



MORPHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF HYBRID WORDS IN THE SHORT STORIES *NAWABDIN ELECTRICIAN* AND *SALEEMA* BY DANIYAL MUEENUDDIN

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Abstract

The objective of this study is to identify hybrid words, their different kinds, and their structures in Pakistani English short stories. This study collects data from two short stories, Nawabdin Electrician and Saleema, by Daniyal Mueenuddin. This study adopts the qualitative method for in-depth analysis as discussed by Cresswell (2014), and applies the morphological theory by Lieber (2016). The theory helps analyze the internal structures of words that blend words from different languages into a single unit. Mostly two types of hybrid words are present in these short stories: hybrid inflections are most common, and hybrid compounds are less common. Hybrid words are very significant they show culture and a multilingual society. They show how two words from different languages come into contact and make a new word.

Keywords: Hybrid words, Hybrid compound, Hybrid inflection, Nawabdin Electrician, Saleema, Morphological analysis.

Introduction

Language is not a static phenomenon; it changes over time and when people from different cultures interact. Morphology explains the structure of words and also tells how new words are formed in a language (Mustafa, Anwar & Rasool, 2021). In multilingual societies, people combine elements of different languages to create new words known as hybrids. Bauer (1983) explains that new words are formed when different languages come into contact. Booij (2005) describes how languages are used in real life, and morphology is closely connected with them. There are a lot of studies on hybrid words, but there are few studies on hybrid words in Pakistani English literary texts. There is no study on hybrid words in the short stories *Nawabdin Electrician* and *Saleema* from *In Other Rooms, Other Wonders* (Mueenuddin, 2009). The text of this story contains a lot of hybrid forms, and these forms are not random they follow recognizable morphological rules. Literary texts often reflect real-life situations and the use of language in a real context. According to Matras (2009), in a multilingual society, contact of different languages leads to hybridization and borrowing. Stockwell (2002) claims that literary texts are the best source for understanding linguistic creativity.

Previous studies on morphology have explored general borrowing, not the detailed structure of a hybrid word. Researchers have also discussed the influence of languages on each other in multilingual societies and the process of borrowing (Thomason & Kaufman, 1988). There are limited studies on the use of hybrid words in literary texts, such as in short stories.

This study is very significant because it shows how new words are created in different ways. By analyzing different kinds of hybrid words in this study, it shows how the mixing of different languages occurs naturally in literature. By applying a theoretical framework to a published literary text, this study contributes to the field of morphology. This study also highlights how a writer uses language to show social and cultural influence. This study contributes to both literary texts and linguistics by analyzing hybrid words in literary texts. According to Aronoff



and Fudeman (2011), the study of daily life language usage is very important for noticing the role of morphology in actual language use.

This study only focuses on the hybrid words, not on other aspects such as phonology, syntax, and pragmatics. It analyzes two types of hybridization in the literary text *Nawabdin Electrician* and *Saleema* from *In Other Rooms, Other Wonders* (Mueenuddin, 2009). The analysis is limited to this text.

Objectives of the study

The main objectives of this study are

- To identify the types of hybrid lexical items in the short story *Nawabdin Electrician* and *Saleema*?
- To examine hybrid compound forms in these short stories.
- To analyze hybrid inflection words in these short stories.

Research questions

The study tries to answer the following questions

- What types of hybrid lexical items are found in the short story *Nawabdin Electrician* and *Saleema*?
- How are hybrid compound forms constructed in these short stories?
- What types of hybrid inflection words are used in these short stories?

Literature Review

Morphology is a branch of linguistics that deals with the internal structures of words and how new words are formed from the smallest meaningful unit. According to Aronoff and Fudeman (2011), morphology explains the function of the morphemes that different morphemes combine to form a meaningful linguistic unit. In postcolonial countries, there is a great role of hybridization in the creation of new words. In hybridization, two words from different languages combine to form a new word. In South Asian literature, there is also a great role of hybridization in the creation of new words. Kachru (1985) argues that hybrid words tell us about the contact of words from different languages and about the sociocultural realities. Hybridization is not only a linguistic feature, but it is also used as a stylistic and ideological tool in literary texts.

Morphological theory focuses on the structure of words and on the creation of new words through borrowing, compounding, derivation, and inflection. Yule (2010) defines morphology as the study of the internal structure of words and the processes by which new words are formed in different ways. Mustafa and Mangrio (2019) believe that there is a great role for morphological processes such as compounding, derivation, and inflection in the formation of complex words. This idea is close to hybridization because hybrid words combine elements from different languages through these processes.

Hybridization refers to the process in which two words from different languages come into contact and form a new word that functions as a single unit. According to Nessipbay and Abikenova (2023), hybrid words are formed when a word from a foreign language mixes with native language elements, and the new word shows the etymology of both. Their study shows English plays a major role in hybridization in many languages. Sanchez-Stockhammer (2013) states that hybridization occurs when a person takes elements from more than two languages and combines them to form a new word that shows the creativity and flexibility of language. Kachru (1992) states that hybridization is a prominent feature of world Englishes, especially in postcolonial countries.



In South Asian literature, there are a lot of hybrid words of different kinds. Hybridization is used to represent social class, linguistic diversity, and cultural identity. Studies show that there is a great role of hybrid words in literary texts. They show power relations, indicate social hierarchy, reflect multilingual realities, and contribute to authenticity. Most researches focus on sociolinguistic aspects, and they pay less attention to morphological analysis. There is less research on a detailed hybrid analysis of literary texts.

Morphology is the study of the internal structure of words in detail, while hybridization shows the creation of new words through social, cultural, and linguistic interaction in multilingual societies. Kachru and Yule argue that hybrid forms are not linguistic errors; they are systematic innovations that fulfill communicative needs. This study examines hybrid words, their types and functions through a structured framework in literary texts in detail.

Research Gap

There is a lot of research on morphology and hybridization but previous studies do not properly focus on a detailed analysis of the types of hybridization, the function of hybrid words, and the structural analysis of the types. The objective of this study is to fill the gap through detail analysis of hybrid words in the short stories *Nawabdin Electrician* and *Saleema* from *In Other Rooms, Other Wonders* (Mueenuddin, 2009).

Theoretical Framework

For the analysis of the internal structure of hybrid words, this study adopts the morphological theory proposed by Lieber (2016), which defines morphology as the study of the internal structure of words and the processes through which new words are formed, such as derivation, inflection, and compounding. According to Lieber (2016), words are composed of the smallest meaningful units called morphemes, and morphological analysis explores how these units combine to produce grammatical function and meaning. In hybridization, morphology helps in analyzing how words from different languages combine to form a single complex unit. Hybrid words emerge due to borrowing, multilingualism, cultural interaction, and language contact. Since *Nawabdin Electrician* and *Saleema* reflect a multilingual South Asian society, the presence of a hybrid lexical item is linguistically significant (Mueenuddin, 2009; Kachru, 1986). According to scholars of world Englishes, when English comes into contact with indigenous languages, new lexical and morphological structures are formed in localized varieties of English (Kachru, 1985; Baumgardner, 1993). Pakistani English is a localized variety of English that shows regional sociocultural realities and is characterized by borrowing, lexical innovation, and hybrid formation (Baumgardner, 1993). Bauer (2003), argued that word formation is a productive linguistic process that develops new words to meet communicative needs. According to Plag (2018), word formation refers to the creation of new lexical items from the existing linguistic components. Through the lens of Lieber's (2016) morphological theory, this study examines the hybrid words in the short stories *Nawabdin Electrician* and *Saleema* (Mueenuddin, 2009). This theory helps in the identification of hybrid words, classification of hybrid words, identification of source languages, and interpretation of their contribution in the creation of new words. Keeping in view Lieber's (2016) morphological theory, the analysis of hybrid words in this study follows categories such as word formation process, linguistic origin, morphological structure, and cultural significance. This framework is grounded on Lieber's (2016) morphological theory, and this framework is supported by the ideas of Plag (2018), Kachru (1985), and Baumgardner (1993).



Methodology

Research Design

This study adopts a qualitative descriptive research design to examine the hybrid words in the short stories *Nawabdin Electrician and Saleema*. Qualitative research is suitable for an in-depth analysis of linguistic features in literary and sociocultural context (Cresswell & Cresswell, 2018). A qualitative research design is suitable for in-depth analysis and for exploring meanings, while a quantitative research design deals with numbers. The nature of this study is descriptive and analytical, and it analyzes the morphological structure of hybrid words, so it adopts a qualitative descriptive research design.

Research Approach

This study analyzes the internal structure and formation process of hybrid words in short stories, so it adopts a descriptive-analytical approach (Creswell, 2014). This approach is used to understand how elements from different languages combine to form a new word that gives meaning within a specific context.

Data Source

The primary data for this study is extracted from the short stories *Nawabdin Electrician and Saleema* from *In Other Rooms, Other Wonders* (Mueenuddin, 2009). This text contains a lot of hybrid items that reflect interaction between different languages, so this text is appropriate for the analysis of hybrid words.

Data Collection

The data were collected for this study by careful reading of the text. The hybrid lexical items are identified throughout the text. The words that are completely borrowed are excluded from the data, and the words that show lexical blending of different languages are included.

Analytical Framework

This study applies Lieber's (2016) theory of morphology to analyze hybrid words in the short stories. According to Lieber (2016), words are made up of the smallest meaningful units termed morphemes, and morphological analysis focuses on the way through which morphemes interact to create new words. The extracted hybrid words were analyzed in terms of their word formation process, linguistic origin, morphological structure, and cultural significance.

Data analysis

Hybrid Compounding

Hybrid compounding is a process of word formation in which two words come from two different languages, and when they come together, they form a single compound word. Both words belong to different languages, but they function as a single unit. According to word formation theory, in compounding two bases come from different languages, and the resulting expression is known as a hybrid compound (Plag, 2003).

Example

1. "As-salaam uleikum, **Doctor Sahib**," said Nawab, who felt as if he were speaking to someone very far away"

According to Lieber's (2016) theory, "Doctor Sahib" is analyzed as a hybrid compound. The constituent doctor belongs to English while Sahib belongs to Urdu. These both are free morphemes belongs from different languages but function as a single lexical unit.

2. "Things that she asked for, village food, curry with marrow bones and **carrot halva**". According to Lieber's (2016) theory, "carrot halva" is analyzed as a hybrid compound. The constituent carrot belongs to English while halva belongs to Arabic/Hindi/Urdu. These both are free morphemes belongs from different languages but function as a single lexical unit.



3. "The **village maulvi** had taught Rafik to read as a boy, so that he could recite the Koran."

According to Leiber's (2016) theory, "village maulvi" is analyzed as a hybrid compound. The constituent village belongs to English while maulvi belongs to Urdu/Hindi these both are free morpheme belongs from different languages but function as a single lexical unit.

Hybrid Inflection

In hybrid inflection, the base word comes from one language, and the grammatical marker comes from another language that is used to indicate case, number, tense, or other grammatical features. According to Aronoff (1994), in inflectional morphology, a grammatical morpheme is used to add grammatical information without changing its core meaning.

Examples

1. "The **dashtis** gave me five kilos for repairing their sugar cane press."

According to Lieber's (2016) theory, "Dashtis" is analyzed as a hybrid inflection produced through inflection. The lexical base "Dashti" belongs to Urdu/Persian, while the suffix "-s" functions as an inflectional element that encodes plural number in the word.

2. "Come on make us some **parathas**."

According to Leiber's (2016) theory, "parathas" is analyzed as a hybrid inflection produced through inflection. The lexical base "paratha" derives from Urdu/Hindi, while the suffix "s" functions as an inflectional element that encodes plural number in the word.

3. "And she had duties in the kitchen, she made the **chapattis**, so thin and light....."

According to Leiber's (2016) theory, "chapattis" is analyzed as a hybrid inflection produced through inflection. The lexical base "chapatti" derives from Urdu/Hindi, while the suffix "s" functions as an inflection element that encodes plural number in the word.

4. "Saleema drove back into her childhood through towns the same as those around her home a hundred miles to the east rows of ugly concrete buildings crowded **bazaars**, slums, ponds....."

According to Leiber's (2016) theory, "bazaars" is analyzed as a hybrid inflection produced through inflection. The lexical base "bazaar" derives from Urdu/Hindi, while the suffix "s" functions as an inflection element that encodes plural number in the word.

5. "She wore **saris** in bright colors and colored her long hair....."

According to Leiber's (2016) theory, "saris" is analyzed as a hybrid inflection produced through inflection. The lexical base "sari" derives from Hindi, while the suffix "s" functions as an inflection element that encodes plural number in the word.

6. "But the next morning when the servants were eating their **parathas** and tea, he....."

According to Leiber's (2016) theory, "parathas" is analyzed as a hybrid inflection produced through inflection. The lexical base "paratha" belongs to Urdu/Hindi/Punjabi, while the suffix "s" functions as an inflection element that encodes plural number in the word.

7. "Hassan stood at the stove over an enormous pot of boiling oil, cooking the **samosas**, which Rafik and Saleema"

According to Leiber's (2016) theory, "samosas" is analyzed as a hybrid inflection produced through inflection. The lexical base "samosa" belongs to Urdu/Hindi, while the suffix "s" functions as an inflection element that encodes plural number in the word.

Results

The analysis of these short stories shows that these stories contain a lot of hybrid expressions, and these expressions are mostly a combination of Urdu elements and English elements. The



data of the stories were categorized into two main groups: hybrid compound and hybrid inflection.

Hybrid compounds are less common in the text. A hybrid compound is a word formed by joining elements from two different languages that functions as a single semantic unit. Hybrid inflections are the most common in the text. In a hybrid inflection, the base word belongs to one language and the grammatical marker to another language. The resulting unit functions as a single lexical unit.

These findings show hybridization serves a clear communicative purpose. Hybrid words are used to express identity, local culture, and flexibility of English in multilingual settings. These findings show the writer uses simple word mixing rather than complex morphological processes. The results indicate that hybridization is a significant feature in the story.

Discussion

The analysis of hybrid words in these short stories shows the flexibility of English in Multilingual societies. The results show that hybrid inflections are the most frequently used type, followed by hybrid compounds.

Hybrid compounds are the least frequent category such as “Doctor Sahib” is an example of a hybrid compound in which doctor is an English word and Sahib is an Urdu word they both are free morphemes but function as a single lexical unit. It shows the writer frequently blends English with indigenous language features to reflect cultural identity. This supports Braj Kachru’s view that English has been indigenized in South Asian societies. It also supports the morphological theory that words are formed by combining the smallest meaningful units (morphemes), and these combinations can be flexible and meaningful.

Hybrid inflections are the most frequent type in the data. This shows that the writer mostly uses the borrowed words in their original form with a small grammatical modification. Saris is an example of hybrid inflection in which the base word “sari” derives from one language and the grammatical modification “s” derives from another language. It supports the idea of Braj Kachru that English in South Asian society becomes localized. It also supports the morphological theory that morphemes from different languages combine and form a meaningful unit.

The results show that hybridization in this literary text is not random but serves several purposes. It reflects local culture, identity, and everyday mixing of languages. It makes the text more meaningful for local readers, and it also shows the flexibility and productivity of the English language.

Morphological theory explains that hybrid words involve two different languages, but they follow a recognizable word formation pattern. Hybrid words are systematic and meaningful structures; they are not linguistic errors.

Conclusion

The present research analyzed hybrid word formation in the short stories *Nawabdin Electrician* and *Saleema* from *In Other Rooms, Other Wonders* using morphological theory (Mueenuddin, 2009; Lieber, 2016). The result shows that there are two types of hybrid words used in these stories hybrid compound and hybrid inflection, but hybrid inflection is the most common.

This study identifies the hybrid lexical items in these short stories and categorizes them into two types. This study also focuses on the structures of the hybrid words.

The analysis shows that expression such as “Doctor Sahib” shows blending of elements from different languages that are very significant to show culture. These hybrid forms are not



linguistic errors rather these are systematic and meaningful structures explained through morphological theory.

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