

Language Analysis of Public Notifications Issued by the Government of Pakistan

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Abstract

This study investigated lexical ambiguity and syntactical complexity within notifications issued by the Government of Pakistan. The primary objective is to understand the implications of vague or unclear word choices, including pronunciation errors, on the interpretation and implementation of crucial government directives. The study also aims to examine the complexity of syntactical structures employed in government documents, specifically how these structures properly convey legal information. The purpose of this research is to scrutinize lexical ambiguity, focusing on pronunciation errors, identifying vague and unclear word choices, and assessing the complexity of syntactical structures in twenty-one public notifications related to festivals issued by the Ministry of Interior, Government of Pakistan. Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) theory, was applied to reveal a conscious application of linguistic choices that align with the formal and bureaucratic context of government notifications. The analysis emphasizes the functional aspects of

language use, ensuring precise information conveyance while maintaining a formal tone and adhering to grammatical and organizational conventions. The findings of this study were derived through a qualitative approach, incorporating qualitative data analysis techniques. The research uncovered consistent patterns, including the formal use of abbreviations, the employment of complex sentence structures for detailed information, maintenance of a formal tone, effective utilization of sentences for conveying essential information, organized enumeration contributing to clarity, and linguistic choices analyzed within the ideational function framework. This study provided a nuanced exploration of language use in government notifications, addressing lexical and syntactical aspects. It sheds light on the conscious linguistic choices made to align with formal communication norms. This research enhanced our understanding of how language functions in bureaucratic discourse, contributing valuable insights for future studies in this domain.

Keywords: lexical ambiguity, pronunciation errors, syntactical structure

I. Introduction

In the realm of linguistic diversity, Pakistani English stands out as a distinctive variation shaped by historical, social, and cultural interactions. This unique linguistic phenomenon has evolved over time, influenced by factors such as immigration, trade, conquests, social networks, and globalization (Mahboob, 2015). The term "variety" is a neutral descriptor for any type of language that emerges through such interactions (Trudgill, 2003). The roots of Pakistani English trace back to the early 17th century when East Indian traders engaged in commerce in the Indian subcontinent, a period marked by Queen Elizabeth's portrayal of English India. Despite the subsequent separation of Pakistan and India from British India, both countries continue to share similar English language patterns. A macro-level analysis is essential to understanding the perceptions and status of Pakistani English in both local and global communities. Kachru (2005) categorizes Pakistani English as a distinct variant within his model, considering it an outer circle country. The concept of outer circle groups and their diversification is crucial in comprehending the unique characteristics of Pakistani English (Kachru, 1986). This English variant has been institutionalized as a second language with rich cultural and regional influences. Baumgardner (1987) further solidifies this perspective,

recognizing Pakistani English as a separate, established variant capable of performing internal and external functions.

The distinctiveness of Pakistani English is underscored by its deviation from South Asian and Asian English norms. Societal and cultural traditions heavily influence the usage of English in Pakistan, resulting in a linguistic identity distinct from other countries (Baumgardner, 1998). The language's usage is intricately tied to Urdu and Islamic culture, demanding a nuanced understanding of both for effective communication. Within the spectrum of Pakistani English, four sub-varieties further delineate its linguistic landscape. Anglicized English, the first sub-variety, closely aligns with the British standard and is typically spoken by highly educated elites with prolonged exposure to Received Pronunciation (RP). Acrolect, the second variety, is employed by individuals educated in elite schools, featuring slight phonological differences from the British standard. Mesolect, the third category, represents the speech of the middle class, deviating from standard English in various aspects. Lastly, Basilect, the fourth sub-variety, is used by lower-level staff such as clerks and typists, characterized by limited education.

This study focuses on examining lexical words and the complexity of syntactical structures in twenty one public notifications issued by the Ministry of Interior, Government of Pakistan. Applying Halliday's theory of Systemic Functional Linguistics, the research aim was to identify prevalent speech patterns and lexical preferences in official communications. The qualitative approach was adopted for this study involved a meticulous analysis of data to reveal consistent patterns in language use, encompassing the formal use of punctuation, abbreviations, the employment of complex sentence structures, maintenance of a formal tone, effective sentence construction for conveying essential information, organized enumeration contributing to clarity, and lexical choices analyzed within the ideational function framework. The research questions are:

- What is lexical ambiguity within officially notified documents?
- What is syntactical structure complexity found in government documents?

The purpose of this research is to conduct a thorough examination of lexical ambiguity within officially notified documents, with a specific focus on correct punctuation, how vague or unclear word choices, abbreviation and syntactical complexity may influence the interpretation and implementation of government directives. This study aim was to shed light on the potential challenges arising from ambiguous language in official communications and contribute to the enhancement of clarity and precision in governmental discourse.

2. Review of Literature

Dijk (1988) suggested that journalists often employ creativity in crafting headlines to convey their philosophical perspective on a news story. Headlines, expected to be concise and appealing, tend to be the most remembered aspect of a news story by readers. This section presents a literature review focused on Pakistani English, which has garnered significant attention in linguistic analysis since the 1990s. Early scholars such as Baumgardner (1998), Kennedy (1993), Rahman (1990), Talent (1993), and Mahboob (2004) based their research

on Kachru's influential writings. Kachru's extensive work on Indian English, South Asian English, and World Englishes from 1965 to 2005 shaped discussions on Pakistani English. Numerous other researchers have also explored various facets of Pakistani English.

Pakistan exhibits linguistic diversity, more than 74 spoken languages, creating a rich tapestry of linguistic heritage. While Urdu serves as the national language, spoken by a minority as their mother tongue, English holds the status of the official language and is employed as the medium of instruction in educational institutions (Khaliq, 2007). In the local and global discourse, the terms Pakistani English or *Pinglish* gained widespread usage around the 1970s and 1980s (Zeb & Bashar, 2019). The utilization of Pakistani English (PE) in various media such as television, Newspapers, advertisement, and literature has undergone a process of Urduization, encompassing change in syntax, vocabulary, and pronunciation (Rehman, 1990; Baumgardner, 1990; Sidwa; Rasul, 2006). This linguistic adaptation has been influenced by religious, cultural, and local language factors, as noted by Kachru (2005), who characterizes PE as a distinct variety shaped by its role as a non-native official language in Pakistan's outer circle due to its colonial history. Kachru (1998) further highlights the borrowing of words from Persian, Arabic, and contemporary English in PE, with instances of culturally specific lexical incorporation. Pakistani English serves as a reflection of the impact of Pakistani culture and context on the English variety used in the country. The prevalence of English on social media platforms, particularly Twitter, exemplifies the widespread acceptance of Pakistani English in various societal domains, extending from education and official use to dominance in social media. Mahboob (2002) underscores the demand for PE, leading parents to enroll their children in English-medium schools. Coleman (2010) argues for the use of the mother tongue at the basic schooling level, with English becoming prominent in higher education.

Crystal and Davy (2016) were focused on delineating stylistic elements, defined as language components with stylistic expressiveness. Using this definition, I identify and discuss elements at the lexical (pertaining to a language's vocabulary), syntactic (related to the arrangement of words and phrases for well-formed sentences), and semantic (concerned with meaning in language) levels. Our qualitative analysis illuminates key stylistic aspects overlooked in recent works (Peng et al., 2018; Prabhumoye et al., 2018; Jhamtani et al., 2017).

Additionally, studies examining the lexical features of Pakistani English in Anglophone literature reveal unique characteristics, including borrowings from Urdu, local languages, coinages, and semantic extensions of English words (Jadoon & Ahmad, 2022). Another study focuses on the language used by Pakistani Facebook users, identifying features such as Anglicisms, Urdu words, and code-switching between English and Urdu (Nawaz & Sultana, 2015). Research on lexico-semantic categories in Pakistani English newspapers highlights a fusion of local influences within multifaceted functional settings (Jilani & Anwar, 2018). A study analyzing social media users identifies lexical features like Urdu words, Britishisms, and acronyms (Rahman, Asif, & Mahmood, 2018).

Viewing news articles as independent pieces of communication, this review considers communication as a means of exchanging meaning, aligned with how experiences are constructed (Hestbaek Andersen, Boeriis, Maagerø, & Tønnessen, 2015). The synthesis of previous findings on the lexical features of Pakistani English in this literature review establishes

a conceptual framework for contextualizing the present study. Although the study provides valuable insights, there remains a need for further research to investigate the broader implications of linguistic choices in government written communications. Future research could explore the impact of these choices on public understanding, legal interpretations, and potential challenges. Additionally, examining the application of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) in other government communication contexts could contribute to a comprehensive understanding of linguistic strategies in bureaucratic discourse.

3. Theoretical frame work

This research study is based on Halliday's theory systematic functional linguistics. His theory can be applied on different levels of language focuses on how language varies according to different social contexts and purposes. As shown in the figure 1:

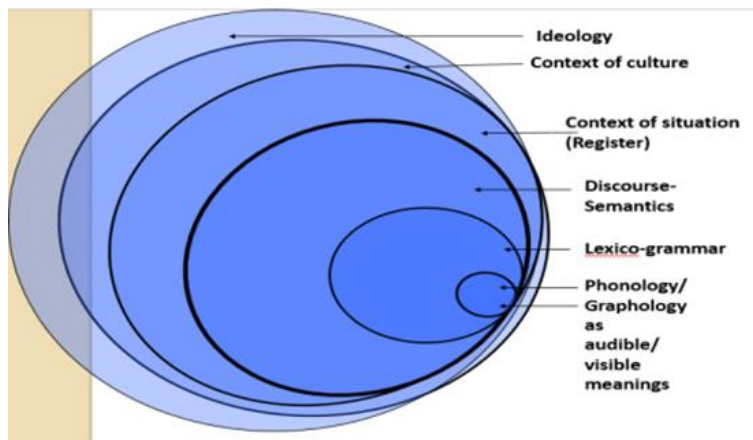


Figure 1: The different levels of SLF

It is concerned with SFL the use of language, great importance is placed on the function of language, such as what language is used for, rather than what language structure is all about and the manner by which it is composed (Matthiessen & Halliday, 1997). In this paper Halliday's theory systematic functional linguistics was applied in context of situation. It delves into the idea that language adapts to the specific needs and functions of different activities. In the context of official language in Pakistan, where communication often serves formal and bureaucratic purposes, SFL theory provides insights into how lexical choices and syntactical structures are adapted to meet the requirements of official language. As shown in figure 2:

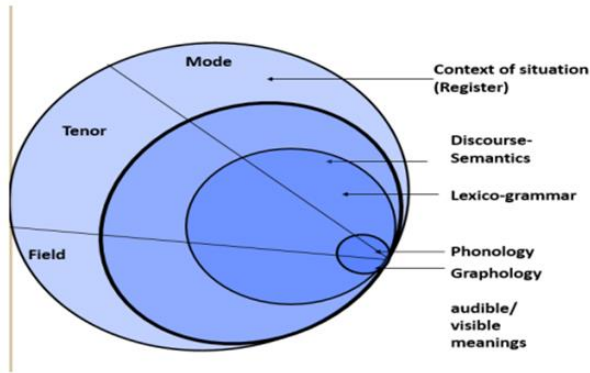


Figure 2. Context level of situation of SLF

Application to lexical words: SFL theory helps in understanding how specific lexical word choices are favored in official language to convey formality, precision, and adherence to bureaucratic norms. It considers how certain words are associated with official communication in Pakistan. Application to syntactical structure: in terms of syntactical structure, SFL theory emphasizes how certain structural patterns emerge as characteristic of formal and official language. This includes the use of complex sentence structures, passive voice, and other syntactical features that align with the expectations of official communication. This theory is particularly significant when studying the language used in official documents, policies, and bureaucratic communications in Pakistan. It sheds light on how the linguistic features of lexical words and syntactical structures are shaped by associated with official language.

4. Methodology

This study was employed a qualitative approach, focusing on the analysis of 21 samples of public notifications issued by the Government of Pakistan. The research was investigated lexical ambiguity, including punctuation errors, vague and unclear word choices, abbreviations and syntactical structure through a document-based methodology, utilizing qualitative methods.

4.1 Research Design and Data Collection

The selected 21 public notifications pertain to festival holidays such as Eid-ul-Fitar, Eid-ul-Azha, and Eid Milad-un- Nabi, issued by the Government of Pakistan. To ensure a comprehensive analysis, the notifications were categorized into three groups based on the respective festivals. Seven notifications were chosen from each category, covering the years 2015 to 2023. The collected data of these notifications were systematically examined for punctuation errors, instances of vague and unclear word choices, and a syntactical analysis of sentence structures. This meticulous categorization and analysis contribute to a nuanced understanding of the qualitative aspects of language used in government communications.

5. Data Analysis

The language of the twenty one notifications issued on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, Eid-ul-Azha, and Eid Milad-un-Nabi was analyzed. The entire content of these notifications was nearly identical, but the dates varied. The data from the twenty one notifications were examined

in the provided tables for the correction of errors. The aim of this correction is to enhance clarity, formality, and consistency throughout the text. Linguistic ambiguity and errors were analyzed, focusing on punctuation, vague and unclear words, abbreviations and the complexity of syntactical structure. The data of these twenty one notifications were analyzed in the given tables.

5.1 Notifications of Eid-ul-Fitr

Table I. Punctuation Errors in Eid-ul-Fitr Notifications

	Original Text	Correct Text
1	Islamabad the,30 th April ,2022	Islamabad, 30 April 2022
2	It is notified for general information	It is notified, for general information
3	that 2 nd to 5 th May, 2022	that 2 nd to 5 th of May 2022
4	During these holidays all	During these holidays, all
5	Markets and shops etc,	Markets, and shops, etc.,
6	Medical stores as already notified will remain	Medical stores as already notified, will remain
7	Festival of Eid-ul-Fitr.	Festival of "Eid-ul-Fitr".
8	major English and Urdu Dailies both	major English, and Urdu Dailies, both
9	National and Regional levels and	National ,and Regional levels, and
10	Islamabad the,3rd May, 2021	Islamabad, 3 May 2021
11	10 th to 15 th May, 2021	that 10 th to 15 th of May 2021
12	Islamabad the,16 th May ,2020	Islamabad, 16 May ,2020.
13	That 22 nd to 27 th May, 2020	That 22 nd to 27 th of May 2020.
14	Islamabad the,28 th May ,2019	Islamabad, 28 May 2019.
15	That 4 th to 7 th June, 2019	That 4 th to 7 th of June 2019.

The research focused on analyzing the notification (No. 10/06/2022-public) issued on 30-04-2022 in Islamabad by the Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Interior, for Eid-ul-Fitr. Additionally, seven notifications related to Eid-ul-Fitr were scrutinized. The examination primarily targeted lexical ambiguities, with specific attention given to the identification and discussion of punctuation errors in the provided tables. In the initial statement, a comma was erroneously placed after "Islamabad the, 30th April ,2022" and the correct was Islamabad, 30 April 2022" Use of "the" in this," statement with comma was wrong. In the second item, it was recommended to use a comma after "notified Regarding the third statement, "that 2nd to 5th May, 2022," it was observed that a comma was used after "May," and 2022, the suggested correction is to write it as "that 2nd to 27th of May 2022. In the analysis of the fourth statement, the correct placement of a comma after "notified" was identified to enhance the formal tone of the written communication. In the fourth item, it was noted that a comma was

missing after "holidays," contributing to a less formal tone in this written communication. The examination of the seven statements revealed an error involving inverted commas around the term "Eid-ul-Fitar." The eighth and ninth statements showed a lack of commas after English levels and dailies shown in table 1, indicating a weak formal tone in the writing.

In the analysis of the second notification (No. 01/01/2022-public), which was issued on 03-04-2021 in Islamabad by the Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Interior, for Eid-ul-Fitr, specific attention was given to punctuation errors. During the examination of this notification, several issues were identified. In the tenth statement, a comma was incorrectly placed after "Islamabad the, 3rd May, 2021," and the correct placement should be "Islamabad, 3 May 2021." The use of "the" in this statement, along with the comma, was deemed incorrect. In the eleventh item, it was recommended to use a comma after "notified." Regarding the third statement, "that 10th to 15th May, 2021," it was observed that a comma was used after "May," and the suggested correction is to write it as "that 10th to 15th of May 2021." Similar errors were found in statements 4, 7, 8, and 9 as those identified in the notification issued in 2022. This research aims to pinpoint specific punctuation errors in notifications related to Eid-ul-Fitr, contributing to a more accurate and formal communication style.

The examination of the 3rd notification (No. 01/01/2020-public), issued on 16-05-2020 in Islamabad by the Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Interior, for Eid-ul-Fitr, was focused on identifying punctuation errors. Throughout the analysis of this notification, a number of issues were uncovered. In the tenth statement, a comma was mistakenly placed after "Islamabad the, 16th May, 2020" and the correct placement should be "Islamabad, 16 May 2020." The inclusion of "the" in this statement, along with the comma, was considered incorrect. In the eleventh item, it was advised to use a comma after "notified." Regarding the third statement, "that 22nd to 27th May, 2020" a comma was observed after "May," and the suggested correction is to write it as "that 22nd to 27th of May 2020." In the fifth and sixth statements, it was observed that a comma was not used after "markets and shops" Medical stores that was caused lacking a formal tone as shown in the table. Similar punctuation errors were identified in statements 4, 7, 8, and 9, akin to those found in the notification issued in 2022 and 2021.

The focus of the examination was on the 4th notification (No. 02/07/2018-public), issued on 28-05-2019 in Islamabad by the Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Interior, for Eid-ul-Fitr, with a specific emphasis on the punctuation errors. Throughout the analysis of this notification, various issues came to light. In the 14th statement, there was an erroneous placement of a comma after "Islamabad the, 28th May, 2019" and the correct placement should be "Islamabad, 28th May, 2019." The incorporation of "the" in this statement, along with the comma, was deemed inappropriate. In the 3rd item, the recommendation was to use a comma after "notified." Regarding the 15th statement, "that 4th to 7th June 2019" a comma was noted after "May," and the suggested correction is to write it as "that 4th to 7th of June 2019." Same errors, resembling those identified in statements 4, 7, 8, and 9, were found in the notification issued in 2019.

Following the examination of the 5th notification (No. 02/06/2018-public), issued on 08-06-2018, the 6th notification (No. 02/06/2015-public), issued on 28-06-2018, and the 7th notification (No. 02/04/2014-public), issued on 09-07-2015, in Islamabad by the Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Interior, for Eid-ul-Fitr, the same punctuation errors were

identified as previously explored in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th notifications, as described in Table I, statements two, four, seven, eight, nine, ten, and eleven.

This research aims to precisely identify areas for improvement in formal writing by addressing punctuation errors and elevating the overall tone of communication. Such adherence aligns with formal writing conventions. The research endeavors to contribute to enhancing clarity and formality in notifications by identifying and rectifying errors, with a specific focus on lexical and punctuation aspects. The goal of this research is to spotlight specific punctuation errors in notifications related to Eid-ul-Fitr, thereby contributing to a communication style that is more precise and formal.

Table 2. Vague Word Choices in Eid-ul-Fitr Notifications

	Original text	Correct text
1	Islamabad the,30 th April ,2022	Islamabad, 30 April 2022
2	that 2 nd to 5 th May, 2022	that 2 nd to 5 th of May 2022
3	Islamabad the,3 rd May ,2021	Islamabad, 3 May 2021
4	that 10 th to 15 th May, 2021	that 10 th to 15 th of May 2021
5	That 22 nd to 27 th May, 2020	That 22 nd to 27 th of May 2020.
6	Islamabad the,16 th May,2020	Islamabad, 16 May 2020
7	On the occasion of Holy festival of Eid-ul-Fitar.	On the occasion of the Holy festival of "Eid-ul-Fitar".
8	Dailies	Daily Newspapers
9	May kindly	Should kindly be
10	It is notified	It is hereby notified
11	(Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)	(Tuesday to Friday)
12	(Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday)	(Friday to Monday)

The research focused on analyzing the notification (No. 10/06/2022-public) issued on 30-04-2022 in Islamabad by the Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Interior, for Eid-ul-Fitr. Additionally, seven notifications related to Eid-ul-Fitr were scrutinized. The primary focus of the examination was on lexical ambiguities, with specific attention given to identifying and discussing vague and unclear word choices in the provided table 2. In the initial statement, the use of the article "the" after "Islamabad" introduced a vagueness, as evidenced by the phrase "Islamabad the, 30th April, 2022." The correction suggests "Islamabad, 30 April 2022," eliminating the unnecessary article. Furthermore, in the second statement, "that 2nd to 5th May, 2022," a comma was erroneously placed after "May," and the suggested correction is to write it as "that 2nd to 27th of May 2022." The inclusion of "of" before "May" enhances the formality of the writing. An analysis of the seventh statement revealed an absence of the article "the" before the word "Holy." This omission weakened the tone of communication, and the suggested correction is to include "the" before "Holy" for consistency and formality. The eighth item introduced an unclear term, "dailies," for Urdu and English newspapers, disrupting

the formal tone of writing. The recommendation is to avoid such terms to prevent misconceptions and maintain a consistent and formal tone. In the examination of the ninth statement, a verbal error was identified with the use of "may kindly," which lacked consistency in tone. The correction suggests removing "may" and retaining "should kindly be" to ensure a more balanced and formal communication style. The tenth statement highlighted the use of the clause "it is notified," which, while common, did not contribute to a strong communication tone. The suggestion is to use the adverb "hereby" to impart a stronger and more formal tone to the written communication in this context.

In the analysis of the second notification (No. 01/01/2022-public), which was issued on 03-04-2021 in Islamabad by the Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Interior, for Eid-ul-Fitr, specific attention was given to vague and unclear word choices as presented in table 2. During the examination of this notification, several issues were identified. an erroneous usage of the article "the" after "Islamabad" marred the clarity, as illustrated in the 3rd statement of table 2, "Islamabad the, 3rd May, 2021." The correct usage is "Islamabad, 3rd May, 2021," eliminating the unnecessary article. In the 4th statement, "that 10th to 15th May, 2021" a comma misplacement after "May" and the year 2021 was observed. The recommended correction is to structure it as "that 10th to 15th of May 2022," with the inclusion of "of" before "May" to enhance formality. the same issues with vague and unclear words were identified in this notification as previously explored in the 1st notification, as described in Table I, statements two, five, six, seven, eight, nine, and ten.

Following the examination of the 3rd notification (No. 01/01/2020-public), issued on 16-05-2020, the 4th notification (No. 02/07/2018-public), issued on 28-05-2019, the 5th notification (No. 02/06/2018-public), issued on 08-06-2018, the 6th notification (No. 02/06/2015-public), issued on 28-06-2018, and the 7th notification (No. 02/04/2014-public), issued on 09-07-2015, in Islamabad by the Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Interior, for Eid-ul-Fitr, the same issues with vague and unclear words were identified as previously explored in the 1st and 2nd notifications, as described in Table I, statements two, five, six, seven, eight, nine, and ten. However, in the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th notifications, a consistent error was found in the representation of days ((Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday) and (Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday)). The correct way to express these days is (Tuesday to Friday) and (Friday to Monday). This pattern demonstrates a more conscious and accurate approach to writing. This study aims to enhance the clarity, formality, and consistency in communication by addressing specific word choices and ensuring a more precise and formal tone.

Table 3. Abbreviation in Eid-ul-Fitr Notifications

	Original Text	Correct Text
1	"M/o"	"Ministry of"
2	The Joint Staff HQrs, Chaklala, Rawalpindi"	The Joint Staff Headquarters Chaklala, Rawalpindi

3	ICT (Admn)	"Islamabad Capital Territory (Admn)."
4	GHQ, Rawalpindi,	"General Headquarters.
5	The Chairman CDA, Islamabad,	Capital Development Authority.
6	OSD (Admn), Islamabad	Officer on Special Duty (Administration), Islamabad."
7	"ISI"	"Inter-Services Intelligence."
8	Director General, IB, Islamabad	"Director General, Intelligence Bureau, Islamabad."

The analysis of the first notification (No. 10/06/2022-public) issued on 30-04-2022, the second notification (No. 01/01/2022-public), which was issued on 03-04-2021, the third notification (No. 01/01/2020-public), released on 16-05-2020, the fourth notification (No. 02/07/2018-public), released on 28-05-2019, the fifth notification (No. 02/06/2018-public), released on 08-06-2018, the sixth notification (No. 02/06/2015-public), released on 28-06-2018, and the seventh notification (No. 02/04/2014-public), released on 09-07-2015, in Islamabad by the Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Interior, for Eid-ul-Fitr, consistent application of abbreviations was observed, as indicated in table 3. The utilization of abbreviations in formal writing can lead to confusion and misunderstandings. To address these issues in formal communication, it is crucial to use complete and proper words.

Table 4. Syntactical Structure Analysis in Eid-ul-Fitr Notifications

1	Complex Sentence:	In continuation of Ministry of Interior's Circular No. 01/01/2020-Public dated 5th December 2019, it is notified for general information that 22nd to 27th May, 2020 (Friday to Wednesday) shall be public holidays on the occasion of Holy Festival of Eid-ul-Fitr.
2	Parallel Structure:	Copy forwarded to: - President's Secretariat (Personnel/Public). Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.
3	Compound Sentence:	The above Press Release may kindly be published in all major English and Urdu Dailies both at National and Regional levels and also be given wide publicity 'through electronic media."
4	Simple sentence	"It is notified for general information that 17th July to 21st July, 2015 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday) will be public holidays on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr."

5	Complex Sentences	"The Director (Media), Minister for Interior & Narcotics Control, Islamabad, with the request to ensure its publication in all dailies."
6	Enumeration:	"President's Secretariat (Personal), OSD (Admn), Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad."

In the qualitative analysis of notifications issued by the Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Interior, for Eid-ul-Fitr, a consistent application of sentence structures across various notifications was observed. The examination encompassed the first notification (No. 10/06/2022-public) issued on 30-04-2022, the second notification (No. 01/01/2022-public) issued on 03-04-2021, the third notification (No. 01/01/2020-public) issued on 16-05-2020, the fourth notification (No. 02/07/2018-public) issued on 28-05-2019, the fifth notification (No. 02/06/2018-public) issued on 08-06-2018, the sixth notification (No. 02/06/2015-public) issued on 28-06-2018, and the seventh notification (No. 02/04/2014-public) issued on 09-07-2015, all in Islamabad. The analysis focused on six structural types of sentences prevalent in these notifications: Complex Sentences: These sentences exhibited a sophisticated structure, incorporating main clauses and subordinate clauses to provide detailed information. Notably, the sentence announcing public holidays exemplified this complexity. Parallel Structure: The "Copy forwarded to" section consistently adhered to a parallel structure, enhancing the clarity of the recipients' list and aligning with formal grammatical conventions. Compound Structure: The examination identified instances, such as in the third item, where sentences comprised two independent clauses connected by coordinating conjunctions like "and," contributing to varied sentence structures. Simple Structure: Clear and straightforward statements, as exemplified in the notification specifying public holidays, conveyed a single idea concisely. Enumeration: The enumeration of ministries, divisions, and individuals demonstrated a well-organized approach, contributing significantly to the overall clarity of the information presented. The syntactical structure, pervasive throughout the notifications, consistently maintained a formal tone suitable for official press releases. The sentences were meticulously constructed to convey the gravity of the information effectively. These syntactical structures collectively contributed to the overall coherence and effectiveness of the notifications, ensuring clarity, coherence, and formality in the communication. In essence, the systematic analysis of sentence structures within these notifications showcased a deliberate choice of language to fulfill specific communicative functions, aligning with qualitative research principles. The findings underscore the nuanced use of syntax to convey information with precision and formality, reflecting the careful consideration of language in the context of official announcements.

5.2 Notifications of Eid-ul-Azha

Table 5. Punctuation Errors in Notifications of Eid-ul-Azha

	Original Text	Correct Text
1	Islamabad the 4 th July, 2022.	Islamabad, 4 July 2022
2	17th December , 2021,	17th December 2021,
3	on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.	on the occasion of "Eid-ul-Azha."
4	it is for general information that the Prime Minister is pleased to declare 8th to 12th July 2022 (Friday to Tuesday) as public holidays on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.	"it is for general information that the Prime Minister is pleased to declare 8th to 12th July 2022 (Friday to Tuesday) as public holidays on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha."
5	It is notified for general information	It is notified, for general information
6	major English and Urdu Dailies both	major English, and Urdu Dailies, both
7	National and Regional levels and	National ,and Regional levels, and
8	Islamabad, 13 th July, 2021.	Islamabad, 13 th July, 2021.
9	Islamabad, the 23 rd July, 2020	Islamabad, 23 July 2020
10	Islamabad the, 31 st July, 2019.	Islamabad, 31 July 2019
11	Islamabad the, 15 th August, 2018.	Islamabad, 15 August 2018
12	Islamabad the, 23 rd August, 2017.	Islamabad, 23 August 2017
13	Islamabad the, 6 th September , 2016.	Islamabad, 6 September 2016

The Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Interior, issued a notification (No. 10/02/2023-public) on 20-06-2023 in Islamabad, focusing on Eid-ul-Azha. The research primarily targeted lexical ambiguities, with specific attention to identifying and discussing punctuation errors in provided tables. The examination revealed an error in the initial statement, where a comma was erroneously placed after "Islamabad,13th July, 2021." The correct form is "Islamabad, 13th July, 2021. " In the second item, a comma was not recommended after "December " The analysis of the fourth statement identified the correct placement of a comma after "notified" to enhance formality. The 3rd statement revealed inverted commas are not applied around Eid-ul-Azha. The fifth, sixth, and seventh statements lacked commas after "notified" "English levels" and "dailies," showing a weak formal tone. The analysis extended to the second notification (No. 10/01/2021-public), issued on 17-10-2021 in Islamabad. Specific attention was given to punctuation errors in the Statement forth sentence was not written inverted comas, it was given direct information. The same errors were identified in second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh notifications as evaluated in the first.

This research aims to precisely identify areas for improvement in formal writing by addressing punctuation errors and elevating the overall tone of communication. Adherence to formal writing conventions contributes to enhancing clarity and formality in notifications related to

Eid-ul-Azha. The goal is to spotlight specific punctuation errors, thereby contributing to a communication style that is more precise and formal and clear.

Table 6. Vague Word Choices in Notifications of Eid-ul-Azha

	Original	Correct Text
1	Islamabad the, 4 th July , 2022	Islamabad, 4 July 2022
2	it is for general information	"The Prime Minister..."
3	National and Regional levels and	the National ,and Regional levels, and
4	Islamabad the, 13 th July , 2022	Islamabad, 13 th July 2022
5	Islamabad the,23 rd July ,2020	Islamabad, 23 July 2020.
6	On the occasion of Holy festival of Eid-ul-Azha.	On the occasion of the Holy festival of "Eid-ul-Azha".
7	Dailies	Daily Newspapers
8	"may kindly be published"	This phrase is polite but somewhat indirect. A more direct and equally polite alternative could be "should be published" or "is requested to be published."
9	It is notified	It is hereby notified

The research focused on analyzing the notification (No. 10/02/2023-public) issued on 20-06-2023 in Islamabad by the Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Interior, for Eid-ul-Azha. Additionally, seven notifications related to Eid-ul-Azha were scrutinized. The primary focus of the examination was on lexical ambiguities, with specific attention given to identifying and discussing vague and unclear word choices in the provided table 2. In the fifth statement, the use of the article "the" after "Islamabad" introduced a vagueness, as evidenced by the phrase "Islamabad the, 23rd July, 2020." The correction suggests "Islamabad, 23 July 2020" eliminating the unnecessary article. Furthermore, in the 2nd statement, The phrase is redundant and doesn't add much value. A more direct approach would be to start the sentence with the main information, such as "The Prime Minister..." .An analysis of the 3rd and sixth statement revealed an absence of the article "the" before the word "Holy" and "Nation" This omission weakened the tone of communication, and the suggested correction is to include "the" before "Holy" and "Nation" for consistency and formality. The eighth item introduced an unclear term, "dailies," for Urdu and English newspapers, disrupting the formal tone of writing. The recommendation is to avoid such terms to prevent misconceptions and maintain a consistent and formal tone. In the examination of the eight statement, a verbal error was identified with the use of "may kindly," which lacked consistency in tone. The correction suggests removing "may" and retaining "should be published" to ensure a more balanced and formal communication style. The eight and 9th statement highlighted the use of the clause "it is notified," which, while common, did not contribute to a strong communication tone. The

suggestion is to use the adverb "hereby" to impart a stronger and more formal tone to the written communication in this context. Same errors were identified in second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh, notifications.

This pattern demonstrates a more conscious and accurate approach to writing. This study aims to enhance the clarity, formality, and consistency in communication by addressing specific word choices and ensuring a more precise and formal tone.

Table 7. Abbreviation in notifications of Eid-ul-Azha

	Original Text	Correct Text
1	AGPR	"AGPR" stands for "Accountant General of Pakistan Revenue."
2	NAB	"NAB" stands for "National Accountability Bureau."
3	IB	"IB" stands for "Intelligence Bureau"
4	SPS	"SPS" stands for "Special Pay Scales."
5	PRO	"PRO" stands for "Public Relations Officer."
6	OSD (Admn), Islamabad	Officer on Special Duty (Administration), Islamabad."
7	ISI	"Inter-Services Intelligence."
8	Director General, IB, Islamabad	"Director General, Intelligence Bureau, Islamabad."

The research focused on analyzing the notification (No. 10/02/2023-public) issued on 20-06-2023 in Islamabad by the Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Interior, for Eid-ul-Azha. Additionally, seven notifications related to Eid-ul-Azha were scrutinized. The primary focus of the examination was on lexical ambiguities, with specific attention given to identifying and discussing abbreviations in the provided table 3. Same abbreviations were identified in seven notifications after evaluation it came to know that the utilization of abbreviations in formal writing can lead to confusion and misunderstandings. To address these issues in formal communication, it is crucial to use complete and proper words.

Table 8. Syntactical Structure Analysis in Notifications of Eid-ul-Azha

1	Complex Sentences:	in the continuation of cabinet Division 's circular No 10-01/2021-dated 17th December , 2021, it is for general information that the Prime Minister pleased to declared 8th to 12th July, 2022(Friday to Tuesday) as public Holidays on the occasion of Eid-ul- Azha. The sentence begins with a prepositional phrase and contains multiple clauses. The complexity may slightly hinder readability. Simplifying the structure could improve clarity.
2	Parallel Structure:	"both at National and Regional levels and also be given wide publicity through electronic media." <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critical Explanation: The use of parallel structure

		("both at... and also be") contributes to coherence, maintaining a consistent pattern in the list of actions.
3	Compound Sentence:	"It is for general information that the Prime Minister is pleased to declare 8th to 12th July, 2022 as public holidays..." <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical Explanation: The sentence consists of two independent clauses joined by "that." This compound structure helps convey related ideas but might benefit from some restructuring for smoother flow.
5	Complex Sentences	"The Director (Media), Minister for Interior & Narcotics Control, Islamabad, with the request to ensure its publication in all dailies."
6	Enumeration:	"President's Secretariat (Personal), OSD (Admn), Aiwane-Sadr, Islamabad."

In the qualitative analysis of notifications issued by the Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Interior, for Eid-ul-Azha a consistent application of sentence structures across various An observation was made regarding the notifications, and upon examination, it was noted that all notifications shared almost identical sentence structures. The Government of Pakistan issued these notifications, with only changes in dates. The analysis specifically focused on identifying six structural types of sentences prevalent in these notifications. Complex Sentences: These sentences demonstrated a sophisticated structure, incorporating both main clauses and subordinate clauses to provide detailed information. Notably, the sentence announcing public holidays exemplified this complexity. Parallel Structure: The section titled "Copy forwarded to" consistently adhered to a parallel structure, enhancing the clarity of the recipients' list and aligning with formal grammatical conventions. Compound Structure: Instances were identified, such as in the third item, where sentences comprised two independent clauses connected by coordinating conjunctions like "and," contributing to varied sentence structures. Simple Structure: Clear and straightforward statements, as exemplified in the notification specifying public holidays, conveyed a single idea concisely. Enumeration: The enumeration of ministries, divisions, and individuals demonstrated a well-organized approach, significantly contributing to the overall clarity of the information presented. The syntactical structure, which was pervasive throughout the notifications, consistently maintained a formal tone suitable for official press releases. Meticulously constructed sentences effectively conveyed the gravity of the information. These syntactical structures collectively contributed to the overall coherence and effectiveness of the notifications, ensuring clarity, coherence, and formality in communication. In essence, the deliberate choice of language in the systematic analysis of sentence structures within these notifications showcased a meticulous approach to fulfill specific communicative functions, aligning with qualitative research principles. The findings underscored the nuanced use of syntax to convey information with precision and formal.

5.3 Notifications of Eid Milad-un-Nabi

Table 9. Punctuation Errors in Eid Milad-un-Nabi Notifications

	Original Text	Correct Text
1	Islamabad the 21 st September, 2023.	Islamabad, 21 September 2023
2	29 th September , 2023 (Friday)	29 September , 2023 (Friday)
3	on the occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi(22 nd Rabi-ul-Awwal 14A.H.)	on the occasion of "Eid Milad-un-Nabi"(22 nd Rabi-ul-Awwal 14A.H.)
4	it is for general information that the Prime Minister is pleased to declare 29 th September , 2023 (Friday) as public holidays on the occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi(22 nd Rabi-ul-Awwal 14A.H.)	"it is for general information that the Prime Minister is pleased to declare 29 th September , 2023 (Friday) as public holidays on the occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi(22 nd Rabi-ul-Awwal 14A.H.)"
5	Islamabad the, 9 th October, 2022.	Islamabad, 9 October 2022.
6	It is notified for general information	It is notified, for general information
7	Islamabad the, 15 th October, 2021.	Islamabad, 15 October 2021.
8	Islamabad the, 26 th October, 2020.	Islamabad, 26 th October 2020.
9	During these holidays all	During these holidays, all
10	Islamabad, the 4 th November July, 2019	Islamabad, 4 November 2020
11	major English and Urdu Dailies both	major English, and Urdu Dailies, both
12	National and Regional levels and	National ,and Regional levels, and

The Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Interior, issued a notification (No. 10/02/2022-public) on 21-09-2023 in Islamabad, focusing on Eid Milad-un-Nabi. The research primarily targeted lexical ambiguities, with specific attention to identifying and discussing punctuation errors in provided tables. The examination revealed an error in the initial statement, where a comma was erroneously placed after " Islamabad the, 21st September, 2023." The correct form is "Islamabad, 21st September, 2023 ". In the second item, a comma was not recommended after "September" The analysis of the fourth statement identified the correct placement of a comma after "notified" to enhance formality. The 3rd statement revealed inverted commas are not applied around Eid Milad-un-Nabi . In six, nine and, 11th statements lacked commas after "notified" "English levels" and "dailies," showing a weak formal tone. The analysis extended to the notification (No. 2/07/2018-public), issued on 26-10-2020 in Islamabad. Specific attention was given to punctuation errors in the Statement forth sentence was not written inverted comas, it was given direct information. The same errors were identified in second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh notifications as evaluated in first. This research aims to precisely identify areas for improvement in formal writing by addressing punctuation errors and elevating the overall tone of communication. Adherence to formal writing conventions contributes to enhancing clarity and formality in notifications related to Eid Milad-un-Nabi.

The goal is to spotlight specific punctuation errors, thereby contributing to a communication style that is more precise and formal and clear.

Table 10. Vague Word Choices in Eid Milad-un-Nabi Notifications

	Original	Correct Text
1	Islamabad the 21 st September, 2023.	Islamabad, 21 September 2023
2	it is for general information	"The Prime Minister..."
3	National and Regional levels and	the National ,and Regional levels, and
5	Islamabad the, 9 th October, 2022.	Islamabad, 9 October 2022
6	Islamabad the, 26 th October, 2020.	Islamabad, 26 th October 2020.
7	Islamabad the, 15 th October, 2021.	Islamabad, 15 October 2021.
8	Dailies	The Newspaper
9	It is notified	It is hereby notified,
10	"may kindly be published"	"should be published" or "is requested to be published."

The research focused on analyzing the notification (No. 10/02/2022-public) issued on 21-09-2023 in Islamabad by the Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Interior, for Eid Milad-un-Nabi. Additionally, seven notifications related to Eid Milad-un-Nabi were scrutinized. The primary focus of the examination was on lexical ambiguities, with specific attention given to identifying and discussing vague and unclear word choices in the provided table 2. In the seventh statement, the use of the article "the" after "Islamabad" introduced a vagueness, as evidenced by the phrase "Islamabad the, 15th October, 2021." The correction suggests "Islamabad, 15th October 2021" eliminating the unnecessary article. Furthermore, in the 2nd statement, The phrase is redundant and doesn't add much value. A more direct approach would be to start the sentence with the main information, such as "The Prime Minister...". An analysis of the 3rd statement revealed an absence of the article "the" before the word "Nation" This omission weakened the tone of communication, and the suggested correction is to include "the" before "Nation" for consistency and formality. The eighth item introduced an unclear term, "dailies," for Urdu and English newspapers, disrupting the formal tone of writing. The recommendation is to avoid such terms to prevent misconceptions and maintain a consistent and formal tone. In the examination of the eight statement, a verbal error was identified with the use of "may kindly," which lacked consistency in tone. The correction suggests removing "may" and retaining "should be published" to ensure a more balanced and formal communication style. The 9th statement highlighted the use of the clause "it is notified," which, while common, did not contribute to a strong communication tone. The suggestion is to use

the adverb "hereby" to impart a stronger and more formal tone to the written communication in this context. Same errors were identified in second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh, notifications. This pattern demonstrates a more conscious and accurate approach to writing. This study aims to enhance the clarity, formality, and consistency in communication by addressing specific word choices and ensuring a more precise and formal to

Table II. Abbreviation in Eid Milad-un-Nabi Notifications

	Original	Correct Text
1	AGPR	"AGPR" stands for "Accountant General of Pakistan Revenue."
2	NAB	"NAB" stands for "National Accountability Bureau."
3	IB	"IB" stands for "Intelligence Bureau"
4	SPS	"SPS" stands for "Special Pay Scales."
5	PRO	"PRO" stands for "Public Relations Officer."
6	OSD (Admn), Islamabad	Officer on Special Duty (Administration), Islamabad."
7	ISI	"Inter-Services Intelligence."
8	Director General, IB, Islamabad	"Director General, Intelligence Bureau, Islamabad."

The research focused on analyzing the notification (No. 10/02/2022-public) issued on 21-09-2023 in Islamabad by the Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Interior, for Eid Nilad-un-Nabi. Additionally, seven notifications related to Eid Milad-un-Nabi were scrutinized. The primary focus of the examination was on lexical ambiguities, with specific attention given to identifying and discussing abbreviations in the provided table 3. Same abbreviations were identified in seven notifications after evaluation it came to know that the utilization of abbreviations in formal writing can lead to confusion and misunderstandings. To address these issues in formal communication, it is crucial to use complete and proper words.

Table 12. Syntactical Structure Analysis in Eid Milad-un-Nabi Notifications

1	Complex Sentences:	In the continuation of cabinet Division's circular No 2-07/2018-Public dated 1st February, 2019
2	Parallel Structure:	"both at National and Regional levels and also be given wide publicity through electronic media."
3	Compound Sentence:	"It is for general information that the Prime Minister is pleased to declare 29 th December 2023 as public holidays..."
4	Simple sentence	"It is notified for general information that Friday 30 th October 2020 shall be public holidays on the

		occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi(22 nd Rabi-ul-Awwal 14A.H.) through out the country.
5	Complex Sentences	"The Director (Media), Minister for Interior & Narcotics Control, Islamabad, with the request to ensure its publication in all dailies."
6	Enumeration:	"President's Secretariat (Personal), OSD (Admn), Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad."

During the qualitative examination of notifications released by the Ministry of Interior, Government of Pakistan, for Eid Milad-un-Nabi, a consistent application of sentence structures was observed. An in-depth analysis revealed that all notifications, albeit with varying dates, exhibited remarkably similar sentence structures. The emphasis of the analysis was on identifying six prevalent structural types of sentences. Sophisticated Structure: Complex sentences were a hallmark, incorporating main clauses and subordinate clauses to present detailed information. Notably, the complexity was evident in sentences announcing public holidays. Consistent Structure: The "Copy forwarded to" section consistently adhered to a parallel structure, enhancing clarity in presenting the recipients' list and aligning with formal grammatical conventions. Varied Structure: Instances of compound structures were identified, such as in the third item, where sentences comprised two independent clauses connected by coordinating conjunctions like "and," contributing to diverse sentence structures. Concise Structure: Clear and straightforward statements, as exemplified in the notification specifying public holidays, conveyed singular ideas concisely. Organized Structure: Enumeration of ministries, divisions, and individuals demonstrated a well-organized approach, significantly enhancing the overall clarity of the presented information.

The syntactical structure, pervasive throughout the notifications, consistently maintained a formal tone suitable for official press releases. Meticulously crafted sentences effectively conveyed the gravity of the information, contributing to the overall coherence and effectiveness of the notifications, ensuring clarity, coherence, and formality in communication.

6. Findings and Discussion

In a qualitative research analysis using the theoretical framework of Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), the examination of the notifications related to festivals reveals key findings in terms of linguistic functions and structures. Halliday's theory (SFL) focuses on the interrelation between language form and function, considering how language is used to fulfill different communicative purposes. Here are the findings:

6.I Abbreviations and punctuation errors

Halliday's theory (SFL) emphasizes the concept of register, which refers to the use of language in a specific social context. The consistent use of abbreviations and punctuation in the notifications can be seen as part of a specific register associated with formal written communication, reflecting the bureaucratic and official nature of the announcements.

6.2 Lexical Choices

In Halliday's framework, the analysis of lexical choices addresses the ideational function. Specific recommendations for the correction of lexical ambiguities and unclear word choices aim to enhance the precision and clarity of the communication, aligning with Halliday's emphasis on achieving clarity in conveying ideas.

6.3 Sentence Structures and Functions

Five types of sentences were identified during the evaluation of these notifications. In the notifications predominantly were utilized complex, simple, compound, parallel and Enumerate sentences, aligning with Halliday's notion of syntactic complexity in formal communication. The syntactical structures maintain a formal tone that was suitable for official communication, aligning with the expected tenor in government notifications. Findings of this study were viewed through the lens of Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics, revealed a conscious application of linguistic choices that aligned with the formal and bureaucratic context of government notifications. The analysis was highlighted the functional aspects of language use in conveying precise information while maintaining a formal tone and adhering to grammatical and organizational conventions.

7. Results

The qualitative research, employing Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) as a theoretical framework, yields insightful findings regarding linguistic functions and structures in government notifications related to festivals. The analysis demonstrates a purposeful application of linguistic choices, aligning with the formal and bureaucratic nature of such announcements. Key findings encompass the use of abbreviations, sentence structures, pronunciation errors, sentence functions, enumeration, organizational strategies, lexical choices, and recommendations for clarity and readability. The scope of the research lies in comprehending the intricate interplay between linguistic choices and their functional roles in official communications. By applying Halliday's SFL, the study successfully elucidates how language functions to convey specific meanings, maintain formality, and serve organizational purposes in the context of government notifications. The findings provide valuable insights into the communicative strategies employed in official written language. While the research provides a comprehensive analysis, certain gaps and areas for further exploration emerge: Cultural Nuances: The study primarily focuses on linguistic aspects, leaving room for further research to explore how cultural nuances may influence language choices in official notifications, particularly in the context of festival celebrations. The study touches on formality and syntactical structures, but further research could delve into the pragmatic considerations, examining how the notifications achieve their intended communicative goals. Addressing these gaps and pursuing further research in these directions would contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the linguistic dynamics in official communications and enhance the applicability of Halliday's SFL in diverse cultural and communicative contexts.

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