

Linguistic Variations in Legal Language: A Corpus Based Study of the Judgments of AJK High Court

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Abstract

This study aims to present a corpus based analysis of the linguistic patterns commonly found in the legal corpora with special reference to the judgments of the High Court of Azad Jammu & Kashmir. The data are collected from the official website of the High Court of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (Henceforth AJK) by downloading sixteen judgments pertaining to various civil cases. Corpus software LancsBox is used for the analysis of data. The study shows that the High Court of AJK follows a set of distinct and unique linguistic patterns in its judgments which include the use of archaic terms, referring expressions, Latin words and specific legal expressions. Likewise, the study illustrates that the use of legal terminology in the court judgments makes it declarative, commanding, and authoritative that makes a strong impression with respect to its linguistic variations. The use of Latin words, antiquated terms and obsolete words has been very frequent in the court orders. On the basis of findings of this study it may be concluded that the legal language of AJK High Court shows specific linguistic variations thus is exclusive, unique and distinct as compared to ordinary language.

Key Words: AJK High Court, Corpus Analysis, Legal Corpora, Linguistic Patterns

Introduction

In the recent times, the corpus linguistics has brought a revolution in the field of linguistics. Corpus linguistics, through its effective approach, has taken into account such linguistic patterns which otherwise remained unexplored. Same is the case with the legal discourse where the study of legal patterns of language has brought forward many interesting features of language and with much more clarity and effectiveness. The variation, terminology and phraseology in the legal language have become the field of interest for academicians and law practitioners as well. The present study is concerned with the analysis of different commonly found language forms including distinct linguistic features in the legal domain of courtroom situations and the contrast amongst the legal orders at High Court level in Azad Kashmir.

The colonialism left long lasting effects on almost every aspect of social hierarchy of the Indian subcontinent. The judicial system of the sub-continent adopted English language and its linguistic patterns as it were found in west. Likewise English is the official language of Pakistan since its birth. The legal language of Pakistan is inherited from English language with salient features including old, complicated and archaic terminology comprising English and Latin vocabulary. Many terms adopted from Latin are amalgamated in legal English as its integral part. For this reason, most of the legal documents, which include the framing of laws, the courts orders, contracts, settlements, agreements and other procedural pleadings are written and practiced in English language. The legal language of Pakistan is similar to the legal language elsewhere comprising English language but there is also local vocabulary and conventions which have been incorporated in Pakistan's legal language being practiced in different courts of law. These may include the terms of local languages consisting of Urdu, Punjabi, Pashto, Sindhi and others adopted in the judicial system of Pakistan for the purpose of convenience of courts, lawyers and the applicants.

The notable aspects of the legal language include the use of unique technical and specific terminology. Though the legal language may seem complex and difficult to comprehend but it works

as an effective means to convey the meanings of the legal concepts based on the legal language in different courtroom situations. In addition to the law provisions based on sections and subsections, the practice of relying on the precedents in order to interpret the law is very common. Existing court decisions are taken as instances by the judiciary with respect to subjudice matter based on the instances. Legal citation is also another key aspect of Pakistan's judicial system, as Pakistan has the citation rules adhered by the law practitioners. Also, the legal documents, contracts and deals are written following the technical and precise legal linguistics patterns which are of significant importance. Besides all the stated aspects, the law practitioners are familiar with the specific legal English vocabulary that helps them to interpret and apply law in the legal domains. Thus it may be concluded that English serves as the judicial language or legal language of Pakistan having its distinct and unique linguistics features and analysis of these unique linguistic features is an interesting as well as informative task.

Literature Review

The legal text is usually very different from ordinary discourse due to its unique linguistic patterns. This is because of the fact that it is the authoritativeness in the legal writings which makes, amends, or dismisses the rights, privileges and the obligations of the individuals or institutions that is why it is called contrastive as compared to other writings. The structural uniqueness is also common in legal writing, which includes the use of words from other languages, old and archaic terms and specific vocabulary.

Tiersma (1986) argues that the legal language in the legal discourse deviates from the ordinary English in many ways as comparison with the procedural or technical languages of many other occupations. The difference is in structure and execution in different situations.

Gibbons (2004) is of the view that the judicial language has communicative purpose which is collectively shared by the members of that community. It has also been noted that the typical sentence construction, conjoined phrases, redundancy in text phraseology marks vocabulary and syntactic cutoff inevitable to some extent in the legislative accounts.

According to Danet (1985), language is vital for all human matters, yet it is more critical in the area of law. Physicians deal with the physical entities whereas in contrast to it, the work of the lawyers and the judges is representative and symbolic. In simple words, law would not be there without a language. Searle (1969) termed the legal language as an explicit performatives. They are of the view that the legal language as the direct speech act serves the force of the statement by the help of a performative speech act.

Legal language has developed into a highly distinguished kind of language, the specificity of legal language produced query of whether it is a separate dialect, a register, or a sublanguage of a language. Charrow et al. (1982) consider the linguistic distinction of the legal English as a language variety. Danet (1985) considers legal English as a separate register while Bolinger (1975) maintains that the register of language is the aspect of convention or formality.

Legal language contains variety of oral and written genres which are based on the aspect of communication, the condition where used, the participants, relationships and their prior knowledge in the situations or the activities where language is used (Gibbons, 2004).

Tiersma (1986) defines the legal language as a distinct way of speaking and writing which has been established by the legal system throughout the world. He considers distinctions in the legal language as there is significant variation in the legal language based on the geographical locations, the degree of formality, the speaking against writing and other related features. Lundquist (1995) highlighted the use of indefinite noun phrases in various legal classes, for instance legal textbooks, judicial judgments, framing laws and the legal articles.

Candlin and Gotti (2007) examined linguistic and pragmatic aspects in English legal texts whereas Trosborg (1997) and Gibbons (2004) considered semiotics and the forensic linguistics in their

studies. All of these studies emphasized on the linguistic variations pertaining to various types where law and the language interact. The detailed study of co-occurrence of linguistic patterns in comparison with a single linguistic feature shows its importance. For this reason, the multidimensional analysis of the language is an inclusive methodology.

Likewise, Brown and Fraser (1979) addressed the significance of co-occurring linguistic features by stating that it is usually improper to only focus on the specific or isolated linguistic markers without considering logical differences which contain co-occurrence of different markers. An assumption is that the socially important linguistic distinctions arise as the varieties or different styles which need to be considered.

Two important studies on American context (Roszkowski, 2011) and Turkish context (Ozyildirim, 2011) concentrated on the different linguistic variation in legal language having the multidimensional analysis. It was recognized that the markers of language use and linguistic structures diverge from other communication situations.

It may therefore be concluded that the legal language is divided into diverse genres subject to its use in various legal contexts including legislatives, court judgments, contracts between parties, articles, textbooks, ordinances, appeals, wills, statutes, lawyers' consultation, witness scrutiny and law statements produced by media reporters. This prolonged list shows the multiplicity of the legal discourse and its diversity. Each of the stated categories has unique terminology which is the part of legal language of law. The focus of this study is to identify and highlight the linguistic variations and features of Pakistani legal English in courtroom situations based on sets of co-occurrence and other linguistic features found in the judgments of superior courts. The focus of the present study is on the exploration of unique linguistic patterns of the legal English being practiced or executed by the learned judges of the superior court of AJK in their judgments and the linguistic contrast they bring about in the legal discourse.

Material and Methods

For the purpose of this study, the twofold methodology of corpus linguistics has been incorporated which include the quantitative method to quantify the data and qualitative method to explore the quantitative findings during the study. The corpus approach to analyze the data is adopted due to the fact that it is an effective means to analyze the large data within in the short span of time with accuracy and precision like the legal data which usually contains thousands of words in a small text file.

Corpus

The online source of data collection is official website of High Court of Azad Jammu & Kashmir. The text containing the selected orders or judgments passed by the judges of the High Court of Azad Jammu & Kashmir is downloaded from the official website and taken up for this study. The data are then put into the machine readable form through editing. The unwanted items from the data are removed which include unnecessary particulars/details containing the non-machine readable text. Once the text is purified, the next step is to put and categorize the data into three different files, which include the word files, the text files and the tagged text files. The part of speech (POS) tagging was done through CLAWS tag set.

Legal Corpus

The legal corpora may contain judicial orders, agreements, contracts, deeds and many others. The present study is focused to the extent of the selected judgments made by the High Court Judges, so same has been taken into account for the onward analysis. The complete data of the study comprises of sixteen judgments of the judicial cases filed before the High Court having more than fifty thousand words. This corpus included the judicial orders made by the learned Judges of the High Court of AJK on different issues including administration and other social issues.

Meta Data

The meta data of each case is outlined on the excel sheets that describes the important accounts related to each of the selected cases. Meta data provides useful and interesting information about the legal corpus and also the entities involved in the whole process. The information pertaining to the participants of the event including Judges of the court and their clients and the case history is taken into account for reference.

Tools for Analysis of Corpus

The most important step of the whole process is the selection of tool and its adoption for the analysis of data which needed suitable and effective software in order to explore the huge legal corpus. For this reason, powerful language software LancsBox s selected which is a frequently used software in analyzing the large language data. It is a freeware that can be downloaded free from online sources and that can be used effectively in language research. LansBox is designed for this kind of study and is commonly used in the field of linguistic research throughout the world.

Results and Discussion

After downloading the Lancsbox software, the text files carrying data were uploaded on it that contained the corpus of the 16 High Court cases selected for the analysis. The software generated the report of the frequencies of words occurring in the selected corpus. The study analysed the corpus and the reports are shown in table forms based on the number of texts, tokens and additional information pertaining to occurrences of linguistic categories within the text.

Table 1
Corpus Size

Name	Language	Texts	Tokens	Additional information
Corpus 1	English	16	55,039	Types: 5,354 Lemmas: 4,591

Table 1 gives the picture of total corpus used for this study and it was of the total size of 55,039 running words (tokens) in 16 selected texts of the judgments of AJK High Court.

Table 2
Frequency List (top ten types)

D	Type	Absolute frequency (Relative frequency)	Dispersion (CV)
1	The	4687 (851.516)	0.131
2	Of	3024 (549.389)	0.179
3	And	1345 (244.354)	0.234
4	In	1240 (225.278)	0.162
5	To	1214 (220.555)	0.169
6	Is	942 (171.139)	0.308
7	That	703 (127.718)	0.241
8	As	649 (117.908)	0.183
9	By	585 (106.281)	0.174
10	Be	584 (106.099)	0.309

Table 2 demonstrates the frequencies (both absolute and relative) and dispersions (CV) of the top ten types of linguistic terms used in the selected corpora. It depicts the most frequently used items in the orders of the court that shows the linguistic patterns found in legal domain of AJK High Court. It suggests that the court orders are very descriptive and detailed in its language and are written in very explanatory way.

Use of Latin Term "void ab-initio"

Latin term *void ab-initio* occurs 3 times (0.489 per 10k) in corpus in 3 out of 16 texts selected for the study. The following table shows the occurrence of this term in the selected corpus.

Table 3
Latin term "void ab-initio" in Corpus

File name	Left	Node	Right
MS_Telenor_Pakistan_Ltd_vs_Pakistan_Telecommunication_appeal_accepted_.	declaring the same as illegal,	void ab-initio	and having no legal effect
Abdul_Majid_Khan_and_others_Vs_Election_Commission_and_others.	are illegal, unconstitutional, arbitrary, unlawful,	void ab-initio	having no legal effect, are
Abdul_Rasheed_Mirza_and_others_Vs_Commissioner_Rehabilitation_and_others.	be declared as illegal, unlawful,	void ab-initio	forge, fake, fabricated and bogus

Table 3 exhibits a random sample of 10 concordance lines, showing the most immediate contexts in which the search term is used. This is a specific term for the court to be used mostly in the judgments. Legally it means that it was 'void from the beginning' or as soon as it was created it was void or having no legal effect. The term has been used in the corpus by the court to declare the aspect highlighted in the case to be illegal and against law and declared it void from its beginning by using the term '*void ab-initio*'.

Latin term "in limine"

Latin term *in limine* occurs 7 times (1.140 per 10k) in corpus in 5 out of 16 texts. The occurrence is exhibited in the following table.

Table 4
Latin term "in limine" in Corpus

File name	Left	Node	Right
Mah-e-Shab_V_Azad_Govt_others_.	arguments, dismissed the writ petition	in limine	vide order dated 5 12.12.2019.
Raja_Zulqarnain_Abid_Khan_vs_President_of_the_State_of_AJK_and_others.	thus, the same is dismissed	in limine.	(Constitutional petition stands dismissed). Muzaffarabad,
Raja_Mohammad_Shafat_Khan_Vs_AJK_Election.	the same is hereby dismissed	in limine.	Order announced. Muzaffarabad 01.06.2023 CHIEF
Raja_Zulqarnain_Abid_Khan_vs_President_of_the_State_of_AJK_and_others.	constitutional petition was 7 dismissed	in limine	on the ground of maintainability.
Raja_Zulqarnain_Abid_Khan_vs_President_of_the_State_of_AJK_and_others.	petition in hand is dismissed	in limine	under the doctrine of limine
Tayyab_Abbasi_Vs_Azad_Govt_and_others.	therefore, the same stand dismissed	in limine	with no order as to
Kh_Aamir_Ahmed_Vs_Azad_Govt_and_others.	of the instant writ petitions	in limine.	4. On 15.03.2021, it was

Table 4 displays a random sample of 10 concordance lines, also showing the most immediate contexts in which the search term is used. '*In limine*' in legal framework means 'at the threshold' it refers to the motion presented before a trial actually gets dismissed. In simple words, the study of the corpus declared that the point highlighted in a case and evidence presented before court has been declared inadmissible by the court and the court while dismissing the take of either party uses this Latin expression by writing 'the writ or the argument is dismissed *in limine*'.

Latin term "*ONUS PROBANDI*"

The search term *ONUS PROBANDI* occurs 2 times (0.326 per 10k) in the corpus. It occurs only in 1 out of 16 text files. The occurrence is shown in the following table.

Table 5
Latin term "*ONUS PROBANDI*" in Corpus

File name	Left	Node	Right
Syed_Akbar_Shah_Vs_Rehmat_Shah_others.	no legal evidence was produced.	ONUS PROBANDI.	Phips on the Law of
Syed_Akbar_Shah_Vs_Rehmat_Shah_others.	fail, strict meaning of term	ONUS PROBANDI.	is that if no evidence

Table 5 displays a random sample of concordance lines, showing the most immediate contexts in which the search term is used. '*Onus probandi*' is a Latin term used in law domains refers to the responsibility to provide the court with the proof on the party that initiates the act of allegation on other party. It is also called the 'burden of proof' due to the fact that conventionally in legal sphere it is the obligation to provide the court with proof on the party who initiates the issue before the court not the other party who defends. Thus the court uses this term to declare that the duty of providing the evidence to the court rests on the initiator thus by declaring while completing an argument '*ONUS PROBANDI*'.

Latin term "*pro bono publico*"

The Latin term *pro bono publico* occurs 4 times (0.652 per 10k) in the corpus in 2 out of 16 selected texts. The concordance is shown in the following table.

Table 6
Latin term "*pro bono publico*" in Corpus

File name	Left	Node	Right
Raja_Mohammad_Shafat_Khan_Vs_AJ_K_Election.	one can move the Court	pro bono publico	to challenge the vires of
Raja_Zulqarnain_Abid_Khan_vs_President_of_the_State_of_AJK_and_others.	person" and not by a	pro bono publico	litigant 9 as a person
Raja_Zulqarnain_Abid_Khan_vs_President_of_the_State_of_AJK_and_others.	to the Defence Services." C1.	pro bono publico	10. It is a Latin
Raja_Mohammad_Shafat_Khan_Vs_AJ_K_Election.	person and not by a	pro bono publico	litigant. In other words a

Table 6 exhibits a random sample of concordance lines, showing the most immediate contexts in which this Latin term is used. In the legal language '*pro bono publico*' means in the best interest of public or for the public good. Table shows its use in the corpus. This Latin term is used in the corpus to offer the free service to the entities of the process. Sometimes the attorney of the government plea a case in the court for common people, it is '*pro bono public*'. This term is used in the corpus also to build an argument that for the purpose of common good or in the public interest the court uses the term '*pro bono publico*'.

Latin term "status quo"

The searched Latin term 'status quo' appears 3 times (0.489 per 10k) in corpus in 2 out of 16 texts. The following table shows the occurrence of the term in the selected corpus.

Table 7
Latin term "status quo" in Corpus

File name	Left	Node	Right
Anwar_Mehmood_Vs_Azad_Govt__a nd_others.	his office in presence of	status quo	order of this Court. The
Anwar_Mehmood_Vs_Azad_Govt__a nd_others.	order dated 28.05.2021 issued the	status quo	order in favour of the
Abdul_Kareem_Vs__Sardar_Shafahat others.	ingredients necessary for issuance of	status quo	order were not found in

Table 7 presents a random sample of concordance lines, showing the most immediate contexts in which this search term is used. It is the most frequently used legal term in the judicial judgments. In judicial settings, 'status quo' means the existing state of affairs will remain as it is. One of the parties in the case or the other request the court for the order to maintain the state of affairs as it is before either of the party took the issue to the court, the request is said to be that of 'status quo'. The court orders to maintain the 'status quo' as a first order issued in the favour of the applicant subject to the objection from other party.

Latin term "prima facie"

The Latin term 'prima facie' occurs 2 times (0.326 per 10k) in corpus in 2 out of 16 texts. The concordance is shown in the following table.

Table 8
Latin term "prima facie" in Corpus

File name	Left	Node	Right
Kh_Aamir_Ahmed_Vs_Azad_Go vt_and_others.	hand if he can show	prima facie	some interest which has been
Muhammad_Waris_Vs_District_M agistrate_and_others.	pen, which make them suspicious.	Prima facie,	the aforesaid certificates have not

Table 8 displays a random sample of 10 concordance lines, showing the most immediate contexts in which the search term is used. It literally means in legal language as the first impression appeared in the eye of law. This is also one of the commonly used terms in the court. Its situational significance is that when an issue is presented for the court with all its contents. The court after going through all the contents of the case gets a general indication regarding the nature of the case which the court refers as 'prima facie'.

Latin term "plaintiff"

The legal term *plaintiff* occurs 22 times (3.584 per 10k) in corpus in 1 out of 16 texts. Table 9 presents a random sample of 10 concordance lines, showing the most immediate contexts in which the search term 'plaintiff' is used.

Table 9
Legal term "plaintiff" in Corpus

File name	Left	Node	Right
Syed_Akbar_Shah_Vs__Rehmat_S hah_others.	and without the knowledge of	plaintiff,	the defendants possessed over the
Syed_Akbar_Shah_Vs__Rehmat_S hah_others.	is under the ownership of	plaintiff	and adjacent to the plaintiff's

Syed_Akbar_Shah_Vs_Rehmat_S hah_others.	45 years and if the	plaintiff	had the knowledge about the
Syed_Akbar_Shah_Vs_Rehmat_S hah_others.	over the land of the	plaintiff	which came into his knowledge
Syed_Akbar_Shah_Vs_Rehmat_S hah_others.	is under the ownership of	plaintiff	and the land of plaintiff
Syed_Akbar_Shah_Vs_Rehmat_S hah_others.	plaintiff and the land of	plaintiff	and defendants are adjacent and
Syed_Akbar_Shah_Vs_Rehmat_S hah_others.	is against the rights of	plaintiff,	so, the said entries are
Syed_Akbar_Shah_Vs_Rehmat_S hah_others.	had not been given to	plaintiff	as per family partition and
Syed_Akbar_Shah_Vs_Rehmat_S hah_others.	comes into the ownership of	plaintiff	and the defendants while forcibly

Plaintiff is a term that is specific to the legal field; it means the person who brings a case against another person in a court of law or simply a petitioner. In other ordinary language we do not find this term used as compared to its routinely usage in the law. To add some colour and uniqueness in the court language, instead of the 'petitioner' the old and archaic expression 'plaintiff' is used. Table below shows that in the corpus it has been frequently used by the court.

Latin term "quashment"

The search term 'quashment' which is also a legal term occurs 2 times (0.326 per 10k) in corpus in 1 out of 16 texts. Table 10 depicts a random sample of concordance lines, showing the most immediate contexts in which this search term is 'quashment' used.

Table 10
Legal term "quashment" in Corpus

File name	Left	Node	Right
M_Tariq_Vs_Justice_of_Peace_Mzd_(quah sment_writ_petition).	counter FIR would tantamount to	quashment	of first FIR and would
M_Tariq_Vs_Justice_of_Peace_Mzd_(quah sment_writ_petition).	it can make order for	quashment	of proceedings. The matter of

The term 'quashment' is also specific to the legal domain, which means to put down or to set aside. It is often used with the context when a higher forum of court in its judgment against a review petition sets aside the order or decision of a lower court, the judgment is said to be quashed. It is usually done at the High Court and Supreme Court level. Also it is interesting to note that this term is used usually in the case where FIR is involved against someone. Then that person files a writ petition in superior court and the title of the writ petition is the 'quashment of FIR. Likewise if the court gives a verdict in favour of the appellant the previous order of FIR is said to be 'quashed' by the High Court.

Archaic term "writ"

The archaic term 'writ' occurs 283 times (46.102 per 10k) in corpus in 14 out of 16 texts. Table 11 displays a random sample of 10 concordance lines, showing the most immediate contexts in which the search term 'writ' is used.

Table 11
Archaic term "writ" in Corpus

File name	Left	Node	Right
Kh_Aamir_Ahmed_Vs_Azad_G ovt_and_others.	the subject, therefore, the instant	Writ	Petition is not competent. It
Mah-e- Shab_V_Azad_Govt_others_.	of this Court, consequently, the	Writ	petition was admitted for regular

Kh_Aamir_Ahmed_Vs_Azad_Govt_and_others.	been enforced in exercise of	Writ	jurisdiction. 3. In case titled
Muhammad_Waris_Vs_District_Magistrate_and_others.	that by accepting the instant	writ	petition, the order of respondent
Mian_Muhammad_Shafique_Vs_Azad_Govt_and_others_4_writs.	adopted in 10 other connected	writ	petitions and finally prayed by
Tayyab_Abbasi_Vs_Azad_Govt_and_others.	The prayer clause of that	writ	petition is also follows as
Raja_Zulqarnain_Abid_Khan_vs_President_of_the_State_of_AJK_and_others.	CONSTITUTIONAL JURISDICTION?- 12. No, a	writ	petition can be entertained only
Raja_Mohammad_Shafat_Khan_Vs_AJK_Election.	is an aggrieved person. A	writ	can be issued only on
Abdul_Rasheed_Mirza_and_others_Vs_Commissioner_Rehabilitation_and_others.	that by accepting the instant	writ	petition the impugned state subject
MS_Telenor_Pakistan_ltd_vs_Pakistan_Telecommunication_a_appeal_accepted.	appellant, whereupon the appellant filed	writ	petitions No.1949/2020, 1950/2020 & 1951/2020

The term “writ” is old fashioned, but it appears to be the most commonly used law term in the selected corpus. It is a kind of a written command in the name of an authority to act or abstain from an act. The writ petition is filed before the courts to seek the help of the court in order to get relief in some instant matter related to the petitioner’s plea.

Archaic term "*summon*"

The search term ‘*summon*’ occurs 2 times (0.326 per 10k) in Corpus in 1 out of 16 texts. Table 12 displays a random sample of concordance lines, showing the most immediate contexts in which the archaic term ‘*summon*’ is used.

Table 12
Archaic term "*summon*" in Corpus

File name	Left	Node	Right
Raja_Zulqarnain_Abid_Khan_vs_President_of_the_State_of_AJK_and_others.pdf	President shall for that purpose	summon	it to meet within fourteen
Raja_Zulqarnain_Abid_Khan_vs_President_of_the_State_of_AJK_and_others.pdf	President, shall, for the purpose	summon	it to meet within fourteen

In context, the term ‘*summon*’ means the order of the court for someone to be present before the court at the prescribed time and in prescribed manner. It is also among the most commonly used terms by the courts in their writings. Upon the matter taken up in the court, the first thing that court does is to give summon/notices to all the concerned parties of the case to present themselves before the court. From there onwards regular court proceedings are initiated till the disposal of the case through its judgment.

Archaic term "*decree*"

The search term ‘*decree*’ occurs 18 times (2.932 per 10k) in corpus in 3 out of 16 texts. Table 13 demonstrates a random sample of 10 concordance lines, showing the most immediate contexts in which the search term ‘*decree*’ is used.

Table 13
Archaic term "decree" in Corpus

File name	Left	Node	Right
Syed_Akbar_Shah_Vs_Rehmat_Shah_others.	the 5 impugned judgment and	decree	dated 16.01.2019. Feeling aggrieved from
Syed_Akbar_Shah_Vs_Rehmat_Shah_others.	aside the impugned judgment and	decree,	the case may be remanded
Syed_Akbar_Shah_Vs_Rehmat_Shah_others.	as declaratory and issued a	decree.	At this juncture, it is
Syed_Akbar_Shah_Vs_Rehmat_Shah_others.	from the said judgment and	decree,	plaintiffs Rehmat Shah & others
Syed_Akbar_Shah_Vs_Rehmat_Shah_others.	loss and prayed for a	decree	for possession in respect of
Syed_Akbar_Shah_Vs_Rehmat_Shah_others.	passed the impugned judgment and	decree,	which is liable to be
Syed_Akbar_Shah_Vs_Rehmat_Shah_others.	taken into consideration, so, a	Decree	for perpetual injunction could not
Syed_Akbar_Shah_Vs_Rehmat_Shah_others.	District Judge, the judgment and	Decree	of the trial Court may
Kh_Aamir_Ahmed_Vs_Azad_Govt_and_others.	education and obtained 12 ex-parte	Decree	for correction of date of
Syed_Akbar_Shah_Vs_Rehmat_Shah_others.	Shah vs. Mst. Noor-un-Nisa," a	Decree	was also issued in plaintiff's

The term '*decree*' refers to the official order issued by the court or any institution with the power of law that has to be followed and acted upon at every cost and in every manner. This is also a commonly used archaic term found in the judgments made by the courts. The table below shows the occurrences of the term in the corpus. The contextual study shows that once the '*decree*' is issued by the court it is an order that will prevail till it is challenged at some higher forum of law.

Use of Proverb

Alongside some other linguistic variations discussed, the use of proverbs in the court judgment is also noted from the corpus. For instance a proverb "*You cannot rob Paul to pay Peter*" has been found from corpus. It simply means that in the eye of law you cannot use unfair means in order to do a noble thing. The use of the proverb gives the indication of the versatility and the richness of the linguistic patterns followed by the court in its judgments. It also shows the picture of the amalgamation of various linguistic aspects in the judgments of court that add flexibility and color to the legal language adopted and practiced at the High Court of AJK.

Conclusion

The whole discussion of the results has led to the point that there are multiple linguistic patterns followed by the High Court of AJK in its judgments which include the use of archaic words, Latin phrases and typical legal terminology. This study has also tried to gauge the linguistic richness of the legal language used by the court. Likewise the study has tried to consider the contextual aspects and significance with respect to the use of these linguistic patterns in the legal corpora of the court. Similarly, the study has tried to initialize the linguistic approach to explore the variations found in Pakistani English in certain domains and specifically with respect to the use of legal language of Pakistan. On the basis of the findings of this research, it may be argued that courts in their linguistic approach follow a set standard which include the frequent use of archaic and obsolete terms which otherwise are not found in any other domain. The reason behind the use of specific terminology appears to create a strong impression and to convey the message in compact and organized way. The language research has always been an interesting task for the researchers and this study has tried to contribute in this field by exploring an important area. Besides, there are many other salient and interesting features

of the language found in the legal sphere that can be studied linguistically. This study may lead to discover many other interesting and contributory facts relevant to the language used in legal domains.

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