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Role of Predominantly Semantic Properties in Assigning Gender to English Loanwords in Pashto and Urdu Language: A Comparative Analysis

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ABSTRACT

The primary goal of this study is to investigate the predominantly semantic characteristics that are used in the Khattak dialect of Pashto to determine the grammatical gender of English loanwords. In order to better understand language contact events in the Pakistani setting, the study intends to explore how gender allocation in loanword integration is influenced by predominantly semantic factors. Using Corbett's (1991) gender assignment model as a framework, an insightful and creative research design was developed that was most appropriate for the ongoing research being conducted in the Pakistani context. The current study is descriptive and qualitative in nature. This study will help to clarify the nature of grammatical gender assignment processes in Pakistan and also draw attention to the need for additional research in this field.

Keywords: *Agreement, Gender Marking, Grammatical Gender Assignment, Khattak dialect of Pashto, Loanwords, Semantic System.*

INTRODUCTION

Like many other languages influenced by English loanwords, the Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu language offers an interesting subject for investigating gender assignment? This proposal aims to investigate the meaning-based features of gender assignment, investigating how meaning influences the grammatical gender of borrowed English phrases. Deciphering the semantic aspects of this phenomenon is essential in order to comprehend the intricacies involved in language contact and adaptation. It makes use of Corbett's (1991) gender assignment model in the Pakistani setting in an effort to offer a thorough explanation of this occurrence. Therefore, a gender assignment system is a model of the process or manner in which a specific gender is assigned to a given noun (Corbett, 2005).

GRAMMATICAL GENDER

The concept of gender assignment in language is complex and differs throughout academic fields and cultural contexts. It indicates biological sex in biology and the division of nouns into grammatical categories in linguistics. The categorization of nouns as feminine, masculine, or neuter is known as the gender idea in language.

Since grammatical gender is a grammatical category that is independent of the referent's biological sex, it differs from natural or biological gender. Grammatical gender is determined by verbal agreement and grammar, but natural gender is determined by biology. While some languages have gender systems that are completely unrelated to sex, others base their gender systems on biological sex. Languages have a system called grammatical gender, which deals with agreement with verbs and adjectives among other linguistic components. Gender is defined by Corbett (1991) as classes of nouns reflected in the behavior of related words, with a focus on its function in nominal categorization and agreement. Different languages use different strategies to assign genders; some rely on formal characteristics or semantics. Grammatical gender influences the forms of related words like determiners, pronouns, and adjectives, and it is essential for noun classification and agreement within sentences. Language-specific norms are often used by native speakers to predict noun gender, which helps with word formation and language understanding. Words that are borrowed may take on the gender of related native words or the suffix that denotes a certain gender. Nonetheless, gender assignment can vary over time.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the current study were:

1. To analyze how predominantly semantic properties influence the assignment of grammatical gender to English loanwords in the Khattak dialect of Pashto language.
2. To examine how predominantly semantic properties influence the assignment of grammatical gender to English loanwords in Urdu language.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study contributes to a deeper understanding of gender assignment in loanwords, specifically examining how predominantly semantic properties affect grammatical gender in the Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu language. By focusing on English loanwords in these languages, this research sheds light on the processes and rules that govern language adaptation in the context of Pakistani linguistic dynamics.

Furthermore, the study provides insights into language contact phenomena in Pakistan, where English, Pashto, and Urdu coexist and interact in various domains. The findings will help linguists and language educators understand how languages integrate foreign elements and assign gender, contributing to more effective language teaching strategies and resources for speakers of Pashto and Urdu. Additionally, the study fills a gap in research on loanword gender assignment in non-European languages, encouraging further scholarly exploration in this area.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS OF THE STUDY

There were two research questions designed for the current study, which are:

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

LITERATURE REVIEW

GENDER ASSIGNMENT IN WORLD LANGUAGES

With grammatical gender present in around half of the world's languages, the World Atlas of Language Structures sheds light on the diversity and prevalence of gender systems across language families. While some languages completely lack gender, others have complex gender systems. Different language elements, such as phonological indicators, solely semantic traits, or formal characteristics of nouns, can influence the gender assignment. Different languages use different techniques to assign gender to nouns; most languages use affixes. While some languages, like English, have no grammatical gender systems, others, like Russian, have intricate systems with many genders or simple differentiations between masculine and feminine. The smallest possible number of gender values is two, and two-gender-systems are the universal reality (Corbett, 2013a). Though there are many languages consisting more than a dozen classes, for example, Arapesh, spoken in Papua New Guinea, has 13 genders (Aronoff, 1992,1994; Fortune, 1942), Ngan'gityemerri, a language spoken in Australia, has 15 genders (Reid, 1997), and Nigerian Fula has more than 20 genders depending on dialect and analysis (Arnott, 1970; Breedveld, 1995).

Comprehending the assigned gender in languages such as Pashto, which integrates English loanwords, illuminates the intricate relationship between linguistic characteristics and cultural influences. Through examining gender assignment in different languages, scholars can acquire important knowledge on the composition and operation of grammar systems around the world.

Word agreement is the foundation of gender establishment, and differences in agreement patterns between languages, such as those seen in Dutch, contribute to ambiguity when it comes to the number of genders. Gender assignment depends heavily on agreement, as established by linguists such as Hockett and Steele, wherein related words change their forms in response to nouns acting as triggers. Agreement is "a fairly intuitive notion which is nevertheless surprisingly difficult to delimit with precision," according to Anderson (1992:103). When examining gender, syntactic criteria are prioritized over semantic ones in contemporary linguistic literature.

GENDER IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Gender is indicated via agreement with other words in many languages, but personal pronouns are the main way that gender is represented in English. Gender is explicitly marked on nouns and agreements in Chichewa. On the other hand, personal pronouns are the only examples of gender differentiation in English, where gender expression is minimal. Modern English is more dependent on pronouns and natural gender than Old English, which had a more developed gender system. English pronouns frequently indicate the gender of the recipient, always using the masculine form by default. Inanimate things may be given feminine pronouns, but infants are typically the only ones assigned neuter gender.

GENDER ASSIGNMENT SYSTEMS

Corbett (1999) challenges this idea and provides counterarguments instead. According to him, when natural speakers of any language speak a particular language, they never make any mistakes regarding the gender assigned to certain nouns. Second, he thinks that the entire phenomenon of gender assignment must be underpinned by some kind of underlying mechanism or set of rules. When it comes to determining someone's gender, people can't only rely on their memories. Thirdly, he believes that every kind of constructed term can be assigned a gender by native speakers quickly and quite consistently.

TYPES OF ASSIGNMENT RULES

Concordance or agreement between them is the state in which certain words change or shift their forms according to the grammatical gender of the nouns in a given sentence. Within the field of grammatical gender, this very phenomenon of agreement is highly significant. Nouns are the "triggers" of this entire agreement process since they are inherently gendered; on the other hand, related words like verbs, demonstratives, adjectives, numerals, definite and indefinite articles, etc., can be thought of as the "target" of the alterations that are occurring. (Franceschina 2005:72)

Language gender assignment principles fall into three primary categories: morphological, phonological, and semantic. While morphological rules concentrate on formal characteristics like suffixes or inflectional patterns, semantic rules frequently depend on more general distinctions like animate versus inanimate or male versus female. Phonological norms take into account a noun's sounds or ends. The breadth of these constraints varies; for example, German assigns masculine gender to nouns that relate to minerals, whereas Qafar associates feminine gender with nouns that terminate in accented vowels. Gender assignment, seen as a whole, represents the intricate interaction of phonological, morphological, and semantic elements in language.

ASSIGNING GENDER TO ENGLISH LOANWORDS IN KHATTAK DIALECT OF PASHTO LANGUAGE 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. It is interesting to note that words such as *kursi* 'chair' and *kitab* 'book' are treated as feminine in Urdu language and *buhera(h)* 'sea, ocean' and *šams* 'sun' as masculine.

There are numerous English nouns and loanwords that have entered Pashto sentences in the language. While Pashto has a complete grammatical gender system, English is a gender-neutral language. There are two genders in Pashto language: a masculine and a feminine gender. All nouns, whether they are living, human, or inanimate, non-human, in Pashto are given a certain gender. In addition, unlike English, Pashto does not have a neuter gender. Thus, a particular gender is attached to English loanwords that are used in Pashto phrases. The issues that now need to be addressed include how and to which gender English nouns should be given, as well as what regulations should apply when assigning gender to English loanwords. The typological investigation on gender assignment reveals that the systems and criteria used by different languages around the world to assign gender to nouns vary. Given that English is a gender-neutral language, when English loanwords are assimilated into Pashto or Urdu language, they are given a specific gender. These borrowed words adhere to the gender assignment system and morphology of the host language.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

DATA COLLECTION

Data is collected from various sources and different methods of data collection were used in order to ensure that the data is fairly representative. Data is collected from different domains of life such as; naturally

occurring data, recordings of real life conversations and discussions, recordings of conversations with shopkeepers, religious sermons, news, radio programs in Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu language, songs in Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu language, social media including Facebook and YouTube, intuitive and personal knowledge of Pashto and Urdu language

Hence, the data is collected from all sorts of formal and informal settings and domains. The examples of nouns were collected from naturally occurring data, everyday language usage and Informal conversations and formal conversations.

Corbett's (1991) typological categories for determining the gender of the nouns were applied in the current research. He asserts that for determining a noun's gender, both the meaning and the form are equally significant. In the system of grammatical gender assignment, both have different functions to play. Corbett (1991), divides these assignment systems or models into two major types which are also further sub-divided into several 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 current research makes use of the aforementioned framework. To fulfill the demands and requirements of the current research, the framework has been modified, and specific categories have been added or removed as necessary. A clear set of categories with additional division into sub-categories was developed after thorough consideration. Now other researchers in the field of grammatical gender assignment can utilize the current research paradigm as justification for their own future studies. The analysis of the data collected for the present research was done by categorizing the material under following headings.

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

PREDOMINANTLY SEMANTIC SYSTEMS IN KHATTAK DIALECT OF PASHTO AND URDU LANGUAGE AND ASSIGNING GENDER TO ENGLISH LOANWORDS IN KHATTAK DIALECT OF PASHTO AND URDU

a. Gender assignment to Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu language and assigning gender to English loanwords based on the criteria of concept association and semantic equivalence.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

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 lays great emphasis on the importance of semantic system in case of gender assignment and in fact this is the first type of gender assignment system that he has focused on. The semantic aspect is further divided into two different categories that is strictly semantic system and predominantly semantic system. The researcher focuses on the predominantly semantic system in detail and tries to figure out to what extent the predominantly semantic rules are responsible for assigning gender to Pashto and Urdu nouns and English loanwords in Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu language.

PREDOMINANTLY SEMANTIC SYSTEMS IN KHATTAK DIALECT OF PASHTO AND URDU LANGUAGE AND ASSIGNING GENDER TO ENGLISH LOANWORDS IN KHATTAK DIALECT OF PASHTO AND URDU

As discussed earlier, the meaning of a particular noun plays the main role in gender assignment to the nouns in case of semantic assignment systems. In case of predominantly semantic assignment system of gender assigning, the meaning or semantics is at its core but few exceptions can be there. In case of strict semantic systems, the gender is solely assigned by looking into the literal meaning or semantics of the concerned nouns. In case of predominantly semantic systems, although meaning is extremely important and plays a major role in gender assignment to certain nouns but still there may exist certain exceptions. The nouns left behind may be assigned a certain gender by following the formal set of rules. The predominantly semantic gender assignment system is further divided into the following sub-category.

GENDER ASSIGNMENT TO KHATTAK DIALECT OF PASHTO AND URDU LANGUAGE AND ASSIGNING GENDER TO ENGLISH LOANWORDS BASED ON THE CRITERIA OF CONCEPT ASSOCIATION AND SEMANTIC EQUIVALENCE

Under this category of gender assignment system that is predominantly semantic system, gender is mostly

assigned under the criterion of concept association. The nouns which possess similar characteristics or traits and are related in one way or another are allotted a similar gender. They share certain similar or common semantic patterns but with few exceptions. The above mentioned category is further sub-divided into several different categories. First the rules are applied on the Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu language and then the same rules are applied on the English loanwords as well, in order to draw a comparison.

In this category, all the things which are either somewhat similar or have some sort of connection or association with each other are assigned a similar gender. This is because they fall under the criteria of concept association. They do possess some sort of relationship, similarity or association. This system of assigning gender is based solely on semantics but with the possibility of few exceptions.

The criterion of concept association is applicable on Khattak dialect of Pashto language and Urdu language both. The criterion of concept association and semantic equivalence also plays its part in assigning gender to certain English loanwords. At times the gender of a particular English loanword is allotted as per their equivalents' gender in Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu. As per Haugen, association between the loanword and its semantic equivalent, present in the language borrowed is actually "[t]he only really convincing type of correlation in the field of meaning" (1969: 447).

Now the researcher will dig out examples from different domains in order to see how the criteria of association works in Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu language and what happens in case of insertion of English loanwords.

1. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Words related to the physical environment such as *səmāndər* 'sea', *dəryob* 'river', *uṭaka* 'hillock', *ḡar* 'mountain', *asmon* 'sky' all are assigned a masculine gender. One reason behind it can be their hugeness and vastness. Hence based on the criteria of concept association, all these above mentioned things related to natural and physical environment are treated as masculine entities.

Table 1: Physical Environment

Khattak dialect of Pashto				Urdu			
Da	ḡer	čəḡ	ḡar	da	Ye	bohat	unča
This very high mountain				Is	This very high mountain is		
PN	Adj	M. N	HelpV	PN	Adj	M. N	HelpV
This is a very high mountain.				This is a very high mountain.			

With English Loanwords				
Da <i>der čæg</i> mountain da	Ye bohat unča mountayn ha.			
This very high mountain is	This very high mountain Is			
PN Adj M.N	PN Adj M.N HelpV			
HelpV				
This is a very high mountain.	This is a very high mountain.			

The adjective *der čæg* ‘very high’, used to describe the mountain contains a masculine gender marker. In case of a feminine entity the feminine gender markers would be used which are *dera čəga* ‘very high’. In the above example, when the English loanword mountain is incorporated in Khattak dialect of Pashto sentence, then also the same masculine gender is retained. In this example the adjective *der čæg* ‘very high’ is used which shows that it is a masculine noun. In case of feminine noun, the adjective *dera čəga* ‘very high’ would be used. The article *da* ‘this’ also shows that this is a masculine thing. In case of a feminine entity, the article, *do* ‘this’ will be used.

In case of Urdu language also these nouns related to physical environment and nature are given a masculine gender. For instance, in the above examples, when the Urdu noun *pəhar* ‘mountain’ is used in a sentence, then a masculine gender is allotted to it. Similarly, when the English loanword mountain is used in Urdu sentence, then also it is treated as a masculine entity. The adjective *unča* ‘high’ inflects in accordance with the masculine gender of the noun. In case it was a feminine noun, then the adjective *unci* ‘high’ would be used.

In Khattak dialect of Pashto language, since, *dəryob* ‘river’, *səməndər* ‘sea’, *ğar* ‘mountain’, *uṭəka* ‘hillock’, are considered masculine hence the English loanwords are assigned or allotted a gender in accordance with their equivalents’ gender in Khattak dialect of Pashto. Hence English loanwords such as , *ošan* ‘ocean’, *rivar* ‘river’, *si* ‘sea’, *mountayn* ‘mountain’, *hil* ‘hill’ are also assigned a masculine gender when incorporated in Khattak dialect of Pashto language sentences because of their equivalents which are also masculine.

Table 2: Physical Environment

Khattak dialect of Pashto	Urdu
Da <i>der stər</i> <i>dəryob</i> .	Ye bohat bəra <i>dərya</i> ha.

da This very big river is PN Adj M.N HelpV This is a very high mountain.	This very big river Is PN Adj M.N HelpV This is a very big river.
With English Loanwords	
Da der stər rivər da. This very big river Is PN Adj M.N HelpV This is a very big river.	Ye bohat bəra rivər ha. This very big river Is PN Adj M.N HelpV This is a very big river.

In the example given above, the noun *dəryob* ‘river’ is assigned a masculine gender. The adjective *stər* ‘long’ reveals the masculine gender. In case of a feminine noun, the adjective *stəra* ‘long’ would be used. In case of English loan word ‘river’ also a masculine noun is used. In case of Urdu language also, the same noun river is assigned a masculine gender. The adjective *bəra* ‘big’ inflects and agrees with the gender of the noun. In case of a feminine entity, the adjective, *bəri* ‘big’ would be used. Hence, it can be seen that in case of Khattak dialect of Pashto language, their English semantic equivalents and Urdu language, the nouns referring to physical environment are treated as masculine entities.

2. RIVERS’ NAMES

As mentioned earlier, the noun *dəryob* ‘river’ in Khattak dialect of Pashto language is treated as a masculine figure. Similarly, its semantic equivalent in English that is river, when incorporated in Khattak dialect of Pashto sentences is also granted a masculine gender, therefore, the names of all the rivers are also considered as masculine. The rule of concept association is applicable here. Hence, rivers such as *Ravi* ‘Ravi’, *Sətlaj* ‘Sutluj’, *čenab* ‘Chenab’, *Kabal* ‘Kabul’, *Nil* ‘Nile’, *Niləm* ‘Neelum’, *Gənga* ‘Ganges’, *Indas* ‘Indus’, *Jeləm* ‘Jhelum’, *Aməzon* ‘Amazon’ are all considered to be masculine entities. In Khattak dialect of Pashto language, there are no semantic equivalents for the names of rivers. Hence, their names in English are used as it is in Khattak dialect, with slight phonological alteration.

Table 3: Rivers’ names

Khattak dialect of Pashto				Urdu		
Da	ḍer	stər	river da.	Ravi	beh rəha	ha.
This	very big	river	is	Ravi	flowing	is
PN	Adj	M.N	HelpV	M.N	V	HelpV
This is a very big river.				Ravi is flowing.		

In the example given above the adjective *ḍer stər* ‘very big’ inflects in accordance with the masculine gender. Instead of feminine entity, the adjective would inflect like *ḍera stəra* ‘very big’. Similarly, the pronoun *da* ‘this’ also agrees with the gender of the noun. In case of feminine noun, the article *do* ‘this’ would be utilized. The PN *da* ‘this’ and the helping word *da* ‘is’ also agrees with the masculine gender of the noun *Ravi*.

Similarly, in Urdu language also, all the names of rivers when incorporated are given a masculine gender. In the example given above, taken from Urdu language, the verb agrees with the masculine gender of the noun and inflects accordingly. In case of a feminine noun, the verb used will be *beh rəhi* ‘flowing’.

Furthermore, mostly the names of the rivers are referred to as collective nouns such as *nilum daryob* ‘Neelum River’, *Sətlaj daryob* ‘Sutluj river’, *kabal daryob* ‘Kabul river’ etc in Khattak dialect of Pashto language. This collective noun is also assigned a masculine gender in Khattak dialect of Pashto language. In Urdu language also the collective noun *daryaey Kabul*, *daryaey swat*, *daryaey čenab* etc is used and is assigned a masculine gender.

3. MOUNTAINS

The noun *ğar* ‘mountain’ is assigned a masculine gender in Khattak dialect of Pashto language. Therefore, its semantic equivalent in English language, i.e. mountain, is also assigned a masculine gender. Hence, all the names of the mountains are also allotted masculine genders. Few such examples are Everest, Nanga Parbat, K2, Himalayas. Since there are no semantic equivalents for the names of mountains in Khattak dialect of Pashto language therefore their English counterparts are used as it is in Khattak dialect of Pashto sentences. For example,

Table 4: Mountains’ Names

Khattak dialect of Pashto				Urdu		
K2	ḍer	čəg	da.	K2	bohat	unča ha.
K2	very high		is	K2	very high	is
M.N	Adj		HelpV	M.N	Adj	HelpV

K2 is very high.	K2 is very high.
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In the given example, the adjective *čag* ‘high’ shows that it is a masculine thing otherwise the adjective *čaga* ‘high’ would be used. Similarly, in Urdu language *pəhar* ‘mountain’ is masculine; hence all the names of the mountains are also masculine. The adjective *unča* ‘high’ is used for a masculine entity. For a female entity the adjective *unci* ‘high’ is used.

4. SOLAR SYSTEM

Since, planet is assigned a masculine gender in Khattak dialect of Pashto language, therefore, the names of different planets that are borrowed from the English language are all assigned a masculine gender. Earth, Mars, Venus, Saturn, Jupiter, Mercury, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto. In Khattak dialect of Pashto language, there are no semantic equivalents for the names of planets. Therefore the English loanwords are used as itis, with slight phonological alteration, while referring to them.

Sun, moon, star hence nouns related to the solar system, all are assigned a masculine gender based on the criteria of concept association. For names of planets, there are no alternative names or semantic equivalents of planets names in Khattak dialect of Pashto language. Therefore the English loanwords are used for referring to the planets. But there is an alternative word for sun, moon and star in Khattak dialect of Pashto language. In Khattak dialect of Pashto language, *stura* ‘star’ and *spižma* ‘moon’ are given a masculine gender whereas only *stərga* ‘sun’ is allotted a feminine gender. This is the only exception here. For instance, look at the example given below.

Table 5: Solar System

Khattak dialect of Pashto		Urdu	
<i>Spizma</i>	<i>oxətal.</i>	<i>čand</i>	<i>nikal aya ha.</i>
Moon	has set in	Moon	has set in
M.N	V	M.N	V
Moon has set in.		Moon has set in.	
With English Loanwords			
Moon	<i>oxətal.</i>	<i>mun</i>	<i>nikal aya ha.</i>
Moon	has set in	Moon	has set in
M.N	V	M.N	V
Moon has set in.		Moon has set in.	

Consider another example given below.

Table 6: Solar System, Example 2

Khattak dialect of Pashto		Urdu	
Stərga	oxətəla.	Suraj	nikal aya ha.
Sun	has set in	Sun	has set in
F.N	V	M.N	V
Sun has set in.		Sun has set in.	
With English Loanwords			
Sun	oxətəl.	Sun	nikal aya ha.
Sun	has set in	Sun	has set in
M.N	V	M.N	V
Sun has set in.		Sun has set in.	

Comparing the above two examples from Khattak dialect of Pashto language, it can be seen that in case of masculine noun *spižma* ‘moon’ the verb *oxətəl* ‘has set in’ is used. Whereas in case of feminine noun *stərga* ‘sun’ the verb *oxətəla* ‘has set in’, containing a feminine grammatical gender marker is used. If the English loanwords sun and moon are incorporated in Khattak dialect of Pashto sentences, then a masculine gender is allotted to both of them.

If the same loanwords are incorporated in Urdu language, then also both of them are assigned a masculine gender based on the very criterion of concept association and semantic equivalence. Consider the examples given below. The verb *nikal aya ha* ‘has set in’ shows that it is a masculine entity. In case of a feminine entity, the verb *nikal ayi ha* ‘has set in’ will be used.

5. METALS AND PRECIOUS STONES

In Khattak dialect of Pashto language the names of all the precious stones and metals are assigned a masculine gender based on the criterion of concept association. For instance , *spinzar* ‘white gold’, *srəzar* ‘gold’, *silvər* ‘silver’. Another interesting thing to note here is that the metals and precious stones names are considered as a collective noun in Khattak dialect of Pashto language and hence the helping verb ‘di’ is used at the end instead of helping verb ‘da’ used for masculine entities. Only the adjectives show agreement with the collective noun in the given examples and they reveal the very gender of the noun. In case of metals and stones, the adjectives are inflected such that they acquire a masculine gender. There is only one exception to that rule. Only a precious stone called *hira* ‘diamond’ is allotted a feminine ~~gender~~ This is due to the fact that

the phonological rules take precedence here over the semantic rules. Due to the word ending in –a, it is assigned a feminine gender. For instance:

- Srəzar ḍer gron di.
 Gold (M.N) very expensive (Adj) is (HelpV)
 Gold is very expensive.
- Hira ḍera grona do.
 Diamond (F.N) very expensive (Adj) is (HelpV)
 Diamond is very expensive.

In the above two examples, the adjectives and helping verbs used for *srəzar* ‘gold’ possess masculine gender markers whereas the adjectives and helping verbs used for *hira* ‘diamond’ shows agreement with the feminine noun *hira* ‘diamond’ and contains feminine gender markers.

In Khattak dialect of Pashto language, the English loanword *metəl* ‘metal’ is assigned a masculine gender, therefore the names of different metals borrowed from the English language are also allocated a masculine gender. Examples are *Irən* ‘Iron’, *kopər* ‘Copper’, *silvər* ‘silver’, *ṭin* ‘Tin’, *Gold* ‘Gold’ and *ḍaimənd* ‘Diamond. In Khattak dialect of Pashto language *srəzar* ‘gold’, *spinzar* ‘white gold’, *silvər* ‘silver’ are treated as masculine. Only *hira* ‘diamond’ is allotted a feminine gender in Khattak dialect of Pashto language, whereas the English loan noun *ḍaimənd* ‘diamond’ is a masculine noun. Based on the concept association criteria all of the metals and precious stones in Khattak dialect of Pashto language are also treated as masculine except for *hira* ‘diamond’.

- Da ḍaimənd da.
 This (PN) diamond (M.N) is (HelpV)
 This is diamond.
- Da hira do.
 This (PN) diamond (F.N) is (HelpV)
 This is diamond.

In the given two examples, it can be seen that the helping verb shows agreement with the gender of the noun in both the cases. In case of the loanword *ḍaimənd* ‘diamond’ the helping verb *da* ‘is’ is used, which is a masculine gender marker. Whereas in case of it Khattak dialect of Pashto language semantic equivalent *hira* ‘diamond’ the helping verb *do* ‘is’, having feminine gender marker is used.

In case of English loanwords the names of the above mentioned metals and stones are always treated as

masculine entities, when incorporated in Khattak dialect of Pashto language. Words such as diamond, silver, gold, aluminium, iron, copper, brass are given a masculine gender. Only *hira* ‘diamond’ is assigned a feminine gender and rest of the stones and metals are all allotted a masculine gender in Khattak dialect of Pashto language. For instance,

Table 7: Metals and Precious Stones

Khattak dialect of Pashto				Urdu		
Gold	<i>der</i>	<i>gron</i>	<i>da.</i>	Sona	<i>mehnga</i>	<i>ho gaya ha.</i>
Gold	<i>very</i>	<i>expensive</i>	<i>is</i>	Gold	<i>costly</i>	<i>has become</i>
M.N	<i>Adj</i>		<i>HelpV</i>	M.N	<i>Adj</i>	<i>HelpV</i>
Gold id very expensive.				Gold has become costly.		

In the above example, it can be seen that the loanword gold is given a masculine gender, when it is incorporated in Khattak dialect of Khattak dialect of Pashto language. The adjective *der* ‘very’ and the helping verb *da* ‘is’ inflects in accordance with the masculine gender of the noun gold.

This is similar to Urdu language where they are also treated as masculine entities. In the example quoted above the verb *ho gaya ha* ‘has become’ instead of *ho gai ha* ‘has become’, shows that the noun *sona* ‘gold’ is a masculine noun in Urdu language as well.

In case of Urdu language, all the metals and precious stones are allotted a masculine gender based on the concept association criteria. Examples are *tanba* ‘copper’, *sona* ‘gold’, *hira* ‘diamond’, *pitāl* ‘brass’. When the English loanwords or names of metals and precious stones are incorporated in Urdu language sentences, then all of them are assigned a masculine gender in similarity with the Khattak dialect of Pashto language. Furthermore, in case of Urdu language, all the names of metals in Urdu are also treated as masculine based on the concept association criterion and semantic equivalence. For instance *sona* ‘gold’, *hira* ‘diamond’, *tanba* ‘copper’ etc.

6. SEASONS

In case of Urdu language, we mostly say that *garmi ka mausam* ‘summer season’, *xizaṅ ka mausam* ‘autumn season’, *bəhar ka mausam* ‘spring season’, *sərđi ka mausam* ‘winter season’. The word *mausam* ‘season’ is combined with it. Since, *mausam* ‘season’ is a masculine noun, hence when it is used collectively with the name of the season then the whole compound noun is assigned a masculine noun.

In Khattak dialect of Pashto language, the names of four seasons are *woṛa* ‘summer’, *žəma* ‘winter’, *spər̄la* ‘spring’, *xəzaṅ* ‘autumn’ and all the four seasons are treated as masculine nouns such as *xəzaṅ*

‘autumn’, *žəma* ‘winter’, *spər̄la* ‘spring’, *woṛa* ‘summer’.

However, English words i.e. summer and winters are frequently used by the educated people particularly in formal use, as summer or winter vacations or holidays etc. They both are assigned masculine gender whereas spring and autumn are rarely used. In Khattak dialect of Pashto language all the names of the seasons are treated as masculine. For instance,

Table 8: Seasons, Example

Khattak dialect of Pashto		Urdu		
Žəma	roḡlal.	Sər̄di	agai	ha.
Winter	has approached	Winter	approached	has
M.N	V	F.N	V	HelpV
Winter has approached.				
With English Loanwords				
Winṭər	roḡlal.	Winṭər	agaya	ha.
Winter	has approached	Winter	approached	has
M.N	V	M.N	V	HelpV
Winter has approached.		Winter has approached.		

In the above example the verb *roḡlal* ‘approached’ shows that the noun *Žəma* ‘winter’ is a masculine noun. For feminine noun the verb *roḡlala* ‘approached’ is used. Similarly the noun *sizən* ‘season’ is masculine therefore when English loanwords for the seasons names are incorporated in Khattak dialect of Pashto language, then all of them are also treated as masculine entities.

In case these English nouns are incorporated in Urdu sentences, then also they are treated as masculine entities, similar to the Khattak dialect of Pashto language. For instance, in the example given below the verb *agaya ha* ‘has approached’ shows that the loanword winter is assigned a masculine gender. Consider the example given below:

7. WEEK DAYS

In Khattak dialect of Pashto language, the English loanword *ḡay* ‘day’ is feminine. Therefore all of the days of the week are also assigned a feminine gender e.g. *Mənḡy* ‘Monday’, *Tuezḡy* ‘Tuesday’, *Wensḡy* ‘Wednesday’, *Tərsḡy* ‘Thursday’, *Fraiḡy* ‘Friday’, *Seyṭərḡy* ‘Saturday’, *Sənḡy* ‘Sunday’. For example

- Nan Mənḡy do.
 Today (Adv) Monday (F.N) is (HelpV)

Today is Monday.

In the above sentence, the helping verb do ‘is’ possessing a feminine marker, reveals the feminine gender of the loan noun *Məndy* ‘Monday’.

In contrast to this, in case of their semantic equivalents in Khattak dialect of Pashto language, few of them have a masculine gender and few have a feminine gender. That is because of the phonological rules and criterion taking precedence over the semantic criterion and rules. For instance *awal* ‘Saturday’, *dwəyam* ‘Sunday’, *driyam* ‘Monday’, *sələram* ‘Tuesday’, *pinzam* ‘Wednesday’ are assigned a masculine gender, due to the fact that they have a consonant at their end. Whereas the rest of the two days that is *wədina* ‘Thursday’ and *juma* ‘Friday’ are given a feminine gender because of their phonological ending in ‘a’.

- Nan pinzam da.
 Today (Adj) Tuesday (M.N) is (V)
 Today is Tuesday.

- Nan juma do.
 Today (Adj) Friday (F.N) is (V)
 Today is Friday.

It can be seen in the given examples that since *pinzam* is a masculine noun, hence the verb *da* is used with it. Whereas in case of *juma*, a feminine noun, the verb *do* is used.

In case of Urdu language also, all the names of the days in Urdu as well as their English loanwords, are treated as masculine entities and are assigned a masculine gender. For instance, *pir* ‘Monday’, *məngəl* ‘Tuesday’, *budh* ‘Wednesday’, *jomirat* ‘Thursday’, *juma* ‘Friday’, *həfta* ‘Saturday’, *itwar* ‘Sunday’. For instance,

- Itwar guzar gəya ha.
 Sunday (M.N) gone (V) has (HelpV)
 Sunday has gone.
- Sundy guzar gəya ha.
 Sunday (M.N) gone (V) has (HelpV)
 Sunday has gone.

The verb *gəya ha* ‘has gone’ inflects in accordance with the masculine gender of the noun.

8. LANGUAGES

There are many other instances where gender assignment takes place according to concept association and

semantic equivalence. In Khattak dialect of Pashto language, this criteria of concept association plays a crucial part in the process of gender assignment. For instance, *žəba* ‘language’ is assigned a feminine gender, hence all the languages are also allotted a feminine gender. For instance, *Urdu* ‘Urdu’, *Farsi* ‘Farsi’, *Hindi* ‘Hindi’, *Angrezi* ‘English’, *Sindi* ‘Sindhi’, *Baločay* ‘Balochi’, *Japənay* ‘Japanese’, *činay* ‘Chinese’ etc.

Similarly, when the English loanword language is incorporated in Khattak dialect of Pashto sentences, then it is also assigned a feminine gender. There are no semantic equivalents for the names of languages in Khattak dialect of Pashto language. They are used as it is and given feminine gender markers. Consider the examples given below.

- Pashtu žəba đera xwəža do.
Pashtu (F.N) language (F.N) very sweet (Adj) is (HelpV)
Pashtu language is very sweet.

In the example given above, the adjective *đera xwəža* ‘very sweet’ shows that it is assigned a feminine gender. The helping verb *do* ‘is’ also inflects accordingly. In case of a masculine entity, *der xwož da* ‘is very sweet’ will be used. Consider another example given below.

- Jərmən đera gronə do.
German (F.N) very difficult (Adj) is (HelpV)
German is very difficult.

In the above example, the noun *Jərmən* ‘German’ is treated as feminine. In case it was masculine, then the adjective *der gron* ‘very difficult’ would be used.

In Urdu language also, all these languages are assigned a feminine gender. For instance, in the sentence given below, the verb *ati ha* ‘know’ shows that *Frenč* ‘French’ is a feminine gendered noun. The verb *ata ha* ‘know’ is used in case of masculine nouns.

- Tumhy Frenč ati ha?
You (PN) French(F.N) know (V)
Do you know French?

One such example is of language. The noun *Zaban* ‘language’ and language both are given a feminine gender in Urdu language. Hence, all the languages are allotted a feminine gender too. For instance: Urdu, Khattak dialect of Pashto language, Balochi, Sindhi, Punjabi, Gujrati, Farsi, Hindi etc.

9. COLD DRINKS

In Khattak dialect of Pashto language, there are no semantic equivalents for the names of cold drinks. Hence

the English loanwords are incorporated in Khattak dialect of Pashto language. The English loan noun *botəl* ‘bottle’ is assigned a feminine gender. For instance,

Table 9: Cold Drinks

Khattak dialect of Pashto			Urdu			
Botəl	my	wətšəla.	Mene	botəl	pi li	ha.
Bottle		drank	I	bottle	drank	have
F.N		V	PN	F.N	V	HelpV
I drank the bottle.			I have drank the bottle.			

In the above example, it can be seen that the noun bottle is treated as a feminine figure in Khattak dialect of Pashto language. The verb inflection shows that because in case of a male figure the verb *wətšal* ‘drank’ would be used. Based on the criteria of concept association, all of the names of the cold drinks are also allotted a feminine gender. For instance, *deo* ‘dew’, *pipsi* ‘pepsi’, *mərinda* ‘mirinda’, *fanča* ‘fanta’, *koka kola* ‘coca cola’.

- Dew dera məzdora do.
Dew (F.N) very tasty (Adj) is (HelpV)
Dew is very tasty.

The adjective *dera məzdora* ‘very tasty’ is in agreement with the feminine gender of the noun. Similarly, the helping verb *do* ‘is’ also agrees with the feminine gender of the noun. In case of a masculine noun, *der məzdor da* ‘is very tasty’ will be used.

In Urdu language also there are no semantic equivalents for the names of bottles and cold drinks. Therefore, the English loanwords are used for them. Hence all these cold drinks names are treated as feminine nouns. For instance, in the example given above, the verb *pili* ‘drank’ shows that the noun bottle is a feminine entity. In case it was a masculine thing then the verb *pi liya* ‘drank’ would be used.

CONCLUSIONS

A few goals and several research questions were established at the outset of the study. The researcher has made an effort to not only accomplish all of her goals but also to provide answers to the questions posed at the outset of the study. While gender assignment to some nouns in primarily semantic systems is highly significant and heavily influenced by meaning, there may still be some deviations. The remaining nouns can be given a certain gender by adhering to the predominantly semantic assignment system. To make a comparison, the rules are first applied to the Khattak dialect of Pashto and Urdu language and then the same

principles are also applied to the English loanwords. They do have a connection, resemblance, or affiliation of some kind. The idea of concept association criteria apply to both the Khattak dialect of Pashto and the Urdu language. Some English loanwords are also assigned a gender based on semantic equivalency and idea linkage criteria. Sometimes the gender of an English loanword is assigned based on the gender of its equivalents in the Pashto dialect known as Khattak and Urdu language. The nouns that have comparable qualities or traits and are connected in some way are given the same gender under the criteria of concept association. In order to see how the concept association criteria in the Khattak dialect of Pashto work and what happens when English loanwords are inserted, the researcher has taken examples from a variety of domains, including river names, the physical environment, the solar system, metals and precious stones, seasons, months names, week days, mountain names, languages, directions, cold drinks, and gases. For instance, the masculine gender is given to nouns that refer to the physical world, such as *səmändər* ‘sea’, *dəryob* ‘river’, *uṭəka* ‘hillock’ and *əsmən* ‘sky’. Their size and expanse may be a contributing factor. Therefore, all of the aforementioned items relating to the natural and physical environment are classified as masculine entities based on the idea association criteria.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The investigation of the phenomena of predominantly semantic grammatical gender assignment rules to English loanwords in the Khattak dialect of Pashto has been the main focus of this project. It is also possible to look at the other rules that are involved in the gender assignment process. To build on this work, it would make the most sense to employ a large data corpus with an even larger sample of English words.

Here are some additional additions to the expanding corpus of research on grammatical gender assignment. One can study the differences in grammatical gender assignment in languages with different gender systems. How different languages assign grammatical gender to nouns or loanwords from other languages. Additionally, data from dialect change, attrition, and acquisition can be used to study many aspects of the grammatical gender system in Pashto dialects. Analyze how gender in grammar affects thinking. Investigate whether grammatical gender effects are affected by particular cognitive processes or contexts. Their work has allowed us to understand more about grammatical gender assignment and its effects on language and cognition. to discover the real-world uses of grammatical gender studies in fields such as language acquisition and education. Gender assignment to loanwords is an essential consideration, as noted by Corbett (1991), Thornton (2009), and Audring (2016), among other scholars. It is feasible to examine if

a hierarchy of dominance is followed by the formal and semantic gender assignment rules by looking for dominance ties between a number of these criteria and Pashto data.

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