

# A Diachronic Study of Grammatical Changes in Pakistani English

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## Abstract

Grammaticalization is identified as a process of change in which lexical items that represent to verbs or nouns; start playing the role of grammatical markers. These linguistic constructs change their meanings and usage over the time due to their grammatical functions in language. The aim of present research is to study and identify the grammatical changes in Pakistani English diachronically. For this purpose, quantitative approach has been exploited. With the help of literature, the number of grammatical constructs has been selected that would be the part of our research such as going to vs. will/shall, have to vs. must, be-passive vs. get-passive etc. Moreover, to study the grammatical changes in Pakistani English, the written corpus has been collected that consists of research papers, books, editorials etc. After that, the selected corpus has been divided into 5 decades and tagged by MAT tagger. The distribution of these grammatical units has been studied with the help of Antconc. tool that assists to identify and understand the process grammaticalization in present corpus. The finding of our research can be helpful to understand the phenomena of language change and how the languages evolve over the time. It also depicts the clear picture of the present and future of language with the reference to the past.

**keywords:** grammaticalization, corpus, diachronic, Pakistani English

## Introduction

As time elapses, language enjoys the process of change and evolution. These changes can be identified at different levels of the language structure such as phonology, vocabulary, syntax, and morphology (Kroch, 2001 cited in Baltin, M., & Collins, 2008). There is a lot of work has been done to study and investigate these linguistics aspects in the different variety of English language over the time to understand the process of language change and shift and grammaticalization is one of them. It is theory that deals with the process of language change especially the ways in which lexical items or units transform into grammatical constructs and play the grammatical function in the language. It showed its concern with the origin and evolution of specific linguistic constructs that exist in contemporary and modern English. These historical studies and identification of linguistic units in language help to understand the historical background of target language as well as testify and formulate the different hypothesis related to language (Heine & Kuteva, 2002; Heine& Kuteva, 2007; Smith, 2011).

To understand the theoretical foundation of grammaticalization, firstly there is need to understand the distinction between lexical items and grammatical units.

### 1.1 Lexical Items vs. Grammatical Units

It is a factual claim that grammaticalization is identified as one of the realistic and important phenomena that occurred almost in every language and marked as the reason of language change and shift in which meaningful lexical items modified to perform the role functional and the grammatical items.

Lexical units are those words that can stand in isolation and enrich with information and convey the meaning without the help of grammatical devices such as noun. It is also nominated as open class and content words by traditionalist while cognitive linguists use the term lexical item for it and cognitive-functional linguists call them as major class (Givon, 1984). In the case of language acquisition, child also firstly learns to speak and use these linguistic items. These units have been further divided into two groups concrete and abstract. In this dichotomy, the concrete items are easy to understand and acquire without the help of any other linguistic items such as if someone listens the word

“book” he or she can easily figure out the concepts and idea related to it . On the other side, in the case of abstract items the situation is little bit vary and complex.(Campos , 2007)

On the other hand, the grammatical units of any language carry the little lexical meaning but can't stand alone and convey complete meaning and proper meaning without proper context. For example what is true meaning of at? To answers this question, we always need as complete context such as time, place etc. These units also termed as close class, function words, and minor words according to different linguists who belong to different school of thoughts.

This aforementioned precise description will help to understand the following concepts and ideas related to grammaticalization that are theoretical background of our research.

### **1.2 Grammaticalization Theory and its Mechanism**

Here, our main concern is to understand the phenomena of grammaticalization with the help of literature that enriches with the number of researches. These studies and researches contribute to understand the process of language change. We found its roots hundreds of years back that was firstly identified by German philosopher Humboldt in 1822. He made the speculations about the origins of grammar that was regarded as one of the sophisticated concepts in this domain to understand the genesis of grammar. Finally, at the end of nineteenth century, the clear niche to study the grammaticalization has been built without the proper nominalization. The proper stems of grammaticalization form found in the work of Gabelentz (1891). He clearly stated in his published lectures about it in the form of analogy. He directed the readers” to visualize linguistics forms as “employees of the state”, who are first hired by a certain company, then promoted, put on half-pay, and finally retired, while outside hundreds of applicants wait patiently for their turn to get a job” ( cited in Campos, 2007). After many years, the French linguist Antoine Meillet coined the term “Grammaticalization” of this concept in 1912. His considerable contributions paved the way for the development of the Grammaticalization theory. He recognized the importance and need of it as a central area of language change and also described its phenomena how new grammatical forms merged in any language by two different processes or mechanisms : reanalysis and analogy. The former basically bring out rule change by modifying the underlying representations such as semantic, morphological, or syntactic, whereas later refers towards the “attraction of extant forms to already existing constructions”. Semantic bleaching is also one of the important mechanism of change in which “grammatical morpheme loses components of their original lexical meaning, and therefore it becomes much more general and abstract”(Campos,2007). These concepts are theoretical foundation of present research that helps to understand the process of language change.

Although, there are number of researches has been conducted in the domain in last and present century to understand the phenomena of language change in different languages especially in the different varieties of English such as British and American English (Danchev and Kyto 1994; Mair, 1997; Hundt, 1998; Szmrecsanyi, 2003; Leech, 2004; Mair and Leech, 2006). Previous researchers identified the numbers of grammatical constructs that went through the process of grammticalization and attained the status of grammatical units from the lexical units by exploiting different research tools, methodologies and corpus. Present research will also conduct in this context in which we try to indentify the process of grammaticalization (grammatical change) in the Pakistani English that has not been previously studied in this domain with specific framework.

### **1.3 Objective of Study**

Researcher utilized the corpus linguistics approach to conduct a diachronic study to identify the grammatical change in Pakistani English. The key objectives of this study are following that play the role of major guidelines to understand the framework of present research .

1. Identify the grammatical changes in Pakistani English in 42 years duration (1947-1989).
2. Distribution of different grammatical constructs in the corpus.
3. Understand the phenomena of grammaticalization.
4. Analyze the grammatical inclination of Pakistani users of English language.

### **1.4 Research Questions**

The aim of this research is to find out the answers of following questions:

1. Do the selected grammatical constructs show change and fluctuation in their usage in Pakistani English diachronically?
2. Does Pakistani English face the phenomena of grammaticalization?
3. What is distribution of different grammatical constructs in different decades?

### **Literature Review**

English language has been achieved the status of routinely used language through which both native and non-native community articulate their lives' experiences. Although, standardized English is enriched with historical heritage but communicative concerns mark the staggering variation in linguistic feature of language due to different kinds of

factors. The study of language variations again grabbed the attention of linguistics from many years. It is considered as one of

the productive and ever green area of language studies that highlight the different kinds of linguistic variations throughout the history such as lexical syntactic, grammatical, semantics, and phonological aspect of languages. These researches can be conducted either in synchronic framework or diachronic framework. This concept was firstly introduced by Sapir (1921). He stated that “everyone knows that language is variable.”

Let's firstly discussed about notion of language change and variation

### **2.1 Concepts related to Language Variability and Change**

The concepts of variability and change have been defined, evaluated and described in different multiple ways. It has been identified that human beings usually alter or vary the different linguistic elements according to the different situation and circumstance to meet the communication needs. These variations marked as intra-speaker variation in which different kinds of socio-linguistic factors have been accounted. The study of such kind of variation provides the solution of different identified fundamental problems of linguistics theory (Bailey, 1973; Labov, 2001). Moreover, the element of variability can be observed in different dialects, registers at different levels. Traditionalists considered the grammar or linguistic features are fixed one and possess the unchanged system but soon this approach has been nullified by different researchers who identify the linguistic variations and also mark the different social variables and reasons such as specific communicative behaviors of speech community, colloquialization, need of communicative tasks etc. Wolfram (2006) also penned down a claim that “in traditional linguistic description the notion of variation within structural units has often been analyzed as “free fluctuation,” “optional rules,” and “free variants.” One of the key concepts in this area is linguistic variability. It is considered as “ structural unit that includes a set of fluctuating variants showing meaningful co-variation with an independent set of variables“ (Wolfram, 2006: 334) This concept was first time studied by William Labov ( 1966) who became the key proponent of studies of language variation and considered as founder of this area. Different kinds of researchers manipulated the different kind of methodological innovation to find out the how the different kind of factors such as age, gender, ethnic group, social group and context of language use.

Moreover, in the domain of historical variation in linguistic feature, there are two kinds of approaches to deal with this aspect: diachronic and synchronic. Former approach is effective and important way to study the syntactic variations while latter approach or apparent time studies majorly deal with the exploration and explanation of phonological and morph syntactic variations in language.

According to David Crystal (1996) the process of language change and variation is unpredictable. Man can understand, identify and evaluate the linguistic past, but could not predict the linguistic future. Static view of language totally denies the element of change and existence of variation and claims that Standard English is fixed one, without any kind of variability. Language consisted of prescribed rules and conventions that cannot be abandoned or neglected. The supporters of this view only allow one kind of variant of grammatical aspects that is only one correct choice. On the other side, “a dynamic view on language recognizes the existence of change informs us about it and focuses on those areas where change is ongoing“ (Croft, 2000: 45-48). Moreover, Biber (1988) claims that change can be identified in different variations due to alternative usage of linguistic features at different level. Researchers studied this alternative usage in actual patterns of language as well as tried to find out the reasons. The factor of variation also highlights the difference between standardized English language and non- standardized dialects of respected language at different level. The former generally shared the members and language users of all linguistic communities. On the other hand, the latter are constrained to particular social and regional dialects. It is also facts all such kind of these features which have been identified by considering the different variable such as age, gender and level of formality, distinctive features of both speech and writing possessed the diagnostic potential and enlisted the different points to understand the future linguistic change (Sankoff, Labov & Kroch, 1989).

### **2.2 Theoretical framework**

In 1970 the neo-grammian revolution brings the two distinctive but interlinked approaches to study the linguistic aspects, variation and change. These terms were firstly introduced by Swiss linguistics Ferdinand de Saussure. He marked the meaning of the term “synchronic” as coexistence and diachronic as “successive in English language. The diachronic study refers to historical background of language variation and change across the time. It is also known as historical linguistics in which we study the origin, change and transformation of different linguistic elements such as lexical item, grammatical units and phonological aspects etc throughout the time frame.

Diachronic approach gives the opportunity to the language researcher to observe the language change in progress. There are two kinds of cases of language changes that can be identified with the help of this approach. According to Pintzuk (2003), it also provides the “sequential actuation” about the language change. Sometime change takes start

from more favorable environment and then moves and spreads towards less favorable environment. Similarly Baily (1973) also claimed that firstly linguistic changes variably initiated in a “limited, natural linguistic environment” after that it travels to other environments. On the other side, there is also a “stimulus actuation” in which user of language changes the linguistics feature or introduces new form of language into different environments at a same time. Moreover Wolfram (2006) gives the remark about Bailey’s model and states that “the variable change in the earliest environment would ideally show greater variability than changes in other environments where the change started later“. Because today’s language variation in speech community mostly mark the print of tomorrow’s changes. In this Present research, diachronic approach has been manipulated to identify grammatical changes or modifications in non native English language to identify whether non- native users of English language move either with static traditionalist view of language or take the influence of dynamic view of language.

Early variationists’ studies (e.g., Labov 1969; Cedergren & Sankoff 1974) claimed that variation is kind of inherent factor in language system and also relevant to the speaker’s competence. The grammatical domain should be incorporated in these studies (just like phonological etc) with number of variable rules that marks grammatical variations and changes in language. Similarly English language also faced the same process of change and variation in different linguistics features under the influence of different factors (social, regional etc) within different situations and environments. There are number of notions and terms have been used to mark or identify the grammatical variation and change in English language such as grammaticalization and grammar change etc.

Firstly, we will discuss these terms and notions then move towards the number of researches that have been conducted in this domain.

### **2.3 Grammaticalization**

Although, this term was firstly introduced by Meillet (1912) but the seminal work of German linguist Christian Lehmann ‘Thoughts on Grammaticalization’ (1982) who was interested to study, Identify and understand the grammatical changes in language , become the reason of its popularity . It is also known as grammaticalization and simply defined as “a process by which grammar is created” (Croft, 2006). It has been observed that number of grammatical expressions originated from the lexical items and over the time preformed the duties of grammatical units especially in the 19th and 20th centuries. Grammaticalization theory gives the list of tools to discover the answer of research statements such as “how different grammatical elements are related to each other, how systematic polysemy can arise and why certain linguistic forms have simultaneous lexical and grammatical functions” (Heine and Kuteva 2002). The studies of Heine et al. (1991), Lehmann (1995), Hopper and Traugott (2003) and Fischer (2007) provided the complete plus brief historical journey of grammaticalization. Most of the researches in this domain that have focus on constraints on change, followed the diachronic approach , while some followed the synchronic approach that showed their principle concern to order the subcategories of a given grammatical category (Lehmann 1985). According to traditionalist, such as Bybee et al. (1994), Lehmann (1995, 2004), Haspelmath (2004), the concepts of grammaticalization involves the process of reduction, freezing, and obligation of elements. Kurylowicz’s (1965: 69) observed and stated that “grammaticalization consists in the increase of the range of a morpheme advancing from a lexical to a grammatical or from a less grammatical to a more grammatical status, e.g. from a derivative formant to an inflectional one”. Such as English expression “going to” (with a finite form of be) now appeared as the intention/future marker “gonna”. This theory defines , explains , identifies and provide the framework about the language change that “does not merely seize a word or morpheme [ . . . ] but the whole construction formed by the syntagmatic relations of the elements in question” (Lehmann 1992, cited in Traugott 2008).

### **2.4 Why the Study of Grammatical Changes?**

The grammatical aspects of English language show the radical change in course of time. Early researchers put all their attention and attention towards the lexical and phonological aspects of language to study and understand the phenomena of language change. The study the grammatical changes in language is difficult to perceive because many linguists and researchers believe that this process of grammatical changes in language is not easy and possible to observe. It can only be identified and detected in the form of resultant language change ( Baily, 2002). Similarly, David ( 1996) also stated that

it is next to impossible to be definite about the changes which take place in grammar. These changes are in any case extremely slowly moving, and restricted to very small points of grammatical construction. There hasn’t been a major change in English grammar for centuries. But it is possible to tell which grammatical features are in the process of change, because there are variations which give rise to controversies over usage. From last few decades, linguists, grammarians and researchers showed their keen interest towards the study of grammatical changes both diachronically and synchronically in English language such as Veichman (2003) and Leech (2009). Number of grammatical studies has been conducted under the theoretical framework of grammaticalization. It is phenomenon of language change that discusses the change and development of grammatical constructions from lexical

expressions. It mostly supports the diachronic approach to enlist the number of grammatical changes in language (Hopper & Traugott, 1993:19) Moreover, many researchers also tried to incorporate the semantic and pragmatic aspect to study the meaning making aspect related to language change.

Now in next part we are going to discuss number of researches that studies the few number of specific grammatical changes that drag our attention for present studies. .

## 2.5 Pervious Researches

Mair (2006) discussed the grammatical changes in English language in his book *Twenty Century English; history, variation and standardization*. He cited the numbers of researches in which grammatical changes have been studied in the 20th century time frame. Barber (1964) and Potter (1975) conducted the survey based studies of language change in which they identified the list of grammatical changes that also become the part of forthcoming researchers.

Rickford et al. (1995) found the emerging use of topic introducing preposition as far as. Similarly, Olofsson (1990) marked the usage of propositional use of following rather than its normal use as the participle in nonfinite clauses. Similarly, The drastic shift to the usage of be like form as a quotation-introducing verb has been studied by Romaine and Lange (1991) in many registers of American English. Just like Barber's (1964) studies of grammatical changes, Denison (1998) also indentified the diachronic grammatical changes and development in English language. He stated at the outset of his survey "the topic of syntactic change in late Modern English is only just beginning to get its share of serious scholarly attention" (1998: 92). His work based on corpus linguistic approach and was outcome of two key assumptions and predictions: (1) no dramatic typological reorganization of the grammatical transition from late Old English to Middle English; and (2) observable changes are matter of different statistical preferences. In the decades of 1960 and 1970, the waves of egalitarian and informal communicative culture have been flourished in public domain that directly favored the disappearance of archaism and also promoted the fashion to use the informal grammatical expression such as use of going to as future and other certain types of progressive. It also brings the norms and conventions of writing close to the spoken norms. Mair and Hundt (1995) manually analyzed all kind of progressive forms in the press sections (A-C, around 176,000 words each). Study of corpus marks the increase of the textual frequency of the progressive in the existing framework of forms and rules. The usage of both new forms such as the present perfect passive progressive and the use of progressive for stative verbs showed the observable shifts in spectrum of time. These studies have been conducted into both British and American English corpus to identify the contrastive changes in both varieties of English language. Distinctively, Nicholas Smith (2002) used the tagged corpus in his studies and noted 28.9% increase in the usage of present active progressive and of 31.3% for the past active progressive in British corpora. Szmrecsanyi (2003) also studied the usage of going to-futures and will/shall in four corpora that represented the "contrasting formality levels" in both spoken British and American English. The use going to represent the future, marked as the phenomena of grammaticalisation by linguists. The analysis also highlights the frequent usage of gonna among the discourse of youngster and it is in the way to become normalizes in British English for coding the future. Berglund (2000) conducted a research to do the comparative analysis of gonna and going to in the BNC. Leech (2003) studied the drastic changes in usage of some English modal in probably just 30 years. Dwight Bolinger (1980) also claimed that "the system of modal auxiliaries in English [is] now undergoing wholesale reorganization". It means the Leech (2003) identified change can't be marked as surprised complete shift. The change in English model can be interpreted effectively with the respect of discourse's type and textual genre.

In the case of usage of must, it has been observed that this modal verb quietly replaced by expression of have to and have got (Hundt, 1998). On the other side, Leech (2004) tried to find out fluctuation in the usage of must and have to rather than direct change with the automatic analysis. He also identified the difference between have to and have got to during this study (Mair and Leech 2006). the expression of need to has also drastically increased as an alternative to the modal verb (Taeymans 2004).

There is another grammatical aspect that becomes the part of this discussion is related to passive expression: get passive and be passive (Weiner and Labov 1983). The usage of get passive appeared as young one historically but it did not enjoy the status of "marker of colloquial style". Moreover, there is also contrastive shift in the usage of to infinitive and bare infinitives in British and American English. Former kind shows the statical norm with to infinitive while latter used more bare infinitive with word help.

The ongoing dramatic changes are considered corrective or negative because sometimes some suspended changes did not occur in assumed direction in which they were expected in the specific given period of time. The demise of whom in twenty century is one of clear justified examples of it. Mair (2005) stated that "Whom is moribund as an element of the core grammar of English, but still very much alive as a style marker whose correct use is acquired in the educational system." The under 14 age group did show complete strangeness with the use of whom in their discourse and used the word who with preposition such to who, from who (Aarts and Aarts 2002:

128). In the case of s genitive and of-phrase, the usage of s, s' and 's genitive are comparatively increase in frequency (Raab-Fischer, 1995; Mair et al. 2002). These features also studied under the domain of semantic use and need of both expressions in different genre structure. The study revealed that genitive showed remarkable absence in spoken corpus as compare to different written genre. Unlike the decline of usage of whom, the spread of personal pronouns has been observed as case marker form in twenty century. In English language the personal pronoun is only grammatical feature that still marks the distinction between nominative and oblique form to determine the status of subjective or objective but now "inflectional marking on the pronoun became redundant and is in some instances even a source of confusion for speakers and writers" (Marie 2003). In the case of it , the most exclusive focus of this debate on "it is I vs. it is me. The findings show the nominative case is still commonly found in twenty century English corpus.

All these aforementioned previous researches provide the comprehensive detail for researcher to identify and select the specific grammatical aspects that could become the part of present research. It also provides the overview about the different kinds of research methodologies that have been employed by different researchers to study the grammatical changes in English language historically. Few researches have been conducted in the form of survey, manual analysis or automatic statistical analysis, few researchers used the tagged corpus, some researches were pure quantities, and some were combination of both qualitative and quantitative. This discussion helped us to select the most appropriate methods of our study.

## 2.6 Language Change and Research Methods

The study of grammatical changes and variation is multifaceted and multipurpose analysis. Modern approach demands and encourages the use of different kind of method for eliciting, analysis and evaluation for the study of language changes. Meyerhoff (2009) claims that for such kind of studies researchers and linguists usually "need quite large corpora of spontaneous or natural data to draw on some reliable, statistically relevant conclusions (p 204-205). To study and investigate the more factors, linguists always need the large understudied data/ corpus. Sociolinguistic interview is one of the oldest and most commonly adopted methods for natural spontaneous speech analysis that has been incorporated with sociolinguistic survey. Other technique is observation that is also successful way to collect quantitative and qualitative data about the language. In few recent eras, new kinds of research methodologies have been adopted by socio-linguists that define the correlation between language change and variation and social factors. It helps to understand the overall systematic language changes in both standardized and dialectal varieties of language. Firstly, the main concern of this domain is to describe and define accurately distributional patterns of the target grammatical structure and its functions (Biber et al, 1999). Secondly, findings can be collected and assessed in quantitative ways , such as frequency counts and percentages to find out the answers of research questions. Usually large sized corpora are effective and significance to study and identify smallest variations and changes but sometimes small corpus can document the language changes. Furthermore, many researchers incorporate the interpretative approach with quantitative data to define the functional considerations and interpretation with the help of human analysis. It helps to disclose functional potential of the target units as well as "substantiates the transformations within the system of language" (Holyk, 2005). In the paradigm of research methodologies, , the usage of fluctuation analysis is one of recent methods to study the language changes across the time. Utilization of collocations to identified the fluctuation of different kind of word relationships in language, has been appeared as one of the innovative effective method. It can be used to study the grammatical , semantical , discourse related aspects of the language. In the domain of historical corpus , the study and exploration of linguistic changes over time can be observed with the help of collocation based evaluation. It is one of the effective tools that has the combination of both manual analysis with statistical sophistication (McEnery et al., 2019). It consisted of four main components (i) identification of collocates of selected specific word (node) across the period of time , (ii) utilization of an overlapping sliding window to identify the collocates throughout the time- series data, (iii) recursive estimation of the difference between collocates at any two consecutive points in the sliding window and (iv) employment of statistical regression model to estimate the difference. This analysis can be conducted by using Lancaster Stats Tools online with the help of freely available series of scripts. The outcome always represents in the form of graph which shows the divergent and convergence between collocates across the time frame. At this point, we decided to use the quantitative approach in our research with the help of tagged data by utilizing the Antconc tool. The findings will be represented in the form of graphs to study the fluctuation and change in the usage of different grammatical units over the time just like fluctuation analysis.

Conclusively, aforementioned discussion provides the theoretical background and framework for present research. It also helps to define and identify the space for our research. Moreover, previous researches also help the researcher to select the specific grammatical aspects that can be studied in Pakistani English to understand the process of grammaticalization and language change

## Research Methodology

This chapter narrates the complete details about research methodology that has been exploited in this research. It provides the details about type of study, data collection, tools and procedure that became the part of present research.

### 3.1 Type of Study

The quantitative research framework has been employed to study the grammatical change in Pakistani English diachronically. The findings have been collected in the form of concordance hits per million words. Researcher also considers the key principles of corpus based studies.

### 3.2 Data Collection

To study the grammatical changes, the corpus of Pakistani English has been collected. This corpus consists of research papers, books, speeches, and editorials that have been written by Pakistani writers and students. This present study uses this corpus that has not been exploited in any previous study in this dimension. This corpus has been divided into five decades.

### 3.3 Tools

This research has been done with the help of two tools: MAT and AntConc.

#### 3.3.1 AntConc.

AntConc is freeware; it is a multi-platform tool developed by Anthony (2014) frequently used in linguistics researches. AntConc tool consisted of seven text analysis tools that can be accessed either by just clicking on their tabs in the window of the tool or using the function keys F1 to F7 (Anthony, 2014). This tool enlisted as Concordance Tool, Concordance Plot Tool, File View Tool, Clusters/N-Grams, Collocates, Word List, and Keyword List. Each and every tool performs different kinds of functions such as finding collocates term, determining the frequency, and finding concordance of targeted word Anthony (2013). It is one of the easy to-use, free and fast tools that is basically designed for the Osaka University Graduate School of Engineering in 2002 to process raw corpus data of a variety of kinds during the course of scientific and technical writing.

#### 3.3.2 MAT Tagger

The Multidimensional Analysis Tagger 1.3 (MAT) (Nini, 2015) is corpus tool that is basically used for tagging purposes. It is developed by Andrea Nini (2015) that can easily annotate the targeted corpus based on linguistic and grammatical and features. It also generates the statistical description of text-type or genre analysis. The MAT follows the linguistic tag set that is also used in another tagger, i.e., the Stanford Tagger (2013). It also annotates the corpus with part-of speech and syntactic information. MAT detects the number of linguistic features that are described and identified by Biber (1988) to provide the facility for the preliminary linguistic analysis. Jiang and Xu (2015), and Crosthwaite (2016) also tested the accuracy level and efficiency level of this tool.

### 3.4 Research Procedure

To find out the diachronic changes in selected grammatical construction, the following systematic research procedure has been adopted:

1. Firstly, corpus has been collected that consists of different written genres from 1947 to 1989. These writings have been written by Pakistani non-native user of English language.
2. Secondly, data has been divided into 5 decades
3. Thirdly, collected and divided data has been tagged with the help of MAT tagger.
4. Fourthly, to identify and study the grammatical changes over the time, AntConc tool. has been used.
5. With the help of concordance, the distribution of different grammatical constructions, their alternative and their usage have been identified in each decade.
6. Analysis of all findings analytically and critically.

## Research Findings.

To study the grammatical changes in Pakistani English over the spectrum of time, firstly the corpus has been tagged with the help of MAT tagger and divided into 5 decades. After that, we used Antconc tools to study the variations and changes in Pakistani English diachronically. Previous researchers conducted the number of researches to study the grammatical changes in the different varieties of English language. By following their footsteps, researcher identified the list of different grammatical aspects and units that have been changed over the time and their usage too such as have to and must etc. Actually, present research used the previous research findings as blue print to see either Pakistani users of English language (non native variety of English) also favored the change in the grammatical aspects as the others different varieties did such as British English or American English. Moreover, there is no

previous research has been found in literature that specifically studied the diachronic changes in grammatical aspect of Pakistani English.

4.1 Diachronic Distribution of Grammatical Constructs

By exploiting the quantitative approach, principles of fluctuation analysis and systemic research methodology, the following findings have been collected and identified in targeted corpus. The table 4.1 is showing the grammatical changes in the usages of different grammatical constructions over the time in different decades that shows the factor of fluctuation. In each decade, the number of token words was not equal that directly marked the effect on the findings. So, we calculated the occurrence of grammatical features per million words

Grammatical features	Have to	Must	Going to	Will/shall	Get passive	Be passive	Be being	Been being	S' genitive	Of phrase
1947-1950 (per million)	322	903	132	6242	7.9	4367	00	0	474	10025
1951-1960	212	876	89	4130	22	5811	00	00	753	12415
1961-1970	202	773	77	2319	40	6383	00	00	973	12405
1971-1980	170	822	73	3873	31	2690	00	00	967	11706
1981-1989	196	81	196	4610	34	6169	1.3	00	1694	3856

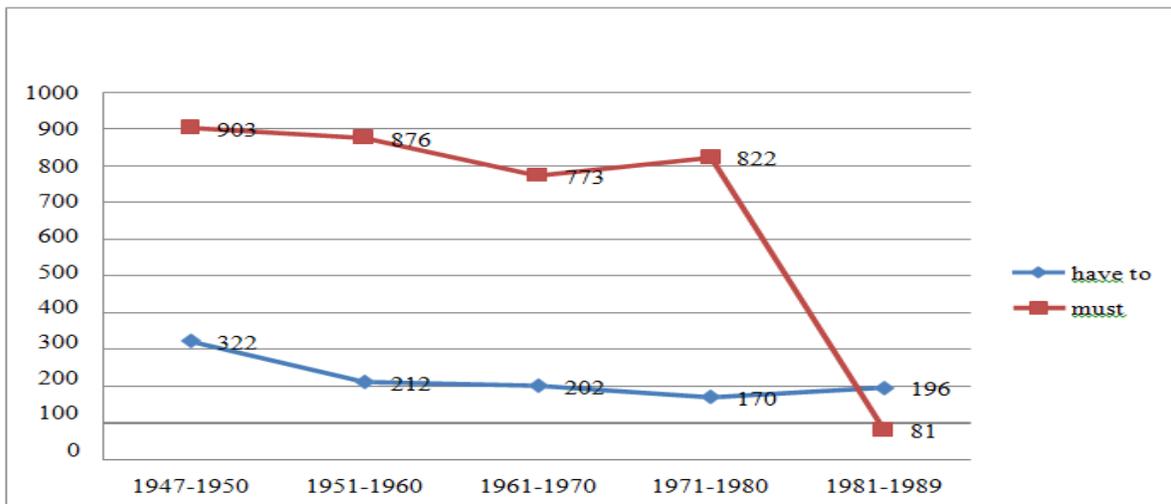
Table 4.1 Diachronic Changes in the Utilization of Grammatical Constructions

To make the findings easier to digest and understandable for respected learner, researcher represented the finding of each grammatical unit and its contrary construction graphically. It helps to show the fluctuation in the usage of grammatical construction in each and every decade visually. It has been discussed individually.

4.1.1 Have to vs. Must

The following graph 1.2 represented the changes in the usage of must and has to comparatively and diachronically. The decline in the usage of must can be identified but on the other hand have to is gaining the grammatical position to show the obligation as shown in following graph.

Graph 4.2 Must vs. Have to

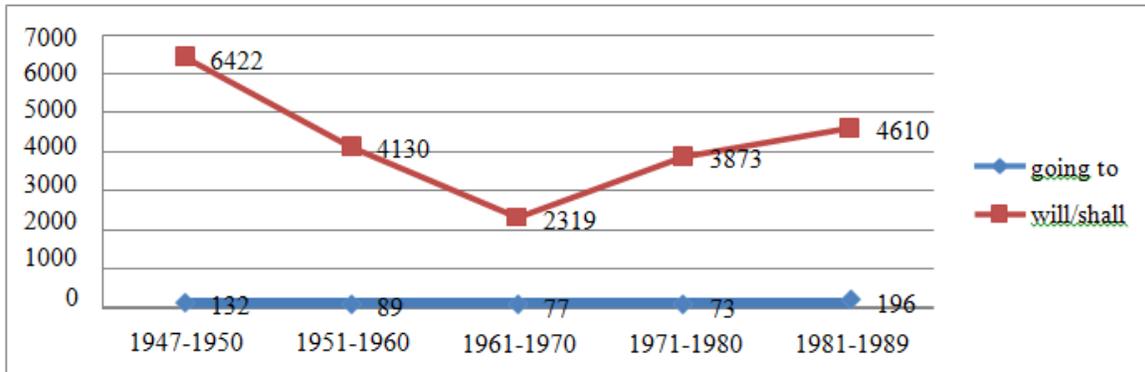


4.1.2 Going to vs. Shall/Will

The following graph 1.3 is showing the diachronic change in the usage of going to-future and will/shall. Although will/shall still sustains the strong the position but also facing the decline in its usage. On the other hand, going to-

future although is less in frequency but gradually collecting the position of grammatical unit to represent the future. It can easily see in following graph.

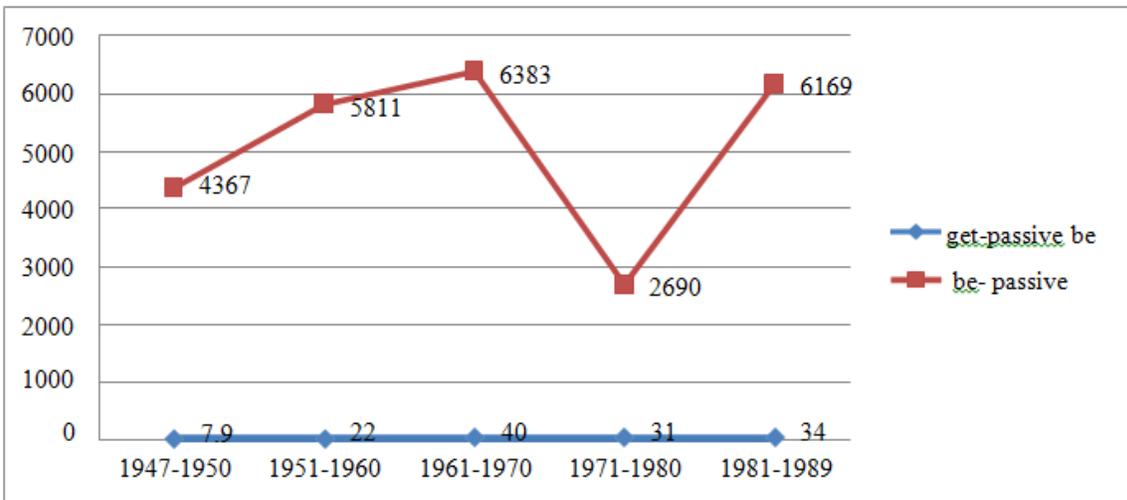
**Graph 4.3 Going to vs. Will/Shall**



**4.1.3 Get-Passive and Be-Passive**

The position of be-passive is still remarkable in the spectrum of time as compared to get-passive but the following graph 1.4 showed the fluctuation in its usage. On the other hand, frequency of get-passive shows the positive progression in its usage diachronically. In 1950s, it has 7.9 occurrences while in the last decades of 20 century it showed almost 34 hits per million.

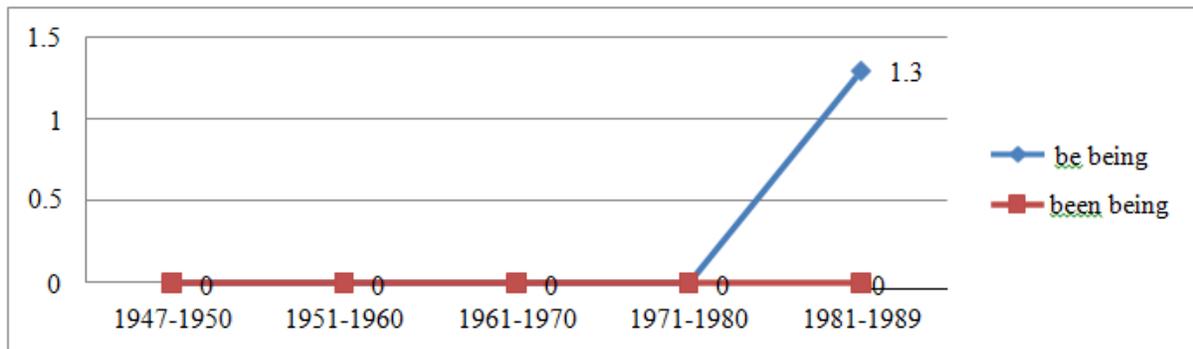
**Graph 4.4 Get-passive vs. Be-passive**



**4.1.4 Be being vs. been being**

It is one of the unique findings in whole research; Pakistani users of English language did not show the familiarity with these two progressive constructions. They frequently used be-passive construction to represent the progressive time. There are only 2 occurrences have been found in second last decade of 20 century. It raised many questions in my mind of researchers and linguists: why Pakistani non native users did not use these expressions in their authentic text. The one intuitive answer is, may be they found this construction as complex one. The graph 1.5 is depicting the picture of it.

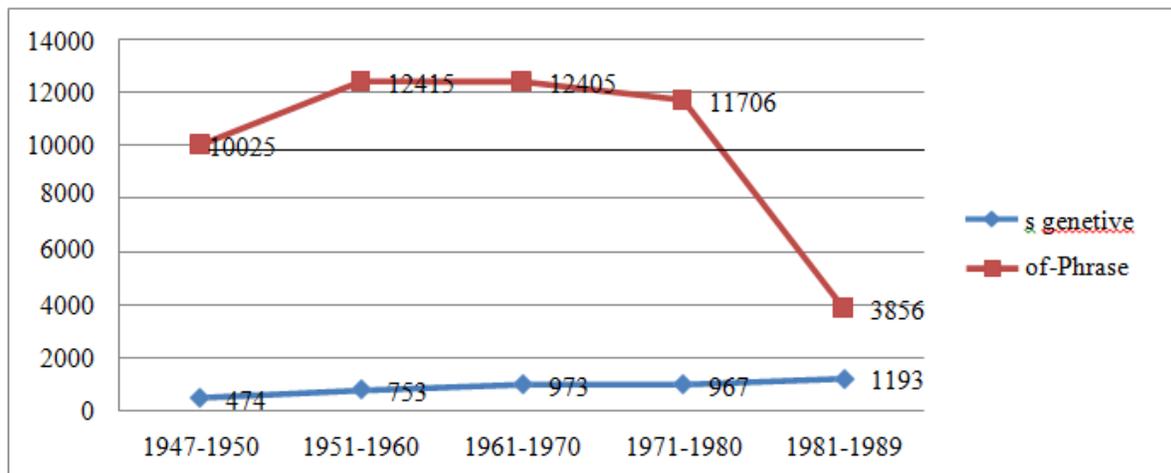
**Graph 4.4 Be being Vs. Been being**



**4.1.5 ‘S genitive vs. Of phrase**

These two constructions usually used to show the possession in the case of nouns. Usage Of- phrase in Pakistani English tried to retain its position in written discourse over the time but graph is continuously dropping while ‘s genitive has been witnessed as considerable grammatical position in Pakistani English due to its short nature. The ‘s genitive showed the comparatively low frequency. The following graph 1.6 is clearly representing this claim.

**Graph 4.5 ‘S Genitive vs. Of Phrase**



All aforementioned findings are clearly showing the diachronic grammatical changes in this non native variety of English language. Undoubtedly, these changes are not linear (progressive) in nature and there is also a factor of fluctuation just like British and American English. We will discuss the finding in more detail in next chapter.

**Discussion**

**5.1 Going to vs. Will/ Shall**

It is a traditional expression to use the will or shall to represent the future that usually and frequently used by both native and non-native users of English language users to describe their forthcoming and futuristic acts. But there is also one more grammatical expression going to that has been used in English language to narrate the future. It is not recent innovation in English language but its usage as futuristic expression doesn’t stabilize yet. Moreover, It has been identified in BNC with almost 288 hits per million. The rise of usage of going to-future in Middle English period can be marked as process of grammaticalization. Joshua Poole (1646) has explicitly recognized the going to as a future marker which can be either strongly or indirectly considered as the outcome of grammaticalization at that time. The number of finding showed that although the status of will/shall did not drop but rise in the usage of going to-future “did not occur until the end of the nineteenth century, but has continued unabated since then” (Danchev and Kyto 1994; Mair, 1997; Szmrecsanyi, 2003). In the case of Pakistani English, there is kind

of fluctuation in the usage of going to-future. The presence of going to can be identified in every decade but the drastic shift in the usage of going to appeared during the 1980-1989. It means in the late 20 century the expressions of Pakistani users of English language move toward the radical change. They started to bring flexibility in their expression and element of grammaticalization gets the space in Pakistani English just like other varieties of English language. On the other hand, utilization of will/shall is gradually reduced but it fluctuates in last two decades 80's and 90's. In the last decade, the frequency of utilization of will/shall again was increasing gradually.

### **5.2 Must vs. Have to**

These two grammatical expressions used to show the obligation in discourse. These are generally considered as the alternative to each other but the semantically both used to perform distinctive duties. The modal verb Must usually stands for personal opinion while have to used in the case of authoritative remarks or words. In British and American English, the usage of must- modal verb showed the decline graph while the corresponding growth in usage of have to has been identified during the historical study of corpus (Hundt, 1998). On the other hand, few researchers claimed the factor of fluctuation in this case rather than direct gradual change (Leech, 2004; Mair and Leech, 2006). The findings of our corpus showed that although the ratio of usage of must has been declined but with little fluctuation. Moreover, during 1980-1989 graph showed the drastic decline in frequency as compared to earlier 20 century.

In the case of have to, finding showed the same results that have been claimed by Leech (2004), Mair and Leech (2006). In Pakistani English usage of have to is frequently very low as compared to must and this usage also reduced with passage of time but it can be extinguished completely. If we compared the findings of both expressions, the usage of usage of have to has been high as compared to must in Pakistani English if we studied their usage in graph of time comparatively.

### **5.3 Get passive vs. Be- passive**

On the syntactical basis, usage of get passive and be passive showed the similar kind of construction. Both grammatical expressions could be used in promotional sense to occupying the grammatical role of subject as a passive one with or without agents. This kind of grammatical tendency marked the semantic similarity between both expressions while there is systematic range of dissimilarities. Lackoff (1971) pointed the primary difference due to matter of control or purpose in her work "passive resistance". In the case of be passive, demoted agents sustain the control while in the case of get-passive the control remains in the side of prompted patients. There are variations and changes in the utilization of both expressions .Get passive is one of the innovative grammatical constructions that also used in some idiomatic expressions such as get rid of etc. The study of literature related to get passive revealed that it did not remain a colloquial marker or informal expression in the discourse as in early centuries of English language. But in 20 century, due to the process of grammaticalization and reduction of semantic and stylistic constraints it appeared as clear replacement of be passive. According to Weiner and Labov (1983: 43) "A shift to the get-passive appears to be one of the most active grammatical changes taking place in English". During the study of Pakistani English, we also found the utilization of get passive was increasing over the time but it did not mark the any effect on the be- passive. In 1950, the frequency was only 7.3 and in late 20 century the graph has been raised and we found 34 hits per million. On the other hand, the grammatical constructions of be passive retained its utilization over the time. No doubt, its usage graph shows the fluctuation in different decades but it did not lose its grammatical worth and utilization.

### **5.4 Be being vs. Been being**

The English language witnessed the different kind of shifts and changes in the utilization of present, past and perfect sentences and their different long standing trends. These changes can also be identified in the utilization of progressive construction in English language. Although, in 1900 era progressive form were fully developed but in next century, new progressive forms emerged to fulfill the niche of verbal paradigm. Corpus studies revealed increase in the usage of the present or past perfect passive progressive, the future/conditional/modal passive progressive, or the future/conditional/modal perfect passive progressive in British and American English. (Aarts et al., 2010) All these grammatical constructions shared the "sequences of be being or been being and the use of three or four auxiliaries alongside the main verb"(Mair, 2003). During the study of Pakistani English, whole corpus did not show any concordance hit related to these progressive expression of be being and been being. There were only two hits for the expression of be being in last decade of our understudied corpus. It means Pakistani writers did not follow these constructions in their writing due to complex and complicated expression as compared to other simple passive progressive expression such as dinner is/was preparing vs. dinner is/was being prepared that we can be identified in the case of be passive.

### **5.5 S ' genitive vs. of Phrase**

These both grammatical expressions marked as case in English language that showed the relation of noun with the other units. Although, utilization of inflection has been reduced in modern English and now functional words are

using as substitute (Quirk, 1985). There is only one inflection form found in English language for noun that is genitive case. It formed by add 's with noun in singular condition and S' with noun in plural case. It usually used to show the possession. On the side, there is also a substitution in English language in the form of Of- Phrase that acts as pre-modifier in the phrase. Jespersen (1909) was one of those who firstly noticed the tendency for utilizing the genitive to spread to concrete inanimate nouns. Although, the rise in 's genitive can be identified Mair et al. (2002) noted the 5.3 percent increase in the frequency of nouns that marks the effect on the more occurrence of genitives proportionally.

Raab-Fischer (1995 cited in Mair, 2006) also did a laborious comparative qualitative study to identify the usage of of phrase and 's genitive. It is also claimed that use of the genitive is encouraged in the presence of-phrase. Jankowski, B. (2006) also studied this aspect in Canadian English . Moreover, these expression are interchangeable, genitive phrase can be replaced by post modifying prepositional phrase ( Biber , 1999). The genitive case showed some extra advantages such as it is shorter but a suitable grammatical device for compressing information. It has been found in current written English with greater incidence might thus entirely be due to greater information density in writings. In the case Pakistani English frequency of genitive's has been increased over the time. Its occurrence reached from 474 to 1694 per million during 40 years. While the utilization of Of- phrase showed the declined in its usage in written discourse. It may be due to some semantic, generic and stylistic variations.

### Conclusion

This chapter tries to summarize the key findings related to grammatical changes that directly provide the answers to our research questions. The framework of present research has been designed by following the layouts and findings of previous researches. With the help of literature, the numbers of grammatical constructions have been identified and enlisted that lately became the part of this research. Different researchers exploited different corpus of English language to study the historical changes in the usage the different kinds of grammatical constructions as well to understand the process of grammaticalization such as Danchev and Kyto (1994), Mair (1997) , Hundt (1998), Szmrecsanyi, (2003) , Leech (2004), Mair and Leech, ( 2006) . In this study , we investigated the changes in 10 different kinds of grammatical constructions that moved in pairs due to alternative to each other. The study revealed the Pakistani users of English language also inclined towards the radical view of language and utilized the different alternative grammatical constructions such as have to that has been appeared as an alternative expression of must due to process of grammaticalization. Findings showed that usage of have to was marking its certain grammatical position to represent the obligation while the graph of must was fluctuating and mostly showing the decline. The second grammatical constructions were going to and will/shall. Just like other varieties of English, The Pakistanis also show their inclination towards the usage of going to to represent the future but still its frequency is very low in Pakistani English as compared to will/shall because it is one of the innovative grammatical constructions. Thirdly, comparative diachronic study has been done between get-passive and be-passive. The findings showed that be-passive retained its strong position throughout the spectrum of time while get-passive also showed the comparative high occurrences. It shifted from 7 hits to 34 hits per million. Fourthly, we studied the two progressive constructions be being and been being in our targeted corpus. Strangely, we got only two concordance hits of these expressions in the last decades. This finding raises many questions in mind of researchers and linguists that must be part of future researches. Lastly the 's genitive and of phrase have been studied comparatively and diachronically. The finding showed the gradual rise in the usage of 's -genitive in written discourse while the frequencies of – phrase have been decreased drastically over the time especially in the late 20 century.

Conclusively, it can be said that Pakistani English also moved with the process of grammatical changes or grammaticalization. But this grammatical change showed some individuality. It has been identified that rise of few constructions did not post the negative impact in the usage of the other constructs. Alternatively, the rise of some grammatical units leads towards the decline of alternative grammatical construct such as 's genitive vs. of phrase. On the hand, there are also some grammatical constructs such as be being and been being that show only 2 occurrences in 40 years duration. Pakistani did not show the familiarity with these grammatical units. The finding and the critically discussion of this study help to understand the process of language change. It also highlighted the grammatical richness in English language that evolved over the time. Such kinds of historical studies of languages assist learners to understand the present and future of language with the help of past. Moreover, future researchers can study the diachronic change in other grammatical constructs or lexical units in the corpus of Pakistani English.

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