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A Lexical Analysis of Pakistani and Indian Budget Speeches

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Abstract

Present research involves Pakistani and Indian budget speeches for corpus driven analysis to examine the lexical choices. It is a mix method research involving both the qualitative as well as quantitative paradigms of research. The budget speeches from 2009 to 2013 have been selected to compile the corpus. Pakistani budget speeches have 4607 types and 30098 tokens in corpus, whereas the types of Indian budget speeches are 5569 and its token are 46147. For tagging the corpora CLAWS Tagger C7 Tagset has been used and to study the concordance lines Antconc 3.2.1 has been involved; its major role is to extract the parts of speech and measure the frequencies of chosen words. Lexical fields have been classified through key wordlist and frequency. Position of lexical fields has been determined through concordance plot with the help of software the major objective of the research is to investigate the lexical features of PBS and IBS. For this purpose, similar and different lexical categories of Pakistan and Indian budget speeches of nouns and verbs have been formed to finalize the results. The study concludes that budget discourse has its own specified language which is designed according to the set phenomenon of government(s) to achieve indicated goals.

Keywords: Lexical fields, Corpus driven, Budget speeches, Politics, POS

Introduction

In Pakistan, the English language serves as an alternative to indigenous languages. It is obvious that the English language is employed in political activities such as campaign, budget, election, speeches, meeting, etc. Language is a powerful tool in the hands of political leaders as they manipulate the tool to get their purposes. As Cameron (2001) states that words can be dominant and the institutional power to classify people is often attached from the authority to make the decision to them. Politics is basically concerned with supremacy and power. Scholars generally comment that political discourse is not only a genre, but it involves a class of genres, normally concealed by a social domain. Van Dijk (1996) argued, to defining the aim of political discourse, “Mentally mediated control of the actions of others is the ultimate form of power, especially when the audience is hardly aware of such control, as is the case in manipulation” (p.89). The present research tries to argue the close similarity between language and politics and points out that there are discursive practices in political discourses

Simply stating, political discourse is considered as the discourse of politicians. Discourses are formed by the speaker or writer in the role of a politician and it deals within an official context. Political language involves analysis into very different sub-genres such as language democratic, party, social encounter and parliament. Chilton (2003) classifies two approaches which are descriptive and critical, to deal with politics and language. For him the descriptive approach normally depends on the describing procedure of linguistic strategies and how the politicians perform certain actions through verbal statements and how they promote their ideology which they have behind the utterances. Schaffner (1997) opines “for both perspectives, the political situations and processes can be linked to discourse types and levels of discourse organization by way of an intermediate level: that of strategic functions (p.3).

One basic function of language as a social activity is that it serves as instrument of making laws that govern day to day human interactions. The budget system provides one of the contexts through which this function is carried out. Budget discourse is a sub type of political discourse and thus, budget speech is one of the governmental discourses. Finance ministers as political actors are meant to perform appropriate linguistic acts, in a predicted sequence, and within the context of the procedural expectations of parliamentary sittings. Savoy (2009) investigates a US political corpus

which was compiled of senators John McCain and Barack Obama 189 speeches. The researcher argues and compares certain extracting terms and overuse and underuse of these terms by both applicants during the last US governmental election. Mahmood et al (2011) involve CDA of news headlines of different newspapers about budget of Pakistan. They say that local papers aim to denote the news, to persuade readers' sentiments on a certain issue but on the other hand the news which is formed for alien readers in the national papers focus the news of certain foreign strategy, which may defend the country from opponents. Ahmed et al (2014) conducted Critical Discourse Analysis of Pakistani and Indian budget speeches. The purpose of this research is to explore hidden meanings through lexical choices which have been used in Pakistani and Indian budget speeches. Fornkwa (2015) concludes that newspaper discourse on topical and sensitive issues such as the state budget tends to switch from objective news reporting to ideology driven discourse. Olajoke (2015) investigated the pattern and functions of lexical devices in the Inaugural speech of the Speaker of State House of Assembly (2011-2013) and analysed the Lexical Cohesion theory.

Methodology

To analyze Pakistani and Indian budget speeches, corpus driven methodology has been involved. This corpus is consisting of four speeches viz. 2009 to 2013 which has a heavy amount of its types and tokens separately. Both the corpora have been tagged syntactically by using CLAWS Tagger C7 Tagset. Through Antconc 3.2.1 the concordance lines have been studied and the lexical choices have been finalized with their frequencies. On the basis of lexical choices, the lexical fields have been classified through key wordlist and the frequency of these words. Present study also sets the position of lexical fields which has been done by concordance plot of chosen words. The results have been presented in tabular form; their screenshots have also been taken and inserted moreover, the actual instances have also been given in the results.

Results and Discussion

Budget is considered very important document for all the people of country because from elite class to poor class everyone is bound to follow it for the next fiscal year. This study analyses the Pakistani and Indian budget speeches to explore the similarities and differences in lexical categories and Parts of Speech (POS) of both the corpora.

Lexical Fields

Lexical choices of any text determine the nature of document. Wording of the text can be formal, informal, metaphorical, official, ceremonial, traditional and conversant. These choices define that the document is from which field and they depict either the language of text is official, finance, literary, historical or political. In politics 'budget' has an esteemed position due to its importance. It is arranged with specified language.

Categories of Nouns

Present study finalizes that Pakistani and Indian budget speeches show certain similarities while using nouns and verbs.

Similar Categories

The occurrence of words of every category has different ratio in both the corpora. The names and frequency of categories have been cited in the following:

Table 3.1 Similar Categories

Categories	Pak	Ind
Development	552	352
Deficit	382	157
Commerce	1544	867
Relief	470	344
Production	336	212
Objectives	252	192
Government Bodies	1008	564
Proposals	492	450
Decision	118	46
Target Population	492	220
Services	266	133

The frequency of each category has been collected through the frequency of words. In the category of 'development' both the corpora discuss some specified words as growth, improvement, increase, progress, enhancement, manufacturing and facilities. These words indicate every sort of

development in all the departments to whom government wants to highlight. This category has fundamental importance in budget because every government presents developmental picture of the country to make its position stronger in political scenario. Normally, it is considered that budget is based only on economic issues of country; every economic issue is presented with its constructive and poor features in budget. So ‘commerce and deficit’ play vital role in this regard. All the words regarding finance are the part of commerce category for instance bank/ing, business, debt, interest, loan market/ing, tax/ation, amount, custom, and trade. On other hand, the category of ‘deficit’ comprises inflation, crisis, poverty, poor, shortage, burden, loss and decline. Words of this category discuss deficit in every department. Study discovers that occurrence of the words of this category named ‘deficit’ is higher in PBS than IBS it indicates that the country is facing very troublesome situation.

Another purpose of budget is to provide relaxation to common masses for whole fiscal year. The category of ‘relief’ includes allocation, allowance, exemption, grant, levy, deduction and incentives. This group of words fascinates the masses and people start waiting believing the government that whatever has been stated in budget will be true in the coming year. Government also introduces production of the country in budget to estimate the strength of economy in present and coming year. PBS and IBS discuss food, health, dairy, diesel and handlooms, coal, gold, silver, ore, iron and leather in the category of ‘production’. This category has strong relation with the category of ‘target population’. Budget is announced to protect the common masses of the country and usually government accomplishes this duty for the betterment of people. Basically, budget has equal importance for everyone but some of the groups are emphasized consciously and mentioned in budget with special attention. Present study introduces this category named ‘target population’. It comprises employees, servants, labor, taxpayers, citizen, public, farmers and people. These are target people to whom government addresses in budget with concrete grounds to prove them their upward freedom. Results also point out that PBS does not perform its duty completely, and in the result country faces scarcity and poverty. Results have pointed out the category of ‘services’ which has relation with these ‘target people’. It involves safety, support, help, benefits, security, supply and beneficiaries. All these steps are taken to make the people pleased announcing various schemes for their progress.

Fundamentally, budget has some purposes and resolutions to whom every government tries to achieve in due timing. The category of ‘objectives’ shows the up-coming plans of government which are made for benefits of the people. It carries the words like agenda, challenge, focus, goal, mandate, mission, purpose and targets. Different bodies or organizations are involved to attain these objectives, and for that purpose present study points out the ‘government bodies’ which work under the supervision of different departments in both the corpora. This group of words includes ‘assembly, parliament, government, ministries, sectors, council, agencies and committee. PBS uses these words frequently but the research points out that IBS has more significant use of these words than PBS.

Every government introduces multiple schemes and offers in budget for common masses to win their confidence. These offers and proposals are announced to make the budget attractive. The category of ‘proposals’ contains policy/ies, project/s, service/s, strategy, plans and scheme/s. For the completion of these proposals government takes some decisions. Results have enlightened those words through which decisions are mentioned in budget. Law, court, justice, commitments, responsibilities and legislation are those lexical items which are the part of ‘decision’ category. All the above mentioned categories are similar in PBS and IBS.

Different Categories

In present study, the results have explored that PBS and IBS have some differences in lexical choices. IBS has more different categories than PBS. This use of language shows that budget speeches convey the information sometimes through different use of words which mainly serve the current purposes of government. These categories have not altogether differences in word choices. Words of these categories are found in both the corpora but not with the same frequency. That is why, these categories have been mentioned under that corpus in which their words have more occurrence than other corpus. In the following, categories of difference are shown:

Table 3.2 Different Categories

Pak	Ind
Political Affairs	Authorisation Discourse Quantitative Adjectives

PBS has some words which have been placed under the category of ‘political affairs’. It is the only category whose words are less in frequency in IBS. PBS uses federal, party, politics, opposition, president, democracy and history while IBS uses these words with low frequency. PBS discusses all these matters repeatedly and their occurrences appeal their detail.

On the other hand, IBS has the words of ‘authorization’ category. These words are not commonly found in PBS rather IBS has very authentic use of this category. It involves the words like specified, notified, revised, approved, scheduled, approval and set. The use of these words makes the information certain and valid. In budget, it is considered a valuable point because these words convey the information in very significant way. The next category is ‘discourse’. The major function which budget performs is to inform about economy situation of the country and for this purpose special vocabulary is used to deliver the information. IBS uses some words as addresses, announcement, declaration, information and speech. The last category is related with ‘quantitative adjectives’. IBS very frequently uses only, all, most, every, just, much and full. These adjectives, in some extent, specify the information. Study examines that these adjectives are not found in PBS that is why this corpus does not provide a planned and scheduled look of budget.

Categories of Verbs

Similar to nouns, the verbs of both the corpora have also their specific categories. Results have pointed out that the verbs do not have completely similar or different categories. The occurrence of verb in PBS and IBS is different. Present research mentions the names of these categories. In the following, the table shows all the categories of verbs together.

Table 3.3 Categories of Verbs

Improvement
Discourse
Relief
Perception
Facilities
Contribution

First category is ‘improvement’ which contains the verbs achieve, enhance/d, meet, promote, increase/d, build, create/d, improve/d and develop. These verbs have high occurrence in both the corpora because they show progress rate in country. Budget of any country may use them to draw a positive picture of established economy, which secure the current government. The category of ‘discourse’ introduces all essential information of economy matters in budget. It is bases upon announce, address, describe, say, state, quote, command and mention. These verbs are fundamental part of budget, because they support the information according to the need of situation. The occurrence of these verbs is high in IBS as compared to PBS. All the financial and economic release in different matters is announced through the verbs of ‘relief’ category. It includes exempt, plan, prevent, save and reduce. PBS and IBS try to provide release to common masses. In budget, the estimation of every economic issue is made in the country and for this purpose, such verbs are used which come under the category of ‘perception’. It consists of expect, tend, want, seem, hope, intend and think.

Government facilitates to the masses in budget and this is done through the verbs of ‘facilities’ category which are provide, support, sustain, maintain and strengthen. The category of ‘contribution’ contains the verbs as participate, show, see, play and manage. Results reveals that these categories play an energetic role in budget to make it flexible according to the country situation and government handles the situation conferring to its own set purposes.

Concordance Plot

It is very essential to know that at which point the above stated categories are introduced in budget. For this purpose, the ‘concordance plot’ of ‘noun categories’ has been checked through ANTCONC and placed them under segments, leading and sub-categories. Verbs are not the part of this phase, because they cannot be restricted at one level in any document. The table shows the results in the following:

Table 3.4 Position of Categories

Divisions	Leading-Categories	Sub-Categories
Segment 1	Introduction	Objective Proposals
	Planning	Government Bodies

Segment 2		Decisions Discourse Authorisation
Segment 3	Development	Improvement Deficit
Segment 4	Scarcity	Relief Service
Segment 5	Beneficiaries	Commerce Population
Segment 6	Targets	Production Politics

The nouns of segment 1 and 2 are introduced in the start of the budget. As the actual instances of some nouns are presented in the following:

Planning (Ind)

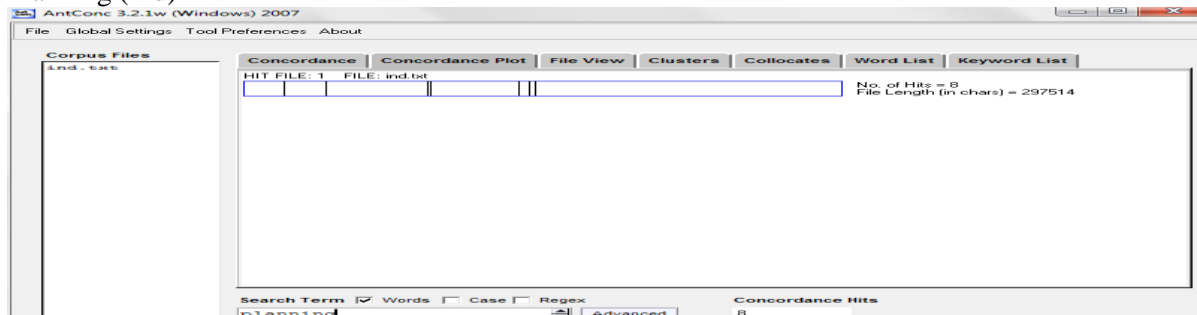


Figure 1
Ministry (Pak)



Figure 2

Leading category ‘planning’ has five sub-categories. The purpose, to present them together, is to show the association of its sub-categories because in budget every proposal, decisions and actions of government bodies are mentioned through ‘discourse’ category which appeals ‘authorization’ to make the information more reliable.

Segments 3 to 6 are not fix with initial, middle or end stage of budget. In present study these categories have not been mentioned consciously rather their place can be changed because these are mentioned on different places. Leading category ‘improvement’ is very obvious in this extent as concordance plot has shown in the following:

Growth (Ind)

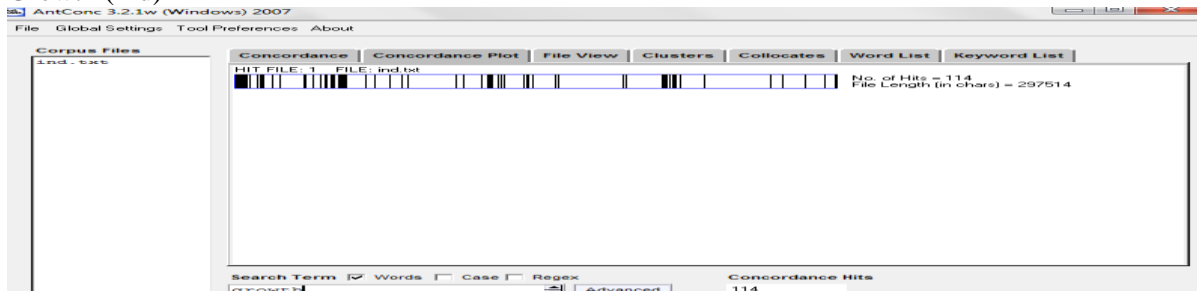


Figure 3

‘Scarcity’ has two sub-categories because in budget normally wherever deficit is mentioned right after that government gives relief to masses, this is done consciously by the government. Leading category

‘beneficiaries’ has ‘services and commerce’ as sub-categories because different support, help and security is provided by announcing allocations, subsidies, loan and finance schemes that is why both have been shown under single category. Sub-categories ‘population, production and politics’ are the part of leading category ‘targets’. Results have pointed out that these categories are the targets of any government in budget for whom the whole year planning is done that is why they have been placed under one category. Common masses is addressed throughout the budget, CDA reveals that government does it intentionally to influence the people that they think their government is careful about them. Concordance plot shows this use in the following:

Public (Pak)

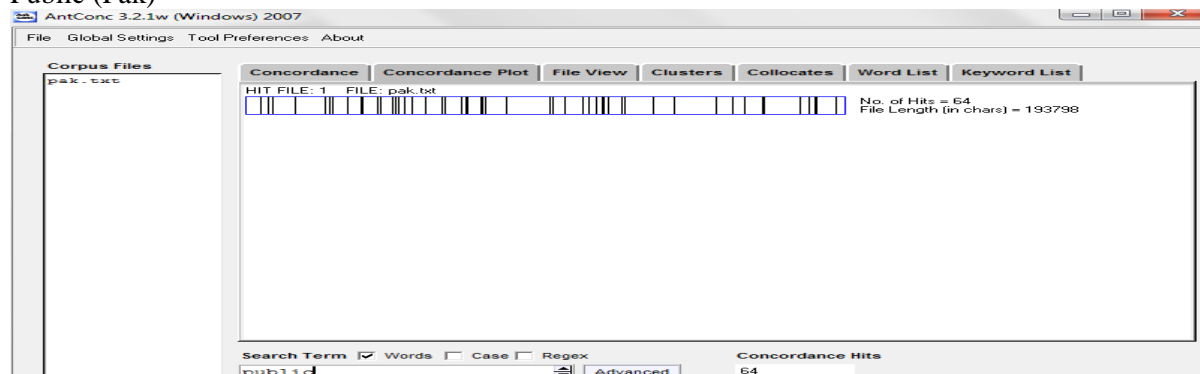


Figure 4

Conclusion

Present study has successfully attained its objectives using corpus driven methodology. This research took start to discover the lexical features of Pakistani and Indian budget speeches. It scrutinized and labelled the lexical categories of both the corpora and also enlightened the implicit meanings of parts of speech. Furthermore, it has developed the awareness regarding the language of budget speeches.

Results reveal that both the corpora apparently have same nature to declare the budget. This argument generalizes the statement that every government takes few concerns into account to make the budget striking for common masses, but it completes all the internal matters according to its own benefits. The study exposes that PBS uses these words covertly and does not perform the duty efficiently, despite the fact that it has high occurrence of these words. Research points out that IBS has more significant use of these words than PBS.

Present study generates an insight through results that how lexical choices perform different duties in the completion of such an important document. Results have shown that lexical categories specified the language pattern of budget discourse. These categories might be found with use of new words but they are the essential part of budget declaration.

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