

INVESTIGATING THE SOCIOLINGUISTICS VARIATIONS IN PAKISTANI NETSPEAK: NETSPEAK OF GENERATION Y AND GENERATION Z

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ABSTRACT

The current study investigates the variations of Pakistani Netspeak on various social platforms, with a focus on sociolinguistic analysis of the English used by Pakistani netizens. Incorporating content analysis and the descriptive research method, the researcher endeavours to interpret the sociolinguistic variables i.e. age, gender and social class. The study is carried on generation Z and generation Y internet users of varied age bracket, gender and social class. The data is collected in the form of screenshots and snapshots of A Pakistani Netspeak. Under the theoretical framework of William Labov's Variationist sociolinguistic the collected data is interpreted. The analysis of the data reveals how, in the digital age, language has evolved over time and become a linguistic subculture with modified spellings, neologisms, acronyms, initials, slang, code-switching, code-mixing, poor grammar, onomatopoeic expressions, and punctuation errors.

Key Words: Netspeak, Generation Z, Generation Y, Netizens, William Labov, Variationist, sociolinguistics.

INTRODUCTION

English language is constantly in a flux and the change can be vividly seen in the old English, Middle English, and Elizabethan English. Latin changed into Modern Romance Language because linguistic change is inevitable and is constantly regularizing and transforming. The linguistic change is the factor that has given birth to regional dialects, accents, or language families. The social dynamics has its own crucial role to play in the language transformation and language keeps varying from speaker to speaker and community to community (Eckert, 2016).

The new generation of social media users' lexicon has been profoundly impacted by the advent of the digital era. Due to their upbringing in a socially and technologically connected society, young people who use social media have greatly altered the linguistic characteristics of languages (Cilliers, 2017). The language has evolved so dramatically over time thanks to internet users that even poor English seems to be becoming more common.

Additionally, people now have a variety of communication alternatives because to the rapid expansion and development of social media (Weerkamp & de Rijke, 2012).

Variationist sociolinguistics describes how social variation shapes dialects and gives them a substantial structural component. It focuses on the ability of human brains to structure change. According to Labov, it's merely people using different symbols to convey the same concept or idea. The phonological difference known as diphthongs piqued Labov's curiosity. He conducted his research of phonological variation on an island in which he observed sixty-nine people of different age groups, and social background. He collected conscious speech and unconscious speech from varied groups. From his research, he found out that fisherman centralize vowels more than any other groups, people of the age group within 30-60 centralize diphthongs more than older people, up islanders centralize vowels more

than the down islanders. The overall idea was that attitude of inhabitants, generations, social groups are big factors for consideration and that women tend to vary language more when it comes to prestige.

The language of internet has made David Crystal coin a word "NETSPEAK" in his book *Language and the Internet* in 1984. The suffix "speak" of the words 'newspeak' and 'oldspeak' stand for language in a particular situation. The suffix in the word Netspeak is synonymous for reading, writing, speaking, and listening (Crystal 2001). Netspeak can be in simple words labelled as native language of the netizens or internet users. Netspeak is a language that internet users use for the purpose of communication and interaction (Thurlow, Lengel, and Tomic, 2004). Netspeak is an internet language used for common interactions by worldwide users (Crystal, 2001). It is a one-of-a-kind language and is a blend of written, spoken, and electronic features (ibid). It is a language formed by the netizens for interaction and has abbreviations, special characters, and expressions (Para, 2016).

The language of the internet has been referred to as the "lingua franca of the internet," the "native language of netizens," or even the "bastardization of language," according to earlier research. Individuals with varying age groups, genders, and social backgrounds have distinct linguistic influences. The factor of age is one strong reason in the language change and undoubtedly there is transition of the internet language from the generational perspective of the different groups: The generations are categorized into four different groups according to the age they are born (Wiktorowicz, 2018). These are baby boomers (born 1945-1964), Generation X (born 1965-1980), Generation Y (born 1981-1994) and Generation Z (born 1995- till date).

Generation Z are the people born after 1995 as stated by (Dolot 2018) and (Mecrindle 2014) while (Wiktorowicz, 2018) claimed that generation Z is born after 1990. The generation Z are the people born in the world of internet and applications and see life almost impossible without them. The generation Y (born 1981-1994) are the people who have seen the transition of technology and witnessed the rise of technology. The generation Y are open to groups and are fond of communication; therefore, they like staying in groups and conversations and also enjoy quick communication and technology (Stosik & Lesnicwiska). These people are creative, adaptable, and have a lengthy history of utilizing technology.

They also enjoy communities and advancements. Since the introduction of social media programs, traditional media has given way to a virtual community where internet users spend the majority of their time (Raine and Wellman 2012).

The purpose of the study is to investigate the linguistic diversity among Pakistani internet users in the context of two distinct generations: generation Y (1980–1995), also known as millennials, and generation Z (1995–2000), also known as zoomers. Those classified as Gen-2, or digital natives, are those who scarcely remember a time before smartphones, tablets, or computers (Kingston 2014). On the other hand, generation Y, also referred to as the "Net Generation," is a group of tech-savvy individuals who have grown up in the technological environment and have seen it through numerous shifts.

Significance of the study

The western society at large has conducted a great deal of research on online languages, yet there is surprisingly little information on Pakistani Netspeak. Therefore, from the standpoint of sociolinguistic characteristics, this study will aid in the two categories of Pakistani netizens' understanding of Pakistani Netspeak. The goal of this study is to analyze Pakistani Netspeak from generation Z and generation Y online conversations amongst Pakistani users of all ages, genders, and socioeconomic strata.

Research Objectives

The researcher will intend to achieve the following objectives from the research:

- To discuss the role of age, class and gender in the linguistic variation of Pakistani Netspeak
- To describe the linguistic variations of Pakistani Netspeak from the sociolinguistic perspective

Literature Review

Multiple researchers have examined how digitalization has impacted the language used on the internet. Crystal (2004) termed this idea a "linguistic revolution," contending that one factor accelerating the emergence of new languages on the internet is the restriction on character typing. While some academics are afraid of the potential negative effects, many are eager to investigate the language of the internet. The term "Netspeak" was coined by David

Crystal, who has studied several forms of computer-mediated language. In Crystal's opinion, Netspeak is more of a written than a spoken language. He believed that rather than being a spoken language, Netspeak was more akin to a written language. His view about language Netspeak was contrary to that of Thurlow, Baron and others. Baron on the other hand believed that Netspeak is just a type of written form extended into speech. As stated by Crystal (2001), Netspeak is of great importance for the millennial generation because it has entered the language scene with remarkable flair and influence. It is not just the language of the internet, but it also has a significant impact on written communication outside of the computer world. But he contended that Netspeak is still in its infancy and that it can be challenging to generalize concepts about it. Since the time that Netspeak has been coined, many researchers have attempted to examine Netspeak. Rahim (2022) submitted a descriptive analysis of the linguistic elements of Netspeak and has mainly focused on the punctuation marks, abbreviations, and acronyms. The researcher of this study has concluded that internet advancement and digitization have an impact on the linguistics properties and consequently there is an evolution of language features such as terminal marks and shorthand. The formation of these new types of properties in linguistics is the product of time saving. Besides, to keep the flow of interactions smooth, the users of internet in chats and threads are rushing in their exchange of messages, thus, users prefer using easy typing options like abbreviations. The study also concluded that these newly coined abbreviations and acronyms which may be used commonly in Netspeak are not used in formal contexts or offline situations. The data of this study is from synchronous and asynchronous situations. The data is interpreted from heterogeneous approaches.

Yeo & Ting (2017) carried out another crucial study related to Netspeak on the students of Malaysia. The study included data of Facebook statuses of Malaysian students occurring in natural conversations. The data was exchanged among Malaysian university students in their social circles. The analysis of the study revealed creative formation of words such as vowel dropping, homophones, word shortening, and usage of "x" for negations. The analysis also identified that terminal marks were used for accentuation and stress: moreover, it also revealed that the students borrowed words from their

local languages which were otherwise uncommon for the conversations of daily communication. Lastly, the findings shed light on the language features of social media interactions of the written and spoken mediums.

Sreeparvathy & Udaya (2022) analysed and understood the language of internet and named it as a new social language of the changing times. Since the inception of the age of internet, there is not any retracting step to the world without the internet. The data was a collection of the internet language used by the baby boomers and the generation Z people of social media. The findings of the studies compared the standard language and the text speaks of internet. The analysis showed that text speak should be treated as a subset or social language rather than dismissing the Netspeak completely. The study also found that the youth is inclined towards the text speak, and they not only use it in the social media circle but also in their face-to-face conversations and interactions. Moreover, it also argued that the sociolinguists should acknowledge the text speak of the generation Z as a distinct genre of its own kind rather than considering it as a contaminated product of the internet. It also concluded that the generation gaps of the two generations should be filled by having a moderate approach towards language.

Dezhi & Shasha (2017) investigated computer-mediated communication, or Netspeak as it is currently commonly known. Among contemporary linguists, netspeak has grown in popularity and is attracting more attention for research. The study concentrated on the Netspeak's stylistic, lexical, phonological, and discourse characteristics. The results outlined methods for netizens to enhance communication as well as the parallels and differences between Chinese and English Netspeak. However, because cyber culture is evolving and academics need to prepare for the study of Netspeak in the future, they indicated that Netspeak is still in its evolutionary stages.

Irfan (2021) analyzes neologisms as a semantic shift in the English language. Undoubtedly, the English language has experienced slow changes throughout time, but the focus of our study was on the semantic changes. This article focused on how various internet services, like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and WhatsApp, have begun to rephrase some of the more archaic English idioms. It also highlighted the role that computer mediated language has played in the evolution of the English language. The results

demonstrated how the previous interpretations of the CMC have given way to new ones and how social media has significantly influenced the development of the English language into a new online language. Syahfitri (2018) examines Facebook's Netspeak and how its linguistic statements are interpreted. The descriptive qualitative method was used to analyze the research. Facebook status updates from Indonesian and Indian users provided the study's data. Data for the cross-sectional study was collected between December and February. Netspeak expressions were found and tabulated as part of the analysis. The results categorized the interpretations of linguistic expression of social media language and displayed the most evident Netspeak tendencies. The number of linguistic terms, including vowel deletion, acronyms, formality, and Netspeak abbreviation, was included in the results. The study identified the most salient characteristics of Indian and Indonesian Netspeak.

Another sociolinguistic study by Melefa, Chukwumezie & Nwodo (2019) submits how variables of age, and sex and background can influence chats and interactions of people on the platform of social media. The study developed an insight on how the style shifts and variations are caused in language by the internet users of different age, sex and backgrounds. The study analysed different features of language such as code switching, code mixing, acronyms, simplified meanings, and meanings varied by students over the time. The researchers also analysed that gender has its own peculiar role to play in interaction especially when the chat is intended for same gender or for the opposite gender. For instance, the study examined that female users tend to use more standard form of English and they have more instances of codeswitching in their chats, whereas male users use more of Nigerian Pidgin. It was also noticed that the use of emoticons was an individual choice of both the genders. Moreover, the study also revealed the cultural and social makeup of the two groups.

The study also has explored that gender has its own overpowering influence on the selection of words and context alongside with the social background that can also influence the linguistic preferences of internet users. The researchers strongly conclude on age being another important element for the choice of words. It submits that students who are young are more towards slang/expressions and informal context. The study also drew a comparison of the two

genders and their interaction preferences and showed how social backgrounds and cultural makeups can be interpreted from the chats and interactions of the users.

Khalifa (2020) Internet Chat as 'Jargon' affirmed his hypothesis that internet language is a jargon and has a register of its own kind. The users of internet come from different age groups, countries, cultures, and backgrounds and thus each person has his/her own choice of word and experience in chat space. People from all over the world come with their own experiences and to experience the internet-bound communication space. Communicators of these chatrooms have their own personal approach towards word selection, use of emoticons, usage of morphemes, words, or phrases. The researcher after studying the data obtained affirmed the idea that internet language of the chatrooms can be termed as jargon because of the distinctive features.

Another study by Asif & Zahra (2006) was conducted for the analysis of Pakistani Netspeak has concluded that language change has been seen because of adaptations in grammar, graphology, discourse, and semantics accordingly to the needs of users and the rise of new technology. The study examined that not only the new trends of the evolving world have a crucial role to play in the gradual change of a language but also the influence of culture of the foreign world and the needs of society has an impact. Moreover, it also discussed that individual preferences of users and their attitudes are greatly affecting the rules and norms of an English Language hence the attitudinal changes such as mixed discourses, code mixing, nonce borrowing has led to a change in the discourse of internet users. The study was not of the idea that the language change does not end here because with the rise of technology and its accessibility the language change is changing more in the coming times.

Ajmain (2020) has described the approach of communication with the youth of Generation 2 who are the people born in the age of digitization and industrial revolution. This study has laid out the positive and the negative impact of technology on the communication and social development of generation Z. in this research the researcher has found out the approach that one could have while interacting with the generation Z because their environment is dense in technology. The researcher also suggests that before planning to approach a generation Z, one must be techno language literate

and updated on the new development of the Information Technology. The generation Z are the people who think, perceive, and view their surrounding differently than the generations who were before them. Thus, the people who want to communicate with this generation must also know how they can be effectively addressed in the world of technology.

Olojede, Ebim, & Abioye, (2018) conducted a study of young students, and analysed how social media platforms like Facebook can impact language choice among young students. Hence creativity and dynamism are some distinct features of a language which have been observed in this study. The language habits are so empowering that even in formal settings these habits can dictate language choices of users. Moreover, the researcher of this study is also of a view that technology has even penetrated language and has influenced the standard norms of language. Undergraduate students have now the Liberty of arranging and rearranging their word choices and, they can vary their styles of language according to their own individuality and uniqueness. However, the main finding of this study was that students must be positively influenced by the technology and must in every situation know the Standard English, so that they can switch from standard to nonstandard according to their situations of formality and informality rather than being weak and less knowledgeable in language skills.

Al-Smadi (2017) viewed the sociolinguistic patterns of Jordanian WhatsApp statuses. The stories of WhatsApp were divided into two groups of varied age brackets. one group consisted of internet WhatsApp users below the age of thirty and the other group was above the age of thirty. Another variable for grouping of the sample was gender difference of the users. The Theory of Milroy was used as theoretical framework for the interpretation and analysis of the data. The data of this study interpreted that male WhatsApp users are more inclined towards uploading of social statuses whereas the female users frequently upload religious statuses. The comparison of two generations and genders also showed that both these factors have a great influence on the status choice of these groups.

Ogunyale (2016), in a linguistic study of Netspeak among students of Adeyemi College of education has analysed Netspeak for its variation which is different than the Standard English commonly spoken in different settings. The nonstandard English which

seems is a product of the technology mediated language has made a great impact on the writing and speech. The data for this study was collected a screenshots or snapshots and was collected in the time frame of eleven months from three social media platforms. The data was interpreted with the help of qualitative and quantitative analyses. The conclusion of the study showed that the computer language which is also recognized as Netspeak is different than the Standard English from the sentence level to word choices. The findings of this research revealed that there is complete shift in the language from sentence structure to words formation, from punctuation marks to irregular spellings. Moreover, the finding also included that the computer mediated language has evolved in every aspect and has become more slang, informal, substandard, and nonstandard over the time.

Gustilo & Dino (2017) observed that Netspeak exists as an informal language in linguistic with its own special peculiar characteristics such as nonstandard language and customization of different features of language. The study's main variable was age, and it viewed that internet language is not only for the young generation but for people of all and different ages. Three age brackets were analysed in this examination with different cohorts. The study showed the similarity along with the dissimilarities of different age groups of the Netspeak language. The main findings showed that younger generation is more inclined towards the nonstandard form of language, whereas the older generation showed adjustment and adaptation in the Netspeak. The older generation is relatively more flexible and shows adaptation to the younger users and denies the old notion that old people comply to the rules of standard language. However, it also pointed out that you speak can be seen among users aged 26-35 and 36-50 Thus the researcher suggests further probing in the study. As the time is evolving, so is every other thing, hence numerous studies are being carried out to understand the change in language by users of internet of different age groups. Subramanian & Razak (2014) conducted a study on online community of two varied age groups, one group was termed as generation Y aged from 20 to 30 and the other group was baby boomers which fell in an age of above 40 years. The focus of this study was to focus on the subject, standard of language, and application choice of two age groups. The data of this study was collected from the statuses of Facebook of the two

groups. The findings showed that baby boomers are more apt in responses than the generation Y moreover, generation Y are innovative with spellings, acronyms, and abbreviations as compared to the baby boomers. Hence to bridge the gap between the two groups, the baby boomers should make themselves digital literate and the generation Y should lessen the variation that they are causing to the language of the digital world.

Theoretical Framework

The researcher will anchor the study in the Variationist sociolinguistics of William Labov. Labov's Variationist sociolinguistics describes the sociolinguistics in terms of language change and variety. He explains how language changes and varies in relationship with the social factors of age, gender, culture, background, and ethnicity of the respective speakers of the language. Labov believes that language use is socially determined and the speakers get a social identification with a local group tend to speak a local form of a language.

Data Analysis and Discussion

The researcher descriptively analysed the social interactions and messages of the internet users of different social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp, and Twitter. The interactions are studied for understanding the sociolinguistic variables in the Pakistani Netspeak of generation Z and generation Y users such as age, gender, and social backgrounds. The variables that were identified in the Pakistani Netspeak of the two generations are discussed as under.

Gender

The chats of different women and men are closely observed by the researcher, and it is found that the chat of a female circle seemed to be different from the male circle. The female users of the generation Z were more inclined towards the usage of acronyms and slang. The female users' code switched on occasions where there was the element of familiarity. In situations, where there was less code switching among women was because of the factor of formality. The male users used native language or regional language in their interactions and frequently code switched. The data revealed that the female users along with the male counterparts tend to code-switch and code-mix two or more than two languages in the internet language of their social media posts.

Age

Age is a crucial factor when it comes to the internet language of today's world. In the globalized world, people from different culture, genders, countries, and ages have come together for interactions. People from as old as 80's are also using internet along with the toddlers of age four and five. These different age brackets have different influence on the language use of the internet. The researcher from data has found out that people of two age cohorts: generation Y (26-40) and generation Z (12-25) are using the blisses of the digitization from their own linguistic choices

The data revealed that young people of age twelve and up to 25 have youthfulness, coolness, and chicness in their styles of communication. They wanted to showcase their youthfulness from the picks of their word choices such as their chats carried more acronyms, contractions, substandard grammar, barbaric language, and slang. The generation Z people have also used emoticons and facial expressions more to reveal their moods, contempt, disagreements, likes and dislikes. On the other hand, the generation Y users also revealed code switching, slang, and emoticons. The use of slang is a sociolinguistics index which may reflect age and from the data, the researcher has found that younger people tend to use more of slangs in their chats and communication as compared to the older generation, however, it can't be said that the generation Y haven't used slang at all.

Social Background

The data gathered for the research carried different types of interactions, chats, posts, and tweets of generation Z and Generation Y users. The data was randomly collected from the internet of the two genders coming from different social class and background. The social dimensions and stratifications can be vividly seen through the word choices, themes, discussions, and the types of posts of the users. The language choice of well-to-do social class was identified from the language choice of the people who were from middle or lower class. The sociocultural environment is a strong force that shapes that identity of people, and the environment can be seen through the language choice of the users. The users having elitist circle more frequently used standard form of English language. Their choice of words of English language reflects that they have had a social circle where they were more exposed

towards a society having cultured class. Whereas the users who did not have much proficiency of language because of schooling have depended more on their native or mother language and along with that have used the emoticons abundantly in their interactions. The young generations who are from well-to-do circles have intentionally used substandard grammar in some of their chats to look more fashionable and chicer. The data of generation Y users with qualification carried more well-constructed sentences and standard grammar when compared to the users of generation 2. The data also revealed that male users of generation Z were more inclined to proper grammar than the female counterparts of their age group.

Styles and variations

Crystal (2001) explains the discourse of electronics as fascinating for two major reasons: firstly, it shows a perspective in which written form of language is in its original old state and he finds language in its unrevised and naked state. Secondly the interactions of the young people are off-the-cuff and versatile. Crystal (ibid) calls the electronic discourse to be a true variation of language. He also argues that the language of internet also exhibits the distinctness, context, individuality, and personalities of its users. Technology has globalized users from different social groups, classes, background, age, and gender and has made it a community. These factors have altogether influence the overall language variation which can be called a variation of its own. The users of the internet are frequently neologizing the language of internet which has resulted in use of emoticons instead of words, shortened spelling because of character limitation, code mixing of local language, and onomatopoeic expressions.

Nonstandard Grammar

Nonstandard form of grammar also constitutes a major part of the Netspeak There can be multiple reasons for the non-standard form of language, for instance, some users might not be language proficient, or they might not speak English as a first or second language. For instance, in the chats of the young users of generation Z, it was noticed that young generation doesn't care much about grammar. Herring (2000) supported the view that the e-grammar would become standard overtime and people will tend to use it often in standard communication. They use sentences with not proper

structures. They do not agree their subjects or in some cases even the subject goes missing from the chat. Aitchison (1991: 92) has viewed it as creeping element of syntactic variant for infiltrating the language. He also called it as a friendship where one changes the vulnerable points of the other in an unnoticed way; the same is with the language.

Moreover, Dixon (2011) argues that dialects and languages are always in a process of change. Two converging dialects of a language or two varieties of a language can move forward together and form a variety of its own. This can be seen in the Pakistani Netspeak, where the users have frequently mixed two or three varieties of language. The users of both generations have used multiple varieties of Urdu, Pushto, and English and have made a non-standard form of variety for the internet use. In some situations, it was noticed that the user did code mixing and code switching at sentence and phrasal level.

Neologism

Neologism means to coin new words or give a new meaning to the existing words. In Greek language, "neo" means new and logos means utterance or speech. In the age of internet, neologism is at its best in the computer mediated communication. Every day's advancement is either giving a new meaning to a word or helping coin a new word. From the data, the researcher has noted innumerable new words, terms, phrases, or new ideas of language. For instance, in the data a whole lot of neologism was noticed by the researcher which will be mentioned as under. Neologism can also be classified as clipping, blending, conversion, new meaning of old words, compounding, affixation, acronyms, or hard to define, etc. Aitchison (1991) explains that one reason for a change of language is also the comfort of saying things in a sense of ease. He called this internet laziness and believed that this laziness of internet is a major cause of internet jargon. Jargons such as OMG, LMAO, TBH, YKYK, IDK, BTW, BRB, ILY, WTH, ROFL, TC, ILYSM, AF is the internet jargon noticed in the data and can be called case of articulation.

Bauer (1983) explained an acronym as formation of new words by the initials of the names, titles, or phrase. Moreover, abbreviations are different than acronyms because acronyms are pronounced as new words and are not only a sequence of initials (Bauer, 1988). Lundell (2012) has termed the formation of

acronyms and abbreviations as a product of irregular word formation. Clippings is formed by creating a word from shortening of a lexeme for instance when ad is formed from advertisement. Mattiello (2013) states that clipping is limiting the number of syllables to one, two or three; For instance, 'pic' from the word "picture."

Onomatopoeic Expressions

Onomatopoeic expressions mean when one shows the sound through a word. In the internet language, the researcher noticed multiple occasions where the users of both the generations have made use of onomatopoeic expressions. The screenshots of generation Z and generation Y users abundantly showed onomatopoeic expressions in the social media's posts such as "hahahaha," "hehehe," "buhahaha" or "huh" ewwww ahhhhhh, mhummmm, hmhhh awwww, aahahaha, awchechhhhy, baaahaahaha, uffffffff, or "ohhhh." The users have given cool vibe to their chats and posts with expression of sounds. The Pakistani Netspeak carries umpteen onomatopoeic expressions especially among young users of the social media. However, "hahaha" and "hmmm" type of expressions was noted among the data of both generations and genders. The onomatopoeic expressions are quite common among the two types of users, however in comparison, Gen-z female users of a well-to-do class seemed to be more inclined to use them in their social media interactions.

Slang

Coleman (2014) viewed that online language of the internet era contains more informal and slang language than written languages of other contexts. The slang is not a new language however some new features of slang can be termed as products of internet language. Slang is informal language and is not something that can be seen in written mode of interaction. However, in the age of internet, slang language is frequently used by the users of internet. The data showed three Gen-Z users of a young age coming from a well-to-do class have exchanged chat and they have repeatedly used slang language by addressing most of her female friends with the term 'bro', they have also used word like "STFU," "why u gotta say," "U no tomorrow u no live anymore," "whattttt," etc. this shows that these are not features of standard language and can only be seen in internet-specific language or e-grammar: Netspeak. In formal

communication, the writers avoid using slang because it is considered substandard for a formal context.

Code Switching and Code Mixing

Switching between two or more dialects or languages is known as code switching. Code switching and code-mixing means to switch from one language to another in conversations. The sociolinguistic feature of code mixing and code switching was commonly seen in the screenshots data of the users. The users with more familiarity have more frequently code switched that the people having less familiarity with one another.

Conclusion

Generation Z users have been seen utilizing more onomatopoeic phrases, acronyms, jargon, slang, emoticons, and nonstandard syntax in their online conversations. Along with abbreviations, code mixing and switching are common in Generation Y discussions. Standard grammar has been used by members of Generation Y in formal settings. Users from generations Z and Y have turned to abbreviations, contractions, and cutting instead of writing lengthy sentences and relieving themselves of the strain of writing. Aitchison (1991) supports the notion that people search for convenience when typing online. Along with sociolinguistic issues, Aitchison argues that foreign culture, societal requirements, and fashion trends are key factors to language, used on the internet. According to Crystal (2001), the internet's new medium will document linguistic variety in terms of Pakistani Netspeak in the future as never before. As a result, this study will be very conducive to Pakistani researchers in the future who are interested in digging into Pakistani Netspeak.

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