal theory consists of three main systems, including attitude, engagement, and graduation. Attitude deals with the meanings that texts and speakers add as assessments to their interlocutors, as well as the processes that are either emotional responses or culturally determined values. This system also has three subfields, which include affect, judgment, and appreciation. In Figure 1, the subsystems and their subfields of appraisal theory are shown.

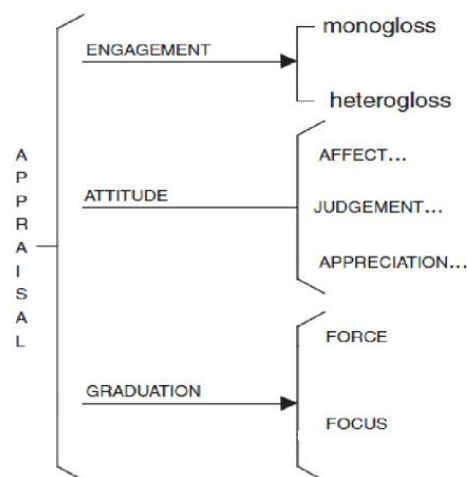


Fig.01: Subfields of Appraisal Theory

### 3.2. Attitude Markers

According to White (2006), attitude in writing is “the activation of negative or positive positioning”. He explained the phenomenon in three broad domains: affect, judgement, and appreciation. Affect relates to “registering positive and negative feelings: do we feel happy or sad, confident or anxious, interested or bored?” (Martin, et al., 2005). We may also state attitude as the expression of positive or negative evaluations by speakers or writers in a text, which thereby allows writers to show their attitude towards people (Chingwere, 2014). As we have already mentioned above, attitude consists of three main subtypes (affect, judgement, and appreciation). Affect talks about the evaluation of emotions and feelings. The judgments deal with the ethical evaluation of human behavior, whereas the appreciation deals with positive or negative aesthetics, objects, products, etc. So, in order to simplify it, we may define affect as related to personal thoughts, emotions, and feelings. Whereas judgement deals with evaluating social values, human behavior, and expectations, it looks into things with respect to them being legal or illegal, socially acceptable or unacceptable, appropriate or inappropriate, and many other norms. Likewise, appreciation talks about the interpretation of the worth of things. Therefore, Martin and White state that attitude is about the feelings that include the judgement of behaviours, emotional responses, and evaluations, and they offer an outline of affect as can be seen in Figure 2 (2005: 35, 45).

## 4. Data Analysis and Discussion

Appraisal theory in linguistics studies how language reflects individuals' evaluative attitudes and feelings towards events, persons, or situations. This theory, developed within the framework of systemic functional linguistics, investigates linguistic choices such as

lexical selection, grammatical structures, and discourse aspects to discover the speaker's or writer's subjective assessments. Linguists can determine the expressions of affect, judgement, and appreciation in speech by analyzing appraisal markers; within this concept, positive and negative markers can be seen. Positive markers are linguistic choices that convey acceptance, appreciation, or happiness through the use of positive adjectives and supporting expressions. For example, terms like "fantastic achievement" or "great job" suggest positive evaluations. In appraisal theory, negative markers are language that expresses disapproval, criticism, or discontent by using negative adjectives and critical discourse markers. Examples include "significant shortcomings" and "serious concerns." Linguists can discover the evaluative attitude and emotional responses hidden in language by evaluating these positive and negative indicators, providing insights into how individuals communicate their sentiments and judgments.

In this section, the researchers have discussed the linguistic sources of the sub-fields of 'attitude' while doing a detailed analysis of the tweets posted by the office holders through their official X (Twitter) accounts on the same day, November 3, 2022, when the unfortunate incident happened. Through the examples, the database of these resources, along with the frequency rate of the sub-classes of attitude, are given in Table 1. The tweets are evaluated under three main headings: affects, judgment, and appreciation, keeping in view the positive and negative aspects.

#### 4.1. Affect

The sub-division of attitude markers, 'Affect' in appraisal theory, is related to resources for constructing emotional reactions (Martin, et al., 2005). It is related to the study of how language is used to express emotions. It refers to a wide range of emotions that can differ in intensity, duration, and valence (positive or negative). Affect is a conscious and subjective experience that reflects an individual's emotional state at any given time. Joy, sadness, anger, fear, love, and many other emotions are included. Affect is frequently studied by researchers in order to better understand emotional responses, mood fluctuations, and the impact of emotions on cognition and behavior (Roseman, et al., (2001). A current study has been conducted on the tweets related to the tragic incident of the assassination of the former prime minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan, which happened on November 3, 2022.

Table 1

Frequencies of Appraisal markers

Sr.no.	Tweets	Affects	Appreciation	Judgment
1.	OT-1	3	1	1
		Positive = 1	Positive = 1	Positive = 0
		Negative = 2	Negative = 0	Negative = 1

2.	OT-2	1	1	1
		Positive = 1	Positive = 0	Positive = 1
		Negative = 0	Negative = 1	Negative = 0
3.	OT-3	2	1	–
		Positive = 0	Positive = 0	Positive = 0
		Negative = 2	Negative = 1	Negative = 0
4.	OT-4	4	3	2
		Positive = 1	Positive = 0	Positive = 0
		Negative = 3	Negative = 2	Negative = 2
5.	OT-5	1	1	1
		Positive = 1	Positive = 0	Positive = 0
		Negative = 0	Negative = 1	Negative = 1
6.	OT-6	–	–	1
		Positive = 0	Positive = 0	Positive = 0
		Negative = 0	Negative = 0	Negative = 1
7.	OT-7	3	2	–
		Positive = 1	Positive = 2	Positive = 0
		Negative = 2	Negative = 0	Negative = 0
8.	OT-8	1	2	1
		Positive = 1	Positive = 1	Positive = 0
		Negative = 0	Negative = 1	Negative = 1
9.	OT-9	4	2	1
		Positive = 2	Positive = 2	Positive = 1
		Negative = 2	Negative = 1	Negative = 0
10.	OT-10	2	2	–
		Positive = 0	Positive = 0	Positive = 0
		Negative = 2	Negative = 2	Negative = 0
11.	PRT-11	2	3	0

		Positive = 2	Positive = 3	Positive = 0
		Negative = 0	Negative = 0	Negative = 0
12.	OT-12	3	3	1
		Positive = 1	Positive = 1	Positive = 0
		Negative = 2	Negative = 2	Negative = 1
13.	OT-13	–	1	1
		Positive = 0	Positive = 1	Positive = 0
		Negative = 0	Negative = 0	Negative = 1
14.	OT-14	1	–	–
		Positive = 0	Positive = 0	Positive = 0
		Negative = 1	Negative = 0	Negative = 0
15.	OT-15	1	–	–
		Positive = 1	Positive = 0	Positive = 0
		Negative = 0	Negative = 0	Negative = 0
16.	OT-16	4	2	3
		Positive = 1	Positive = 1	Positive = 2
		Negative = 3	Negative = 1	Negative = 1
17.	OT-17	1	1	–
		Positive = 1	Positive = 0	Positive = 0
		Negative = 0	Negative = 1	Negative = 2
18.	OT-18	–	2	1
		Positive = 0	Positive = 2	Positive = 1
		Negative = 0	Negative = 0	Negative = 0
19.	OT-19	–	1	1
		Positive = 0	Positive = 1	Positive = 0
		Negative = 0	Negative = 0	Negative = 1
20.	OT-20	–	2	–
		Positive = 0	Positive = 0	Positive = 0

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	Negative = 0	Negative = 2	Negative = 0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>15</b>
	Positive = 14	Positive = 15	Positive = 5
	Negative = 19	Negative = 15	Negative = 10

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The analysis of these 20 tweets, collected from verified X (Twitter) accounts worldwide, focused on attitude markers: affect, appreciation, and judgement. According to the initial research results, affect markers were the most common in the data, accounting for 33 of the 78 instances. In other words, the highest percentage, 42.3%, is reserved for affect markers, whereas only 38.5% and 19.2% are for appreciation and judgment, respectively (see Fig. 1). A more detailed analysis of this dominant category of affect markers revealed that 14 instances (42.42%) were classified as positive affect and 19 instances (57.58%) as negative affect. This variation in the emotional tone of the tweets suggests that the Twitter community's reaction to the incident was subtle and diverse.

While doing the lexical analysis of the data, the occurrences of positive affect markers indicated expressions of support, relief, or optimism in response to the situation. 'wishing', 'wish', 'hope', 'Thank God', 'condolences', 'belongs to', 'aide to', etc. are clear indications of emotions expressed by well-known position holders in the world. These positive affective markers show that people are against the terrorist attack and are praying to God for Imran Khan. Additionally, the positive comments that are made by official Twitter account holders express unity and convey a sense of ownership and empowerment to the people of Pakistan. The use of phrases like "belongs to the people" (Cyril Almeida, 2022) suggests a positive assessment of a shared national identity and a call for active participation in the affairs of the country. Understanding the nature of these positive emotions can provide insights into the factors that contribute to a more optimistic perspective among Twitter users.

On the contrary, the presence of negative affect markers points to a variety of feelings, including concern, fear, anger, or condemnation (Martin, et al., 2005). Negative affect targeted the terrorists, expressing outrage at the act of violence and reflecting concerns about the impact of such incidents on political stability. "Appalled," "feeling ill," "unaccepted," "shocked," "tragic," "horrifying," "condemned," "terrible," etc. are some examples of negative affect markers used by international audiences on Twitter.

The analysis of affect markers in the collected tweets reveals a diverse emotional landscape. The balance of positive and negative affect markers provides a richer understanding of global sentiment surrounding the murder terrorist attempt on Imran Khan, providing valuable insights into the Twitter community's diverse reactions.

#### 4.2. Appreciation

In the context of appraisal theory, appreciation refers to the expression of positive or negative attitudes, approval or disapproval, or liking or disliking towards a specific entity, such as an object, event, process, or person (Martin & White, 2005). This can be accomplished through the use of adjectives, statements, and expressions. Positive

appreciation consists of approval, admiration, or esteem, whereas negative appreciation consists of disapproval, criticism, or negative opinions. The data of the present research exhibits a 38.462% use of appreciation markers in the data, with an equal distribution of positive and negative markers (Fig. 1). The subtle distribution reflects the varying sentiments linked with the November 3, 2022, incident. Positive appreciation markers include comments in support of Imran Khan's protest and well wishes for Imran Khan and the victims of the November 3 incident. Adjectives like "strong," "safe," "speedy recovery," "peaceful protest," "swift recovery," "quick recovery," "through investigation," etc. hint at the positive admiration and response from the world-wide verified X (Twitter) accounts and the effectiveness of investigating authorities.

In contrast, negative appreciation indicators may reflect critical judgments, concerns, or disapproval of specific components of the incident or response. "Appalling news," "cowardly," "unacceptable," "sad history," "shocking attack," "cowardly attempt," "assassination attempt," etc.—these negative indicators reflect criticism of the event. Examining the nature of these negative compliments has provided a more detailed picture of the areas that disappointed Twitter users. The analysis of appreciation markers within the collected tweets provides a balanced viewpoint on the event. However, the positive appreciation markers are linked with the victims' health; users are wishing for their speedy strength and a peaceful event that was disturbed by terrorists, but the negative appreciation markers are only linked with the unfortunate event.

### 5.3. Judgment

According to Martin and White, with judgement, we enter the realm of meaning, interpreting our attitudes towards people and how they behave—their character (how they stack up). In general, judgments can be classified as 'social esteem' or 'social sanction'. Esteem judgments are concerned with 'normality' (how unusual someone is), 'capacity' (how capable they are), and 'tenacity' (how tenacious they are); sanctioning judgments are concerned with 'veracity' (how truthful someone is) and 'propriety' (how ethical someone is) (Martin & White, 2005). In other words, judgement is assessed on the basis of pre-set morals, ethics, and values by society. If a person behaves in accordance with social norms, this is called positive judgment, but if it falls outside of the set patterns, it will fall under negative judgement markers (Roseman, et al., (2001).

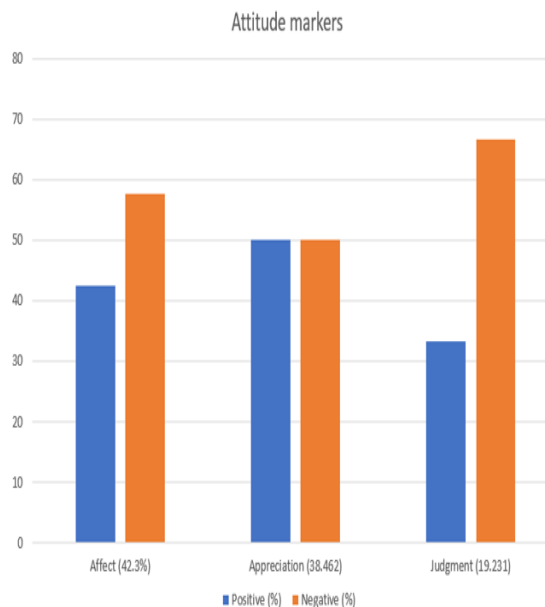


Figure 1: Positive And Negative Instances of Attitude Markers



In the research analysis of tweets from official accounts of office holders condemning the murder attempt of Imran Khan, besides affect and appreciation, judgement markers have also been observed. The judgement markers are least prevalent, containing 19.23% of the total, with 33.33% and 66.67 percent of positive and negative judgement markers, respectively (fig. 1). The incident shows that the terrorist attack was the least expected event to happen in society. Therefore, the high percentage of judgement markers is negative; no one is appreciating this event and is always discouraged. Markers such as "no place, no wrong, no space" are frequently used to stop such future incidents in any political peaceful protest. With regard to the positive indicator "peaceful," 'Cannot stifle democracy' has been used, reflecting approval and endorsement of the rally led by Imran Khan. The varying distribution of positive and negative judgments indicates a diversity of opinions among the collected tweets. Considering the intensity of the incident and the intended use of social media, it is not surprising that people had to react to the incident in a retaliating and judging manner, along with feeling the need to express their emotions as well.

## 5. Conclusion

In the light of the findings obtained from the collection of data, through careful analysis, we may respond to the proposed questions of the study. In order to answer the question about How the political leaders/ office holder's language express their attitude towards a significant situation such as the attempt to murder Ex PM Pakistan Imran Khan, the data reflects that the formal language to condemn such incidents usually comprised of Passing Judgments and expressing the emotions/ condolences (19.23% and 42.3% respectively). The analysis of the tweets is carried out linguistically within the framework of the Attitude subfield of Appraisal theory, where out of 78 statements (from within 20 tweets) 15 statements are used as judgments on the attack in order to condemn the attack which shows that the use of judgment is least, hence it can be said that to condemn the attack people actually condemn the act with reference to ethics, morality and called it as against the social and political norms as judgments talk about the ethics specifically. Alongside the emotions and sentiments of the world can also be seen through the tweets, as they used expressions such as "I'm Shocked", "shocked and saddened" and "shocked to learn" etc. The incident has stirred the emotions of the people even from the other countries as well. (As shown by their representative). Similar to the findings obtained from the current study Baykal (2016), in her study evaluating the attitude system in the framework of foreign student texts, detected that affect is the least common subfield, in the current study we found the affect is the most common subfield (perhaps due to the intense situation). The reason for this discrepancy can be explained by the fact that the texts that compose the database of the study does not have an ideological discourse. As a result, considering the influence of Twitter on society and the power of the tweets done by verified account as a member of the government, it can be said that the use of affect in the tweet entries written about Attack on former prime minister Imran Khan show the world's view against terrorism, extremism and political victimization. In this way appraisal items in a language help portraying any area or any person either positively or negatively by creating an image in the minds of people (Faraz & Asgher, 2021)

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## Unveiling Rhetorical Patterns in Book Reviews: A Comprehensive Investigation and Proposal of a Novel Review Model

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Key Words	Abstract
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rhetorical moves,</li><li>• Book review,</li><li>• Genre analysis</li><li>• Synchronized Model</li></ul>	<p><i>This study aims to demonstrate different rhetorical moves used by book review authors. Although the book review genre has been the subject of numerous researchers and authors such as Basturkmen (2014), Montazeran (2014), and Bhatia (2006). It has yet to receive the attention of scholars in Pakistan. To fill this gap, the researcher randomly selected twenty book reviews from various websites that had not been previously analyzed. The results were analyzed using the Motta Roth (1995) model, which revealed that M2 (outlining the book) was the most commonly used rhetorical move in the book reviews, while M4 (commentary on the content and recommendations) was used less frequently. With these findings, the researcher presented a new, more flexible, comprehensive, and reliable model for writing book reviews which will help authors to write a comprehensive review of a book by covering multiple aspects. This model allows reviewers to not only observe the book from a variety of perspectives but also express their honest and unbiased views. By adopting this model, book reviewers can enhance the quality of their reviews and provide their readers with a more comprehensive understanding of the book in question.</i></p>

## 1. Introduction

A book review is a literary assessment that involves appreciation, analysis, interpretation, or commentary on works of literature. It is a descriptive and critically evaluative account that assesses the production of knowledge. Book reviews serve multiple purposes, such as being a platform for reviewers to share their views on subject matter while identifying books that may be interesting in specific fields. They also offer important information about how latest publications contribute towards field development/expertise within given areas.

The process of book-reviewing involves experts in a particular field assessing the importance and legitimacy of a scholar's specific contribution. The objective is to describe the purpose, structure, and style of a book while highlighting significant sections. Additionally, it aims to analyze how it fits within its broader academic context. Therefore, this genre relies on description along with evaluation characterized by informative discourse.

Genres are a purposeful, structured means of communication involving specific discourse communities. Researchers study genres in two main ways: by analyzing the lexicogrammatical features of different texts or identifying their rhetorical structures through "structural move analysis," also known as schematic units or moves.

A book review is a type of critical evaluation aimed at assessing the knowledge presented in a piece of literature. Its significance cannot be overstated due to several reasons. Book reviews are used by most academic journals to appraise scholarly work, making them crucial in promoting academic literacy skills. In a nutshell, a review is an evaluation of various works, such as literary pieces, performances, events, art or architecture objects, and phenomena. It involves a thorough analysis of the features that constitute the genre in question. During school years, when we were students studying academic writing skills like creating book reviews, it was emphasized that it should not be just summarizing but presenting discussions with readers while making critical arguments about its multi-dimensional aspects, including the creator's ideas.

### 1.1. Statement of the Problem

When it comes to writing a book review, authors often use various rhetorical techniques. However, the lack of knowledge on the structure and inability to coordinate the moves can make it challenging for attempting to write reviews. Therefore, developing a specific stylistic framework is necessary in order to alleviate any discomfort caused by this problem.

### 1.2. Research Objective

Following are the research objectives:

- To analyze the frequently used moves in the book reviews available online
- To investigate the specific pattern used by the authors while writing book reviews.
- To propose a structural and comprehensive framework for writing book reviews using move analysis.

### 1.3. Research Questions

Following are the research objectives:

- What are the most commonly employed rhetorical moves in online book reviews?
- How do authors typically structure their language and employ specific patterns when crafting book reviews?
- In what ways can a comprehensive framework for writing book reviews be proposed through move analysis?

## 2. Literature Review

Similar to a critique, a book review evaluates the creation of knowledge (Motta-Roth, 1995). It is a formal assessment that aims to bring about necessary changes. Reviews extend beyond literary works to include critiques of films or plays in newspapers or magazines. They critically evaluate not only texts but also objects, characters, incidents, and phenomena across various genres. A review goes beyond summarizing; it requires an argument that facilitates dialogue between the author's intent and readers' understanding. This academic writing style consists of thesis statements followed by supporting paragraphs that lead to conclusions for effective critical appreciation.

### 2.1. Review an Academic Genre

The notion of genre entails a social context in which individuals assume specific roles and behaviors. Language plays a crucial role in this communicative process, with genres encapsulating shared purposes among multiple events that proffer constraints for the discourse structure's development and conclusion. Previous research on genre-based studies was dominated by evaluative investigations from hard sciences, while recent comparative research has been conducted on both hard sciences (Physics, Chemistry, Biology) and soft sciences (Humanities & Social Sciences). However, there has been notably less inquiry into RA genres related to soft science fields such as (Briones, 2012; Krishnasamy, 2011; Azirah, 2001; Smaraj, 2008; Loi, 2010; Ozturk, 2007).

A book review is a genre that meets three criteria. Firstly, it involves communication between participants who assume specific roles and social contexts for the purpose of introducing and evaluating new publications. Secondly, experts within the discourse community recognize the communicative purpose of this genre through academic and disciplinary culture schemata, as well as formal schema that relate to textual features. Lastly, the rhetoric within this genre is limited to introducing and evaluating recent works, which affects how readers consume these texts and requires critics to comply with these expectations. Effective writing skills are crucial in conveying anticipated content and form impressions based on prior knowledge and experience in relevant fields or literary genres, especially those expected by the intended audience.

### 2.2. Rhetoric Moves in Book Reviews

As per Nwogu's in 1990, a move in a text can be comprised of a single sentence or multiple sentences that are connected to other moves, thus forming a complete information structure

that can be identified as a specific genre. These moves are made up of smaller functional components known as steps, which when combined, convey the overall message of the move (Paltridge, 1994). However, Motta-Roth has criticized Swale's new model, stating that it fails to predict cyclic patterns within moves accurately and overlooks certain elements that are present during data analysis (Roth, 1998).

The current investigation commences with a traditional evaluation of book critiques, as carried out by Swales (1981-1990) and Motta-Roth (1998). The study culminates in the introduction of a novel model that is more fitting. Current analysis is based on Swale's 1981 "Creating a Research Space" methodology, which scrutinized introductions to forty-eight articles, equally distributed across pure, applied, and social sciences - sixteen for each domain.

### **2.3. Swale and Motta Roth on Book Reviews**

Swale's framework is a schema-based model that categorizes units of information into rankings. Each unit serves a specific purpose by providing vital pieces of data to the text, which are called "moves." According to Swale, Move 1 is designed to introduce the book and includes several sub-functions such as defining general topics covered in it, identifying potential readership demographics, and acquainting readers with authorship insights. It also involves making generalized statements about the insertion of the topic within field literature. Similarly, Move 2 refers to outlining various sections within the book and providing general organizational insights for each chapter, which are highlighted from external sources. On the other hand, Move 3 focuses on designated parts mentioned earlier, primarily related materials available, before progressing onto evaluation specifics under this measure too.

Based on the research conducted by Motta-Roth (1998), as well as studies by DeCarvalho (2001) and Nicolaisen (2002), book reviews across multiple disciplines display a consistent rhetorical framework. Motta-Roth's genre analysis of book reviews in the fields of Chemistry, Economics, and Linguistics revealed specific characteristics in both content and structure. As a result of her discoveries, a standard schematic representation was developed, consisting of four rhetorical moves and numerous sub-functions that typify the structural organization of these types of reviews.

The book review begins with an introduction comprising of five sub-functions in move 1. These functions convey different types of information to the reader. The first function entails providing details about the book and its theoretical approach, such as Iona Leki's *Academic Writing Techniques and Task* – a writing textbook aimed at advanced ESL students (Motta-Roth, 1998:150). Function two specifies the target audience for whom this particular read is intended (Suarez & Moreno, 2014:191), exemplifying that it caters towards knowledgeable readers interested in text books related to writing techniques. Additionally, function three furnishes insight into author's academic credentials along with their previous work highlighting terms referring to profession or authority demonstrating expertise within their field of study through designations like expert researcher and thinker.

During move 3, the reviewer evaluates a text, pointing out both its strengths and weaknesses to the readers. In the case of Mr. Arditti's work, it is mentioned that he has sensitively dealt with many significant issues (positive feedback). However, the fact that



such an engaging life story is written in a dull manner remains a mystery (negative feedback) (Cacchiani, 2005).

The main purpose of the fourth move is to conclude the reviewer's text. This can be achieved by either completely agreeing or disagreeing with it, or by combining constructive criticism with a positive evaluation in sub-function one. For example, one can say that "this book offers a comprehensive overview of the topic and is a valuable reference for each chapter".

However, a challenge arises where each individual writes a different version owing to these varied instructions on structure and perspectives presented by reviewers, leading towards the need for more effective models. This study proposes new moves/strategies enhancing existing methods for producing deeper and pioneering assessments focused mainly on constructing comprehensive evaluations under selective progression/validation criteria, thereby improving overall quality/results throughout authors' narrative development from start till end.

### **3. Research Methodology**

This study analyzes twenty book reviews collected from various websites and journals. The researcher has intentionally chosen books that were not read before by her to better understand the writing techniques used in the reviews. The researcher has carefully read and analyzed the reviews to identify any specific patterns or styles that the writers may have employed.

#### **3.1 Theoretical Framework**

In this study, the researcher has used Motta Roth's grounded theory/model to analyze book reviews and will subsequently present their own model for writing book reviews for various genres. This model offers a rhetorical structure for book reviews.

**Move 1**= introducing the book

**Move 2**= outlining the book

**Move 3**= highlighting the parts of book

**Move 4**= providing closing evaluation of the book

### **4. Data Analysis and Discussion**

This section has two parts. The first part is about analyzing the moves followed in selected book reviews. The second part is about the frequency of each move. The moves were identified based on the basis of paragraph after careful reading of each book review. The researcher identified and listed all the moves in each of the twenty selected book reviews.

*Move 1- Introducing the book*

*Move 2- Outlining the book*

*Move 3- Highlighting the parts of book*

*Move 4- Commenting final commentary and recommendations*

Table 1

*Move Analysis of selected book reviews*

Samples	Moves
1	M1-M1-M2-M2-M2-M2-M2SM2(M3)-M3-M3-M3-M4(M2)
2	M1-M1-M1-M1(M2)-M2-M2-M2-M2-M3-M3-M2-M2-M3-M2-M3-M4(M1)
3	M1-M2-M1-M1-M1-M1-M1-M1-M2-M2-M2-M3(M4)-M2-M2
4	M1-M1-M1-M2(M1)-M4-M4-M2-M2-M2-M2-M2-M2-M2-M2-M3(M4)
5	M1-M2-M2-M2-M2-M2-M2-M2-M2-M3-M3
6	M1,M1,M1,M1,M1,M1,M1,M3,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M3,M3,M1,M1,M1,M3,M4,M2,M2,M2
7	M1,M1,M1,M1,M2,M1,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M3,M2,M2,M2,M4,M4,M4,M3,M4,M4
8	M1,M1,M1,M1,M1,M2,M4,M4+M2,M2,M2,M3,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2+M3,M2,M1+M4,M4,M4,M4,M3,M4,M4
9	M1,M1,M1,M1,M1,M1+M1,M3,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2+M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M3,M4,M4,M3
10	M1,M1,M1,M1,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M4,M4,M4,M4,M3,M4,M4,M3,M3
11	M1(M1),M1,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M3,M3,M3,M3,M3,M3,M3,M3,M3,M3,M1,M4,M1(M4).
12	M1,M1,M2,M1(M4),M2,M2,M3,M3,M1,M3.
13	M1(M2),M2,M2,M3,M2,M3,M3,M3 (M2),M3(M2),M3,M3.
14	M1,M1,M1,M1,M1,M1(M2,M2),M3,M3(M2),M3(M2),M3,M1(M4,M4).
15	M1,M1(M1),M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M3(M4),M3,M4,M3,M3.
16	M1, M1, M1, M2, M2, M2, M2, M2, M2, M2, M2, M2, M3, M3, M3, M3, M3, M3, M3, M3, M3, M3, M3, M3, M3, M3
17	M1, M1, M1, M1, M2, M2, M2, M2, M2, M3, M3, M3, M4, M4
18	M1(M2),M2,M2,M3,M2,M3,M3,M3 (M2),M3(M2),M3,M3.
19	M1,M1,M1,M1,M2,M1,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M2,M3,M2,M2,M2,M4,M4,M4,M3,M4,M4
20	M1-M1-M1-M2(M1)-M4-M4-M2-M2-M2-M2-M2-M2-M2-M2-M3(M4)

Table 2  
*Occurrence of Moves*

Samples	Move 1	Move2	Move 3	Move 4
1	2	6	3	1
2	4	8	3	1
3	8	6	1	1
4	4	9	1	3
5	1	8	2	0
6	10	19	4	1
7	5	13	2	4
8	6	10	3	6
9	7	16	2	2
10	4	18	2	6
11	4	6	9	2
12	2	3	1	1
13	1	6	5	0
14	6	4	2	2
15	3	6	4	2
16	3	9	13	0
17	4	5	3	2
18	1	6	6	0
19	5	13	2	4
20	4	9	1	3

Table 2

Total no of occurrences of moves

Move 1	84
Move 2	180
Move 3	69
Move 4	41

#### 4.1. Discussion

Based on the data analysis above, the following conclusions can be drawn:

Firstly, it is apparent that "Move one" is utilized by every writer more than twice. In fact, in twenty reviews, the first move is used over eighty times, indicating that every writer is giving significant attention to the introduction section. Secondly, "Move two" is the most commonly used move by every writer, suggesting that it is their preferred method for outlining and summarizing the text. This move plays a crucial role in constructing the review and, in twenty book reviews, it has been used over 180 times.

Thirdly, "Move three" highlights important segments of the book, enabling the reader to understand the book's significance or main message. Although most book reviews use this move more than once, it is still a relatively infrequent occurrence, with the writer identifying it occurring only 69 times from the current data. Lastly, "Move four" evaluates the book by including the writer's critical appreciation or evaluative comment of the text. This move is the least used by writers, with only 40 occurrences in the present data. One potential reason for this is that writers tend to avoid critiquing the text consciously or unconsciously.

The purpose of writing a book review is to attract readers and motivate them to read the book. Book reviews should be written in a convincing way which encourages readers to read the book. However, the book reviews that researchers have analyzed have followed a uniform pattern. According to my personal opinion, there should be no uniformity in writing book reviews because it is actually a debate between the reader and the author, in which the author motivates the reader to read the book. It should be a personal opinion of the author, which reflects why they want others to read that book.

If all authors follow the same pattern in writing book reviews, then what is the purpose of writing a book review that just summarizes the book? The presented model is flexible, synchronized, and a more detailed model for writing book reviews. It provides a vast canvas to review writers where they can observe and reflect on the book from a variety of perspectives. The presented model also allows for personal but unbiased and honest views.

The presented model consists of seven moves. The first move determines the genre of the book review, as it is important to mention the genre to the reader to develop their interest. The second move is the introduction, which further elaborates on the author's background and motivates the reader to read the book due to some special qualities of writing and with

the mention of the context of the book. The third move summarizes the book, including the subject of the book, description of contents, and highlighting the main and important events in the book. The fourth move is the evaluative comment, which is also the main point of the review. It further consists of comments on the theme, significance of the theme, and the objective of writing the review. The fifth move is about the style of language, sequence, and mood. The sixth move is about argumentation and personal opinion, which is also called the critique. The last move is about recommendations.

#### **4.2. Structure of presented model**

Move 1~ Determining type of genre

- About the genre
- Justifying the type of genre

Move 2~ introduction

- About the author
- About motivation
- About the socio-cultural context

Move 3~ Summary

- Subject of the book
- Description of content
- Highlighting the main content/aspects

Move 4~ Evaluative comment

- Comment on theme
- Comment on significance of theme
- Comment on objective

Move 5~ Style

- sequence
- language
- mood

Move 6~ Argumentation

- author's argument
- personal opinion

Move 7~ Recommendations

## 5. Conclusion

The current study has observed that all authors introduced the book at start while reviewing. However, it has been noticed that sometimes authors didn't expand on the introduction of the book by generalizing the topic or recommending it, or by placing it in a specific genre. The findings showed that the sequencing of moves in almost all book reviews was the same, and most of them ended with the specific move M4 which is about recommending or suggesting the book. The move sequence and occurrences were mentioned in Table 1, Table 2, and Table 3. The dominant move was M2, which focused on introducing the book, while the least focused move was M4, which involved critiquing the book and providing recommendations. The length of book reviews varied from author to author, and there was no specific limit to writing the reviews. This study revealed that there is uniformity in almost all book reviews, as they follow the same pattern. The purpose of writing a book review is to convince and motivate the reader to read the book, not to detract their attention with the same ideas. However, there are some features lacking in book reviews that, in my opinion, are necessary to attract the reader's attention. The proposed model focused on those features as well. The presented model is more flexible and synchronized, providing a vast canvas for book review writers to observe the book from different perspectives.

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