

# **A STUDY OF COLLOCATION ERRORS FOUND IN THE WRITING OF LEARNERS OF ENGLISH AS SECOND LANGUAGE**



**Ghulam Shabir**

**ID# 13013084016**

**M.Phil**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE  
THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES (SSSH)  
University of Management and Technology (UMT)**

**2015**

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**A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the Degree of M. Phil in Applied Linguistics**

**in**

**Department of English Language & Literature**

**The School of Social Sciences and Humanities**

**University of Management and Technology (UMT)**

**Lahore**

### *ACKNOWLEDGMENT*

I am grateful to my supervisor Prof. Rao Jaleel Ahmed whom I respect deeply and who encouraged me in undertaking this research project; without his precious advice, guidance and patience this highly difficult task might not have been completed. For me, he is a great scholar and a man with a good heart.

I owe my deepest thanks to Rector of this University Prof. Dr. Hasan Sohaib Murad for his everlasting support, patronage and love without which completing my MPhil degree would have been a dream.

I am obliged to Prof. Dr. Nazir Ahmed Malik for imparting knowledge of comprehensive subjects such as General Linguistics, Syntactic Theory, Sociolinguistics, and Semantics that prepared us for the rest of academic life.

It would be unfair if I do not pay thanks to Prof. Dr. Abdul Hameed, Dean SSSH where English department is outstandingly functioning and young professionals such as Shaban Rafi, the chairperson of the Department have appointed to make a difference. Mr. Rafi is also my teacher who taught us Quantitative Research that helped me out in dealing with statistical parts of this dissertation.

In the end, I heartily pay my compliments to my wife for her unconditional love and care, particularly her helping hand in the designing, formation and calculation of statistical parts of the dissertation that made this final manuscript a reality.

I'm grateful to all those who supported me and stood beside me was it rain or shine. Thank you very much everybody. Stay blessed!

## **ABSTRACT**

This research discovers, classifies and analyzes collocation errors made by second language learners in English composition. The participants' knowledge of collocation vocabulary in three major fields i.e. education, politics and daily life was checked. The data was collected by using a questionnaire for teachers and by checking the written essays of the students. There were total 195 students while 100 teachers of English were consulted in order to seek their professional opinion on the research topic. The compiled data was analyzed in the light of qualitative and quantitative approaches also by utilizing the latest version of SPSS. Results of the study confirm that there are significant collocation errors in the composition of Pakistani learners of English particularly certain gender differences in demonstrating these vocabulary skills are noticeable.

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# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

“Collocation is the co-occurrence of two or more words within a short space of each other in a text. The usual measure of proximity is a maximum of four words intervening. (Sinclair, 1991, p.170)

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### 1.1 Chapter Overview

The first section of this chapter provides an overview of the study, the factors that paved way for undertaking it, the purpose of the study, its significance and its limitations. A precise definition of the term “Collocation” has been presented here. The pages of this section explain that English, which is a second or foreign language for large part of speech community in the world, is often regarded as quite complicated and tricky one due to its asymmetrical nature, syntax, word pronunciation, word order, coinage, and sort of vocabulary it is pregnant with. Apart from its grammar, the area of vocabulary is highly problematic particularly collocations, which occupy a large proportion of vocabulary, are embedded with difficulties. The study finds out that second language learners commit a number of collocation errors when they write something in English. The introductory part outlines the research questions and scope of the study. The chapter ends with an outline of the study.