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SYNTACTIC ERRORS: AN ANALYSIS OF INSTAGRAM POSTS OF PAKISTANI FEMALE CELEBRITIES

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ABSTRACT

Error analysis is a very different process for humans who are not only sapiens and Loquens but also homo errands. The study analyses the errors in the post of female celebrities on Instagram. This study aimed to identify syntactical errors and identify the causes of these syntactical errors committed by Pakistani female celebrities in their Instagram posts. The methods and model used in this research are mixed methods and Coder's model (1970). The mixed method includes both qualitative and quantitative methods. Data was collected in the form of Instagram posts. The technique of sampling used in this research is purposive random sampling. Ten posts were selected through purposive random sampling. The results of this study reveal the most common syntactic errors made by Pakistani celebrities. This research depicted that the most regularly detected errors are punctuation errors. Although both interlanguage and intralanguage influences were found to be causing syntactical errors, intralanguage errors were more prevalent compared to interlanguage errors in their writing. The detection of errors in Pakistanis female celebrities' Instagram posts will facilitate them to improve their basic writing skills. This study will be a fruitful gateway for opening the doors for future researchers who want to contribute to the Error analysis's field.

Keywords: Writing skills; Syntactic errors; Error analysis; Pakistani celebrities; Instagram posts.

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INTRODUCTION

Language is an integral part of communication, and it is the utmost tool in any country's progress (Iqbal et al., 2020). English is considered as a dominating language in Pakistan. Mohamed and Darus (2012) believed that writing is an inseparable expertise. It is evident that learners have to develop this skill independently by creating their intellectual tactics in the language learning process. They believe that for developing advanced skills in any language, regardless of foreign or native language learning fluency and expression in writing is very important.

This underlying study investigates the errors committed by Pakistani female celebrities in their Instagram's posts. So, there is a famous saying "To err is human". In Language developmental process this happens frequently. When sound is produced by human beings it is examined and get into comparison with target language and its principles. We found lot of errors in target Language production. In this present research, the term error is used for the organized distortion from a selected norm (Dulay et al., 1982).

Flanagan and Rudd (2000) found, English is used as an international language and it is also the language of technological and business. We cannot falsify its importance by the passage of time because of the advancement of technology and other business writing is an inevitable part of English language. To raise our voices and to give our opinion, English is a medium of our speech or multimedia forum. So, it is very

important to get to know its appropriate usage not only in speech but most importantly in writing. For the communication of our ideas, it is the need of the hour to put focus on our writing skills.

Nowadays, in Pakistan, after the declaration of the constitution, English and Urdu are the most focused and frequently used languages (Simon & Charles, 2018). The English language has achieved priority in all the local languages of Pakistan. It is considered as a gateway to success, and one cannot get admission to prestigious institution without the English language and even one cannot achieve a good job without having good command of English (Shahzad 2020). There are lots of reasons due to which mistakes happen. Native language impact, unawareness of appropriate rules of language, ignorance of proper language usage, and language cliché are the reasons for the flawed structure of language. It is a very natural thing, and one cannot stop his learning process due to these obstacles. So, second or foreign language learning gives us a road to progress.

The present study explains the errors committed by Pakistani female celebrities and their causes, based on a corpus of errors collected from posts on the Instagram. This study focuses on the errors committed, the classification of those errors, and the causes of those errors. It would also suggest some remedial measures in this regard. Great work has been processed on error analysis, but this recent research is a healthy addition in Pakistan's stance.

However, the study aims to shed light on the errors committed by the female celebrities of Pakistan on Instagram. Usage of slang words, omissions of alphabets to show themselves trendy, and wrong use of tense, they are mitigating the authorized and authentic usage of language in writing. To overcome on these syntactical errors, it is very important that celebrities should complete their required education or must be careful while writing on Instagram. Pit Corder firstly introduced error analysis in (1970). Nowadays, this term is considered very important in the field of education and error analysis. However, this research paper/thesis will focus on "Error Analysis in the Write-ups of Pakistani female celebrities on Instagram."

Research Objective

To find out the common syntactical errors done by Pakistani female celebrities in their Instagram posts.

Research Question

What are the Common Syntactical errors made by the Pakistani female celebrities in their Instagram posts?

Significance of the study

Instagram is an international platform that is seen and observed worldwide. This study will help Pakistani female celebrities to be conscious while writings their post on Instagram. It will draw their attention that writing must be error free, once they are using their Instagram's source for expressing and writing their opinions. This study will be a significant step to let them know about the writing errors in their Instagram posts.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Dulay & Burt (1982) described that error is a flawed structure of a learner's speaking and writing skills, and this part of conversation and composition has deviated from the norms of adult language performance (Richard, 2010). Mistakes in linguistic form are not made by natural speakers when they are speaking in the same context. In addition to this, they underline the fact that errors are the norm. Because of this, the speaker will need to use various communication tactics, such as simplifying, avoiding, and code flipping, and Brown et al. (2006) suggest that error analysis (EA) is an essential part of class analysis. We are able to identify areas of the study that need to be reinforced as a result of conducting a thorough examination of the mistakes made by students of second languages (Corder, 1974).

According to James (1998), the definition of error analysis is as follows: "the act of detecting the occurrences, nature, causes, and effects of linguistic dysfunction." According to Brown (2006), error analysis (EA) is an

essential component of educational research in the classroom. Not only is it vital for instructors of second language acquisition but also for apprentices to systematically investigate and analyze errors in their students' work. Corder (1974) and (James, 1998) defined error analysis as "the process of discovering the occurrences, nature, causes, and effects of non-functioning language." This definition describes error analysis well. James's research stands out as the most significant of those carried out in the field of error analysis (James, 2013). In the language learning process, one cannot negate the importance of Errors. In this regard, error analysis is not only beneficial for the teachers but also important for their language proficiency. Moreover, errors give a helping way not only for the teachers but also for the students to make their writing skills proficient. Error analysis also enhances their learner's decision-making power. A number of researches have been conducted for error analysis in the language learning process. So, all have their own pros and cons. For example, Lado (1957) presented the theory of contrastive analysis (CA), which correlates the native target language structure for depicting errors.

Learning is described as a habitual drill according to this approach. Lado (1957) and his followers describe that teachers need to do correction of errors immediately; this will facilitate their learners to demolish their bad errors of committing errors. Comparative analysis theory states that errors happen due to interference with the native language mostly. So, it is important to learn a language having the same structure of the target language for example, as French speakers learn the English language (Ellis & Ellis, 1994). Corder (1967) Stated that errors are "flaws" and he believes that Errors should be distinguished. He also says that teachers should create motivation and they should encourage their students by gradually pointing out their errors and making their writing flawless by omitting the most common errors. So, error analysis is also helpful for teachers to get to know the shortcomings of their students and tell them the ways how to overcome on these loopholes. Teachers should have this remembrance by getting the knowledge of error analysis. They can improve their student's skills, and they can take precautionary measures for learning language, and in this way, they can create a better understanding of the target language.

Similarly, Corder (1967) and James (1988) said that Errors are impossible to be self-corrected, but mistaken can be self-corrected. Errors are performance laps, and mistakes are limitations. so errors and mistakes are two completely different descriptions. Errors happen step by step and are not identified and explored by the learner; only researchers and teachers can dig out the errors so errors can happen consistently. These are unconscious common errors by the learner. They cannot even identify them while committing, so it is subsequently an unconscious behavior. Gass and Selinker (1994) say that only educational experts can put forth the errors of the learners, whereas learners do not have the knowledge of it. Richards and Schmidt (2002) says that "The study of Errors which is committed by second language learners". Brown (2000) differentiated between inter-lingual and intra-lingual errors. According to him, interlingual errors are those errors that happen due to the interference of the mother tongue, and intra-lingual errors are described as where there is no influence of the mother tongue Richards (1984) has distributed intra-lingual errors into four major categories "Overgeneralization, fossilization, hyper correction, ignorance of rule restrictions and incomplete application of rules". Corder (1967) has given a three-stage model for error analysis:

According to Corder (1967), the error analysis model involves three main stages: data collection, description, and explanation. In the data collection stage, the focus is on recognizing idiosyncrasies within the learner's language. The description stage involves accounting for idiosyncratic dialects. Finally, the ultimate goal of error analysis is to provide explanations for the errors made by learners. Ellis (1994) expanded on Corder's model and categorized it into five steps. The first step is the collection of learners' language samples. Next is the identification of errors in those samples. After that, errors are described in detail. The fourth step involves providing explanations for the errors, and finally, the errors are evaluated. Selinker (1992) proposed a six-step error analysis model. The first step is the collection of data from learners. Then, errors are identified within the collected data. The third step involves classifying the errors.

Quantifying the errors is the fourth step, followed by identifying the sources of the errors in the fifth step. The final step proposed by Selinker is suggesting remedial measures for addressing the errors.

METHODOLOGY

The research objectives are to find out the syntactical errors made by female Pakistani celebrities on Instagram. Therefore, the mixed method design is used to conduct this study. Mixed method design includes both qualitative and quantitative methods. As for the study is design, Corder's (1975) model is also used to interpret and analyze syntactical errors made by female celebrities in Pakistan. In order to analyze the data, data was gathered from Instagram; ten posts were selected through random sampling. Instruments used as evidence and data collection are posts uploaded on Instagram by Pakistani celebrities. The posts as evidence are limited due to the effectiveness of error analysis which will be conducted later on after selecting and sorting the posts where there is obvious evidence of errors. The data have been collected to discover the syntactic errors Pakistani celebrities have made in their writings on social platforms.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study shows that these errors happen in the writings of Pakistani female celebrities due to interference with their native language. It is the main cause of errors. Lot (198) defines interference as “errors in the learner’s use of the foreign language that can be traced back to the mother tongue”. This study has justified the errors and reasons for committing these errors and cleared up the picture of their erroneous usage of the second language. Syntactical common errors which are noticed in Instagram posts are given in Table 1.

Table 1. Types of Errors.

Errors	Percentage
Tense errors	20%
Omission of verb errors	10%
Preposition errors	10%
Punctuation errors	30%
Spelling errors	10%
Subject, Verb Agreement	10%
Ill formed sentence structure	20%

Tense Errors

The most common errors in these posts are tense errors. They are unable to use accurate tense. Accurate use of tense is very important in the target language. Inaccurate tense usage destroys the sentence structure and spoils the language's beauty too.



Figure 1. Instagram Post (Ghana Ali Umair, ghanaaliofficial).

Incorrect: "I need to make sense of the picture!! How she went up there."

Correct: I need to make sense of this picture!! How did she go up there?

Figure 1 displays that in past indefinite tense, for making interrogative, we use did at the beginning of the sentence, but she has used the second form without using "did" to form the question. There is no full stop for ending sentence mark too.

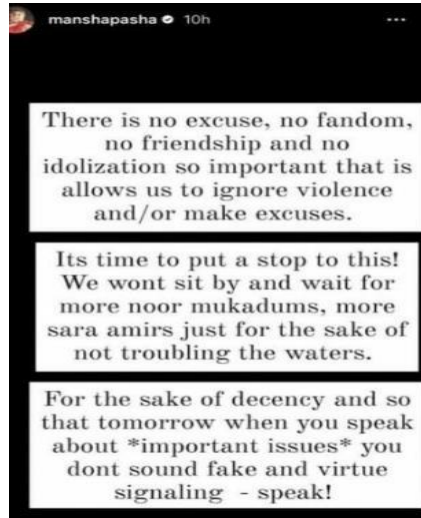


Figure 2. Instagram Post (Mansha Pasha, manshapasha).

Incorrect: "There is no excuse, no fandom, no friendship and no idolizations so important that is allows us to ignore violence."

Correct: There is no excuse, no fandom, no friendship and no idolization, so important that allows us to ignore violence.

The above-mentioned Figure 2 contained another tense mistake in her post is that she is using auxiliary verb plus first form with the addition of 's' or 'es'. So, if we have already used s or es with the first form of the verb then we cannot use the auxiliary verb "is" in between.

Omission of verb Errors

Verb is integral part of the sentence. It is very much necessary to make a sentence. If we will omit verb from sentences, it will lose the connectivity of sentences. The omission of verb is another very common error in Pakistani celebrities' Instagram post. This flawed syntactical structure is also due to the omission of auxiliary verb. So, if already auxiliary verb is used, then we cannot add 's' or 'es'.



Figure 3. Instagram Post (Mishi Khan, mishikhanofficial2).

Incorrect: "Iffat Omer flying on her broom to the crowd & report back to Najam Sethi"

Correct: Iffat Omer is flying on her broom to the crowd & report back to Najam Sethi.

Preposition Errors

The mentioned Figure 3 presents the prepositions are limited or less in number, but they perform an important marker in making sentences. They create relations between objects, persons and locations. The absence of prepositions in a sentence not only destroys its structure but also gives wrong semantic expression too. Most Pakistani celebrities do not use prepositions while writing or skip the accurate usage of prepositions.



Figure 4. Instagram Post (Hira Mani, hiramaniofficial).

Incorrect: "Thank God we are covid free fit and fine"

Correct: Thank God! We are covid free, fit and fine.

Punctuation Errors

Figure 4 expressed that the marks 'full stops' 'commas, and brackets are the punctuation marks. These are essential elements to clear up the meaning of a sentence. Improper use of full stop with no knowledge of the real essence of these marks is another syntactical flaw' projected by Pakistani celebrities in their Instagram posts. Full stop gives completion to sentence. Improper use of full stop with no proper knowledge of the real essence of these markers is another prominent issue of errors commission or happening. The full stop is used to end up the sentence.



Figure 5. Instagram Post (Areeba Habib, imareebahabib).

Incorrect: "Also, I was just appreciating the look. I didn't know what the post was related to. Human error."

Incorrect: Also, I was just appreciating the look. I didn't know what the post was related to human errors.

The above mentioned Figure 5 demonstrated again, full stop error, no full stop at the end of the sentence as completion mark is noticed.



Figure 6. Instagram Post (Iqra Aziz Hussain, iqraaziz).

Incorrect: "To stay silent in the face of injustice is to side with the oppressor."

In lieu of the situation regarding domestic violence, I have made the difficult but necessary decision to retract my project with Firoz Khan, as a sign of support for victims of domestic abuse. I support Alizah Sultan for seeking justice, more strength and power to you"

Correct: To stay silent in the face of injustice is to side with the oppressor.

In lieu of the situation regarding domestic violence, I have made the difficult but necessary decision to retract my project with Firoz Khan, as a sign of support for victims of domestic abuse I support Alizah Sultan for seeking justice, more strength and power to you.

Spelling Errors

The present Figure 6 contains spelling development as the primary focus of the English language. Improper or inaccurate spelling deteriorates word formation. It is the very basic and utmost purpose of any language to get to know its proper diction and its usage. Some of our renowned celebrities have used the wrong spelling while writing their Instagram posts.



Figure 7. Instagram Post (Ghana Ali Umair, ghanaaliofficial).

Incorrect: "The most annoying news of the day! I can't stand anyone else other thn Akshy."

Correct: The most annoying news of the day! I can't stand anyone else other than Akshy.

Subject, Verb Agreements

The Figure 7 gives another error, which is frequently done by few of our celebrities is subject, verb agreement errors. Verb should be according to the subject. If subject is in pluralized form, then verb should also complement the subject.



Figure 8. Instagram Post (Sajal Ali, sajalaly).

Incorrect: "Pakistan's diversity makes it beautiful. A rendition of the national anthem that is inclusive of historically marginalized groups is far more patriotic than imposing unitary idea."

Correct: Pakistan's diversity makes it beautiful. A rendition of the national anthem that is inclusive of historically marginalized groups are far more patriotic than imposing unitary idea.

Ill formed sentence structures

We can clearly see the errors in Figure 8 formed sentence structure gives another reason for most of our Pakistani celebrities' errors. Sometimes they pick up words and accumulate them in the wrong order. Vocabulary selection for making sentence is very important.



Figure 9. Instagram Post (Mawra Hussain, mawrellous).

Incorrect: "On my wedding, if my husband isn't crying when he sees me walking in my dress, I am going back home, I can't marry an ungrateful person like God gave me to you and you can't cry tears of joy."

Correct: On my wedding, if my husband isn't crying when he sees me walking in my dress, I will go back home, I can't marry an ungrateful person. Like, God gave me to you and you couldn't shed tears of joy in Figure 9.



Figure 10. Instagram Post (Maryam Nafees, maryamnafeesofficial).

Incorrect: "I'm sorry people attacked you when you spoke your truth."

Correct: I'm sorry people attacked on you when you spoke your truth in Figure 10.

Discussion and Findings

In this study, ten Instagram posts are taken. At the first step, errors of Instagram posts are identified. Most frequent Errors that are committed by Pakistani female celebrities are punctuation errors. Ill use of punctuation is spoiling the sentence structure. In some posts, Pakistani female celebrities have committed tense mistakes. In a few posts, they have omitted the verb, which is an integral part of the sentence, like it is observed that they have used "flying" instead of "is flying". Spelling mistakes is another sentence structural flaw that is done by Pakistani female celebrities in their Instagram writing, like the word "thn" instead of "than". Haphazard sentence formation with no connectivity is another major flaw in their writings. This flawed sentence structure can also deteriorate their semantic expression. These are the major errors that are identical in this study.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This study provides detailed information on mistakes made by Pakistani female celebrities on Instagram. Based on the results of the research, discussion, and the examples are given, there are five types of mistakes in the writings of Pakistani female celebrity's tense, spelling, punctuation, omission of verbs, prepositions, sentence structure and diction mistakes. Of all these errors, the punctuation error is at the top, indicating that they are careless in using punctuation. Ignorance of rules, carelessness, and lack of practice in grammar training seems to be the main reason for these mistakes. Analysis of these errors shows that they are might be aware of the rules but they have not applied the rules directly. These factors cause them to produce less successful language. Understanding the importance of writing skills is very important. This is where their writing skills come into play. They are not good at using grammar. Their diction is flawed. The sentence structure is incorrect. Words are misspelled. There is a weakness in the composition of ideas. They are unable to write down their ideas effectively. For desired results, it should be mandatory for celebrities to

use English conscientiously on social platforms. The more it is practiced, the easier it will be for them to write correctly. This fact is very interesting to continue to be investigated by researchers who want to improve and discuss error analysis.

This study suggests that Instagram posts are a wide medium of communication, so errors in posts can falsify the seriousness and responsible stance of them. This study recommends that Pakistani female celebrities should make some efforts to create error free posts to give strength to their Instagram writings. This study advocates Pakistani female celebrities' serious concern regarding their writing skills. They should improve their writing expertise for being vocal on their Instagram handle. In this study, it is also suggested that they should get assured of error free posts, while writing by focusing on their basic skills of writing. Another way to get rid of these errors is to hire some skillful people to run their Instagram writings if they are ignorant enough about basic writing skills. This study is a broad way for unfolding the ways for future researchers in the field of error analysis.

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