A Comparative Study of Gender Assignment to English Loanwords in Pashto and Urdu: Exploring Semantic Influences

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ARTICLE INFO			ABSTRACT
			This study aims to investigate the methods by which grammatical gender is assigned to English loanwords in the Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu
			language. There is a considerable variation across different languages regarding
			gender assignment, agreement, the parts of speech affected by it, and gender allocation. Nouns can be classified into different grammatical genders using
			several methods. Native speakers can ascertain the gender of a certain word by
			using the gender assignment rules inside a grammatical gender system. This study seeks to examine the impact of semantic criteria on the process of
			assigning gender in loanword integration, so enhancing our comprehension of language contact events in the Pakistani setting. A study design was developed for the Pakistani setting, based on Corbett's (1991) model of gender assignment.
			This design was chosen for its insightful and original approach, which aligns well with the present and ongoing research. Corbett utilizes semantic and formal
			categories to classify the gender assignment system, which are subsequently subdivided into other sub-categories. The current investigation is of a descriptive and qualitative nature. The researcher posits that studying the interaction between English, Pashto and Urdu will not only enhance our comprehension of these linguistic processes in Pakistan but also foster a greater recognition of the necessity for further research in this domain.

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INTRODUCTION

The Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu, similar to other languages altered by English loanwords, offers an interesting opportunity to study gender assignment. This proposal aims to investigate the strictly semantic factors involved in assigning gender to borrowed English phrases inside the Pashto and Urdu linguistic framework. It will explore the role of meaning in determining the grammatical gender of these terms.

Grammatical Gender

Grammatical gender refers to a system in language where nouns are categorized into masculine, feminine, or neuter genders based on certain linguistic features. Linguistically,

it pertains to the categorization of nouns into grammatical classes, whereas in biology, it signifies the biological distinction of sex.

Grammatical gender is a linguistic feature that is separate from natural or biological gender. Grammatical gender is a linguistic system that requires agreement with other elements such as adjectives and verbs. According to Corbett (1991), gender refers to categories of nouns that are mirrored in the behaviour of related words, with a focus on its involvement in agreement and classification of nouns. Gender assignment mechanisms differ, with certain languages depending on formal characteristics or semantics. Contemporary language research is now discussing whether gender assignment adheres to rigid norms or is completely random. Therefore, grammatical gender is essential for categorizing nouns and ensuring agreement within sentences, which in turn impacts the forms of related words like as adjectives, pronouns, and determiners.

Gender is actually an innate quality of nouns and it is the cause of change in the forms of other words related to nouns. Nouns are known as the "triggers" of the agreement process whereas the other words related to nouns, are known as the "target" of the changes happening. (Franceschina, 2005, p.72).

Research Questions:

The current study was designed with two research questions:

1. How does strictly semantic properties influence the assignment of grammatical gender to English loanwords in the Khattak dialect of Pashto language?
2. How does strictly semantic properties influence the assignment of grammatical gender to English loanwords in Urdu language?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Gender Categorization in Global Languages

The World Atlas of Language Structures offers valuable information regarding the prevalence and variety of gender systems in different languages. It reveals that around 50% of the world's languages possess some type of grammatical gender. Certain languages possess intricate gender systems, whereas others completely lack gender distinctions. The assignment of gender might differ depending on linguistic elements such as phonological markers, semantic attributes, or formal aspects of nouns. Languages around the world demonstrate a wide range of ways to assign gender, with the majority using affixes to classify nouns. English does not have grammatical gender systems, but other languages, such as Russian, have either simple masculine-feminine differentiations or more intricate systems with numerous genders. Gender assignment varies throughout languages, with certain languages having elaborate gender systems while others completely lack gender. Languages that have grammatical gender typically classify nouns into two or three genders, however several languages in the Nakh-Daghestanian language family may have four or more genders. Gender assignment can vary worldwide, and is determined by semantic, formal, or phonological factors, resulting in distinct gender systems. Languages display different quantities of gender categories, with two-gender systems being common, but exceptions such as Arapesh and Ngan'gityemerri featuring 13 and 15 genders respectively, which provide difficulties in assigning gender.

The formation of gender is based on linguistic agreement, whereby variations in agreement patterns between languages, such as in Dutch, can lead to uncertainty in establishing the number of genders. Agreement, is of utmost importance in determining gender assignment. Nouns act as triggers, causing related words to adjust their forms accordingly. According to Anderson (1992:103), agreement is a concept that is easy to understand but challenging to define accurately. Instances from languages like Spanish, Urdu, Russian, and Pashto illustrate the functioning of agreement, where verbs, adjectives, and complementizers adjust to match the gender of the nouns they are associated with. Nouns serve not only as a method of categorization but also as a foundation for assigning gender through agreement systems. In the study of gender, contemporary linguistic literature places greater emphasis on syntactic criteria rather than semantic ones.

Gender Assignment Systems

There is no practical criterion to discern the gender of a noun in German, French, or Latin (Bloomfield 1933:280). Corbett (1999) opposes this view and presents arguments against it. He asserts that native speakers of any language exhibit flawless gender assignment when speaking that language. Furthermore, he posits that there must exist an underlying mechanism or set of laws governing the entirety of the gender assignment phenomena. Individuals cannot solely depend on their recollection for gender identification. Furthermore, he believes that native speakers easily and consistently assign a gender to any newly created nouns.

Classification of Assignment Rules

Concord or agreement refers to the phenomenon where certain words change their forms based on the grammatical gender of the nouns in a phrase. The phenomenon of agreement holds significant importance and focus in the realm of grammatical gender. Given that nouns possess an innate gender, it follows that the nouns serve as the catalysts for the agreement process. On the other hand, words like as verbs, demonstratives, adjectives, numerals, definite and indefinite articles, etc., can be considered as the recipients of the modifications occurring. (Franceschina 2005:72)

Linguistic norms for gender assignment can be classified into three primary categories: morphological, phonological, and semantic. Semantic rules frequently depend on general categorizations such as alive vs inanimate or male versus female, whereas morphological rules concentrate on formal attributes like suffixes or inflectional patterns. Phonological laws pertain to the sounds or ends of nouns. In language, the assignment of gender reflects an intricate interaction between semantic, morphological, and phonological elements.

Gender in English Language

Gender is typically conveyed in several languages by agreement with other words, however in English, it is usually represented through the use of personal pronouns. Chichewa explicitly indicates gender on nouns and ensures agreement. In contrast, the English language has limited gender expression, as it solely exhibits gender differentiation through personal pronouns. Old English possessed a more extensive gender system, but Modern English predominantly relies on natural gender and pronouns. English pronouns frequently mirror the gender of the person being addressed, with the masculine form being employed as the standard. The neuter gender is infrequent and primarily used for infants, whereas feminine pronouns can be ascribed to inanimate objects.

Assigning Gender to English Loanwords in Khattak Dialect of Pashto and Urdu Language

Persian and English both are gender neutral language but Urdu does possess gender. Hence, when words from Persian or English language are used in Urdu, a certain gender is assigned to them as per the rules and regulations of grammatical gender assignment in Urdu.

In Pashto language, there are so many English nouns or loanwords which have made their way into the Pashto sentences. Since English is a gender neutral language, whereas Pashto does comprise a whole system of grammatical gender. Pashto language comprises of two genders i.e. masculine gender and a feminine gender. In Pashto language, all sorts of nouns, either animate, human or inanimate, non-human, are assigned a certain gender. Furthermore, no neuter gender exists in Pashto language unlike English language. So when English loanwords are incorporated in Pashto sentences then a certain gender is assigned to them.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Data Collection

Data is gathered from diverse sources and a variety of data gathering methods were employed to assure the data's equitable representativeness. Data is gathered from several spheres of existence, including naturally occurring data, recordings of authentic conversations and discussions, records of interactions with shopkeepers, and religious discourses, social media platforms such as Facebook and YouTube, news and radio programmes available in the Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu language.

The current research utilised Corbett's (1991) typological categories to determine the gender of the nouns. He argues that for defining the gender of a noun, both its meaning and form are equally important. Corbett (1991) categorizes assignment systems or models into two primary types, each of which is further divided into multiple sub-categories.

1. Semantic Assignment System

a. Strict Semantic Systems

• Rationality, Mythology, Sex, Size, Shape

b. Predominantly Semantic Systems

• Semantic residue, Concept association, Culture, Belief system, Politeness, Domesticity and concreteness

2. Formal Assignment System

a. Phonological Systems

b. Morphological Systems

The present study utilizes the previously mentioned framework. In order to meet the needs and criteria of the ongoing research, the framework has been altered, with the inclusion or

exclusion of specific categories as deemed essential. After careful deliberation, a well-defined set of categories was established, with further subdivision into sub-categories.

Semantic Systems in Khattak Dialect of Pashto and Urdu Language and Assigning Gender to English Loanwords in Khattak Dialect of Pashto and Urdu Language

1. Strictly Semantic Systems in Khattak Dialect of Pashto and Urdu Language and Assigning Gender to English Loanwords in Khattak Dialect of Pashto and Urdu Language

a. Gender assignment to Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu language and English loanwords based on sex

b. Gender assignment to Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu language and English loanwords based on religious beliefs

c. Gender assignment to Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu language and English loanwords based on size

d. Gender assignment to Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu language and English loanwords based on physical strength and qualities

e. Gender assignment to Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu language and English loanwords based on profession

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Semantic Systems in Khattak Dialect of Pashto Language and Assigning Gender to English Loanwords in Khattak Dialect of Pashto and Urdu Language

Corbett places significant emphasis on the significance of the semantic system in the context of gender assignment. In fact, this is the primary sort of gender assignment system that he has prioritized. The semantic aspect is separated into two distinct categories: stringent semantic system and primarily semantic system. The researcher's primary focus is on the intricate semantic system, aiming to determine the extent to which the stringent semantic norms play a role in assigning gender to Pashto and Urdu nouns, as well as English loanwords, in the Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu.

Strictly Semantic Systems in Khattak Dialect of Pashto and Urdu Language and Assigning Gender to English Loanwords in Khattak Dialect of Pashto and Urdu Language

Corbett (1991) explains that in pure semantic gender assignment systems, nominal things are assigned a specific gender based only on their semantic features or literal meanings. Therefore, the sole need for assigning a specific gender to a noun is solely based on the term's meaning, regardless of its form. Corbett (1991) suggests that the rigid semantic system of assignment might be based on several factors, including rationality, shape, size, attributes, colour, occupation, and so on.

The strictly semantic category is divided into following sub-categories:

    a) Gender assignment to Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu language and English loanwords based on sex

    b) Gender assignment to Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu language and English loanwords based on religious beliefs

    c) Gender assignment to Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu language and English loanwords based on size

    d) Gender assignment to Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu language and English loanwords based on physical strength and qualities

    a. Gender assignment to Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu language and English loanwords based on profession

In addition to animate referents, inanimate nouns are also allocated a grammatical gender. Grammatical gender can be classified as either feminine or masculine. In English, inanimate beings are assigned a neuter gender instead of a grammatical gender. It is utilized to indicate or reference all inanimate objects. When it comes to the Pashto language, there are multiple distinct semantic norms for determining gender, and it is not solely based on biological sex.

a. Gender Assignment to Khattak Dialect of Pashto and Urdu Language and English Loanwords based on Sex

Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu language consists of two genders: feminine and masculine. They do not have a neuter gender. In these languages, common and proper nouns used to refer to females are classified as feminine, while those used to refer to males are classified as masculine.

Similarly, in English loanwords, the gender of a noun can be expressed by its natural or biological gender. The researcher has created the table below, which includes just those living beings that have distinct words for both the male and female creatures. The term "self-designed" is initially introduced.

Table 1: *Gender Assignment to Khattak Dialect of Pashto and Urdu Language and English Loanwords based on Sex Masculine/Feminine*

	Khattak dialect of Pashto language		English		Urdu	
	Masculine	**Feminine**	**Masculine**	**Feminine**	**Masculine**	**Feminine**
1.	Wrur	Xur	Brother	Sister	Bhai	Behen
2.	səṛa	Šəza	Husband	Wife	Šohər	Biwi
3.	Plor	Mur	Father	Mother	Baap	Maa
4.	Zwa	Lur	Son	Daughter	beṭa	beṭi
5.	Bədša	Bədšozay	King	Queen	Badša	Məlka
6.	Ǝlməsa	əlməsay	Grandson	Granddaughter	Pota	Poti
7.	traṇ	Trur	Paternal uncle	Paternal aunt	Čəča	Čəči

Based on the above table, it is evident that there are distinct words for male and female animate entities.

In the English language, there are certain living beings for which there are no distinct words designated for their male or female equivalents. In such instances, the identical word might be employed to refer to both males and females. In the Khattak dialect of the Pashto and Urdu language, the grammatical gender is determined by the agreement between various parts of speech in sentences, particularly with English loanwords. Examine the provided table.

Table 2: *Gender Assignment to Khattak Dialect of Pashto and Urdu Language and English Loanwords based on Sex*

| | Khattak dialect of Pashto language | | English | Urdu | |
	Masculine	Feminine	Masculine/Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
1.	Xar	Xra	Donkey	Gdha	Gdhi
2.	Bizoga	Bizogay	Monkey	Bəndər	Bəndərya
3.	Bəlika	Bəlikay	Cat	Billa	Billi

The examples provided indicate that when there is a single noun that refers to both masculine and feminine nouns, then the adjacent parts of speech will agree with the gender of the word. Therefore, they inflict based on the gender of the noun.

b. **Gender Assignment to Khattak Dialect of Pashto Language and English Loanwords based on**

Religious Beliefs

In the Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu language, there are some nouns that are always treated as masculine and are used only in the masculine form. Examples of terms are Xodaye, which means 'God', Qoran Məjid, which means 'Quran', jənat, which means 'Paradise', dozax, which means 'Hell', kəyəmat, which means 'doomsday', jəmat, which means 'mosque', and əlmunz, which means 'prayer'.

Whereas in Urdu language words such as, *məsjid* 'mosque', *dozəx* 'hell', *Jannat* 'paradise', *kəyamət* 'doomsday', etc are assigned a feminine gender. So this criteria does not fit on the Urdu language. For instance,

Table 3: *Gender Assignment to Khattak Dialect of Pashto and Urdu Language and English Loanwords based on Religious Beliefs*

Khattak dialect of Pashto	Urdu
Dozax bo der garam wi. Hell will very hot be M.N V Adj Hell will be very hot.	Dozəx buhət gərəm hogi. Hell very hot will be F.N Adj V Hell will be very hot.
With English Loanwords	
Hell bo der garəm wi. Hell will very hot be M.N V Adj Hell will be very hot.	Hell buhət gərəm hogi. Hell very hot will be F.N Adj V Hell will be very hot.

In the Khattak dialect of the Pashto language, the noun "dozax" is classified as masculine. In the Khattak dialect of Pashto, when the English loanword "hell" is used in a phrase, it is assigned the masculine gender. This can be observed in the sentence provided in the aforementioned table. The adjective garəm agrees and inflects with the masculine gender of the nouns dozax and loanword hell.

Now let's examine the case of the Urdu language. It is interesting to see that in case of Urdu language, the noun *dozəx*, is assigned a feminine gender. Hence, the helping verb *hogi* is used, instead of *hoga*, in case of masculine noun. When the English loanword hell is inserted in Urdu sentence, then also the feminine gender is allotted to it. This is opposite to what happens in the Khattak dialect of Pashto language, where *dozax* as well as the English loanword hell both are treated as masculine entities. From the above discussion we can say that the assignment of gender to specific nouns might be influenced by religious connotations.

c. **Gender Assignment to Khattak Dialect of Pashto and Urdu Language and English oanwords based on Size**

Gender attribution to inanimate objects in the Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu language is influenced by the size of the object. Objects that are larger in size are considered masculine entities. Likewise, objects that are smaller in size than their larger counterparts are designated with a feminine gender. Below are a few samples from the Khattak dialect of the Pashto language.

Table 4: *Gender Assignment to Khattak Dialect of Pashto Nouns according to their Size*

Nouns with big size	Nouns with small size
Masculine	Feminine
Maaṭ 'Big pitcher'	Maṭay 'Small Pitcher'
Tol 'Big plate'	Talay 'Small plate'
škur 'Big plate'	škəray 'Small plate'
ṭupak 'rifle'	Təmuča 'pistol'

Table 5: *Gender Assignment to Urdu Nouns according to their Size*

Masculine (Muzakkar) Nouns with big size	Feminine (Moannas) Nouns with small size
Tokra 'large basket'	Tokri 'small basket'
Piyala 'bowl'	Piyali 'cup'
Thaela 'large bag'	Thaeli 'small bag'

Chamcha 'Big spoon'	čəmchi 'small spoon'
Ara 'big saw'	Ari 'small saw'
Rassa 'thick rope'	Rassi 'thin rope'
Sandooq 'big box'	Sandooqchi 'small box'
Hathora 'big hammer'	Hathori 'small hammer'
Pəhaṛ 'big mountain'	Pəhaṛi 'small mountain'
Kəṭora 'bowl'	Kəṭori 'small bowl'

The Khattak dialect of Pashto language demonstrates that size occasionally influences the assignment of grammatical gender. Once again, it is possible that the rule is influenced by a patriarchal mentality or structure. Due to the patriarchal nature of our society, men are typically perceived as strong and physically larger in comparison to smaller and more delicate feminine figures. When acquiring English loanwords, there is no observed criterion or criteria that considers the size of the loanwords when assigning grammatical gender.

d. Gender Assignment to Khattak Dialect of Pashto and Urdu Language and English Loanwords based on Physical Strength and Qualities

The Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu language contains numerous words that are consistently assigned a masculine gender based on their physical strengths and qualities. For example, the word "tupan" which means 'storm' is associated with a powerful wind, and as a result, it is classified as masculine. On the other hand, the word "həwa" which means 'wind' is not as forceful as a storm, and hence it is marked with feminine agreement marks. For example,

Table 6: *Gender Assignment to Khattak Dialect of Pashto and Urdu Language and English Loanwords based on Physical Strength and Qualities*

Khattak dialect of Pashto	Urdu
Bar teza həwa čəliži. Outside fast wind blowing Adv Adj F. N V Wind is blowing fast outside.	Bahər tez həwa čəl rəhi ha. Outside fast wind blowing Adv Adj F.N V Wind is blowing fast outside.
With English Loanwords	
Bar teza wind čəliži. Outside fast wind blowing Adv Adj F.N V Wind is blowing fast outside.	Bahər tez winḍ čl rəhi ha. Outside fast wind blowing Adv Adj F.N V Wind is blowing fast outside.

The provided examples demonstrate the usage of the adjective "teza" meaning "fast" to describe the noun "həwa" meaning "wind". This is a sign used to indicate agreement with the feminine gender. This demonstrates that the term həwa 'wind' possesses feminine characteristics. If loanwords from the English language are employed in sentences in the Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu, they are assigned the same genders as their semantic equivalents. Therefore, in the aforementioned example, the English equivalent of the Pashto word həwa, meaning 'wind', is also designated as feminine. In case of Urdu language examples, not only the Urdu word *həwa* is given a feminine gender but also its English counterpart when inserted in Urdu sentence is given a feminine gender.

In the Khattak dialect of the Pashto language, several English loanwords are employed as feminine nouns in sentences. This is because these words possess attributes such as beauty, delicacy, fragility, and meekness. Some examples of such objects or concepts include a doll, fish, nurse, cat, wind, and fairy. For example,

Table 7: *Gender Assignment to Khattak Dialect of Pashto and Urdu Language and English Loanwords based on Physical Strength and Qualities*

Khattak dialect of Pashto				Urdu			
Mota lagi.	da	ḍoll	ša	Maine ha.	doll		xəridi
I	this	doll	like	I is	doll		bought
PN	PN	F.N	Adj	PN HelpV		F.N	V
I like this doll.				I bought this doll.			

This example, extracted from the Khattak dialect of the Pashto language, demonstrates the use of the adjective "ša lagi" to indicate the feminine gender of the noun "doll". Similarly the English loanwords such as wind, doll, fairy, fish etc when incorporated in Urdu sentences, are also treated as feminine entities. Whereas storm, wrestler, giant are treated as masculine figures.

Physical strength and toughness are commonly associated with males, making these attributes inherently masculine. They use masculine gender agreement markers to indicate their gender. In a patriarchal society, it is a well-established fact that physical characteristics such as hardness, roughness, strength, and durability are commonly linked with masculinity. Despite the current prevalence of social issues such as feminism and equality of rights, it is disheartening to acknowledge that such regressive thinking still persists in our culture.

e. Gender Assignment to Khattak Dialect of Pashto Language and English Loanwords based on Profession

There are some professions in Pakistani society that are predominantly pursued by guys. In the Khattak dialect of Pashto language, nouns relating to these professions are

predominantly used in the masculine form. Examples of these are zərgar, which means 'jeweller', məzdur, which means 'labourer', mistri, which means 'mechanic', plumbər, which means 'plumber', and moči, which means 'cobbler'.

Table 8: *Gender Assignment to Khattak Dialect of Pashto and Urdu Language and English Loanwords based on Profession*

Khattak dialect of Pashto	Urdu
Da muža məzdur da. This our labourer is PN PN M.N HelpV This is our labourer.	Ye həmara məzdur ha. This our labourer is PN PN M.N HelpV This is our labourer.
With English Loanwords	
Da muža lebrər da. This our labourer is PN PN M.N HelpV This is our labourer.	Ye həmara lebrər ha. This our labourer is PN PN M.N HelpV This is our labourer.

The auxiliary word "da" indicates that the noun "məzdur" refers to a male labourer. Alternatively, the auxiliary verb "do" might be employed. If an English loan word is used in a Pashto sentence, it is assigned the same masculine gender. Similar to Pashto language, in Urdu language also, few such professions are mostly reserved for males. Hence words used for such professions such as *sonar* 'jeweller', *məzdur* 'labourer', *moči* 'cobbler', *nulkar* 'plumber', *mistri* 'mechanic' are always treated as masculine entities. In this patriarchal setup, no female can be seen to have adopted these professions.

Now, let's consider a few examples of occupations in the English language. In the English language, gender differentiation is seen in the use of distinct terminology for males and girls in specific occupations. Therefore, a comparable occupation has designated distinct titles for female and male counterparts. In this situation, the distinct names or nominal referents used for both genders working in the same profession clearly indicate their grammatical genders. Furthermore, there are certain professions that are assigned a masculine gender because these professions are exclusively reserved for men in our society. Some examples of such professions include labourer, plumber, hawker, loader, mechanic, and cobbler.

In the Khattak dialect of the Pashto language, there are certain nouns referred to as 'common gender' nouns. These nouns can be used to describe both masculine and feminine genders. Examples of nouns, such as libğhoṛa meaning 'player' and milma meaning 'guest', are a few instances of this. These nouns can be used to indicate or refer to individuals of both the male and female genders. When referring to girls, feminine agreement is used, but for males, these nouns are combined with masculine agreement targets. Likewise, there are specific English nouns or borrowed words that can be used for both males and females. Nouns such as patient, student, member, client, artist, singer, anchor, writer, tourist, teacher, scholar, and others are referred to as 'common gender' nouns. Therefore, it may be inferred that within Pakistani society, there are certain occupations that are predominantly

pursued by men. Thus, in the Khattak dialect of Pashto and English language, the nouns related to these professions are commonly used as masculine nouns.

Table 9: *Gender Assignment to Khattak Dialect of Pashto and Urdu Language and English Loanwords based on Profession*

Khattak dialect of Pashto	Urdu
Da mo milma da. This my guest is PN PN M.N HelpV This is my guest.	Ye mera mehman ha. This my guest is PN PN M.N HelpV This is my guest.
Da mo milma do. This my guest is PN PN F.N HelpV This is my guest.	Ye meri mehman ha. This my guest is PN PN F.N HelpV This is my guest.
With English Loanwords	
Da mo gesṭ da. This my guest is PN PN M.N HelpV This is my guest.	Ye mera gesṭ ha. This my guest is PN PN M.N HelpV This is my guest.
Da mo gesṭ do. This my guest is PN PN F.N HelpV This is my guest.	Ye meri gesṭ ha. This my guest is PN PN F.N HelpV This is my guest.

In both the given examples from Khattak dialect of Pashto language, the word *milma* 'guest' can be used to refer to a female or male depending on the situation. The helping verb agrees according to the gender of the noun. If the English loanword guest is used in Khattak dialect of Pashto sentence, then it can be seen that it can also be used to refer to male and female both the sexes. Now if it is compared with Urdu language, then it can be seen that the word *mehman* 'guest' acts as a common noun in Urdu as well and can be used to refer to both i.e. the male and female. Similarly the English loanword guest also acts as a common noun, once incorporated in Urdu language sentence.

Similarly, there are certain English nouns or loanwords which can be utilized for males and females both. For instance, patient, student, member, client, artist, singer, anchor, writer, tourist, teacher, scholar etc. such nouns are known as 'common gender' nouns.

Hence, it can be concluded that in Pakistani society, there are a few professions that are almost exclusively practiced by men. Therefore, in the Khattak dialect of Pashto and English language as well, the nouns pertaining to these vocations are typically employed as masculine nouns.

CONCLUSION

In the Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu language, all living beings or objects are classified or divided based on their biological or inherent gender. In the Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu language, the gender "female" is assigned to all female humans, animals, and plants that are considered feminine. Similarly, the gender "masculine" is assigned to all male humans, animals, and plants that are perceived as masculine. Inanimate objects, including abstract nouns, are assigned a gender, which can be either feminine or masculine.

In the Khattak dialect of Pashto language, certain Pashto nouns with religious meanings are consistently categorized as masculine. Likewise, English words borrowed from other languages that have religious connotations, are always assigned a masculine gender. Whereas when it comes to Urdu language, the same nouns are assigned a feminine gender. Similarly, the English loanwords also when incorporated in Urdu language, are assigned a feminine gender. Size also plays a role in defining the gender of inanimate objects in the Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu language. Objects of greater size, magnificence, or magnitude are designated with a masculine gender. Similarly, objects that are smaller than their larger counterparts are assigned a feminine gender. The Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu language contains numerous words that are consistently assigned a masculine gender based on their physical strength and qualities. In a patriarchal society, it is widely acknowledged that physical attributes such as hardness, roughness, strength, and durability are usually associated with masculinity. In the Khattak dialect of Pashto, some English loanwords are used as feminine nouns in sentences due to their association with qualities such as beauty, delicacy, fragility, and meekness. In Pakistani society, there are several professions that are predominantly pursued by men. Thus, in the Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu, the nouns associated with these occupations are commonly used as masculine nouns. When contrasting loanwords related to these professions with the English language, it becomes evident that they are assigned a masculine gender.

This study has demonstrated that the bulk of the gender assignment rules in the Pashto language were extended to include English nouns that were borrowed into the Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu language. This shows that gender assignment is a phenomenon that is regulated and influenced heavily by semantic rules.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This research paper has primarily focused on investigating the application of semantic grammatical gender assignment rules to English loanwords in the Khattak dialect of Pashto. One can also explore the other rules involved in the gender assignment process. Using a large dataset and an even larger sample of English nouns would be the most rational approach to further enhance this study.

Here are some additional contributions to the expanding corpus of information on the assignment of grammatical gender. When studying languages with several gender systems, one might examine the variations in grammatical gender assignment. The process of assigning grammatical gender to nouns or loanwords from different languages in diverse linguistic systems. Furthermore, various aspects of the grammatical gender system in Pashto dialects can be examined by analyzing data related to dialect change, attrition, and acquisition.

Analyze the influence of grammatical gender on cognition. Analyze the potential influence of particular cognitive processes or conditions on the effects of grammatical gender. Their efforts have enabled us to gain a deeper understanding of grammatical gender assignment and its impact on language and cognition. To understand the practical implications of studying grammatical gender in fields such as education or language acquisition. An examination of gender assignment to loanwords is crucial, as highlighted by Corbett (1991), Thornton (2009), and Audring (2016), among other scholars. One can examine the presence of dominant connections between multiple formal and semantic criteria for gender assignment in Pashto data, and determine if there is a hierarchical dominance in the rules for gender assignment.

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