

Inflectional Deviations: A Corpus Based Comparative Study of Pakistani English Fiction and British English Fiction

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Abstract:

The present research study intends to find out the Inflectional Morphological Deviations that exist in Pakistani English and British English. Pakistani English, now being considered as an individual language variety, is found to be deviant at almost all linguistic levels from the other varieties of English like British English. This research study tries to find out the Inflectional Morphological deviations in the formation of verb forms in Pakistani English and British English. It is a Corpus based comparative research study. Corpus is compiled from British English Fiction (consisting of more than million words) and from Pakistani English Fiction (more than one million words). The software employed to conduct the research study is AntConc (3.5.9). Research tools employed for data collection and analysis include Wordlist, Concordance Tool and Cluster tool. This study provides help to English Language students especially to those who are interested in linguistic variation of Englishes.

Key word: *Inflection, Inflectional Deviations, Morphology, Pakistani English Fiction (PEF), British English Fiction (BEF),*

INTRODUCTION:

OED defines Morphology as ‘the branch of grammar that is concerned with word-formation and inflection’ (Aronoff, 1993). Rochelle Leiber (2021), defines Morphology in his book ‘INTRODUCING MORPHOLOGY’ as a word-formation process.

According to Leiber (2021), Morphology is referred to as Lexeme Formation though some linguists refer to it as word-Formation. On one hand, Morphology is important as far as the formation of Lexemes is concerned. Lexeme formation sometimes changes the word-class or the category of a word i-e changing a verb into a Noun or Adjective or a Noun into Adjective; as for example the noun ‘amusement’ from the verb amuse and the adjective ‘disastrous’ from the noun ‘disaster’. Sometimes Lexeme Formation does not bring about change in category of a word but it does change the substantial meaning of the word for example ‘incomplete’ from the word ‘complete’. But sometimes lexeme formation brings about change both in the category and the substantial meaning of the word as for example the word ‘washable’ from the word ‘wash’. On the other hand, Morphology relates to the change of the grammatical category of a word even though no new lexeme is produced. A lexeme can be comprised of a number of word-forms. As a word ‘talk’ may take the forms: ‘talked’, ‘talking’, ‘talks’. This kind of change in the form of a word to make it pertinent in a particular grammatical context is what linguists refer to as ‘Inflection’ in linguistics. (p. 6-7).

World Englishes is an emerging and significant field of study in linguistic research. For last few decades, the spread of English language has become the focus of attention of linguists, language critics, scholars of English language. English has become the 'great laboratory of Today's sociolinguist' (Henry Kahane, 1986, p.495). Now, there is not only one English, rather there are more. (McArthur,1998). The field of World Englishes rejects the dichotomous concept of 'US' and 'THEM' and it emphasizes 'WE-ness' concept in language (McArthur, 1993). A vast amount of variation in English language depending on the social, regional, or cultural context has caused the pluralization 'Englishes'. Due to this pluralization the empirical domain of English language study is extended . English is regarded now a pluricentric language with diverse norms of use, and multiple functions (Smith 1981, 1983, 1987, Ferguson 1982, Kachru 1982, Kachru & Quirk 1981). This pluricentricism has prompted the use of terms like 'Englishes', EFL, ENL, and ESL. These 'Englishes' or the varieties of English are significantly different from each other from almost all the linguistic aspects i-e in their phonology, lexicology, Morphology, Syntax and grammar etc. On the basis of their respective characteristics, we have a diverse variety of English language like British English, American English, Canadian English, Australian English, Indian English, Pakistani English, Sri Lankan English, Bangladeshi English and Russian English, Chinese English etc.

. Mahboob (2002), highlights the journey of English from Sub-continent to Pakistan. English language in the sub-continent evolved with a local touch.

English language when began to be used in the cultural context of Pakistan it began to get influenced by the indigenous language. It has been nativized. It has evolved its own unique lexical system, its own Phonology. It has its own grammar and Syntax and Morphology.

Corpus Linguistics is a new separate discipline of Linguistics. It is a methodology that is employed to analyze the linguistic components of a language, their occurrences and their contextual use via large collection of data through computational tools. It is helpful in the historical and comparative study of linguistic features (Weisser, 2016).

2. Literature Review

Mahmood, (2009) has conducted a research to analyze Pakistani English with the purpose of finding out the characteristic features of Pakistani English. The research study tries to considerate the formulated hypothesis that Pakistani English has distinct features of its own. The study is quantative in nature and has a corpus driven approach. A corpus of 2 million words was compiled from each language variety namely Pakistani English, British English and American English.

Timyam, (2018), demonstrates the causes and patterns of inflectional deviations in the use of present tense –s morpheme, past tense indication, and progressive –ing. It is a population based study to analyze the deviation in the inflectional morphology in the writing of 116 Thai English Learners. This study tries to find out the reasons of inflectional deviations of English language learners from Thailand from that of Standard English variety. 232 Essays written by the 116 Thai advanced learners were analysed to find out the reasons and patterns of deviations; the three characteristics reasons of inflection include the distance between the subject and the main verb, the weight of the subject and the syntactic categories of the subject. The reasons for deviations provided

by Timyam may equally be regarded as the inflectional errors caused by the second language learners in case of a larger or more complex subject and the errors may be the cause of unconsciousness or carelessness on the part of otherwise efficient language learner.

Alasmari, et al., (2018) investigates the verb system of Arabic and English language with the particular purpose of finding out the similarities and differences. The study uses the Arabic language corpora to reveal the details of tense and aspect in the Arabic language. The study draws a comparative contrast between the verb, tense and aspect of the two languages; Arabic and English using the corpus based approach.

Calle-Martín, J., & Romero-Barranco, J. (2017) presented a study that deals with inflectional deviations with particular reference to present tense –s ; inflected and uninflected in World Englishes. It is a Corpus based comparative study. The nature of the study is quantitative and the evidential data was collected through the ICE (International Corpus of English). And the sample to study the inflectional present tense –s deviations were the native and institutionalized Second-language variety; Indian English, Hong Kong English and Singaporean English. The data was analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively as well. Qualitative analysis was provided with the association of four factors namely: typology of subject, intervening elements, influence of proximity agreement or nominal agreement.

Mehmood et al., (2013) conducted a corpus driven, comparative, stylistic analysis of model verbs in Pakistani English fiction and British English fiction. The study tries to find out the stylistic implications of the use of model verbs in Pakistani English fiction and British English Fiction. It also finds out the frequencies of the model verbs in the said varieties of English fiction. Corpora of PEF and BEF of one million words of each were compiled. The tool used for conducting the stylistic analysis was AntConc 3.2.4. This research study is significantly helpful in the identification of various meanings conveyed via model verbs.

Significance of the study

The present worldwide spread of English has given rise to the study of English language varieties. The World Englishes has become the emerging and a significant field of research study. A lot of work has already been done with regard to the English language acquisition, ESL Learners' difficulties and language variations. Morphological deviation has also been studied by the researchers with perspective of some specific ESL varieties. A lot of research is conducted on different varieties of language keeping in view their contrastive features. Morphology is a significant aspect in the study of language. Inflectional Morphology holds an inquisitive significance in the study of morphological aspects of a language or languages. But less work is done, from a Corpus based comparative perspective on Inflectional Morphological deviations with respect to different varieties of English. The present study contributes to the body of literature by finding out the inflectional deviations in Pakistani English Fiction in contrast with British English Fiction from a comparative perspective. The study is helpful for the future researchers of Language variations, FL of English varieties and EFL teachers in eliminating their confusions regarding the set norms of inflections. It is significantly helpful to EFL

students and teachers to be aware of the inflectional deviations in the varieties of English to have a better understanding of Inflectional deviations in the said varieties of English.

Purpose of the Study

A learner of English language finds a lot of difficulty while confronting the speakers of English language from different sociolinguistic context using different inflectional morphological constructions. The foreign learner is perplexed with the variation being used by different Native and non-Native speakers of English like She sings a song (in BE), and She sing a song (in CE) that which is correct and which is incorrect. Or When a British Native speaker uses the word ‘forwards’, and an American uses rather the word ‘forward’. All these deviation that are acceptable in one speech community but contradicted in the other are the cause of confusion for English language learners. The present study seeks to find out the set norms (acceptable variations) of the said varieties of English and how these varieties are different in the acceptability of these norms, as the norms that are acceptable used in a single speech community are considered deviant in the other speech community. And what inflectional deviations are found in the different sociolinguistic varieties of English namely Pakistani English and British English.

1.4 Research Objectives

1. To find out the Inflectional Deviations found in Pakistani English Fiction and British English fiction in the use of Present Tense –s form and Past Tense form
2. To compare and contrast the inflectional deviations found in PEF and BEF in Present Tense form and Past Tense form
3. To analyse the frequency of these inflectional deviations in Pakistani English Fiction in contrast with British English Fiction

Research Methodology

This research study uses Corpus methodology to investigate the inflectional variation in PE and BE. According to Francis (1982), a Corpus is ‘a collection of texts’. The research is empirical in nature. It is a quantitative research that uses PEF and BEF corpora.

Corpus Compilation

Two corpora, PEF and BEF are compiled. The word limit for each sample text in each corpus is up to 8000 to 10000 words. And the total number of words that each corpus is comprised of is more than one million words. The bulk of the data was converted into note-pad in order to comply with the requirement of the software.

Corpus Software (tools)

Software (AntConc), version (3.5.9) is employed to conduct the research. In order to analyze the both corpora BEF and PEF KWIC, concordance tool, Collocation tool and Cluster tools are employed to collect data.

Data Collection

First, 250 verbs with Present tense Inflectional Morphemes were collected from both corpora. 250 words with Past Tense Inflectional Morphemes were collected from BEF and PEF.

In the next phase, all the present tense inflected forms that were collected from BEF corpus and PEF corpus were organized in tabular forms. Then these Present tense forms with inflectional morpheme –s and Present tense non-inflected forms were searched out in their context to check their agreement with the subject whether a Present tense form with inflectional morpheme –s is used with a singular subject in both of the corpora or they exhibit any deviation in the use of present tense morpheme. Then all the relevant examples were gathered of Present Tense 3rd person singular morpheme (-s) and also the examples of present tense plural verb forms in their context with the help of KWIC were collected.

Then Past Tense verbs and Past participles with Past Tense Inflectional morphemes that were collected from the BEF corpus and PEF corpus were organized in tables and out of them the Past Tense or Past Participle verb form with Inflectional morphemes from the two corpora that were different or the verb forms that were attached to a different past tense inflectional morpheme in the two different corpus were separated. The significant verb forms with identical Past Tense inflectional morphemes that were found out to be deviated include:

Verb (base form) + -ed

Verb (base form) + -en

Verb (base form) + -t

Verb (base form) + Doubling of last consonant+ -en

Verb (base form) + -Zero Past Tense Inflectional Morpheme

Then these verb forms with Past Tense Inflectional morphemes gathered from PEF and from BEF were organized with their frequencies in tables. Then these inflected verb forms were searched out in their context using the Concordance tool.

In the last phase, after the arrangement of all the collected data in tables, relevant examples from both of the corpora were gathered in a comparative sequential form for their detailed comparative analysis

4.2 Data Analysis

The rules of the formation of inflection morphemes that are based on their parts of speech and grammatical categories – i.e Past Tense Form ,Perfect aspect -en, -ed, Present Tense form –s, -es - are not always the same in the two varieties of English. Though there are cases when Pakistani English uses the same rules of the formation of inflectional morphemes as are used in British English, but many times Pakistani English is deviant from British English variety in the use of or the formation of some of the Inflectional morphemes. Pakistani English shows some deviations from British English in the formation of the Past Tense form, Perfect Aspect –en/-ed, and in the use of Present Tense verb or Past Tense Verb as is shown from the collected data below.

Use of Present Tense Singular, Present Tense Plural, Past Tense forms in Pakistani English Fiction and British English Fiction

Use of Present Tense Singular verb form (Present Tense –s), Present Tense Plural verb form and Past Tense verb form in the two Varieties of English is observed to find out the Inflectional Morphological deviations that occur in the use of Present Tense –s morpheme, Present Tense Plural morpheme or Past Tense morpheme in the Pakistani English fiction and the British English fictions. A number of examples are collected from both the corpora, the BEF and PEF corpora, to study the Inflectional Morphological Deviations in the two varieties that if they have deviations in subject-verb agreement in case of third person singular subject, plural subject, in case of 2nd person or 1st person. The following table provides a few examples of the Present Tense Verb forms and their frequencies in the two varieties of English language.

Present & Past Tense forms	Freq. in PEF	Freq. in BEF
Asks	212	24
Comes	248	113
Changes	27	22
Feels	170	42
Go	1142	998
Move	265	168
Live	248	142
Reached	200	378
Moved	243	431
Total	2755	2318

Table 3: (Present Tense Forms & Past Tense Forms in PEF and BEF)

Examples:

Pakistani: He asks about Marvi.

British: she asks.

The example from Pakistani English Fiction uses the word asks with a singular subject 'he'. The verb 'asks' is made of two morphemes- one is –ask Present Tense form and the other is –s 3rd Person singular morpheme. Both the morphemes indicate the subject is a 3rd person singular and the Tense used in the sentence is Present Indefinite Tense. Same is the case in the second example where 'asks' is used with 'she'. So both the examples are similar in their use of Present Tense S form.

Pakistani: ...the darkness suddenly comes alive.

British: No one comes aboard.

Then there comes the examples that make use of the word 'comes'. The first example from Pakistani English fiction uses the verb 'comes' for a singular subject 'darkness'. The second example that is taken from British English Fiction uses the word 'comes' for the indefinite subject 'no one'. The 3rd person singular –s morpheme at the end of the Present Tense morpheme 'come' indicates that the particular subject is singular. This evidence again shows that Pakistani English uses the same inflectional morpheme for a singular subject that is used in British English example.

Pakistani: Imam Din's manner changes.

British: Instantly, the mood changes...

The above two examples from PEF corpus and BEF corpus respectively use the same inflectional morpheme –s with 'change'. The word 'changes' having a 3rd Person Singular –s morpheme with Present Tense morpheme in both the examples indicates that the subject is a 3rd person singular. They both use an –s morpheme to show its agreement with their singular subject.

Pakistani: She feels a tug in her lower stomach.

British: And it feels all wrong.

The verb used in this example 'feels' is composed of two morphemes; -feel and –s. The morpheme –s at the end of the other morpheme –feel, in both the examples, makes it clear that the subject used in the examples are not a plural one because in case of plural subject there must be a zero morpheme at the end of the present tense morpheme or it can be said that –s is not used in case of 1st person, 2nd person or 3rd person plural. So, it is indicated that –s (Present Tense –s) morpheme is used in both British English fiction and Pakistani English Fiction in case of 3rd person singular subjects.

Pakistani: 'Here we go again'.

British: ...we will go and find it.

There is another example to provide the evidence that the two varieties of language use a similar morphological structure in most cases. The verb 'go' has two morphological meanings embedded in it; at one side it conveys the meaning that it is Present tense and at the other it conveys

that the subject is Plural , 1st person in present tense. In both of the examples from the Pakistani English corpus and British English corpus the verb ‘go’ is used with 1st person plural that makes it identical that the two language varieties use a verb without the –s (3rd person singular morpheme) in case of plural subjects.

Pakistani: Steps move around the room.

British: The eyes move behind their lids...

Another important example, to argue if there are present any Inflectional morphological deviations in the use of Present Tense form, comes with the word ‘move’. The verb ‘move’ consisting of two morphological meaning –Present Tense, Plural- in both the examples extracted from the Pakistani English corpus and British English corpus is used with a plural subject in each case, ‘eyes’ and ‘steps’ that contains two morphemes in themselves too. –eye, -s and –step, -s. Similarly, the verb also contains two morphological meanings that they are in Present Tense and that they are Plural. Both the varieties use the same morphological structure in verb forms for a plural subject.

Pakistani: Why can’t they live a bit longer?

British: ‘And we do know where you live?’

. The example from Pakistani fiction contains a Present Tense Plural verb ‘live’ that agrees to its plural subject ‘they’. The second example that is from British fiction also contains a Present Tense Plural verb ‘live’ that concords with its plural subject ‘we’. So, both the varieties use a Plural Present Tense verb similarly in case of a plural subject. The plural subject may verily be a 1st person plural as in second example or it is a 3rd person plural as is in the first example.

Pakistani: We reached Agra in the afternoon...

British: they reached a gate in the railings.

Both the examples use the Past Tense verb form ‘reached’ indifferently that consists of two morphemes. The Past Tense verb form in both the varieties is similar irrespective of the subject whether it is Singular or Plural or it be related to 1st Person , 2nd Person or 3rd Person.

Pakistani: We both moved away...

British: He moved abruptly...

The first one example taken from Pakistani English fiction uses the Past Tense Form ‘moved’ with a 1st Person Plural subject. On the other hand, the example from British English fiction uses the same Past Tense form with a 3rd Person singular subject. There is no deviation in the use of the Past

Tense verb form with respect to the Number of subject or with the Person of the subject whether it is Singular or Plural, or whether it is 1st Person or 3rd Person.

All the above analyzed examples highlights that Inflectional Morphological Deviation in Present Tense Singular verb form, Present Tense Plural verb form or Past Tense verb do not exist there in the PEF and BEF. Both the language varieties are most of the time are found to use the same Inflectional Morphological rules or structures

4.2.2 Inflectional Deviations in the formation of Verb Forms (Past tense forms and Past Participle forms) in British English Fiction and Pakistani English Fiction

The two varieties of English namely British English and Pakistani English again are not the same in their formation of Past Tense form and Past Participle form or Perfect Aspect. Pakistani English variety follows the same regular and irregular ways of formation for many Past Tense form and Past Participle forms. But a number of times it does not follow the same rules or does not use the same inflectional morphemes as is the use of inflection morphemes in the British English variety in the formation of Past Tense form or Past Participle form. As there are found many examples where it uses a deviant past tense morpheme or a deviant past participle morpheme from the ones used in British English.

In the following table there are a lot of examples of the formation of Past tense forms and Past Participle forms taken from British English Fiction corpus and Pakistani English Fiction corpus where Pakistani English shows Inflection Morphological deviation from British English.

Table 4: (Inflectional Deviations in Past Tense Form and Past Participle forms in PEF & BEF)

BEF Past Tense Morphemes	Freq.	PEF Past Tense Morphemes	Freq.
Burnt	25	burned	19
Dived	15	dove	1
Dreamt	4	dreamed	15
Fitted	35	fit	35
Got	755	gotten	9
Leant	18	leaned	82
Leapt	31	leaped	2
Proved	28	proven	1
Learned	65	Learnt	93
Smelt	1	smelled	18
Knelt	56	Kneeled	2
Spilt	5	spilled	13
Spoilt	3	spoiled	3
Wetted	2	wet	90
Total	1043	Total	383

Examples:

British: He had expressionlessly removed the JOHNNY poster and burnt it along with everything else, without considering the matter further.

Pakistani: On the slopes were ... closer juniper trees whose leaves were still burned by shamans on special occasions.

In this example of the formation of the past Tense form or Past participle from of the Base verb 'burn' British English has used an irregular way as it has added the inflectional morpheme –t at

the end of verb base form. The above table shows that the frequency of the verb ‘burnt’ is over all 25 in the British English Fiction corpus that is greater than the deviant past tense form of the same word used in Pakistani English Fiction, and in the example taken from Pakistani English fiction corpus, it is seen that Pakistani English makes the past tense form or past participle form of the verb ‘burn’ using a regular way of verb formation as it used the inflection suffix –ed at the end of verb base form to get its past tense form and past participle form.

British: She dived across the corridor, into the cabin where Orrick was.

Pakistani: He dove, brown and bare-skinned, into the lake.

Second example of the formation of past tense form and past participle form that shows the deviations that occur in Pakistani English is found in the formation of the past tense and past participle forms of the verb ‘dive’. This base form of the verb ,in British English Fiction corpus, is found to be transformed in its past tense form and past participle form by using a regular way that is the addition of the inflection suffix –ed as it is ‘dived’ used in the example from British corpus. But on the other hand is the example drawn from Pakistani English fiction corpus that shows clearly that Pakistani English uses a deviant way of forming the past tense form and past participle form of the word ‘dive’ as it used an irregular way that is the use of an inflectional infix as there we have a spell change in the middle of the word i.e dove.

British: I dreamt that night, and in amongst the amber wreckage of your eyes, like a fractured glass containing your chill spirit, hazy visions of a brighter fate swam slow,’

“I dreamt about this. And you know what I said? I said, ‘Arrest me.’ “

Pakistani: Barelvi had once called for jihad against the British and dreamed of an Islamic state ruled by Islamic laws.

Then there comes the example of the verb base form ‘dream’. Both the varieties of English – British English and Pakistani English- use a different way of the formation of the past tense form and past participle form of the verb ‘dream’. Where British English uses an irregular inflectional morpheme Pakistani English is using a regular way of forming the past tense form and past participle form with the addition of the past tense morpheme or past participle morpheme –ed. The examples taken from British English fiction corpus uses ‘dreamt’ to talk about the action happened in past. On the contrary, example drawn from Pakistani English Fiction corpus uses the word ‘dreamed’ with past tense morpheme –ed to talk about that the particular subject dreamed of an Islamic subject in the past.

British: I wondered how she fitted into this enclave of middle-class decorum.

Pakistani: They have stared at each other and secretly communicated until Ayah's mouth is red with paan, and I am fit to scream.

The base verb form 'fit' also indicates Inflectional Morphological deviation found in Pakistani English and British English. In British English fiction, the base form of the verb 'fit' uses a regular way for the formation of its past tense form and past participle form that is the addition of -ed inflectional morpheme with doubling of the consonant 't' to talk about a past happening. But Pakistani English fiction provides an example of using an irregular way of forming the past tense form or past participle form of the same verb 'fit' in a deviant way as a zero morpheme is used or it can be said that the verb 'fit' has no phonological representation of past tense morpheme or past participle morpheme.

British: We got a few snatches, no more, none of which made much sense, then in the end he got something more out.

'...the word has got round.'

Pakistani: Feroza finally gathered the courage to ask a gray-haired woman, where she had gotten her cart.

The next example that highlights the fact that Pakistani English deviates from British English in the use of past tense form or past participle form is found in the use of the word 'got'. The examples taken from the British English fiction show that the verb base form 'get' is converted into 'got' to be used as past tense form as well as past participle form or perfect aspect, as the word 'got' is used to talk about a past thing and the same inflectional form is used as past participle form in the second example 'the world has got round' from British English corpus. So, the two varieties of English used deviant inflectional morphemes for the formation of past tense form and past participle form of the same verb form.

British: She leant back a little, backside against the lip of the control deck.

Pakistani: Raza covered his face with his hands and leaned against the kitchen wall.

The above two examples that are drawn from two different corpora of the two varieties of English namely British English Fiction and Pakistani English Fiction again show the inflectional morphological deviation in the use of past tense morpheme or past participle morpheme. In case of British English fiction example the base form of the verb 'lean' transforms into 'leant' taking the past tense morpheme -t to relate the action happened in the past. But the other example from Pakistani English Fiction corpus shows a deviant way of the formation of past tense form of the same base verb 'lean' as here it transforms into a regular past tense verb form after taking the inflectional past tense suffix -ed and becomes 'leaned' to tell that the particular character was leaned against the wall.

British: He leapt from the driver's seat and beckoned Helen out of the car.

Pakistani: Some of them leaped over the water like panthers even before the boats connected.

. The verb base form 'lean' changes its form to 'leapt' to provide past tense form or past participle form as used in British English Fiction example above. But on the other side, Pakistani English fiction uses the verb form 'leaped' with the past tense inflectional morpheme or past participle inflectional morpheme –ed to talk about an activity happened in the past that some person leaped over the water. So a same verb form 'lean' is used as past tense form differently in the two varieties of English language.

British: Captain Holst proved keen to cooperate.

Richard felt oddly proud. He had proved himself in the ordeal.

Pakistani: But I had begun to understand that she had chosen not to be part of my story; her own had proven too compelling.

The past tense form and past participle form or perfect aspect in English language in case of the word 'prove' also provides an example of inflectional morphological example in Pakistani English fiction and British English Fiction. The verb base form 'prove' in case of British English Fiction adopts a regular way of forming the past tense form or past participle form. It uses the inflection suffix –ed at the end of the base form 'prove' and provides the past tense form and past participle form 'proved'. Both the past tense form and past participle form of the verb 'prove' are obtained in the same way using the inflectional suffix –ed as is used to talk about past action in the first one example from British English corpus and to talk about the completion of the action of proving the person himself in the ordeal. But in the example from Pakistani English Fiction the past tense form and past participle form of the base verb 'prove' are got in a quite different way that is with the addition of the past inflectional morpheme –en, an irregular way of getting the past tense form of a verb. So a same verb has got its past tense form or past participle form in a quiet deviant way.

British: ...she learned later. /

He had not learned, or asked, anything about the mission the man had been on.

Pakistani: 'That's what I learnt at college'. /

We should have learnt from the French and the English.

The above example from British English fiction corpus uses the word 'learned' as past tense form of the verb base form 'learn' that is created using a regular way of verb formation that is uses the past tense inflectional morpheme –ed at the end of the verb base form 'learn' and also the same form with inflectional morpheme –ed as past participle. But the example from Pakistani English fiction does not use the same way for the formation of past tense or past participle form of the same verb 'learn' as shows the words 'learnt' and 'have learnt' in the examples mentioned above. Pakistani English here uses an irregular way of verb formation as it uses the inflectional past morpheme at the end of the verb base form.

British: ... it smelt like cough syrup and buttered toast.

Pakistani: He welcomed a hippie couple draped in identical Afghan kilims which smelled as if they had been used to pack raw hashish.

. The verb smell as used in British English fiction form its past tense form using the past tense inflectional morpheme –t and uses the same way for the formation of past participle or perfect aspect of grammar in that language as we have the example from British Corpus ‘it smelt like cough’. While looking at the second example that is drawn from Pakistani English Fiction, the word ‘smelled’ is found to be used as the past tense form which, it can be said, has a regular way of formation of past tense form using the past inflectional morpheme –ed with the addition of doubling the last consonant letter of the verb base form as in the above mention example ‘which smelled’.

British: Helen knelt across me, elbows pressed into the seat on either side of my head.

Pakistani: The medico-legal officer Dr John Malick also witnessed the apparition and kneeled down and sang the praise of our Lord Yassoo and then of our Holy Mother.

In British English fiction example ‘Helen knelt’ the past tense verb form ‘knelt’ is made with a meager change in the verb base form and by adding the past tense inflectional morpheme –t. Whereas the example from Pakistani English fiction corpus provides the evidence of inflectional deviation in case of the past tense verb formation of the base verb ‘kneel’ as this variety of English language uses a contradictory way, a regular way of formation of past tense form with the use of past inflectional suffix, of forming the past tense form from the one used in British English fiction as the example highlights ‘Dr John MALick... kneeled down...’.

British: All around us gaunt fingers of rock, shattered in that ancient explosion, reached serrated edges toward us, and shadows pooled like spilt blood.

Pakistani: My servant is wearing an old kurta shal-war I gave him after one of my little cousins spilled a bottle of ink on it.

. Example from BEF uses past tense form ‘spilt’ that is the result of an irregular formation of the verb past tense form as the past inflectional morphemes –t is used as is used in many other examples from British English fiction- ‘spilt blood’. But Pakistani English fiction shows the formation of the past tense form of the same verb form ‘spill’ as it takes the regular past inflection morpheme -ed to provide the past tense verb form.

British: I hovered in the air like some avenging angel, an effect spoilt only by fragments of orbiting toast.

Pakistani: “Now that you have thoroughly spoiled my mood, I am going.”

Both of the words ‘spoilt’ and ‘spoiled’ in the above examples are the past tense form as well as the past participle form of the base verb form ‘spoil’ so they are clearly the deviation of the past tense verb form of the same word in the two language varieties. These examples makes it quite clear that British English used an irregular way of verb formation as it used the past inflectional morpheme – t with the verb base form to obtain its past tense form. On the other hand, in the example from Pakistani English fiction ‘have thoroughly spoiled my mood’ the form of perfect aspect or past participle is carried out using a regular way of verb formation that is the addition of the past tense inflectional morpheme –ed to the verb base form.

British: She wetted a fingertip with her pink tongue, and then gently ran it across the side of the head of the spear, testing the edge on the blade;

Pakistani: Little has wet his nappy; she changes it.

Present Tense & Past Tense Form	Freq. in PEF	Freq. in BEF
Without Inflectional Deviations	2755	2318

. The verb ‘wet’ has used two deviant ways for the formation of the past tense form and /or past participle form in the two different varieties of English under discussion. The example provided by the British English Fiction corpus implied the regular formation of past tense verb formation adding the past tense inflectional morpheme –ed at the end of the verb base form and at the same time doubling the last consonant letter in the word. The example taken from the British English fiction uses the word ‘wetted’ as past tense form, while on the other hand the example derived from the Pakistani English fiction corpus, deviated past tense form ‘wet’ is used as past participle or the perfect aspect as it is used ‘the little has wet...’. The past tense formation of the verb ‘wet’ is carried out in British English example in a regular way of past tense formation but the example from Pakistani English fiction uses an irregular for this cause. So both the language varieties used a deviant inflection morpheme for the formation of the past tense form of the same word.

All the above examples of Past tense form and past participle form from BEF and PEF support the claim that Pakistani English shows a number of Inflectional morphological deviations. Not all the formation of verb form in the two mention varieties of English is similar. Pakistani English deviates from the standard BritishEnglish at the morphological level as it uses a deviant inflection morpheme from the one used in the British English variety.

With Inflectional Deviations	383	1043
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Table 8: (Frequencies of Deviations in Verb Forms)

The data comparison in table 8 shows the frequency difference of the Present Tense forms and Past Tense form where Pakistani English uses Inflectional deviations and where it does not, in comparison with the British English. The frequency of Inflectional morphological deviation in Pakistani English fiction is 383 and the number where it does not show any inflectional deviations in the formation of Present and Past tense forms is 2755. The number of Inflectional morphological deviations is smaller as compared to the number when it accords with British English in the use of Inflectional morphemes.

4.3 Conclusion

A number of times Pakistani English uses the same inflectional morphological structures as are used in British English. So, it can be derived from the collected data that though there exist a number of inflectional morphological deviations in Pakistani English fiction and British English fiction but many a times both of the languages uses the same inflectional morphological structures in the formation of Present Tense form -s, Past Tense form -ed and Perfect Aspect -ed/-en.

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