Lexical Variants in Pashto: A Comparative Study Accompanied in Paktia and Nangrahar

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ABSTRACT

The aim this study is to investigate the lexical variations in Pashto spoken in Paktia and Nangrahar. The linguistic variations of age and region were considered to find out the lexical differences in Spoken Pashto both targeted provinces. However, to accomplish the aims of the investigation, two data sets were center of the information for this comparative study of the lexical variations. The main data were collected by open-ended questionnaire to get the secondary data. For getting the objectives of the study, a questionnaire was spread out among the randomly selected participants, the 50 participants were selected from both targeted places. Vocally managed questionnaire was also led in order to get the purpose of the study. Although, the observation of the speakers was another research tool. The examination of the collected data from both study tools showed that there are prominent differences in spoken Pashto in Paktia and Nangrahar from the view point of lexical variation. However, from the observation it was decided that there are certain expletives associated in both targeted places.

Keywords- Variation, Nangrahar, Paktia, questionnaire, data, open-ended questions.

I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Language Variation

Language is one of humanity's most valuable assets. Our ability to communicate through language distinguishes us from other species on the planet. As members of a social group, we use the symbolic system of language to make sense of things and communicate with others. Language variety refers to visible variances in how a language is utilized in a certain situation. These dialects differ from the standard Language in terms of lexicon, phonology, and syntax. Whether or not a dialect is appropriate depends on where, by whom, and in what situation it is employed. "The way people utilize language varies in numerous ways. The following are three major dimensions:

1. Regional: dialect variation.
2. Social: sociolect or class dialect variation.
3. Functional: register or functional style variation.

Language users' movement along the axes of regional and dialect variety is quite limited. Few people can speak more than a few dialects or languages. The diversity of language with distinct functional contexts of use, on the other hand, is strikingly diverse - formal and informal, public and private, written and spoken, professional and trade languages. "Though speakers are often unaware of it, the dimension of functional variation is relatively dominating, and speakers respond more quickly to dialectal and sociolect variation than functional variation. Speakers have a language, dialect, and sociolect that are all linked to their birth and upbringing conditions. However, in addition to the primary indexical function of social classification, changes in language, dialect, or sociolect tend to correlate strongly with changes in functional context.

As the linguistic group becomes increasingly isolated by physical geography, such as mountain ranges and rivers, regional variations become more obvious. (P.184, Yule) The social dialects can be found within and among these geographical variants. Class, education, occupation, ethnicity, sex, and age are the key social elements that determine dialects. And social dialects can differ on any or all of the three descriptor levels: syntax, grammar, and vocabulary, as well as phonetics and pronunciation. (Ferguson, p. 52).

Ferguson (ibid) notes that education and occupation are directly related to these social class characteristics. While jobs typically develop their own jargon, a person's occupation will also influence the manner in which they speak. On the work, a lawyer and a laborer are unlikely to speak in the same accent. A person with minimal education is unlikely to speak in the same manner as a college professor. This does not suggest that the lawyer and college professor speak a wider range of English, French, Urdu, or Pashto, but rather that they have had more exposure to and familiarity with these languages in spoken or written form.

1.2 Kinds of Variation

1.2.1 Semantic Variation

"Semantic variation refers to the usage of various words in different dialects for the same item, or the different meanings that a single word has from dialect to dialect. It's perhaps more accurate to call it the study of lexical

semantic variance. Simply said, it is the study of differences in word meanings.

1.2.2 Phonological Variation

Differences in pronunciation within and across dialects are referred to as phonological variation (Jhon Rickford., p3). For example, soft dialect Pashto speakers pronounce fine with a /h/ sound, whereas hard dialect Pashto speakers pronounce it with a /sh/ sound. From a vowel's perspective. For example, in Nangrahar, the word for rice is pronounced "roojy," but in Paktia, it is pronounced "warejy," clearly exhibiting vowel variety.

1.2.3 Grammitical Variation

There are two sorts of grammatical variation: morphology and syntax. For example, the morphemes un"not" and happy "happy" in unhappy, or the morphemes cat"cat" and s "plural" in cats, morphology refers to the structure or forms of words, including the morphemes minimal units of meaning that make words (Rickford., ibid p.4).. The structure of bigger units such as phrases and sentences, as well as the rules for combining and linking words in sentences, is referred to as syntax. Grammatical variants are variances within these categories.

1.2.4 Regional Variation

Regional dialects are dialects of a language that are spoken in different parts of the country (Rickford., ibid p 6). Regional variation is a type of variation that takes on the identity or representation of a particular region. Regional dialects are a variation in speaking a language related with a certain location, and they are a simple approach to observe language variability. ... • Speakers remove themselves from one another across time and space, according to the traditional study of dialect.

1.2.5 Social Variation

Upper middle class vs. working class speakers (social class), males vs. women (sex or gender), young vs. old (age), African Americans vs. European Americans are examples of social dialects (ethnicity or race),. In theory, because people often belong to multiple groups at the same time, their speech patterns could be interpreted as reflecting the simultaneous confluence of their social categories and experiences (Rickford., ibid p.9)

1.2.6 Lexical Variation

"Lexicon refers to a language's lexicon, hence lexical variation refers to variances or variations in a language's vocabulary. When a word's meaning changes through time, it's called lexical variation. Take, for example, the use of the word "gay" in the English language, which has evolved over time from meaning "happy" to "homosexual" (4).

The most major variances or variations among languages occur at the lexicon (vocabulary), phonology (pronunciation), and grammar levels (morphology and syntax). as well as its application Lexical variety also happens when various dialects employ different words for the same item (Rickford, ibid, p. 2) For listeners and

readers, the lexis of dialects is likely the most noticeable trait. We may be able to infer meaning quickly from unknown grammatical structures, but we can only guess at the meaning of a novel lexeme based on the context.

Morphology is the study of words' internal structures, such as the patterns we use for affixes when pluralizing a word, making a verb past tense, or negating a word. Thus, morphological variety explains why English employs "in-" to negate some words (such as inactive), "un-" to negate others (such as unhappy), and "a-" to negate others (such as active) (asexual). It also explains why we add "-s" to some nouns to pluralize them (like chairs) but "-es" to others (e.g., couches). The morphological variation in the in/un/a example can be explained by one's ability to pronounce the word when it is made plural; the variance in chairs/couches can be explained by one's ability to pronounce the word when it is made plural.

Syntactic variation happens when the appropriate manner to phrase something changes over time or differs between dialects. Here's an example of a dialect distinction. The query can be phrased as "Where are you?" and is grammatically accurate. The grammatical variation "Where are you at?" is regularly used in several parts of the United States. Although the latter phrase is erroneous grammatically, it is still common in certain dialects as a syntactic variation. The Pashto dialect spoken in NANGRAHAR is similar in this regard. The way you express the question is grammatically proper. In standard Pashto, the query "Sta sa num dy" (What is your name) is asked, however in some Pashto-speaking groups, the stylistic variation "sta na sa num dy" is commonly used, particularly in the NANGRAHAR dialect. Despite the fact that the latter construction is grammatically erroneous, it is still a common syntactic variation one hears in certain dialects.

1.3. Research Questions

1. To find out the lexical variations in Spoken Pashto in Nangrahar and Paktia.
2. To find out age wise variations with in these speech communities.

1.4 Purpose of Study

The main object of this paper is to find out the lexical variations in Spoken Pashto in Nangrahar and Paktia. Although, the investigation intends to examine age wise variation within speech communities of Nangrahar and Paktia.

The findings of the study will provide important data for characterizing Pashto language variation and language use in various contexts. It will also assist Pashto language learners in learning Pashto in a more efficient and convenient manner if they are aware of these differences. It will also make it easier for foreigners who are interested in learning Pashto. It is believed that this research will provide useful information a good starting point for future scholars and will pave the path for more research into the Pashto language and its variants.

1.5. Pashto Language
1.5.1 General Introduction

Pashto is an Indo-European language that belongs to the Iranian division of the Indo-Iranian group. Pashto has several traits with the Indo-Aryan group of Indo-European languages as a result of extensive borrowing. Pashto, which was originally spoken by the Pashtun people, was designated as Afghanistan's official language in 1936. Around 80 million people speak it, the majority of whom live in Afghanistan or Pakistan. Iran, Tajikistan, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom also have smaller speech communities.

Pashto is the national language of Afghanistan, and it is spoken predominantly in the east, south, and southwest of the country, as well as in some portions of the north and west. Although the actual number of speakers is unknown, multiple estimates suggest that Pashto is the mother tongue of 45–60 percent of Afghanistan's overall population.

1.5.2 Histirical Backround

Some linguists believe Pashto is descended from Avestan or a closely related dialect. However, there is disagreement over whether Pashto is a direct descendent of Avestan. Pashto is an Eastern Iranian language that has traits with Eastern Middle Iranian languages like Bactrian, Khwarezmian, and Sogdian, according to researchers.

The tribes living west of the Indus River were part of Ariana, according to Strabo, who lived between 64 BC and 24 CE. This was approximately the time when the Greco-Bactrian Kingdom ruled over the Pashtun-inhabited region. From the third century CE onwards, they have been referred to as Afghans (Abgan). According to proponents of the Israelitic idea, Pashto is similar to Arabic and Hebrew is a Semitic language. Those who believe Pahtuns are of Arian heritage, on the other hand, associate Pashtu with the Indo-European linguistic family. Most Afghans and foreign experts now accept that Pashto belongs to the Northeast Arian branch of the Indo-European language group, and that its affinity with ancient (Avista and Saka) languages is a known fact, based on scientific research in philology and history. The (Zand and Avesta) include ancient variants of the language." Georg Morgenstierne (1892-1978), a late Norwegian researcher, recognizes the Indo-European and North-east Arian origins of Pashto, but argues Pashto is of (Saki) origin rather than (Avesta). Arabic letters make up Pashto alphabets. The number of sound letters (Phonemes) exceeds forty, with eight distinct Pashto sounds and the rest being identical to Arabic.

The first modern Pashto work, according to Abdul Hai Habibi, dates back to Amir Kror Suri of the early Ghurid dynasty in the 8th century, and they utilise texts found in Pata Khazana(Hidden Treasure). Pata Khazana (Hidden Treasure پته خزانه) is a Pashto manuscript that contains an anthology of Pashto poets and is said to have been produced by Mohammad Hotak

under the patronage of the Pashtun monarch Hussain Hotak in Kandahar. However, Scholars such as David Neil MacKenzie and Lucia Serena Loi have questioned its legitimacy. In this sense, Nile Green has some thoughts:

"In 1944, Habibi claimed to have discovered an eighteenth-century manuscript anthology containing much older biographies and verses of Pashto poets that stretched back as far as the eighth century. It was an extraordinary claim, implying as it did that the history of Pashto literature reached back further in time than Persian, thus supplanting the hold of Persian over the medieval Afghan past. Although it was later convincingly discredited through formal linguistic analysis, Habibi's publication of the text under the title Pata Khazana ('Hidden Treasure') would (in Afghanistan at least) establish his reputation as a promoter of the wealth and antiquity of Afghanistan's Pashto culture."

Pashto poetry has been popular among Pashtuns since the 16th century. Bayazid Pir Roshan (a key developer of the Pashto alphabet), Khushal Khan Khattak, Rahman Baba, Nazo Tokhi, and Ahmad Shah Durrani, founder of the current state of Afghanistan or the Durrani Empire, are among those who wrote in Pashto. Observing the infiltration of Persian and Arabic terminology in recent times, there is a strong desire to "purify" Pashto by restoring its old vocabulary.

1.5.3 Language Variations/Dialects

As a result of existence in hilly locations, limited socio-economic inter-relations, and other historic and linguistic factors, the Pashto language has various varieties. Pashto, on the other hand, is divided into two dialects: soft or western dialect and hard or eastern dialect. The usage of certain vowels and two sounds distinguishes these two dialects: (sh, gh to be added in Pashto alphabet).

Eastern Pashto is spoken in northeastern Pakistan, while Western Pashto is spoken in Afghanistan and the capital, Kabul. These two dialects are spoken by the majority of Pashto people. Southern Pashto, spoken in Baluchistan (western Pakistan and eastern Iran) and Qandahar, Afghanistan, is distinguishable from Central Pashto, spoken in northern Pakistan (Waziristan).

The differing pronunciations of the second consonant in the word (for example, a retroflex [sh] in the Kandahari dialect and a palatal fricative in the Kabuli dialect) account for the variance in spelling of the language's name (Pashto, Pukhtu, Pakhtu, etc.). There are several dialect variations within the major dialect divisions. One Pashto speaker, on the other hand, speaks the language fluently and understand readily.

1.6 Nangrahar
1.6.1 General Introduction

Nangarhr, also known as Nangrahar or Ningrahar, is one of Afghanistan's 34 provinces, located in the east of the country and borders the provinces of Logar, Kabul, Laghman, and Kunar, as well as an

international border with Pakistan. It is divided into twenty-two districts and has the third-largest population among the country's 34 provinces. Jalalabad is the capital of Nangrahar.

The word Nangarhar, according to Henry George Raverty, is derived from the Pashto term nang-nahlr ("nine streams"), which may be found in various Farsi chronicles. The phrase is said to refer to nine streams that originate in Safed Koh. The name of the province, according to S. H. Hodivala, comes from the Sanskrit phrase Nagarahara, which appears in a 9th-century inscription unearthed at Ghosrawa in modern-day Bihar, India. The Chinese version of Nagarahara is Nang-go-lo-ho, which appears in the Chinese chronicles of the Song period. The name is derived from the Sanskrit nava-vihara, which means "nine viharas."

Nangarhar Province, on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, lies in eastern Afghanistan. It is bordered on the north by Kunar and Laghman provinces, on the east and south by Pakistan, and on the west by Kabul and Logar provinces. The southern boundary is bordered by the Spin Ghar and Safed Mountain Ranges, with forest belts in the southern mountain ranges and Dara-I-Nur District in the north. In the east, the Khyber Pass is located in the Mahmund Dara District. Throughout the province's central region, rangeland, barren soil, and rocky outcrops dominate the topography.

The 1.2 million Afghans are mostly Pashtun, although there are also Tajiks, Arabs, Pashai, and other minorities in the region. Agriculture, livestock husbandry, day labor, and the poppy trade are the principal activities of the population. In the region, there are approximately 2,000 provincial aid projects with a total cost of nearly $20 million.

It is divided into twenty-two districts and has a population of about 1,735,531, the third highest of the country's 34 provinces. The city of Jalalabad is the capital of Nangarhar province.

1.7. Paktia
1.7.1. General Introduction

Paktia is one of Afghanistan's 34 provinces, located in the country's east. Paktia Province, which is part of the broader Loya Paktia region, is divided into 13 districts and has a population of about 623,000 people, the most of whom are tribal people living in rural areas. The Pashtuns make up the majority of the population, but Tajiks are also present. Gardez is the capital of the Paktia province.

Paktia was once a single province with Khost and Paktika; the three provinces are now known as Loya Paktia, which means "Greater Paktia." Paktia rose to prominence in the 1980s, when the province produced a substantial share of Afghanistan's leadership. Najibullah Ahmadzai, the former President of Afghanistan, is one of the more noteworthy leaders.

Paktia Province, on the Afghan-Pakistan border, is located in eastern Afghanistan. The population of around 400,000 people is 91 percent Pashtun and 9

percent Tajik, and they mostly live in rural areas. There are around 1100 provincial aid programs totaling over $12 million in funding.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Language is known for providing multiple ways to express the same concept. Geography is a useful starting point for studies on linguistic diversity or dialects. Many practitioners of dialectological study have been concerned, at least in part, that it should take a historical approach from the beginning. It implies that dialect geography (the study of regional variations in phonetic and syntactic features of speech) should go to the past for analysis, as well as to older live speakers.

Internal variation is present in all languages; that is, each language exists in a variety of forms and is in some ways the sum of those forms. (Ronald Waurdhaugh, p. 25 in Ronald Waurdhaugh, 2006). Alexander J. Ellis, a philologist, was eager to interview elderly speakers of regional dialects in England for his late-nineteenth-century work On Early English Pronunciation, Volume V of which was the first comprehensive dialectological survey published in the United Kingdom. In it, Ellis depicted regional variety in British dialects, illustrating ten "transverse lines" that would eventually be referred to as "isoglosses."

Eugen Dieth and Harold Orton started a broader project called the Survey of English Dialects (SED), which was published between 1962 and 1978. The informants for this massive study, the majority of which was carried out by Stanley Ellis, were carefully selected from small, rural village populations. It was also required that the informants be at least 60 years old, born and raised in their communities, preferably without having spent much time elsewhere in their life, and have graduated from high school early. The informants for Gilliron's linguistic study of France, which began in 1896, were similarly uniform. According to Milroy, Gilliron sought out older male, untrained speakers who resided in remote rural villages for his linguistic survey of France. Despite Milroy's assertion, there appears to be no strong proof that the highly homogeneous selection of informants was purposefully arranged, or that Gilliron was directly involved.

As the linguistic group becomes increasingly isolated by physical geography, such as mountain ranges and rivers, regional variations become more obvious. Linguists have conducted substantial research on regional dialects, culminating in the publication of thorough Linguistic Atlases.

Many linguists can tell where a person is from simply by looking at whether they carry groceries home in a paper bag or a paper sack from the supermarket (Yule 184).

Regional differences can exist within the same country or between countries. (p30, Ntaoleng Bellina). For example, speakers of Pashto from Afghanistan and

Pakistan will have major variances in terms of vocabulary, but very minor differences in terms of syntax.

According to Fishman (1968,143), the variety of language you use is determined by who you are, meaning that each speaker has learned a specific variety of his or her linguistic community's language. This variety may differ at any level from other varieties of the same language learned as a first language by other speakers.

The three more clearly defined dialect groupings would be the Northern group, the Baluchistan group, and the Waziristan Central) group, according to this study based on phonology and word lists from various regions; the fourth, less distinct, grouping would represent a medium area in tribal territory.

According to the relevant literature, studies in Pashto have focused on phonological and grammatical variety. The dimension of lexical variety is an issue in Pashto that has not received much attention. This study compares lexical variances in the Pashto language in Nangrahar and Paktia at the same time.

III.   RESEARCH DESIGN

The term "research design" can be described as "procedural strategies for data collecting and analysis conducted to evaluate a specific theoretical perspective" (Bokang T Nfila,p 58).

A research design, according to Rubin and Rubin (1995:42), comprises "planning what you are going to ask and whom you are going to ask and why." This can be thought of as a more formal method of data collection. This comparative study was conducted utilizing a mixed method approach that included both qualitative and quantitative research methods. The main research instruments for this study were a questionnaire and observation.The open-ended questionnaire used in this comparative research of lexical variance in Pashto was prepared for this study.

3.1 Sampling

The study's target population consists of thirty randomly selected volunteers from Nangrahar and thirty from Paktia. In each region, 20 participants are between the ages of 20 and 35, and 10 are between the ages of 50 and 65. The illiteracy rate was high among the 10 participants, who ranged in age from 50 to 65.

3.2 Instrumentation

The major tool for data collecting was a questionnaire. This measuring instrument is defined by Berdie and Anderson (1974:11) as "a mechanism for securing an answer to a question by employing a form that the respondent fills in oneself." Because of its benefits, the self-administered open ended questionnaire was chosen.

"The advantage of an open ended questionnaire is that the respondent is given the opportunity to select a term of their choosing in formulating a reply," according

to Taylor et al (2006,p92.) The open-ended questionnaire was better suited to this comparison study because the target population responded freely to whatever questions were presented, which was the goal of this lexical variation investigation. Furthermore, the data obtained was far more authentic than that gained from a closed-ended questionnaire, in which the responder is offered options and must choose one of them. The questionnaire, according to Birdie and Anderson, allows one to cover a vast geographic area.

Second, surveys save both time and money. This device, according to Mason and Bramble (1989:308) and Oppenhium (1974:33), can be used to collect information from a big sample at a reasonable cost. In this comparison study, the most appropriate research tool for gathering data from a vast geographic area of Nangrahar and Paktia was a questionnaire. Furthermore, it saved a significant amount of time and money as compared to interviews, which were more time consuming and less appropriate to this comparative study of lexical diversity.

With the help of several pals, the researcher maintained a close eye on the speakers from both target locations. Interviews with native speakers of the target locations were purposefully avoided. Because it was possible that the study will encounter the following flaw throughout the interviewing phase, as identified by Becker and Geer (1957 in Taylor & Bodgan 1998, p 82). "Interviews are likely to misunderstand informants' language since they do not have opportunities to study it in common usage; informants are unwilling or unable to articulate many important things; and only by observing these people in their daily lives the researcher can learn about those things." As a result, the second study instrument, in addition to the questionnaire and interviews, was to observe the speakers of the target locations.

3.3 Data Collection Procedure

Two types of data were employed in this study: primary and secondary data. This comparative research of lexical variance in Pashto used primary data as its source of information. Primary data was collected through observation and dialogue with Pashto speakers in Paktia and Nangrahar. In addition, the researcher visited the target region in order to gather primary data. Secondary data was used to back up the initial findings. These key findings were encapsulated in an open-ended survey. The questionnaire was made up of lexical and phrase components. In the questionnaire, there was also a blank section for participants to add any other lexical differences or remarks. In both Paktia and Nangrahar, data was obtained using the same questionnaire. The secondary data was examined in terms of questionnaire replies and other comments made. The primary data was gathered from interviews with informants who had spent time in both Paktia and Nangrahar. In order to obtain primary data, the researcher visited rural hamlets in the target locations. A questionnaire was created using this

primary data. Apart from that, another approach for obtaining primary data was the interviewing of Paktia and Nangrahar speakers in real-life situations. For this study, an open-ended strategy was chosen since it elicited the most natural and real replies from participants. The data was gathered in the most natural way possible. Individuals ranging in age from teenagers to the elderly were approached and asked whether they would be willing to help. Their responses were needed to obtain data for this comparative research of lexical variance in their various localities, they were told.

IV. MAJOR FINDINGS

From a lexical standpoint, the results collected through this questionnaire revealed that the Pashto spoken in Paktia and Nangrahar differ significantly. The questionnaire's lexical items are described and analyzed one by one. There were a few lexical items in the questionnaire for which both comparable areas had identical responses. For the purposes of description and interpretation, they have been overlooked. If the participants knew of any other lexical variation in both comparable locations, they were given ample room in the questionnaire to write it down. This was really beneficial and profitable because it provided more information on the differences in both compared locations.

4.1 Variation in Lexical Words

1. **Meal/dish.** Speakers in Paktia use the word /Marey/ and Speakers in Nangrahar use that word /Dodie/.
2. **Bean.** Both speakers in Paktia and Nangrahar use the word /lobia/.
3. **Shopping bag.** Speakers in Paktia use the word /Kosora/ and speakers in Nangrahar use that word /khalta/.
4. **Hot bath**. Speakers in Paktia use the word /Salmani/ and speakers in Nangrahar use that word /Nayeekhana/.
5. **Locks of a girl.** Speakers in Paktia use the word /Kolf/ and speakers in Nangrahar use that word /Zulfy/.
6. **Mirror.** Speakers in Paktia they use the word /Sheesha/ and speakers in Nangrahar use the word /Hindara/.
7. **Potato.** Speakers in Paktia they use the word /banjan/ and speakers in Nangrahar use the word /Romyan/.
8. **Teacher**. Speakers in Paktia they use the word / Malim/ but speakers in Nangrahar use that word /Showankey/.
9. **Fall down**. Speakers in Paktia, they use the word /Laweedal/, while speakers in Nangrahar use that word /Ghorxidal/.
10. **Make.** Speakers in Paktia, they use the word /Jorawal/, while speakers in Nangrahar use that word, /Sazawal/.

11. **Fine**. Speakers in Paktia, they use the word, /Sha/, while speakers in Nangrahar use that word, /Kha/.
12. **Went**. Speakers in Paktia, they use the word /Lar/, but speakers in Nangrahar use that word /Laro/.
13. **Lady fingers**. Speakers in Paktia use word /Beendey/, while speakers in Nangrahar use that word /Leero/.
14. **Never**. Speakers in Paktia they use word /Heskal/, but speakers in Nangrahar use the word /Hadoo/.

4.2 Phrases Variation

1. **Strong tea.** Speakers in Paktia use it (Tarikh Chaiy), while speakers in Nangrahar use it (tarkhi chaiy).
2. **Rain started.** Speakers in Paktia use it /Baran shiro sha/, but speakers in Nangrahar use it /Baran shiro sho/.
3. **Let's go.** Speakers in Paktia use it /Raza chi zo/, while speakers in Nangrahar use it /za chi zo/.
4. **Turn off.** Speakers in Paktia use it /Band yee ka/, but speakers in Nangrahar use it /Gul yee ka/.
5. **What is your name?** Speakers in Paktia use it /Sta num sa da/, while speakers use it /Sta sa nama da/.
6. **Come here.** Speakers in Paktia use it /dalta rasha/, but Speakers in Nangrahar use it /Dekhawa rasha/.

4.3 Age-Wise Variation

Changing and focusing on various social variables can be used to measure language variance. Age, gender, educational level, socioeconomic background, and ethnicity are just a few examples (Laura Elizebeth p34). For The importance of geographic location and a relative geographer in this comparative study has been considered, with a focus on lexical variants in Pashto. Several studies have utilized region and age as a criterion for discrimination. grouping people into groups Age is also a social characteristic that influences how people behave. A speaking community's language emerges. The goal of this research was to find out. Both the target regions of Nangrahar and Paktia have intra-regional age-wise variances.

4.4 Expletives Associaated with Target Regions

The goal of this comparative study was to discover lexical differences between Paktia and Nangrahar. The questionnaire, as well as observation in both target zones, revealed that some expletives are connected with both target regions. An expletive is a word or phrase that comes out of the mouth unintentionally and organically to complete a sentence. The following are some of the expletives associated with Paktia and Nangrahar.

4.4.1 Expletives Associaated with Paktia

The most common exclamations of Paktia region are:
1. **Larey Ka.** In conversation it is used as " pregda " (Just leave it).
2. **Yar.** It refers to a sweet Friend in Pashto. In conversation, it is used time and again.

3. Qasm da. It means to swear. In conversation, it is also used time and again.

4.3.2 Expletives Associaated with Nangrahar

1. Mara. In conversation it is used as "Mara pregda" (Just leave it).

4.4 English Borrowed Words in Pashto in Paktia and Nangrahar

English is a worldwide language that is considered an international language and is spoken practically everywhere. As a global language, it has an impact and influence on other languages spoken around the world, particularly in poor countries. Afghanistan, like the rest of the developing world, has embraced the influence of English in some areas.

The Pashto language has also received the English language's impact. English has some kind of influenced the Pashto spoken in Paktia and Nangrahar. People employ English language in their conversations in one way or another in everyday life, whether they are literate or illiterate. In Paktia and Nangrahar, Pashto speakers have noticed code flipping and code mixing.

4.4.1 Code Mixing in Paktia and Nangrahar

The usage of electronic media and other modern technologies has led to code switching and code mixing among educated speakers in Paktia and Nangrahar. This code swapping and code mixing can be ascribed to the use of television, computers, and the internet in particular. The following examples will show you how. Code mixing can be seen in the italicized words and phrases.

1. Najib Zadran deer kha player da (Najib Zadran is a very good player)
2. Za pa de warzo ke busy yam (I am very busy these days)
3. De exam results der khrab wo (The result of exam was so bad)

V.   DISCUSION AND CONCLUSION

This study's extensive analysis appears to be valid in identifying lexical variances in Pashto based on linguistic characteristics such as geography and age. Taking region as a linguistic variable, the data imply that lexical variants in Pashto occur in Paktia and Nangrahar. Aside from that, vocabulary differences between people of different ages persist within a speech group.

The blank section of the questionnaire proved to be highly useful and successful during the data collection procedure, as it revealed more lexical variants from the participants in the target regions. The participants gave a warm and appreciative response.

Speakers who spent time in both of the target locations provided primary data. In addition, the researcher traveled to both of the target regions to collect primary data. This comparative study of lexical variance in the target regions was built on it. After then, the primary data was entered into an open-ended questionnaire. The information gathered from the questionnaire was used to back up the main conclusions. These were the study's secondary findings. Observations in the target regions, in addition to primary and secondary data, assisted the researchers in identifying certain expletives connected with both target regions.

This comparative study of lexical variance in Pashto would be better served by an open-ended questionnaire. It elicited more natural and authentic data from the study's participants. Closed-ended questionnaires are less suitable to this study because the subject is provided options and must choose one of them. As a result, apprehension of less legitimate and unnatural data was averted. For the study's illiterate participants, age-related variations in speech community orally administered questionnaires were investigated. In this comparative research of lexical variation, no interviews were conducted.

Recommendations for future investigations, this study's findings provide insight into Pashto linguistic variance by geography and age. While these data revealed lexical differences between the two regions, additional research in linguistic variables other than region and age is recommended. Furthermore, the following areas for further study investigations in Pashto and related dialects are suggested. The comparative research of hard and soft dialect according to Phonology and lexical variations, second the comparative study of rural and urban areas including a linguistic variable of gender.

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