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**RESEARCH PAPER**

# A Corpus Based View of Kaleidoscopic Noun Phrase in Pakistani English

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| PAPER INFO | ABSTRACT |
|---|---|
| | Pakistani English being a non-native variety has previously been completely dwelling upon the rules and patterns of British English. But with the passage of time it has developed its own distinct features that have been an alluring force to draw the interest of the researchers who have explored the differing patterns of this variety. The present research is an attempt to explore the features related to noun phrase of Pakistani English. Noun phrase has been studied previously through different approaches. Even corpus based research has also been conducted to view its patterns but the present research is different from all those studies in this respect that it uses huge data that is 15 million word corpus, and in its focus to study only the features that have already been explored by E Wave (Electronic World Atlas of the Varieties Of English) but with the gap that results presented in E Wave are based on the observations and opinion of the expert speaker of Pakistani English. This study has found and highlighted the difference between the results of opinion base and corpus based findings. |

## Introduction

English in Pakistan being a non-native variety is undergoing a process of codification (Talaat; 1993). It, like all the other Non-native varieties of English, has a wide scope of research for the linguists. Having passed through exonormative and endonormative stabilization stages (Schnieder; 1997),  these varieties may be centrifugal in nature and need to be identified throughout the English speaking

world as distinct, individual, independent and specific varieties of the land they belong to.

English being a global language has made almost all the countries of the world cohere into a linguistic community. This community, belonging to the far and wide of the world and having different cultures and many other languages, has molded English accordingly. Thus English has not only affected the other nations' native languages but has also been influenced by them.  As language change and variation is not an unusual phenomenon for the living languages of the world, English has also experienced it (Aitcheson; 2001). The lands where English language co-performed with their native varieties have owned English but their English is not the same as has set off from Britain and in technical terms they have nativised English.   It is because English and the native languages of particular lands influenced each other and gave birth to new varieties that differ from any other variety of English. These culturally determined, geo-specific varieties of English are emerging throughout the world and Pakistani English is one such variety.

Pakistani English not only enjoys the international features of English language but has also some distinct features that distinguish PakE from the other native and non-native varieties of English. Pakistani English may rightly be regarded as institutionalized variety as it fulfills the criterion proposed by Kachru(1992). According to him a variety which is used for extended purposes, has comprehensive collection of registers, has nativised registers according to situation and context and has linguistically localized literature may be called an institutionalized variety.

English is Pakistan is no more an endonormative variety. At has shown up variant features that are specific to this variety of English and are quite different from that of British English from which it is in process of branching  itself off.  This variation may be seen not only in lexical domain with culture specific vocabulary but also in syntax and morphology.

With the theory of World Englishes at its back, many researchers have jumped into the pool of PakE to fish its distinctive features and have successfully participated in the process of its codification.  In last decade of previous century certain researchers like Baumgardner (1988, 1993), Talaat (1993), Rahman (1991) and Mahboob have identified its features but those researches were mostly intuition based. However, the most wide-ranging corpus based study of the various features of Pakistani English is only by A.Mahmood (2009), who has studied various lexical and syntactic trends specific to Pakistani English. But this study has used a corpus of only 2.1 million words and the researcher himself has indicated that the results may not be generalized to the behavior of whole Pakistani English because of the very small corpus under study.

Only a decade back, there emerged a vogue of corpus based researches in PakE, this type of researches are comparatively more authentic and mostly use

quantitative methods that ensure their validity and objectivity. Present research aligns itself with this type of researches.

Electronic World Atlas of the Varieties of English (EWAVE) is a very useful compilation of the variety-specific features of Englishes around the world. The features of Pakistani English have also been identified by this project, but the results presented here are based on the observations and opinions of the expert speaker of Pakistani English. This paper aims to focus on the features of noun phrase only.

Previously, Mesthrie and Bhatt(2008) have recorded the following variations in the structure and use of noun phrase in different varieties of English.

They have observed that a very distinct feature of WEs is; they either choose 'one' instead of 'a' or there is an altogether ignorance of an article. Moreover in some varieties the use of 'the' may be seen with general group nouns and possessive pronouns. Sometimes article is omitted with the nouns that express non-specific items. E.g. *Do you have car?* Spanish and Catalan Englishes have been observed pluralizing indefinite article, ones instead of a/one. Moreover, there may be a phenomenon that finds article where British English does not use it or vice versa. Another situation can be the interchange of articles as some varieties may use definite article instead of indefinite or otherwise.

There is another observation regarding Omission of  plural –s. They have pointed out that pluralizing 's' is sometimes omitted where it is a must according to British English. e.g. *one of the worksheet*, *those accent* etc.

A feature regarding regularization of zero plurals has also been seen. The users of various varieties of Englishes may regularize the plurals adding 's' with irregular plural forms e.gsheeps, oxens, childrens . According to them, these forms occur among bailectal and lower mesolectal speakers.

They have highlighted that the existence of *other irregular 'foreign' forms* have also been found in certain varieties of English. Thus the use of "theses" 'data' phenomenon, for both singular and plural is have been reported to be very  common in varieties of Asian and African English.

Another variation has been observed in plural formation. Some nouns have been seen to be phonologically regularized, e.g. knifes instead of knives etc.

Another observation they have recorded is that some of the Englishes level distinctions between mass and count nouns e.g. *how many experiences* instead of *how much experience*.

As far as Pakistani English is concerned, Baumgardner (2003) studied adjective complementation, verb, infinitives, noun etc. and produced a very comprehensive report on the features of Pakistani English but this being an opinion based study has been challenged by A.Mahmood(2009) who used corpus of

Pakistani Written English (PWE) to verify/challenge the existence of these features. Even the last mentioned study was corpus based but its results were not generalizable because the corpus used for research comprised over 2.1 million words only. Thus the corpus was not large enough to represent the variety under study.

The present paper studies the features of noun phrase. There are forty features related to noun phrase. In World Englishes, noun phrase may vary on the basis of addition or omission of articles with nouns where Standard British English treats them differently. There may be instances of using plural –s where British English does not favour it or the plural –s may be omitted where Standard English uses it. The treatment of mass and count nouns may differ in different varieties of English. E wave presents forty features related to noun phrase and the same have been studied using corpus of Pakistani English. Features from 48 to 88 have been studied in this paper. The features that do not share results with EW have been presented and discussed in this study

## Material and Methods

This is a corpus based research. It uses a corpus of 15 million words so that the opinion based judgements on the (non)existence of the features of noun phrase may be verified or challenged with more authenticity.

## Corpus

In order to study the features of noun phrase that have been presented in EWAVE, this study has utilised the International corpus of English (ICE Pak), International corpus network of Asian learners of English (ICNALE Pak), International corpus of Learners' English (ICLE Pak) along with corpus of various genres collected by the linguistic department of Government college university Faisalabad has been exploited.

Frequency of these features has been observed and recorded and, as variation of a language is more a matter of existence of any feature rather than its frequency, the range of the features has also been focused. The results have been compared with that of E WAVE.

## Study Tool

The data have been tagged with CLAWS 7 so that the examples may be strained out with the grammatical constructions where needed. In order to explore the instances of the features of noun phrase from such an immense data of 15 million word corpus Antconc 3.5.6 has been utilized. These instances have been studied in their linguistic contexts and have been picked up to present in the study.

**Results and Discussion**

E WAVE has included forty features related to verb morphology. These features range from 48 to 87. The present study has dug up the instances of these features from the corpus of 15 million words. This corpus based study has found the results of seventeen features quite different from that of E WAVE. E WAVE has declared either attested absence of these features in Pakistani English or these have been categorized among those of which no information is available.

The results and examples of these seventeen features have been presented below.

**Feature no. 48**

**Regularization of plural formation: extension of –s to StE irregular plurals.**

According to e-wave 'no information of this feature is available' however the present study has found various instances of the feature in the corpus under study. The nouns that have been found taking plural –s on the contrary to the pattern of British Standard English are: children, women, sheep, men and deer. This feature has been observed in five corpora; ICLE, ICE,ICNALE, Corpus of ICE, and PWE. Thus, according the criterion elaborated in methodology, the researcher has categorized it as FNPNER.

Following are the instances of these nouns in various corpora:

**Childrens**

a. A father can't look after *childrens* without a mother. ICLE

b. Lot of womens and *childrens* die due to lack of the medical… ICLE

c. …or there may be *childrens* around them. ICNALE

d. We find a lot of people especially *childrens* on road begging.. ICLE

e. We neglect the role of men to their *childrens*. ICE

f. …education of their *childrens* of that age grow… ICE

**Womens**

a. Lot of *womens* and childrens die due to.. ICLE

b. Now a days womens mostly spend their time..ICLE

c. And the *womens* are most involved in the back biting. ICLE

d. There is practically no field where *womens* are not competing..ICLE

**Sheeps**

    a. …the specified jobs to lookout the *sheeps*… ICE

**Mens:**

    a. In comparison with *mens* today women play their role… ICLE

**Vacations**

    a. …next *vacations* we will visit murree… ICE

    b. I visited Multan in last summer *vacations*…PWE

**Deers**

    a. Those are *deers* …pwe

    b. …because I love *deers*. ICLE

**Feature no. 49**

**Regularization of plural formation: phonological regularization**

According to e wave this feature has been categorized as attested absent in Pakistani English, whereas it has been found existing in corpus of PWE, ICE, ICLE and PNC. Thus this feature exists but is neither pervasive nor extremely rare. The results of this study are not in accordance with that of E- Wave which declares this feature to be absolutely **absent** in PakE.

Following nouns have been found regularized in plural formation: wife, leaf, life. Examples are as under:

**Wifes**

    a. I find the educated young house *wifes*. ICE

    b. Some *wifes* have problems from there… ICLE

**Leafs**

    a. Hundreds of goats and burning *leafs* of trees to clean their house… PWE

    b. Equating this observation with the *leafs* falling from the trees during autumn… PNC

**Lifes**

    a.  Lovebirds end *lifes*… PNC

    b.  …muslim culture in our *lifes*. ICLE

    c.  …apply those in your *lifes* to make the find true way… ICE

    d.  You have to guide your *lifes* so according to your question… ICE

**Feature no.  50**

**Plural marking via preposed elements**

E- Wave declares this feature to be non-existent but the results of this study are different from that, though there has been found only one instance in the corpus. The example has been observed in ICE.

- …from Lahore to here I haven't seen very *many woman*… ICE

Thus this feature is extremely rare in PakE.

**Feature no. 53**

**Associative plural marked by other elements**

According to E- Wave this feature does not exist in PakE whereas some instances of the use of 'gang', in this sense have been found.

    a.  The SSP explained that they were in fact invited by the *Sheraz gang* for talks somewhere in the area of Monday PNC

    b.  More over the similar use of the following phrases have also been observed' *Gogi gang'* and' *Altaf Gang'* , where the use of 'gang' with proper nouns means ' the named person with his fellows'.

As the numerical criterion devised to categorize the features could not be applied here, viewing the scant number of instances this feature may be categorized as FEBER.

**Feature no. 54**

**Group plurals (two secretary instead of two secretaries)**

According to E- Wave this feature is absolutely absent whereas many instances of the feature have been found in ICE, corpus of LAW, Corpus of Agriculture,ICLE, and PWE. Thus the feature may be said to be NPNER. Following are the examples:

    a.  There are *two big reason* our companied had failed.. ICE

b.  …while seventy *two bill* are laying pending with the standing committee… ICE

c.  That is decided by the electro negativity DESRES between the *two bonded atom*… ICE

d.  Aslam reported that his family consisted of *two brother*, including himself… law

e.  …followed by Parabolic Diffusion equation, *two constant* rate equation and then the Elovich equation. Agriculture

f.  For the analysis *two corpus* are selected one is the main corpus… ICE

g.  I have go *two couple* of passes to siacheen… ICE

h.  *Two decade* ago second generation of antipsychotic drugs (approved from… ICE

i.  Man and woman are *two different gender* as human beings. PWE

j.  …contended that *two different award* made for two different land should not be mixed-up as initially the award was made… Law

k.  There are *two different manifestation* of the problem where in a partner is unwilling to… ICLE

l.  The legislature could not have *two different meaning* in mind. Law

m.  … plant to plant distance by *two foot* after thinning. ICE

n.  Punjab and Sindh provinces form *two independent ganglion* which will facilitate the movements of a mechanised enemy… PWE

o.  *Two individual reactive group* of monochlorotriazine in a single dye molecule enhance the exhaustion. PWE

p.  Court adopted and endorsed the submissions already made by the others *two learned counsel*. Law

**Feature no. 55**

**Different count/mass noun distinctions resulting in use of plural of StE singular**

This feature has been found in three corpora i.e. PWE, ICE, Corpus of agriculture. The use of different plurals have been found as the use of 'breads' instead of loaves of bread, staffs instead of members of staff, transportations instead

of transportation or means of transportation. Following are the examples from the above mentioned three corpora:

There have been found the use of 'breads' six times whereas 196 time the word has been used on the pattern of Standard British English. Following are the examples of plural use.

a. They wait for hours for *two breads* and a plate of curry… PWE

b. … waiting for the *donor's breads* and butter. PWE

c. Provide fermentation for *breads* and pickles, bulk to ice creams… agriculture

d. iron and zinc in fortified chapattis and *breads* and…

e. I decided to leave it but the **nursing staffs** who were on duty forcefully inserted the tube… PWE

f. …conflicts/grievances are resolved by tribal chiefs or **project staffs**. PWE

g. 15 percent of the *transportations* and 20 percent of the communications. ICE

h. Other disciplines like packing, advertising, *trsportations* and selling had become a pre-requisite condition.

According to EWAVE , this feature exists but is extremely rare, but the present study suggests to categorize the feature as NPNER because its currency has been noted as 17%.

**Feature no. 56**

**Absence of plural marking only after quantifiers**

This feature has been found in PWE, PNC, ICLE, ICNALE and ICE. The quantifiers like; few, some, many and numbers have seen preceding singular nouns. Examples are as follows:

**Few year/some year/ two year/three year/ many year:**

a. As you all know that for the *last few year* after the 9/1 ... PWE

b. …..in *last few year* government did great effort to spread education… ICLE

c. In the last *few year* there has been taken an increase in the growth of private schools. ICE

d. …but after *some year* then they totally involve in smoking... ICNALE

e. Ok, so interesting, you only spend first *two year* in kpk. ICE

f.  After the completion of my education and served there for *two year*. PWE

g.  Rub Nawaz had been involved in welfare activities of Vietnam for *three year* and he has also served… PNC

h.  That's great combination ever students can get *many year*. ICNALE

i.  …which is also true how *many year*? ICE

j.  …but you guys have head so *many year* like over a decade… ICE

**Rupee**

1.  …and in case of females it is *2 hundred 40 thousand rupee*a year. ICE

2.  You will sell it for *three hundred thousand rupee*. ICE

3.  Poor people give *thousand rupee* only once check up.. ICLE

4.  If you sell four *hundred thousand rupee* you say that ok… ICE

E- Wave declares this feature to be absolutely absent in PakE, whereas the present study has seen its occurrence in four corpora finding it to be neither pervasive nor extremely rare

**Feature no. 57**

**Plural marking generally optional: for nouns with human referents**

According to e wave this feature has attested absence, whereas we have found examples of this feature in ICE, PWE and corpus of LAW. Thus according to the study this feature exists but is neither pervasive nor extremely rare.

Following are the instances:

a.  The *student are* writing because they want to make the difference. ICE

b.  Because the *teacher are* strict and they behave like…ICE

c.  That's why the *teacher are* in their home. PWE

d.  Government *teacher are* less polite. ICE

e.  …*terrorist are* also getting training from…ICE

f.  But *terrorist are* adaptable. Law

g.  *Terrorist are* super criminals. Law

h. *Terrorist are* made by America ICLE

**Feature no. 58**

**Plural marking generally optional: for nouns with non-human referents**

E-wave declares this feature to be **non-existent,**whereas this study has found its examples in 4 corpora that is; ICLE, ,ICE, PWE and corpus of law. Thus according to this study this is feature is **NPNER**. Following are the examples:

a. ….and their sale *decision are* also based on media. ICLE

b. The *decision are* taken after much deliberation. ICLE

c. …that *degree are* mere theoretical proves… ICLE

d. How corpus based *dictionary are* useful for language learners? ICE

e. …and their price *difference are*very much. ICE

f. …spokesman said no discussion are going on about new sanctions. ICE

g. **A great** *many disease are*caused by these little things called germs. Pwe

h. Due to constant decay, Pakistani educational document are no longer acceptable. Pwe

i. Due to legal obligation, to pay the seller when the specified *document are*presented to it…law

j. The invitation to bid and tender *document are* not proposals. Law

k. You return to him and her *door are* unlocked and all the treasure….ICE

l. The most mobile *part of spine are* cervical and lumbar….pwe

m. As *divorce are* less frown upon today, remarriages occur. ICLE

n. But our main *spinner are*ShahidAfridi, Muhammad Nawaz and… ICE

o. *Consideration* for the amendment in written statement *are* different then… law

p. And the *strength are* increasing day by day. ICLE

q. The *sweetener are* of basic two types. ICE

r. Which of these *three system* are more desirable is to… ICE

s.  Our education *system are* in those hands who do not care for the welfare…
    ICLE

**Feature no. 67.**

**Demonstratives for definite articles**

No instance of this feature has been found in the corpus understudy. Thus according to this study this feature is non-existent in PakE, so the feature may be categorized as having AAOF.

E-WAVE: no info available

The results of this study; attested absence of the feature

**Feature no. 69**

**Yon/yonder indicating remoteness**

E wave declares this feature to be absolutely absent whereas this study has found only one example of 'yonder' in the meaning of 'far' in PWE. Thus this feature may be categorized as FEBER.

Following is the example:

a.  Something *yonder* over the horizon. Distant horizon. PWE

**Feature no. 77**

**Omission of genitive suffix; possession expressed through bare juxtaposition of nouns**

E wave declares this feature to be non-existent where has some instances have been found of the feature in the corpus under study. As the feature has been observed only in two corpora, the feature may be categorized as FEBER.

Following are the examples:

a.  ..but the *Bhutto name* was the huge factor in her becoming a prime minister.
    ICE

b.  *Borrower name* has been written in place of The Bank. ICE

c.  They do not write *father name* in their documents. ICE.

**Feature no. 78**

**Double comparatives and superlatives**

49

E-WAVE declares this feature to be absent, whereas the present study has found only one example of this feature and only in one corpus i.e. corpus of agriculture. Thus this feature may be said to be extremely rare according to the present study.

Following is the example:

a. The *most superior* preservation method for fruits is drying. Agriculture

**Feature no. 80**

**Regularized comparison strategies: extension of analytic marking**

According to e-wave this feature is NPNER .This study has found the feature in PWE, PNC, ICLE, ICE and corpus of agriculture, thus it also categorizes the feature as NPNER. Following are the examples from data under study.

a. Who is the *most funny* person in the play? PWE

b. Ben Jordan is the *most funny* person.. PWE

c. ..his search for the *most gentle* way of using the…PWE

d. Army is the *most grey* area where government…PWE

e. …it has come from the *most high*.

f. ..Indian actor, is only the *most high* profile recent example. PNC

g. Prayer is the communion with the *Most high*.

h. …as family units are the *most easy* to be eaten by by… PWE

i. In such conditions the enemies become **more brave** and active. ICLE

j. He sees his future to be *more bright* and envious for others. ICLE

k. …but people are *more busy* in the life. ICE

l. …going to follow *more calm* and peaceful turn? PWE

m. Who pray regularly be *more calm* than people who don't. ICE

n. Whole constructs provide *more clear* understanding of the… ICE

o. …provided a *more clear* depiction of the cognitive mechanism. ICE

p. ….provided to make things *more clear*. Law

q.   The researcher has yielded that there is *more clear* and positive link…ICE

r.   Competition is even *more fierce*. PNC

**Feature no. 84**

**Comparative marking only with than**

This feature has been found existing in corpus of agriculture, ICE, PNC and PWE. Thus the feature is NPNER whereas E-Wave declares it to be absent in PakE.

Examples of the feature are as follows:

a.   Here are people which gave *preference to fathers than* mothers. ICE

b.   NOj-N (pH 5.5) gave *large dry* matter accumulation **t***han* the maximum supply of NH4-N… agriculture

c.   When it comes to market shares iTunes is *way ahead than* Google's Play Store,. ICE

d.   There is no alternative *than* to use more plant nutrients for high productivity agriculture.

e.   21 billion is *large amount than USA*. ICE

f.   Dr Tauseef Ahmed Khan said Sindhi media was *ancient than* Urdu. PNC

g.   …may require a slightly different approach than that adopted hitherto in declaring as un-Islamic…PWE

h.   Busing in sports that befit young ones of beasts *than* human beings, pwe

i.   Their peoples are very forward *than* the other peoples of the world. ICLE

**Feature no.85**

**Comparative marking with *more…and***

According to e- wave 'no information of the feature is available' and this study has found no example of the feature. Thus the feature may be said to be **non-existent** in pakE and may be categorized as AAOF.

**Feature no. 86**

**Zero marking of degree**

Following are the instances:

a. You are **one of the good** boys in our class. ICE

b. He is **one of the brave** sons of my soil. law

According to e wave there is an attested absence of this feature in PakE, whereas some examples of the feature have been found in the corpus under study. So the results do not match with that of E wave.

**Summary of the Results**

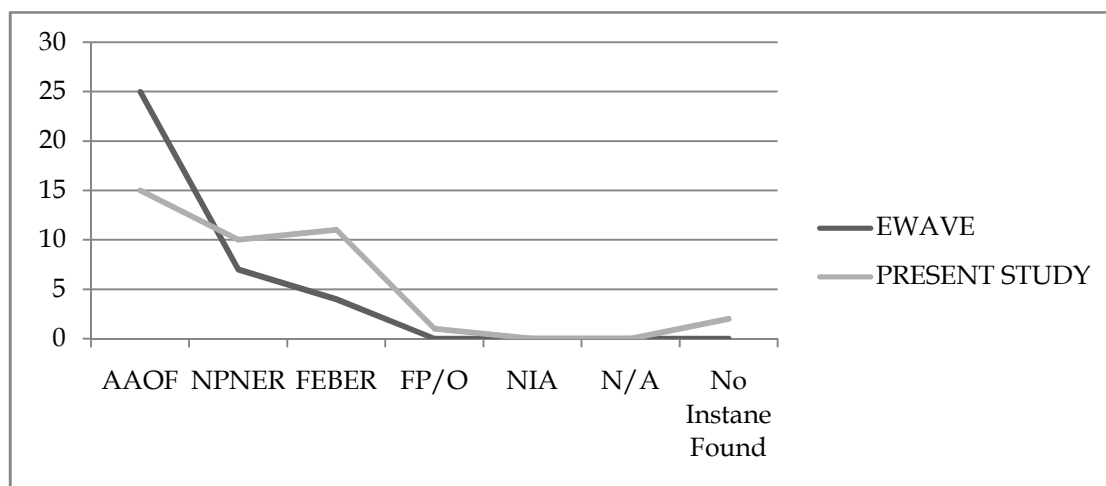| S.NO | EWAVE S.NO | FEATURE | E WAVE | Research results |
|------|-----------|---------|--------|------------------|
| 1 | 48 | Regularization of plural formation | NIA | NPNER |
| 2 | 49 | Regularization of plural formation phonological regularization | AAOF | FEBER |
| 3 | 50 | Plural marking via preposed elements | AAOF | FEBER |
| 4 | 53 | Associative plural marked by other elements | AAOF | FEBER |
| 5 | 54 | Group plurals | AAOF | FEBER |
| 6 | 55 | Plural of StE singular | FEBER | NPNER |
| 7 | 56 | Absence of plural marking only after quantifiers | AAOF | NPNER |
| 8 | 57 | Plural marking generally optional: for nouns with human referents | AAOF | NPNER |
| 9 | 58 | Plural marking generally optional: for nouns with non-human referents | AAOF | NPNER |
| 10 | 67 | Demonstratives for definite articles | NIA | AAOF |
| 11 | 69 | Yon/yonder indicating remoteness | AAOF | FEBER |
| 12 | 77 | Omission of genitive suffix | AAOF | FEBER |
| 13 | 78 | Double comparatives and superlatives | AAOF | FEBER |
| 14 | 80 | Regularized comparison strageties: extension of analytic marking | FNPNER | FP/O |
| 15 | 84 | Comparative marking only with than | AAOF | FEBER |
| 16 | 85 | Comparative marking with more…and | NIA | AAOF |
| 17 | 86 | Zero marking of degree | AAOF | FEBER |

The findings highlight that , of the seventeen features that have altogether different results from that of E WAVE, there are 09 features that have been categorized by EWAVE as having attested absence in PakE but those features have been observed in the corpus of Pakistani English and have been categorized as FEBER. Three features whose absolute absence has been attested by EWAVE have been found above 2% and have been categorized in this study as NPNER. However 13 features declared by EWAVE as AAOF have common results in this study also.

Moreover, 2 features stated as FEBER have same results in both EWAVE and the present study but there have been a feature announced as FEBER by EWAVE but no instance of it could be found in the present research. Another feature declared as

FEBER have been found sufficient enough in PakE and has been categorized as NPNER in this study.

It is important to note that in this section there have been three features whose information was not available according to EWAVE  and the present study has addressed them to categorized one of the features as NPNER and other two as AAOF.

As far as NPNER category is concerned, 5 features have common results in both studies as they have been categorized as NPNER both by EWAVE and the present study. One NPNER feature according to EWAVE has been found sufficient enough in the corpus and has been categorized as FP/O, whereas of another NPNER feature could not be found in the corpus. The parallel results shown in the table above clarify the situation even more. The chart below highlights the difference of results in  EW and the present study.



## Conclusion

There are total 40 features related to noun phrase in EWAVE. The study shows that there are certain differences between the results of EWAVE and that of this study. Overall, 17 of 40 features do not have same results in both of the studies (that is E WAVE and the present study). Thus this study which is comparatively more impersonal and more authentic being an objective research, highlights that 42.5% results of E WAVE related to the features of noun phrase in Pakistani English may safely be challenged. The study may be concluded on the note that though the expert speakers of the any language may have sound knowledge of their language but their opinion of their language is based on their personal, individual linguistic experience. In order to have a comprehensive view of the features of any language, the need for wide data and objective approach is always the need.

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