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Comparative Phonemic Analysis of English and Urdu: Similarities and Differences

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Abstract

This study presents a detailed phonemic analysis of Urdu and English, focusing on their similarities and differences in terms of place and manner of articulation. Through an extensive examination of the phonetic characteristics of both languages, significant patterns were uncovered, providing insights into their underlying linguistic systems. The analysis highlights intriguing parallels in certain aspects of articulation between Urdu and English phonemes, suggesting potential areas of cross-linguistic influence. These parallels help understand the ease or difficulty individuals may face when switching between the two languages to pronounce words. Moreover, the study emphasizes the unique qualities that distinguish the phonological systems of Urdu and English by identifying specific aspects of phoneme articulation. These distinctions offer valuable guidance for achieving accurate pronunciation in both languages, making them essential reference points for instructors and language learners. This research contributes to the broader field of phonology and sets the foundation for future studies exploring the interplay of phonetic elements in diverse linguistic contexts. By elucidating the complex connections between Urdu and English phonemes, this analysis provides valuable insights into the intricacies of bilingual phonological acquisition and proficiency.

Keywords: Phonemic analysis, Articulation, Phonemes, Linguistic system, Phonology, Acquisition, Cross-linguistic influence.

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Introduction

Communication is essential to human connection; it includes a wide range of complex phonetic expressions. Within the vast web of world languages, Urdu and English emerge as separate yet related languages. The phonemic structures underlying these two languages are examined in this article. A key component of linguistics is phonemic analysis, which is the study and classification of speech sounds within a language. The tiniest units of sound that have the power to alter a word's meaning are called phonemes, and this lesson focuses on recognizing and discriminating them.

As stated by Crystal (2008), phonemic analysis is necessary to comprehend the fundamental organization of a language's sound system. It makes it possible for linguists to distinguish between sounds that are unique to a language and those that are not, which helps in the creation of precise phonetic transcriptions.

Urdu has a phonemic range that reflects the complex expressions found throughout South Asia with its rich cultural heritage and extensive historical background (Shaikh, 2022). On the other hand, while being a universal language, English has unique phonetic characteristics that have developed over centuries of global influence and evolution. We seek to shed light on the similarities and contrasts that characterize these languages' phonemic repertoires through a comparative analysis.

Through exploring the phonetic intricacies of both Urdu and English, we may better understand their unique linguistic contexts and open the way for more effective cross-cultural communication and language learning techniques (Ladefoged & Maddieson, 1996). Come along on this exploration of the phonemic mosaic that unites and separates Urdu and English, illuminating the threads that unite these two fascinating language universes.

English And Urdu: Language Origins And Geographic Spread

According to Crystal (2003), despite originating from diverse linguistic backgrounds, Urdu and English have both significantly influenced international communication. English, a branch of the Indo-European language family, originated in modern-day England. Historical events such as the Norman Conquest played a crucial role in its development, leading to the emergence of Middle English. The global spread of English was driven by international trade networks and British colonization, making it one of the most widely spoken languages worldwide, with numerous regional accents and dialects.

In contrast, Urdu originated from the Khariboli dialect of Delhi during the Mughal era in the Indian subcontinent. As the official language of the Mughal courts, it evolved with substantial Persian influence. Written in a modified Perso-Arabic script, Urdu's alphabet contains more characters than Arabic (Husain & Husain, 2003). It is one of Pakistan's official languages and is widely spoken in several regions of India, including Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi. Urdu's global presence has been bolstered by its speakers establishing communities in various countries outside the Indian subcontinent.

Language Distribution And Speakers

Two major world languages with wide spread and varied speaker populations are English and Urdu. With more than 1.5 billion speakers globally, English is regarded as a universal language in many different contexts. About 375 million people speak it as their first language, mostly in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand (Rao, 2019). Furthermore, because of its widespread use in media, education, and

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international commerce, it is a second language for a vast number of people worldwide. Urdu is most widely spoken with almost 230 million speakers in South Asia. Along with English, it is one of Pakistan's official languages and is spoken by a sizable section of the populace. Urdu is widely spoken in India, especially in areas like Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, and Jammu & Kashmir (Zograph, 2023). Furthermore, there are populations speaking Urdu all over the world, particularly in nations where South Asian diasporas are significant. Large communities of Urdu speakers reside in the Middle East, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Canada, which contributes to the language's prominence internationally. Both Urdu and English are essential for cross-cultural communication and global communication in their own unique ways.

Urdu And English Phonemes

There are twenty-four consonants, seven nasalized vowels, and eight vowels in all of the 39 phonemes that make up Urdu (Hussain, 2005). In contrast, as stated by Yavas (2020), there are about 44 phonemes in English, comprising about 20 vowel sounds and 24 consonant sounds. These figures may differ slightly based on the English dialect or accent. The diverse phonetic features of each language contribute to their individual pronunciation patterns and sounds.

Allophonic Variation In Urdu And English

The various ways a single phoneme can be spoken in a particular language are referred to as allophonic variation. In Urdu, prominent examples include the retroflex flap /ɽ/ and the retroflex lateral approximant /ɭ/. These sounds can sometimes be used interchangeably without changing the meaning of a word (Shaikh, 2022). Allophonic variations are also common in English, especially with vowel sounds. For instance, the English vowel /i/ can differ in tongue height and tension in words like "bit" and "beetroot." Additionally, the English /t/ sound has two allophones: a flap [ɾ] (as in "water") and an aspirated [tʰ] (as in "top") (Sproat & Fujimura, 1993). These variations enhance the depth and complexity of pronunciation in both languages.

Research Objectives

1.To Provide a detailed Overview of Phonemes in Urdu and English

2.To Compare and Contrast the Phonemes of Urdu and English

Research Questions

1.What are the fundamental characteristics of phonemes in both Urdu and English and how do they contribute to linguistic analysis?

2.What are the similarities and differences in the phonemic inventories of Urdu and English?

Significance of the Study

The phonemic analysis of English and Urdu phonemes has significant implications across various fields. Firstly, it could revolutionize language teaching strategies by equipping educators with specialised tools to address specific phonemic challenges in both languages. Additionally, this study enhances intercultural communication, enabling speakers of Urdu and English to articulate and understand ideas more clearly. Furthermore, it contributes notably to the academic field of linguistics, paving the way for further research into phonetics, language acquisition, and cross-linguistic analysis, thereby helping to preserve both languages.

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The practical applications are manifold, impacting translation and interpretation, and offering valuable insights into cognitive and neurological processes related to language. This research also holds promise for informing policies in multilingual education and supporting efforts to preserve languages, especially in regions where Urdu is a minority language. In summary, this study is poised to make a substantial impact on language education, cross-cultural communication, and our broader understanding of linguistic diversity and cognition, delivering tangible benefits for learners, educators, researchers, and society as a whole.

Limitation Of The Study

While this study on the phonemic analysis of Urdu and English phonemes offers valuable insights, it is not without limitations. Regional variations and dialectical nuances within Urdu and English could be underexplored, potentially limiting the study's applicability to broader linguistic contexts. Additionally, the study's focus on consonants and vowels may overlook other crucial phonetic elements like stress patterns and intonation. The exclusion of other languages in the comparative analysis might narrow the scope of the study. Acknowledging these limitations is vital for interpreting the findings accurately and for paving the way for future research endeavors in this area.

Literature Review

The examination of phonemes in Urdu and English has been a focal point of considerable linguistic investigation. Urdu, renowned for its extensive historical and cultural importance, has captivated the interest of researchers scrutinizing its phonetic complexities (Gumperz, 1982). English, functioning as a worldwide lingua franca, showcases its own distinctive phonetic peculiarities molded by its historical evolution and far-reaching global influence (Wells, 1982). The comparative assessment of phonemic repertoires in these languages furnishes invaluable insights into the breadth of linguistic diversity and facilitation of cross- cultural communication (Kachru, 1992). Research has delved into specific facets of phonetic variability, such as the impact of regional dialects on Urdu articulation (Saeed, 1991), underscoring the significance of comprehending regional subtleties. Furthermore, studies in the acquisition of second languages underscore the importance of phonemic consciousness in efficacious pedagogical approaches (Derwing & Munro, 2005), thereby augmenting language proficiency and communicative competence.

The exploration of phonemes in Urdu and English has garnered substantial attention from linguistic scholars and language experts. Urdu, a language immersed in profound cultural and historical relevance, has captivated researchers intrigued by its phonetic intricacies (Khan, 2001). English, as a globally recognized medium of communication, has undergone centuries of transformation and presents its own unique phonetic challenges and characteristics (Crystal, 2008). The comparative scrutiny of phonemic repertoires in these two languages provides a distinctive perspective for scrutinizing linguistic diversity and cross-cultural communication (Wells, 1982). Prior investigations have plunged into specific dimensions of phonetic variation, including the sway of regional dialects on Urdu pronunciation (Rizvi, 2010), as well as the influence of English as a second language on Urdu phonology (Nasir, 2018). These inquiries underscore the necessity for a comprehensive evaluation of phonemic structures, illuminating the nuanced expressions embedded within both languages.

Additionally, research in language acquisition and pedagogy has underscored the significance of comprehending phonemes in effective instructional methodologies (Goh &

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Silver, 2013). This understanding aids in addressing prevalent challenges faced by learners of Urdu and English, thereby contributing to elevated language proficiency and enhanced communication skills (Cook, 2008). Moreover, the implications of this research extend beyond academic realms, permeating practical domains like translation and interpretation (Baker, 2018). By honing in on the phonemic intricacies of Urdu and English, this study strives not only to deepen our grasp of linguistic ecosystems but also to provide pragmatic applications resonant in education, communication, and cultural appreciation.

Theoretical Framework

The Integrative Phonological Model (IPM) serves as the foundational theory guiding this study, aiming to comprehensively analyze and compare phonemic structures in both Urdu and English. Developed by synthesizing principles from the distinctive feature theory (Jakobson et al., 1952) and the natural phonology framework (Stampe, 1979), the IPM seeks to illuminate the intricate phonemic aspects of languages through a holistic approach. It employs distinctive feature analysis to discern and categorize unique attributes of phonemes in both Urdu and English, allowing for a meticulous examination of sound systems. Additionally, it integrates principles from natural phonology to elucidate the underlying processes governing phonemic patterns, emphasizing simplification and inherent tendencies in sound change. This comprehensive model will be applied to conduct a detailed comparative analysis of the phonemic inventories in Urdu and English, unveiling both similarities and disparities in their respective sound systems. Moreover, it will be utilized to scrutinize the impact of regional variations and dialects on the phonemic structures of both languages, and to pinpoint specific phonemes that present challenges for learners. In essence, the Integrative Phonological Model provides a robust theoretical framework for the comprehensive examination of phonemic structures, contributing to a deeper understanding of linguistic diversity and cross-cultural communication.

The suggested theoretical framework integrates principles from both distinctive feature theory and natural phonology, presenting a cohesive approach for scrutinizing phonemic structures in Urdu and English. It's important to customize and fine-tune this framework to align with the particular goals and objectives of your study.

Research Methodology

Comparative descriptive design is used to assess and contrast the phonemic structures of Urdu and English. This methodology makes it easier to thoroughly examine the distinctive qualities and phonological patterns that are inherent in both languages. The identification of distinctive features for every phoneme in Urdu and English will rely on the representation provided by the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). As part of this analysis procedure, phonemes will be categorized according to certain characteristics, such as place and manner of articulation, aligning with the principles of the Integrative Phonological Model.

Data Collection

The data collection process for this study is focused on gathering existing linguistic resources and published materials. Primary sources will include phonetic transcriptions and recordings of Urdu and English phonemes from established linguistic databases and reputable academic publications (International Phonetic Association (IPA), The UCLA Phonetics Lab Data Archive, The Speech Accent Archive, Journal of the International Phonetic Association, Journal of Phonetics, Phonetica and Journal of the Acoustical Society of America). These resources will serve as the foundation for the comparative

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phonemic analysis. Additionally, textual materials, such as phonological descriptions and linguistic studies of both languages, will be examined to augment the understanding of phonemic patterns. By relying on existing linguistic data and Urdu corpus, this study ensures a comprehensive and reliable basis for the analysis of phonemic structures in Urdu and English.

Data Analysis

Consonants are the sounds that are produced with the mouth fairly closed, the articulators more or less close, i.e., they have some obstruction of airflow, and may be voiced or voiceless. There are twenty-two consonant sounds in both English and Urdu. Two sounds are present only in English. Sixteen sounds are present only in Urdu.

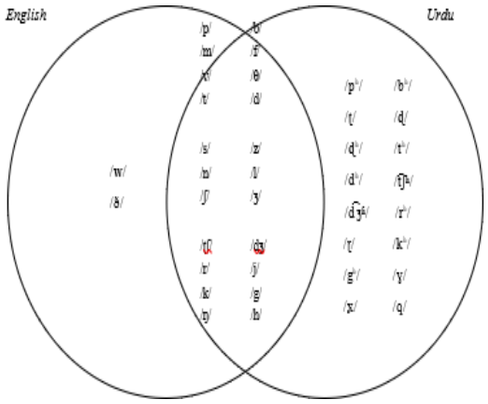

Figure 1. Comparative distribution of consonant sounds in English and Urdu.

Bilabial

Bilabial sounds are formed by the closure or near closure of the lips. There are three bilabial sounds in both English and Urdu: /b, p, m/. One bilabial sound is presentonly in English: /w/. Two bilabial sounds are present only in Urdu: /ph, bh/.

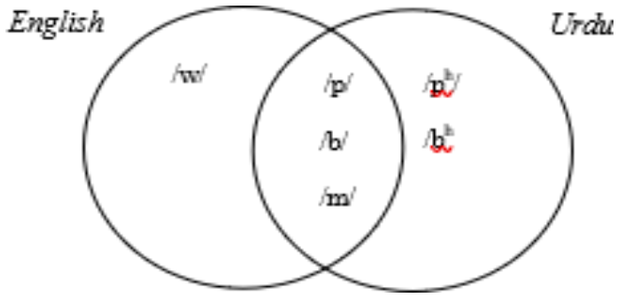

Figure - 1 Comparative distribution of bilabial sounds in English and Urdu: shared (/b, p, m/), English-only (/w/), and Urdu- only (/ph, bh/).

/ph/

This sound is an allophonic representation of phoneme “P” in English and it does not change the meaning.

In English:

/ph□n/

In Urdu

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Unlike English, Urdu has this phoneme and it has the capability to change the meaning Word initial as in پھل / phl /. Urdu speakers can easily pronounce words containing this

phoneme, while English speakers find it difficult to produce. As a substitute, English speakers often use an aspirated 'P' sound to approximate the same pronunciation.

Non-aspirating native speakers of English says / pl / instead of saying پھل / phl /

Place of Articulation: bilabial

Manner of Articulation: plosive

/w/

This sound is present in both English and Urdu. Both letters typically represent the same consonant sound, which is a voiced bilabial glide produced by rounding the lips.

However, there may be slight differences in pronunciation depending on the specific dialect or accent. In English:

Word initial as in wild

/wɑɪld/ In Urdu

The pronunciation of "و" in Urdu typically involves a more rounded lip shape compared to the English "w," which might affect the sound slightly. This distinction may contribute to the difficulty English speakers face when attempting to pronounce words containing the Urdu phoneme represented by "و." Word initial as in وقت /wæqt/. If an Urdu speaker says “Wild” it would be like /vailᵊd/ where the “و" sound could be slightly closer to the back of the mouth compared to English. It is like English labiodental fricative sound “v”. English “w” is labial velar instead of bilabial only.

Place of Articulation: bilabial

Manner of Articulation: approximant

Labiodental

Labiodental sounds are formed by the lower lip and the upper teeth. There are two labiodental sounds in both English and Urdu and both languages use the same articulatory movements for “f” and “v”.

Dental

Dental consonants are articulated with the tongue against the upper teeth. There is one dental sound in both English and Urdu: /θ/. One dental sound is present only in English: /ð/. Three dental sounds are present only in Urdu: /t d , h/.

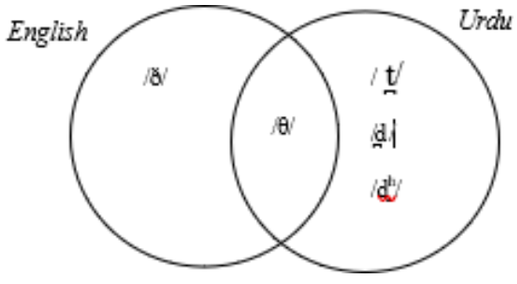

Figure 3. Comparative distribution of dental sounds in English and Urdu: shared (/θ/), English-only (/ð/), and Urdu-only (/t, d, h/).

/t̪/

This sound is not present in English. The sound represented by the IPA symbol [t], known as the voiceless retroflex stop, is not typically found in Standard English phonology.

In Urdu

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Word initial as in تلوار /ʈəlvɑːr/

English speaker uses “t” voiceless alveolar plosive “which is absent in Urdu” in order to utter the word تلوار because Urdu [t̪] and English “t” are close enough in terms of place and manner of articulation.

English /bʌt̪l/ becomes /bɒʈəl/ in Urdu

Place of Articulation: dental

Manner of Articulation: plosive

/d̪ /

This sound is not present in English. In Urdu:

Word initial as in دوست/ d̪ oːst/

English speaker uses “d” voiced alveolar plosive “which is absent in Urdu” in order to utter the wordدوست because Urdu [d̪] and English “d” are close enough in terms of place and manner of articulation.

Native speaker of English says /dost/ instead of Urdu / d̪ oːst/ English / dænil/ becomes / d̪ ænɪɐɑl/ in Urdu

Urdu دفتر / d̪ əf.ʈər/ becomes / dəf.tər/ in English

Place of Articulation: dental

Manner of Articulation: plosive

/ʱ/

This sound is not present in English. In

URDU

Word initial as in دھوپ /ɖʱuːp/

English speaker uses “d” voiced alveolar plosive “which is absent in Urdu” in order to utter the wordدھوپ because Urdu [ʱ] and English “d” are close enough in terms of place and manner of articulation, one is Alveolar and the other one is dental though it is really very difficult to utter this sound for a native speaker of English.

Native speaker of English says /dʱp/ instead of /ʱuːp/ Native speaker of English says /duːl/ instead of /ɖʱuːl/

دھول,

Place of Articulation: dental

Manner of Articulation: plosive

Alveolar

Alveolar consonants are pronounced with the tongue against or close to the alveolar ridge. There are six alveolar sounds in English: /t, d, s, z, n, l/ but in Urdu these English alveolar sounds are either dentals or postalveolars /t̪, d̪ , ʈ, ɖ/.

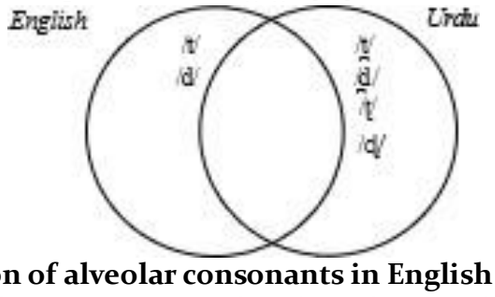

Figure.4 distribution of alveolar consonants in English (/t, d, s, z, n, l/) and their Urdu equivalents, categorized as dentals/postalveolars (/t̪, d̪, ʈ, ɖ/).

/t/

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This sound is present in English but Urdu speakers use two different phonemes ʈ & □ to

articulate the words starting with English t phoneme. Moreover, the retroflex "ٹ" (□e) sound is indeed not present in Standard English. It is a distinctive sound found in languages like Urdu, Hindi, and some other Indo-Aryan languages

In English

Word initial as in top

/tɒp/ In

Urdu

Word initial as in تنگ /ʈʌŋ/

Place of Articulation: alveolar

Manner of Articulation: plosive

Urdu speaker says /boːʈəl/ instead of /□b□□□l/

In many dialects of English, including General American and Received Pronunciation (British English), the "t" sound in "bottle" is pronounced as a flap [□] rather than a true alveolar plosive [t].

/d/

This sound is present in English but Urdu speakers use a different phoneme d□ to articulate the words starting with English d phoneme. Moreover, the retroflex " ڈ" /□/ sound is indeed not present in Standard English. It is a distinctive sound found in languages like Urdu, Hindi, and some other Indo-Aryan languages.

In English

Word initial as in dog/dɒg/ In

Urdu

Word initial as in دال /ɖɑːl/

Place Of Articulation: alveolar

Manner Of Articulation: plosive

The word "دفتر" (daftar) can be transcribed phonetically using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) as follows:

/ˈdæf.tər/

In English, the "d" sound is typically pronounced as a voiced alveolar plosive [d], where the tongue tip touches the alveolar ridge behind the upper front teeth.

In Urdu, the "d" sound is also generally pronounced as a voiced dental plosive [d□], but it might be realized slightly differently depending on the phonetic environment or the speaker's accent.

Retroflex

Retroflex consonants are the consonants where the tongue has a curled shape, and is articulated between the alveolar ridge and the hard palate.

There are two retroflex sounds in Urdu: /th, dh/. In English, speakers often approximate these Urdu retroflex sounds by adding aspiration to the phonemes /t/ and /d/

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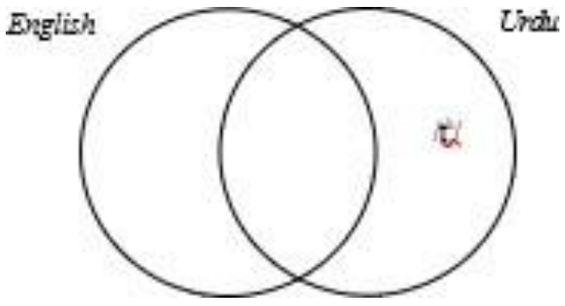

Figure 5 Comparative distribution of retroflex consonants: Urdu retroflex sounds (/th, dh/) versus their aspirated approximations in English (/t/ and /d/)

/t/

This sound is an allophonic representation of phoneme “t” in English and it does not change the meaning.

In Urdu

This sound is phonemic Word initial as in ٹھوس /thɒs/

The word "ٹھوس " (hōs) in Urdu typically means "solid" in English. An English speaker would generally pronounce it as "thos" in English phonetics. In IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) transcription, it would be: /θs/

In English

Word initial as in top /tʰɒp/

Place of Articulation: retroflex

Manner of Articulation: plosive

Palatal

Palatals are consonants articulated with the body of the tongue raised against the hard palate.

There are six palatal sounds in both English and Urdu: /ʃ, ʒ, ʧ, dʒ, r, j/. There are only four palatal sounds in Urdu: /ʧʰ, /d͡ʒʱ, rh, ɽ/.

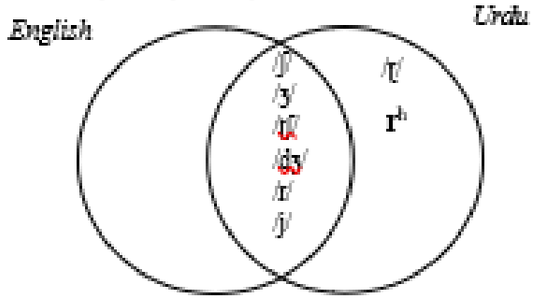

Figure 6. Comparative distribution of palatal consonants: English (/ʃ, ʒ, ʧ, dʒ, r, j/) versus Urdu-specific palatals (/ʧʰ, /dʒʱ, rh, ɽ/)

/rʱ/

The symbol "r" represents a voiced retroflex flap with an added breathy voice. It's a common phoneme in several languages, including some dialects of Hindi, Punjabi, Bengali, and Gujarati. This sound is produced by quickly flapping the tongue against the alveolar ridge while simultaneously allowing some breathy voicing.

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It's important to note that this sound may not be familiar to speakers of all English dialects, as it's not a typical feature of English pronunciation.

In Urdu

Word initial as in رہگزر /rhgʊz(ə)r/

English speakers use /ʔ/ to approximate the sound of /rʔ/ Urdu رہگزر

/rhgʔz(ʔ)r/ becomes / ʔ gʔz(ʔ)r/ in English

Place of Articulation: palatal

Manner of Articulation: trill

/ɽ/

The voiced retroflex flap consonant is represented by the symbol "ʔ". The quick tapping of the tongue against the region directly behind the alveolar ridge causes a swift movement that produces this sound. It sounds like the "r" sound in some English accents, where the flap sound is used instead of the trill or approximant. Many languages, including Hindi, Punjabi, and some varieties of American English, use this sound often. "r": Depending on the language or dialect, this is the symbol for the voiced alveolar approximant or trill. It is usually pronounced approximant in English, as in the word "run." Languages such as Spanish, Italian, and Scottish English also have a trill, which is a repeated vibration of the tongue against the alveolar ridge.

Thus, the primary distinction between "ʔ" and "r" is in how they are articulated: "ʔ" denotes a flap, but "r" can denote a trill or an approximant.

In Urdu

Word middle as in کیڑا /ki:ɽa:/

Native speaker of English will say /ki:ra:/ instead of using /ɽ/ they use /r/.

Place of Articulation: palatal

Manner of Articulation: Retroflex

Velar

Velar consonants are produced with the back of the tongue near the velum or the soft palate. There are three velar sounds in both English and Urdu: /k, g, ŋ/. Three velar sounds are present only in Urdu: /kh, gh, ɣ/.

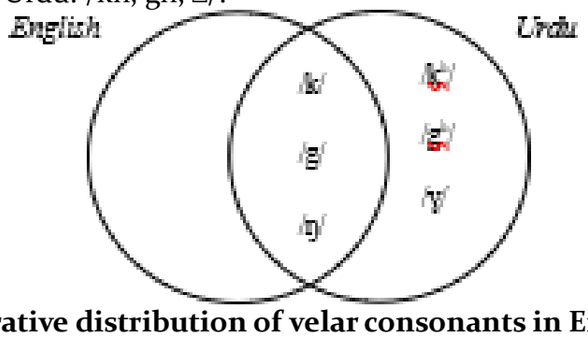

Figure 7. Comparative distribution of velar consonants in English and Urdu: shared (/k, g, ŋ/) versus Urdu-only (/kh, gh, ɣ/)

/kh/

It is not common in mainstream English dialects like American or British English to use the voiceless velar fricative sound (/x/). It does, however, exist in certain English dialects, especially in those that have been impacted by other languages or in areas where this sound is more typical. In English, speakers often approximate this Urdu velar plosive sound by adding aspiration to the phonemes /kh/

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In Urdu

Word initial as in کھیل /khel /

Urdu word کھیل /khel / becomes /khayl/ in English

Place of Articulation: velar

Manner of Articulation: plosive

/gh/

This sound has various pronunciation in English. gh combination can produce different sounds, such as:

F sound: words like “Enough” /□□n□f /or “Tough” /t□f/

G sound: In considering the 'G' sound in words like 'Ghost' (/□□□st/), one might observe a resemblance to the Urdu 'غ' /□/ sound, suggesting a potential approximation by English speakers.

Silent: In words like “High” /ha□/ “Light” /la□t/ the gh sound is silent. In Urdu:

Word initial as in گھر /gh□r/

An English speaker approximate the pronunciation of the Urdu word گھر /gh□r/ as /ga:r/

Place of articulation: velar

Manner of articulation: stop

/ɣ/

This sound is not present in English. In Urdu:

Word initial as in غور /ɣʊr/

English speakers might attempt to approximate it by using a sound that's somewhat similar, such as the voiced velar fricative found in some dialects of Spanish, like in the word "agua."

Place of Articulation: velar

Manner of Articulation: Fricative

Uvular

Uvular consonants are articulated with the back of the tongue and uvula.There are two uvular sounds present only in Urdu: /x, q/.

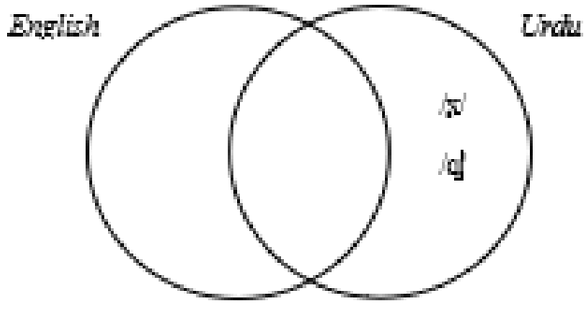

Figure 8. Distribution of uvular consonants: Urdu-only (/x, q/)

/x/

English speakers who are not familiar with this sound may find it challenging to pronounce correctly, as it's not commonly used in English. They may instead substitute it with a similar sound, such as the voiceless velar fricative /x/, which is found in some languages like German or Scottish English.

In Urdu

Word initial as in خیر /xɛ:r /

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An English speaker approximates the pronunciation of the Urdu word "خیر" as "khayr." In this approximation:
The "خ" (kha) sound would be similar to the Scottish "ch" in "loch" or the Spanish "j" in "jalapeño." The "ی" (ye) sound would be pronounced as a long "ee" sound, similar to the "ee" in "beet." The "ر" (re) sound would be pronounced as the English "r" sound.
Place of Articulation: Velar
Manner of Articulation: Fricative
/q/
This sound is not present in English. In Urdu:
Word initial as in قبضہ /qəbzə/
English speaker approximates the pronunciation of the Urdu word "قبضہ" as "qub-zuh."
Place of Articulation: uvular
Manner of Articulation: plosive/stop
Glottal
Glottal consonant uses glottis as its primary articulator. There is one glottal sound in both **English and Urdu**
/h/

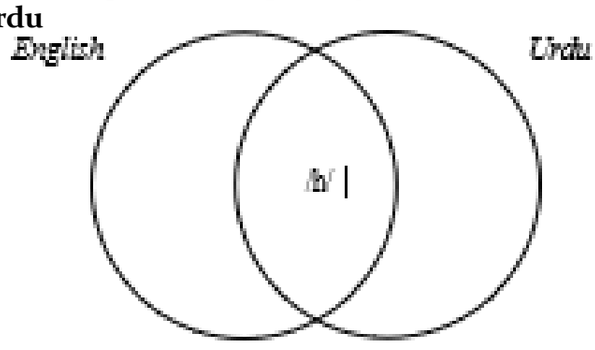

Figure 9. Shared glottal consonant in English and Urdu: articulation of /h/ using the glottis as the primary articulator.

Example: the glottal stop [ʔ] is often heard in British English, especially in Cockney or Estuary English accents.
Word: Bottle
Cockney pronunciation: [ˈbɒʔl] — The [ʔ] replaces the /t/ sound. Another example:
Uh-oh! → [ʔʌʔoʊ]
There is a clear glottal stop between uh and oh.
The glottal stop [ʔ] is not written in Urdu script, but it occurs naturally in speech, especially when there is a sudden break or hesitation.
Example word: "اچھا◌" (achha)
Many speakers pronounce it as [ʔʔʔʔa], with a glottal stop at the beginning.
Another example: when calling someone with surprise or emphasis:
"اوئے!" (oye!) ئ might be pronounced with a glottal onset: [ʔoje]
Conclusion
In conclusion, this research has offered a thorough phonemic analysis of English and Urdu, concentrating on the place and manner of articulation of each language. By carefully analyzing phonetic characteristics, we have discovered both notable similarities and clear differences between these two languages.

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The first research objective aimed at discussing the phonemes of these two languages in detail, after analyzing all the phonemes, by using different sources and references, we were able to enlist them according to their places and manners.

The second objective was to analyze the phonemes contrastively. The similarities in articulation that have been found point to possible domains of common linguistic influence and provide insightful information for teachers and language learners alike. Recognizing these similarities might help develop more efficient methods for learning how to pronounce words correctly and become fluent in both Urdu and English.

This research lays the groundwork for future studies on bilingual phonological proficiency and acquisition, while also advancing our understanding of the phonological systems in Urdu and English. We have shed light on the difficulties associated with learning a language and mastering pronunciation in a variety of linguistic circumstances by exploring the complicated interactions between phonetic factors.

In the end, this research advances the discipline of phonology by providing insightful information to learners, linguists, and educators alike. Our goal is to use this research as a springboard for more investigation and comprehension of the phonological subtleties present in multilingual environments.

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