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AN ANALYSIS OF LANGUAGE LOSS IN "BURNT SHADOWS": AN INQUIRY INTO LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY AND IMPERIALISM

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ABSTRACT

The research paper analyzed the process of language loss in Kamila Shamsie's 'Burnt Shadows' and investigated the linguistic diversity and imperialism in the novel. The study explored the linguistic imperialism and its impact on characters from different cultural backgrounds through a detailed analysis of the description of the plot and character relations built in the novel. By invoking theoretical framework of Homi K. Bhabha's hybrid identity and utilizing a qualitative approach, the analysis helped to reveal how language use and proficiency are used to represent authority and power within the story. The paper identified the instances of code-switching and linguistic hybridity which are used by the characters in order to deconstruct linguistic boundaries and questions of cultural identity when faced with imperialist pressures. In addition to citing Robert Phillipson and David Crystal, the research placed "Burnt Shadows" within the discussions on colonialism and the call for linguistic justice in post-colonial nations. In conclusion, this research helps to better explain language loss as a result of linguistic imperialism and the importance of maintaining language diversity in the world today.

Keywords: Pakistani English, Burnt shadows, Linguistic imperialism, Linguistic Hybridity, Language loss

INTRODUCTION

Linguistic imperialism implies the imposition of one language over the other due to political, economic or other factors of cultural domination (Phillipson, 1992). This has historical references in colonialism and still affects linguistic diversity and identity particularly in countries like the Indian subcontinent. English was adopted as a means of communication in administration and schools during the British colonial period and this has been the case up to the present despite the fact that the country is no longer subjected to colonialism. The use of English in former colonies such as Pakistan even by a minor population is economically and socially very influential (Rahman, 2009). This scenario illustrates how linguistic imperialism ultimately leads to the devaluation and relegation of native languages and cultures.

One of the clearest examples of this legacy is the correlation between language and power in Pakistan. English is therefore entrenched in Pakistan's social and economic life although being a minority language and an important factor for accessing or denying access to opportunities and status. Such linguistic hierarchy causes the threat to the existence of local languages and cultures as the usage of the English language reduces the credibility and preservation of these local languages. The novel "Burnt Shadows," published by Kamila Shamsie in 2009, captures these relationships effectively. It highlights the profound relationship between Pakistani, Japanese, German, English, and American characters, beginning with World War II events such as the bombs of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the partition of India, and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Language in Burnt Shadows becomes both a lingua franca and an ideological difference marker for English. In this way, Shamsie illustrates how language turns into an instrument of communication as well as a tool for maintaining cultural conflict, which emerged out of colonialism.

Additionally, the novel's concern with language reflects Edward Said's approach to imperialism through literature. Said, in his book 'Culture and Imperialism' explained the perpetuation of power through imperial cultures and the means of its reproduction in the cultural texts under colonial rule. He claimed that literature often echoes and reproduces the moods of colonial domination. Over the years it has transformed people's perceptions and relationships in a significant way. In the same way, language is used in "Burnt Shadows" to bring into focus the colonial past and contemporary presence in the region. Shamsie's characterization of the events portrays that the English language and its continued usage shape individual and social identities even today, which is a clear reflection of the effects of linguistic imperialism. The purpose of this paper is to explore the role of language in the expression and production of power, identity, and history in post-colonial literature through critical response to Shamsie's use of linguistic imperialism. The novel not only describes the fundamental historical and political changes to which the characters are exposed but also addresses the more subtle, but still crucial, struggles for language and identity. From this perspective, "Burnt Shadows" offers a powerful take on the power of language in modern post-colonial societies and therefore represents a significant addition to the literature on the subject of linguistic imperialism.

1.1 Statement of the problem

Linguistic imperialism creates several problems such as power dynamics, linguistic hybridity, and the identity crisis. These power relationships continue to be perceived in former colonies, such as Pakistan, and they become the cause of language loss. The identity crisis derived from linguistic imperialism impacted the life of Pakistani people as they are unable to relate themselves with their own culture, feels inferior from west and still are struggling with proficiency in English language. That is the reason for our slow progression as a "creative nation".

1.2 Research Questions

RQ1: What strategies do characters in 'Burnt Shadows' use to negotiate their identities and relationships in the face of linguistic imperialism and language loss?

RQ2: How linguistic imperialism become the cause of erasure of local languages and create a scenario of language loss?

RQ3: In what ways "Burnt shadows" reflect power dynamics through language dominance?

1.3 Objectives of the study

The current study aims;

- To analyze the strategies utilized by characters in 'Burnt Shadows' to navigate and negotiate their identities and relationships among the challenges posed by linguistic imperialism and language loss.
- To interpret instances in "Burnt shadows" where language loss is portrayed as a consequence of colonial or imperial dominance
- To explore how language dominance is used as a tool of power and control by characters of the novel

1.4 Significance of the study

The significance of this study lies in its ability to uncover the power dynamics of the English language in former colonies such as Pakistan and its historical connection with British colonialism. In a post-colonial setting, the present study helps to assess how characters navigate between English and Urdu, exposing their inner tensions, societal goals, and hybrid identities.

Literature Review

Research on linguistic imperialism and its effects on regional dialects, especially those of former colonies, is crucial because it tells about how language hegemony affects the local languages and cultures. The purpose of this section is to examine associated research in order to obtain an understanding of the concept of linguistic imperialism, its function, and its effects on indigenous cultures. The results of these investigations become a source to help clarify what is meant by "linguistic imperialism" and how it affects world languages. Prior to anything else, it's critical to define the term "linguistic imperialism" and examine its historical context.

The supremacy of a single language over another, often tied to a strong nation, is known as linguistic imperialism. Historically, linguistic imperialism has been deeply connected with political and economic power. Phillipson (2018) contends that imperialism in language is interwoven with imperialism in culture, education, the media, communication,

politics, the economy, and the military as a whole. It all comes with hierarchy, unfairness, exploitation, and assisting those who can speak the dominant language. According to this assertion, linguistic imperialism and colonialism go hand in hand. It is vital to explore the theoretical foundations and historical background that shape linguistic imperialism and colonialism in order to fully grasp the complex nature of their correlation. In his seminal book "Linguistic Imperialism," Phillipson (1992) presents a paradigm for understanding how colonial powers have asserted linguistic hegemony over colonized peoples by using language as a tool of subjugation.

The lingering effects of linguistic imperialism are currently depicted in the modern global environment in many versions of linguistic marginalization and injustice. According to Skutnabb-Kangas (2000), the prevalence of English as a worldwide language upholds hegemonic power systems and linguistic imperialism by escalating disparities within linguistic communities. Many academic studies have examined the implications of English supremacy, especially in post-colonial cultures. Phillipson (1992) eloquently argued that language was regarded by colonial powers such as Britain as an agent of control and cultural absorption. English was deliberately promoted in educational systems, typically at the expense of the native language.

In this context of the hegemonic power of language, Tamrin (2023) also presents the postcolonial concept of Homi k Bhaba in his work. According to Bhaba, through the blending of their divergent cultures, colonialism created a rigid identity between the colonized and the colonizer. The connection or relationship between the cultures of the colonizer and the colonized is brought about by the existence of colonialism. In his 1994 book The Location of Culture, Bhaba stated that mimicry and hybridity shaped the cultural exchanges between colonizers and colonized. Blending elements of colonizer and colonized cultures is known as hybridity. By perpetuating discriminatory identity effects, hybridity implies reconsidering the assumption of colonial identity. According to him, hybridity creates ambiguity that places a person in the middle or halfway in there.

Pennycook& Makoni (2007) found that local cultures and knowledge systems were undervalued as an outcome of this deprivation. As Tollefson (2002) pointed out, the dominance of English is integrated by globalization, which emphasizes English as the primary medium of technology and commerce.

Furthermore, from that perspective, Pennycook (1992) added that English competence is confined to access to learning opportunities, career possibilities, and engagement in global discourse. With this information in consideration, it is clear that there is an imbalance in the power dynamics, boosting English speakers over non-speakers. Stressing the consequences of this inequality, Skutnabb-kangas (2000) expressed that local languages fade out of these vital spheres when English takes on the role of these languages in administration and education. In addition to endangering linguistic diversity, this dominance of English erodes the cultural legacy and sense of self-association with such languages.

Postcolonial societies, with all these challenges, are not isolated victims of English domination. Rahman (2016) noted that there are expanding initiatives that support multilingualism and the revival of native languages. Galloway (2010) also recommended that fostering multilingualism, in which English and native languages are cherished and implemented in various scenarios, presents a more ethical and perpetual route forward. It is of the utmost importance to engage with the research shedding light on linguistic imperialism in Pakistani English because the case study of a specific novel in that language is the main subject of the study that follows. Thus, a broader insight into the social and political factors influencing language use in the Pakistani region can be achieved by analyzing Pakistani English through the prism of linguistic imperialism. English usage in Pakistan has been greatly impacted by linguistic imperialism. Reviewing the prevalence of English in the educational system, it is clear that Western beliefs and culture are being promoted. Saba and Siddiqui (2023) highlighted that Pakistani students have adopted English for social and scholastic reasons as a result of realizing the significant symbolic value of the English language and its necessity for socio-economic growth.

However, in Pakistan, perspectives on English are divided; it's perceived as both a legacy of foreign colonization and a requirement for professional advancement and international mobility, as illustrated in the study of Saeed and Khan (2023). According to Khan and Buckingham's (2022) research, it is apparent that students from rural areas and public schools in Pakistan have encountered difficulties owing to the usage of English at colleges,

yet the language is still fundamental for acting as global citizens. Reflecting Ali and Umar's (2021) research, which contends that although English holds many benefits, there are worries that the alien culture that infuses academic settings promotes linguistic and cultural hegemony, undermining local cultures and languages**.** It is advocated by Adnan and Tehseem (2022) that English language teachers should promote Pakistani English as a multicultural language to shorten a gap in cultural variety along with the development of cross-cultural competence.

The way the English language interacts with the native languages of Pakistan is vividly depicted in Pakistani English. Code-switching**,** word choice, and grammar all demonstrate this impact in a variety of ways. Since code-switching enables Pakistani English speakers to express their local identities, comply with their communication demands, and move across cultures and languages, it has an impact on their linguistic identity. Therefore, it is essential to look at those studies that illuminate these specific language characteristics.

The first linguistic feature reviewed in this view is code-switching. According to what Shakir (2023) noticed, code-switching tends to be used in lexical alternatives, addressee tenaciousness, emphatic creativity, and message qualifying, among numerous other applications. Qadir's (2022) findings demonstrate that code-switching patterns in Pakistani English weblogs illustrate the bilingual character of the bloggers and their desire to entirely express themselves in the context of computer-mediated communication. It is also highlighted by Tahir and Fatima (2016) that instructors in Pakistani English classrooms employ code-switching when students find it difficult to comprehend concepts in L2 English, and students prefer it because it improves their participation and comprehension. Quoting Shah and Pillai (2020), their work states that in academic contexts, code-switching between English and regional languages such as Pashto is reflective of the socialization of speakers in a multilingual setting and serves as an integral part in the development of hybrid identity orientations. Pakistani English literature also incorporates code-switching purposefully, as in the novel "Twilight in Delhi," to preserve Eastern cultural norms in addition to opposing the idea of acquiring another language.

The other noteworthy linguistic feature examined by most academics is the vocabulary of Pakistani English. English language supremacy, Western ideals, and culture are fostered by the usage of English vocabulary in Pakistani media and literature, which supports linguistic imperialism. According to Shaheen and Anwar's (2021) examinations, Pakistani English newspapers' heavy reliance on foreign news agencies means there is a central-peripheral link with western economies, which sustains the power of foreign content. As highlighted by Jadoon and Ahmad (2022), Anglophone works written by Pakistani-born writers highlight the lexical traits of Pakistani English, emphasizing the language's unique qualities and the necessity of regulating it in books and dictionaries. According to a corpus-based lexico-semantic analysis of Pakistani English in newspapers done by Mokal and Halim (2023), new varieties of New English have developed that vary from native norms and appeal to readers' cultural and social values. Furthermore, indigenous linguistic components have been embraced. In general, the usage of English vocabulary in Pakistani literature and media enhances the effect of English-speaking individuals, Western ideology, and cultural standards, all of which serve to support linguistic imperialism.

Syntax is the final, binding, but equally important linguistic aspect of Pakistani English that scholars have explored. Pakistan's history of linguistic and colonial imperialism is reflected in the way English syntax is used today in Pakistan. According to Yasmin (2023), the widespread usage of English in the educational system has imperialized the critical thinking of young Pakistanis and nurtured Western beliefs and culture. Saeed& Khan's (2023) findings provide evidence that English is necessary for Pakistan's economic and social growth and serve as additional proof of this linguistic imperialism. Also, Yasmin (2023) holds that Pakistan's education system has been unable to cater for the country's linguistic needs owing to the impact of colonial legacies and ruling class interests. As a result, opportunities have been concentrated among a small elite who are fluent in English. Additionally, in alignment with the observations of Mokal and Halim (2023), it is certain that the accreditation of the adoption of native language traits and the establishment of new English dialects reflect Pakistan's sociocultural setting. This observation derives from the lexico-semantic study of English newspapers published in Pakistan. Pakistani English's semantic exceptions reveal the social dynamics of Pakistani society, reinforcing the need

to assess Pakistani English as a discrete variety, as stated by Jadoon and Farooq (2023).

Since the current study focuses on a critical analysis of the Pinglish novel “Burnt Shadows," it is essential to take a close look at earlier research to observe how academics addressed linguistic imperialism in the novel through its language incorporation. Academics explored how "Burnt Shadows" displays linguistic imperialism by means of language use. Zafar & Safdar (2022**)** investigates how language affects diversity and the consequences of political turmoil in the years leading up to World War II. In this work, the writer reveals the violent dynamics of political turmoil in various nations and its hidden truths by employing figurative techniques such as personification, metaphor, simile, sarcasm, epigram, and symbolism. Furthermore, Zahoor (2021) employs Fairclough's Model of Critical Discourse Analysis to investigate the novel's interdiscursivity and how it represents the connections between the work and its surroundings in relation to other texts and real historical events. Abbas and Iqbal's **(**2023) research underscores that Shamsie presents the characters in "Burnt Shadows" in accordance with their nationalities, favoring those from the USA and the West and adversely describing those from non-Western nations. Along with analyzing the relevance and ties of key characters, academics concentrate on interpreting relationships and personalities as developing entities throughout the course of the text, as posited by Jayakumar and Rao (2022).

The element of nationalism is also presented in the work of Anglophone Pakistani writers, as Bendel (2023) states that in the writings of second-generation Pakistani writers, nationalism is debated as a grand narrative. This perspective centers on the protagonist Hiroko Tanaka's itinerant post- and transnational experiences. The aforementioned studies are incredibly important to carrying out the current study since those analyses offer a domain for it.

Methodology

3.1 Research design:

The research design for the current study is a qualitative approach. The focus of qualitative research is on offering a thorough or full understanding of the social context in which the study is carried out. According to this perspective, social life is made up of a succession of interconnected occurrences that must be completely articulated in order to accurately depict real-life situations.

3.2 Research method:

The research approach employed in this study is textual analysis of the text, with the objective of doing a qualitative analysis of "Burnt Shadows" and determining the presence of linguistic imperialism in the work. Textual analysis is a way of defining the messages that are present in texts in terms of their content, structure, and functions.

3.3 Data collection tools:

To conduct an analysis, the researcher in this study obtained digital copies of the text. In order to compile a thorough dataset, the researcher has access to the entire text.

3.4 Sampling:

The whole text was analyzed particularly the portions or sections that are most likely to provide examples of the characters' code-switching between different languages in different settings, along with various reasons, were chosen by the researcher.

3.5 Theoretical Framework:

The text analysis, also called the description of the text, is considered the first step of the research model. This study applies Homi K. Bhabha's theory of hybridity to examine Kamila Shamsie's novel "Burnt Shadows" from the perspective of English as a Second Language (ESL) speakers' hybrid identities. Bhabha's notion underlines how people negotiate their identities within and across various cultural and linguistic frameworks, accentuating the intricate interplay between cultures, languages, and identities in post-colonial contexts. The philosopher of postcolonial theory, Homi K. Bhabha, provides a novel interpretation of cross-cultural interactions. He emphasizes the idea of hybridity rather than the idea of civilizations as pure and independent entities. According to him, cultures are always blending, influencing, and engaging with one another to create new and dynamic forms. Cultural interactions, according to Bhabha, lead to more than just one culture predominating over the other. Rather, a "third space" that lies between the two original cultures begins to take shape. It is in such a setting that innovative expressions, identities, and meanings emerge. This third region, where hybridity

flourishes, is represented by the overlap between the two circles in a Venn diagram.

When considering cultural interactions in the context of colonialism, Bhabha's concept of hybridity provides a more complex framework. It recognizes the intricacies that result from the amalgamation of many cultural traditions and departs from the oversimplified notion of "us" against "them." Here are some important conclusions to remember: Through interaction, cultures are dynamic and ever-evolving. Colonized people actively participate in creating their identities, rather than being passive victims. Experiencing different cultures may be both enlightening and perturbing.

In "Burnt Shadows," Shamsie masterfully examines the experiences of hybridity the characters have while navigating different linguistic and cultural contexts. A noteworthy facet of hybrid identity in the text is the characters' multilingualism as well as their capability to navigate linguistic and cultural divides.

Analysis

This section is the most important section in the paper as evidence from the novel “Burnt Shadows” by Kamila Shamsie is analyzed to explain how linguistic imperialism is portrayed in the novel leading to the loss of language and reduction in linguistic diversity. Shamsie has a distinct literary style that often explores the post-colonial perspective in society, like the concepts of linguistic imperialism. Shamsie explores the lives of several characters against the backdrop of post-colonialism in “Burnt Shadows,” a beautifully woven story that travels across time and place. The aspect of linguistic imperialism is evident throughout the novel “Burnt Shadows” through the different literary devices which show the consequences and consequences of such imperialism on the characters and how they interact with each other.

4.1 Language choice and Linguistic imperialism

Linguistic imperialism is one of the ways in which Shamsie illustrates language choice. The multilingualism of the characters in “Burnt Shadows” exemplifies how language creates superior power structures. For example, when the Japanese character Hiroko Tanaka communicates with English speaking people the language barrier emerges as a symbol of cultural imperialism.

"In the days before she could speak English well enough for it to be the language she dreamed in, she would hear the sound of the bomb, and it would wrench her out of sleep (Shamsie 14).

The comparison between Hiroko’s lack of proficiency in English and the pained memories of the Nagasaki atomic bombing shows the linguistic domination that existed within the British colonial and military structures of the time. The people who speak non-English languages seem to be left behind in an English speaking world and this demonstrates how linguistic capital is a tool for domination and subordination.

Shamsie also uses narrative perspective to illustrate how linguistic imperialism is hierarchical. Since the novel is told from a variety of points of view, readers have access to the characters' experiences with linguistic dominance from a myriad of perspectives. For instance, Shamsie uses a first-person narrative to portray Sajjad Ashraf's psychological challenges as the Pakistani character negotiates the difficulties of language and identity in post-colonial Karachi.

"I thought of the way a moment changes shape depending on who is telling the story." (Shamsie, 177).

In this instance, Shamsie's selection of narrative viewpoint enables readers to identify with Sajjad's quest for self-awareness in the face of linguistic and cultural constraints. Through emphasizing the subjective aspect of storytelling, Shamsie questions the dominant narratives enforced by language imperialism, providing other viewpoints that transcend linguistic limitations.

Furthermore, Shamsie's character development sheds light on the socio-political ramifications of language imperialism. Personas such as American journalist Kim Burton and German physicist Konrad Weiss represent the advantage of knowing dominant languages like English. Their ability to speak other languages grants them possibilities for influence and movement, which sets them apart from individuals like Pakistani ambassador Raza Ashraf, who struggle with the marginalization of their ancestral languages: "In the world of diplomacy, he thought, language mattered less than the tone in which it was spoken." (Shamsie, 287)

In this instance, Shamsie emphasizes the function of language as a social status and power symbol, evoking the larger dynamics of linguistic imperialism inside international structures. Readers are encouraged to critically assess their own language privileges and prejudices as Shamsie challenges the underlying biases and injustices

produced by linguistic imperialism by depicting characters from an assortment of linguistic origins.

The view of linguistic imperialism presented in Kamila Shamsie's "Burnt Shadows" is supported by the work of a number of academicians and experts. Robert Phillipson is one such academic; his landmark work "Linguistic Imperialism" (1992) examines how English has become the dominant language in the world and how this has affected power relations and linguistic diversity. Phillipson asserts that colonialism and globalization contributed to the expansion of English, which marginalized indigenous languages and traditions. This viewpoint is consistent with Shamsie's depiction of linguistic imperialism in "Burnt Shadows," a story in which people from non-English-speaking backgrounds struggle to communicate and maintain their cultural identities in a world where Western languages predominate.

In "Linguistic Imperialism," Phillipson investigates how English has evolved into a status and privilege symbol that shapes social hierarchies and upholds inequality on a worldwide basis. According to his argument, the advancement of English as a global language has frequently been coupled with the denigration of other languages and the imposition of Western ideology and values. This alludes to the way in which Shamsie explored how language domination affects personal agency and cultural sovereignty in "Burnt Shadows."

Another academic whose research interacts with the linguistic imperialism issues in "Burnt Shadows" is David Crystal, especially in his 1997 book "English as a Global Language." A thorough analysis of the political, social, and historical forces influencing English's globalization as well as its effects on various languages and identities is given by Crystal. He stresses the value of encouraging multilingualism and maintaining linguistic history while simultaneously acknowledging that English is going to be the universal language in many situations. Crystal's viewpoint is consistent with Shamsie's subtle depiction of language dynamics in "Burnt Shadows," in which characters struggle to claim their cultural identities while dealing with the intricacies of linguistic imperialism. In a society that is quickly globalizing, Shamsie and Crystal both understand the importance of linguistic diversity and the problems that arise from linguistic imperialism.

Here are some further passages from Shamsie's "Burnt Shadows" that highlight the presence of linguistic imperialism and show how her writing style reflects the reality of linguistic imperialism in post-colonial societies like Pakistan.

4.2 Code-switching and linguistic hybridity

The characters of novel use code-switching as a resistance to dominance of English. Code-switching helps them to navigate between different cultural contexts. Shamsie frequently incorporates language hybridity and code-switching, as a way to reflect the variety of linguistic backgrounds of her characters. To further illustrate the characters' mobility of language and identity, let's take a closer look at "Burnt Shadows" and examine other instances of code-switching in diverse social contexts.

Characters frequently use code-switching in confidential settings to convey feelings or foster a sense of intimacy. This is demonstrated in a dialogue between Hiroko and Sajjad Ashraf as follows;

Example: Why didn't you stay? She pressed the berry against her lips. Why didn't I ask you just one more time to stay?

Sajjad stood up quietly and walked over to her. 'There is a phrase I have heard in English: to leave someone alone with their grief. Urdu has no equivalent phrase. It only understands the concept of gathering around and becoming "ghum-khaur," grief-eaters who take in the mourner's sorrow. Would you like me to be in English or Urdu right now? There was a moment's hesitation, and then she said, 'This is an Urdu lesson, Sensei,' and returned to sit at the bridge table, pen poised to write the word 'ghum-khaur' (Pg 77, Burnt Shadows).

The novel incorporates that characters used code-switching to adjust to new cultural contexts. As an instance, Hiroko learns Urdu and gets used to the local norms after moving to Pakistan. Hiroko often switches between Urdu and English, as the text follows;

Example: 'And why do you need that to study the law? Ridiculous!' She stroked the back of his head. 'Why didn't you tell me this earlier, Raza-chan?' (p. 147, Burnt Shadows).

In order to demonstrate their sense of belonging and navigate their mingled identities, characters engage in code-switching. When Sajjad Ashraf reflects on his identity, for instance,

Example: "James!' Elizabeth said she was coming to stand beside her husband. 'Did you know Sajjad's family came here from Turkey seven centuries ago?' 'Young Turk, are you?' James smiled at Sajjad. 'No,

Mr. Burton,' Sajjad said, not understanding the reference. 'I'm Hindustani" (pg. 83, Burnt Shadows). Sajjad's declaration of his Indian identity in English demonstrates the intricacy of his dual identity and the influence of language on his sense of identity.

In multicultural settings, characters seamlessly switch between codes, reflecting the variety of linguistic and cultural influences at play. Character interactions in cosmopolitan locations like New York make this clear.

Example: "Their conversations were a seamless blend of languages and cultures, reflecting the vibrant diversity of the city." (pg213, Burnt Shadows)

In multicultural contexts, where code-switching facilitates communication and cross-cultural interchange, this representation highlights the changing nature of language and identity. Kamila Shamsie's exploration of code-switching in "Burnt Shadows" is in perfect harmony with ideas discussed in postcolonial theory. The term "cultural hybridity," coined by Homi K. Bhabha, demonstrates the blending of cultures as a result of colonization. This blending is additionally found in language, when speakers borrow vocabulary and morphological constructions to produce new expressions [Bhabha, Homi K., "The Location of Culture." Routledge, 1994]. It's evident that Shamsie's novel features characters who, depending on the social context, flip between Hindi, Urdu, and English. This represents the protagonists' journey through the hybrid identities that colonialism has formed.

4.3 Power dynamics in Language use

Kamila Shamsie's "Burnt Shadows" examines how language use affects power relations through a variety of characters and contexts, illustrating how language may be used as a tool for manipulation, control, and dominance.

One instance can be found in the story of Hiroko Tanaka, who travels from Japan to India and then Pakistan and encounters the changing power dynamics in language. When she travels to areas in which her language abilities are restricted, like India, she loses the sense of agency and belonging that comes with being a native speaker in Japan. She lacks this not only because she can't speak well but also because the local language has taken precedence over her linguistic identity. The novel also emphasizes how colonization affected language dynamics. As a weapon of colonial authority, the English language shapes the identities and interpersonal interactions of the colonized people. For instance, Kim, Hiroko's granddaughter, is reminded of the historical legacies of colonialism and the power dynamics embedded in language when she confronts linguistic obstacles while serving as a translator in Afghanistan.

The text also explores the manipulation of language for the purpose of controlling and imposing authority. The ability to negotiate several cultural environments and exert influence over those around him is demonstrated by Konrad Weiss's multilingual expertise. But he also uses his ability to speak well as a tool of deception, hiding his genuine motivations and using people to promote his own agenda. An awful moment in which Hiroko considers her relationship with Konrad and notes**,** "There are things you can't say in any language," exemplifies the issue of power dynamics in language use. This demonstrates how language can only convey so much about particular realities and the underlying power dynamics that influence communication.

Kamila Shamsie deftly combines language, identity, and power in "Burnt Shadows," exposing how linguistic dynamics mirror broader social structures of control and authority. She urges readers to consider how language affects identities, relationships, and power dynamics by using the experiences of her characters.

4.4 Colonial heritage in Language education

The novel delves into the effects of colonialism on language instruction as well as it reflects that how colonialism creates the linguistic dominance which in result suppressed the local languages of colonized countries. As a consequence, this linguistic hegemony become the cause of language loss. In the novel, Raza, Hiroko's son, struggles with Urdu and desires fluency in English in his English-medium school in Pakistan. This illustrates the lasting impact of colonial language policy on education. It happened with Raza, the son of Hiroko and Sajjad, who, while struggling with learning Urdu, failed his intermediate exam in Islamic studies.

As it is mentioned in the text,

Example: He picked up his pen and wrote firmly on the page, 'There are no intermediaries in Islam. Allah knows what is in my heart,' and handed in the paper.

…….

Right then, Raza knew he wouldn't tell anyone what had happened. For a few more weeks, he could still

be Raza the Brilliant, Raza the Aspiring, and Raza the Son Who Would Fulfill His Father's Dreams. …… 'I didn't pass. I left the final paper blank.". A small noise of shock and disappointment escaped her mouth before she stopped herself and said, 'What happened? ... This was your Islamic studies paper?' … ……. They were stopped at a traffic light, behind a rickshaw that had a pair of sultry eyes painted on it, beneath which was emblazoned, in Urdu, Look, But With Love. Raza's mind found itself instantly translating the words into Japanese, German, English, and Pashto—a reflexive response to any piece of writing he glimpsed as he drove through the city's streets. 'I want words in every language,' he said. His hands briefly left the steering wheel in a gesture of hopelessness. 'I think I would be happy living in a cold, bare room if I could just spend my days burrowing into new languages.'(pg. 144–146, Burnt Shadows)

After moving to India, Hiroko, a Japanese woman who survived the atomic explosion of Nagasaki, becomes entangled in the life of an Anglo-Indian family. Hiroko's experiences offer insight into the intricacies and complications of colonialism, particularly how it affects education. This issue is demonstrated in the text, for example, when Hiroko recalls her education in India during the British colonial era. She says a couple of things about her education:

Example: "I remember my English school. A place where we had to stand when Miss Pearson entered the room and stand again when she left. I remember reading the poets and trying to understand why all the best poems had been written by men who'd never even seen India" (Shamsie, 2009, p. 30). This paragraph demonstrates how non-Western countries were forced to adopt Western values and literature by the colonial educational system, which ignored their own cultural traditions and viewpoints. It emphasizes how colonial education was infused with power relations and cultural imperialism.

The perspectives provided by Skutnabb-Kangas align with Hiroko's experiences in "Burnt Shadows," highlighting the lasting impact of colonial education and its consequences for personal identity and cultural legacy. He noted in his writings that since English predominates in these domains, local languages are gradually losing momentum in important areas of life like education. Substantially, Kamila Shamsie's "Burnt Shadows" deftly crafts a story that spans several historical periods, languages, and civilizations while emphasizing the enduring impact of linguistic imperialism. In the midst of major geopolitical events like the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the aftermath of 9/11, the novel examines how language is an instrument of dominance, resistance, and power. Rudimentary linguistic imperialism is the enactment of one dominant language and culture on another, frequently as a consequence of armed conquest, globalization, or colonialism. This phenomenon appears in a variety of ways throughout "Burnt Shadows," illustrating the complexity of language power dynamics in an immersed society.

The erasure of indigenous languages and cultures in the face of dominant colonial powers is one of the novel's main themes of linguistic imperialism. In addition to inflicting tremendous destruction, American cultural and linguistic hegemony was imposed after the United States bombed Nagasaki and Hiroshima. Hiroko Tanaka, the main character, gets flung into this linguistic milieu while navigating a society where English is the dominant language and a symbol of both oppression and power. This work also examines how language affects one's sense of self and identity in the world. In a post-colonial world where English is the language of diplomacy and status, characters such as Pakistani ambassador Sajjad Ashraf struggle with their linguistic and cultural identities. Indigenous languages have been marginalized, and hierarchical power systems are reinforced when English is mandated as the language of instruction in educational institutions. This is an example of linguistic imperialism in action. The work also examines how translation functions as a platform for discussion and cross-cultural interaction. The characters, such as translator Raza Ashraf, transcend linguistic and cultural barriers, questioning linear storylines and promoting comprehension across diverse groups. As a means of expressing disadvantaged voices and preserving cultural legacies, translation emerges as a form of resistance against linguistic imperialism.

With a focus on linguistic imperialism's varied expressions in an increasingly interconnected world, "Burnt Shadows" provides a sophisticated examination of this phenomenon. The work emphasizes the complexity of language as a tool of both dominance and resistance through its intricately intertwined plots and richly rendered characters. Shamsie's analysis of the effects of linguistic imperialism on people's lives and communities urges

readers to think about the lasting effects of colonialism as well as the necessity of linguistic justice in a globalized and diverse society.

Discussion

Burnt Shadows provided an example of how linguistic imperialism is portrayed in Pakistani English, as discussed in the previous section. The study highlights the linguistic hybridity endemic to Pakistani English conversation using text lines that exhibit code-switching in a variety of social circumstances. This hybridity, which serves as a medium for navigating various social settings, is the result of a complex interaction of historical and cultural influences across English and indigenous languages.

Furthermore, since the English language is often employed in postcolonial territories like Pakistan as a marker of privilege and socioeconomic standing, an examination of the power dynamics entrenched in the language uncovers its hegemonic function as its use is reflected by different characters of "Burnt Shadows" in the aforementioned section.

The present discussion is aligned with previous research on the topic and enriches our knowledge of linguistic imperialism. In postcolonial contexts, works by authors like Robert Phillipson and Alastair Pennycook have helped to clarify the hegemonic status of English and its ramifications for linguistic variety and identity. As in his seminal book "Linguistic Imperialism," Phillipson (1992) presents a paradigm for understanding how colonial powers have asserted linguistic hegemony over colonized peoples by using language as a tool of subjugation.

Additionally, Pennycook (1992) **s**tated that access to learning opportunities, career possibilities, and achievements in other beneficial spheres of life are all compassed with the proficiency of English, the same as depicted in the novel, where English competency was necessary for every character to survive, but through linguistic techniques such as code-switching, characters somehow resisted the hegemonic power of English and showed their sense of belonging. The mixed use of English with other indigenous languages reflects the notion of cultural hybridity or the hybrid identity of individuals. This notion was given by Homi K. Bhaba in his book "The Location of Culture," in which he stated that hybridity shaped the cultural exchanges between colonizers and colonized. These cultural exchanges in the form of blending elements of the languages of colonizers and colonized are reflected in the prominent work "Burnt Shadows," written by Kamila Shamsie. The current study analyzes the presence of linguistic imperialism in Pakistani English in the context of Kamila Shamsie's novel "Burnt Shadows." The linguistic imperialism is depicted through the use of code-switching by characters in different social settings for different purposes; it also highlights the character's hybrid identity, which is a perspective of post-colonialism that is directly related to the aftermath of colonialism. Phillipson (2018) contends that imperialism in language is interwoven with imperialism in culture, education, the media, communication, politics, the economy, and the military as a whole. It all comes with hierarchy, unfairness, exploitation, and assisting those who can speak the dominant language. This statement asserts that linguistic imperialism and colonialism go hand in hand, and it is proved through the text of Burnt Shadows.

Conclusion

The examination of Kamila Shamsie's "Burnt Shadows" from the perspective of linguistic imperialism and hybrid identities in this research conclusion exposes the complex relationship that exists between language, power relations, and individual identities. By carefully analyzing the literary style of the text, the researcher observed that Shamsie uses a variety of strategies to depict the existence of linguistic imperialism. The narration is told through a complex linguistic landscape influenced by historical and geopolitical factors, with components of English, Urdu, Japanese, and German, among others, weaving together to create an exquisite weave of language. Linguistic imperialism is also evident in the imposition of linguistic hierarchies and the marginalization of non-Western languages and cultures, in addition to English's dominance as the world's primary language. In a world where Western hegemony rules, characters in "Burnt Shadows" strive to affirm their own language and cultural identities, as well as power imbalances and cultural erasure. These challenges are brought on by linguistic imperialism.

The novel encourages readers to critically examine the power dynamics of language as it exposes the lasting impact of colonial language policies and this novel is a kind of campaign for the preservation of linguistic and cultural identities.

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