

**THE DESCRIPTION AND
CATEGORIZATION OF WORD
FORMATION PROCESSES IN URDU AND
MEASURING THEIR PRODUCTIVITY**



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M. Phil

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

in

**Department Of English Language & Literature
School of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)
University of Management and Technology (UMT)
Lahore**

DEDICATION

To my mom (Mrs. GhezalaAkram)

Without her affection and participation this endeavor would have been but impossible.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

An expression of my gratitude is due to all those who have assisted me in making this research a better one. First and foremost, I wish to thank my supervisor DrNazir Ahmad Malik, for his outstanding moral support and guidance throughout the course of time I have taken to complete my degree. A similar expression of thanks is also due to DrAnjum P. Saleemi.

I would also like to express my gratitude to HOD RaoJaleel Ahmad and DrShaban Rafi, for lending me their kind cooperation at a critical moment, when red tape cut thorough my way. The same goes for MS. Rabialhsan, the coordinator of MS programme at the English department.

My heartfelt thanks is also due to my dear friend and fellow researcher Mr Muhammad ZaheerAsghar, who is doing PhD in education at UMT, for the very valuable encouragement he gave me during the course of this research. The same is true for MrJavaidIqbal, another friend and fellow researcher at UMT.

I want to express my regards here to the staff of IPC, headed by MrFirdous Ahmad and the caretaker of HEC lab, MrAsimJamshaid, for their technical assistance in matters related to the use of information technology. My regards also for the staff of UMT Library, headed by Mr Muhammad RafiqAwan, who have been very eager in sharing with me the intellectual resources available to the library.

Finally, I would like to mention my first cousin Mr Muhammad UsamaSiddiqi, for the exceedingly kind and consistent moral assistance and encouragement he has given me during the long period of time I have taken to finish this research. His contribution is all the more significant considering the physical distance between us.

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to describe the word formation processes (WFPs) used in the Urdu language and measure their productivity. WFPs in Urdu are categorized into two basic types, i.e., syntagmatic (linear) and paradigmatic (non-linear). It is argued here that the working of the syntagmatic WFPs is governed by rule and translates formally into affixation. On the contrary, the non-affixal WFPs are paradigmatic, essentially based on the relationship patterns among mutually related words in the lexicon. These relationship patterns emerge due to the organization of mutually related words in the lexicon into morphological families. The organization of words into families is possible due to the existence of an associative memory, which relates words with words and features with features. The relationship patterns among mutually related words also act as word formation patterns, which are generalized to predict the existence and facilitate the coining of novel words, via analogy. Consequently, words are not built or derived from other words, rather their existence is deduced. Hence, *predictability* rather than *derivation* presumably becomes the key relation among the words coined through the non-affixal WFPs in Urdu, while rule and analogy emerge as the two principle cognitive mechanisms which underlie affixation and non-affixal WFPs in Urdu, respectively. Contrary to affixation, paradigms are used to depict the relationship patterns among mutually related words coined through the non-affixal WFPs in Urdu.

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