

**A sociolinguistic study of the use of vowel
/ɑ:/ and /æ/ in English language in Punjab.**



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(DELL)**

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES (SSH)

**UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY (UMT)
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/ &/ IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN PUNJAB**



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This research was submitted to University of Management and Technology, Lahore in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Degree of M. Phil Applied Linguistics in the

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ABSTRACT

The present sociolinguistics study investigates the use of the particular vowel /ɑ:/ or /æ/ in the English speaking community of Lahore, Punjab. The research is done with the special reference to English language vowel /ɑ:/ or /æ/ in certain words of English speaking community of the Punjab. The study aims to explore the sociolinguistic reasons or causes of the use of a particular vowel accent, British /ɑ:/ or American /æ/ by focusing on the English speaking community of Lahore.

The sample size or the population of the research is 120 individuals selected from three distinct places of Lahore, The Daewoo Express Pakistan Bus Terminal Limited, The Quaid- e-Azam Library and The University of Management and Technology Library through convenient sampling because of easy and fast accessibility of the researcher by using quantitative methods of research. The scope of this study is limited to the English speaking community (L2) of Pakistan.

The data was collected through the passage reading, the wordlist and the structured interview by using questionnaire and by the audio recordings. The collected data was entered into SPSS. The crosstab tests were used to calculate the percentages and frequencies of the particular vowel. The null hypothesis regarding the higher secondary level of students and the English as a medium of instruction at the school level was rejected due to statistical significance as $p \leq 0.05$ value. The scientific finding like significance level, frequencies and percentages determine the difference in the use of vowel sound /æ/ or /ɑ:/ in the accent of English speaking community of Lahore.

The result indicates that there are two entirely different variants of a same vowel sound /ɑ:/ or /æ/ exist in the society. Most of the population prefer to use vowel sound /ɑ:/ or British accent as compared to vowel /æ/ or American accent. The O level education and the medium of instruction at school level are the two main causes behind the usage of American accent of the English language speech community.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

The dissertation entitled “**A Sociolinguistic study of the use of vowel /ɑ:/ and /æ/ in English language in Punjab**” submitted by Farhana Abid has been accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of M .Phil in Linguistics by the department of English Language and Literature, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Management and Technology, Lahore.

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DECLARATION

I, Farhana Abid, Roll No 100884027, a student of M. Phil, in the subject of Applied Linguistics ,session 2010-2012, hereby declare that the matter printed in the thesis titled A Sociolinguistic study of the use of vowel / ʊ/ or/ æ/ in English language in Punjab is my own work and has not been printed , published and submitted as research work ,thesis or publication in any form in any university , Research Institution etc. in Pakistan or foreign except where due reference is made in the text of the thesis.

Signature of Deponent

Date: 25-5-2017

DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this work to my dear parents, my mother, Sitwat Naheed and my late father Abid Ali Khan.

My mother's unconditional love and affection always made my world absolutely perfect. Her kind, silent support was a reason to complete this long, arduous task, though I was also very much interested in learning the research process. During the whole process of research, I felt that I stole her part of time and devoted it in the long process of research so the real cost of its writing can be measured only by my heart.

Likewise, I cannot pay my gratitude to my father who opened the door of knowledge and opportunities in my life by holding a pen in my hand. By following his tradition, I am also contributing my part of knowledge to the world of humanity seeking knowledge.

This remarkable opportunity gave me immeasurable joy, pleasure, satisfaction of learning research process and confidence to deal with the problems by doing research in future and last but not the least is the excitement of writing my own piece of writing acknowledged by the renowned scholars of UMT.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the study

The present sociolinguistic study aims to establish the factors behind the use of sound of English vowel / ɑ:/ with/ æ/ in the speech of Urdu/English bilinguals in Pakistan. The variation is predominantly due to increasing influence of American pronunciation which is being promoted by the national and international media and academia.