



## A Comparison of Conjunctive Cohesion between Pakistani and British English Newspapers' Opinion Articles

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### Abstract

Pakistani English has been forming and developing norms different from standard British/American English. This study explores the use and patterns of conjunctive cohesion, as elaborated, and categorized by Halliday and Hasan (1976) and revised by Halliday and Matthiessen (2013) in Pakistani and British Newspapers' Opinion Articles from November 2023. Twenty-eight opinion articles from the Pakistani English newspaper 'The Express Tribune (TET)' and 25 from the British English newspaper 'The Guardian (TG)' were collected and saved into two separate text files for analysis. Frequencies of 80 conjunctions (which are categorized into three categories: elaboration, extension, and enhancement; and further into nine subcategories) were calculated by Anthony's (2023) AntConc software (version 4.2.4). Pakistani data showed a higher frequency of Extending Conjunctions than British data. However, the use of both elaborating and enhancing conjunctions is higher in British writing than in Pakistani writing. The study revealed extending conjunctions ('and,' 'but,' 'or' being the top 3 in both data) as the most used items by Pakistani and British writers; results also suggested excessive use of 'and' among Pakistani writers. Yet when it comes to complex conjunction items, the cohesive choices of both Pakistani and native English writers show differences.

### Introduction

The global spread of the English language is the phenomenon aroused by different countries adopting English as their national/official, second, or foreign language. English has become used by almost every country around the globe, either as an international language, as a lingua franca or as a second or foreign language. The English language is native to the United Kingdom and, after that, to America, from where we can have a standard British variety of English (also known as Received Pronunciation or RP) and an American English variety, respectively. Crystal (2003) opines that English now has fewer native speakers than non-native speakers; moreover, the number of non-native speakers is ever-expanding. But English, when it is in use by the non-natives who have their mother tongues, cannot have a native-like proficiency of the English language. This has given rise to the 'World Englishes (WE),' the term coined by Braj Bihari Kachru in the early 1980s, and it refers to the different forms or varieties of English developed by non-native speakers (Kachru, 1982). Later, Kachru (1985) introduced the 'three concentric circles model' that helped in understanding the global spread, growth, and global status of the English language.

According to Schneider (2003), people from different regions or countries worldwide embed the features of their mother tongue in Standard English, resulting in other varieties of English. But now, these 'nativized' and 'vernacularized' varieties of English are being standardized and owned by their speakers (Kachru, 1982; Mahboob & Ahmar, 2004; Rahman, 2020; Khan, 2012). Pakistani English (Pak-Eng), one of the nativized varieties, is unique to South Asian Pakistanis. Pakistan lies in the outer (or middle) circle of Kachru's (1985) three concentric circles; this

circle represents the countries where the usage of the English language has some colonial history, and the English language holds the status of official/national or second language, these countries are the ‘norm-developing’ countries (Kachru, 1992). English in Pakistan underwent new changes in terms of phonology, morphology, syntax, lexis, semantics, and stylistics under the influence of the native languages of Pakistan (mainly Urdu and Punjabi). Pakistani speakers of the English language have developed the norms for Pak-Eng by embedding the distinctive features of their regional language(s). Various studies have been conducted to investigate these variations and unique attributes of Pak-Eng and catalog the norms and features of Pak-Eng. Baumgardner (1988, 1993), Rahman (1991), Talaat (2002), and Mahmood (2009) also referred to Pakistani English as an independent variety with well-established norms.

Kirkpatrick (2007) opined that a linguistic variety can be studied under the main heads of phonology and pronunciation, morphology and grammar, vocabulary, and cultural conventions and schema. From studying Pakistani English, newspaper data has been chosen for this research. In this case, newspapers are an authentic source of grammar, vocabulary, and writing conventions applied by writers of any language or variety, Pakistani and British English. The grammatical concept of ‘conjunctive cohesion’ has been chosen to be explored in newspaper texts for this study.

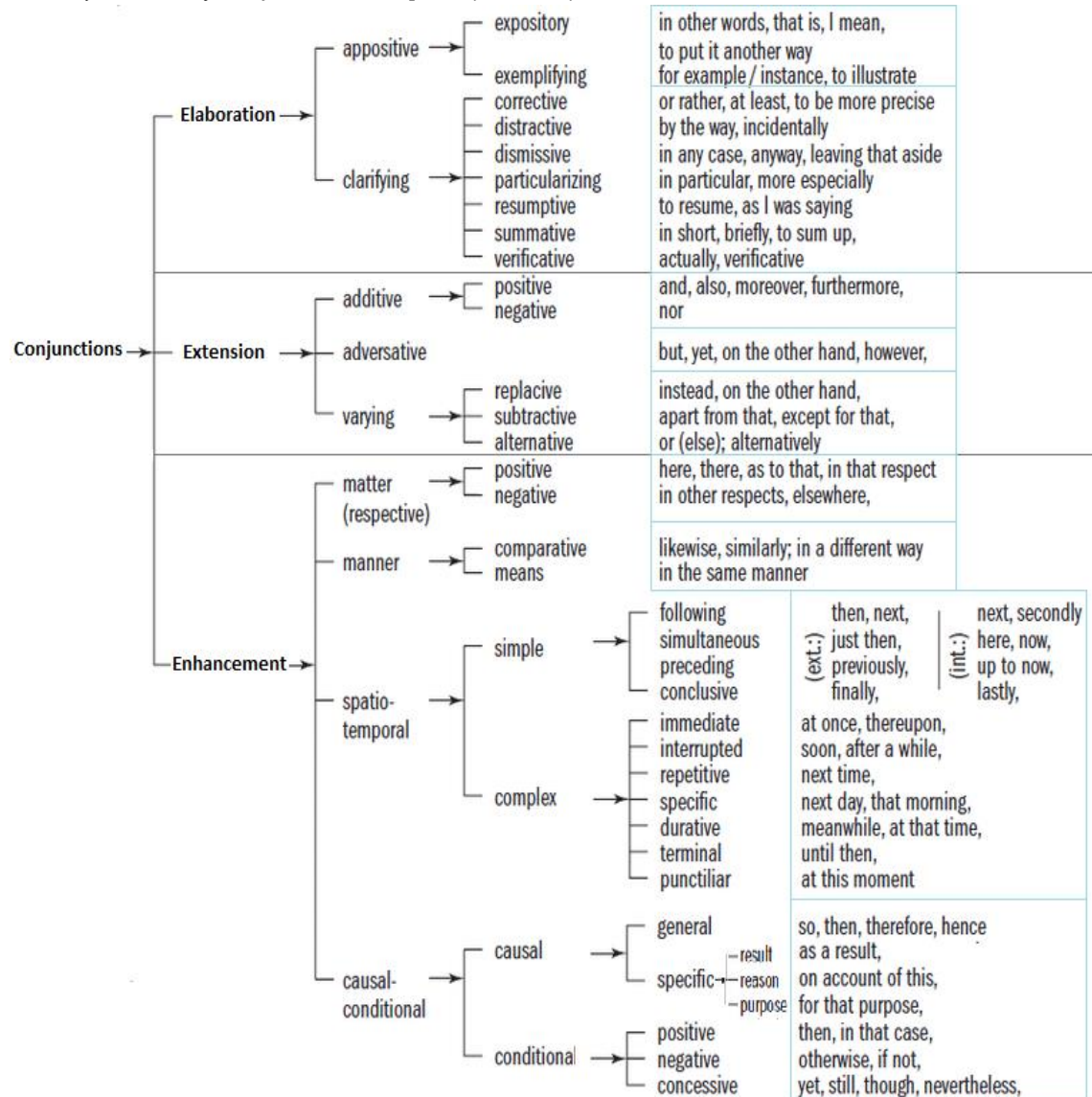
Text, either written or spoken, gives meaning as a whole; the words, phrases, clauses, and sentences are related to each other in a way that provides meaning. These text elements, which are independent structures, can only give true meaning and provide comprehensible information when combined through cohesive devices. So, cohesion brings texture to a text and makes it unified. Yasmin et al. (2023) have rendered cohesion as “inter-clausal conjunctive linkages” used by the writers or speakers to develop texture and unity in a text or speech. According to Haratyan (2011), Cohesion is a “non-structural text-forming relation”. Using cohesive devices of reference, ellipsis, substitution, lexical cohesion, and conjunctions establish cohesion in a text (Halliday & Hasan, 1976).

A Framework provided by Halliday and Hasan (1976) describes cohesion under various grammatical and lexical prospects. They discuss conjunctions under the umbrella of grammatical cohesion. It is defined as a word or phrase that is ‘connective’ and functions as a bridge between the preceding and the following clause. These systematic linkages among the words, phrases, and clauses make sense of the given text for its readers. Qasim et al. (2020) also maintains that in written discourse, these are the conjunctive adjuncts that help the reader to presume the occurrence of many other components around them and construct meaning from them as conjunctive adjuncts are not cohesive themselves but have the potential of linking phases and bringing in the connectivity in a text.

According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2013; 2014), conjunctive adjuncts, which can be certain prepositional phrases or adverbial groups, establish ‘cohesive conjunctive linkages’ among clauses, and in the text, they serve the function of *elaboration, extension, or enhancement*. Elaborating conjunctions function to add further details about the same thing in discourse or text; it has two subcategories: appositive (I mean, for example, in other words, etc.) and clarifying (actually, as I was saying, in short, etc.). Extending conjunctions function to add more related or contrary information in a discourse or text; it has three subcategories: additive (and, also, etc.), adversative (yet, on the other hand, but, etc.), and varying (or, instead, alternatively). Enhancing conjunctions create cohesion in a discourse or text by enriching it with the elements of comparison, cause, space, and time, etc.; it has four subcategories: matter (here, there, elsewhere, etc.), manner (likewise, in a different way, etc.), Spatio-temporal (next, secondly, now, meanwhile, etc.), causal conditional (then, therefore, hence, yet, etc.).

Figure 1 shows Halliday’s Model of Conjunctions, which was adapted by Halliday and Matthiessen (2013) and is used by the researchers for the present study. The researchers have examined using the below illustrated 80 conjunctions under three main categories and their nine subcategories.

**Figure 1**  
Halliday's Model of Conjunctions; adapted by Halliday and Matthiessen (2013)



The present study presents and highlights Pakistani writers' choices of 'conjunctive adjuncts' for developing function-appropriate, cohesive ties in newspaper texts and compares them to British writers' choices. This will be helpful for researchers and linguists in norm-developing processes of Pakistani English as it facilitates envisaging the practices of Pakistani English speakers and the distinctive features of Pakistani English in authentic texts. To achieve this aim, this study contemplates the following research questions:

- What are the frequencies of all the cohesive conjunctions in Pakistani and British English newspapers?
- What are the similarities and disparities between Pakistani and standard British English writing regarding conjunctive cohesion?

### Literature Review

Powers The investigation of the use of conjunctive cohesion adjuncts has remained an area of interest for researchers. Several studies have been conducted on their use and effectiveness in various domains. For example, to explore the appropriate or inappropriate use of conjunctive cohesion devices or to examine and analyze the purposes

served by their use in any discourse or text such as speeches, newspapers, editorials, novels, textbooks, students' academic writings, business writings, advertisements, mass/print media, etc.

A study by Yasmin et al. (2023) analyzed and compared the conjunctive cohesion among two mainstream Pakistani English newspapers. The researchers selected opinion articles from both newspapers. They calculated the frequencies of all the conjunctions based on Halliday and Hasan's (1976) model of conjunctions, used by the authors for both newspapers. The authors of both newspapers' articles have almost the same preferences for conjunctive cohesion choices. Extension and enhancement conjunctive adjuncts got the higher frequencies, and among the subcategories, additive, adversative, and causal conjunctions were found to be the most favored ones by the writers. Shahzadi et al. (2023), using Halliday and Hassan's (1976) framework of conjunctive relations, have executed a corpus-based study implying a mixed-method approach (QUAN<sup>à</sup>qual) to investigate the frequencies of temporal and causal conjunctions in Pakistani and British research discourse. The findings revealed less frequent use of temporal and causal conjunctions in the Pakistani corpus than in the British one. Okpala and Chukwu (2023) have conducted a qualitative study on editorials from two Nigerian English-language newspapers. They implied Halliday and Hasan's (1976) model of cohesion to analyze the writers' choices of lexical cohesion used for the semantic realization of the editorials for the readers. Sitio et al. (2023) have researched an Indonesian English newspaper's editorials to investigate and analyze the cohesive devices and their realization in them. Researchers used Krippendorff's (2018) content analysis framework and Halliday and Hasan's (1976) cohesion framework. The findings showed that the three types of cohesive devices: reference (71%), conjunction (15%), and lexical cohesion (14%) were adequately used by the authors to build and maintain the cohesive texture of the text and that successfully lead to the writers' comprehensive and persuasive point of view and opinions for the readers.

Hajkova (2022) surveyed two British newspapers' discourses to examine the rate of occurrence and role of conjunctive devices implied by the authors in the given discourse. Zulfiani (2022) analyzed opinion articles in an Indonesian English-language newspaper to determine the kind and function of conjunctions writers use to achieve grammatical cohesion. The analysis was based on Halliday and Hasan's (1976) model of conjunctions. The results showed additive conjunctions as the most used in the selected data. Dang (2020) has investigated grammatical cohesion based on Halliday and Hasan's (1976) model in the newspapers' political discourse. The researcher selected editorials of the political discourse genre from a Vietnamese English newspaper and a British English newspaper. Results elucidated that the writers of both newspapers employed all four types of grammatical cohesion devices, reference devices being the most frequent ones. However, a difference was present in using ellipses devices among both writers. Arifianto (2020) has selected news discourse in the Arabic language and investigated the use of Arabic conjunctive devices to create cohesion in the discourse used by the media. Four types of conjunctions: additive (*idhāfī*), causal (*sababī*), adversative (*idhrābī*), and temporal (*zamanī*) were found in the discourse. Creban (2020) has worked on Journalistic Language in British Newspapers to explore its characteristics and found cohesion as one of the important elements of journalistic writing. Discourse analysis of an article from a Pakistani English newspaper conducted by Shahnaz and Imtiaz (2014) has maintained that newspaper writers utilize cohesive conjunctions to bring connectivity and clarity to a text.

Studies to investigate conjunctive cohesion are conducted in the media discourse domain and in education, research, medicine, legal discourse, etc. Ganie et al. (2021) explored conjunctive cohesion in Indonesian university students' theses through mixed-method research and found that the additive category is the dominant one. The students also employed adversative, temporal, and causal categories. Following a corpus-driven approach, Qasim et al. (2021) extracted 400 academic essays from INCALE and, using AntConc software's n-gram tool, determined each conjunctive marker's occurrence rate. In another study, a corpus-based analysis of 250 research articles is done by Qasim et al. (2020). The findings revealed the excessive use of conjunctive cohesive devices in the selected academic writings; conjunctions of addition, causation, and exemplification were dominant among them. The analysis of the data of 850 million tokens obtained from BNC, COCA, and COHA corpora by Hutton and Curzan (2019) reveals a change and modification in the patterns of use of conjunctive devices among English language users. A comparative study of the use of conjunctive cohesion devices between the research articles' manuscripts by Iranians and non-

Iranians conducted by Namaziandost et al. (2019) reveals the Iranian manuscripts lacked quality in terms of conjunctive cohesion and non-Iranian articles were of better quality as compared to them. A corpus-assisted study is carried out by Siddique (2019) on the data from Pakistani research articles' abstracts to investigate major cohesive conjunctive markers among Pakistani researchers. Alasmri and Kruger (2018) have collected Arabic texts of legal and creative genres and employed WordSmith Tools 7 to determine the frequencies and functions of different conjunctive cohesion devices.

The current research analyzes the employment of different conjunctive cohesion devices, based on Halliday and Matthiessen's (2013) conjunctive cohesion categories, in Pakistani print media compared to British print media (English Newspapers for both). For this purpose, articles published in the opinion sections of a Pakistani and a British mainstream and widely published daily English Newspapers, 'The Express Tribune' and 'The Guardian' respectively, are chosen. Corpora of the selected articles are developed for the current study to determine the frequencies of all the conjunctions in both newspapers and examine the similarity and disparity in the choices (conjunctive cohesion items) of Pakistani and British writers.

### **Research Design and Methodology**

Overall, this study follows a descriptive approach where the data was collected and analyzed quantitatively to compute the frequencies of the various kinds of conjunctions, as presented by Halliday and Matthiessen's (2013) model of conjunctions, in both Pakistani and British English newspapers' selected opinion articles. After the frequencies are calculated, the descriptive analysis of the usage and patterns of conjunctive cohesion linkages are compared in Pakistani and British writings.

### **Data Collection and Compilation**

A Pakistani English newspaper 'The Express Tribune', and a British English Newspaper 'The Guardian' were selected for the present study. Both newspapers are mainstream, grown, and well-reputed daily newspapers with a vast audience; also the electronic newspapers are available on their official websites for both the newspapers. Both newspapers have an 'Opinion Articles' section, which presents write-ups from diverse writers that mainly reflect their opinions about any subject. Authors of the articles in both newspapers are educated and knowledgeable and possess diverse capabilities concerning their fields and experience. From the publications in November 2023, 28 opinion articles were selected from the Pakistani English newspaper 'The Express Tribune' comprising 24,413 tokens, and 25 opinion articles were chosen from the British English newspapers 'The Guardian' comprising 23,609 tokens. The data was downloaded and saved as plain text (.txt format) files; two separate metafiles were created for each newspaper's articles. The number of words (tokens) used for both data is kept close to avoid bias.

Data was retrieved and maintained in the mentioned steps:

- There were two separate text files for both newspapers' articles. All articles were copied and pasted one after another in a single file for the newspaper to create a mega text for analysis.
- Both files were screened manually to remove any irrelevant data.
- Text files were UTF-8 encoded.
- For the quick retrieval of data, an MS Excel spreadsheet was maintained. The spreadsheet included titles of the selected articles, authors' names, publication dates, their token types, and data sources.

### **Instrument for Data Analysis**

A free corpus analysis/text processor toolkit 'AntConc' (version 4.2.4) by Anthony (2023) was used to calculate the frequency of occurrences of 80 conjunctions in total, as proposed by Halliday and Matthiessen (2013) in the developed data of Pakistani and British English newspapers articles. There are 9 built-in tools in the software for conducting corpus linguistics research.

### **Data Analysis**

The data was processed and analyzed through the Cluster, N-Gram, and Word List tools; manual screening and scanning were done throughout the procedure. The required frequencies were then recorded in an Excel

spreadsheet in tables to carry out further descriptive analysis to explore usage patterns of conjunction items in Pakistani and British English.

**Discussion and Analysis**

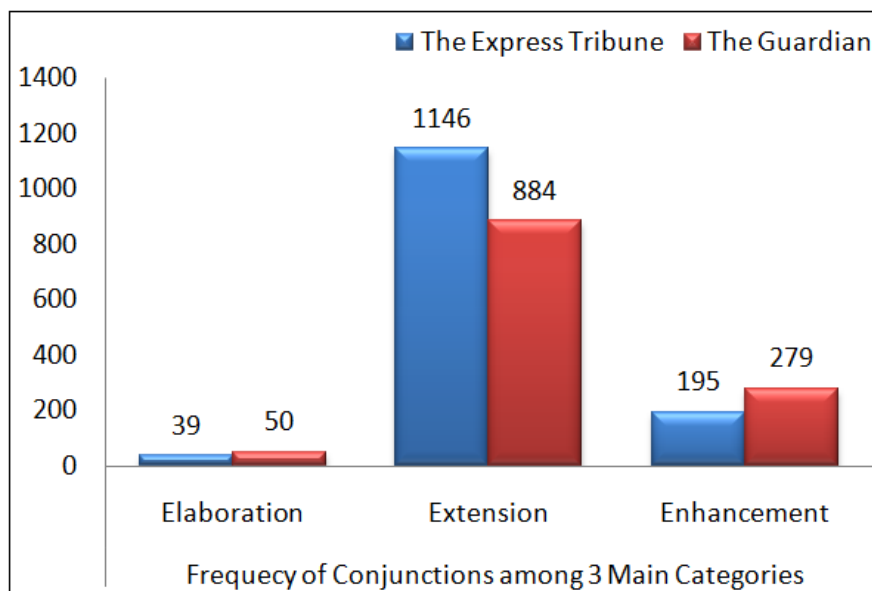
The results show that both Pakistani and British writers use extending conjunctions the most, followed by enhancing conjunctions, and the use of elaborating conjunctions is the least. Among British writers, the use of elaborating and enhancing conjunctions is 2% and 9%, respectively, higher than the Pakistani writers. Meanwhile, extending conjunctions is 11% higher among Pakistani writers than British writers. Table 1 shows the total number of occurrences and the percentages of elaborating, extending, and enhancing conjunctions in Pakistani (TET) and British (TG) English newspapers.

**Table 1**  
*Frequency of Conjunctions among 3 Main Categories*

	Elaboration		Extension		Enhancement	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
The Express Tribune	39	2.80%	1146	83.10%	195	14.10%
The Guardian	50	4.10%	884	72.90%	279	23.00%

Figure 2 is the visual representation of Table 1. The blue bar represents the Pakistani newspaper ‘The Express Tribune,’ and the red bar represents the British newspaper ‘The Guardian’; the bars show the frequencies of the three main categories of the conjunctions.

**Figure 2**  
*Frequency of Conjunctions among 3 Main Categories*



Among the three main categories of conjunctions, there are nine sub-categories. Table 2 shows the frequencies of conjunctions among these subcategories in both newspapers.

**Table 2**  
*Frequency of Conjunctions among Subcategories of 3 Main Categories*

Elaboration	Extension	Enhancement
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	Appositive	Clarifying	Additive	Adversative	Varying	Matter (respective)	Manner (comparative)	Spatio-Temporal	Causal-conditional
TET	19	20	947	118	81	48	6	33	108
TG	28	22	627	167	90	68	0	72	139

**Figure 3**

*Frequency of Conjunctions among Subcategories of 3 Main Categories*

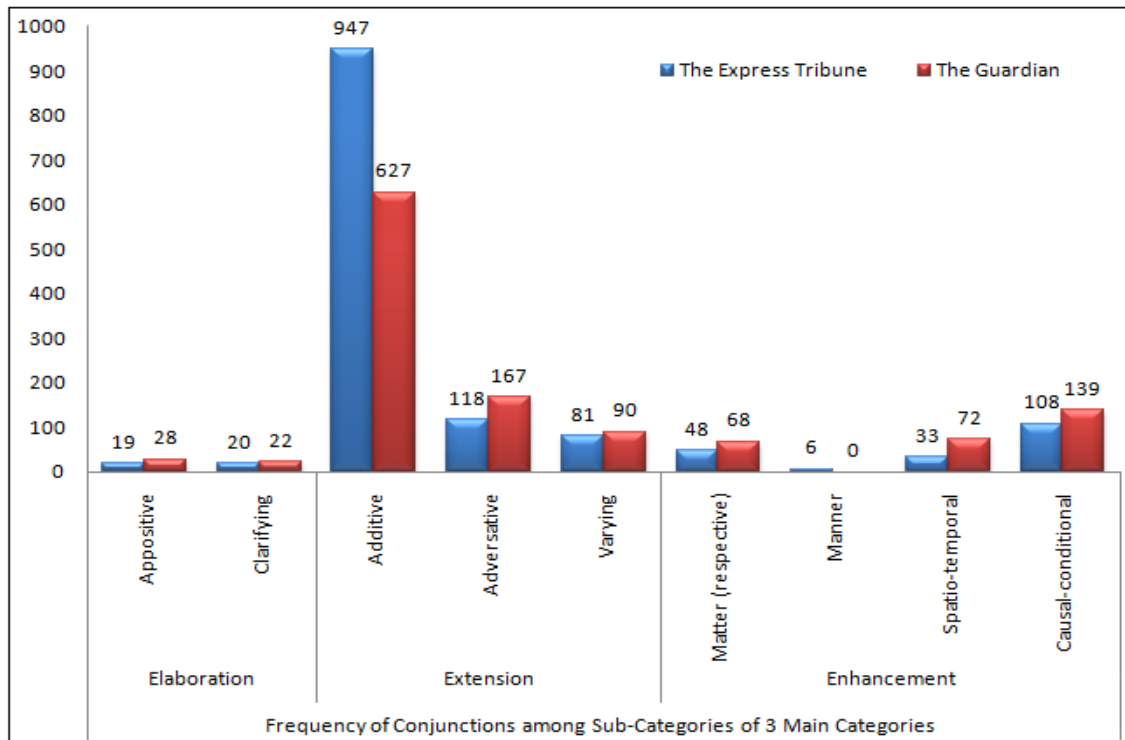


Figure 3, showing the frequencies of the conjunctions among the subcategories, illustrates that the extending additive conjunctions are the only category with a huge difference in usage among Pakistani and British writers, and Pakistani writers hugely favor it. All other categories (except for the enhancing manner conjunctions as well) have more or less higher frequencies of usage in British newspapers' articles than in Pakistani writings.

The usage of 80 conjunctions in total, proposed in Halliday's Model of Conjunctions and presented in Halliday and Matthiessen (2013), in Pakistani and British writings is discussed below in detail. The frequencies of occurrences of each conjunction in the selected Pakistani and British newspapers' opinion articles are calculated and analyzed below to present the patterns of Pak-Eng in the domain of conjunctive cohesion and also draw a comparison between Pak-Eng and Br-Eng. Pakistani Data comprised 28 opinion articles (with 24,413 tokens/words), and British data comprised 25 opinion articles (with 23,609 tokens/words).

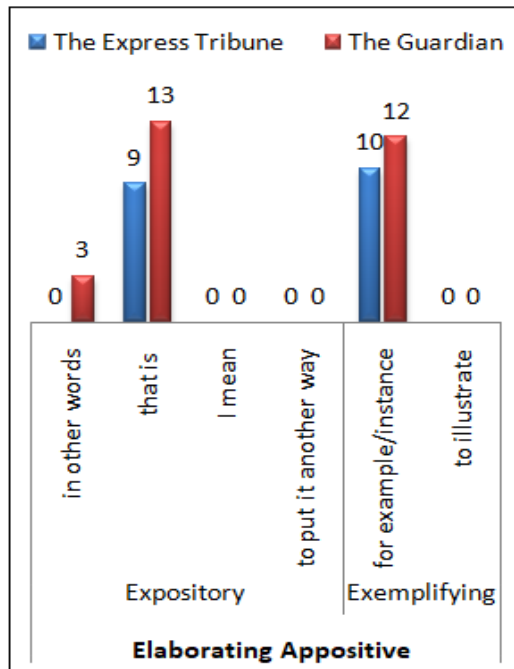
### ***Elaborating Conjunctions***

Pakistani and British writers have used elaborating conjunctions that create cohesion in a text by adding more information or clarifying something. However, their use is slightly higher in British than in Pakistani writing. In British data, the elaborating conjunction with the highest frequency is 'that is' (Figure 4), which falls under the appositive subcategory. The second most used is elaborative appositive 'for example/instance,' and the third most used is elaborating clarifying at least' (from Figure 4 and 5, respectively). In Pakistani data, the elaborating

conjunction with the highest frequency is ‘for example/instance’ (as shown in Figure 4), which falls under the ‘appositive’ subcategory. The second most used is elaborative appositive ‘that is,’ and the third most used is elaborating clarifying ‘especially/more especially’ (from Figure 4 and 5, respectively). This shows the Pakistani and British writers’ patterns of choices and preferences to convey further explanation or elaboration in a text or discourse.

**Figure 4**

*Frequency of Elaborating Appositive Conjunctions*



**Figure 5**

*Frequency of Elaborating Clarifying Conjunctions*

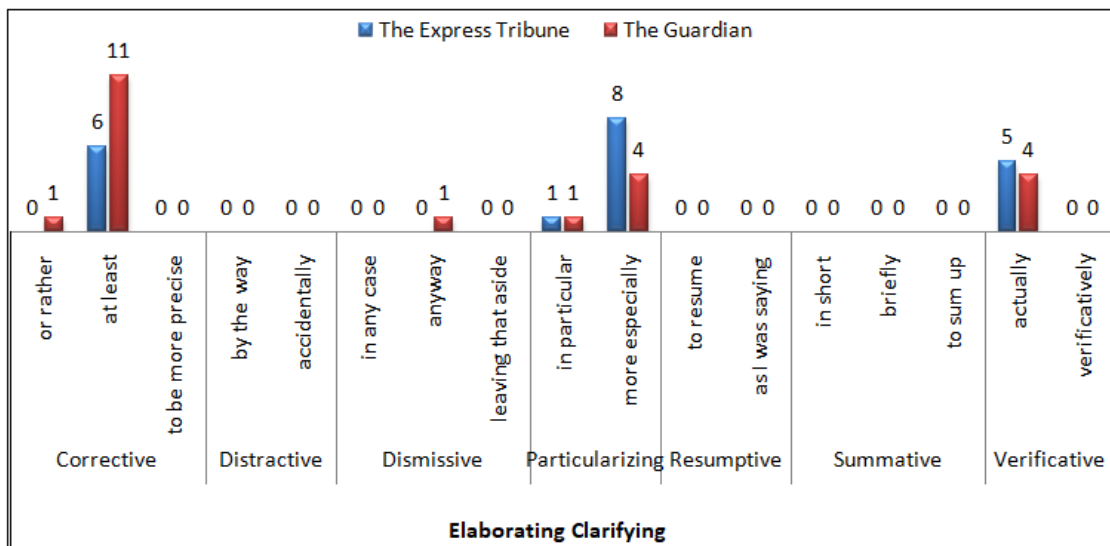


Figure 4 and Figure 5 shows the frequency of occurrence of each elaborating appositive and clarifying conjunction in both TET and TG.

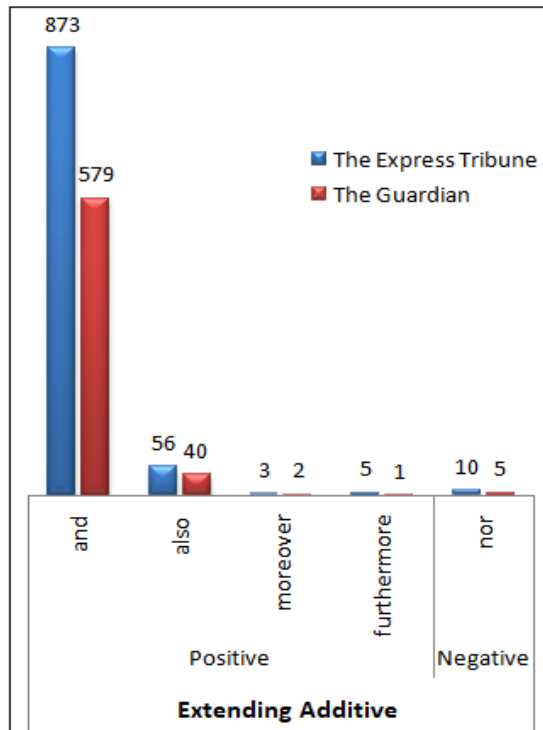
**Extending Conjunctions**

The function of extending conjunctions is to unify text or discourse by stretching it through connecting pieces of information related to the text and extending the meaning. These connectors/conjunctions can be additive

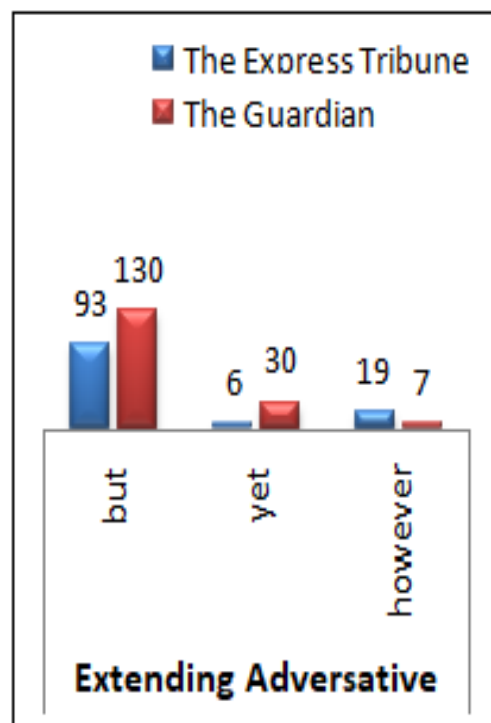


(adding something new like and, also, etc.), adversative (expressing opposition by adding something like but, etc.), or varying (differing in nature like instead, etc.). A prominent phenomenon seen in Figure 6 is the high use of extending additive conjunction 'and' in Pakistani writing, with a difference of 294 hits from British writing. In Pakistani and British data, the extending conjunction with the highest frequency is 'and' (as shown in Figure 6), which falls under the additive subcategory. The second most used is extending adversative 'but,' and the third most used is extending varying 'or/else' (from Figure 7 and 8, respectively).

**Figure 6**  
*Frequency of Extending Additive Conjunctions*



**Figure 7**  
*Frequency of Extending Adversative Conjunctions*



**Figure 8**  
*Frequency of Extending Varying Conjunctions*

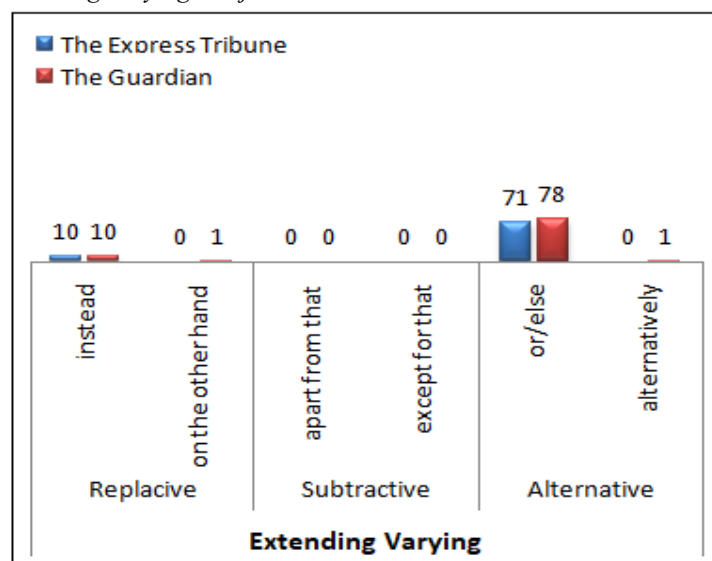
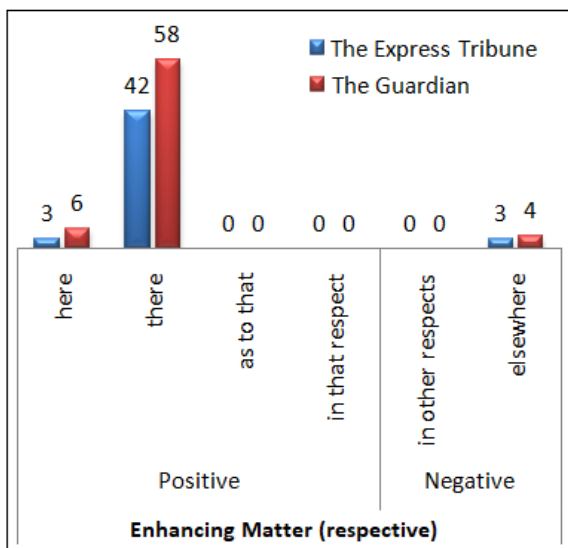


Figure 6, Figure 7, and Figure 8 show the frequency of occurrence of each extending additive, adversative, and varying conjunction, respectively, in both TET and TG.

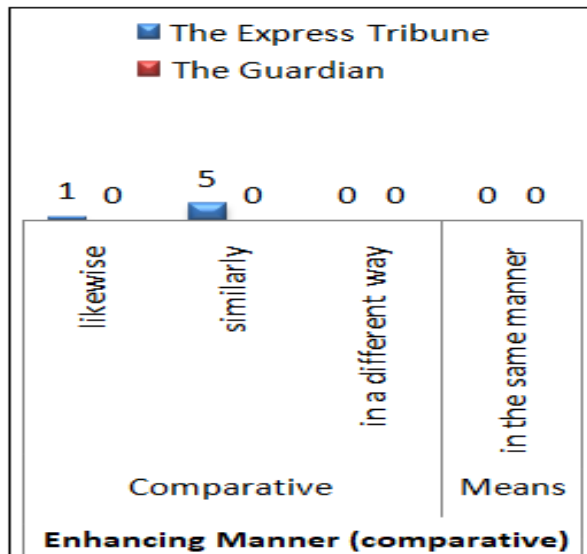
**Enhancing Conjunctions**

These conjunctions create cohesion by enhancing the meaning of a text or discourse by adding elements of manner, matter, time, space, causes, conditions, etc. Enhancing conjunctions is a bit higher in British writing than in Pakistani writing. In British data, enhancing matter conjunction ‘there’ and enhancing causal-conditional conjunction ‘so’ have the highest frequencies (as shown in Figures 9 and 12, respectively). The second most used is enhancing spatiotemporal ‘now,’ and the third is enhancing causal-conditional ‘yet’ (from Figures 11 and 12, respectively). In Pakistani data, enhancing matter conjunction ‘there’ is with the highest frequency (as shown in Figure 9). The second most used is enhancing causal-conditional ‘so,’ and the third is enhancing causal-conditional ‘then’ (from Figure 12).

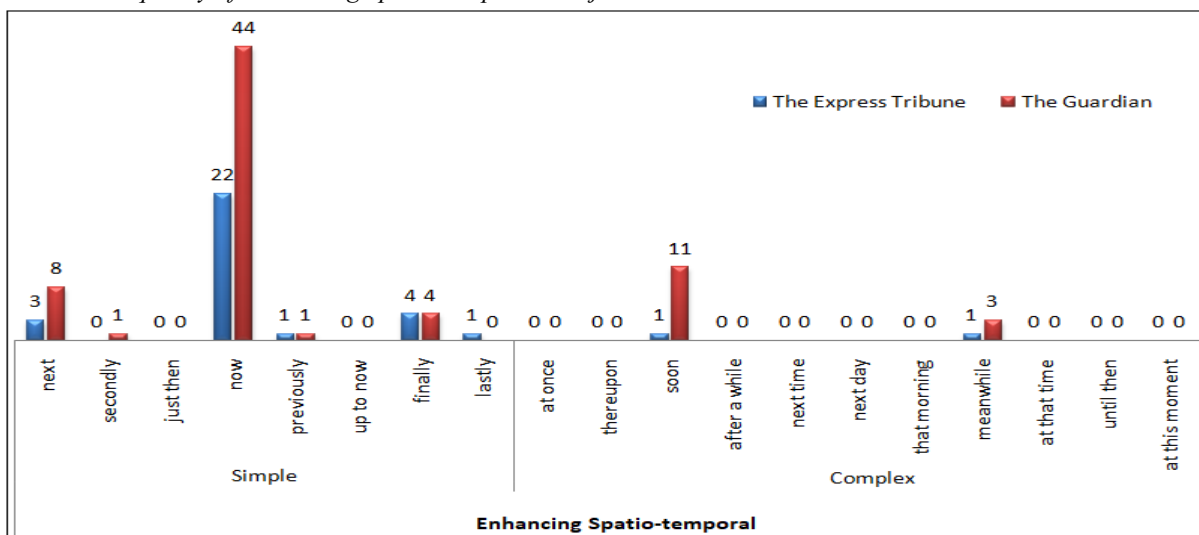
**Figure 9**  
*Frequency of Enhancing Matter Conjunctions*



**Figure 10**  
*Frequency of Enhancing Manner Conjunctions*



**Figure 11**  
*Frequency of Enhancing Spatio-temporal Conjunctions*



**Figure 12**  
*Frequency of Enhancing Causal-conditional Conjunctions*

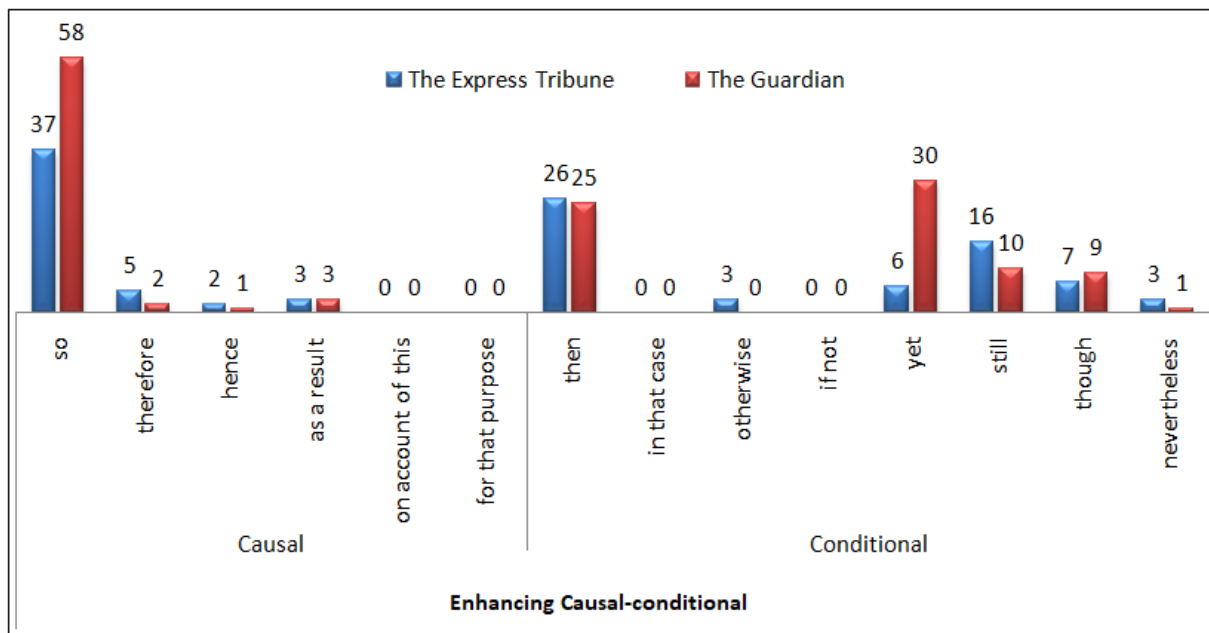


Figure 9, Figure 10, Figure 11, and Figure 12 show the frequency of occurrence of each enhancing matter, manner, spatiotemporal, and causal-conditional conjunction, respectively, in both TET and TG.

**Most Frequently Used Conjunctions**

Table 3 presents the list of the top fifteen most used cohesive conjunctive links used by Pakistani and British selected data with their frequencies. The list shows the preferences of both writers and how the preferences develop norms for Pak-Eng that are similar or different to Br-Eng.

**Table 3**  
*15 Top Occurring Conjunctions in Both Newspapers*

The Express Tribune		The Guardian	
Conjunction	Frequency	Conjunction	Frequency
And	873	And	579
But	93	But	130
Or	71	Or	78
Also	56	There	58
There	42	So	58
So	37	Now	44
Then	26	Also	40
Now	22	Yet	30
However	19	Then	25
Still	16	That is	13
For example/instance	10	For example/instance	12
Nor	10	At least	11
Instead	10	Soon	11
That is	9	Instead	10
Especially	8	Still	10

From Table 3, the disparity in the use of extending additive conjunction ‘and’ among Pakistani writers (with a frequency of 873) and British writers (with a frequency of 579) is noticeable. The corpora of the selected opinion articles from both newspapers have almost the same token count, but there is a difference of 294 hits in the use of ‘and’; Pakistani writers are more inclined towards incorporating ‘and’ in their writing than the British writers. The top three for both newspapers are ‘and,’ ‘but,’ and ‘or,’ indicating a similarity between Pak-Eng and standard Br-Eng. Moreover, as listed in the table above, the top-used conjunctions in both newspapers’ opinion articles are mostly the same, with a slight difference in their order. The conjunctions ‘however,’ ‘nor,’ and ‘especially’ are listed in Pakistani top fifteen conjunctions but not in British ones; similarly, the conjunctions ‘yet,’ ‘at least,’ and ‘soon’ are unique to British writing as top fifteen used conjunctions and are not present in Pakistani top fifteen conjunctions.

### Conclusion

The study’s numerical findings indicate that the extension category is the most employed across Pakistani and British newspaper articles. As illustrated in Figure 2, the most dominant and prevalent used conjunctions belong to the additive subcategory within the extension category. After the additive conjunctions, varying subcategories of extension and then the causative subcategory of enhancement exhibit higher use frequencies, as depicted in Figure 3. Additionally, Figure 3 reveals that the manner (comparative) subcategory of enhancement ranks as the least utilized among conjunction subcategories. Among the three main categories, elaboration is the least utilized category (Figure 3). This study provides insight into the distinctive features of Pakistani English by highlighting Pakistani writers’ preferences in conjunctions and comparing them to those of British writers.

### Limitations and Future Implications

The present study does not consider the instances of usage of the conjunctive items; further research can be carried out by conducting a qualitative analysis, such as stylistic or discourse analysis of the text, especially for the excessive use of ‘and’ among Pakistanis. Researchers can also carry out similar research using a larger data set or a different set of data. Newspaper opinion articles represent a dataset of writings of well-educated and experienced adults; conjunctive cohesion items can be different among young students or people from various educational, social, or professional classes. So, the conjunctive cohesion can be investigated in different datasets as it may offer different results.

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