

# The Syntactic Variations in Adverb Phrase ‘As well’ in Initial Position in Pakistani English (PakE): A Corpus Based Study

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## Abstract

This study aims to pinpoint the variations in Adverb Phrase ‘As well’ in the initial position in PakE, and investigate the influence of the substrate linguistic effect of the Urdu language on PakE. For this study, a corpus GlowbE-PK was utilized. In total, 192 Adverb phrases in the initial position of the sentence were found. This study utilized the mixed method research and also kept in view the Sociolinguistic Variation and World Englishes conventions of research.

The number and frequency of tokens per million words were calculated. Overall, PakE reveals a frequency of 3.84% per 1 million words. The results and discussions indicated a noticeable variation in the Adverb phrase of PakE from Standard BrE. This research also confirms the negative linguistic influence of the substrate language Urdu on Pakistani English in the use of the Adverb phrase ‘As well’, although the substrate language clearly shows the influence on many other features of PakE, as in Adjective phrase – the use of Double comparatives and superlatives. Furthermore, this research identifies the same feature Adverb phrase ‘as well’ in other varieties of English.

**Keywords:** Adverb Phrase, Dialect, Variety, Standard British English, Pakistani English, Syntax of Dialect, Substrate Language, Urdu Language, World Englishes, Language Variation and Change, Corpus, Concordance

## 1. Introduction

Before turning into Modern English, English passed through the stages of Old English and Middle English. This language was disseminated to the areas that are now a part of Pakistan as a result of the English rule over the South Asia (Indian subcontinent). English was brought to Pakistan during colonial rule, as it was to some other American, African and Asian continents. The majority of Pakistanis did not accept English because it was spoken by the colonial oppressors, despite the ruling elite's strong predilection for it from the start.

Language contact is also one of the factors that influence the variety of a language: in the Pakistani English context, subordinate language is also one of the major factors in shaping the separate identity of it.

Furthermore, many parts of three areas of current Pakistan – Balochistan, KPK and interior Sindh were not much affected by the British rule and its educational system. Therefore, the English language was almost alienated from these three regions of current Pakistan. Moreover, according to World Atlas (2017), Pakistan is the third largest user of the English language according to the number of speakers of English. All of these factors developed the Pakistani variety of English as a distinct, unique and different from other dialects of English across the world.

## 2. Research Questions

This paper comprises three Research Questions.

Does PakE demonstrate the variation in the use of the Adverb Phrase ‘As well’ in the initial position?

Does this difference in the use of the Adverb Phrase ‘As Well’ in PakE show the result of the influence and contact of the substrate language – Urdu?

Does the difference in PakE display a pattern in the different varieties of English?

## 3. Syntax of Pakistani English

Morphologically, syntactically and lexically PakE differs from the standard British English. Syntactically, in the view of Baumgardner (1990), differs from the standard BrE in ‘complementation’. For instance, unlike BrE, where the to-infinitive is frequently used after a preposition and participle phrase, PakE frequently uses it after an adjective. Word complementation pattern differs between PakE and BrE similarly to adjective complementation. As a result, in PakE, a word plus a *-ing participle* may become an infinitive. PakE users may also use *the main verb plus that-clause* while BrE speakers may use a *to-infinitive clause*.

Rahman (1990) also demonstrates variances in PakE's syntax. In some phrases of PakE, the preposition + gerund is replaced with a to-infinitive.

Imran (2023a) also shows how syntactically PakE frequently drops the auxiliary in *Wh-questions*.

#### 4. Corpus Approach

It is not a novel concept to use compilations of texts when studying a language. Even in the Middle Ages, work on creating lists of every single word in particular books, along with their contexts began. This process is called as “concordancing”. Other academics made lists of the most frequent terms by tallying the word frequencies in certain texts or collections of texts.

Among the fields that have used corpora are comparative linguistics, grammar, semantics and language learning. In the past, even without the term “corpus linguistics”, much of the work was comparable to the corpus-based study we conduct today with one significant exception – there were no computers those days.

Over the past twenty years or so, a type of linguistic study known as corpus linguistics has received general support as an important and useful approach (Baker, 2010). Corpus linguistics is the study of language as it emerges in collections (bodies) of written material from the real world. Corpus linguistics is the term used to describe the study of language occurrences utilizing substantial corpora, which are collections of machine-readable texts. These are used in many different academic disciplines, including language acquisition, prosody research, and descriptive linguistic syntax studies, to mention a few.

According to Biber (2009, in Heine and Narrog 2009), corpus linguistics is a method of research that has grown over the past few decades to support empirical studies of language variation and use, producing research findings with much greater generalizability and validity than would otherwise be possible. An essential tool for comprehending and using corpus approaches is concordance.

Every instance of a linguistic object found in a corpus is listed in a table called a “concordance” along with the linguistic context that goes with it (often a few words to a few lines on each side of the linguistic item). Because they allow for qualitative studies of corpus data, which allow the researcher to carefully study particular instances, concordances are an essential part of corpus linguistics.

Concordance analyses are usually needed before we can infer linguistic variation or change based on frequency. With the help of concordances, researchers can spot linguistic patterns that can be based on grammar, meaning, pragmatics, and discourse as well as confirm that the words actually do have the meanings or purposes we claim they do.

#### 5. Theoretical Framework

This study uses a corpus and is concerned with World Englishes and Language Variation and Change (Sociolinguistics). There are particular processes for the variation analysis of the various linguistic variants in sociolinguistics and World Englishes. It compiles instances from the language archives of the neighborhood.

#### 6. Methodology

This research mainly uses mixed methods, however, mainly focuses on qualitative methods. The study utilizes the GlowbE corpus, and AntConc software to collect language tokens. The corpus of Global Web-based English (GlowbE) contains text samples for the study of Pakistani English. The GloWbE corpus contains 1.9 billion words from twenty different countries, including Pakistan. In May 2018, the linguistic variation research corpora GLoWbE was launched.

According to Labov (2008), a linguistic variable begins with the simple act of detecting a difference - that there are two ways to describe the same thing. The definition of linguistic diversity by Labov (1972c) and Sankoff (1980) is “two or more ways of saying the same thing.” This study uses the PakE “Adverb phrase - As well” as the linguistic variable.

Based on observation, the linguistic variable - adverb phrase is selected. The study of linguistic variation relies heavily on observation. Tagliamonte (2012) asserts that it is easiest to detect linguistic diversity in the vernacular of daily life.

Adger & Trousdale (2007) accurately attribute Labov (1969, 1972) with adopting observational methods in his writing. According to Tagliamonte (2012), the notion that language is varied by nature serves as the starting point for language variation study.

According to the topic statement, this research is corpus-based. GLoWbE's corpus was utilized to verify some information that was based on observation. The researcher's observations on PakE provide the basis of this finding in major part. The researcher has a thorough understanding of Pakistani society because she has spent many years studying and teaching English. The literature and study on PakE conducted by other academics are also taken into account while examining the linguistic features of PakE.

According to Baker (2010), corpora are frequently utilized in conjunction with analysis software. The two that linguists utilize the most are Mike Scott's Word-Smith Tools and AntConc. The study makes use of AntConc, a Lawrence Anthony invention. The concordance of the word adverb phrase “As well” in Pakistani English is extracted using this software, which can also extract particular data or different tokens.

A thorough analysis is done of the adverbial phrase ‘As well’ in the initial position in Pakistani English. The tokens can be discovered in the GLoWbE corpus of Pakistani English. The 192 PakE tokens for the adverb phrase ‘As well’ in the initial position have been identified in the corpus. Out of 192 tokens, 10 tokens and sentences are written in this study. The codes for each sentence are corpus name/hit number/file number. The corpus used for this investigation was the Glowbe-PK. There are 14 files in all, and each one was searched for this token of the adverb “as well” in the first position.

The italicized adverb phrases are used. By inputting the italicized words, we may find the concordance line in the corpus. Only 10 of the

192 tokens of the adverb phrase "As well" that are present in the corpus are quoted here, as was already mentioned. As a result, it is clear from the code that follows the text which hit number was selected for the article. It also gives the number of times each token appears per million words.

Applying a Corpus Linguistics formula yields the token's frequency. The frequency per million words formula was developed by Baker (2010) and is as follows:

Total number of occurrences of lexical item \* 1,000,000

Total words in a corpus

**7. Results and Discussion**

**Adverb Phrase – ‘As well’ in the initial position in PakE**

This feature finds how the adverb phrase ‘As well’ occurs in the initial position in PakE.

“As well, a multifunction printer, which can serve as two or even up to four devices in one single unit, can be a real space-saver in small office or home office settings.”

Glowbe-PK/25/b03.txt

“As well, when an artist adds texture to a 3D model it”.

Glowbe-PK/30/b05.txt

“As well you need to vaporize all the oceans, what is practically impossible.”

Glowbe-PK/35/b05.txt

“As well, other technological developments have meant that we no longer waste large amounts of time on cooking, cleaning and child minding.”

Glowbe-PK/42/g01.txt

“As well, it brought Imam Ali more glory and highness near of all the Arabs, when Allah and His apostle chose him to do this task especially the bringing back of Abu Bakr.”

Glowbe-PK/55/g03.txt

“As well, the copper and brass coins could easily be forged, turning every house into mint.”

Glowbe-PK/75/g04.txt

“As well they should have, as we have simply arrived at the destination they had set for us to arrive at.”

Glowbe-PK/90/g05.txt

“As well, the drive that pushes us to do good in Ramadan is usually not as strong the rest of the year.”

Glowbe-PK/94/g06.txt

“As well, today’s latest toaster ovens are good-looking.”

Glowbe-PK/109/g08.txt

“As well the government received money from a uniform tax system with little corruption.”

Glowbe-PK/118/g09.txt

**Frequency of the Tokens**

Token	Number of Occurrences in the Corpus
As well	192
Total:	192
Frequency: (per million words)	3.84%

This table shows the total number of tokens is 192, and the frequency of the tokens is 3.84% per million words.

**Adverb Phrase – ‘As well’ in Standard BrE**

‘As well’ comes at the end of a clause or a sentence in Standard BrE. It has a similar meaning to 'also' but has a different word order in a sentence. On the other hand, PakE shows the use of ‘as well’ in the initial position of a clause or a sentence, e.g.:

PakE: “As well, a multifunction printer, which can serve as two or even up to four devices in one single unit, can be a real space-saver in small office or home office settings.”

Glowbe-PK/11/b03.txt

Standard BrE (Reproduced): “**Also**, a multifunction printer, which can serve as two or even up to four devices in one single unit, can be a real space-saver in small office or home office settings.”

Or

Standard BrE (Reproduced): “A multifunction printer, which can serve as two or even up to four devices in one single unit, can be a real space-saver in small office or home office settings **as well**.”

Swan (1996: 38) writes about the position of ‘also’, ‘as well’, ‘too’ in these words: “*Also, as well, too* have similar meanings, but they do not go in the same position in clauses. *Also* usually goes with the verb, ‘in mid position’ (...); *as well* and *too* usually go at the end of a clause. ...

She not only sings; she *also* plays the piano.

She not only sings; she plays the piano *as well*.”

*Practical English Usage. Hong Kong: Oxford. (1996).*

Carter and McCarthy (2006) write about the position of ‘As well’ in a clause, “*As well* almost always comes at the end of a clause:

I just ignored it. I think everybody else did **as well**.

(xI just ignored it. **As well** I think everybody else did.)” (Entry: 14b)

*Cambridge Grammar of English. New Delhi: Cambridge. (2006).*

### Language Contact in Adverb Phrase ‘As Well’

#### Language Contact

It is common for languages to affect one another when they come into contact. Languages interact slowly and over time, and varieties of one language typically result from this interaction. The enormous variety of languages and dialects in the globe can be attributed to this phenomenon of language contact.

Language development is primarily influenced by two factors: external and internal. The term ‘external factors’ or ‘ecology’ refers to influences on language from outside sources, such as geography and societal standing. In a larger discussion of sociolinguistics, environmental and ecological variables can be covered. The underlying structure of a language or dialect are influenced by ‘internal factors’ or the ‘ecology’. This is the main subject of the inquiry here.

The investigation of the impact of the substrate language based on the diversity of the language being studied is required by the internal ecology. Hence, it is significant to recognize the typological dimensions of the languages in contact (Imran and Ridwan, 2020). Urdu and English are in contact in Pakistan. The use of English by people in Pakistan is influenced by this interaction between these two languages.

#### Urdu Language

The interaction of languages in Urdu is classical. It developed in Hindustan (the Indian subcontinent, and it is now a significant portion of Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh), between the sixth and thirteenth centuries. Sanskrit and Prakrit dialects, which were indigenous languages, had long been in contact with Arabic, Persian, and to a lesser degree, Turkish, which led to the creation of Urdu in the 14th century.

The linguistic and literary history of Urdu is significant and widespread. However, it is not as thoroughly and analytically researched such as English, French, and many other languages. Urdu, in essence, is a ‘SOV’ language. It is a member of the Indo-Aryan and Indo-European language families. However, Arabic, a member of the Semitic language family, a Non-Indo-European language family, has a significant impact on it.

Pakistan has had Urdu as its official tongue since its creation. It serves as a curriculum and instructional medium, specifically for Pakistan Studies, Islamic Studies and some other social science subjects in the educational institutions. All educated people use it in their daily lives, in educational institutions like colleges, universities, businesses, and other public and private groups. Additionally, it serves as a communication tool between residents of various provinces whose native tongues may vary from one another.

In true essence, Urdu is a Non-Germanic tongue used throughout South Asia. It is frequently used as both a First Language and a Second Language in Pakistan. It is regarded as a language of cultural and racial identity in Pakistan.

Let us examine the word order of the adverb phrase ‘As well’ in the Urdu language, e.g.:

Transliteration 1:

Me is daftar me kam krta hn. Wo bi yahi

(I)(this) (office) (in) (work) (do) (is). (He) (as well) (here)

kam krta he.

(work) (do) (is)

‘As well’, ‘also’ and ‘too’ have the meaning of ‘bi’ in Urdu, and normally this is not used at the beginning of the sentence in Urdu. Therefore, it does not seem the influence of the substrate language Urdu in this syntactic variation - word order of adverb phrase ‘as well’ in the initial position of the sentence.

Imran and Ridwan (2020) have confirmed the influence of the substrate language - Urdu on the syntactic variation in the usage of Double Superlatives and Double Comparatives in PakE; however, here, apparently there is no influence of the substrate language in the Adverb phrase 'As well' in PakE.

#### **Adverb Phrase – 'As well' in the initial position in other varieties of English**

PakE shows the use of the adverb phrase – 'as well' in the initial position of a clause or sentence, e.g., *As well, today's latest toaster ovens are good-looking.*

Many other major varieties of English also show the usage of 'as well' in the initial position. Bauer (2002) mentions the occurrence of 'as well' initially in sentences in Canadian, Australian and South African Englishes like, *As well, there are three other cases of this.*

*An Introduction to International Varieties of English. Edinburgh: Edinburgh. (2002).*

In conclusion, both adjective phrases (Imran and Ridwan, 2020) and the use of Double modals (Imran, 2023a) reveal syntactic variations in PakE, and it is also replicated in many dialects of English, in both non-native and native dialects, though with diverse substrate languages. This research shows the presence of another feature of PakE, the adverb phrase 'As well' in the initial position in other varieties of English too. Therefore, this research put forwards the notion of **Dialectal Universals**. This notion of Dialectal Universals endorses the notions of Vernacular Universals (Chambers, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004) and Angliversals (Kortmann and Szmrecsanyi, 2004), and it is in the continuity of these notions.

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