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**Morphological Integration of English Lexemes in Urdu: An LPM-Based  
Analysis of Plural Formation**



**Saiqa**

Ph.D. Scholar, Department of English, University of South  
Asia, Raiwind Road, Lahore

Email: saiqa3894@gmail.com

**Choudhry Shahid\***

Head Department of English, University of South Asia,  
Raiwind Road Campus, Lahore

Email: shahid.mahmood@usa.edu.pk

**Abstract**

This study examines how speakers borrow and integrate English words into the Urdu lexicon, focusing on phonological and morphological changes and retaining meaning. Urdu is an extraordinary language that includes several other languages within it. It continuously involves lexical resources mainly from English, Persian, Arabic, and other sources. During the plural making in Urdu, certain particular suffixes are added to the singular form of a noun. In addition, plural making in Urdu is highly affected by the grammatical context and gender of the noun or word. However, there are specific irregular plurals that do not follow these structures. This research is based on investigating different morphophonemic patterns and adaptations that occur in the formation of a word in the Urdu language using the lexical phonology and morphology theory presented by Kiparsky. The application of pluralization rules in adopted nouns, the addition of affixes, and the effect of Urdu morphology on adopted lexical items are analyzed. Using a qualitative descriptive approach, a dataset of approximately 1000 lexical items was collected from natural speech interactions among native Urdu speakers in the Gujranwala region. The study analyzes morphophonemic adaptation patterns in pluralization and demonstrates that English loanwords are systematically integrated into Urdu through native plural markers such as /ē:/, /jā:/, /e/, and /ō:/. The current study's findings elaborate on how the adopted words are structured to align with the Urdu morphology and enrich the Urdu lexicon and its linguistic identity. Plural formation is primarily governed by phonological compatibility and gender assignment, supporting LPM's stratified model of lexical processing. Naturalization of foreign words provides insights into how media and technology influence Urdu-speaking communities' everyday communication. Investigating morphophonemic adaptations of English loanwords in Urdu is indispensable for theoretical knowledge and understanding of sociocultural blend, linguistic change, language interaction, and the evolution of Urdu in the world. This study is confined to the lexical level, and other researchers could analyze the post-lexical stratum with a larger corpus and other sociolinguistic factors.

**Keywords:** *Loanwords, Morphophonemic Adaptations, Plurality, Hybrid Compounds, LPM, Urdu Morphology, Plural Formation.*

**Introduction**

This study seeks to investigate the phonological changes that take place and lead to the morphological processes in the Urdu language. Urdu is an Indo-Aryan language, and it is spoken all over the world, especially in Pakistan, Bangladesh, and India. It is claimed that Urdu is the third most spoken language in the world. (Qureshi et al.,2020). It is unique in its word formation process because it takes roots and affixes from Persian and Arabic, and the morphological structures also seem to be a combination of these sources. (Safder & Mangrio, 2021). Though morphological processes are very complex as they involve many other subprocesses like borrowing, affixation, compounding, and inflection, the rules are definite in forming words and lexemes, and depend on the language. To study the morphological process, it is essential to start from the basic morphological unit, which is the morpheme and has

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meaning in itself, too. As this study is based on the lexical phonology and morphology theory, the basic meaningful unit of phonology, a phoneme, also remains under study with the specification of the Urdu language. In other words, it can be said that the changes made in the word formation process that involve both morphological and phonological alterations of English loanwords in the Urdu language under the shade of LPM theory, presented by Kiparsky in 1982 and further expanded by Katamba by applying different languages, are investigated. This study is based on the three-layered model of Kiparsky, which shows that every word that goes through phonological change activates a morphological process, and it also goes through the phonological change in the lexicon, which leads to how a word is pronounced. It happens at different strata and different levels. Each level has its own set of rules that is applied to the words to give new forms. This is a qualitative descriptive approach, and data for this research were collected from the native speakers of the Urdu language in a natural setting by interviewing the participants. It is observed that native speakers of the Urdu language adopted many words from other communities' and cultures' languages, especially the English language. The speakers adopt the word from the English language but use it according to their own phonological and morphological rules, and that specific variety can be called adapted English loanwords, as the pattern of plurality is changed by the speakers to some extent. It is thus analyzed that it is the phoneme that changes the word structure, which later on comes forth as a morpheme. This same thing happens in LPM theory, and these processes are discussed in detail in the form of three strata. Compounding is also, somehow, made a unique phenomenon as the new lexemes are sometimes seen as a combination of both languages, that is, one lexeme is of English, and the other one is connected to the Urdu language. The same is the case with gender and plural making. The lexemes adopted from the English language have been pluralized according to the morphological processes of pluralization in the Urdu language by the speakers. The phonemes are added to make the lexemes plural, which are joined in Urdu morphology. Analyzing morphophonemic adaptations in the Urdu language through LPM theory provides valuable insights into the structural complexities of a particular language and adds esteemed exploration to the linguistic research community, as there is limited empirical and theoretical work on how English loanwords are pluralized within Urdu using a structured framework like LPM.

## **Background of the Study**

The most crucial significance of the Urdu language is that it is a recipient language; henceforth, the method of borrowing lexical terms is an important function of the Urdu language. A large number of lexicons are borrowed from the English language, and certain aspects are associated with it. English is the colonizers' language who governed the subcontinent for a long time. The Britishers are the colonizers who not only left the country but also left their impact on the people of the sub-continent. This is one of the main reasons that the English language influences people; therefore, they adopt a large number of vocabularies from the English language, as language plays an important role in shaping the culture of a society. This is the major cause that Urdu has borrowed an extensive variety of lexical items from English. English has become the global language through nativization and hybridization. To analyze these adaptations, it is essential to understand and propose how a language maintains its structural integrity while undergoing different changes in word formation and

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phonological processes.

## **Research Objectives**

To analyze phonological changes that activate morphological processes in the Urdu language

To highlight the derivational processes that led to the change in English borrowed words in Urdu

To explore pluralization grounded on LPM

## **Research Questions**

How do phonological alterations activate morphological processes and interact with the Urdu language?

How do different derivational processes lead to the change in English loan words in Urdu?

How does LPM explain these pluralization processes?

## **The Scope of the Study**

The topic under study opens new arrays in the field of linguistics as Urdu is a rich language in its morphological and phonological interplay. It investigates the internal structure of the Urdu language, which unfolds new insights for morphologists and phonologists as analysis of vowels, consonants, and inflection and derivations influences the researchers to search other South Asian languages. It can evoke broader research domains such as language contact, linguistic change, and progression of modern Urdu, and how loanword adaptation affects the teaching and learning processes of the Urdu language among native speakers. As this study is circumscribed only to phonological and morphological integration, it only unfolds how English words are adopted and fit to the Urdu morphological system by the speakers, and to what extent Urdu morphology is applied to the loanwords. It encompasses the noun loanwords of English borrowed into Urdu.

## **The Significance of the Study**

Analyzing the morphophonemic adaptations in the Urdu language contributes to linguistic and cultural heritage. It enhances the effectiveness of teaching methodologies that explore phonological and morphological rules presented by different researchers. This study can provide a basis for comparative analysis with other Asian languages. It highlights the influence of English on Urdu and the patterns of linguistic borrowing, how Urdu evolves, and how the speakers make the lexicon rich by aligning the adopted words with the structural norms of Urdu. The research findings can help improve morphological and phonological knowledge regarding the structure of the Urdu language.

## **Literature Review**

This section reviews the literature related to the current study's topic, morphophonemic adaptations of English loanwords in Urdu from the perspective of Kiparsky's lexical phonology and morphology theory. All the terms and specifications are explained in a precise manner.

Language contact is a major driver of linguistic change, particularly in multilingual societies like Pakistan. Urdu, historically shaped by Persian, Arabic, and Turkish

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influences, has increasingly absorbed English lexical items due to globalization, education, and digital communication. While lexical borrowing in Urdu has been widely documented, the morphological integration of these borrowed forms, especially plural formation, remains underexplored. Existing studies largely describe borrowing processes but do not systematically analyze how English loanwords conform to Urdu's grammatical system.

## **Morphology**

Many people use new words in their language without realizing how these words are formed or created. It is the quality of the word that it can be used multiply by alteration in various ways, such as by making any internal change in the word or by adding or removing morphemes (Bauer, 1998). Morphology can be defined as the grammar of words. In other words, it can be said that it is the grammar of any particular language of the world at the word level (Booij, 2007). It is the study of word formation that also deals with the internal structure of words to know the ways in which new words are formed and coined in languages worldwide, along with varied forms of coined words and their use in sentences. (Katamba, 1993).

Native speakers of any language have an instinctive knowledge of how to form new words and use them in their daily conversation. The process of word formation generates new words and expands the lexicon of a language. Living in a community, speakers also borrow words from the people speaking other languages within that community. This often happens in a multilingual society. The people living in the same community with speakers of more than one language frequently adopt words easily from their co-inhabitants. Urdu speakers usually adopt English language words from their community, in which the most common are usual conversational chunks. People also make new words with the help of existing knowledge, and it is too easy to coin a new word according to the situation. For example, there is a word "write". It is a verb, and if "er" is added to it, it will become "writer", "one who writes". In other words, one who Vs. Millions of words like this can change their form and meaning according to the situation and the speaker of that particular language. To execute morphological analysis, the researcher will have to deal with the morpheme, the smallest basic meaningful unit of morphology.

## **Morpheme**

It is the smallest meaningful unit of a language. It is also defined as the minimal meaning-bearing unit of a particular language. It can be a complete word. (Katamba, 2004). A morpheme cannot be divided further. For example, the word unhappiness has 3 morphemes: "un", "happy", and "ness", and these three morphemes cannot be divided further without losing their meaning. In it, "un" is a prefix, happy is the root word, and "ness" is a suffix. The same is the case with the word uncomfortable. These will be discussed below later. To get a morpheme understood completely, it can be divided further into two types.

## **Free Morpheme**

It is the morpheme that can stand alone and give complete meaning. (Katamba, 2004). In other words, the morpheme that does not require any other morpheme to get its meaning completed is a free morpheme. It can stand alone semantically and syntactically. It is a complete word. As in the above examples, the words happy and

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comfort are free morphemes. Some other examples of free morphemes are clear, dog, door, cat, lion, animal, flexible, good, etc. Millions of such words are in the English lexicon. In the Urdu language, the word “Kitab” /kɪt̪ɑːb/ is a free morpheme, and it needs no other morpheme to complete its meaning. Phal /pʰəl/, Phool /pʰuːl/, maiz /meiz/, diwaar /d̪ɪvaːr/, etc., are a few such examples. Moreover, as mentioned earlier, some morphemes are free because they construct their own words, for instance, open class (known as lexical words) and content words (words having meaning) like tall, hand, and walk, etc. The morphological words that are complex contain roots and more than one affix (Rao, C., 2010).

## Bound Morpheme

A bound morpheme is that particular morpheme that does not stand alone and possesses complete meaning; rather, it needs another morpheme to come in to render the sensible item or lexeme. (Kiparsky, 2020). These are commonly suffixes and prefixes that attach to the free morphemes to get another meaningful word. These are very helpful in expanding the lexicon of a language and making communication flexible between the participants. For example, in the word “played”, “ed” has to come with a free morpheme to render meaning. It is also a tense marker that shows the aspect of the verb. The same is the case with the bound morpheme “s” in books, tables, doors, and cats. In the Urdu language, “en”/ēː/, “aan” /āː/, etc., in “kitaaben” /kɪt̪ɑːbēː/ and “almaaryaan” /əlmɑːrjɑː/ respectively are bound morphemes that possess meaning only when attached to another free lexeme.

## Affixation

It is a process of adding affixes to the base words to change these base words semantically and grammatically. Affixes change the meaning and form of the word they are added to. (Rahman, 2009). In other words, it is the process of adding prefixes or suffixes to the root words to alter the meaning or grammatical and functional categories of lexemes. There are many types of affixations, such as prefixes, suffixes, infixes, and circumfixes. Prefixes and suffixes are morphemes attached before and after a free lexeme, respectively. They may or may not be a bound morpheme. Infixes and circumfixes are rare in Urdu but can be traced in literary and poetic use of language. Based on phonological behavior, affixes can be classified as neutral and non-neutral.

## Neutral Affixes

These affixes do not create any phonological effect on the bases to which they are attached. For example, in English, the presence of “less” and “ness” at the end of words has no phonological effect on the bases as in “seriousness” and “powerless”. There seems to be no change in the root word, in stress, tone, or pronunciation. This also happens in the Urdu language, which is analyzed in this research to determine what morphological changes occur when phonological changes occur in a lexeme and what do not.

## Non-Neutral Affixes

Non-neutral affixes are those that have a phonological effect on the bases to which they are attached. This effect may be due to stress or vowel and consonant segments. For example, in English, “wide to width”, “long to length”, and “broad to broadly”.

There are thousands of such examples. In Urdu, it also happens, but how and where it is analyzed and investigated in the current research.

### **Borrowing**

Lexical borrowing is a linguistic term that reflects the adaptation of a single word or parts of a word from various dialects or languages. The phrase of the English language and the process of lexical borrowing have played a crucial role in structuring the Urdu language as it is present-day. The interchange of words and the amalgamation of words between distinct languages is the most common way of influencing each other's languages. Borrowing is defined as the exchange and sharing of words between two languages. The primary language is known as the donor or source language, whereas the secondary language is taken as the recipient language, as it receives the words or vocabulary from the donor. This process of borrowing is called lexical borrowing.

### **Morphophonemic Adaptations**

The morphophonemic adaptations refer to the process through which English words are borrowed and integrated into Urdu, undergoing phonological and morphological changes to align with the structural norms of the Urdu language. It is the study of the changes that occur within a language's structures at the word or lexeme level when new words emerge from the existing ones to form broader structures of a language within a speech community. In Urdu, it also refers to the interaction of morphological and phonological processes that occur during the process of word formation. It is examined and investigated in this research using the framework of lexical phonology and lexical morphology. This framework renders a series of strata with specific rules that include regular and irregular derivation and inflection, borrowing, and compounding. The processes involve consonant and vowel changes and elision during affixation. The LPM theory helps understand the processes and the systematic changes that occur, and how phonological structures get affected during derivational and inflectional processes. This approach is pivotal in exploring the Urdu language's morphophonemic adaptations and complexities.

### **Hybrid Compounds**

Another category is present in the Urdu language. The terminology refers to the hybrid compounds. These are the compounds that are formed by the addition of the 'tadbhava' element with English words and Persian-Arabic words. One of the important elements of compound words is the process of hybrid compounding. In hybrid compound making, one word is taken from the target language, whereas the second word is a 'loan word' belonging to another language. This represents that compounding is widely used worldwide to generate new words with the help of combining words and word forms in literature from different classes or backgrounds (Rahman, 2012). Hybridization is a common phenomenon in multilingual and bilingual countries (Gul, 2022).

### **Gaps in Past Studies**

Loanword adaptation is a central topic in contact linguistics, where borrowed words undergo phonological and morphological restructuring to fit the recipient language. Scholars such as Kiparsky (1982) emphasize that linguistic processes are rule-

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governed rather than random. In South Asia, studies on Urdu and Hindi have highlighted extensive English influence, particularly in urban and digital discourse. However, most research remains descriptive and lacks detailed morphophonemic analysis. Recent studies (post-2020) emphasize the role of globalization in accelerating borrowing, the impact of digital communication on hybrid language forms, and the interaction between phonology and morphology in loanword adaptation

## **Theoretical Gap**

There is limited application of Lexical Phonology and Morphology (LPM) in analyzing Urdu loanwords, especially plural formation. This study contributes by combining morphophonemic analysis, empirical data, and the LPM theoretical framework.

## **Research Methodology**

A qualitative descriptive approach is adopted, focusing on morphophonemic patterns.

## **Participants**

In the current research, the participants were native speakers of the Urdu language (whose first language is Urdu) residing in the Gujranwala region, Punjab, Pakistan. The families were seven in number who were selected for data collection. They vary in the internal size of their population. The participants were informed earlier to get their talks recorded and transcribed. The data was collected in natural settings. The participants were selected randomly, and the variables of age, education, class, and religion were exempted.

## **Data Collection**

To get first-hand and natural data, the participants of this study were questioned about certain general matters. The native speakers of the Urdu language were randomly selected from the Gujranwala region of Punjab, Pakistan. This was a type of structured and unstructured interviews and organized discussions. For this purpose, a detailed interview was conducted with every family in the form of a discussion with some structured open-ended questions. 1000 words were selected randomly from the recorded and prescribed material for further analysis of the data to fulfil the objectives of this study. It was a very sensitive part of a study, as the whole research will be standing on this process.

## **Data Analysis**

For the analysis of collected data, 1000 words were selected randomly from the recorded data that were English origin words frequently used in Urdu speech occurring in plural forms. These lexemes were analyzed by applying the theoretical framework of Kiparsky, which were selected randomly from the collected data. These lexemes were 1000 in number. These lexemes were taken from the natural environment in the ordinary talks of the native speakers of the Urdu language. The selected words were analyzed to examine how the morphological structure of a word and phonological rules have a symbiotic relationship with each other, mapping onto LPM strata. The data was presented in tabular form and also in a detailed description, as it was qualitative research.

### **Ethical Considerations**

The current research was done by considering complete ethics from the initial step, which was the selection of the topic, to the conducting of research and claiming the results and findings. The work was not duplicated from any of the previous research studies. It was not harmful to any researcher's research or the surrounding environment. It adds new and novel knowledge to the existing linguistic research. This is up to the mark and does not exceed the plagiarism limit. Furthermore, the secrecy and reliability of the participants are considered and not revealed. The demographic type of information of the participants is kept secret and not shown on any platform. Only the required data related to language was taken for analysis purposes, without showing names.

### **Theoretical Framework**

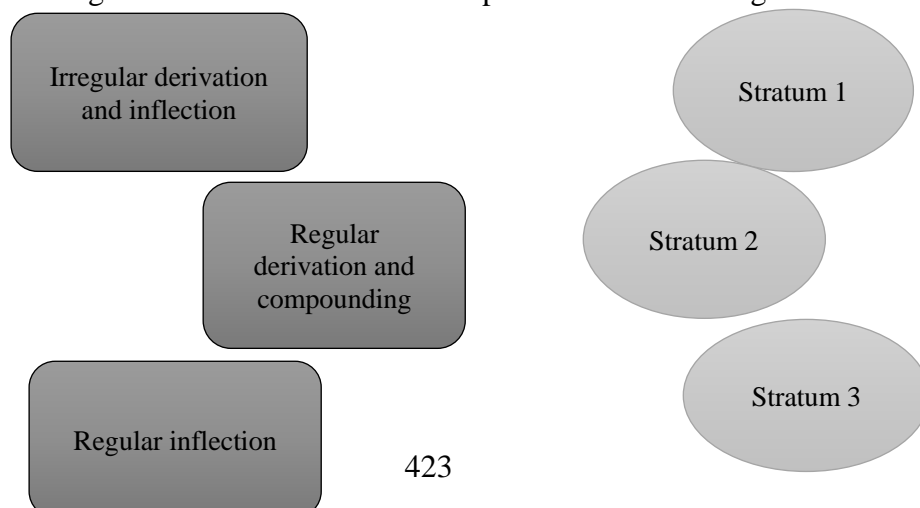
#### **LPM Theory**

The theory opted for this paper is Lexical Phonology and Lexical Morphology, which can be referred to as Lexical Phonology and Morphology (LPM). According to this theoretical approach, it is not a morpheme, but rather a word, which is the key unit of the morphological analysis. Unlike American analytical approaches to the morphological paradigm, in which a morpheme is a basic unit for structural analysis of a language, LPM theory goes for a single whole word to make it an essential basic entity in analytical morphology. (Safder & Mangrio, 2021).

Another prime statement rendered by the proponents of this theory is that the rules that construct the morphological structure of a word and the phonological rules have a symbiotic relationship, as these are responsible for the way a word is pronounced. Thus, there is a cyclic form that goes on for every structure. These rules are present in the lexicon in an organized way in different layers, which can be called strata. These are put one after another in a hierarchical order.

Katamba (1993) classifies the English affixes into two domains: neutral and non-neutral ones. This classification is done based on their phonological behavior. Neutral affixes do not have any effect on the base words with which they join, while non-neutral ones do at both lexical and post-lexical levels. The phonological changes lead to derivational and inflectional processes in words, and these cannot be set apart. They both have to go side by side in a cyclic form.

The Kiparsky model of LPM is a significant framework that suggests that there are three strata in LPM (1982). He renders that stratum one deals with the derivational and inflectional processes, which are irregular. The second stratum, stratum two, has to deal with regular derivation and compounding. Whereas the third and last stratum is to deal with regular inflection. This model is presented here in a figure form.



**FIG 1. Three Strata of LPM**

**Kiparsky's Three-Strata Model:**

**Stratum 1:** Irregular derivation and inflection

**Stratum 2:** Regular derivation and compounding

**Stratum 3:** Regular inflection

In this study, plural formation is treated as a lexical-level operation, where phonological adjustments precede morphological marking.

Kiparsky's model proposes the concept of strata or levels within a lexicon in a way that allows words to undergo changes at different morphological and phonological levels. Each stratum has its own set of rules applied in a specific order within a lexicon. These levels are examined from the perspective of the Urdu language, and this theory is applicable in the Urdu language; these derivational and inflectional processes undergo cyclically. This means that when a lexeme is constructed through its basic form by the attachment of morphemes, the phonological rules apply again and again at each stage. This is a cyclic and recursive process of word formation, and how it happens in the Urdu language is examined with the help of this model in the current study.

To take the examples from the English language, it can be seen that "serious" becomes "seriousness" and "power" becomes "powerless" without any considerable change in consonant, vowel, and stress patterns by the addition of suffixes. The same is the case with "home" in "homeless" and "shame" in "shameless". Thus, it is a neutral affixation. Take another example, as it seems in "strategy" to "strategic" or "library" to "librarian". When these are pronounced, a clear change occurs in stress on the vowel parts of words. Thus, it is a type of non-neutral affixation.

It is assumed and presented by Kiparsky (1982) that irregular derivational and inflectional affixation happens at stratum one of the model, regular derivation and compounding happen at the second stratum, and regular inflections occur at the third stratum, as he proposed a three-layered model for LPM theory. This affixation of each layer also has to go through the phonological processes to demonstrate how a word is to be pronounced.

**Data Analysis**

The data in the current study will be analyzed according to the plural-making rules of Urdu as described before in a research paper. The plural making of adopted lexical items is done as the speakers make the plurals in Urdu morphology. For example, Rule 1 is for feminine nouns that end in consonants mostly and are pluralized by the /ē:/ phoneme; the adopted lexical items are pluralized in the same pattern. The same applies to the other 4 rules and for compound lexemes. The details are provided below.

**Morphophonemic Adaptation of English Words following Rule 1 of Plural Making:**

According to this, certain words are adapted from English into Urdu with the same meaning, but vary in rules and markings while writing or speaking in Urdu. These words are mentioned in the table. These lexemes usually end on consonant phonemes and are suffixed with the phoneme /ē:/ to make the plural forms. For instance, the word "machine" is commonly used in the English language, but in Urdu script is 'مشین' and is used for the same meaning as in English; its plural is made by adding the

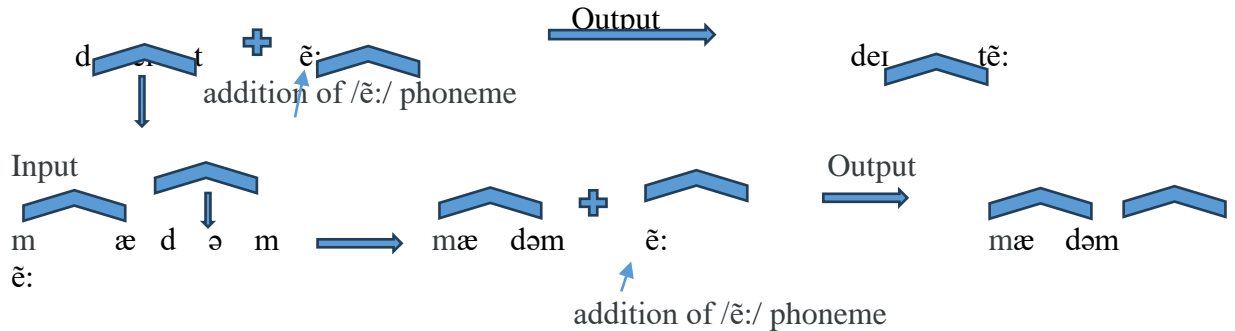
phoneme 'i:/ē:/. Slight changes are made after adapting this word to use it according to the Urdu language rules.

Furthermore, another example from the given table is 'پرفیوم' /pə:rfju:m/. This lexeme originated from Italy as "perfumare" "which means to smell through, but later on, the English language adapted this word, and now it is adapted in Urdu. This is how languages work. In Urdu, the pluralization made this word 'پرفیومیں' /pə:rfju:mē:/ by adding a phoneme of plural marking of rule 1 at the end of the original lexeme. In addition, this process is not limited only to some words, but there is a large number of lexemes that are adapted from the English language into Urdu, and changes are made by the speakers in their plural forms to transform the words according to the language, as they overgeneralize the rules of their native language. Speakers borrow lexemes and set them on the pattern of Urdu morphology.

Table 1. Plural Making in Adopted Words (Rule I).

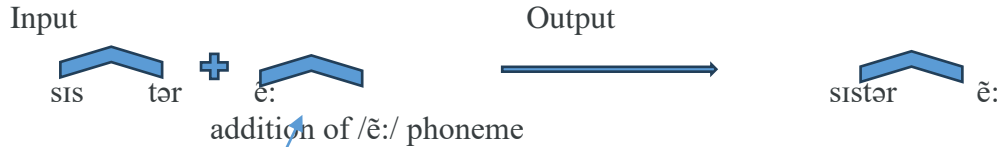
Word (feminine, singular)	Transcription	Gloss	Word (plural)	Transcription	Gloss
ایپلی کیشن	/,æpli'keiʃʌn/	Application	ایپلی کیشنیں	/,æpli'keiʃnē:/	Applications
ایکس پلے نیشن	/,ekspləneɪʃən/	Explanation	ایکس پلے نیشنیں	/,ekspləneɪʃnē:/	Explanations
ڈیٹ	/deɪt/	Date	ڈیٹیں	/deɪtē:/	Dates
آرگنائزیشن	/ɔ:gənʌɪ'zeɪʃən/	Organization	آرگنائزیشنیں	/ɔ:gənʌɪ'zeɪʃnē:/	Organizations
کارپوریشن	/kɑ:rpʊ:reɪʃən/	Corporation	کارپوریشنیں	/kɑ:rpʊ:reɪʃnē:/	Corporations
جنریشن	/dʒɛnərəɪʃən/	Generation	جنریشنیں	/dʒɛnərəɪʃnē:/	Generations
بک	/bu:k/	Book	بکیں	/bu:kē:/	Books
کار	/kɑ:r/	Car	کاریں	/kɑ:rē:/	Cars
ٹیچر	/ti:tʃər/	Teacher	ٹیچریں	/ti:tʃrē:/	Teachers
چاکلیٹ	/tʃɑ:kleɪt/	Chocolate	چاکلیٹیں	/tʃɑ:kleɪtē:/	Chocolates
ہوٹل	/həʊ'tel/	Hotel	ہوٹلیں	/hə:tlē:/	Hotels
مارکیٹ	/mɑ:rkɪt/	Market	مارکیٹیں	/mɑ:rkɪtē:/	Markets
نرس	/nɜ:rs/	Nurse	نرسیں	/nɜ:rsē:/	Nurses
ٹرین	/treɪn/	Train	ٹرینیں	/treɪnē:/	Trains
بس	/bʌs/	Bus	بسیں	/bʌsē:/	Buses
فلم	/fɪlm/	Film	فلمیں	/fɪlmē:/	Films

Input



All lexical items mentioned in the table above are from English but are adopted by Urdu speakers. Another example is "sister" which also originated from the Germanic. In old English, it was "sweostor". It is transformed from 'سسٹر' /sɪstər/ into 'سسٹریں'.

/sɪstərɛ:/ by suffixing 'ین' /ɛ:/ to make it plural by the speakers.



All these words are pluralized according to the pattern of Urdu morphology by the speakers. They are made plural by adding /ɛ:/ phoneme, and this phoneme makes the lexemes plural, not end on /i:/ phoneme. This is again observed here that it is the phonological process that comes first, on which morphology stands, and categories of lexemes change. This happens in languages, specifically in Urdu, as it is under study now. This shows that adding such a little phoneme to an adopted English lexeme transformed it into a new number category. Different words are adapted from the English language into Urdu; certain small changes turn those words into the plural form. People usually retain those words as in English, with slight changes made according to their language. This is how morphological adaptations occur in words taken from English and used in various contexts and scenarios.

### Morphophonemic Adaptation of English Lexemes Following Rule II of Plural Making:

As rule II shows, plural formation is done by suffixing the /jã:/ phoneme to lexemes with vowel endings; the same applies to the adopted lexical items with vowel endings. Examples are given in the table below to elaborate on how borrowed lexemes undergo certain changes by Urdu speakers. Furthermore, words are changed both morphologically and phonologically.

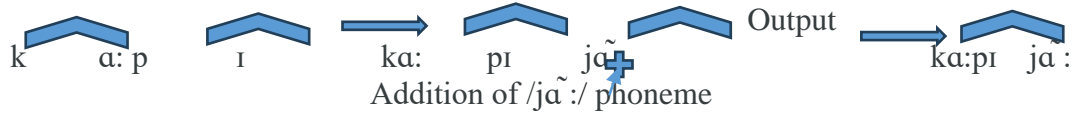
Table 2. Plural Making in Adopted Words (Rule II).

Word	Transcription	Gloss	Word	Transcription	Gloss
فوٹو کاپی	/fotoka:pi/	Photo copy	فوٹو کاپیاں	/fotoka:pjã:/	Photo copies
فارمیسی	/fa:rmæci/	Pharmacy	فارمیسیاں	/fa:rmæcijã:/	Pharmacies
ڈسپنسری	/dispensri/	Dispensary	ڈسپنسریاں	/dispensrijã:/	Dispensaries
آرمی	/a:rmɪ/	Army	آرمیاں	/a:rmijã:/	Armies
ٹیکسی	/tæksi/	Taxi	ٹیکسیاں	/tæksijã:/	Taxies
سی ڈی	/sɪdɪ/	CD	سی ڈیاں	/sɪdijã:/	CDs
لائبریری	/la:ɪbreɪrɪ/	Library	لائبریریاں	/la:ɪbreɪrjã:/	Libraries
یونیورسٹی	/unɪvɜrsɪtɪ/	University	یونیورسٹیاں	/unɪvɜrsɪtjã:/	Universities
ٹیکنالوجی	/tæknɑ:lɔ:ɡɪ/	Technology	ٹیکنالوجیاں	/tæknɑ:lɔ:ɡɪjã:/	Technologies
کاپی	/ka:pi/	Copy	کاپیاں	/ka:pjã:/	Copies
کافی	/ka:fi:/	Coffee	کافیاں	/ka:fijã:/	Coffees
بیٹری	/bætrɪ/	Battery	بیٹریاں	/bætrijã:/	Batteries
ڈیوٹی	/dʒʊtɪ/	Duty	ڈیوٹیاں	/dʒʊtjã:/	Duties

All adopted lexical items render the same form and meaning, as photocopy is an English lexeme but is now commonly spoken by Urdu speakers. The only change that occurs is in the phonemes such as the singular form is فوٹو کاپی /fotoka:pi/, it follows rule II by changing 'ی' or 'i' phoneme into 'یاں' /jã:/ to make the plural. This rule is followed by all the lexical items mentioned in the table because they end with 'ی' i and make plurals with 'یاں' /jã:/ as /fotoka:pjã:/. Many lexemes are adapted from the English language as it is and are used now as they are in Urdu morphology with

some phonemic changes. These changes occur sometimes by deleting the last phoneme or often only adding a new one at the end, giving another shape and sound. For instance, the lexemes mentioned in the table above are all from the English language, but the Urdu language speakers have adopted and are now used as common words in the Urdu language.

Input



The speakers of the Urdu language generalize rule II of feminine gender plural making to other adopted words of English, and thus the structures look the same as in the above tree. The addition of a phoneme starts the morphological process, and the plural lexeme comes forth. Other adopted words that are made feminine by the speakers are also made plural with the same pattern, as shown below in the table.

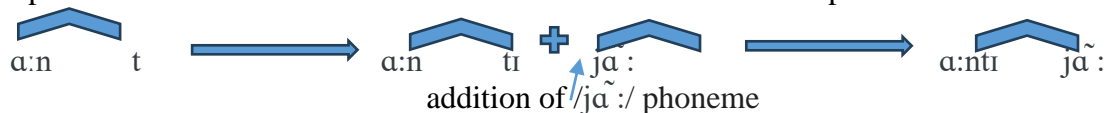
Table 3. Plural Making of Adopted Feminine Nouns.

Words	Transcription	Gloss	Words	Transcription	Gloss
ڈاکٹرنی	/dɒktərni/	Lady doctor	ڈاکٹرنیاں	/dɒktərniɟɑː/	Lady doctors
انجینئرنی	/ɪnɟɪniərni/	Lady engineer	انجینئرنیاں	/ɪnɟɪniərniɟɑː/	Lady engineers
ٹیچرنی	/ti:tʃərni/	Teacher	ٹیچرنیاں	/ti:tʃərniɟɑː/	Teachers
پروفیسرنی	/prɒ:fæsərni/	Professor	پروفیسرنیاں	/prɒ:fæsərniɟɑː/	Professors
انٹی	/ɑ:nti/	Aunt	انٹیاں	/ɑ:ntiɟɑː/	Aunts
لیڈی	/leɪdi/	Lady	لیڈیاں	/leɪdiɟɑː/	Ladies

These lexemes are adopted and converted into the feminine gender according to the morphological rules of the speakers' own language first. Secondly, they pluralize these feminine lexemes again according to their own languages' rules. This is what speakers do with languages. The donor languages change their form while the meaning is retained. The recipient languages integrate them completely. Moreover, there are some of the most popular examples, such as the English word "lady doctor", a singular category that is adopted by Urdu speakers with some changes made to the word to integrate the word in Urdu morphology. Therefore, the word is transformed from lady doctor into 'ڈاکٹرنی' /dɒktərni/ as mentioned in the table. Meanwhile, the category of the word is also changed from singular to plural. In English, its plural form is 'Lady doctors', by morphological changes in phonemes, it is taken as 'ڈاکٹرنیاں' /dɒktərniɟɑː/. This occurs due to the suffixation of ɟɑː (یاں) as shown in the example.

There is a lexeme "Aunt" in the English language used for a father's sister or a mother's sister, but in Urdu, it is employed as "انٹی" /ɑ:nti/ in the singular form. Whereas to make it plural, it is changed according to Rule II, marked by the suffixation of ɟɑː (یاں) to the morpheme that ends in (ɪ or 'r') phoneme. As portrayed in this example 'انٹی' /ɑ:nti/, the phoneme ɟɑː (یاں) is included to change the category from singular 'انٹی' /ɑ:nti/ to plural, such as 'انٹیاں' /ɑ:ntiɟɑː/.

Input



Another example from the same process shows the generalization of rule II of plural making.

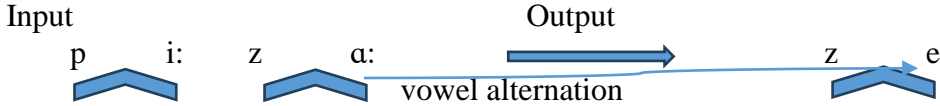
**Morphophonemically Adapted Lexemes following Rule III of Plural Making:**

Here, rule III of plural making in masculine singular lexemes is followed. These are the masculine singular words from the English language that are integrated into Urdu by slight phonemic adaptations of Urdu morphology, as the word ‘کیمرہ’ is a masculine singular that ends on the ‘ہ’ phoneme, and it is swapped with ‘ے’ to transform it into the plural one. The phoneme is changed into the ‘e’ and the lexeme becomes plural, such as ‘کیمرے’.

Table 4. Plural Making in Adopted Words (Rule III).

Word (masculine, singular)	Transcription	Gloss	Word (plural)	Transcription	Gloss
ایریا	/ereɑ:/	Area	ایریے	/ereje:/	Areas
صوفہ	/sɔ:fa:/	Sofa	صوفے	/sɔ:fe:/	Sofas
مگ	/mʌg/	Mug	مگے	/mʌgeɪ/	Mugs
کیمرہ	/kæmra:/	Camera	کیمرے	/kæmre:/	Cameras
پیزا	/pi:zɑ:/	Pizza	پیزے	/pi:ze/	Pizzas
آئیڈیا	/əɪdɪɑ:/	Idea	آئیڈیے	/əɪdie:/	Ideas
زیرا	/zæbra:/	Zebra	زیرے	/zæbre:/	Zebras
میڈیا	/mɪdɪɑ:/	Media	میڈیے	/mɪdie/	Medias

Another example is “pizza,” which is adapted from English; in Urdu, it is ‘پیزا’/pi:zɑ:/. In it, the phoneme ‘a’ or ‘آ’ɑ: is turned into /e/ and makes it /pi: ze:/ ‘پیزے’ as it is a masculine singular. This morphophonemic process is started by the/e/ phoneme to make a plural morpheme.



Furthermore, the word mug does not end on the ‘a’ phoneme, but it still follows the same rule to make the plural form, as it is also a masculine singular. The word “media” is usually used for the people who cover news. By Urdu speakers, it is used in the plural and singular form as “میڈیا یا میڈیے”. This word is also transformed into a plural by changing the phoneme ‘آ’ or ‘a’ into /e/ ‘ے’ as in میڈیے.

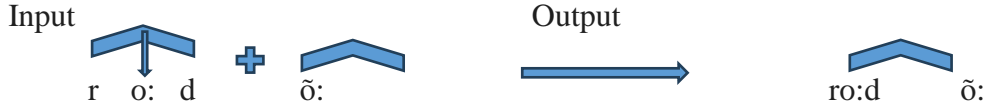
**Adopted words following Rule IV of Plural Making:**

These are the words used by the native speakers of the Urdu language in their daily conversation, and they are somehow different from the rules described earlier. These are English words adapted by Urdu speakers with morphophonemic changes according to their language’s rule IV of plural making.

Table 5. Plural Making in Adopted Words (Rule IV).

Word masculine, singular)	Transcription	Gloss	Word (plural)	Transcription	Gloss
روڈ	/ro:d/	Road	روڈوں	/ro:dõ:/	Roads

کورٹ /ko:rt/ Court کورٹوں /ko: rtõ:/ Courts



The speakers of the Urdu language generalize rule IV of plural making, and the above structures seem. The phoneme /õ:/ is the entity on which the morpheme /ro:dõ:/ stands.

### Adopted words Showcasing Rule V of Plural Making:

As exhibited in the examples below, Urdu speakers overgeneralize rule V to the adopted lexical items as follows.

Lərke ne 4 bred beŋe.

7 plein t̤əba: ho:ei.

pɑ:k a:rmi ne 9 tæŋk mɑ:r girɑ:e.

These sentences entail how the mathematical digits convey the meaning of plurality when prefixed with the nouns in rule V and how the structures are made by Urdu speakers with the adopted lexical items.

### Compounding

It is the process of making a new lexeme by combining the existing two. Many English language compounds are integrated into the Urdu language and are often employed by Urdu speakers, as portrayed in the examples. /plɑ:t fɑ:l/ is a combination of two lexemes, and both are adopted. Same is with /bəs stɔ:p/, /t̤əla:n fɔ:rm/, /kæmrə mæn/, /wædɪŋ plænər/, /o:fis wɜrk/, /tɪ vɪ drɑ:mə/, /læŋtʃ bɔ:ks/, /bæik pɑ:rkɪŋ/, /ti:m wɜrk/, /ækfən film/, /ræskɪu ti:m/, /pərmɑ:nē:t ədræs/, /drəmə kwɪ:n/, etc.

### Hybrid Compounds

It is the process of combining two lexemes of two languages. As shown in the examples, /dɑ:k a:fɪs/, /bi:f kəbɑ:b/, /t̤ɪkən kɔ:rma:/, /pəndʒɑ:bɪ sɔ:ŋg/, /məhɑ:dʒɪr kæmp/, /drɑ:me bɑ:z/, /nɪkɑ:h serəməni/, etc. are hybrid compounds made with Urdu and English language lexemes.

Some of the examples of hybrid compounding are discussed below.

### Nikah Ceremony “نکاح سرمنی”

The word Nikah is taken from the Arabic language, whereas the word " ceremony is an English language word. Both words are considered nouns in their corresponding languages. In the context of Pakistani English, these words are taken as compound nouns, but this process of deriving new words is known as hybridized compounding. The words “Nikah” and ‘Ceremony’ are free lexical morphemes belonging to two different languages, English and Urdu. When these words are combined, they come up with a new word. This lexical borrowing happened due to the unavailability of the terms to the tongue, which is equivalent to the ceremony.

Chai /t̤ɑ: ei /Studio “چائے سٹوڈیو”

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Among so many examples, there is an example that is chai /tʃɑ: eɪ/ studio (چائے سٹوڈیو). This is one of the examples of hybrid compounding. The word chai /tʃɑ: eɪ/ comes from the word Chinese ‘cha’ /tʃɑ:/, which means tea. This word traveled along the borders through the Silk Roads and evolved in Persia as ‘chay’, which means chai /tʃɑ: eɪ/ or tea. Studio is an English word. The word chai /tʃɑ: eɪ/ is borrowed from the Persian language by Urdu, and when this word is joined with another word in the English language, it becomes a hybridized word that is generated by the combination of two words. Both are free lexical morphemes; therefore, they are coming together to complete the hybridization in the compounding process.

### Qawwali Night “قوالی نائٹ”

Qawwali originated in the subcontinent in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, known as ‘India and Pakistan’. The word qawwali is taken from the Arabic word ‘Qaul’, which means to speak or to say something. Qawwali is the devotional music of the Sufis. The word mentioned as ‘قوالی’ is in the Urdu language, whereas the word Night is taken from the English language, which means ‘رات’ /ra:t/ in Urdu. Nowadays, the word is used for a ceremony or a function known as ‘qawwali night’. The word comes into existence when a suitable word is not found in the English language for adjusting with ‘قوالی’ as it is related to Pakistani culture; therefore, the Urdu language borrowed the word from English, and both free lexical morphemes are combined to generate a new compound lexeme, which becomes a complete noun in the respective target language. This is how the word “qawwali night” is formed.

### Ghora Street “گھوڑا سٹریٹ” /ghoɾɑ: sətri:t/

The word ghora /ghoɾɑ:/ (گھوڑا) originated from the ‘ghotaka’, a word that belongs to the Sanskrit word class. “Street” is taken from the English language, which means gali (گلی) /gəli/ in the Urdu language. Both words are considered nouns in their source languages, which shows that these are free morphemes. The word ghora /ghoɾɑ:/ is “horse” in English, and when it is combined with the English lexeme “street,” it comes forth as a new word of the same nature that is a noun, so the combination of these words, just like the other examples of hybrid compounds, turns them into hybrid compounds. The word turns into “گھوڑا سٹریٹ” /ghoɾɑ: sətri:t/ in the Urdu language (Khan, T. A. 2020).

### Conclusion and Findings

This study considers an in-depth analysis of the morphological processes led by phonological changes in the loanwords of English into Urdu effectively explained by LPM. However, speakers' number marking processes with the borrowed lexical items are intensely studied and discussed. The morphology of Urdu nouns is measured, as well as the phonological and morphological changes that occur in the adopted lexical items. The lexical items of both languages incorporated number markers. By combining and substituting some morphological items, new words are formed. An extensive look is given to the morphological processes of compound morphemes and hybrid compound nouns as well as their plural marking. The crucial points of research are the replacement of Urdu phonemes and the formation of new morphemes in loanwords under the shade of LPM, and how Urdu morphology coincides with this model is elaborated. The findings of the research illustrate that the adopted lexical items are integrated into the Urdu morphology by the speakers with the help of their

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native language's phonological and morphological incorporations, and the phonological processes lead to the morphemic change, which comes forth as a new lexeme. Thus, it goes in a cycle. A phoneme comes with an item to form a new one and alter a lexeme to transform it into a new item or category. This is how languages work and enrich their lexicon with the help of their speakers and interaction between the languages through media, technology, and other modes of communication. As English enjoys the status of the official language, it can easily incorporate its lexical items into the Urdu-speaking community. There are certain limitations in this research work, which will be fulfilled by some other researchers, as its circumference is at the lexical level, and the post-lexical level is not analyzed, and corpus can be enlarged along with sociolinguistic variation i.e., age, class, region.

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